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Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Central African Republic

The complex humanitarian and protection crisis affecting the Central African Republic since 2012 is not yet over. More than seven months after President Touadera took office, the country continues to suffer from instability, with entire regions beyond the control or authority of the Government. In 2017, an estimated 2.2 million people will be in need of humanitarian assistance, including 1.1 million children.² Due to the ongoing conflict, at the end of 2016, an estimated 420,000 people were internally displaced and an additional 453,000³ persons had sought refuge in neighbouring countries. The situation remains dire for children: one in every two children is affected by stunting; some 139 children in every 1,000 born die before their fifth birthdays, and 880 women in every 100,000 die from pregnancy-related causes. An estimated 2 million people are in crisis and emergency food security phases and an estimated 39,000 children under 5 will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM).⁴ Due to insecurity, children are only slowly returning to classrooms, with approximately one in three children out of school.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2017,⁵ UNICEF will prioritize life-saving interventions and risk reduction for crisis-affected, displaced and returning people in the Central African Republic. Capacity building and preparedness activities will be reinforced. UNICEF will tackle preventable childhood illnesses, malaria, HIV and malnutrition, and will provide people with access to safe water and improved sanitation. UNICEF will focus on the serious protection needs of children, including their release from armed groups and their reunification with families when separated or unaccompanied, and will provide the appropriate psychosocial support to vulnerable children. Children who are out of school due to crisis will gain access to safe learning spaces and quality education. The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) will provide non-food items (NFIs) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support to vulnerable people in remote areas. UNICEF leads the WASH, nutrition and education clusters, as well as the child protection sub-cluster, and will work with line ministries to strengthen government capacity for humanitarian coordination, leadership and response. UNICEF also plays a strong role in health programming and will continue to support education, nutrition, health and WASH core supply pipelines.

Results from 2016

As of 31 October 2016, UNICEF had received US\$31.3 million against the US\$55.7 million humanitarian appeal (56 per cent funded).⁹ In 2016, UNICEF and partners delivered life-saving interventions to affected populations. Nearly 170,000 children gained access to basic health services and medicines. Nearly 21,000 children with SAM received treatment. Some 422,000 people gained improved access to safe water and more than 78,000 internally displaced persons accessed improved sanitation, with displaced and host communities participating in water committees to foster social cohesion. More than 56,000 children in displaced and host communities received psychosocial support. Some 1,695 survivors of sexual violence and abuse accessed holistic assistance. More than 3,700 children have been released from armed groups and received interim care.¹⁰ Safe and protective learning environments were provided to nearly 41,000 children through temporary learning spaces and about 51,000 children received learning/recreational materials in areas affected by the ongoing crisis. The RRM provided emergency WASH assistance to nearly 50,000 people and NFI kits to over 23,000 households following sudden shocks. The RRM also assisted 13,000 people in response to a cholera outbreak in Bangui region. The cholera response was an entry point to reaching affected areas through sensitization and social mobilization on hygiene, which UNICEF followed with the construction of durable water points and initiation of community-led total sanitation.

Total people in need:

2.2 million

Total children (<18) in need:

1.1 million

Total people to be reached in 2017:

850,000

Total children to be reached in 2017:

600,000¹

2017 programme targets

Nutrition

- 29,585 children under 5 affected by SAM admitted for treatment⁶

Health

- 320,000 affected people and children under 5 with access to essential health services

WASH

- 450,000 internally displaced returnees and host community members provided with safe water
- 280,000 internally displaced persons, returnees and host community members provided with improved sanitation facilities

Child protection

- 50,000 children receiving appropriate psychosocial assistance⁷
- 3,500 children released from armed groups and receiving community reintegration
- 2,000 survivors of sexual violence and abuse accessing holistic assistance

Education

- 50,000 children aged 3 to 17 affected by crisis accessing quality education
- 65,000 children aged 3 to 17 affected by crisis receiving learning materials

Rapid Response Mechanism

- 25,000 households receiving NFI kits⁸
- 60,000 affected people receiving appropriate WASH interventions after a shock

	Cluster 2016 target	Cluster total results	UNICEF 2016 target	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION				
Children under 5 in humanitarian situations affected by SAM admitted for treatment	29,249	22,791	29,249	22,791 ⁱ
Recovery rate	>75%	88%	>75%	88%
HEALTH				
Children under 5 immunized against measles in sites for internally displaced persons and epidemic areas			100,000	33,162
Children under 5 in sites for internally displaced persons and enclaves with access to essential health services and medicines			500,000	169,597
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
Affected people provided with access to improved sources of water as per agreed standards	700,000	781,788	400,000	422,082
Affected people provided with sanitation facilities as per agreed standards	700,000	266,037	250,000	78,504
CHILD PROTECTION				
Separated and unaccompanied children reunified with their families	3,500	392 ⁱⁱ	500	392 ⁱⁱ
Children released from armed forces and armed groups	5,660	3,720 ⁱⁱⁱ	3,000	3,720 ⁱⁱⁱ
EDUCATION				
Emergency-affected children (including adolescents) accessing quality education (including through temporary learning structures)	70,000	37,595	60,000	34,987
Children who received learning materials	350,000	61,291	300,000	50,843
HIV AND AIDS				
Children born to mothers who are HIV positive who have access to appropriate treatment			4,060	1,689
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM				
Acutely vulnerable households that received rapid assistance with NFIs following a shock			40,000	23,246

Results are through 31 October 2016 unless noted.

(i) The information is as of 30 November 2016. UNICEF is the sub-cluster member and provides 99 per cent of the data.

(ii) As of 30 November 2016.

(iii) Cluster and UNICEF results are the same as UNICEF is the only actor involved in the process

Funding requirements

In line with the country's inter-agency 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is requesting US\$46.3 million to meet the humanitarian and protection needs of children in the Central African Republic in 2017. Without sufficient funding, UNICEF will not be able to support the national humanitarian response to the country's continuing crisis and provide critical life-saving services to internally displaced and conflict-affected people.

Sector	2017 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	7,200,000
Health and HIV	8,100,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	8,000,000
Child protection	9,000,000
Education	5,300,000
Rapid Response Mechanism	7,900,000
Cluster/sector coordination	800,000
Total	46,300,000

¹ The total number of people/children to be reached is lower than in last year's Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, as UNICEF's planned activities and beneficiaries were based on estimations for the Plan National de Relevement et Consolidation de la Paix over the next two to three years (2017-2021).

² Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, '2017 Central African Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2017.

³ The Commission Mouvement Population is the official agency for data on internally displaced persons in the Central African Republic. As of 31 October 2016, the number of internally displaced persons was 420,681. Note that a sharp increase in the number of internally displaced persons was registered as a result of the crises in the northwest and centre of the country since September 2016.

⁴ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 'République centrafricaine – Actuelle – Analyse de la situation de l'insécurité alimentaire aigüe', August 2016, <www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-detail-forms/ipcinfo-map-detail/en/c/445331/>, accessed 4 January 2017.

⁵ Although the Humanitarian Response Plan for the Central African Republic is a multi-year document, it has been set up with a strategy, cluster needs assessment, targets and funding requirements for one year. This Humanitarian Action for Children appeal is aligned to that duration.

⁶ The country target is calculated on the basis of the SMART survey results, which point to a SAM prevalence of 1.9 per cent. The total burden of cases of SAM for 2017 is estimated to be 39,446. In its Humanitarian Action for Children response, UNICEF Central African Republic intends to reach at least 75 per cent of the SAM burden, or 29,585 children with SAM.

⁷ Target has decreased from 2016 due to an improved general security situation, which has resulted in increased access to schools, which in turn means fewer internally displaced persons/sites and a decreased need for recreational spaces for children.

⁸ The 2017 target is reduced as the number of partners included in the RRM has been reduced from four to three due to decreased needs in the area covered by the partner in question.

⁹ Available funds included funding received against the current appeal of US\$20 million and US\$11.3 million carried forward from the previous year.

¹⁰ Figures as of 30 November.

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