



COVID-19 awareness session in Juba South Sudan
Photo: UNICEF South Sudan/Bullen Chol

Reporting Period: July 2020

South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report No. 147



Highlights

- As of 28 July, a cumulative total of 1,989 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 36 deaths had been recorded with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.8 per cent. UNICEF continues to support risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) as well as the infection prevention and control (IPC) interventions.
- Over 4.5 million people in the target population have been reached with COVID-19 prevention and control messages through inter-personal and mass communication methods since the beginning of the response.
- From January to July 2020, a total of 119,242 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated in inpatient and outpatient therapeutic programs. The performance indicators of SAM treatment were above the acceptable minimum Sphere standards, with a cure rate of 94.5 percent, a death rate of 0.3 percent and a defaulter rate of 3.5 percent.
- To date, a total of 721,363 people have been reached with critical WASH supplies which include soap, buckets and water purification tablets to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Situation in Numbers

 **4.1 million** children in need of humanitarian assistance
(UNICEF HAC, December 2019)

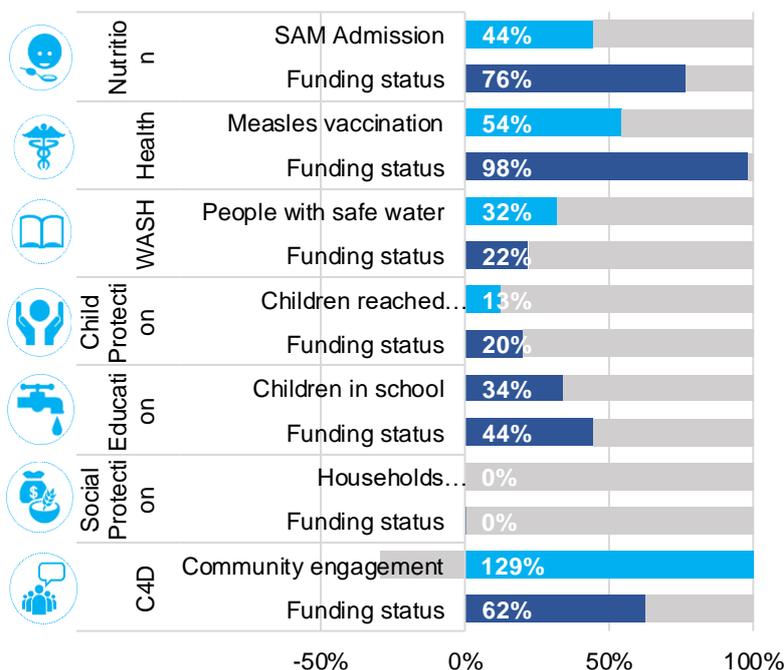
 **7.5 million** people in need
(OCHA, HNO-November 2019)

 **1.7 million** Internally displaced people (IDPs)
(OCHA, HNO-November 2019)

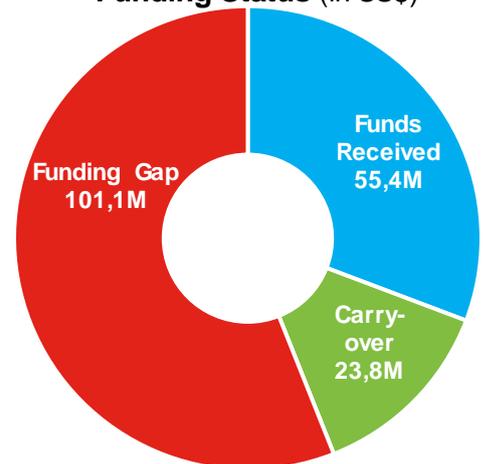
2.24 million South Sudanese Refugees in neighboring countries

(UNHCR Regional Portal, South Sudan Situation 30 September 2019)

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



Funding Status (in US\$)



UNICEF Appeal 2020
US\$ 180 million

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appeals for US\$ 180 million to sustain the provision of life-saving services for women and children in South Sudan. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received, however, the 2020 HAC still has a funding gap of 56%. Without adequate funding, UNICEF and partners will be unable to scale up integrated programming and provide critical and protective services for women, children and men displaced by conflict and inter-communal violence, affected by gender-based violence, facing life-threatening diseases (including COVID-19), and impacted by extreme food insecurity.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As of 28 July 2020 South Sudan had recorded 2,322 COVID-19 cases and 46 deaths. The outbreak continues to have a huge impact on the already vulnerable and at-risk populations. According to UNOCHA COVID-19 projections shared on the 29th of July, there is likely to be a 4-6% increase in the cumulative number of cases and an increase in the cumulative number of deaths of up to 10% in August, assuming all the current Non Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) are maintained. According to the February 2020 Integrated Phase Classification, an estimated 6.48 million people or 55% of the population, will face Crisis (IPC 3) or worse acute food insecurity during the period May-July 2020. Out of this 1.7 million people will be in phase 4 and 4.7 million people will be in IPC Phase 3. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) remains high at 12.6% based on the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) conducted in December 2019.

The overall security situation in the country remained calm except for Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) where Dinka and Nuer groups clashed with Murle youths at various locations creating tensions in Greater Pibor. A few incidents of armed skirmishes were reported between the National Salvation Front (NAS), South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) in Central Equatoria. In Eastern Equatoria around area 51, uncertainty and ambushes were reported during the month. Both common and violent criminality incidents were also reported in Juba during the reported time. The risk of flooding has increased in the current rainfall season which began in April 2020. During the reporting month, the rains resulted in flooding in the former epicenter (GPAA) and surrounding areas leaving 135,000 people displaced.

Nutrition

UNICEF in partnership with nutrition implementing partners is providing preventive and curative nutrition services for children and women in South Sudan. During the period January to July 2020, a total of 119,242 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), which is 44.5% of the target, were treated in inpatient and outpatient therapeutic programmes. The performance indicators of SAM treatment were above the acceptable minimum Sphere standards, with a cure rate of 94.5 per cent, a death rate of 0.3 and a defaulter rate of 3.5 per cent. During the same period, infant and young child feeding counselling services reached a total of 904,908 pregnant women and caregivers of children 0-23 months people (82.4% of the target). The Vitamin A campaign implemented through the national immunization days was carried out in 55 counties. A total of 1,697,683 children aged 6-59 months were reached with vitamin A supplementation, which represents 57.9 per cent of the total target of 2,933,723 children. A total of 1,469,845 children out of the target of 2,416,109 children were supported with deworming programmes, representing a coverage of 60.8 per cent.

Using the nutrition guidelines developed in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak, UNICEF and nutrition partners continue to implement nutrition activities in all the 79 counties of the country. The nutrition workers and Community Nutrition Volunteers (CNVs) have adopted the changes in the admission criteria for screening children 6-59 months using the "Family MUAC approach" where mothers/caregivers continuously monitor the nutrition status of their children using the MUAC tape. This method is expected to boost the early identification of acutely malnourished children in the communities. Anecdotally, the Family-MUAC approach is yielding positive results. In order to support COVID-19 screening at triage points, the nutrition section procured 600 gun thermometers for distribution to Partners. The distribution plan has been developed in consultation with the Cluster and WFP for the purpose of harmonization. All nutrition sites managed by national NGOs and Stabilization Centers (inpatient nutrition centers) will be prioritized in the distribution of gun thermometers. It is estimated that 55 per cent of all Nutrition sites will have Gun thermometers after this distribution.

Health

UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan at the national, state and county levels as well as with Implementing Partners to support the provision of life-saving emergency integrated primary health care services in all the 25 counties in Jonglei and Upper Nile states. The interventions include the distribution of essential drugs and medical equipment to 193 health facilities. In health facilities supported by UNICEF in Jonglei and Upper Nile, UNICEF is working with Implementing Partners to ensure the continuity in the delivery of essential health services within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, UNICEF continues to support the establishment and functionality of triage and screening points/areas in all supported health facilities for early recognition and referral of suspected

COVID-19 cases. During the reporting period, UNICEF finalized the planning for and began the delivery of essential drugs and medical equipment for the 3rd quarter in all the World Bank supported health facilities in all the counties in Upper Nile and Jonglei States. As part of preparedness, UNICEF is working closely with the State Ministry of Health (SMOH) and other partners to preposition vaccines, supplies and equipment in areas and counties prone to flooding in Jonglei and Unity States. As part of flood preparedness, UNICEF distributed 39,650 long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets (LLITN) together with WASH NFIs in Bentiu to support malaria prevention efforts.

In July 2020, UNICEF and partners provided curative consultations to a total of 149,958 people (67,793 males and 82,165 females), including 62,587 children under the age of 5 and 87,371 adults. This brings the cumulative total consultations from Jan to July 2020 to 992,449 out of which 414,213 are children under 5 (198,191 males and 216,022 females). Most children and women seen during consultations were for the treatment of malaria (32%), acute respiratory infections (15%) and diarrhea (11%). During the reporting period, 1,627 children aged 6 months-15 years were vaccinated against measles bringing the cumulative number of children aged 6 months-15 years vaccinated against measles from January - July 2020 to 293,808. As part of malaria prevention efforts, UNICEF and Partners distributed a total of 49,097 LLINs, bringing the cumulative number of nets distributed from Jan to July 2020 to 123,185 LLINs reaching 61,593 families (246,370 children and pregnant women).

WASH

During the period January to July 2020, the WASH programme provided critical life-saving interventions through the provision of access to safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene services to the vulnerable and affected host communities, Protection of Civilian sites (POCs) and Internally displaced people (IDPs) in collective sites. As a result, a total of 262,310 individuals have been provided with access to safe drinking water through water trucking, construction of new and rehabilitation of non-functional waterpoints. UNICEF has also continued to provide support in the operation and maintenance of water yards, surface water treatment (SWAT) systems and urban water systems. Likewise, a total of 84,028 vulnerable individuals have been supported with access to basic sanitation facilities through the construction and rehabilitation of emergency communal latrines and household latrines. In relatively stable communities in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria community led total sanitation (CLTS) is being implemented as the approach to improve the sanitation coverage. Follow up is being conducted for the previously triggered villages in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria to establish communities that have attained open defecation free (ODF) status. To date, a total of 799 villages with 84,803 people have been reported to have achieved ODF status. It has also been reported that a total of 308,032 people in the targeted population have been reached with key hygiene promotion messages. A total of 290,799 individuals have benefited from the distribution of core-pipeline supplies and WASH NFIs including jerrycans, buckets, soap and water treatment chemicals, a total of 137 WASH committees have been trained on the operation and maintenance of water systems to ensure their sustainable use and 1,834 adolescent girls have been supported with menstrual hygiene management support.

As part of COVID-19 prevention efforts, the WASH Section continued to roll out infection prevention and control activities through partners in different locations across the country including in prioritized health facilities in Bor, Torit, Rumbek, Wau, Malakal, Yambio field offices and PoCs in Juba, Bor and Bentiu. To date, a total of 721,363 people have been reached with critical WASH supplies which include soap, buckets and water purification tablets to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. In addition, a total of 102 health facilities are being supported with IPC services. So far triage and screening areas have been set up in 30 health facilities (5 facilities were set up during the reporting period). A total of 39 health facilities have been provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and 437 health workers have been trained on infection prevention and control measures. A total of 2,086,126 people have been reached with hygiene promotion and COVID-19 prevention and control messages on a weekly basis in IDP camps/ (PoCs) /refugee settlements, communities and other public places. A total of 307 hand washing facilities were established in communities and health facilities and 27,654 people were provided with locally fabricated cloth masks. The WASH Cluster partners reached a total of 107,777 people with water supply services and 13,565 people with sanitation services.

Education

During the reporting period, 1,054 children (701 boys and 353 girls) from 387 households attended the Radio Distance Learning Programme in Rumbek. The radio learning coverage in Bentiu, Guit and Rubkona Counties increased by 29 per cent bringing the total number of learners reached through the radio programme to 5,000 children in the three counties. A total of 11,784 assorted textbooks were distributed in Wulu, Rumbek East and Rumbek Centre reaching 111 schools in Lakes State. In Western Equatoria State, UNICEF distributed 120 exercise books to 60 primary school children with special needs who were attending the Radio Distance Learning Programme. In Aweil, UNICEF and partners, distributed radio programme learning materials to 1,585 children (809 boys and 776 girls). The learning materials include exercise books, pens, pencils, textbooks from the old curriculum and dignity kits for adolescent girls.

The Education Cluster adapted a global guidance on the re-opening of schools and a minimum standards checklist on the re-opening of schools. The Cluster also supported the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) and the Education Donor group (EDoG) to develop a back to school strategy for the reopening of schools. A total of 242,319

children were reached by Cluster Partners (42% females), in addition 567 teachers and 766 Parents Teacher associations (PTAs) or school management committees (SMCs) were trained by cluster partners by the end of June 2020.

Child Protection

During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners reached 2,766 children (1,436 boys and 1,330 girls) with psychosocial support (PSS) activities in child-friendly spaces, schools and communities in Jonglei, Western Equatoria and Upper Nile, raising the total to 15,910 children reached since January 2020. Implementation of face-to-face activities continues to be severely limited due to COVID-19 social distancing rules but the situation is improving. A total of 168 children (88 boys and 80 girls) were newly identified, registered and documented as unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) during the reporting month. On Mine Risk Education (MRE), a total of 1,863 children (941 boys and 922 girls) and 1,693 adults (829 men and 864 women) were reached with MRE key messages in the communities. A total of 5 former children associated with armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG) who were in interim care were reunified with their primary caregivers. During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 1,111 people (308 girls, 239 boys, 403 women and 161 men) with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention, response and positive social norms transformation messages. Women and Girls Friendly Spaces (WGFS) continued to provide services such as case management, PSS, skills-building courses and referrals for other specialized services. A total of 716 women and 173 girls received specialised GBV services and psychosocial support. In addition, 203 people (45 girls, 40 boys, 80 women and 38 men) were reached with GBV risk mitigation messages and 1,258 people (283 girls, 108 boys, 664 women and 203 men) were reached with awareness raising messages on GBV and COVID-19, through the use of IEC materials, home visits, discussions with communities and at WGFS. Under the Communities Care Programme (CCP), 65 people (13 girls, 5 boys, 30 women and 17 men) were engaged in social norms transformation discussions and 15 weeks action courses. A total of 33 participants (10 women and 23 men) from 15 different schools attended a training for teachers and Parent Teachers Association (PTA) chairpersons focused on GBV and COVID-19 prevention. During the reporting period, the sub-cluster members ensured that 42,962 children and their caregivers (53% females) accessed essential child protection services including the provision of mental health and psychosocial support and life skills to 4,483 children (2,335 girls and 2,148 boys). To date, a total of 101,862 people have been reached with COVID-19 related child protection messages. In addition, the sub-cluster developed a draft flood preparedness and response plan.

Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism (IRRM)

The regulations and several measures to contain and limit the spread of COVID-19 namely some protocols for inter-state movement by humanitarian actors which are key in limiting the spread of COVID-19 had an adverse impact on regular humanitarian programmes among them integrated rapid response mechanism (IRRM) activities. As part of ongoing mitigation measures to enable UNICEF to continue the delivery of critical and lifesaving services, key IRRM team members were pre-positioned in Bor to take part in planned IRRM missions during the reporting month. To date, a total of 6 IRRM missions were successfully completed (1 mission during the reporting month) and 5 prior missions. Cumulatively, a total of 61,235 people and 8,492 children under five have been reached through multi-sectoral services.

Cash-Based Programming

UNICEF continues to work with partners to operationalize and mainstream cash programming in South Sudan, and is currently initiating processes to establish long-term agreements with potential financial institutions. Opportunities to establish and strengthen cash programmes in Education, WASH, Child Protection and C4D sectors are being explored. UNICEF's COVID-19 response strategy also aims to embed creating a safety net through cash transfer mechanisms for vulnerable households within the country. UNICEF in collaboration with VSF-G have identified 424 vulnerable children in Pibor, who have been assisted to rejoin their direct/hosting families. An upcoming pilot cash transfer project will target these children with unconditional cash assistance and livelihoods support. UNICEF is also developing a voucher project for COVID-19 hygiene materials targeting 9,400 households. A total of 500 extremely vulnerable households identified out of the 9,400 will also be assisted with cash assistance. UNICEF is also working with the SPACE initiative, an expert helpline on social protection supported by DFID/GIZ to support the National Social Protection Working Group in mapping out COVID-19 adjustments to existing social protection initiatives; and continue to coordinate efforts with the Inter-Agency Cash Working Group.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

Risk communication and community engagement activities to curtail the spread of COVID-19 are continuing in all the 10 states. During the reporting period, a total of 458,450 people (197,313 males and 261,137 females) were reached with COVID-19 mitigation messages through house to house visits by community mobilisers. In addition, 264,305 people were reached through megaphones. A total of 237 community mobilizers and 659 community influencers (Religious, youth and community leaders) were oriented on COVID-19 risk communication. As part of evidence generation, the preliminary findings of the pilot CDC and UNICEF supported COVID-19 response community feedback mechanism were presented at the national steering committee (NSC) and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) technical working group meetings. The purpose of this mechanism is to guide evidence-driven risk

communication and community engagement activities to build, restore and maintain community trust and confidence in the response activities during public health emergencies. Community members who participated in this pilot phase demonstrated an awareness of the existence of COVID-19 in South Sudan. The majority of those interviewed believed that COVID-19 was a serious condition which had the potential to kill.

Through a partnership programme with 40 radio stations, a total of 5,536 radio jingles on COVID-19 were aired in 10 local languages. Plans are underway to develop new caller tune messages. Communication materials focusing on signs and symptoms of COVID-19, how to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19 and proper use of facemasks were developed and printed in 5 local languages. Distribution to Partners is ongoing in all the 10 States. During the reporting month, a total of 3,564 posters, 544 banners, 24,000 fliers, and 15 roll-up banner were distributed.

A total of 52 rumors were collected through daily reports and 46 rumors (88%) were tracked and responded to within the 72 hours. Efforts are underway to strengthen the capturing of rumors and misinformation relayed through the 6666 hotline. A total of 17,099 calls were received from the hotline during the reporting period. As part of the ongoing programmes on the expanded program on immunization, a total of 6,660 posters on routine immunization were disseminated together with 865 aprons and 821 caps. In addition, a total of 4,812 health counseling sessions were held across the 10 states. A total of 1,387 defaulters were tracked and vaccinated through the integrated community mobilizers network (ICMN).

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is co-leading three Clusters and one Area of Responsibility (AoR) out of a total of 10 clusters and three AoRs currently active in the country. UNICEF at a national level co-leads the Child Protection AoR and the Education Cluster with Save the Children, the Nutrition Cluster with Concern, Action Against Hunger (ACF) and the World Food Program (WFP) and the WASH Cluster with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). A time bound COVID-19 coordination architecture has been created. UNICEF co-leads the infection prevention and control (IPC) pillar of the COVID-19 response and participates in the national COVID-19 task force chaired by the Ministry of Health Incident Manager and is a member of the Inter-Agency COVID-19 Leadership Team (HCT level) and the Inter-Agency COVID-19 Operations Group. Due to the critical role of risk communication in COVID-19 preparedness and response, UNICEF established a risk communications operations cell which oversees the risk communications technical working group and collaborates with clusters. UNICEF continues to participate in the inter-agency protection of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) task force, which functions under the auspices of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG)/Resident Coordinator (RC)/Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), and plays an active role to advocate for better protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

Human Interest Stories and External Media

COVID-19 continued to be the main focus for the external communication activities of UNICEF South Sudan in the month of July. In response to the risk of COVID-19, UNICEF South Sudan produced [two new web stories](#) and [one photo essay on handwashing](#). The country office, also produced a [short video focused on UNICEF's response on COVID-19](#). During the reporting period UNICEF South Sudan issued 2 press releases related to COVID-19, focused on [the delivery of 5 million USD worth of supplies for COVID-19 response in South Sudan](#) and on [the re-opening of schools](#). The latter was issued jointly with UNESCO and stimulated the public debate on the issue and was picked up by a lot of national and international media, including BBC World Service and Voice of America, as well as UN Radio Miraya, Eye Radio and national newspapers (The Dawn and Juba Monitor). Two national media visits focused on a nutrition centre and a health centre allowed The Dawn, Juba Monitor, Eye Radio and Radio Bakhita to highlight the continuation of services amid the risk COVID-19. To ensure that the voices of children on COVID-19 are heard, the Country Office collaborated with Eye Radio, to produce and broadcast a one-hour radio programme featuring interviews of children as well as an interview of the UNICEF Representative. Furthermore, the Representative recorded a video message that was featured on the [homepage of UNICEF France](#). Short field videos related to nutrition and education were recorded for virtual field visits of the US Fund for UNICEF and the UK National Committee. On non COVID-19 related issues, UNICEF South Sudan issued a press release on the [humanitarian support by ECHO](#) and on the [broadcasting by 35 radio stations in South Sudan of dramas to end child marriage](#). In support of the German National Committee and to recognize the financial support by one of their main donors, a field video was recorded on the Boma Health Initiative. To strengthen the quality of reporting and ensure the best interest of children are maintained, UNICEF South Sudan organised a well-attended online training on reporting on children for national journalists. During the reporting period UNICEF was mentioned 44 times in national and international media.

Next SitRep: 20 September 2020

UNICEF South Sudan Crisis: www.unicef.org/southsudan

UNICEF South Sudan Facebook: www.facebook.com/unicefsouthsudan

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Annex A

Summary of Programme Results (July 2020)

	Cluster/Sector Response			UNICEF and IPs			%
	2020 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲▼	
Nutrition							
# of children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment	268,045	119,242	▲ 17,016	268,045	119,242	▲ 17,016	44.5%
# of children reached with vitamin A supplementation	2,933,723	1,697,683	▲ 95,788	2,933,723	1,697,683	▲ 95,788	57.8%
# of caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months who received counselling on maternal, infant and young child nutrition	1,098,241	904,908	▲ 128,724	1,098,241	904,908	▲ 128,724	82.4%
Health							
# of children aged 6 months to 15 years vaccinated against measles				540,000	293,808	▼ 1,627	54.4%
# of pregnant women and children provided with insecticide-treated nets in malaria-endemic areas				340,000	246,370	▲ 98,194	72.4%
WASH							
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	3,000,000	1,690,955	▲ 292,662	817,000	262,031	▲ 1,673	32.1
# of people accessing safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	3,000,000	456,237	▲ 54,186	303,500	84,028	▲ 3,613	27.7%
Child Protection							
# of children reached with psychosocial support services	250,000	74,851	▲ 6,259	127,000	15,910	▲ 2,766	12.5%
# of children and women accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions				100,000	39,269	▲ 1,111	39.2%
Education							
# accessing quality formal or nonformal early learning, pre-primary, primary or secondary education	793,874	298,977	▲ 0	729,000	248,456	▲ 0	34.0%
# of teachers trained on education in emergencies, basic pedagogy and learner centered methodologies	6,322	676	▲ 0	2,500	865	▲ 0	34.6%
Social Protection							
# of households reached through the cash transfer programme				42,030	0	= -	
Communication for Development				2020 target	Total results		
# of people accessing mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/ feedback, including on Ebola				2,400,000	3,103,498	▲ 603,498	129.3%

Annex B

Funding Status¹

REPORT AS OF 31 JULY 2020					
Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 31 Jan 2020 for a period of 12 months)					
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds Available		Funding Gap	
		Funds Received*	C/F from 2019	Funding Gap (\$)	%
Health	6,006,000	4,733,258	1,158,362	114,380	2%
Nutrition	57,484,671	37,161,793	6,759,679	13,563,199	24%
WASH	45,587,830	7,126,866	2,815,078	35,645,887	78%
Education	42,888,722	520,705	9,167,607	33,200,410	77%
Child Protection	21,822,956	5,215,631	3,413,972	13,193,352	60%
Social Protection	3,862,413	-	16,074	3,846,339	100%
Community Engagement	2,753,798	1,233,522	487,321	1,032,955	38%
Total	180,406,390	55,991,776	23,818,092	100,596,522	56%

¹ *The figures indicated above are gross (including global recovery, but not programmable at CO level).