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Humanitarian Action for Children

Republic of Mozambique

Cyclone Idai which made landfall on 14-15 March, is the worst natural disaster to hit southern Africa in nearly two decades, resulting in 464 deaths as of 27 March. Some 1.85 million people are in dire need of assistance, including 1 million children, and an over 135,000 people (as of 27 March) are displaced, taking shelter in 161 transit centers in Sofala, Manica, Zambezia and Tete provinces. In Beira, Mozambique's second largest port there is critical infrastructure damage and heavy flooding in urban areas. Access and logistical constraints are a major challenge. Over 3,200 classrooms are also damaged and 54 health facilities have been affected. Heavy rains preceding the cyclone have compounded the problems, with the spread of water-borne diseases being a major concern. Cholera has been confirmed in urban areas and transit centers and a vaccination campaign is planned. ¹ Damage to crops has devastated the country's agricultural production with nearly 50 per cent of Mozambique's production destroyed for the year. Water and electricity are being supplied in limited locations in Sofala affected areas, exacerbating the situation.

Humanitarian strategy

In line with the Humanitarian Country Team Flash Appeal. UNICEF will expand its field presence with the establishment of three hubs in the most affected cities of Chimoio, Beira, and Quelimane to ensure operational efficiency and a timely response. UNICEF will adopt a multisectoral response to meet the needs of affected populations in both rural and urban areas, while also targeting displaced households living in accommodation centers. Cash/voucher-based assistance will be provided where relevant. UNICEF will also enhance its capacity to provide operational support, undertake higher frequency monitoring and quality assurance for both governmental agencies and partners, especially for outreach interventions in hard-to-reach areas. UNICEF will strengthen cluster coordination at national and decentralized levels, and will also promote innovation through the use of technological platforms and approaches for assessment, data collection, monitoring, information sharing and seeking real time feedback. UNICEF will link its humanitarian and development programming, and will invest in resilience strengthening in the recovery phase through adopting a risk informed approach.² UNICEF will work towards strengthening Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) by establishing coordination structures to ensure crisis-affected populations have access to reporting mechanisms and assistance.

Results from 2019

UNICEF is supporting the government and partners in reestablishing basic social services. Timely prepositioning of supplies enabled UNICEF to respond from the first days of the crisis, with over 100 metric tons of lifesaving supplies being dispatched to affected areas. UNICEF is supporting the Government and partners to assess the impact of the cyclone. UNICEF has also deployed technical experts on the ground to lead the response, and is operationalizing clusters at the national and sub-national levels. UNICEF is scaling-up WASH and health interventions, as well as supporting the rehabilitation of the water supply systems in Beira, providing 500,000 people with access to safe water ³. Working with partners, UNICEF is re-establishing primary healthcare services and deploying outreach teams, with the aim to prevent a rise in communicable disease and malnutrition ⁴. UNICEF will work with Ministry of Health and partners to provide counselling and support to 100,000 pregnant and lactating women. Together with the Ministry of Health and WHO, UNICEF is ramping up cholera preparedness interventions. UNICEF will support access to learning and rehabilitation of learning spaces. UNICEF is also working on scaling-up psychosocial support to affected children and reunifying unaccompanied and separated children.

Total people in need
1.85 million ⁵
Total children (<18) in need
1 million ⁶
Total people to be reached
965,000 ⁷
Total children to be reached
500,000 ⁸

2019 programme targets

WASH

- 965,000 people provided with access to safe water (7.5-15L per person per day)
- 267,500 people benefiting from sanitation, hygiene promotion activities, including point-of-use water treatment safe practices

Health

- 500,000 children aged 6 months to 15 years vaccinated
- 229,500 children under-five receiving a consultation

Nutrition

- 328,000 children under 5 screened for acute malnutrition
- 100,000 pregnant and lactating women reached with IYCF services

Education

- 380,000 children aged 6-15 years old in humanitarian situations accessing education
- 76,000 children aged 3-5 years old in humanitarian situations accessing play-based learning

Child Protection

- 20,000 children receiving psychosocial support through Safe Spaces
- 1,000 Separated and unaccompanied children are identified and are in family-based care or an alternative care

Communication for development

- 700,000 people reached with key life-saving and behavior change messages on health, nutrition and safe and appropriate sanitation and hygiene practices contextualized to the emergency scenario

Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US\$102.6 million⁹ to meet the humanitarian needs of people affected by Cyclone Idai as well as to support the recovery phase of the response. UNICEF is seeking timely and flexible resources in order to provide support for vulnerable women and children in the areas of health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, and education. Without adequate funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the survival and protection needs of children in need.

Sector	2019 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	6,000,000
Health	11,000,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	30,000,000
Child protection	4,000,000
Education	20,000,000
Communication for development	1,600,000
Logistics and operations	15,000,000
Resilience and Recovery	15,000,000
Total	102,600,000

¹ The Health Cluster is planning a vaccination campaign for approximately 450,000 people.

² Including school rehabilitation, communication for development (C4D) interventions, and social protection voucher programmes. Based on the outcomes of assessment, UNICEF will increase social protection programming for IDPs and returnees, initially to provide transfers for recovery of lost assets and to account for higher prices as markets recover. Transfer values, upon government agreement, will be aligned to the highest transfer provided under the national social security programme (PSSB). UNICEF will also work with development actors to transition affected households into the national safety net, following the recovery model from other cyclone responses, supporting both emergency and social protection goals simultaneously.

³ UNICEF is providing support for the water supply and treatment in the city of Beira which covers 300,000 people.

⁴ especially among people living with HIV

⁵ Figure based on Interagency Assessment as of 22.3.2019

⁶ Figure based on Inter-agency Flash Appeal as of 22.3.2019. Half of the people in need are children (as of census projection).

⁷ People to be reached calculated using total people to be reached by WASH activity.

⁸ Children to be reached calculated using total children to be reached by vaccination campaigns.

⁹ UNICEF humanitarian appeal of US\$102.6 million covers March to December 2019. The UN Flash Appeal covers the first three months of the response, of which UNICEF's portion is US\$30 million.

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