



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 and Ituri. In June 2020, 15.7 million people need humanitarian assistance, including 9.2 million children.¹ While the 10th Ebola outbreak ended on 25 June, a new Ebola

outbreak was declared on 1 June 2020 in the Equateur province with over 100 cases confirmed cases as of 25 August 2020, including 8 children. As of August 2020, over 13,635 cases of cholera were recorded² and the measles epidemic, the worst in the history of the DRC, has already caused the death of more than 6,700 children out of 370,000 cases recorded since January 2019, including 69,249 cases and 987 deaths between January and July 2020.³ Nearly

15.7 million people faced severe acute food insecurity in 2019,⁴ and approximately 1.1 million children under 5 years suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM).⁵ Some 11.5 million persons – including internally displaced persons, returnees and members of host communities – 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 areas, 47 percent of survivors of gender-based violence are children.⁷

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 package of support⁸ delivered primarily in regions facing recurrent population displacement and epidemics.⁹ UNICEF will continue to be among the first responders to epidemic outbreaks such as Ebola, cholera, measles.¹⁰ UNICEF's operations will be led by 10 field offices to enable wide coverage and quality programming across the country, and provide cash-based interventions when appropriate, in line with the Grand Bargain commitments. The UNICEF Rapid Response (UniRR), a new rapid response life-saving programme will target areas affected by shocks and displacement in North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema, Tanganyika and Ituri, using gender-sensitive multi-sectoral interventions.¹¹ This programme will also contribute to the elimination of cholera in priority areas.¹² 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 as well as the child protection and non-food item working groups at national and decentralized levels and co-lead the cash working group in Goma. 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 2020

As of 30 June 2020, UNICEF has received \$66.3 million (21% funds received) out of the \$318.2 million (funding requirement).¹³ Despite the significant funding gap, UNICEF has reached more than 636,000 people in need of emergency assistance. More than 151,000 children with SAM were admitted for therapeutic care, with a cure rate of nearly 94 percent. UNICEF played a critical role in the response to the cholera outbreak, supporting 227,000 people with WASH packages in cholera-affected areas. Nearly 538,000 children were vaccinated against measles with UNICEF support. UniRR assisted almost 205,000 people with WASH and non-food items kits. Nearly 54,900 children affected by conflict or natural disasters gained access to quality education and psychosocial activities in the classroom. UNICEF further assisted more than 1,700 children (255 girls and 1,445 boys) exiting armed groups and accessing transitional care and/or reintegration support. Nearly 54,000 children aged 6 to 17 years accessing formal or non-formal education.¹⁴ In addition, since the beginning of the response in August 2018 to the 10th Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC, UNICEF reached 279,00 households through personalized visits undertaken by the CACs to raise awareness on Ebola and Essential Family Practices. 25,000 affected families with confirmed, suspects, probable cases received psychosocial assistance and/or material assistance. Over 90,500 people have now improved access to water, hygiene and sanitation in areas affected by EVD or at risk and 3,812 health facilities in affected health zones were provided with essential WASH services.

Total people in need
15.7 million¹⁵

Total children (<18) in need
9.2 million¹⁶

Total people to be reached
2.97 million¹⁷

Total children to be reached
2.11 million¹⁸

2020¹⁹ programme targets

Nutrition

- 557,823 children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment²⁰

Health

- 965,000 children aged 6 months to 14 years vaccinated against measles
- 155,750 children and women receiving primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities²¹

WASH²²

- 407,627 people affected by natural disasters, population movement and/or conflicts to be provided with access to WASH services
- 1,609,056 people in cholera-prone zones and other epidemic-affected areas benefiting from prevention and response WASH packages
- 128,724 severely malnourished children and pregnant and breast-feeding women to receive wash assistance both at health centers and households' level (disaggregated by sex, age, handicap).
- 38,918 students from primary school affected by conflicts, natural disaster, epidemics to be provided with access to wash in school services²³

Child protection

- 150,000 children to access mental health and psychosocial support²⁴
- 15,000 women, girls and boys in humanitarian situations to be provided with risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions to address gender-based violence through UNICEF-supported programmes²⁵
- 8,500 unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or appropriate alternative services
- 7,000 children separated from armed groups to access transitional care and/or reintegration support

Education

- 359,000 children aged 6 to 17 years to access formal or non-formal education²⁶
- 2,660 female and male teachers to be trained on learner-centred methodologies and peace education²⁷

Communication for development

- 7,000,000 people to be reached with key life-saving/behaviour change messages on humanitarian services²⁸
- 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 2020 targets ⁱ	Cluster total results	UNICEF 2020 targets	UNICEF total results ⁱⁱ
NUTRITION				
Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for therapeutic care	599,810	158,934	557,823	151,160
HEALTH				
Children aged 6 months to 14 years in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles			965,000	537,684
People affected by conflict and disease outbreaks having received access to primary health care			155,750	59,736
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
Persons in cholera-prone zones and other epidemic-affected zones (yellow fever, etc.) benefiting from preventive as well as WASH cholera response packages	2,811,172	644,718	1,609,056	227,083
Severely malnourished children and pregnant and breast-feeding women receiving wash assistance both at health centers and households' level (disaggregated by sex, age, handicap).	440,299	94,878	128,724	5,155
People affected by natural disasters, population movements and/or conflicts provided with access to WASH services (disaggregated by sex, age, handicap)	1,091,649	1,244,583	407,627	283,093
Students from primary school affected by conflicts, natural disaster, epidemics provided with access to wash in school services	88,063	76,759	38,918	9,156
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children accessing mental health and psychosocial support	201,300	162,478	150,000	105,304
Women, girls and boys in humanitarian situations provided with risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions to address gender-based violence			15,000	5,776
Unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or appropriate alternative services	11,400	3,154	8,500	1,376
Children separated from armed groups accessing reintegration support accessing transitional care and/or reintegration support reintegration support	8,400	3,167	7,000	1,704
EDUCATION				
Children aged 6 to 17 years accessing formal or non-formal education	490,258	81,239	359,000	53,810
Female and male teachers trained on learner-centered methodologies and peace education	8,914	1,464	2,660	703
RAPID RESPONSE				
People accessing essential household items and shelter materials	1,300,000	258,916	450,000	204,740
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT				
People reached with key life-saving/behaviour change messages on humanitarian services			7,000,000	4,216,218
People accessing mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback			10,000	8,897

* Results are as of 30 June 2020.

ⁱ Those targets do not include the response to COVID-19

ⁱⁱ Results are as of 30 June 2020.

Funding requirements

UNICEF requires US\$ 318,298,110 to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2020. The Ebola response in the east has been integrated into UNICEF's HAC appeal 2020 and does not include the UNICEF Ebola response in North Kivu and Ituri provinces which is instead outlined in the DRC Ebola HAC appeal that ended in June 2020. The requirement only includes response activities to break the chain of transmission (Pillar 1). The Ebola response in Equateur is included in the budget of the sections. 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.

Appeal Sector	Original 2020 HAC Requirement (US\$)	Revised 2020 HAC Requirement (US\$)	Funds Available (US\$)	Funding Gap	
				US\$	%
Nutrition	132,500,000	144,738,334	16,090,806	128,647,528	89%
Health	14,200,000	12,500,000	2,149,414	10,350,586	83%
Water, sanitation and hygiene ²⁹	33,500,000	39,903,200	5,995,828	33,907,372	85%
Child protection	9,600,000	9,600,000	3,254,939	6,345,060	66%
Education	43,000,000	43,000,000	2,855,031	40,144,969	93%
Communication for development/Social policy	7,240,000	7,240,000	49,900	7,190,100	99%
Rapid Response Mechanism	21,000,000	21,000,000	11,998,551	9,001,449	43%
Cluster/Sector Coordination	1,621,000	1,621,000	3,456,879	0	0%
Ebola ³⁰	0	38,695,576	24,167,852	14,527,725	38%
Total	262,661,000	318,298,110	66,361,659	235,587,063	74%

¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Democratic Republic of the Congo: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan - Revised', June 2020 -this number does not include needs related to the direct or indirect impact of COVID-19. The latter are included in the UNICEF Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global response (<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/2020-HAC-CoronaVirus-updated-07.21.pdf>)

² Ministry of Public Health, Cholera situation Epidemiological, week 33 - 2020

³ Ministry of Public Health

⁴ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 'Democratic Republic of the Congo: IPC acute food insecurity analysis July 2019–May 2020, Report #17', IPC, August 2019.

⁵ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Democratic Republic of the Congo: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan - Revised', June 2020

⁶ Ibidem

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

⁹ The most affected regions are Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, Maniema

¹⁰ The Ebola response is integrated in this revised HAC appeal for 2020

¹¹ UNICEF Rapid Response is a new model that will provide first response, one-off assistance to all vulnerable populations affected by humanitarian crisis. In order to ensure strong operationality and an effective response, UniRR is based on the following principles: high immediate impact, rapidity, simplicity and implementation through local partner to enhance access to hard to reach area. 80% of evaluations are followed by an intervention within 7 days and the operational management is done jointly between UNICEF and its partners.

¹² The priority areas are North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika and Haut-Katanga

¹³ Available funds include \$21.4 million received against the 2020 appeal and 48,5 million carried forward from the previous year. Ebola funds required for the response in the East (10th Outbreak) are included in these financial figures.

¹⁴ Due to the reform of free primary education, according to the World bank, approximately 2.5 million children aged 5 to 17 were able to return to school for the school year 2019-2020. However, due to COVID-19 schools are closed since March 2020 and will progressively reopen as of August 2020. <https://www.banquemondiale.org/fr/news/feature/2020/06/16/the-new-ambitions-of-congolese-schoolchildren-now-that-school-is-free>

¹⁵ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Democratic Republic of the Congo: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan - Revised', June 2020. This does not include the response to direct and indirect impact of COVID-19

¹⁶ Representing 58.6% of the people in need, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Democratic Republic of the Congo: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan - Revised', June 2020. This does not include the response to direct and indirect impact of COVID-19.

¹⁷ This includes 557,823 children under 5 years targeted for SAM treatment; 1,609,056 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 1,487,940 girls/women and 1,487,939 boys/men as well as 446,381 persons with disabilities. This does not include the response to COVID-19.

¹⁸ This includes 557,823 children under 5 years targeted for SAM treatment; 933,252 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 261,000 children targeted for essential household non-food items/shelter materials and WASH kits. This includes 1,056,662 girls and 1,056,662 boys as well as 316,998 persons with disabilities.

¹⁹ The programme targets do not include response to COVID-19

²⁰ This figure represents 90% of the cluster target aiming at to reaching the children in priority areas to address acute malnutrition at scale in the country

²¹ 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.

²² The WASH targets are based on cluster target and vary depending on type of response: WASH for IDPS (37% of cluster target), WASH in epidemic zones (57% of cluster target) and WASH in nutrition center (29% of cluster target).

²³ Considering the results of previous years, the result achieved as of June 2020 (24%) and capacities in-country, the target has been reduced to be realistic

²⁴ Considering the results of previous years, the result achieved as of June 2020 (24%) and capacities in-country, the target has been reduced to be realistic

²⁵ While the target has been increased, the budget is not impacted. The target includes now the other members of the household beyond the victim of gender-based violence as the household is always supported economically

²⁶ This figure represents 73% of the Education cluster non COVID-19 target (490,495). The decision was led by the need to highlight UNICEF's position as last resort since the partner's capacity in fund mobilization is very low in Education

²⁷ UNICEF's target represents 30% of Education cluster target for non COVID-19 response

²⁸ This includes 2.5 million people reached through interpersonal communication interventions and the remaining radio-based mass media messaging.

²⁹ The increase budget compared to the initial HAC is due to an increased target particularly to address WASH needs following population movements and during epidemic outbreaks

³⁰ The Ebola response in the east has been integrated into UNICEF's HAC appeal 2020. The requirement only includes response activities to break the chain of transmission (Pillar 1). The Ebola response in Equateur is included in the budget of the sections.

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