Georgia (Region of Abkhazia)

Humanitarian situation

As a result of continuous isolation and the sensitive political context caused by armed conflict in the Region of Abkhazia, some 42,000 affected children receive poor quality basic services, with negative impacts on their well-being and development.\(^1\) Immunization coverage for the combined diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccine remains as low as 55 per cent in some districts. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation continues to be poor, primarily in rural schools in Abkhazia, where 14 per cent of schools have no access to water, 29 per cent have an insufficient water supply, and 39 per cent of schoolchildren are reluctant to use school sanitation facilities.\(^2\) Children with disabilities live in isolation, including within their family, and lack opportunities for integration, social inclusion and education. No mechanisms or programmes exist to detect or respond to violence, abuse or exploitation of children. Reports indicate that the prevalence of HIV and AIDS in Abkhazia is higher than in the rest of Georgia, and that the population’s level of information about HIV and AIDS is low.\(^3\) The situation in Abkhazia is exacerbated by inadequate infrastructure, limited capacity of service providers, and the community’s low level of resilience to shocks.

Humanitarian strategy

To address the multiple negative effects of protracted conflict and an uncertain future for isolated rural poor and returnee communities, UNICEF is working with partners to respond to the humanitarian needs of 38,000 girls and boys, including by strengthening the delivery and quality of basic services. In health and nutrition, UNICEF is supporting a coordinated response to child survival, facilitating safe delivery for mothers, promoting breastfeeding, providing vaccines and essential medical supplies, delivering training and disseminating information, education and communication materials to communities on health and nutrition. In water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), UNICEF is providing reliable access to safe water and WASH facilities in up to 30 rural communities through small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation, and is supporting hygiene promotion in schools and primary health facilities. In child protection and education, UNICEF is working with a network of 48 social community centres and three specialized centres for children with disabilities to raise community awareness about and build capacity to prevent, address and monitor violence, sexual exploitation and abuse of children and women, extend child care and support interventions for children living with disabilities, and improve access to quality education for conflict-affected children and youth.

Results 2014 (January to June)

During the first half of 2014, UNICEF and partners reached over 8,700 vulnerable children with protective services through a network of 48 community centres which offered learning and development opportunities for preschool and school-aged children including recreation, sports and play activities. Through support to the immunization registry database and better planning of supplementary immunization, UNICEF helped to increase the overall immunization coverage rates by 10 per cent. UNICEF also supported the introduction of international standards for newborn care in the three main maternity wards in Abkhazia, and continued to train medical professionals in immunization and in practice and effective perinatal care. Based on a joint situation assessment of WASH in schools, UNICEF and partners expanded a pilot project to schools in five returnee communities in Abkhazia. Water supplies were restored and hygiene education and promotion activities were carried out with some 1,500 children and teachers there. Access restrictions, however, have hampered the ability of partners to fully realise programme targets.

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1. UNICEF immunization registry database.
### 2014 Programme Targets and Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Original HAC 2014 requirements (US$) (Jan-Dec)</th>
<th>Revised 2014 HAC requirements (US$) (Jan-Dec)</th>
<th>Funds received against 2014 appeal * (as of 30 June 2014)</th>
<th>Funding Gap (as of 30 June 2014)</th>
<th>Per cent Funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and Nutrition</td>
<td>890,000</td>
<td>777,654</td>
<td>112,346</td>
<td>665,307</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, Sanitation &amp; Hygiene</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and AIDS</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (US$)</td>
<td>2,525,000</td>
<td>2,412,654</td>
<td>112,346</td>
<td>2,300,307</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All funds available are from 2013 carry over. No humanitarian contributions were received in 2014.

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### Funding requirements

In line with the Abkhazia Strategic Partnership coordination mechanism and its recommended priority actions, UNICEF has appealed for US$2.4 million to address the humanitarian needs of children and women in Abkhazia in 2014. As of 30 June 2014, no new 2014 contributions were received against the appeal. To address this shortfall, UNICEF managed with locally raised funds, including some US$112,346 in 2013 carry over emergency funds to continue its multi-sector intervention in Abkhazia. Additional funding will enhance UNICEF’s capacity to address the effects of the protracted conflict on the well-being of children in Abkhazia, especially those living in isolated rural and returnee areas.

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