

GLOBAL END-YEAR FUNDING UPDATE FOR COUNTRIES IN CRISIS 1 December 2003

A message to donors

As we approach the year end, we realize that many of our humanitarian appeals, as part of the Consolidated Appeals and UNICEF's Humanitarian Action Report, have been inadequately funded. While several countries have received no funds to support their humanitarian activities, many others have received less than half of the resources required. In light of the funding shortfalls and in order for UNICEF to continue providing essential humanitarian assistance to the children and women in need, we have identified at least one priority for children in each of the countries in humanitarian crises. The attached document provides a brief overview of these urgent needs. Kindly note that even a partial contribution to the presented priorities will aid UNICEF in initiating/maintaining humanitarian action.

The Programme Funding Office in New York will follow-up with specific approaches both in New York and in the Capitals. In the meantime we remain at your disposal for any additional information that is required.

Page

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 2. Afghanistan | 16. Occupied Palestinian Territory |
| 3. Angola | 17. Republic of Congo |
| 4. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 18. Senegal |
| 5. Burundi | 19. Sierra Leone |
| 6. Central African Republic | 20. Somalia |
| 7. Côte d'Ivoire | 21. Sri Lanka |
| 8. Comoros | 22. Sudan |
| 9. Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 23. Swaziland |
| 10. Democratic Republic of Congo | 24. Timor Leste |
| 11. Eritrea | 25. Turkmenistan |
| 12. Ethiopia | 26. Uganda |
| 13. Georgia | 27. Zambia |
| 14. Guinea | 28. Zimbabwe |
| 15. Indonesia | |

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AFGHANISTAN

Appeal status: 52% funded

Priority action for children: Accelerating Girls Education in Afghanistan

The nation-wide launch of Back-to-School programme, after the fall of Taliban, brought over 3 million children to schools. Although the school enrollment has increased, lack of learning spaces, educational materials and trained teachers are among major hindering factors to achieving education for all children, especially for girls. Two out of three girls aged between 7 and 13 years still cannot attend school. When they do, many of them have to start from grade one. Children can only continue to go to school with the provision of necessary teaching and learning materials and adequate learning environment, including teachers. These factors are even more critical for girls as families tend to place secondary priority to girl's education but are more concerned of their daughters' safety at schools than that for boys.

Starting late 2002, UNICEF has been supporting the Ministry of Education to implement accelerated learning classes in partnership with an international NGO, where over-aged girls can learn a year worth of education in three months as an intensive course when schools are closed. So far 90% of the 20,000 girls attended could enroll in grade closer to their age cohort upon completion. The next accelerated learning classes are to start in December 2003 for 73,600 girls in Balkh, Baghlan, Kunduz, and Takhar Provinces in the north and Kapisa Province in the central region, where girls' enrollment is particularly low. Upon completion, about over 66,000 of them would be able to catch up with boys of their age in education.

The upcoming accelerated learning classes require a total of US\$ 1.1 million, of which US\$ 0.2 million has been secured to date.

Training and support of teachers and supervisors	US\$ 420,000	Total
Educational supplies	US\$ 554,000	
Management and monitoring	US\$ 134,000	US\$ 1,108,000

UNICEF Afghanistan is trying to raise the shortfall of US\$ 0.9 million in order to provide education for 73,600 over-aged Afghan girls during the coming winter.

ANGOLA

Appeal Status: 38% funded

Priority action for children: Expanding Learning Opportunities

In the aftermath of the Back-to-School campaign launched in the war-affected provinces Bié and Malanje in 2002 with UNICEF's support, the Government has recruited 29,000 new teachers to be deployed throughout the country in an effort to expand primary education for the 2004 school year, which starts in March. This bold move could translate into some 1 million out-of-school children attending school and significantly raise the primary school attendance rate in a country where almost one half of all children are not attending school. The expansion of learning opportunities is essential especially in areas where populations have returned and resettled and is vital in the country's transition towards longer term recovery and development.

UNICEF is currently supporting the Ministry of Education in implementing a massive and intensive assessment and training plan for these teachers. Teacher training activities are just one component of UNICEF's efforts to assist in expanding learning opportunities. Mobilizing community support for school rehabilitation or construction in areas of resettlement, supply of basic learning and teaching kits, development of teaching methodologies, supporting regular teacher supervision and teacher learning groups are other components. UNICEF has an immediate funding need to support teacher training seminars at municipal levels and the provision of teaching kits (as part of a larger funding requirement).

The support extended through the project will enable the return of some one million out-of-school children to schools.

Municipal Seminars	US\$ 318,600	Total
Teaching Kits (US\$ 50 per kit)	US\$ 500,000	
Programme Support Costs (warehousing, in-country transport, staff expenses)	US\$ 170,000	US\$ 988,600

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)

Appeal Status: 0% funded

Priority action for children

Humanitarian assistance is needed to protect all children in BiH against preventable childhood diseases such as polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and tuberculosis. The Multi-year Strategic Plan for Immunization (MYSPI) 2002-2006, developed by the Ministries of Health of BiH, with technical assistance from UNICEF and WHO/EURO, was submitted as one of the GAVI application requirements. The MYSPI is regarded as the means through which BiH will fully restore its Immunization Programme and be able to sustain effective control of traditional EPI diseases and reduce community burden of Hepatitis B (HBV) and invasive H.influenzae (Hib) infections. The Multi-year Strategic Plan for Immunization was developed with the underlying assumption that UNICEF would continue to fund specific activities over the 2002-2006 year period, including the procurement of vaccines and cold chain equipment and training for vaccine providers.

As UNICEF does not have any 'other resources' available for immunization activities and the Government is without sufficient funds, humanitarian assistance is desperately needed to cover the cost of BCG, OPV and DTP vaccines cold chain equipment and training for vaccine providers to ensure 100% coverage of these basic antigens for children from 0 to 6 years old.

The funding will enable the procurement of vaccines needed in 2004 to provide 100% coverage of basic antigens such as BCG, OPV and DTP for all children from 0 to 6 years, cold chain equipment and training for vaccine providers.

Provision of vaccines and cold chain equipment	US\$ 200,000	Total
Training of 3,000 vaccine providers	US\$ 35,000	US\$ 235,000

BURUNDI

Appeal Status: 41% funded

Priority action for children

With a net enrolment rate of 50.9%, education attendance levels are dangerously low with just over half of boys and less than half of girls attending primary school, and the problem remains more acute in the rural areas where only 35% attend school. Thus over 500,000 uneducated youths are subject to economic and social exclusion on account of their lack of education, abject poverty, and the rapidly spreading HIV/AIDS epidemic. The direct impact of the war has seen many structures including school infrastructure and equipment damaged, looted or destroyed. There is an acute shortage of teachers and didactic and other materials for pupils.

In its response, UNICEF will support the construction and rehabilitation of (and the supply of equipment to) 200 classrooms for 120,000 returnees and displaced children; provide school material to an additional 250,000 indigent children; produce school manuals for both teachers and pupils; and integrate peace and human rights education (including psycho-social aspects) in the curricula of both formal and non-formal education. Main strategies will include improved service delivery; strengthening capacity of national institutions and NGO partners to respond in a flexible manner to humanitarian crises; involvement of children, adolescents, teachers and local communities in peace education activities and national efforts to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS; and promote public awareness of the importance of girls' education and special protection measures for girls of school going age. Partners, in particular the Ministry of Education will be supported to ensure a close monitoring of activities and to gather and process school data.

With the construction or rehabilitation of 200 classrooms, up to 120,000 returnees and displaced who have been living in Tanzania will have an opportunity to continue to attend school and receive quality primary education. 250,000 indigent children in six provinces most affected by the crisis would benefit from the provision of educational materials. For children who have never attended primary school but are now too old to do so, UNICEF will support non-formal education programmes by training 2,900 teachers on life skills, and provision of materials.

Class rooms	US\$ 448,000	Total US\$ 995,000
School supplies *	US\$ 100,000	
School manuals for both teachers and pupils	US\$ 250,000	
Peace and Human Rights education	US\$ 197,000	

* Funding requested covers the school supplies for 20,000 children, other funding expected to cover the needs of the remaining children.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Appeal Status: 0% funded

Priority action for children: Girls Education

In CAR, the recent conflict resulted in severe destruction of school infrastructure in the conflict zones. 58 pre-schools and 891 primary schools have been closed; 1,779 children of pre-school age and 152,443 primary school children have been deprived of their right to education; and the net school enrolment rate dropped. The drop-out rate was very high, particularly among girls (more than 54%).

The present project will target all affected districts (approximately 250,000 school-age children) with the following actions: training of teachers, strengthening of technical and logistics capacities of local partners; social mobilization, particularly for girls; supply of teaching materials for the 2003-2004 school year; and rehabilitation of school infrastructure.

UNICEF urgently appeals for US\$ 950,000 to support the return of all children back to school in the conflict-affected areas and achieve gender equality in school enrolment and retention. UNICEF will collaborate with WFP and FAO to support the national Ministry of Education and local partners in the pursuit of these results. Specifically, 891 primary schools and 58 pre-schools will be fully functional and girl-friendly. There will be improved access to quality school for all children, greater involvement of families and communities in school equipment and maintenance; and strengthened institutional and technical capacity of partners (Ministry of Education/ school inspection; NGO).

UNICEF requires US\$ 950,000 for the project.

Social mobilization and training	US\$ 420,000	Total US\$ 950,000
Rehabilitation of school infrastructure (30 buildings 30 pre-school centers)	US\$ 350,000	
Equipment	US\$ 120,000	
Supply of didactic materials	US\$ 60,000	

COMOROS

Appeal Status: 0% funded

Priority action for children

Comoros is facing an unprecedented crisis in his history related to the separatism of Anjouan island which started in 1997. Despite the tremendous efforts done to set up democratic and decentralized institutions, the current conflict of power sharing between the central government and island governments doesn't allow the country to recover. The education sector is hardly hit by the crisis. The net school enrolment rate dropped from 64% in 1994 to 60% in 2000 and rose during the last two years from 60% to 69%. The primary education suffers a lot of poor performance and quality. A survey on monitoring and learning achievement shows that less than 10% of school children of grade 2 in primary school master reading, life skills and mathematics.

UNICEF action is focused on supporting the education sector to develop tools on management of schools and the follow up of schooling of children, to train teachers, to monitor and evaluate progress. The limited resources don't allow the co-operation programme between UNICEF and Comoros to scale up these interventions. Fifty schools are concerned by the programme.

The expected impact is better performance of at least 100,000 children in public and private schools. 45,000 girls will have the opportunity to stay in the school system. UNICEF requires US\$ 500,000 to implement the project.

Tools on management of schools and the follow up of schooling of children	US\$ 265,000	Total US\$ 500,000
Training of teachers	US\$ 200,000	
Monitoring and evaluation	US\$ 35,000	

COTE D'IVOIRE

Appeal Status: 21% funded

Priority action for children: Water and Sanitation—the Key to Getting Girls Back in School

Due to the current political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, more than 1 million primary school children – the majority of them girls - have been deprived of their right to go to school. A variety of factors are involved, including: damaged, ransacked or occupied school infrastructures and lack of teachers in the occupied north; lack of school materials; sharply rising poverty; and insufficient safe water and sanitary facilities. Girls are particularly at risk of being kept home from school due to a side effect of the protracted crisis: some 70% of village water points are not functioning in the north due to lack of maintenance. It is the girls who are tasked with fetching safe water for their families, at distances of up to several kilometers.

UNICEF is prioritising Education as a means to protect children from the negative consequences of the current crisis, and support national reconciliation. To ensure that girls fully benefit from ongoing efforts to support primary school education in the occupied north, UNICEF is planning to rehabilitate or construct bore holes with pumps both at schools and in villages of some 50 communities. Separate latrines for boys and girls will also be constructed at the schools. In addition, participatory hygiene education will be provided in the schools, and community-based hygiene promotion committees will be formed and trained.

Through this community-based approach, UNICEF will improve the health of some 110,000 people in the targeted communities, and create a healthy school environment to maintain the attendance of the approximately 15,000 children currently attending primary schools. The initiative also aims to increase attendance rates, now 61% for boys, and 52% for girls, and slash by one-third the number of girls who cannot attend school due to safe water labor.

Construction and Technical Support	US\$ 685,000	Total
Hygiene Promotion and Evaluation	US\$ 140,000	US\$ 825,000

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Appeal Status: 49% funded

Priority action for children: Essential Medicines for Life-Threatening Children's Illnesses

The humanitarian crisis in the DPRK continues with the main impact falling on the country's youngest children. 42 per cent of young children are chronically malnourished and around 70,000 children are severely acutely malnourished and at high risk of dying if they do not receive critical hospital treatment. Health facilities throughout the country are not able to provide adequate treatment for common but life threatening children's illnesses, such as diarrhoea and pneumonia, because of widespread shortages of essential medicines and inadequate health worker skills. This results in unnecessary child malnutrition and unnecessary deaths.

To ensure that sick children can be treated, UNICEF provides the most essential medicines to over 3,000 health clinics and hospitals in all provinces around the country. In addition, UNICEF provides technical support and training courses for health staff in their proper use. So far this year, only 49 per cent of UNICEF's humanitarian appeal has been funded. This has limited the scope and coverage of UNICEF assistance and only six very vital medicines can be supplied. By ensuring the regular availability of essential medicines at health clinics, thereby ensuring early treatment of sick children, UNICEF action is saving children's lives. In addition, UNICEF action is contributing to the reduction of child malnutrition.

Urgent funding is sought to cover the costs of providing essential medicines in early 2004. US\$ 950,000 is needed to provide a basic set of the most vital medicines to 2,100 health clinics and hospitals in nine of the twelve provinces/cities countrywide for a period of three months.

The immediate needs are as follows:

Very vital medicines for childhood illnesses	US\$ 910,000	Total US\$ 950,000
Logistics support for in-country distribution	US\$ 40,000	

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Appeal Status: 28% funded

Priority action for children: Accelerated vaccination campaigns

In the Democratic Republic of Congo today, an estimated 6.4 million children are not protected against childhood killers- vaccine preventable diseases. In response to the ‘opening’ of areas previously affected by the armed conflict in Congo, UNICEF, with various national and international partners, have begun a series of ‘accelerated vaccination campaigns’ in these vulnerable areas.

These campaigns **target all children less than five years old**, vaccinating them **against the five main preventable diseases**. In a series of three campaigns per year, over 70% of all children in the targeted zone can be fully vaccinated against childhood preventable disease such as measles, mumps, whooping cough, tuberculosis, and diphtheria—thus saving lives and giving these children a chance to grow up healthy. Through various campaigns in **2003, UNICEF has already provided 50,000 children with this chance**.

Recently, with the increased presence of MONUC and locally negotiated cease-fires in both **South Kivu and Maniema**, areas closed to humanitarian assistance since 1998 are accessible. UNICEF requires immediate funding to vaccinate **150,000 children** in these two zones that have already been identified by partners on the ground.

For **US\$ 7 per child**, UNICEF, with implementing partners, can **fully vaccinate a child** against all childhood preventable diseases, saving lives.

Vaccines, vaccination equipment	US\$ 600,000	Total US\$ 1,000,000
Cold chain equipment	US\$ 150,000	
Implementation costs	US\$ 100,000	
Supervision and monitoring	US\$ 150,000	

ERITREA

Appeal Status: 59% funded

Priority action for children

In 2003, Eritrea experienced one of its worst droughts in two decades. Crop yields averaged less than ten per cent of expected harvest. Food aid was not adequate to prevent increased malnutrition and hunger. The poorest families were forced to sell off desperately needed assets, resulting in even more extreme poverty. **More than half the Eritrean population and some 700,000 children are at high risk due to destitution.** Last years' environmental calamity was borne on the back of years of war, bloodshed, loss of life and social turmoil. Thousands of Eritrean children have become orphans, or are being raised by grandparents and extended families that cannot cope. Many of these children now roam the streets of towns and cities. In addition, due to delays in the peace process, some 45,000 internally displaced children remain in tattered tents in crowded camps with little assistance other than food. They are as yet unable to return to their homes due to a delayed peace process along the Ethiopian and Eritrean border, and seemingly have been forgotten by the international community.

To address the needs of the most vulnerable urban children in Eritrea, UNICEF needs funds to address the needs of the growing numbers of **Street Children** resulting from the current 'post-conflict and post drought emergency'. A pilot Drop-in Center for street children will be established in Asmara to allow a protected environment and adequate psychosocial casework and counseling, providing hundreds of children protection from abuse and neglect, improved nutrition, and reinsertion into the educational system. This will result in a reduction in the numbers of street children and redirection of their lives in a positive manner. In addition, UNICEF requires funds to urgently procure essential relief items such as clothing and shoes for 45,000 **Internally Displaced Children** and women, and urgent shelter needs to 1,000 households. This will alleviate the harsh living conditions of IDP children who are now exposed to harsh climates with increasing health risks, while the peace process (demarcation) is delayed and such children cannot return to their villages.

Furnishing/renovation and supplies for street children drop in center and recurrent costs	US\$ 260,000	Total
Non Food Items (blankets, clothing, soap, shoes) for 35,000 children and youth (USD10/child) in 16 IDP camps/settlements	US\$ 350,000	
Tents for 1900 IDP vulnerable families headed by women or youth	US\$ 380,000	

ETHIOPIA

Appeal Status: 63% funded

Priority action for children: Providing Comprehensive Care and Support to Orphans

Children in Ethiopia are increasingly affected by the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic. With the second largest population in Sub-Saharan Africa, the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ethiopia is expected to take a heavy toll on socio-economic development. Currently there are an estimated 2.2 million Ethiopians living with HIV/AIDS and an estimated 1.2 million orphans. Poverty, unemployment, drought, boarder conflicts and demobilization of soldiers, early marriage, prostitution and high mobility are major factors that contribute to the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus at an alarming pace and results in a growing number of orphans. Interventions to date have not been comprehensive and have focused on the provision of cash handouts to a small percentage of affected children and families. However, more sustainable, comprehensive and community-based practices have been documented and the potential for scaling up these approaches exists.

UNICEF requests additional funding in order to strengthen and support community capabilities to identify orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) affected by HIV/AIDS and to provide care and support. Partnerships will be formed with traditional community self-help organizations to encourage community ownership and response. Technical and financial support will be provided to build community capacities of traditional associations, faith-based organizations and indigenous NGOs. Income-generating activities will be encouraged to provide a more sustainable means of support at the community level. Assistance will be provided to scale-up promising innovative pilot projects. A training of trainers will be provided for counselling of OVCs to ensure that psychosocial needs receive more emphasis.

Project impacts will include the ability to reach greater numbers of OVCs with interventions that ensure access to education, healthcare, food and shelter, affection and protection; decreased stigma at the community level; improved community commitment and capacity to meet the needs of OVC with minimal outside support and increased recognition of the range of needs of OVC at the Federal, Regional and community levels

UNICEF requires US\$ 750,000 for this nationwide programme.

Mapping of existing interventions to identify innovative CBO for scaling up	US\$ 25,000	Total
Experience sharing visits within Ethiopia	US\$ 25,000	
Training of community-based organizations on comprehensive OVC care	US\$ 260,000	
Sub-grants to CBOs to scale up best practices	US\$ 390,000	US\$ 750,000
Monitoring and evaluation	US\$ 50,000	

GEORGIA

Appeal Status: 0% funded

Priority action for children: Health, Nutrition and Education in Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Pankisi Valley

Within Georgian territory, three areas deserve particular attention as those most affected by the prolonged, endemic conflicts in the region: Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Pankisi Valley. The conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia are unsettled to date, and the Pankisi Gorge remains a highly unstable region. The overall collapse of the welfare system and the decay of fundamental services such as water and sanitation, health and education in these regions drastically affect the lives of an estimated 412,000 vulnerable people. As heightened uncertainty prevails amid dwindling humanitarian assistance, children and women in these regions continue to bear the brunt of socio-economic instability and extreme poverty.

Despite the on-going conflicts in these areas, UNICEF has continued to work in partnership with governmental bodies, local and international NGOs to provide EPI vaccines and supplies for the 2003 state immunization plan in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Pankisi Valley through regular country programming. UNICEF has also ensured distribution of furniture and school equipment to schools in Pankisi Valley. Yet, a recent assessment conducted in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Pankisi has stressed the immediate need for the expansion of UNICEF programming, particularly in areas of Health, Nutrition and Education. The need to strengthen child immunization and initiate breastfeeding programmes, as well as the need to support education initiatives such as teacher training, curriculum development and the de-institutionalization/ integration of children with disabilities into mainstream schools will help to ensure the security, health and psychosocial wellbeing of children and women in these regions.

UNICEF appeals for US\$910,000 to support Health, Nutrition and Education programmes in the conflict affected areas of Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Pankisi Valley.

Health (expansion/strengthening of immunization; ensuring vaccine security)	US\$ 330,000	Total US\$ 910,000
Nutrition (breastfeeding training for mothers and staff in polyclinics/maternity wards)	US\$ 100,000	
Education (teacher training, curriculum development, integration programmes)	US\$ 480,000	

GUINEA

Appeal Status: 26% funded

Priority action for children

In Guinea over than 2,000 unaccompanied minors (UAMs), refugee and Guinean children and 7,000 former civil defense volunteers have been identified in the major cities and army barracks. Current UAM figures are being reviewed following the recent census conducted by the UNHCR, which revealed that 44,000 refugees are currently living out of camps in Guinea. These children and young people are vulnerable to economic exploitation, have no access to social services and are prone to recruitment by armed groups both inside and outside the country and represent a real threat to security and stability in the prevailing tense and volatile context.

Due to funding shortfalls UNICEF is not able to continue: i) to identifying and documenting UAMs, child ex-combatants and other children; ii) to conduct family tracing and protection activities for all identified children and young people iii) to search for durable solutions to reintegrate identified children and young people in a sustainable manner; and iv) to conduct preventative activities to reduce family separation and the risk of recruitment of children by armed groups.

Additional resources will allow UNICEF to achieve the following: i) 9,000 children and young people documented and monitored rendering them less vulnerable to exploitation, abduction and abuse; ii) 350 ex-combatants demobilized; iii) 1,136 UAMs reunified with their families; and iv) all military garrisons and communities posted along border areas trained on Optional Protocol on recruitment of children in armed conflict and on Child Rights and become active partners in their own right.

UNICEF urgently appeals for US\$ 400,000 to ensure the reintegration of child ex-combatants currently in the programme and its extension to the 7,000 still awaiting entry into the programme as well as to ensure the continuation of the FTR and protection project for currently identified children.

Supplies and training	US\$ 200,000	Total US\$ 400,000
Sensitization campaigns	US\$ 100,000	
Support to demobilized youth	US\$ 100,000	

INDONESIA

Appeal Status: 45% funded

Priority action for children: Education for Children in Aceh

In Indonesia, the conflict that resumed in Aceh in May 2003 exacerbates an already difficult situation for women and children in this province. The humanitarian situation is grim: some 600 schools and 32 health centres have been destroyed, nearly 100,000 people are temporarily displaced, and some 60,000- 80,000 children are affected. Education in the province remains a major problem, due to lack of proper facilities following destruction of schools, school supplies, inadequate trained teachers, and the culminating distress and psychosocial effects on children.

UNICEF's programmes in Aceh are directed at Humanitarian Assistance which includes Education, Health, Promotion of Child Rights and Peace Education. Despite the on-going conflict in Aceh, UNICEF continues to work in this province, and works in partnership with the local authorities and national NGOs. UNICEF's Emergency Education programme, includes supply delivery, training of teachers, peace education, child rights advocacy and psychosocial support, as well as school based water and environmental sanitation, with hygiene promotion. UNICEF believes that through this programme children can be protected and given a sense of normalcy.

UNICEF Indonesia urgently appeals for US\$ 980,000 for its Education programmes in Aceh. With this it is hoped that UNICEF would be able to assist at least 150,000 children. With the likely postponement of the CAP launch for 2004, it is now even more urgent to secure funds for Aceh. The immediate needs are as follows:

School supplies and training of teachers	US\$ 310,000	Total US\$ 980,000
School based water and environmental sanitation	US\$ 320,000	
Peace Building, child rights advocacy and psychosocial support	US\$ 350,000	

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (OPT)

Appeal Status: 45% funded

Priority action for children: Restoring Normalcy in Children's lives

Children and adolescents are paying a heavy and disproportionate price for the ongoing conflict in OPT - many with their lives. Over 500 Palestinian children have been killed and over 9,000 injured since the onset of the Intifada in 2001. UNICEF OPT has developed a comprehensive approach to the protection of children's rights in situations of conflict to reduce child and adolescent primary exposure to conflict. This approach includes increasing opportunities for peaceful participation, play and recreation of child protection environment as well as dealing with the psychosocial impact of violence on children.

The project is part of UNICEF's area-based approach, which sees project implementation through the six recently established Zonal Offices in the most conflict-prone areas in OPT. This enables UNICEF to guarantee an effective programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation, independently from closures, curfews or other lack of access.

UNICEF aims at

- **Diminishing the readiness of children to participate in violence** by means of advocacy and mass mobilization targeting children and adolescents, parents, community and religious leaders.
- **Creating safe play areas and facilities for adolescents**, providing a peaceful and nurturing environment.
- **Enforce psychosocial resilience** by training teachers on effective prevention and addressing of psychosocial distress symptoms.

UNICEF OPT urgently appeals for US\$ 981,500 to protect children from the violence of the ongoing conflict. At least 500,000 children in the most conflict-prone areas will benefit from the intervention.

Production & distribution of materials aiming at preventing children's participation in violence	US\$ 330,000	Total
Provision of equipment to 15 safe play sites in the six most affected locations	US\$ 325,000	
Training of teachers & parents on enhancing psychosocial resilience	US\$ 326,500	US\$ 981,500

REPUBLIC OF CONGO (ROC)

Appeal Status: 8% funded

Priority action for children

After having experienced a long period of instability, the Republic of Congo must now face a major challenge in order to resettle its population in the Pool region. The war has incurred massive displacements of the population and destroyed over 60% of the basic infrastructure (schools and health centres, as well as houses). Over 250,000 people, of which 80,000 children aged 0 to 18, are affected by this conflict. Since June 2003 around 80,000 people have started returning to their home villages where the school system is deeply damaged and where the health of women and children remains precarious.

UNICEF, in agreement with its partners, focuses its programme on humanitarian assistance in the fields of education, health and the promotion of the rights of the child. At the moment, help is insufficient and too selective. This education programme is aiming at the return to school of all children. It includes the children's school supervision, with an emphasis on re-establishing standards, psycho-social rehabilitation, follow-up in healthcare and the promotion of the Children's Rights Convention (CRC).

As part of the project, UNICEF will put emphasis on the re-establishment of school standards and undertake a systematic follow-up of children (protective sheeting for the buildings, drinking water and sanitation, school materials, material "Know in order to Save" and salaries for temporary staff). In addition, it will offer a minimum health package to all children (delousing, Vitamin A supplement; vaccination, measles, polio, vitamin A, rehydration salts, impregnated mosquito nets).

UNICEF appeals for US\$ 625,000 for its education programme in the Pool region, which will target some 125,000 children.

Health	US\$ 280,000	Total US\$ 625,000
Education	US\$ 200,000	
Promotion of the Rights of the Child (CRC) / Psychosocial rehabilitation	US\$ 145,000	

SENEGAL (CASAMANCE)

Appeal Status: 42% funded

Priority action for children

The regions of Ziguinchor and Kolda, which form the natural region of Casamance, are located in the South of Senegal. Casamance has been severely affected by a conflict with the Movement for the Democratic Forces of Casamance (MDFC) since 1983. Over the years, hundreds of villages have been abandoned, causing the displacement of thousands of people; the once flourishing tourist industry has laid off thousands of workers; schools have closed and thousands of pupils have been displaced or had their schooling disrupted; health centres have closed; numerous cases of psychiatric problems have been registered and more than 700 victims of landmines were recorded since 1995.

UNICEF Humanitarian Assistance Programme aims to create a protective environment for children and their families, and focuses around schools as an entry point to provide a package of services to the communities. Its three main components are: child-friendly schools to reinforce education and protection; prevention and management of conflict, and psychosocial support to victims; response to immediate needs in terms of health and protection. Close cooperation with local authorities, decentralized services and communities contributes to increase their capacities to maintain and reinforce quality basic social services despite the insecurity. Available funding comes to an end, and the programme needs urgent funding particularly for protection activities. Nine Reconciliation Units in the zones most affected by insecurity, composed of about 30 volunteer members are currently supported. Their members, key community persons, have been trained in conflict prevention, stress management, children's rights and landmine awareness raising. The Units contribute to prevent the deterioration of critical situations caused by insecurity and social tensions.

US\$ 470,000 are sought to reinforce the nine existing units through training and logistic support and to create six new ones. The funding will also allow the "reconciliation training" of about 3800 active members of civil society and an extensive mobilization campaign on mine accidents' prevention and reconciliation reaching close to 100,000 children and their families in the most insecure areas. UNICEF Protection activities in Casamance are particularly important at a time when peace negotiations have resumed.

Training and logistics support	US\$ 300,000	Total
Social mobilization	US\$ 170,000	US\$ 470,000

SIERRA LEONE

Appeal Status: 26% funded

Priority action for children

As Sierra Leone transitions from emergency to recovery and long-term development coupled with other competing emergencies elsewhere, there has been a shortfall in funding. This seriously threatens UNICEF's ability to effectively support and complement the national recovery process. Continued support to the revitalisation of primary health care services against malaria, vaccine preventable diseases, diarrhea and pneumonia. Sierra Leone continues to rank amongst the highest in the world in IMR (170) and U5MR (316). Although 70% of health units have been rehabilitated, many of them are still not fully operational. Implementation of the health programme is seriously constrained as it has received only 44% of the required amount of US\$3.6 million for implementation.

UNICEF has a leading role in addressing the delivery of safe immunisation services and other cost-effective interventions at first level health facilities and outreach points in hard to reach areas for the reduction of death attributable to vaccine preventable childhood diseases, malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia. In concrete terms this includes revitalising routine immunisation services, training health workers, procurement of vaccines/antigens, supporting outreach activities for malaria control, diarrhea and pneumonia management, in the districts of Kono, Koinadugu and Bombali.

Health facilities including the cold-chain infrastructure will be rehabilitated, staff will be trained and reassigned to the regions. When PHUs, clinics and cold rooms are functioning again, the immunisation coverage can be increased which will have a direct positive impact on the IMR and U5MR. Malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia account for close to 60% of all children's deaths. With additional resources, UNICEF will aim to reduce morbidity from these diseases and improve case management.

Solar refrigerators/cold chain support for 120 health facilities	US\$ 600,000	Total US\$ 1,000,000
Vaccines and medical supplies	US\$ 300,000	
Refresher Training of 240 health staff	US\$ 16,000	
Printing of recording and reporting forms	US\$ 4,000	
Social Mobilisation	US\$ 40,000	
Transportation and logistical support	US\$ 40,000	

SOMALIA

Appeal Status: 57% funded

Priority action for children

In Somalia, access to quality education for children is crucial. Education is not only a right, but also provides children with tangible skills and the subsequent desire to use their abilities in the pursuit of a livelihood and stable future for themselves and their families. Quality education makes them stakeholders in the pursuit of a future peace and gives them the tools and motivation to invest in ending the spiral of violence. However, only 17% of school age children in Somalia today have access to any form of primary education either through formal or alternative channels.

To improve enrolment and retention rates, UNICEF will continue to focus on expanding children's access to, and quality of, learning in primary level education. This involves continued emphasis on teacher training and follow-up through mentoring activities. UNICEF will also continue working to ensure textbooks are provided to schools, complemented by other learning materials. Finally, education agencies have agreed that standardisation of school buildings and facilities is urgently needed and low-cost, but high quality school rehabilitation guidelines have been developed.

The short-term impact of the programme will see increased enrolment in schools, more schools able to accommodate the children, an increased cadre of teachers and school mentors trained and able to provide quality education, and better equipped and trained Community Education Committees. The long-term impacts include a greater number of children able to contribute to the development of Somalia, who have a basic understanding of and respect for social rules and order and who have learned to appreciate the value of dialogue, as opposed to violence, as a means to resolve differences and achieve common objectives. UNICEF Somalia urgently appeals for US\$ 900,000 for its Education programme. The immediate needs are as follows:

Supervision and mentoring in schools	US\$ 200,000	Total US\$ 900,000
School rehabilitation	US\$ 300,000	
Provision of education materials and supplies	US\$ 250,000	
Support to Community Education Committees	US\$ 80,000	
Mobilization of communities and awareness raising	US\$ 70,000	

SRI LANKA

Priority action for children: Education in Conflict Affected Areas

After twenty years of conflict, Sri Lanka has an unprecedented chance to secure lasting peace. The current peace process creates opportunities for everyone but, best of all, for Sri Lanka's six million children and especially for those living in the North and East, whose childhood has been shattered by violence and disruption of war and who can now hope for a brighter future. The education of children in the North and East suffered immensely as a result of Sri Lanka's protracted conflict. All aspects of the education system are severely damaged. Major problems, such as non-enrolment, drop-outs, absenteeism and low teaching, learning quality are the direct result of displacement, lack of teachers, nutritional deficiencies, health problems and damaged infrastructure. The rate of student drop-out is 15% in the North and East, almost four times the national average.

In its response, UNICEF will improve access to schooling including rehabilitation of existing school buildings and provision of kits; increase capacity of the education departments to expand catch-up education as a temporary measure to improve quality of education and assist children affected by war; build the capacity of the formal and non-formal education systems to scale up the number of "Child Friendly Schools"; strengthen the education system of zonal and provincial education departments to improve monitoring; and strengthen partnerships and coordination with other key stakeholders in reintegration and rehabilitation of education in North and East.

The current uncertainty in the peace process creates an urgent need to provide normalcy through education for children in conflict affected areas. The major impact of these actions will be to reintegrate over 50,000 most vulnerable children and to create "Child Friendly" schools which provide gender sensitive, healthy, safe and protective environments which are conducive to learning. Through strengthening local education authorities at school and district levels, UNICEF action will address underlying causes of problems, promote participatory approaches and build capacity at different levels to improve access to and quality of education.

Rehabilitation of remote and rural primary schools and provision of basic schools supplies including furniture, school kits, and uniform material	US\$ 500,000	Total
Conduct catch-up education classes for children who have missed education due to the war	US\$ 200,000	
Strengthen "Child Friendly School" programme and reinforce results-based school management practices	US\$ 200,000	US\$ 900,000

SUDAN

Appeal Status: 60% funded

Emergency response to victims of conflict in Greater Darfur region of the Sudan

In the Sudan, the recent conflict in the Greater Darfur region (mainly since March 2003) has created approximately 500,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as 70,000 refugees who have left for Chad. The conflict has eroded the existing asset base of the population in conflict-affected areas and has left children and women without access to basic services. The IDPs live in very difficult conditions, and children and women need urgent assistance to ensure that their basic health, nutrition, water and sanitation, and learning needs are met.

UNICEF's interventions in Darfur will support an integrated approach that can demonstrate quickly a noticeable improvement in the delivery of basic services for children and women in selected conflict-affected communities in North/South/West Darfur. The interventions will focus on child and maternal health, nutrition, water and environmental sanitation, and basic education services to facilitate long-term recovery for children and women in these communities.

UNICEF appeals for US\$ 1 million for its interventions in Darfur to support 150,000 children and women in conflict-affected areas in Greater Darfur region of the Sudan.

Immunisation of children aged 9-59 months; essential drugs for 150,000 children and women for one year; rehabilitation of 10 health facilities; insecticide treated bednets to 9,000 families	300,000	Total US\$ 1,000,000
Rehabilitation of 100 handpumps; drilling of 25 boreholes fitted with handpumps; construction of 10 school latrines	230,000	
Rehabilitation of 10 primary schools; provision of equipment to 10 schools; educational materials for 10,000 children; training of 100 teachers to introduce to child-centred learning approaches	210,000	
Project management, staff and operational costs	260,000	

SWAZILAND

Priority action for children: All Children Safe in Schools

In Swaziland, HIV infection spread rapidly in the 1990s, from 3.9% among pregnant women in 1992, to 32.6 percent in 1998. Mortality rates among young adults have now soared since 2000, leaving over fifty thousand children orphaned or extremely vulnerable. AIDS impact on poverty exacerbates the impact on prospects for children. Many children are heading households. Primary school net enrollment rates have dropped from over 90 percent in the mid-1990s, to less than 70 percent today. Continuing drought conditions since 2001 in the eastern one-third of the country add a food security dimension to the crisis.

In January 2003, UNICEF and its partners launched an “Education for All Community Grants” initiative jointly with chiefs, local leaders and school officials in 45 of those communities, aimed at bringing the most vulnerable children back into school or non-formal education activities. The funds were used to mobilize community leadership to find the children and give them the guidance and moral support to return to school. Schools received funds to be able to absorb the increased numbers, including to pay for stationery and supply costs, and for assistant teachers recruited from unemployed young people in the community. Training is also required on child-protection and psycho-social support for the children who have suffered trauma from break-up of families due to AIDS. In those 45 primary schools, enrollment increased by over 20 percent in 2003. A closely related initiative, funded by ECHO, is now introducing “Neighbourhood Care Points” into those communities, to provide a place where pre-school, out-of-school and after-school orphans and vulnerable children can receive emotional support, meals, and opportunities for learning and play.

UNICEF urgently appeals for US\$ 750,000 to support its “All Children Safe in Schools” emergency education programme. The funds will be used to bring orphans and vulnerable children back into school and ensure others from very poor families can remain in school. The initiatives will benefit 24,000 vulnerable primary-school aged children in 80 communities especially hard-hit by AIDS and poverty, including 8,000 extremely vulnerable and orphaned children who had dropped out of school.

School supplies and support to classroom assistants.	US\$ 575,000	Total US\$ 750,000
Community training and psycho-social support initiatives	US\$ 132,000	
Monitoring and school management support	US\$ 43,00	

TIMOR LESTE

Priority action for children: Water and Environmental Sanitation

The destruction to the infrastructure that occurred during the post-referendum violence left most of the existing water and sanitation facilities throughout the country badly damaged, if not destroyed. About a third of primary schools require significant improvements to latrine and water facilities. Many families have returned to ancestral lands in remote areas and consequently distanced from safe water, and sanitation facilities. Though since the emergency phase (1999 – 2000) up to now, considerable efforts were made by UN Agencies and International NGO's to improve the situation in terms of both infrastructure rehabilitation, and community awareness, there remains substantial and urgent areas of needs. 2002 MICS survey reveals that safe water coverage is at 56.2%, while sanitation coverage at 18.8%. Low coverage of water and sanitation has contributed to high rates of diarrhea and parasitic infection, leading to half of children under five are malnourished.

UNICEF programme has worked in 8 out of 13 districts for the provision of community-based water supply and sanitation using participatory rapid appraisal to mobilize family demand for safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene. UNICEF also support school sanitation and hygiene to enhance girls' enrolment and using de-worming children, adolescent girls and young women of reproductive ages at regular intervals as entry point and educational tool to motivate children and people behavioural change. Increased coverage of WES facilities and behavioural changes will lead to the reduction of parasitic infection among children in the project areas, leading to the better nutrition status.

UNICEF Timor-Leste urgently appeals for US\$ 1,000,000 for its WES project in 50 villages and 100 primary schools. With this it is hoped that UNICEF would be able to assist at least 10,000 families and 45,000 children. The immediate needs are as follows:

Community-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	US\$ 600,000	Total US\$ 1,000,000
School Sanitation and Hygiene	US\$ 300,000	
Technical support	US\$ 100,000	

TURKMENISTAN

Appeal Status: 0% funded

Priority action for children: Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Education

About 90% of water supply for drinking and agriculture in Turkmenistan is supplied from one source: the Amu Darya water system, one of the most polluted water bodies in Central Asia. On the average, access to safe water in Turkmenistan is only 55% and in rural provinces such as Mary Velayat at only 15.5% and Lebap Velayat at 13.8%. Unsanitary toilet facilities expose families and children to worm infestation. Over one-third of children under 5 and 70% of school children have anaemia. The prevalence of diarrhoea was reported at 13,300 for 100,000 population in 2000.

UNICEF will support the development of alternative community-based water supply systems and the upgrading and protection of dug wells for safe drinking water sources. In e-traps (districts) with acute problems, bore wells will be constructed and existing piped-water supply system will be rehabilitated. Communities and other stakeholders will be empowered for the management and operations of these systems and mechanisms for community involvement created. The capacity of local authorities will be enhanced for water quality monitoring and surveillance together with the communities. New alternative design of sanitary facilities will be constructed separately for girls and boys. Hygiene education in school adopting a teacher-to-child-to-parent-to-community approach will be promoted and school children's health will be monitored regularly.

UNICEF Turkmenistan urgently appeals for US\$350,000 for its Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Education in Mary and Lebap Velayats. With this, it is expected to provide an estimated 60,000 children and their families with access to safe drinking water and sanitary facilities. Anaemia would have been reduced by 10% and diarrhoea by 50% with corresponding health interventions.

Community-based water systems	US\$100,000	Total US\$350,000
Rehabilitation of piped-water supply systems	US\$ 80,000	
School sanitary latrines	US\$ 70,000	
Community management and water quality monitoring and surveillance	US\$ 50,000	
Hygiene education	US\$ 50,000	

UGANDA

Appeal Status: 49% funded

Priority action for children: Protecting Children in Northern Uganda

In northern and eastern Uganda 1.4 million people, of whom 800,000 are children under the age of 15, are displaced in northern and eastern Uganda due to the insurgency of the Lord's Resistance Army. In a war where children are the first targets, 8,000 children have been abducted in 12 months. Global acute malnutrition rates are 10-25%, and admissions in therapeutic feeding centers have more than doubled over the last 12 months. Water availability is 5-10 liters per person in most IDP camps.

UNICEF is active in the fields of protection, health and nutrition, water and sanitation and education through: support to seven reception centers for formerly abducted children and 2-3,000 unaccompanied children in Kotido; provision of shelter and non-food items to 15,000 IDPs; provision of temporary schools and scholastic materials for 27,000 children and teachers, construction of 27 boreholes; motorization of boreholes for two camps of 62,000 and 48,000 (currently under way); provision of 1500 latrines to schools and public places; conducting emergency measles vaccination for 1.9 million children; and support to 11 therapeutic feeding centers with 700 - 1000 severely malnourished children.

UNICEF will ensure that mortality rate in therapeutic feeding centers is reduced to below 15%. This is expected to save the lives of 300-500 children every month. UNICEF will ensure that all abducted children can access centers to receive psychosocial support and additional 20,000 recently displaced children and women in Lira and Pader districts will receive clean water.

Nutrition – Lifesaving therapeutic milk and support for 11 therapeutic feeding centers with monthly admission rates of 600-1,000 children will be provided.	US\$ 435,000	Total US\$ 990,000
Protection – Support to 7 centers for formerly abducted children and former child soldiers, ensuring that care and support is available to up to 1,000 children who are in centers every month, ensuring they can be returned to their communities.	US\$ 120,000	
Water and sanitation – Rapidly provide safe water to 20,000 IDPs in Lira and Pader districts	US\$ 435,000	

ZAMBIA

Priority action for children

Zambia is one of the poorest countries in South-eastern Africa with an estimated 80% of its 10 million people living on less than \$1 day. HIV has had a devastating effect and has undermined traditional coping strategies in many households. Last year drought and erratic rains compromised food security in many households – especially in Southern and Western Provinces – and necessitated a consolidated appeal for assistance to deal with the resultant humanitarian crisis. This year Zambia had a good harvest, but pockets of continued drought and crop failures in these same provinces threaten the same communities who were the most heavily impacted last year and for whom there has been no opportunity for recovery. One of the first casualties in 2003 was attendance of children in schools. Children were withdrawn to assist family members to forage for game and wild fruits or to participate in “work for food” programmes. An important part of the UN coordinated response was a collaborative effort (WFP/UNICEF) to establish school feeding programmes. This intervention dramatically increased school attendance (especially among the most vulnerable) and assured the provision of at least one nutritious meal for school aged children daily. WFP and UNICEF have been asked to accelerate this relief activity. WFP provides food while UNICEF provides feeding utensils, training for teachers and community workers and education materials – necessary to ensure that schools continue to offer quality education and do not degenerate to mere feeding stations.

UNICEF requests additional funds to support the provision of cooking utensils, plates, cups, cutlery and training for school workers. Additionally UNICEF will provide a package of learning inputs for schools in 50 highly affected communities. Items provided for each school will vary depending on each school’s specific needs, but the overall package will include desks, books, teaching and learning aids. UNICEF also works to ensure the adequacy of water and sanitation facilities in each assisted school.

During the 2003 drought, attendance at schools dropped from 71% for girls and 73% for boys to 14% and 17% respectively. The impact of the intervention will be to keep children in school, assure the provision of one meal daily and lessen their exposure to high risk and exploitative labour. Each school has approximately 350 pupils. An estimated 17,000 children will be reached by the emergency donation.

Utensil Packs for schools	US\$ 400,000	Total
Training for school providers	US\$ 4,000	
Desks	US\$ 270,000	US\$ 763,250
Learning Aids	US\$ 26,250	
Logistics costs (transport)	US\$ 63,000	

ZIMBABWE

Priority action for children: Support to Emergency Education

Zimbabwe's food insecurity crisis has resulted in up to 10% of school children, especially girls, dropping out of school. Weak capacity for timely analyses of drop out data in the Education Information Management System (EIMS) unit of the Ministry of Education limit availability of up-to-date information on school drop-outs to discern trends and assist in targeting of school feeding programs by humanitarian agencies. Moreover, children of commercial farm workers displaced by Zimbabwe's contentious land reform and those of resettled farmers, though learning in makeshift/temporary schools, lack access to teaching materials.

As a response, UNICEF intends to procure and distribute "school in a box" kits to the temporary schools and develop the capacity of the EIMS unit to analyze and disseminate data on "school drop outs" on a timely basis through on Emergency Education Working group of major stakeholders led by UNICEF.

Availability of "school-in-a box" kits will ensure continued education for about 500,000 children affected. Better targeting of school feeding programmes as a result of timely availability of disaggregated data on school drop outs will keep children in school and reduce potential exposure to risk behaviour that might otherwise lead to HIV infection. This also will enhance survival and future development.

About US\$ 800,000 is needed immediately out of which US\$ 600,000 is to buy the "school in box" kits and the rest being for technical and hardware support to develop the capacity of the EIMS unit to analyze school drop out rates, for UNICEF technical and programme support and also for facilitation of the education emergency working group (EWG).

School in a Box Kits (1,714 kits @ US\$350 each incl. freight)	US\$ 600,000	Total
Technical and hardware support (to develop the capacity of the EIMS Unit), Monitoring and facilitation of EWG	US\$ 200,000	US\$ 800,000