

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children 2015 Key Messages

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- 1. UNICEF launches an unprecedented appeal as millions of children face a 'new generation' of global crises.**
 - From deadly natural disasters to brutal conflicts and fast-spreading epidemics, children across the world are facing a new generation of humanitarian crises.
 - Whether in the headlines or hidden from view, emergencies sparked by social fracture, climate change and disease are stalking children in ways we have never seen before. These crises are putting years of hard-fought gains for children at risk.
 - UNICEF is launching a \$3.1 billion appeal to be able to assist children affected by humanitarian situations during 2015, no matter where they are. With partners, we aim to provide critical assistance to 62 million children worldwide,¹ including in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, as well as in the countries affected by the Ebola crisis.
 - The funds will help UNICEF and its partners maintain and expand programmes to protect millions of children, whose lives and futures are in jeopardy, from risks including severe malnutrition, disease, recruitment into armed groups, sexual violence and the loss of educational opportunities.
 - The list of emergencies keeps growing, straining UNICEF's human and financial capacities and resources.
 - UNICEF's 2015 global emergency response targets include:²
 - Treating 2.7 million children for severe acute malnutrition
 - Immunizing 13.6 million children against measles
 - Providing 34.3 million people with access to safe water
 - Protecting 2.3 million children through providing access to psychosocial support
 - Helping almost 5 million children receive formal and non-formal education
 - Providing 257,000 people with access to information on HIV and AIDS, testing, and treatment
 - Reaching 395,000 people with cash assistance

¹ HAC 2015 overview. The appeal is for assisting children in 71 countries.

² Ibid

2. Children are particularly vulnerable to the devastating effects of conflicts and protracted crises. But with the right support, they can still grow up to reach their full potential.

- Millions of children are born into and grow up amid crises and are deprived of stability. Without support, not only the lives of those children but the future of entire countries will be hanging by a thread.
 - There are as many as 16.7 million children caught in violent conflicts in the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan, the State of Palestine, Syria and Ukraine. Many of these children are internally displaced or live as refugees.³
 - In Syria, the violent conflict enters its fifth year at the start of 2015 and no end is in sight. More than 5.6 million children inside Syria are in need of support – with an additional 1.7 million children who have fled their country.⁴
 - Schools and health facilities have not been spared. In Pakistan, children attend school in fear following the brutal attack in December on a school in Peshawar. In Nigeria, there has been a persistent trend of attacks against schools and abduction of school girls.⁵
 - Many other conflicts and chronic crises have been hidden from view, but they are no less of a tragedy for the children trying to survive. An estimated 230 million children worldwide live in countries affected by armed conflicts.⁶ In Somalia, there is an entire generation of children who have never lived in peace.
- Under these extraordinary circumstances, children miss out on the basics of life: health, shelter, education, and protection. They are at risk of accepting violence and trauma as part of normal life, and they are at risk of perpetuating the traumas that stole their futures.
- Investing in children and adolescents affected by emergencies by enhancing their access to safe, quality education and protection contributes to preventing the loss of a generation of children and ultimately to the stability and growth of nations.

3. Supporting and protecting children affected by humanitarian crises today contributes to building better and peaceful nations – ultimately benefiting all of humanity.

³ Sum of total number of children affected in the countries as per HAC chapters: 2.4 million children in CAR, 2.6 million in Iraq, 3.4 million in South Sudan, 1 million in State of Palestine, 5.6 million in Syria, 1.7 million in Ukraine.

⁴ HAC 2015 foreword by Anthony Lake

⁵ http://www.unicef.org/media/media_73100.html

⁶ http://www.unicef.org/media/media_78058.html (Source of data: UNICEF Data and Analytics Section)

- UNICEF, working with partners, responded to hundreds of emerging and chronic humanitarian situations in 2014⁷ – situations in and out of the news.
 - 30,000 children affected by the Ebola outbreak benefited from psychosocial support; 4,100 metric tonnes of essential supplies were shipped, making this the largest supply response in UNICEF’s history; and more than 50 Community Care Centres and rapid isolation facilities were established
 - 1.8 million children globally were treated for severe acute malnutrition
 - 16 million children were vaccinated against measles
 - 13 million people were provided with access to safe drinking water
 - 1.8 million children received psychosocial support
 - 2 million children were provided with access to education, both formal and non-formal
- Increasingly, UNICEF is placing the long-term impact on the future of children and society at the heart of what we do in chronic crises. When done properly, humanitarian action is more than just meeting immediate needs. It is also about reducing vulnerabilities to future shocks.
- In development contexts, establishing reliable and strong systems for social services helps communities withstand future crises.
- By working with governments and communities to enhance preparedness, by providing children with health, nutrition, and water and sanitation services during conflicts or natural disasters, and by reinstating access to education and protecting children from harm and exploitation, we contribute to a nation’s development and resilience.
 - In Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, countries most affected by the Ebola outbreak, UNICEF is helping establish Community Care Centres, training community health workers, and stepping up efforts to raise public awareness. These efforts will not only help end the outbreak, but will also help strengthen local health systems.
 - UNICEF’s water and sanitation programme for Syrian refugees will continue to transition from the immediate short-term emergency services to more sustainable and cost-effective systems, strengthening the services in the communities impacted by refugee influx.

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⁷ UNICEF results during the first 10 months of 2014. Source: HAC 2015 overview