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## Republic of Congo

The Republic of Congo continues to suffer the impacts of refugees from neighbouring countries (the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda) and the internal conflict in the Pool Department. The northern part of Likouala Department is hosting some 35,800 refugees,<sup>1</sup> who are living alongside 60,000 affected people from host communities.<sup>2</sup> The ongoing conflict between the Government and militias is affecting 8 out of 13 districts in Pool Department, as well as Bouenza and Brazzaville departments, with an estimated 158,717 people in need of urgent assistance, including 107,828 internally displaced persons and 50,889 people from host communities.<sup>3</sup> Nearly 50 per cent of the affected populations in Likouala and Pool departments are children under 18 years, and 1,431 children in these departments are at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM).<sup>4</sup> Some 125,900 people in affected departments lack access to clean water, and in the Pool Department, populations have limited access to health services. Nearly 12,000 children are without schooling due to the deteriorating security conditions and displacement of staff in the Pool Department. Across the country, nearly 3,000 people require psychosocial support.<sup>5</sup>

### Humanitarian strategy

In 2018, UNICEF will strengthen its response to the humanitarian needs in the Republic of Congo, in line with its development strategies, focusing on the Pool, Bouenza and Likouala Departments, where needs and vulnerabilities are most acute. UNICEF will expand access to health and nutrition services for the most vulnerable children and women, while providing displaced persons, refugees and host communities with early recovery interventions focusing on education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Water points and latrines will be constructed or rehabilitated to improve access to safe water and sanitation. UNICEF will reach children in need with emergency primary health care services and immunization. Children who are out of school due to the crisis will gain access to learning spaces and quality education through the rehabilitation of schools and the provision of learning materials. UNICEF will provide child-friendly spaces to support children's well-being and psychosocial support to the most vulnerable children. UNICEF will continue to lead the WASH, education and nutrition sectors, as well as the child protection sub-sector, while also strengthening the Government's capacities for humanitarian response.

### Results from 2017

As of 31 October 2017, UNICEF had received US\$2.7 million against the US\$6.79 million appeal (40 per cent funded).<sup>6</sup> In 2017, UNICEF and partners delivered life-saving and early recovery interventions to affected populations, focusing on the most vulnerable. As of October, 711 children with SAM were admitted for treatment and 12,904 people in the Pool, Bouenza and Likouala departments gained improved access to safe water through emergency durable water points and the distribution of purification tablets. Given that the majority of the displaced populations in Pool and Bouenza departments are residing in host communities, emergency water and sanitation strategies were adapted to focus on the rehabilitation of community water points, which resulted in low achievement against the original targets. Some 2,409 children benefitted from child-friendly spaces and psychosocial support, though lack of capacity for the provision of psychosocial support in the Pool Department resulted in low achievement against the target. Although the education sector was underfunded, 7,600 displaced, refugee and host community children received learning materials in targeted departments. In addition, 37,123 children under 5 were immunized against measles and received vitamin A supplementation, 5,505 children received curative life-saving interventions and 17,600 households received insecticide-treated bed nets.

# Humanitarian Action for Children

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#### Total people in need:

254,500

#### Total children (<18) in need:

127,250

#### Total people to be reached:

134,000

#### Total children to be reached:

67,120

#### 2018 programme targets:

##### Nutrition

- 1,350 children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for treatment
- 3,255 children aged 6 to 59 months received micronutrient supplements
- 7,100 caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months accessing infant and young child feeding counselling

##### Health

- 33,800 children under 5 immunized against measles
- 28,600 children reached with emergency primary health care services
- 32,000 affected households received two insecticide-treated bed nets

##### WASH

- 20,000 internally displaced persons, refugees and host community members accessing adequate sanitation facilities
- 125,900 internally displaced persons, refugees and host community members provided with safe water per agreed standards

##### Child protection

- 2,900 children reached with psychosocial support

##### Education

- 39,950 school-aged children, including adolescents, accessing quality education
- 39,950 school-aged children received learning materials

	UNICEF 2017 target <sup>i</sup>	UNICEF total results
<b>NUTRITION</b>		
Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for treatment garder les chiffres	1,850	711
<b>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE</b>		
People accessing agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene garder les chiffres	66,763	12,904
People accessing appropriate sanitation facilities	20,500	2,258
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>		
Children reached with psychosocial support through child-friendly spaces/other safe spaces	4,400	2,409

Results are through 31 October 2017 unless otherwise noted. For all sectors, low achievement against the targets set for the Pool crisis is due to delayed arrival of supplies. The extreme mobility of the target population necessitated that the strategy be adjusted to ensure an adequate response.

<sup>i</sup> Note that as clusters were not activated in 2017, only UNICEF targets and results are shown here.

### Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US\$7,744,000 to meet the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected women and children in the Likouala, Pool and Bouenza departments. Without this funding, UNICEF will not be able to support the national response to the ongoing nutrition crisis and provide access to critical WASH and health services for internally displaced persons, refugees and host communities. School rehabilitation and basic supplies for primary and secondary education are also urgently needed to uphold children's right to education, as are child-friendly spaces for children's psychosocial well-being.

Sector	2018 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	1,600,000
Health	672,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	3,382,000
Child protection	750,000
Education	1,340,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,744,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> The refugee breakdown by country is as follows: 21,800 from the Central African Republic; 12,047 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and 1,953 from Rwanda. Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Likouala, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated by local authorities, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> The 107,828 internally displaced persons include 51,805 in Pool, 12,281 in Bouenza and 43,742 in Brazzaville and other departments. The 50,889 people from host communities include 50,000 in Pool and 889 in other departments. Source: United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Congo joint needs assessment mission, November 2017.

<sup>4</sup> 1,048 children are at risk of SAM in the Pool Department, and the SAM rate is 3 per cent in Pool crisis-affected departments (Pool, Bouenza and Brazzaville). In addition, 383 children are at risk of SAM in the Likouala Department, where the SAM rate is 2 per cent. Source: Evaluation rapide de la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle des déplacés du Pool, May 2017; and the Likouala Health Department, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Congo 2014-2015; United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Congo joint needs assessment mission November 2017; and field visits.

<sup>6</sup> The Republic of Congo appeared as part of the West and Central Africa appeal in Humanitarian Action for Children 2017.

**Who to contact for further information:** **Micaela Marques de Sousa**  
Representative - Republic of Congo  
Tel: +242066525022  
Mobile: +242066855805  
Email: mmarques@unicef.org

**Grant Leaity**  
Deputy Director, Office of  
Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)  
Tel: +1 212 326 7150  
Email: gleaity@unicef.org

**Carla Haddad Mardini**  
Director, Public Partnership  
Division (PPD)  
Tel: +1 212 326 7160  
Email: humanitarian.ppd@unicef.org