



WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

The risk of medium- and large-scale emergencies in the West and Central Africa region remains high in 2009. In addition to volatile political and socio-economic situations in Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, the region continues to confront malnutrition in the Sahel countries and recurrent emergencies, such as cholera, meningitis and floods. The impact of high food prices across the region could add further risks to the ongoing fragility of countries and vulnerable groups within the region.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

At the regional level, UNICEF is the cluster lead for nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and is a member of consultative groups on health and protection.

Strengthening Emergency Response: The UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO) will provide technical and operational support to Country Offices and partners (through inter-agency simulation exercises and disaster preparedness planning) to strengthen their preparedness. In the event of a rapid onset emergency, urgent human resource surge capacity will be provided as well as essential supplies and bridge emergency funds.

Child Survival and Nutrition: At both regional and country level, WCARO will continue to strengthen inter-agency coordination, synergy and accountability among UN agencies and humanitarian partners as per the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) agreements for effective implementation. In Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Togo, WCARO will focus on the management of malnutrition among children under age five, and on the prevention of malnutrition among children under age five and pregnant/lactating women.

Health: WCARO will aim to reduce morbidity and mortality due to meningitis by strengthening preparedness and response to meningitis epidemics in West African countries in the 'meningitis belt'.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: WCARO will continue to strengthen inter-agency coordination, synergy and accountability among UN agencies and humanitarian partners in WASH as per IASC agreements. In addition, WCARO will develop an integrated cholera mitigation and response plan to reduce the occurrence and incidence of cholera outbreaks and improve emergency response in hotspot areas of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

Education: WCARO will continue to strengthen and expand the realm of support to countries' efforts to plan and implement adequate responses in emergency situations. Capacity and partnership building will be consolidated through inter-agency trainings, the creation of an emergency roster and the monitoring of the impact of high food prices on education systems and on children's learning and development.

West and Central Africa Emergency Needs for 2009*

Sector	US\$
Strengthening Emergency Response	2,600,000
Child Survival and Nutrition	11,011,594
Health (preparedness and response to meningitis)	1'280,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	13,382,580
Education	900,000
Child Protection	724,700
HIV and AIDS	260,000
Total**	30,158,874

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Child Protection: WCARO will support Country Offices (who have adopted the cluster approach) for a stronger articulation of child protection within the broader protection cluster and continue to facilitate cross-border and subregional coordination and collaboration for child protection interventions in Mano River countries, Great Lakes' region countries as well as Central African Republic, Chad and Cameroon. WCARO will focus not only on strengthening its own capacity but also support capacity-building amongst government partners, international and national NGOs to respond to emergencies in five countries.

HIV and AIDS: WCARO will reach refugees and host communities in Cameroon, who are increasingly vulnerable to HIV and AIDS; train 3,000 service providers, volunteers and peer educators in community mobilization and sensitization on prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PTMCT), on orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) and provision of life skills training for adolescents and youth.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a politically and economically unstable country where poverty is ravaging and social infrastructures providing basic services are almost non-existent. Among other factors, the armed conflict could be considered as a major reason for the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country. Since 2005, fighting between the national army and other armed groups, as well as increased banditry, has led to the displacement of great numbers of population both inside and outside the country and to the destruction of basic social services such as health, education and water supply, to which the access is very limited today in CAR, mainly in the northern zones.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

UNICEF is the cluster lead for nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and shelter/non-food items (NFIs) and co-leads the protection cluster with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). UNICEF-supported programmes are expected to reach at least 487,360 persons, among them 170,200 children.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will procure and distribute essential emergency drugs and equipment to 55 health centres; distribute impregnated mosquito nets to 4,000 households; train community volunteers in 100 villages on home-based management of malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea; support the organization of immunization riposte campaigns in the event of measles/yellow fever outbreaks; support eight therapeutic feeding centres and six outpatient treatment centres; conduct nutrition surveys/assessments in inaccessible zones and set up a nutrition surveillance mechanism.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: UNICEF will provide WASH-related NFIs to 50,000 conflict-affected people; promote the construction of improved family latrines for 3,230 families (16,150 persons) and promote household safe water treatment/storage; construct new water points equipped with handpumps in the vicinity of schools, handwashing facilities and two blocks of ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines per school; and foster the coordination of the WASH sector and gear up emergency preparedness activities.

Education: UNICEF will provide basic school materials and recreational kits to 13,000 displaced and war-affected children; train 260 primary schoolteachers and 100 members of parent-teacher associations; and rehabilitate and equip eight primary schools, reaching 4,800 children.

Child Protection: UNICEF will promote the demobilization of at least 500 child soldiers; support the community-based reintegration of around 1,100 children associated with armed forces or groups; rehabilitate 80 community-based basic social services infrastructures; monitor and report on grave child rights' violations; and support the prevention, identification, documentation, tracing, care and reunification of an estimated 500 separated children.

Shelter and Non-Food Items: UNICEF will conduct needs assessment and monitor the humanitarian situation of conflict-affected population; standardize the shelter/NFI kit in CAR and provide appropriate kits to the needy population; prepare the NFI distribution plan by taking into consideration the target population's perception of needs; monitor and evaluate project activities as well as their immediate impact on the target population; and increase shelter and NFI cluster coordination.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*

Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	6,743,990
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	1,990,040
Education	1,072,900
Child Protection	1,839,400
Shelter and Non-Food Items	835,000
Total**	12,481,330

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CHAD

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Three, sometimes overlapping, patterns of violence characterize the crisis in eastern Chad, leaving civilians at risk and without protection: (a) internal armed conflict between the Chadian government and Chadian armed opposition groups; (b) cross-border attacks by Darfur-based militia against civilians; and (c) interethnic violence. Most existing schools are temporary shelters, erected with rudimentary materials that must be rebuilt at the beginning of each school year. There is high shortage of teachers among internally displaced communities. About 95 per cent of the displaced population is illiterate. There is also lack of equipment, such as school desks, school manuals and other didactic materials. While geographic coverage of the nutrition interventions in the sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs) is acceptable, UNICEF will have to secure enough therapeutic foods to supply partners for the next 12 months and to cover the needs of IDPs and of host communities around the sites. The water and sanitation coverage is still very low for the host population. With the afflux of more than 170,000 IDPs, affected host populations have seen their fragile coping mechanisms put under severe strain, leading to tensions between the two groups. While a considerable amount of child protection activities have been implemented in the camps, youth programming is still weak as well as the documentation on children's recruitment by armed forces or armed groups.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

As recommended by the Chad Inter-Agency Standing Committee, UNICEF is the cluster lead for nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education. UNICEF is also responsible for a subcluster on child protection within the protection cluster and is an active member of the health cluster. As cluster lead UNICEF will establish and sustain appropriate mechanisms for coordination and communication; coordinate with other clusters as well as with national and local authorities, civil society and other relevant local actors; ensure that cross-cutting priorities are always taken into consideration (age, diversity, environment, gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights); and confirm the commitment to provide assistance or services as a last resort.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will ensure that refugees, IDPs and host communities receive adequate preventative and curative health and nutrition care. Activities will target 93,000 children under age five and 38,000 pregnant/lactating women. UNICEF will provide vaccines for routine immunization and distribute 30,000 impregnated mosquito nets as well as antimalarial drugs.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: UNICEF will provide 140,000 IDPs with safe water and sanitation by constructing/rehabilitating wells and sanitary facilities; train 40 community water management teams on county/city water and sanitation assessments; and promote hygiene education and hygiene awareness programmes in 120 schools and 40 local communities.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*	
Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	7,369,522
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	10,260,000
Education	11,258,598
Child Protection	4,320,000
HIV/AIDS	1,365,570
Mine Action	50,290
Total**	34,623,980

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Education: UNICEF will reach a total of 150,000 displaced and war-affected children (60 per cent coverage), almost 400 preschool facilitators, 2,000 primary schoolteachers and 200 parent committees with improved school infrastructure and sufficient teaching and learning materials; train teachers for quality teaching and enhance the capacity of parent committees to running school and supporting attendance.

Child Protection: UNICEF will consolidate the programme for the prevention of child recruitment; facilitate the release, transit, care and community reintegration of 750 children associated with armed forces or armed groups; support the prevention, identification, documentation, tracing, care and reunification with their families of an estimated 400 separated children; and continue supporting four partner NGOs dealing with sexual and gender-based violence.

HIV/AIDS: UNICEF will support sensitization activities targeting 100,000 adolescents/young women and enhance the capacity of 500 teachers and 100 health workers.

Mine Action: UNICEF will support the introduction of mine-risk education (MRE) into the primary school curriculum, targeting 15,000 students.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

The situation of the Pool Department, most affected by the armed conflicts that shook the Congo for a decade, is gradually evolving. Incidents with militiamen have diminished making it possible for the Pool to participate in local elections in 2008. These trends confirm a progressive return to peace and the reintegration of the Pool into the national political agenda. However, access to social services remains critically low, resulting in the persistent spread of waterborne diseases, which continue to negatively affect the health and nutritional status of children and women. Other areas, bordering the Pool Department, are periodically facing cholera epidemics due to the use of unprotected wells, rainwater and rivers as the main sources of drinking water and the absence of sanitation systems. UNICEF's support includes the rehabilitation/construction of water and sanitation facilities in health centres and schools, community-based nutrition, prevention and treatment of malnutrition, and communication for behaviour change.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

UNICEF has established partnerships with NGOs and faith-based organizations to conduct assessments, implement nutrition interventions, construct/rehabilitate works, support birth registration as well as undertake community-based communication activities. UNICEF's emergency interventions are fully integrated within the Country Programme of Cooperation. There is no cluster mechanism in place.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will administer vitamin A and distribute long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) to at least 10,400 children under age five and 2,480 pregnant/lactating women (80 per cent of target population); procure deworming tablets for at least 9,200 children aged 6–59 months (80 per cent of target population); provide iron supplementation for anaemia prevention and access to intermittent preventive treatment (IPT) for at least 2,480 pregnant/lactating women (80 per cent of target population); ensure community-based treatment of malnutrition for at least 500 cases (50 per cent); and support access for at least 60 per cent of households to adequate information on the prevention of childhood diseases and ensure the early detection of complications for referral to health centre.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: UNICEF will provide safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities by constructing/rehabilitating wells for 5,000 people in Goma Tsé Tsé and Mindouli Districts; construct a reinforced tank for 12,000 people (37 per cent of target population) at Loudima centre (Bouenza Department), construct 10 latrine blocks (three cabins each) for the needs of 750 people in Goma Tsé Tsé and Mindouli Districts; and sensitize the population on key hygiene and sanitation practices.

Education: UNICEF will provide school materials for 7,000 primary schoolchildren; support the rehabilitation of 10 schools, including the installation of water and sanitation facilities for the benefit of 3,000 pupils; train 150 teachers in basic education and life skills activities, with special emphasis on hygiene and water-related practices; provide remedial teaching for 600 pupils for catch-up purposes, with special focus on girl teenagers; and provide nutritional supplementation and deworming at school level for 1,000 children in need.

Child Protection: UNICEF will support birth registration campaigns and sensitization activities for the benefit of 6,000 children (17 per cent) without birth registration; and implement social mobilization activities against sexual violence at school level and in religious congregations.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*

Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	1,124,077
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	750,043
Education	310,000
Child Protection	450,000
Total**	2,634,120

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CÔTE D'IVOIRE

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

The five-year crisis in Côte d'Ivoire has negatively affected the situation of children and women, particularly in the North and West war-affected areas. During the critical period of transition towards recovery and further economic development special attention has to be placed on addressing the specific needs of the most vulnerable population.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

UNICEF is the leading agency for the thematic groups of nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education, and is an active member of the health, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and emergency preparedness and response groups. UNICEF's interventions will benefit 375,000 children aged 0–17 years and 50,000 pregnant/lactating women.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will rehabilitate 61 primary health facilities and one regional hospital covering 532,864 inhabitants; procure essential drugs, vitamin A, deworming tablets, vaccines, long-lasting insecticidal nets, therapeutic foods, anthropometric material and delivery equipment. UNICEF will also train 8,000 health staff in several disciplines, as well as 150 auxiliary health personnel and 3,800 community health workers.

HIV/AIDS: UNICEF will improve social services through the supply of appropriate medical kits; enhance the capacity of social/health workers and peer educators; and strengthen partnerships.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: UNICEF will set up 100 water quality and cholera outbreak surveillance teams and train communities at risk in order to monitor water quality and to prevent/respond to cholera outbreaks for the benefit of 100,000 people; implement an information, education and communication programme on hygiene education; and rehabilitate/construct 50 wells and 50 adequate sanitary facilities in peri-urban areas at risk.

Education: UNICEF will provide 6,000 displaced and war-affected children (30 per cent of total displaced population) with basic school materials and recreational kits; train 120 primary schoolteachers; construct 20 temporary schools/classroom structures to accommodate 6,000 primary schoolchildren.

Child Protection: UNICEF will endeavour to protect all declared survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) from further suffering and provide adequate care and support (psychosocial, medical and legal); and increase the capacity of partners to prevent and reduce the risk of GBV.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*

Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	4,653,000
HIV/AIDS	402,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	800,000
Education	720,637
Child Protection	1,177,000
Total**	7,752,637

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Although sustained, large-scale armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) lulled during the first half of 2008, overall humanitarian needs have increased across all sectors. The increased access enabled humanitarian actors to identify and evaluate humanitarian situations in areas previously not accessible. Localized conflict, insecurity, acute malnutrition and disease continue to threaten the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of children and their families. Violence against civilians has not abated in eastern DRC, and forced recruitment, forced labour, sexual violence, illegal taxation, occupation of homes and land, and looting continue to be reported throughout the Kivus.

In addition to the ongoing challenge of population displacement and conflict, key indicators in DRC across sectors reveal that the country has failed to make any major progress in key areas affecting children. Under-five mortality is still alarmingly high: one child out of five dies before his/her fifth birthday. Infant mortality stands at 108 per 1,000 live births. Maternal mortality is one of the highest in the world, with 1,100 women dying per 100,000 live births. Thirty-eight per cent of Congolese children under age five suffer from chronic malnutrition or stunting – with the highest rates in the Kivus; 13 per cent suffer from moderate or severe acute malnutrition. Only 46 per cent of DRC families have access to improved drinking-water sources and only 30 per cent to adequate sanitation facilities. The education system is characterized by limited access (girls' gross enrolment rate of 54 per cent), weak internal efficiency, poor quality of learning and decaying infrastructure. Over 33,000 children are estimated to have been involved in armed forces and groups in the DRC since 1998. The plague of sexual violence across eastern DRC continues at alarming rates. While not a widespread problem throughout the conflict-affected areas, high concentrations of unexploded ordnance present particular challenges in certain areas.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

Since 2006, UNICEF has led five of the ten clusters established in the DRC: nutrition; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); education; non-food items/emergency shelter; and emergency telecommunications (co-lead with the World Food Programme). UNICEF will reach about 4 million women and children with the funds raised through the *Humanitarian Action Report*.

Health: To contribute to the reduction of under-five and maternal mortality, UNICEF will undertake the following key activities: (i) procure and distribute essential drugs and equipment to 400 health centres in low coverage, cholera-endemic and other emergency-affected areas; (ii) support emergency-affected health zones to provide essential primary health care for 2 million people, including displaced, host communities, and cholera-affected communities; (iii) mobilize vaccination campaigns for 3.9 million children under age five against measles, 4.3 million children under age five against polio, 1.4 million women of childbearing age against tetanus and 1 million children under age one against other antigens in low-coverage, high-risk areas, with particular focus on areas of new outbreaks and zones of population displacement and return.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*	
Sector	US\$
Health	18,000,000
Nutrition	15,000,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	15,000,000
Education	9,750,000
Child Protection and Mine-Risk Education	15,750,000
Rapid Response Mechanism	22,000,000
Programme of Expanded Assistance to Returns	20,000,000
Total**	115,500,000

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Nutrition: To strengthen and scale up the programme for the management of acute malnutrition, UNICEF aims to: (i) reinforce support to 350 nutritional feeding programmes previously established and run by partners for 164,484 severely malnourished children; (ii) expand expertise and use of the community-based therapeutic care (CTC) approach for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition; (iii) train 3,000 health staff in treatment of severe acute malnutrition and 3,000 community workers in screening and referral of severe and moderate acute malnutrition cases; (iv) procure and distribute ready-to-use therapeutic food, therapeutic milk, essential drugs (vitamin A, deworming tablets and antibiotics) and anthropometric equipment to therapeutic feeding centres; (v) procure and distribute anthropometric equipment, essential drugs (vitamin A and deworming tablets) and monitoring tools to supplementary feeding centres; (vi) provide all children aged 6–59 months in emergency-affected areas with two doses of vitamin A and deworming tablets; (vii) expand nutritional surveillance and monitoring networks through support to health centres, and train technical partners able to be deployed for surveying at-risk areas.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: A total of 1 million displaced, returnee, cholera-affected and other disaster-affected persons will benefit from the following key activities: (i) ensure provision to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in host families and camps, vulnerable host families, and vulnerable returnees of a basic minimal package of water, gender-appropriate sanitation facilities, soap and feminine hygiene materials for women in menstruating age, as well as education/awareness-raising on waterborne disease and methods to minimize risk; (ii) in cholera-endemic and epidemic areas, provide cholera treatment centres with a basic minimum package of water, sanitation, and hygiene with specific standards for water provision of 40 litres/person/day and one latrine for 20 beds.

Education: To ensure a rapid return to normal life for 330,000 children affected by conflicts or natural disasters and to mitigate risk of child recruitment, violence against children, and psychosocial stress, UNICEF will undertake the following key activities: (i) construct/rehabilitate and/or expand 672 classroom infrastructures for some 33,420 children, including 472 separated latrine facilities for boys and girls, to accommodate emergency-affected children and their teachers; (ii) pilot programmes to incorporate innovative approaches to alleviate school fee burden for emergency-affected children; (iii) distribute school, student kits for 330,000 students in early childhood development (ECD) centres, primary schools, catch-up centres and secondary schools; (iv) train 600 parents and communities in peace education, psychosocial support, social mobilization, school management, HIV prevention and environment; (v) implement school feeding programmes.

Child Protection and Mine-Risk Education: UNICEF will reach 300,000 children vulnerable to grave child rights' violations in regions affected by conflict, displacement and violence through the following key activities: (i) contribute to the release, return and reunification of an estimated 3,000 children who remain associated with armed forces and groups (CAAFAG), and develop context-specific prevention mechanisms to reduce the risks of recruitment; support the community-based reintegration of 8,000 CAAFAG and promote girls' access; (ii) ensure protection and psychosocial support to 2,000 children who have been affected by displacement through programmes to identify, document, trace and reunite separated children with their families; (iii) support 30,000 internally displaced children in child-friendly spaces to promote physical and mental well-being, ensuring child participation and gender- and age-tailored activities as well as prevention of child rights' violations; (iv) provide a holistic set of services (medical, psychosocial, legal and socio-economic) for 15,000 children and women survivors of sexual violence; support the Government jointly with other actors for the development of a national protocol on care for survivors, especially children; (v) ensure appropriate and quality reporting on Security Council Resolution 1612 and develop a referral mechanism for response and care, in collaboration with participating child protection actors; (vi) lead inter-agency efforts to expand mine-risk awareness activities geographically and in other sectors of humanitarian programming, and promote the establishment of a referral system with regular child protection services.

Rapid Response Mechanism: UNICEF will reach some 1 million emergency-affected persons through the following activities: (i) procure and distribute essential household non-food items (NFI) and emergency shelter materials; (ii) ensure access to safe water sources, sanitation facilities and hygiene education for 500,000 emergency-affected persons in coordination with provincial WASH clusters; (iii) ensure access to basic education to 100,000 disaster-affected primary schoolchildren and 1,500 teachers through construction/improvement of classroom space and provision of student kits, teachers' kits, and recreational kits.

Programme of Expanded Assistance to Returns: To provide assistance in areas of return, the programme will: (i) undertake 108 multisectoral assessments in return areas and share the information and analyses with the help of the database of the Programme of Expanded Assistance to Returns (PEAR) among UNICEF colleagues and other humanitarian actors; (ii) provide 110,000 IDP returnee families with non-food item assistance; (iii) rehabilitate approximately 190 classrooms for about 9,500 students and ensure that 120,000 children have education materials to improve access to education.

GUINEA

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

The decade-long conflict in neighbouring countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone), the influx of more than 100,000 refugees and civil unrest in 2006, 2007 and 2008 along with high food prices have gravely worsened the well-being and livelihood of children and women throughout Guinea.

It is estimated that some 50,000 children suffer from some form of acute malnutrition. Less than 10 per cent of the population has access to basic health services, and preventable or easily treated diseases remain the main killers of Guinean children and women, with malaria, measles, acute respiratory infections and malnutrition being the leading causes of death. Even though close to 70 per cent of the population have access to improved drinking-water sources, there are great rural-urban and regional disparities. Many children are victims of migration and trafficking because of poverty and socio-political instability.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

UNICEF leads the WASH cluster, co-leads the protection cluster and is an active member of the health cluster led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the food security cluster led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). UNICEF coordinates nutrition issues in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP).

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will support 25 therapeutic feeding centres and 50 new ambulatory nutrition rehabilitation centres for the treatment of some 50,000 malnourished children; train 50 new health staff in treating severe malnutrition; procure and administer twice a year vitamin A and deworming medicines to all children under age five.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: UNICEF will provide approximately 1 million persons with safe water and sanitation facilities based on a decentralized contingency plan at family and community levels; promote household water treatment, food hygiene and individual and collective hygiene measures; and reinforce coordination between actors intervening in cholera prevention.

Education: UNICEF will provide a total of 7,300 displaced and war-affected children and 300 teachers and preschool educators with basic school materials, 'school-in-a-box' kits, recreational kits and early child development (ECD) kits; train 300 primary schoolteachers and preschool educators; rehabilitate schools and construct 50 temporary school/classroom structures to accommodate 2,500 primary schoolchildren.

Child Protection: UNICEF will ensure rapid response to the needs of the most vulnerable population in order to reduce the physical, psychological, legal and administrative consequences of crises on children and women; reinforce and equip existing child-friendly spaces; train experimented teachers in psychosocial care and provide tools for rapid assessments in order to better address and respond to violence/abuse; support family tracing, reunification and reintegration of separated children; support the development of a database on children and women victims of the crisis.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*

Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	4,348,251
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	855,000
Education	265,630
Child Protection	535,000
Total**	6,003,881

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GUINEA-BISSAU

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Guinea-Bissau is a post-conflict country that has yet to emerge from a decade of political instability. The destruction of social infrastructures occurred during the 1998–1999 war has been followed by lack of investment in the public and private sectors, resulting in further decay of the few infrastructures still standing. Government budgetary problems are recurrently resulting in non-payments of Government employees' salaries, which affects provision of the little (and low quality) basic social services available. This state of affairs has particularly harsh consequences on the most vulnerable groups: children, adolescents and women. The Government lacks the human and financial resources to invest in development, and enormous efforts will be required to improve the socio-economic situation.

Results from the latest Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 2006) indicate an increase in child mortality rates and very low access to primary education. The landmine/explosive remnants of war (ERWs) contamination has become a 'forgotten' emergency. Recent increases in drug trafficking and high unemployment rates make adolescents and young people out of school particularly vulnerable. Cholera is endemic in Guinea-Bissau. Since May 2008, the country is plagued by a massive epidemic, which as of 2 November has resulted in a total of 13,327 cases, with 218 deaths (fatality rate at 1.6 per cent).

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

UNICEF is cluster lead for nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and protection and chairs the partners' group on education. In 2009, UNICEF-supported programmes are expected to reach at least 918,000 children and adolescents (among them 272,000 children under age five) and 60,000 pregnant women.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will procure and distribute 60,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets; procure essential emergency drugs, micronutrients and health kits for 30 health centres serving 500,000 people; train 60 health staff, 60 midwives and 120 community health workers; support 24 therapeutic feeding centres, benefiting at least 350 malnourished children; and train 48 health staff in the management of severe acute malnutrition.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: UNICEF will protect traditional wells in peri-urban neighbourhoods of the capital Bissau and other areas at risk; periodically disinfect wells and improve hygienic water fetching. UNICEF will promote household water treatment and handwashing through communication and demonstration campaigns as a low-cost high-impact health intervention. At least 300,000 people will be targeted.

Education: UNICEF will continue to support the development of the Education Sectoral Plan making sure that strategies clearly include children and adolescents out of school; train some 500 teachers in life skills, human rights, gender equality and education for peace; support community initiatives for the construction of at least 30 school structures through capacity-building and provision of materials.

Mine Action: UNICEF will develop a primary school mine-risk education (MRE) manual; provide refresher courses to at least 70 schoolteachers already trained in 2004 and train another 70 teachers; share MRE messages with groups of adults and children living in areas affected by mine/ERWs through radio and traditional communication channels in communities. At least 50,000 people will be reached, of which 20,000 children.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*

Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	535,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	856,000
Education	535,000
Mine Action	156,000
Total**	2,082,000

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LIBERIA

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

The current high level of malnutrition in children (39.2 per cent are stunted, 7.5 per cent wasted and 19.2 per cent underweight) is exacerbated by high food prices. A 2008 inter-agency food security assessment found that the poorest households have less disposable income and are now resorting to drastic actions, such as putting their children to work, reducing spending on health care, and selling key productive assets including farm animals, equipment and tools to meet their food needs.

Although access to basic social services is improving, the government's coverage and its capacity to provide the services are still low. Malaria accounts for up to half of all illnesses in children, followed by acute respiratory infections (35 per cent) and diarrhoea (22 per cent). Household safe water and sanitation coverage is still low – 25 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. A lot of school infrastructure, furnishings and teaching and learning materials were destroyed and have not been repaired or replaced.

While the political situations have become calmer in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, there is still uncertainty of the future (including reactions to high food prices). The usually heavy rains are accompanied by fierce storms that often destroy physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges and classrooms, necessitating temporary solutions as repairs are made. UNICEF will make provision for such eventuality and for emergency response for up to 10,000 children in order to quickly meet UNICEF's *Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies*.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

UNICEF is the lead agency for the nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) clusters, and a key actor in the health and child protection sectors. The funds raised through the *Humanitarian Action Report (HAR)* will provide humanitarian support to at least 2.5 million children, adolescents, women of childbearing age and the host community members most affected by the past conflict and natural disasters in Liberia.

Child Survival – (a) Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will procure and distribute essential drugs and equipment to 25 health centres; distribute 150,000 impregnated mosquito nets; support six therapeutic feeding centres; train 600 health staff in integrated management of childhood illness and malnutrition; and support the organization of mass immunization, vitamin A supplementation and deworming campaigns. These services will benefit up to 2 million children, women and vulnerable community members; **(b) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** UNICEF will provide 200,000 persons with safe water and sanitation facilities through new technologies on household water treatment and storage; develop wells and sanitary facilities; and promote hygiene education and hygiene awareness programmes.

Basic Education and Gender Equality: UNICEF will provide learning materials and seats to 300,000 and 20,000 primary schoolchildren respectively; expand the accelerated learning programme (ALP) to four counties targeting 7,200 new learners; provide educational supplies for up to 10,000 children who may require emergency education support in 2009.

Child Protection: UNICEF will strengthen social protection interventions at household and community levels to support 10,000 children and adolescents most vulnerable and exposed to abuse, violence, increased child labour, HIV/AIDS and sexual exploitation. These actions will also ameliorate the adverse consequences high food prices are having on 1,000 most vulnerable households.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*

Sector	US\$
Child Survival (Health and Nutrition, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)	8,000,000
Basic Education and Gender Equality	3,035,000
Child Protection	2,060,000
Total**	13,095,000

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MAURITANIA

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

According to the latest UNICEF/Ministry of Health malnutrition survey carried out in March 2008, the global acute malnutrition rate in Mauritania is 12 per cent. This clearly reflects the deteriorating food situation that has been characterized by a lack of availability of and poor accessibility to basic services, as well as with a weak health-care system for the treatment and prevention of severe malnutrition. The percentage of population using improved drinking-water sources and improved sanitation facilities stands at 50.5 per cent and 38.2 per cent, respectively. Also, the reintegration of Mauritanian refugees from Senegal requires securing basic social services in the areas of return, a critical issue particularly for children that needs to be resolved in the coming future.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

UNICEF is cluster lead for nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and co-chairs consultative groups on health and protection. UNICEF-supported programmes are expected to reach at least 500,000 children in 2009.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will distribute ready-to-use therapeutic foods, drugs, vitamin A supplements, deworming tablets and impregnated mosquito nets for 200,000 children under age five and for pregnant women representing 90 per cent of the target population; train health personnel in the management of acute malnutrition; and reinforce immunization services as part of a basic child survival package. UNICEF will also provide returnees with access to health and nutrition services.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: UNICEF will provide 40,000 displaced, returnees and vulnerable persons with safe water and sanitation by constructing/rehabilitating wells and sanitary facilities and promoting hygiene education and hygiene awareness programmes in 50 schools and 50 local communities.

Education: UNICEF will provide basic school materials to up to 5,000 children and some 300 teachers affected by emergencies or in-country conflicts; ensure the rehabilitation of schools and the provision of 205 temporary schools and classroom structures, with additional WASH inputs.

Child Protection: UNICEF will focus on those vulnerable groups most affected by the emergency, such as unaccompanied children, children living and/or working on the street, domestic girls and survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse, estimated at around 1,000 children.

Mine-Risk Education: UNICEF will pursue its mine-risk education (MRE) programme and provide assistance to approximately 1,000 mine survivors.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*

Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	2,000,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	500,000
Education	350,000
Child Protection	250,000
Mine-Risk Education	100,000
Total**	3,200,000

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NIGER

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Child hunger and undernutrition are still an issue in Niger. In some areas, global acute malnutrition in children under age five reaches a troubling 15.7 per cent. The recurrent cholera and meningitis outbreaks as well as floods, added to the insurgency of rebel groups in the northern part of Niger, which led to the displacement of approximately 15,000 people, widely affect the well-being and lives of children and women throughout the country. One child out of five will die before reaching his/her fifth birthday, while the maternal mortality ratio is one of the highest in the world at 650 deaths per 100,000 live births.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

In 2009, UNICEF will continue to be cluster lead for nutrition and will reach 635,000 children affected by undernutrition. In the other humanitarian areas, UNICEF is preparing to cover the needs of 10,000 vulnerable children and women.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will support nutritional therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres to cover the needs of 635,000 undernourished children (or an estimated 60 per cent of children in need) and will continue to reinforce effective nutritional surveillance. A nationwide blanket feeding operation reaching approximately 250,000 children under age three is also part of the 2009 plan. UNICEF will procure and distribute supplies for the meningitis vaccination of 75,000 children and the management of 10,000 cases of meningitis and 1,500 cases of cholera.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: UNICEF's response will cover the needs of a population of 10,000 people (1,250 households), who may either be affected by floods, displacement or by cholera outbreaks. UNICEF will provide water and sanitation equipment, and support the renovation/construction of up to 30 water points/water supply systems in 30 schools and 10 health centres in affected areas.

Education: UNICEF will support the training of 30 teachers, 30 community educators and 700 parents, and generally support the Regional Directorate of Agadez in its efforts to maintain all children at school. In case of floods, UNICEF will distribute school kits and material to build temporary learning spaces.

Child Protection: UNICEF plans to reinforce those grass-roots organizations and NGOs, which are supporting income-generating activities in areas affected by the insecurity or stricken by natural disasters in 2009. The current forecast is to assist 1,000 disadvantaged households (benefiting 5,000 children) who will then have improved access to basic social services.

Mine Action: UNICEF will continue supporting the National Commission for the Collection and Control of Illegal Weapons in order to develop and put in place a plan for mine-risk education for children, based on locally adapted education tools.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*

Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	12,689,148
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	800,000
Education	450,000
Child Protection	80,000
Mine Action	50,000
Total**	14,069,148

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