

UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010

GUINEA

SITUATION UPDATE

Tensions that troubled the country in 2009, culminating on 28 September, when a premeditated attack against opposition supporters gathered in a stadium left 156 dead and more than 1,400 injured, and scores of women were subjected to often brutal forms of sexual violence, seemed to have diffused with the agreement of a transition government in January 2010. The first round of presidential elections is expected to take place on 27 June and the second round between 1 and 8 August. If the electoral process does not take place in a peaceful manner, the political and social situation will remain unstable, with different warnings on possible conflict issues in the coming months, as presence of undisciplined soldiers and armed militias, exacerbated tensions among different ethnic groups and trafficking of weapons.

The level of poverty in Guinea continues to be acute, with 50 per cent of the population living with less than \$1US per day, while the prices of food and other basic commodities are still on the rise. Furthermore, long-lasting corruption and mismanagement of Guinea's vast natural resources has systematically impeded the restoration of public finances.

The well-being of more than 2.2 million children is affected by this severe social, cultural, political and economic disruption. Malnutrition remains a deep concern, with a prevalence of chronic malnutrition ranging between 26 to 36 per cent over the past ten years.¹ Low intensity natural hazards further reduce the struggling coping mechanism of rural communities. Guinean girls and boys continue to be victims of several forms of violence, exploitation and discrimination that hamper their survival and harmonious development, and deprive them of their chance of receiving education. According to the results of a national survey conducted in 2009, 685 cases were reported of children in conflict with the law, 2,533 cases of street children, 14,381 cases of orphan children and 6,239 cases of girl victims of harmful traditional practices. Some other phenomena associated with family separation exist but are not well documented, such as children living with employers. The absence or lack in the access to basic services such as health, water and sanitation, creates conditions favourable to the rapid spread of diseases already endemic in the area.

KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

Facing this complex environment, in coordination with the UN system, national and international NGOs such as ACF-E, PLAN Guinea, Guinea Red Cross, Terres des Hommes CH and in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies, UNICEF Guinea implemented a set of emergency relief activities to assist women and children affected by the crisis and to reinforce emergency preparedness.

Health: Given that the country did not experience any meningitis and cholera outbreaks during this period, there was no specific intervention to treat these diseases. Moreover through humanitarian funds received in late 2009, UNICEF Guinea is reinforcing national and local emergency preparedness through the provision of essential medical supplies and drugs for 330 health facilities and 33 hospitals, to cover up to 500,000 women and children in high-risk districts.

Nutrition: Nutrition services in 79 health centres across the country, run by the Ministry of Health and NGOs, benefitted from immediate technical support and ready-to-use therapeutic foods and therapeutic milk and drugs. With humanitarian funding received in 2010 and late 2009, 20,000 under five children suffering from severe acute malnutrition without complications and 2,900 under-five children suffering from severe acute malnutrition with complications were rehabilitated, out of the yearly plan to cover the needs for 30,000 severely acute malnourished children.

WASH: As of mid year, UNICEF has provided safe water and hygiene supply to 147,000 persons in the areas at risk, out of the yearly plan to cover the needs for 300,000 people.

In addition, as Water Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster Lead, UNICEF provided technical support and funding for activities related to reduce the incidence of cholera and other water diseases, improving the early warning and early action systems at community level in cholera endemic areas through four regional contingency plans and 15 community surveillance points in place. Furthermore, based on data reported during the 2007 cholera outbreak, UNICEF coordinated a vulnerability map for the town of Conakry, in close collaboration with ACF-E. According to the results of this mapping, ACF has put in place a rapid response team in the identified areas. In addition, 71 health workers and community workers were trained on hygiene promotion.

¹ Demographic and Health Survey 1999, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2008.

Education: With regular resources received in 2009, funding and technical support was provided to develop guidance for teachers and educators in crisis situations, which is ongoing. As of mid-year, UNICEF has trained 25 executive administrators among organisations and public services member of the Cluster, on minimum standards for the preparation and emergency response, out of 80 planned in 2010.

Protection: The Child Protection Working Group is focused on the special child protection needs related to the incoming electoral period, to reduce the potential risk of children being involved in the campaign. A set of protection activities including sensitisation and educational talking groups with children at risk and their communities, is ongoing in the town of Conakry, tailored to reach 1,200 children. Additionally, UNICEF provided technical support to the Gender-Based Violence Working Group, led by the United Nations Population Fund, to finalise standard operating procedures, including specific measures to provide support to child survivors of sexual violence.

Emergency preparedness and prevention: At the same time and according to the Core Commitments for Children, all programmes are reinforcing their contingency stock, to ensure a package of multi-sectoral basic assistance for a target population of 33,500 people. In addition, with peace-building funds received in 2010, UNICEF is implementing, in partnership with the INGO Search For Common Ground, a new youth empowerment programme supporting the role of 23,940 youth in conflict mitigation and peace building during the electoral period and broadly in political processes in the country.

KEY CHALLENGES

Main constraints relate to low levels of funding, as well as a lack of experienced implementing partners in the areas outside Conakry.

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

UNICEF is the Cluster lead of Education and WASH, co-lead of the Food Security/Nutrition Cluster, and lead of the Child Protection Working Group under the UNHCR-led Protection cluster. The cluster system in place since 2008 strengthens emergency preparedness and coordination at all levels, enhancing the capacity of the UN country team to put in place early warning and early action systems, particularly in the Health, Nutrition and WASH Clusters.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

To date, the Guinea Country Office has received only US\$686,327, including funding from USAID, which represents less than 11 per cent of funds requested within the HAR 2010. CERF funds received in late 2009 (US\$280,704) and regular resources were used in 2010 to reinforce national and local emergency preparedness in 330 health facilities and 33 hospitals covering up to 500,000 women and children in high-risk districts. Limited CERF funds and SIDA Thematic funds were further used to support the nutritional programme. Some non-emergency funds were also used to complete the health contingency stock. If additional funding does not come through in the coming months, more than 1.5 million children will be at risk of not receiving humanitarian assistance.

Funds received against the HAR 2010 (US\$)						
Sector	Original 2010 HAR requirements	Revised HAR requirements	Funds received	Funding gap	Additional funds utilized in 2010	Final funding gap
Health	1,500,000	1,551,500	50,000	1,501,500	326,070	1,175,430
Nutrition	700,000	535,000	254,296	280,704	174,260	106,444
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	1,270,000	1,268,378	182,031	1,086,347	0	1,086,347
Education	1,000,000	0	0	0	0	0
Child Protection	850,000	362,520	75,000	287,520	0	287,520
Emergency Prevention and Preparedness	0	807,850	125,000	682,850	0	682,850
Total*	5,320,000	4,525,248	686,327	3,838,921	500,330	3,338,591

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

EMERGENCY PROGRAMME PRIORITIES: JULY – DECEMBER 2010

By the end of 2010, UNICEF's Humanitarian priorities based on the assumption of 100 per cent of funding levels are:

Health:

- By the end of the year, about 500,000 people in areas at risk of crisis, natural disaster or epidemic outbreak will have access to adequate health care services.

Nutrition:

- At least 15,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition will receive treatment through both inpatient and outpatient care.
- Training on Nutrition in Emergencies will continue to help raise the level of understanding and capacity of 75 health staff to address both emergency and chronic conditions of malnutrition.
- 150 community health workers will be trained to actively identify malnutrition.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:

- About 150,000 people in areas at risk of cholera or flooding will have access to safe water, child-friendly sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion activities as per Sphere Standards.

Education:

- Fifty regional and prefectural Cluster focal points will be trained in minimum standards for emergency preparedness and response. Teachers and educators will receive guidance through training modules and sessions.
- Technical support will be provided to the government to include emergency preparedness and response to national education plans and budgets.

Child Protection:

- 300 government authority staff, NGO social workers and members of the security forces will be trained to tackle issues regarding child protection during emergencies.
- Psychosocial support will be provided to at least 10,000 children in the event of an emergency.
- Standard operating procedures for gender-based violence will be implemented in eight regions of the country to provide adequate multi-sectoral assistance to survivors of sexual violence.
- By July 2010, 1,200 children who risk being involved in the campaign will be reached by tailored protection and sensitisation activities.

Emergency and conflict prevention:

- By the end of the year, around 23,940 youths will be trained on peace building and conflict resolution, and will have a positive role in consolidating the peace during the transitional period.
- In the coming months a package of multi-sectoral basic assistance for a target population of 33,500 people will be in place. It will ensure access to essential health services, sufficient safe water, toilet and washing facilities and will assist children with severe acute malnutrition. Non-food items assistance will be provided to 12,500 children in preschools, primary and secondary schools, 770 children separated from their family and 4,750 IDP families.