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Reporting Period: 29 November to 30 December 2021

Myanmar Country Office

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 9



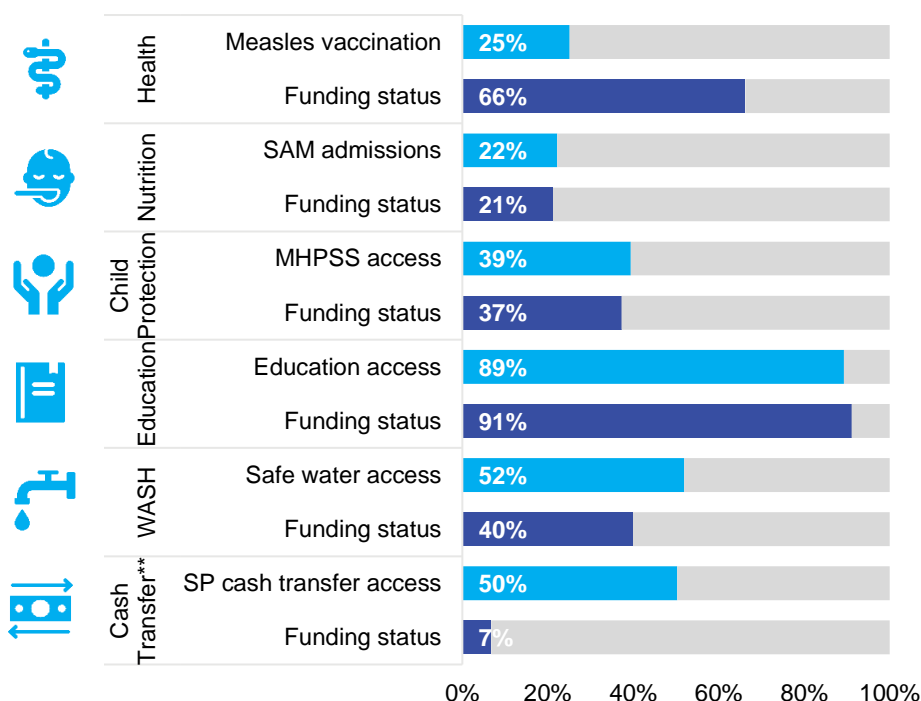
Highlights

- UNICEF issued a [statement](#) to condemn the reported killing of at least 35 people, including four children and two humanitarian workers, on 24 December in Kayah State.
- In mid-December, fighting and airstrikes were reported in Lay Kay Kaw in Kayin State between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), forcing people to flee their homes. UNHCR reported that 4,700 individuals, mostly women and children, have crossed the Thai border to seek refuge and are in need of multisectoral assistance.
- Continued restrictions in the clearance processes for medicines are causing shortages of essential supplies for some INGOs. To ensure continuity of service delivery, UNICEF provided medicines to partners to cover the needs of approximately 11,000 sick children aged under 5 in Shan and Kayah.
- Schools have continued to reopen, except in townships under stay-at-home directives. In December, school enrolment increased up to about 70 per cent nationally. However, the daily attendance rate is in the range of 40 to 50 per cent, a slight increase compared to the 27 to 44 per cent from November, mainly due to a lack of consensus between parents and the de facto authorities regarding the reopening of schools.

Situation in Numbers

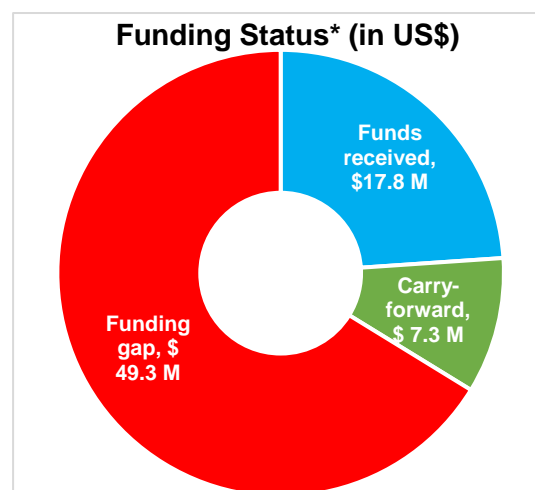
- 1,200,000** Children in need of humanitarian assistance (HAC 2021)
- 3,000,000** People in need (Addendum to the 2021 Myanmar HRP)
- 370,000** Internally displaced people (OCHA, 2021)
- 320,900** IDPs due to clashes and insecurity since February 2021 (UNHCR, 27 December 2021)

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2021

US\$ 74.5 million



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

**Target from government-led social protection program supported by UNICEF prior to February 2021

Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2021, UNICEF is appealing for US\$74.5 million to provide multisectoral assistance to 667,389 people in Myanmar, including 316,165 children, with critical water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and services, essential health care and nutrition assistance, education, child protection and social protection services. With thanks to its generous donors, UNICEF has received US\$25.1 million to date. Donations include US\$7.3 million received in 2020 and carried forward in 2021, in addition to US\$17.8 million received in 2021. Donors making generous contributions in 2021 include Denmark, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Germany, Japan, Norway, Thailand, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), and the USA; together with invaluable financial support from global humanitarian thematic funding. Donors that supported the UNICEF humanitarian programming in 2020 included Australia; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; Japan; the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China; OCHA, the UK, USA and UNICEF Singapore together with global humanitarian thematic funding.

Even so, only 34 per cent of the figure needed to provide life-saving assistance and critical services has been reached. The conflict-affected people of Myanmar are still in dire need of assistance. With additional contributions, UNICEF could bridge the gap in sectors such as nutrition and child protection, funded at only 21 per cent and 37 per cent respectively, to provide much-needed treatment for children suffering from acute malnutrition and to provide children's access to mental health and psychosocial support.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The security situation across Myanmar has continued to deteriorate, causing further humanitarian needs. UNICEF issued a [statement](#) to condemn the reported killing of at least 35 people, including four children and two humanitarian workers, in Kayah State on 24 December. The statement reiterates 'that the protection of civilians, and particularly children and humanitarian workers, must be treated as a priority during times of conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Myanmar is a signatory.' Furthermore, in mid-December, fighting and airstrikes were reported in Lay Kay Kaw, Kayin State as conflict surged between the MAF and the KNLA, forcing families to flee their homes and cross the Thai border in search of safety. As of 27 December, approximately 4,700 individuals are said to have sought refuge in border camps, with more expected to arrive. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that two thirds of these people are women and children in dire need of multisectoral assistance.

In the northwest, fighting has also intensified. According to OCHA, since February 2021 more than 1,200 houses and public structures have been burned down, including in Thantlang township in Chin state, and in villages in Sagaing state. This has triggered further population displacement with UNHCR estimating that, as of mid-December, approximately 15,000 people have now crossed the border to India and are supported by Mizoram government and faith-based organizations. Nationally, the total of internally displaced people (IDPs) continues to rise and, as of 27 December, 320,900 people are reported to have now been forced to leave their homes since February 2021.

This precarious situation characterized by the multiplicity of violence and displacement is causing detrimental consequences toward the population of Myanmar, while children are being particularly impacted. Approximately 11,903 children under the age of five continue to face severe acute malnutrition out of the 15,406 children targeted by UNICEF under the revised Humanitarian Action for Children, as only 23 per cent could be reached by lack of funding which undermine the integrated humanitarian response in Myanmar. Even though UNICEF was able to reach 73 per cent of its target with 100,201 people provided with access to primary health care, 12,736 targeted children remain in need of measles vaccination as only 25 per cent could be reached with the funding received under the health sector.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of 29 December 2021, 34.2 per cent of the Myanmar population have received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, with only 23.7 per cent of individuals fully vaccinated. This is partly because of the ongoing conflict but, in rural areas, the delivery has also been hampered by limited human resources. On 27 December 2021, 6.7 million doses of Covishield vaccine arrived, with an additional 1 million doses of Sinovac vaccine received on 22 December 2021. As of 26 December 2021, the national infection rate decreased to around 1.7 per cent, from 3.4 per cent in November and 6.55 per cent in October, although limited testing coupled with lack of access to health services are likely the cause of this reduction. The stay-at-home order has been lifted nationwide and the number of townships in lockdown has now decreased to only two, as of 28 December.

The humanitarian needs for 2022 are expected to rise as a direct consequence of the continued hostilities, plus the COVID-19 waves and restrictions. UNICEF, through its 2022 Humanitarian Action for Children, estimates that 5 million

children will require assistance in 2022, including access to educational services, malnutrition treatment, safe water, vaccination against measles and mental health and psychological support.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

To ensure timely delivery of assistance, personal protective equipment (PPE) and essential medicines were prepositioned in warehouses of Kayin, Kachin and Shan. These supplies include 13,000 sets of coveralls, N95 masks, and essential medicines including 40 inter-agency health kits to cover the needs of approximately 40,000 people for three months.

Continued restrictions in the clearance processes for medicines are causing shortages of essential medicines for some international NGOs. To ensure continuity of service delivery, UNICEF has provided medicines to partners, especially for the treatment of pneumonia and diarrhoea, to cover the needs of approximately 11,000 sick children under the age of 5 in Shan and Kayah States. Furthermore, UNICEF, in collaboration with partner Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS), completed the site assessment for the installation of oxygen plants in the cities of Taunggyi and Loikaw. Further preparation for site readiness is ongoing.

A total of 500 children aged 9 to 18 months received vaccinations against measles in Kachin and Shan States, and 14,121 people received primary health care services across Rakhine, Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin States and Yangon peri-urban area through UNICEF partners. Essential medicines, including inter-agency emergency health kits and PPE for health care providers were delivered to Kachin Baptist Convention in Kachin and Health Poverty Action in Kachin and Shan States.

Nutrition

Several challenges were faced in transporting nutrition supplies to Mintat and Htantalan townships in Chin state, due to limited access given the increased insecurity. Nevertheless, in Rakhine, Kachin, Kayin States and Yangon, UNICEF and its partners were able to reach a total of 18,694 children aged 6 months to 5 years, and 4,204 pregnant and lactating women with multiple micronutrient powder and tablet supplementation, plus counselling on infant and young child feeding. Additionally, 586 children with severe acute malnutrition were also treated this month in Rakhine, Kayin and Yangon.

In order to expand the provision of essential nutrition services, UNICEF has extended its current partnership with World Vision International to cover another three townships: Pathein, Kangyidaung and Tharpaung in the Ayeyarwaddy region. The services will include screening and treating children with severe acute malnutrition, micronutrient supplements and counselling on infant and young child feeding.

UNICEF has also worked with the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association to create better workplace conditions including nutrition, especially for mothers and women in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw factories. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided its partners with essential nutrition supplies to support 38,000 children aged 6–59 months and 4,150 pregnant and lactating women.

Child Protection

UNICEF partners in child protection have faced similar challenges as other sectors in their responses, such as logistical delays due to conflict in Rakhine area, where 770 child protection kits are in the process of being distributed. A total of 44 COVID-19 prevention and response kits were distributed to COVID-affected migrant children and families in quarantine centres in Myawaddy, Kayin state, in addition to IDPs staying in host communities. Another 550 kits were distributed to children in IDP camps in Kayin state.

In order to strengthen its partners' monitoring and documentation capacities for grave violations affecting children in situations of armed conflict, UNICEF supported monitoring and reporting mechanism training, benefiting 248 participants from civil society organizations and community-based organizations in Chin, Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Kachin and Yangon. Nationally, a total of 7,129 people (2,460 girls, 2,300 boys, 1661 women and 708 men) were reached through 26 partners with critical child protection services, including access to MHPSS services, GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response interventions as well as explosive ordnance risk education.

During the reporting period, increasing numbers of national security-related cases were reported, in addition to cases of Rohingya individuals arrested for irregular migration. Consequently, UNICEF and its partners provided legal aid support to 268 Rohingya children under 18 years old (71 boys and 197 girls), 107 Rohingya young persons under 24 years old (22 males and 85 females), 59 children (53 boys) and 71 young people (7 females) in cases related to the People's Defence Forces. Since the takeover, 809 detained children (50 per cent girls) and 756 young people (31 per cent females) received legal aid services and other support. Through the referral pathway of case management, 149 children (114 boys, 34 girls and 1 LGBT) received comprehensive child protection services.

Education

Nationally, Government schools, temporary learning spaces and monastic schools have continued to reopen, except in townships under stay-at-home directives. In December, the enrolment of children in school increased up to about 70 per cent across the country, a welcome improvement. However, the daily attendance rate is in the range of 40 to 50 per cent, a slight increase compared to the 27 to 44 per cent from November, mainly due to a lack of consensus between parents and the de facto authorities regarding the reopening of schools.

Education in Emergency (EiE) partners are still having difficulty getting travel permits from local authorities, especially in Rakhine, Chin and Kayah states, which is delaying programme implementation and monitoring. Challenges include further delays due to restrictions on movement imposed due to COVID-19, in addition to continuing problems with financial transactions caused by banking regulations. Nevertheless, in Rakhine state, temporary classrooms and non-formal primary education centres in Sittwe, Pauktaw and Mynbia have reopened and lessons are taking place six days a week in compliance with a Ministry of Education directive. A total of 8,524 students (4,026 girls) are benefiting from this, with UNICEF support. Government schools in northern Rakhine have also reopened, and another 3,952 children (1,848 girls) who are enrolled in 61 monastic schools across 11 townships in Rakhine also received UNICEF-supported Essential Learning Package (ELP) kits.

In Chin state, 319 out of 546 schools have reopened in Tonzang, Tedim, Matupi and Paletwa townships where more than 50,000 students were enrolled. Some 620 roofing sheets for temporary classrooms were distributed to IDP camps, which will benefit about 500 IDP students. In Kachin, UNICEF continued to support IDPs and conflict-affected children in Government-controlled and non-Government-controlled areas through partners Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) and KMSS. KBC organized short-term home-based learning orientation sessions for 95 primary volunteer teachers. A total of 1,572 primary students (839 girls) received materials for these. In northern Shan state, UNICEF's partner Metta provided teaching and learning materials to 933 (466 girls) students in temporary classrooms, including backpacks, classroom kits and teachers' kits. UNICEF also supported 5,000 IDP students in Kayah with ELP kits through local partner KMSS.

WASH

Despite escalating clashes in Kayah region, UNICEF partners Adventist Development and Relief Agency International and Peace Winds Japan, have continued to provide humanitarian assistance. The partners have worked with the authorities to obtain approval to start the distribution of essential WASH supplies and to extend water and sanitation services to the affected populations, including to host communities in Hlaingbwe and Kawkareik townships.

Despite all the challenges, UNICEF delivered clean drinking water to 227,013 (52 per cent of target) conflict-affected populations (74,914 children) in Rakhine, Shan, Kayah, Kayah, Chin, Sagaing and Yangon, with 19,191 people reached during this reporting period. In 2021, UNICEF implemented a child-focused multimedia campaign, 'Latt Says', promoting safe and effective handwashing practices to prevent the infection and spread of COVID-19 and other diseases. The evidence-based media content includes a video, animation and two jingles, with the campaign reaching more than 1 million radio listeners and receiving 2.9 million views on Facebook.

During the reporting period, UNICEF partnered with Oxfam in Rakhine and with Trocaire in Kachin to help humanitarian WASH partners in strengthening safe and child-sensitive reporting mechanisms for sexual exploitation and abuse. Furthermore, a partnership was signed with Metta Development Foundation to extend humanitarian WASH services to 22,758 conflict-affected people in IDP camps and temporarily displaced populations in northern Shan state. UNICEF has also provided soap bars to 153,916 conflict-affected people through a joint distribution with the World Food Programme.

So far in 2021, the hygiene awareness campaign, including COVID-19 prevention and mitigation messages has reached 220,561 people. UNICEF, since September 2021 and until February 2022, is continuing to distribute purified drinking water to 50,000 people including an estimated 16,500 children in Hliang Tharyar, Yangon.

Social Protection

UNICEF supported humanitarian cash transfers for 5,074 programme participants (2,261 pregnant women and 2,813 children under 2 including 1,451 girls) in peri-urban townships of Yangon. Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) sessions were carried out via home visits or phone calls, reaching 1,583 programme participants and 122 programme participants, respectively. The topics covered under the SBCC sessions were antenatal care, breastfeeding, infant and young child feeding practices.

UNICEF continued to provide “Emergency Primary Health Care Services” through health microinsurance services in the Yangon peri-urban area, Hlaing Thar Yar and Shwe Pyi Thar townships. Up to 20 December 2021, the services have been provided to 10,088 programme participants including 9,090 children aged under 7, 749 pregnant women and 249 new mothers. To date, service users have received 39,889 telemedicine consultation services together with 6,581 prescriptions, 2,391 investigations, 1,640 referrals, 457 hospital cash grants, 166 outpatient antenatal care and 345 outpatient appointments for early childhood care for children aged under 7.

Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)

To ensure COVID-19 prevention messages were effectively distributed, Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) materials were translated into 15 ethnic languages and shared by RCCE partners nationally. Similarly, to promote COVID-19 vaccination and address vaccine hesitancy, 11 infographics were jointly developed with WHO and Gavi and translated into 21 ethnic languages. More than 100,000 COVID-19 RCCE prevention materials in several ethnic versions are being printed and will be distributed among remote ethnic communities in all states and regions by RCCE partners, implementing partners, religious leaders, ethnic literacy and cultural associations.

In southern Shan state, C4D partnered with the Parami Development Network, targeting 37,500 people in six townships with SBCC sessions on nutrition, maternal and child health, immunization as well as COVID-19 prevention and promotion of COVID-19 vaccination. C4D also worked with Health Poverty Action to promote good practices and social behavioural changes in seven IDP camps, targeting 22,670 beneficiaries in Kachin Special Region, 12,739 beneficiaries in three districts in Special Region, and 5,040 beneficiaries from 48 villages in Special Region.

UNICEF has recorded 31 pieces of feedbacks from beneficiaries through WASH partners. Communities provided constructive retroactions which led partners to closely monitor the maintenance activities, ensuring quality hygiene services for the IDP camps. WASH partners have also collaborated with the cluster to review the ratio of hygiene structures available, ensuring standards of facilities per population were reached. In cases where more facilities are needed, WASH partners will be coordinating with authorities for their construction.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster, Nutrition Cluster and co-leads the Education Cluster and Child Protection sub-sector (CPiE) working group with Save the Children.

Child Protection sub-sector (CPiE) working group

The final Child Protection Area of Responsibility meeting for 2021 took place with participation from the Mine Action (MA) Coordinator and the Rakhine MA Coordinator, both supported by UNICEF, to strengthen coordination among clusters. CPiE working group developed the 2022 Child Protection Strategy to cover additional protection challenges caused by the crisis.

Education Cluster

UNICEF continues to support Education Cluster in drafting its two-year strategy after consultations at all levels on the affected populations’ needs and response activities, and it is expected to be finalized by mid-February 2022. The strategy builds on the one-year provisional Education in Emergency (EiE) strategy and aligns with the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan and with development partner frameworks. The Cluster has participated, with some of its members, in the Global Education Cluster Forum on Partnerships for a Quality Response. Here, the Cluster presented suggestions on how to use partnerships to enhance education preparedness and contingency planning, and showcased its work on the new contingency plans in Kachin and the south-east region.

WASH Cluster

The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund has approved 19 projects, with 14 of them having an integrated WASH component, with coverage in Rakhine, Kachin, Chin, Magway, Sagaing, Shan, Kayah, and Kayin states/region. The WASH Cluster organized 'Sani Tweaks' training to 20 participants from eight WASH agencies, who learned about best practices for users of emergency latrines, and a Water Pond Cover lesson learned session to show how to reduce the amount of water lost by evaporation during the dry season. In addition, WASH Cluster supported a WASH Young Innovators Changemaker Showcase Event with 25 young innovators from across East Asia and Pacific Region, including Myanmar, presenting innovative WASH projects.

Nutrition Cluster

Nutrition Cluster conducted an orientation session on data collection tools and planning to strengthen nutrition information and data management for nutrition planning and responses, in coordination with the Assessment and Information Management technical working group and the main nutrition partners. The cluster also coordinated with the technical working group for the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding to organize training for 33 participants from Nutrition in Emergency partners.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Press statements

<https://www.unicef.org/eap/press-releases/unicef-condemns-reported-killing-least-35-people-including-four-children-and-two>

Facebook post

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/4808316239235863>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/4791446034256217>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/4787666324634188>
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<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/4778731792194308>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/videos/4578327428881348/>

Tweets

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1471078982355275776>
<https://twitter.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1469222855984431106>
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Next SitRep: 28 February 2022

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Summary of Programme Results

INDICATOR	UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster Response		
	2021 Targets	Total Results	Change Since Last Report ▲▼	2021 Targets	Total Results	Change* Since Last Report ▲▼
NUTRITION						
# children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment	15,807	3,503	▲586	15,821	3,503	▲586
# children 6-59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders	226,973	111,540	▲18,694	227,092	111,540	▲18,694
# of mothers, fathers and other caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19	135,648	23,498	▲2,459	135,743	25,849	▲3,855
HEALTH						
# children 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles	17,000	4,264	▲500			
# affected population accessing primary health care services	154,000	100,201	▲14,121			
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION						
# male and female accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	437,500	227,013	▲19,191	872,121	465,781	▲41,526
# male and female accessing appropriately designed and managed latrines	98,500	108,484	▲40,799	872,121	299,497	▲16,629
# male and female reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	557,500	629,639	▲84,134	1,022,495	547,742	▲153,166
CHILD PROTECTION						
# children, adolescent boys and girls and male and female caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	135,000	53,226	▲4,409	168,000	101,566	▲4,409
# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	33,000	11,266	▲223	34,500	12,463	▲172
# boys and girls, men and women accessing explosive weapons-related risk education	80,500	36,488	▲2,497	80,500	124,316	▲10,539
EDUCATION						
# of targeted girls and boys (3-17) supported to access quality and inclusive pre-primary/primary and post primary learning opportunities	87,100	77,758	▲9,649	273,590	45,192	TBD
# of male and female volunteer teachers/facilitators who have completed trainings to provide quality and inclusive education to children	1,010	883	▲429	5,791	1,396	TBD
SOCIAL POLICY						

# households benefiting from social assistance measures to respond to COVID-19 and humanitarian crises with UNICEF support	500,000	251,300	0	
AAP (NOTE: C4D/RCCE included in sectors)				
# male and female sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	52,000	3,900	▲ 358	

*Education Cluster results are reported quarterly and still waiting for the data

Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received current Year 2021	Carry-over	\$	%
Nutrition	\$12,542,544	\$1,292,974	\$1,364,812	\$9,884,758	79%
Health	\$7,101,500	\$3,610,557	\$1,088,757	\$2,402,186	34%
WASH	\$17,725,000	\$5,365,513	\$1,710,652	\$10,648,835	60%
Child Protection, GBViE* and PSEA**	\$14,000,000	\$3,711,202	\$1,500,303	\$8,788,495	63%
Education	\$4,813,015	\$2,954,916	\$1,428,272	\$429,828	9%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	\$12,750,000	\$833,658	\$29,377	\$11,886,965	93%
Rapid Response Mechanism	\$4,000,000	\$51,403	\$212,685	\$3,735,911	93%
Cluster coordination	\$1,575,000	-		\$1,575,000	100%
Total	\$74,507,059	\$17,820,222	\$ 7,334,859	\$49,351,978	66%

*Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to GBV in Emergencies

** Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse