




Reporting Period: 01 January to 31 December 2021 © UNICEF/2021

Central African Republic

Humanitarian Situation Report

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In 2021, humanitarian needs in the Central African Republic (CAR) increased again. The resurgence of armed violence and the downturn in the Central African economy have left most of the population in a vulnerable position. Access to people in need of humanitarian assistance remained generally difficult throughout the year, because of military operations, the scattering and disruption of major armed groups and the emergence in the Northwest of the threat of explosive devices making access more challenging, and killing and injuring people.

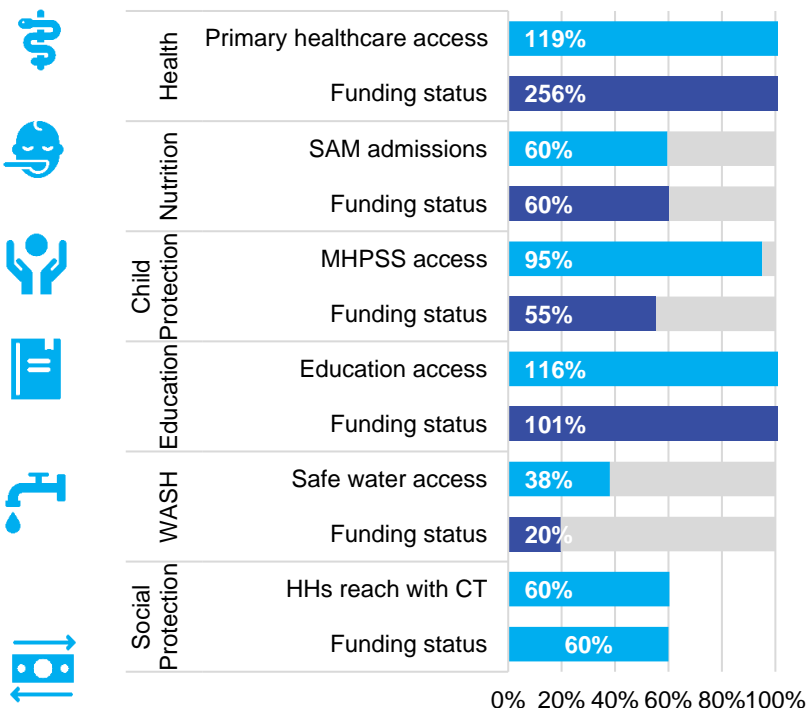
Despite multiple challenges UNICEF's humanitarian response has been able to continue without interruption. Among other highlights:

- more than 114,000 conflict affected children benefited from play and recreational activities through UNICEF supported Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and 1,468 children formerly associated with armed forces and groups received reintegration services;
- the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) exceeded its yearly targets and reached 227,638 newly crisis-affected people with essential household items and 178,664 with WASH;
- 127,173 children and mothers received free essential care;
- about 30,000 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated;
- about 114,000 people gained access to safe drinking water and
- more than 150,000 children gained access to education.

Situation in Numbers

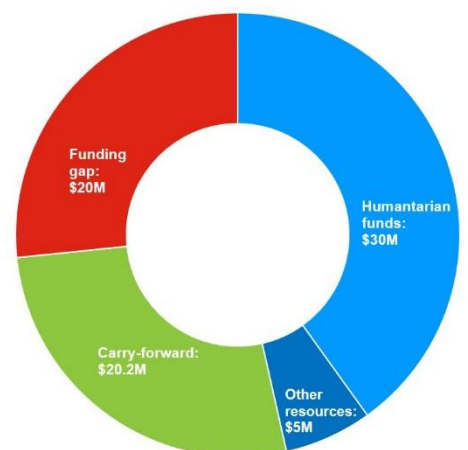
-  **1,300,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance
-  **2,800,000** people in need (OCHA, December 2021)
-  **691,791** Internally displaced people (IDPs) (OCHA, December 2021)
-  **741,368** pending and registered refugees (UNHCR, December 2021)

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2021

US\$ 66.5 million



Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2021, UNICEF through its Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC) called for 66.5 million USD to respond to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable children and their families in the Central African Republic (CAR). Of this, UNICEF raised nearly 35 million USD in new funding. As a result, together with funding carried forward from 2020, the HAC was about 70% funded for 2021.

UNICEF would like to express its deepest gratitude to Denmark, the European Union, France, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UN Emergency Fund, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and UNICEF national committees (Germany, Spain, Sweden) for their generous contributions in 2021.

However, additional flexible funding remains urgently needed to ensure the continued coverage of essential services for vulnerable children and their families— particularly considering that, in 2022, 63 per cent of the population will need humanitarian assistance, the highest proportion in five years. The number of children under 5 in need of severe acute malnutrition treatment is expected to rise by about 10 per cent. Two thirds of the country's children did not regularly attend or attend school at all in 2021 and nearly one million of children will need protection, especially from the psychosocial impact of conflict and from the risk of sexual violence.

Consequently, UNICEF is requesting 73 million USD to meet the humanitarian needs of children in CAR in 2022. This amount is about 10 per cent higher than in 2021 due to the expected continuing deterioration of the security context and humanitarian situation in the country.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Highlights

In 2021, CAR was affected by the continuation of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) offensive, which started at the end of 2020 and allowed insurgents to take control of most of the country's main cities within a few weeks. The counter-offensive by the Central African Armed Forces (FACA), their bilateral allies and MINUSCA peacekeepers allowed governmental forces to regain control of the cities lost at the beginning of the CPC offensive. Military operations by FACA and their allies continued on a larger or smaller scale throughout the year, forcing armed groups to withdraw from urban centers.

This new crisis had large-scale humanitarian consequences, while the CAR humanitarian community already expected the situation to deteriorate in 2021 with 2.8 million people (including 1.3 million children) in need of humanitarian assistance (57 percent of the population) according to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO).

The post-election crisis caused the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people - at the end of December 2021, CAR still counted nearly 691,791 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 741,368 refugees or asylum seekers outside the country -, massive human rights violations, as well as significant destruction and damage to the already very basic infrastructure in the interior of the country. Many of the country's schools were closed for several months due to insecurity and military operations and several dozen were occupied.

This deterioration of the humanitarian situation occurred in a context already fragile and heavily affected by the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic continued in CAR in 2021, with some 6,900 cases and 40 deaths, as did the measles epidemic, which continued throughout the year, with more than 2,400 cases and 10 out of 35 health districts experiencing a measles outbreak in 2021. Moreover, two yellow fever outbreaks were reported in August and December.

Access to people in need of humanitarian assistance remained difficult throughout the year, because of military operations, the dispersal and disintegration of the main armed groups and the emergence in the northwest of the threat of explosive devices. According to OCHA, 396 incidents affected humanitarian actors between January and November 2021, a high level and a slight increase compared to 2020.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health and HIV

In 2021, 127,173 people including 64,906 children under five and 11,705 pregnant and lactating women benefited from free essential care in UNICEF supported health facilities.

During the polio immunization campaign, 1,338,023 children under five were vaccinated.

Furthermore, 10 health districts experienced a measles outbreak and 118,837 children under 10 were vaccinated.

CAR also had to deal with two outbreaks of yellow fever declared in August in Mala (Kémo) and in December 2021 in Farazala (Ouham).

During the last two months of the year, 21,795 people, including 9,474 children under five (4,524 girls and 4,950 boys) and 2,460 pregnant women received free essential treatments in UNICEF-supported health facilities and mobile clinics. The most common illnesses among children under five were malaria (52 per cent), acute respiratory infections (23 per cent) and diarrheal diseases (18 per cent). Skin diseases and intestinal parasitosis accounted for 7 per cent of cases.

Nutrition

In 2021, UNICEF and its partners admitted 29,703 children (including 3,277 in the last two months) aged 6-59 months to treatment units and treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

The quality of SAM treatment programmes was consistently above the SPHERE minimum standards, with satisfactory results: a cure rate of 91.7 per cent (> 75 per cent), a death rate of 1.5per cent (<5per cent), defaulter rate at 4.6 per cent (<15per cent) and non-response rate of 2.2per cent (<15 per cent).

In addition, 521,103 children received vitamin A supplementation.

According to Nutrition Cluster mapping, in 2021 there were 47 stabilization centres and 474 out-patient therapeutic units, including 43 mobile clinics. This represents a geographical coverage of 66 percent.

Furthermore, thanks to UNICEF support, 34 out of 35 health districts were operational for the nutritional surveillance and early warning system.

WASH

The WASH humanitarian response in 2021 covered several emergencies in the IDP sites in Bambari (Ouaka), Bangassou (Mbomou), Kaga Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi) and Birao (Vakaga) as well as vulnerable populations affected by the post-election and political-military crisis, the floods in Bangui and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through UNICEF-supported projects, 114,198 people had access to sufficient safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene; 52,756 people had access to properly designed and managed latrines; 25,496 girls and women had access to menstrual hygiene management services and 989,094 people were reached through handwashing behavior change programmes.

In November and December, UNICEF ensured access to safe water for more than 32,000 people in Bangui, Ouham, Vakaga, Haute-Kotto, Ombella M'Poko and Nana-Grébizi prefectures through the construction of six new wells and the rehabilitation of 46 water points. In addition, 5,927 IDPs affected by the eviction of the Elevage site in Bambari received water purification tablets. 5,258 displaced and vulnerable families received hygiene or hand-washing kits in Bangui, Bouar (Nana-Mambéré) and Ndélé (Bamingui-Bangoran).

In Bangassou and Kaga Bandoro, 187 families received plastic slabs and tarpaulins for the construction of traditional latrines. 491 emergency latrines and 60 showers were constructed or rehabilitated benefitting 22,191 IDPs and 17 ventilated improved latrines were constructed in health centres reaching 340 patients per day in Bangui, Bambari and Bossangoa (Ouham).

As part of the COVID-19 prevention response, over 315 handwashing stations were installed in IDP sites, public places and administrative buildings reaching 167,805 people in Bangui, Bossangoa, Bouar and Birao. 33 health facilities were equipped with handwashing or hygiene kits and 71 health workers were trained on WASH infection prevention control measures in Bossangoa and Ombella M'Poko.

In addition, 181 schools in Bangui, Bossangoa, Paoua and Bouar received hygiene kits and 128,123 students and teachers were trained to implement preventive measures to avoid transmission of COVID-19. In addition, 7,933 girls received a menstrual hygiene management kit.

Throughout the year, the WASH cluster held strategic and operational meetings with its partners to support coordination for an effective response to the needs of people affected by the crisis. UNICEF and WASH Cluster partners provided safe drinking water to more than 807,606 people (included 166,808 in November and December) and sanitation facilities to 160,624 people (including 8,721 in November and December).

Child Protection

As a result of the escalation of the conflict in the run up to and after the December 2020 presidential election, the protection of children and their wellbeing has gravely deteriorated, with a spike in the gross child rights violations, particularly the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict and Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Overall, the child protection response has been challenged by the limited availability of funds and reduced access to conflict-affected communities. In addition, the increased use of explosive devices, a new trend in the CAR context, has

not only further reduced humanitarian access, but also posed additional risks to children and their families. Despite these challenges, UNICEF and partners have been able to provide critical protection services to affected children through the implementation of flexible approaches such as the deployment of mobile child protection teams.

114,118 children and caregivers (including 50,562 girls) received support through Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and other community-based interventions, providing a safe and secure environment for children to socialize, play, and express their feelings as they rebuild their lives. 6,070 persons, including 2,368 children benefited from GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and responses services and 2,266 children associated with armed groups participated in UNICEF support socio-economic reintegration programmes.

During November and December, 10,117 conflict affected children (including 4,479 girls) were newly enrolled in UNICEF supported CFS and participated in psychosocial activities. Activities mainly took place in Ouaka, Basse-Kotto, Ouham, Nana-Mambéré and Mbomou prefectures.

365 children formerly associated with armed groups were released in Ouaka, Mbomou and Basse-Kotto prefectures and registered in UNICEF supported reintegration programmes.

150 children (including 41 girls and 109 boys) separated from their families due to violence and ongoing displacement were documented and benefited from family care through family reunification and placement with foster families. In addition, 5,109 individuals benefited from GBV risk reduction, prevention, and response interventions. This included 171 children (133 girls and 38 boys) victims of GBV who received primarily medical support and psychosocial care.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

The RRM remained at the forefront of UNICEF's emergency response in a year characterized by a deteriorating humanitarian situation and shrinking humanitarian access due to the use of explosive devices in the North West and the dislocation of armed groups' chains of command.

Nevertheless, RRM increased the volume of its humanitarian response by approximately 30 per cent compared to 2020. 145 alerts were issued and shared with the humanitarian community - 67 percent of which were related to violence, 22 percent to a return movement and 6 per cent to a natural disaster -, 33 exploratory missions (MEX) and 38 multi-sector assessments (MSA) were conducted. Following these assessments, 37 non-food item (NFI) distributions took place reaching 227, 638 vulnerable people mostly displaced and returnees and 178,664 people benefitted from water, hygiene and sanitation interventions. For both sectors, the results are above the year's targets, reflecting the significant increase in humanitarian needs. In addition, in 2021, 92% of the RRM's interventions were complemented by at least one other response sector, including food, health/nutrition, protection and education.

In November and December, a total of 24 alerts were shared with the humanitarian community. RRM partners assisted 7,947 households (including 8,123 children under 5) with NFI and more than 29,891 persons (including about 7,000 children under 5) have benefited from WASH assistance.

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

Education

During the year 2021, given the temporary closure of some schools due to the increase in violence in the country, UNICEF focused its response on social mobilization, capacity building of teachers and continued implementation of the COVID-19 response education plan, including the launch of the radio education programme, to enable school-age children to continue their education.

Through emergency education interventions such as education in temporary learning spaces where schools were closed, education through radio where violence prevented children from going to school, distribution of educational kits and community outreach, more than 150,000 children had access to education. In addition, 1,500 teachers and community members were trained in psychosocial support, protection and hygiene. To ensure consistency and the respect of minimum standards throughout its education in emergency (EiE) interventions, UNICEF in coordination with the Education cluster also developed standard minimum packages, which include infrastructures (including WASH), training, materials, sensitization, birth certificates and radio education.

In November and December, UNICEF supported the national back-to-school campaign in all eight Education Districts: community awareness-raising campaign, construction of new classes or rehabilitation where classes were in poor condition and the distribution of educational materials were organized especially in the most crisis-affected prefectures for the benefit of more than 120,00 children, the majority of whom were displaced or returned.

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

During the course of 2021, UNICEF assisted 5,400 households with unconditional and conditional cash transfers distributions.

Through the RRM, 619 households were assisted in Bozoum (Ouham-Pende) with a one-time distribution of 93 USD to help new IDPs and the host community meet their basic needs.

3,231 households and 30 local retailers have been assisted to cope with the economic and social impacts of COVID-19. In addition, 500 families with malnourished children and 1,050 vulnerable families with out-of-school girls and children have been supported in the framework of Cash+Education pilot project.

Social Behavior Change (SBC), Community Engagement & Accountability

In 2021, UNICEF supported the national vaccination campaigns against polio, measles, COVID-19 and the back-to-school campaign through information and feedback centres, community listening clubs, radio broadcasts and the U report mechanism. At least 2 million people had access to critical, life-saving information.

In 2021, UNICEF has also played a leading role coordinating the collective Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) program. More than 16,000 community feedbacks were collected, analysed and shared with the humanitarian community.

In December, in support of the third round of COVID-19 vaccination campaign, UNICEF facilitated a national communication campaign: 2,800,000 citizens were reached with key messages on COVID-19 prevention measures, endorsed by the Ministry of Health, through posters and billboards in public and busy places and video clips and radio spots broadcast on four community radio stations.

Furthermore, through the AAP collective service program, 1,144 feedbacks and complaints were collected in Bria, Bambari and Kaga Bandoro. Information was transmitted to relevant humanitarian organizations, which were able to quickly respond to most of the feedback received.

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 program 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 programs, 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

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

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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	682,396	682,396			
	Boys		655,627	655,627			
	Total		1,338,023	1,338,023			
#children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	Girls	107,028	32,625	4,524			
	Boys		32,281	4,950			
	Women		45,837	7,497			
	Men		16,430	4,824			
	Total		127,173	21,795			
#health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control	Women	1,980	106	25			
	Men		210	45			
	Total		316	70			
#children under 10 vaccinated against measles	Girls	399,853	60,607	11,534			
	Boys		58,230	11,082			
	Total		118,837	22,616			
#pregnant and lactating women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy	Girls	148	2,763	0			
	Women		2,340	309			
	Total		2,763	309			
#adolescent girls and boys tested for HIV who received the result of last test	Girls	10,725	1,937	0			
	Boys		1,723	0			
Nutrition							
#children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment *	Girls	49,862	15,446	1,704	49,862	15,446	1,704
	Boys		14,257	1,573		14,257	1,573
	Total		29,703	3,277		29,703	3,277
#primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling	Women	164,828	117,080	46,542	219,771	117,080	46,542
	Men		14,723	5,853		14,723	5,853
	Total		131,803	52,395		131,803	52,395
#children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation every six months	Girls	647,226	270,974	547	647,226	270,974	547
	Boys		250,129	505		250,129	505
	Total		521,103	1052		521,103	1052
Child Protection							
# children [and caregivers] accessing mental health and psychosocial support	Girls	120,000	50,562	4,479	145,000	54,398	4,661
	Boys		58,845	5,538		64,655	5,738
	Women		2,489	0		2,489	
	Men		2,222	0		2,222	
	Total		114,118	10,017		Total	123,764
# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention	Girls	6,000	1,357	635	7,110	1,662	642
	Boys		1,011	892		1,296	901
	Women		2,057	1,938		2,507	1,938
	Men		1,645	1,644		1,645	1,644
	Total		6,070	5,109		Total	7,110
# children released from armed forces and groups reintegrated with their families/communities	Girls	2,000	314	70	3,125	899	70
	Boys		1,154	295		1,975	295
	Total		1,468	365		2,874	365
#unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	Girls	1,750	298	41	2,400	386	145
	Boys		392	109		482	179
	Total		690	150		Total	868

Education							
#children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Girls	130,000	62,967	50,159	396,242	145,020	145,020
	Boys		88,137	71,249		139,650	139,650
	Total		151,104	121,135		284,670	284,670
#children receiving individual learning materials	Girls	360,000	51,616	33,941	533,375	74,833	72,311
	Boys		74,279	51,635		94,424	91,551
	Total		125,895	85,576		169,257	163,862
#schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)		800	742	181			
WASH							
# people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	Girls	300,000	32,239	13,343	910,000	203,800	51,709
	Boys		30,138	12,259		192,913	48,957
	Women		26,888	6,611		212,011	54,985
	Men		24,933	5,714		198,882	49,084
	Total		114,198	37,927		807,606	204,735
# people accessing appropriately designed and managed latrines	Girls	150,000	15,608	8,169	980,000	42,712	10,175
	Boys		14,539	7,505		40,210	9,424
	Women		11,777	4,228		40,080	6,757
	men		10,832	3,657		37,622	5,924
	Total		52,756	23,559		Total	160,624
# girls and women accessing menstrual hygiene management services	Girls	25,000	24,963	7,933			
	Women		533	0			
	Total		25,496	7,933			
#people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes	Girls	300,000	306,151	130,020	1,120,000	424,646	136,314
	Boys		327,255	131,425		437,606	137,446
	Women		79,938	34,460		167,041	42,396
	Men		73,774	29,822		153,292	36,937
	Total		787,118	325,727		Total	1,182,585
Social Protection							
# households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors		9,000	5,430	700			
Rapid Response Mechanism							
#Vulnerable people newly affected by the crisis rapidly provided with essential household items	Girls	225,000	69,074	10,773			
	Boys		71,849	11,961			
	Women		46,106	7,457			
	Men		40,609	6,282			
	Total		227,638	36,473			
#Vulnerable people affected by the crisis benefiting from water, hygiene and sanitation interventions	Girls	130,000	53,170	8,743			
	Boys		55,113	9,177			
	Women		36,462	6,351			
	Men		33,919	5,620			
	Total		178,664	29,891			
Social Behavior Change (SBC)							
#people reached through messaging on access to services		3,000,000	2,172,035	0 ¹			
#people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioral change)	Girls	700,000	833,000	586782			
	Boys		765,512	539237			
	Women		412,773	290763			
	Men		356882	251392			
	Total		2,368,174	1,668,174			
#people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	Girls	25,000	5706	3093			
	Boys		5240	2839			
	Women		2826	1531			
	Men		2443	1322			
	Total		16,215	8,785			

¹ the total result is decreased from 3,509,515 to 2,171,035 because the more recent audience rating (MSNA 2020) of Radio Ndeke Luka, UNICEF IP has been used for this SITREP

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	4,270,800	0	4,885,742	6,043,458	40%
Health and HIV/AIDS	3,800,000	8,315,645	390,170	1,032,126	0	0%
WASH	9,000,000	1,054,774	152,600	559,014	7,233,612	80%
Child Protection	8,200,000	3,684,494	205,735	641,052	3,668,719	45%
Education	10,200,000	1,423,844	3,243,695	5,679,443	0	0%
Social protection and Cash Transfer	2,400,000	838,144	300,000	300,000	961,856	40%
C4D	2,400,000	25,000	0	1,461,066	913,934	38%
RRM	13,800,000	10,529,500	145,164	5,619,203	0	0%
Cluster/sector coordination	1,500,000	0	364,489	0	1,135,511	76%
Total	66,500,000	30,142,201	4,801,853	20,177,646	19,957,090	30%