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## Republic of Congo Floods Emergency --- Situation Report

12 April 2024

### Highlights

- During the month of March, UNICEF accelerated the implementation of its response through the delivery of water treatment solutions to more than 22,000 people in the three departments (Likouala, Plateaux and Cuvette) where the organization intervenes. Moreover, 8,940 children under 5 years old in the Likouala region benefited from nutritional screening. In the Mpouya district (Plateaux department) 554 students benefited from a school kit. The response in other areas of UNICEF intervention (Protection; Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)) is also intensifying with the support of UNICEF's implementing partners.
- UNICEF Representative in the Republic of Congo traveled to the Mpouya district (Plateaux department) to meet affected populations and assess the progress of UNICEF's response on the ground. The situation witnessed by the Representative remains worrying, particularly in the area of education where the floods have exacerbated learning conditions in schools which were already precarious.
- Water levels continue to recede in all affected areas. This withdrawal of water increases the need for disinfection and cleaning of flooded structures, in particular schools, health structures and water points. During this period of recession, there is also a risk of increased epidemiological risks and the spread of water-borne diseases which further increase the vulnerability of children and affected communities.

### In Numbers

**525,456** people in need of humanitarian assistance\* (vs **336,500** according to initial estimates)

**43,883** children forced out of school\* as a consequence of floods (vs **27 000** according to initial estimates)

**170,000** people, including 100,000 children, to be reached under UNICEF's response

**22.6 million USD**  
Resources required for the second phase of UNICEF response (recovery and community resilience)

\* Figures from the intersectoral evaluation conducted in January 2024



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## UNICEF Response

### Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

- Aquatab tablets for home water treatment were distributed to 4,404 households or 22,020 beneficiaries in the Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux regions.
- Three health facilities, seven primary schools and one preschool facility were disinfected in the districts of Makotipoko and Mpouya in the Plateaux department.
- 7,720 people were reached by messages regarding access to available life-saving services through essential family practices.
- 28 tons of WASH material (chlorine granules, sprayers, aquatabs, WASH kits, pool tester) were delivered to the health districts of Ngo-Mpouya, Gamboma, Mossaka-Loukolela, Betou-Enyellé and Impfondo.

### Health

- 4.5 tons of health supplies were provided to health districts to strengthen the provision of primary care, particularly towards children and women;
- Technical and financial support is provided at the departmental level for the implementation of integrated maternal and childcare activities via mobile clinics along the villages of the river corridor;
- In the affected areas, 1,128 children were vaccinated with Penta and 3,938 against measles. In addition, 793 pregnant women were vaccinated against tetanus between January and February;
- A strategy was developed with health district teams to reach children in flooded villages with routine vaccination activities during the Polio campaign at the end of March.

### Nutrition

- Community screening is being implemented in the Plateaux, Cuvette and Likouala departments;
- In the Likouala, 8,940 children under 5 years old benefited from nutritional screening. Through this screening, 445 cases of severe acute malnutrition (5%) and 1,472 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (16%) were detected. The 445 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition received treatment and 111 of them have already recovered;
- Nutritional inputs have been pre-positioned in the Plateaux and Cuvette departments.

### Education

- 18.7 tons of school supplies have been pre-positioned in Bétou, Enyellé , Impfondo, Dongou, Liranga, Loukolela, Mossaka and Makotimpoko and will be distributed when classes resume after the Easter school break. These supplies consist of school bags, notebooks, pens, pencils and sharpeners, erasers, rulers and chalks.
- To date, 554 students (265 girls and 289 boys) have received school kits in four primary schools including 90 students (39 girls and 51 boys) at Bowando school, 92 students (48 girls and 44 boys) at Lilanga school, 96 students (46 girls and 50 boys) at Bobakapondza school and 276 students (132 girls and 144 boys) at Balemon School .
- The construction of the ten temporary learning facilities is starting in Bétou (two spaces), in Enyellé (1 space), in Dongou (1 space), in Liranga (1 space), in Loukolela (1 space), in Mossaka (2 spaces) and in Makotimpoko (2 spaces). These facilities will be functional in the second half of April and will help improve the capacity of schools impacted by the floods.

### Protection

- A partnership agreement was signed with the association *Action des Educatrices pour le Développement* (AED) for the construction and operation of ten “child-friendly” spaces in the Likouala (Impfondo, Betou, Liranga, Dongou, Enyelle), the Plateaux (Mpouya , Makotipoko) and the Cuvette (Mossaka , Loukolela) departments. The partnership’s goal is to provide care for child victims of trauma and survivors of gender-based violence.
- 20 recreational kits as well as chairs and tables for community facilitators of child-friendly spaces have been prepositioned in the departments of Plateaux, Cuvette and Likouala.
- A psychosocial care strategy was developed with the National Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Mental Trauma of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Solidarity and Humanitarian Action for the upcoming deployment of six therapists.

## Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- To date, 29 community meetings have been organized in at-risk areas bringing together a total of 409 participants, including 61 women. They were made aware of the behavior to adopt in the event of natural disasters, particularly floods. Participants were sensitized on hand washing with soap to prevent water-borne diseases, the treatment of drinking water at home, the search for health care and services particularly for children, the process on setting up early warning systems in villages. Messages on the importance of watching for signs of malnutrition among children are also shared to flood victims.
- In addition, discussions are being initiated with communities on the possibilities of building houses with local materials that are resilient to flooding. Feedback and complaints mechanisms in communities are being integrated into the response to strengthen accountability towards flood-affected populations. To date, 17 non-sensitive complaints have been collected through community meetings.

## Logistics

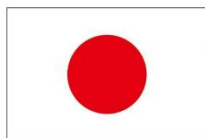
After the initial response period, additional WASH and Protection supplies are being secured for the continuation of the immediate humanitarian assistance phase.

In addition, a logistics specialist has temporarily joined the UNICEF office to support the logistics management and coordination of the response. Under his leadership, a logistics working group bringing together the various humanitarian actors (SNU agencies, NGOs and government entities) is being set up. The main objective is to develop a system enabling the humanitarian community to be equipped with effective capacities to prepare and respond to future emergencies. This system will take into account the identification of gaps at each level of the operational logistics chain and the needs linked to information sharing.

The logistics specialist is also preparing a mission to affected areas in order to assess the possibilities of transporting and pre-positioning emergency supplies in these areas.

## Funding Situation

The Education component of UNICEF's current humanitarian response remains largely underfunded with only 22% of the needs covered (USD 121,870 mobilized vs. USD 557,760 required). The rest of the areas of intervention are 100% funded thanks to the support of the Government of Japan, CERF and the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance/USAID. Furthermore, UNICEF continues to mobilize resources for the resilience component of its planned response (Phase II of the UNICEF response) which total budget amounts to USD 22.6 million.



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Peuple japonais**



United Nations  
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## Visibility and human-interest stories

- Video - Dr Chantal Umutoni, UNICEF Representative (Field mission kick-off):  
<https://twitter.com/DrCUmutoni/status/1768570597691302016>
- Video - Dr Chantal Umutoni, UNICEF Representative (Intervention from the village of Balemon):  
<https://twitter.com/DrCUmutoni/status/1768718683474440405>
- Video - Testimony of Justine, beneficiary of UNICEF's WASH intervention (Mossaka District):  
[https://fb.watch/rfA\\_m99HeR/](https://fb.watch/rfA_m99HeR/)
- Video – Testimony from Stanislas, head of the health area for the Mpouya district:  
<https://fb.watch/rfBYfQ6d3y/>

- Human-interest story - Sorrel, Health and Nutrition Project Manager for the NGO “GARDERIE SANTE DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL”, NGO partner of UNICEF:  
[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=805062714994639&id=100064727524587&mibextid=oFDknk&rdid=IOpCv1Z2pKgOPri8](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=805062714994639&id=100064727524587&mibextid=oFDknk&rdid=IOpCv1Z2pKgOPri8)
- Human-interest story – Ruben, Director of Balemon Primary School , Mpouya district :  
[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=807185054782405&id=100064727524587&mibextid=oFDknk&rdid=hNkFNLB6zexU3iN6](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=807185054782405&id=100064727524587&mibextid=oFDknk&rdid=hNkFNLB6zexU3iN6)
- Summary of UNICEF response as of March 13, 2024 :  
[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=800169482150629&id=100064727524587&mibextid=oFDknk&rdid=qinCBGrQiCHJzPWj](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=800169482150629&id=100064727524587&mibextid=oFDknk&rdid=qinCBGrQiCHJzPWj)

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