

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan

Mid-year Situation Report

Reporting period: January to June 2013

Highlights

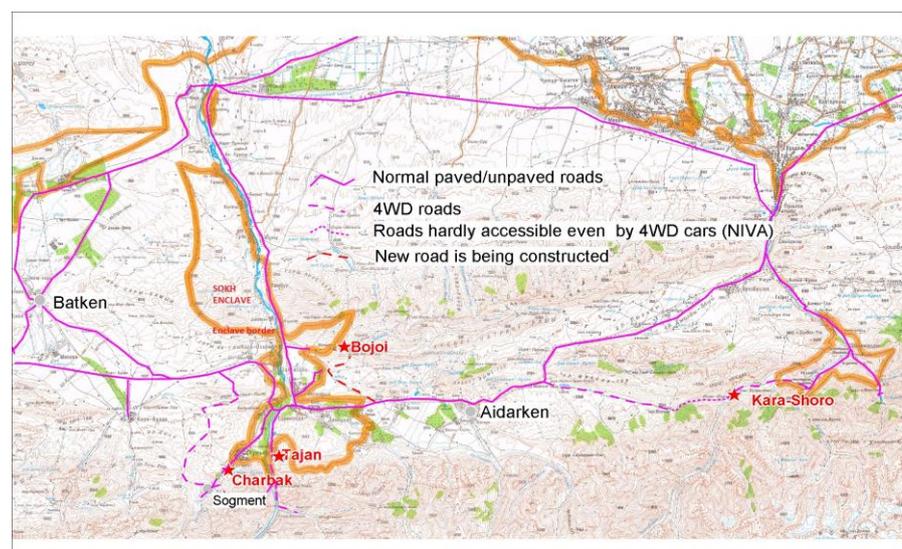
- 5 January – 1 February 2013, Border incident around Sokh enclave caused humanitarian needs of 4,480 population in the affected villages Bojoi, Kara-Shoro, Charbak, Tajan, Sogment in Batken province;
- Based on the needs assessment of the population in affected villages in Kyrgyzstan conducted by the REACT team 70 packets of purification tablets, 1877 soaps, 6 school in a box kits and 12 recreation kits will be provided to the affected villages Bojoi, Kara-Shoro, Charbak, Tajan, Sogment
- Number of natural disasters, such as earthquake, landslide, strong winds and floods affected more than 10,000 people

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The situation in the country continues to be described as “institutionalized instability” with huge governance and financial problems, not fully resolved ethnic divisions, underdeveloped agricultural sector, and shortages in energy sector, continually increasing food prices and declining health standards.

The country continues to face instability and tensions throughout the country triggered by the social insecurity, low income and living standards of population, and a possible renewal of ethnically or socio-politically-motivated violence in the south or elsewhere cannot be ruled out, considering the vulnerable socio-economic situation. In addition, due to the issues of delimitation and demarcation, tensions in the border areas of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and seasonal issues over water and land resources on the Kyrgyz – Tajik border add to the increasing vulnerability of local population in Kyrgyzstan and neighbouring countries, particularly children and women.

Conflict occurred on the border with Uzbekistan on 5 January 2013, between the residents of the Khushyar village of Sokh enclave and border villages of Batken province in Kyrgyzstan over the territory delimitation and demarcation. As a result of the incident and road access cut off through Sokh enclave, more than 4,000 people, half of



which were children under 18, of Tayan, Charbak, Sogment, Bojoi and Kara-Shoro villages in Batken province were affected and required humanitarian support.

Key Information – (Estimates calculated based on initial figures from the Ministry of Emergency Situations)			
Start of humanitarian response: 18 January 2013			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	4480	2080	2399
Children Affected (Under 18)	1015	-	-
Children Under Five	875	-	-
Children 6 to 23 months	-	-	-
Pregnant women	27 (data is incomplete)	-	27
Add any additional context specific data	-	-	-

Furthermore, a number of small to medium size disasters occurred during the first six months of the year, requiring a response to the humanitarian needs of the local population that were addressed by the Kyrgyz Government.

These include:

- Earthquake in Issyk-Kul province where 730 families requested for loans and compensation for housing damage;
- Landslides in 12 settlements in Jalal-Abad province with total population about 8,000 people. The affected population was without electricity and road access for 3-7 days;
- Strong wind on 1-2 June damaged around 600 residential houses and public premises (schools, hospitals, and other social centres);
- Cold snap, hail and heavy snow damaged crops (several hundred hectares) and livestock (more than 2,000 cattle and goats died) in three provinces of Kyrgyzstan;
- Debris flows and flashfloods damaged irrigation and road infrastructure, residential houses in Jalal-Abad and Naryn provinces.

These consequences of these disasters which include damage to crops and livestock and the impact on food security, lack of adequate shelter and access to services add to the increasing vulnerability of children and their families, impacting their well-being and development.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

In the first half of 2013, UNICEF, as the Education and WASH sector lead and active member of the Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU)¹, provided a support to the affected population in the border villages around Sokh enclave based on the request from the Kyrgyz Government on 18 January 2013.

Rapid needs assessment conducted by the Rapid Assessment and Coordination Team revealed that the affected population urgent needs were in WASH (water purification tablets, hygiene items), education (stationary, learning materials for school children), and child protection (psycho-social support).

UNICEF provided 70 packets of purification tablets, 1877 pieces of soap, 6 school in a box kits and 12 recreation kits for affected children and population in Charbak, Tayan, Kara-Shoro, Bojoi, Sogment village.

The overall response was well coordinated with the humanitarian actors – DRCU members, members of the sector groups and in close cooperation with the Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Education and Science, local self-governments, specifically in collecting necessary information, identifying the needs of the population, delivering and distributing aid among affected population.

UNICEF Programme response

As reflected in the HAC 2013, an emergency preparedness work has been built into the relevant programme workplans and overall County Programme Action Plan 2012-2016, so regardless actual

¹ DRCU is a consultative-deliberative mechanism whose main purpose is to coordinate humanitarian response to emergencies upon the Kyrgyz Government relevant request and enhance collaboration among DRCU partners and other key actors.

relief operations of UNICEF; the following progress has been made in the key sectors/programmes of the UNICEF Country Office in Kyrgyzstan. The results within the respective sections, such as establishment of adequate social services for children, prevention of waterborne diseases, conflict prevention and peace building measures, emergency preparedness activities and prepositioning of emergency supplies help building resilience of children and adults to potential threats, effectively respond to the needs in times of emergency and reduce the aftermath and impact of potential threats.

Health & Nutrition

Results Status

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)
# of women in delivery and children under five with diarrheal diseases provided with adequate health care.	1,200 women 1,000 children u5	3,000
# of affected children and women with access to prepositioned emergency supply stock of vitamin A and measles-mumps-rubella vaccine, obstetric and diarrheal kits	5,000	5,000
UNICEF Supported partners contributing to above UNICEF Results: The Ministry of Health, National Immune-prophylactic Center participated in the implementation of interventions.		

Analysis of Results

By investing in thermal baby mattresses UNICEF has ensured a warm chain for 9,000 newborns with hypothermia. Minimum 500 deliveries are covered by obstetric kits prepositioned. In addition to safe pregnancy and childbirth, UNICEF has improved capacity of medical workers on treatment of pneumonia and diarrhea of children. To ensure adequate diarrhea management, 6 diarrhea kits for minimum 3,000 affected women and children were prepositioned.

UNICEF is also supporting the government in national immunization programme and in general, Kyrgyzstan has maintained high immunization coverage rates. A contingency stock of measles-mumps-rubella vaccines covers 25,000 children countrywide. A gap in emergency supply stock of vitamin A is currently compensated by the sprinkles micronutrient powder distribution programme.

WASH

Results Status

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF		Sector / Cluster	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)
# of Internally displaced persons and host community members, including children, provided with safe water as per agreed standards.	10 000 (incl. 5,000 children)	8,000 (incl. approx.3000 children)	10 000	-
# of emergency-affected persons benefit from hygiene and sanitation promotion messages.	10 000	8,000	10 000	-
UNICEF Supported partners contributing to above UNICEF Results: N/A.				

Analysis of Results

WASH Cluster is inactive after the end of the 2010 response to the civil unrest, however contingency plan allows for expedient reactivation if needed. It was modified to the WASH sector/Working group that is being active, which comprised of different stakeholders, including the Government agencies, donors, NGO partners.

Although UNICEF did not receive any emergency funds, UNICEF has contributed to the reconstruction of 30 schools (10,000 students), which has increased physical safety of school children and where the hygiene promotion initiative is also being implemented. Regular programme funding was used for these interventions.

Child Protection

Results Status

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)
# of children in difficult life situations benefit from community based social services.	2 000	500
Outreach support mechanisms are strengthened to prevent family separation.	54	54
Prepositioning of supplies (ECD and Recreational kits) for Child Friendly Spaces.	1000	1000
UNICEF Supported partners contributing to above UNICEF Results: Public Fund "Family to Every Child", Public Fund "My Family".		

Analysis of Results

During the first half of 2013 UNICEF Child Protection has focused on strengthening the gatekeeping mechanism and creation of social services for children in difficult life situation through enhancing the capacities of social workers and specialists at the local level. Over 500 children have benefited from services provided by social workers and specialists as well as from services provided by day care centres established. Awareness raising and enhanced family support contributed to family separation, whereby 54 children were prevented from getting into institutions. After the border incident mentioned above, five children with their mothers have received psychosocial support and consultation with the help of local NGO partner. In addition, manual on Psychosocial Support to Children in Conflict Situations was widely disseminated among government partners (Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Social Development, Bishkek Mayor's Child Support Center and Center for Rehabilitation of Street Children), civil society organizations working in the area of Child Protection, psychologists and child protection experts, Bishkek Humanitarian University and other interested parties. Currently, the Child Protection Sub-Cluster, which was transformed into Child Protection Network, is dormant.

Education

Results Status

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF		Sector / Cluster	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)
# of pre-school and school-aged children including adolescents involved in child-led peace building activities.	10 000	7800	10 000	7800
Replenish and maintain the preposition stock for pre-school and school aged children.	6 000	8560	10 000	7800
# of school and preschool children in target communities are prepared for disasters and benefit from DRR work at the local level.	10 000	12 245	n/a	n/a
UNICEF Supported partners contributing to above UNICEF Results: Foundation for Tolerance International is implementing peace and tolerance building project in 26 border schools with some administrative and methodological contribution. The aim of the project is to increase knowledge of students on how to cross the border without being potentially subjected to abuse and violence and promoting tolerance among school children and communities in the target border areas. DRR in education and emergency preparedness interventions in schools and kindergartners are being implemented with involvement of government stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Emergency Situations, as well as the Kyrgyz Academy of Education and other partners, such as the Save the Children, the MSDSP KG Aga Khan initiatives, etc.				

Analysis of Results

Although overall responsibility to ensure the right to education for all children is carried by the Government of Kyrgyzstan, in current legislation it remains unclear specifically who is responsible for operationalizing this commitment. At the national level, the responsibility is implicitly shared across the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Emergency Situations, but education in emergencies is not explicitly mentioned in either Ministry's strategy document. Supporting the state organizations, there are a number of local and international non-governmental organizations (Save the Children, DCCA, MSDSP, ACTED etc.) and UN agencies that provide assistance in coordination, strategy development, action planning, emergency response and awareness raising. Therefore in August 2013 UNICEF will organize a four day National workshop on Education in Emergencies for key policy makers and implementers with 3-days TOT to prepare group of various actors closely involved in training of education workers and civil protectors. The goal of the workshop is through building capacity of key

duty bearers develop an Action Plan which will regulate the necessary education in emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities.

In terms of supply, both UNICEF and Education Cluster seek to achieve adequate preparedness for 10,000 pre-school and school age population. Therefore there is still a gap in ensuring appropriate supply preparedness for this category, specifically by 10 pieces of each item: school in a box, recreation kits, ECD emergency kits, math and science teaching kits.

DRR and emergency preparedness activities are being implemented as a cross cutting activity along with the ECD interventions and peace and tolerance building in the community based kindergartens and schools. In preschool education, DRR learning and teaching materials are being disseminated, as for the school education, a Principles of Everyday Safety educational programme was developed and endorsed. The workshops for teachers were conducted in Batken, Jalal-Abad, Osh provinces to raise a capacity of local authorities, schools, preschools administrators in DRR and emergency preparedness.

Over 3,000 schools and preschools were assessed within the nationwide safety assessment in 2012-beginning 2013. The results of around 90% un-safe buildings of educational institutions were presented at the National conference to the Government, international and donor community, NGOs and Mass Media in July 2013. A follow up action plan was developed during the event and agreed with all participants. Further work on follow up actions will be negotiated and implemented with the Government and relevant ministries and agencies in the second half of 2013 and 2014.

Youth

Results Status

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results #
# of community based networks of youth groups/organizations advocating for adolescent and youth issues in the families, schools, and in communities.	22 networks	Networks of volunteers under 21 youth centers
# of disadvantaged youth have access to life skills and opportunities for employment.	4600	1200
# of youth and adolescents have an understanding of civic participation.	4000	2500
UNICEF Supported partners contributing to above UNICEF Results: NGOs "Young Citizens Development", "Development and Cooperation in Central Asia", "Foundation for Tolerance International", "INTRAC"		

Analysis of Results

The Youth Centres have progressed in developing youth-lead civic outreach and advocacy for the marginalized and vulnerable established outreach teams which bring together approximately 200 youth and adolescents. At least 170 volunteers in the outreach teams were trained on the basic methods of data collection, data analyses and report writing focusing on innovations and technologies (new media, blogging, sms etc.). the volunteers were equipped with the basic skills of the basic techniques of approaching to young peers in difficult life situations including data collection, obtaining information as well as peer-to-peer information sharing and knowledge transfer.

At least 140 community meeting, workshops and researches have been initiated by the young people, which raised the issues affecting lives and wellbeing of the youth. The discussion platforms and the community projects that followed brought together over 2300 people and raised the issues of violence against children and youth, forced marriages quality of education, interethnic relations, migration etc. The outreach teams implemented at least 70 community projects aiming at the creating a community agenda about the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by the youth. Although no emergency related funds were received in 2013, regular programming funds for youth and adolescent development were made available for the above interventions.

Human Resources

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan has 58 staff members (8 IPs and 50 nationals).

Security

In Kyrgyzstan, overall security situation is described as low to medium risk of socio-political instability, especially in the southern part of Kyrgyzstan. Nevertheless, occasional riots and localized conflicts among local population and the administrations may cause more serious political and social crisis in the country. This is also being triggered by many cross-border conflicts on Tajik –Kyrgyz and Kyrgyz-Uzbek boarder areas, between the local populations of bordering countries and also with involvement of the border troops because of the delimitation and demarcation issues. In general, the country continues to face instability and tensions, and a possible renewal of ethnically or socio-politically-motivated violence in the south or elsewhere cannot be ruled out.

In three southern provinces: Batken, Osh and Jalal-Abad, a Phase III security area is still being intact. As for the Chui, Talas and Issyk-Kul provinces, a security situation is better, however, occasional riots, such as against the Kumtor mining company operations in Issyk-Kul province, requests from the local population to the Government may further endanger socio-political situation and economic well-being of the local population, which may result in making families and children in Issyk-Kul region more vulnerable.

Funding

Funding Requirements (as defined in HAC 2013 for a period of 12 months)				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Health and Nutrition	\$130,000	\$76,000	54,000	42%
WASH	\$129,000	\$0	\$129,000	100%
Child Protection	\$321,000	121,000	\$200,000	62.31
Education	\$450,000	\$132,119	\$317,881	71%
DRR	\$200,000	\$0 ²	\$200,000	100%
Youth	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000	100%
Sector Coordination	\$110,000	0	\$110,000	100%
Total	1,540,000	\$329,119	\$1,181,881	77%

* 'Funds received' does not include pledges

Next SitRep: December 2013

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² This funding was received under the OFDA, USAID (SM 110280) grant for the school safety assessment and follow up after the results have been presented on 2 July 2013. The funds requested within HAC were mainly for the School-based DRR and emergency preparedness initiatives.