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Humanitarian Action for Children

Central African Republic

The complex humanitarian and protection crisis in the Central African Republic that began in 2012 continues to cause suffering and instability. In 2018, an estimated 2.5 million people, including 1.3 million children, will be in need of humanitarian assistance.¹ Nearly one in four Central Africans is displaced, with 600,000 displaced internally and 538,000 living as refugees in neighbouring countries.² An estimated 1.1 million people are moderately or severely food insecure,³ and in 2018, an estimated 37,281 children under 5 years will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM).⁴ Less than half of all children are fully immunized.⁵ Of the 1.7 million people without access to safe water, 800,000 are children.⁶ With the upsurge in violence, the recruitment and use of children by armed groups increased by 50 per cent between 2016 and 2017.⁷ Due to insecurity, approximately one in four children is out of school.⁸

Humanitarian strategy

In line with the Central African Republic 2017-2019 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF will continue to provide life-saving assistance to crisis-affected and displaced children in 2018.⁹ Nutrition interventions, including an emergency infant and young child feeding package and micronutrient supplementation, will reach 28,000 children under 5 with SAM. UNICEF will also target populations affected by conflict and violence with access to safe water, sanitation and emergency health services. Through the Rapid Response Mechanism and working with non-governmental organization partners, UNICEF will provide emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and household supplies to the most vulnerable children and families. UNICEF will continue to focus on the protection needs of children, including their release from armed groups, the reunification of these children with their families and the provision of psychosocial support. Children affected by crisis will also be supported to access safe learning spaces and quality education. UNICEF will continue to lead the nutrition, education and WASH clusters, as well as the child protection sub-cluster, at national and sub-national levels, and work with line ministries to strengthen government capacity for humanitarian coordination, leadership and response. UNICEF will also continue to support education, nutrition, health and WASH core supply pipelines.

Results from 2017

As of 31 October 2017, UNICEF had US\$24.6 million available against the US\$53.6 million appeal (46 per cent funded).¹⁰ In 2017, UNICEF and partners delivered life-saving interventions to affected populations. More than 152,000 children under 5 in sites for internally displaced persons gained access to basic health services and medicines and over 272,000 crisis-affected people gained access to safe water. Some 102,000 displaced and host community children benefitted from psychosocial support in child-friendly spaces and 1,900 children were released from armed groups and received interim care. In addition, some 56,000 children gained access to safe and protective learning environments through temporary learning spaces. Ninety per cent of children treated for SAM recovered. The Rapid Response Mechanism reached nearly 72,000 people with emergency WASH assistance and 24,000 households with non-food items. Decreased humanitarian access and lack of funding led to low achievement against some targets. Government capacity was reinforced through the WASH and education clusters, and the child protection sub-cluster co-led with the Government. This included on-the-job training for government partners on WASH emergency response and monitoring. Where possible, UNICEF worked to increase the durability of emergency response, including in the construction of school and WASH infrastructure and through government training.

Total people in need:

2.5 million

Total children (<18) in need:

1.3 million

Total people to be reached:

1 million

Total children to be reached:

700,000

2018 programme targets:

Nutrition

- 27,961 children aged 6 to 59 months suffering from SAM admitted for treatment
- 85,000 caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling

Health

- 910,000 children under 5 vaccinated against polio
- 500,000 people and children under 5 have access to essential health services

WASH

- 600,000 crisis-affected people with access to safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- 300,000 crisis-affected people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities
- 45,000 crisis-affected girls/women have access to menstrual hygiene management services

Child protection

- 100,000 children reached with psychosocial support through child-friendly spaces
- 3,500 children released from armed forces/groups reached with reintegration support
- 1,000 women and children reached with gender-based violence prevention and response interventions

Education

- 85,000 children in crisis-affected areas accessing education
- 100,000 children received learning materials

Rapid Response Mechanism

- 160,000 acutely vulnerable people rapidly provided with non-food items after a shock
- 70,000 people received rapid WASH assistance after a shock

	Sector 2017 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2017 target	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION				
Children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment	30,521	17,681	30,521	17,681
Recovery rate (%)	>75%	90.9%	>75%	90.9%
HEALTH				
Children under 5 in sites for internally displaced persons and enclaves with access to essential health services and medicines			500,000	152,351
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
Crisis-affected people provided with improved sources of water as per the agreed standards	1,600,000	1,013,533	600,000	272,282
Crisis-affected people provided with sanitation facilities as per agreed standards	450,000	411,412	350,000	189,088
CHILD PROTECTION				
Separated and unaccompanied children reunified with their families	5,800	608	1,000	538
Children reached with psychosocial support through child-friendly spaces	101,000	167,402	100,000	102,787
Children (boys and girls) released from armed forces and armed groups who participated in a community reintegration programme	4,874	3,578	3,500	1,980
Women and children identified as survivors of sexual violence who have access to holistic support	3,000	761	1,000	317
EDUCATION				
Boys and girls aged 3 to 17 years in areas affected by crisis accessing education	94,400	56,188	75,000	56,188
Boys and girls aged 3 to 17 years attending school in a class led by a teacher trained in psychosocial support	195,000	51,374	100,500	51,374
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM				
Acutely vulnerable households that receive rapid assistance with non-food items following a shock			28,000	24,030
Affected people receiving appropriate WASH interventions following a shock			80,000	71,449

Results are through 31 October 2017 unless otherwise noted.

Funding requirements

In line with the country's inter-agency 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is requesting US\$56,500,000 to meet the humanitarian needs of children in the Central African Republic. Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the country's continuing crisis and provide critical life-saving services to internally displaced and conflict-affected people. UNICEF also requires funding to treat children with SAM and provide reintegration support to children released from armed forces/groups.

Sector	2018 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	7,800,000
Health and HIV/AIDS	9,000,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	9,600,000
Child protection	8,900,000
Education	8,000,000
Rapid Response Mechanism	11,700,000
Cluster/sector coordination	1,500,000
Total	56,500,000

¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, '2018 Central African Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2017.

² Data from the Commission de Mouvement de Populations.

³ Integrated Food Security Classification Framework, February-May 2017.

⁴ The country target is calculated on the basis of the rapid SMART survey results for 2016-2017. The total burden of SAM cases for 2018 is estimated to be 37,281. UNICEF Central African Republic intends to reach at least 75 per cent of the SAM burden, or 27,961 children with SAM.

⁵ World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, 'Central African Republic: WHO and UNICEF estimates of immunization coverage: 2016 revision', available at: <https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Central%20African%20Republic/immunization_country_profiles/immunization_caf.pdf>, accessed 22 December 2017.

⁶ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, '2018 Central African Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2017. Given that 1.7 million people lack access to safe water and children are 47 per cent of the population, 800,000 children lack access to safe water.

⁷ Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, September 2017.

⁸ Ministry of Education annual statistics, 2015-2016.

⁹ Although the Humanitarian Response Plan for the Central African Republic is a multi-year document, it has been set up with a strategy, cluster needs assessment, targets and funding requirements for one year. This Humanitarian Action for Children appeal is aligned to that duration.

¹⁰ Available funds include US\$16.7 million raised against the current appeal and US\$7.9 million carried forward from the previous year.

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