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for every child

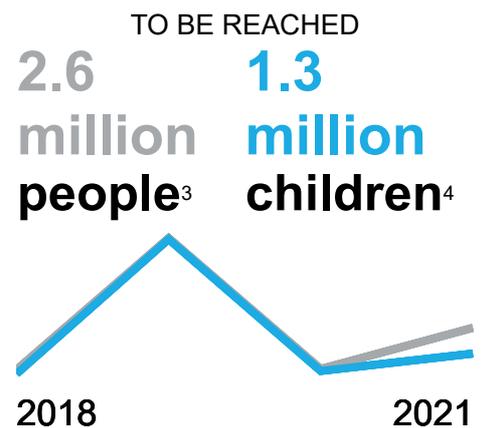
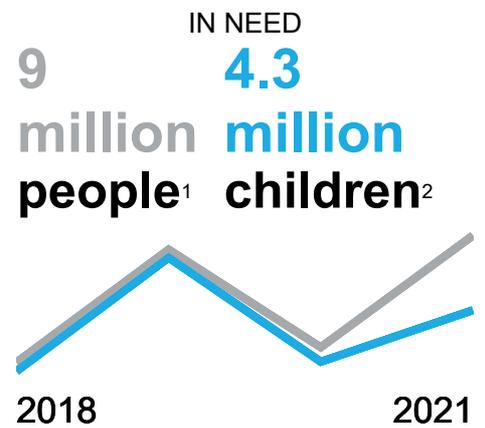
Humanitarian Action for Children

Sylviane Francine, 17, lives with her 2-years-old son, in a small tin house. She benefits from the Lifeskills program funded by KOICA (March 2021).

Madagascar

HIGHLIGHTS

- The socio-economic situation in Madagascar deteriorated in 2020 following several natural disasters, including flooding in the north, prolonged drought in the south with insecurity not yet under control, and disease outbreaks, such as dengue fever, malaria, measles, and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which has spread across the country.
- Decreased access to and demand for social services due to COVID-19 has significantly affected households, communities, and systems, and exacerbated the vulnerability of children.
- In 2021, UNICEF will reach children in need through a holistic, multi-pronged approach incorporating nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and child protection to protect children's rights and well-being. The response will focus on continuing the provision of social services and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19.
- UNICEF is requesting US\$34.2 million to reach 2.6 million people, including 1.3 million children, affected by epidemics, cyclones, floods, and drought, with life-saving assistance in 2021.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



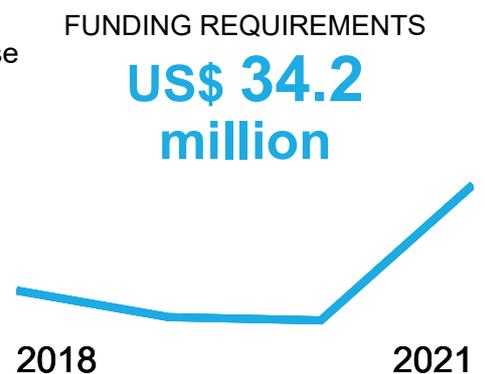
500,000

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



30,000

women and children accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation/prevention/response



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

In 2020, three emergencies hit Madagascar: flooding in the north, prolonged drought in the south and disease outbreaks, including COVID-19, in all 22 regions. As of 2021 June, Madagascar had over 41,443 confirmed cases of COVID-19⁸.

The large rainfall deficit in southern Madagascar in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 has left over 1,300,000 food insecure⁹ people in need of social protection. An estimated 357,000 children under 5 years will suffer from acute malnutrition by the end of 2021¹⁰, and among these, 120,000 will be severely malnourished.

Water prices have increased in Madagascar, and a deterioration in the quality of water is anticipated due to low aquifer reserves, which will challenge access to safe drinking water and sanitation and hygiene services for most vulnerable people. Urban populations are also at risk due to potential shortages of potable water.

While Madagascar is prone to epidemics such as COVID-19, plague and malaria, the health system struggles to ensure continuity of services during crises. In addition, the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 have increased the number of people living in poverty by 2.3 million. This increase in poverty in the country is associated with the 1.3 million people affected by acute food insecurity in the South – and significantly increased social protection needs.

Schools had opened after the 2020 COVID-19-related closures, but in 2021 extended Easter holiday until early June 2021. Disrupted learning usually has an impact on children who are out of school, a rate that was already 24 per cent for primary level and 73 percent for secondary. In the Southern region this exacerbates a continued crisis related to the drought. In Anosy, for example, 640 household were identified by WFP as displaced. The multiple intersecting crises have put increased pressure on children already out of school and resulted in greater numbers of children who are being denied an opportunity to learn.

Deprived of protective school environments, and given the increased stress and economic pressure in families, children are at heightened risk of experiencing violence and exploitation, including child marriage and child labor. COVID-19 has exacerbated the chronic weaknesses of systems for monitoring, preventing and responding to violence against children and gender-based violence; and data on gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse on vulnerable groups and in remote areas are limited. In the first semester of 2020, the number of children referred to protection services decreased by 50 per cent or more compared with 2019, highlighting the need for responsive child protection services and stronger monitoring.

SECTOR NEEDS



Nutrition

357,000 children under 5 years are acutely malnourished¹¹



Health

700,000 people need health services¹²



Water, sanitation and hygiene

6.4 million people lack access to safe water and sanitation¹³



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

148,000 children need protection services^{14,15}

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Soanatoetse, 35 years old and mother of 10 children, beneficiary of the Fiovota cash transfer since 2016 in the commune of Ifotaka in southern Madagascar.

Soanatoetse, 35 years old and mother of 10 children, lives in Fenoaivo, in the commune of Ifotaka, Amboasary Sud district. The family has benefited from the Fiovota cash transfer since 2016 thanks to contributions from UNICEF.

Since Soanatoetse learned that the amount of the allowance for his family has increased by 80,000 Ar (US \$ 22) per month, under the mechanism of Reactive Social Protection to Shocks (PSRC) or "TOSEKE KERE" in the local dialect (meaning "Fight against famine"), she caught her breath and rolled up her sleeves. "At one point we almost gave up hope, we just can't make ends meet. My child Nasoloazo, 2 years old, suffered from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), I did not know what to do or what to hope for. Thanks to this monthly emergency allowance, I can solve my family's priority problems," she says with joy.

[Read more about this story here](#)

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In Madagascar, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Government and partners, will provide an equity-focused and child-based multi-sectoral emergency response. The strategy will link humanitarian action and development programmes to increase the resilience of populations and systems, including through behaviour change communication, gender mainstreaming and climate-sensitive actions.

UNICEF's nutrition strategy will focus on preventing and responding to acute malnutrition, continuing access to treatment, strengthening systems and supporting nutrition surveillance at the facility and community levels. This will be complemented by an integrated package of life-saving health interventions targeting pregnant women, children and newborns. The package will be adapted according to the emergency and combined with an integrated WASH-health approach that incorporates infection, prevention and control interventions in health and treatment centres. UNICEF's WASH response will include contingency planning, capacity building for emergency and hazard management, hygiene promotion and access to water via government subsidies. In line with the Grand Bargain commitments, UNICEF will scale up, increase, and expand social protection support to affected households via the national cash transfer programme or through humanitarian partners to strengthen household resilience.

As part of its education response, UNICEF will invest in catch-up programmes; support school management by communities and local governments, including budgeting and tracking learning outcomes; facilitate the inclusion of students with disabilities; and promote evidence-based structured pedagogy strategies. Capacity development activities for risk reduction and resilient school management will integrate WASH and health components. UNICEF will also provide post-emergency psychosocial support for children and teachers returning to school.

Child protection services for vulnerable children will include psychosocial support provided during home visits, telephone counselling, child-friendly spaces and potential programme linkages with social protection interventions. UNICEF will continue to prioritize alternative care for children without parental support during crises, will advocate for ending child detention and support implementation of alternative measures to detention.

UNICEF is working to improve the identification of, reporting on and referrals for gender-based violence, and raise community awareness of safe and confidential channels for reporting and assistance. Given the fact that women, girls and boys are at heightened risk for gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse during emergencies, including COVID-19, UNICEF will use a cross-sectoral approach in all gender-based violence activities to ensure that: (1) emergency implementing partners can effectively orient survivors; and (2) community awareness is raised on safe and accessible reporting and referral systems.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/madagascar/situation-reports>

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **120,000** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment



Health

- **200,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities



Water, sanitation and hygiene¹⁶

- **500,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **2,000,000** people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **8,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **30,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions¹⁷



Education

- **160,000** children receiving individual learning materials¹⁸



Social protection and cash transfers

- **30,000** households reached with cash transfers for the expected 12 months of the crisis through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and funding

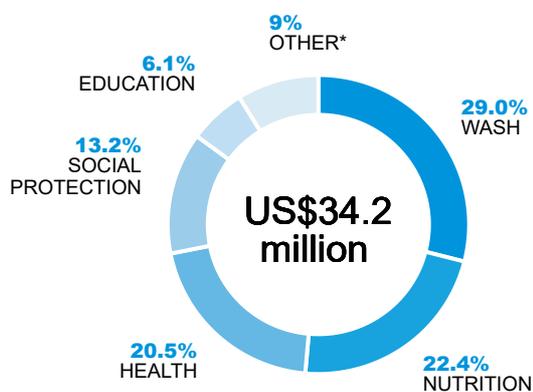


C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **6,000,000** people reached with messages on access to services¹⁹
- **3,150,000** people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioral change)

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF is requesting US\$ 34.2 million to reach 2.6 million people, including 1.3 million children, affected by epidemics, cyclones or floods and drought, with life-saving assistance in 2021. Due to the heightened risks associated with acute emergencies, the fragility of social systems in Madagascar and the continued impacts of COVID-19, the funding needs for WASH, nutrition, health, education and social protection have increased compared with previous years. In addition, lack of funding for social protection, child protection and communication for development in 2020 has generated additional funding needs for 2021 to enable a continuous response to emergency needs. Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the ongoing crisis in Madagascar. Funding support will help to ensure continued access to key social services, including education and child protection. These funds will also be critical to strengthening essential aspects of emergency preparedness and response, including risk communication and community engagement, accountability to affected population and services to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse.



Appeal sector	Revised 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)
Nutrition	7,650,000
Health ²⁰	7,000,000
WASH	9,900,000
Child protection ²¹	1,500,000
Education	2,100,000
Social Protection	4,500,000
C4D	1,500,000
Total	34,150,000

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child protection (4.4%), C4D (4.4%).

Appeal sector	Original 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	2021 funding gap (%)
Nutrition	2,000,000	7,650,000	3,450,797	4,199,203	54.9%
Health ²⁰	4,000,000	7,000,000	406,069	6,593,931	94.2%
WASH	4,000,000	9,900,000	558,205	9,341,795	94.4%
Child protection ²¹	650,000	1,500,000	97,873	1,402,127	93.5%
Education	600,000	2,100,000	-	2,100,000	100.0%
Social Protection	2,600,000	4,500,000	136,784	4,363,216	97.0%
C4D	1,500,000	1,500,000	91,090	1,408,910	93.9%
Total	15,350,000	34,150,000	4,740,818	29,409,182	86.1%

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ENDNOTES

1. This figure was calculated using the Government of Madagascar Inter-agency Contingency Plan; Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Madagascar Response Plan WASH Cluster for COVID-19 Wave 2 (April 2021)'; UNICEF estimates for the number of people in need of psychosocial support; and Integrated Food Security Phase Classification April 2021
2. Ibid. The number of children in need was calculated based on children making up 48.1 per cent of the total population according to United Nations Children's Fund, 'The State of the World's Children 2019: Children, food and nutrition - Growing well in a changing world', UNICEF, 2019.
3. This figure is based on the highest coverage programme targets for WASH (2,600,000) to avoid double counting. This includes 1,326,000 women/girls (51 per cent) and 1,274,000 men/boys (49 per cent). UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
4. This includes the highest coverage target of children to be reached with WASH services (1,250,600) to avoid double counting. This includes 51 per cent girls and 49 per cent boys. The remaining children in need will be covered by other partners and members of the nutrition, health, protection and education clusters in collaboration with UNICEF under the coordination of the National Office for Prevention and Response to Risks and Catastrophes.
5. Girls under 17 years = 47% of total Women/Girls
6. People with disabilities represent 13.2 % of total people (MICS 2018)
7. Children with disabilities represent 13.2 % of total children (MICS 2018)
8. Source : <https://www.covid19mg.org/>
9. Flash Appeal 2021 june, OCHA
10. Madagascar National Response Plan South 2021 june, BNGRC ; Flash Appeal 2021 june, OCHA
11. National Response Plan Drought 2021 June , Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and National Office for Disaster Management (BNGRC) .
12. Draft Flash Appeal, Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2021; National Response Plan Drought 2021 June , Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and National Office for Disaster Management (BNGRC)
13. This was estimated based on Integrated Acute Malnutrition Phase Classification, May 2021; National Office for Disaster Management; WASH Cluster Response Plan for COVID wave 2, April 2021
14. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
15. Humanitarian Response Plan South (june 2021).
16. Other sector partners will cover the remaining caseload of needs.
17. This intervention will target women, girls and boys with enhanced information, awareness and access to gender-based violence prevention, reporting and referral services.
18. The UNICEF intervention will complement ministerial efforts that – with support from other donors such as the World Bank – will reach the remaining affected children, especially those who are less severely impacted.
19. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes COVID-19 messages, including those provided through mass media channels, that aim to reach almost all regions in the country.
20. The increase in the budget is mainly due to new activities related to the Covid-19 response, which are supply of oxygen, purchase and repair of oxygen production units, and contribution to the operational costs of COVID-19 vaccination.
21. There was a decrease in the number of programme target due to the i) availability of services, ii) reduced number and outreach of partners to implement GBV-related activities, iii) delays in implementation due to COVID-19. On the other hand, the funding requirement increased due to increased needs for service strengthening which are essential for ensuring continuity, effectiveness and accessibility during crises.