

2012 UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Latin America and the Caribbean

COLOMBIA • HAITI





Latin America and the Caribbean

CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN CRISIS

From hurricanes, flash flooding and landslides to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, environmental disasters regularly hit the Latin American and Caribbean region. In the past 10 years, about 64 million people have been affected and tens of thousands of people struggle to survive the aftermath of these crises: the indigenous populations living in remote areas; the urban poor settled on slopes prone to landslides; and the growing poverty-stricken population along river basins. In a region facing the highest economic disparities in the world, these crises lead to disease outbreaks, chronic undernutrition, population displacement, child abuse and trafficking.

In 2011, people were affected by heavy rainfall and large-scale flooding in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Severe droughts reduced access to water and increasing food prices pushed countries such as Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras and Paraguay closer to nutritional crises. Flooding affected about 150,000 people across seven countries in South America. The region experienced cholera outbreaks in Haiti and the Dominican Republic and dengue in Bolivia and Paraguay. In Andean countries, such as Bolivia and Peru, cold temperatures, combined with poor living conditions and lack of health services, continue to cause fatal respiratory diseases in children annually.

Socio-political conflicts add to the challenge of recovery from disaster. In Colombia, abuse and the displacement of thousands of people occur annually, especially among indigenous populations. Increasing violence in Central America and the sub-Caribbean region is leaving children, adolescents and women especially vulnerable to sexual abuse, trafficking and gang recruitment.

MEETING URGENT NEEDS IN 2012

In 2012, UNICEF's regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean, together with government agencies and other international NGOs, will strengthen its ability to enhance disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response in a region marked by natural disasters, with a focus on improving the lives of children most vulnerable to disease, undernutrition and exploitation during these crises.

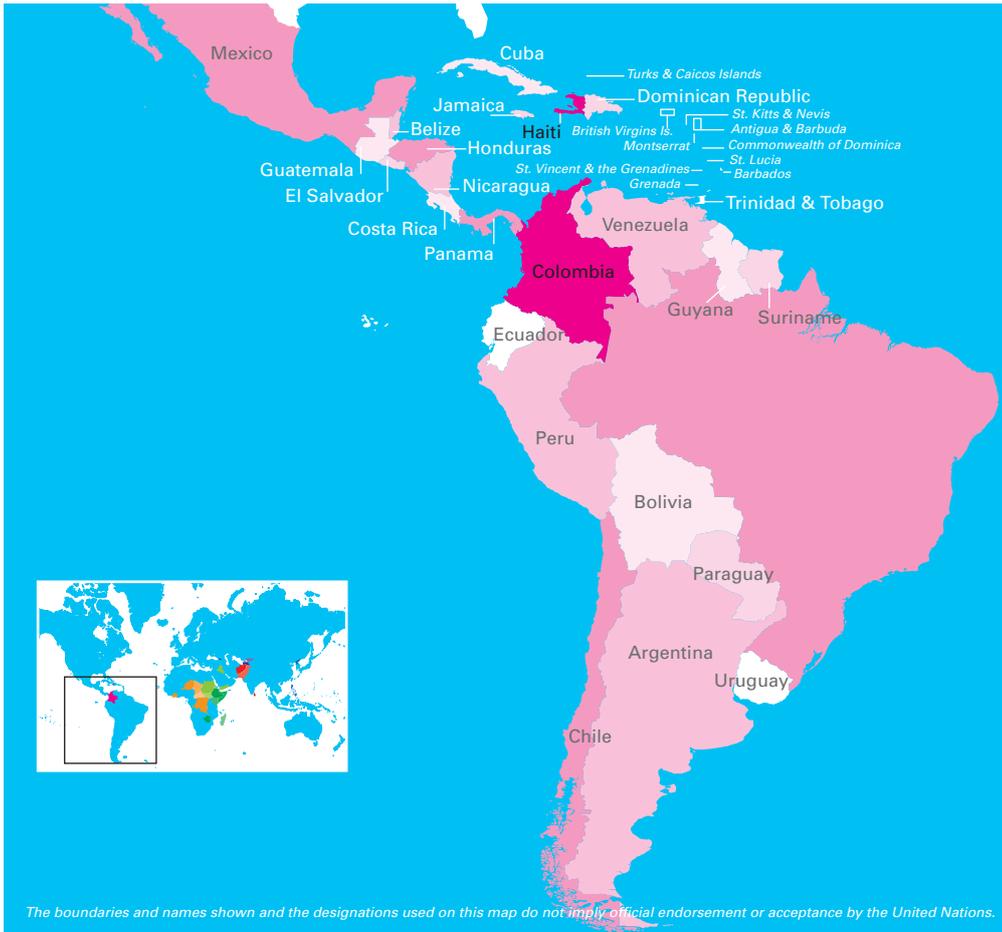
- The regional team will strengthen its ability to provide aid during natural disasters and other humanitarian situations, with improved UNICEF technical and direct operational support for country offices in the region.
- Disaster risk reduction will be strengthened, focusing on education on disaster risk; resilience of school, water and sanitation infrastructure to survive hazards; and readiness of community networks to protect children in emergencies.
- Access to safe water and sanitation services will be increased during emergencies and health supplies will be provided in order to reduce the outbreak of disease.
- Advocacy will take place regionally with governments and will support building capacities to improve assistance to children in crises.
- The regional team will provide technical support to UNICEF country offices in the region and quality insurance to ensure improved preparedness in areas such as supply, provision and readiness of coordination mechanisms in education, WASH, protection and nutrition.
- UNICEF will work on preventing exploitation and also delivering educational services to children during emergencies.
- The regional team will work to combat child undernutrition and provide immediate emergency response and preventive action, especially in Central American countries hit by floods and droughts.

Guatemala

Guatemala is annually affected by large-scale floods or extreme droughts. In 2012, UNICEF will continue to provide emergency assistance to populations affected by the 2011 floods and the Santa Rosa earthquake, as well as recovery assistance to communities affected by the 2010 Pacaya volcanic eruption and Tropical Storm Agatha. UNICEF will improve access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene for 35,000 children, and provide access to education for 26,500 children, a protective environment for 19,000 children and 2,800 adolescents in 200 shelters, and HIV and AIDS prevention for 12,500 people. UNICEF will provide health and nutrition services for 6,200 women and 25,000 children in order to prevent child undernutrition as erratic rains, high temperatures and rising food prices increase food insecurity. UNICEF will continue to support government institutions to enhance disaster risk reduction, especially for children.

Natural hazards have affected 64 million people in the region over the last ten years. Tens of thousands of people – indigenous populations living in remote areas; urban poor settled on slopes prone to landslides; and the growing poverty-stricken population along river basins – struggle to survive the aftermath of these crises.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



HUMANITARIAN FUNDING AT WORK: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2011

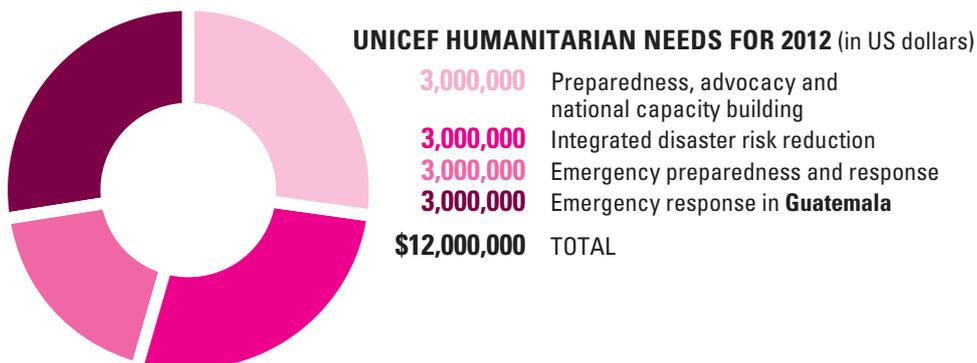
UNICEF had received US\$966,987 (7 per cent) of the requested US\$13,000,000 by end October 2011. The regional office worked with partners to mobilize supplies and technical assistance, providing critical support during severe flooding in seven countries. In Haiti, UNICEF improved access to safe drinking water for more than 325,000 people at high risk of cholera, constructed 160 semi-permanent schools for some 85,000 students, and supported the registration of 10,000 children separated from family. In Guatemala, UNICEF delivered micronutrient supplementation to 22,000 children and provided emergency treatment to 650 undernourished children, as well as provided assistance to the earthquake-affected population.

The regional office worked with local government and partner groups in disaster risk reduction efforts. In Brazil, UNICEF supported the adoption of a national protocol for children in emergencies. A regional conference produced the Panama Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction for the Education Sector, which was signed by 18 education ministries. Efforts to build national capacities in emergency response and disaster risk reduction resulted in training Bolivia's 99 most disaster-prone municipalities and the development in Guatemala of an Emergency Master Kit for the media to communicate about disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response, with a focus on children.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012

UNICEF is requesting US\$12,000,000 for its humanitarian work in the Latin America and Caribbean region to improve preparedness, response and disaster risk reduction efforts to the severe weather, natural hazards and complex emergencies that characterize this part of the world.

More information on humanitarian action planned for 2012 can be found at www.unicef.org/hac2012 and the regional office website at www.unicef.org/lac (Spanish) and www.unicef.org/lac/english.html (English).





Colombia

CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN CRISIS

The armed conflict in Colombia, which has now lasted for nearly 50 years, continues to fuel a protracted humanitarian crisis and represents a considerable challenge to governance, the respect of human rights and sustainable economic development in the country. Overall, the security of the population and the humanitarian situation continue to be profoundly affected.

Children in Colombia live in a most vulnerable environment and are continually victimized by recruitment by armed groups, indiscriminate attacks, sexual violence, displacement, confinement and threats from anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance. The occupation and attacks on schools have continued. In this context, girls remain among the most vulnerable segments of the population. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has indicated that the commission by the armed groups of grave forms of sexual violence against recruited girls is of particular concern.¹

Many communities are still recovering from the consequences of the rainy season of 2010, which include the loss of homes, displacement and disruption of schooling. No less than 4 million people were affected by the rains during 2010–2011.²

MEETING URGENT NEEDS IN 2012

UNICEF leads WASH and education clusters. Together with the Government of Colombia, other UN agencies, the Catholic Church and NGOs, UNICEF will aim to address the needs of 190,000 people, including 8,000 women, 83,000 boys and 88,000 girls. UNICEF expects to achieve the following key results:

- UNICEF will provide an estimated 50,000 children and 4,000 pregnant or breastfeeding women in communities affected by the armed conflict or natural hazards with access to nutrition services and emergency health supplies, including oral rehydration salts, micronutrient supplements, ready-to-use therapeutic foods and insecticide-treated mosquito nets. UNICEF will strengthen the capacity of 110 mobile units of the National Institute of Family Welfare, as well as local partners and authorities of 10 prioritized departments for the comprehensive care of children and pregnant or breastfeeding women affected by natural hazards and armed conflict.
- Approximately 15,000 children and women in rural communities affected by natural hazards will have access to safe and sufficient water and sanitation services through the installation or repair of community systems and education on best hygiene practices.
- Some 20,000 children from schools affected by the armed conflict will be able to exercise the right to education. The schools will display signs as places protected by international humanitarian law, and UNICEF will support the development of comprehensive programmes to prevent recruitment of children and accidents by landmines and unexploded ordnance.
- An estimated 40,000 children will be educated on landmine risk, and 80,000 children will participate in programmes on prevention of recruitment by armed groups. Some 250 children rescued from armed groups will be protected by an integral attention programme of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute that guarantees return to their families. The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave Child Rights Violations (UN Security Council Resolution 1612) has improved its information system and monitoring of cases. Some 5,000 children will receive psychosocial support from the mobile units of the National Institute of Family Welfare, trained by UNICEF.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012

UNICEF is requesting US\$6,200,000 to continue its humanitarian work in Colombia. Full funding is essential to ensure direct assistance to thousands of children who are affected by the armed conflict and recurrent natural hazards.

More information on humanitarian action planned for 2012 can be found at www.unicef.org/hac2012 and the country office website at www.unicef.org/colombia.

1. United Nations, Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General, – A/65/820–S/2011/250, United Nations, New York, 23 April 2011, p. 37.
2. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Humanitarian Situation No. 40', OCHA, Geneva and New York, p. 1.
3. Using an approach based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the methodology of the Return to Happiness strategy aims to reduce, through a game, the aftermath of the emotional damage that can occur in children affected by emergencies, as well as build their capacity resistance and recovery, and help them to return to a normal life.

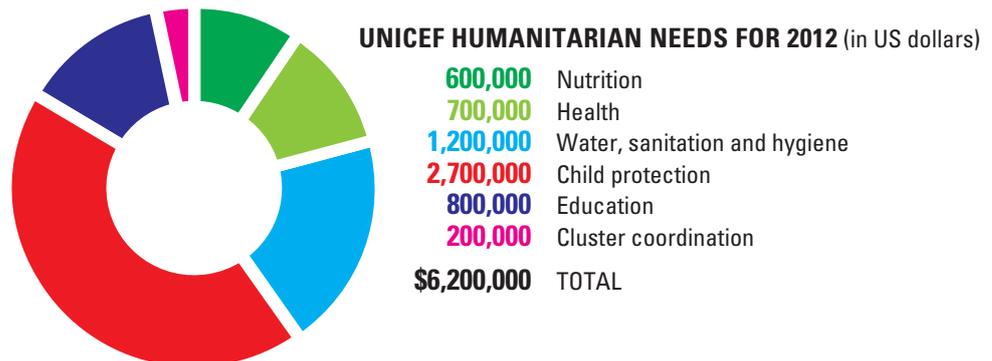
HUMANITARIAN FUNDING AT WORK: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2011

UNICEF requested US\$10,300,000 for its humanitarian work in Colombia in 2011. As of end October, US\$1,396,114 (14 per cent) had been received. Complemented with funds from regular sources, UNICEF assisted 75,000 people affected by natural hazards or armed conflict. More than 37,000 children and 900 pregnant or breastfeeding women in the north and west of Colombia received integrated assistance in health, nutrition, education and protection. Some 17,000 children impacted by the rainy season in these regions were assisted with education kits, recreational kits and school tents.

Approximately 20,000 people gained access to safe water with the installation or repair of community systems.

Nearly 17,000 indigenous children and their families in rural communities in the Pacific Coast region received food, nutrition and protection assistance, and more than 3,000 indigenous children under 5 were supported in early childhood development.

More than 41,000 children and adolescents participated in programmes to prevent recruitment by armed groups. Some 11,000 children benefited from psychosocial support through the Return to Happiness strategy.³





Haiti

CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN CRISIS

Women and children in Haiti struggle to emerge from a series of catastrophic emergencies that began in 2010: a devastating earthquake, a cholera epidemic and the floods that followed severe storms and hurricanes. Today, almost two years later, the aftermath remains. Approximately 600,000 people, including more than 250,000 children, continue to live in crowded settlements¹ that increase vulnerability to health and nutrition problems as well as the possibility of abuse and exploitation. Eviction cases have increased by 400 per cent in the past year, with about 121,000² people currently reporting being harassed from their shelters by landowners. Since the outbreak in October 2010 through the end of September 2011, more than 450,000 people contracted cholera, with some 6,300 people dead as a result.³ Although incidence rates are declining, localized outbreaks continue to spread, primarily in rural areas. The unstable situation is worsened by stark disparities in access to social services across the country. UNICEF's ability to respond to these far-reaching crises, as well as to the earliest stages of the disasters, is critical to the well-being of the country's women and children.

MEETING URGENT NEEDS IN 2012

The challenge for UNICEF in Haiti will be to ensure the continuity of humanitarian support for women and children in camps, while at the same time supporting and encouraging sustainable returns and relocation through multi-sectoral investments in communities. UNICEF will lead the transition of the WASH, education and nutrition clusters as well as the child protection sub-cluster to national counterparts, and will continue to work with the Government of Haiti, other UN agencies and NGOs to reach millions of women and children.

- Up to 100,000 children and women will receive improved access to integrated primary health-care services in return and relocation areas, and at least 2.3 million children under 9 will be vaccinated against measles.
- More than 5,000 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition will be treated with timely, quality care. At least 70,000 women, representing 22 per cent of all pregnant or breastfeeding women, will be provided with information on breastfeeding, complementary feeding and cholera prevention.
- UNICEF will provide at least 150,000 women and children in camps, return and relocation areas with access to safe drinking water. An additional 250,000 school-age children in high-risk cholera areas will have access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities at school. More than 1.6 million people will be reached with a health and hygiene promotion campaign designed to prevent child illness, especially diarrhoea.
- Learning and teaching materials will be provided to teachers in the most vulnerable schools impacted by emergencies, benefiting at least 120,000 children. More than 12,000 students in earthquake-affected areas will be provided with a safer learning environment through the construction of 20 additional semi-permanent schools.
- Approximately 50,000 extremely vulnerable children in residential care will benefit from registration, social documentation and minimum standards of health and hygiene. More than 100 child protection committees and 500 child-friendly spaces (hosting 120,000 children) will be established and/or strengthened in communities, facilitating referral (including for gender-based violence) and encouraging return/relocation and overall recovery.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012

In 2012, UNICEF is requesting US\$24,105,000 for its humanitarian work in Haiti. This amount is in line with the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) requirements. Immediate and adequate funding is needed to build on the resilience already demonstrated by the country's women and children.

More information on humanitarian action planned for 2012 can be found at www.unicef.org/hac2012 and the country office website at www.unicef.org/haiti (French).

1. Camp Coordination and Camp Management (Haiti) website, www.ccmhaiti.info/, and UNICEF estimate of child population.
 2. Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster, 'Eviction Situation in Camps Hosting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)', Haiti, July 2011, p. 1.
 3. Ministry of Population and Public Health, 'Daily Report', 18 September 2011, p. 1.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING AT WORK: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2011

In 2011, UNICEF requested US\$86,581,014 to continue its humanitarian work in Haiti. As of end October 2011, US\$40,873,722 had been received, or 47 per cent of the goal. UNICEF and partners were able to reach approximately 50,000 children with immunizations, boosting coverage in 36 hard-to-reach communities. Access to safe drinking water was improved for more than 325,000 people at high risk for cholera. More than 2.2 million people were reached with health and hygiene campaigns designed to prevent the spread of cholera. UNICEF constructed 160 semi-permanent schools, benefiting 86,000 children, and met its target in providing 750,000 children and 15,000 teachers with learning and teaching materials. UNICEF also targeted undernutrition in Haiti: approximately 400,000 children under 5 were screened and nearly 12,000 severely malnourished children received treatment. UNICEF coordinated a campaign of 85 national organizations and performed constant cholera prevention activities that reached 130,000 households. Some 120,000 children benefited daily from the 445 child-friendly spaces across the country. About 8,200 separated children were registered through the family tracing and reunification network, and close to 2,500 children were reunited with their families. An additional 8,000 children living in 220 residential care facilities were also registered.

