

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION MOZAMBIQUE IN 2007



CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 18 (thousands)	10049
U5 mortality rate	145
Infant mortality rate	100
Maternal mortality ratio (1990-2005, reported)	410
Primary school enrolment ratio, 2000-2005, net (male/female)	75/67
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	72
% population using improved drinking water sources (rural/urban)	26/72
Estimated no. of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2005 (thousands)	1800
% U5 suffering from moderate and severe underweight	24

Source: *The State of the World's Children 2007*

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2007

Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	2,140,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	1,765,500
Basic education	802,500
Child protection	181,900
National capacity-building for disaster preparedness and response	321,000
Total*	5,210,900

* 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

Mozambique is a country prone to natural disasters, chronic vulnerability and persistent humanitarian conditions. The UNICEF Country Programme endeavours to strengthen national capacity to prepare for and respond to the country's endemic humanitarian crisis.

In recent years, Mozambique has made encouraging strides in reducing its crippling poverty levels and is making gradual progress towards benchmarks set by the national Action Plan for the Reduction of Absolute Poverty (PARPA) and the Millennium Development Goals. Nevertheless, Mozambique remains one of the least developed countries in the world, ranking 168 out of 177 countries on the 2005 Human Development Index.

Mozambique's persistent chronic vulnerability is due to several factors: the country is still attempting to rebuild after more than a decade of civil war which decimated the infrastructure of basic social services; the rapidly escalating HIV/AIDS pandemic is weakening national capacities and considerably slowing the rate of development; the threat of natural disasters, including seasonal floods, cyclones and prolonged droughts, disrupts livelihoods and services, exhausts limited coping mechanisms and exacerbates populations' vulnerabilities – especially women and children.

While the latest assessments indicate that food security and nutrition have improved substantially, households have not fully recovered from five years of persistent drought and will continue to experience humanitarian conditions.

Vulnerable populations face the constant threat of cholera outbreaks due to the poor availability of clean water and sanitation facilities – especially in areas most hit by the ongoing drought. Diarrhoea resulting from water-borne diseases is still a major child killer, with a prevalence of 14 per cent among under-five children. Poor access to clean water affects women and girls directly as they are responsible for collecting most of the domestic water at the household level – leaving less time for school attendance and childcare.

Nutritional problems are the underlying cause of almost 50 per cent of all child deaths in Mozambique: of an estimated 715,000 children born every year, about 89,000 will die before reaching age one and an additional 39,000 will die before reaching age five. National, provincial and district health service providers lack the capacity to address the basic health needs of children and women – especially in areas affected by drought, natural disasters and other emergency situations. Malaria is responsible for the majority of child deaths in the country.

Education activities are often threatened by natural disasters, most notably seasonal floods and drought. National and sub-national education authorities are missing the resources and the capacity to quickly resume educational activities after an emergency in order to return some normalcy to the lives of children affected.

In 2006, the number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS was estimated at 380,000. This figure is expected to increase to 630,000 by the year 2010. Orphaned children are becoming more and more vulnerable as extended families are unable to meet their basic needs, particularly in areas where the worst humanitarian conditions prevail.

The Government of Mozambique is taking steps to address chronic vulnerability and the country's humanitarian crisis. The National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) has developed a National Strategy for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters: this eight-year strategy proposes medium- and long-term reforms that will help strengthen Mozambique's capacity to predict and mitigate the impact of frequent natural disasters. Line ministries are also working to incorporate emergency preparedness and response planning into their policies and action plans – the Ministry of Education and Culture is developing its first Emergency Preparedness and

Response Plan in 2006. Nevertheless, these longer-term strategies need to be transformed into practical actions before they can have the desired impact.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006

Through its 2002-2006 Country Programme, UNICEF has been addressing the country's chronic vulnerability and humanitarian crisis in partnership with the Government and other private-sector, bilateral and multilateral stakeholders.

In 2006, UNICEF undertook a number of emergency preparedness and response interventions aiming to reduce the impact of natural disasters and other emergency situations. In February, in response to an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale, UNICEF provided educational supplies and tents to set up temporary learning spaces in Manica province for some 5,300 children. UNICEF also helped the Ministry of Education and Culture develop the Education Sector Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, and assisted INGC in the development and dissemination of key messages on earthquake safety.

In the area of water, hygiene and sanitation, UNICEF provided emergency supplies for cholera prevention and environmental clean-up, as well as cash assistance, to government authorities in districts where the January flooding affected 12,000 people. Emergency cholera prevention supplies were also provided to drought-affected areas. UNICEF supported the rehabilitation/construction of 148 water points in drought- and cholera-affected areas, benefiting over 140,000 people. Trucking of safe water to cholera-prone areas helped another 136,300 chronically vulnerable Mozambicans.

UNICEF is also supporting the cholera prevention struggle through the implementation of community-based social mobilization and communication strategies, such as theatre and mobile unit activities, together with local partners and the Ministry of Health, reaching over 216,000 people. Some 600 community leaders have been trained to promote discussion on individual and environmental hygiene practices in their communities for cholera prevention. Health emergency interventions addressed cholera outbreaks by procuring supplies and tents, supporting the recruitment of staff for cholera treatment centres and community health centres, and providing training for cholera case management – to date over 6,200 people in four target provinces have benefited from these activities.

Nutrition emergency interventions included capacity-building for the treatment of severe malnutrition in all provinces, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable districts, seeking to reach the approximately 32,000 under-five children estimated to be severely malnourished. In partnership with the Ministry of Health and WFP, the Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme aims to reach malnourished children under age five through community health centre-based screening and treatment in 18 districts and provincial capitals most affected by chronic vulnerability and drought, as well as by high HIV/AIDS prevalence. To date, some 73,000 children have been screened, with over 5,500 identified to receive corn-soya blend (CSB). In addition, 32,000 children have received vitamin A supplements and 34,000 de-worming tablets.

In collaboration with WFP, UNICEF supported the training of some 300 national and international humanitarian workers on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2007

Coordination and partnership

UNICEF Mozambique is an active participant of the UN Disaster Management Team, which works closely with the Government of Mozambique to respond to emergency conditions and the resulting chronic vulnerability in the country, and to strengthen national capacity for emergency preparedness and response. It is an active participant in the health, nutrition, water and sanitation and education sub-groups of the National Disaster Management Institute (INGC), which brings together UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and Government line ministries on disaster preparedness and contingency planning. In addition, UNICEF takes part in, or chairs, national and inter-agency processes, such as the PARPA II (national poverty reduction strategy), UNDAF working groups, and sector-wide approach (SWAp) working groups. UNICEF Mozambique is prepared to assume its cluster leadership responsibilities for nutrition, water and environmental sanitation, protection and data communication, as mandated within the IASC cluster leadership framework.

Regular programme

Because of the country's propensity to natural disasters, the prevalence of emergency situations and the resulting chronic vulnerability of the population, UNICEF has mainstreamed emergency preparedness and response interventions into its routine programme activities. The new 2007-2009 Country Programme emphasizes this commitment, while recognizing the need for preparedness and response capacity to address fast-onset emergency interventions.

Health and nutrition (US\$ 2,140,000)

UNICEF's humanitarian actions in health and nutrition will focus on the following key activities:

Disaster response capacity (US\$ 1,284,000)

- Conduct health and nutrition assessments in conjunction with national and international partners and counterparts after a disaster strikes;
- Support the reestablishment of the health network, providing supplies and supporting mobile health teams;
- Enhance post-emergency nutritional surveillance and response, including supplementary and therapeutic feeding interventions as required.

Cholera mitigation and response (US\$ 642,000)

- Train health staff and community activists on cholera mitigation and response interventions in districts and urban areas most affected by natural disasters and cholera outbreaks;
- Promote communication and social mobilization activities – through radio, community theatre, posters, leaflets and community activists – to prevent and mitigate cholera and to change behaviours;
- Provide cholera treatment supplies to cholera treatment centres and community health facilities in targeted areas;
- Strengthen health officials' capacity at national, provincial and district levels for cholera planning, mitigation and monitoring.

Avian Influenza prevention and preparedness (US\$ 214,000)

- Support the national strategy for Avian Influenza prevention and response, especially through communication campaigns to inform the public on prevention and detection practices.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (US\$ 1,765,500)

In an integrated multisectoral approach, UNICEF will endeavour to provide technical and financial support to its Government counterparts, national and international partners, and community-based organizations to prepare for and respond to the emergency conditions provoked by natural disasters and chronic vulnerability, through the following key activities:

- Maintain a minimum stock of emergency water and sanitation supplies to address the needs of 50,000 potentially displaced persons, in order to respond to emergency needs, particularly cholera outbreaks;
- Provide support to national counterparts and partners for the proper storage and management of emergency supplies, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of emergency impact on water supply and hygiene conditions;
- Support the provision of safe water and sanitation facilities to communities, primary schools and health centres in most emergency-affected locations where access to drinking water is limited and the risk of fecal and oral transmission of disease is high – through water trucking, the construction/rehabilitation of water points in communities (including in schools) and support to the building of household sanitation facilities;
- Strengthen community capacities to maintain water points in emergency- and cholera-prone areas in order to support longer-term sustainability and preparedness; train community water management committees and school management committees on water point maintenance;
- Support participatory hygiene promotion campaigns for the adoption of safe hygiene practices and for the prevention of cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases.

Basic education (US\$ 802,500)

To prepare for and respond to educational needs in the face of natural disasters, UNICEF will assist the Ministry of Education and Culture to:

- Implement the education sector emergency preparedness and response Plan, providing support for Ministry coordination and response capacity;
- Pre-position tents and basic education materials for learners, teachers and schools in regional warehouses and support the delivery of supplies to schools affected by emergencies;
- Conduct assessments on education facilities and infrastructure in conjunction with national and international partners and counterparts after a disaster strikes;
- Integrate the monitoring of schools affected by emergencies into the education management information system (EMIS).

Child protection (US\$ 181,900)

UNICEF will help strengthen national capacity to address protection issues in emergency situations, through the following key activities:

- In conjunction with the Ministry of Women and Social Action and civil society partners, and under the auspices of the Technical Working Group for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children, adapt the basic package for orphans and other vulnerable children to include emergency-specific support elements;
- Help revise the *Manual on Psychosocial Support* used by the Ministry of Women and Social Action and incorporate components on emergency response, thus enabling the social workers of the Institute of Women and Social Action to meet the needs of the most vulnerable;
- In conjunction with the Social Workers Training Institute, introduce special training modules on psychosocial care and support in emergencies;
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Women and Social Action, train social workers and focal police to better address the increased incidence of gender-based violence in emergency situations.

National capacity-building for disaster preparedness and response (US\$ 321,000)

UNICEF aims to support the efforts of the National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) through the following key activities:

- Support INGC to develop a communication strategy in order to strengthen national capacity to reach chronically vulnerable populations threatened by emergencies with key messages for preparedness and response;
- Provide technical assistance for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters, particularly in the areas of water, hygiene and sanitation, health and nutrition;

- Strengthen INGC capacity to prepare for, respond to, monitor and evaluate disaster response initiatives providing resource materials and supporting training and simulation exercises;
- Work with INGC to ensure the effective assessment of emergency situations in order to provide the most efficient and coordinated response;
- Provide logistical support to conduct emergency assessments and to ensure the distribution of humanitarian supplies during natural disasters.