

UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010 **CHAD**

Chad continues to face an acute emergency situation due to internal and cross-border violence, mass displacement and limited access to areas in humanitarian need. Widespread banditry is exacerbating an already difficult situation. The recent fighting has also intensified the widespread practice of recruitment of underage children into armed groups, as well as the dissemination of unexploded ordnance that continues to kill and maim civilians, most of them children. In addition, uneven and below-average rainfall is jeopardizing future crops and leading to higher food prices and undernutrition.



Coping strategies are threatening to collapse under the strain of over 171,000 internally displaced people and an increasingly depleted and harsh natural environment. Spillover from the conflict in Darfur and the deteriorating security in the Central African Republic is also contributing to the humanitarian crisis in Chad which is now home to approximately 312,000 refugees living in camps or host communities and all in need of resources. Critical interventions are additionally required to support Central African Republic refugees in the south and in Salamat, and to meet immediate needs of Chadian returnees in the east. Refugee, displaced and host community children also face other threats, including separation from their families, lack of access to education, trafficking and sexual exploitation.

In 2010, UNICEF will seek to meet immediate humanitarian needs of 750,000 people – including 360,000 children – in refugee, displaced and host communities in eastern and southern Chad. This response will also extend to newly-arrived refugees in south-eastern Chad and returnees in the east. Together with the Government of Chad, the United Nations Country Team, the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad, as well as international and national NGOs, UNICEF will define key benchmarks for the transition from humanitarian crisis to early recovery and development, at which point the focus will shift towards delivery of more inclusive, quality and effective humanitarian action in the areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, child protection and HIV/AIDS. UNICEF will continue to coordinate the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Nutrition and Education Clusters, as well as the Child Protection Sub-Cluster, for improved emergency preparedness and response.

UNICEF EMERGENCY NEEDS FOR 2010

Sector	US\$
Health	5,005,000
Nutrition	12,500,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	11,557,500
Education	10,500,000
Child Protection	9,133,100
HIV/AIDS	1,700,000
Total	50,395,600

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

The situation for women and children within and beyond the conflict-affected areas is already dire as evidenced by the fact that Chad has the third highest rate of under-five child mortality in the world.¹ Acute malnutrition rates exceed 20 per cent in many communities, while up to 36 per cent of pregnant women suffer from anaemia. Both acute malnutrition and anaemia are serious undernutrition conditions that can lead to death if not treated in time. Children in returnee areas are particularly at risk as immunization drop-out rates exceed 60 per cent and outbreaks of measles continue to recur. In the south, an area host to Central African Republic refugees, HIV prevalence is three times higher than the national average. As the infection rate is twice as high in women as in men, HIV/AIDS represents a real threat to the survival and health of children and women.

In many remote areas, access to safe water and improved sanitation remains critically low, increasing the risk of diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases among children under five. In Goudiangu, Goungour and Sanour in eastern Chad and where water and situation needs are at their most acute, less than one third of the population can access the recommended minimum 15 litres of water per day. Nor is it uncommon for up to 120 people to be sharing the same latrine.

The ongoing fighting also means that an entire generation of children is at risk of losing the right to an education. This situation is also a consequence of the critical lack of school infrastructure, learning materials and qualified teachers in a country that is 60 per cent illiterate. The problems are most serious among host communities, the displaced and refugees from the Central African Republic, among whom girls make up more than half of the number of children who are missing out on an education.

CORE COUNTRY DATA

Total population (thousands, 2008)	10,914
Child population (thousands, 2008)	5,724
U5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births, 2008)	209
Infant (U1) mortality rate (per 1,000 live births, 2008)	124
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births, 2005)	1,500
Primary school enrolment ratio (net male/female, 2003–2008 [*])	71/50
%U1 fully immunized (DPT3, 2008)	20
% population using improved drinking water sources (2006)	48
HIV prevalence rate (% 15–49 years, 2007)	4
%U5 suffering from moderate and severe wasting (2003–2008 [*])	-

* Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified.

Although reliable data are lacking due to the volatility of the situation, it is likely that child recruitment into armed groups remains both widespread and greatly underestimated. In 2009, the release of a total of 190 children from armed groups indicated that there are significant numbers of children still associated with armed conflict. Furthermore, there is evidence to suggest that the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence has also risen alarmingly, and that up to 53 per cent of children aged 5–14 years are exposed to child labour, while 72 per cent of children – notably girls – are being given up for forced marriages. Community protection mechanisms are already strained, a situation which is not helped by further displacements. Most children, typically those in refugee camps and displacement sites, are not registered at birth, endangering their access to adequate health, nutrition and education services and consequently their overall development and life chances.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2009

Alongside a broad network of over 30 national, international and civil society partners, and in close partnership with the Government of Chad, UNICEF led efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs of approximately 750,000 people, including 360,000 children, throughout 2009. Although renewed fighting and a new influx of Central African Republic refugees led to a sharp increase in humanitarian needs, critical funding gaps also severely hampered UNICEF and partners' capacity to reach all populations.

Despite these challenges, the UNICEF-led Nutrition Cluster screened over 300,000 children under five for acute malnutrition, and subsequently treated 6,200 children with severe acute malnutrition and a further 12,300 moderately acutely malnourished children. In addition, ready-to-use therapeutic food supplied by UNICEF was used to successfully treat 22,000 undernourished pregnant women. Over 67,000 children received vitamin A supplementation and de-worming tablets. A polio eradication drive ensured immunization of 93,000 vulnerable children under five while thousands of other children and pregnant women benefited from routine vaccination campaigns. Also, some 24,500 insecticide-treated mosquito nets were distributed to pregnant and lactating women in an effort to protect them and their children from malaria.

In tandem with the health and nutrition interventions, UNICEF and its partners worked to ensure access to safe water and sanitation services for 140,000 people, including 10,000 returnees. Partnerships with the Chadian Government's Department of Hydraulics and Oxfam were notably instrumental in creating access to safe water up to Sphere standards in the Aradib and Goz Amir areas. Over

1. United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2010*, UNICEF, New York, 2010. Basic Indicators.

120,000 people learned about good hygiene practices. With partners such as CARE International, Christian Outreach Relief and Development, INTERSOS and the International Rescue Committee, emergency educational interventions reached 64,816 Sudanese refugee children in the east – achieving over 100 per cent preschool enrolment, i.e., beyond the expected target number – and over 30,000 refugee children from the Central African Republic in the south.

Through working closely with the Ministries of Defence and Social Affairs, CARE International and Jesuit Refugee Services, UNICEF secured the unconditional release of 164 children associated with armed groups, bringing the total number of children released since 2007 to 719. UNICEF partners Africare, INTERSOS, CARE International and Secours Catholique et Développement, also expanded access to psychosocial care and counselling services for 7,800 vulnerable children by increasing the number of child-friendly spaces. In response to new contamination by unexploded ordnance following fresh fighting, UNICEF also launched mass sensitization campaigns, targeting more than 35,000 children living in unexploded ordnance-affected areas using radio broadcasts in Arabic and French.



“SO THAT CHILDREN CAN BE CHILDREN AGAIN”: PARTNERING TO OFFER CONFLICT-AFFECTED CHILDREN A CHANCE TO START ANEW

“It has been a long journey,” whispers 16-year-old Ali. “Sometimes I still have very bad nightmares. I remember when we were so lost in the fighting... but when I wake up here at the centre, I know it is over.”

Ali is one of 83 children associated with armed groups during the May 2009 conflict between government forces and rebel groups, and later released to UNICEF. At the UNICEF-supported transit centre in Chad’s capital of N’Djaména, Ali and other children formerly associated with armed groups receive food, clothing, medical care and psychosocial counselling to help them make the

transition back into civilian life. The centres operate in partnership with CARE International and Jesuit Refugee Services.

In Chad, UNICEF works with a total 33 international and national NGOs to deliver quality and timely humanitarian support in health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and child protection.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2010

Working alongside partners including United Nations agencies, international and national NGOs and local authorities, UNICEF will direct its efforts towards the needs of 750,000 displaced people, refugees and those living in host communities in eastern and southern Chad, including returnees and newly-arrived Central African Republic refugees, who will benefit from multiple interventions in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies. Interventions aligned with national strategies will also guide efforts in water, sanitation and hygiene, education and child protection.

Health

US\$5,005,000

UNICEF will respond to the immediate need for preventive and curative care for 120,000 children under five and 50,000 pregnant women living in refugee, displaced and host communities. Response will include the roll out of the Accelerated Child Survival and Development strategy which combines catch-up immunization, malaria prevention, vitamin A supplementation and de-worming.

- Routine immunization will aim to achieve a 90 per cent coverage

among children under one year and pregnant women through outreach of the expanded programme on immunization.

- Around 73,000 children under five will benefit from two rounds of vitamin A supplementation and de-worming while all families in affected areas will receive insecticide-treated mosquito nets for malaria prevention.
- UNICEF will ensure supply of essential drugs for newborn, antenatal and essential and emergency obstetric care and access to at least one emergency obstetric care facility per 100,000 people.

Nutrition**US\$12,500,000**

UNICEF will concentrate on securing access to nutrition services for up to 180,000 people, and as coordinator of the Nutrition Cluster, work to improve surveillance and monitoring of nutritional security with a view to improving emergency responses and preparedness.

- A nutritional surveillance system that covers all 12 refugee camps in eastern Chad will benefit vulnerable children and women, while a comprehensive mapping exercise will identify appropriate early preventive responses to emerging nutrition gaps and vulnerabilities.
- Increased availability of therapeutic foods, essential drugs and other medical supplies will facilitate prompt treatment of severe acute malnutrition and save more lives.
- Case management of acute malnutrition will improve as a result of training health workers and community networks in treatment of severe acute malnutrition and appropriate infant and young child feeding practices in emergencies.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**US\$11,557,500**

UNICEF will ensure access to safe water, sanitation and improved hygiene for several hundred thousand displaced people, returnees, newly-arrived Central African Republic refugees and those living in host communities in the east and south of the country. As leader of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster, UNICEF will work to improve the coverage and coordination of responses between the 12-plus national and international partners delivering water, sanitation and hygiene support.

- Around 290,000 people will have access to safe water as per Sphere standards through the rehabilitation and maintenance of existing water and sanitation facilities and efforts to build capacity locally for water quality testing.
- 50 schools and 50 health centres in conflict-affected communities will regain and/or consolidate sustainable access to sanitation facilities; pupils and patients will benefit from hygiene promotion activities at the household level.
- Response to quick-onset disasters, displacement and new influxes of refugees will be improved with additional preparedness training of partners, further development of contingency plans and stock pre-positioning.
- UNICEF will support early recovery, including in returnee areas, through community appropriation strategies for water and sanitation facilities and through partnerships with local water management committees aimed at developing ownership in management and maintenance of facilities.

Education**US\$10,500,000**

In coordination with more than 13 education partners, UNICEF as leader of the Education Cluster will seek to expand access to education while simultaneously upgrading and improving learning environments for over 170,000 refugee children, as well as children who are displaced or living in host communities.

- Construction of 200 new semi-permanent schools will provide up to 20,000 children with access to school and will contribute to an increase in enrolment and retention overall.
- Over 170,000 children and their teachers will benefit from the

distribution of educational materials including textbooks, furniture, and 'school-in-a-box', early childhood development and recreational kits.

- Communities will be mobilized to promote education and enrolment in schools, especially for girls, and community support to schools and community teachers will be encouraged.
- 400 preschool animators and 2,200 primary schoolteachers will see their abilities in child-centred teaching techniques reinforced through training on education in emergencies, child-friendly school standards, and hygiene promotion in schools.

Child Protection**US\$9,133,100**

As leader of the Child Protection Sub-Cluster, UNICEF will scale up prevention, release and reintegration efforts to benefit children associated with armed forces and groups and continue to address protection challenges facing vulnerable and separated children.

- The creation of 40 new child-friendly spaces will not only provide some 10,000 minors at risk of recruitment with recreational opportunities to help them overcome the trauma of displacement but also a platform for delivering key messages on health, education and good hygiene practices to mothers and women's groups through targeted forums.
- The protective environment for children will be enhanced through the further development of community-based child protection mechanisms such as Child Well-being Committees and Youth Groups, the improvement of legal frameworks for issues like birth registration and the training of 3,000 military personnel in child rights (in partnership with Save the Children).
- With partners, UNICEF will work to secure the release of children associated with armed groups and subsequently provide reintegration, family tracing and reunification services. UNICEF will also continue to support the monitoring and reporting mechanism for grave violations of child rights on a nationwide basis.

HIV/AIDS**US\$1,700,000**

In partnership with the Government as well as CARE International, Cooperazione Internazionale, the International Federation of the Red Cross and the International Medical Corps, UNICEF will support HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention activities among youth, voluntary counselling and testing services for up to 10,000 pregnant women and care for 1,500 HIV-positive mothers and 250 infected children.

- Some 500 youth peer educators and 150 primary and secondary schoolteachers will be equipped with the necessary skills to teach HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases prevention as a result of training in the life-skills curriculum.
- Access to information on life skills, sexual and reproductive health, and HIV prevention will improve for over 150,000 young people through the opening of three new youth centres and through support provided by UNICEF and partners to the existing network of 22 youth centres in refugee camps, displaced sites and host communities.
- Paediatric care and Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission services will be improved as a result of training of health workers and increased screening and care capacity in at least three hospitals.
- Health facilities will be provided with sufficient supplies of the HIV/AIDS test kits (including rapid, CD4 and polymerase chain reaction tests), along with laboratory equipment and essential drugs for the treatment of opportunistic infections.