



As part of a drive to register people 50 years and above for the COVID-19 vaccination, UNICEF South Africa volunteer, Kgali, assists a pensioner at a supermarket in Langa, Cape Town | ©UNICEFSouthAfrica/2021

# SOUTH AFRICA COVID-19

## Situation Report No.17

01 June – 07 July 2021



### Situation in Numbers

Confirmed cases: 2,112,336

Recovered: 1,853,804

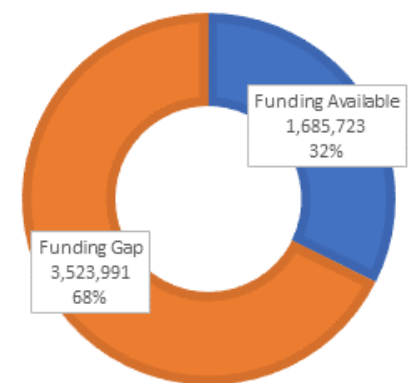
Deaths: 63,039

Tests Conducted: 13,619,638

Vaccines Administered: 3,819,730

(As at 08 July 2021)

### FUNDING STATUS (US\$)



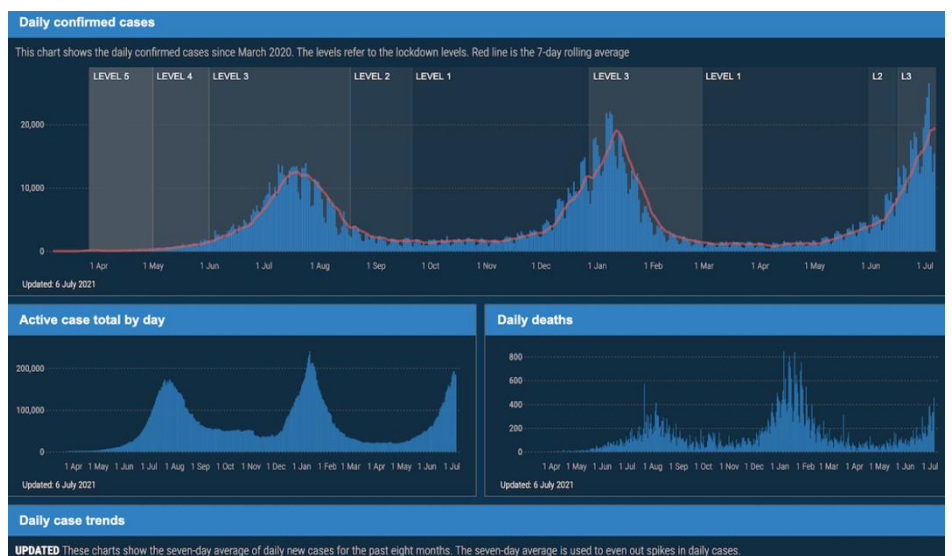
Reporting Period: 01 June – 07 July 2021

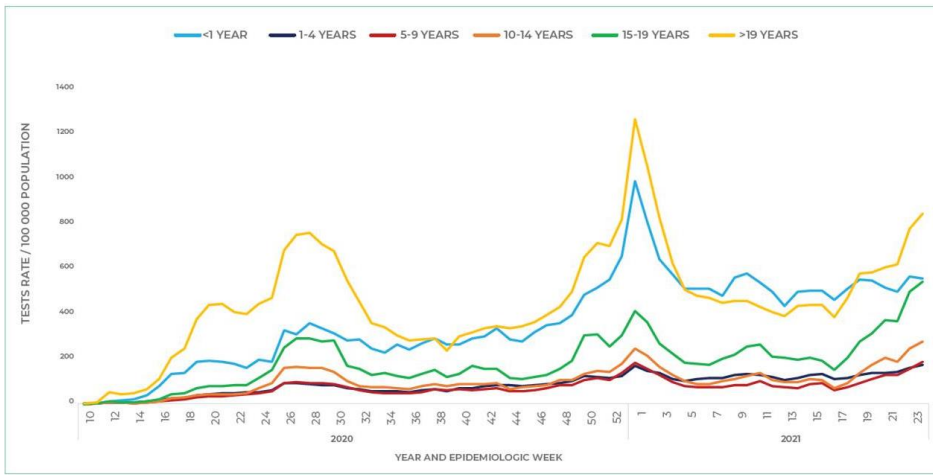
### Highlights

- UNICEF is supporting the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out through direct health and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) support. Cold chain specialists placed in 5 provinces are providing training, a COVID-19 vaccination field guide has been developed, as well as training of health care workers on the Med Safety Application – an electronic tool for reporting adverse events following immunization. Communication and community engagement work also continues on promoting vaccines, adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures and monitoring misinformation.
- UNICEF volunteers are supporting the vaccine registration drive by assisting the elderly to register for a vaccine.
- The new adjusted alert level 4 lock down measures have impacted schooling with schools closing on 30 June, and set to reopen on 19 July (a week earlier than prescribed in the calendar). UNICEF's distance and home-based learning tools remain a vital resource.
- On 23 June, vaccinations opened for education sector staff including teachers, cleaners and food handlers. The sector identified 582,000 staff members to be vaccinated and of those, more than 400,000 have been vaccinated.

### Situation Overview

- On 27 June, South Africa entered an adjusted alert level 4 lock down in an effort to curb the spread of the third wave of COVID-19 and reduce the burden on healthcare facilities. The evidence indicates that the Delta variant is driving a severe third wave in South Africa and the country continues to have the highest COVID-19 burden in Africa.
- The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) reports that as of 19 June, individuals aged ≤19 years made up 13.4% of SARS-CoV-2 tests,





**Figure 1.** Rate of SARS-CoV-2 testing per 100 000 population by epidemiologic week and age group, South Africa, 1 March 2020 – 19 June 2021

10.2% of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, 4.2% of all COVID-19-associated admissions and 0.7% of COVID-19 associated deaths. Among all deaths in individuals aged  $\leq 19$  years, 146 (38.4%) were among adolescents aged 15-19 years and 121 (31.8%) were aged under one year. Among 219 (57.6%) in-hospital deaths with available data on underlying conditions, 123 (56.2%) reported  $\geq 1$  underlying conditions. Data indicate that the fluctuation in numbers of cases in children do not appear to be directly related to the timing of opening or closing of schools, suggesting that schools are not the main drivers of infection in children.

- South Africa's National Vaccine Rollout Strategy has made increased gains after taking delivery of an increased supply of Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson vaccines. The country received 1,3 million doses of Pfizer vaccines on the 27 June through the COVAX facility.
- The increased vaccine supply has facilitated the expansion of Phase 2 of the National Vaccine Rollout Strategy with, in addition to the education sector vaccination drive, members of the police force, the South African National Defense Force (SANDF) as well as those over 50 years of age now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.

## Summary of Preparedness and Response Actions

### Education

1. The adjusted alert level 4 lock down measures have brought the planned school holidays forward with schools closing from 30 June 2021 and set to reopen on 19 July (a week earlier than prescribed in the calendar).
2. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) decided that all primary schools will continue to operate at 100% capacity from the third semester from 26 July. The education sector, along with its partners and structures will need to ensure the risk adjusted strategy is adhered to in ensuring that schools are as safe as possible. The Community Works Program (CWP) has been called on to assist with monitoring compliance in helping schools to maintain COVID-19 protocols.
3. The education sector commenced the vaccination of teaching and non-teaching staff in June. Through a consultant embedded in the department to aid the coordination and planning of the education sector's COVID-19 emergency response, UNICEF is providing support for vaccination coordination that includes communication with provinces, supporting the teacher union engagement process and participation in a campaign to encourage vaccine uptake among education sector staff. The sector identified 582,000 staff members to be vaccinated and of those, more than 400,000 have been vaccinated.
4. In preparation for the reopening of schools and to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in schools, UNICEF, through a range of partnerships and in consultation with the DBE, is developing content and distributing videos and posters promoting a COVID-19 safe learning environment for teachers and learners. This includes working with the DBE and Department of Social Development (DSD) on the review and update of the standard operating procedures (SOP) for early childhood development (ECD) programmes and basic education in line with the new COVID-19 regulations.
5. The psychosocial support and WASH in schools programme continues as part of the wider sector implementation of the Care and Support in Teaching and Learning (CSTL) pillar. Through UNICEF's partnership with USAID and the Woolworths Foundation, 117 more handwashing stations in selected schools and orphan and vulnerable child (OVC) centres have been constructed.
6. UNICEF continues to support distance and home-based learning for children during the third wave and level for lockdown. To date more than 539,522 children have been reached through the *ActiveLearning@Home* series, *2Enable*, *Tshwaragano ka Bana* series and ECDmobi. UNICEF continues to support the development of educational materials for grade R to grade 3. These learning resources are accessible online.

7. UNICEF is supporting the provision of psychosocial support for learners through a partnership with Childline South Africa, with 34,211 children reached in May with the majority of the calls inquiring about support services (38%), followed by COVID-19 (21%) and abuse/neglect (20%). Learners receive direct advice and support during the calls, with some referred to additional services as and when necessary.

## Child and Social Protection

1. A U-Report poll on young people's mental health, the results of which were released on Youth Day on 16 June, showed that up to 55% of young people reported being "most anxious" due to the impact of COVID-19 on levels of violence and poverty with only 70% of young people reaching out to their peers for help. The poll, and resultant media coverage, saw UNICEF advocate for increased psycho-social support services for young people as well as the need to locate the *Generation Unlimited* programme within the Presidency in support of the *Presidential Youth Employment Initiative*, and thereby increase youth access to a basic package of integrated support.
2. Based on the findings from the Real Time Monitoring Tracking (RTMT) tool on the impact of COVID-19 on the well-being of children, UNICEF was invited to give the keynote at a conference led by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) on children's rights. The tool has been well received and discussions are ongoing within the DSD to institutionalise its use.
3. The national kids online survey was launched with data presented by the University of South Africa (UNISA) and the DSD on the levels of violence, abuse and exploitation faced by children. This formed part of a global initiative undertaken with the Global Partnership to End Violence, EXPAT, INTERPOL and Innocenti. The survey report has been made widely available.
4. UNICEF, the DBE, the Department of Communication and Digital Technologies (DCDT), Media Monitoring Africa (MMA) and Agape held two sessions with 245 children from across South Africa as well as educators and experts on bullying and cyberbullying, mental health, teenage pregnancy and the safety of children on line. The children reached received information on various topics including how to access support services.
5. UNICEF's "Keeping Children Safe Online" FAQs page providing tips on managing stress, positive parenting and the latest COVID-19 information continues to be a valued resource, receiving 799 page views in June.
6. UNICEF continues to monitor the impact of the political-economic debates in and outside of government and how this is likely to affect work on the ground. It also stays abreast of large-scale survey monitoring of the impact of the pandemic on children's well-being through the NIDS-CRAM data. A number of Budget Briefs are in the process of being prepared that would focus on equity for children's programmes over the last decade, including a consideration of the latest fiscal austerity measures undertaken by government.
7. Mapping exercises to assess the challenges that are being faced by migrant children on the move were carried out in Holomisa and Tembisa where approximately 6000 and 4500 migrants respectively are living. Lack of documentation emerged as a key concern in both sites which hinders children accessing services and schooling.

## Health and Nutrition

1. UNICEF has finalised the appointment of cold chain consultants to support the provincial health authorities with the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) and COVID-19 roll-out focusing on effective vaccine management and cold chain logistics in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, North West and Gauteng provinces.
2. UNICEF – as a member of the National Technical Working Group (NTWG) on COVID-19 Vaccines: Safety & Surveillance – participated in the training of health workers in the Vigilance Hub Training. The Vigilance Hub is used to view submitted reports, edit case reports submitted (e.g. with follow-up information) and download report details. It can also be used to configure news items for users of the Med Safety App and create watch lists for products of interest.
3. UNICEF continues to support the National Department of Health (NDoH) with the implementation of the EPI and child health catch up drive through data monitoring, virtual meetings with under-performing provinces and providing guidance as more than 40% of the districts continue to perform below the 90% target due to caregivers' hesitancy and the costs associated with visiting healthcare facilities. The impact of COVID-19 on access to primary healthcare services continue and may have devastating effects on child health and nutrition services.
4. To ensure the continuity of care for adolescent girls and young women during the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF has expanded the peer mentor programme to Sekhukhune district in Limpopo and Ekurhuleni district in Gauteng.



## WASH

1. UNICEF, with partners EnviroSan, WaterAid, World Vision, MIET and the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) installed 7 handwashing with soap stations in schools and OVC centres in the Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape provinces in June. This brings the total to 418 in 9 provinces, including in vulnerable communities, schools and healthcare facilities. Social distancing markers, and stickers above each tap also encourage optimal handwashing practices during this time of COVID-19.
2. In partnership with World Vision, the second round of WASH kit distributions continued in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape provinces, alongside RCCE. An additional 6,960 WASH kits were distributed to vulnerable households in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape, reaching an estimated 26,760 individuals.
3. WASH kits distributed in the Eastern and Western Cape included information on the importance of ventilation and handwashing as key COVID-19 prevention measures. Kits also included contact details with emergency and vaccination registration hotlines while messaging focused on encouraging people to access health facilities for routine child vaccination and chronic medical conditions where relevant.
4. In the Eastern Cape, 4,000 UNICEF and World Vision “Tippy Tap” handwashing station guides were distributed through the district education department.
5. Five short video clips featuring community influencers encouraging South Africans to continue practicing COVID-19 prevention behaviours have been produced by UNICEF partner, WaterAid. The videos were informed by the findings of the Water Aid community rapid assessment and will be broadcast on national TV channels.
6. The WASH in Schools programme, implemented with Partners in Development and JIVE media Africa, is ongoing. All school rapid assessments were completed as well as the analysis. The report is expected in early July. Training towards implementation has also commenced, but has been interrupted by school closures – it will be completed upon schools reopening.

## Communication, Risk Communication and Community Engagement & Partnerships

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

1. UNICEF continues to work through the RCCE technical working group (TWG) and social listening and “infodemiology” team to generate a weekly COVID-19 and vaccine social listening report, with related recommendations. Feedback is analysed across online and offline communication channels, including search trends on social media platforms, online news and circulating rumours. June reports highlighted high demand for vaccines, anger at vaccine inequity and inaccessibility of vaccination sites to poor people as well as ongoing frustration with the Electronica Vaccination Data System (EVDS) and questions of vaccine safety.
2. Under the TWG, UNICEF continues to support the #GenV consortium in the development of a national vaccine confidence campaign. The campaign concept has been approved and the creative assets are in production.
3. UNICEF volunteers engaged with more than 3000 older people around registering for the COVID-19 vaccine, in support of the NDoH’s efforts to help older people register on the EVDS. With support from the supermarket chain, *Boxer Superstores*, the volunteers engaged older people on pension pay out day, as they waited to collect their monthly pensions from Boxer store till points. One-hundred and thirteen volunteers from five clubs across four provinces participated.
4. The third of four online RCCE training modules for district level communicators has been completed as part of the technical support provided to the TWG. This module of the certificate course covers implementing systematic processes of community engagement and will be made available throughout the online platforms of the Foundation for Professional Development.
5. UNICEF’s #TheTruck continued to support COVID-19 prevention and vaccine registration efforts in the Western Cape and the Free State. Content was created to reflect local stories for each province and was broadcast as part of the campaign. The Truck also formed part of Mpumalanga province’s efforts to assist pensioners in pension pay out queues at Boxer stores to get registered on the EVDS. Overall audience reach estimates included 55,936 for the Western Cape, 57,775 for the Free State and 4,500 for the Boxer store drive in Mpumalanga.
6. UNICEF collaborated with the UN Verified campaign, *Zwakala*, which highlights the role of young “community champions” in proactively taking COVID-19 prevention measures for their health and those around them. Aligned with national youth month, UNICEF supported a launch of the campaign on 14 June. This included endorsements through social media and the highlighting of the campaign on #TheTruck. The campaign has also been presented to UNICEF partners and to UNICEF volunteer clubs where it has received further uptake.

7. In June, UNICEF reached over 9 million people through its Facebook page – an increase of 19.4% in comparison to May 2021. Of this, COVID-19 related video content reached 4,632,829 with the “Let’s Stop COVID-19” video series receiving 1,607,190 views.
8. Ongoing research continues to inform RCCE interventions.
  - 8.1. Results for round 3 of the Community Rapid Assessment (CRA) survey, conducted over April and May, were received. The results – by gender, setting (urban/rural), age, and education as demographic factors – included a review of key findings, highlighting priority focus areas.
  - 8.2. The World Vision South Africa End-User Monitoring (WVSA EUM) system provided an assessment of handwashing stations implemented as part of UNICEF South Africa’s WASH and RCCE programme through the World Vision partnership. This was concluded with the finalization of a report that will be shared with the implementing partner, WVSA and relevant stakeholders.
  - 8.3. The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) partnership aimed at enhancing preparedness and responses to help prevent a resurgence of COVID-19 in priority high risk communities was also evaluated to measure impact and assess areas for improvement. A survey tool has been developed and volunteers were trained to conduct the assessment with a sample of 1,500 program participants.
9. Materials for an interactive RCCE programme for educators to engage learners in discussing and addressing barriers to practicing COVID-19 prevention behaviours have been finalised under the USAID-WASH in schools programme. Implementation will be in 117 schools and 9 drop-in centres for orphans and vulnerable children.

## Communication

1. The Youth Day launch of the U-Report poll on young people’s mental health, the results of which showed that up to 55% of young people reported being “most anxious” due to the impact of COVID-19 on levels of violence and poverty, generated substantial media engagement and advocacy opportunities with ENCA, the SABC and Newzroom Afrika carrying television interviews with programme staff.
2. UNICEF released a powerful video in line with the #Grandkids4Gogos campaign that depicts the important role young people are playing in not only encouraging but also assisting their older relations to register for the COVID-19 vaccine.
3. Six shortlisted winners for the Isu Elihle Journalism Awards were selected from more than 100 entries. The awards are part of a partnership with Media Monitoring Africa on supporting engaging, quality and ethical reporting on children who have been so impacted by COVID-19.
4. The role of UNICEF’s truck in bridging vaccination register digital divide received international media coverage in Reuters, The Star and the National Post (Canada).
5. The ‘Let’s Stop COVID-19’ video series of powerful individual stories continues to expand, with new content from the Western Cape.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

1. The Cotton On *In It Together* campaign, aimed at delivering 1 million COVID-19 vaccines to the world’s most vulnerable communities, ended on 4 July with confirmation that Cotton On reached their fundraising target. UNICEF South Africa is the recipient of \$600k to support the country’s programmatic COVID-19 response.
2. UNICEF leveraged R30k for three safe parks in Polokwane, Pietermaritzburg and Bloemfontein.

## Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation

1. UNICEF conducted an End-User Monitoring (EUM) assessment on selected handwashing stations installed in partnership with World Vision SA. The EUM was conducted by means of primary data collection in selected schools, health centres and community centres. Findings indicate that replenishment of water and liquid soap is a key impediment to the continued use of the handwashing stations. Moreover, it was found that numerous respondents felt unsafe when accessing the handwashing stations, prompting a further discussion with partners on how these issues can be addressed.
2. The office completed the process of producing and validating its COVID-19 dashboard which supports the rapid internal monitoring of the situation in key sectors while visualizing the implementation progress of interventions. The dashboard maps COVID-19 infections and recoveries across provinces while monitoring coverage of district level

interventions and visualizing key indicators for health, nutrition and child protection. The dashboard also maps the implementation progress of installed handwashing stations and uptake of the #TippyTapChallenge across South Africa.

## Challenges

- Access to COVID-19 vaccines remains a challenge for the majority of South Africa's uninsured population. While vaccine supply and the rate of vaccinations have encouragingly increased, getting people to vaccines or vaccines to people remains a challenge that disproportionately impacts the poor. UNICEF South Africa continues to engage its network of youth volunteers to play an active role in supporting their elders to register for the COVID-19 vaccine. Communication continues to provide a simple guide on how to sign up to the EVDS with #TheTruck supporting Gauteng Provincial Health Department's mobile vaccination drive.
- The severity of the third COVID-19 wave continues to be fuelled in part by COVID-19 fatigue. Numerous political gatherings where coherence to COVID-19 regulations have been flouted are concerning not only for the potential "super spreader" effect but also for undermining the government's messaging on the importance of non-pharmaceutical measures to stay safe. UNICEF's communication work in collaboration with the NDoH and all partners will continue to underscore the importance of these prevention measures.
- The country has embarked on a fiscal austerity path and there is greater competition for resources for children's work. UNICEF needs to be mindful of this as the reduction in budgets for children is likely to hamper ongoing work in basic education, social and child protection.

### Who to contact for further information:

Christine Muhigana  
Representative  
[cmuhigana@unicef.org](mailto:cmuhigana@unicef.org)

Muriel Mafico  
Deputy Representative  
[mmafico@unicef.org](mailto:mmafico@unicef.org)

Toby Fricker  
Chief of Communication and Partnerships  
[tfricker@unicef.org](mailto:tfricker@unicef.org)

Annex A  
2021 Response Plan Monitoring Framework, UNICEF South Africa

2021 SACO HRP Indicator (aligned to Global indicator list)	Target (Jan-Jun 2021)	Updated target (Jan-Dec 2021)	Result (Jan-Jun 2021)
<b>Education</b>			
Number of children supported to continue their learning through distance/home-based learning/ mixed of school-based/home-based learning	2,400,000	2,400,000	2,376,033
<b>Child Protection</b>			
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate ALTERNATIVE CARE ARRANGEMENTS	5,000	5,000	668
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT	50,000	50,000	27,000
Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed TRAINING ON GBV RISK MITIGATION & REFERRALS FOR SURVIVORS	250	250	80
Number of children and adults that have access to a SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE CHANNEL TO REPORT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE	500,000	1,000,000	470,000
<b>Social Protection</b>			
Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian MULTI-SECTOR CASH GRANT	7,200,000	7,200,000	6,000,000
<b>WASH</b>			
Number of people reached with CRITICAL WASH SUPPLIES (INCLUDING HYGIENE ITEMS) AND SERVICES	135,000	235,000	134,744
<b>Health and Nutrition</b>			
Number of children and women receiving ESSENTIAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES in UNICEF supported facilities	1,050,000	1,050,000	172,195
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for TREATMENT OF SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION (SAM)	10,000	10,000	1657
<b>Risk Communication &amp; Community Engagement</b>			
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through MESSAGING ON PREVENTION AND ACCESS TO SERVICES	4,840,000	4,840,000	2,595,131
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE ACTIONS	100,000	100,000	22,892
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established FEEDBACK MECHANISMS	50,000	50,000	11,322

SP- No update as the social relief grant has been discontinued since April.  
Health- the data is not yet available, therefore, no update as yet.

Annex B  
2021 Funding Requirement, UNICEF South Africa

<b>SACO COVID-19 Response Budget Summary Update January to December 2021</b>				
<b>Thematic Area</b>	<b>Original Funding Requirement (January - June)</b>	<b>Updated January - December Funding Requirement</b>	<b>Funding Available</b>	<b>Funding Gap</b>
<b>Coordination and leadership</b>	445,714	<b>245,714</b>	0	245,714
<b>Risk communication and community engagement</b>	893,000	<b>800,000</b>	193,000	607,000
<b>COVID-19 vaccination support</b>	610,000	<b>0</b>	0	0
<b>Infection prevention and control through WASH</b>	160,000	<b>885,000</b>	188,723	696,277
<b>Continuity of essential services/mitigation of unintended consequences</b>	<b>1,887,000</b>	<b>3,025,000</b>	<b>1,094,000</b>	<b>1,931,000</b>
Health, nutrition, and HIV services	602,000	490,000	180,000	310,000
Child protection (inc MHPSS, GBV & PSEA)	490,000	1,565,000	824,000	741,000
Social policy	50,000	50,000	0	50,000
Education	745,000	920,000	90,000	830,000
<b>Logistics and Operations</b>	841,000	<b>254,000</b>	210,000	44,000
<b>SACO Programmable Total</b>	<b>4,836,714</b>	<b>5,209,714</b>	<b>1,685,723</b>	<b>3,523,991</b>