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# Madagascar Country Office Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3



Reporting Period: 01 January to 30 September 2019

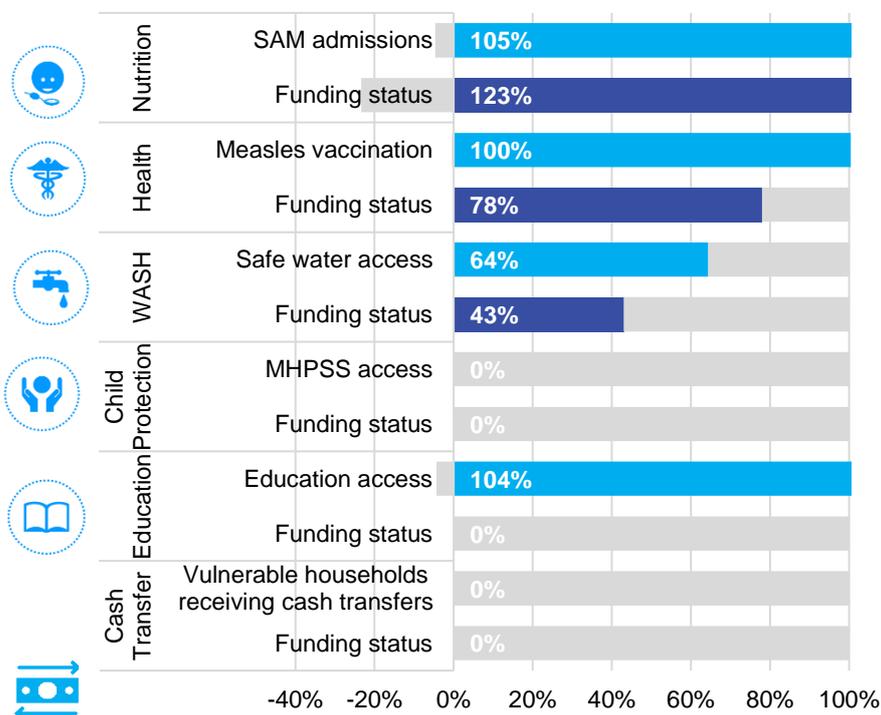
## Highlights

- The measles epidemic, the main humanitarian disaster in Madagascar for the first semester of 2019, came under control thanks to nationwide vaccination campaigns reaching more than 7,2 million children. The number of new cases has significantly decreased and no death has been officially reported since April.
- UNICEF Madagascar is now concentrating its humanitarian responses to disaster risk reduction and to the vulnerable people in the drought-prone south who are suffering from malnutrition and lack of access to safe water.
  - From January to August 2019, 17,800 severely acute malnourished (SAM) children were treated with UNICEF support, exceeding the 2019 target of treating 17,000 SAM children.
  - 94,894 people in the south gained access to safe water through water trucking and rehabilitation of boreholes.
- During the third quarter, UNICEF also intervened to address the problem of water scarcity in the capital city of Antananarivo through a 30-day water-trucking operation which delivered water to up to 16,800 people.

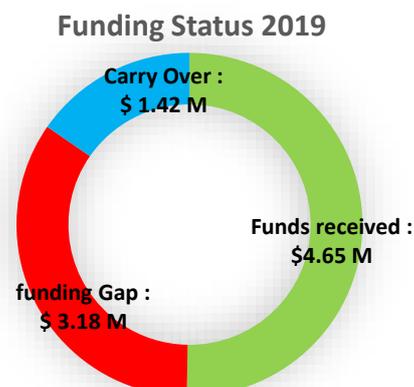
## Situation in Numbers

- 7.6 million** children in need of humanitarian assistance (including Measles)
- 8.1 million** people in need (including Measles)
- 7.25 million** Children to be reached (including Measles)
- 7.3 million** people to be reached (including Measles)

## UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



## UNICEF Appeal 2019 US\$ 8.26 million



## Funding Overview and Partnerships

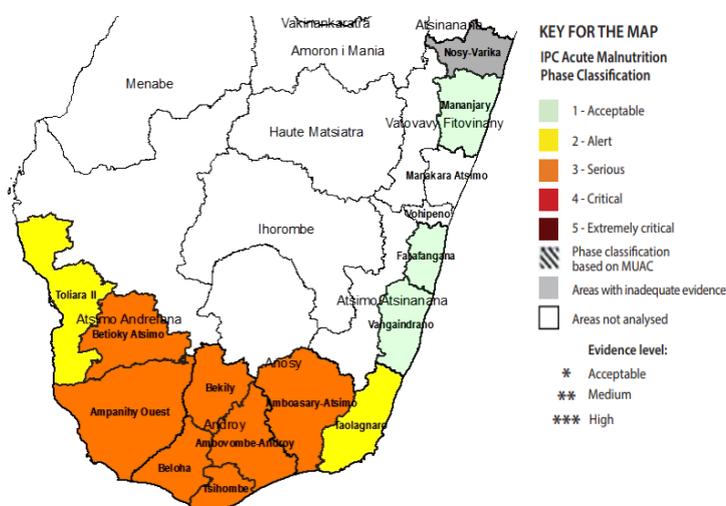
UNICEF Madagascar made an appeal of US\$ 8.26 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children and their families, but only 62 per cent has been secured despite the contributions from major donors such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Measles and Rubella Initiative (MRI). In some cases, especially Communication for Development (C4D) and Education, UNICEF Madagascar had to use its Regular Resources and other development funding, in accordance with the New Way of Working recommendations, to support emergency response activities to reach the most vulnerable people. Such a significant funding gap will however hamper UNICEF Madagascar’s ability to respond quickly to emergencies. Therefore, UNICEF calls on donors to provide flexible and timely support for the continued humanitarian responses, especially in the sectors of Education, Child Protection, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and C4D.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

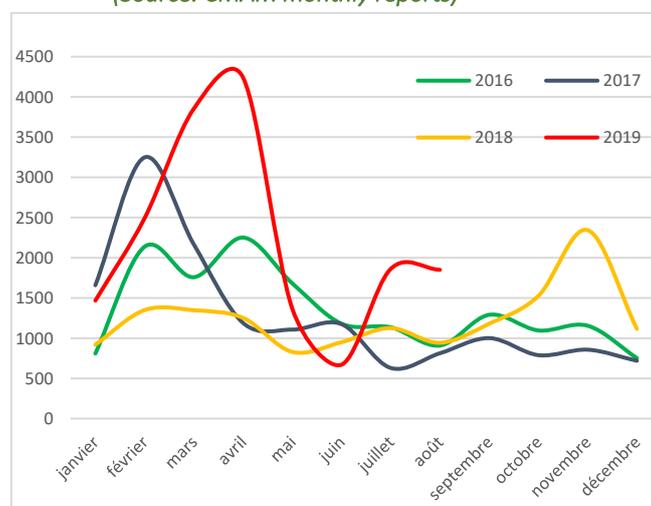
The vulnerable southern regions of Madagascar continue to be faced with the negative impacts of climate change such as drought in recent years, leading to increasing numbers of children affected by acute malnutrition and lack of access to basic social services such as safe water, education and health care. To fight this silent and chronic emergency, UNICEF Madagascar is responding not only with direct humanitarian responses such as treatment of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, but also with more fundamental and systematic approaches such as the launch of the Nutrition Surveillance System (NSS), construction of water pipelines, and capacity-building of the government authorities and community workers to support enhanced resilience of communities and systems .

The most recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Malnutrition Classification has projected a slight improvement of the nutrition situation during the third quarter compared to the second quarter.<sup>1</sup> The increase of admissions of SAM cases in Q3 can be partially explained by the increase in the number of Nutrition Mobile Teams (MNTs) supported by UNICEF from eight to 10 since July.

**Map 1. Projected IPC-Acute Malnutrition Classification situation for August to October 2019**



**Figure 1. The number of CMAM admissions in eight drought-prone districts, January 2016 – August 2019**  
 (Source: CMAM monthly reports)



<sup>1</sup> This estimate is confirmed by (1) the preliminary NSS results from the exhaustive acute malnutrition screening during which 325,000 children 6-59 months were screened for acute malnutrition in the eight affected districts and by (2) SAM admission trends in the health centres during the third quarter.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Nutrition

UNICEF is supporting the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme in the drought-prone south, including screening and referral of acutely malnourished children, outpatient treatment (for SAM cases without complications) in all 204 health centres and through ten MNTs, and inpatient care (for complicated SAM cases) in district hospitals.<sup>2</sup> As a result, 17,800 severely malnourished children were treated in health facilities from January to August 2019 with the recovery rate at 87 per cent, well within the recommended performance level.

In addition, 45,000 mothers or caretakers of SAM cases have been benefitted from counselling on optimal infant and young child feeding practices. Three consultants were positioned to support trainings of all 427 health workers on CMAM treatment and formative supervisions in low performing health centres.

In the third quarter of 2019, a total of 14,730 mothers were trained on screening techniques and equipped with MUAC tapes to conduct active and frequent “home-based” screenings and to refer their children to the adequate structure if found to be acutely malnourished. This brings the total of trained mothers to 49,730 in 2019 and the overall total since 2018 to 89,296 (reaching a coverage of 53% of the targeted number of mothers to be trained in the eight-affected districts).

### Health

UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, is supporting emergency health responses by mobile clinics and community health workers (CHWs) in the drought-prone south, especially in the three regions of Anosy, Androy, and Atsimo Andrefana. From January to August 2019, 12 mobile clinics were deployed to deliver health services (treatment for childhood and communicable diseases, immunization, malnutrition screening, etc.) to remote areas and benefitted 58,676 people (including 25,531 women and 32,234 children under five). CHWs gave check-ups to 96,735 children, treated 43,600 cases of childhood diseases, referred 18,851 children to health centres to confirm malnutrition and delivered real-time data to decision makers using an SMS monitoring platform. Three regional and seven district hospitals and 198 primary health centres benefitted from emergency health kits, medicines, consumables and 80,000 vitamin A capsules distributed by UNICEF.

In addition, UNICEF pre-positioned emergency health-related stocks in five regions against droughts and cyclones. We are also strengthening routine immunization activities and surveillance against communicable diseases, including measles, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO).

### WASH

WASH emergency activities are concentrating on providing access to safe water in the drought-prone south, and more than 94,894 people (11,544 people for Q3) in the south could gain or maintain access to safe water with the support of UNICEF from January to September 2019 through water-trucking, construction, rehabilitation of boreholes, and other activities. Four electro-chlorinators have been installed for disinfection of medical equipment in four health centres and hospitals in the districts of Beloha, Tsihombe, Ampanihy and Betioky. We are expecting to learn more from this experience in the upcoming months with the objective of duplicating or improving this activity in other places.

In addition to the ongoing drought in the south, the capital of Antananarivo went through severe water-scarcity problem in Q3. In collaboration with the Ministry of Water and JIRAMA (a state-owned water and electricity company), we conducted a 30-day water trucking operation and supplied water to almost 16,800 people in four districts of Antananarivo.

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<sup>2</sup> Moderately malnourished children are referred to the nearest WFP-supported Supplementary Feeding Site.

## Education

Emergency activities from the education section concentrated on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) capacity-building of the educational authority and distribution of pedagogical supplies to children in need.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF supported the training of 44 DRR officers from 22 regional Directorates of Education (DRENs) and the Ministry's National Office of Private Education (ONEP) team. The ONEP team will in turn train the 12 National Directorates of Private Schools responsible for training school staff. The MoE also held a workshop on the prevention of measles and plague (128 staff from 12 DRENs and 30 Administrative School Districts participated) and is preparing for the upcoming epidemic season with 50,000 copies of communication tools.

The Education Cluster co-led by UNICEF and the MoE sent emergency response kits (260 recreation kits, 516 schools in a box and 1,200 school tables) to 209 schools (21,660 vulnerable children) in the drought-prone south. With the support of funds from Norway, 1,200 school tables, 120 recreation kits and 200 cartons of school kits were also ordered.

## Child Protection

In January 2019, the northern part of Madagascar was hit by heavy rains. UNICEF, in collaboration with local actors, took part in monitoring the situation in the affected districts. In March 2019, UNICEF supported a review of the Framework Plan for Child Protection in the Boeny region during which improving child protection in emergencies by raising awareness and planning was discussed as one of the main themes. Training of social workers for psychosocial support for children including the children in emergency situations is planned in three regions (Analanjirifo, SAVA and Atsinanana) before the end of 2019.

## Cash-based Programming

As the effects of cyclones in 2019 were not as disastrous as previous years, there was no emergency cash assistance implemented up to September 2019. However, UNICEF is continuing its financing for long term cash transfer programmes in five regions of the country and is supporting building the national system for social protection programme in collaboration the government, the World Bank and the World Food Program (WFP). A Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) analysis for the southern regions affected by seasonal drought was finalized in September and the amount of transfer-covering multipurpose needs has been defined to cover the estimated consumption deficit during the next lean season. An operational manual to respond to the crisis via an expansion of the social protection program is being elaborated by a technical committee led by UNICEF, to be finalised by the end of October.

## Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

UNICEF is delivering key lifesaving and behavior change messages through mass media, advocacy and social mobilization and community engagement. After supporting the nationwide measles vaccination campaign in the first semester, the C4D activities for Q3 concentrated on preparation for extreme weather-related disasters such as cyclones, floods and droughts and communicable diseases such as plague and measles in collaboration with relevant government agencies.

UNICEF supported C4D preparedness plans for cyclones and floods in six districts in three regions (SAVA, Analanjirifo and Atsimo Andrefana) and WASH and Nutrition programmes by implementing key C4D activities in five affected districts in the drought-prone south in partnership with a local non-governmental organization (NGO), ALT. The national communication strategy related to plague is up to date for the 2019-2020 season with support of UNICEF. We are also supporting the production of communication materials for plagues and measles, including 400,000 posters, 22,000 social mobilization guides, and 374,000 counselling cards on measles prevention for the 22 regions.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

In 2019, UNICEF adopted different strategies to respond to the different crises. For example, in response to the measles epidemic, a nationwide approach was used, while in responding to the drought, UNICEF focused on targeted interventions that reinforce a link with development.

## Measles: Choice of a nationwide approach

Nationwide vaccination responses, instead of traditional district-based responses, took place for children aged from six months to nine years old. During the three phases of vaccination, more than seven million children under nine were vaccinated. Coordinated public health interventions included: (i) enhanced active surveillance and case confirmation, (ii) a targeted immunization campaign divided into three phases, (iii) revitalization of routine vaccination, (iv) management of measles cases, including vitamin A administration, and (v) communication, mobilization and community involvement.

## Drought: Improving targeting and prioritizing interventions while reinforcing the link with development

A major effort is being made to ensure that the humanitarian strategy is based on an integrated needs assessment, with better targeting and prioritization. Focused actions in the two districts of Ampanihy and Beloha (IPC Phase 3 classification) is linked to national development plans, especially the SIDGS (Stratégie de développement intégré du Grand Sud: Great South Integrated Development Strategy) developed by the Ministry of Planning.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

International New Coverage on the Measles Epidemics and UNICEF	
IRINnews.org	<a href="#">In Madagascar, 1100 measles deaths are more about money than 'vaccine hesitancy'</a>
Industry News Center	<a href="#">Measles Increasing At Alarming Rates Across The Globe, Says UNICEF</a>
Reuters	<a href="#">Without vaccine, hundreds of children die in Madagascar measles outbreak</a>
CBC	<a href="#">While Canada copes with a rise in measles, Madagascar already has 118,000 cases</a>
Outbreak News Today	<a href="#">Madagascar measles epidemic: 105K cases since September</a>
NPR	<a href="#">Measles Is Spiking Around The Globe. How Worried Should We Be?</a>
France TV	<a href="#">Épidémie de rougeole à Madagascar : plus de 1 000 morts et 100 000 malades</a>
Science et Avenir	<a href="#">Madagascar peine à faire face à une épidémie de rougeole</a>
RFI	<a href="#">Madagascar lance une grande campagne de vaccination contre la rougeole</a>
L'info Réunion	<a href="#">Madagascar - Epidémie de rougeole : environ 1 000 décès enregistrés</a> <a href="#">Madagascar : baisse du nombre des cas de rougeole</a>
ABS CBN	<a href="#">Madagascar battles killer measles outbreak</a>
Global News Canada	<a href="#">8 countries facing measles outbreaks more serious than Canada's</a> <a href="#">In Madagascar, parents trudge for miles to vaccinate their kids against a deadly measles outbreak</a>
Press Release and stories by UNICEF on the nutritional crisis in the South	
UNICEF webpage	<a href="#">Nutrition Cluster receives training on "Nutrition in Emergencies"</a> <a href="#">The European Union invests an additional 300,000 euros in the fight against acute malnutrition in southern Madagascar</a> <a href="#">"We could not plant anything at all"</a>
UNICEF Instagram	<a href="#">Story on water tickets</a> <a href="#">"We could not plant anything at all"</a>

Next SitRep: 15/01/2020

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## Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall needs	Cluster/Sector Response			UNICEF and IPs		
		2019 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼	2019 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼
<b>Nutrition</b>							
# of children under 5 with SAM admitted to therapeutic treatment sites	17,000	17,000	17,800*	▲	17,000	17,800*	▲
<b>Health</b>							
# of children from 6 months to 9 years immunized against measles	7,200,000			▲	7,200,000	7,232,427 <sup>1</sup>	▲
<b>WASH</b>							
# of people who accessed the agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	255,000	255,000	94,894	▲	105,000	67,644	▲
<b>Child Protection</b>							
# of children reached with psychosocial support	3,000				3,000	0	
<b>Education</b>							
# of children benefitting from pedagogical supplies	21,000	21,000	21,912	▲	21,000	21,912 <sup>2</sup>	▲
<b>C4D</b>							
# of people reached with key lifesaving and behavior change messages on health, nutrition and safe and appropriate sanitation and hygiene practices	3,200,000			▲	3,200,000	1,500,000 <sup>3</sup>	▲
# of vulnerable households receiving cash transfers	7,500				7,500	0	

\* Data from January to August 2019. No funds were received for child protection, and cash transfer assistance leading to very low results against the planned targets.

<sup>1</sup> The measles indicator and target has been adjusted from the original 1,000,000 (children under 5 years) since, after needs assessment on the ground, a nationwide measles vaccination, instead of the traditional district-based interventions took place for children aged from 6 months to 9 years old. The measles outbreak has now ended after the outbreak has been contained.

<sup>2</sup> Results were achieved using ORR funds since no funds were received for Education.

<sup>3</sup> # of parents reached by key life-saving messages on measles. Measles is a new emergency that has far exceeded the estimated cases of epidemic in 2019.

## Annex B

### Funding Status\*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	2,550,000	2,126,602	1,019,612	-	0%
Health	2,571,666	1,906,152	100,000	565,514	22%
WASH	700,000	230,503	70,215	399,282	57%
Education	425,000	-	-	425,000	100%
Child Protection	345,100	-	-	345,100	100%
Communication for Development	696,901	201,538	24,467	470,896	68%
Cash-based transfers	975,000	-	-	975,000	100%
Cross sectoral / cluster coordination	-	182,760	206,130	-	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,263,667</b>	<b>4,647,555</b>	<b>1,420,424</b>	<b>3,180,792</b>	<b>38%</b>

- As defined in Revised Humanitarian Action for Children August/2019