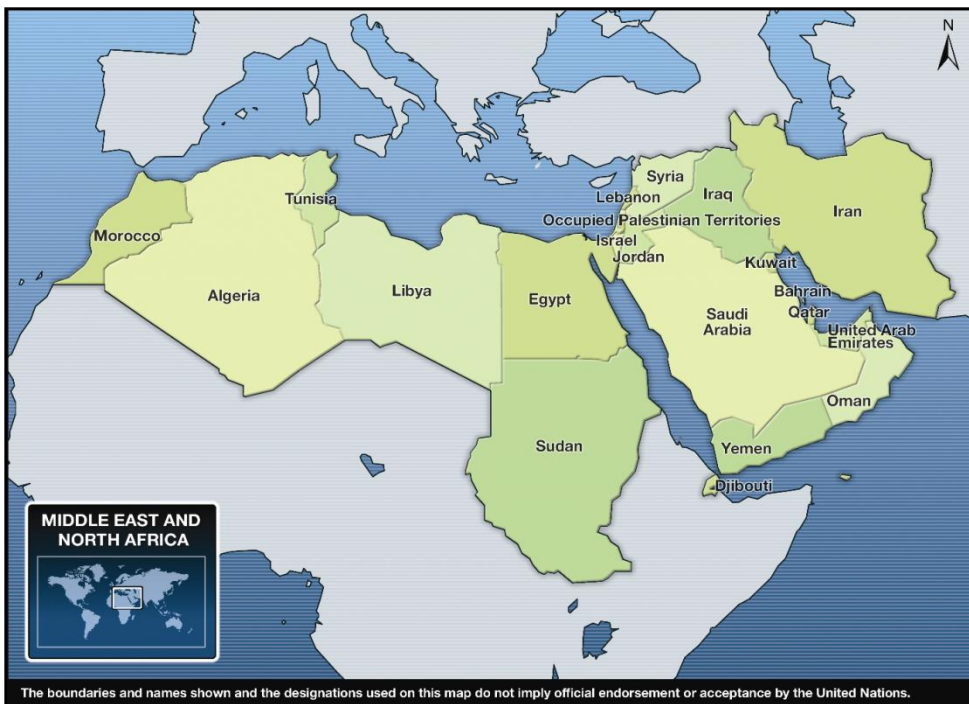


## UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010

# MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



### SITUATION UPDATE

The combination of sharp economic disparities, increasing hardship and several protracted conflict situations within the Middle East and North Africa region continue to affect children. The first half of 2010 witnessed a continuation of tensions in Sudan, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Iraq and Yemen and worsening food insecurity in Djibouti and Yemen. There are tensions in Sudan over the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement with the possibility of electoral-related and post-election violence. In Darfur, continuing insecurity and the risk of further conflict between government forces and rebel groups, despite the recent ceasefire agreement, is a concern.

The security situation in Iraq remains volatile and there is a risk of increased sectarian tensions following elections in March 2010. This will be compounded by the ongoing withdrawal of international forces. Continuing insecurity will exacerbate protection concerns and further restrict humanitarian access. In oPt, the risk of deterioration of the security situation and resumption of large-scale violence remains high due to the ongoing occupation, continuing military incursions and the deepening divide between the different Palestinian factions. In the West Bank, key causes of instability are the continuing construction of settlements and the deterioration of the situation in East Jerusalem. The Middle East and North Africa region remains characterised by high levels of internal displacement associated with the complex emergencies as described above. As of May 2010, at least 4.9 million people were internally displaced in Darfur, the Greater Khartoum area, South Kordofan and the ten States of Southern Sudan, with unknown numbers of internally displaced people in the other northern and eastern States. In Southern Sudan over 390,000 people were newly displaced in 2009, twice as many as in 2008, and another 60,000 during the first four months of 2010. In Yemen, the conflict caused the displacement of over 340,000 people.

Children in Djibouti remain acutely vulnerable to the impacts of the country's environmental shocks, mainly drought and floods, which have been compounded by sharply rising food prices in recent years. In February 2010, the Government, in collaboration with UN agencies, conducted a Rapid Assessment of the Impact of Drought in Rural Areas,<sup>1</sup> which estimated that 120,000 people in rural areas are affected by the current crisis, representing 50 per cent of the rural population and 15 per cent of the total population. The worst affected rural dwellers are pastoralist nomads and semi-nomads. The assessment concluded that priority sectors requiring an emergency response are food

<sup>1</sup> Evaluation rapide de l'impact de la sécheresse en milieu rural, Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Décentralisation, Djibouti, March 2010.

aid, health, nutrition, water (including hygiene/sanitation) and animal husbandry/agriculture. Rural areas across the country, outside of Djibouti Ville, are considered priority zones, with particular emphasis on the north west.

### KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

#### Emergency Preparedness and Response for UNICEF Country Offices

- Emergency Preparedness and Response planning was supported for five countries in the region through a review of the Emergency Preparedness and Response and Inter-Agency Contingency Plans as well as a simulation exercise conducted in Jordan.
- The regional office supported rapid and efficient response to emergencies in Sudan and Yemen through the deployment of regional office emergency and technical staff.
- UNICEF's capacity to identify possible threats to women and children and accurately define trends and opportunities to conduct more effective advocacy and action has been expanded through an initiative to set up Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) systems in three countries (Sudan, Algeria and Lebanon)

#### Emergency Preparedness and Response for National Partners

- Despite lack of funding, UNICEF regional office has developed a first draft of a Disaster Risk Reduction strategy with the aim of supporting innovative programmes focused on risk reduction in the niche areas of Education and WASH, with technical assistance to ensure integration of this critical approach in national plans and priorities across the region.

#### Emergency Response in Djibouti

- Facility-based and community-based management of moderate and severe malnutrition was improved, increasing coverage of severely malnourished children from 60 to 70 per cent. By the end the first quarter 2010, the recovery rate among severely malnourished children reached 80 per cent as compared to 61 per cent at the end of 2009, while the case fatality rate dropped from 1.3 to 0.3 per cent.
- Access to safe drinking water through water trucking operations was strengthened for approximately 25,000 people in remote rural areas together with the promotion of household water treatment.

### KEY CHALLENGES

Key challenges include varieties of complex and chronic emergencies in the region, coupled with limited access to affected populations due to insecurity. Large scale protracted crises in the region required increased support from the UNICEF regional office, stretching its capacity beyond existing human resources. This, along with challenges in filling key technical posts at the country level, has put a strain on response effectiveness. The reduction in humanitarian operating space and access restrictions will continue to affect operations due to increased violence; targeting of humanitarian workers, vehicles and facilities and delays in administrative procedures including visa issuance (e.g. Yemen, Sudan, oPt). The Djibouti Country Office has additionally had to contend with a weak logistics system for nutrition supplies.

### INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

UNICEF regional office collaborates with other UN Agencies and NGOs on emergency and preparedness through the regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) network, of which UNICEF is both a co-founder and active stakeholder. UNICEF regional office provides cluster technical and financial support for UNICEF cluster lead responsibilities. Technical specialists are in place at the UNICEF regional office, providing support to WASH, Education, Nutrition, and Child Protection Clusters. Most recently, the regional office has been actively participating in the newly established Regional Information Management Network (RIMN), a sub-group of the regional IASC network, which aims to improve the flow of information between humanitarian actors and facilitate the coordination of the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of information. In its capacity as WASH and Nutrition Cluster lead within the UN country team, UNICEF Djibouti has been coordinating all emergency activities to the ongoing drought situation.

### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The 2010 funding requirements for UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa region amounted to US\$4,000,000, including US\$3,000,000 to support the Emergency Response in Djibouti. As of mid-year, US\$247,052 (49.4 per cent of revised requirements) has been received by the Regional Office, and US\$500,000 (12.5 per cent of revised requirements) by the Djibouti Country Office. UNICEF Regional Office requires additional resources to enhance capacity development and advocacy initiatives in the countries, which are most "in need" in the region. The Djibouti County Office, based on the findings from the Rapid Assessment of the Impact of Drought in Rural Areas, undertaken

February 2010, is increasing the HAR requirements from US\$3,000,000 to US\$4,000,000 to enhance Health, Nutrition, WASH and Child Protection prioritised activities planned as described below.

Funds received against the HAR 2010 (US\$)				
Sector	Original 2010 HAR requirements	Revised HAR requirements	Funds received	Funding gap
Emergency Readiness and Response for UNICEF Country Offices	500,000	500,000	247,052	252,948
Emergency Preparedness and Response for National Partners	400,000	400,000	0	400,000
Analysis Tools for Advocacy	100,000	100,000	0	100,000
Emergency Response in Djibouti	3,000,000	4,000,000	500,000	3,500,000
<b>Total*</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>747,052</b>	<b>4,252,948</b>

\*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

#### Emergency Readiness and Response for UNICEF Country Offices

- Critical Capacity Development for Preparedness: The Regional Office will continue to support country offices to the emergency Preparedness and Response and contingency planning process, provision of training in cluster coordination, emergency simulation exercises and the rapid deployment of experienced staff, particularly in sectors where UNICEF has sector/cluster leadership.
- Improved Analysis for Early Warning: UNICEF's capacity to identify possible threats to women and children will be enhanced in three countries: Sudan, Lebanon and Algeria.
- Sub-Regional Supply Initiative: The potential to establish a road-accessible warehouse in a host country in the region with the capability to store enough humanitarian supplies for an initial response to 50,000 people is under investigation.

#### Emergency Preparedness and Response for National Partners

- Regional Training Centre: Opportunities for national partners (civil servants and staff of national organisations) to build their capacity for emergencies will be enhanced through the establishment of a Humanitarian Training Centre, located in a host country in the region. The Regional Office will complete the business plan and mobilise partnerships and stakeholders in preparation for opening of the centre in 2011.
- Disaster Risk Reduction: The capacity of counterparts to identify, assess and react to disaster risks will be expanded through strategic partnership with the League of Arab States, including support to innovative programmes focused on risk reduction in schools, and technical assistance to ensure integration of this critical approach in national plans and priorities across the region.

#### Analysis Tools for Advocacy

- The Children in Conflict Monitor: Reliable data about the impact of conflict on children and women's' rights will be increasingly available for use in advocacy as a result of clarifying indicators and improving data collection tools and methods for tracking changes over time.

#### Emergency Response in Djibouti

- Health-related interventions aimed at delivering high impact services will improve the health of children under five years old through integrated National Immunisation Days Campaigns. During these campaigns a package of services including EPI (Expanded Programme Immunisation), vitamin A and de-worming tablets are delivered to under fives, to reduce the mortality and morbidity due these preventable diseases.
- The priorities are: (i) screening acute malnourished children within the highly vulnerable areas mainly at community level; (ii) screening of malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women; (iii) managing severe and moderate acute malnourished children within health facilities and at the community level with collaboration of community associations and community health workers; and (iv) promoting young child feeding practices such as exclusive breastfeeding up to six months and timely and adequate complementary feeding.
- The emergency priorities will include ensuring safe water supply, adequate sanitation and hygiene interventions for 120,000 people through rehabilitation of existing motorised water pumping stations and sanitation facilities as well as promotion of proper hygiene practices.
- Continued provision of safety net interventions to 700 orphaned or vulnerable children and their families or caregivers.