

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

MOZAMBIQUE

DONOR UPDATE

17 NOVEMBER 2006

UNICEF REQUIRES \$721,500 TO ADDRESS THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE CHRONICALLY VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND WOMEN – THE MOST AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS

- Funding shortfalls threaten effective action to address humanitarian needs
- Pipeline breaks in food assistance jeopardize essential nutrition programmes for the most vulnerable children
- Food production predictions are optimistic for 2006-2007, but significant pockets of vulnerability persist in drought affected areas
- Mozambique making important strides in disaster preparedness, mitigation and response planning with the support of international partners



1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Mozambique is a country prone to natural disasters, chronic vulnerability and persistent humanitarian needs. The UNICEF Country Programme in Mozambique endeavours to address vulnerability reduction by mainstreaming humanitarian response with regular programme activities with the ultimate goal of strengthening national capacity to prepare for and respond to endemic humanitarian and chronic vulnerabilities of the country.

The rapidly escalating HIV/AIDS pandemic is weakening national capacities and considerably slowing the rate of development. Mozambique is threatened by natural disasters including seasonal floods, cyclones and prolonged droughts, disrupting livelihoods and services, and exhausting limited coping mechanisms and exacerbating population vulnerabilities -- especially for women and children.

While the latest food security assessment results indicate that food security and nutrition in Mozambique have improved substantially, households have not fully recovered from five years of ongoing drought. As a result, the humanitarian needs of chronically vulnerable populations, who are particularly affected by natural disasters, will continue to exist.

Nutritional problems are the underlying cause of almost 50% of all child deaths in Mozambique, where of an estimated 715,000 children born every year, about 89,000 will die before reaching age one and an additional 39,000 will die before reaching age five. National, provincial and district health service providers lack the capacity to address the basic health needs of chronically vulnerable children and women – especially in areas affected by drought, natural disasters and other emergency conditions. Malaria is responsible for the majority of child deaths in the country.

Education activities are often threatened by the conditions created by natural disasters -- most notably seasonal floods and drought whose impact on schools and learners can be considerable. Education is a priority for communities in Mozambique, with parents urgently calling for schooling to resume if disrupted by an emergency. However, national and sub-national education authorities have limited resources and capacity to quickly restore educational activities after an emergency and return some normalcy to the lives of children affected.

In 2006, the number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS was estimated at 380,000; this figure is expected to increase to 630,000 by the year 2010. These orphaned and already vulnerable children are becoming increasingly vulnerable as extended families are unable to meet their basic needs, particularly in areas where the worst humanitarian needs exist.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

Through its 2002-2006 Country Programme, UNICEF has been addressing chronic vulnerability and humanitarian needs in partnership with the Government of Mozambique, and other private sector, bilateral and multilateral stakeholders.

In February, in response to an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale, UNICEF educational supplies and tents were provided for the establishment of temporary learning spaces in Manica province to assist close to 5,300 children, ensuring that they were able to resume their schooling with minimal interruption.

In the area of Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, UNICEF provided emergency supplies for cholera prevention and environmental clean up, as well as cash assistance, to government authorities in districts that experienced flooding in January, which affected over 12,000 people. Emergency cholera prevention supplies were also provided to drought affected areas. UNICEF supported the rehabilitation and construction of 148 water points in drought and cholera affected areas in Mozambique, benefiting over 140,000 people. Trucking of safe water to cholera prone areas has helped another 136,300 chronically vulnerable Mozambicans.

UNICEF Programme Communication strategies are also helping in the cholera prevention struggle through the implementation of community based social mobilization and communication activities with local partners and the Ministry of Health, which helped to reach over 216,000 people through community theatre and mobile unit activities respectively. Around 300 community leaders have been trained to promote discussion on individual and environmental good hygiene practices in their communities for cholera prevention.

UNICEF emergency health interventions also served to address the cholera outbreaks in the chronically vulnerable areas of Mozambique. Emergency activities included provision of supplies, tents and support for recruitment of staff for Cholera Treatment Centres and community health centres, and training for cholera case management. This support to cholera treatment across Mozambique has benefited over 6,200 people in four target provinces to date. Nutrition emergency interventions included capacity building for the treatment of severe malnutrition in all provinces, with an emphasis on the most chronically vulnerable districts, strengthening national capacity to reach the approximately 32,000 children under age five who are estimated to be severely malnourished. The establishment of the Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and WFP, aims to reach malnourished children under age five through community health centre based screening and treatment in 18 districts and provincial capitals where chronic vulnerability and drought conditions persist, as well as high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. To date, close to 73,000 children have been screened through the programme, with over 5,500 identified to receive Corn Soya Blend (CSB). In addition, 32,000 children have been supplemented with Vitamin A and 34,000 dewormed through the programme.

In collaboration with WFP, UNICEF supported the training of close to 300 national and international humanitarian workers on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

UNICEF Mozambique has also been engaged in a number of preparedness activities relating to the challenge of Avian Flu. UNICEF contributed to the development of the UN System Contingency Plan for Avian Influenza, which aims to maintain a minimum level of programme response in the event of an Avian Flu pandemic in Mozambique. UNICEF has also assisted the Ministries of Agriculture and Health in the development of Mozambique's national Avian Influenza preparedness plan, as well as in the planning and implementation of the pre-epidemic awareness raising campaign through training activities and advocacy materials.

UNICEF Mozambique is working with the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) in support of its National Strategy for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters, and is gearing up to support the INGC's Contingency Plan for the 2006-2007 rainy season. UNICEF was an active participant in the INGC emergency simulation exercises held in October 2006; the simulation aimed to test the operational capacity of the National Emergency Operations Centre (CENOE), as well as community-based risk reduction committees, in a cyclone and flood scenario.

UNICEF is also working with line ministries to incorporate emergency preparedness and response planning in their policies and action plans – including the Ministry of Education and Culture which is developing its first Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. UNICEF is assisting Government counterparts to transform these longer term strategies into practical actions to achieve the desired impact -- to reduce the chronic vulnerability of populations most frequently affected by emergency conditions.

UNICEF is an active participant within the Mozambique UN Disaster Management Team Working Group, whose main endeavour is to support the Government of Mozambique emergency preparedness and response efforts. Maintaining adequate levels of preparedness and response capacity within the UN Country Team is key to assisting the Government of Mozambique in meeting the challenges of humanitarian conditions and chronic vulnerability, as well as fast on-set emergencies.

UNICEF faces a number of constraints in carrying out its planned emergency preparedness and response activities in Mozambique. Decreased funding for humanitarian specific interventions impedes the UNICEF Country Office from maintaining sustainable coordination capacity needed to effectively bring together the various emergency interventions across the programme sectors. This lack of capacity also has an impact on UNICEF's ability to consistently contribute to preparedness and response planning with interagency partners and government counterparts. Overall funding deficits for emergencies in Mozambique are also putting in jeopardy programmes which rely on critical inputs from other agencies. WFP in Mozambique is experiencing major funding deficits which are creating breaks in the food assistance pipeline; without a new infusion of funding, these food pipeline breaks will lead to the indefinite interruption of joint life-saving humanitarian initiatives with UNICEF and national counterparts as early as December 2006. Finally, financial constraints also inhibit the ability of UNICEF Mozambique to help build the capacity of government counterparts to take ownership of humanitarian preparedness and response efforts.

3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

As of November 2006, UNICEF has only received US \$441,986 against the Humanitarian Action Report (HAR) launched in January 2006. In face of the US \$6,870,000 funding shortfall against the 2006 HAR, UNICEF has attempted to meet the most urgent life-saving humanitarian needs in Mozambique with Regular Resources (RR) from routine programme activities. 39 per cent of all expenditure relating to emergency preparedness and response in Mozambique in 2006 was funded from Regular Resources. The remaining unfunded humanitarian initiatives are being incorporated, as appropriate, into UNICEF Mozambique's 2007 Humanitarian Action Report.

Table 1: Funds received against the 2006 Humanitarian Action Report

Appeal Sector	Requirements by Sector	Funds Received (US\$)	Unmet requirements (US\$)	Unfunded
Health and Nutrition	3,000,000	206,616	2,793,384	93%
Water and Environmental Sanitation	2,000,000	108,809	1,891,191	95%
Education	1,100,000	0	1,100,000	0%
Child Protection	1,212,000	0	1,212,000	0%
Programme Communication	--	73,289	--	--
Emergency Coordination	--	53,272	--	--
Total	7,312,000	441,986	6,870,014	94%

NB: Total emergency expenditure for UNICEF Mozambique in 2006 was \$1,081,226, including Donations In-Kind for the value of \$113,473, and \$525,767 in funds reprogrammed from regular programme budgets.

Table 2: Funds received against the 2006 Humanitarian Action Report by Donor

Donor	Sector	Funds Received (US\$)
Government of Portugal	Health & Nutrition, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, Programme Communication, Emergency Coordination	355,029
UK National Committee	Health & Nutrition, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, Programme Communication, Emergency Coordination	86,957
Total		441,986

4. IMPACT OF UNDER-FUNDING AND CURRENT PRIORITIES

Though many of UNICEF's humanitarian preparedness and response needs in Mozambique are met through an integrated approach with regular programme activities, several interventions are under threat due to lack of resources. Internal capacity to coordinate programme interventions, nurture external partnerships on humanitarian issues and help strengthen national emergency preparedness and response mechanisms is compromised by the lack of humanitarian funding. Essential emergency response programmes in Nutrition and Health are threatened by pipeline breaks in food assistance. The realization of important government led initiatives such as the vulnerability analysis of the National Household Food Security and Nutrition Survey and the implementation of the Education Sector Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan are contingent on the continued support of UNICEF.

UNICEF expresses its gratitude to the donors who have thus far contributed to its emergency interventions in Mozambique and hopes that other donors will soon extend their support as well. The timely provision of resources will allow UNICEF to avoid any critical disruption in the provision of essential services and supplies across its sectors of intervention.

Table 3: Urgent priority requirements as of November 2006

The following six activities have been identified as humanitarian priority actions that need to be carried out in the last remaining weeks of 2006.

- The life-saving initiatives in health and nutrition require support to ensure their continuity into 2007 -- especially in face of the threats posed by the rainy season (or lean season) on already nutritionally vulnerable children.
- Due to the destructive nature of the rainy season in Mozambique, which lasts from October to March, it is imperative for UNICEF to assist the Ministry of Education and Culture to preposition emergency education supplies in the most disaster prone areas. This will ensure the continuity of education activities for children and teachers in schools adversely affected by frequent climatic phenomena in the country, especially seasonal flooding.
- UNICEF also needs to ensure continued support to the Government of Mozambique, which is intensifying efforts to strengthen and expand national capacity for natural disaster preparedness, mitigation and response. Increased support for coordination, preparedness and response, especially within the context of the UNDMT, is essential to helping the INGC achieve the objectives of its National Strategy for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters, and its Contingency Plan for the 2006-2007 rainy season.

Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
1. Support for the Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme	Over 5,500 moderately malnourished children under age five in 18 most vulnerable districts and four provincial capitals through the provision of Corn Soya Blend, in collaboration with WFP and the Ministry of Health.	195,000
2. Out-Patient and Community Based Treatment of Acute Malnutrition	Community based treatment of severely malnourished children, in-patient treatment, and treatment of HIV-positive malnourished children in 18 day hospitals nation-wide, through the provision of PlumpyNut and Corn Soya Blend, in partnership with WFP and the Ministry of Health.	266,500
3. Support for the National Food Security and Nutrition Household Survey	National level implementation of the survey and analysis of data relevant to vulnerability of children and women	70,000
4. Health and Nutrition Field Support	National, provincial and district level support to Ministry of Health	30,000
5. Support for Basic Education in Emergencies	National, provincial and district level support to Ministry of Education and Culture for pre-positioning of emergency education supplies in most disaster prone areas	100,000
6. Support for Emergency Coordination, Preparedness and Response	National, provincial and district level support to disaster preparedness and response officials (INGC)	60,000
Total priority needs		721,500

Details of the Mozambique emergency programme can be obtained from:

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