The Central African Republic is struggling to provide for its people, while overcoming internal political conflict ongoing since 2003 and accepting the thousands of refugees from surrounding countries who have sought shelter in the country in recent years. Only 30 per cent of Central Africans have access to clean water and even fewer to sanitation — and there are alarming trends in undernutrition and disease. Children can be subjected to sexual violence and forced to join armed groups. Assistance, such as essential immunizations and AIDS education, is often provisional, given the destabilized environment in which most of the country’s women and children are living.

The year 2010 brought a host of serious hardships and challenges to the people of the Central African Republic. Ongoing political conflict, refugee influx, food insecurity, disease epidemics and debilitated national service capacities have taken a toll on an already vulnerable population. Rebel attacks and occupations continue to force significant population migrations. Recent estimates cite 192,000 internally displaced persons who require continuous life-saving support, as well as 5,000 refugees from the Sudan and Chad and 15,700 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Persistent tensions and population displacements, along with rising prices and divestment of the mining industry, continue to depress household income as well as the health and well-being of Central Africans. This is evidenced by a declared emergency of undernutrition for 587 children in the country’s south-west region, and a host of related health and security issues concentrated in the northern and southern regions. These include high rates of undernutrition and disease, and restricted access to quality education for up to 50 per cent of the children in the regions.

UNICEF is requesting US$11,763,000 to carry out its planned activities in the Central African Republic in 2011. UNICEF has aligned its request with the 2011 Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) requirements. The country’s women and children, who struggle to cope under the diminished capacities of their weakened social infrastructure as well as the effects of crises in neighbouring countries, require the urgent assistance this funding can provide. With presidential elections scheduled to take place in January 2011 and the repositioning of military groups in conflict areas, as well as aftermath of the referendum in Southern Sudan, additional armed conflicts and population displacements are anticipated in coming months. In response, UNICEF intends to provide humanitarian assistance to reduce the vulnerabilities of 600,000 conflict-affected people, including 294,000 children, in accordance with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.

As cluster lead for nutrition, WASH and education, UNICEF will promote standards and policymaking and provide field support, education and training aimed at improving health; decreasing undernutrition; providing safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene; and ensuring children’s right to education in child-friendly, protective environments. UNICEF will also continue to actively participate in the health, protection, logistics and food security clusters. In light of the precarious balance held in multiple regions of the Central African Republic, UNICEF will help build emergency preparedness and response capacities, including assisting with conflict and natural disaster preparedness.

**CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN**

The economic and political toll that weighs on the Central African Republic robs women and children of much-needed clean water, proper sanitation facilities, food, medical and educational services and protective environments. Limited resources necessitate that maternal care, essential childhood immunizations, nutritional supplementation and HIV and AIDS education programmes be provided on a provisional basis.

The public health ministry declared a dire child undernutrition emergency last year in the south-west region. Economic austerity cuts in the mining sector and increasing market prices contributed to losses in household income. The additional challenge of getting food on the table led to global acute malnutrition in 12 per cent of children under age 5 and to severe acute malnutrition in 2.3 per cent.
Limited access to clean water and adequate sanitation has led to increased rates of infectious disease that render children less likely to attend school. Battling poverty and hopelessness, some children are forced to join armed forces and others are recruited by armed rebel groups.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2010**

In 2010, UNICEF estimated that US$15,187,221 was needed to fund its humanitarian work in the Central African Republic. As of October 2010, a total of US$5,652,257 – or 37 per cent of the 2010 request – had been received. To combat the spread of infectious disease, two rounds of national polio immunizations were administered to 800 children, and phase one of a national yellow-fever immunization campaign was completed for 672,834 children. In addition, UNICEF distributed about 1 million long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets to reduce malaria-related mortality.

In response to the undernutrition crisis in the southwestern part of the country, 225 health workers were trained to screen for and manage acute malnutrition. On average, 1,550 children were treated monthly for severe acute malnutrition in UNICEF-supported programmes throughout the country.

Access to safe drinking water was improved for 139,000 people (including 69,107 women, 66,028 children, 8,959 hospitalized persons and 5,000 schoolchildren) after the construction and rehabilitation of 140 water points. The water and sanitation needs of approximately 25,000 refugees and 7,500 internally displaced persons were met (100 per cent of the target population).

Fifty-one girls and 210 boys recently separated from armed groups received reintegration support, via two newly established interim care centres. In addition, psychosocial services, life-skills education and opportunities to participate in small income-generating activities were provided to 3,344 vulnerable children — 1,537 boys and 1,807 girls.

UNICEF coordinated with the ministry of education and national and international NGOs during 2010 to bring 172,037 schoolchildren back to primary school in conflict-affected regions, compared with 145,152 schoolchildren in 2009. Eighteen new primary school classrooms were rehabilitated or constructed, five preschools were rehabilitated and one was built to serve 2,000 children. Additionally, temporary learning spaces and school supplies were provided to displaced children.

UNICEF also supported HIV prevention activities in emergency and conflict zones, including the training of 240 government and community health workers to provide information and services. UNICEF also supported HIV and AIDS education and prevention programmes for youth and women of reproductive age, reaching 1,254 youth and 1,976 pregnant women.
HUMANITARIAN ACTION: BUILDING RESILIENCE

In the emergency zones of the Central African Republic, rebel-group activities and repeated incidences of violence and banditry oppress civilians and prevent children from exercising their right to education. Thousands of pupils have had to interrupt their studies.

In Obo in south-eastern Central African Republic, the desire for education has withstood cross-border incursions by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). Since early 2009, some 1,700 internally displaced and refugee children fleeing LRA attacks have enrolled in seven schools supported by UNICEF and Cooperazione Internazionale, or COOPI, a partner NGO, as part of their emergency education programme.

Eleven-year-old Jonas Akoumbo fled his home village of Goubere with his parents and five siblings after an LRA attack a year ago. “I used to go to school and was sad when I had to leave. But now I’m back in school and very happy about it,” he said.

Traumatized and vulnerable, most of these children are eager to return to the safety and stability of the classroom and to regain a sense of normalcy. The social and emotional support provided helps many to find hope again.

Jonas is ready to move on. “I want to finish my studies and one day go back to my village to teach other children about the importance of continuing school, even after being attacked by the LRA.”

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2011

UNICEF is leading the education and WASH clusters and co-leading the nutrition and shelter and non-food item clusters in the Central African Republic. The organization also actively participates in the health, protection, logistics and food security clusters. In 2011, UNICEF will continue to work with the Government of the Central African Republic, other UN agencies, local and international NGOs and host communities to address the needs of hundreds of thousands of children and adults.

In 2011, UNICEF will work to address severe acute malnutrition, the spread of disease and the lack of access to education in the Central African Republic, as well as to protect children from recruitment into armed forces. Regular immunization programmes will be strengthened to deliver interventions, including emergency measles vaccinations (when required) and vitamin A supplementation to children under age 5. Ten youth-friendly service centres aimed at stopping the spread of HIV and AIDS will be rehabilitated, and medical staff will be trained to disseminate care information to women of reproductive age and their partners. The UNICEF-led nutrition cluster will train health workers to manage severe acute malnutrition and provide nutritional supplies to 55 centres. Providing access to safe water and sanitation facilities for 190,000 internally displaced people will slow the spread of disease. UNICEF will also expand its focus on providing safe and sanitary facilities for education, and continue to protect children from recruitment into armed forces.

NUTRITION (US$2,644,000)

The UNICEF-led nutrition cluster will develop a national nutrition information system and will train 300 health workers in the management of severe acute malnutrition. Provision of essential supplies to treatment centres will also be ensured.

• An estimated 888,000 people (including 650,450 children) will benefit from the development of a national nutrition surveillance system that will collect up-to-date and reliable nutritional survey data (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions, or SMART, surveys) to direct and evaluate humanitarian and emergency response.

• Nutritional supplies will be provided to 55 treatment centres that serve 887,305 people, including 650,450 children.

• Seventeen new therapeutic feeding outpatient treatment centres will serve 193,221 people, including 117,419 children. Nutritional supplies will be provided to 38 existing centres that currently serve 694,084 people, including 533,031 children.

• Coordination mechanisms and partnerships will be strengthened to ensure capacity for emergency preparedness and response.

• 300 health staff will be trained in screening and management of acute malnutrition.

• Nutrition conditions in high-risk and hard-to-reach areas will be monitored.
HEALTH (US$4,000,000)

In 2011, UNICEF will reach out to 900,000 people with proactive approaches to disease control. It will strengthen routine vaccination programmes and deliver high-quality interventions, including emergency measles vaccinations when required, vitamin A supplementation to children under age 5 and assistance to pregnant and lactating women in the most severely affected areas.

- To protect from disease, supplies will be provided to strengthen regular immunization programmes. Drugs needed for routine interventions will also be supplied.
- A new pneumonia vaccine with cold-chain storage capacity will be introduced and provided to 250,000 children.
- An emergency measles vaccine will be provided and aggressive campaigns will be organized to fight polio and yellow-fever epidemics.
- To combat vitamin A deficiency, 715,495 supplements will be given to 650,450 children under age 5.
- Community volunteers in 130 villages will be trained to treat malaria and pneumonia and to give instruction for the home-based treatment of diarrhoea.
- To reduce malaria-related mortality, 2,000,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets will be distributed.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) (US$744,000)

As WASH cluster lead, UNICEF will provide access to safe water and basic sanitation facilities for 25,000 internally displaced persons and 7,500 refugees. UNICEF will also improve cluster coordination in emergency preparedness and links to early recovery.

- The WASH and shelter needs of 7,500 internally displaced persons and 25,000 refugees will be met.
- 50 new and 300 existing water points for 139,000 vulnerable persons (69,107 women, 66,028 children, 8,959 hospitalized persons and 5,000 schoolchildren) will be constructed or rehabilitated.
- Sanitation facilities and hand-washing points in 50 schools and health facilities will be constructed.
- Hygiene training for 150,000 vulnerable persons and water-point maintenance training for 1,000 persons across the emergency zones will be supported.

CHILD PROTECTION (US$2,450,000)

In 2011, UNICEF will continue to prevent new child recruitment into armed factions and will develop community-based protection networks and train armed groups, including self-defense militias, to sensitize them to the issue.

- To address violence, particularly sexual violence, UNICEF will develop six child-friendly spaces with psychosocial support, emphasizing prevention and positive behavioural change.
- UNICEF will continue to monitor and report child rights violations.
- UNICEF will help reintegrate 400 children formerly used by armed groups with their families and communities through a back-to-school campaign, life-skills trainings and income-generating activities.

EDUCATION (US$307,000)

UNICEF will extend its focus on creating safe learning environments in all conflict and crisis-affected areas of the Central African Republic. Through educational training in HIV and AIDS, gender-based violence and promotion of peace, 2,500 primary schoolteachers will be able to respond more effectively to the special needs of children affected by conflict.

- Access to quality education in a secure and protective environment will be ensured for more than 20,000 children, including 6,500 children in conflict-affected areas.
- 40 classrooms in the Nana-Grébizi, Haut-Mbomou, Haute-Kotto and Ombella-Mpoko Regions will be rehabilitated and provided with basic sanitation facilities, essential school materials and recreational kits.
- To ensure quality and sustainability of facilities and educational systems, 2,000 parent-teacher association members will be trained in school management.
- 45 temporary learning and rehabilitation spaces will provide education in the most remote and crisis-affected regions.
- UNICEF will strengthen the coordination mechanisms and capacities of the education cluster partners in emergency education preparedness and response.
- In crisis-affected areas, advocating for children’s right to education for the most vulnerable children, especially girls, will be a priority.

HIV AND AIDS (US$800,000)

In 2011, UNICEF will focus on improving coordination mechanisms with government institutions and NGOs to reduce the risk of exposure to HIV infection among youth in conflict-affected areas.

- To reduce the risk of HIV infection among youth, UNICEF will rehabilitate 10 youth-friendly service centres around the country that will provide approximately 7,000 youth of reproductive age as well as 10,000 women of reproductive age with information about HIV and AIDS and mother-to-child transmission.
**WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

- 10 youth-friendly service centres in emergency zones will be rehabilitated and equipped to provide HIV and AIDS services to benefit 100,000 children (30 children per day, per centre, on average).
- HIV testing services to 3,000 boys and 4,000 girls both in and out of school will be provided.
- 180 youth peer educators and 80 teachers will be trained to reinforce HIV prevention among youth.
- Information about sexual and reproductive health and rights will be made available at the rehabilitated centres to at least 12,000 adolescents.
- Quality mechanisms, such as community-based oversight committees, will be put in place to improve health referral systems. UNICEF, through its support of the National Committee for the Fight against AIDS, will help the ministry of youth and the ministry of health and social affairs to deliver and monitor HIV and AIDS activities in emergency zones.

**CLUSTER COORDINATION (US$818,000)**

To enable an effective and efficient coordinated response to improve the prospects of people affected by emergencies, all cluster coordination costs need to be adequately funded. These costs include a team for coordination and information management, along with administrative and operational support, to undertake a number of key actions and outputs. These include coordinating the collective response to maximize synergy and minimize duplication of efforts; identifying priority needs of affected communities based on experience and the results of rapid impact assessments; and developing a common strategic operational framework and response strategy that meets priority needs. In addition, UNICEF as cluster lead expects to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism that tracks progress and identifies gaps in the type of services being provided and in their geographical scope, and also articulates impact and outcomes through periodic progress reports. Information will be disseminated in a timely way and used in decision-making and planning.

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1. General Directorate of Hydraulics, Communiqué Final, Table Ronde Sectorielle Eau et Assainissement en RCA' [Round table on water and sanitation in CAR], Bangui, Central African Republic, 8 October 2009, p. 3.
2. UNOCHA CAR, 31 January 2011.
7. Total number of beneficiaries may not equal the sum of beneficiaries per sector due to overlap in services provided to individuals.

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### UNICEF EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By sector</th>
<th>US$</th>
<th>Total per sector (all beneficiaries)</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<td>Cluster coordination</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1,030,344</strong></td>
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