



## 1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The insecurity and chronic conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR) continues to impact tens of thousands of children's lives in the northern and eastern regions of the country. It is estimated that at least a quarter of the population has been affected by the conflict. As of May 2010, the country counted approximately 190,850 displaced persons, 91,800 returnees and some 25,000 new refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo in addition to the 5,000 refugees already in the country from Sudan. Conflict in CAR has also resulted in an exodus of 163,000 refugees who now reside in neighbouring countries, mainly in Cameroon (88,000) and Chad (71,000).

Delivering assistance to the northern area remains restricted due to clashes between armed groups and government forces as well as between pastoralists and local populations; there is also an ongoing risk of road banditry. Access in the east is also extremely difficult as a result of ongoing attacks on communities and humanitarian actors by the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Other challenges are frequent outbreaks of epidemic diseases, rising prices of food and other essential commodities, and limited resources to meet humanitarian needs.

**Sufficient funding for the planning and implementation of emergency programmes in the Central African Republic is crucial to address these needs.**

## 2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

In close collaboration with local, national and international partners, UNICEF continues to respond to the humanitarian needs of the CAR population affected by conflict in the priority areas of health, nutrition, WASH, HIV/AIDS, education and child protection. These interventions have been hindered due to ongoing conflict, subsequent insecurity, and lack of access to some parts of the country. Overall funding status of the office remains a concern, with health, WASH and HIV/AIDS being particularly underfunded.

When it comes to health and nutrition, so far in 2010, UNICEF has improved routine immunisation services through increased technical and supply assistance provided to the Ministry of Health and other national partners. Some 750,000 children have been immunized in major campaigns organised between March and April. Some 1,550 moderately and acutely malnourished children were treated through the establishment of 55 treatment centres, provision of nutritional supplies and training of 225 health staff. Other activities include deworming of about 3,500 children under five years of age. In the area of education, 736 schools and safe learning spaces, set-up or reopened by UNICEF with partners, have provided educational and recreational services to more than 145,000 children. Assistance was also extended to local communities to support 736 Parent Teacher Associations through training and sensitisation; 122,500 children were provided with textbooks and school kits. UNICEF, in cooperation with the government and NGO partners, has also continued activities for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of children associated with armed forces. A major back-to-school campaign returned 145,152 children to school and trained 2,577 teachers. As part of this initiative, UNICEF provided water and sanitation supplies to 20 schools in the country. During the last 10 months, some 62,000 people gained access to safe water through rehabilitation or construction of water sources and benefited from improved hygiene through distribution of hygiene kits and awareness. Separate latrines for boys and girls have been built in 20 primary schools.

In the next 6 months, while continuing its life-saving and immediate response in the northern zones affected by the conflict, UNICEF with the Government of the Central African Republic, NGO partners and other United Nations agencies, will respond to the humanitarian needs of more than 600,000 people in the conflict areas, including 240,000 children. The focus will be on ensuring access to health and nutrition, safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene, as well as creating child-friendly learning spaces, access to education and a protective environment for children. UNICEF is also working to ensure that the capacity for emergency preparedness for rapid response is reinforced as the country crosses a particularly unstable period with the repeated postponement of elections.

Following are the expected results of UNICEF emergency interventions:

**Health and Nutrition:** UNICEF will ensure effective Nutrition Cluster coordination at the national and regional level and support the development of nutrition surveillance of children under five in hard-to-reach areas and malnutrition-prone zones. Essential health-care services and therapeutic feeding programmes, including outpatient feeding and community-based case management, will also continue to be supported by UNICEF and partners at 55 health centres in the affected areas, as UNICEF strengthens the health system

to sustain the delivery of integrated high impact services at scale through a combination of delivery channels. UNICEF will also focus on reducing specific malaria-related mortality through universal insecticide-treated nets distribution (ITN), with focus on the most vulnerable. 150,000 under-five children and 500,000 households will receive ITNs. Other focus areas include improve access to quality management of child illnesses, community-based management of child illnesses and essential family practices promotion. Through these activities, 300,000 under-five children and 100,000 pregnant women will be reached through an integrated intervention package. In order to achieve these results, it is of utmost importance that the provision of essential equipments, materials, vaccines/related supplies, essential drugs and nutrition supplies for routine interventions is secured.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** The UNICEF-led WASH Cluster will promote good hygiene practices and ensure that adequate access to safe water is made available for up to 150,000 people through the construction of 100 new water points and the rehabilitation of 200 existing water points in schools and health centers. UNICEF will also ensure that up to 540,000 people have access to basic sanitation facilities through self-construction of improved family latrines and basic household waste management systems. UNICEF aims to improve access to drinking water by up to 40 per cent from 9 per cent in several prefectures of the country. 2010 will see the launch of the Community-led Total Sanitation strategy in three prefectures. These activities will benefit 274,000 children in rural areas in three prefectures (Ouaka, Basse Kotto and Mbomou) with poor access to safe water (9 per cent) and lack of appropriate sanitation (1.7 per cent).

**Education:** UNICEF will continue to lead the education cluster and work with partners to ensure that 240,000 children continue to attend school in crisis-affected areas in an environment conducive to quality learning through training of teachers and caregivers, provision of school kits, early childhood development kits and textbooks, and improvement in school supervision. It is also planned to strengthen the capacity of education actors in emergency response. The teaching and learning environment will be improved through the implementation of the Child Friendly Schools approach and its integration into policies as standards of quality. UNICEF will rehabilitate 156 classrooms, provide furniture, and construct 77 water points and 77 blocks of latrines. Without these interventions, 200,000 children living in conflict-affected zones will be at risk of further comparative marginalisation, as Fast Track Initiative only supports government-controlled areas.

**HIV/AIDS:** UNICEF and partners will strengthen the capacity of the vulnerable communities to reduce their risk of exposure to HIV infection in emergency zones. This will include the development of behaviour change communications on HIV prevention, care and treatment, which will benefit 200,000 children, adolescents, women and communities via schools, youth centres and health facilities. UNICEF will also continue to support children and women through the scale-up of quality services for paediatric care and for preventing mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). Technical assistance and capacity development for the government will be also provided.

**Child Protection:** Psychosocial and education support will be provided to 40,000 vulnerable children in the conflict-affected north through the creation of at least 20 new child-friendly spaces. Negotiation is ongoing for the release of nearly 500 children currently associated with armed groups or forces, who, along with 1,500 children formerly associated with armed groups, will have access to reintegration services. These children will also benefit from income generating activities, access to basic social services, and psychosocial support. UNICEF will create a referral-prevention system of vulnerable children at risk, increase capacity building of actors and maintain data collection on orphans and vulnerable children.

**Emergency preparedness:** UNICEF will continue leading the existing Non-food items (NFI) cluster at the national level. NFI kits will be prepositioned for 25,000 people in the North of the country.

### 3. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

As part of the 2010 HAR and the CAP joint appeal, UNICEF currently still requires **US \$10,148,270** to be able to respond to the needs of children and women in the Central African Republic. The response from the donor community has been limited thus far, with only **US \$ 2,569,720, or 20 per cent**, received to date. The most urgent funding priorities, as per below table, amount to US\$ 4,200,000.

**Table 1: Funds Received against Appeal**

Appeal Sector	Initial HAR requirements by Sector	Revised requirements– May 2010	Funds Received (US\$)	Unmet requirements (US\$)	% Unfunded
Health	3,929,415	3,929,415	1,000,000	5,262,015	75%
Nutrition	2,332,600	2,332,600			
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	1,003,125	1,003,125	0	1,003,125	100%
HIV/AIDS	299,600	700,000	0	700,000	100%
Education	500,000	500,000	150,910	349,090	70%
Child Protection	3,375,850	3,375,850	640,920	2,734,930	81%
Shelter & NFIs	877,000	877,000	0	877,000	100%
Multi-sector	0	0	777,890	777,890	N/A
<b>Total*</b>	<b>12,317,590</b>	<b>12,717,990</b>	<b>2,569,720</b>	<b>10,148,270</b>	<b>80%</b>

\*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF's Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

**Table 2: Funding Priorities as of May 2010**

Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
1. Health: Strengthen the health system and reduce specific malaria-related mortality	300,000 under-five children and 100,000 pregnant women	2,000,000
2. WASH: Water supply and sanitation	274,000 children	1,000,000
3. Child Protection Reintegration of children associated with armed groups and psycho-social care and support for conflict-affected children	40,000 children	500,000
4. HIV/AIDs: Scale up quality PMTCT and paediatric care services for children, women and adolescents	200,000 children, adolescents, women and communities	700,000
<b>Total Priority needs</b>		<b>4,200,000.</b>

Further information on the UNICEF emergency programme in Central African Republic can be obtained from:

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