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Reporting Period: 1 January to 30 June 2020

Mauritania

Humanitarian Situation Report #03



Highlights

On 13 March 2020, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania registered its first confirmed case of COVID-19. As of June 30, 4,363 confirmed cases are reported, including 1,622 recoveries and 129 deaths.

8,853 children with severe acute malnutrition were treated throughout the country since the beginning of the year. 6,500 people, including 2,218 SAM children, have access to safe drinking water and 2,218 children use adequate sanitation facilities in health centres.

Nationwide, 18,452 (7,842 B; 10,610 G) children, including 5,956 (3,134 B; 2,822 G,) refugee children from the M'Berra camp and the host community of Bassiknou, have benefited from better education opportunities including distance learning in response to school closure since 16 March 2020.

During the reporting period, a total of 868 children benefitted from child protection interventions in M'Berra refugee camp and the host communities.

Situation in Numbers



306,000

Children in need of humanitarian assistance



609,180

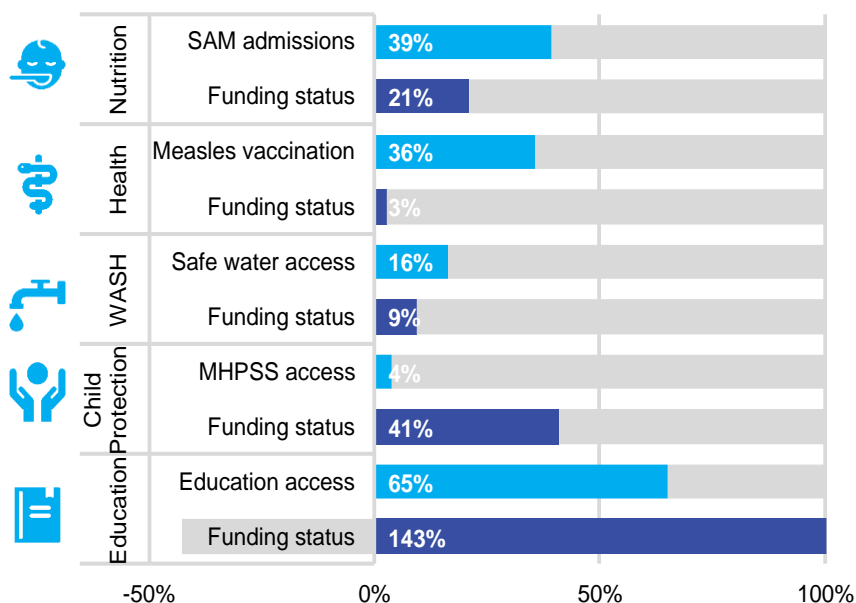
People in need (Cadre Harmonisé, November 2019)



60,456

of Malian refugees, including 60% children (UNHCR, June 2020)

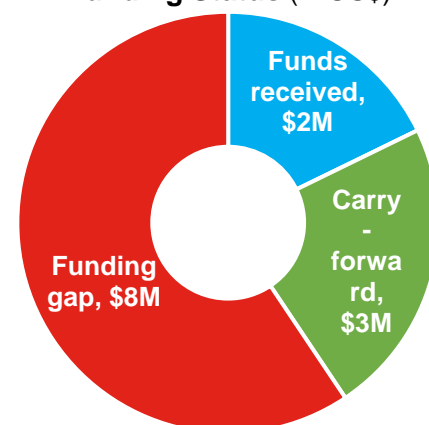
UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2020

US\$ 13,4 millions

Funding Status (in US\$)



*Funding available includes carry-over and funds received in the current year. The overfunding for education is the result of a large carry over from previous years

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF Mauritania wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to all public and private sector donors (particularly, DFID, ECHO, Japan, OFDA, USAID/FFP, USA-BPRM, Spanish and Swedish Committees for UNICEF) for the contribution and pledges received as part of the HAC 2019 and 2020. The HAC 2020 is currently funded at 35 percent for interventions related to SAM response, education and protection in an emergency, as well as flood preparedness. Mauritania would especially like to thank donors who have contributed to 'unearmarked' funding. Unearmarked funding gives UNICEF essential flexibility to direct resources and ensuring the delivery of life-saving supplies and interventions where they are needed most- especially in the form of longer-term and predictable funding and in strengthening preparedness and resilience building. As UNICEF Mauritania embarked in the third year of its country cycle (2018-2022), it is important to note that 75 percent of its Other Resources Regular (ORR) ceiling for the duration of its country program has been secured. A positive sign to strengthen interventions along the humanitarian-developmental nexus, particularly in the Aftout and the Hodh Chargui regions.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The 2020 lean season is expected to be particularly difficult and will certainly start early due to the particularly unfavorable conditions of the 2019 rainy season. According to the Cadre Harmonisé, a total of 609,180 people in at least 23 Moughataas (departments) of the country will face food and nutrition crisis conditions between June and August 2020. This represents 15 percent of the population, a record high among the Sahelian countries. From February 09 and March 12, 1,225 persons, 80% of them being women and children, fleeing renewed fighting in Mali, entered Mauritania in the Hodh Chargui region. Following ministerial instructions, all were placed in quarantine given the risk of propagation of the Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever which was signaled in their region of origin (Mopti) during that same period. The transfer of new arrivals to M'Berra camp has started on 27 February after the observance of a quarantine to prevent the spread of hemorrhagic fever from both humans and cattle. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania registered its first confirmed case of COVID-19 on 13 March 2020. As of June 30, 4,363 confirmed cases, including 129 deaths and 1,622 recoveries were reported. According to the risk analysis data in Mauritania and considering the evolution of the trend at the regional and global levels, the risk of spreading the virus in the country appears to be very high. Beside Covid-19 pandemic, malnutrition and the presence of refugees, Mauritania may as well faces flood in 2020. In fact the regional rainfall forecast for the Sahel announces abundant rainfall in the country above last decade average. In addition, swarms of locusts could arrive in Mauritania by the end of June. These would be swarms of mature (breeding age) locusts which would arrive at a time of the year when rainfall could favour their breeding. The situation is therefore worrisome.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

UNICEF, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and partners, supported the treatment of SAM children, with a focus on the districts affected by nutrition emergency (GAM > 15 percent and / or SAM > 2 percent). To date, 76,804 children were systematically screened in the health care facilities, resulting in the detection of 5,598 SAM children and 12,359 MAM children. A total of 8,853 SAM cases were admitted for treatment throughout the country, including 5,767 cases in 21 emergency districts. The IMAM programme performance analysis indicates that all key indicators meet the SPHERE standards with 89 per cent cure rate, 0.3 per cent death rate and 10 per cent defaulter rate. The mobile strategy of health care providers and the involvement of community health workers in the outpatient treatment program are being scaled up throughout the country as part of the roadmap to introduce the simplified protocol. A total of 47,128 pregnant and lactating women and 31,656 children from 6 to 23 months were reached with an integrated package of Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCF) services. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF is providing technical support to the MOH for ensuring the continuity of integrated prevention/treatment acute malnutrition essential services including optimal ICYF practices promotion, screening/treatment SAM cases at health facilities and community level in partnership with implementing partners. Four coordination meeting of the nutrition sector group were held under the leadership of the MOH to discuss and monitor the continuity of essential nutrition services at countrywide. UNICEF is providing support for monitoring the IMAM supply stock at an operational level on a daily basis and specific actions are being taken for avoiding any stock out at the health facility level. Considering the potential effects of three consecutive years of drought, food insecurity and Covid-19 pandemic, the nutrition technical group has estimated an increase about 80% of current acute malnutrition burden which implies additional supplies needs to ensure quality treatment SAM cases (30,000 cartons of RUTF; 218 cartons of therapeutic milk F75; 136 cartons of therapeutic milk F100 and 27,300 bottles of amoxicillin 125 mg/5ml).

Health

As part of the integrated community case management intervention in nutrition emergency districts, 3,970 children aged 0-5 years were treated for diseases since the beginning of the year (malaria, fever, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection). A total of 634 children including 187 in refugee camp received measles vaccines as routine immunization dose. In addition, to respond to the sporadic measles cases in the host community, systematic preventive measles immunization was done for 218 children aged 6-59 months at their arrival in the camp. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the equipment planned as part of the UNICEF procurement in support of the Cold Chain Equipment Optimization project has been received by the Country to fill some gaps in the EPI program. Besides, UNICEF is

providing training modules for community actors (CBOs and CBOs) on awareness raising, prevention and infection control as well as communication support on COVID19, in the refugee camp and in the District of Bassiknou. Regarding health at the refugee camp, it is worth noting the gradual withdrawal of the NGO ALIMA, which provides about 70% of the health work volume. These activities will be covered by the World Bank-INAYA programme. UNICEF is currently participating actively as a technical assistance agency in this transitional process and related coordination and consultation meetings. The late start of INAYA's medical activities in the camp, which will be integrated into the Moughataa health system, could cause a gap in the continuum of the care package delivered by ALIMA. Prevention activities, particularly vaccination, are regularly carried out in the refugee camp. However, we note that since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis the health staff in charge of data management was strongly involved in the management of COVID19 at the Moughataa level and, therefore, wasn't able to report on vaccination activities carried out.

WASH

1,106 Malians, who have fled to Mauritania due to the fighting in the Mopti region, have benefited from WASH interventions, including the provision of drinking water; the construction of 16 separate toilets for men and women; the distribution of Wash kits (350) and awareness-raising on Wash at the Douenkara transit site on the Mauritania/Mali border. At the same time, awareness rising on hygiene practices such as handwashing with soap, facilitators from the partner NGO and 3 community relays among the refugee population carried out latrine maintenance and domestic hygiene. In the district of Bassiknou, hosting the refugee camp, 13 new solar water points were constructed giving access to safe drinking water to minimum 6,500 people. 60 gender separated latrines have been built in 30 schools in refugees camp (8 schools) and host communities. A total of 60 health centres (in Guidimakha, Hodh Chargui and Hodh El Gharbi) received a minimum WASH package including access to safe drinking water, through connection to a network of safe transport and storage, construction /rehabilitation of latrines and provision of Hygiene kits. 2,218 malnourished mother/child pairs received hygiene kits and access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities at household level and health centers. IPC/WASH interventions are implemented at local level with municipalities. Each commune has set up a brigade of ten people trained and equipped by UNICEF. These brigades undertake disinfection and provide support to households with COVID-19 positive cases in coordination with the surveillance system. A total of 126 people was trained in community-based IPC in nine communes of Nouakchott. Hygiene sanitization along with COVID-19 awareness message reached 35,548 people.

Education

Concerning education in emergencies, 10,995 (5,478 B / 5,517 G) children have benefited from UNICEF and its partners support during the reporting period, including 7,012 (3,695 B / 3,317 G) in the refugee camp of M'Berra. Individual student kits were given to all children in the camp, while schools received supplies (chalks, school desks, rules and board wipes). Moreover, 59-peace club was created to facilitate the peace culture ET social cohesion between refugees and the host community. Cultural and sportive activities were organized and touch 5,505 (3,150B/2,355 G) youth to foster peaceful coexistence. 7,429 (3096 W/4333 M) parents have benefited from parental education sessions to reinforce their capacity to offer safe care to their children. The preschool education offer was strengthened in the refugee camp through the construction and opening of four new community based ECD centres, while two more centres were created for the host community. All children enrolled in preschool programs - 1,000 (490 B / 510 G) received activity books while preschool community teachers (24) were trained by the local education authorities (DREN). Besides, 17 toilets were built in seven schools at the refugee camp (in collaboration with *Action Contre la Faim*) and 100 toilets are building in 23 schools in the host community. 4,180 (1892 B/ 2288 G) OOSC benefited from literacy sessions and reinsertion to school at the primary level during the first quarter of 2020 with UNICEF support. Moreover, 161 OOSC (103 B/53 G) benefited from RET refresher courses that will enable their reinsertion at the secondary level. Due to the outbreak of COVID 19, schools have been closed on 16 March to prevent transmission of the virus. They remain closed at the end of June and discussions and negotiations are ongoing to reopen classes at least for children who are supposed to sit national exams in 2020. UNICEF is supporting the schools reopening through high level advocacy activities. A partial reopening of schools is planned by the MOE for the 1September, 2020. UNICEF has been supporting technically and financially the MOE response plan that includes television/radio programs and an internet education platform (www.monecole.gov.mr). So far, 12,496 children received direct support (5,020 F girls; 7,476 boys) to continue their learning at home. 1,300 solar radios, 40,000 exercise books and 10,000 textbooks have already been distributed within the UNICEF partnership with BMZ. Also, four 4x4 vehicles were offered to reinforce the field monitoring activities and to facilitate regional and departmental inspectors to monitor the Covid-19 response activities in remote and hard to reach areas. In addition, at the M'Berra camp, 1,369 (625 girls, 744 boys) children at the primary level continue their learning activities from home, and 410 (126 girls, 284 boys) students at the secondary level and 600 children (292 boys, 308 girls) at the pre-k level received different types of education support for distance learning. 268 youth (216 girls 52 boys) benefited from literacy courses and 320 youth (160 girls, 160 boys) have become members of peace club. Furthermore, 150 (30 women, 120 men) teachers of formal and non-formal education were trained on distance education and group management. Also, 5,900 parents (3,000 women, 2,900 men) participated in parental education activities to learn best practices to strengthen childcare. In the host community, 400 children (216 girls, 184 boys) at the pre-k level were able to carry on their education in small groups of 5 units following strict safety measures to prevent the virus transmission. At the primary level, 1,500 children (720 girls, 780 boys) benefitted from distance education activities. 11,524 (6587 women, 4837 men) people were sensitized about the Covid-19 in the refugee camp and the host community. 5,455 kits (5,405 at the primary level and 410 at the secondary level) were distributed to the students.

Moreover, 17,057 textbooks (3,400 at pre-k, 11,592 at primary and 2,065 at the secondary) were also distributed to students. For the secondary camp support courses, 99 students, including 31 boys and 68 girls are supported by RET. 450 radio stations are offered to sixth-grade candidates at the camp and in the host community and 402 primary students, including 180 girls, benefited from those radio in the camp. For the host community, 1,578 candidates for the competition benefited from these radios for facilitating their access to distance courses. Mauritanian children can now have access to different types of alternative learning opportunities such as radio/television education programs while the Malian refugee children can have access to specific education radio programs delivered by their own teachers from the community radio of Bassiknou.

Child Protection

UNICEF and child protection partners identified 686 vulnerable children (374 girls) during the reporting period, including 275 (158 girls) living in M'Berra refugee camp and 235 (118 girls) in the host communities. The assistance provided included social follow-up, psychosocial support (525 children including 269 girls), medical care and income generation interventions. In addition, 393 families impacted by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) were followed up, and dialogues and follow-up ensured with 258 girls and adolescents. Sessions on positive parenting were held with 1,237 parents, including 779 mothers sensitized to positive parental practices. Sensitization sessions on child rights and child protection were conducted reaching 4,359 individuals, including 1,954 women, in M'Berra camp and 2,056, including 1,032 women, in host communities. With regard to the 1,225 persons who have fled the Mopti region because of the fighting and who have been quarantined to avoid the risk of propagation of the Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever signaled in their region of origin during that period, UNICEF and its partners provided psychosocial first aid to 500 children including 268 from 0 to 4 years (52% girls), 240 children from 5 to 11 years (57% girls). A similar follow-up was ensured with 92 adolescents from 12 to 17 years, 70% of girls who were almost all married, the youngest being 12, and several of them breastfeeding. Most of the boys older than 10 remained in Mali, especially in charge of finding their way to Mauritania with the cattle. The transfer of this population to M'Berra camp started on February 26 and UNICEF secured the availability of two child-friendly spaces while ensuring a continued identification of children in need of protection, psychosocial follow-up and of integration in education. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, protection actors are mobilized to prevent infection among vulnerable groups in the four communes of Fassala, Bassiknou, Megve and Néma in support of the regional coordination of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family, with (i) awareness-raising activities with the use of motorized means; (ii) the commitment of community resource persons in their communities on barrier actions and other prevention measures; (iii) the distribution of 72,000 pieces of soap to promote handwashing and (iv) the distribution of food kits to 453 vulnerable households, including 260 in Néma, 67 in Bassikounou, 63 in Fassala and 63 in Megve. In connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, child protection actors were mobilized to inform vulnerable families on preventive measures and reached a total of 47,328 people including 28,291 women. Among those, 2,430 live in M'Berra camp (including 1,283 women) and 44,898 (including 27,008 women) in host communities. These interventions were supported by some 1,049 participants, including 355 young people/adolescents, who paid particular attention to reaching vulnerable populations and children thanks to the proximity of community relays during this crisis. Due to the porous borders between Mali and Mauritania, UNICEF supported communal protection system to prevent unsafe behaviours and hazardous movements of children and families.

Supply and logistic

As part of the emergency response, supplies worth US\$ 1,128,172 were distributed across the country from January to June 2020, including RUTF and anthropometric items targeting 22,470 children (US\$ 1,063,181), along with educational items (US\$ 64,990). As part of mitigation of vaccines stock-out, a charter cargo flight delivered 51,580 doses of vaccines worth US\$ 294,282 to support routine immunization. Movement of humanitarian goods have not been affected despite current restriction and border closure. However, at a global level, these restrictions have an impact on the international supply chain and the delivery of program supplies. The essential items provision such as personal protective equipment (PPE) is limited, due both to growing demand and restrictions to export these products. School supplies are heavily dependent on China and the delivery time will be longer than usual due to production delays at Chinese suppliers. The delivery of nutritional products and some key WASH products, such as water purification tablets, are generally shipped by sea freight (i.e. less exposed to air freight disruptions).

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

UNICEF Mauritania supported the MOH to deal with the Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, following the arrival in Mauritania of more than 1000 refugees from Mopti the region where cases of the disease have been reported. Strategic note on C4D approaches, rapid investigation, development and dissemination of messages was produced in this framework. In addition, UNICEF provided technical and financial support for the establishment of 10 equipped sensitization rooms in Nouakchott, Hodh Chargui and Guidimakha. Resource persons in charge of managing them have been trained in IPC and ECD and conducted outreach communication sessions with the mothers of children attending the 10 health facilities in these localities. 55 C4D actors have also seen their skills strengthened in CIP/C4D and ANJE. UNICEF has been strongly involved in the response to COVID-19 pandemic by setting up a call centre for informing the population and also to raise alerts. Nearly 800,000 calls have been handled since the beginning of the pandemic and an average of 190 daily alerts are handled through the toll-free number. In addition, thanks to the technical and financial support of UNICEF, a community monitoring system has been set up involving 1,175 volunteers in Nouakchott alone to raise awareness and monitor cases. Capacity of the various actors, particularly at the community level, was

strengthened with more than 150 trainers trained in awareness-raising and community monitoring and 30 partners trained in risk communication and rumour management. Religious leaders and journalists were also trained to contribute to the response in their respective communities. The 15 regional radio stations and national television channels are also contributing to the response with the production of two daily awareness programmes and the broadcasting of ten spots since the beginning of the pandemic. A rapid joint assessment on the level of knowledge of the population has also been conducted on a sample of nearly 500 people for better refining communication strategies. In addition to COVID-related, activities related to the nutritional emergency are continuing with 3,046 relays trained on promotional themes of optimal of infant and young child feeding practices.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The cluster system is not activated in Mauritania. UNICEF is leading the Nutrition sector and is co-leading an intersectoral Nutrition/Food Security Group together with WFP. 5 coordination meetings of the nutrition sector were held since the beginning of the year, under the co-leadership of UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the food security sector led by WFP. These coordination meetings are extended to operational level with multisectoral coordination meetings held in Tagant, Guidimakha and Gorgol. Ms. Gerda Verburg, Global SUN Coordinator, visited Mauritania from 3-4 March 2020 in response to an invitation sent by the Government of Mauritania, to advocate for improved nutrition investments with nutrition stakeholders and partners. UNICEF and UNHCR continue to co-facilitate the education technical group (GTE) in Bassiknou under the leadership of the district education authority (IDEN). Important partnerships have been implemented between UNCHR, ILO and UNICEF in order to strengthen education access and provide OOSC a second chance through TVET. Following intense advocacy activities led by UNICEF, a unit for Education in Emergency was created by the minister of education on 25th March 2020. This unit is coordinating all actions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. At national level, UNICEF has been supporting technically and financially the Ministry of Education COVID-19 response plan that was officially launched in June. Partial funding for this action came from the GPE Accelerated Funds (US\$ 70,000) that UNICEF secured thanks to the support of the agency headquarters. In addition, the overall education COVID-19 response has been financed through agreed adjustments of ongoing partnerships with donors such as ECHO, BPRM and PBSO. UNICEF continues to ensure the coordination of IPC pillar in which more than thirty organizations participate. Twelve meetings have been conducted up to date and a serie of filed vists at hosiptals, health and isolation centres undertaken for evaluating, improving and follow-up IPC pratics. As lead of the RCCE pillar, UNICEF was committed in recent weeks to ensure the coordination of communication and community engagement activities for more than 40 humanitarian partners.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

<https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/videos/503132930380398/>

https://medium.com/@UNICEF_MTA/roghaya-et-aboubacrine-exp%C3%A9rimentent-l%C3%A9ducation-%C3%A0-distance-8a318f575668

https://medium.com/@UNICEF_MTA/bellouty-l%C3%A9l%C3%A8ve-devenu-charretier-faabf3271688

<https://web.facebook.com/watch/?v=2566567143559534>

Next SitRep: 12 October 2020

UNICEF Mauritania Humanitarian Action for Children: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mauritania.html>

UNICEF Mauritania on Twitter: twitter.com/UNICEF_MTA

UNICEF Mauritania on Facebook: www.facebook.com/unicefmauritanie

UNICEF Mauritania on Instagram [@UnicefMauritania](https://www.instagram.com/UnicefMauritania)

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Summary of Programme Results

Indicators	UNICEF and IPs			Sector Response		
	2020 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼
NUTRITION						
Number of children under age 5 suffering from SAM admitted for treatment	22,470	8,853	8,853	22,470	8,853	8,853
Number of pregnant and lactating women reached with an integrated package of IYCF services	99,285	47,128	47,128	99,285	47,128	47,128
HEALTH						
Number of children aged 0 to 11 months reached with measles vaccination in the refugee camp and host population	1,775	634	634			
Number of children aged 0 to 59 months with common childhood diseases reached with appropriate and integrated management of childhood disease services	5,220	3,970	3,970			
WASH						
Number of children under treatment for SAM with access to safe water, for drinking, cooking and hygiene through household water treatment	13,482	2,218	2,218	22,470	2,218	2,218
Number of children with access to and using appropriate sanitation and hygiene facilities in health and nutrition centers and schools in refugee camps, host communities and villages with high SAM burdens	26,000	20,175	20,175			
CHILD PROTECTION						
Number of refugee- and host community children reached with mental health psychosocial support	11,500	819	819			
Number of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence reached with gender-based violence response interventions	300	270	270			
EDUCATION						
Number of school-aged boys and girls (aged 3 to 17 years) in the refugee camp and host community affected by humanitarian situations receiving learning materials	9,250	10,995 ¹	10,995	24,350	11,094	11,094
Number of out-of-school boys and girls aged 3 to 17 years with access to education	6,400	4,180	4,180	6,950	4,341	4,341

¹ In addition to those (this indicator is exclusively for the refugee camp of Mberra and the hosting community of Bassiknou), UNICEF supported the MOE Covid 19 response plan reaching 12,496 children nationwide.

Annex B

Funding Status

Funding Requirements (Funding Requirements (as defined in the revised Humanitarian Appeal 2020))					
Applied to Sector	Requirements	Available Funds		Funding gap	
		Funds Received	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	6,000,000	1,089,138	177,673	4,733,189	79%
Health	900,000	0	25,728	874,272	97%
WASH	2,000,000	126,901	60,591	1,812,508	91%
Child Protection	2,760,000	328,274	1,130,064	1,301,662	47%
Education	1,760,000	841,420	1,670,881	0	0
Total	13,420,000	2,385,733	3,064,937	8,721,631	65%