Update of humanitarian situation

In this vast and geographically diverse region, stretching from the Cape of Good Hope to the Red Sea, children continue to face a wide range of threats to their survival and well-being. Covering 21 countries, 18 countries in the region are considered to be at high- or medium-risk of humanitarian crisis, including disasters related to food insecurity, climate variability, political instability, disease, and conflict. While the first half of 2013 did not see new large-scale emergencies, deep challenges and humanitarian needs were evident in new displacement in the Great Lakes, epidemics and population movements in the Horn of Africa, and intense drought in Southern Africa. Millions of children remain in need of humanitarian assistance throughout the region, which remains under-resourced to respond to these challenges.

Since the beginning of 2013, an upsurge in conflict in the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has led to more than 100,000 people fleeing to neighbouring Burundi, Uganda, and Rwanda. Although there are expectations that recent agreements will provide a sustainable solution to the deteriorating situation, major obstacles to sustainable peace remain, with children, women, and families facing repeated forced displacement, exposure to violence, and lack of access to basic services. With a large proportion of these refugees seeking protection in Uganda, a separate chapter has been added to highlight the programme and response to date in more detail.

In the Horn of Africa, famine conditions have receded, and political progress is being made to further stabilize areas of Somalia. However, violence continues to threaten access to assistance in wide swaths of the country; new displacement continues to neighbouring Ethiopia, with smaller punctual movements into Kenya. In addition, the sub-region has seen the first outbreak of Wild Polio Virus in seven years, with 25 cases reported in Somalia and six in Kenya. Action has been taken quickly to respond with immediate vaccination campaigns, but an estimated 2 million children in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and Somalia remain at risk and continued insecurity combined with a mobile population may reverse gains already made.

Southern Africa has faced extreme weather conditions, with more than 500,000 people affected by heavy rains and flooding throughout the last rainy season (Oct 2012 to Apr 2013), particularly in Mozambique and Malawi. Southern Angola and Namibia are in a prolonged drought, seeing failed rains for the second year in some areas. Against a backdrop of poor nutritional status and low sanitation coverage, children in both countries are increasingly vulnerable to disease and malnutrition. In Namibia, more than one-third of the population is affected and 109,000 children under-five at risk of malnutrition, while the government has declared a national emergency. In Angola, more than 1,500 new cholera cases have been reported in three provinces to date.

The second half of 2013 also carries the possibility of election-related violence in the region, with polls scheduled in Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Swaziland, and Mozambique.

Adjusted planned results for 2013

The Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) will continue to provide direct support to country offices’ emergency responses and committed to improving the quality of services. While there are still areas requiring additional support, the following highlights the achievements in the first half of 2013:

Results from 2013

ESARO In the first half of the year, the Regional Office has prioritized assistance to high risk countries on preparedness and response, including inter-agency simulations, coordination training, and technical consultations in Comoros, Ethiopia, Malawi, Lesotho, Somalia, Zambia, South Sudan, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Angola, and Namibia. Work with inter-governmental bodies has resulted in the adoption of new policy frameworks, including the African Union’s new standard operating procedures for the treatment of children in conflict operations. In addition, the regional office has supported strong linkages in family tracing and interim care across national and regional boundaries, particularly between Yemen-Ethiopia, working with partners such as the International Organization for Migration to develop standards of appropriate care for children in mixed migration flows. In education, national policy frameworks were strengthened through strategic engagement with 14 country teams (composed of Ministries of Education, National Disaster Management bodies, UNICEF and civil society) to identify substantial ways of integrating both disaster risk management and conflict-sensitive approaches into national education policies and curricula.

Burundi Funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund enabled the continued response to the return of 30,000 Burundians from Tanzania, over half of them children. Results included delivery of WASH services for some 2,000 people; and the provision of tents, classroom equipment, and learning materials to reach more than 30,800 school-aged children, including 7,374 returnee children fully integrated into the national education system. Some 3,600 children under five, more than half of them girls, suffering from severe acute malnutrition were treated in community-based nutrition programmes.

Malawi With heavy flooding affecting more than 235,000 people in 12 of the country’s 28 districts in 2013, UNICEF responded with water treatment supplies for more than 80,000 people for four months, as well as temporary latrines and bathing facilities for 4000 people. Learning disruption was minimized for some 15,200 primary school students by providing learning materials to reach more than 235,000 people. Children full integrated into the national education system. Some 3,600 children under five, more than half of them girls, suffering from severe acute malnutrition were treated in community-based nutrition programmes.

Namibia After contributing to the Emergency Food Security Assessment in May, UNICEF initiated a training programme with national partner volunteers to improve sanitation and nutrition for some 10,000 children and women in four northern districts which will begin activities in July.

Rwanda UNICEF is providing an integrated assistance package of WASH, education and protection to 34,000 refugees recently arrived from DRC and sheltering in two refugee camps and one transit centre.
response capacity to ensure organizational standards for humanitarian action, while advancing the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s (IASC) Transformative Agenda, improved coordination, and strengthened preparedness in high risk contexts. In coordination with governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and regional institutions, the regional office will support country office capacity development for disaster management and analysis of underlying vulnerabilities and risks. Emphasis will be given to partnership with key inter-governmental bodies, including the African Union, Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), and Southern African Development Community (SADC) as they develop disaster response policies and protocols. In addition, further support will be given to strengthening predictable collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in refugee settings. UNICEF’s Early Warning, Early Action system will be further strengthened to advance early response capacities.

**Burundi**

Emergency assistance will continue to be provided to children and women affected by drought and food shortages and at risk of malnutrition; by the effects of heavy rain, flooding and landslides; and by cholera and measles outbreaks. UNICEF will support the Government of Burundi’s response to the humanitarian needs of 3.7 million children in improved access to basic services and protection.

**Malawi**

UNICEF is focusing on recovery as well as preparedness in the second half of the year, with a special focus on minimizing disruption of education in the next seasonal floods (December-April). This includes repairs to schools in 15 locations which were damaged or used as evacuation centres, as well as construction of flood resistant latrines, and pre-positioning of school-in-a-box kits. UNICEF will also focus on readiness for a WASH and health response, considering the significant risk of disease outbreaks associated with floods. In view of recurring food insecurity in some areas of the country, UNICEF will also continue efforts in nutrition, education, child protection and WASH to sustain the gains made with funding secured this year.

**Namibia**

The severe drought occurs against a backdrop of underlying fragility, including pre-existing high levels of food insecurity and child under-nutrition (29 per cent national prevalence of stunting amongst children under five) and low sanitation coverage (14 per cent in rural areas). Children, pregnant and lactating women, people with chronic illness and the elderly are at increased risk of worsening health and nutrition status in the context of the drought. In the coming six months, UNICEF will support the Government-led response by providing supplies and training for communities to detect and treat malnutrition in 10,000 children under five, as well as supply more than 109,000 at-risk children with micronutrients. Supplies for household water treatment will reach 30,000 families.

**Rwanda**

UNICEF is coordinating with the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR and NGO partners to provide assistance to the 34,000 new refugees from the DRC. This brings the total refugee caseload to over 66,000. § In particular, UNICEF will work with partners to improve access to clean water and sanitation for 10,000 refugees at the Nkamira transit centre, which has swollen to three times its planned occupation rate. Home- and centre-based early childhood development activities will also be introduced at these sites to support 3,000 young children’s important early growth and learning. UNICEF is also supporting the contingency planning, including pre-positioning of support, for up to 20,000 refugees expected to cross into Rwanda in the coming months.

**Swaziland**

UNICEF will strengthen support to essential health services for orphans and vulnerable children in response to a worsening financial crisis that is triggering increased political uncertainty and threatening to undermine education and health services. UNICEF will support the Government’s capacity to prepare for and respond to a variety of hazards associated with extreme weather conditions, increased food insecurity (currently affecting 10 per cent of the population) and the disease burden due to communicable diseases such as cholera, HIV and AIDS, and drug-resistant tuberculosis.

**UNICEF funding requirements for 2013**

The regional office is requesting a total of US$25,856,339 to enable timely and effective UNICEF humanitarian action throughout the region, including targeted action in five high-risk countries. This upward revision reflects a doubling of Rwanda’s requirements due to the influx of refugees from DRC, a national drought emergency in Namibia, and extreme flooding in nearly half of Malawi’s districts. Of this total, US$1,760,150 is required to continue coordinating regional humanitarian action and an additional US$24,096,189 to strengthen capacities for response to humanitarian needs in Burundi, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda and Swaziland. As of end June, 40 per cent of the requirements have been funded. Regional funds may be used for countries that are not profiled in the following individual country chapters and where there is no inter-agency flash appeal to respond to small- or medium-size emergencies.
** Other funding sources secured for these activities.

* Includes US$718,689 received and US$238,986 carry-over from 2012.

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** Nutrition**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 535,000
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): -
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): 535,000
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): 178,071
- Funding gap (USD): 356,929

** Health**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 353,100
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): -353,100
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): -
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): -
- Funding gap (USD): -

** Water, sanitation and hygiene**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 428,000
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): -
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): 428,000
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): 236,561
- Funding gap (USD): 191,439

** Child protection**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 321,000
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): -93,400
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): 227,600
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): -
- Funding gap (USD): 227,600

** Education**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 53,500
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): -53,500
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): -
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): -
- Funding gap (USD): -

** Emergency coordination**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 69,550
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): 500,000
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): 569,550
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): 543,043
- Funding gap (USD): 26,507

** Total**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 1,760,150
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): 0
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): 1,760,150
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): 957,675
- Funding gap (USD): 802,475

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** Country offices **

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<th>Regional office</th>
<th>Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD)</th>
<th>Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD)</th>
<th>Total 2013 requirements (USD)</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1,760,150</td>
<td>957,675</td>
<td>802,475</td>
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** Burundi**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 1,500,000
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): -
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): 1,500,000
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): 916,382
- Funding gap (USD): 583,618

** Malawi**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 6,735,000
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): 3,461,189
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): 10,196,189
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): 4,250,508
- Funding gap (USD): 5,945,681

** Namibia**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): N/A
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): 7,400,000
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): 7,400,000
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): 0
- Funding gap (USD): 7,400,000

** Rwanda**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 2,234,000
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): 2,266,000
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): 4,500,000
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): 4,162,332
- Funding gap (USD): 3337,668

** Uganda**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 8,159,000
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): Please see Uganda HAC chapter for revised requirements
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): 8,159,000
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): 4,159,000
- Funding gap (USD): 4,000,000

** Swaziland**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 500,000
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): -
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): 500,000
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): 0
- Funding gap (USD): 500,000

** Total**
- Initial HAC 2013 requirements (USD): 19,128,000
- Change in requirements – July 2013 (USD): 13,127,189
- Total 2013 requirements (USD): 24,096,189
- Funded amount through 30 June (USD): 9,329,222
- Funding gap (USD): 17,766,967

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* Uganda was originally included as part of the ESARO appeal, but has since issued its own Humanitarian Action for Children appeal.

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Photo caption: A girl is vaccinated against measles at the health centre in the commune of Giteranyi, in Burundi’s north-eastern Muyinga Province, during a UNICEF-supported immunization campaign.

1 Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Polio this week, as of 26 June 2013
2 OCHA, Humanitarian Bulletin Southern Africa Issue 11, June 2013, pp.1
3 Office of the Resident Coordinator Namibia, SitRep 1, 24 May 2013, pp.1
4 ACAPS, Global Emergency Overview, July 2013, pp.21
5 OCHA, DRC Humanitarian Situation Jan 2012-Apr 2013