



Madagascar

Although the impact of the El Niño-induced drought has lessened, lack of access to water and related nutrition and health issues continue to threaten the lives of children throughout southern Madagascar. An estimated 1 million people will need food-related assistance in the first quarter of 2018, and an estimated 140,000 children under 5 years will require treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM).¹ More than 770,000 people are in need of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services due to the impact of disasters.² The cyclone season is expected to commence in early 2018, threaten critical infrastructure, including health facilities and schools, and potentially generate additional displacements. Existing and new emergencies have the potential to lead to education interruptions for more than 100,000 children.³ Thousands of children are at increased risk of abuse and exploitation through prostitution, child labour and child marriage—risks that are compounded by the impacts of recurring disasters. Since August 2017, a severe outbreak of bubonic and pneumonic plague has resulted in 2,119 detected cases and 172 reported deaths.⁴ A resurgence throughout the plague season is likely and will require enhanced preparedness. Socio-economic tensions are expected to increase before the presidential and legislative elections in 2018.

Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF and its partners will respond to the needs of populations affected by emergencies and will mainstream resilience and early recovery strategies. UNICEF will contribute to an integrated nutrition, health, education, Communication for Development (C4D), social protection and WASH response in affected areas through a multi-sectoral approach that will address the most acute needs. SAM prevention and treatment will target children under 5 in drought-affected areas in southern Madagascar. The health system will be strengthened at the national and sub-national levels, including through social mobilization and community engagement, to support preparedness and response to health emergencies and epidemics. UNICEF will contribute to improving and sustaining access to safe water in disaster-prone areas, and support communities affected by water-borne diseases. Cash-based assistance will be prioritized 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 support continued access to basic education during disasters through the provision of temporary learning spaces and teaching and learning materials, as well as school rehabilitation and protection services for vulnerable children. UNICEF will also support the Government to strengthen institutional capacity on disaster management and social protection.

Results from 2017

As of 31 October 2017, UNICEF had US\$10.4 million available against the US\$31 million appeal (33 per cent funded).⁵ Although significant results were achieved, urgent needs remain for 2018 and vulnerability is high, with 90 per cent of the population living under the poverty line. In 2017, 11,700 children under 5 with SAM received treatment, accounting for 33 per cent of the sector target. More than 512,000 children under 5 received treatment for common childhood illnesses and disease outbreaks through health/nutrition outreach services in disaster-affected areas, the provision of essential supplies, technical support and C4D. Through UNICEF support, more than 400,000 people gained access to safe water. Some 12,000 drought-affected children facing protection concerns were identified and reached with case management support, including family psychosocial support and referral to medical care. More than 46,500 cyclone-affected children were able to access education through school rehabilitation and the provision of learning spaces and catch-up classes through programmes supported by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education. An estimated 2.5 million people were reached with prevention messages related to plague identification and treatment; and 15,300 vulnerable households received monthly cash transfers to support them to reestablish their livelihoods and access social service.

Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Total people in need:

1.9 million

Total children (<18) in need:

932,000

Total people to be reached:

770,000

Total children to be reached:

362,000

2018 programme targets:

Nutrition

- 25,000 children under 5 with SAM admitted to therapeutic treatment sites
- 362,000 children under 5 supplemented with vitamin A, dewormed and screened for acute malnutrition twice in 2018

Health

- 35,000 people received insecticide-treated nets
- 300,000 people provided with access to essential and life-saving health care services

WASH

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

Child protection

- 5,000 children reached with psychosocial support

Education

- 50,000 children accessed formal and non-formal pre-school, primary or secondary education
- 100 per cent of school children who are vulnerable to disease outbreaks reached with appropriate epidemic prevention materials

Social protection

- 39,000 households received cash transfers in emergencies to access essential goods

Communication for Development

- 100,000 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

	Sector 2017 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2017 target	UNICEF total results
NUTRITIONⁱ				
Children under 5 treated for SAM ⁱⁱ	35,900	11,700	35,125	11,700
Caregivers of children in humanitarian situations aged 0 to 23 months accessing infant and young child feeding counselling ⁱⁱ	73,500	15,761	73,500	15,761
Children aged 6 to 59 months that receive deworming and vitamin A supplementation ⁱⁱⁱ	523,947	506,566	523,947	506,566
HEALTH				
Children under 5 with pneumonia treated with antibiotics			70,620	68,127
Children under 5 with diarrhoea treated with zinc and oral rehydration salts			67,400	57,620
Basic emergency obstetric care facilities per 100,000 people			18	67
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE^{iv}				
People in humanitarian situations accessing water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene ^v	720,000	403,400	720,000	403,400
Internally displaced persons and host community members provided with safe water (7.5-15 litres per person per day) ^{vi}	270,000	395,024	270,000	395,024
People in humanitarian situations supported to adopt appropriate hygiene practices ^{vi}	200,000	270,000	200,000	270,000
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children in humanitarian situations accessing psychosocial support	187,000	11,967	12,600	11,967
Children accessing child-friendly spaces	7,000	6,810	7,000	6,810
Children benefitting from family tracing and reunification programmes	1,500		1,500	
SOCIAL PROTECTION				
Vulnerable households receiving cash transfers	179,341	238,000	20,000	15,300
EDUCATION				
Percentage of school-aged children who have dropped out of or who are at risk of dropping out of school, including adolescents, completing catch-up classes in affected areas	50%	12%	50%	10%
Children aged 5 to 18 in humanitarian situations accessing basic education (including through temporary structures)	25,000	62,000	25,000	62,000

Results are through 31 October 2017 unless otherwise noted. All targets and results are cumulative and include the El Niño, cyclone and flood responses.

ⁱ The 2016 planned targets were overestimated and there were fewer identified SAM cases than expected due to a good harvesting season in 2017 compared with previous years.

ⁱⁱ There was an overestimation in the number SAM cases due to the good harvesting season in 2017 compared with previous years. The Ministry of Health also postponed some activities, such as mother and child health weeks.

ⁱⁱⁱ Based on 90 per cent coverage during mother and child health weeks.

^{iv} Given that UNICEF is primarily working with the Government to achieve this result, the WASH cluster and UNICEF targets are same.

^v Lack of funding hindered achievement of the target. The outbreak of plague has also stretched WASH staff capacity and necessitated a refocusing to address immediate needs.

^{vi} UNICEF exceeded this target due to the strong WASH interventions carried out in responses to cholera and the substantial influx of internally displaced persons, which required UNICEF intervention over a short period of time.

Funding requirements

In 2018, UNICEF Madagascar is requesting US\$23,750,000 to meet the humanitarian needs of children and their families likely to be affected by disasters, such as cyclones, floods, epidemics and socio-political crises. Funds will be used to address the WASH, nutrition, health, education, child protection, C4D and emergency cash needs of affected populations.

Sector	2018 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	4,100,000
Health	4,300,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	9,000,000
Child protection	750,000
Education	1,000,000
Social protection/cash transfer	4,000,000
Communication for Development	600,000
Total	23,750,000

¹ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Analysis, October 2017.

² Based on the latest household surveys and UNICEF and Government monitoring systems.

³ UNICEF projection based on analysis on the population of school-aged children in areas affected by drought and disease outbreaks.

⁴ World Health Organization, 'Emergencies preparedness, response: Plague - Madagascar', Disease Outbreak News, 15 November 2017, available at: <www.who.int/csr/don/15-november-2017-plague-madagascar/en/>, accessed 7 December 2017.

⁵ Madagascar appeared as part of the Southern Africa El Niño/La Niña appeal in Humanitarian Action for Children 2017.

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