



Reporting Period: 1 January to 30 August 2020

Republic of Congo

Humanitarian Situation Report



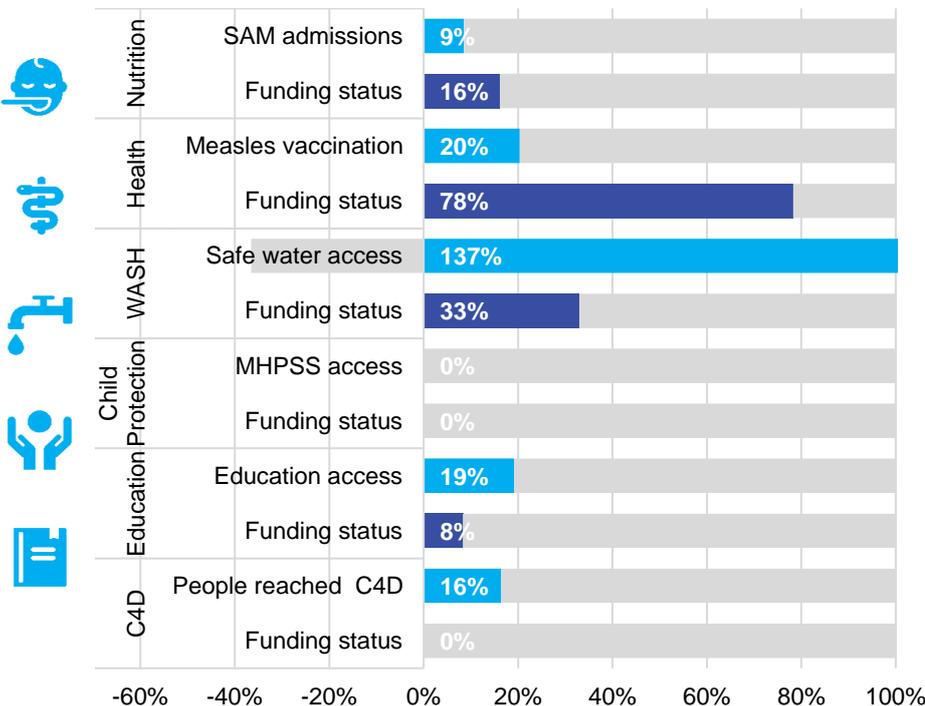
Highlights

- The Republic of Congo is prone to recurrent floods along the river Congo corridor which is caused by heavy rain and furthermore the country remains at high risk of potential Ebola outbreak which is aggravated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;
- Currently the country host around 170,000 asylum seekers, 48,400 refugees from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda; and over 77,000 internally displaced persons in the Pool region. Without appropriate funding its more likely that these populations in need will not receive adequate humanitarian assistance;
- UNICEF has assisted with an integrated package of interventions in health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and protection. In addition to delivering essential services for children under 5 years, UNICEF has also assisted more 70,000 school-aged children and pregnant and lactating women in necessities such as lifesaving health, wash and nutrition interventions;
- UNICEF has built the capacities of service providers, local authorities, implementing partners, teachers and stakeholders that participates in the humanitarian response to assist vulnerable beneficiaries. UNICEF is requesting US\$ 11.9 million to meet the humanitarian needs of at-risk people in the Congo in 2021.

Situation in Numbers

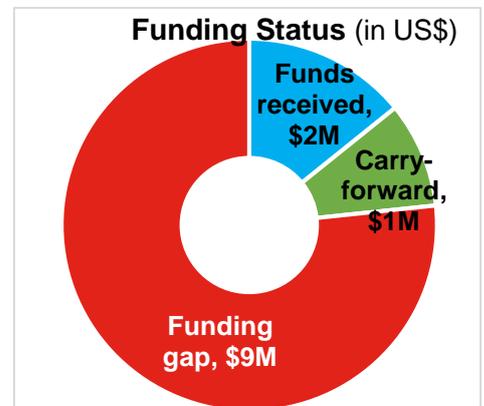
- 413,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance
- 843,000** people in need
- 108,402** Internally displaced people (IDPs)

UNICEF's Response and Funding



UNICEF Appeals 2020

US\$ 12.141,000



*Funding available includes funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appeals for US\$ 12,141,000 to provide lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance to children and their families in the Pool, Plateaux, Sangha, and Likouala regions including preventing and detecting potential Ebola cases. In 2020, OCHA, through CERF, contributed US\$ 1,616,025 to the humanitarian response to severe floods that affected four regions in late 2019 and early 2020, USAID contributed with US\$ 100,000 grant for the flood affected populations in Cuvette and Likouala regions. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received. However, the 2020 HAC still has a funding gap of 77 per cent and therefore without sufficient funding, over 93,000 people will not have access to adequate sanitation, 38,413 children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM will not be treated and over 6,000 children will not receive the psychosocial support they need.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The Republic of Congo is still facing significant challenge with Internal Displaced Person (IDPs) and refugees. The Likouala region alone is hosting more than 27,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) and 21,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) whom are settled in Bétou district¹ in Likouala.

Access to safe water and sanitation services is limited: only 48² per cent of households have access to adequate sanitation and 64 per cent have access to protected water sources. The Plateaux region is hosting nearly 8,500¹ asylum-seekers (refugees) who fled deadly intercommunal conflict in the Mai-Ndombe Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in December 2018. One third of the asylum-seekers are children in need of psychosocial support and education. More than 77,000 internally displaced persons (50 per cent children) have returned home following the 2018 ceasefire agreements in the Pool region. These populations are struggling to access basic social services.

UNICEF continues to provide humanitarian assistance to affected children and families, in Cuvette, Likouala, Plateaux and Sangha regions, UNICEF provided support for nearly 170,000 people affected by the 2019/2020 flooding due to torrential rain and poor infrastructure.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

Since January 2020, UNICEF supported the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in all regions of Congo with a particular focus on regions affected by the flood emergency situations in Plateaux, Cuvette, Sangha and Likouala. During the implementation of SAM treatment, 3,587 children aged between 6 to 59 months were screened and identified as having SAM and were treated accordingly.

In 2020, the national Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme, which is supported by UNICEF, had cure and default rates of 69.3 per cent and 20.1 percent respectively, which are outside of the sphere standards (cure rate over 75 per cent and default rate under 15 per cent). The death rate was 6.8 percent which is within the sphere target of less than 10 per cent.

The programme response performance was affected by the following reasons: poor documentation, misclassification of outcomes and weak communication with caregivers. Further investment into the CMAM programme is needed to scale up capacity building efforts through training and supportive supervision.

Health

UNICEF has concentrated its efforts to support the Government in the provision of life-saving health services to children and women in the Likouala, Plateaux and Pool regions through the procurement of essential medicines and emergency health kits and strengthening of the capacity of health workers.

UNICEF strengthened the capacities of 35 health managers, 150 health workers and 200 community health workers (Plateaux, Cuvette, Likouala) on of primary care services including immunisation, antenatal care, safe childbirth, Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), as well as in the promotion of key family practices. As a result, 39,314 people were reached by comprehensive high impact interventions including 14,735 children under five. Of these, 4,010 pregnant women and 3,797 lactating women benefitted from quality antenatal care and safe childbirth and 8,342 children under five years were immunised against measles.³

WASH

UNICEF and USAID supported the strengthening of capacities of 30 actors in planning, coordination and implementation of the humanitarian response for WASH. These actors are made up of Government members, Civil Society partners

¹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) projections for 2020

² United Nations, 'Evaluation des impacts économiques et sociaux de la pandémie COVID-19 en République du Congo', August 2020.

³ Implementing partners reports 2020

and UN members of the WASH coordination at national and sub-national level. The WASH coordination is now functional and is holding regular meetings, providing monthly updates of the situation and response in flood-affected regions.

Overall, UNICEF's interventions have helped improve access to adequate sanitation services, and to adopt good individual and collective hygiene practices for 88,733 persons including 13,591 boys and 14,703 girls. Moreover, 88,733 people (66,106 affected and 22,627 host populations) have access to improved water of adequate quality and enough quantities for their basic needs.

A total of 7,446 households have received hygiene kits including soap, household and water point disinfection products, as well as home water storage containers. ⁴

Education

UNICEF and partners supported the access and continuity of education for 38,450 students including 17,000 (8,160 girls) vulnerable children and additional 121,450 children (58,840 girls) affected by flood in the 5 following departments: Likouala, Cuvette, Plateaux, Brazzaville et Pointe-Noire.

UNICEF and other education sector partners supported the reopening of 8 out of 16 schools in the Pool region, closed due to insecurity in October 2019. Eight schools remain closed due to their dilapidation and residual insecurity. This affects 923 children and adolescents, including 452 girls. UNICEF continues its advocacy efforts for the rehabilitation of these schools.

In addition, 17,379 internally displaced children, including 8,175 girls in Pool and Plateaux regions among which 3,182 children including 1,444 girls reintegrated in reception schools in Madibou district in Brazzaville, were provided with school materials to alleviate the risk of dropping out of school.

In order to strengthen the coordination of emergency interventions nationwide, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to elaborate an Education in Emergencies training module and to set-up the Education in Emergencies sectoral working group in Brazzaville composed of 20 representatives of the basic education sub-sectors was set up. Following a Training of Trainers in January 2020, to date, 110 teachers (including 46 female) have had their capacities strengthened to manage emergencies in their schools. ⁵

Child Protection

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, interventions for providing psychosocial support to children in emergencies will take place from September to December 2020 focusing on refugees and asylum seekers in Likouala and Plateaux regions, as well as host populations.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

The Communication for Development interventions have been focusing on promoting key health, nutrition and hygiene practices. As result, 65,628 people affected by floods along the river corridor with DRC, at high risk of waterborne diseases were reached and have improved their hygiene practices such as hand washing, conducting home water treatment, exclusive breastfeeding and adequate use of health and nutrition services.

UNICEF will continue to support the Government focusing on the community outreach activities along the river corridor for populations affected by floods and those at risk of Ebola.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF has supported the creation and training of three sectoral groups for Education, Nutrition and WASH led by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Water respectively. UNICEF is the lead agency to support these groups line ministries. Furthermore, as part of emergency response including COVID-19 and Ebola, the UN system has joined the multisectoral working groups created by the Government.

Human Interest Stories and External Media:

<https://www.unicef.org/congo/recits/children-b%C3%A9tou-likouala-region-go-back-school-after-severe-floods>

Next SitRep: 31 January 2020

Who to contact for further information:	Name: Micaela M. de Sousa Title: Representative Republic of Congo Tel: +242 06 685 58 05 Email: mmarques@unicef.org	Name: Andrés A. Lopez Title: Deputy Representative Republic of Congo Tel: +242 06 510 86 74 Email: aalopez@unicef.org	Name: Mamadu Balde Title: Emergency Officer Republic of Congo Tel: +242 06 510 86 88 Email: mbalde@unicef.org
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⁴ Implementing partners reports Feb-Jun 2020

⁵ MEPSA activity report school year 2019-2020

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response		
	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼
Nutrition			
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care for specified period of time	42,000	3,587	▲ 1,210
Number of children aged 6 to 23 months receiving micronutrient supplementation	21,599	3,836	▲ NA
Number of pregnant and lactating women received micronutrients supplements	10,518	7,807	▲ 6
Caregivers of children aged 0-23 months accessing infant and young child feeding counselling.	25,275	9,880	▼ -40,328
Health			
Children aged 6 to 59 months immunized against measles	41,000	8,342	▼ -15,515 ⁶
Children reached with emergency primary health care services	27,557	14,735	▼ -322
People received 2 ITNs as per international standards	32,275	38,000	▲ NA ⁷
WASH			
Access to a sufficient quantity of safe water	65,000	88,733	▲ 78,693
Access to appropriate sanitation facilities	28,000	88,733	▲ 87,733 ⁸
Child Protection			
Children reached with psychosocial support	6,000	0	▼ -143
Education			
Children receive individual education learning materials	21,000	17,379	▲ 13,363
School-aged children accessing quality education	21,000	4,016	▲ 3,492
C4D			
People reached with key lifesaving and behaviour change messages on Ebola prevention.	400,000	65,628	▲ 65,628

⁶ This significant difference is due to measles campaign held in March 2019

⁷ Due to the national campaign of ITNs Unicef could not report for this specific intervention

⁸ The significant difference is due to floods emergency in 2020

Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2020	Resources available from 2019 (Carry-over)	\$	%
Nutrition	4,750,000	4,340	763,815.20	3,986,184.8	84%
Health	992,000	520,166.50	256,370.35	215,463.2	22%
WASH	3,625,000	1,195,858.50	0	2,429,141.5	67%
Child Protection	1,181,000	0	0	1,181,000.0	100%
Education	1,093,000	0	91,040.84	1,001,995.2	92%
Communication for development	500,000	0	0	500,000.0	100%
Total	12,141,000	1,720,365.00	1,111,230.39	9,309,406.61	77%