



# 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

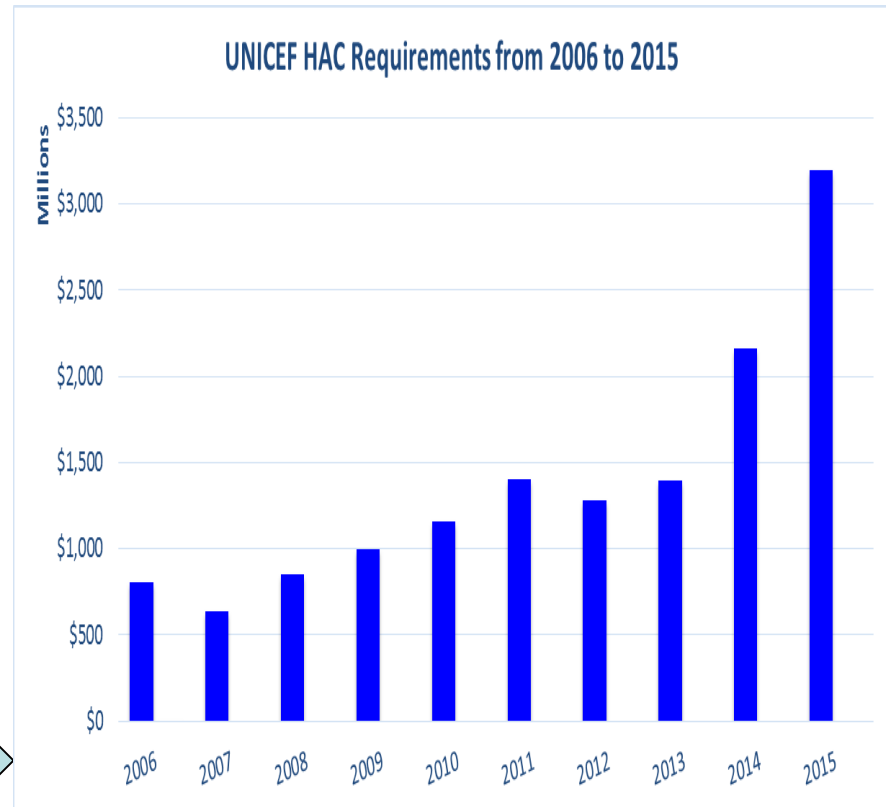
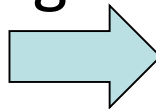
- UNICEF has **continued to receive generous funding** support
- Marked **increase in targeted funding** for specific crises
- Critical **decrease in global thematic** humanitarian contributions
- **Declining CERF share** of UNICEF total funding needs

# 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.**