1. Critical Issues for Children

Serbia was faced with the worst floods due to the heaviest rains seen in the region for more than a century. Heavy rainfall began on 13 May, as a result of a low-pressure area (Yvette internationally, Tamara in the Balkans) that formed over the Adriatic Sea due to polar air from Central Europe meeting with the humid subtropical air of the Mediterranean basin. After the rainfall ceased, several rivers – specifically, the Sava (Europe’s second longest river after the Volga), Kolubara, Drina, Mlava and Velika Morava rivers – continued to rise.
According to the official reports, there were 33 fatalities, over 32,000 people displaced, 1.6 million people affected, and 773 are still missing. Among those evacuated, some 6,000, including many children, are housed in temporary accommodation facilities in Belgrade, organized by the City of Belgrade and coordinated by the Serbian Red Cross. A large number of the families in collective centres are Roma from informal settlements, the majority of whom lost their home and belongings in the flooding, with no projected timeframe for their return. Although the displaced are currently being relocated, as current collective centres are closed down, it is quite likely that the most vulnerable families will remain displaced for the coming 2-3 months.

The government revoked the state of emergency on the national level on 23 May. However, the state of emergency continues in 14 municipalities, including the cities of Sabac and Sremska Mitrovica.

According to the latest Government report, over 2,260 buildings have been flooded and more than 1,800 seriously damaged. Households have lost their furniture in the flooded houses and there is still no electricity. Households in the affected area have lost its agriculture production. All the affected areas have severe problems of with landslides and mudslides that threaten the critical infrastructure (roads, telecommunications, etc.). Water and sanitation infrastructure has been damaged in flood affected areas. The clean water is at the moment supplied by the water tanks and through the humanitarian assistance received. To date, no health outbreaks have been recorded in the flooded areas, however, initial information confirms the water source for communities that rely on well water (approximately 11% of households in Sumadija and Western Serbia of roughly 1.6 million) is affected. Apart from this there are also other threats to public and environmental health, including contamination of soil due to flooding and effects the carcasses of animals killed in flooding may have on environment in the affected communities, even though the affected areas are being disinfected.

The floods are estimated to have damaged at least 52 schools, including 20 primary schools, and still an unknown number of pre-school facilities. The impact of the floods has left families that were already vulnerable in a dire situation of extreme poverty and deprivation. The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy have estimated that 110,000 beneficiaries of the social welfare system have been directly affected and require immediate assistance.

In total 64 foster families and 98 foster children were impacted by the floods, the majority of which were evacuated. Out of these the majority were placed and under 1/3 in residential care accommodation.

After 10 days of field work, the UNDAC team is finalizing the assessment of the damage induced by the floods in Serbia. The experts of the UNDAC had come to Serbia upon the invitation of the Serbian Government, which will receive the report. The UNDAC Team has debrief the UNCT on 30th May afternoon. This report along with other assessment being conducted by the Ministry of Interior and the EU Civil Protection team, set the stage for the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) being contemplated, pending official request from Government.

UN Agencies are in the process of identifying expertise that the UN could deploy to support the PDNA along with Expert from the EU and the World Bank.

2. **UNICEF’S Emergency Response**

UNICEF immediately coordinated with the referral Government Ministries, other authorities, the Red Cross of Serbia local NGOs, international organizations and other partners to provide essential humanitarian assistance to those most affected by the disaster. As part of the immediate response, the country office immediately reprogrammed USD 127,000 of Regular Resources and taken the following actions:

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1 Source: Situation Report No. 15, 28 May 2014, Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Interior
• Immediate provision of 5000 blankets and hygiene kits targeting 2,000 households, focusing on the most vulnerable families.
• Provision of 2 water pumps
• Together with the Government, City of Belgrade and NGO partners UNICEF mobilized and trained 160 volunteers, and established Child Friendly Spaces in collective centres, providing psychosocial support and recreational activities for over 500 and up to 700 children each day. The spaces continue to operate, and are now following the displaced families as some collective centres are being closed and families are relocated to other sites. As of today, there are 160 volunteers active in 13 locations.
• In cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Public Health of Serbia (IPH), UNICEF created sets of instructions for parents and for children (Returning Home Safely After Floods for Parents and Returning Home Safely After Floods for Children). 25,000 copies of the instructions for parents and 15,000 copies have been distributed through the IPH to 12 local Public Health Institutes in flood affected areas. The same quantity of each information material will be distributed by the Red Cross throughout Serbia, in particular to collective centres.
• Immediate assistance was provided to children placed in foster families who were displaced by the flooding. At the request of the MoLESP, a total of 85 children are benefitting from rapid assistance through the Belgrade Centre for Fostering, in order to ensure their well-being and protection
• UNICEF has provided input to the RC office for a joint CERF proposal to UNOCHA. In addition a concept note is being formulated for submission to the EU in collaboration with UNOPS (for Education) and WFP (for Cash Transfer).
• UNICEF Serbia has provided Advocacy and Fund raising material to the US Fund for UNICEF and other National Committee through the Regional Office in addition to local fund raising activities with support of UNICEF national celebrity in Serbia (Sasa Djordjevic, Ana Ivanovic, Novak Djokovic).

3. UNICEF Planned Action in Serbia

UNICEF will continue to closely coordinate with relevant government counterparts (at all levels of governance) as well as with the UNCT, international organizations, local and international NGOs and other partners to provide assistance and support early recovery of affected populations. Based on the initial assessments, the below listed interventions have been identified to protect children from the consequences of the floods. These interventions will be revised as more information on the impact of the floods becomes available.

UNICEF Serbia will also support the EU/UN/World Bank Recovery Needs Assessment (PDNA) in particular in the areas of Child Protection, Education and potentially Water Supply, sanitation and Hygiene promotion.

A. Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

Actions
• Provision of hygiene kits targeting 10,000 households, focusing on the most vulnerable families located in the 17 worst affected municipalities (Krupanj, Mali Zvornik, Koceljeva, Vladimirci, Obrenovac, Ljig, Ub, Lajkovac, Osečina, Mionica, Paraćin, Svilajnac, Smederevska Palanka, Trstenik, Kosjerić, Bajina Bašta and Šid) by the flooding.
• Child health, nutrition and hygiene information disseminated through promotion materials, SMS and awareness raising to protect children from hazards and risk of illness covering some 75,000 people.
• Support for mobile teams for water supply treatment to reach isolated households.
• Provision of WASH technical expertise on assessment team.

Partners:
The Ministry of Health and Red Cross. Actions will be closely coordinated with WHO, Medical Corps International, SDC, KFW, and Save the Children.
B. Education - To ensure a normal start of school year as of early September

Actions:
- Support a comprehensive needs assessment of a selected number of damaged primary and pre-schools, identifying which materials and equipment need to be replaced and on what scale and determine an essential list of needed items in the selected primary and pre-schools, based on the existing legal and regulatory framework for school equipment.
- Compile lists of flood-affected primary students in order to determine the type and quantity of school materials to be procured for individual students.
- Procure the needed school equipment and materials for selected schools and students in an efficient, transparent and timely manner.

Partners:
The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD), and Regional Education Departments. Actions will be closely coordinated with UNOPS (engaged in school reconstruction) and Save the Children.

C. CHILD PROTECTION: Safe and protective child-friendly environments with psychosocial support

Actions
- Continue operation of Child Friendly Spaces in relocation sites in and around Belgrade to ensure at least 300 children have access to psycho-social support and recreational activities through June and July.
- Advocacy for the safe and suitable temporary accommodation of vulnerable displaced families.
- Referral of children and parents to psycho-social support and counselling services, as needed.
- Provision of child protection technical expertise on assessment team.

Partners:
The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, Belgrade City authorities, the Red Cross, and NGO implementing partner – Centre for Interactive Pedagogy. Activities are closely coordinated with Save the Children.

D. SOCIAL PROTECTION of the most vulnerable flood affected families

Actions
- Support the deployment of mobile teams to identify and assess the needs of social welfare beneficiaries affected by floods.
- Establish transparent criteria and methodology for distribution of one-off cash transfers in response to the emergency.
- Provide technical assistance for strengthening the Centre for Social Work (CSW) accountability and monitoring system of cash assistance.
- Support CSW to provide psycho-social care and referral to community-based services.

Partners:
The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Policy, Centres for Social Work, the Republic Institute for Social Protection, and NGO partners. Actions will be coordinated with WFP and Save the Children.

3. ESTIMATED FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR UNICEF PLANNED ACTION FOR THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

UNICEF Serbia estimates that around 2.4 million USD will be required to meet the immediate and medium-term needs of children and women throughout the affected areas in Serbia.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>ESTIMATED BUDGET</th>
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<td>WASH</td>
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<td>Child Protection</td>
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<td>Social Protection</td>
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<td>Monitoring, documentation and</td>
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<td>Sub-Total</td>
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<td>Cost recovery (8%)</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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Further information on the UNICEF emergency programme in Serbia can be obtained from:

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