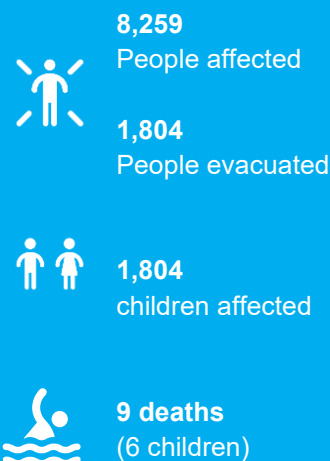




Botswana Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1



Situation in Numbers



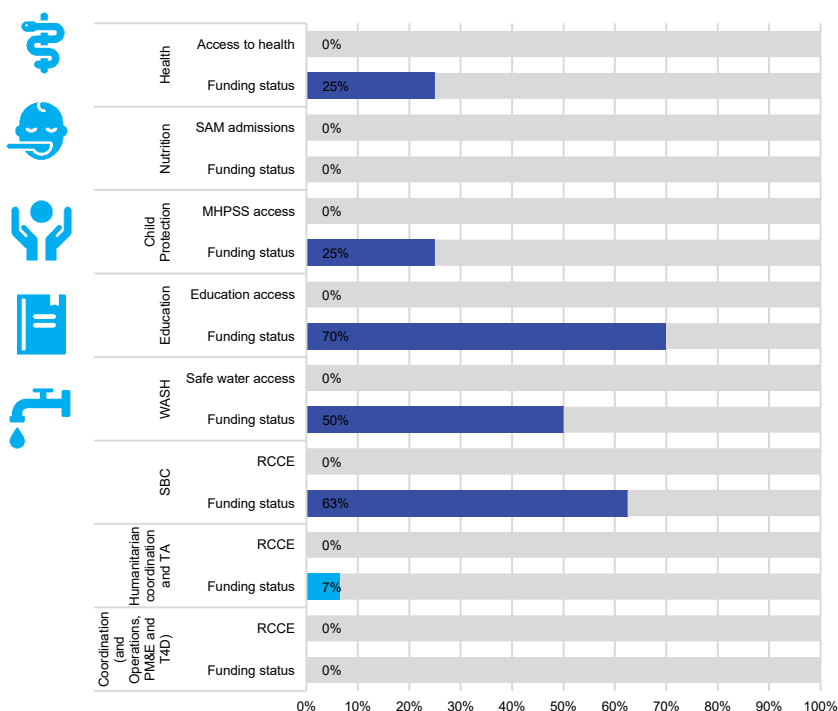
Devastating floods submerge a school and homes in Morwa Village, Kgatleng District.

Reporting Period: 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025

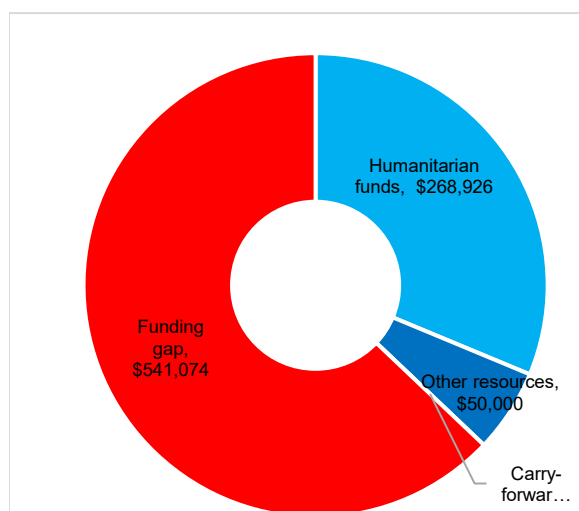
Highlights

- From mid-February 2025, heavy rains led to severe flooding across regions including Gaborone, Francistown and Ghanzi, forcing nearly 2,000 evacuations and impacting over 8,000 people, including 1,804 children. Of the nine (9) people who died in the floods, six (6) were children— compounded by infrastructure collapse, overflowing dams, widespread road closures and power outages.
- UNICEF immediately mobilized US\$50,000 via a partnership with the Botswana Red Cross Society to deliver safe drinking water, hygiene kits, oral rehydration salts, and child protection services in evacuation centres. A formal UNICEF press appeal was issued on 25 February 2025, requesting US\$350,000 to support lifesaving WASH, health, education and child protection interventions, aligned with a broader appeal for up to US\$860,000 for recovery efforts
- In late February, UNICEF donated approximately US\$50,000 to the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education for emergency kits, hygiene, and child protection
- UNICEF emphasized that children are the most vulnerable during climate driven disasters, committing to child focused recovery actions once floodwaters recede, including psychosocial support and safe learning environments. UNICEF and partners (Red Cross, Government) are now focusing on recovery efforts: restoring WASH facilities, supporting schools and providing psychosocial support for children.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2025 US\$860,000



*Funding available includes funds received in the current year

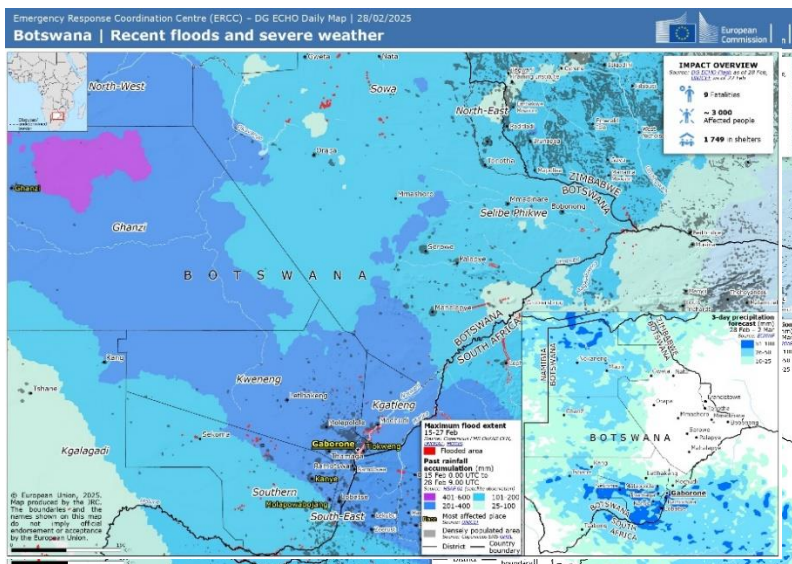
Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF Botswana launched an appeal for US\$860,000 to support the Government's response to the floods, aiming to provide life-saving assistance and support long-term recovery for affected women and children. Without sufficient funding, over 2,500 individuals remained at risk of inadequate sanitation, and more than 500 children would not have received critical psychosocial support. To address immediate needs, UNICEF Botswana reallocated US\$50,000 from Regular Resources to support emergency relief and medium-term rehabilitation activities in flood-affected communities. This intervention ensured continued access to essential services, including clean water, sanitation, and the protection of vulnerable populations. To date, the Country Office has mobilized US\$265,000 from various funding sources. These funds were deployed as follows - US\$75,000 for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), US\$25,000 for Health, US\$140,000 for Education, and US\$25,000 for Child Protection. In addition, UNICEF received US\$3,926 from the Cyprus Humanitarian Fund.

UNICEF continues to collaborate with government counterparts, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and other partners to scale up response efforts and strengthen resilience in the most affected communities. Engagement with donors is ongoing to close the funding gap and ensure continuity of critical services for children and families in need.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Between mid February and March 2025, Botswana was impacted by extreme flooding across multiple districts, displacing over 5,000 people, including 1,804 children. Infrastructure damage affected roads, water systems, health clinics, and schools, while exposure to floodwaters heightened the risk of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, especially among vulnerable groups. Amidst the floods, a sharp malaria surge emerged: by 31 March, Botswana had recorded 1,625 cases and seven deaths, compared to just 284 cases and two deaths the previous year. Although Okavango District accounted for many cases, Ghanzi, historically malaria free since 2010, also saw its first outbreak, driven by expanded mosquito breeding opportunities in stagnant floodwater.



In direct response, UNICEF activated emergency funds—disbursing US \$50,000 (about BWP 700,000) through collaboration with the Botswana Red Cross Society and coordination with the Ministry of Child Welfare & Basic Education—to deliver essential items which included portable water, hygiene kits, oral rehydration salts, and child protection services in evacuation centers. Humanitarian and health needs remain urgent: access to clean water and adequate sanitation, as well as continuous surveillance, early detection, and treatment of malaria cases are critical. UNICEF and partners now support medium term recovery actions focused on restoring WASH, reinforcing child protection and psychosocial services, and building climate resilience to prevent future

disease outbreaks.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

In response to the severe flooding in Botswana in February 2025, UNICEF has been actively supporting relief efforts to assist affected children and families. On February 26, 2025, UNICEF provided BWP 700,000 (approximately US\$50,772) in emergency aid to Botswana's Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education. This funding was earmarked to deliver immediate relief and support medium-term rehabilitation efforts in flood-affected communities, ensuring access to essential services and sanitation, as well as the protection of vulnerable populations and hence UNICEF is collaborating with the Botswana Red Cross Society for the distribution of essential supplies, hygiene kits, safe drinking water, and oral rehydration salts in the affected areas. Additionally, they are linking these efforts to health facilities and implementing child protection measures in evacuation centres.

UNICEF has also actively responded by providing critical support to affected communities. As part of its response, UNICEF has procured and will distribute Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to combat child malnutrition, ensuring vulnerable children receive lifesaving nutrition. To support continued learning and emotional well-being, education and recreational kits have been procured, helping children maintain a sense of normalcy and recover from trauma. Additionally, the procurement and distribution of malaria treatment and prevention medicines and supplies is playing a vital role in preventing and treating flood-related disease outbreaks. These interventions are crucial in safeguarding the health, development, and rights of children during emergencies, reinforcing UNICEF's commitment to protecting the most vulnerable.

WASH

In response to the floods that affected several communities across Botswana, UNICEF partnered with the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) to address the urgent WASH needs on the impacted populations. The floods disrupted access to clean water and sanitation services, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases and compromising the health and dignity of vulnerable groups. Through this collaboration, UNICEF supported the distribution of hygiene kits and safe drinking water to affected families. Risk communication on safe hygiene practices was also done to reduce the risk of disease transmission in flood-hit areas. Furthermore, UNICEF has completed assessments to resuscitate WASH facilities in schools in Kgatleng district to mitigate risks caused by sewage contamination during flooding.

Recognizing the increased risk of malaria due to stagnant water left by the floods, UNICEF has extended its response to include targeted malaria prevention efforts—particularly in the Ghanzi District, where there has been rising cases of Malaria where vulnerability was heightened. Support through the partnership with BRCS will include distribution of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs), reaching more than 909 households with malaria prevention messaging in seven (7) villages, and coordination with health partners to strengthen local response capacity. This integrated response will assist in preventing further spread of Malaria in Ghanzi district and improving health and well-being of flood-affected communities, especially children, by promoting access to safe water, sanitation, and protection against malaria. Through the partnership with BRCS, resuscitation of WASH facilities is ongoing in the Ghanzi district.

Education

Due to torrential rains that led to widespread flooding and road blockages, the Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education ordered a temporary closure of schools from 19 to 24 February 2025 to ensure student safety. Although a majority of schools reopened a week later, some, in severely affected districts delayed opening as some where housing displaced population. The floods significantly disrupted learning for many children, particularly for students with special needs—who faced additional challenges due to displacement and limited access to accessible learning materials.

In response, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry to ensure the continuity of education for all learners, with a strong emphasis on inclusivity. Educational materials have now been procured, and a second procurement has been placed with the Supply Division to expand support. These include age-appropriate learning kits and specialized educational equipment tailored to the needs of learners with disabilities. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of the floods on children with disabilities, UNICEF's emergency education response focuses on promoting inclusive education and mitigating learning loss. By providing both general and specialized educational supplies, the intervention aims to ensure that all children—regardless of circumstance or ability—have equitable access to quality learning opportunities in safe, supportive environments during and after emergencies.

Child Protection

In response, UNICEF prioritized the protection and well-being of children affected by the floods. Many children faced increased risks of neglect, abuse, exploitation, and separation from their families due to displacement and disruption of community structures. UNICEF has worked with government and through the partnership with BRCS, to strengthen child safeguarding measures in temporary shelters, ensuring safe spaces where children could access protection, education, and basic services in a safe and supportive environment. UNICEF is supporting activation and capacity building of child protection mechanisms to strengthen child safeguarding during emergencies. Psychosocial support services continue to be provided through trained social workers and partners, helping children cope with trauma and stress caused by the floods. In boarding schools' recreational material and facilities are being provided to improve the psychological well-being of children and enhance their school experience following disruptions. The recreational facilities will also incorporate child protection messaging to strengthen awareness among children.

Health and Nutrition

To support the continuity of essential health services, UNICEF on behalf of the Ministry of Health procured and delivered life-saving essential medicines to health facilities in affected areas. This is to ensure the treatment of common illnesses and help maintain primary healthcare services during the emergency. Recognizing the increased risk of malaria due to stagnant water UNICEF procured malaria commodities, such as Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kits to support malaria case identification and management in the most affected areas. This effort is essential in reducing malaria-related morbidity and protecting vulnerable populations, especially young children and pregnant women. In response to rising malnutrition rates among children, UNICEF also procured 1,000 cartons of RUTF, to support the treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition in the affected communities. The RUTF consignment has been officially handed over to the Ministry of Health for distribution to the affected communities.

Social and Behaviour Change, Accountability to Affected Population, Localization

UNICEF is collaborating with local media outlets, community leaders, and social platforms have provided timely and accurate information on safety measures, available services, and health precautions to affected communities. This ensured that communities are well-informed about the evolving situation and the support mechanisms in place. UNICEF also shared and continues sharing child centred messaging with special emphasis addressing the unique vulnerabilities of children during floods and in the recovery, phase following the floods. This includes guidance on preventing waterborne diseases, ensuring safe play areas, and access to psychosocial support services.

UNICEF has continually engaged affected communities through their leadership structures to identify needs and collaborate for community led solutions to the response, these were done successfully in Ghanzi and Kgatleng districts where action plans were jointly developed with leaders from affected communities.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is implementing a comprehensive humanitarian strategy to support affected children and families. This strategy emphasizes leadership, coordination, and targeted interventions in collaboration with government and local partners. For example, collaborating closely with the Botswana Red Cross Society, UNICEF ensures the efficient delivery of essential services and supplies to communities impacted by the floods. Through these coordinated efforts, UNICEF aims to address both the immediate and long-term needs of those affected by the floods, fostering resilience and facilitating recovery in Botswana's impacted communities.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

[UNICEF donates over 50,000 USD to children affected by floods in Botswana-Xinhua](#)

[Devastating floods in Botswana: UNICEF calls for US\\$350,000 to support children and families](#)

[Botswana - Floods \(NOAA-CPC, UNICEF\) \(ECHO Daily Flash of 24 February 2025\) - Botswana | ReliefWeb](#)

Next SitRep: Day Month Year
December 2025

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Summary of Programme Results

Sector		Total needs	UNICEF and IPs Response			Sector Response		
			2025 target	Total results	Change* ▲▼	2025 target	Total results	Change* ▲▼
Indicator	Disaggregation							
Health			2,500					
Number of individuals tested/screened for malaria through UNICEF support	girls				▲		▲	
	boys				▲		▲	
Nutrition			2,500					
Number of children 6-59 months receiving RUTF	girls				▲		▲	
	boys				▼		▼	
Child Protection			500	261				
Number of children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	girls			41	▲		▲	
	boys			32	▲		▲	
	Caregivers (men)			94				
	Caregivers (women)			94				
Education			1,500					
Number of children receiving individual learning materials	girls				▲		▲	
	boys				▼		▼	
WASH			2,500	32				
Number of people who benefited from safe water supply	girls				▲		▲	
	boys				▼		▲	
	women				▼		▼	
	men				▲		▲	
Number of children using safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	girls							
	boys							
Number of people reached								

with critical WASH supplies								
Indicator								
SBC			30,000	34,827				
Number of people reached with child protection messages.	women				▲			
	men							
Number of people reached with hygiene and child health messages.	girls				▲			
	boys							
	women							
	men							

* Change since last report.

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Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2024	Resources available from 2025	\$	%
Health, including HIV	100,000	0	25,000	75,000	75%
Nutrition	100,000	0	0	100,000	100%
Child Protection	100,000	0	25,000	75,000	75%
Education	200,000	0	140,000	60,000	30%
WASH	150,000	0	75,000	75,000	50%
C4D and cross-sectoral	80,000	0	50,000	30,000	38%
Humanitarian coordination and technical support	60,000	0	3,926	56,074	93%
Sector Coordination	70,000	0	0	70,000	100%
Total	860,000		318,926	541,074	63%