Strengthening UNICEF’s Action in Humanitarian Crises

Presentation to the Executive Board, Informal Session, 20 January 2015
Outline

Humanitarian Action in UNICEF: context

Strengthening Humanitarian Action: results

Humanitarian action agenda: the way forward

Emergency Programme Fund: increasing the ceiling
Humanitarian Action in UNICEF

UNICEF Strategic Plan
- Linking humanitarian and development
- Measurable targets for humanitarian action
- Building resilience

Changing global environment
- Growing humanitarian caseload & challenges
- Diverse partnerships
- New opportunities

Objectives of Strengthening Humanitarian Action
Challenges and results in 2014

Challenges

• Six Level 3 emergencies
• Humanitarian access, staff security & unpredictable financial resources

Preliminary results

• About 1.8 million children under 5 with severe acute malnutrition admitted to therapeutic feeding programmes
• Over 12 million people accessing safe water
• Some 16 million children vaccinated against measles
Strengthening humanitarian action to meet increasing needs

Building stronger capacities
  • Humanitarian Learning Strategy
  • Staff mobility and rotation
  • Support to staff in complex & high threat environments
  • Measures to increase standing & standby capacity

More effective implementation
  • Flexible implementation modalities
  • Simplified business processes

Stronger, more diverse partnerships

Clearer leadership & coordination
Achieving results in diverse contexts

Defining UNICEF’s contribution to the Core Commitments for Children in diverse contexts

Setting targets for operational commitments

Designing context-specific tools
  • Complex & high threat environments, especially conflict
  • Urban environments
Resilience and preparedness

Resilience
- UNICEF Corporate Position
- Interdivisional taskforce

Preparedness
- Linking preparedness and resilience
- Reviewing early warning/early action system
- Planning and funding
Humanitarian action agenda: the way forward

Progress to date

Architecture and resources

Humanitarian funding
Funding strong humanitarian action

• **Timely and appropriate funding** remains critical in acute crises.

• **Sustained funding** is vital as crises become more protracted and costly.

• **Flexible funding** is essential for Unicef’s strong humanitarian action.
Trends in UNICEF’s Humanitarian funding

• UNICEF has continued to receive generous funding support

• Marked increase in targeted funding for specific crises

• Critical decrease in global thematic humanitarian contributions

• Declining CERF share of UNICEF total funding needs
Needs outpacing funding

- Unprecedented humanitarian caseload

leading to...

- Increased funding requirements

In 2015, UNICEF is requesting for $3.1 billion
The Emergency Programme Fund (EPF)

• Established by the Executive Board, the EPF enables UNICEF to disburse funds for humanitarian action within 48 hours of a crisis.

• Biennial ceiling unchanged at $75 million since 2006.

• Fastest and most adaptable/ flexible funding for enabling quick action for children.
How is EPF enabling effective humanitarian action?

In **South Sudan**, EPF loan of $8.8M enabled:

- **Timely procurement of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods** before donors released funds.
- **87,781 children** under five with Severe Acute Malnutrition admitted for therapeutic care by December 2014.

In **Syria**, timely EPF of over $11M enabled continuation of WASH services for 10 million people in 2013.

In the **Ebola** outbreak, early release of EPF of more than $11M enabled immediate deployment of Surge teams, 226 members were supporting the response by December 2014.
Rationale for increasing EPF

Increased EPF will strengthen action for children by:

• **Expanding scale** of support to L3 emergencies and the “Invisible” Crises.

• **Accelerating humanitarian action** from partners in acute crises based on **predictable funding**

• Addressing **acute funding gaps**, in protracted and underfunded humanitarian crises.

• Increasing **timeliness and flexibility** of UNICEF’s response.
Proposal to the Executive Board

To strengthen UNICEF’s humanitarian action for children and enable timely response to crises, UNICEF proposes to the board for **an increase of the Emergency Programme Funding ceiling to $75 million per annum**.