Zimbabwe

The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe continued to deteriorate in 2019. Multiple natural hazards, including food insecurity, flooding and the risk of outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases, continue to impact the population. The country is also facing an economic downturn characterized by hyperinflation (175 per cent) and limited access to basic services. According to a 2019 report by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee, nearly 5.5 million people in rural areas, including 2.6 million children, and 960,000 people in urban areas will be in need of humanitarian assistance through April 2020. Nationally, the severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate has increased from 0.2 per cent in 2018 to 1.4 per cent in 2019. Affected people are still feeling the residual impacts of Cyclone Idai and require early recovery support. The water and sanitation situation due to drought, coupled with the electricity crisis, is increasing the risk of cholera. There is a critical need to urgently scale up and sustain the ongoing efforts to prevent a large-scale cholera outbreak. As of 6 September 2019, nearly 5,700 suspected typhoid cases have been reported, with 165 confirmed cases and 12 deaths. Gender-based violence remains a serious issue, especially for displaced populations and communities affected by drought.

Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF and partners are supporting the Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Child Care to coordinate and provide comprehensive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, health and HIV services, with a strong communication for development strategy, to respond to the drought, the cyclone and the risk of diarrhoeal disease outbreaks. UNICEF is supporting government-led national and district coordination efforts to provide affected communities with multi-sectoral life-saving services, particularly disease prevention interventions. The existing social protection programme will be expanded to those areas most affected by the drought and the cyclone. UNICEF is maintaining its field presence in affected areas and ensuring service continuity for crisis-affected people through outreach services. Psychosocial support services are being scaled up for children experiencing violations and survivors of gender-based violence. UNICEF is also supporting the Ministry of Education to improve access to quality learning. Communication for development, which is mainstreamed in all programmes, will support awareness-raising and demand for services. UNICEF is continuing to support sector coordination and leadership in the WASH, nutrition, education and child protection sectors; and will work with partners to strengthen coordination structures for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse to ensure that crisis-affected populations have access to appropriate interventions.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US$10.3 million available against the US$23.7 million appeal (43 per cent funded). Preparedness efforts, including the pre-positioning of life-saving supplies prior to the cyclone, enabled UNICEF to respond immediately. UNICEF facilitated community- and facility-based multi-sectoral risk assessments focusing on the risk of drought, flooding and epidemic-prone diseases (cholera and typhoid). More than 1.2 million children and caregivers were reached through an integrated life-saving communication for development response. UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Health and Child Care in Manicaland Province for the cyclone response; in all affected districts in the country for the drought response; and in all hotspots in the country for cholera prevention, case management and surveillance strengthening. To date, nearly 7,900 children aged 6 to 59 months have received SAM treatment with UNICEF support. In addition, more than 889,700 people gained access to safe drinking water. At least 30 aid workers were trained on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in cyclone-affected districts. More than 51,000 children received psychosocial support and other critical child protection services in the areas that are most affected by the drought and the cyclone.

Humanitarian Action for Children

Total people in need
5.5 million

Total children (<18) in need
2.6 million

Total people to be reached
1.6 million

Total children to be reached
768,000

2020 programme targets

Nutrition
• 26,000 children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM who are admitted for treatment
• 287,597 children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation

Health
• 740,000 children under 5 years accessing treatment for diarrhoea

WASH
• 300,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
• 20,000 households provided with hygiene kits

Child protection
• 40,000 children reached with mental health and psychosocial support services
• 5,000 survivors of gender-based violence provided with comprehensive responses including prevention, mental health and psychosocial support services, treatment and legal aid
• 3,000 unaccompanied children identified and receiving protection services, including family tracing and reunification and placement in alternative care arrangements

Education
• 75,000 children and adolescents accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning

HIV and AIDS
• 16,000 pregnant and lactating women, children and adolescents living with HIV who continued to receive prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and treatment services

Social protection
• 9,500 girls and boys reached by the cash transfer programme

Communication for development
• 1,600,000 people reached with life-saving messages
**Funding requirements**

UNICEF is requesting US$11 million to meet residual multi-hazard humanitarian needs in Zimbabwe in 2020. Without adequate and flexible funding, UNICEF will be unable to continue to respond to multiple hazards with critical health, nutrition, WASH, education, HIV and AIDS and child protection services. Interventions will continue to focus on supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged children and women to withstand, adapt to and recover from devastating humanitarian situations.

**COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector sector</th>
<th>2020 requirements (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>2,126,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and AIDS</td>
<td>400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social protection</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication for development</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11,026,650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The annual inflation rate for June 2019 was 175 per cent. Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2019.
4. Ibid.
6. This includes physical violence and sexual abuse, as well as being forced to adopt negative coping strategies (e.g., transactional sex, early marriage, accepting unsafe living situations, etc.) to meet their most basic needs.
7. In mid-2019, the appeal was revised from US$7 million to US$23.7 million to respond to Cyclone Idai. Available funds include US$8.7 million received against the 2019 appeal and US$1.6 million carried forward from the previous year.
9. The number of children in need is 48 per cent of the total population based on the most recent census. Zimbabwe: 2019 flash appeal.
10. This figure is based on the highest coverage target under the communication for development component of the humanitarian response. The response to the residual humanitarian situation is also anticipated based on the weather forecast and lack of evidence of imminent humanitarian crisis. The number of people to be reached includes 932,000 females, 768,000 males and 112,000 people with disabilities.
11. This figure is calculated based on 48 per cent of the highest coverage target of the population to be reached through communication for development interventions in 25 targeted districts. The number of children to be reached includes 399,960 girls, 368,640 boys and 53,760 children with disabilities.
12. The target for the drought response has been reduced because the food security situation is anticipated to improve after the April 2020 harvests. The weather forecast suggests normal to below normal rains and no flooding is expected, which means that after April, the response will focus on the residual humanitarian situation and early recovery. Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.
13. Figures are provisional estimates. Financial requirements are subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency appeals/planning documents.
14. The reduction in funding for the 2020 appeal is based on the anticipation of a residual humanitarian situation, as normal rains are expected and there is no evidence of imminent humanitarian crisis apart from the drought, which is expected to end in April 2020.

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