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Annual Humanitarian Situation Report: January-December 2019

Eritrea

Humanitarian Situation Report



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

As of 31 December 2019

528,750

Total people to be reached in 2019 (HAC 2019)

494,800

Total children to be reached in 2019 (HAC 2019)

UNICEF Appeal 2019

US\$ 14.2 million

FUNDING STATUS 2019



Highlights

- In 2019, the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) with UNICEF support provided therapeutic and supplementary feeding services to 58,568 acutely malnourished children under-five: 16,356 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition, and 42,212 for moderate acute malnutrition.
- The GoSE reached 69,390 individuals with blanket supplementary feeding with UNICEF support; and more than 224,250 children aged six-59 months were provided with Vitamin A supplements.
- In 2019, over 50,050 children under-five were immunized against measles, and more than 81,600 children affected by diarrhoea received access to life-saving curative interventions.
- In the Northern Red Sea region, 33 communities in Nakfa sub-zone were declared Open Defecation-Free (ODF), which helped Nakfa to become an ODF sub-Zoba (district).
- In total, 2,160 out-of-school children from remote areas were enrolled in schools through the UNICEF-supported Complementary Elementary Education (CEE) programme.
- UNICEF and Ministry of Education (MoE) jointly developed integrated IEC materials on Injury, Violence and Disability Prevention and Control in Schools and Communities, to support the effective delivery of integrated Mine Risk Education (MRE) and key message on different forms of violence against children.

Summary of UNICEF key indicators (2019)	UNICEF	
	Target (#)	Cumulative Results (#)
WASH: # of people accessing safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	60,000	7,039
Nutrition: # of children under 5 with acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	55,000	58,568*
Health: # of children under 5 immunized against measles	110,000	50,054
Education: # of school-aged children accessing quality education, including through temporary structures	4,800	2,160
Child Protection: # of children receiving critical protection services / mine risk education	100,000	92,000

* The data, as well as the target, represent cumulative result for both Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). See the programme results summary table in Annex 1 for the breakdown.

Situation overview and humanitarian needs

The GoSE plans to conduct a new Eritrea Population and Health Survey (EPHS) in 2020 and this will provide much needed recent data. However, the available EPHS 2010 data indicates high level of stunting and the proportion of wasting among under-five children in Eritrea to be about 15 per cent. While there has been no recent survey, programme generated data indicates progress over the years in addressing malnutrition. Situated in the Horn of Africa, Eritrea is characterized by harsh climatic conditions, including cyclical drought affecting groundwater resources and flooding during rainy seasons. These conditions erode the resilience of communities, making children susceptible to malnutrition and sporadic outbreaks of diseases such as diarrhoea and measles. Domestic food production is affected and is estimated to meet only 60 to 70 per cent of the population's needs.

Eritrea has made moderate progress towards achieving global development goals and relevant indicators for access to safe drinking water, with only 58 per cent of the total population having access to improved drinking water sources, according to the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) 2015. There are disparities in access to improved drinking water between urban (73 per cent) and rural population (53 per cent); 19 per cent of rural communities still use surface water (JMP 2015). As per the 2015 UNICEF-WHO JMP, 11 per cent of the total population of Eritrea had access to basic sanitation services, and 76 per cent of the population practice open defecation.

According to the joint assessment conducted by MoE and the Ministry of National Development (MoND) in 2018, there are approximately 340,000 out-of-school children (OOSC), the majority from nomadic and semi-nomadic communities who are vulnerable to natural disasters. As per the most recently published Education Management Information System (EMIS), the net enrolment ratio is 17 per cent for pre-primary (boys: 17.3 per cent, girls 16.8 per cent), 83 per cent for elementary (boys 85.9 per cent, girls 80.4 per cent), and 44 per cent for lower secondary school (boys 42.2 per cent, girls 45.3 per cent) UNICEF's support for national education focuses on community involvement in setting up learning spaces, building capacity of teachers recruited from the local communities, and enrolling OOSC from nomadic communities.

The risk of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) is a continuing threat to many communities, particularly in the border areas, and children face heightened risk from landmines and ERW. Continuous mine risk education in schools is needed.

The high-level meeting in January 2019 between UNICEF Deputy Executive Director and the Head of GoSE sought to focus efforts on community-based health/nutrition programmes, education, WASH, agriculture and systemic capacity development interventions.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

Disaster response and management in Eritrea is coordinated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW). It is represented at the sub-national and community levels through its sub-regional offices. Support for emergency coordination and response is managed at sectoral levels through the Ministries of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment (MoLWE). The Office of the UN Resident Coordinator and UNOCHA support wider inter-agency humanitarian coordination within the UN Country Team (UNCT), and UNICEF is a key member of the UNCT Humanitarian Needs Group. There is no formal cluster coordination system in Eritrea, however, at the sector level UNICEF is the lead agency for Education, Child Protection, Nutrition and WASH, and actively engages with partners in Health. There are no registered NGOs in Eritrea, and all programmes are implemented directly by GoSE ministries and their agencies at Zoba and sub-Zoba levels.

Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF and partners have mainstreamed emergency preparedness planning and response within regular programmes to reach children in need. Integrated and multi-sectoral approaches are applied to deliver life-saving interventions. For example, the provision of safe water and sanitation to affected populations is used as an entry point to reduce stunting among children under-five years, and the nutrition response focuses on the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM). UNICEF supports the government to reach communities in hard-to-reach areas with integrated services using mobile outreach clinics. Local communities are being supported to strengthen their capacities to manage common childhood illnesses, including diarrhoea, and to promote positive health-seeking behaviours, handwashing and other hygiene practices.

UNICEF continues to support the provision of basic services, such as education, health care, psychosocial support and cash grants: to strengthen community resilience, to protect children on the move and build the life-skills of adolescents susceptible to irregular migration. The community and school based integrated MRE is a critical life-saving intervention, targeting school children in communities affected by landmines and ERW.

A phased programme for nationwide blanket supplementary feeding to prevent further deterioration of the nutritional status of children under-five is being implemented by the GoSE, with UNICEF support. Additionally, UNICEF also supports GoSE's community outreach activities to promote appropriate hygiene practices, and to strengthen the health system for service

delivery through routine immunization, and case management of childhood illnesses. UNICEF, in partnership with the MoE, is working to provide equitable access to education for all children in nomadic communities of Northern Red Sea, Southern Red Sea, Gash Barka and Anseba regions. This includes setting up formal, non-formal, boarding and para-boarding schools for nomadic communities; using locally available materials; and providing flexible arrangements in existing schools to accommodate more children. UNICEF supports awareness-raising activities on the values and benefits of education by motivating and mobilising nomadic and semi-nomadic communities to increase demand for education for their children (girls in particular) by training and deploying teachers from nomadic communities.

UNICEF Eritrea ensures the convergence of its programmes to impact positively on vulnerable populations as it works at sub-regional levels to build the resilience of youth and adolescents by strengthening their life skills.

Summary analysis of programme response

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to build a system-strengthening approach to improve delivery of services, leading to quality treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). This included prevention and expansion of community platforms for growth monitoring, counselling, consolidation of volunteer training at health facility and community levels. Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) was integrated with other routine health services and is being included in different campaign-based activities to further increase coverage.

In 2019, 50,054 children under-five were vaccinated against measles as a preventive measure through the routine immunisation programme, and 81,640 children affected by diarrhoea were provided with access to life-saving curative interventions. The numbers are less than the target because most of the children were already covered during the measles-rubella vaccination campaign the previous year. Technical and logistical support to MoH included the provision of three mobile clinic vehicles for outreach services, as well as training for health professionals and community health workers. In addition, awareness-raising activities and other preventive activities such as hygiene and sanitation, including hand and face washing, were also conducted at the community level to reduce incidences of diarrhoea and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

With UNICEF support, the MoH provided therapeutic feeding services to 58,568 acutely malnourished children under-five through more than 60 facility-based therapeutic feeding centres and 230 community-based therapeutic feeding centres effectively performing 88.9% of cure rate, which is way above humanitarian sphere standards ($\geq 75\%$). Moreover, 69,390 individuals (40,486 females including girls under the age of five and pregnant and lactating woman) effectively reached with supplementary feeding through 263 supplementary feeding sites. The community nutrition volunteers are the principal actors for early case-finding, referring malnourished children from communities to the intervention sites or health facilities, where appropriate therapeutic and supplementary feeding services are available. UNICEF also supported provision of blanket feeding to 69,390 vulnerable individuals within communities (including children aged six-59 months and pregnant and lactating women) to address the deterioration of their nutritional status, in the arid regions and high-risk areas. UNICEF continues to support intensive counselling to mothers and other caregivers and provide micronutrient supplementation services at all levels including VAS to more than 224,391 children six-59 months.

WASH

UNICEF supported Ministry of Health to roll out The National Roadmap to End Open Defecation in Eritrea by 2022, following the first Eritrea National Sanitation Conference in December 2018. The commitment from political leaders, Zoba Governors and stakeholders has resulted in triggering of about 700 communities in Anseba, Debub, Gash Barka and Northern Red Sea regions in 2019. As of December 2019, 1,000 communities were declared Open Defecation-Free (35 per cent of the total number of village communities in Eritrea) – including 33 communities in Nakfa sub-zone declared ODF, which helped Nakfa to become an ODF sub-Zoba (district). In 2019, 43 villages have been triggered with a total population of 41,131 people, out of which 20 villages are declared Open Defecation-Free (ODF) with population of 28,527 people. The remaining 23 villages with population of 12,604 people will be declared ODF in the first quarter of 2020. The same 23 villages (Gash Barka and Southern Red Sea Zobas) have reached 80 per cent sanitation coverage.

In partnership with the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment - Water Resources Department (WRD), UNICEF distributed assorted water supply construction materials, including pipes and solar pumping equipment. The construction of a solar-powered rural water supply system in the Northern Red Sea region and rehabilitation of a water supply system in Gash Barka provided access to safe drinking water for more than 7,000 people during the reporting period.

To strengthen the enabling environment for WASH, UNICEF supported the development of a One WASH Strategy and Investment Plan 2019-2030 for Eritrea. This strategy will help to address the gaps identified during the WASH bottleneck analysis workshop and to improve WASH service standards by adopting evidence and data-based policies, expanding the WASH-related workforce and its technical capacity. It will also help to secure sustainable access to WASH-related services and facilities for all communities and mobilising WASH resources in Eritrea.

Child Protection

In 2019, UNICEF printed 3,000 posters on MRE and distributed them to 1,478 schools, including 929 schools in communities at higher risk of exposure to mines and ERW. The information, education and communication (IEC) posters were used in classrooms to provide information on how to recognise the land mines, the dangers of land mines/ERW and to avoid contaminated areas by trained teachers. An estimated 92,000 schoolchildren were reached (49 per cent girls) with MRE in primary and junior schools. UNICEF and MoE jointly developed an integrated IEC flipchart on Injury, Violence and Disability Prevention and Control in Schools and Communities, to support the effective delivery of integrated MRE and violence prevention. The materials have been field-tested and printed. They are expected to reach 100,000 people, including teachers, pupils and communities across all Zobas in 2020.

In 2019, 40 community-based rehabilitation volunteers (target 100) were trained, which led to an improved capacity to provide quality protection service and referral support. To date, over 3,000 (50 per cent received some form of training) community-based rehabilitation (CBR) volunteers are active across all Zobas. They provide physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, services referral, and protection of children - particularly victims of landmines/ERW and Children with Disabilities (CWDs). The CBR volunteers help preventing social stigma, injury and disability, and violence against children.

The MoLSW, with financial support from UNICEF, reached 377 vulnerable families (against the target of 500) hosting orphans and CWD with income generating support to strengthen their livelihood and resilience, which benefitted over 1,500 children. The cash transfers are critical to provide a safety net for vulnerable families and help to ensure their access to basic social services, including education, protection, health, livelihood and child participation, as well as more protective family environment.

Education

With UNICEF support, the MoE established 54 temporary classrooms to enrol around 2,160 (1,080 girls) previously out-of-school children from drought-prone nomadic communities (particularly from Anseba and NRS regions) through the CEE programme. As a continuation of promoting resilience in schools UNICEF in partnership with MoE developed school emergency and DDR management policy and strategy in 2017 and plan of action was developed. As part of the implementation UNICEF in partnership with MoE developed School Safety and Emergency guiding/training manuals on school emergency preparedness and response, as well as IEC flipcharts to supplement the training package. The school guiding manual is expected to be used by the schools to develop their capacities, develop school-based Education in Emergencies (EiE) plans, and conduct EiE drills. Using the guiding manual, ToT was conducted to 27 school health focal teachers at national level through a consultant with the support of UNICEF and EiE task team from MoE. Similar training was cascaded to 150 (19 females) school health focal teachers, directors and supervisors from six Zobas and 65 sub-Zobas through the focal points of EiE under close supervision of the EiE task team. The participants of the training include 22 school health focal teachers from Zoba Maekel, 35 school health focal teachers from Debub, 25 directors from Northern Red Sea (NRS) Zoba, 29 school health focal teachers from Southern Red Sea (SRS) Zoba, 35 school health focal teachers from Gash Barka and 25 from Anseba participated in the training. Post assessment training was conducted, and the result showed that the training was: timely and relevant, participatory, changed the negative perception of the participants towards emergency and hazard, was practical especially the mock drill on evacuation and fire management. Lastly, the participants recommended to scale it at large scale, being allocated enough budget for it, engagement of communities and stakeholders is important, the flip chart should be translated to all languages to benefit children from all ethnic groups.

Communication for Development (C4D)

UNICEF conducted a five-day C4D in Emergency scenario-based workshop for 28 partners from the Ministries of National Development, Information, Education, Health, Labour and Social Welfare, the National Unions of Youth and Women on social and behaviour change communication preparedness, response and evaluation. Partners from implementing ministries were able to identify and profile risks, and plan for minimum C4D preparedness activities. Humanitarian normative tools, community engagement, establishing mechanisms for community feedback, mainstreaming disability and gender-based violence were the central themes of the workshop. Participants were also made aware of the global, regional and country level service and logistics for C4D. Following the workshop, UNICEF led a three-day material review and consultation meeting with partners from the MoH (Health Promotion Division). During the engagement, key messages on Ebola, drought, diarrhoeal disease, flooding and chikungunya were reviewed for prepositioning. UNICEF also supported the review and update of the existing Terms of Reference for the Risk Communication working groups at national, Zoba and sub-Zoba levels, and the mapping of stakeholders for C4DiE preparedness and response. The final Zoba level risk communication plans will be developed in the first quarter of 2020.

Funding

As of end of December 2019, UNICEF Eritrea received funding from the Governments of Japan, Italy, Ireland and United Kingdom, as well as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support interventions in health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, child protection, and education. These funds, together with the carry forward funds, covered approximately 60 per cent of the HAC 2019 total funding requirements. The remaining net funding gap of 40 per cent is a hindrance to the smooth implementation of the envisaged humanitarian strategy, in particular slowing down or making it difficult to fully achieve the key lifesaving targets including for WASH (access to safe water), cash transfers for sustained income-generation support, and education targets.

Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 2019 for a period of 12 months)					
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds Available*		Funding Gap	
		Received in 2019	Carry Forward	US\$	Percentage
Nutrition	US\$6,350,000	US\$3,166,679	US\$1,235,914	US\$1,947,407	31 per cent
Health	US\$1,820,000	US\$599,794	US\$350,508	US\$869,698	48 per cent
WASH	US\$3,000,000	US\$666,333	US\$153,686	US\$2,179,981	73 per cent
Child Protection	US\$1,650,000	US\$735,000	US\$154,217	US\$760,783	46 per cent
Education	US\$1,153,000	US\$331,501	US\$130,011	US\$691,488	60 per cent
C4D / Risk Comms.	US\$108,000	US\$150,637	US\$246,630	-	-
Sector Coordination	US\$162,000	US\$542,479	US\$87,553	-	-
Total	US\$14,243,000	US\$6,192,423	US\$2,358,519	US\$5,692,058	40 per cent

* Funds available include funding received against current appeal as well as carry-forward from the previous year.

Next SitRep due: 15 April 2020

UNICEF Eritrea: <http://www.unicef.org/eritrea/>

UNICEF Eritrea Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/eritrea>

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Annex A

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF 2019 results (January-December)	Change since last report ▲ ▼
NUTRITION			
Children under 5 years with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for treatment	15,000	16,356	▲ 5,326
Children under 5 years with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) admitted for treatment	40,000	42,212	▲ 10,600
Children under 5 years provided with vitamin A supplementation	300,000	224,391	▲ 70,724
HEALTH			
Children immunized against measles	110,000	50,054	0
Children affected by diarrhoea having access to life-saving curative interventions	65,000	81,640	0
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE			
People accessing safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	60,000	7,039*	0
People accessing safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	60,000	38,610	▲ 7,743
CHILD PROTECTION			
Children receiving critical protection services / mine risk education	100,000	92,000	0
Vulnerable households receiving cash transfers	500 ¹	377	▲ 47
EDUCATION			
School-aged children accessing quality education, including through temporary structures	4,800	2,160*	0

Note:

* The marked indicators did not demonstrate tangible quantitative achievements due to lack of obtained funding in 2019.

¹ The target has been reduced due to the delayed transfer of funds to the GoSE.