UNICEF Sudan/2020/Respect Media

A child washes their hands at a UNICEF-supported school in Zalengei, Central Darfur, where handwashing facilities were rehabilitated and supplied with soap.

unicef for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Sudan

HIGHLIGHTS

- There are over 9.3 million people enduring complex, intersecting challenges in Sudan.[1] The economic crisis is causing widespread malnutrition; lapses in the rule of law are allowing ethnic tensions to erupt into violence; flooding remains life-threatening; and diseases, including coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), cholera, polio and chikungunya, remain prevalent.
- UNICEF will use a rights-based approach to protect and empower vulnerable children, adolescents, women and people with disabilities. Critical, life-saving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, nutrition, health and child protection services will be integrated, coordinated and COVID-19-safe to ensure their comprehensive delivery to communities across the country.
- UNICEF urgently requires US$199.3 million to address the needs of vulnerable populations and help shape the futures of 5.4 million Sudanese children in need. Lack of resources for these interventions will mean the further erosion of already fragile health, education and WASH systems and community structures in Sudan.

IN NEED

9.3 million people[2]

5.4 million children[3]

TO BE REACHED

3.3 million people[4,5]

1.7 million children[6]

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS[28]

US$ 199.3 million

KEY PLANNED TARGETS

330,000
children admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition

2.8 million
people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water

203,200
women and children accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation/prevention/response

288
schools implementing safe school protocols

Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

People in Sudan remain extremely vulnerable to emergencies. Deepening poverty is causing widespread malnutrition; lapses in the rule of law are allowing ethnic tensions to erupt into violence; flooding and disease outbreaks are destroying lives and livelihoods; and education interruptions in 2019 and 2020 have left 13 million children out of school.[7] COVID-19 and related mitigation measures are further complicating these existing challenges.

These hardships are threatening people's lives, denying children – particularly girls – access to an education, creating serious protection risks and giving rise to violations and abuse, including gender-based violence.[8] Past conflicts in Sudan and neighbouring countries have left thousands of people internally displaced or living as refugees and without basic support, in and outside of camps.

While the recent steps taken towards securing peace have opened the possibility of humanitarian assistance in previously inaccessible areas in Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile, humanitarian needs remain high: 9.3 million people, including 5.4 million children, will require humanitarian assistance in 2021.[9] In addition to the violence, flooding and disease outbreaks, populations are affected by the economic turmoil that has undermined livelihoods and increased vulnerabilities across the country. Annual inflation reached 168 per cent in August 2020[10] and the middle class is shrinking. Sudan's food and nutritional security are eroding, deepening a crisis already affecting 14 per cent of the population.[11] Over 574,000 children require treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM)[12] and the operational costs of reaching these children are rising.

Sudanese communities are affected by regular outbreaks of diseases such as malaria, dengue, chikungunya, measles, polio, cholera and, since March 2020, COVID-19. Poor infrastructure, meager resourcing and humble capacities have stretched the fragile health system. Rural people are particularly affected due to heightened economic vulnerability and food and nutrition insecurity. The arrival of COVID-19 has exposed these vulnerabilities, with nearly 14,000 reported cases,[13] over 800 heaths, and a disproportionately high case fatality rate outside of Khartoum.

As of October 2020, 1.9 million people, including 1.6 million children, are displaced due to conflict and ethnic violence in Darfur, Kordofan and Eastern states.[14] While peace agreements mark political progress, deep communal tensions can quickly ignite into deadly violence. Sudan also hosts 1.1 million refugees fleeing strife from surrounding countries. Over 813,000 of these refugees are from South Sudan, including 560,000 living outside of camps in host communities.[15]

SECTOR NEEDS

Nutrition

3.6 million people need nutrition assistance[16]

Water, sanitation and hygiene

8 million people lack access to safe water[17]

Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

2.6 million children need protection services[18,19]

Education

3 million children need education support[20]

STORY FROM THE FIELD

UNICEF Sudan/2020

Kulthum and Farha play after receiving nutritional support provided by UNICEF.

On the first day of treatment in Fur Baranga village, West Darfur, Farha received therapeutic nutritional milk to treat SAM.

"Gradually, Farha started to recover and play with her brothers again. I followed all instructions, gave the care she needed and fed her until her health improved" says Kulthum, Farha's mother.

Last year, Kulthum's children also received school supplies and she is washing hands, keeping physical distance and avoiding gatherings to protect herself and her family from COVID-19. UNICEF is supporting treatment, care and opportunities to survive and thrive in Sudan.

Read more about this story here

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF emphasizes protecting and empowering vulnerable children, adolescents, women and people with disabilities in Sudan. In line with the Grand Bargain commitments,[21] UNICEF will work with humanitarian and development actors, including United Nations agencies, government counterparts, non-government partners and communities in 15 states across the country to deliver a coordinated humanitarian response.[22]

UNICEF leads the WASH, education and nutrition sectors and the child protection area of responsibility and is an active member of the health cluster and the gender-based violence sub-sector. UNICEF also leads two pillars in the inter-agency COVID-19 response: risk communication and community engagement and infection prevention and control.

In 2021, UNICEF will mainstream child-centred planning and gender-responsive emergency preparedness into national planning. Partners will be supported to reach crisis-affected children and integrate gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and youth engagement across all programmes. UNICEF will continue to provide specialized protection services and critical psychosocial support for at-risk children and caregivers.

UNICEF will advocate for accelerated and flexible access to quality learning for 2.9 million out-of-school and crisis-affected children, and support families and parent-teacher associations with financial assistance, learning supplies and recreational materials. UNICEF will also prioritize COVID-19-related improvements to WASH infrastructure, water availability in schools and the implementation of the Safe Schools Protocols.

In health, UNICEF will continue to strengthen and maintain health systems, provide essential maternal, newborn and child health services in emergencies, respond to epidemics and deliver critical vaccinations to prevent outbreaks of measles and polio.

In collaboration with nutrition sector partners, UNICEF will scale up life-saving interventions by expanding outpatient treatment centres and infant and young child feeding counselling services in compliance with COVID-19 guidance. High-impact health and WASH interventions will be integrated to address the underlying causes of malnutrition.

Schools and health facilities will be supported with safe water and healthy sanitation. Positive hygiene practices will be promoted through community mobilization and awareness-raising activities. Integrated WASH interventions will strengthen communities and children's environments, building resilience against COVID-19, water- and mosquito-borne diseases and associated protection risks.

Community engagement and positive behaviour change ensure UNICEF's humanitarian efficacy, relevance and accountability. Cash transfer programmes, peacebuilding and development initiatives will confront chronic causes of humanitarian need, particularly among internally displaced persons and refugees living outside of camps. All activities will emphasize accountability to affected populations, protection and gender and environmental considerations.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports:
https://www.unicef.org/appeals/sudan/situation-reports

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS

Nutrition

- **330,000** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **990,000** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling

Health

- **6,980** health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control
- **961,200** children aged 0 to 12 months vaccinated against measles
- **1,012,400** children under 5 years accessing integrated management of childhood illness services

Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **2,750,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **550,000** people accessing and using adequate sanitation facilities
- **1,500,000** people reached with messages on appropriate hygiene practices

Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **349,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **203,200** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- **2,282,140** people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse[23]
- **13,500** unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services

Education

- **170,940** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **288** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)
- **687,140** children who received subsidies, scholarships, grants, social assistance and/or teaching, learning and recreation materials to attend school

Social protection and cash transfers

- **50,000** households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors[24]

C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **423,000** people reached with messages on access to services

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

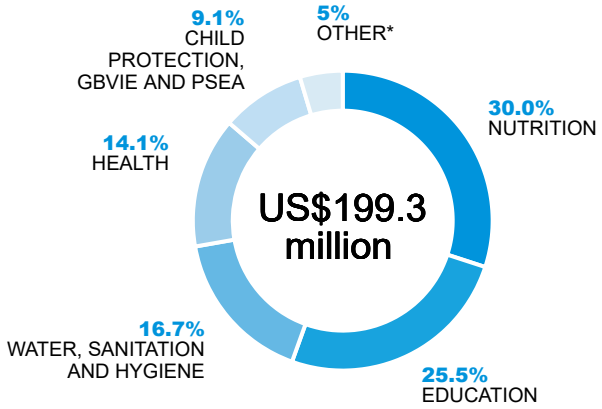
Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

In 2021, UNICEF requires US$199.3 million to reach the 1.7 million most vulnerable children in Sudan and their communities with humanitarian assistance. The threefold increase in humanitarian funding is needed for UNICEF and partners on the ground to reach all of the 5.4 million children in need.

With timely and flexible funding, UNICEF and its partners can effectively address the growing needs of children and families affected by the deteriorating economy, growing food insecurity, fragile government transition and the COVID-19 pandemic. Without additional funding now, future generations will be forced to contend with the same threats. There is an imminent risk of public health system collapse due to chronic underfunding during multiple epidemics. The education system is also struggling to prepare children for responsible citizenry and UNICEF desperately needs sufficient donor support to intervene.

Funding UNICEF to fulfil its key mandates will also help relieve additional vulnerabilities such as early marriage, exploitation, child labour, gender-based violence, conflict association, radicalization and illegal migration. Delivering life-saving services to children and their communities remains the most cost-effective investment in the future of Sudan.



Sector	2021 requirements (US$)
Nutrition	**59,793,941**[27]
Health	**28,050,355**
Water, sanitation and hygiene	**33,355,900**
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	**18,065,397**[25]
Education	**50,782,851**[26]
Social protection and cash transfers	**3,969,000**
C4D, community engagement and AAP	**5,236,151**
Total	**199,253,595**

**This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : C4D, community engagement and AAP (2.6%), Social protection and cash transfers (2.0%).*

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ENDNOTES

1. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2020.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. This was calculated using the highest coverage programme targets for children under 5 years to be reached with integrated management of childhood illness services (1,012,400); school-aged children to be reached with education and recreation materials (687,140); women/caregivers to be reached with infant and young child feeding counselling (990,000); and men to be reached with access to safe water disinfection activities (605,000). The total includes 51 per cent women/girls and 49 per cent men/boys. This includes 15 per cent children with a disability, according to 'Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.

5. Cluster/sector people in need calculations include the 190 localities that fall into the highest three of five severity rankings (based on a multi-sectoral need convergence). Those that fall into the third "high" category (17) are predominantly reached with development programming with an awareness that any additional vulnerabilities shift them into the “severe” category. Those in the lowest two are reached through advocacy and strategic engagement due to resource limitations. Cluster humanitarian responses, including the UNICEF response target only those localities in the top two categories (128 in “very high” and 45 in “severe”). Humanitarian needs are greater for the most vulnerable 45 localities and in some cases UNICEF is the sole service provider. Development interventions also occur in these localities but do not contribute to humanitarian targets. These factors sometimes cause UNICEF’s targets to seem disproportionate to the established sector needs, but they do align with sector targeting.

6. This was calculated using the highest coverage programme targets for children under 5 years to be reached with integrated management of childhood illness services (516,320 girls and 496,080 boys); and school-aged children to be reached with education and recreation materials (343,570 girls and 343,570 boys). This includes 15 per cent children with a disability, according to 'Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.

7. In 2019, this was due to political disruption. In 2020, this was due to COVID-19 closures and the decision to realign school terms. 'Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.

8. A 2020 child protection assessment conducted by UNICEF in 16 states found a rise in child protection risks in the first half of 2020 compared with the same period in 2019, including a 24 per cent increase in child marriage (girls are more affected than boys) and a 35 per cent increase in child labour (boys are more affected than girls). According to the Family and Child protection Unit of the police, over 12,000 children reported having witnessed or experienced physical or disciplinary violence (30 per cent girls).

9. 'Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.

10. Sudan Central Bureau of Statistics, August 2020.

11. Sudan Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, July 2020.

12. 'Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.

13. Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Sudan, 25 September 2020.

14. Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Sudan Situation Report', OCHA, 8 October 2020.

15. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Dashboard, 31 July 2020.

16. 'Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.

17. Ibid.

18. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).

19. 'Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.

20. Ibid.

21. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations, who have committed to getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.

22. UNICEF Sudan's direct areas of responsibility are: Khartoum, Red Sea, Kassala, Gedaref, Sennar, White Nile, Blue Nile, South, North and West Kordofan, North, South, East, West and Central Darfur.

23. This targets the total number of people to be reached provided on page 1, less those children under 5 years reached by integrated management of childhood illness as they are too young to be targeted by prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse activities.

24. This will assist the families of 50,000 vulnerable children under 2 years (25,500 girls) targeted in the Mother and Child Transfer initiative in Red Sea and Kassala states. This is the first appearance of cash-based interventions in Sudan appeal and will likely be expanded in subsequent appeals as partner capacity is established.

25. This includes US$1,747,451 for gender-based violence interventions.

26. The education budget has increased compared with 2020 because education targets have increased by 30 per cent. In addition to the regular activities normally planned by the education sector, in 2021, specific activities will be implemented to ensure back-to-learning and safe school operations amid the COVID-19 crisis. This includes more than US$5 million for WASH in schools, teacher training and hygiene promotion activities in schools. Moreover, it's worth noting that the deteriorating economic situation and devaluation of the local currency in Sudan have led to higher costs.

27. The targets for SAM management and infant and young child feeding counselling are higher than in previous years (10 per cent increase compared with the 2020 targets). The 2021 budget has therefore also increased, taking into consideration that UNICEF Sudan is using the unit cost agreed with the nutrition cluster.

28. Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs and planning documents.