

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA IN 2008



The Eastern and Southern Africa region continues to face humanitarian crises that have gravely worsened the well-being of children and women. Violent attacks and ethnic clashes in Kenya (Mount Elgon) and Somalia have left over 500,000 people homeless. The prolonged dry spells caused a massive crisis that affected more than 11 million people. More than 400,000 people were hit by flooding in Northern and Eastern Uganda in September 2007, just as populations in Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique and Rwanda in the early months of the year. More than 130,000 AWD/cholera cases have been reported. Urgency arises over the increased possibility of conflict in the Horn and Great Lakes, the onset of instability in Zimbabwe as well as worsening food insecurity and seasonal natural disasters in Southern Africa.

Regional Office financial needs for 2008	
Sector	US\$
Strengthening emergency response to natural disasters and other rapid onset emergencies (incl. contingency planning, rapid assessments, immediate supply procurements, immediate human resources mobilization)	600,000
Building partnerships and coordination	50,000
Nutrition	750,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	250,000
Child protection	200,000
Comoros	500,000
Total*	2,514,500

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

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The Eastern and Southern Africa region has suffered more emergencies in the past decade than any other region. Wars and civil conflict, droughts, cyclones, floods, and various epidemics have been significant hurdles towards realizing women's and children's rights. The region continues to face multifaceted humanitarian crises, and 2007 was no exception. The year began with a massive crisis in the Horn of Africa with drought affecting 8 million people in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Later in the year, severe drought hit Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe where rains failed or were erratic in many areas. Flooding coincided with the cyclone season (December-April 2007) seriously affecting Madagascar and Mozambique, while riverine communities in Zambia experienced localized displacement. Significant damage to infrastructure, especially in Mozambique, was assessed in schools, health facilities, roads and food stores.

In the Horn of Africa, the ongoing conflict in Somalia, continuing border tensions between Ethiopia and Eritrea and unresolved ethnic clashes in Kenya and Ethiopia increasingly threaten human security and ongoing humanitarian assistance efforts. Violent attacks in Mogadishu (Somalia) have caused over 402,000 people to flee their homes since March 2007. In Western Kenya, 67,000 people remain internally displaced following the Mount Elgon ethnic clashes. An almost unprecedented number of countries in the region reported cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) or cholera, several of which have been in sustained crisis during 2007. UNICEF offices in Eastern and Southern Africa are responding to the acute humanitarian needs that both exacerbate chronic vulnerabilities and complicate efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

The UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) Emergency Support Unit (RESU) continued to focus on emergency preparedness and response. Emergency funds received in 2007 were used to build capacities in nutrition, monitoring and evaluation, communication and advocacy as well as supply and logistics. The Regional Communication Section centralized energies on the situation of children in the Horn of Africa and conducted extensive research on developmental challenges facing pastoral children in the Horn. UNICEF ESARO supported nutrition and child protection activities, promoting nutritional information systems in the Horn of Africa and initiatives to prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Zambia and Uganda; monitoring and reporting on major child rights violations (as per UN Security Council Resolution 1612) in northern Uganda and on HIV and AIDS in emergencies. The UNICEF Comoros Country Office supported a number of humanitarian activities due to the country's political instability, simmering Karthala volcano, the cyclone season and, more recently, localized cholera outbreaks. In the framework of the humanitarian reform and inter-agency coordination, UNICEF ESARO worked closely with the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team (RHPT) in Nairobi as well as the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Support Office (RIACSO) in Johannesburg. Both teams have enabled and facilitated structured coordination among UN agencies as well as broader coordination with governments, donors and NGOs. UNICEF ESARO has been an active member of these teams who provide a regular senior-level forum to formulate joint policies concerning regional coordination matters, including humanitarian reform, humanitarian financing and consolidated appeal process, harmonization of needs assessment tools and analysis, and emergency preparedness. Within this framework, UNICEF ESARO supported the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) through regional inter-agency workshops and inter-agency support missions.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2008

Coordination and partnership

As mentioned above, significant progress was achieved in implementing the humanitarian reform agenda through engagement with the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team (RHPT) in Nairobi and the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Support Office (RIACSO) in Johannesburg. The strengthening of these mechanisms is a priority for UNICEF's cooperation.

Regular programme

To meet preparedness and response commitments in all sectors, UNICEF ESARO secured dedicated posts in each of the sectoral areas (some already existing and some new under this project). This enabled surge capacity and the development of sector-specific guidance, tools and training. Nutrition, child protection and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors will continue to be the main pillars of UNICEF's activities in 2008.

During 2008 UNICEF ESARO will continue to enhance its emergency preparedness and response capacity to meet the needs of women and children in emergencies, with emphasis on countries facing ongoing and/or potential new emergencies.

Strengthening emergency response to natural disasters and other rapid onset emergencies (including: contingency planning, rapid assessments, immediate supply procurements, immediate human resources mobilization) (US\$ 600,000)

UNICEF ESARO will undertake simulations, vulnerability analyses, preparedness and contingency planning; support real-time evaluations and country/regional training; strengthen rapid response team; develop regional surge capacity rosters by enhancing the regional 'surge capacity' mechanism thus allowing for the fast deployment of experienced staff, particularly in sectors where UNICEF is cluster lead; support the cluster approach and strengthen leadership in water, sanitation and hygiene and data communication; reinforce surveillance systems; assess the use of emergency-integrated monitoring and evaluation as well as *Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies (CCCs)* information tools and database; strengthen logistics and link with World Food Programme (WFP) as cluster lead.

Building partnerships and coordination (US\$ 50,000)

UNICEF ESARO will continue to work closely with the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team (RHPT) in Nairobi and the OCHA Regional Office South Africa in Johannesburg. ESARO will strengthen its subregional contingency planning in consideration of the implications of the Horn of Africa and Zimbabwe crises through the promotion of inter-country coordination and the sharing of good practices, with a special focus on child protection and nutrition.

Nutrition (US\$ 750,000)

UNICEF ESARO will ensure that nutrition information in emergencies is further standardized and presented in a format that influences decision-making. ESARO will support nutrition clusters to guarantee the high quality and good coverage of acute malnutrition management programmes and make sure that acute malnutrition management is a focus for an integrated minimum nutrition package, aiming to prevent malnutrition through programmes that address its underlying causes. ESARO will also support nutrition programmes related to the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and to paediatric AIDS. This emerging area requires support in evaluating experience to date and developing strategies/guidelines for programming.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (US\$ 250,000)

ESARO will support Country Offices to update/develop their WASH preparedness and response plans and provide direct technical assistance and training on cluster work planning, coordination, and review mechanisms.

Child protection (US\$ 200,000)

ESARO will assist Country Offices to organize and facilitate training/capacity-building on child protection in emergencies; provide technical support to documentation of countries' experience in a number of critical areas such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers; develop lessons learned and good practices; provide technical support for initiatives promoting the participation of adolescents in emergency and post-conflict transition; enhance capacity-building of UNICEF and local NGO partners on psychosocial counselling; and provide technical support to Country Offices in HIV/AIDS in emergencies.

Comoros (US\$ 500,000)

In the event of a volcanic eruption or floods in 2008, UNICEF should be prepared to assist women and children in case of damaged schools, health centres, roads etc., and provide humanitarian assistance to displaced populations; cover cisterns to prevent water contamination; supply safe drinking water in case of contamination; procure basic drugs and supplies to prevent waterborne diseases and provide rapid response to disease outbreaks; train health workers; undertake social mobilization for care-seeking behaviour; install fixed/temporary water and sanitation facilities in affected locations; treat affected populations, and provide temporary learning spaces.