

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of 26 August 2020, out of the total of 1,004 confirmed COVID-19 cases registered in Chad (the majority being male aged 25-59 years), six are children. Of these six children, two cases have been confirmed in children under five (two girls), and four cases are children aged 5-14 years (three girls and one boy).

The COVID-19 reported cases witnessed a continued decrease and remained concentrated in 15 provinces (representing two thirds of the country) previously reported: N'Djamena, Batha, Chari Baguirmi, Ennedi Est, Guéra, Kanem, Lac, Logone Occidental, Logone Oriental, Mandoul, Mayo Kebbi-Est, Moyen-Chari, Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi-Fira. As of 26 August 2020, 52 cases are hospitalized and under treatment, 875 patients have recovered, and 77 deaths are attributable to COVID-19; a total of 128 out of 134 (96 per cent) contacts have been traced and are followed¹.

The opening of the N'Djamena international airport on the 1st of August and the easing of travel restrictions in-country constitute a risk, although the number of reported COVID-19 cases has remained stable. The Government has continued to monitor the implementation of the revised protocol which includes the presentation of a negative COVID-19 test for passengers departing and arriving at the airport², a seven-day quarantine followed by a COVID-19 RT-PCR laboratory test.

The United Nations agencies continue positioning their assistance in the critical areas of communication, disease surveillance and testing, supply of essential drugs and equipment and capacity building of health personnel and frontline workers for case management and surveillance, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, child protection and continuity of learning. This assistance is in support of the National Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to the Epidemic of Coronavirus COVID-19 (*Plan National de contingence pour la préparation et la riposte à l'épidémie de la maladie coronavirus COVID-19*) prepared by the Ministry of Health (MoH), with support from the UN and Development Partners.

Key challenges remain: procurement on the global market of some health supplies such as laboratory (GeneXpert) reagents remains constrained; limited capacity at decentralised level for surveillance, tracing and case management, management of contacts and laboratory testing capacity in the provinces (only four provincial laboratories have been set up so far in Abeche, Sarh, Moundou and Mongo); and limited enforcement of land border control.

UNICEF's COVID-19 response

Health, Nutrition & HIV

To date, UNICEF has supported the establishment of laboratory testing in six provinces (Logone Occidental, Moyen-Chari, Ouaddaï, Guéra, Lac and Kanem) using the GeneXpert system previously set up for HIV testing in newborns of HIV positive mothers.

The process of provision of PPE and other health commodities and supplies is ongoing in order to ensure safe testing and treatment. A total of 720 thermoflash, 30,175 protective face shields, 30,175 FFP2 masks, 2,400 protective goggles, 500 examination gloves and

Situation in Numbers



1,004 COVID-19 confirmed cases

6 children among the confirmed cases

77 deaths

875 recovered



3,023,602 children aged 3 to 17 years of age affected by COVID-19 related school closure



US\$ 13.1 million funding required



6 health workers from Bol hospital were selected and trained in N'Djamena to use the GeneExpert system. © UNICEF CHAD/2020/Zene

¹ WHO/MoH Chad, COVID-19 Situation Report No. 156, 26 August 2020.

² This does not apply for now to travelers at land border crossings.

700 lab coats are currently being distributed in ten provincial hospitals, five district hospitals and 246 health facilities in nine districts. UNICEF has procured 2,000 protective goggles and 8,505 FFP2/N95 masks funded by GAVI for immunization staff in order to ensure the safety of both vaccinators and children and ensure the continuity of services.

UNICEF also supported the Government with provision of 35 oxygen kits, 80 hospital beds to strengthen case management capacity in Guéra, Ouaddaï, Logone Occidental and Kanem provinces, 10 rental vehicles for the surveillance teams, 30 internet connection kits, 10 laptops and 10 rental vehicles to facilitate data collection and analysis, as well as virtual meetings.

As part of the COVID-19 response, to date 2,120 health staff and community health workers have been trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), including 216 health staff and community health workers (of which 204 community health workers) trained jointly with WHO. This also includes 34 laboratory technicians from seven provinces of N'Djamena, Borkou, Guéra, Lac, Logone Occidental, Moyen-Chari and Ouaddaï trained in laboratory biosafety. A training of 254 healthcare staff on disease surveillance and case management is also ongoing in six districts of three provinces, namely Bahr El Ghazal, Logone Occidental and Hadjer Lamis.

UNICEF has continued to work closely with provincial health delegates to ensure treatment of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), while minimizing the risk of transmission of COVID-19. To date, UNICEF has provided supplies and technical assistance for the treatment of 149,339 children suffering from SAM within the targeted health centres, which represents 73% of the expected SAM cases for this period, with a 91% cured rate.

In addition, to improve access to quality nutrition care services, to date 520 health workers have been trained on SAM management in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic including 48 in N'Djamena, 45 in Chari Baguirmi, 145 in Batha, 60 in Salamat, 21 in Borkou, 152 in Sila and 49 in Ennedi Est. Moreover, a total of 22,072 primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months have received IYCF counselling in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To ensure better implementation of sensitization activities, communication materials on nutrition practices were developed and distributed to 1,081 health facilities. In general, the new procedures are well known and implemented in health centres, including the use of MUAC test strips and bilateral pitting edemas as admission and discharge criteria as well as of the therapeutic protocol (provision of two sachets of RUTF per day for a period of 2 weeks). However, some

difficulties were noted, including lack of PPE for healthcare providers, inadequate space in health centres to apply physical distancing measures particularly during the rainy season and RUTF stock-out impairing the performance of the nutrition services.

For continuity of HIV/AIDS services, UNICEF has trained and engaged several actors at community and facility levels in COVID-19 sensitization. During the reporting period, a total of 1,900 communicators were trained, mostly in Moyen Chari, Logone Occidental and N'Djamena provinces. Additionally, risk communication activities for COVID-19 in the context of provision of HIV/AIDS services were conducted, reaching a total of 24,196 people, with the majority in Ouaddaï and Sila provinces.

As COVID-19 prevention activities are combined with antenatal care and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) interventions, to date a total of 186,224 children and women have received essential HIV prevention and treatment services in UNICEF-supported facilities.

Furthermore, a decree signed by the MoH instructing health staff to provide a 3-month supply of ART to PLHIV and AIDS in order to reduce their displacements is implemented to ensure service continuity and access to Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) supplies for people living with HIV (PLHIV). However, the COVID-19 pandemic could severely disrupt HIV services in Chad and HIV deaths may increase substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic due to challenges of international procurement of ART and disruption of HIV prevention activities. UNICEF therefore continues to provide logistic and financial support to the MoH and closely monitor the procurement process from planning, purchase and transport to ensure the necessary provisions of ART and other commodities.

WASH

During this reporting period, UNICEF in collaboration with the MoH and WHO continued training on IPC/WASH for an additional 335 health workers and community health workers in Sila, Ouaddaï, Hadjer Lamis, Lac, Guera, Salamat and Chari Baguirmi provinces, bringing the total number of health workers and community health workers trained on IPC/WASH to 1,277 to date.

During this reporting period, 20,752 people have been reached with critical WASH supplies in Ouaddaï and Lac provinces, reaching a total of 89,865 people since the beginning of the COVID-19 response. Additionally, 71 public places were disinfected with chlorine and 97,791 people (42,219 men and 51,722 women, 2,203 pregnant women and 1,647 adolescents) were

sensitized on COVID-19 prevention by 165 volunteers of the Chadian Red Cross in the Ouaddaï province.



Children from a centre for orphans and abandoned children in N'Djamena queue while respecting social distance measures to wash their hands as part of COVID-19 preventive measures. © UNICEF CHAD/2020/Palazzo

RCCE/C4D

To date, a total of 6,533,347 people have been reached with COVID-19 messaging on prevention and access to services, including 185,193 people who have shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications through social media platforms and U-report. To ensure effective information, awareness-raising and community engagement around the COVID-19 outbreak in Chad, UNICEF strategy currently includes:

- A comic strip book for children has been produced in French, English and Arabic, and will be printed. The comic book “**Lafya, the Girl and the Evil Coronavirus**” informs and sensitizes children about the current COVID-19 pandemic, especially regarding ways to protect themselves and others, including hygiene and social distancing measures. Additionally, the development of a mobile application is also in the final stages of production.
- Visuals (flyers, posters) on prevention/protection against COVID-19 were developed in French and Arabic as well as translation into four local languages. 150,000 copies were printed, with the majority distributed among community relays, traditional and religious leaders and health workers for use during public outreach and COVID-19 sensitization sessions as well as for display in key public places countrywide.
- Together with local artists, seven one-minute clips about hand washing, physical distancing, and the negative impact of rumors have been recorded in different languages and broadcast on national and local radios and TV stations. An agreement has been signed with 23 local radio stations to start broadcasting spots in local languages on COVID-19 protection. 25-minute informative programmes are being produced with specialists from the Government, UN and local partners to inform the population on COVID-19 and to answer questions

from listeners. To date, 4,194 spots and microprogrammes have been aired.

- 10,000 posters have been displayed all over N'Djamena, in collaboration with the Scouts and Guides. 12 square meter posters are currently being printed to be displayed on 24 billboards all over the capital.



280 volunteer members of the Guides and Scouts Association criss-cross the streets and neighbourhoods of N'Djamena's 10 districts in order to display posters on COVID-19 prevention measures. © UNICEF CHAD/2020/Palazzo

- A child-friendly version of the posters has been produced, and 133,000 copies have been printed and distributed in schools throughout the country, prior to the start of the new school year. A child-friendly radio soap opera was developed in collaboration with a local theatre group and is currently broadcast on radio stations country-wide.
- Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, 135 COVID-19 specific social media posts have been published on the UNICEF Chad Facebook, Twitter and other platforms. The messages range from tips, visuals, videos and content specially created for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The reach of the social media platforms has increased by more than 10 per cent since the start of the outbreak, bringing the number of social media followers to 110,610. The number of Facebook followers has risen from 74,177 to 87,746, Twitter from 9,963 to 10,758 and LinkedIn from 1,269 to 4,864.
- U-Report (an SMS-based interactive information platform for youth, free of charge) is currently entirely devoted to COVID-19 and is a platform for lively exchanges and questions. To date, 126,917 consultations have been conducted using U-Report, through its dedicated Info-centre "CORONA" using the U-Report national number '1301'. An additional 17,665 social media users have also raised questions and sought clarification on available COVID-19 support services.

- Of the 126,917 consultations conducted through U-Report, 50,229 were questions regarding the "Latest information on coronavirus in Chad", 10,711 on "What is coronavirus?" and 5,517 on the "Treatment of COVID-19". Apart from the consultations, four surveys in relation to COVID-19 were posted. The four topics were "Day of the African Child 2020: COVID-19 and Rights of the Child", "Social Stigma Associated with COVID-19", "Evaluation of distance learning courses during the COVID-19 period" and "World Breastfeeding Week in times of COVID-19".
- A video clip promoting the use of U-Report in the fight against COVID-19 is currently being broadcast on national TV and social media.
- UNICEF, through its Zonal Offices and in collaboration with the Provincial Health Delegations, supported the development of provincial communication plans developed by local authorities. To date, 16 provincial communication plans have been developed. Additionally, some 13,000 community relays, traditional and religious leaders and health workers will be trained in COVID-19 preventive measures and warning systems in N'Djamena and in all provinces nationwide. To date, activities are ongoing in 16 provinces, with 5,095 individuals having received the training.
- In a joint effort of all UN agencies, 100 journalists and community relays in N'Djamena were trained on COVID-19 communication.
- Specific messages on nutrition (continuity of exclusive breastfeeding even in the case of COVID-19 infection) and child protection have been developed and integrated in the overall COVID-19 messaging. 5,000 posters were printed and distributed in health centres nationwide.

- A second wave of communication messages is currently being discussed with the Ministries of Health, Education and Communication, and will be rolled out in the next weeks.

Education



The head of a centre for orphans and abandoned children in N'Djamena teaches children how to protect themselves against COVID-19. © UNICEF CHAD/2020/Palazzo

To ensure continuity of education services during school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) in the transition to distance learning, with TV and radio sessions aired in languages and mathematics. To date, an estimated 225,059 children nationwide have been accessing distance learning. UNICEF is partnering with the national NGO TECHNIDEV to implement distance learning programmes, and the two organizations have submitted a proposal to the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Secretariat. The proposal was approved in August and will ensure the continuity of the distance education programme at the beginning of the next school year.

In order to ensure a safe reopening of schools planned for October and to prevent the risks of COVID-19 transmission in areas affected by the crisis of population movements, the MoE, with the support of UNICEF, distributed posters on COVID-19 prevention measures to raise awareness in 598 schools in the provinces of Lac, Logone Oriental, Mandoul, Moyen Chari, Salamat, Sila, Ouaddaï, Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est. A total of 148,459 primary, secondary and high school students, including 62,096 girls, were targeted by these COVID-19 awareness campaigns.

Additionally, in August, the MoE with the support of UNICEF distributed 634 hand washing kits and 634 boxes of soap to 463 primary schools, 53 secondary schools and 16 high schools for the benefit of 158,845



346 participants, including 50 from CELIAF, 50 from the Union of Arabic-speaking Women's Associations (UAFAT) and 246 from the 5 health districts of N'Djamena have been trained on the COVID-19 response. The training modules covered different themes, from the global situation to the contingency plan in Chad, communication and hygiene practices, and COVID-19 preventive measures. © UNICEF CHAD/2020/Palazzo

students, including 62,733 girls and 8,805 teachers including 225 women, in the provinces of Logone Occidental and Ouaddaï to ensure implementation of COVID-19 prevention measures.

Child Protection

UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Women and Child Protection and partners in the protection of vulnerable children living and working in the streets, as well as separated and unaccompanied children placed in temporary centres, and has focused on ensuring that the most vulnerable have access to key information on COVID-19 preventive measures.



A child from a centre for orphans and abandoned children in N'Djamena wears a mask as one of the preventive measures against COVID-19. © UNICEF CHAD/2020/Palazzo

To date, a total of 640 boys and girls have been reunified with their families or provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements with UNICEF support. During this reporting period, 175 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements. This includes 93 *muhajirines*, or children separated from their parents in order to study the Quran, reunified with their families and 77 children placed in foster families by NGO partners APSELPA and INTERSOS in Lac province. In addition, five children (two boys and three girls) were provided with alternative care arrangements managed by the Provincial Delegation of Social Action (DPAS) in Abeche (Ouaddaï province).

Additionally, to date, 2,661 children, parents and primary caregivers have been provided with psychosocial support, including 1,258 people benefiting from psychosocial support through Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) during this reporting period. This includes 507 children and 506 women in Guéra province, and five children detained (three boys and two girls) in Abeche as well as 240 children (161 boys and 79 girls) in Lac province reached through mobile CFS.

Furthermore, UNICEF, Government counterparts and partners in various provinces across Chad have sensitized a total of 67,628 vulnerable children and adults on child protection key messages and COVID-19 preventive measures, of which 17,855 people reached during this reporting period. This includes 1,445 people (66 men, 76 women, 777 boys and 526 girls) who were reached with awareness-raising messages in the Lac Province. In order to accompany these awareness-raising messages, a total of 910 masks for COVID-19 protection were made by adolescents through a sewing training supported by UNICEF and were distributed to children attending the CFS in the Dar es Salam refugee camp.

Additionally, 7,662 persons (1,400 men, 4,528 women, and 1,734 children) in Ouaddaï and 1,330 children (430 boys and 900 girls) in Borkou were sensitized using UNICEF communication materials. In Mongo, door-to-door sensitization campaigns reached 7,203 persons (1,561 men, 3,253 women, 795 boys and 1,594 girls) while in Moundou (Guéra province) 215 children (135 boys and 80 girls) were reached with sensitization messages on child protection key messages and COVID-19 prevention measures.

Access to continuous social protection services

UNICEF is among the UN agencies which contributed to the socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19, in support of the Ministry of Economy and Development Planning, which noted the potential impact of COVID-19 in undermining progress made on the SDGs and on childrens' well-being. Additional primary data collection on the impact of COVID-19 on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises is currently underway. In addition, UNICEF has supported the finalization of a multi-sectoral strategy developed by UN agencies in support of the Government's response to the COVID-19 crisis.

A cash transfer programme including risk communication, water, hygiene, and sanitation and IPC/WASH interventions has been designed jointly with an NGO partner and aims to assist poor households in urban and peri-urban areas of N'Djamena affected by COVID-19 (expected to cover 8,538 households) as part of the UNICEF response. Its implementing is conditional on availability of much-needed donor support. Additionally, a partnership is under development with a national NGO to assist 200 displaced households with multi-purpose cash transfers in the capital of Bol in the Lac province.

Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

UNICEF maintains its current support to the Government for the regular programme. UNICEF supports the continuity of all routine health and nutrition services for the most vulnerable children and women, including routine preventive services such as immunization, antenatal and postnatal care and PMTCT; UNICEF supports the MoH with the training of health care providers and community health workers in IPC, ensuring communication for the promotion of good practices in health facilities and communities to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and supplying basic hygiene equipment.

Some management protocols have been and continue to be adjusted to include COVID-19 issues (immunization, infant and young child feeding (IYCF), PMTCT, maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), community-based disease surveillance, malaria seasonal Chemoprophylaxis). The protocol for the management of severe acute malnutrition in children has been revised and reorganized to avoid further spread of the COVID-19 virus within health facilities. To this end, front-line health staff were instructed to use only MUAC test strips and bilateral pitting edemas as admission and discharge criteria and children are asked to attend therapeutic nutrition units fortnightly, while health staff are being equipped with protective materials to ensure the safe continuity of services. The country is moving towards the provision of MUAC tapes to mothers instead of the mass screening previously carried out by community health workers.

In order to meet the growing demand for training on PCI / WASH COVID-19 prevention and control, UNICEF and the MoH are offering partners the opportunity to invite more staff to participate in the COVID-19 training sessions. Additionally, all UNICEF partnerships with NGOs implementing WASH interventions under the regular and emergency programme systematically ensure the sensitization of beneficiary populations on COVID-19 prevention measures as well as the provision of WASH kits.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF has provided support to the Child Protection sub-cluster to review and adapt tools, guidelines and implementation process for the provision of psychosocial support within the COVID-19 response as well as vulnerability mapping. Additionally, psychosocial activities provided to children within CFS have been remodeled to mobile settings. This mobile approach brings psychosocial support services closer to children while ensuring that facilitators conduct individualized activities with children respecting physical distancing.

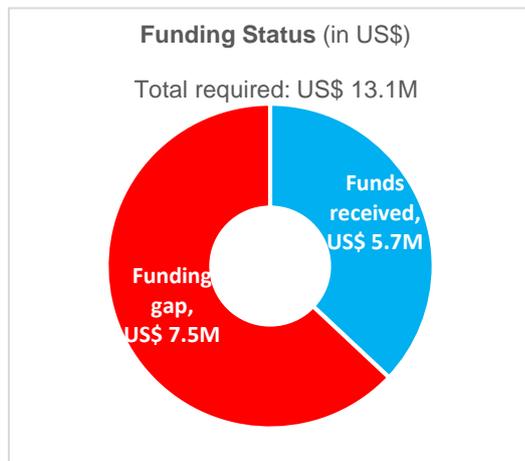
UNICEF is currently supporting the MoE to prepare schools and classrooms for school reopening by October (Arrêté N° 256), with a focus on provision of handwashing kits and implementation of physical distance measures. Discussions are also ongoing with the MoE to prioritize WASH in Schools activities planned for the school year. Moreover, to adapt its interventions as schools have been closed since March 2020, UNICEF has partnered with the national NGO TECHNIDEV, in support of the MoE, to provide students with distance education in order to help students at intermediate and secondary levels maintain contact with the school and complete educational programmes in basic scientific and literary subjects. With a pool of teachers, pedagogues, communicators and ICT specialists, the NGO TECHNIDEV is producing and broadcasting teaching content to students via radio and television, with UNICEF support. Through mobile telephone and social networks, students will be able to have dynamic interactions with teachers to ensure a deeper understanding of lessons. The use of broad-spectrum communication channels will ensure national coverage in all 23 provinces of the country.

The planned C4D and youth engagement training workshops on community engagement and participation have been postponed and replaced by specific trainings, workshops and advocacy activities on COVID-19 prevention. The partnerships with media, local radio stations and other public services have also been temporarily reoriented towards COVID-19 messaging, including information on combating fake news, rumours, traditional beliefs and stigmatization. A second wave of COVID-19 communication messages is currently being discussed with the Ministries of Health, Education and Communication, and will be rolled out in early September.

Policy work on the revision of the National Social Protection Strategy is ongoing, integrating a stronger focus on shock-responsive social protection, including shock due to the COVID-19 pandemic and expansion of social protection coverage for children. In order to reinforce the social protection system and capacities, a training in shock responsive social protection is planned for early October for key partners in the Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi Fira provinces. Some funding for planned activities is reoriented to provide technical support to an evaluation of the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and to finance cash transfer programmes to vulnerable families with children.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

- UNICEF requires US\$ 13.1 million to meet the growing demand for critical needs and scale up the response to the COVID-19 virus outbreak.
- As of 26 August, UNICEF has received US\$ 5.7 million thanks to generous contributions by Germany, USA, CERF, ECHO, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the World Bank. Additional support is received through the global thematic humanitarian funds from various donors provided to the COVID-19 Humanitarian Action Thematic Pool.
- UNICEF is in discussion with partners to secure additional funding through new allocations or reprogramming. UNICEF thanks partners for flexible and timely funding to support an effective and efficient COVID-19 response in Chad.



External Communication

UNICEF has aligned with global campaigns on COVID-19 and has been disseminating information through its social networks ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)).

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Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	2020 target	Total results
Risk Communication and Community Engagement		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	6,770,206	6,533,347
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	15,080	6,995
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	138,723	185,193
WASH and IPC		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	735,275	89,865
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	3,800	1,380
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	2,603	2,120
Health		
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women	384	76
Nutrition		
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms	235,752	22,072
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition	414,301	149,339
Education		
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	805,594	225,059
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)	1,500	532
Child Protection and GBV		
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	1,600	640
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	4,000	2,661
Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation & referrals for survivors, including for PSEA	0	0
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	0	0
Social Protection		
Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs	7,494	0

Annex B

Funding Status

Sector	Funding requirements	Funds available	Funding gap \$	Gap %
Communication & Hygiene	1,652,185	1,347,427	304,758	18%
WASH	3,450,907	1,960,598	1,490,309	43%
Nutrition	2,376,444	929,405	1,447,039	61%
Health & HIV/AIDS	2,388,831	1,118,631	1,270,200	53%
Child Protection	998,250	249,425	748,825	75%

Education	1,579,416	74,900	1,504,516	95%
Cash-based Transfers	702,179	-	702,179	100%
Total	13,148,212	5,680,386	7,467,826	57%