Protecting children in emergencies

In 2018, countries in West and Central Africa Region (WCAR) continued to face multiple quick-onset emergencies as well as the effects of protracted crises. While increased efforts in the Lake Chad basin resulted in the release of thousands of children associated with armed groups, the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Sahel and cross-border crises affecting Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali have exposed thousands more children to recruitment, sexual violence, family separation or forced displacement. Every day, despite complex and growing security challenges, child protection actors, in collaboration with UNICEF, have been working to protect the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children.

### Main Constraints
Constraining factors to scale up humanitarian response include under-funding, access to affected people due to insecurity, and difficult road conditions exacerbated by heavy rains affecting aid delivery.

### Situation
- **22 million** Total children in need of humanitarian assistance (HNO/HRP 2018)
- **14.9 million** Children in need of child protection (HNO/HRP 2018)
- **6 million** Children in need in the Lake Chad Basin Crisis (HRP 2018)
- **6 million** Children internally displaced or refugees across 10 countries in West and Central Africa, mainly due to armed conflicts and violence
- **15,565** Children to be reached who are unaccompanied or separated from their families
- **659** Families affected by confirmed and probable cases of Ebola in need of psychosocial support Equateur and North Kivu, DRC

### UNICEF and Partners’ Response
- **781,958** Children reached with comprehensive psychosocial support (99% of the annual target)
- **9,277** Children formerly associated with armed forces/groups released and provided with temporary assistance (60% of children to be reached)
- **4,558** Conflict affected children provided with a Birth Certificate (Far North, Cameroon) (56% of children to be reached)
- **9,745** Unaccompanied or separated children have been registered to receive family tracing and received follow-up support (62% of children to be reached)
- **211,418** People and children have received on the dangers of explosive remnants (Nigeria) (180% of People and children to be reached)
- **4,225** Identified survivors of sexual violence provided with a comprehensive response

### Child Protection Funding Situation 2018
- **Carry-over:** $8.2 m
- **Funding gap:** $48.6 m (65%)
- **Funds received:** $18.7 m
- **2018 fund requirement:** $76 m

*Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC)