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Reporting Period: From 1st of January to 31st of December 2020

Highlights

- The Republic of Congo is prone to recurrent floods along the river Congo corridor which is caused by heavy rain (affecting around 170,000 persons annually) and furthermore the country remains at high risk of potential Ebola outbreak which is aggravated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;
- Currently the country host around 130,423 refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs from which 48,400 refugees are from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda; over 77,000 internally displaced persons in the Pool region and new influx of CAR refugees (UNHCR December 2020) estimated at around 5,023 so far. Without appropriate funding its more likely that these populations in need will not receive adequate humanitarian assistance;
- UNICEF Congo has assisted affected populations with an integrated package of interventions in health, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection and C4D. In addition to delivering essential services for children under 5 years, UNICEF has also assisted more than 70,000 school-aged children and pregnant and lactating women in necessities such as lifesaving health, wash and nutrition interventions;
- UNICEF has built the capacities of service providers, local authorities, implementing partners, teachers and stakeholders that participates in the humanitarian response to assist vulnerable beneficiaries. UNICEF Congo is requesting US\$11.9 million to meet the humanitarian needs of at-risk people in the Republic of Congo for the year 2021.

Republic of Congo

Humanitarian Situation Report

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Situation in Numbers



843,000
Total people in need of humanitarian assistance.



413,000
Children in need of humanitarian assistance.

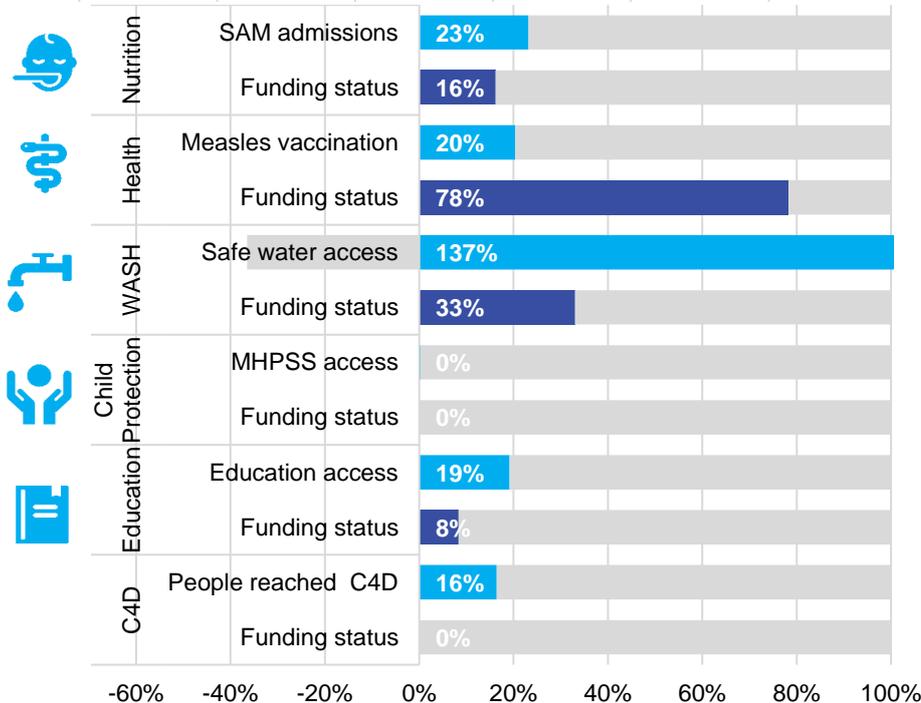


130,423
Refugees, Asylum Seekers and IDPs in need of humanitarian assistance. (UNHCR 2020 Projections)



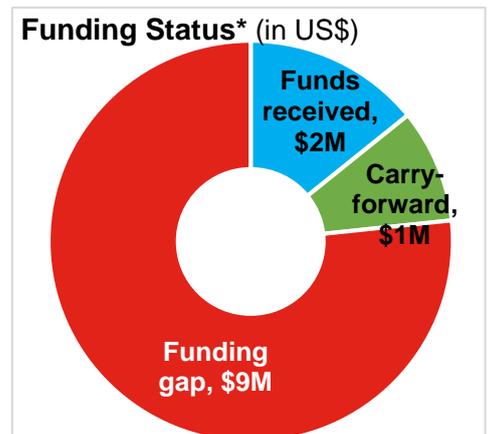
170,000
Floods affected persons. (MASAH and UN Joint Needs Assessment Jan/Nov 2020)

UNICEF's Response and Funding



UNICEF Appeals 2020

US\$ 12.141,000



*Funding available includes funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appeals for US \$ 12,141,000 to provide lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance to children and their families in the Pool, Plateaux, Sangha, and Likouala regions including preventing and detecting potential Ebola cases. In 2020, OCHA, through CERF, contributed US \$ 1,616,025 to the humanitarian response to severe floods that affected four regions in late 2019 and early 2020, USAID contributed with US \$ 100,000 grant for the flood-affected populations in Cuvette and Likouala regions. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received. However, the 2020 HAC has a funding gap of 77 per cent, with significant needs in nutrition, health, WASH, education, child protection, and communication for development.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The Republic of Congo is still facing significant challenge with Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs), Refugees and Asylum Seekers. The Likouala region alone is hosting more than 27,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) and 21,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who are settled in Bétou district¹ in Likouala.

With the deterioration of the political situation in the Central African Republic since December 2020, Congo continued to see new arrivals of refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR and UN agencies joint multisectoral needs assessment) reported that around 5,023 persons (1,846 Households) have crossed the border into the Republic of Congo territory and it has also been predicted that the refugees influx will continue in next coming months due to the deterioration of the security situation.

Access to safe water and sanitation services are very limited, only 48² per cent of households have access to adequate sanitation and 64 per cent have access to protected water sources. The Plateaux region is hosting nearly 8,500¹ asylum-seekers (refugees) who fled deadly intercommunal conflict in the Mai-Ndombe Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in December 2018. One third of the asylum-seekers are children in need of psychosocial support and education. More than 77,000 internally displaced persons (50 per cent children) have returned home following the 2018 ceasefire agreements in the Pool region. These populations are struggling to access basic social services.

UNICEF continues to provide humanitarian assistance to flood affected children and families, in Cuvette, Likouala, Plateaux and Sangha regions.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

Since January 2020, UNICEF supported the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in all regions of Congo with a focus on regions affected by the flood emergency situations in Plateaux, Cuvette, Sangha and Likouala. During 2020, a total of 538,395 children were screened for MAS and MAM (315,386 through routine services and 223,009 through a mother a child health campaign).

As a result, 9,742 children aged between 6 to 59 months were screened and identified as having SAM and were treated accordingly.

In 2020, the national Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme, which is supported by UNICEF, had cured and default rates of 65 per cent and 30.2 per cent, respectively which was not in line with sphere standard cure rate under 75 per cent and default rate below 15 per cent). The death rate was 1.4 per cent, which is within the sphere target of less than 10 per cent.

In 2020, through UNICEF's support to routine postnatal care services, 84,764 mothers with a child 0-23 months were sensitized on the importance of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices.

Health

In 2020, UNICEF focused its support to the Government on providing life-saving health services to children and women in flood-affected areas, Likouala, Plateaux, and Cuvette regions through the procurement of essential medicines and emergency health kits and strengthening of the capacity of health workers.

UNICEF strengthened the capacities of 35 health managers, 150 health workers, and 200 community health workers (Plateaux, Cuvette, Likouala) on primary care services, including immunisation, antenatal care, safe childbirth, Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), as well as in the promotion of key family practices. As a result, 39,314 people were reached by comprehensive high impact interventions, including 14,735 children under five. Of

¹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) projections for 2020

² United Nations, 'Evaluation des impacts économiques et sociaux de la pandémie COVID-19 en République du Congo', August 2020.

these, 4,010 pregnant women and 3,797 lactating women benefitted from quality antenatal care and safe childbirth, and 8,342 children under five years were immunised against measles.³

In addition, 19,000-bed nets were distributed to 38,000 persons affected by the floods in the Likouala region.

Furthermore, with funding from USAID, UNICEF helped the government prepare for the response to EBOLA virus disease (EVD) by increasing communication tools, epidemiological surveillance, and building the capacity of nearly 100 health workers and community health workers in the Likouala region. This helped raise awareness of nearly 15,000 people on preventing Ebola virus disease.

In maternal and neonatal health, 19,320 pregnant women, including 4,830 adolescent girls under 18, received their first prenatal care and 13,735 others received their 4th prenatal care. In addition, 14,114 new-borns benefited a postnatal consultation.

WASH

In 2020, UNICEF continues to address the water, sanitation and hygiene humanitarian needs. UNICEF, as the sector lead with the Government of Congo, provided technical support to coordinate emergency preparedness and response. UNICEF and USAID supported the strengthening of capacities of 30 actors in planning, coordination and implementation of the humanitarian response for WASH. These actors are made up of Government members, Civil Society partners and UN members of the WASH coordination at national and sub-national level. The WASH coordination is now functional and is holding regular meetings, providing monthly updates of the situation and response in flood-affected regions.

Despite the limited resources availability, UNICEF and its partners have helped improve access to adequate sanitation services, and to adopt good individual and collective hygiene practices for 88,733 persons including 13,591 boys and 14,703 girls. Moreover, 88,733 people (66,106 floods affected and 22,627 host populations) have access to improved water of adequate quality and enough quantities for their basic needs. The integrated WASH package was implemented in provinces most prone to flooding (Sangha, Likouala, Cuvette and Plateaux) and reached 282 people with disability. Additionally, 15,118 refugees (24.8 per cent women, 51.9 per cent children and 15 per cent with disability), were provided access to potable drinking water through water treatment products and safe storage.

Through the flood response, 28,500 people (15,136 women) gained access to durable water services ensuring the link between humanitarian assistance and development. A total of 7,446 households have received hygiene kits including soap, household and water treatment products, as well as home water storage containers.⁴

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health to complete the national Ebola preparedness plan, which emphasizes on the reinforcement of the IPC/WASH. UNICEF developed partnership to implement IPC/WASH activities in 7 high-risk Ebola districts. 36,000 people are expected to be reached by 2021. Underfunding and the limited number of WASH implementing partners remain the main challenges to be addressed in this sector.

Education

UNICEF and partners supported the access and continuity of education for 38,450 students including 17,000 (8,160 girls) vulnerable children and additional 121,450 children (58,840 girls) affected by flood in the 5 following regions: Likouala, Cuvette, Plateaux, Brazzaville et Pointe-Noire.

UNICEF and other education sector partners supported the reopening of 8 out of 16 schools in the Pool region, closed due to insecurity in October 2019. Eight schools remain closed due to their dilapidation and residual insecurity. This affects 923 children and adolescents, including 452 girls. UNICEF continues its advocacy efforts for the rehabilitation of these schools.

In addition, 17,379 internally displaced children, including 8,175 girls in Pool and Plateaux regions among which 3,182 children including 1,444 girls reintegrated in reception schools in Madibou district in Brazzaville, were provided with school materials to alleviate the risk of dropping out of school.

In order to strengthen the coordination of emergency interventions nationwide, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to elaborate an Education in Emergencies training module and to set-up the Education in Emergencies sectoral working group in Brazzaville composed of 20 representatives of the basic education sub-sectors was set up. Following a Training of Trainers in January 2020, to date, 110 teachers (including 46 women) have had their capacities strengthened to manage emergencies in their schools.⁵

³ Implementing partners reports 2020

⁴ Implementing partners reports Feb-Jun 2020

⁵ MEPSA activity report school year 2019-2020

Child Protection

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, interventions for providing psychosocial support to children in emergency regions only took place from September to December 2020, focused on refugees, asylum seekers and host populations from Likouala and Plateaux.

UNICEF provided technical assistance for the creation of an integrated child protection system in two regions (Likouala and Plateaux) and strengthened the capacities of 50 social community actors through training to identify, prevent and respond to violence against children. As a result, 18 children victims of physical and sexual violence (including 13 children (12 girls and one boy) refugees and 5 children (two girls and three boys) from the host population) received psychosocial support.

Communications for Development (C4D) and Community Engagement

The Communication for Development interventions have been focusing on promoting key health, nutrition and hygiene practices. As result, 65,628 people affected by floods along the river corridor with DRC, at high risk of waterborne diseases were reached and have improved their hygiene practices such as hand washing, conducting home water treatment, exclusive breastfeeding and adequate use of health and nutrition services.

UNICEF will continue to support the Government focusing on the community outreach activities along the river corridor for populations affected by floods and those at risk of Ebola.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF has supported the creation and training of three sectoral groups for Education, Nutrition and WASH led by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Water respectively. UNICEF is the lead agency to support these line ministries groups. Furthermore, as part of emergency response including COVID-19 and Ebola, the UN system has joined the multisectoral working groups created by the Government of Congo.

Human Interest Stories and External Media:

[La prévention de la maladie à virus Ebola en République du Congo | UNICEF Congo](#)

Next SitRep: 30 April 2021

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Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response		
	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲ ▼
Nutrition			
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months affected with SAM admitted for treatment for specified period of time.	42,000	9,742	▲ 6,155
Caregivers of children aged 0-23 months reached with infant and young child feeding counselling.	25,275	84,764	▲ 74,884
Health			
Number of Children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles.	41,000	8,342	0
Households received two insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs).	28,000	38,000	0
WASH			
People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.	65,000	103,851	▲ 15,118
People accessing appropriate sanitation facilities.	28,000	88,733	0
Child Protection			
Children accessing mental health and psychosocial support.	6,000	18	▲ 18
Education			
Out of school boys and girls aged 3 to 17 years affected by crisis accessing formal or non-formal basic education.	21,000	17,379	▲ 13,363
Children aged 3 to 17 years receiving individual education and early learning materials.	21,000	4,016	▲ 3,492
C4D			
People reached with key lifesaving and behaviour change messages on Ebola prevention.	400,000	65,628	▲ 65,628

Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2020	Resources available from 2019 (Carry-over)	\$	%
Nutrition	4,750,000	4,340	763,815.20	3,986,184.8	84%
Health	992,000	520,166.50	256,370.35	215,463.2	22%
WASH	3,625,000	1,195,858.50	0	2,429,141.5	67%
Child Protection	1,181,000	0	0	1,181,000.0	100%
Education	1,093,000	0	91,040.84	1,001,995.2	92%
Communication for development	500,000	0	0	500,000.0	100%
Total	12,141,000	1,720,365.00	1,111,230.39	9,309,406.61	77%