



Reporting Period: January to June 2021

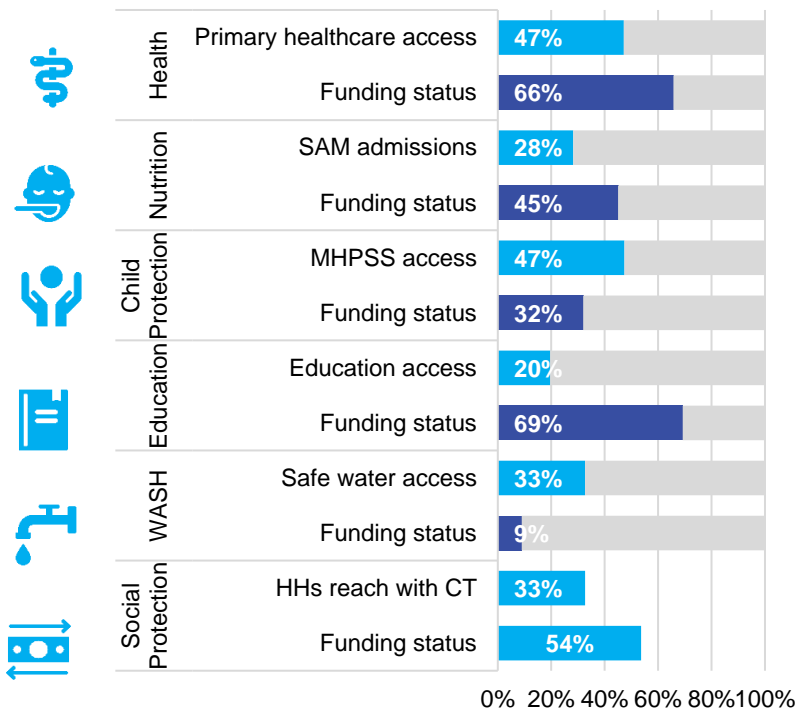
© UNICEF

In May and June 2021, CAR continued to experience fighting, which, together with a new spike of COVID-19 cases, further deteriorated the humanitarian situation – which is at its worst level in five years. The number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) is the highest in 8 years and humanitarians continue to experience significant limitations of humanitarian access, making assistance to the 2.8 million people in need even more challenging.

During the reporting period:


- More than 22,900 conflict affected children benefited from play and recreational activities through UNICEF supported Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), 32 children formerly associated with armed forces and groups were supported;
- 16,980 children under 5 received free essential care;
- 8,259 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition have been treated;
- More than 18,600 children gained access to education;

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



Central African Republic

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3

unicef 

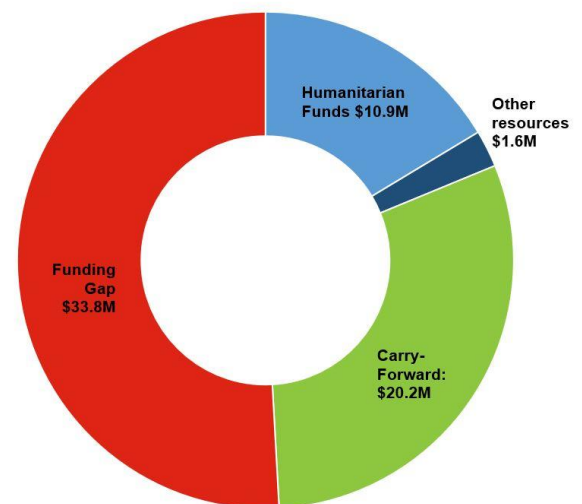
for every child

Situation in Numbers



UNICEF Appeal 2021

US\$ 66.5 million



*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

UNICEF needs 66.5 million USD to sustain provision of life-saving services for women and children in CAR. In May and June, the European Commission (ECHO) and Norway generously contributed to UNICEF humanitarian response to scaling up life-saving interventions through the Rapid Response Mechanism and to support education and child protection interventions in the crisis-affected areas.

UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all donors for the contributions received. However, the 2021 HAC still has a 51 per cent funding gap. In the face of resurgence of conflict-related violence leading to increased displacements, continued donors' support for the ongoing humanitarian crisis in CAR remains vital.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Highlights

In Central African Republic (CAR), the first half of the year was characterized by the re-election of the incumbent President Touadéra and the establishment of the Legislative Assembly in a climate of increased political tensions, military operations, humanitarian law and human rights violations, including grave violations against children. Between April and June, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations against children recorded and documented 75 violations, including height attacks against health facilities and ten attacks against schools.

During the first semester of 2021, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated to its lowest level in five years. Indeed, according to OCHA, the humanitarian situation is exacerbated by the repeated violence, soaring food prices caused by the disruption of the main supply route, socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and the decline in agricultural production caused by floods. Approximately 2.8 million people (57% of the population) need humanitarian assistance and protection, 1.9 million of them are in acute need. Furthermore, according to the latest update of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC), almost half of the Central African population (2.29 M people) are acutely food insecure with very alarming forecasts for the coming months. The Nutrition Cluster estimates that the number of under 5 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) could increase by 29 per cent, passing from 62,400 to 80,000; while the number of under five children suffering Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) could increase by 19 per cent, passing from 143,000 to over 177,000.

During the past six months, there has been a resurgence of COVID-19 cases which further exacerbated the country's vulnerabilities and continued to negatively affect the health of the population to the extent that on 19 May, the President declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency. The following day the government launched the national vaccination campaign against COVID-19, with the support of UNICEF and WHO. The first batch of vaccines received through the Covax platform was fully and timely utilized in this initial phase. Between 20 May and 23 June, 78,695 people were vaccinated against COVID-19 in 10 prefectures and in the capital Bangui, according to the Ministry of Health. Priorities was given to health front line works in various parts of the country, and people with pre-existing conditions.

Meanwhile, clashes and conflicts continued to persist throughout the country, with a peak in violence in the north-west and Ouaka prefecture. In the first half of the year, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) recorded 69 alerts across the country, which represents an increase of 41 percent compared to the number of alerts recorded during the same period in 2020 and confirms a serious deterioration in the security and humanitarian situation over the past six months

The consequences of the health and humanitarian situation are even more serious for the 716,678 Central Africans forced to flee their homes due to clashes and conflicts, 232,401 of whom have become displaced due to the electoral crisis (source: Commission Mouvement de Populations).

Furthermore, humanitarian access remains a major concern with 267 incidents (including 65 in May and June) affecting humanitarian workers in the first six months of 2021, compared to 192 incidents in the same period in 2020. In addition, incidents involving explosive devices have increased since mid-April 2021, particularly in the west of the country, an area where the conflict has intensified and, in some areas, humanitarian activities had to be temporarily suspended due to the ongoing military operations.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health and VIH

From January to June, 50,507 people, including 39,042 in May and June, received free essential care in UNICEF supported health facilities. The most common illnesses among children under 5 were malaria (45 per cent), acute respiratory infections (25 per cent) and diarrhoeal diseases (20 per cent). Skin diseases and intestinal parasitosis diagnosed in 2,215 children account for 10% of cases. Among the 7,306 pregnant women treated in UNICEF-supported

health centres in the last two months more than 60 per cent had their first prenatal consultation, 85 per cent were tested for HIV and 1.5 per cent were tested HIV positive and put on Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment.

Nutrition

During the first six months of 2021, 14,065 children aged 6-59 months (included 8,259 in the last two months) were admitted to treatment units and treated for SAM with satisfactory results according to international standards (a cure rate of 87.8 per cent (> 75 per cent), a death rate of 2.1 per cent (<5 per cent) and 10 per cent (<15 per cent) discontinued treatment). SAM with medical complications represents 20 per cent (2,813) of the caseload.

Most of the regions affected by SAM are those that experience high levels of insecurity, food insecurity and limited access to essential social services and where the nutrition response has limited coverage caused by major challenges to humanitarian access. In addition, the nutritional status of children under 5 and mothers continues to deteriorate due to increasing food insecurity, limited humanitarian access, population displacement, limited access to basic social services, high incidence of childhood diseases and poor infant and young child feeding practices and insufficient institutional service capacity.

According to the Nutrition Cluster, the number of children under 5 suffering from SAM could increase by 29%, passing from 62,400 to 80,000 by the end of 2021. UNICEF is urgently seeking \$11.6 million to meet the immediate and medium-term needs resulting from this deterioration.

WASH

As of the end of June, a total of 65,320 people gained access to safe water, 23,270 people had access to appropriately designed and managed latrines, 475 women and 16,286 girls had access to menstrual hygiene management services and more than 372,000 people had been reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes.

In May and June, UNICEF ensured access to safe drinking water for more than 6,500 people in Bocaranga (Ouham-Pendé), Kaga Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi) and Grevai (Nana-Grebizi) through rehabilitation of 13 water points and in Bambari (Ouaka) five new boreholes were built, benefitting to 2,500 people. In addition, 475 vulnerable displaced women due to clashes in Nana Mambéré prefecture received dignity kits and soap.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 30 handwashing devices were installed in IDP sites in Kaga Bandoro, reaching over 5,570 people. In Paoua (Ouham-Pendé), UNICEF supported the Health District for the distribution of soaps as part of the COVID-19 vaccination awareness campaign, reaching at least 2,000 people. Furthermore, 561 schools benefited from the distribution of hygiene kits and trainings to implement preventive measures to avoid the transmission of COVID-19. A total of 262,000 students (including more than 120,000 girls) were reached and 892 teachers were trained on good hygiene practices and COVID-19 prevention measures. In addition, a Menstrual Hygiene Management Kit was distributed to 16,286 girls.

In IDP sites in Nana Grebizi prefecture, five temporary learning spaces were supported with WASH kits and 3,917 children (including 2,080 girls) and 37 teachers were reached. In Bouar, 2,541 vulnerable families received a COVID-19 prevention kit through a joint distribution with NGOs, WFP and WHO.

The WASH Cluster maintained operational meetings with partners to support effective coordination and response to the needs of affected people. To date, UNICEF and Cluster WASH partners ensured provision of safe water to more than 319,800 people and sanitation facilities to other 75,000 persons.

Education

From January to June, more than 25,540 children (including 18,600 in the last two months) newly gained access to education through UNICEF-supported projects.

During the last two months, UNICEF partners conducted awareness-raising campaigns for the resumption of classes in 15 schools occupied by armed groups in Ouham, Nana Mambere, Ombella Mpoko and Ouaka prefectures. In addition, 8,882 children (including 3,387 girls) and 75 teachers (including 22 women) received school kits in the prefectures of Ouham, Ouham Pende and Ouaka. A total of 608 teachers have been trained in basic pedagogic and psychosocial support. These same teachers received financial assistance to ensure continuity of teaching in the prefectures of Ouham, Ouham Pende, Nana-Grébizi and Ouaka prefectures. In Kaga Bandoro, six temporary learning spaces were rehabilitated, and UNICEF ensured that 4,700 children who have had to flee their homes had access to education via radio. In the prefecture of Nana Mambere, 12 schools previously built by UNICEF were provided with 490 school furniture.

Furthermore, UNICEF has launched a national study to identify the causes of school dropouts among adolescents so to find appropriate reintegration and prevention strategies.

Child Protection

During the first six months of the year, the ongoing armed conflict and violence had continued to expose children to increased protection risks and led to an increase in incidents of GBV, in particular sexual violence. 159 cases of GBV were documented and accessed a comprehensive package of assistance including psychosocial support, medical assistance and community reintegration support. In addition, the increase in incidents involving unexploded ordnances, particularly in the prefectures of Nana Mambéré, Ouham and Ouham Pende, has worsen the situation and underlined the need to strengthen mine risk education (MRE) efforts.

In May and June, more than 22,900 conflict affected children were enrolled in UNICEF supported CFS and benefited from integrated psycho-social support. Among them, psychosocial support activities were also provided to 1,358 newly displaced children in Bambari (Ouaka) following the dismantlement of 'Elevage IDP site' by local authorities. 32 children (including 10 girls) formerly associated with armed forces and groups received reintegration services, 86 separated and unaccompanied children were identified and provided with temporary care in foster families and 33 from them were reunified with their families.

Despite challenges related to access and security, UNICEF through partners and the child protection quick response team, responded to the immediate psychosocial needs of crisis-affected children: more than 56,800 children and caregivers, including 24,589 girls and 2,489 women, received support through Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) and other community-based interventions.

Direct engagement and advocacy with leaders of armed groups was slowed down due to the tense security situation throughout the country. As a result, 293 formally released from armed groups and supported during the reporting period. The focus has been on self-released children who have returned to their communities on their own and who still need support for reintegration.

During the first half of 2021, the Child Protection Cluster provided support to more than 68,300 children, through CFS and community-based interventions.

Social Protection

During the first half of the year, as part of UNICEF's cash assistance, 2,938 families (representing 6,984 adults and 12,858 children) benefited from seven distributions in four prefectures for a total of 456,000 USD.

Three distributions were organized during the past two months, reaching a total of 1,147 vulnerable households. Meanwhile, the monitoring of the Cash + Education project, which aims to support the education of disabled children and girls not attending school in Bambari, confirmed the effectiveness of the response, as the children supported had an average school attendance rate of 95 per cent.

Furthermore, in the framework of the Cash + Nutrition project, which aims to financially support families with malnourished children, the first distribution took place and 65 USD were distributed to 447 households in Bouar and Baboua.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

From January to June, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) recorded 69 alerts, two-thirds of which concerned displacements as a result of armed violence and conflicts related to military operations, clashes between armed groups and inter-communal conflicts during the transhumance season, mainly in the prefectures of Ouham, Ouham Pende and Ouaka. This represents a 41 per cent increase compared to the number of alerts recorded in the same period in 2020. Following these alerts, 14 Exploratory Missions (MEX) and 24 Multisector Assessments (MSA) were conducted and a total of 19,437 households (including 56,305 children) were reached with essential household items and more than 66,000 people (including 39,076 children) have benefited from WASH assistance.

In May and June, a total of 24 alerts were published and shared with the humanitarian community, six MEX and 10 MSA were conducted. RRM partners assisted 13,922 households (about 57,500 individuals including more than 36,500 children under 5) with essential household items and more than 30,600 households (including more than 19,200 children under 5) have benefited from WASH assistance.

The latest RRM dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

Communication for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

In May and June, in Bangui and Bimbo, a qualitative survey was conducted by the Ministry of Health with the support of UNICEF on the acceptability of vaccination against Covid-19. 282 participants were interviewed. Key findings show that Covid-19 is mentioned as the last of the current diseases, after malaria, fever and diarrhoea. Interviews also showed that leaders and the population have a fairly accurate understanding of Covid-19 and that health professionals are the most reliable sources of information.

In support of the national vaccination campaign, UNICEF and its partners organized 44 advocacy meetings with community leaders in 44 municipalities. 15 community radio stations were involved in broadcasting messages and interactive programmes. 1,010 social mobilizers and 657 criers contributed to sensitize more than 182,500 people.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is a member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), UN Country Team (UNCT), Security Management Team (SMT). UNICEF also participates in the MINUSCA coordination mechanisms such as the Senior Management Group for Protection (SMGP) and the Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse Task Force (PSEA TF) to strengthen the delivery of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF leads WASH, Nutrition, Education Clusters and Child Protection Sub-Cluster. The Government is an active member of the WASH, Nutrition, and Education Clusters and Child Protection Sub-Cluster. Nutrition is paired with health and works through three Sub-Clusters at the regional level. The Education and WASH Clusters are also functional at the regional level. At the Cluster level, UNICEF is an active member of the Health Cluster and, via the RRM coordinator, of the Shelter/NFI/Camp Management Cluster. Moreover, UNICEF hosts and coordinates the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). The RRM Coordinator is a member of the Inter-Cluster Coordination team (ICC) which enables efficient coordination between the RRM programme and the humanitarian community.

Working with partners based in the country's most troubled areas, and using prepositioned essential supplies, UNICEF prioritizes child centered life-saving interventions and risk reduction for crisis-affected, displaced and returning people in CAR. The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) led by UNICEF carries out multi-sector assessments on new crises, provides non-food items and water, sanitation and hygiene support to vulnerable people newly affected by shocks, and coordinates internally as well as with external actors to ensure complementary responses in other essential sectors. The mechanism also provides UNICEF and partners with quick and reliable information on the affected populations needs. This allows UNICEF to mobilize partners to address preventable childhood illnesses, malaria, HIV and malnutrition. UNICEF focuses on the protection needs of children, including their release from armed groups and reunification with their families when separated or unaccompanied, and provides the appropriate psychosocial support to children affected by the conflict. UNICEF contributes to providing out of school children with access to safe learning spaces and quality education. UNICEF works with line ministries to reinforce the Government's capacity in humanitarian coordination, leadership and response. In coordination with UNICEF development programmes, the emergency response contributes day to day to increase people's access to basic services in line with the commitment to strengthen the humanitarian-development continuum.

UNICEF CAR: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/CAR.html

UNICEF CAR Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNICEFCAR

UNICEF CAR Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNICEFCAR>

UNICEF CAR Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <http://www.unicef.org/appeals/car.htm>

Who to contact for further information :
Fran Equiza
Representative
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7055 0205
Email: fequiza@unicef.org

Paolo Marchi
Deputy Representative
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7055 0206
Email: pmarchi@unicef.org

Frederic Emirian
Chief Emergency & Field Operations
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 7000 9667
Email: femirian@unicef.org

Annex A - Summary of Programme Results

Sector Indicator Disaggregation		UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
		2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼
Health							
#children under five vaccinated against polio	Girls	638,981	0				
	Boys		0				
	Total		0				
#children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	Girls	107,028	15,328	11,853			
	Boys		15,029	11,554			
	Women		16,454	12,757			
	Men		3,696	2,878			
	Total		50,507	39,042			
#health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control	Women	1,980	0	0			
	Men		0	0			
	Total		0	0			
#children under 10 vaccinated against measles	Girls	399,853	0	0			
	Boys		0	0			
	Total		0	0			
#pregnant and lactating women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy	Girls	148	29	29			
	Women		68	10			
	Total		97	39			
#adolescent girls and boys tested for HIV who received the result of last test	Girls	10,725	ND				
	Boys		ND				
Nutrition							
#children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment *	Girls	49,862	6,751	3,872	49,862	6,751	3,872
	Boys		7,314	4,387		7,314	4,387
	Total		14,065	8,259		14,065	8,259
#primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling	Women	164,828	21,056	11,051	219,771	21,056	11,051
	Men		2,318	1,749		2,318	1,749
	Total		23,374	12,800		23,374	12,800
#children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation every six months	Girls	647,226	246,395	0	647,226	246,395	0
	Boys		227,441	0		227,441	0
	Total		473,836	0		473,836	0
Child Protection							
# children [and caregivers] accessing mental health and psychosocial support	Girls	120,000	24,587	10,204	145,000	31,517	4,288
	Boys		27,581	11,507		36,792	6,601
	Women		2,489	668			
	Men		2,222	529			
	Total		56,879	22,908	Total	68,309	10,889
# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention	Girls	6,000	359	132	3,125	700	289
	Boys		67	3			
	Women		119	23		281	47
	Men		1	1			
	Total		546	159	Total	981	336
# children released from armed forces and groups reintegrated with their families/communities	Girls	2,000	75	10	3,125	541	199
	Boys		218	22		1,150	444
	Total		293	32		1,691	643
#unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	Girls	1,750	74	15	2,400	143	9
	Boys		84	18		162	19
	Total			158		33	Total
Education							
#children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Girls	130,000	11,000	7,481	396,242	ND	ND
	Boys		14,541	11,200		ND	ND

	Total		25,541	18,681			
#children receiving individual learning materials	Girls	360,000	5,909	3,387	533,375	2,522	2,522
	Boys		8,368	5,495		2,873	2,873
	Total		14,277	8,882			
#schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)		800	561	561			
WASH							
# people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	Girls	300,000	15,039	1,719	910,000	73,102	37,795
	Boys		14,343	1,644		69,922	36,151
	Women		18,368	2,914		89,814	46,832
	Men		17,570	2,723		86,969	45,072
	Total		65,320	9,000		319,807	165,850
# people accessing appropriately designed and managed latrines	Girls	150,000	5,352	0	980,000	17,248	6,095
	Boys		5,119	0		16,498	5,830
	Women		6,516	0		20,997	7,420
	men		6,283	0		20,247	7,155
	Total		23,270	0	Total	74,990	26,500
# girls and women accessing menstrual hygiene management services	Girls	25,000	16,286	16,286			
	Women		475	475			
	Total		16,761	16,761			
#people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes	Girls	300,000	146,950	127,197	1,120,000	167,896	135,554
	Boys		167,083	148,190		187,119	156,184
	Women		29,340	5,293		54,841	15,467
	Men		28,945	5,757		53,534	15,568
	Total		372,318	286,437	Total	463,390	322,773
Social Protection							
# households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors		9,000	2,938	447			
Rapid Response Mechanism							
#Vulnerable people newly affected by the crisis rapidly provided with essential household items	Girls	225,000	27,894	17,932			
	Boys		28,411	18,584			
	Women		17,839	11,302			
	Men		16,117	9,681			
	Total		90,261	57,499			
#Vulnerable people affected by the crisis benefiting from water, hygiene and sanitation interventions	Girls	130,000	19,425	9,440			
	Boys		19,651	9,767			
	Women		13,719	6,034			
	Men		13,277	5,360			
	Total		66,072	30,601			
Communication for Development(c4d)							
#people reached through messaging on access to services		3,000,000	3,509,515	2,239,961			
#people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioral change)	Girls	700,000	98,492	98,492			
	Boys		83,207	83,207			
	Women		205,254	205,254			
	Men		182,575	182,575			
	Total		569,528	569,528			
#people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	Girls	25,000	0	0			
	Boys		12	12			
	Women		2,577	2,231			
	Men		2,003	1,738			
	Total		4,592	3,981			

Annex B - Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2021	Other resources used in 2021	Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	\$	%
Nutrition	15,200,000	1,962,472	0	4,885,742	8,351,786	55%
Health and HIV/AIDS	3,800,000	1,073,914	390,170	1,032,126	1,303,790	34%
WASH	9,000,000	90,000	152,600	559,014	8,198,386	91%
Child Protection	8,200,000	1,774,718	205,735	641,052	5,578,495	68%
Education	10,200,000	1,345,480	38,788	5,679,443	3,136,289	31%
Social protection and Cash Transfer	2,400,000	512,478	300,000	300,000	1,287,522	54%
C4D	2,400,000	25,000	0	1,461,066	913,934	38%
RRM	13,800,000	2,791,805	145,164	5,619,203	5,243,828	38%
Cluster/sector coordination	1,500,000	0	364,489	0	1,135,511	76%
Winterization/Emergencies	-	1,315,690			(1,315,690)	
Total	66,500,000	10,891,557	1,596,946	20,177,646	33,833,851	51%