



Babo prepares lunch for her granddaughters, 1-year-old Isnini and 4-year-old Zamzam in Garissa County. She gets safe water for free from a UNICEF-supported water point to cook and clean for them.



Humanitarian Situation Report No. 6

Reporting Period
1 January to 30 June
2023

Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS

The March to May 2023 'long' rain' season have resulted in some recovery from the severe drought, however, they have also brought floods and heightened the ongoing Cholera outbreak.

The number of Cholera cases have increased from 4,821 by 14 February to 11,694 cases by end of June 2023 (59 per cent increase) and 22,569 households have been displaced by floods. By June 2023, the outbreak spread has reduced.

The number of acutely food insecure people stands at 4.4 million and 970,214 0-59 months children requiring treatment for malnutrition, including 242,567 severely wasted, as of February 2023.

USD 28.4 million has been received against the HAC 2023, leaving a funding gap of USD 99.1 million (79 per cent) against the US\$137.5 million requirement.

Over 800,000 people have been reached with lifesaving and protective humanitarian interventions (28 per cent against the 2.9 million HAC target).

UNICEF RESPONSE AND FUNDING STATUS*

	Health	Health Outreaches	14%
		Funding status	11%
	Nutrition	SAM treatment	33%
		Funding status	35%
	Child protection	Psychosocial support	20%
		Funding status	20%
	Education	Access to education	7%
		Funding status	19%
	WASH	Access to water	19%
		Funding status	13%
	Social protection	Social assistance	34%
		Funding status	11%

* UNICEF response % is only for the indicator, the funding status is for the entire sector.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS



6,400,000
People in need of humanitarian assistance¹



3,520,000
Children in need of humanitarian assistance²

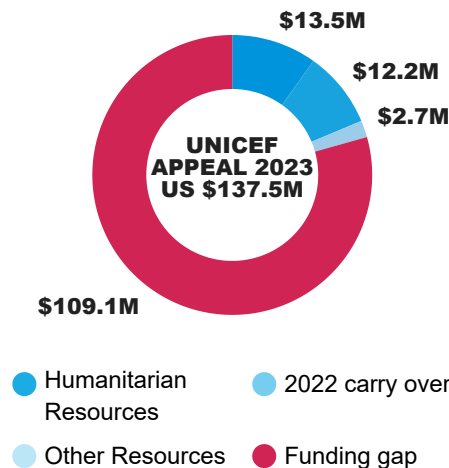


242,567
Children 6-59 months requiring SAM treatment³



5,000,000
of people who lack access to safe water⁴

FUNDING STATUS (IN US\$)**



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

FUNDING OVERVIEW AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2023, UNICEF requires US\$137.5 million to respond with critical life-saving and protective interventions for the most vulnerable girls, boys, women and men in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), urban informal settlements and in refugee settlements in Kenya that are affected by the severe drought, resource-based inter-communal conflicts, disease outbreaks and the residual impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

To date, USD 28.4 million (21 per cent) has been received against the Kenya 2023 UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC 2023) for drought response (new funds, reprogrammed regular resources and 2022 carry-over funds), leaving a funding gap of USD 99.1 million (79 per cent). The Government of Japan, The USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), The United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United States Fund for UNICEF, the German Federal Foreign Office, The United Nations Multi Partner Trust Fund through The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the German Committee for UNICEF, the UNICEF Global Thematic Fund and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), have generously contributed to UNICEF Kenya's humanitarian response against the HAC 2023 and the 2023 Inter Agency Drought Response Plan.

Lack of sufficient funding for procurement of supplies and service delivery remains a key challenge.

UNICEF has used over USD 2.7 million other resources to support Social Protection, WASH and Education drought response generously contributed to UNICEF Kenya by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), The United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations (ECHO), the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Irish Aid, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the Governments of Norway, Germany, Ireland and Canada, as well as the United States of America, German, Netherlands, Denmark and Japan UNICEF National Committees generously contributed to UNICEF Kenya's humanitarian response in 2022 and the 2022 Kenya Drought Flash Appeal to support the needs of the most vulnerable children and women in Kenya, of which carry-over funds are continuing to support humanitarian interventions in 2023.

A USD 8 million funding envelope for Kenya from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Under-funded Emergencies has been received, against which UNICEF has received USD 1 million to support WASH drought life-saving emergency interventions for vulnerable girls, boys, women and men, targeting schools with linkages to communities and health care facilities in Marsabit and Mandera Counties and 15,000 school children (6000 girls and 9000 boys including 300 boys and 450 girls with disabilities). WFP has received USD 3 Million for school feeding, reaching 461,000 children in 4 counties for 27 days.

UNICEF Kenya has developed an Integrated Cholera Response Plan that aims to support upscaling of critical WASH, Health and Social Behaviour Change interventions. USD 13.5 million is required and resource mobilization is ongoing to meet the most urgent gaps in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Social Behaviour Change and Health interventions. A total of USD 2.4 million, including Global Thematic Humanitarian funds have been repurposed to meet the most critical needs, leaving a funding gap of USD11.1 million.

In March 2023, the Government of Kenya spent KES 1.2 billion for relief food across the country. The private sector-led National Steering Committee on Drought Response also distributed relief food worth KES 450 million in the 23 ASAL counties under the 'Wakenya Tulindane' Initiative, which was also scaled up to cover Kiambu, Murang'a, Kirinyaga, Machakos, Nyandarua and Nakuru counties.

The current Government School Meals Programme covers 2 million students, leaving another 2 million students in 2,100 schools in 14 semi-arid counties in need. The Budgetary Committee under the National Assembly has indicated that the President's commitment of KES 6 billion for the school meals programme has been reviewed and revised down to KES 4 billion. The Treasury has already released KES 2 billion (from the supplementary budget) to bridge the 45-day shortfall for school feeding during Term II of the 2023 school year. The next disbursement of the remaining KES 2 billion is expected for the next regular budget period of July 2023 – June 2024 to cover Term III. The current funding gap for school meals programme to scale up and cover the remaining 2 million students in semi-arid counties is KES 4 billion (USD 31 million). Through the Education sector, UNICEF and WFP are jointly advocating with donors and the private sector to support expansion and continuation of school meals programme for drought-affected counties for both in-cash and in-kind support.

SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In the first half of 2023, Kenya has continued to experience the impacts of the severe 2020-2023 Horn of Africa drought due to five consecutive failed rainy seasons, whilst at the same time responding to floods and disease outbreaks (which include Measles and a persistent Cholera outbreak), as well as the need to respond to the increased refugee influx. Kenya is also facing the risk of flooding in the last quarter of the year, requiring intensified multi-agency preparedness.

During the January to March 2023 dry season, the drought continued to severely hinder household access to water, food and income. The National Drought Management Authority reported that up to 90% of semi-permanent open water sources had dried up in the pastoral areas of the ASALs, with both people and livestock trekking up to 30 kilometers to access water due to limited water access. Consequently, livestock body conditions were largely poor to very poor, with livestock deaths continuing to be reported and milk production, a key source of household income, food and nutrition for children in pastoralist communities, remained well below normal (between zero to 0.9 liters per household per day), resulting in widespread Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes. Assessments conducted by UNICEF and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) in February 2023 show that drought-induced mobility resulted in the displacement of 1,291 households (about 8,000 people from Wajir and Mandera Counties into Garissa County).

Results of the 2022 Short Rains Assessment (SRA) show that 4.4 million people were facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) by February 2023 and were in need of urgent assistance, of which 774,000 people are in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency phase). This is an increase of close to one million people from the 3.5 million people identified in July 2022 following assessment of the long rains season. A further 495,362 food-insecure people were identified in 9 traditionally non-ASAL counties assessed. Over 970,214 children aged 6 to 59 months require management of acute malnutrition compared to 884,000 reported in July 2022, of which, 242,567 are severely acutely malnourished, an increase from 238,373 reported in July 2022. In addition, 142,179 pregnant/lactating women, up from

115,725 reported in July 2022, are acutely malnourished and in need of treatment. The 2023 long rains assessment will be released in early August 2023, providing an update to the number of acutely food insecure people and the severely malnourished children 0-59 months requiring treatment.

The March, April and May (MAM) 'long' rains have resulted in hydrological recovery from the drought in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) region in Kenya due to increased access to water. Out of the 23 drought-affected ASAL counties, 19 are now in normal drought phase (82%) by end of June 2023⁵, up from 2 counties in March 2023. While no counties are currently in the alarm and emergency drought phases, 8 counties were in alarm phase and two were in emergency phase in March 2023. In the pastoral areas, the long rains have driven significant improvements in forage and water resources, resulting in households and livestock traveling shorter distances to access water.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) has increased as a result of the drought as child protection cases in drought-affected counties continue to be reported. Issues of concern that continue to emerge in spite of the rains include school drop-outs, teen pregnancies, transactional sex for basic needs, including water, violence against children, child migration and family separation. Child marriage continues to be on the rise as families resort to giving girls in marriage in an attempt to replenish livestock which was lost during the drought.

Humanitarian needs including food insecurity and severe malnutrition due to the slow recovery from the severe drought remain high in the ASALs due to a combination of factors. Household access to food and income remains well below average as significant recovery of livestock assets is expected to take over one year and the first significant crop harvest in marginal agricultural production zones is expected to take over 6 months. Although there is overall improvement in milk production by June 2023, it is yet to fully stabilise due to the residual effects of livestock mortality. Communities recovering from the drought are also suffering from highly increasing cost of living. The historically high food and fuel prices have pushed up the inflation rate to a record high of 9.1% in December 2022 and 6.9 % in June 2023 above the government target of 5 %, resulting in incidences of civil unrest and violence. Humanitarian food assistance is expected to prevent more severe outcomes as Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to persist through to January 2024 in pastoral areas.

The MAM rains have also brought flash floods and heightened risk of further spread of the ongoing Cholera outbreak. Since the onset of the MAM rainy season, 22,569 households⁶ have been displaced by floods across 32 out of 47 counties, and 36 deaths reported. The floods have further disrupted lives and livelihoods, as damage to schools, roads and WASH infrastructure as well as loss of livestock and cropland has been reported. There have been 7,568 livestock deaths, 335 latrines submerged, 23 water sources damaged, 175 infrastructural damages and 15,000 acres of land destroyed. Current meteorological forecasts indicate a high probability of an El Niño and positive Indian Ocean Dipole conditions in 2023 resulting in the October to December rainfall being above average, with a high risk of massive flooding and landslides.

The number of Cholera cases have increased from 4,821 by 14 February to 11,694 cases⁷ by end of June 2023 (59 per cent increase) across 25 counties, attributable to the onset of the MAM rains. The case fatality rate (CFR) has remained at 1.6 per cent, which is above the WHO threshold of 1 per cent. Children remain significantly affected, with 34 per cent of the cases being between 0 to 10 years. Garissa County which is host community to the Dadaab Refugee Camps has reported the highest number of cases, which have increased from 2,085 to 2,811 (26 per cent increase). It is worth

noting that the outbreak spread has significantly slowed down, commencing June 2023 (as of July 31st only 3 counties with active cases). Measles outbreak has affected 10 counties, with 634 cases⁸ and 8 deaths (CFR 1.3%) reported.

The identified risk factors for the persistent Cholera outbreak in the most affected counties remain poor hygiene practices, unsafe food hygiene practices, lack of sanitation leading communities to practice open defecation, lack of access to safe water including poor storage of drinking water at both household and public spaces, lack of medical examination and poor personal hygiene of food handlers, high population density in urban slums, cross-border movements, transmission in crowded settings and amongst refugees and internally displaced persons, mass gathering events, and changes in rainfall patterns.

The refugee and asylum-seeker population in Kenya stood at 599,120 people by 30 April 2023⁹, up from 573,508 people by 31 December 2022, signifying an increase of 25,612 new arrivals, which is attributable to the Horn of Africa Drought and insecurity. Of the total refugee population, 75 per cent are women and children. The majority of the new arrivals, 12,878 people (50 per cent) are from Somalia, arriving at Dadaab refugee camps, while 4,938 people (19 per cent) have arrived into Kakuma/Kalobeyei from South Sudan.

The new refugee arrivals have fled their homes, often on perilous journeys, leaving their belongings and their community networks, and on arrival, they require safety, access to shelter, livelihoods, and social protection. Many of the children arriving have either been separated from their families or are unaccompanied, requiring targeted protection interventions as well as reporting high levels of severe acute malnutrition. In May alone, patients admitted with the most life-threatening form of malnutrition with other complications rose by almost 95% from the previous month in the Hagadera refugee camp in Dadaab¹⁰, while the number of admitted patients in Kakuma is twice the bed capacity. The prolonged drought in Horn of Africa has increased food insecurity, leading to a rise in malnutrition levels for both the refugee and the general Kenyan population. Furthermore, due to funding constraints, food rations for refugees living in Kenya have been cut to 80 per cent of their usual amount, significantly impacting food security. The rains season has also contributed to the population's overall vulnerability, with spikes in illnesses, such as malaria.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

Health

In partnership with the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), a total of 152,166 people, (41,878 girls, 38,071 boys, 45,206 women and 27,011 men), which is 14 per cent of the 2023 HAC target, have been reached with critical lifesaving integrated outreach services in targeted and supported health facilities between January and June 2023. Of these, up to 4,227 pregnant women have been supported with access to antenatal care (ANC) services.

Critical health service provided in the integrated health outreaches include immunisation; treatment of childhood illness including pneumonia and diarrhea; health education and household water treatment demonstration to community members participating in the outreaches; antenatal care; and nutrition screening and subsequent treatment through the issuance of Ready-to-use Therapeutic foods for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition and WFP-supported Ready to Use Supplementary foods for children and pregnant women suffering from moderate acute malnutrition.

A total of 130 (42 per cent of the target) Community Health Workers

(73 women and 57 men) were supported with skills and equipment to deliver essential maternal, newborn and child health services.

Community mobilization and engagement sessions on drought and floods-related diseases and epidemics, and key household practices for optimal behaviour change were at the centre of integrated health outreach services, through which communities were sensitized on the importance of adopting health-seeking behaviours. Information on available services and how they can be accessed and details on crucial issues that can make a significant difference in saving lives of affected people was also provided. A total of 78,976 Community members were reached through the outreach services including 956 in Marsabit (5 awareness sessions), 37,770 in Turkana (15 sessions), 30,881 in Tana River (10 sessions), 2,872 in Wajir (2 sessions), 2,988 in Garissa (2 sessions) and 3,509 in Mandera (2 sessions).

UNICEF supported the Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) campaign, implemented in Garissa, Wajir, Tana River and Nairobi counties, reaching 2,033,999 out of a target of 2,050,484 (99.20 per cent reach).

HIV/AIDS

Between January and June 2023, a total of 5,588 people (2,068 girls and 1,951 boys and 1,569 pregnant/lactating women) living with HIV have continued to access Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) care. This was made possible through support from UNICEF majorly attributed to capacity building initiatives for Community Health Workers and Volunteers on provision of ART care to women, children and adolescents living with HIV, as well as supply of pediatric HIV diagnostic supplies to the drought-affected counties.

The major challenge faced during the reporting period was the diminished HIV resources for continuity of essential services such as HIV testing among children, capacity building of health workers, HIV return to care and HIV awareness for drought-affected communities.

Inter-sectoral linkages with Social Protection supported households affected by HIV to access humanitarian cash transfers, which contributed to increasing the number of people living with HIV that were reached in drought-affected counties.

Nutrition



Babo receives Isnini's one-month supply of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) from the local health facility to help her recover from severe acute malnutrition.

A total of 79,462 children (40,456 girls and 39,006 boys) of 6 to 59 months, which is 33 percent of the target, have been admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in the first half of 2023 across the drought-affected arid and semi-arid areas (ASALs), refugee settlements and non-ASAL counties. A total of 1,004,641

caregivers, which is 56 per cent of the target, have also been reached with nutrition messages.

UNICEF and implementing partners are supporting 2,468 integrated health and nutrition outreaches (76 percent of the 3,228 mapped outreaches) in the ASALs. As part of risk informed programming, UNICEF continued to support 520 health facilities (69 per cent) in 10 arid counties in the implementation of the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) surge approach, which is a system strengthening approach to cope with surges of acute malnutrition and avoid compromise in quality of care. UNICEF has been supporting capacity building of health workers to enhance quality of care in health facilities, with a total of 79 health workers (34 male, 45 female) trained on IMAM in 2023.

UNICEF also continues to support the nutrition commodity supply chain to ensure availability of commodities at the service delivery level. The 2023 Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) supply pipeline is fully secure. Following reported service interruption occasioned by flash floods in Mandera, Wajir, Tana River, Garissa, Turkana, Marsabit and Samburu counties, UNICEF has provided monitoring and rapid logistical support for movement of supplies in flood-affected areas to ensure minimal disruption in treatment of malnutrition programmes. Support is also being provided on prepositioning of supplies in flooding-risk areas.

Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

With the support of UNICEF and partners, a total of 31,461 people (13,927 girls, 11,623 boys, 3,762 women and 2,149 men) received mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) at the community level from January to June 2023, which is 20 per cent of the 2023 target. Out of this, 1,603 Unaccompanied and Separated (UASC) children (761 girls, 832 boys) were identified and provided with case management and MHPSS services in 11 drought-affected counties of Garissa, Wajir, Tana River, Marsabit, Isiolo, Mandera, Baringo, Turkana, Samburu, West Pokot, Kajiado, including the refugee camps of Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei settlement.

UNICEF has continued to advocate for the provision of MHPSS services that are socially acceptable and protect the dignity of girls, women, boys and men in child-friendly spaces at the community level. Community-based Child Protection Volunteers have been trained to provide psychosocial first aid at the family and community levels as well as referrals to trained counsellors, social workers and mental health service providers for specialized support in health facilities.

A total of 17,373 people (6,029 girls, 3,165 boys, 7,497 women and 687 men) received Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation, prevention and response interventions in the same 11 drought-affected counties and refugee camps through capacity building, individual case management access to safe spaces for survivors and those at risk.

Through awareness raising forums at community level by community workers, help desks and radio programs on where to access services and report cases of child abuse and exploitation, messages on child protection and case management were disseminated to 22,414 children (12,552 girls and 9,862 boys), thus supporting them with prevention from violence, abuse and exploitation.

A total of 7,156 people (4,056 women and 2,343 men) received training on child protection in emergencies, which focused on building the resilience and capacity of community members to identify, mitigate and respond to abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect of children, including Unaccompanied and Separated (UASC) children.

Education



Sharlyne watering her school vegetable garden at Nabulon Primary School, Turkana County

A total of 59,843 children (28,740 girls and 31,103 boys), have accessed basic education with UNICEF support during the first half of 2023 in the counties of Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kwale, Marsabit, Narok, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir and West Pokot. Furthermore, 90,097 students (39,350 girls and 50,747) in the counties of Mandera, Marsabit and Turkana benefited from distribution of teaching and learning supplies to support continuation of their learning.

In support to refugee education, 1,435 children (639 girls and 796 boys) in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement have been provided with learning opportunities to enroll in the primary schools within the host community of Turkana County. UNICEF also supported 65,789 refugee learners (27,025 girls and 38,764 boys) with learning supplies to enhance their retention in schools and reduce the cost of learning on their households.

To enhance quality of learning and support newly enrolled learners in drought affected counties, a total of 45,450 children (20,277 girls and 25,173 boys) were supported to access mentorship and life skills sessions to strengthen their resilience and coping mechanisms to the impact of drought, of which 24,931 children (8,701 girls and 16,230 boys) are refugee children in Kalobeyei and Kakuma settlements in Turkana county.

In close collaboration with WASH sector on efforts to improve the school environment through school WASH interventions, 115 handwashing kits were distributed to 37 schools and 10 latrine units were constructed in 5 schools benefiting 16,838 students (8,224 girls and 8,614 boys) in Marsabit county.

On capacity building for education managers to support quality learning, 232 governmental officials (126 men and 106 women) were trained on effective coordination, Disaster Risk Reduction and resilience-building. In close collaboration with the Child Protection sector, 4,120 members of the Enrolment Drive Committees and school Board of Managements, (2,159 men and 1,961 women) members were trained on their roles/responsibilities in supporting life skills, child protection and referral mechanisms, and 1,588 teachers (878 men and 710 women) were trained on remedial and catchup pedagogical approaches, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHSSP), prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Guidance and Counselling (G&C).

Water, sanitation and hygiene



A mother receives UNICEF WASH supplies at the Nakadukui integrated health outreach site in Turkana County

Between January and June 2023, UNICEF has supported a total of 406,885 people (104,163 girls, 96,839 boys, 106,604 women, and 99,280 men), which is 19 per cent of the 2023 target, with access to safe water in drought, floods and cholera-affected areas through the rehabilitation of 27 non-functional water supply systems in Kajiado, Kitui, and Samburu Counties.

A total of 6,700 people (1,606 girls, 1,543 boys, 1,811 women, and 1,740 men) have been reached with essential WASH supplies in Wajir County, for safe water storage and household water treatment to contribute to cholera prevention and response and 600 flood-affected families in Kisumu and Busia have received UNICEF family relief kits, consisting of basic cooking kits, beddings and WASH items to re-establish routine household activities for cooking and washing.

Hygiene promotion messages, including the promotion of handwashing at critical times to prevent the spread of cholera and other illness, reached 14,683 people comprising 3,520 girls, 3,381 boys, 3,969 women, and 3,813 men in Wajir County. The cumulative number of people reached in 2023 is 214,266 (53,946 girls, 50,581 boys, 56,604 women, and 53,134 men), representing 10 percent of the UNICEF 2023 target. UNICEF has also supported county governments and partners with RCCE materials on cholera prevention to support door-to-door, interpersonal, and FM radio messaging using local languages reaching a total of 35,000 people in Wajir County.

Social protection



Mariam, 16, interacts with UNICEF staff supporting disability inclusion at her home. Her family is benefitting from integrated cash transfers to promote inclusion of children with disabilities.

In the first half of 2023, a total of 3,060 households (13,816 people) have received monthly emergency cash transfers, which is 24 per cent of the 2023 HAC target, with 5,531 of them being children (2,727 girls and 2,804 boys). Of these, 59 households (185 people), with 120 of them being children (62 girls and 58 boys) received their third cycle of payment in the month of April 2023 through a HIV sensitive cash transfer programme in close collaboration with the Turkana County Department of Health to support specialised additional complementary services.

Communities benefitting from the cash transfers were targeted and jointly identified with Health, Nutrition and Child Protection sectors, thus the most vulnerable beneficiaries in need of critical life-saving interventions in health and nutrition have been targeted. The humanitarian cash transfers have also targeted households with infants and children under five, pregnant women and adolescent girls, people with disabilities and chronic illness, as well as children facing family separation and other child protection concerns. Vulnerable households meeting these criteria who are registered for one of the Government of Kenya's cash transfer programmes receive a top-ups to ensure they are not excluded.

Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)

To ensure Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), it has been necessary to utilize two distinct channels. The first channel involves regular program monitoring, learning, evaluation, and course correction. Through this channel, affected populations are provided with the opportunity to give feedback and lend themselves to programmatic or simple responses - many take the form of thank-you messages. In addition, a community-based feedback mechanism has been set up to provide opportunity for more private feedback. This includes toll-free 23080 SMS system, which provides a secure and confidential means for affected communities to raise their concerns. By utilizing both channels, accountability to affected populations can be effectively ensured.

UNICEF continues to enhance AAP through ensuring that community-level feedback is received through community radio services, which includes complaints, concerns, questions, and appreciation on services being provided by UNICEF and partners. A total 4,776,131 (2,350,755 male, 2,425,377 female) people have been sensitized on the importance of providing this feedback through a Public Service Announcement on the Digiredio Platform that runs 26 community radio services in 23 counties. Feedback of a personal and sensitive nature, which includes Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) issues, is captured through the

UNICEF toll-free line (23080).

Complaints, concerns and questions received are addressed through holding bimonthly radio talk shows with programme experts for listeners to call in and receive on-air responses and clarifications in real time. To enhance the quality of feedback provided, capacity strengthening of radio journalists on AAP and PSEA is ongoing. To further strengthen AAP, a complaints and feedback mechanism is being integrated in the different UNICEF programmes. The 186 issues received through DigiRedio and the UNICEF toll-free line have been resolved through on-air responses and community engagement. Community review meetings to address complaints and provide feedback reached 619 people (553 female and 66 male), and sensitive issues were addressed through the appropriate channels.

UNICEF and partners have mobilised migrant and under-served populations in Garissa County along border areas with Somalia on access to integrated health/nutrition outreach services and uptake of routine immunization, reaching a total of 2,556 people (1,536 women and 657 men) across 41 villages. Consequently, more than 1,200 children (612 girls and 588 boys) that had not been vaccinated received routine vaccine doses, including against Polio and Measles.

The Demand Intensification and Community Engagement (DICE) project continues to support 42 outreach sites in the Dadaab, Fafi and Hulugho sub counties of Garissa County through community engagement for behavior change and social norms to create demand for immunization uptake by nomadic communities that live along Kenya and Somali border. Community mobilization for integrated outreaches services in 42 planned outreach sites reached 1,886 people (729 men and 1,157 women), during which integrated lifesaving messages were disseminated.

UNICEF technical and financial support on cholera response and control has resulted in the updating of the National Cholera Guidelines and the Cholera Outbreak Response Strategy, integrating case management and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillars. A total of 100,000 cholera posters and 5,000 flipcharts have been printed and disseminated to 32 cholera hotspot counties for door-to-door and facility level messaging, further complemented the national cholera prevention campaign messages on radio and television. Intensified RCCE activities in Tana River, Garissa, Wajir, and Mandera reached 145,710 people through stakeholders' meetings, 440,418 through public address systems and 518,260 through door-to-door engagement by trained Community Health Volunteers (CHVs). UNICEF also supported messaging for Oral Cholera Vaccination, resulting in a high acceptance and uptake of the vaccine by the Kenyan population, with over 99 per cent of the targeted population receiving the vaccine.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION AND STRATEGY

The Resident Coordinator's Office and UNOCHA are leading the coordination of humanitarian action for the UN and partners' support to the government's drought and Cholera response. UNICEF actively participates in inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including the Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team (KHPT), the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) and the UN Humanitarian Country Team (UNHCT).

UNICEF is supporting the government in co-leading the drought response through its sector lead role in WASH, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection, and through the zonal offices in Lodwar and Garissa. UNICEF provides technical and financial support to line ministries at national and county level to support sector coordination

and leadership, advocacy and resource mobilisation, especially for the critically under-funded areas like Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response, Child Protection and Education in Emergencies. UNICEF and the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) jointly co-lead the WASH Sector Coordination in partnership with the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation (MWSI) and the Ministry of Health (MoH). UNICEF provides technical support to MWSI on coordinating water and sanitation interventions and to Ministry of Health on coordinating hygiene interventions.

Between January and June 2023, UNICEF has supported the monthly WASH Sector coordination meetings at national level, with up to 50 participants representing 40 WASH partners, including the MWSI, MoH, WHO, UNHCR, INGOs, NNGOs, CSOs and the private sector. Discussions have focused on preparedness planning for drought, floods and Cholera, including strengthening of cholera response in relation to floods. In collaboration with Education Sector Coordinator, strategies to strengthen resilient and sustainable approaches to WASH in Schools were shared with all WASH Partners to support schools lacking water and latrines and school retention.

The WASH Sector Technical Working Group on Data, Evidence and Learning has initiated development of joint benchmarks for sector activities and core monitoring indicators for drought recovery, floods, cholera and climate action, and a WASH Cholera needs assessment tool and dashboard has been launched. The WASH Sector has also strengthened data analysis and presentation of WASH findings in the rains assessments. UNICEF has also supported the monthly coordination meetings at county level to support overall response implementation and monitoring.

UNICEF continues to actively participate in the inter-agency Cholera coordination task force convened by WHO and the cross-border cholera coordination forum with Ethiopia and Somalia, which has enhanced joint preparedness and response planning, identification of gaps, information sharing and joint response interventions to prevent in-country and cross-border transmission.

UNICEF has continued to support monthly nutrition sector coordination meetings between January and June 2023. Discussions have included the roll-out of Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition simplification strategies, specifically the Integrated Community Case Management for Severe Acute Malnutrition (ICCM - SAM), and capacity enhancement for healthcare workers. In addition, regular response monitoring calls with various county technical teams to support quality of interventions have continued. UNICEF has also provided technical and financial support to conducting nutrition SMART surveys as part of heightened surveillance where the nutrition situation analysis using integrated phase classification for acute malnutrition (IPC AMN) protocols was conducted and caseloads for SAM and MAM re-calculated. The integrated nutrition SMART surveys in arid and semi-arid counties are critical in assessing the nutrition situation to inform the rains assessments.

Monthly nutrition sector coordination meetings were also held at county level, which supported response review and provided oversight for the IPC process. The sector has further supported the updating of the Kenya nutrition sector response plan and county contingency plans based on the rains assessment findings and development of a sector-wide action road map to ensure systematic adoption and implementation of the recommendations from the rains assessments. Resource mobilization efforts with key donors including USAID/BHA to support a sustained drought response, early recovery and resilience interventions have continued.

UNICEF continues to support the education sector coordination at national and subnational levels on a monthly basis through the Education in Emergencies (EiE) sector working group during the first

half of the year 2023. This has clearly reflected on the quality of EiE response at national and county level. A school feeding sub-working group was established with participants from 18 organizations to strengthen coordination of ongoing school feeding interventions, address issues of concern especially duplication of resources and support monitoring of interventions in drought-affected areas. The Strategic Advisory Group is supporting development of a multi-year strategy that covers the climate-induced crises that have been frequent in Kenya in recent years, the most serious being severe drought and massive floods.

From January to June 2023, UNICEF has supported the Department of Children Services (DCS) and Partners to convene monthly Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) meetings in Nairobi, Dadaab, Marsabit, Garisa, Turkana and West Pokot. DCS and Partners with UNICEF support provided various prevention and response services including case management services and supported data collection. UNICEF in collaboration with UNHCR supported DCS and Partners to provide case management services for UASC in refugee operation in Kakuma, Dadaab and Kitale, strengthened coordination and fund-raising efforts. The Child Protection sector increased engagement with Government institutions like the National Drought Management Authority and the Department of Refugee Affairs in strengthening leadership on issues related to the drought and refugee response, and increased participation of local partners through capacity building and financial support. The development of a National Child Protection Sector strategy to ensure coherence of response and support fund raising is ongoing.

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES AND EXTERNAL MEDIA



UNICEF Kenya 2023/Robert Asimbo
Mahat Mohamed, 14, (right) talks with UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell (left) and UNICEF Kenya Representative, Shaheen Nolifer (second left), at the Dadaab Refugee Camps

This story first appeared in the Star newspaper

Markabo Ali, 37, is mother to eight children. She used to live in Baidoa, Somalia, but left because of the prolonged drought. Now, she lives with her five daughters and young sister at Dadaab refugee camp, just across the border in Kenya. She sits in a small makeshift hut made from branches and plastic sheets, in an area of Ifo camp for new arrivals who are waiting to be assigned accommodation.

It's a hot, sunny afternoon but the long drought has recently been replaced by rain and floods. Markabo's hut provides some shelter from the sun but looks unlikely to keep the rain out. Nearby, children swim in a new lake where the road used to be – this part of the camp is now only accessible to large vehicles such as land cruisers and trucks.

“We came from Somalia six months ago because of the drought. I couldn’t get work or find food for my children,” Markabo explains. “I heard there were organisations supporting families in Dadaab. The journey here was tough. We walked for seven days to get here. I came with five daughters and three sons, although my sons have now gone back. Their father stayed behind.”

When the family arrived in Dadaab after their 600km trek, Markabo was surprised by the level of support she received. This came both from agencies like UNICEF and the kindness of strangers. “It was better here than I expected,” she recalls. “The people we came with and our neighbours in the camp helped us. We also got help from organisations distributing supplies. When we got here, my children were sick and malnourished. They were taken to hospital and treated for free. Now they are doing OK.”

The family was identified by a child protection volunteer from Terre des hommes, trained by UNICEF, because Habibo was travelling without her parents. Her case was reviewed by a panel that assesses the best interests of the child, which decided that she could remain with Markabo. The family received food vouchers worth 6,000 Kenya shillings (around US \$45) per month. Within two weeks of arrival, Habibo was enrolled in school and given a kit containing a uniform, bag, books and pens. She also received counselling and a dignity kit, including soap and sanitary pads.

“I’m glad that I can now get food and water and go to school, unlike in my home country,” Habibo says. “In Somalia, we were always hungry. Terre des hommes talked to me about how to live in the refugee camp and where to go if I need help. They visit me regularly. I feel happy here.”

Overlapping crises:

The drought that recently affected the Horn of Africa – Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia – was the worst in four decades. It was driven by climate change and saw five consecutive poor or failed rainy seasons from 2020 to 22. Many families lost their cattle, crops and livelihoods, putting children’s lives at risk from malnutrition. Then, the first rainy season of 2023 went to the other extreme, with above average rain and flash floods across the same region.

On top of the drought, conflict and insecurity also drove people across the border from Somalia to Kenya. Many displaced families ended up in the Dadaab refugee complex, one of the largest in the world. It is managed by UNHCR and is currently home to over 370,000 refugees and asylum seekers, more than half of them children.

“We saw an influx of new arrivals between September 2022 and February 2023, mainly from south and central Somalia” UNHCR Head of Dadaab Office Guy Avognon explains. “They had already been facing hardship because of the drought and were surviving on the bare minimum. Then, there was an offensive against Al Shabaab and in response they went on a rampage, ransacking villages and taking people’s remaining cattle and resources. That drove more families over the border to Dadaab. At UNHCR, we are managing the refugee camps, working with the host communities, and resettling people where we can. But the needs are immense, and we have a chronic lack of funds.”

UNICEF works in Dadaab in coordination with UNHCR and the World Food Programme, which handles food distribution. With funding from the EU (ECHO) and the Netherlands (Prospects), we are supporting children in the areas of nutrition, health, education and child protection. This includes identifying and treating children with malnutrition, vaccinating them against cholera and providing safe water supplies for families. On education, we are constructing classrooms in the camps, training teachers and providing learning materials. And on child protection, we are doing case management

of vulnerable and at-risk children, including finding foster families where needed.

In Ifo camp, UNICEF supports Terre des hommes (Tdh) to work with vulnerable children like Habibo. “Children in the camp face a myriad of child protection issues and this is further exacerbated by their being separated or unaccompanied,” Terre des hommes Case Worker Joseph Macharia says. “These include child marriage, female genital mutilation, association with armed groups, teenage pregnancy, child labour, out of school children and children in contact with the law. UNICEF has supported us with training of case workers, an online case management tool, cash vouchers and dignity kits. This helps us support children in need.”

High-level visit:

Last month, UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell travelled to Dadaab, to meet newly arrived refugees from Somalia at Ifo Refugee Camp, including Markabo’s family. She also visited a health centre providing health and nutrition services for children, with support from UNICEF, and spoke to families receiving child protection services.

“It’s been a terrible situation because of two things,” Catherine said. “One, the drought and two, different areas of conflict. People have been driven from their homes. It’s just been devastating for them. They come here with virtually nothing. The international community is trying to help them, but the needs are really immense.”

One of the children Catherine met was Mahat Mohamed, 14, an unaccompanied boy from Somalia. In a covered area next to the registration centre for new arrivals, he told her how he had come to the border in a lorry and then followed other people walking into the camp, where he lived on his own until he was identified by a UNICEF-supported child protection volunteer.

“Mahat told me that his father sent him here by himself because he didn’t want him to be recruited into Al-Shabab,” Catherine said. “Thankfully, a woman took him in as a foster child and is trying to take care of him. But he doesn’t have his family. He doesn’t have his dad, his sisters or brothers. His mother died in Somalia. So, it’s hard to see what the future looks like for him and it’s really worrying.”

With the arrival of rains across the Horn of Africa marking the end of three years of drought, children in Kenya and Somalia finally have a brighter future to look forward to. But this will not come quickly or easily. It will take at least a year for children’s nutrition situation to recover. This is due to the time needed for crops and pasture to grow, animals to feed and breed, and families’ livelihoods to recover.

For Markabo, the relief she felt on arriving at Dadaab is tempered by anxiety about her family’s future. “It’s not easy to leave your home out of hunger, but I felt safe when I came here,” she says, before putting her young daughter down for a nap in their makeshift home. “I’m very grateful for the support I’ve received, but I’m worried about what will happen to us next.”

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- Supporting children living with disabilities through cash transfers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqbh8SCArcg>
- Addressing energy challenges in disadvantaged communities in Garissa County
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcolO46ILps>
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- Reimagining polio eradication Applying behavioural insights to reach 'zero-dose' nomadic communities
<https://www.unicef.org/kenya/stories/reimagining-polio-eradication>
- In Dadaab, families arrive from Somalia fleeing drought and conflict
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<https://nation.africa/kenya/health/west-pokot-mothers-tackling-malnutrition-through-cooking-classes-4130746>
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- In Dadaab, families arrive from Somalia fleeing drought and conflict
<https://www.unicef.org/kenya/stories/dadaab-families-arrive-somalia-fleeing-drought-and-conflict>

HAC APPEALS AND SITREPS

- Kenya Appeals
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/kenya>
- Kenya Situation Reports
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- All Humanitarian Action for Children Appeals
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals>
- All Situation Reports
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/situation-reports>

NEXT SITREP: 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

ANNEX A SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response			Cluster/Sector response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2023 targets	Total results	Progress*	2023 targets	Total results	Progress*
Health								
People accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported health facilities	Total	3 million	1.1 million	152,166	▲ 14%	-	-	-
	Girls	698,605	275,908	41,878	▲ 15%	-	-	-
	Boys	671,209	275,908	38,071	▲ 14%	-	-	-
	Women	787,789	275,908	45,206	▲ 16%	-	-	-
	Men	756,896	264,871	27,011	▲ 10%	-	-	-
Community health workers receiving support (skills and equipment) to deliver essential maternal, newborn and child health services	Total	-	310	130	▲ 42%	-	-	-
	Women	-	158	73	▲ 46%	-	-	-
	Men	-	152	57	▲ 38%	-	-	-
HIV/AIDS								
Children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy	Total	-	11,187	5,588	▲ 50%	-	-	-
	Girls	-	4,475	2,068	▲ 46%	-	-	-
	Boys	-	3,356	1,951	▲ 58%	-	-	-
	Women	-	3,356	1,569	▲ 47%	-	-	-
Nutrition								
Children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	Total	238,373	238,373	79,462	▲ 33%	238,373	79,462	▲ 33%
	Girls	121,570	121,570	40,456	▲ 33%	121,570	40,456	▲ 33%
	Boys	116,803	116,803	39,006	▲ 33%	116,803	39,006	▲ 33%
Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	Total	1.8 million	1.8 million	1 million	▲ 56%	1.8 million	1 million	▲ 56%
	Women	918,000	918,000	512,367	▲ 56%	918,000	512,367	▲ 56%
	Men	882,000	882,000	492,274	▲ 56%	882,000	492,274	▲ 56%
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA								

Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	Total	519,591	157,334	31,461	▲ 20%	519,591	19,438	▲ 4%
	Girls	124,545	40,907	13,927	▲ 34%	124,545	7,873	▲ 6%
	Boys	119,662	39,334	11,623	▲ 30%	119,662	6,557	▲ 5%
	Women	140,445	39,334	3,762	▲ 10%	140,445	3,677	▲ 3%
	Men	134,938	37,760	2,149	▲ 6%	134,938	2,706	▲ 2%
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Total	-	48,000	17,378	▲ 36%	48,000	11,743	▲ 24%
	Girls	-	19,200	6,029	▲ 31%	19,200	5,414	▲ 28%
	Boys	-	16,800	3,165	▲ 19%	16,800	3,611	▲ 21%
	Women	-	12,000	7,497	▲ 62%	12,000	1,905	▲ 16%
	Men	-	12,000	687	▲ 6%	12,000	813	▲ 7%
Education								
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Total	3.1 million	866,711	59,843	▲ 7%	1.2 million	146,580	▲ 12%
	Girls	1.5 million	433,356	28,740	▲ 7%	600,576	65,964	▲ 11%
	Boys	1.5 million	433,355	31,103	▲ 7%	600,575	80,616	▲ 13%
Children receiving individual learning materials	Total	1.5 million	433,356	90,097	▲ 21%	600,578	166,456	▲ 28%
	Girls	770,925	216,678	39,350	▲ 18%	300,289	75,576	▲ 25%
	Boys	770,925	216,678	50,747	▲ 23%	300,289	90,880	▲ 30%
Water, sanitation and hygiene								
People accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	5.1 million	2.1 million	406,885	▲ 19%	3.1 million	951,714	▲ 31%
	Girls	1.2 million	514,523	104,163	▲ 20%	804,630	234,759	▲ 29%
	Boys	1.2 million	494,346	96,839	▲ 20%	773,682	222,314	▲ 29%
	Women	1.4 million	557,454	106,604	▲ 19%	773,682	253,872	▲ 33%
	Men	1.3 million	557,454	99,280	▲ 18%	742,735	240,769	▲ 32%
People that participated in hygiene promotion sessions	Total	5.1 million	2.1 million	214,266	▲ 10%	3.1 million	384,129	▲ 12%
	Girls	1.2 million	514,523	53,946	▲ 10%	804,630	99,874	▲ 12%
	Boys	1.2 million	494,346	50,581	▲ 10%	773,682	96,032	▲ 12%

	Women	1.4 million	580,207	56,604	▲ 10%	773,682	96,032	▲ 12%
	Men	1.3 million	557,454	53,134	▲ 10%	742,735	92,192	▲ 12%
Social protection								
Households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in kind) measures from governments with UNICEF-technical assistance support								
	Total	174,184	8,923	3,060	▲ 34%	-	-	-
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)								
People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services								
	Total	1.5 million	130,000	120,505	▲ 93%	-	-	-
	Women	787,789	66,300	65,206	▲ 98%	-	-	-
	Men	756,896	63,700	54,818	▲ 86%	-	-	-

*Progress in the reporting period

ANNEX B FUNDING STATUS

Sector	Requirements	Funding available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2023	Other resources used in 2023	Resources available from 2022 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	23,176,230	2,175,014	-	453,507	20,547,709	89%
HIV/AIDS	667,938	-	-	119	667,819	100%
Nutrition	34,526,513	3,020,821	-	8,976,556	22,529,136	65%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	11,341,374	1,477,156	-	744,846	9,119,372	80%
Education	16,713,000	197,492	1,619,092	1,347,556	13,548,860	81%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	36,571,251	4,040,842	543,265	264,827	31,722,317	87%
Social protection	12,000,000	782,263	500,000	64,085	10,653,652	89%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	2,468,000	1,845,895	-	305,804	316,301	13%
Total	137,464,306	13,539,483	2,662,357	12,157,300	109,105,166	79%

*repurposed other resources with agreement from donors

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