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Children in the Setswella informal settlement of the Alexandra township in Johannesburg, South Africa, wash their hands at a new water tank installed by UNICEF partner Envirosan.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Eastern and Southern Africa

HIGHLIGHTS

- Nearly 170 million people, including 95 million children, need humanitarian support in the region.² Eight countries are directly covered in this regional appeal³ due to climate-related shocks,⁴ health emergencies, including coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), conflict, economic deterioration and displacement.⁵ Countries are also struggling with poverty and food insecurity.⁶
- The United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia are hosting and responding to the needs of more than 360,000 refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including 200,000 children on the move.¹
- In collaboration with partners, UNICEF will deliver life-saving services for children, women and families affected by climatic shocks and disease outbreaks, including populations living in displacement and refugee camps.
- Emphasis will be on mitigating disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, while ensuring the continuity of essential services for health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), HIV, child protection, gender-based violence, education and social protection.

IN NEED⁷



22.1 million people need food and nutrition assistance⁸



93.6 million people need health assistance⁹



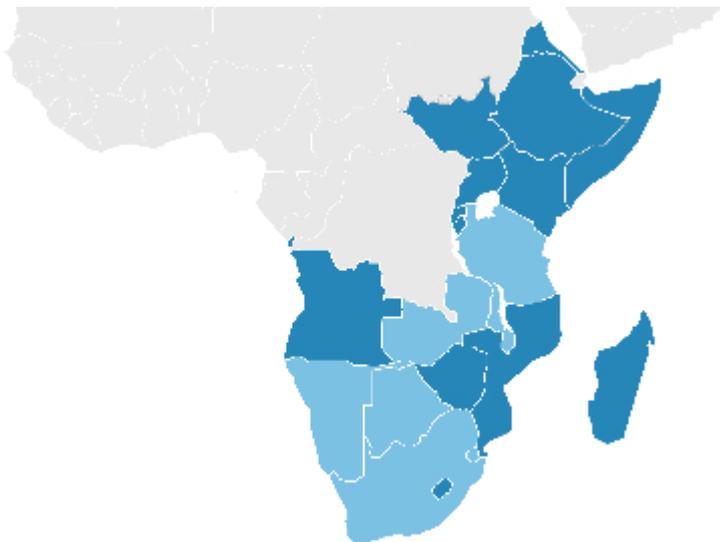
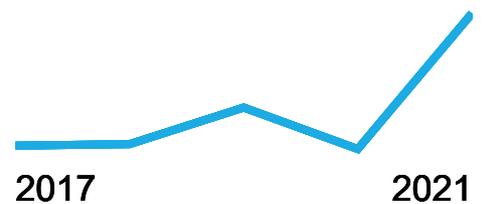
40.4 million people need access to safe water¹⁰



42.1 million children need access to education¹¹

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 64.3 million



This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The countries in light blue are embedded in this regional appeal. The countries in dark blue have corresponding standalone appeals or are covered under crisis appeals.

Figures are based on country level calculations and inter-agency and/or government documents as well as other assessments conducted in 2020.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Nearly 170 million people, including 95 million children, need humanitarian support in the eight countries covered in this regional appeal, due to climate-related shocks,¹⁵ health emergencies, including COVID-19, conflict, economic deterioration and displacement.¹⁶

The region is also facing growing risks to public health, with countries at risk of cholera,¹⁴ dengue fever in the Comoros, and the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is continuing to threaten countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. South Africa has the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa, with over 640,000 confirmed cases and 15,000 deaths registered as of early September 2020.¹⁷

In addition to causing loss of life, the pandemic is disrupting routine health and nutrition services. Although nearly 61 million people need health care, the number of mothers, pregnant women, children and people with chronic conditions who are seeking health care is declining.¹⁸ Underlying health conditions make the elderly and those with disabilities especially vulnerable to COVID-19, compounding their disproportionate social and economic vulnerabilities. In addition, nearly 12 million people need clean water and sanitation and hygiene support.¹² Countries in the region are also struggling with poverty and food insecurity, with 9 million people in need of nutrition services.¹⁹

Country-wide school closures have not only disrupted learning – 12 million children in need of education are at risk of dropping out²⁰ – but have also disrupted school health and nutrition programmes. Prolonged school closures are also exposing children, especially girls, to heightened protection risks, including sexual violence, harmful practices and human rights violations, and affecting their mental health and well-being.

The United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia are also hosting and responding to the needs of more than 360,000 refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including 200,000 children on the move.¹³

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In partnership with governments and other key stakeholders, UNICEF will continue to link preparedness, response and development activities to achieve sustainable results and mitigate the impact of hazards on education, child protection, gender-based violence, health, nutrition and other social services. Humanitarian funds channelled through the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office will be strategically allocated to country offices to enable their response to the most pressing needs of children across the region. These funds will enable countries to enhance their preparedness for and response to emergencies, particularly emergencies requiring multi-country, integrated and immediate response, and smaller-scale emergencies that do not warrant a stand-alone country appeal.

In line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, this appeal focuses on three main strategies: (1) emergency response; (2) preparedness; and (3) advocacy. In 2021, UNICEF will focus on community engagement for behaviour and social change; accountability to affected populations in line with the Grand Bargain commitments;²¹ WASH-related messaging; continuity of health services for children and women, including treatment for children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and treatment adherence for adolescents with HIV; access to uninterrupted quality education; prevention of violence against children; social protection; public finance investments in children; and data strengthening. In collaboration with partners, UNICEF will deliver life-saving services for children, women and families affected by climatic shocks and disease outbreaks, including populations living in displacement and refugee camps.

To better prepare for responses to outbreaks of diseases such as COVID-19, Ebola, cholera and others, UNICEF will continue to invest in preparedness through risk analysis and scenario and contingency planning and apply multi-sectoral systems strengthening across programmes. This work will mitigate COVID-19-related disruptions and ensure the continuity of essential services.

STORY FROM THE FIELD



“This period of COVID-19, we have registered so many cases of domestic violence, gender-based violence [and] sexual abuse,” says Livhuwani, a Childline South Africa social worker.

Many child protection and other services have been disrupted by COVID-19 and the related lockdown. Childline South Africa, a UNICEF-supported child protection hotline, is providing free counselling. Since the lockdown in March, the phone lines have not stopped ringing, with one quarter of callers reporting violence and mental health issues.

Despite the challenges of virtual counselling, Livhuwani is determined to ensure that affected children and women receive the psychosocial support they need.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Livhuwani, a UNICEF-supported Childline South Africa social worker, meets with one of her clients in Johannesburg, South Africa.

COVID-19 REGIONAL RESPONSE

Botswana, the Comoros, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION (COVID-19)

Over 788,000 cases of COVID-19 and 17,000 deaths have been reported in Eastern and Southern Africa since the pandemic began.²⁴ South Africa accounts for the highest number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Africa, with 247 deaths recorded per 1 million people.²³ Eswatini follows with 83 deaths per 1 million people.²²

Across the region, countries are facing major challenges to the COVID-19 response. These include: the infection of health care workers with COVID-19; lack of adequate personal protective equipment for health care workers and related strikes; and the temporary closure of facilities for disinfection. Countries are also grappling with movement restrictions and growing transport costs; the suspension of outreach programmes and mobile services; mixed messaging related to quarantine; lack of awareness of health and safety approaches; and costly integrated mobile clinic services in hard-to-reach areas.

Children in areas experiencing lockdowns and cancelled outreach programmes have been negatively affected. Disrupted access to child protection and gender-based violence services, declines in primary health care service utilization, including routine immunization, and nationwide school closures have put children at risk. Supplementary immunization activities have been halted in most countries. The pandemic has also had a devastating impact on the socio-economic well-being of individuals.²⁵

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY (COVID-19)

In 2021, UNICEF will prioritize the continuity of health and nutrition services during the COVID-19 pandemic, including capacity building of health workers and rural health motivators, implementation of catch-up immunization, identification and treatment of malnourished children and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV services.

UNICEF will support sector coordination, the procurement and distribution of WASH supplies, the dissemination of WASH-related messages and the promotion of WASH and hygiene at the community level.

UNICEF will also support the education system to recover from the impact of COVID-19, including by supporting the most vulnerable children to catch up with their education levels, ensuring that all children return to school, and building back better and stronger schools that will enable learning under any circumstances. This includes in-school risk communication, safe schools' operation and remedial programmes for the most vulnerable children, including children with disabilities.

UNICEF will strengthen the capacity of front-line responders to prevent and respond to violence against children and gender-based violence. In addition, remote service provision for toll-free child helpline and reporting systems will be scaled up. UNICEF will also ensure that adolescents and young people living with HIV continue to access care and treatment during the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns.

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS²⁶



Nutrition

- **53,000** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **567,000** children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation every six months



Health

- **312,000** children under 5 years vaccinated against measles
- **500,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **570,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **700,000** people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **120,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **44,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions



Education

- **2,000,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **120,000** children receiving individual learning materials



Social protection and cash transfers

- **1,400,000** households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors



C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **1,500,000** people who shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms
- **2,500,000** people reached with messages on access to services

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF is requesting US\$64 million to meet heightened emergency preparedness and response requirements in Eastern and Southern Africa in 2021. These needs are related to the expanded drought response and preparedness for disease outbreaks.

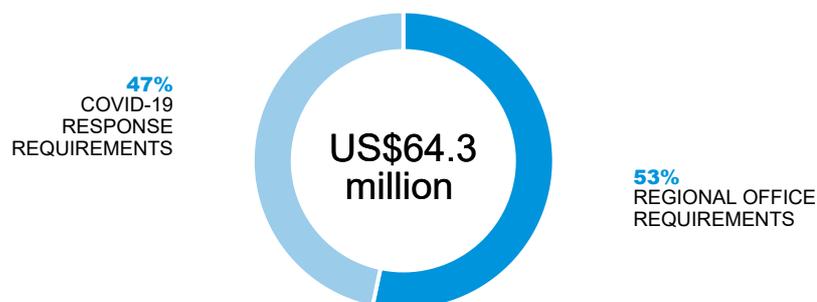
The total request includes funds for multi-sectoral technical support to new and ongoing emergency situations, as well as to strengthen coordination and ensure that countries have adequate capacity to prepare for and launch emergency responses. This funding will also cover preparedness and response for natural disasters, climate shocks, children on the move and refugee responses.

The protracted nature of the region's crises necessitates a complex regional agenda. Regional funding will therefore be critical to supporting countries facing protracted emergencies, as well as countries facing small- or medium-scale emergencies – primarily climatic shocks, disease outbreaks and displacement – that do not have individual 2021 inter-agency or Humanitarian Action for Children appeals. UNICEF will support emergency preparedness and response and strengthen the linkages between humanitarian action and development programming.

Support is also needed to scale up preparedness and response programming in countries at risk of civil unrest and economic instability. This funding will allow UNICEF to support host governments and the most vulnerable populations with risk communication and community engagement; infection prevention control; and the continuation of essential health, nutrition, education, child protection and social protection services — all of which have lacked sufficient funding thus far. These funds will also allow UNICEF to scale up life-saving nutrition activities, including SAM treatment, vitamin A supplementation and infant and young child feeding counselling; and meet rising health and WASH needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child protection and education remain the least funded sectors and require urgent funding for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 actions. Key activities include facilitating the safe return to schools; supporting the mental well-being of children; and prioritizing gender-based violence and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.

Without this funding, UNICEF will be unable to support an adequate response to the humanitarian needs of children and women affected by humanitarian crisis in 2021.



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Regional office requirements	34,250,000
Emergency preparedness	5,000,000
Emergency response	25,000,000
Regional office technical capacity	4,250,000
COVID-19 response requirements	30,000,000
Nutrition	2,000,000
Health	4,000,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	3,900,000
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	1,500,000 ²⁷
Education	3,000,000
Social protection and cash transfers	2,900,000
HIV and AIDS	800,000
C4D, community engagement and AAP	1,300,000
Emergency preparedness	10,000,000
Regional office technical capacity	600,000
Total	64,250,000

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ENDNOTES

1. The United Republic of Tanzania is hosting nearly 284,000 refugees and asylum seekers, including over 241,000 camp-based refugees in Kigoma region who are depending almost entirely on humanitarian assistance due to the limited livelihood opportunities. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) data as of 31 August 2020.
2. Nearly 100 million people, including 52 million children, are in need of humanitarian support in the eight countries covered in this appeal (Botswana, the Comoros, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia). This is based on country office data and calculations on people and children in need as of September 2020.
3. Botswana, the Comoros, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.
4. These include droughts, flooding, cyclones and landslides.
5. Based on country office data and calculations on people and children in need as of September 2020.
6. The proportion of people living in poverty is very high at 59 per cent (2018), though this is down from 63 per cent in 2010. The hunger level is classified as serious in the 2018 Global Hunger Index, where Eswatini has a score of 22.5.
7. The "in need" figures reflect pressing needs in the major sectors that UNICEF supports for all countries in the region.
8. This figure includes the number of people in need for the eight countries covered in this appeal for the major humanitarian hazards for 2021. It is based on country-level calculations using assessments, inter-agency discussions, flash appeals, government documents and regional refugee response plan figures.
9. This is based on country-level calculations for health response needs, taking into account the needs for COVID-19, cholera, acute watery diarrhoea, measles, malaria and dengue fever in the eight countries covered in this appeal.
10. This is based on country-level calculations for WASH response needs, taking into account the needs for infection prevention and control, clean water provision, sanitation and hygiene provision in the eight countries covered in this appeal. This does not include WASH communication for development needs.
11. This is based on country-level calculations for education response needs, taking into account the needs for the provision of pre-primary, primary and secondary education using temporary learning spaces, as well as supplies and teachers, in the eight countries covered in this appeal.
12. This is for the eight countries covered in this appeal. Activities include infection prevention and control, clean water provision, sanitation, WASH in schools and hygiene supplies. The United Republic of Tanzania has the highest needs among the eight countries.
13. The United Republic of Tanzania is hosting nearly 284,000 refugees and asylum seekers, including over 241,000 camp-based refugees in Kigoma region who are depending almost entirely on humanitarian assistance due to the limited livelihood opportunities. UNHCR data as of 31 August 2020.
14. Zambia suffers from regular outbreaks of cholera, and polio cases have recently been reported. The COVID-19 situation has continued to deteriorate at an alarming rate since the first reported case on 18 March 2020.
15. This includes droughts, flooding, cyclones and landslides.
16. This is based on country office data and calculations on people and children in need as of September 2020.
17. Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science Engineering, Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases, September 2020. An extended COVID-19 outbreak could mean that areas prone to disease outbreaks, drought and floods will be much harder hit.
18. This is based on country-level calculations for health response needs, taking into account the needs for COVID-19, cholera, acute watery diarrhoea, measles, malaria and dengue fever in the eight countries covered in this appeal.
19. The proportion of people living in poverty is very high at 59 per cent (2018), though this is down from 63 per cent in 2010. The 2018 Global Hunger Index classifies the hunger level as serious. Eswatini has a score of 22.5. The figure of 9 million people in need of nutrition services is based on country-level calculations for nutrition response needs, taking into account the needs for infant and young child feeding, SAM screening and vitamin A supplementation in the eight countries covered in this appeal.
20. The figure of 12 million children in need of education is based on country-level calculations for education response needs, taking into account the needs for provision of pre-primary, primary and secondary education using temporary learning spaces, as well as supplies and teachers, in the eight countries covered in this appeal.
21. 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.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science Engineering, Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases, September 2020.
25. The sectors that have been most affected by the virus include the labour force, housing, transport, health, trade and tourism. The supply and demand for goods and services in these sectors have been significantly hampered. Furthermore, the restriction of movement in and out the country has lowered revenues from the tourism and aviation sectors, while delays at borders due to testing of truck drivers have resulted in losses of profits to business owners.
26. This section reflects the consolidated targets of the countries included in the regional appeal only.
27. This includes US\$300,000 for gender-based violence interventions and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.