Humanitarian Action for Children

Somalia

Children in Somalia continue to face acute humanitarian needs due to conflict, constraints on humanitarian access to insecure areas and erratic rains. An estimated 5.2 million people, including 2.6 million displaced persons and 3.2 million children, will require humanitarian assistance in 2020. Conflict continues in Somalia, with some populations experiencing forced displacement and rising humanitarian needs due to ongoing operations between government forces and non-state actors. Women, children and people with disabilities remain highly vulnerable, with gender-based violence and child recruitment continuing to undermine well-being in 2019. Due to the delayed rains in 2019, the major crop harvest was 68 per cent lower than average and was the worst harvest on record. As a result, over 178,000 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2020, and some 6.3 million people are facing higher risks of food insecurity. In addition, 2.7 million people are in need of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support, and 3.1 million people require health assistance. The shifting dynamics in Somalia will continue to impact humanitarian access, particularly as the country heads into national elections in 2020. This situation will require flexible programming and linkages with sustainable solutions, where possible.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2020, UNICEF, will continue to advocate for life-saving health, nutrition, education, WASH and child protection interventions for Somali children, leveraging its leadership position in the country and linking its humanitarian action with development programming. Working closely with stakeholders, UNICEF will build sustainable programmes, wherever possible, and foster resilience at all levels – from the household level to the community, state and national levels. Cash programming will be a critical component of the emergency response, and humanitarian cash will be integrated into existing social protection mechanisms. Community engagement and participation will be considered in all humanitarian programmes and communication for development will be used as a cross-cutting strategy to support the achievement of results. UNICEF will build on its work to improve accountability to affected populations by focusing on inclusion of children with disabilities, gender equity and the establishment of feedback mechanisms. Women and children will be actively included in programme design and implementation to strengthen community involvement and identify cross-cutting needs and appropriate solutions. UNICEF will also support communities with appropriate technologies and utilize various channels to increase awareness and accountability and thereby empower women, children and other vulnerable groups to voice their needs.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US$68.8 million available against the US$145.3 million appeal (47 per cent funded). This funding allowed UNICEF to maintain 105 partnership agreements for extensive operational reach and deliver significant results for children. UNICEF was also able to pre-position supplies and work closely with partners to meet critical needs and targets. More than 500,000 people accessed safe drinking water less than 500 metres from their homes and over 105,000 children (52 per cent girls) were treated for SAM. Over 455,000 people with access to primary health care received emergency life-saving health services. Despite underfunding, UNICEF reached over 34,000 children and youth (45 per cent girls) with formal or non-formal education and nearly 36,000 children (14,261 girls) participated in psychosocial support activities. A key challenge was the launch of the humanitarian cash programme, which was beset by operational issues. However, as part of its focus on strengthening the linkages between humanitarian action and development programming, UNICEF partnered with the World Bank and the World Food Programme (WFP) to build a social safety net programme.

2020 programme targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Target</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>133,500 children aged 0 to 59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43,000 children aged 6 to 59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) admitted to therapeutic care through the simplified protocol</td>
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<td>650,000 primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months who received counselling on infant and young child feeding</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>800,000 people reached with emergency water services in targeted settlements and communities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>220,000 people reached with sanitation services in vulnerable settlements and communities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,200,000 people reached with hygiene promotion activities and hygiene kit distribution in vulnerable settlements and communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>175,000 children participating in community-based mental health and psychosocial support activities, including child-friendly spaces</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3,000 survivors of gender-based violence accessing a package of gender-based violence services (medical, legal, mental health, psychosocial support and materials)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,000 girls and boys formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups provided with reintegration support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>130,000 children accessing quality non-formal or formal primary education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>130,000 out-of-school children benefiting from emergency teaching and learning materials</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>800 teachers supported with emergency incentives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash-based transfers</td>
<td>8,000 vulnerable households receive cash transfers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The numbers are expected to increase later in 2019 after the financing is received.

UNICEF asked its implementing partners to distinguish between first curative consultations and consultations for crisis-affected/marginalized/displaced people. The reported figures solely number of people reached during the year.

This included the treatment of 130,196 children under 5 years with SAM and 34,480 children under 5 years with MAM through Extended Admission Criteria with exceptional circumstances when accessing an inpatient integration is lacking.

In 2017 and 2018, all essential package of health services consultations conducted in emergency-supported health facilities were reported as emergency life-saving consultations. In the beginning of 2019, UNICEF asked its implementing partners to distinguish between first curative consultations and consultations for crisis-affected/marginalized/displaced people. The reported figures solely reflect the second group, while the overall number of first consultations in emergency-supported facilities for the reporting period is 779,689.

WASH results for people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities were lower than planned for two reasons: 1) donor funding for sanitation interventions was substantially lower than planned as donors prioritized water supply over sanitation interventions due to the impact of the delayed rains, and 2) the WASH cluster strategically moved from communal emergency sanitation facility construction to shared family latrine construction in camps for internally displaced persons and chronically emergency-affected areas. This increased the cost of the facilities and decreased the number of beneficiaries per facility from 50 per latrine stance for communal facilities to 20-25 per latrine stance for shared family latrines. This approach supported better facilities but reduced the number of people reached during the year.

Lower than expected reach is due to limited funding for the humanitarian response (49 per cent by August 2019) and delays in finalizing agreements with implementing partners.

The low numbers reached for education are attributed to the limited funding available through June/July 2019, after which more substantive resources for education in emergencies was received. The numbers are expected to increase later in 2019 after the financing is received.

The programme start was delayed extensively due to operational issues. Progress will be reflected in end-of-year situation reports.

**NUTRITION**

- Children with acute malnutrition treated: 648,000
- Pregnant and lactating women receiving infant and young child feeding counselling: 513,000
- Children under 5 years with SAM admitted to therapeutic feeding programmes discharged as cured: >75%

**HEALTH**

- Crisis-affected people with adequate access to primary health care services provided with emergency life-saving health services: 974,400
- Emergency-affected pregnant woman received delivery services by skilled birth attendants: 48,720

**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

- Emergency-affected people accessing temporary safe water services for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene: 2,092,167
- People accessing appropriate sanitation facilities: 1,092,456

**CHILD PROTECTION**

- Children participating in community-based psychosocial support activities, including child-friendly spaces: 250,000
- Survivors of gender-based violence receiving clinical care, case management, psychosocial support, legal assistance and safe house support: 10,000

**EDUCATION**

- Children and youth accessing formal or non-formal primary education: 330,068
- Schoolchildren benefiting from emergency teaching materials: 330,068

**CASH TRANSFERS**

- Households with children under 5 years diagnosed with SAM and admitted for treatment receiving monthly cash transfers to support access to basic services: 30,062

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### Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US$129.2 million to meet the needs of crisis-affected adults and children in Somalia in 2020. Without this funding, UNICEF and its partners will be unable to provide critical life-saving interventions to conflict and climate-affected vulnerable populations. Adequate funding will allow UNICEF to bridge its humanitarian action with more sustainable programming. In addition, these funds will help UNICEF reach severely malnourished children with vital treatment; provide vulnerable children with safe drinking water and treatment for preventable diseases; and support communities to be more resilient against shocks.

### Sector 2020 requirements (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Water, sanitation and hygiene</th>
<th>Nutrition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>129,184,570</td>
<td>21,346,576</td>
<td>35,340,724</td>
<td>33,653,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASH TRANSFERS</td>
<td>2,860,790</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cluster/sector coordination</td>
<td>2,999,588</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cluster total</td>
<td>5,859,378</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF 2019 targets</td>
<td>124,503,267</td>
<td>21,346,576</td>
<td>35,340,724</td>
<td>33,653,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster total results</td>
<td>97,444,405</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 ‘Somalia: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview’.

6 Available funds include US$56.8 million received against the 2019 appeal and US$12 million carried forward from the previous year.

7 ‘Somalia: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview’. –

8 Ibid.

9 This is based on the highest target of people to be reached through hygiene messaging and hygiene kits. This includes 52 per cent women/ths and 48 per cent men/ths. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that people with disabilities make up 15 per cent of the population, which means an estimated 180,000 people with disabilities will be supported by UNICEF programmes.

10 This was calculated based on children making up 65 per cent of the total population to be reached (390,000 girls and 390,000 boys). An estimated 117,000 children with disabilities will be supported by UNICEF programmes.

11 In collaboration with WFP, the simplified protocol will be applied to integrate care for children with MAM in UNICEF-supported centres in eight districts in Central South Somalia where there is no targeted supplementary feeding programme for MAM.

12 Given limited access in priority regions and the length of time needed to provide the required support to vulnerable children, the targets provided are in line with cluster priorities.

13 UNICEF is accounting for the largest portion of targeted children. UNICEF aims to contribute 42 per cent towards the broader education cluster target for 2020 (130,000 of 307,283 children). The remaining 58 per cent is covered by 9 local non-governmental organizations and 13 international non-governmental organizations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

14 The programme will continue to target the most vulnerable children, in conjunction with the World Bank-led social safety net programme.

15 Financing for communication for development activities is included within the budget lines of sectors.