



**unicef**   
for every child

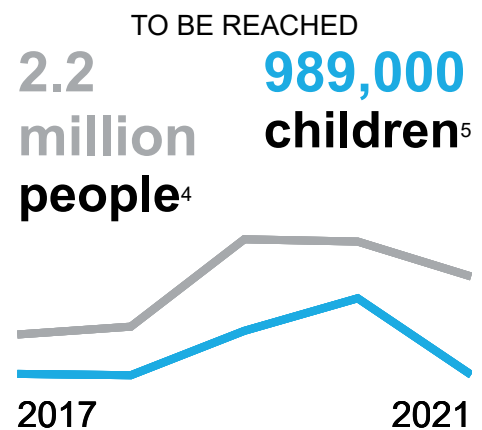
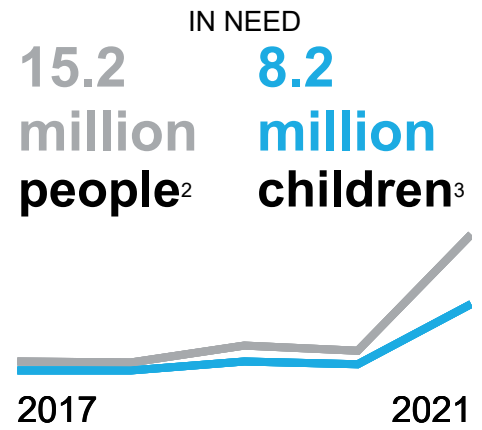
## Humanitarian Action for Children

Schoolchildren wash their faces and hands at one of the water stand taps installed at Ajugopi Primary School in Adjumani District by UNICEF with funding from the Government of Iceland.

# Uganda

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Uganda faces multiple humanitarian crises every year, including refugee influxes, disease outbreaks and meteorological disasters. In 2020, these emergencies were compounded by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and as a result, an estimated 15 million women and children will require humanitarian assistance in Uganda in 2021.<sup>1</sup>
- UNICEF plans to reach 1.9 million people with basic health services, over 40,000 children with treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), 125,000 people with access to safe water, nearly 28,000 children with psychosocial support services and over 156,000 children with access to education. UNICEF also intends to support over 1.5 million people to safely report sexual exploitation and abuse.
- In an already constrained funding landscape, in 2021, UNICEF requires US\$25 million to realize the rights of children, adolescents and woman affected by these crises, and help save their lives.



### KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**40,265**

children admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition



**125,000**

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



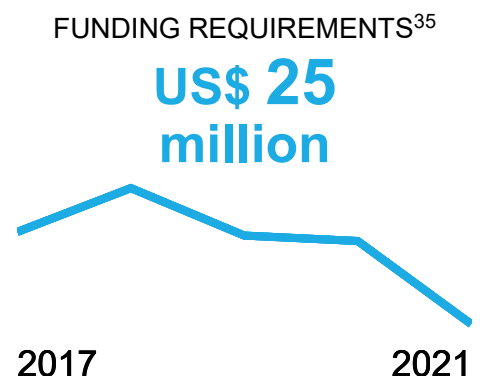
**1.6 million**

people accessing safe channels for reporting sexual exploitation and abuse



**1.8 million**

people benefiting from established feedback mechanisms



## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Uganda's containment measures following the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020 have gravely affected the economic opportunities available to a population that relies on informal employment to survive. Risk of exposure to COVID-19 is highly concentrated among poor households (47 per cent of the population).<sup>6</sup> Due to lack of water and sanitation facilities in health institutions, schools and communities, over 580,000 people require water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. The additional stress that COVID-19 has placed on health institutions across the country has left over 15 million people in need of essential health care.<sup>7</sup>

School-aged children have missed 60 per cent of the 840 hours of instruction planned for Term 1 due to school closures.<sup>8</sup> Evidence suggests that school closures during the lockdown period have also triggered protection risks, especially for girls, including sexual exploitation and abuse, forced child marriage and adolescent pregnancies, and exacerbated other forms of violence, particularly in the home.<sup>9</sup> The number of sexual violence cases reported in refugee-hosting districts has significantly increased, from 729 in the first quarter to 1,860 in the second quarter 2020.<sup>10</sup> More than 2 million children need child protection services and support<sup>11</sup> and over 15 million need access to safe channels to report allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse.<sup>12</sup>

Uganda hosts 1.4 million refugees, most of whom fled from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan due to insecurity and political instability.<sup>13</sup> Some 82 per cent of refugees are women and children.<sup>14</sup> Considering overcrowding in urban settlements, poor access to clean water and sanitation, high prevalence of undernutrition and the multiple protection risks, an estimated 4.1 million people will need humanitarian assistance in refugee-hosting districts by the end of 2021.<sup>15</sup>

Meteorological hazards also continue to impact Uganda. More than 400,000 people were affected by the May 2020 floods and have experienced displacement, the destruction of infrastructure and risks of waterborne and climate-sensitive diseases.<sup>16</sup> Natural hazards also exacerbate already high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification completed in 2017 classified 30 per cent of the Karamoja population in phase 2 (stressed) and 12 per cent in phase 3 (crisis). About one quarter of children under 5 years in the Karamoja subregion are stunted, and 1 child in 10 is wasted.<sup>17</sup>

## SECTOR NEEDS



### Nutrition

**409,000** women and children at risk of food insecurity<sup>18</sup>



### Health

**15.2 million** people need basic health services<sup>19</sup>



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

**584,000** people need access to safe and clean water<sup>20</sup>



### Education

**8.2 million** children need education<sup>21</sup>

---

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



Abigail and her sister Blessing are refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Both want to become doctors and have urged the Government to reopen schools so that pupils can continue with their studies. In the wake of school closures due to COVID-19, UNICEF is working in partnership with the Government of Uganda to support students with learning materials so they can study on their own.

**[Read more about this story here](#)**

Abigail, 12, and her sister Blessing study on their own in Arua District. UNICEF is supporting remote learning during the COVID-19 lockdown.

## HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and the UNICEF Uganda Country Programme Document 2021–2025, UNICEF will complement direct implementation through partners with district system strengthening. District actors will be supported to incorporate humanitarian preparedness and response into their annual and mid-term district plans.<sup>22</sup> For this reason, several UNICEF programme targets will decline compared with 2020.

This strategy will allow UNICEF to continue to support the Government to provide vital nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection, education and social protection services to Uganda's most vulnerable, while also increasing the synergies between humanitarian action and development programmes.<sup>23</sup> For example, the UNICEF WASH programme will continue to provide safe water while also building district-level capacities to support local ownership and management of water systems.

The COVID-19 National Response Plan builds on the significant investments made by UNICEF and partners in recent years to support national health systems and incorporate learning from previous health emergencies (e.g., Ebola outbreaks). UNICEF will also continue to support the Government in the areas of risk communication and community engagement; coordination and leadership; supplies and logistics; information and communication technology; innovation; and case management. UNICEF will focus on WASH services and psychosocial support, including through the newly established sub-committee on prevention of and response to gender-based violence and violence against children.

To strengthen service delivery, UNICEF will focus on decentralization, preparedness planning, capacity building and community-based support. In high-risk communities, UNICEF will apply and scale up field monitoring to incorporate beneficiary feedback (through civil engagement mechanisms such as U-Report, among others); promote accountability to affected populations in line with the Grand Bargain commitments;<sup>24</sup> build linkages between communities and local governments; improve the demand for and delivery of targeted protection and basic services; and guide responsive district and sub-district planning and budgeting.

Gender-based violence survivor assistance and prevention interventions will be integrated into child protection programmes. UNICEF will also mainstream gender-based violence risk mitigation, gender sensitivity, HIV and AIDS, accountability to affected populations, conflict sensitivity and communication for development into all interventions.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/uganda/situation-reports>

## 2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



### Nutrition

- **40,265** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment<sup>25</sup>
- **1,628,015** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



### Health and HIV and AIDS

- **125,828** children under 5 years vaccinated against polio
- **1,923,861** children and women receiving essential health care, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, essential newborn care, immunization, treatment for childhood illnesses and HIV care



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **125,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene<sup>26</sup>
- **280,000** people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services
- **35,000** people accessing safe and appropriate sanitation facilities



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA<sup>27</sup>

- **27,712** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support<sup>28</sup>
- **1,565,680** people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse
- **80,712** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- **2,585** children registered as unaccompanied or separated who received appropriate alternative care services



### Education

- **156,412** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning<sup>29</sup>



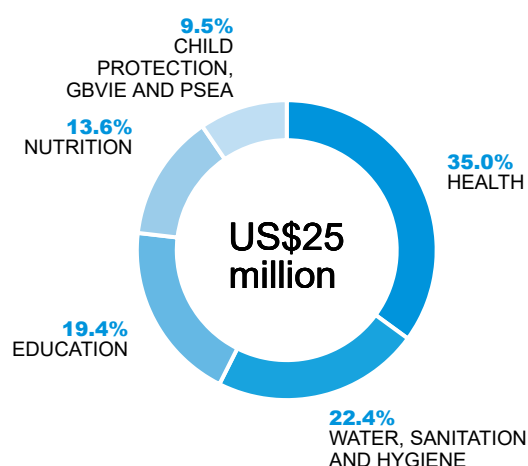
### C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **9,096,271** people reached with messages on access to services<sup>30</sup>
- **1,819,254** people who shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms<sup>31</sup>

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF requires US\$25 million to realize the rights of children, adolescents and women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, refugee influxes, communicable disease outbreaks and climate-related shocks in Uganda in 2021. This requirement is in line with the revised Uganda Refugee Response Plan 2020–2021, which includes a US\$15 million appeal to respond to the needs of refugee and host communities. The additional US\$10 million covers funding needs related to the response to and impact of COVID-19 and the mitigation and management of non-COVID-19-related crises, including disease outbreaks and meteorological disasters.

UNICEF has worked extensively to build the capacities of district-level systems to incorporate humanitarian preparedness and response into their annual and mid-term district planning. Despite the anticipated additional humanitarian needs driven by COVID-19 in 2021, UNICEF's funding requirements have been formulated with these system strengthening achievements in mind and considering the presence of other actors on the ground with the capacity to cover gaps. With predictable, multi-year funding, UNICEF will be able to deliver sustainable results in health, nutrition, WASH, child protection and education, and strengthen the preparedness and response capacities of communities, districts and line ministries.



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	3,412,058
Health	8,758,312 <sup>33</sup>
Water, sanitation and hygiene	5,594,508 <sup>32</sup>
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	2,379,122 <sup>34</sup>
Education	4,855,995
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,999,995</b>

---

### Who to contact for further information:

**Shadrack Omol**  
Representative, Uganda, a.i  
T 256-417-171-300  
somol@unicef.org

**Manuel Fontaine**  
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)  
T +1 212 326 7163  
mfontaine@unicef.org

**Carla Haddad Mardini**  
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)  
T +1 212 326 7160  
chaddadmardini@unicef.org

# ENDNOTES

1. Data from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2020.
2. Ibid.. This figure represents the total population living in the 29 UNICEF focus districts, who will be in need of support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes those in need of access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse. The 29 focus districts are: Yumbe, Isingiro, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Koboko, Madi Okollo, Terego, Kikuube, Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Lamwo, Obongi, Kasese, Mubende, Ntungamo, Abim, Amudat, Kampala, Kaabong, Karenga, Kotido, Moroto, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit, Napak, Kamuli, Mukono, Tororo and Wakiso.
3. This was calculated based on children representing 53.9 per cent of the population of Uganda as per the latest population projections (May 2020) from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, recognized by the Government of Uganda. This includes 49.9 per cent girls and 50.1 per cent boys.
4. This was calculated as the sum of 10 per cent of children under 5 years targeted for immunization; 80 per cent of children under 1 year targeted for infant and young child feeding; 80 per cent of targeted pregnant and postnatal mothers; and 156,412 schoolchildren targeted for education support. The adult population includes 50.9 per cent women and 49.1 per cent men; and the child population includes 49.9 per cent girls and 50.1 per cent boys, as per the latest population projections (May 2020) from Uganda Bureau of Statistics, recognized by the Government of Uganda. Disaggregations by disability are not available at this time. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
5. This was calculated as the sum of 10 per cent of children under 5 years targeted for immunization; 80 per cent of children under 1 year targeted for infant and young child feeding; and 156,412 schoolchildren targeted for education support. All of those to be reached live in UNICEF's 29 focus districts. Of the total number of children to be reached, 49.9 per cent are girls and 50.1 per cent are boys, as per the latest population projections (May 2020) from Uganda Bureau of Statistics, recognized by the Government of Uganda. Disaggregations by disability are not available at this time. The additional and remaining needs of children will be addressed and coordinated through discussions and complementarity with other partners through platforms such as the Refugee Humanitarian Partner Group, the Education in Emergencies Group and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group.
6. Data from the results of a comprehensive assessment on the expected impact of COVID-19 on Uganda's economy conducted by the Government of Uganda in partnership with UNICEF, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Cardiff University and the Bristol Poverty Institute.
7. Data from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2020.
8. UNICEF Uganda, 'COVID-19 Response Plan', 2020.
9. Report of the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development/Sauti, June 2020.
10. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Government of Uganda, 'Uganda Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2019-2020, SGBV Dashboard - Quarter 1', March 2020; and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Government of Uganda, 'Uganda Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2019-2020, SGBV Dashboard - Quarter 2', September 2020.
11. This figure was calculated by taking 25 per cent of the overall number of children in need.
12. This figure is the same as the overall number of people in need based on the assumption that all people in need will require safe channels to report allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse.
13. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Government of Uganda, Uganda Comprehensive Refugee Response Portal, September 2020.
14. Ibid.
15. This figure represents the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) projection of the number of people living in refugee-hosting districts (refugees and host communities) who will be in need of humanitarian assistance by the end of 2021. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Revised Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan: 2020-2021', UNHCR, August 2020.
16. Data provided by the Government of Uganda, 2020.
17. United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme, Food Security and Nutrition Assessment, 2020.
18. This represents the 35 per cent of the total population of Karamoja who are considered at risk of food insecurity, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (2017). This includes school-aged children.
19. This represents the total population in need.
20. This represents a 30 per cent increase from the 2020 WASH target, based on the assumption that meteorological hazards are likely to continue and impact more people in 2021.
21. This reflects the total number of children in need.
22. This includes working with the Ministry of Education at national and sub-national levels on scenarios for actions in case there were to be a re-closure of schools in 2021.
23. UNICEF leads cluster coordination for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters and the child protection area of responsibility.
24. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations, who have committed to getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.
25. The SAM target for 2020 was 22,278 children, out of which 36,605 (164.3 per cent) were reached. The target for 2021 represents a 10 per cent increase from the numbers reached in 2020.
26. The lower WASH target for 2021 is due to a shift in programme strategy from direct delivery to capacity building of districts, in line with the Country Programme Document 2021–2025.
27. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
28. UNICEF is increasingly focusing on strengthening the Government's child protection system at the national and district levels. In 2021, this will include targeting all refugee-hosting districts and, as such, child protection targets will be reduced.
29. The increase in education targets for 2021 is related to the COVID-19 response, which has a higher catchment than the refugee response that informed the 2020 targets. However, the funding requirement has decreased because UNICEF's education focus will be on system strengthening and supporting a safe return to schools, as opposed to distributing learning materials.
30. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
31. This represents 20 per cent of the people targeted through messaging on access to services. Of these people, 10 per cent will be reached through social media/internet, 10 per cent will be reached through inter-personal communications and 500,000 people will be reached through U-Report.
32. The decrease in funding required for WASH is due to a shift in programme strategy from one of direct delivery to one of capacity building of districts, in line with the Country Programme Document 2021–2025 and the consequent decrease in targets. The main cost driver is the need to improve poor WASH infrastructure in health facilities, which have a higher cost, but are more durable over the longer-term and reduce both beneficiary dependence and costs in subsequent emergencies.
33. The budget for health includes HIV and AIDS programming reflecting the aggregation of child and adolescent health in 2020 rolling work plans. Moreover, 10 per cent of the health budget is allocated for communication for development activities.
34. The budget for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse programming within the child protection request equates to US\$118,956.10. The remainder of the budget is allocated to child protection activities, including approximately US\$118,956.10 that will contribute to gender-based violence interventions.
35. Communication for development funding requirements constitute 10 per cent of the health budget.