

UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010

MAURITANIA

SITUATION UPDATE

A joint UNICEF/Ministry of Health survey was carried out in July 2010 and revealed that during the lean season Brakna, Guidimakha and Gorgol regions had a high prevalence of a global acute malnutrition (GAM) exceeding 15 per cent. Three other regions had an acute malnutrition exceeding 10 per cent among six to 59 months old children. Furthermore, the World Food Programme and the Food Security Commission carried out a vulnerability assessment survey in May 2010, which showed 25 per cent of households being at risk from severe and moderate food insecurity. During the rainy season (July-September) over 10,000 persons were affected by floods. Five polio and several measles cases were reported in 2010.

KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

From January to June 2010, the programme goal was to minimize any increases in global acute under-nutrition among children under five, which is generally observed during the lean season. The following emergency activities were funded with 2009 funds; no funding has been received against the HAR as of mid-year.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF continued to support therapeutic feeding centres in nine vulnerable regions, treating approximately 540 children with severe acute malnutrition in four regions. Therapeutic food is now positioned in nine health regions and mobile teams are treating hard-to-reach children to increase community attendance in the rehabilitation centres. In response to the polio epidemic, six rounds of polio immunizations were undertaken, covering the entire country between January and June 2010. In line with HAR 2010 plans, vitamin A supplementation coverage reached 93 per cent, and de-worming coverage reached 95 per cent in under-five children in six regions. The promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for under-six month aged children was integrated into the vitamin A supplementation campaign carried out in May and June 2010, using mass media and home visits by community volunteers in all 13 regions. The preliminary results showed the proportion of women of child bearing age exposed to messages during the home visits of almost 70 per cent (296,212 people) in six out of 13 regions, in addition to other mass media messages on exclusive breastfeeding promotion were sent nationally. UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Health with two yearly nutrition surveys and by strengthening the routine health information systems including nutrition.

Child Protection: The protection team started emergency preparedness planning by training stakeholders on emergency responses and on child protection issues. Due to lack of funding, no mine awareness activities were undertaken in the first half of the year.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Water supply and water treatment materials were procured to meet the needs of 10,000 persons.

Education: Eighty inspectors were trained on education in emergencies tools and strategies, and an emergency focal point from the Ministry of Education was assigned. Additionally, education partners were sensitized on matters of expected preparedness and responses in education emergencies.

KEY CHALLENGES

Operational key challenges include the reduction of child wasting to below 10 per cent in the vulnerable regions, by linking management of acute malnutrition with prevention related inputs (through Child Survival programme, RUSF interventions and REACH), through improved coordination of emergency preparedness and response interventions along with partners; and by supporting the Government in emergency preparedness and response. Limited emergency funding has reduced preventive measures in terms of emergency preparedness and responses in all sectors.

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

UN agencies, NGOs, and other humanitarian agencies completed the revision of the 2010 Inter-agency Contingency Plan, focusing on the most likely scenarios i.e. flooding, increases in food prices and nutritional emergencies in certain pockets in the vulnerable regions, as well as social unrest. The monthly emergency coordination forum continued to meet periodically and has been led by the UN Resident Coordinator. The REACH technical group, including UN Agencies, international NGOs and government participants, collaborated in the monthly coordination meetings. Other

Emergency groups including Education, Protection and WASH remain active when called upon. Six regional training events on Rapid Assessment Needs in Emergency situations were carried out and 252 participants were trained.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

HAR 2010 requirements equalled US\$2.4 million, of which no funding has been received to date. Nutrition requirements have been increased according to the West Africa CAP 2010 mid-year review and the introduction of a new programme of prevention during the lean season. The current funding requirements amount to \$3,798,044. Funding for child protection is urgently needed to provide psycho-social support for children now outside parental care, as well as access to basic services, social and family integration, monitoring, re-unification of separated families, as well as for mine risk education and assistance to landmine victims.

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	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	177,321	322,679
Nutrition	1,000,000	2,348,044	0	2,348,044	1,363,644	984,400
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	23,458	176,542
Education	350,000	350,000	0	350,000	0	350,000
Child Protection	350,000	350,000	0	350,000	0	350,000
HIV/AIDs	50,000	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000
Total*	2,450,000	3,798,044	0	3,798,044	1,564,423	2,233,621

*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

Health: In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health, UNICEF will continue supporting polio immunization campaigns with a sizeable social mobilization component. Surveillance activities of polio and measles will be strengthened.

Nutrition: In collaboration with international NGOs, the World Food Programme, the WHO and the Ministry of Health, UNICEF will assist 23,500 children under-five with acute under-nutrition, of whom 2,500 suffer having severe and acute under-nutrition, reflecting an increase in original HAR targets to deal with seasonal peaks. UNICEF will also carry out preventive interventions by implementing the Child Survival Strategy, which includes follow up on the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, as well as the implementation of the second round of vitamin A Supplementation and deworming, and the implementation of supplementary programmes with ready-to-use supplementary foods (RUSF) targeting 8,937 children aged 6-36 months in the Tagant region. UNICEF will also organise training on nutrition and emergencies for 20 stakeholders in July 2010.

HIV/AIDS: By the end of 2010, UNICEF and partners (MoH, Executive Secretariat for HIV/AIDS, French Red Cross and national NGOs/PLWA associations) will strengthen the vulnerable communities' ability to reduce vulnerability and exposure to HIV infection in the areas affected by flooding and returnees' in camps. Children, young people and women will have access to information on prevention (PEPKIT), care and treatment. The development and dissemination of Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) messages and materials will reach an estimated 10,000 persons.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Mini-water supply systems will be repaired and maintained, and disinfection for wells and water supplies that were affected by floods will be provisioned. Hygiene education and hygiene awareness programmes will be promoted in schools and in local communities to supplement existing water and sanitation activities. Water and sanitation interventions will be provided, targeting displaced communities. Additionally, six collapsible water tanks of 5,000 litres each, and 720 jerry cans will be pre-provisioned for 720 families that lost their household belongings during floods. These activities will reach some 10,000 displaced persons, focusing particularly on children and women.

Education: By the end of 2010, UNICEF will support the introduction of emergency preparedness and response in the national policy documents that are currently under revision. UNICEF will also support the implementation of regional work plans including assistance to local schools for displaced population. This includes school kits for 50 primary schools, including 205 school in box kits for 3,000 students and primary school teachers, 40 temporary classrooms, 20 temporary classroom tents until the rebuilding of new schools, 50 latrine blocks each with four latrine cubicles along with 200-500 additional squatting plastic plates for use in areas in need, 50 school sanitation committees and cooperatives to manage emergencies and school hygiene, and 50 sports kits.

Child Protection: Several key protection projects and protection issues exist for children now out of parental care, which require urgent funding. Additionally, there are 65 districts with suspected landmines in the Dakhlet Nouadhibou and Tiris Zemmour regions. Partners are implementing a Mine Risk Education Programme (MRE) for de-mining and to provide assistance to victims.