



# Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

## South Sudan

The unresolved conflict has prevented displaced people from returning home, increased their vulnerability and is severely hampering basic service provision for 7.5 million people, including 4.1 million children.<sup>1</sup> More than 1.5 million people are internally displaced and 2.2 million are taking refuge in neighbouring countries.<sup>2</sup> Critical social services such as primary health care and education are facing significant interruptions due to insecurity and operational interference.<sup>3</sup> UNICEF expects an increase in the number of children with acute malnutrition, from 860,000 in 2019 to 1.3 million in 2020.<sup>4</sup> This includes more than 292,000 children under 5 years who will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) due to malaria, measles, diarrhoea and poor nutrition. Since 2014, the United Nations has verified over 3,600 incidents of grave violations affecting 98,000 children and adolescents.<sup>5</sup> Sixty-five per cent of women and girls have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetimes.<sup>6</sup> An estimated 900,000 children are suffering from psychological distress, having witnessed violence or experienced it directly during attacks on schools or similar violent incidents.<sup>7</sup> Over 2.2 million children are out of school and 6 million people are at risk of disease outbreaks such as Ebola and cholera and require water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.<sup>8</sup>

### Humanitarian strategy

In 2020, UNICEF will target children left furthest behind in South Sudan, ensuring they are safe, can quickly recover from shocks such as Ebola and cholera outbreaks, and are equipped and empowered to respond to future distress. Life-saving humanitarian assistance delivered through an integrated package of nutrition, health, WASH, education and child and social protection services, including cash programming, will promote early stimulation and responsive caregiving. Partnerships will build the capabilities and resources of central and sub-national urban and rural authorities and be aligned with the United Nations Cooperation Framework. Innovative emergency responses, including for Ebola response, will be based on effective preparedness actions that scale up interventions for affected children through static operations, direct outreach and the Integrated Rapid Response Mechanisms with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme. Strengthening social service delivery systems in high-risk areas will improve accountability to and results for children by building resilience and sustaining gains. Risk-informed programming will strengthen the capacities of individuals, communities and local partners from the onset of humanitarian action. UNICEF will continue to co-lead the nutrition, education and WASH clusters and the child protection area of responsibility to contribute to strategic humanitarian action linked to development.

### Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US\$101.6 million available against the US\$179.2 million appeal (57 per cent funded).<sup>9</sup> Ninety-one per cent of severely malnourished children admitted for treatment were cured. Bed nets were distributed for malaria prevention to 63,000 families. Two national immunization campaigns helped to reach over 729,000 children. Complementary development funding improved access to learning, with 88 per cent of targeted children reached. An estimated 64,000 school pupils gained access to improved water facilities, and 3,600 women and girls received items to support menstrual hygiene management. Due to underfunding of critical protective services for affected children, only 36 per cent of targeted children were reached with essential gender-based violence services. Gains were made in education with the enrolment of 598,500 affected children, of which 42 per cent were girls, and the training of 4,500 teachers on basic pedagogy. Twenty-nine Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism missions were deployed to hard-to-reach locations, reaching over 224,000 people, including 39,000 children under 5 years. UNICEF worked with partners, including clusters and local authorities to collectively prepare for and respond to disease outbreaks, including Ebola, as well as food insecurity and widespread displacement. Over 50 per cent of partnerships were with local responders.

### Total people in need

7.5 million<sup>10</sup>

### Total children (<18) in need

4.1 million<sup>11</sup>

### Total people to be reached

4.74 million<sup>12</sup>

### Total children to be reached

3.43 million<sup>13</sup>

### 2020<sup>14</sup> programme targets

#### Nutrition

- 268,045 children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment
- 2,933,723 children reached with vitamin A supplementation
- 1,098,241 caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months who received counselling on maternal, infant and young child nutrition

#### Health

- 518,000 children aged 6 months to 15 years vaccinated against measles
- 340,000 pregnant women and children provided with insecticide-treated nets in malaria-endemic areas

#### WASH

- 817,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- 303,500 people accessing safe and appropriate sanitation facilities

#### Child protection

- 127,000 children reached with psychosocial support services
- 100,000 children and women accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions

#### Education

- 709,000 accessing quality formal or non-formal early learning, pre-primary, primary or secondary education
- 2,500 teachers trained on education

#### Social protection

- 42,030 households reached through the cash transfer programme

#### Community engagement

- 2,400,000 people accessing mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback, including on Ebola

	Cluster 2019 targets	Cluster total results	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF total results <sup>1</sup>
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for therapeutic care	220,700	172,376	220,700	172,376
Pregnant and lactating women attending support groups and group counselling	984,700	1,075,388	984,700	1,075,388
<b>HEALTH</b>				
Children aged 6 months to 15 years vaccinated against measles			475,000	431,472
Families provided with long-lasting insecticide-treated nets			200,000	127,810
<b>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE</b>				
People provided with access to safe water as per agreed standards (7.5 to 15 litres of water per person per day)	3,000,000	1,495,841	800,000	494,879
People who received critical WASH-related information to prevent disease outbreaks	3,000,000	417,105	300,000	185,350
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>				
Children reached with psychosocial support services	476,750	226,689	275,000	161,049
Girls, boys, women and men reached with gender-based violence prevention and response services			168,000	52,289
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
Children accessing quality formal or non-formal early learning, pre-primary, primary or secondary education	786,324	689,817	729,000	598,518
Teachers trained on education-in-emergencies basic pedagogy and learner-centred methodologies	10,000	9,070	5,500	4,517

\* Results are as of 31 August 2019.

<sup>1</sup> For education and WASH, this also reflects the results achieved through leveraging additional non-emergency funds.

#### Funding requirements

UNICEF requires US\$180.5 million to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children in South Sudan in 2020. These funds will allow UNICEF to provide timely, life-saving aid and contribute to building the resilience of populations affected by multiple shocks. Without adequate funding, UNICEF and partners will be unable to scale up integrated programming and provide critical and protective services for women, men and children displaced by conflict, affected by gender-based violence, facing the risk of disease outbreaks, including Ebola, and impacted by extreme food insecurity. Countrywide insecurity underpins the high operating costs in South Sudan.

Sector	2020 requirements (US\$) <sup>15</sup>
Nutrition	57,484,671
Health	6,006,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	45,587,830
Child protection	21,822,956
Education	42,963,722
Social protection	3,862,413
Community engagement	2,753,798
<b>Total</b>	<b>180,481,390</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of inter-agency planning documents. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'South Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft), OCHA, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'South Sudan: Humanitarian snapshot', OCHA, September 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Inter-agency Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Survey Round 24, 2019.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Children's Fund South Sudan, 'The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on Grave Violations Against Children', UNICEF, August 2019, <[www.unicef.org/southsudan/media/1856/file/UNICEF-South-Sudan-MRM-Briefing-Note-Aug-2019\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/southsudan/media/1856/file/UNICEF-South-Sudan-MRM-Briefing-Note-Aug-2019(1).pdf)>, accessed 8 October 2019.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, *Childhood Under Attack: The staggering impact of South Sudan's crisis on children*, UNICEF, New York, 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Inter-agency Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Survey Round 24, 2019.

<sup>9</sup> Available funds include US\$75.5 million received against the 2019 appeal and US\$26.1 million carried forward from the previous year.

<sup>10</sup> This figure is provisional and subject to change upon finalization of inter-agency planning documents. 'South Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. Children are 54 per cent of all people in need.

<sup>12</sup> This includes the highest coverage target of 2.9 million children under 5 years receiving vitamin A supplementation (1,554,873 girls and 1,378,850 boys), 1.1 million caregivers (1,098,241 women) of children targeted for maternal, infant and young child nutrition; 75 per cent of 709,000 children (281,828 girls and 249,923 boys) accessing education (to avoid double counting included age cohort of 5 years to 17 years); and 26 per cent of 817,000 people (212,420 men) accessing water (to avoid double counting only the adult male population is included).

<sup>13</sup> This includes highest coverage target of 2.9 million children under 5 years receiving vitamin A supplementation (1,554,873 girls and 1,378,850 boys) and 75 per cent of 709,000 children (281,828 girls, 249,923 boys) accessing education (to avoid double counting, included age cohort of 5 years to 17 years).

<sup>14</sup> Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

<sup>15</sup> Figures are provisional estimates. Financial requirements are subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency appeals/planning documents.

#### Who to contact for further information:

**Mohamed Ayoya**  
Representative, South Sudan  
Tel: +211912176444  
Email: [mayoya@unicef.org](mailto:mayoya@unicef.org)

**Manuel Fontaine**  
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)  
Tel: +1 212 326 7163  
Email: [mfontaine@unicef.org](mailto:mfontaine@unicef.org)

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