

GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

SITUATION UPDATE

The global response to the 12 January earthquake in Haiti impacted operations worldwide, with many emergency staff focused on direct or indirect support to the response. For many parts of headquarters – such as the Office of Emergency Programmes, Programme Division, Supply Division and the Division of Human Resources – this entailed engaging directly in the response, and ensuring surge capacity was in place as quickly as possible. Global support to this response will continue to engage the organization for the next 12 to 18 months and beyond, as the country transitions to recovery. The massive response and many challenges specific to this operation are also contributing valuable learning to the organization to strengthen its systems and processes for humanitarian action and address some of the gaps that emerged.

In addition, global support has been provided to responses to other rapid-onset crises, such as the earthquakes in Chile and China, to the deteriorating food and nutrition security situations in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, the violent conflict in southern Kyrgyzstan and to the ongoing prolonged and chronic emergencies such as Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sudan, and Pakistan. Attention to these protracted crises will be critical for the remainder of 2010 due to the challenging humanitarian situation matched by the declining levels of humanitarian funding globally.

KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

UNICEF's Headquarters maintained its vital support role to protracted and sudden onset emergencies in 2010. **Humanitarian response** (including to Haiti) included: deployment of Emergency Response Team staff to four countries totalling 321 days; 78 deployments from Standby Partners, including 12 for cluster coordination; and facilitating 55 CERF grants (28 for under-funded and 27 for rapid response) for \$52 million to support 24 country offices; processing of \$39 million in Emergency Programme Funds to support 16 offices.

Following the Haiti earthquake in January 2010, a Human Resources Emergency Unit was re-structured to devote full time support to countries in crisis and enable UNICEF to respond effectively to emergencies based on its internal capacity and external partners. During the first six months of 2010, over 400 surge capacity assignments were requested from Haiti alone.

Through UNICEF's Copenhagen-based **Supply** Division, headquarters provided extensive humanitarian support, especially to Haiti where 18 staff were deployed and set up the supply chain in country. During the Haiti response, the emergency response strategy in support of the CCCs allowed supply division to begin providing the Haiti Country Office with essential supplies at the onset of the emergency. In support of the global strategy which also includes pre-positioning of emergency stocks in different locations, supply division has also increased its emergency stock levels in the Panama hub and transferred all its stocks to the United Nations Humanitarian Resource Depot (UNHRD) warehouse in Panama. For the Haiti response alone, supply division provided emergency supplies with a total value of \$38 million, compared to \$56 million for the whole of 2009.

The **Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action** (CCCs) were issued in April 2010 and are being rolled out to all regional and country offices. This revised version brings UNICEF's principal humanitarian policy up to date with changes in humanitarian contexts, including the cluster approach. For the first time, the CCCs integrate global benchmarks and are relevant to all offices with accountabilities for preparedness and explicit early recovery actions. Fulfilment of the CCCs will depend on many factors, including the contributions of partners.

Global level action in support of the **cluster approach** in the first half of the year has primarily focused on the provision of support to the Haiti earthquake response. Across the clusters, technical resources, staffing and guidance to the Country Office have been provided. Of particular note was the prompt adaptation and dissemination of standards to Haiti country clusters, especially in the Nutrition sector. This support to Haiti has resulted in strengthened response, more effective cluster coordination and strengthened government and partner capacity. Global cluster support missions providing technical oversight and capacity development were also undertaken to Chile and Yemen, including cluster coordination training by the Child Protection Working Group coordinator in Yemen.

Significant support was provided by **Programmes** to Haiti, through both remote technical assistance and surge missions - in all 26 technical specialists were deployed to support the response for a total of 877 days. Global sector advisors

have also provided support to a number of ongoing emergencies, including Child Protection support to Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Nepal, Thailand and Yemen; surge support to the Health Cluster in Yemen and the WASH response in Kyrgyzstan; as well as WASH in emergencies training for partners, government and all staff in the India country office. A major priority for 2010 is to undertake analyses of the emergency preparedness of country offices, in order to guide decision-making for prioritising support.

UNICEF developed a **Technical Note on engaging effectively with integrated UN presences**. The note provides practical advice to UNICEF staff working in countries where there is a UN peacekeeping, peace-building or special political mission. It outlines key concepts and recent developments at the policy level, and identifies entry points and opportunities for UNICEF to influence and leverage the resources of an integrated presence for the benefit of children and women.

In response to the demand from country offices for a Conceptual Framework and Technical Guidance on **developing national capacities** for preparedness and response (including early recovery), UNICEF has developed the “Technical Guidance – Systemic Capacity Development for the Core Commitments of Children”, to be finalized in August. The draft is consistent with discussions around a policy on capacity development for UNICEF as a whole, and it emphasizes the need for a systemic approach to obtain sustainable results. The Technical Guidance will be tested through application in 2 -3 countries, following which amendments will be done based on those country's practical experience in assessing capacities, designing, implementing and evaluating capacity development interventions. This will help ensure that the Technical Guidance can respond to country office needs, and represent adequately successful strategies as well as challenges.

In the context of the Enterprise Risk Management policy, UNICEF has spearheaded the **Harmonized Emergency Risk Management Initiative** to streamline the various emergency risk informed planning and programming processes (Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness, with Business Continuity Management and Security) within the regular programming cycle of each Country Office. The fundamental difference for UNICEF in the field will be that all programmes will be emergency risk informed, yielding more consistent, sustainable synergies in risk prevention, mitigation and preparedness and a more successful response to achieve the CCCs.

In **disaster risk reduction**, UNICEF is completing Programme Guidance on disaster risk reduction to provide a conceptual framework, mainstream disaster risk reduction in all programmes, and advance community resilience particularly for high risk countries. In order to strengthen advocacy about the growing impact that disasters have on children, UNICEF together with its NGO partners began a research project focused on six disaster-prone countries. The research will examine the relationship between child welfare and disasters and will help UNICEF and its partners to work with young people to reduce their risk. The study is expected to be published in the ISDR flagship publication, The Global Assessment of Risk report, in 2011.

KEY CHALLENGES

UNICEF continues to pursue the securing of predictable funding for all the clusters to maintain its cluster leadership role and the institutional capacity to ensure consistent quality interventions, provide technical support and strengthen predictable humanitarian action. Lack of predictable funding presents serious challenges for the sustainability and effectiveness of global support to regional and country offices.

In capacity development there is a need to ensure that the application of the Technical Guidance actually improves and elevates the sector work of country offices as it is expected to enhance collaboration with strengthened national counterparts. One challenge is therefore how to qualitatively and quantitatively measure how national capacity development enhances the targeted national capacities and improves the quality of programming. Close collaboration with the evaluation office is therefore expected in 2010.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

As of 30 June, UNICEF has allocated more than \$22 million from regular and other resources (RR and OR) to cover the costs of the associated activities, reducing the funding gap from \$29 million to \$26.2 million. No targeted funding has yet been received against this appeal.

Funds received against the HAR 2010 (US\$)			
Sector	Original HAR requirements	Funds received	UNICEF allocated funds **
Young child survival and development	18,843,267	0	4,590,100
Basic education and gender equality	11,348,786	0	9,690,262
HIV/AIDS and children	1,391,832	0	547,788
Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse	8,029,801	0	4,893,763
Policy Advocacy and partnerships for children's rights	8,886,313	0	2,561,570
Total Requirements*	48,500,000		
Funded**	19,500,000		22,283,483
Total unfunded	29,000,000		26,216,517

*The figures include 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.

** Additional funds utilised in 2010 include allocations of regular resources (RR), and other resources (OR).

EMERGENCY PROGRAMME PRIORITIES: JULY – DECEMBER 2010

For the remainder of 2010, capitalizing on progress achieved last year, a main priority is to advance UNICEF's cluster accountability framework, clarifying roles, accountabilities and responsibilities, and to roll this out across the organization. This will help guide decision-making on support needs and necessary preparedness action. Major priorities identified for 2010 also include: developing a critical mass of reliable humanitarian response capacity, including through further strengthening capacity for cluster coordination, standby partnerships and internal surge deployment arrangements; and strengthening institutionalised learning from humanitarian contexts, including Haiti, to improve UNICEF's humanitarian action.

In capacity development for preparedness and response, work will focus on application of the Technical Guidance in a first phase of roll out in 2-3 country offices in 2010, paving the way for an extensive roll out plan in 2011.

As part of the Harmonized Emergency Risk Management Initiative, work is underway on the revision of the Programme Policy and Procedure Manual and training to incorporate emergency and crisis risk management.

To further support Disaster Risk Reduction work at country level, work is also underway with the Education Cluster to develop guidance, tools and good practice, a global Community of Practice is being developed on the UNICEF website and a strategic review of DRR in East and Southern Africa will be underway in the second quarter.

UNICEF is currently reviewing its human resource processes and systems to enable the organization to respond to crises in maximum speed. Further development of the Global WEB roster will focus on expanding its search through traditional and non-traditional sourcing to attract the best talent for countries in crisis and protracted emergencies. Based on the Haiti experience, the HR emergency administrative instruction and the Fast-Track recruitment process for emergencies will be finalized during the third quarter of 2010.