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## Eritrea

Eritrea is characterized by harsh climatic conditions, including cyclical drought, which affects groundwater resources, and flooding during rainy seasons. These events exacerbate the vulnerability of communities, making it difficult for families to fully recover from the effects of one emergency before another strikes. In recent years, the country's climatic conditions have tested the coping capacities of the population, which is largely dependent (80 per cent) on subsistence agriculture.<sup>1</sup> In 2010, half of all children under 5 years were stunted,<sup>2</sup> and children are affected by sporadic outbreaks of diarrhoea and measles. The risk of landmines and explosive remnants of war continues to affect border communities, particularly children. Some 300,000 children are out of school, with the majority of out-of-school children from nomadic communities that are vulnerable to natural disasters.<sup>3</sup> In July 2018, following the signing of the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship by Ethiopia and Eritrea, tensions softened significantly between the neighbouring countries, and in November 2018, the United Nations Security Council lifted sanctions against Eritrea.

### Humanitarian strategy

In 2019, UNICEF and partners will mainstream humanitarian preparedness planning and response within regular programmes to reach children in need in Eritrea. Integrated and multi-sectoral approaches will be used to deliver life-saving interventions. For example, the provision of safe water and sanitation to affected populations will be used as an entry point to reducing stunting among children under 5 years, and the nutrition response will focus on the integrated management of acute malnutrition. UNICEF will reach communities in hard-to-reach areas with integrated services using mobile outreach clinics. Local communities will be supported to strengthen their capacities to manage common childhood illnesses, including diarrhoea, and promote positive health-seeking behaviours, such as handwashing and other hygiene practices. UNICEF will also prioritize strengthening health systems and improving immunization coverage. Out-of-school children, particularly in nomadic and semi-nomadic communities, will be reached through a back-to-learning campaign. UNICEF will provide basic services, such as education, health care, psychosocial support and cash grants, to strengthen community resilience, protect children on the move and build the life skills of adolescents in danger of irregular migration. Mine risk education and other critical life-saving interventions will target schoolchildren in communities at risk of landmines and unexploded remnants of war.

### Results from 2018

As of 31 October 2018, UNICEF had US\$10.9 million available against the US\$14 million appeal (78 per cent funded).<sup>4</sup> UNICEF and the Ministry of Health supported the training of 570 volunteers to promote infant and young child feeding practices and active case finding for children with acute malnutrition. As a result, over 32,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and nearly 13,000 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) received treatment. Over 265,000 children received vitamin A supplementation, and this figure is likely to reach 500,000 by the end of the ongoing measles-rubella vaccination campaign. In addition, some 38,000 children and women in hard-to-reach areas received supplementary feeding; more than 32,000 children affected by diarrhoea received life-saving treatment; and over 11,000 pregnant and lactating women received antenatal and postnatal services. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Health to identify gaps in the health response and mainstream risk communication into national health promotion policy. In partnership with the Water Resources Department, UNICEF supported over 21,000 people with access to safe water, and some 67,000 people received information on appropriate hygiene practices. Over 97,800 children from at-risk communities received mine risk education, and over 6,700 children from nomadic communities gained access to education.

# Humanitarian Action for Children

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#### Total people in need:

N/A

#### Total children (<18) in need:

N/A

#### Total people to be reached:

528,750

#### Total children to be reached:

494,800

#### 2019 programme targets:

##### Nutrition

- 15,000 children under 5 years treated for SAM
- 300,000 children under 5 years provided with vitamin A supplementation
- 40,000 children under 5 years treated for MAM

##### Health

- 110,000 children immunized against measles
- 65,000 children affected by diarrhoea having access to life-saving curative interventions

##### WASH

- 60,000 people accessing safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- 60,000 people accessing safe and appropriate sanitation facilities

##### Child protection

- 100,000 children receiving critical protection services/mine risk education
- 1,000 vulnerable households receiving cash transfers

##### Education

- 4,800 school-aged children accessing quality education, including through temporary structures<sup>5</sup>

	UNICEF 2018 targets	UNICEF 2018 results
<b>SECTOR</b>		
Children under 5 years with SAM admitted for treatment	15,000	12,625
Children aged 6 to 59 months provided with vitamin A supplementation	477,000	265,067
Children under 5 years with MAM admitted for treatment	40,000	32,068
Children aged 6 to 59 months and pregnant and lactating women benefited from supplementary feeding	70,000	38,000
<b>HEALTH</b>		
Children under 5 years immunized against measles	110,000	98,074
Children affected by diarrhoea having access to life-saving curative interventions	65,000	32,105
Pregnant and lactating women and newborns in hard-to-reach areas reached with comprehensive antenatal and postnatal services	35,000	11,318
<b>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE</b>		
People accessing the agreed quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	65,000	21,790
People supported to adopt appropriate hygiene practices	60,000	67,000
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>		
Children in areas affected by landmines and other explosive weapons provided with relevant prevention interventions	90,000	97,800
Children with disabilities including those affected by landmines accessing appropriate services	10,000	5,371
<b>EDUCATION<sup>i</sup></b>		
Children aged 3 to 18 years accessing formal or non-formal basic education (i.e., early childhood development and primary and secondary education)	15,000	6,785
<b>CASH-BASED TRANSFERS</b>		
Vulnerable households receiving grants to build resilience	600	480

All results were re-confirmed as of 30 November 2018.

<sup>i</sup>The major reason for the relatively low achievement for education is the late release of the data by the Government (as the major source of reference for UNICEF Eritrea). The final figures can be three to six months late, spilling into June of the next year.

## Funding requirements

UNICEF Eritrea is appealing for US\$14.2 million to meet the needs of children in Eritrea in 2019. This funding will enable UNICEF to support life-saving interventions and resilience building, including reducing stunting among children under 5 years by providing safe water and sanitation services to affected populations; preventing and treating SAM; supporting integrated services in hard-to-reach communities through mobile clinics; reaching at-risk children with mine risk education; providing cash grants for children with disabilities; and helping out-of-school children, particularly from nomadic and semi-nomadic communities, access education.

Sector	2019 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	6,350,000
Health	1,820,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	3,000,000
Child protection/social protection	1,650,000 <sup>6</sup>
Education	1,153,000
Communication for development/risk communications	108,000
Sector coordination	162,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,243,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Eritrea, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Eritrean Population Health Survey, 2010. More recent data is not available.

<sup>3</sup> Government of Eritrea Ministry of Education, Education Management and Information System, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Available funds include US\$8.7 million received against the current appeal and US\$2.2 million carried forward from the previous year.

<sup>5</sup> The target has been reduced compared with 2018 in an attempt to make it more in line with current issues related to access and cash flows, as well as with the revised education strategy, which will allow for better tracking of the programme's qualitative results.

<sup>6</sup> The child protection/social protection budget breakdown is as follows: children receiving critical protection services/mine risk education: US\$150,000; vulnerable households receiving cash transfers: US\$1.5 million.

### Who to contact for further information:

**Pierre Ngom**  
Representative - Eritrea  
Tel: +291 1 154868  
Email: pngom@unicef.org

**Grant Leaity**  
Deputy Director, Office of  
Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)  
Tel: +1 212 326 7150  
Email: gleaity@unicef.org

**Carla Haddad Mardini**  
Director, Public Partnership  
Division (PPD)  
Tel: +1 212 326 7160  
Email: chaddadmardini@unicef.org