

UNICEF Cameroon Situation Report

January 28th, 2012 – February 28th, 2013

Highlights

- An EU and ECHO joint delegation undertook a 5 day mission to the Far North region and, along with UNICEF/French Red Cross, conducted a joint evaluation of the nutrition response to the Sahel crisis in 2012.
- Security concerns have been elevated after the reported kidnapping of Seven French Nationals from the Far North region.
- SMT has updated the security plans for North since the kidnappings, which has been raised to Level 2 low.
- Education emergency response for floods culminated with the Minister of Basic Education launching two campaigns with UNICEF in North and Far North - "Our schools without cholera" national campaign launch in Maroua, Far-North and "Remise de bibliothèque" to all the flood-affected schools in the North and Far North.
- The annual targeted caseload of acute malnutrition for 2013 for the two regions is 57,616 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition and 93,456 cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition.
- To date, 1, 645 WASH kits have been distributed to families with severely malnourished children in 435 Nutritional centres. The water quality control of the 39 boreholes (17 North and 22 in far North) was undertaken for the construction / rehabilitation in partnership with LNGO (CODAS Garoua, FBM) and Private Company (2SW, Geofor).



A man washing hand in IDP site in the Far North. Photo UNICEF© February 2013/Djoumatchoua

1. Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

The North and Far North regions were affected by the **Sahel crisis in 2012**. Approximately 5.9 million people live in those regions; up to 1.18 million are children under five years of age. The percentage of the population suffering food insecurity is above 15% in the two regions.

Estimated Affected Population From the Nutritional Crisis	
<i>Sources: UNICEF Humanitarian Action Update February 2012, Cameroon General Census 2010, Cameroon PEV 2012, Ministry of Health March 2012</i>	
	Total
Total Population	5,891,785
Children (Under 5)	1,178,357
Children (6 to 23 months)	350,089
Pregnant women	368,186
Number of Internally Displaced Persons- IDPs due to flooding	90,203
Number of primary schools affected (11 in North and 159)	170
Number of school children affected	61,646

The **nutrition situation for 2013** seems to be similar as that in 2012 as there is a structural vulnerability of populations in the northern regions that increases with each crisis. As per the survey of July 2011,¹ 14.6% (North) and 17.9% (Extreme North) of households do not have sufficient food availability during the lean season and 30.3% of the rural population is vulnerable to food insecurity. Coping strategies of poorest households is to reduce consumption of food. A crops and food security assessment mission is ongoing by MINADER, WFP and FAO. Populations living in the North and Far North regions are the most affected by acute malnutrition even in the post-harvest season.

Post-harvest, a nutrition survey with SMART methods, conducted by Ministry of Public Health with UNICEF in December 2012, shows that 1.1% of 6-59 months old children in the Far North region and 0.7% in the North region suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Some aggravating factors are still present, such as low access to sanitation and clean water, as well as the incidence of diarrhea and other childhood diseases.

The **targeted caseload for 2013 for the two regions is 57,616 cases of SAMⁱ** and 93,456 cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition. (MAM) UNICEF is planning to conduct a SMART survey in May 2013 during the lean season. To ensure an appropriate response some constraints will be taken into consideration: (i) weak capacities of government in the management of acute malnutrition, (ii) lack of infrastructure (roads, for example), (iii) unreachable population during rainy season and (iv) weak capacities of resilience amongst population.

Targeted caseload acute malnutrition 2013	Total
<i>Sources: UNICEF Humanitarian Action Update February 2012, Cameroon General Census 2013</i>	
Children Under Five with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)	57,616
Children Under Five with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)	93,456

With the arrival of the mid-year rainy season in August 2012 there were **significant floods and population displacements** in localised areas. This has also led to an increased risk of a cholera epidemic, increase in incidences of diseases such as malaria, as well as losses in agricultural production and harvest, resulting in food shortages, further aggravating nutritional status and increasing the vulnerability of children.

Waters have now receded around the Benoue River in the North and in Mayo Danay, Kousseri and Blangoua sub divisions in Far North. In the North, the vast majority of IDPs have returned home while in the Far North most of IDPs in sites are not willing to return, waiting for local authorities to launch a resettlement program. Overall, the humanitarian situation has stabilised in the Far North IDP sites, however the situation in the areas of origin, where some families are returning, is of concern as crops and houses have been destroyed. It is expected that IDPs will remain on site for many more months until they are allocated land and definitely resettled, possibly before the arrival of the rainy season in May.

¹ SMART nutrition survey July 2011 carried out in North and Extreme North regions

2. Inter-agency cooperation

An agreement has been established between UNICEF and Plan Cameroon to ensure support and monitoring of CNA and CNTI in two districts in the two regions (Yagoua and Poli). French Red Cross is planning to scale up the intervention in 2013 from 4 health districts to 7 in the Far North region.

3. Emergency Response

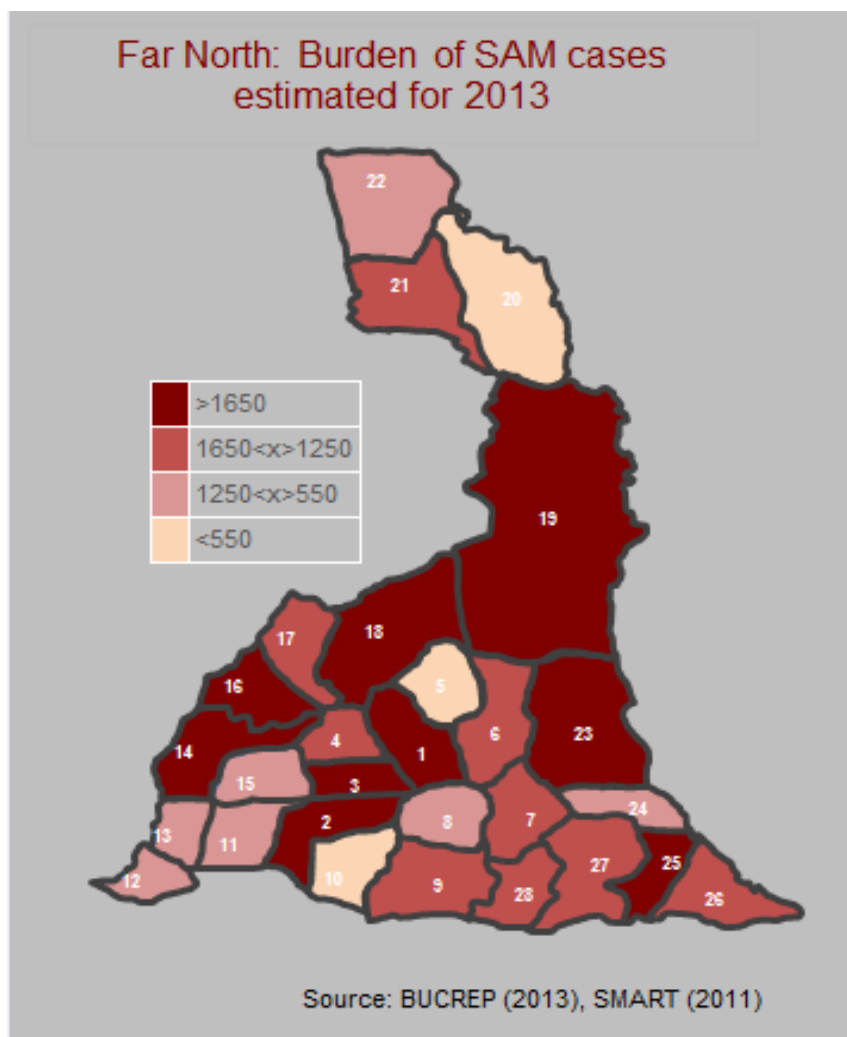
Emergency Response Nutrition

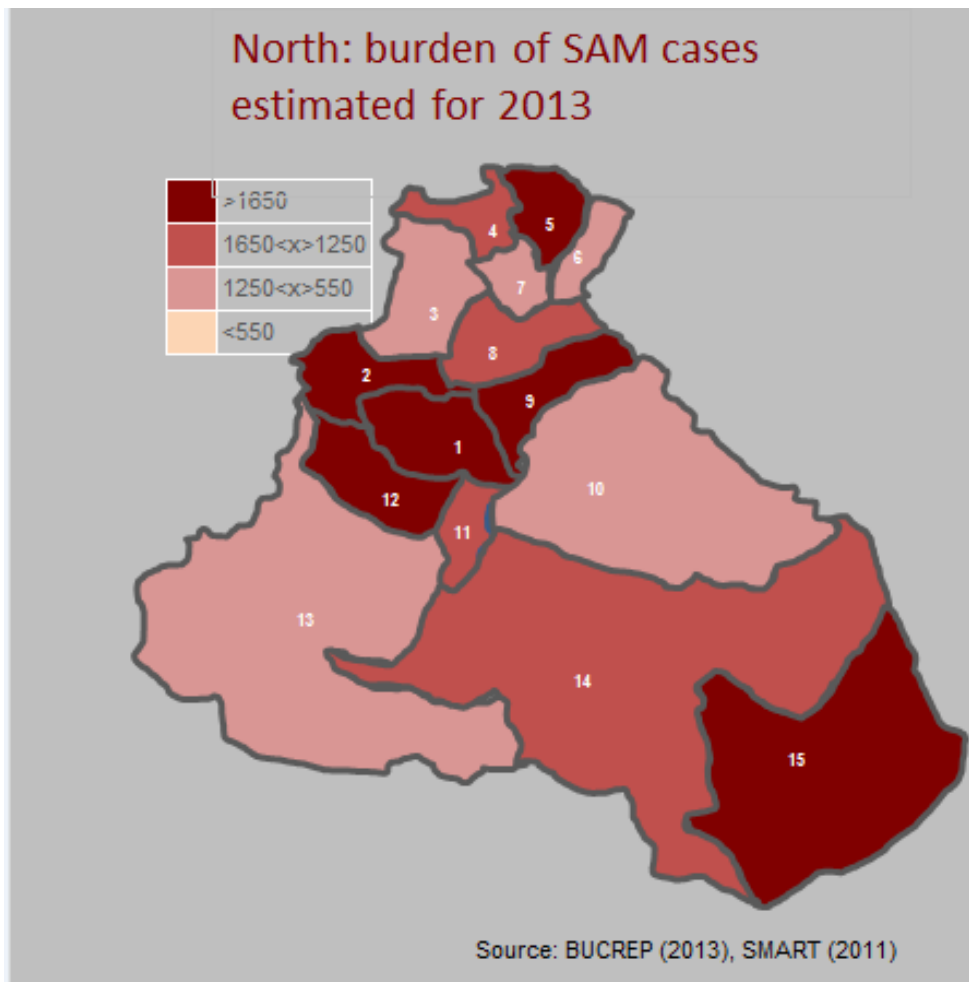
Overview

The UNICEF nutrition response for the period was based on the monitoring and visits of CNA and CNTI and reinforcing coordination amongst partners. The estimated caseload of Children <5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition to get admitted to Therapeutic Feeding programs is 57, 616 for 2013. The recovery rate is expected to be 70 % of these cases. The number of health centers with SAM treatment to be targeted is 470.

The national protocol for management of acute malnutrition is undergoing revision. A new matrix for data entry at the regional level (as per health district) is being developed to ensure better quality data in 2013 and to ensure transition from current to revised protocol. Data gathering and partial data gathering and entry for the first quarter of the year will be done as per the new matrix by the end of March, for a possible first quarter report available by April 2013.

Maps: Estimated burden SAM caseload for 2013 in health districts in North and Far North regions shown below





Latest data from post-harvest season nutrition survey with SMART methods, conducted in November and December 2012, show that the malnutrition in women (MUAC) varies from 0,0% in Northwest and East regions to 0,4% in the Far North. As per BMI- Body Mass Index in women (15-49), the three regions have the highest rates for wasting (BMI<16) (19,8% in Far North, 16,2% in Adamawa and 13,4% in North region).

Activities carried out during the reporting period

1. Supervision, technical support and the implementation of program was ensured in one health district in the Far North.
2. The monthly nutrition working group meetings were held in Yaoundé (national) and in Garoua (North) on 21 February and in Maroua (Far North) on 25th Feb.
3. Regional supervision for Far North region's CMAM program was organised by the MINSANTE (through DRSP) from 3-16 March. All the health districts were concerned (168 health structures: CNA and CNTI)
4. A new quarterly distribution (66 CAR F100 and 150 CAR F75, 3,181 cartons of RUTF, 15,270 bottles of antibiotics and anthropometric equipment that will complement the package of systematic treatment already in place in health structures) is on-going in the Far North.
5. 118 CAR of F75 and 66 CAR of F100 are being distributed in North and Adamawa regions.
6. An EU and ECHO joint delegation came for a 5 day mission (February 12th to 16th) to the Far North region and along with UNICEF/French Red Cross conducted a joint evaluation of the nutrition and WASH response to the Sahel crisis in 2012. Health districts of Mindif, Moutourwa, CAN, and CNTI were visited. . This joint evaluation provided a good opportunity for advocacy with PTF and European Union around nutrition and child survival interventions in emergency.
7. The process of revision of national protocol for the management of acute malnutrition has started. A thematic task force has being organised in Yaounde and in the regions. Temporary nutrition staffs have been recruited by UNICEF to support MoH to review data and information system and improve supply chain and in the whole process.

Emergency Response WASH

Overview

After the rainy season, the dry season in North and Far region is on-going and it is near its peak. In most of the area, rivers and streams are empty. Some traditional wells have dried. This situation is more critical for communities with no access to potable water. As a consequence, the risk of water, sanitation and hygiene related diseases increased, particularly for area near the Nigeria border, where cases of cholera have been reported. In the North, one case of cholera was reported based on symptoms. The person was provided rapid assistance and his house and neighbour were disinfected, however the analysis conducted in the reference laboratory reveals that the sample was negative. Despite this, community sensitisation on hygiene by community volunteers continues in IDPs camps of Takasko in the North and at Kousseri and Blangoua in the Far North.

In the Far North, the Government has started to assign resettlement sites to some IDPs. New resettlement land has been identified for IDPs of DANA and Gobo, however new sites for IDPs of Karam 1 & 2 have not yet been identified. The 624 IDP families from Madagascar 1 & 2 Gore and Garguso have returned back in their village and have started moulding blocks of soil for house construction. The other IDP camps are still open (Tekele, Pouss).

Focus is on water quality control of the 39 boreholes (17 North and 22 in far North) under construction / rehabilitation in partnership with LNGO (CODAS Garoua, FBM) and Private Company (2SW, Geofor).

Estimated coverage North and Far North regions (43 districts)	UNICEF & operational partners 2013		
	UNICEF Target 2013	Cumulative results (#)	% of Target Achieved
		Jan-Feb	Jan-Feb
Emergency affected population provided with access to safe water	100,700 *	1,645	2%
Emergency affected population provided with key hygienic supplies	100,700 *	1,645	2%
Number of Nutritional centres with the minimum WASH Package	470	334	71%
Number of children with SAM benefiting from hygiene kits and key hygiene messages	ND**	ND	-
Implementing partners: Ministry of Water Resources and Energy, Ministry of Public Health			

- *The target included children with SAM and MAM. WASH Supplies are given to the family*
- *** Target related to the 'number of children with SAM benefiting from hygiene kits and key hygiene messages' is a dynamic target because it's based on the actual number of SAM admissions*

Activities carried out during the reporting period

1. Between 29th January and 9th February, the visit to well rehabilitation projects by Geofor Company was conducted in 6 sites in the Far North.
2. A WASH consultant conducted field visit on February 18th, 2013 to evaluate the level of well rehabilitation in Lagdo in the North region.
3. In the Far North, field visits were conducted on 29th January 2013 in IDP sites of Kousseri and Blangoua, and on 30th January 2013 in Bargaran, to evaluate the construction of latrines and hygiene promotion carried out by ACEEN. The aim of the field visit of 19 and 20 February was to discuss with local authority on resettlement of IDPs.
4. WASH coordination meeting took place in the Far North (15th February) and North (31st January) regions to assess the level of implementation of wash responses to IDP.

UNICEF and Partners programming

UNICEF partnership with NGOs and private company has helped improve the following activities during the month:

In Far North Region:

- After constructing 60 temporary latrines equipped with 15 hand washing terminals, the 50 community volunteers trained by ACEEN have sensitized 1,600 families on hand washing, simple water treatment techniques at home, use of latrines and waste management.
- The construction of 3 borehole wells and the rehabilitation of 2 borehole wells in the sites Wina, Gobo and Guere are 80% completed. The construction of fences, water quality control and training of water management committee are on-going.
- The rehabilitation of 15 boreholes by the Company Geofor is 67% complete. Water quality control of the borehole is on-going.
- The construction and rehabilitation of 5 boreholes by Fondation Bethleem is 45% completed.

In North Region:

- The hard work done by Codas Caritas Garoua to rehabilitate 7 boreholes in 7 affected communities in the region (Boulel village, Bibemi school, Dolla school, Ouro Bagongon, Tcheratche, Babla school, and Burkina) is complete at 100%. The next steps is to control the quality of water.
- The forty community volunteers trained on hygiene promotion activities in IDP camp of Badoudi are providing support to IDP in the management of WASH infrastructure.
- The rehabilitation / construction of boreholes in 12 communities by 2 SW, a private company, have been improved from 75 to 90%.

Emergency Response Health

Overview

The UNICEF health response aims to ensure access to the essential health services for children under five, to pregnant women and nursing mothers in the 43 health district of the North and Far north regions, as part of the Sahel Crisis response.

During this period, health activities relating to the Sahel crisis have been marked by oversight activities of routine EPI, monitoring of the management of health inputs at the disposal of health districts and the inner therapeutic nutrition centers and outpatient nutrition centers for the systematic treatment of malnutrition related diseases.

Although the instances of water logging due to floods has decreased, challenges remain in terms of management of health problems in communities and health structures, since health supplies, as well as drugs, have not been reinforced accordingly. The interventions related to the floods have been marked by the monitoring of preparations of the sensitization campaign against cholera and the vaccination campaign against measles in the health district affected by floods.

Activities carried out during the reporting period

In North Region:

1. Integrated supervision of health district and health areas hosting flood victims in the North region
2. Meetings were held with EPI Regional unit and WHO team in the North Region as part of preparation for the preventive vaccination campaign against measles. Technical notes and budgets have been transmitted to the central level. On the field, preparations continue by raising awareness of populations and health providers.
3. Organisation of EPI evaluation in the health district in the North region
4. Organisation of revaccination campaign of meningitis in 12 health areas of Bibémi, Ngong, Garoua 2 and Poli health district

In Far North region

5. Meetings were held with EPI Regional unit and WHO team in the North Region as part of preparation for the preventive vaccination campaign against measles. Technical notes and budgets have been transmitted to the central level. In the field, preparations continue by raising awareness of populations and health providers
6. Reception and distribution of medicines and consumables for health units affected by floods for management of cholera cases

UNICEF and Partners programming

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF provided funding to support activities for the expanded programme of immunization (EPI+) throughout the North and Far North regions. This included supervision of EPI+ activities (and the management of drugs) in the Far North region. In the North region, all the 15 health Districts received the funds, and in the Far North Region 15 health districts (Bogo, Guere, Kaele, Kar-Hay, Kousseri, Maroua-Urbain, Maroua Rural, Meri, Mora, Moulvoudaye, pette, Tokombere, vele and Yagoua) benefited from these funds. Activities continued in the field and the evaluation of these activities will be completed after receiving all data.

MONITORING OF ACTIVITIES

Routine immunization (EPI)

Routine immunization (January to December 2012)				
Immunization	North		Far North	
Cumulative estimated routine vaccination Target 0-11	87,550		146,587	
Coverage target by end of 2012 for penta 3	88%(National and Regional)			
	Number Vaccinated	%	Number Vaccinated	%
Penta 3	71,153	81	131,009	89
Poliomyelitis 3	68,798	79	129,041	88
Measles	66,791	76	127,869	87
Yellow Fever	64,637	74	127,247	87%
Completeness		100%		100%

At the end of 2012, low coverage of poliomyelitis 3, measles and yellow fever in North region.

Epidemiological surveillance

The epidemiological surveillance of diseases with epidemic potential shows the following situation at the 7th week (1st January to 17th February 2013) in both regions, no epidemic has been recorded. Cumulative number of cases of diseases with epidemic potentials

Regions	Disease with epidemic potential		W* 1	W 2	W 3	W 4	W 5	W 6	W 7	Cumulative Total (*W1-W7)	Cumulative Total (*W1-W8)	Fatality rate	
North	MEASLES	Cases	1	0	0	0	0	3	5	9	9	0%	
		Death (D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	MENINGITIS	C	7	10	9	1	0	0	7	34	34	3%	
		Death (D)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1		
	YELLOW F.	C	1	3	0	1	2	0	2	9	9	0%	
		Death (D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	CHOLERA	C	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0%	
		Death (D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	A F.P.	C	2	1	0	1	0	3	1	8	8	0%	
		Death (D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	NN TETANUS	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	
		Death (D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
		No reports		14	15	13	9	15	15	15			
		Completeness		93%	100%	87%	60%	100%	100%	100%			
Far North	MEASLES	C	0	1	1	5	4	3	4	18	18	0%	

	Death (D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
MENINGITIS	C	5	2	5	5	3	2	1	23	23	4%
	Death (D)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
YELLOW F.	C	6	4	4	2	1	1	1	19	19	0%
	Death (D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CHOLERA	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	Death (D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
A.F.P.	C	0	0	0	2	1	3	3	9	9	0%
	Death (D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NN TETANUS	C	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	0%
	Death (D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No reports		23	25	22	21	25	24	27			
Completeness		82%	89%	79%	75%	89%	86%	96%			

1 case of cholera notified in Ngong, North region but was not confirmed by the CPC

Maternal care activities

NOC/PMCT (December 2012)	North			Far North		
Indicateurs	Objectif	Nombre	%	Objectif	Nombre	%
Femmes Enceintes attendues	80%	109,437	100%	80%	183,233	100%
Naissances vivantes attendus	80%	98,493	100%	80%	146,587	100%
Nombre de femmes enceintes ayant eu au moins une CPN	80%	61784	56%	80%	84,794	46%
Nombre de femmes enceintes ayant eu au moins 3 CPN	80%	43,756	40%	80%	61,730	34%
Nombre de femmes enceintes vaccinées au VAT 2 et +	80%	74,497	68%	80%	143,945	79%
Nombre d'accouchements dans la formation sanitaire	60%	11,359	12%	60%		

* January to December datas

Emergency Response Education

Overview

An agreement with PUBLIC CONCERN, a local NGO, has been finalized to support the building of temporary learning spaces for two schools in Vele district (Far-North) adapted to the Sahel context.

Two nationally televised events launched by the Minister of Basic Education along with the Representative of UNICEF in North and Far North:

- "Our schools without cholera" national campaign launch in Maroua, Far-North ,
- "Remise de bibliothèque" All of the flood-affected schools in the North and Extreme North will benefit from a full complement of primary cycle textbooks and teaching materials. Most affected schools will also receive ancillary supplies to include tents, Schools in a Box and other teaching materials.

A joint team of UNICEF and Ministry of Education traveled to the North and Far-North to work with government warehouses and put in end-use protocols for the large quantities of materials destined for affected schools.

The above events symbolize the end of the education emergency response to the floods and the beginning of a new package of medium-to long-term support to the affected schools.

Emergency Response Child Protection

Overview

More than 12,000 children and their families have been reached through activities aiming to prevent violence, including psychosocial support, reconstruction of birth registration, and direct support to families in partnership with ALDEPA, RESAEC and DRAS in the North and Far North from early December 2012 to the end of February 2013. Reports continue to be received of babies being abandoned by the parents in Maroua for which life-saving medical interventions were necessary. Young mothers - namely those victims of forced marriage and family problems - are found in the CNTI/ CNA of Maroua and in great need of psychosocial support.

Activities carried out during the reporting period

1. Field activities are ongoing with RESAEC for the reconstruction of birth certificates; with ALDEPA to reduce trauma and violence, as well as support the resilience and wellbeing of affected children and their families, and with DRAS to provide psychosocial support to more than 10,000 children affected by the floods in selected sites as well as their host families. The final reports that will be submitted in March will provide more detailed information.
2. In addition to the surge capacity partner deployed by Norwegian Refugee Council in Garoua, three field visits were made by the section chef and two child protection staff based in Yaoundé between 10-22 February to provide close monitoring of the implementation of the child protection response to the emergencies in the North and Far North, and plan interventions with key partners to respond to GBV and harmful practices, the situation of children in remand and institutional care, and those in situations of malnutrition (severe, moderate) that are with their parents or abandoned. Proposals are expected to be drafted in March / April and funding is being sought.

UNICEF and Partners programming

In the North, under the leadership of UNHCR, UNICEF and DRAS, the members of child protection working group (CPWG) and thematic group on psychosocial impacts met on 31 January and 14 February. During this, they shared an update of the situation of child protection in emergency, including their concerns about birth registration issues. The plan of action for birth registration is also elaborated during a separate meeting led by VSO but need to be validated.

In the Far North, under the leadership of UNFPA and DRAS, the members of the CPWG met on 1 February, and shared the updated situation of child protection in emergencies. They also agreed on key joint activities to take place in 2013, namely the one day training on GBV for all the members by the end of February 2013.

Emergency response HIV

Overview

The nutrition crisis and the recent flooding have led to the displacement of many families, leaving adolescents, particularly young girls and women, at an increased risk of HIV and HIV-related risks. As a result of several technical support missions conducted by the UNICEF HIV team in the last few months, meetings and working session were held with local authorities and regional management teams to raise awareness of the impact of emergencies on HIV risks and how to make sure HIV is taken into account in the regional response. Action has been taken at all levels to incorporate HIV related activities in response to the Sahel crisis during coordination meetings, field visits, supervision and data collection processes.

UNICEF is now discussing with the French Red Cross for a potential venture in conducting a study on HIV in malnourished children. Discussions are also being held with local civil society organisations to implement a comprehensive HIV awareness-raising and prevention programme using community radios over a certain period of time involving key ministries and regional branches.

Activities carried out during the reporting period

HIV tests have been purchased and distributed to both regions and over the reporting period UNICEF HIV/Procurement specialist performed a field visit to provide assistance to the two regions in order to ensure that commodities were dispatched to health facilities. As a result of the support provided, HIV tests are now confirmed to have been positioned in all health facilities in the district of Maga (Far North region). In the other regions, distribution is in progress and is expected to be completed by the end of February.

UNICEF and Partners programming

All HIV related activities in the framework of the response to the Sahel crisis and the flooding are jointly planned, implemented and monitored by the members of the regional platform including, the four regional delegations (Public health, Family and women promotion, Social affairs, youth affairs,) and coordination is ensured by the regional HIV technical group. Furthermore, field work involves National and International NGOs operating in the two regions such as the French Red Cross, a faith based organisation in Pitoa (hope future generation), community radios and women groups.

Emergency Response Funding

Country	Total needs for 2013	Funds received	Gaps VS total needs	% funded vs Total Needs
Cameroon	11,100,000	0	11,100,000	0%

For further information, please contact

Name: Geoff Wiffin

Representative
Country Office: Yaoundé
Country: Cameroon
Telephone: +23722223182
Facsimile: +23722231653
Email: gwiffin@unicef.org

Name: Zakari Adam

Deputy Representative
Country Office: Yaoundé
Country: Cameroon
Telephone: +23722223182
Or +23779523052
Facsimile: 23722231653
Email: zadam@unicef.org

Name: Laure Bassek

Communication Specialist
Country Office: Yaoundé
Country: Cameroon
Telephone: +23722223182
Or +23775296971
Facsimile: +23722231653
E-mail: lbassek@unicef.org

Name: Vikas Verma

Resource Mobilisation Specialist
Country Office: Yaoundé
Country: Cameroon
Telephone: +23722223182
Or +23777702365
Facsimile: +23722231653
E-mail: vverma@unicef.org