UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010

NEPAL

SITUATION UPDATE

The first half of the year was marred by a series of general strikes called by the main opposition party, the Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-M), a new emerging political group in the southern plains (Terai), affecting the operational space for humanitarian and development activities. Violation of the Basic Operational Guidelines (for implementation of humanitarian and development assistances) was reported in several districts with intensification of threats, involuntary contributions, protests and extortion drives by the political groups. Over 3 million people continued to face vulnerability caused by Nepal’s ongoing political deadlock and instability combined with potential natural disasters including flooding, landslides, earthquakes, drought, hailstorm, fires as well as sustained high food price inflation, leading to increased food insecurity. Twenty three districts were affected by fire across the country in the first half of 2010 with 569 households left homeless. Three and a half million people in Nepal today are still considered moderately to severely food insecure. Acute malnutrition is estimated at 13 per cent (up to 26 per cent in some districts) - the worst malnutrition levels in Asia. The Epidemiology and Disease Control Department has already reported 609 cases and 21 deaths in 2010 due to the recent outbreak of diarrhoea diseases in the Mid and Far and Western (MFW) Regions as of June 2010.

KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

Coordination was enhanced among humanitarian agencies with regard to response and preparedness, with the lead role increasingly being taken by the government with support from UN and other humanitarian agencies. Increased attention was given to preparedness activities such as development of Contingency Plans for major emergency scenarios including earthquake risks, review of preparedness measures at different levels, pre-positioning of emergency relief materials and capacity building initiatives to enhance emergency preparedness and response.

Health: An H1N1 vaccine deployment plan for high-risk groups was prepared along with the Programme for Immunization of Preventable Diseases. Health emergency preparedness and disaster response plans were set in place in 18 districts. As part of preparedness plans for diarrhoea-prone districts, Oral Rehydration Sachets along with other WASH commodities were distributed to some 225,000 households with children.

Nutrition: Nutrition assessment surveys were conducted in six of the most food insecure districts in the mid and far western (MFW) regions. Also 33 trainers were trained in IYCF in high food insecure areas in this region. Ninety five per cent of children aged between 6-59 months received vitamin A and de-worming treatment in April 2010. Support was provided to implement community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) in five highly food insecure districts with high levels of acute malnutrition in the MFW regions. A targeted supplementary feeding programme is ongoing for 2,500 children affected by AIDS in Achham district.

Education: Pre-positioned education in emergency materials were sustained to restore learning for up to 50,000 school-aged children. The Education in Emergency Cluster Contingency plan was revised and updated for 2010, to support the continued education of displaced children and those affected by natural disasters. The right to education in conflict-affected environments has been strengthened through capacity building and support to School Management Committees in over 500 schools, along with capacity building of 600 teachers to address issues of violence in the classroom. Evidence-based advocacy data and information on the impact of the food, fuel and financial crisis on education was collected and analysed, with two quarterly publications released in 2010.

Child Protection: Over four thousand Maoist army personnel who were disqualified by the UN verification team were discharged from the seven People’s Liberation Army cantonments in January/February 2010. Seventy-five armed police force personnel from 75 barracks - mainly in Terai - were trained and equipped in Mine Risk Education (MRE). Twenty ‘master trainers’ from the Department of Education have been trained and equipped in MRE to cover 650 schools from 20 highly affected districts. One hundred and thirteen humanitarian workers were trained on IASC Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support and 22 psychosocial counsellors trained in psychosocial first aid.

WASH: In collaboration with key humanitarian actors, a mass media communication campaign package on health hygiene and promotional messages are being aired through 100 radio stations across the country.
HIV/AIDS: Availability of Post Exposure Prophylaxis kits, Antiretroviral Therapy drugs, Cotrimoxazole drugs and Opportunistic Infections drugs was ensured in all Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission and Anti-Retroviral Therapy sites.

KEY CHALLENGES
Due to political instability characterised by frequent general strikes, road blockades and threats by criminal groups, the ability of implementing partners to deliver services is often compromised. The planned emergency programmes continue to experience significant funding shortfalls, placing constraints on preparedness activities.

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION
UNICEF Cluster leadership in the Nutrition, WASH, Education (together with Save the Children) and Sub-Cluster leadership in Child Protection (under OHCHR-led Protection Custer) and Health (led by WHO) has contributed to (i) enhanced coordination among the Cluster partners and government partners at various levels for emergency preparedness and response activities, (ii) capacity-building of major partners, (iii) mapping of existing agencies’ capacities, (iv) identifying commonly agreed standards and (iv) finalising Cluster contingency plans for various emergency scenarios to ensure that UNICEF also maintains close coordination with a range of humanitarian organisations with particular emphasis on close coordination with district authorities and civil society.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS
To date no funding has been received against the 2010 HAR. This has an implication on UNICEF’s role in supporting emergency preparedness and response activities. In order to carry out the most urgent activities, some funds from the regular programme budget and funds carried over from the previous year have been used, particularly in Nutrition and Child Protection. In education, funds are available from other resources to fully cover the planned activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Original 2010 HAR requirements</th>
<th>Revised HAR requirements</th>
<th>Funds received</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
<th>Additional funds utilized in 2010</th>
<th>Final funding gap</th>
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*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

EMERGENCY PROGRAMME PRIORITIES: JULY – DECEMBER 2010

Health and Nutrition
• Distribution of Oral Rehydration Sachets (ORS) and zinc to diarrhoea-affected areas will be initiated.
• A responsive polio mop-up campaign is planned in July 2010.
• Technical support will be provided for coordination, planning, implementation and monitoring of CMAM pilot in three districts and expansion to two new districts in the MFW Regions.
• A nutrition survey and assessments will be conducted in three districts of the MFW Regions.

1 These requirements are in line with UNICEF requirements in the Nepal Humanitarian Transition appeal (mid-year review, 14 July).
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Water supply projects damaged by floods and landslides will be rehabilitated.
- Life-saving pre-propositioned WASH relief stock will be maintained to provide humanitarian response for over 20,000 families (120,000 people).
- Training will be conducted for key WASH stakeholders on WASH preparedness and response and for over 1,700 front line workers from 19 districts on the WASH campaign on diarrhoea prevention and control.
- WASH preparedness interventions will be carried out in 19 disaster prone districts covering 225,000 beneficiaries.

Child Protection

- The capacity of partners/stakeholders to monitor, document, and report child rights violations and prevent the recruitment of children into armed forces and armed groups will be enhanced, along with their capacity to coordinate and implement mine risk education activities and to enhance awareness and understanding of Child Protection needs in emergencies.
- The response mechanism to provide essential services including psychosocial services to children and youth in need of special protection during emergencies will be enhanced.

HIV/AIDS

- Water purifying and hygiene kits for all HIV positive families will be prepared for 2,000 families.
- Prevention, treatment and care communication materials will be prepared and disseminated to some 5,000 persons.

Education

- Capacity building of the Education Cluster will be continued, to prepare for and respond to emergencies.
- Increased access to education for children in 300 schools in conflict-affected environments through the Schools as Zones of Peace initiative will be ensured.