

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Malawi

SUMMARY FOR 2005

Critical Issues for Children and Women

Due to the erratic rainfall in 2003-4, Malawi is faced with yet another year of major household food deficit in addition to a high HIV/AIDS prevalence which is estimated at 14% nation wide. The number of affected populations will increase until the next harvest in mid 2005, growing from 1.34 million to some 1.78 million people.

The humanitarian impact mainly affects children and women. An increasing number of children have been forced into exploitative labour and exposed to sexual abuse. During the peak of the crisis, drop out rates in primary schools rose as high as 50%. A monthly average of 2,500 under-5 children have been reportedly admitted in nutrition rehabilitation units. The "hungry season" also coincides with the cholera and flooding season.

Planned Humanitarian Action for 2005

UNICEF cooperates with the Government, UN agencies, Donors and NGOs in all sectors. UNICEF is also an active member of the National Humanitarian Coordination Forum and of the UN Disaster Management Group.

Health and HIV/AIDS: UNICEF will prevent and control cholera outbreaks, procure and distribute vaccines, essential drugs, vitamin A, therapeutic milk, ORS, bed nets, and additional health supplies. UNICEF will train and support health personnel in appropriate care, surveillance and coordination systems.

Water and Environmental Sanitation: UNICEF will support the national cholera task force to undertake national campaigns, the rehabilitation of existing water schemes in schools and health centres, and water quality testing in cholera prone districts. UNICEF will also pre-position additional chlorine and supplies.

Education: UNICEF will procure large education tents in flood affected districts, support and expand school feeding activities, and provide additional school materials and supplies including school-in-a-box and recreational kits. UNICEF will finally sensitize teachers and communities on child's rights issues.

Child Protection: UNICEF will establish Child Rights Committees and sensitize on the increased risk of sexual exploitation and HIV/AIDS. Support to street children, care and rehabilitation of victims of rape and sexual exploitation will also be provided.

| Summary of UNICEF Financial Needs for 2005 | |
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| Sector | US\$ |
| Health, including elements of HIV/AIDS | 2,016,840 |
| Water and Environmental Sanitation | 540,096 |
| Education | 305,760 |
| Child Protection | 429,240 |
| Total¹ | 3,292,800 |

¹ The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 12%. The actual recovery rate on individual contributions will be calculated in accordance with the Executive Board Decision 2003/9 of 5 June 2003.