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Niger

In 2018, an estimated 2.3 million people, including 1.2 million children, will be affected by one or more of the crises impacting the Niger, including food insecurity, malnutrition, population displacement, disease outbreaks and natural disasters.³ In the Diffa Region, an estimated 419,000 people will suffer the humanitarian consequences of the three-year conflict and resulting population displacement,⁴ and more than 87,000 people located in the two regions bordering Mali may become internally displaced if the security situation continues to deteriorate.⁵ More than 227,015 people who have been forcibly displaced or affected by natural disasters will require emergency access to safe water in 2018.⁶ Food and nutrition insecurity is on the rise in communities impacted by multiple crises with limited access to basic social services. In 2018, an estimated 380,000 children under 5 years will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM).⁷ Outbreaks of measles, meningitis, hepatitis E and cholera could affect 1.2 million people nationwide, and natural disasters could affect 180,000.⁸

Humanitarian strategy

In 2018, UNICEF will continue to provide multi-sectoral responses to the crises affecting the Niger,⁹ and strengthening the link between humanitarian interventions and resilience-building programmes, particularly in the Diffa Region. UNICEF will prioritize its support to the national SAM treatment programme, including its integration into the broader national health system, and malnutrition prevention activities will be expanded. In education, UNICEF will focus on improving the quality of education-in-emergencies programmes in Diffa, and providing formal and non-formal education opportunities to young people. Crisis-affected children will be reached with health services through mobile clinics and vaccination interventions. UNICEF will also reach affected children with psychosocial support, and provide unaccompanied and separated children with identification and reunification services. The Rapid Response Mechanism will be strengthened to expand the delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions and non-food items. UNICEF will continue to maintain contingency measures such as supply stocks and standby partnership arrangements. Multi-sectoral humanitarian interventions will cover new areas, including those affected by the Malian border crisis and locations registering increasing numbers of vulnerable migrant children returning from Algeria and Libya. UNICEF will employ innovative approaches, such as SMS, to manage child protection data and monitor water, education and nutrition interventions.¹⁰

Results from 2017

As of 31 October 2017, UNICEF had US\$22.7 million available against the US\$37 million appeal (61 per cent funded).¹¹ UNICEF reached 290,243 children under 5 with SAM treatment, including 11,132 in the Diffa Region, representing 93.9 per cent of the expected caseload of 309,175 children. In response to displacement and an outbreak of hepatitis E, UNICEF reached 74,266 people with safe water through emergency and sustainable WASH interventions. Under UNICEF leadership, the WASH cluster and working group coordinated an effective multi-sectoral response. On average, more than 10,000 children received psychosocial support services in Diffa Region every month and 223 unaccompanied and separated children were identified and placed in alternative care. With UNICEF support, 7,443 children accessed primary education in 85 emergency schools and nearly 20,000 children benefitted from teacher training on psychosocial support. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Relief and other partners to provide non-food items to 36,152 people affected by floods in several regions and 23,511 displaced people in the Diffa Region. UNICEF also supported health centres in Diffa through the provision of essential medicines, the organization of vaccination campaigns and support for mobile clinics.

Humanitarian Action for Children

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Total people in need:
2.3 million¹

Total children (<18) in need:
1.2 million²

Total people to be reached:
741,438

Total children to be reached:
597,438

2018 programme targets:

Nutrition

- 380,166 children under 5 with SAM admitted for treatment

Health

- 103,500 children under 5 accessing life-saving interventions through fixed and mobile strategies
- 71,732 children aged 6 months to 14 years vaccinated against measles

WASH

- 160,400 people affected by population movements and natural disasters having access to drinking water
- 200,000 people affected by water-borne disease outbreaks having access to hygiene kits and sensitization activities

Child protection

- 38,136 children provided with psychosocial support through community-based recreational and socio-educational activities

Education

- 95,611 girls and boys aged 3 to 17 years provided with access to formal and non-formal education

Non-food items

- 140,000 people affected by conflict or natural disasters provided with non-food items kits

	Sector 2017 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2017 target	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION				
Children under 5 with SAM admitted into therapeutic feeding programmes	309,175	290,243	309,175	290,243
HEALTH				
Children with access to life-saving interventions through fixed and mobile strategies ⁱ			105,000	30,827
Children aged 6 months to 14 years vaccinated against measles in Diffa ⁱⁱ			100,000	
Children in humanitarian situation aged 0 to 11 months vaccinated against measles			500,000	636,749
WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
People affected by the crisis in Diffa having access to hygiene kits and sensitization activities	218,368	270,487	151,719	166,954
People affected by the crisis in Diffa using at least 7.5 litres of drinking water per day (permanent and emergency measures)	218,368	175,200	70,000	74,266
People affected by the crisis in Diffa with access to sanitation infrastructure	218,368	83,755	50,000	43,147
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children who are benefitting from psychosocial support through community-based recreational and socio-educational activities	76,027	18,463	30,883 ⁱⁱⁱ	10,561
EDUCATION				
Boys and girls aged 4 to 17 years affected by crisis accessing education in Diffa ^{iv}	78,290	31,197	24,513	11,426
NON-FOOD ITEMS				
People affected by natural disasters provided with non-food items kits ^v			35,000	36,152
People affected by conflict provided with non-food items kits			14,000	23,511

Results are through 31 October 2017 unless otherwise noted.

ⁱ The indicator combines results from fixed and mobile services. Fixed services: data available for malaria only through weekly data on notifiable diseases; no information available on pneumonia and diarrhoea due to an ongoing upgrade of the national health data reporting system. Mobile strategies: low results against the targets as of October 2017 due to delays in the start of activities and incomplete reporting as of October 2017.

ⁱⁱ No measles outbreak has been reported in the Diffa region as of the end of October 2017. Supplementary immunization activities organized with the regional health authorities are scheduled for December 2017.

ⁱⁱⁱ The 2017 target of 30,883 was defined in 2016 (for the 2017 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal) as the cumulative number of children attending community-based psychosocial and recreational services. The methodology for calculating results was later modified to an average of the monthly attendance rather than an addition of the monthly attendance, to avoid double-counting. However, the sub-cluster did not change the target in the revised Humanitarian Response Plan. Using the cumulative methodology, the result would be 105,000 children, while the new calculation methodology resulted in 10,561 children per month on average having benefitted from several services and at several times. Attendance registers will be established for all structures in 2018 to allow for individual counting of children.

^{iv} Although the new school year started in October 2017, enrollment is far from complete (even less so in emergency schools) due to the lack of teachers. In July 2017, the Ministry of Education evaluated all contractual teachers and dismissed those with the lowest results. Those with better but still insufficient results went through remediation courses in October, followed by a new assessment. In total, 783 teachers from Diffa region were dismissed, and the education authorities are experiencing difficulties finding teachers and directors to be assigned to schools in Diffa, particularly for emergency schools.

^v Regular resources were used to purchase some of the non-food items. In addition, more than 3,000 kits purchased in 2016 were provided to a partner as an in-kind contribution and without cash. Instead of providing the entire non-food items assistance through an international partner, 1,000 kits were distributed through the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Relief, which lowered the delivery costs. This is a new strategy to transfer competencies to government authorities, with close monitoring and technical support

Funding requirements

In line with the Niger's inter-agency 2018 Strategic Response Plan, UNICEF is requesting US\$42,721,051 to meet the humanitarian needs of children in 2018. Without flexible funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the nutrition crisis and provide critical WASH services to displaced people and those affected by natural disasters and at risk of cholera. Funds will also allow UNICEF to provide basic education supplies, which are urgently needed to uphold children's right to education, establish safe spaces for children affected by conflict, and provide non-food items to people displaced or affected by natural disasters.

Sector	2018 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	24,500,000
Health	1,576,407
Water, sanitation and hygiene	5,993,842
Child protection	2,617,441
Education	3,537,711
Non-food items	3,495,650
Cluster/sector coordination	1,000,000
Total	42,721,051

¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, '2018 Niger Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, 2017.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Inter Cluster Draft Contingency Plan for the Malian Border Crisis', OCHA, November 2017.

⁶ According to WASH cluster estimates in the 2018 Niger Humanitarian Response Plan, 170,098 people forcibly displaced or affected by natural disasters will be targeted by the WASH cluster for the provision of access to safe water through durable solutions; 15,000 will be targeted through emergency interventions (water trucking, etc.); and 42,017 will be targeted through the distribution of water purification treatment products (out of the 126,051 people who will receive the entire hygiene kit, including water treatment products, only 42,017 are targeted for the distribution of PUR due to their lack of access to modern water points).

⁷ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, '2018 Niger Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, 2017.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ The requests in the 2018 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal are based on the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan and the inter-cluster contingency plan for the likely response to population displacements due to the worsening of the Malian border crisis. This appeal includes additional targets and budget compared with UNICEF projects in the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, including: education response to natural disasters and non-formal education for

youth; WASH response to the Lake Chad basin crisis; flood response; WASH in nutrition; health preparedness and cholera response; the child protection response to the needs of minor migrants; and the community case management-in-emergencies response to the Lake Chad basin crisis.

¹⁰ Approaches include RapidPro, an SMS-based monitoring tool, and the Child Protection Information Management System.

¹¹ Available funds include US\$17.5 million raised against the current appeal and US\$5 million carried forward from the previous year. In addition, US\$3.21 million of regular resources/other resources-regular were used to purchase ready-to-use therapeutic foods.

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