

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION UPDATE

Republic of South Sudan

14 July 2011

UNICEF urgently needs US\$13.6 Million for the next three months in order to provide emergency humanitarian assistance for women and children in the post-secession period.

- Over 170,000 newly displaced due to violence in Abyei and South Kordofan
- Ongoing response for over 300,000 returnees since October 2010
- Malnutrition rates in South Sudan are persistently above the emergency threshold and exceed 20 per cent of children under-5 in certain areas
- Without additional funding, UNICEF will not be in a position to scale up emergency response



Mother Regina cuddles her daughter Sunday at the UNICEF-supported Al Sabbah Children's Hospital in Juba, South Sudan.
UNICEF 2011/Ashleigh

1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

On July 9, 2011, a new country, the Republic of South Sudan, emerged, with new hope for a more peaceful and prosperous future for all its citizens after years of conflict. However, this new country in its infancy lies within a complex political, humanitarian and development landscape characterized by tense relations with Sudan and escalation of violence in the border region. This complex landscape, coupled with continuing insecurity due to tribal clashes, cattle raiding, attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and fighting in the disputed border areas, shapes the daily lives of women and children in South Sudan.

The humanitarian reality is multi-faceted. Throughout the first half of 2011, large numbers of South Sudanese (over 300,000) returned home. At the same time, more than 100,000 people were displaced due to border clashes with the Sudan as in Abyei and in South Kordofan, where an additional 70,000 were displaced¹. Many of the returnees and displaced persons arrive in areas with very limited basic social services putting further strain on the limited resources.

Malnutrition rates in South Sudan are persistently above the emergency threshold and exceed 20 per cent of children under-5 in certain areas.² Maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the world at 2,054 per 100,000 live births.³ Only 2 per cent of children are fully vaccinated, and only 21 per cent of children receive a measles injection before their first birthday. Only 34 per cent of the people in South Sudan have access to safe water supplies, and only 15 per cent, have access to adequate sanitary latrines.⁴ Education indicators remain among the worst in the world: it is estimated that more than 1 million children eligible for primary school do not have access to basic education, while the few schools that do exist are not conducive to learning.⁵ Children also face a multitude of protection risks. Increased poverty, uncertainty, reduction of opportunities for play and education, coupled with uncertainty, all undermine the protective environment for children and young people. Thousands of children in South Sudan are without parents, and the large number of displacements and movements also causes a risk of separation of children and concerns for unaccompanied minors. Many children have been targeted for recruitment by armed forces and groups. UNICEF estimates that 800 children are still associated with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and special efforts are being made to support their release and re-integration. Insecurity in the border areas, tribal clashes, and attacks by the LRA mainly in Western and Central Equatoria states have resulted in grave violations against children's rights. There are also increased threats from widespread small arms, mines and unexploded ordnances (UXO). HIV/AIDS continues to be a major challenge in South Sudan with a national prevalence estimated at 3 per cent, but in some areas as high as 7.2 per cent, as in Western Equatorial State.⁶ The HIV/AIDS prevalence rates are likely to increase due to heightened cross-border travel to countries with higher HIV-prevalence.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

Actions to date

In close collaboration with local, national and international partners, UNICEF continues to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of South Sudan. The organization is focused on the priority areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and child protection. However, these interventions are hampered by inaccessibility due to security restrictions, land mines, poor infrastructure, large areas inaccessible due to rains, and regular food and fuel shortages in parts of the country.

UNICEF leads the Nutrition, WASH, and Education clusters and the Child Protection sub-cluster. The UNICEF country office ensures effective coordination, facilitation and technical support among humanitarian partners and the Government. In addition, UNICEF is the pipeline manager for WASH, Nutrition and Education supplies for the humanitarian community. Funds are urgently needed to support these functions.

In the areas of **health** and **nutrition**, routine immunization services have been improved through increased technical and supply assistance to the Ministry of Health and other national partners. Some 3 million children

¹ OCHA Sudan Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin 10-16 June 2011

² 2011 South Sudan Nutrition Cluster Pre-harvest Nutrition Surveys

³ Sudan Household Health Survey (SSGS) 2006

⁴ Southern Sudan Household Survey (SSGS) 2010

⁵ Government of South Sudan, Ministry of Education, Education Management Information System (EMIS), 2011

⁶ 2009 Antenatal Care Surveillance (ANC)

were immunized for polio in major immunization campaigns between January-March 2011. In addition, some 54,600 acutely malnourished children have been treated through the establishment of treatment centres, and UNICEF has also provided nutritional supplies and training of health staff since the beginning of the year.

In the area of **child protection**, a total of seven Child Friendly Spaces have been set up by UNICEF in transit areas for returnees and internally displaced persons (IDP), to provide educational, recreational and counselling services to more than 1,500 children. UNICEF, in cooperation with the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and other actors, has initiated activities for identification, registration and release of 281 children associated with the SPLA. In **education**, assistance was also extended to the establishment of 95 temporary learning spaces, ensuring access to education for some 6,000 children, and training for some 2,000 teachers.

During the first half of 2011, in the area of **WASH**, over 270,000 people gained access to safe water through rehabilitation or construction of water sources, and some 380,000 people received hygiene promotion messages on effective water treatment, hand washing and regular latrine usage.

Urgent Actions over the next three months (July – September)

In the second half of 2011, in addition to responding to ongoing complex emergencies, UNICEF is preparing for the possible eruption of violence and the consequent increase of population movement as a result of the separation from North Sudan.

In the area of **health**, UNICEF has been working closely with WHO and key health NGOs since the beginning of the influx of IDPs and returnees, to ensure that women and children receive quality health services including immunization, prevention and management of common childhood illnesses including malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea as well as supporting reproductive health services. Current funding gaps affects the provision of clean delivery kits, malaria medicines and bed nets to about 100,000 pregnant women in 49 counties. It also limits the support that can be given to build the capacity of targeted primary health care centers to deliver essential maternal and neonatal health. Furthermore, funds are also urgently needed for the conduct of emergency obstetric and newborn care needs assessment and maternal mortality survey.

Financial and human resources are required to support the delivery of immunization services to nearly 230,000 un-immunized children under 1 year of age and 250,000 un-immunized pregnant women. In addition, UNICEF requires more resources for immunization of nearly 500,000 children under 5 against measles in the 5 high risk states of Unity, Warrap, Upper Nile, Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Western bahr El Ghazal, where more than 70 per cent of measles cases have been reported since November 2011. To prevent and manage common childhood illnesses such as malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea, funding support is required to accelerate the provision of basic packages of essential health services, including the distribution of mosquito nets, essential drugs such as ORS and antibiotics, vitamin A supplementation, deworming of children and the dissemination of key messages related to prevention of childhood illnesses. These interventions are estimated to reach approximately 856,758 children, and 1,200,000 women of child bearing age (15-49 years).

UNICEF is the **nutrition** cluster lead in South Sudan. During this lean season, the caseloads of severely malnourished children admitted for rehabilitation has increased exponentially in seven high-risk states. Nutrition cluster partners, especially those operating in the four critical states bordering North Sudan, need additional pipeline supplies and technical support to scale up emergency nutrition services for returnees and IDPs. UNICEF, as pipeline manager for all humanitarian nutrition supplies, urgently needs to replenish dwindling stocks to respond to the increased needs.

The security situation is still volatile in the aftermath of the independence, which could negatively impact an already fragile food security and nutrition situation in South Sudan. Without additional funding, UNICEF will not be in a position to enhance the capacity of existing partners and affected communities to scale up emergency response, should there be an escalation in internal displacements. An estimated 78,000 children under five may suffer from severe acute malnutrition, and 90,000 pregnant and lactating women may need nutrition support.

In 2011, the **WASH** programme has pre-positioned supplies, and efforts in hygiene promotion continue with social marketing campaigns. In addition, UNICEF has worked to increase the number of people accessing improved sanitation facilities and safe water while strengthening the coordination systems, as UNICEF is cluster lead. In the worst case scenario, it is estimated that 2.2 million people may need to access safe water and sanitation facilities. As core pipeline manager for the WASH cluster, UNICEF is urgently seeking to replenish key stocks. As WASH cluster lead agency and host of the Cluster Coordinator function, funds are required to maintain state and national level core pipeline management and cluster coordination functions. This is an organisational network involving expertise from local government specialists, UN, NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBO) to effectively plan and execute emergency WASH responses.

UNICEF as **education** cluster lead is supporting access to protective education opportunities for emergency-affected children and training teachers with lifesaving information and psychosocial support. UNICEF also manages the emergency education supplies pipeline for the humanitarian community. The worst case scenario estimates that 1 million children may need learning and recreational activities. UNICEF therefore requires funds to establish temporary learning structures to accommodate returnee and displaced children as well as to continue efforts to train teachers and build capacity in cluster coordination.

UNICEF co-leads the sub-cluster on **child protection** and is urgently seeking additional funding to support interventions for the prevention of and response to separation of children from their families. The recent conflict in Abyei caused displacement which resulted in 200 children being separated from their families and so far only one-third of these children have been reunified. Efforts to trace the families of these children continue. In addition, UNICEF is working to scale up its efforts to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) within communities affected by emergencies, including development of IEC messages to address GBV and ensure that there are referral services to ensure health and psychosocial response.

Given the planning figures and expected population movements, UNICEF foresees that 600 children may need family tracing and reunification services as well as other child protection interventions. Another 500 South Sudanese children who are currently living and working on the streets of cities and towns in north Sudan may be returned to South Sudan in the coming weeks/months. Additional funds are critical to support the prevention and response to family separation interventions for the protection of more than 1,300 children who may be without primary caregivers and at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation.

In 2011, the **HIV/AIDS** programme has supported the testing of over 18,000 sexually active persons in vulnerable communities. An estimated 150,000 young people have been reached with HIV information, life skills education as well as HIV prevention, care and treatment services. In addition, some 50,000 pregnant women have accessed improved HIV services including voluntary counseling, testing and prevention of mother-to-child transmission services and the provision of anti-retroviral (ARV) prophylaxis.

Given the large numbers of returnees, the dissemination of HIV prevention messages and access to HIV testing and counseling, especially for young people and pregnant women, must be accelerated. Funds are urgently sought for these activities and for the provision of ARV prophylaxis and therapy and HIV testing kits. An estimated 40,000 people would benefit from counseling and testing and approximately 1,000 pregnant women and their infants who test positive would benefit from ARV/ ART treatment.

3. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

At mid-year, UNICEF has increased its yearly requirements to US\$72.7 million in order to continue providing critical lifesaving assistance and to reflect the increasing needs in line with inter-agency contingency planning. The funding requests under the Humanitarian Action Update for South Sudan are in line with UNICEF 2011 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) updated at mid-year. These requirements comprise the UNICEF component of inter-agency Consolidated Appeal (CAP) along with additional needs, based on contingency planning reflecting recent developments. The HAU also highlights the priority needs over the next three months (July-September).

UNICEF has thus far received US\$16,906,741 against the 2011 HAC. In addition to these funds, UNICEF has used carried over funds from 2010 in the amount of US\$12,639,602 to respond to urgent needs.

Given the tense border situation, continued insecurity and escalated violence constitute a serious. This situation, along with the potential for increased returns due to deportation of Southerners from the North,

additional internal displacements and escalating food and fuel shortages⁷ could have severe humanitarian consequences.

It is imperative that UNICEF, together with Government counterparts, UNMIS and partners, is adequately prepared for any eventualities. Given the time pressure associated with the rainy season and the need to ensure that sufficient supplies are pre-positioned if worst case scenario unfolds, UNICEF is urgently seeking USD\$13.6 Million to cover priority needs over the next 3 months.

Table 1: Funds Received against Appeal

Sector	Original 2011 HAC requirements (a)	Revised HAC requirements (b)	Funds received (c)	Final funding gap (b-c-d)
Health	11,949,000	12,500,000	2,822,342	9,677,658
Nutrition	9,111,000	12,500,000	1,439,941	11,060,059
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	11,708,000	18,000,000	4,091,222	13,908,778
Education	10,536,000	13,400,000	4,043,767	9,356,233
Child Protection	4,654,000	7,300,000	2,968,222	4,331,778
HIV/AIDS & Children	726,000	1,500,000	828,572	671,428
NFI Emergency Relief & Shelter	2,983,000	1,200,000	712,405	487,595
Cluster Coordination	6,354,000	6,350,000	0	6,350,000
Total*	58,021,000	72,750,000	16,906,471	55,843,529

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF's Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

Table 2: Funding Priorities for following three months (July to September) as of July 2011

Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
1. Provision of emergency WASH core pipeline supplies	2.2 million people	3,200,000
2. Pre-positioning of Nutrition Supplies	78,000 Children under 5 90,000 Pregnant and Lactating Mothers	5,700,000
3. Immunization against measles	500,000 children	2,000,000
4. Child protection – support to separated children.	1,300 children	700,000
Cluster coordination for WASH, Nutrition and Child Protection		2,000,000
Total Priority needs		13,600,000

Further information on the UNICEF emergency programme in South Sudan can be obtained from:

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⁷ Internal displacements due to conflict, while escalating food and fuel shortages due to blockades.