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Cameroon

Cameroon continues to face conflict-related humanitarian and protection challenges. The Far North region, the most vulnerable region in Cameroon and the region hardest hit by the Lake Chad basin crisis, experienced increasing attacks at the border with Nigeria in 2017 that left more than 335,000 people, mostly women and children, displaced.¹ While humanitarian access has increased in the Far North and basic services are slowly being restored, needs remain high across all sectors. An estimated 826,000 people are in need of water for drinking, cooking and hygiene purposes.² Children who have escaped from Boko Haram urgently require protection support. Cameroon also received more than 13,000 refugees from the Central African Republic who were registered in 2017, and thousands more who are awaiting registration.³ While rates of global acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have dropped below emergency levels in all priority regions, more than 58,500 children will require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2018.⁴ Some 32,000 children are unable to access schools in the North West due to the Anglophone crisis and 40 schools have been burned/attacked due to the conflict.⁵

Humanitarian strategy

In 2018, UNICEF's integrated programme will be based on four pillars: building a protective environment and supporting community peacebuilding; preventing and responding to the violent exploitation of children; increasing access to basic services; and strengthening emergency preparedness and response systems. All four pillars bridge the humanitarian-development nexus and foster community resilience to outside pressures, such as conflict or population displacement, while supporting the State to anticipate shocks. UNICEF will strengthen collaboration between community-based structures and government services to provide care and protection to children, particularly the most marginalized. By supporting community dialogue mechanisms, inter-generational dialogue and non-violent relationships among peers, UNICEF will foster social cohesion, giving children a voice and rebuilding community linkages. Recognizing that lack of access to basic services exposes children to vulnerabilities, UNICEF will support the Government to strengthen the quality of service delivery at the community level by training community workers and establishing needed infrastructure, improving access to water and sanitation in schools and health centres, developing community health mechanisms and improving the quality of education. Furthermore, UNICEF is working with non-governmental organizations and other partners to implement mechanisms for monitoring and responding to emergencies quickly.

Results from 2017

As of 31 October 2017, UNICEF had US\$10.5 million available against the US\$23.7 million appeal (44 per cent funded).⁶ Due to lack of funding, UNICEF Cameroon drew on other resources to conduct emergency programmes. UNICEF reached 66 per cent of its 2017 targets in nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child protection. Almost all children targeted with SAM treatment were reached (55,356 out of 58,640). Nearly 39,000 beneficiaries gained access to potable water and more than 80,000 gained access to adequate sanitation. More than 70,000 children received psychosocial support and 86 per cent of targeted children accessed quality education. In the Far North region, UNICEF supported the reopening of 32 schools, enabling more than 5,800 children to access education. To strengthen programme quality, the child protection and education programmes provided an integrated response that targeted the same communities, reaching beneficiaries with holistic support. Similarly, schools were used as a point of entry for the WASH programme, with infrastructure rehabilitation and construction of sanitation facilities. Eight needs assessments were conducted in newly accessible vulnerable areas, and based on these, UNICEF responded to the immediate needs of more than 48,000 people with WASH, child protection and health services.

Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Total people in need:
3.26 million

Total children (<18) in need:
1.81 million

Total people to be reached:
800,000

Total children to be reached:
440,000

2018 programme targets:

Nutrition

- 58,640 children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for treatment
- 58,640 caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling

Health

- 61,487 children immunized against measles

WASH

- 40,000 people provided access to water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- 75,000 people provided with access to appropriate sanitation
- 200,000 people provided with WASH kits

Child protection

- 85,000 children provided with psychosocial support through child-friendly/safe spaces
- 70 children suspected or verified as associated with an armed group (including children released from detention) provided with temporary care or family/community reintegration support

Education

- 280,000 school-aged children, including adolescents, accessing education in a safe and protective learning environment

	Sector 2017 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2017 target	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION				
Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for treatment ⁱⁱ	56,627	55,356	58,000	55,356 ⁱ
HEALTHⁱⁱⁱ				
Children and women provided with access to health care services			317,419	0
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE^{iv}				
Affected people provided with sustainable access to drinking water to address their vulnerabilities	241,000	114,755	43,000	38,655
Affected people with access to adequate sanitation to address their vulnerabilities	171,000	89,295	100,000	80,215
EDUCATION				
Children aged 3 to 17 years accessing quality formal or non-formal basic education	316,592	124,764	144,441	124,494 ⁱ
Primary and secondary school-aged children attending school in a classroom with a teacher trained in psychosocial support	167,100	76,308	117,500	76,308
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children reached with psychosocial support through child-friendly spaces	229,379	101,868	105,822	70,549
Unaccompanied and separated children who are placed in alternative care and/or who benefitted from individual follow-up			2,800	2,165

Results are through 31 October 2017 unless otherwise noted.

ⁱ In addition to emergency funds, UNICEF leveraged other resources to support the nutrition and education humanitarian interventions, which resulted in significant achievements.

ⁱⁱ UNICEF targets exceed sector targets for nutrition because the nutrition cluster does not cover refugee camps, whereas UNICEF covers both the camp and out-of-camp populations.

ⁱⁱⁱ In 2017, no funds were received to support emergency health interventions. UNICEF focused on measles vaccination and the polio outbreak response in affected areas using other resources.

^{iv} Although the WASH response was underfunded by 73 per cent, partnering with local non-governmental organizations and leveraging their resources to support the humanitarian programme resulted in good coverage and progress in 2017.

Funding requirements

In line with the Cameroon 2017-2020 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is requesting US\$25,461,000 to address the humanitarian needs of vulnerable children in 2018. Without this assistance, UNICEF will be unable to provide critical psychosocial and educational support for children in Cameroon affected by the crises in the Lake Chad basin and the Central African Republic. This funding will also enable UNICEF to provide life-saving water and sanitation to internally displaced persons, refugees and host community members, and support emergency preparedness and response to the growing crises facing the country.

Sector	2018 requirements (US\$) ⁷
Nutrition	5,055,000
Health	3,272,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	7,191,000
Child protection	3,497,000
Education	4,326,000
Emergency preparedness and response/emergency coordination	2,120,000
Total	25,461,000

¹ International Organization for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix Round 11, November 2017.

² Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2018 Cameroon Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, 2017.

³ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Central African refugee statistics for the East, North and Adamaoua as of October 31, 2017. Covers only the registered and enrolled populations.

⁴ United Nations Children's Fund and the Government of Cameroon Ministry of Health, SMART survey, 2017.

⁵ United Nations Children's Fund, Multi-Sectoral Rapid Needs Assessment Report – North West and South West regions, 23 November-1 December 2017; and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations Department of Safety and Security, Joint Humanitarian and Security Assessment Report on the North West and South West regions, 30 October-5 November 2017.

⁶ Available funds include US\$7.6 million raised against the current appeal and US\$2.9 million carried forward from the previous year.

⁷ The overall funding requirement has increased because UNICEF will provide a more comprehensive package of services to the most vulnerable children and their families. UNICEF will also strengthen emergency preparedness and response activities in the Anglophone regions and other areas prone to crisis.

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