



Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The multi-dimensional crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is characterized by recurrent armed conflicts, severe food insecurity, nutrition crises, displacement and disease outbreaks. The humanitarian situation remains particularly concerning in the conflict-affected provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Kasai, Kasai-Central and Kasai-Oriental. In 2020, nearly 15.9 million people will be in need of humanitarian assistance, including 8.59 million children.¹ In 2019, over 17,000 cases of cholera² have been recorded, with further outbreaks expected in 2020, and a nationwide measles epidemic was declared in 121 health zones.³ The **Ebola outbreak** is the world's second largest in history, with over 3,000 confirmed cases, including more than 900 children.⁴ Nearly 13.3 million people will experience crisis levels of acute food insecurity by 2020, and more than 1 million children under 5 years will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM).⁵ Some 7.1 million persons – including internally displaced persons, returnees and members of host communities – will require access to emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.⁶ The situation is compounded by violations of children's rights, including lack of access to education, forced recruitment by armed groups and sexual abuse. In emergency zones, 47 per cent of survivors of gender-based violence are children.⁷ Nearly 7 million children aged 5 to 17 are out of school; 53 per cent of these children are girls.⁸

Humanitarian strategy

In 2020, within the framework of the UNICEF Democratic Republic of the Congo Humanitarian and Resilience Strategy, UNICEF will provide humanitarian assistance through a timely, coordinated and integrated multi-sectoral package⁹ of support delivered primarily in regions¹⁰ facing recurrent population displacement and epidemics. UNICEF will continue to be among the first responders to the Ebola outbreak (see the separate appeal for **Ebola preparedness and response**). UNICEF's operations will be led by 11 field offices to enable wide coverage and quality programming across the country, and provide cash-based interventions when appropriate. The UNICEF Rapid Response, a new life-saving programme and strategy, will target areas affected by shocks and displacement in North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika and Ituri, using gender-sensitive multi-sectoral interventions. This programme will also contribute to the elimination of cholera in priority areas.¹¹ Screening, referral and treatment for children with SAM will be complemented by WASH interventions in health facilities and communities. Child protection services will include the provision of psychosocial support, early learning, early stimulation and play activities for vulnerable children, adolescents and/or survivors of sexual violence. UNICEF will continue to lead the WASH, nutrition and education clusters at the national and decentralized levels, co-lead the cash working group in Goma and lead the non-food items and child protection sub-clusters. UNICEF will continue to promote capacity building for local and international non-governmental organizations and support national authorities to reach more persons in need.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US\$84.8 million available against the US\$326.1 million appeal (26 per cent funded).¹² Despite the significant funding gap, as of August 2019, UNICEF had reached more than 2.87 million people in need of emergency assistance. More than 169,000 children with SAM were admitted for therapeutic care, with a cure rate of nearly 83 per cent. UNICEF played a critical role in the response to the cholera outbreak, supporting 505,000 people with WASH packages in cholera-affected areas. Nearly 1.1 million children were vaccinated against measles with UNICEF support. The Rapid Response Mechanism¹³ assisted more than 403,000 people in education, health, WASH and non-food items, as well as over 138,000 persons through cash transfer modalities, enabling affected people to recover their livelihoods. Nearly 126,000 children affected by conflict or natural disasters gained access to quality education and psychosocial activities in the classroom. UNICEF further assisted nearly 1,900 children (283 girls and 1,570 boys) exiting armed groups, and more than 120,000 displaced children (55,818 girls and 64,182 boys) with psychosocial support. UNICEF provided technical support and capacity building for partners at the national and sub-national levels to improve emergency preparedness and response. Results of the response to the Ebola outbreak are included in the separate appeal for **Ebola preparedness and response**, as well as in Ebola situation reports.

Total people in need

15.9 million¹⁴

Total children (<18) in need

8.59 million¹⁵

Total people to be reached

3.14 million¹⁶

Total children to be reached

2.24 million¹⁷

2020¹⁸ programme targets

Nutrition

- 817,900 children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment

Health

- 965,000 children aged 6 months to 14 years vaccinated against measles
- 311,500 children and women receiving primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities¹⁹

WASH

- 422,300 people provided with access to WASH services²⁰
- 1,512,500 people in cholera-prone zones and other epidemic-affected areas benefiting from prevention and response WASH packages²¹

Child protection

- 150,000 children accessing mental health and psychosocial support²²
- 4,000 children accessing gender-based violence response interventions
- 8,500 unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or appropriate alternative services
- 7,000 children separated from armed groups accessing reintegration support

Education

- 359,000 children aged 6 to 17 years accessing formal or non-formal education
- 2,660 female and male teachers trained on learner-centred methodologies and peace education

Communication for development

- 7,000,000 people reached with key life-saving/behaviour change messages on humanitarian services²³
- 10,000 people accessing mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback

Rapid Response

- 450,000 people provided with essential household non-food items/shelter materials and WASH kits

	Cluster 2019 targets	Cluster total results	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF total results ⁱ
NUTRITION				
Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for therapeutic care	986,708	409,783	888,037	169,227 ⁱⁱ
HEALTH				
Children aged 6 months to 14 years in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles			969,284	1,078,290
People affected by conflict and disease outbreaks having received access to primary health care			415,332	179,172
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
People affected by natural disasters and conflict accessing basic WASH services	2,232,120	752,015	892,848	504,387
Persons in cholera-prone zones and other epidemic-affected zones (yellow fever, etc.) benefiting from preventive as well as WASH cholera response packages	6,436,482	708,267	2,574,593	541,006
Severely malnourished children and host families receiving WASH assistance from nutrition centres, through to the household level ⁱⁱⁱ	323,598	755	258,879	755
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children associated with armed forces/groups benefiting from community-based socio-economic reintegration support	7,200	4,012	6,000	1,853
Unaccompanied and separated children identified and placed in family-based care or an appropriate alternative	10,000	4,928	8,000	3,044
Children who benefited from psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces	150,000	156,606	120,000	120,000
Girl and boy survivors of gender-based violence provided with a comprehensive response			5,000	1,936
EDUCATION				
Girls and boys aged 3 to 17 years affected by conflict or natural disasters given access to quality education and psychosocial activities	2,618,866	261,787	785,660	125,992
MULTIPURPOSE CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE				
People assisted with an unconditional cash grant	3,971,050	138,293	481,250	138,293
RAPID RESPONSE				
People accessing essential household items and shelter materials	3,756,122	938,291	481,250	293,457
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT^{iv}				
Members of formal community development structures and frontline workers trained, certified and actively engaged in community surveillance and participation			75,000	3,412 ^v

* Results are as of 31 August 2019.

ⁱ Ebola-related results are reported in the separate UNICEF Ebola preparedness and response appeal and Ebola situation reports.

ⁱⁱ Low coverage is mainly due to reporting challenges and limited funding.

ⁱⁱⁱ Underachievement is due to lack of funding.

^{iv} The majority of communication for development activities were redirected to Ebola-affected zones and are reported in the separate UNICEF Ebola preparedness and response appeal.

^v Underachievement is due to limited funding and training was focused on Ebola-affected areas.

Funding requirements

UNICEF requires US\$262.7 million to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2020. Funding requirements for the Ebola response are provided in the separate [UNICEF Ebola prevention and response appeal](#). These funds will allow UNICEF to provide humanitarian assistance to those suffering from SAM and affected by epidemics and acute emergencies, such as armed conflicts. Without timely and adequate funding, UNICEF and its partners will be unable to provide critical services to address the needs of children and uphold and promote their rights.

Sector	2020 requirements (US\$) ²⁴
Nutrition	132,500,000
Health	14,200,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	33,500,000
Child protection	9,600,000
Education	43,000,000
Communication for development	7,240,000
Rapid response	21,000,000
Cluster/sector coordination	1,621,000
Total	262,661,000

¹ These figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs and planning documents. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Democratic Republic of the Congo: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft), OCHA, October 2019.

² Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Ministry of Health, August 2019.

³ A nationwide epidemic was declared on 10 June 2019.

⁴ For further information on the Ebola outbreak, please see the separate Ebola appeal: United Nations Children's Fund, 'Ebola Preparedness and Response', UNICEF, 2019.

⁵ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 'Democratic Republic of the Congo: IPC acute food insecurity analysis July 2019–May 2020, Report #17', IPC, August 2019.

⁶ Provisional data provided by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2019.

⁷ United Nations Children's Fund Democratic Republic of the Congo, 'Child Protection', UNICEF, <www.unicef.org/drcongo/en/what-we-do/child-protection>, accessed 20 October 2019.

⁸ United Nations Children's Fund Democratic Republic of the Congo, 'Education', UNICEF, <www.unicef.org/drcongo/en/what-we-do/education>, accessed 20 October 2019.

⁹ This includes nutrition, health, WASH, communication for development, child protection and education services.

¹⁰ The affected regions are North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, Maniema, Ituri and Kasai.

¹¹ The priority areas are Goma and Mbuji Mayi.

¹² Ebola funds are included in these financial figures. Available funds include US\$41 million received against the 2019 appeal and US\$43.8 million carried forward from the previous year.

¹³ UNICEF's Rapid Response to Movement of Populations mechanism was discontinued on 30 September 2019 after being the largest provider of multi-sectoral aid for rapid responses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNICEF Rapid Response is a new model that will provide first response, one-off assistance to all populations affected by humanitarian crisis.

¹⁴ This figure is provisional/subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs/planning documents. 'Democratic Republic of the Congo: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).

¹⁵ This was calculated based on children making up 54 per cent of the population, as per the National Institute of Statistics Democratic Republic of the Congo Statistical Yearbook 2014–2015.

¹⁶ This includes 817,900 children under 5 years targeted for SAM treatment; 1,512,500 persons in cholera-prone zones and other epidemic-affected zones (yellow fever, etc.) targeted for preventive as well as WASH cholera response packages; 359,000 girls and boys aged 6 to 17 years affected by natural disasters or conflict targeted for access to quality education and psychosocial support; and 450,000 people targeted for essential household non-food items/shelter materials and WASH kits. This includes 1,506,912 men/boys and 1,632,488 women/girls and 469,485 persons with disabilities.

¹⁷ This includes 817,900 children under 5 years targeted for SAM treatment; 816,750 children in cholera-prone zones and other epidemic-affected zones (yellow fever, etc.) targeted for preventive as well as WASH cholera response packages; 359,000 girls and boys aged 6 to 17 years affected by natural disasters or conflict targeted for access to quality education and psychosocial support; and 243,000 children targeted for essential household non-food items/shelter materials and WASH kits. This includes 1,073,592 boys and 1,163,058 girls and 304,485 persons with disabilities.

¹⁸ Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency appeals/planning documents (humanitarian response plans/rapid response plans).

¹⁹ Following an analysis of the targets over the past three years, the health section decreased this target to be more realistic and better reflect the local situation.

²⁰ This is an aggregated target figure that includes the following populations: severely malnourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding women; people affected by natural disasters, population movements and/or conflicts; and students from schools affected by conflicts, natural disasters and epidemics.

²¹ The WASH target has decreased because it does not include Ebola target numbers.

²² The target has increased due to a resurgence of inter-community conflicts in Ituri (Djugu territory) and North Kivu, which led to mass displacements.

²³ This includes 2.5 million people reached through interpersonal communication interventions and the remaining radio-based mass media messaging.

²⁴ Figures are provisional estimates. Financial requirements are subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency appeals/planning documents.

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