



Reporting Period: 1-30 April 2021

# South Sudan Country Office

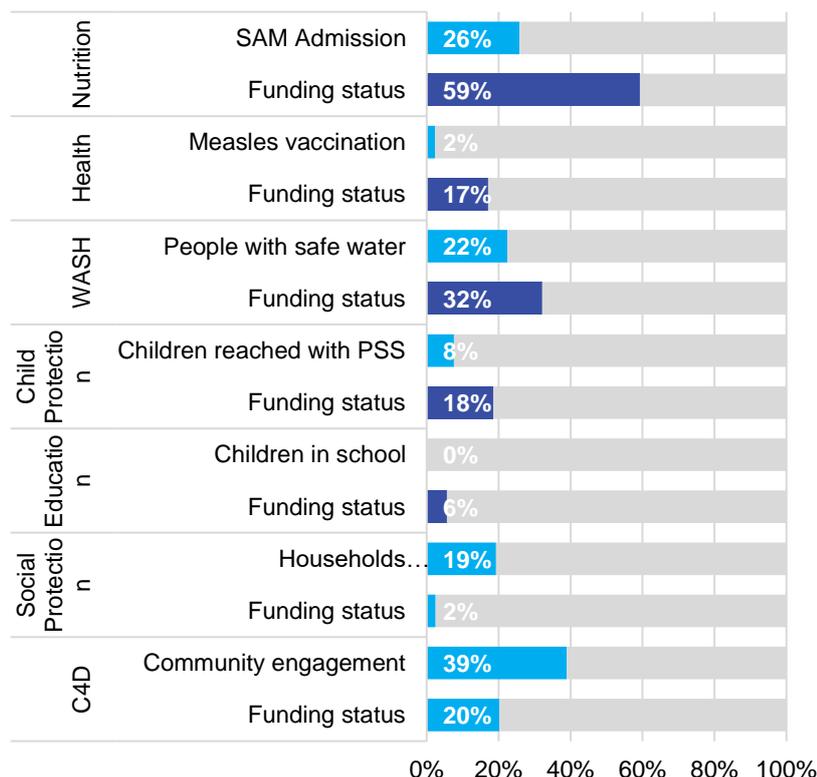
Humanitarian Situation Report No. 156



## Highlights

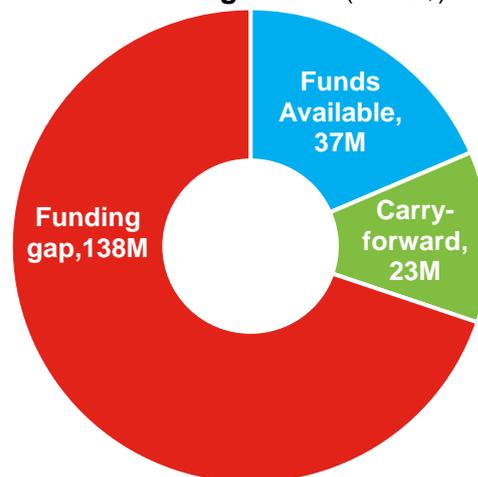
- South Sudan is experiencing one of its worst humanitarian crisis in years, more than half of the affected people are children (4.4 million). Prevalence of acute malnutrition among children in several parts of the country is above the emergency threshold, a total of 1.4 million children are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021, including 300,000 who are projected to suffer from the severest form of malnutrition.
- From January to April 2021, over 70,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated in inpatient and outpatient therapeutic programs. The performance indicators for SAM treatment were above the acceptable minimum Sphere standards, with a cure rate of 95.6 per cent, a death rate of 0.2 per cent and a defaulter rate of 2.3 per cent.
- There is an imminent break in the WASH Cluster Core pipeline for critical lifesaving supplies due to limited funding. There is a US\$ 2.7 million funding gap to continue scaling up the food and nutrition insecurity response and a US\$ 6.7 million funding gap to respond to the anticipated flood emergency with supplies.
- To date, a total of 142,000 individuals in highly food insecure counties have been reached by 17 WASH Cluster partners.

## Situation in Numbers



## UNICEF Appeal 2021 US\$ 198 million

Funding Status (in US\$)



\*Funding available includes funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2021, UNICEF is appealing for US\$198 million to provide life-saving services for women, men and children in South Sudan. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors who have continued to support multi-sectoral humanitarian programmes. Without adequate funding, UNICEF and partners will be unable to continue supporting ongoing integrated humanitarian programmes as well as the provision of critical and protective services for women, children and men displaced by conflict and flooding, affected by gender-based violence, facing life-threatening diseases (including COVID-19), and impacted by extreme food and nutrition insecurity.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains dire. More than two-thirds of the South Sudanese population and some 300,000 refugees are in need of humanitarian assistance, as the country continues to experience the cumulative effects of years of conflict, a surge in sub-national violence, food and nutrition insecurity, the risk of unprecedented flooding and high inflation and a public fiscal crisis, further compounded by COVID-19 control measures. The combination of these shocks has led to a substantial increase in vulnerabilities. The current lean season (May to July) is expected to be the most severe on record. According to the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC analysis) released in December 2020, about 7.24 million people (60% of the population) are likely to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity during the period April to July 2021. The nutrition situation is critical, with 57 (72%) of the counties projected to be in IPC Acute Malnutrition (AMN) Phase 3 and above during the same period. About 1.4 million children under the age of five are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021, including 313,391 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. In response to the anticipated catastrophic levels of food insecurity in parts of the country, a multisectoral scaled up response is under way with enhanced coordination at the national and sub-national levels. Humanitarian organizations are currently scaling up humanitarian assistance in the six most food insecure areas of Pibor, Akobo, Aweil South, Tonj East, Tonj North and Tonj South in addition to implementing other critical humanitarian preparedness and response interventions. Implementing preventive measures is critical to keeping the number of SAM cases from rising, including providing water and sanitation and to prevent malaria cases. In many SAM treatment centres, more than half of cases have malaria.

People's ability to access humanitarian assistance continues to be hampered by community violence, violence against humanitarian personnel and assets, rain as well as bureaucratic impediments. For two consecutive years (2019 and 2020), many communities have been cut off from assistance during the rainfall season (between July and November). Multiple incidents of crime-related insecurity were reported in Juba during the reporting period including ambushes on the Juba to Yei road. The South Sudan Defence Forces (SSDF) troops were deployed to contain the situation along the road in April. Incidents of revenge killings, age set fighting and cattle raids were reported in Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) and Jonglei state. Incidents of armed robberies and assaults which also included UN and International NGO personnel were reported in Eastern Equatoria during the month. Attacks on trucks passing through Tonj between Rumbek and Wau continued. The insecurity for the most part has not stopped humanitarian response but has slowed down work and added to costs.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health

UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government of South Sudan and NGO partners in supporting integrated primary health care services in all the 25 counties of Jonglei and Upper Nile states targeting an estimated 1.8 million people. The support includes the distribution of essential drugs and medical equipment to 1911 health facilities and support for emergency preparedness and response to the Ministry of Health (both at a national and sub-national level).

During the period January to April 2021, UNICEF with the support of implementing partners provided curative consultations to 552,533 individuals (253,311 males and 299,222 females) through static health facilities, community outreach activities and the Boma Health Initiative (BHI). This includes a total of 70,325 people (34,459 males and 35,866 females) reached in April. A total of 36,569 of these individuals reached with the curative consultations were under the age of five, whilst 33,756 were aged five years and above. Most children and adults received consultations for malaria (35 per cent) followed by pneumonia (16 per cent) and diarrhoea (15 per cent). UNICEF through implementing partners, also supported the vaccination of 2,205,769 children aged 6 – 59 months through a measles follow-up campaign which began in January 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> After almost a year of discussion with local authorities, it has been impossible to handover two health facilities from MSF to Livewell (PEHSP-Implementing Partner). These two health facilities were removed from the PEHSP List.

As part of the integrated COVID-19 response, UNICEF is distributing infection prevention and control (IPC) materials to 191 health facilities in Jonglei and Upper Nile states and is supporting the National COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan (NVDP). The initial phase of the vaccination exercise targeting 4,440 health workers and the elderly is being implemented at three health facilities in Juba municipal area. As of 17 May, a total of 6,558 people including 1,361 health workers were vaccinated. Plans are underway to rollout the vaccination exercise in all the ten states and three administrative areas. The initial phase will target health care workers and persons aged 65 years and older. UNICEF supported the master training for the national rollout of the vaccination exercise. In addition, UNICEF supported the development of the vaccine distribution plan and the mobilization of cold chain equipment to support the national rollout

## Nutrition

UNICEF is providing preventive and curative nutrition services to children and women in South Sudan in partnership with nutrition implementing partners. A total of 70,415 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated in inpatient and outpatient therapeutic programs during the first four months of the year. The achievement was 29 per cent of the annual target and 22.5 per cent of the people in need (burden). The highest admissions were recorded in Jonglei State (21.7 per cent) followed by Unity State (14.9 per cent) and Northern Bahr el Ghazal State (11.1 per cent). The performance indicators for SAM treatment were above the acceptable minimum Sphere standards, with a cure rate of 95.6 per cent, a death rate of 0.2 per cent and a defaulter rate of 2.3 per cent. During the same period, infant and young child feeding counselling services reached a total of 646,158 pregnant women and caregivers of children aged 0-23 months. A national level master training for maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN) prevention was conducted during the reporting month. A total of 57 participants from ten states and two administrative areas attended the training.

A first round of Vitamin A and deworming campaign was completed in 77 out of 79 counties reaching a total of 2,413,980 children (53.2 per cent girls and 46.8 per cent boys) with Vitamin A supplements and 1,995,266 children with deworming tablets. The campaign is ongoing in the two remaining counties. In response to the ongoing food and nutrition insecurity situation, UNICEF continued its scaled-up response in 10 priority counties. The priority counties have more than 150 functional static nutrition sites and 50 outreach sites which are being supported by 12 implementing partners. During the period January to April 2021, a total of 13,443 children with SAM were admitted in the program, the highest admissions were recorded in Pibor (25 per cent) and Akobo (24 per cent). During the same period, a total of 103,392 pregnant women and caregivers of children aged 0-23 months received infant and young child feeding counselling services in the high-risk counties.

## Child Protection

UNICEF and implementing partners reached 1,122 children (547 boys and 575 girls) with psycho-social support services in child-friendly spaces in Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states raising the total to 10,781 children reached since January 2021. A total of 23 children (15 boys and 8 girls) were newly identified, registered, and documented as unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Upper Nile, Jonglei, Warrap, Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria states during the reporting period. In addition, a total of 200 children (88 boys and 112 girls) were registered and received case management services according to the vulnerability criteria, in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, and Western Equatoria States. During the reporting month 2,353 individuals (749 girls, 701 boys, 447 women and 456 men) were reached with explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) key messages in the communities in Central and Eastern Equatoria states, this includes 181 community liaison leaders (94 women and 87 men) who were trained on key EORE messages. The child protection sector is working with partners to ensure the continued provision of child protection services for the most vulnerable children in the context of COVID-19, to date a total of 31,568 individuals (5,870 girls, 5,502 boys, 13,226 women and 6,970 men) received psychosocial support services in Eastern Equatoria, Unity, Jonglei, Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Western Equatoria states.

UNICEF reached 19,692 people (9,136 boys, 10,483 girls, 35 women and 38 men) with messages on children's rights and the Child Act of 2008. In addition, 701 people (129 boys, 44 girls 289 women and 239 men) had access to at least one justice service consistent with the best interest of children and the youth in Jonglei, Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Unity states. During the reporting period, UNICEF and implementing partners reached 7,098 people (1,794 girls, 1,437 boys, 2,393 women and 1,474 men) with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention, response and risk mitigation messages. A total of 939 women and 547 girls received case management, psychosocial support (PSS), and skills-building courses in the Women and Girls' Friendly spaces and referrals for other specialized and non-specialized services. A total of 244 women and 130 girls participated in skills-building activities such as tailoring, bedsheet designing, knitting, embroidery, and jewelry making in the Women and Girls' Friendly spaces. A total of 32 women and

8 girls received sewing machines and materials as a start-up kit after the completion of a training course to increase their economic resilience and self-reliance. A total of 90 community leaders (83 men and 7 women) were trained on GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response to strengthen community-based protection mechanisms and safe referrals. Under the Communities Care Programme (CCP), a total of 797 people (214 girls, 204 boys, 202 women and 177 men) were reached with community actions to support positive changes in beliefs and perceptions about GBV. The Child Protection Area of responsibility (CPAOR) partners, reached a total of 52,500 people including 42,414 children (20,635 girls and 21,779 boys) with a package of Child protection services through static and mobile teams in Greater Equatoria, Northern and Western Bahr el Gazal, Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap, Lakes and Jonglei states.

## Education

The Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) announced 3 May 2021 as the official date for the school reopening exercise for all students across South Sudan. UNICEF supported the State Ministers to conduct radio talk shows to raise awareness on the school re-opening exercise and encouraged parents to start registering their children in multiple states. UNICEF delivered supplies such as teachers' kits, dignity kits, children's kits, early childhood development kits, recreation kits, boxes of chalk and chalk boards as part of a package to facilitate the re-opening of schools. In addition, UNICEF provided schools with COVID-19 preventive equipment such as face masks, soap, and buckets. UNICEF is preparing a one-off payment of incentives to teachers, but teachers' salary arrears remains a critical issue.

## WASH

To date in 2021, 183,428 people have been provided with access to safe drinking water through the rehabilitation of non-functional waterpoints in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities, in IDP settings and host communities, including the former PoC sites. UNICEF continued to provide support for the operation and maintenance of water yards, surface water treatment (SWAT) systems and urban water systems. In addition, UNICEF continued to support the construction of water supply systems for urban and peri-urban communities. The Juba urban water supply system was completed during the reporting month, the scheme will serve an estimated population of 70,000 people living in the city and an additional 33,000 vulnerable people living in IDP camps. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 20,460 individuals have gained access to basic sanitation facilities through the rehabilitation of latrines in health facilities and the construction of communal latrines. The fluctuation of the SSP against the USD poses a challenge to urban cost recovery systems, where costs of key inputs (diesel and chemicals) are priced in the USD, but cost recovery from users is done in South Sudanese Pounds.

The WASH sector has scaled up activities in the highly food and nutrition insecure areas of Pibor, Akobo, Tonj East, Tonj North, and Tonj South counties. A total of 9,000 individuals re-established access to safe water through the rehabilitation of eighteen non-functional boreholes in two highly food insecure counties (7 boreholes were rehabilitated in Tonj South and 11 boreholes were rehabilitated in Tonj East). Five water points were drilled and fitted with handpumps in communities with nutrition treatment sites, providing access to safe water to approximately 2,500 individuals. A total of 22 waterpoint user committees and 17 handpump mechanics were trained on the operation and maintenance of water supply infrastructure to enhance sustainability of the infrastructure. A total of 15 latrine stances were rehabilitated in nutrition treatment centres providing access to basic sanitation to approximately 750 individuals. A total of 29,188 people have been reached with key hygiene messages to enhance their hygiene practices as part of the response scale-up in targeted communities. In addition, a total of 1,280 mothers/caretakers of malnourished children received a WASH non-food items (NFI) package. As part of the broader WASH response, over 19,642 people were reached with key hygiene promotion messages to improve their hygiene behaviours and reduce the risk of WASH related diseases. WASH Cluster partners continue to scale up the response in the six-priority food insecure counties. To date a total of 142,000 individuals have been reached by 17 WASH Cluster partners. A total of 29,466 vulnerable individuals received NFIs from the WASH Cluster Core pipeline during the reporting period.

## Cash-based Programming

UNICEF has an ongoing unconditional cash support programme in Malakal whose main objective is to supplement the basic food needs of vulnerable communities, most of whom are returnees and internally displaced people. The households for the unconditional cash support project were identified and registered by UNICEF through a collaboration with local partners and community leaders. In the month of March, UNICEF reached 493 vulnerable households with a total of 1,871 people (883 females and 988 males). The spread between the UN exchange rate and the market rate, and the continued depreciation of the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) against the U.S. dollar however remained a cause for concern as prices of basic commodities continued to rise in the market thus giving a much lower purchasing power for vulnerable households targeted with cash programmes. In May, the SSP strengthened considerably against the USD,

but this has not yet translated into lower prices for most goods. Preparatory work to initiate the WASH voucher pilot programme targeting the former PoC sites continued during the reporting month. In collaboration with WFP a total of 9,125 households registered on the SCOPE platform in former Juba PoC sites 1 and 3 will be assisted to access water through a voucher modality under this project. The distribution of SCOPE cards to the targeted households is currently ongoing. UNICEF is also in the process of establishing long term agreements (LTAs) with mobile money operators, a pilot exercise will commence during the year.

### Communication for Development (C4D)

The Communication for development section continued to respond to multiple emergencies including COVID-19, polio and measles outbreaks through community engagement and social mobilization activities focusing on creating awareness and promoting positive health and hygiene seeking behaviours. Key activities implemented during the reporting month include the development and distribution of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials, household visits and mass communication initiatives. The team of integrated community mobilizers (ICMN) widely spread across all the ten states reached 846,230 people (395,265 males and 450,965 females) from 148,316 households with integrated messages for positive behaviours and social change. The majority of the people reached were in Lakes state (63%) followed by Eastern Equatoria state (24%), and Unity state (18%). A total of 46,235 awareness sessions were conducted with influential community groups reaching over 144,546 families in their households, marketplaces, health facilities, and water points. The Communication for Development section continued to co-lead the risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) working group with the Ministry of Health and supported the preparation of the COVAX supported vaccination exercise in Juba and other priority locations. During the reporting period over 3,000 calls were received at the UNICEF supported national hotline (6666). A total of 85 percent of the calls were inquiries on COVID-19 focusing on where to get tested, and when the COVID-19 vaccination exercise would be implemented.

### Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is co-leading three Clusters and one Area of Responsibility (AoR) out of a total of ten clusters and three AoRs currently active in the country. UNICEF at a national level co-leads the Child Protection AoR and the Education Cluster with Save the Children, the Nutrition Cluster with Concern, Action Against Hunger (ACF) and the World Food Program (WFP) and the WASH Cluster with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). UNICEF continued to participate in the inter-agency protection of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) task force, which functions under the auspices of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG)/Resident Coordinator (RC)/Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), and plays an active role of advocating for better protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

### Human Interest Stories and External Media

During the reporting month, the external communication section focused on drumming up support for the reopening of schools after the COVID-19 closure. A special feature on the [web](#) was made, text stories were published on print media and a campaign called 'dear teacher' was rolled out. The campaign activities included the erection of billboards in strategic locations in Juba, a [video](#) series and public service announcements (PSAs). In addition a [mini documentary](#) was aired on South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation television network and a studio debate was also held. On 19 April 2021, the Minister of General Education and Instruction announced that the schools will re-open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, this was a huge win for children who had been out of school for 15 months. UNICEF congratulated the Minister and urged all parents to send their children to school in a [press release](#). The roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine started during the reporting month, following the delivery from the COVAX facility in March. UNICEF supported the [launch](#) of the COVID-19 vaccination initiative at Juba Teaching Hospital. The external communication section continued to expand the child reporter programme and held a [training](#) for new child reporters in Bor. The section continued to highlight the dire humanitarian situation in South Sudan and how UNICEF is scaling up its response. This included awareness on the [visit to Pibor](#) by the EU Commissioner for Crisis Management.

### Next SitRep: 20 June 2021

UNICEF South Sudan Crisis: [www.unicef.org/southsudan](http://www.unicef.org/southsudan)

UNICEF South Sudan Facebook: [www.facebook.com/unicefsouthsudan](https://www.facebook.com/unicefsouthsudan)

UNICEF South Sudan Appeal: [http://www.unicef.org/appeals/south\\_sudan](http://www.unicef.org/appeals/south_sudan)

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## Annex A

### Summary of Programme Results

Sector Indicator   Disaggregation		Total Needs	UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
			2021 Target	Total results	Change since last report ▲▼	2021 Target	Total results	Change since last report ▲▼
<b>Nutrition</b>								
# children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	Girls		272,978	38,484	10,769	272,978	38,484	10,769
	Boys			31,931	8,781		31,931	8,781
# of children reached with vitamin A supplementation	Girls		2,971,481	1,284,520	294,187	2,971,481	1,284,520	294,187
	Boys			1,129,460	271,815		1,129,460	271,815
# of caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months who received counselling on maternal, infant and young child nutrition	Female		1,133,149	646,158	188,694	1,133,149	646,158	188,694
<b>Health</b>								
# of children aged 6 months to 15 years vaccinated against measles	Girls		540,000	6,329	0			
	Boys			6,080	0			
# of pregnant women and children provided with insecticide-treated nets in malaria-endemic areas			340,000	435,690	287,902			
<b>WASH</b>								
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	Girls		817,000	183,428	18,916	782,167	416,577	267,526
	Boys					799,351		
	Women					726,230		
	Men					692,251		
# of people accessing safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	Girls		303,500	20,460	1,341	782,167	198,301	141,760
	Boys					799,351		
	Women					726,230		
	Men					692,251		
<b>Child Protection</b>								
# children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	Girls		127,000	4,818	0	250,000	79,447	26,490
	Boys			4,841	0			
	Women							
	Men							
# of children and women accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	Girls		100,000	6,914	2,862			
	Boys			5,438	2,035			
	Women			8,099	3,173			
	Men			4,405	1,898			

Education								
# accessing quality formal or nonformal early learning, pre-primary, primary or secondary education	Girls Host		770,000			797,024	9,707	6,678
	Girls IDP			839	839			
	Boys Host							
	Boys IDP							
# of teachers trained on education in emergencies, basic pedagogy, and learner centered methodologies	Female		2,500			4,355	211	171
	Male			0	0			
Social Protection								
# of households reached through the cash transfer programme	HHS		30,000	5,786	0			
	Female		90,000	18,373	0			
	Male		60,000	13,704	0			
	Girls		27,000	N/A				
	Boys		18,000	N/A				
Communication for Development								
# of people accessing mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback, including on Ebola	Female		1,320,000	473,286	155,367			
	Male		1,080,000	462,528	96,450			

## Annex B

### Funding Status\*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funds available	Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2021	Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)		\$	%
Health	6,776,000	6,776,000	-	1,154,547	1,154,547	83%
Nutrition	60,000,000	60,000,000	30,164,557	5,365,032	35,529,589	41%
WASH	45,587,800	45,587,800	5,308,179	9,330,016	14,638,195	68%
Education	52,032,200	52,032,200	-	2,801,317	2,801,317	95%
Child Protection	25,292,600	25,292,600	1,234,234	3,443,705	4,677,939	82%
Social Protection	4,117,000	4,117,000	-	102,659	102,659	98%
Community engagement	4,000,000	4,000,000	-	807,311	807,311	80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>197,805,600</b>	<b>36,706,969</b>	<b>23,004,588</b>	<b>59,711,557</b>	<b>138,094,043</b>	<b>74%</b>

\* The Fund Received are gross (including global recovery) whilst the Carry Forward are programmable at CO level (figures are provisional).