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Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Kenya

Due to the severe drought, an estimated 3 million people in Kenya will require food assistance and access to safe water by October 2019.¹ The failure of two consecutive rainy seasons between October 2018 and May 2019 has hampered recovery and contributed to high levels of acute malnutrition, with the number of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) having increased by 15 per cent.² By August 2019, 665,000 children under 5 years were acutely malnourished, including 145,000 children suffering from SAM.³ The worsening drought conditions are contributing to resource-based conflicts, increasing child protection risks, such as separation from families for 130,500 children,⁴ and reducing access to schooling for some 560,000 children.⁵ Drought-related disease outbreaks have escalated, with nearly 4,000 cholera cases, 420 measles cases and 2,500 cases of kala-azar reported as of August 2019.⁶ The next rainy season is expected to be above average, leading to flood-related displacement and disease outbreaks.⁷ Given that Kenya is a regional transit hub, the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains a threat.⁸ Kenya is among the top refugee-hosting countries in Africa, with over 477,000 refugees and asylum seekers reported as of July 2019, 56 per cent of whom are children.⁹

Humanitarian strategy

In response to the deteriorating nutrition situation in Kenya, UNICEF will support the Government and partners to conduct sector/multi-sector drought emergency preparedness and response planning at the national and county levels. UNICEF will foster nutrition sector coordination through the Emergency Nutrition Advisory Committee, enhance the nutrition supply chain system, and facilitate monitoring, advocacy and resource mobilization. Coordination and evidence-based advocacy for preparedness and response to disease outbreaks, including Ebola, cholera and vaccine-preventable diseases, will also be strengthened. UNICEF will enhance capacities and pre-position critical supplies to facilitate the delivery of life-saving health interventions to unreached children. Capacities for emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) preparedness and response will also be strengthened through sector coordination and strategic partnerships that facilitate rapid response to emergency needs. UNICEF will provide technical support and resources to strengthen advocacy and partnerships for protecting the rights of refugee children. This will include supporting an enabling environment and advocacy for education in emergencies; influencing resource allocation by county governments in disaster-prone areas; and strengthening refugee programming in line with the Global Compact for Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. UNICEF will also support policy development to strengthen the enabling environment for a shock-responsive social protection system.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US\$8.1 million available against the US\$28.3 million appeal (29 per cent funded).¹⁰ Limited funding – including the lack of shock-responsive budgets¹¹ secured by partners – hampered the achievement of some results. Creating an enabling policy environment remained challenging, especially for refugee programming, due to the drastically reduced resources. UNICEF focused on systems strengthening of devolved government units and capacity building of implementing partners and adopted a risk-informed approach to strengthening resilience. Gender- and disability-inclusive emergency programming was prioritized, including awareness-raising efforts, with specific attention given to the needs of boys, girls, women and people with disabilities. UNICEF was able to strengthen its approach to accountability in humanitarian programming. More than 700 integrated health and nutrition outreach sites brought services closer to beneficiaries, reducing the time spent by mothers seeking life-saving interventions for children under 5 years. Health facilities analysed SAM admission trends and seasonal contexts before the drought emergency, for real-time response. Immunization services were provided in schools, including in early childhood learning centres. Education-in-emergencies and child protection interventions included the prevention of gender-based violence in schools and for families and communities.

Total people in need

4.98 million¹²

Total children (<18) in need

2.39 million¹³

Total people to be reached

1.02 million¹⁴

Total children to be reached

739,200¹⁵

2020 programme targets

Nutrition

- 110,597 children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment

Health

- 252,186 children vaccinated against measles
- 255,614 children accessing primary health care through UNICEF-supported outreach

WASH

- 250,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene

Child protection

- 36,874 children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- 876 emergency-affected children and caregivers accessing gender-based violence prevention and care services¹⁶

Education

- 195,521 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning

Social protection

- 20,000 households reached with humanitarian cash transfers

	Sector 2019 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION				
Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for treatment	110,597 ⁱ	58,754 ⁱⁱ	110,597	58,754
HEALTH				
Children affected by acute watery diarrhoea, malaria or measles accessing life-saving preventive and curative interventions			579,200	251,695
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENEⁱⁱⁱ				
People accessing the agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	450,000	90,436	250,000	90,436
CHILD PROTECTION^{iv}				
Children (52 per cent girls) provided with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces with inter-sectoral programming interventions	130,000	4,280	13,575	4,280
EDUCATION				
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	364,046	29,927	169,000	29,927
SOCIAL PROTECTION				
Vulnerable households reached with cash transfer top-ups during crises			20,000	0 ^v

* Results are as of 31 August 2019 except for WASH, child protection and education, which are as of the end of June 2019 due to delayed partner reporting.

ⁱ The total caseload is estimated to be 145,112. The target for arid and semi-arid counties and urban areas is calculated using 75 per cent of the burden, and in the case of refugees, 90 per cent of the total caseload is used as a target. The annual estimation of the total caseload is undertaken using triangulation of the latest Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) surveys and administrative data.

ⁱⁱ January to July 2019 admissions.

ⁱⁱⁱ Sector targets and results are not yet available as sector planning is still ongoing.

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Social protection is a new Humanitarian Action for Children indicator included in the May 2019 appeal revision. No funding is available for the implementation of interventions.

Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US\$30 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children affected by drought and disease outbreaks in Kenya, to complement government interventions in response to the escalating severe drought situation, and to provide basic services to refugees and host communities. Without adequate funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the survival and protection needs of vulnerable children, adolescents, youth and women.

Sector	2020 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	13,271,640
Health	5,100,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	2,250,000
Child protection	2,000,000
Education	5,900,000
Cluster/sector coordination	500,000
Social protection ¹⁷	1,000,000
Total	30,021,640

¹ Government of Kenya, Kenya Food Security Steering Group, '2019 Long Rains Season Assessment Report', August 2019.

² National Drought Management Authority, Kenya Long Rains Assessment, July 2019.

³ '2019 Long Rains Season Assessment Report'.

⁴ Child protection sub-sector estimates are based on data from National Drought Management Authority assessments, July 2019.

⁵ The education sector estimates that over 560,000 children from 23 arid and semi-arid counties continue to experience challenges in access to schooling due to limited access to safe water in schools, lack of school meals and community conflicts that lead to temporary school closures and decreased school attendance.

⁶ Government of Kenya Ministry of Health, 'Disease Outbreak Situation Report', 9 September 2019.

⁷ 'Statement from The Fifty Third Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (Ghacof53) for October to December 2019 Rainfall Season', Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 26-28 August 2019.

⁸ Government of Kenya Ministry of Health, 'Disease Outbreak Situation Report', 12 August 2019.

⁹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Kenya operation updates, July 2019.

¹⁰ Available funds include US\$6.4 million received against the 2019 appeal and US\$1.7 million carried forward from the previous year.

¹¹ This refers to budgets that can be adjusted to respond to the different shocks that can affect Kenya.

¹² This figure was calculated based on an estimated 3 million people to be affected by drought by October 2019 (National Drought Management Authority); 477,451 refugees who will require assistance (UNHCR); and an estimated 1.5 million people to be affected by health and epidemic-related emergencies (Government of Kenya Ministry of Health).

¹³ This figure was calculated based on children accounting for 48 per cent of the total affected population, based on the last census conducted in Kenya. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 'Population and Housing Census', August 2009.

¹⁴ As UNICEF interventions principally target children, UNICEF has prioritized children's needs in the 2020 appeal. The total number of people to be reached is 281,937 adults + 739,195 children = 1,021,132. The total number of adults to be reached by programme is as follows: WASH: 135,000 adults; health: 23,012 adults (12,781 pregnant and lactating women + 10,231 men); nutrition: 69,325 pregnant and lactating women; child protection: 1,000 caregivers; education: 600 adults (teachers, education managers and parent-teacher association members); social protection: 53,000 adults. UNICEF will target 51 per cent female beneficiaries and 15 per cent people with disabilities

¹⁵ The total number of children to be reached by UNICEF is 739,195 (376,989 girls and 362,206 boys). This includes 110,879 children with disabilities (56,548 girls and 54,331 boys). The breakdown of children to be reached by programme is as follows: health: 507,800; education: 195,521; child protection: 35,874. Other sectors (nutrition, WASH and social protection) and the gender-based violence in emergencies target under child protection are not included in the calculations to avoid double counting of beneficiaries.

¹⁶ The UNICEF target is 876 as agreed at the child protection sub-sector level. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will cover 90 per cent of the sub-sector target (8,756) and UNICEF will cover 10 per cent, in line with the 2018-2019 sector response plan. The target and this breakdown were agreed to with the Government of Kenya and UNFPA, the sector lead.

¹⁷ The target and the budget have been decreased to align with the implementation capacity of the Government's systems and the approximate needs calculated for 2020.

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