Humanitarian Action for Children

Central African Republic

Update of Humanitarian Situation

Humanitarian needs in CAR have dramatically increased since mid-December when the armed coalition Seleka began its advance across the country. Despite a ceasefire agreement, in March, the Seleka advanced towards Bangui, taking more key cities and on 24 March took control of the capital Bangui and the country. An estimated 206,000 internally displaced people and 46,000 refugees have fled the violence. UNICEF now estimates that the entire population of CAR (4.6 million, half of whom are children) is either directly or indirectly affected by the crisis, with lack of basic services such as water, waste management, and availability of health staff and medicines. In the northeast, 1.2 million people (an estimated 600,000 of whom are children) have been without basic essential services for over four months. Children in particular are bearing the brunt of the humanitarian crisis and schools have been closed across the country since the coup. Some 1.3 million people are currently food insecure, placing a growing number of children at risk of malnutrition. Insecurity and lawlessness throughout the country have led to children being maimed, killed and raped in fighting and more children are being recruited into armed groups.

Adjusted Planned Results for January to December 2013

UNICEF will respond to the humanitarian needs of 2,307,100 children, of whom over 163,200 are under age 5, providing live-saving support in emergency health, HIV/AIDS, nutrition, protection, and water and sanitation support in partnership with NGOs present on the ground. Working with partners, UNICEF will support ongoing rapid assessments in affected areas to plan and deliver immediate support for vulnerable populations. UNICEF has and will continue to pre-position stocks of medical supplies, Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic Food, cooking-sets, hygiene kits, blankets, mosquito nets, tarpaulins and soap for rapid distribution to children and women. UNICEF will provide clean water for 100,000 children and women to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases and UNICEF will continue to re-establish and maintain essential services through nutrition and health centres. To address the protection needs of a growing number of orphans, unaccompanied children, child victims of gender-based violence (GBV) and children associated with armed groups, UNICEF and partners are providing assistance and taking actions to prevent grave violations of children’s rights. As lead of the nutrition and WASH clusters and co-lead of the education cluster and gender-based violence area of responsibility, UNICEF is providing guidance and coordination to identify and meet the needs of emergency-affected populations.

Results from January to April 2013

Despite significant operational challenges and limited humanitarian access due to ongoing security and heavy armed presence, UNICEF continues to provide direct support and lifesaving assistance to children in CAR directly and through NGO partners on the ground. In late 2012, UNICEF set up an ECHO-financed Rapid Response Mechanism to improve the overall emergency capacity and response of humanitarian actors in CAR. As a result, as the conflict in CAR escalated from December 2012, UNICEF mobilised partners to conduct 158 rapid assessments in this period, even in areas of high insecurity. Shortly after the 24 March coup and the disruption of many basic services, an emergency intervention by UNICEF’s WASH team helped to quickly restore the capital Bangui’s safe water supply to pre-crisis levels while a partnership with NGO ACTED has enabled emergency waste management in Bangui to prevent spread of disease related to poor sanitation and hygiene. In addition, UNICEF brought over 23 tons of essential drugs, obstetric supplies, and water tanks to CAR and delivered 3 months of emergency health supplies to 9 health districts for 141,000 children and pregnant women.

January to December 2013 Adjusted Programme Targets

Nutrition
- 13,500 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition access therapeutic food

Health
- 680,275 children 6 - 59 months immunized to prevent a measles outbreak
- 582,000 people access basic health services and medicines in affected areas

WASH
- 100,000 children and women have access to sufficient safe water each day
- 250,000 conflict-affected people provided with household water treatment and storage material, key hygiene supplies and sensitized on key hygiene messages

Child Protection
- 1,200 separated children in emergencies reunited with families
- 800 GBV survivors assisted with medical and psychosocial care
- 500 children are released from armed forces or groups

Education
- 45,400 conflicted-affected children benefiting by Child-Friendly Spaces established
- 173,510 school children (preschool, primary and non-formal education) benefiting from educational materials

HIV and AIDS
- 2,000 children, young people and women access HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment
- 2,400 people living with HIV continue to receive antiretrovirals for PMTCT, and children and young people on ART continue their care and treatment
In response to a measles epidemic in Bangui in April, UNICEF, WHO, the Ministry of Health and NGOs are working together to coordinate an emergency measles campaign for 150,000 children from 22 to 26 May. UNICEF has provided emergency nutritional supplies for 4,000 children with severe acute malnutrition in Bangui and other conflict-affected areas. UNICEF is working in close collaboration with partners to assist orphans, unaccompanied children and children released from armed groups and to negotiate the release of children who are still in armed groups.

**UNICEF Funding Requirements for 2013 (27 May 2013)**

In line with the country’s updated inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan for 2013 and the mid-year review process of the CAR Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), UNICEF’s 2013 requirements have been revised to $31,925,644, with a funding gap of $24,175,493, to meet the humanitarian needs of children in the Central African Republic up to December 2013. UNICEF has provided a $2,000,000 bridging loan to cover the most immediate needs, but without additional new funding UNICEF will be unable to respond to children and women with life-saving interventions in the face of escalating conflict and violence. UNICEF continues to operate in a highly volatile security environment in which the children of the Central African Republic urgently need humanitarian assistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Initial HAC 2013 requirements</th>
<th>Additional requirements – June 2013</th>
<th>Total 2013 requirements*</th>
<th>Income through UNICEF and donors</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>1,494,255</td>
<td>3,184,418</td>
<td>4,678,673</td>
<td>1,249,279</td>
<td>3,429,394</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1,588,950</td>
<td>6,334,473</td>
<td>7,923,423</td>
<td>3,563,020</td>
<td>4,360,403</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water, Sanitation &amp; Hygiene</td>
<td>995,100</td>
<td>6,943,800</td>
<td>9,216,748</td>
<td>474,341</td>
<td>8,742,407</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>5,073,806</td>
<td>1,462,494</td>
<td>6,536,300</td>
<td>2,463,511</td>
<td>4,072,789</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,086,986</td>
<td>2,483,514</td>
<td>3,570,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,570,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non Food Items (NFI)</td>
<td>1,277,848</td>
<td>(now included in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene above)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>11,516,945</td>
<td>20,408,699</td>
<td>31,925,644**</td>
<td>7,750,151</td>
<td>24,175,493</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*$150,000 in Cluster Coordination costs have been included in the sector budgets above.

**Total requirements have been aligned with the Central African Republic CAP mid-year review process.

Photo caption: A girl is vaccinated against measles, at one of many temporary immunization sites in Bangui, the capital. Children are also receiving vitamin A and deworming tablets during the May 2013 vaccination campaign.