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Madagascar

A range of climate- and health-related emergencies continue to affect Madagascar and pose serious risks for vulnerable children and their families. The ongoing El Niño weather phenomenon in southern Africa has resulted in lower than average rainfall in Madagascar, especially in the south, leaving 1.1 million people food insecure in 2018, including nearly 500,000 children.¹ Due to evolving climatic stresses that have deepened food insecurity and made water increasingly scarce, an estimated 1.2 million people will be food insecure in 2019, including over 366,000 people facing emergency levels of food insecurity.² The number of children suffering from acute malnutrition is set to increase, with the majority of cases expected to occur in the food insecure southern districts.³ Madagascar's 2019 cyclone season will affect an estimated 270,000 people, including nearly 130,000 children.⁴ Health emergencies affecting Madagascar include the plague outbreak, as well as the recent measles outbreak, with some 15,000 measles cases reported as of December 2018, and 74 per cent of reported cases among children aged 1 to 14 years.⁵ In addition, socio-economic tensions are expected to increase following the 2018 general elections.

Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF will work with partners, including the Government of Madagascar and other United Nations agencies, to respond to the needs of emergency-affected populations and mainstream humanitarian preparedness planning and response within the regular development programme. In 2019, UNICEF will provide life-saving humanitarian assistance in Madagascar, through a timely and effective integrated package of nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection and education services, in collaboration with government line ministries and international/non-governmental organizations. UNICEF-supported mobile teams will continue to provide life-saving health and nutrition interventions in remote disaster-affected areas. In line with the Government's national multi-hazard contingency plan, UNICEF's cluster leadership⁶ will enable strategic planning, coordinated response, capacity building of partners and advocacy.⁷ UNICEF will ensure access to basic education during disasters through the provision of temporary learning spaces, teaching and learning materials and school rehabilitation and protection services for vulnerable children. Cash-based assistance and protection initiatives will be used to facilitate a quick response to disasters and prevent families from adopting negative coping mechanisms that give rise to malnutrition, child exploitation and school dropout. UNICEF will continue to support the Government to adapt its nutrition, health, WASH, child protection, education and social protection systems to humanitarian situations.⁸

Results from 2018

As of 31 October 2018, UNICEF had US\$4.4 million available against the US\$13.5 million 2018 appeal (33 per cent funded).⁹ Despite the 67 per cent funding gap, UNICEF was able to respond to emergencies on time by leveraging core funds and pre-positioning supplies for health, WASH and education. UNICEF worked closely with government counterparts to integrate humanitarian response with government disaster resilience systems. Nearly 9,900 children under 5 years with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted for treatment across the country. The roll-out of the nutrition surveillance system facilitated more effective targeting of SAM cases and the provision of SAM treatment. WASH targets were met through the effective pre-positioning of supplies and strong cluster leadership, and using carry-over funds and regular resources. The target for psychosocial support was not met due to the reduction in needs after the milder than anticipated cyclone season. Communication for development reached the maximum caseload through the effective coordination of communication activities through national and decentralized communication networks. Lessons learned from previous cyclone responses helped UNICEF and partners, including the Government, respond more quickly in 2018.

Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Total people in need:
4.1 million¹⁰

Total children (<18) in need:
3.5 million¹¹

Total people to be reached:
1.3 million¹²

Total children to be reached:
1.15 million¹³

2019 programme targets:

Nutrition

- 10,000 children under 5 years with SAM admitted to therapeutic treatment sites

Health¹⁴

- 1 million children under 5 years immunized against measles

WASH

- 300,000 people accessing the agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene

Child protection

- 5,000 children reached with psychosocial support

Education

- 55,000 children benefiting from pedagogical supplies

Communication for development¹⁵

- 1.2 million people reached with key life-saving and behaviour change messages through the use of mass media, advocacy and social mobilization and community engagement

Cash-based transfer

- 15,000 households receiving cash transfers in emergencies to access essential goods

	Sector 2018 targets	Sector cumulative results (2018)	UNICEF 2018 targets	UNICEF cumulative results (2018) ⁱ
NUTRITION				
Children under 5 years treated for SAM	12,500	9,886	12,500	9,886
HEALTH				
People who received insecticide-treated nets			60,000	56,000
People provided with access to essential and life-saving health care services			300,000	283,344
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
People who accessed the agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	450,000	328,122	400,000	303,122
People supported to adopt appropriate hygiene practices	270,000	185,689	200,000	170,722
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children accessing psychosocial support			4,000	1,818
EDUCATION				
Children who accessed formal and non-formal pre-school, primary or secondary education	50,000	25,650	50,000	25,650
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT				
People reached with key life-saving and behaviour change messages on health, nutrition and safe and appropriate sanitation and hygiene practices contextualized to the emergency scenario			1,000,000	969,278
CASH-BASED TRANSFER				
Vulnerable households receiving cash transfers	154,341	0	14,000	0 ⁱⁱ

For sectors where UNICEF is the only partner in the humanitarian response, sector results are the same as cluster results. Results are through 31 October 2018.

ⁱ Given that no other resources-emergency funds were received, UNICEF leveraged core funds and effectively pre-positioned supplies for health, WASH and education to respond to emergencies on time.

ⁱⁱ UNICEF Madagascar has not funded specific cash transfers in emergency contexts so far in 2018.

Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US\$8.2 million to reach 1.3 million people, including 1.15 million children, likely to be affected by crises such as cyclones, epidemics, drought and socio-political unrest in Madagascar in 2019. Funds will be used to address the nutrition, health, WASH, child protection, education, communication for development and emergency cash needs of affected populations.

Sector	2019 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	1,500,000
Health	2,000,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	2,000,000
Child protection	500,000
Education	700,000
Communication for development	250,000
Cash-based transfer ¹⁶	1,200,000
Total	8,150,000

¹ Famine Early Warning Systems Network, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, October 2018.

² "Emergency" food insecurity is Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 4. Famine Early Warning Systems Network, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, October 2018.

³ Famine Early Warning Systems Network, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, October 2018; and National Office of Disaster Management, 'Multi-Risk Contingency Plan', 2017-2018.

⁴ 'Multi-Risk Contingency Plan'.

⁵ World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa, 'Weekly Bulletin on Outbreaks and Other Emergencies: Week 47, 17-23 November', WHO, 23 November 2018.

⁶ UNICEF leads the nutrition, WASH and education (co-lead) clusters and the child protection area of responsibility.

⁷ At both the national and sub-national levels.

⁸ In particular, UNICEF is supporting the Government, including the Ministry of Health and provincial health directorates, to implement the measles and plague outbreak preparedness and response plan.

⁹ Available funds include US\$1.9 million received against the 2018 appeal and US\$2.5 million carried forward from the previous year.

¹⁰ Total number of people in need: 4.1 million, including 1.1 million people affected by drought in 18 districts in three regions; 200,000 people affected by plague in 10 regions; 2.7 million children in need of measles vaccination in seven regions; and 270,000 people projected to be affected by cyclones in 2019. Famine Early Warning Systems Network, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, October 2018; and 'Multi-Risk Contingency Plan'.

¹¹ Total number of children in need: 3.5 million in 16 regions, including 96,200 children projected to be affected by plague in 10 regions; 530,000 children affected by drought; 2.7 million children in need of measles vaccination in seven regions; and an estimated 130,000 children projected to be affected by cyclones in 16 regions. The number of affected children is calculated as 48.1 per cent of the total number of people affected by the respective disasters, based on the most recent Madagascar census, which indicates that children make up 48.1 per cent of the population.

¹² Total number of people to be reached (1.3 million) was calculated based on 1 million children in the seven regions targeted for the measles campaign plus 300,000 people to be reached through the WASH response.

¹³ Total number of children to be reached (1.15 million) was calculated based on 1 million children for the measles campaign plus 150,000 children to be reached through the WASH response.

¹⁴ UNICEF's strategy, as agreed to and endorsed by the cluster, including the Government, is to target the most vulnerable group (children under 5 years), while the Government and other partners will target children aged 5 to 14 years.

¹⁵ Communication for development will use various communication strategies to reach affected populations, including communication through traditional and socio-traditional channels, such as associations, social groups, networks, leaders of influence, healers, trade unions, etc., in addition to mass media, including radio, television and newspapers.

¹⁶ The humanitarian cash transfer programme targets 15,000 cyclone- and drought-affected households. For cyclone-affected populations (7,500 households), the cash transfer package includes a one-time transfer of US\$26; and the drought package (7,500 households) includes a total transfer of US\$130 given as a US\$26 transfer provided five times in 2019.

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