Overview

- The strong 2015/16 El Niño has resulted in one of the driest seasons in over 35 years in Southern Africa and in Ethiopia, the worst drought in 50 years. The lives of millions of children are at risk from malnutrition, water shortages and disease in Eastern and Southern Africa.

- Rising food prices are forcing families to adopt severe coping mechanisms such as skipping meals and selling off assets. This is resulting in over 1 million children being in need of treatment for severe acute malnutrition in the region. In addition, without adequate treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), there is a higher risk of increased numbers of SAM cases. Further deterioration in the nutritional status of children is expected as the lean season continues.

- Reduced rainfall has also greatly affected water availability for communities, as well as for crops and livestock. A serious shortage of water remains a key concern, and many health facilities and schools are in critical need of improved water supply and sanitation facilities to enable the continuity of services.

- Children face protection risks such as separation and displacement as families and communities move in search of work, food, water and grazing land for animals. The risk of increased exposure to violence, early marriage and negative coping mechanisms, including transactional sex, is heightened. Children are also finding it difficult to stay in school, due to hunger and/or lack of water.

- Estimates indicate that it will take approximately two years for communities to recover from the effects of El Niño, even if agricultural conditions improve in the latter half of this year. This means the effects of El Niño will be felt among children in the region for years to come.

- In Eastern Africa, the most affected countries have been Ethiopia, Somalia and Eritrea, while in Southern Africa, these include Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Madagascar and Mozambique are also increasingly affected.

- Governments and partners, including UNICEF, are mobilizing efforts, with recognition that an integrated multi-sectoral response, which also addresses the protection and education risks, is urgently required. Furthermore, given the long-term consequences for children’s development, interventions that promote resilience must be prioritized.

- In 2016, UNICEF requires US$191 million to respond to the impact of El Niño on children and their families across the Eastern and Southern Africa Region (ESAR). This includes US$1 million to support regional coordination efforts.
Children in Eastern & Southern Africa Targeted for SAM Treatment in 2016

1.2 Million Children Targeted for Severe Acute Malnutrition Treatment in 2016

ANGOLA

Situation Overview
Due to the compounded impact of El Niño and four seasons of lower than average rainfall, 1.4 million people are affected by drought in the country, of which 756,000 are children. Of the affected children, over 95,877 are suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) while rates of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) range from 15 per cent to 21 percent, exceeding the emergency threshold. Over 800,000 people remain food insecure in the most affected Provinces of Cunene, Namibe and Huila. Water reserves have been depleted with 80 per cent of boreholes in Cunene non-functional. Health risks have also spiked including an outbreak of Yellow Fever which has led to the death of 238 people between January and March 2016, with concerns that the entire population of the country is at risk.

UNICEF Response
UNICEF Angola plans to reach 1.4 million people affected by drought and 6.7 million at risk of Yellow Fever through humanitarian response in the sectors of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Nutrition, Health, Child Protection and Education in 2016. UNICEF Angola requires $21.5 million in 2016 to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children through the following interventions:

- 37,834 children with SAM under 5 admitted into therapeutic treatment programmes.
- 672,377 children 6-59 months vaccinated for measles.
- 6.7 million people million people reached with preventive messages and information on Yellow Fever
- 3.6 million children vaccinated for Yellow Fever.
- 120,000 people provided with access to safe water (7.5-15L per person per day).
- 45,000 people provided with access to appropriately designed toilets.
- 5,000 school aged children, including adolescents, provided with temporary learning spaces equipped with education and recreation kits.

For more information, please see UNICEF Angola’s Situation Report: http://www.unicef.org/appeals/other_emergencies.html#angola
ERITREA

Situation Overview
In Eritrea, the effects of El Niño and pre-existing stressors, related to household food and livelihood security, have exacerbated women and children's vulnerability, leading to high levels of malnutrition among children under 5, especially in the lowlands. Acute malnutrition remains one of the major underlining causes of death in the country.

UNICEF Response
UNICEF Eritrea plans to reach 545,000 (including 445,000 children) through humanitarian interventions aimed at mitigating the impacts of the drought and other humanitarian situations affecting vulnerable populations, in the sectors of WASH, Nutrition, Health, Child Protection and Education throughout 2016. A main area of focus for UNICEF, with partners, will be the reduction of nutrition insecurity exacerbated by El Niño, with the scale up of effective treatment of malnutrition, prevention and resilience building. UNICEF Eritrea requires $12 million to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children affected by El Niño in 2016. UNICEF's planned response in 2016 includes:

- 13,000 children with SAM under 5 admitted into therapeutic treatment programmes.
- 180,000 children under 5 and lactating women benefiting from blanket supplementary feeding.
- 30,000 out-of-school children from drought prone nomadic communities provided with access to quality basic education.

For more information, please see UNICEF Eritrea’s Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal:


ETHIOPIA

Situation Overview
Ethiopia is suffering from one of the worst droughts in the past few decades, as two seasons of failed rains have resulted in 10.2 million people, including 6 million children facing severe food insecurity and at a heightened risk of disease due to a significant lack of safe water in six most affected regions of Ethiopia (Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ Region, Somali, Tigray). Children's protection and safety has been undermined and some 1.3 million children are at risk of having their education interrupted. Regular food stocks will be exhausted by mid-May 2016 without immediate resources. Currently, 1.44 million children under 5 years are acutely malnourished and 435,000 children require SAM treatment. With regular food stocks expected to be exhausted by mid-May 2016, there is a significant risk of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases moving into the SAM caseload without adequate nutritional intake and services.

UNICEF Response
UNICEF Ethiopia plans to reach 8 million people (including 6.8 million children) through humanitarian interventions aimed at mitigating the impacts of the drought in the sectors of WASH, Nutrition, Health, Child Protection and Education throughout 2016. Specifically in nutrition, UNICEF and WFP have developed a Nutrition Response Plan focusing on minimizing the impact and addressing the growing food and nutritional crisis. UNICEF Ethiopia requires $97.5 million to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children affected by El Niño in 2016. UNICEF’s planned response in 2016 includes:

- 435,000 children under 5 years with SAM admitted to therapeutic care programmes.
- 2.2 million people provided with access to safe water.
- 430,000 school-aged children provided with access to emergency education programmes.
- 5.8 million children provided with access to health care facilities stocked with essential supplies and drugs.

For more information on UNICEF’s humanitarian response in Ethiopia see the links below:

LESOTHO
Situation Overview
In Lesotho, one quarter of the population is affected by widespread drought, which is aggravating high levels of vulnerabilities for a country in which 34 per cent of children are orphans, 57 per cent of people live below the poverty line, and almost one in four adults live with HIV/AIDS. Approximately, 534,508 people are food insecure with chronic malnutrition prevalence at 33 per cent, while the underweight prevalence is at 12.3 per cent. The drought has led to a decline in access to safe water with 23 per cent of communities using unprotected water sources, while increases in diarrhea cases have been reported in health facilities in recent months.

UNICEF Response
UNICEF Lesotho plans to reach 534,508 people (including 310,000 children) through humanitarian interventions aimed at mitigating the impacts of the drought in the sectors of WASH, Nutrition, Health, HIV/AIDS, Child Protection and Education throughout 2016. UNICEF Lesotho requires $9.1 million in 2016 to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children affected by El Niño through the following interventions:

- 2,445 children with SAM admitted to therapeutic treatment programmes.
- 58,000 children under 5 provided with micronutrient supplementation.
- 133,000 people (including 77,000 children) provided with safe water (7.5-15L per person per day).
- 534,508 people affected by drought provided with access to HIV/AIDS information and services.

MALAWI
Situation Overview
Malawi is experiencing its worst food security crisis in over a decade with 2.8 million people, including 1.5 million children, currently food insecure. Cases of SAM have increased by 100 per cent from December 2015 to January 2016. With more than 42.4 per cent of all children in Malawi already stunted, there are concerns of increased malnutrition rates and a higher likelihood of water-borne diseases, such as cholera, to which two thirds of Malawi’s districts are prone. In addition, poor coping mechanisms in response to shocks have affected school attendance in the hardest hit areas of the country (central and southern regions). A cholera outbreak, which began in December 2015, continues to be a challenge with over 1,000 cases and 21 deaths registered to date in the country.

UNICEF Response
In 2016, UNICEF Malawi is targeting 882,000 people (including 453,500 children) for humanitarian interventions in Health, WASH, Nutrition, Education and Child Protection, which are using integrated approaches to address cross-cutting themes, including HIV/AIDS and Communication for Development (C4D). UNICEF Malawi requires $13 million in 2016 to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children affected by El Niño. In 2016, UNICEF’s planned response includes:

- 34,000 children under 5 with SAM enrolled in therapeutic feeding programmes.
- 100,000 people with access to sanitation/temporary latrines.
- 10,000 vulnerable women and children with access to protection messages to expand knowledge on protection services and service points.

For more information on UNICEF’s humanitarian response in Malawi see the links below:


SOMALIA
Situation Overview
Due to the El Niño related drought in Somaliland and Puntland, an estimated 385,000 people are facing acute food insecurity, with an additional 1.3 million at risk if immediate assistance is not provided. The number of children enrolled in nutrition programmes has increased in the most affected regions and water sources are overstretched. An increase of acute watery diarrhea cases have been recorded at health centers in Puntland and Somaliland, as communities share the only available and unprotected water sources with livestock. There are also concerns that children will be separated
as communities and livestock are on the move in search of water, grazing areas and rains, and thousands of children could soon lose access to education due to the drought.

**UNICEF Response**

UNICEF is working to increase access to safe water through the provision of vouchers for water supply and repairing boreholes and water points alongside the distribution of hygiene kits to affected households. To date, 10 boreholes have been repaired and 50,000 households in Somalia have been provided with vouchers to enable access to safe water. In addition, UNICEF and WFP have joined efforts to respond to the deteriorating food and malnutrition situation, through the provision of an integrated package of lifesaving humanitarian assistance. This package includes food assistance, nutrition programmes, and health services, as well as support to help communities access safe water and improve sanitation and hygiene conditions. To ensure children remain in school, UNICEF is working with WASH and Food Security partners on the provision of water and food for schools, as well as the distribution of emergency education supplies for schools receiving internally displaced children. **UNICEF Somalia requires $13 million** to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children affected by El Niño, particularly in Puntland and Somaliland. UNICEF’s planned response in 2016 includes:

- 108,800 children under 5 years suffering from SAM admitted to therapeutic treatment programmes.
- 642,000 people provided with safe water (7.5-15L per person per day).
- 445,000 children under 1 year immunized against measles.

For more information on UNICEF’s humanitarian response in Somalia see the links below:


**SWAZILAND**

**Situation Overview**

Swaziland is currently experiencing its worst drought in years, which has significantly decreased crop production, killed livestock and devastated livelihoods throughout the country. Over 320,000 people are affected (including 189,000 children) by drought, with more than 200,000 people food insecure. Children are at serious risk of malnutrition, with already over 1,000 cases of SAM reported in the country and pre-drought rates showing over 25 per cent of children under 5 years are stunted. The drought is further exacerbating levels of vulnerability among the population which are compounded by chronic food and nutrition insecurity, high rates of HIV/AIDS (26 per cent prevalence rate), poverty and protection concerns, including gender based violence (GBV). WASH facilities have been affected, with water shortages evident throughout the country. The drought has threatened children’s education as schools are facing critical water shortages.

**UNICEF Response**

UNICEF Swaziland is focusing on providing access to life saving WASH, health and nutrition services for women and children, as well as critical education and children protection services in the two most drought affected areas of the country. UNICEF Swaziland’s humanitarian planning figures are 320,000 people (including 189,000 children) to be reached through interventions to mitigate the impacts of the drought throughout 2016. **UNICEF Swaziland requires $3 million** to respond to the urgent needs of women in children affected by El Niño through the following interventions:

- 6,346 children with SAM admitted to therapeutic treatment programmes.
- 74,000 children in schools provided with access to safe water and appropriate sanitation facilities.
- 50,000 women and children reached with protection messages on protection services and service points.
- 64,000 people provided with access to safe water (7.5-15L per person per day).

For more information, please see UNICEF Swaziland’s Situation Report: [http://www.unicef.org/appeals/other_emergencies.html#swaziland](http://www.unicef.org/appeals/other_emergencies.html#swaziland)
ZIMBABWE

Situation Overview

In Zimbabwe, an estimated 2.8 million people, including 1.3 million children, are facing food and nutrition insecurity, while the drought has resulted in reduced water yields from the few functioning boreholes exacerbating the risk to waterborne diseases, especially diarrhea and cholera. An assessment conducted in January 2016 revealed a GAM rate of 5.7 per cent, the highest ever recorded in the past 15 years. The SAM rate is also critical at 2.1 per cent. Women and girls face a heightened risk of protection concerns and loss of education due to socioeconomic roles, including supporting vulnerable family members and migrating to cities in search of work.

UNICEF Response

In 2016, UNICEF Zimbabwe plans to reach 1.3 million people (including 348,000 children) with critical humanitarian interventions in the sectors of WASH, Nutrition, Health, HIV/AIDS, Child Protection and Education. **UNICEF Zimbabwe is increasing its 2016 requirement to $21 million** to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children affected by El Niño. UNICEF plans to support the El Niño response through the following interventions:

- 14,000 children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted to community-based treatment programmes.
- 325,000 people affected by emergencies provided with access to safe water.
- 73,000 vulnerable families provided with social cash transfers.
- 348,000 children vaccinated for measles.

For more information on UNICEF’s humanitarian response in Zimbabwe see the links below:


Regional Coordination & Support to El Niño Affected Countries

Given the scale of the El Niño crisis, UNICEF’s Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) has deployed a sub-regional coordinator for Southern Africa and continues to provide regional coordination and technical guidance and support to UNICEF Country Offices responding to El Niño across the region. **UNICEF ESARO requires US$1 million to support the humanitarian response to women and children affected by El Niño in 2016.**

Funding Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total 2016 Humanitarian Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>El Niño 2016 Humanitarian Response Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Funds received* (US$)</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td></td>
<td>US$</td>
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<td>Angola</td>
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<td>Regional Coordination &amp; Support</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>277,902,109</strong></td>
<td><strong>191,243,722</strong></td>
<td><strong>69,623,104</strong></td>
<td><strong>121,620,618</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Funds received as of end March 2016.

**Additional resources are being mobilised and allocated from available resources to fill the gap.

1 Funding requirements for Angola, Lesotho, and Swaziland are preliminary and Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeals are currently being developed. Zimbabwe is currently revising its 2016 HAC upwards to reflect additional humanitarian requirements to respond to El Niño. Mozambique and Madagascar UNICEF HACs are also currently being developed and will be available on UNICEF’s website in the next couple of months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who to contact for further information:</th>
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<tbody>
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