

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA IN 2007



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Regional Office financial needs for 2007

Sector	US\$
Emergency preparedness and response	570,000
Nutrition	1,500,000
Child protection in emergencies	104,000
Angola	1,500,000
Comoros	470,000
Madagascar	1,200,000
Tanzania	5,000,000
Total*	10,344,000

* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The Eastern and Southern Africa region (ESAR) has had more emergencies over the past decade than any other region in the world. Wars and civil conflict, the breakdown of governance, droughts and floods, and various epidemics including the debilitating HIV and AIDS pandemic, have been significant hurdles towards the realization of women and children's rights. The region continues to face multifaceted humanitarian crises, and 2006 was no exception. The year began with a huge crisis in the Horn of Africa where drought affected 8 million people in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Later in the year the region was also hit by flooding, especially Ethiopia. By year's end, tension inside Somalia has led to the very limited access and humanitarian support to the 1.8 million people in central and southern Somalia.

Children living in unstable environments continue to be one of the special protection priorities in the region in 2006. Armed conflict negatively impacts the rights of children in many complex and interrelated ways. Children are directly involved in conflict, either as child soldiers in Uganda or when targeted as civilians. Abuse, exploitation and violence against women and children are regularly used as weapons of war in the region. This is well documented in Angola, Burundi and Uganda.

Other crisis that continued into 2006 included northern Uganda where more than 1.4 million remained displaced throughout the year, but with the signing of an agreement in August 2006 between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army, there is hope that this crisis is coming to an end. Zimbabwe continued to face huge humanitarian needs, with high inflation and many people affected by continuing food and non-food shortages, and displacement. Malawi began the year with very high rates of malnutrition. Both Madagascar and Mozambique developed strong preparedness measures and plans for the cyclone season. Luckily, this year there were no big cyclones, but this remains a concern for next year. Botswana faced a large diarrhoea outbreak linked to severe malnutrition; and Namibia had a large polio outbreak requiring a campaign to vaccination large numbers of people (children and adults). Angola had the largest cholera outbreak in its history, with more than 80,000 cases and large numbers affected. Tanzania continued to host large numbers of refugees, and began the year also affected by drought. Appeals and emergency plans of action were prepared for all of these countries. In particular, these crises negatively impact on the right of children to survival, development and protection. The situation in Uganda continued to affect children disproportionately. However, Burundi continued its process towards peace, and made gains in launching free access to health and education in the country.

To further complicate the violence and vulnerability faced by children in conflict, the continued high rates of HIV and AIDS in the region (the highest rates in the world) further threaten their existence. While the situation had improved quite significantly in the six southern African countries, in 2005, the HIV/AIDS pandemic – coupled with the additional renewed shock of drought in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe – continues to exacerbate the vulnerable families, communities and children.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006

Support to the Horn of Africa crisis

- A Regional monitoring and evaluation workshop on the Horn of Africa emergency was organized in June 2006 in Nairobi, with the participation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Officers from Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. The participants were trained on the coordination, collection, analysis, reporting and general management of data from the Horn of Africa drought and nutrition emergency. Included in this three-day workshop was an introduction to using the new version of DevInfo 5.0. It gave Country Office staff the opportunity to identify and address the challenges and gaps related to data collection and monitoring of the Horn of Africa emergency.
- Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officers, together with the Regional Emergency Support Unit, provided technical support to sectoral offices in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia to operationalize the data collection tool and the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP), including agreeing on the timing, scope and responsibilities for collecting the data needed to calculate Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies indicators, as well as other indicators agreed with partners.
- Based on the 44 surveys conducted in the five affected countries, the country-based nutritional surveys were reviewed and consolidated to provide an analysis of malnutrition trends. In addition, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Kenya were provided with surge capacity on nutrition.
- Together with Headquarters, the Regional Office provided surge capacity on human resources, water and environmental sanitation, emergency coordination and logistics to the drought-affected countries.

- The Regional Office contributed actively to the development and monitoring of the Regional Appeal for the Horn of Africa and sent out regular donor updates.
- With support from Headquarters, the Regional Office developed and launched a Child Alert for the Horn of Africa focusing on the pastoralist child.

Emergency preparedness and response

- All 20 Country Offices and the Regional Office now have either updated emergency preparedness and response plans (EPRPs) or plans of action to address humanitarian needs.
- Regional training was conducted on Sphere minimum standards in emergencies for UNICEF colleagues in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Somalia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, as well as for NGO partners.
- Technical support/surge capacity was provided to Eritrea, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia for the preparation/updating of their EPRPs. Additional support was given for the development of Avian Influenza/Human Influenza Pandemic (AI/HIP) contingencies.
- All Country Offices in the region received guidance and support on preparedness planning for AI/HIP and reporting back to Headquarters.
- Regional Emergency Officers facilitated an emergency preparedness session for all Programme and External Communication Officers in Country Offices on how to ensure a coordinated response to the threat of AI/HIP. Technical support was provided to the Regional Task Force on AI/HIP.

Support to the Great Lakes and child protection

- The Regional Office led the Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in dissemination of the Regional Strategic Framework on GBV and conducted dissemination workshops in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda with Government, UN and NGO partners.
- A training workshop on child protection in emergencies was organized for 30 agency partners in Merka, Somalia.
- Technical support and capacity-building for partners was provided to Burundi, Somalia and Uganda on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1612 on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Child Rights Violations.
- Technical support was provided for training on the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Standards in Ruhengeri, Rwanda. Support was also provided for the revision and finalization of UNICEF Somalia's DDR strategy.
- The Regional Office and other regional UN partners organized and facilitated training for the focal points of the UN Country Teams in Kenya and Somalia on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian crises. Training was also provided to UN and NGO partners on the IASC Guidelines for HIV/AIDS Interventions in Emergency Settings and on Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings.
- Support was provided to Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda Country Offices to help them develop project proposals to ensure the scaling-up of HIV and AIDS services for populations of humanitarian concern.
- Technical support was provided to the International Conference on the Great Lakes region (IC GLR) on gender-based violence and to ensure effective coordination and greater advocacy around their work with adolescents in emergency and transition.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2007

Coordination and partnerships

The UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) continues to cooperate with UN agencies and other partners in the protection of women and children in emergencies at both regional and country levels. In the action plan for 2007, inter-agency planning, capacity-building and cooperation along cluster leads will ensure timely, reliable, and effective responses to crises. ESARO continues to ensure UNICEF accountabilities in oversight and quality assurance for the Country Offices within Eastern and Southern Africa. ESARO supports UNICEF's humanitarian action at country, sub-regional and regional levels and works with regional actors in the planning and response to emergencies in the region.

Emergency preparedness and response (US\$ 570,000)

- Continue to undertake vulnerability analysis, emergency preparedness and contingency planning and integration into the management system of Country Offices in the region. Particular focus will be provided to supporting preparedness processes in Eritrea, Kenya, Lesotho, Tanzania and Uganda.
- Continue to roll out emergency simulation exercises with Country Offices to test their level of emergency preparedness, identify gaps and establish programmes to address their weaknesses.
- Strengthen EPR processes by supporting capacity-building of UN Country Team members and other partners by developing and continuing inter-agency emergency preparedness training.

- Support and participate in the OCHA-led Great Lakes, Eastern and Horn of Africa contingency planning exercises and, on request, co-facilitate IASC Country Team Consolidated Appeal Process workshops.
- Strengthen the early warning monitoring of UNICEF key sectors by supporting Country Offices to roll out global emergency monitoring indicators; follow up on the success of the regional monitoring and evaluations in emergencies training by supporting real-time evaluations and replicating training both at regional and country levels.
- Strengthen support for the roll-out of the cluster approach, especially on nutrition, water and sanitation and data communications.
- Coordinate and facilitate support to the management of emergency preparedness and response issues in the context of multi-country operations, especially in the Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa.
- Strengthen existing ESARO's rapid response team, consisting of regional advisers, Country Office staff and specialized consultants; continue to provide orientation and training for the rapid response team; support the provision of surge capacity through the development of regional rosters linked up to the global roster system.
- Continue to roll out UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies (CCCs) monitoring indicators, including their integration into the DevInfo database.
- Strengthen support for water and sanitation cluster leadership, through training and orientation of key water and sanitation and programme staff in Country Offices.
- Strengthen support for data communications cluster leadership, through training and orientation of key IT staff in Country Offices.
- Strengthen surveillance systems and evaluate trigger points; strengthen rapid appraisal through the evaluation of new tools; assess the use of the emergency-integrated monitoring and evaluation and CCC information tools and database.
- Support the strengthening of emergency logistics in all countries facing humanitarian crises and link up with WFP as logistics cluster lead.

Nutrition (US\$ 1,500,000)

- Update technical guidelines for nutritional surveys in the Horn region (define methods, minimum indicators, quality control checks and reporting standards).
- Provide technical support to country-level technical working groups and facilitate a collaborative update of the SMART generic guidelines based on field experience in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Somalia and Tanzania.
- Support consultancy to update the generic SMART guidelines to include a section on interpretation of the quality control component of Nutrisurvey; update Nutrisurvey to incorporate lessons learnt from the countrywide field tests in Ethiopia and Somalia.
- Use stakeholders' workshop to develop a plan of action for an intensive programme of training and capacity-building for nutrition surveys.
- Provide training and technical support to the development of a central validation mechanism. In several countries this will involve training the key members of the nutrition coordination group to check the quality of surveys so that they abide by the agreed mechanisms in the national guidelines.
- Countries without central capacity to periodically consolidate, analyse and report on nutrition surveys will initiate and provide start-up support for the development of these mechanisms within the appropriate government body or government coordination mechanism.
- Provide technical support to the countries as they set up these mechanisms, thereby ensuring compatibility of national reports and facilitating the compilation of country reports into a regional overview. The regional overview will provide a periodic overview of available nutrition information, including small-scale nutrition survey results and nutrition centre programme data (admissions, mortality rates etc.). Nutrition surveillance information will also be included in those countries where it is already available and will be integrated as the recommendations of the Nutrition Information Project – Horn of Africa (NIPHORN) on development of nutrition information systems. The regional consolidation, analysis and reporting of nutrition data will also be fed into the Integrated Phased Classification Mechanism and into the Humanitarian Tracking Information System.

Child protection in emergencies (US\$ 104,000)

- Assist Eritrea to organize and facilitate training/capacity-building on child protection in emergencies, using the newly developed inter-agency materials, including the draft tool on child protection in rapid assessment.
- Disseminate the Regional Strategic Framework on Gender-Based Violence, in Burundi, Eritrea, Rwanda and Zimbabwe, to enhance government and inter-agency coordination and partnership on this initiative in post-conflict transition and humanitarian crises.

- Provide technical support to Burundi to ensure effective documentation of their experience in child soldiers' disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in order to develop a lessons learned and good practices document.
- Provide technical support to Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia and Rwanda to support initiatives promoting the participation of adolescents in emergency and post-conflict transition.
- Strengthen expertise of UNICEF and local NGO partners to offer psychosocial support in emergency and humanitarian crises, particularly regarding the reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups and of formerly displaced children in Uganda and Somalia.

ANGOLA

UNICEF has provided support to sudden emergencies resulting from flooding and disease outbreak and actions to prevent and care for malnutrition. As a result, UNICEF continues to maintain an emergency preparedness stock to ensure rapid response within 48 hours. In coordination with the government, UNICEF's cholera preventative actions included broadcasting awareness-raising materials on the mass media, reaching over 4.7 million listeners and viewers; treating over 120,000 people with oral rehydration salts and other essential medical supplies; reaching 7 million children and women through child health days, including measles and polio vaccination, de-worming, vitamin A supplementation and distribution of insecticide treated nets; providing complementary support to therapeutic milk in 24 therapeutic feeding centres reaching more than 12,000 severely and moderately malnourished children, while supporting supervision and training of personnel in the centres.

Planned activities for 2007 (US\$ 1,500,000)

Health and nutrition (US\$ 400,000)

- Provide basic drugs and therapeutic and supplementary food for the treatment of 15,000 severely malnourished and 60,000 moderately malnourished children;
- Provide supplies (Ringer's lactate, oral rehydration salts etc.) for treatment and care of people affected by water-borne diseases (mainly cholera);
- Provide supplies (protective equipment, immunization) for rapid response to disease outbreaks;
- Provide training to health workers and undertake social mobilization to promote care-seeking behaviour.

Water and environmental sanitation (US\$ 750,000)

- Provide supplies (buckets, soap, purification tablets and chlorine etc) for prevention of water-borne diseases;
- Undertake social mobilization through community-level mobilizers and distribute messages through printed materials and mass media on water-borne diseases;
- Install fixed or temporary water and sanitation facilities in locations affected by floods, drought, water-borne diseases; provide treatment to affected populations.

Child protection (US\$ 350,000)

- Provide mine-risk education (MRE) to all target areas and populations (outlined by the provincial landmine impact surveys) in at least five provinces in 2006 – approximately 4 million people;
- Disseminate MRE information through schools; train teachers to act as community MRE activists.

COMOROS

Planned activities for 2007 (US\$ 470,000)

Volcano eruption (US\$ 300,000)

In 2005, two volcanic eruptions occurred within a seven-month period (April and November) resulting in water cisterns' pollution and crop damages. In June 2006, another internal eruption occurred. Though no ash was spewed it is reported that the heat caused heavy rains with floods in the southern areas of Grand Comore Island. The volcano observatory reports show that the seismic activities are still on and that Karthala Volcano could erupt anytime. Within such context, the Country Office should be prepared to continue interventions in the following areas:

- Cover water cisterns to prevent water contamination as occurred in the last eruptions;
- Provide safe drinking water in case of contamination after the eruption;
- Contribute to humanitarian assistance to displaced population.

Floods, mud slides and cyclone-related heavy rains (US\$ 20,000)

The volcanic ash spread over the main island has reduced the permeability of the soil hence increasing risks of floods that are expected to occur most likely towards the end of 2006 beginning 2007 and June/July 2007 which corresponds to rainy seasons. The Country Office should be prepared to provide assistance to children and women in the most likely events of damaged housings, schools, health centres, roads, etc.

Outbreak of Avian Influenza and Chikungunya (US\$ 50,000)

Since the virus has reached Africa, increased security measures are required. Further funding is needed for communication (see Avian Influenza preparedness plan earlier submitted). Within the context of the likely outbreak of Chikungunya, the response is to strengthen the use of mosquito nets and provide essential drugs.

MADAGASCAR

The cyclonic season starts in mid-November and lasts until mid-April. Due to a slight El Niño effect, National Meteorology Institute forecasts between four and six cyclones (with a probability rate of 40 per cent) and good to heavy rains between January and March. The regional rain deficiency of 2006 is also affecting some parts of Madagascar and, presently, in the southern region of Anosy the population of 22 municipalities has been declared food insecure by the national surveillance system. Some 28,400 inhabitants are concerned and a targeted food distribution will be done by WFP until next harvest (December). In addition, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health and the National Nutrition Office for the detection, targeting and supplementation of children at risk. Should next harvest be poor, the situation could further deteriorate in acute nutritional crisis.

Planned activities for 2007 (US\$ 1,200,000)

- Continue to monitor and strengthen national capacities to cope with food insecurity in the southern region of Anosy and, if needed, support an anthropometric survey (SMART);
- Support the National Relief Council (CNS); support the CNS web site maintenance and update;
- Support warehouses rehabilitation and effective regional stockpiles for emergencies;
- Respond to climatic emergencies: cyclone, flooding, drought and potential nutritional crises; maintain and manage buffer stock in concordance with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies and new risks (Avian Influenza/Human Influenza Pandemic, arboviroses);
- Strengthen emergency preparedness and response plan as well as the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan process and update;
- Develop cluster lead;
- Maintain Country Office Emergency Officer.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Several emergencies affected Tanzania during 2006, including droughts, floods, measles and cholera outbreaks, in addition to the threat of Avian and Human Influenza. Tanzania continues to host the largest refugee population in Africa, with 300,000 refugees from Burundi and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) residing in the camps in North-Western Tanzania (in addition to 200,000 Burundians outside of the camps). While Burundian refugee repatriation reached 'promotion' stage, the movement is still very slow, with only 400,000 expected to be repatriated by the end of the year. Uncertainty over presidential election outcomes in DRC is also slowing down Congolese repatriation.

In 2006, in collaboration with UNHCR, WFP and NGO implementing partners, UNICEF continued to support children and women in refugee camps in the areas of health/nutrition, education, child protection and HIV (prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), youth life skills, and paediatric AIDS). Most indicators surpass national average (i.e., infant and under-five mortality rates are half of Tanzanian average, gross school enrolment ratio is 95 per cent, access to PMTCT services is close to 100 per cent). The drought that affected East Africa in late 2005 and early 2006 rendered 3.7 million Tanzanians, of which roughly 1.8 million children, food insecure. FAO and WFP led the UN response to support the Government in the area of food security, and UNICEF coordinated a rapid nutrition assessment with focus on women and under-five children in the most vulnerable regions. While the Country Office was preparing for potentially needed interventions, it appeared that people had successfully responded with coping mechanisms and that no significant increase in malnutrition rate was reported. Additional response was therefore not required.

Severe food shortages in neighbouring Burundi resulted in the influx of over 10,000 asylum seekers in North-Western Tanzania, which was already hosting over 300,000 refugees. The new arrivals were crammed into temporary way stations designed for several hundred people and posed potential health hazards. Together with UNHCR, WFP and NGO implementing partners, UNICEF immunized all children, coordinated the organization of temporary classrooms, provided school and other essential supplies. The crisis ended with the repatriation of the new arrivals after cross-border discussions involving UN and the governments. An urgent vaccination campaign was organized in August in Dar-es-Salaam to address a measles outbreak. UNICEF supported the vaccination of 800,000 children over one week-end just before the Ramadan. Vaccination continued as low-profile intensive vaccination. UNICEF Tanzania also responded to a number of other localized calamities, such as the flood in Moshi that affected 15,000 people and the cholera outbreak that hit several hundreds of people in Dar-es-Salaam. UNICEF intervened providing essential supplies and technical support.

Planned activities for 2007 (US\$ 5,000,000)

- Continue to support refugee children and women as well as refugee-hosting communities in health/nutrition, education, child protection and HIV, PMTCT, youth life skills, and paediatric AIDS into 2007 and beyond.
- Increase support to repatriation operations in close coordination with UNHCR and WFP as well as UNICEF Country Offices in Burundi and DRC, especially in the areas of child protection. Managing transition from emergency to post-emergency in refugee-hosting communities will also be a priority in 2007. (US\$ 3, 000,000)
- Continue to work with Government, UN Country Team and Development Partner Group to strengthen preparations and possible response to Avian Influenza, with UNICEF lead in communication. (US\$ 1,500,000)
- Respond to other emergencies as they arise. (US\$ 500,000)