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Reporting Period: November 2021

# Madagascar Country Office Humanitarian Situation Report No. 6

## Highlights

- Based on the recent SMART survey, and the preliminary findings from the IPC results of December 2021, there is a slight improvement in the nutrition situation. The SMART survey presents a prevalence GAM of 7.6% and SAM of 1.5% for the 10 districts, compared to 7.6% and the SAM at 2.0% (same period last year). Despite this improvement, with the onset of the lean season we expect a deterioration.
- The official activation of Nutrition, WASH and Food security cluster demonstrates that the international community recognizes that the crisis will last.
- Government finally gave its approval for the release of an updated version of the Flash appeal
- UNICEF's water interventions have reached an additional 10,000 people who are most affected by the drought in the regions of Androy, Anosy and Atsimo Andrefana with over 525,000 now reached out of the 807,000 targeted by the WASH cluster.
- With UNICEF's support, this November 29 mobile clinics are deployed and reached an additional 26,800 people, covering 128% of children under the age of 5, or 229,500 of the 180,000 targeted, and 81% of pregnant women, or 24,300 of the 30,000 planned.
- UNICEF continued to coordinate the cash response to the drought through the Cash Working Group, UNICEF covered about 35,000 people (21,000 children) in November
- a series of dedicated trainings on GBViE and PSEA, including a training of trainers will enable an acceleration in preventive and risk mitigation measures.

## Situation in Numbers

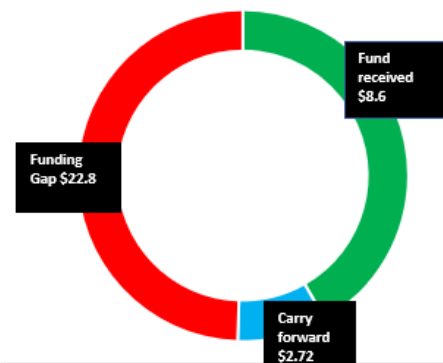


**1,285,000**  
people facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4)

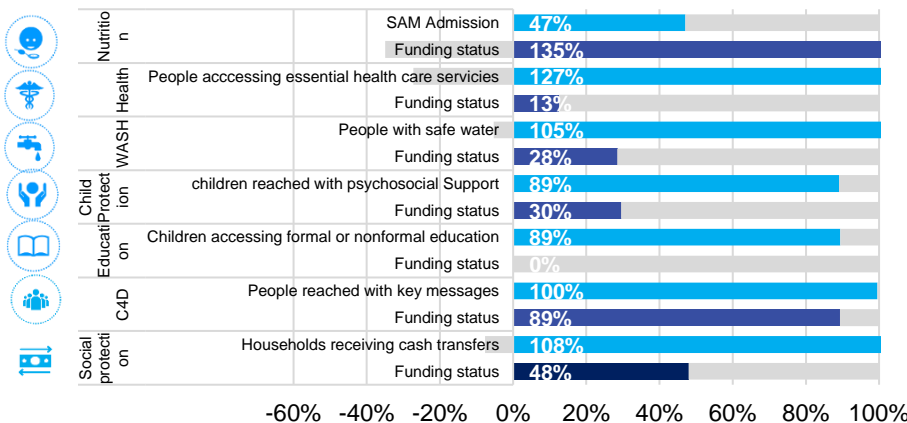


**500,000**  
children in need

## Funding status 2021



## UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



## Funding Overview and Partnerships

To immediately respond to ongoing humanitarian crisis, and to prepare for potentially worsened emergencies particularly in southern Madagascar, UNICEF Madagascar launched a US\$ 34.2 million appeal to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs of children and women. As of 30 November 2021, 50 per cent had been received from the European Commission/ECHO, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), SDG Joint Fund, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) and the Government of Japan. An additional 8 per cent was carried over. The original 2021 appeal was revised due to exponential increase of humanitarian needs around COVID-19 and drought. Madagascar is experiencing the worst form of humanitarian consequences of drought in years accelerated by climate change and environmental degradation in a context of covid-induced general economic degradation.

UNICEF and its partners in UN, NGO, government, communities and private sector calls on donors to provide flexible and timely support for ongoing humanitarian responses in the sectors of nutrition, WASH, health, social policy, child protection, gender, and communication for development (C4D).

## Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

The SMART survey data collection and analysis took place from the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 while the IPC workshop followed, from the 26<sup>th</sup> of November and will run till the 05<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. Preliminary results from the SMART survey show an average prevalence GAM of 7.6% and SAM of 1.5% for the 10 districts. It is a slight I compared to last year SMART survey which had GAM stays the same at 7.6% and the SAM at 2.0%. The IPC Acute Malnutrition is currently being revised and will be published early December 2021.

Projections foresee a deterioration of the nutritional situation due to the early start this year of the lean season (i.e., starting in October instead of December usually with a peak of admissions of acutely malnourished children usually occurring in March/April, at the end of the lean season when the first harvests become available).

The main cause is a pronounced and prolonged drought since 2019/2020 leading to high food insecurity against a background of vulnerabilities and very low resilience capacity of the affected populations. Identified aggravating factors are an increase of basic food items prices because of the COVID-19 pandemic, poor results of the main agricultural season in the first semester of 2021 and poor access to health care and water.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Nutrition

UNICEF continues to co-lead and strengthen the Nutrition cluster coordination at central and sub-national levels, especially after official activation. Information are gathered monthly and uploaded on the Nutrition cluster dashboard.<sup>1</sup>

In total, 100% of health centers (278) and hospitals (9) in the 10 Southern districts offer community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) services and will be supported by the temporary recruitment of 160 health workers.

A total of 32 mobile teams were deployed in remote communities classified in Emergency by the Nutritional Surveillance System. This represents around 30% of all CMAM admissions (UNICEF, ACF, MSF, MDM, MEDAIR and DFM); 29 will be deployed as of the first week of November.

Complementary services include the promotion of optimum maternal, infants and young children feeding practices, the Family mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) initiative (200,000 parents trained and equipped with MUAC tapes) and a partnership with the NGO ASOS for nutrition information and community awareness.

UNICEF continued the provision of SAM management through CRENI/CRENAS and Mobile Teams across the districts. UNICEF staff, based in the field, continued the monthly monitoring and supervision of the activities put in place, coordinating closely with partners.

UNICEF is planning to ship nutrition supplies to CRENI, to cover the first quarter of 2022. This will benefit 1912 beneficiaries. Regarding CRENA supplies, for the first quarter of 2022, 24,036 beneficiaries have been targeted and supplies pre-positioned.

4 UN Volunteers to facilitate end-user monitoring in the districts (Bekily, Taolanaro, Tsihombe and Beloha), have been recruited and 38 additional Agents de santé (AS) staff in the SSD of Amboasary have been recruited by the DRSP Anosy, with financial support from UNICEF, covering 3 days of trainin, plus a 6 months' salary. These workers started working in November 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/madagascar/nutrition>

207 heads of CSB (Health Workers) have been orientated on the SMS data collection tablet. Data collection process has also been initiated, while orientation is being completed in other districts.

Between January and October 2021, 56,520 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (UNICEF) and 762 complicated SAM cases were admitted into inpatient care. The cure rate is well within acceptable spheres standard at 88.8%, with a mortality rate of 0.3% and a defaulter rate of 4.2%, all within acceptable standard.

96,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (WFP) were admitted for treatment in fixed or mobile nutritional centres.

Between June and September 2021, 108,417 children 6-59 months old received nutritional supplements and 52,664 pregnant and lactating women received fortified flour (super cereal) from WFP.

The Q4-2021 therapeutic supply distribution has been completed to serve an anticipated 20,000 SAM children in line with forecasted admission trend. Currently the ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) pipeline is secured up-to the Q2-2022 (44,053 cartons in stock and 40,513 cartons in the pipeline).

## WASH



For the entire month of November, just over additional **10,000** people received WASH assistance (essentially through water supply), as a WASH cluster response. Some **150m<sup>3</sup>** of drinking water was distributed to the above-mentioned beneficiaries. The beneficiaries were mothers and MAS children (at the health and nutrition centres) and some community members in the Anosy, Androy and Atsimo Andrefana regions.

UNICEF represented 100% of the cluster response in water trucking during this reporting period. Additional water infrastructure is under construction and will cover the need for the upcoming months.

[Water Sanitation Hygiene | Humanitarian Response](#)

Since the beginning of the crisis, out of the **807,000** persons targeted by the WASH Cluster, just over **525,000** people have been assisted for Water, some **51,000** benefited from sanitation activities, and just over **30,000** from Hygiene activities. Based on the basic Water needs, the Cluster response is covering almost 64% of the target. The total amount of persons reached by UNICEF since January 2021 is just over **316,000** (around 300,000 for water and 23,500 for hygiene.) Globally, UNICEF represents just under 60% of the response.

The main gaps remain with sanitation and hygiene activities; advocacy continues with the members of the Cluster as does close cooperation with nutrition cluster (on targeting).

## Challenges

The drought monitoring (surface vegetation index) reveals that 30% of the surface is in an alert phase, and 5% is in a critical phase. Although the situation has improved since the beginning of the year, due to very low rains, the water tables have not been recharged, for Androy, it is reported that 41% of water points are producing less quantities. Regarding the region of Anosy, the Western coastal region is suffering from the same problem. The water trucking working group and the regional sub-clusters are working on short- and medium-term solutions.

The WASH Cluster response plan estimated budget of **10 million USD** to cover WASH needs for the **807,050** targeted people. However, to this date, there is still a gap of **5,7 million USD** to cover all WASH needs.



## Health

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Thanks to UNICEF support, 29 mobile clinics are operational in 09 out of 10 districts affected by the crisis in the Great South. These mobile clinics currently cover 138 sites in 47 communes of these 09 districts, prioritized according to their nutritional and health situations and taking into account the presence of other actors and interventions. For this time, the management of acute malnutrition in the visited sites is reinforced at the level of these mobile clinics. To this end, they make weekly visits to ensure adequate care and monitoring of malnourished children.

This support for improving access to free services in these 09 districts during this month has enabled 13,600 girls, 12,900 boys and 300 pregnant women to benefit from essential health services, thus reaching 181%, 172% and 12% of the monthly objectives respectively.

As a result of this support:

- 300 pregnant women received their fourth antenatal care. 1,400 other pregnant women received their first prenatal consultation, of which 1,300 received folic acid for the prevention of anemia and 700 for intermittent preventive treatment against malaria.
- 14,500 children under 5 years of age received outpatient visits, allowing 5,400 children to receive treatment for life-threatening childhood illnesses such as diarrhea, malaria and ARIs.
- 4,000 children were vaccinated against various vaccine-preventable diseases, including 1,600 against measles.
- 8,000 children under the age of 5 were screened for malnutrition. 277 severely malnourished and 539 moderately malnourished children were found and of these 277 SAM children, 239 were treated and the rest were referred.

## Education

During this reporting period, UNICEF supported the Education system through the coordination and monitoring of CRAN (course de remise a niveau) activities and reintegration of students that have dropped out back in school. Out of the 21,700 children and adolescents (11,800 girls, 54%) in CRAN in the three drought- affected regions of Anosy, Androy et Atsimo Andrefana, to date more than 21,400 children (11,550 girls, 54%) are reportedly reintegrated in schools with 16,573 in primary schools (8,880 girls, 54%) and 4,830 adolescents (2,675 girls, 54%) in the secondary schools as identified according to data collection/compilation with the decentralized education authorities.

UNICEF continued its contribution in the inter-agency coordination meetings led by OCHA by providing information on the response of the education sector to the crisis.

Supporting the decentralized education authorities of the three drought-affected regions (10 districts), UNICEF strengthened the mechanism to respond to school absenteeism. For this pilot phase, action is ongoing in 210 schools of the regions of Atsimo Andrefana and Anosy.

Focused on the drought-affected districts, a joint action plan for 2021-2022 is in progress with three United Nations Agencies (ILO, WFP and UNICEF), with UNICEF coordinating the development of the plan.

## Shock-Responsive Social Protection and Social Policy

**The joint response plan prepared by the Cash Working Group (CWG) and the Food Security Cluster (SAMS) continues to be implemented.** The plan covers about 900,000 people who continues to receive monthly humanitarian cash transfers (100,000 MGA/per household) from the national social protection agency (*Fond intervention pour le Developpement*, FID) through the World Bank and UNICEF, WFP, ACF, SAFFJKM, SVI, WHH, and CRM. CWG's members have mobilized a total of approximately US\$ 60 million to cover the needs of those 900,000 people from July 2021 to May 2022. The assistance covers 50% of the Minimum Expenditure Basket and in most affected locations it will be complemented by a food ratio corresponding to an additional 50%. Hybrid assistance will be implemented from December in eight priority 1 municipalities. Overall, about **65% of the target population have received assistance thus far.**

In addition, FAO's cash plus programme (with funding from the World Bank) will start in December to cover around 67,400 people in 40 communes in Southern Madagascar. The programme will provide a cash transfer support component (75,000 MGA) and additional support in agriculture.

To address protection issues identified in the previous PDM, training of trainers on the Prevention of Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (PSEA) will begin at the beginning of December. All local actors involved in the cash distribution and monitoring of the programmes will be trained.

**With financial support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the United Nations' SDG Fund, and Norad (through Global Thematic Funding), UNICEF provides humanitarian cash transfers to about 35,000 people (covering 7,000 households, approximately 21,000 children).** This corresponds to a 100% coverage of the population of the commune of Ifotaka, in Amboasary (Anosy region). The last payment was made at the beginning of November in Ifotaka, and the next one will be held in the end of December. **A funding gap of about US\$ 960,000 is hampering the continuity of the response by UNICEF from February to May 2022.**

## Child Protection

### ***1- Strengthening coordination and response capacities for child protection in emergencies***

A new partnership has been identified for the Atsimo Andrefana region in the two districts impacted by the drought, Betioky and Ampanihy with a consortium of local NGOs with expertise in mobilizing stakeholders and communities. The partnership document currently being finalized includes the operationalization/revitalization of the district level child protection network mechanism to strengthen the coordination of responses in these two districts. This coordination mechanism will cover responses in 21 communes and 450 local level watch groups ("Cellules de Veille" : CeV) that will be set up and become operational. This program will reach a total of 707,148 people, including 410,145 women and 345,450 children, as well as 10 children and 10 women detained in the prison of Ampanihy, who will be provided with food.

In collaboration with the PSEA task force, co-led by UNFPA and CRS, 68 people from the Atsimo Andrefana region, including PSEA focal points, para-social workers, and members of local protection watch groups, were trained on PSEA and GBV. 2,000 children will benefit from late birth registration through the intervention of the court (as is the required procedure in Madagascar), scheduled for December 2021

### ***2- Strengthening of services and care for children who are victims or at-risk during emergencies***

In the Anosy region, 300 children (200 girls and 100 boys) from 12 fokontany in three municipalities have benefited from the establishment of child-friendly spaces during the month of November. The objective of these spaces is to protect children aged 7 to 9 years old, who do not benefit from other child protection programs (e.g. literacy, school reintegration) and who are exposed to the risks of violence and exploitation. 12 facilitators including 4 para-social workers (women) and 08 youth peer educators (4 young women and 4 young men) were trained to manage activities in these child-friendly spaces.

In the two regions of Anosy and Androy 42 children (25 girls, 17 boys) who have experienced violence received care and support including psychosocial support from community social work volunteers, family mediation and referrals to medical and judicial services. 23 reported cases (14 girls, 9 boys) were cases of neglect/abandonment, 10 children experienced physical violence (6 girls, 4 boys), 2 girls who are victims of child marriage, 4 girls were victims of sexual exploitation, and 2 boys were kidnapped (one of whom is an albino child). These two children were found by the gendarmerie 40km from Fort Dauphin thanks to an alert raised by the members of the child protection network. The perpetrator is still at large. 14 cases of gender-based violence against adult women were reported in the Androy and Anosy regions and received care and support.

In order to reduce the distance between communities and care and support services to victims of violence including GBV, 15 new para-social workers (4 men and 11 women) from the Amboasary and Betroka districts have been trained to provide psychosocial support.

### ***3- Prevention of violence, abuse, exploitation, child marriage and neglect during the drought period***

Community watch groups are in place in 4 municipalities in two districts of the Anosy region (Amboasary and Betroka) to provide community-based monitoring of violence. 5 sensitization sessions were organized and carried out by 08 members of the CeV (all women) of these 2 Districts. 750 people, including 387 adults (195 adult women, 192 men) and

363 children (222 girls, 141 boys), members of the intervention communities of these CeVs were reached by these awareness-raising/information sessions. The key messages focused on knowledge related to violence and its impact, the importance of reporting cases of violence against children, gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as available services.

In Fort Dauphin, a national meeting for the organization of the World Youth Day by the Scout movement was an opportunity to address messages of prevention, reporting and protection against violence against children. A total of 7,500 people (1,700 adults with 900 women and 800 men and 5,800 children composed of 3,300 girls and 2,500 boys) were reached by these sensitization sessions. Favoring the peer approach, 1900 students (787 boys and 1113 girls) members of the 65 children's clubs from the 65 lower secondary schools of the Anosy Region actively contributed to these awareness sessions and were able to reach more than 8000 students for all these schools.

### Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

As part of the contribution to the prevention of acute malnutrition in the context of drought in the south, multiple communication channels were used (folklore shows, community dialogues, media communication, puppet shows, sporting events, animation sessions with young people, collective listening with card radios at community level, etc...) in collaboration with multisectoral regional departments and ASOS NGO, allowing to reach 647,000 people from 8 most affected districts with behaviour change and use of services messages (502,000 people during the promotion of key family practices, and 145,000 people in line with the specific promotion of maternal, infant and young child nutrition). These actions have seen the mobilization and engagement of more than 5,000 community actors, 13,000 influential people, 24 local media and hundreds of health workers.

### Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF ensures that its interventions are in line with humanitarian leadership, whether from the Humanitarian Country Team and from government authorities including the National Office for Disaster Management (BNGRC).

UNICEF plays a leadership role in coordinating partners and co-chairs sector (Nutrition, WASH), sector groups (Education, cash) and to the field. UNICEF's strategy aims at ensuring a nexus between its humanitarian and development interventions, at reinforcing partners' capacity in all elements of social systems (data, HR, planning, supply, advocacy) and in giving priority to "scale up" potentially innovative interventions. Partnership and coordination with key UN Agencies (WFP, FAO, OCHA), international NGOs (MSF, ACF, MEDAIR, CRS, SOS Children's Villages) and local NGOs (FJKM and ASOS) is indispensable to ensure proper response and coordination of information.

A major element that must be highlighted is the complexity of operating in Madagascar: the COVID-19 pandemic has severely restrained aerial capacity, with severe restrictions being put on external arrivals, even for humanitarian teams. Roads to the south are structurally damaged, and insecurity slows logistics transports. UNHAS flights have however started to serve the south of Madagascar, in addition to a biweekly flight to the two cities bordering the region (Fort Dauphin and Tulear). Electricity and internet coverage are excessively limited making information gathering and compilation complex.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

### Media

Interviews with [BBC World](#) and [ITN UK](#) were conducted on the situation in the south of the country. The visit on the following media was supported in-country: ITN UK, BBC News, Japan Agency Press. Al-Jazeera will come on the few net weeks.

UNICEF CO put the South in the Spotlight through the celebration of the World Toilet Day. The region aims to be the first to obtain the "Open defecation free" certification in Madagascar, through the situation of the drought and the famine.

### Video production

UNICEF produced a video showing the situation and UNICEF interventions in the south with the support of DoC.

- <https://www.facebook.com/68793499001/posts/10159693515449002/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFAfrica/videos/584175002799375/>
- [https://www.instagram.com/tv/CWEPf9LtvP8/?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CWEPf9LtvP8/?utm_medium=copy_link)
- [https://www.instagram.com/tv/CWFzJSFib92/?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CWFzJSFib92/?utm_medium=copy_link)
- <https://twitter.com/UNICEF/status/1458149892950429698?t=qpRALKk-GQcvDe3ZY93ESA&s=19>
- [https://twitter.com/UNICEFAfrica/status/1458351219391401988?t=R5TgaW4A\\_WvoV7IMkm-Kg&s=19](https://twitter.com/UNICEFAfrica/status/1458351219391401988?t=R5TgaW4A_WvoV7IMkm-Kg&s=19)

UNICEF CO supported UNICEF France to produce video following an immersion in the southern of Madagascar [IMAGINE saison 3 episod 3 : en immersion à Madagascar | UNICEF France - YouTube](#)

### **Partnerships**

UNICEF organized a [virtual field visit on climate change](#) and its effects on malnutrition and WASH with the UNICEF Division of Private Fundraising and Partnerships. The audience was donors based mainly in Japan and United States.

### **Social media**

- [COP26, calling on world leaders to take urgent action to protect children in southern Madagascar from climate change](#)
- [Prevention and treatment of malnutrition in 10 drought-affected districts in southern Madagascar](#)
- [Visit of the Representative in the South to see different programs put in place to support families affected by the drought](#)
- [The positive impacts of emergency cash transfers on the lives of families affected by drought in southern Madagascar](#)
- [About the Ampotaka water pipeline project](#)
- [Climate change, the main cause of intense drought in the South](#)
- [UNICEF's support for children's education in the South affected by severe drought](#)
- [BMZ support for our response to climate change in southern Madagascar](#)
- [Call for donors to redouble funds to fight child malnutrition in southern Madagascar](#)
- [Vital water supply in prisons in the south of Madagascar](#)
- [Despite the drought and food crisis in the South, make Androy the first ODF certified region in Madagascar](#)

### **Contact for further information**

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## Annex A

### Summary of Programme Results

Sector		Total needs	UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response			
			2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲▼	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲▼	
Indicator	Disaggregation								
<b>Health</b>									
# people provided with access to essential and life-saving health care	female	225,600 (children)	180,000 children	117,000	▲	210,000	N/A		
	male			112,000	▲				
	Services	women pregnant	56,400	30,000	25,000	▲			
<b>Nutrition</b>									
# of children under 5 with SAM admitted to therapeutic treatment sites	girls	120,000	120,000	28,825	▲	120,000	28,825	▲	
	boys			27,694	▲		27,694	▲	
	women								
<b>Child Protection</b>									
# of children reached with psychosocial support	girls	8,000	8,000	3667	▲	8,000	N/A		
	boys			3458	▲		N/A		
# women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	girls	30,000	2500	8573	▲	137,000	TBD		
	boys			7025	▲				
	women			4700	▲				
<b>Education</b>									
# Children Receiving learning materials	girls	155,000	155,000	71,100	No change	160,000	71,100	No change	
	boys			67,600	No change		67,600	No change	
<b>WASH</b>									
# of people who accessed the agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	girls	300,000	300,000	81,000	▲	807,000	134,000	▲	
	boys			77,000	▲		129,000	▲	
	women			81,000	▲		134,000	▲	
	men			77,000	▲		129,000	▲	
<b>C4D</b>									
# of people reached with access to services and behavioural change messages (through interpersonal communication activities)	girls	800,000	800,000	69,000	No change	1,000,000			
	boys			56,400	No change				
	women			304,000	No change				
	men			217,000	No change				
	People participating in engagement action	girls	64,000	64,000			80,000		
		boys							
women		97,500			no change				
men		52,500			no change				
<b>Social Protection</b>									
# households receiving cash transfers		30000 people (6500 households)	30000 people (6500 households)	7,000	No change	900,000 people (180,000 households)	900,000 people (180,000 households)	▲	



## Funding Status\*

Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal 30 November 2021)						
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	Total	\$	%
Nutrition	7,650,000	8,635,152	1,686,085	10,321,237	-	0%
Health	7,000,000	471,145	406,069	877,214	6,122,786	87%
WASH	9,900,000	2,596,686	217,465	2,814,150	7,085,850	72%
Education	2,100,000	-	-	-	2,100,000	100%
Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA	1,500,000	345,000	97,873	442,873	1,057,127	70%
Communication for Development	1,500,000	76,403	83,686	160,090	1,339,910	89%
Cash-based transfers	1,430,000	607,250	136,784	744,034	685,966	48%
Cross sectoral / Cluster coordination	-	241,802	93,633	335,435	-	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,080,000</b>	<b>12,973,438</b>	<b>2,721,595</b>	<b>15,695,033</b>	<b>15,384,967</b>	<b>50%</b>