

A close-up photograph of a young child with dark hair and a red shirt, looking thoughtfully to the side. The child is being held by an adult whose hands are visible at the bottom of the frame. The adult is wearing a bright blue shirt with the UNICEF logo on the sleeve. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

UNICEF IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE June-July 2010

“We must help children now to get back to normalcy. This is a long process that has both short-term and long-term objectives. Children need help to overcome traumas and also need support to learn tolerance and respect diversity. This will be the most sustainable investment in peace in the region.”

Jonathan Veitch
UNICEF Representative
in the Kyrgyz Republic.

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Photo by Estey

Background

On 10 June 2010 a wave of deadly violence began in the multiethnic cities of Osh and Jala-Abad in southern Kyrgyzstan, internally displacing around 300,000 people and making 75,000 seek refuge in Uzbekistan. The conflict has had acute and pressing humanitarian consequences for as many as 1,1 million people, out of which 400,000 are estimated to be children. At the height of the crisis, there was an urgent need for emergency support such as medicine, shelter, food, water, and protection and a UN Flash appeal was launched on 18 June, requesting US\$ 71 million, with US\$ 9.79 million requested by UNICEF for emergency response in protection, education, nutrition, health, and water and sanitation.

On 25 June the situation changed unexpectedly as practically all refugees from Uzbekistan returned to Kyrgyzstan and at the same time the IDPs from temporary locations within Kyrgyzstan returned back to their homes in large numbers. However, as 1800 houses were destroyed and damaged, many returnees are living with host families or relatives in cramped and difficult conditions. Fear, anxiety and grief among the affected communities is widespread. Shops, restaurants and other businesses are still closed in the affected neighbourhoods, as people are scared to go outside. There are increasing reports of people being harassed, beaten up, or detained while being out in the streets.



Photo by Estey

“ We want to live in peace with our neighbours, I want to say to everyone, and to our government, that what we want is peace. ”

Ms. Mamanova, says, her voice shaking with emotion, to the UNICEF Health and Nutrition Officer in the Osh Inter-Provincial Clinical Hospital

Issues for Children:

- Rapid Needs Assessments indicate an urgent need of psychosocial support and counselling especially amongst women and children.
- There have been very few cases of unaccompanied children, however, there are cases of separated children who are cared for by their extended family.
- Rapid Assessments confirmed cases of Gender-based Violence (GBV) and sexual abuse among populations under 18.
- There is an increased risk to girls and boys to violence, abuse and abductions.
- There are urgent needs for sanitation facilities in host communities and destroyed houses, as there are often up to 60 people sharing one toilet. Hygiene practices also need urgent attention.
- Access to hospitals and health centres continues to be a problem often related to low trust between communities.
- Health institutions were overwhelmed and face shortage of medicine and medical materials to cope with the crisis, including those for children and mothers. Several thousand people injured in the violence still need support with their healthcare needs.
- The school year is scheduled to start in early September, but at the schools that were destroyed during the conflict, schooling may be delayed. In conflict-affected communities, parents have said that they are very reluctant to send their children back to school as they fear discriminations.

Overview of UNICEF's actions

UNICEF's Response Strategy is focused on the Core Commitments for Children (CCC) where it can best protect the rights of children and adolescents and strengthening the work of governmental counterparts. Accordingly, since the onset of the emergency, UNICEF has been working in the areas of Child Protection, Education, Health and Nutrition, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). UNICEF is the cluster lead for WASH and Education, and the sub cluster lead for Nutrition, Child Protection and Gender-based Violence.

To date UNICEF has:

Responded to the Governments request for assistance as one of the first agencies to distribute emergency drugs and medical items to the Ministry of Health, benefitting around 200,000 people.

Procured and flown in more than 200 MT of supplies, including vaccines, nutritional and vitamin supplements for children and women, tents, water tanks, and Early Childhood Development kits.

Carried out and coordinated needs assessments in collaboration with the Government and other Cluster partners in the areas of Health and Nutrition, Education, WASH, and Child Protection.

Distributed 4,000 family water kits to affected communities, benefiting more than 8,000 children and 6,000 women.

Established 25 Child Friendly Spaces in the most affected areas in collaboration with other Cluster partners, providing psychosocial support to 1,573 children, as well as tents and Early Childhood Development (ECD) Kits.

Trained 20 professionals with backgrounds in psychology, education and social work on psychological aspects of work with children and women in emergencies.

Launched the first round of the nationwide polio vaccination campaign for all children under 5.



“UNICEF was among the first to help us in the earliest days. All the medical and surgical kits they provided were very important when we were delivering aid in the camps, and later for delivering care in the community.”

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*Gulbara Kenjebayeva
Deputy Director of the Osh Inter-
Provincial Clinical Hospital*

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Highlights of UNICEF Planned Action:

Education:

Initiate the 'Welcome to School' campaign in collaboration with the Government and other Cluster partners, to promote non-violence in and around learning spaces and schools, as well as provide teacher's training on peace education, diversity- and tolerance issues. Distribute a 'Welcome to School' kit containing basic learning materials, benefitting 83,000 children from affected communities to ensure that the children are prepared for returning to school in September and are supported to stay in school. Establish 30 temporary learning spaces and provide learning material for the 2,000 children from the destroyed schools to ensure that the children can attend a safe learning environment close to their community.

Child Protection:

Implement psychosocial support through the opening of a further 45 community based Child Friendly Spaces, benefitting more than 8,000 children and women. Develop a prevention and response to victims of gender-based violence. Strengthen the capacity of partners in child protection preparedness and response, psychosocial support, and child development. Coordinate the child protection and gender-based violence sub cluster and the provision of emergency response to prevent gaps and discrimination in access to humanitarian assistance.

Health and Nutrition:

Continue to strengthen government partners at the community level by providing training to 2,700 medical staff in areas such as management of diarrhoea. Coordinate with other Cluster partners to ensure that adequate general food distribution and supplementary feeding response (Sprinkles) is provided. Increase awareness among mothers about child nutrition. Support mobile teams with supplies, operational costs and technical expertise to provide health services, follow up visits, and monitoring of activities in affected communities.

WASH

Rehabilitate and provide appropriate water supply sources to IDPs & returnees with host families and to those hosted by rural communities. Provide new sanitation facilities to IDPs in collective centres, in schools and for the returnees as they move into transitional shelter. Distribute hygiene kits to affected population, benefitting 100,000 people, supplemented with hygiene promotion and hand-washing facilities. Improve environmental sanitation via enhancing solid waste disposal and management in the homes of the returnees through provision of sanitation kits to 2,000 households.

Funding:

Sector	Funds Requested from Revised Flash Appeal US\$	CERF allocations US\$	Funds Received from other donors US\$ *	Underfunded against the Revised Flash Appeal US\$
Education	3,434,700	0	450,000	2,984,700
Child Protection	2,125,020	401,278	487,300	1,306,442
Health	2,486,000	698,605	383,840	1,403,554
Nutrition	1,200,000	0	606, 622	593,377
WASH	2,061,060	794,417	133,460	1,133,183
TOTAL	11,306,780	1,894,300	2,061,222	7,421,256

*The Spanish Government; OFDA; The Norwegian National Committee; and The Dutch National Committee



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