



A child holding a ten-litre jerrycan filled with water nearby a UNICEF-supported communal drinking water tank in Maeishiyeh neighbourhood of Al-Hasakeh City, northeast Syria.

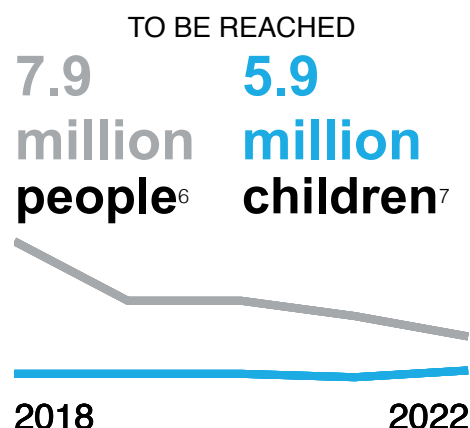
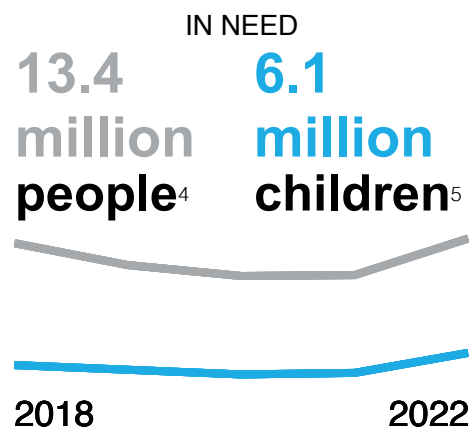
unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Syrian Arab Republic

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- Children are bearing the brunt of the 11-year-old conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. Over 13.4 million people (6.1 million children) require assistance and 7 million people are internally displaced (3.1 million children).² Humanitarian needs have increased by more than one quarter since 2020, driven by an economic crisis, continuing violence in the northwest and other parts of Syria Arab Republic, hostilities, mass displacement, devastated public services and COVID-19.³
- In 2022, UNICEF will deliver life-saving services to children and families, including through a multi-sector resilience-building approach with its partners and field offices. UNICEF will address the needs of girls, boys, adolescents, women and men, prioritizing high-severity areas and responding to COVID-19 and systematizing accountability to affected populations and the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation.
- UNICEF requires US\$334.4 million to reach children in the Syrian Arab Republic with humanitarian assistance in 2022. The greatest funding requirements are for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and education, among others.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



3.2 million
children vaccinated against polio



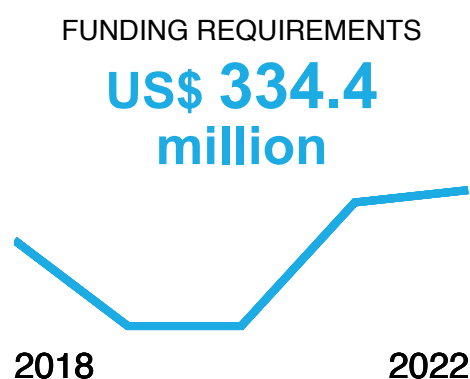
3.6 million
people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



384,000
children accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



2.3 million
children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon government approval and finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Children are bearing the brunt of the 11-year-old conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. The scale of children in need of humanitarian assistance is on the rise, increasing 27 per cent from 2020 to 2021, with 6.1 million children now affected.⁸ Overall, 13.4 million people require humanitarian assistance, up from 11 million in 2020. This includes 3 million people with disabilities and 7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). This escalation is being driven by a severe economic crisis, which is only worsening the impact of intensified regional hostilities, mass displacement, a widely devastated public service infrastructure and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ninety per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, with the Syrian Pound losing 78 per cent of its value and food prices increasing by 236 per cent in 2020.⁹ Only one third of schools¹⁰ and half of health centres¹¹ are fully functional and 36 per cent of the population relies on alternative water sources¹² (92 per cent had access to basic water services pre-crisis¹³). There are 90,000 children suffering from acute malnutrition¹⁴ and 4.5 million children out of school with 1.6 million at risk of dropping out; children with disabilities are particularly likely to be out of school.¹⁵

Protection concerns remain paramount. In 2020, 2,140 grave violations against children were recorded, including recruitment, deaths and injuries.¹⁶ One third of communities are contaminated with explosive ordnance.¹⁷ The economic crisis is also worsening negative coping mechanisms and contributing to the normalization of gender-based violence, which predominantly affects women and girls.¹⁸ Sixty-two per cent of communities surveyed reported child marriage (often affecting girls) and 67 per cent that children are forced to work rather than study (often affecting boys).¹⁹

Conflict has intensified in the northwest, which hosts 2.8 million IDPs.²⁰ The period of June to August 2021 saw the greatest escalation of hostilities in over a year.²¹ Humanitarian needs in the northwest are among the worst in the country, with 2.2 million out of 4.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and 1 million out of 1.7 million school-age children out of school.²²

In the northeast, complex political and conflict dynamics combined with drought conditions have endangered access to water for 4.5 million people,²³ while at least 25,000 children associated with armed groups continue to languish in camps and detention centres and require support to facilitate their safe reintegration or repatriation. Among those affected are IDPs in the camps of Al-Hol (58,000 people, 65 per cent children) and Al-Roj (2,620 people, 67 per cent children),²⁴ who are fully dependent on aid. This includes 7,468 third-country national children, whom UNICEF is working to help return to their homes. The UN Security Council Resolution 2585 authorizing UN cross-border assistance into Syria will be up for renewal in January and July 2022 and remains the only viable modality for reaching vulnerable people in the northwest. UNICEF and partners continue to work to expand much-needed complementary cross-line activities.

SECTOR NEEDS



4.9 million people in need of nutrition assistance



12.4 million children/women need health/nutrition assistance²⁵



12.2 million people require access to WASH services²⁶



5.9 million children need child protection assistance²⁷



6.9 million children and teachers need education services²⁸

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Ahmad, 9, was born with a heart defect that led to an impairment in his lower limbs. But he is unstoppable! Supported by his family and UNICEF's cash programme, Ahmad can now walk for longer distances unaided and is continuing his education.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Ahmad, 9, at home in Al-Hasakeh City, northeast Syria.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF prioritizes its assistance towards high severity areas using the Whole of Syria approach from its hubs in Damascus and Gaziantep and its six field offices.³⁰ Cross-border access to the northwest has been guaranteed by Security Council Resolution 2585. Wherever possible, the United Nations will work crossline; the first crossline convoy in four years reached the northwest on 30 August 2021.³¹

Uniquely positioned to work across the humanitarian-development nexus, UNICEF aims to make a sustained impact on a generation of children affected by conflict, displacement and instability. This means helping children build their personal resilience, as well as the resilience of their family and community. UNICEF implementing partners will provide services in areas of highest need, including health consultations and preventative and curative nutrition services. In parallel, support will be extended to ensure the Expanded Programme on Immunization system reaches every child.

The provision of emergency WASH services will target camps, collective shelters and new returnees, including in the northwest. Water and sanitation networks will be rehabilitated and maintained in high severity areas, especially in areas of the northeast affected by the water crisis. Advocacy led by the WASH Sector and coordinated with United Nations agencies will be key for UNICEF to ensure Alouk water station³² remains operational.

As a leader of the No Lost Generation initiative, UNICEF will reach children at scale with education, child protection and adolescent development opportunities. Children will receive non-formal, remedial, vocational, accelerated and formal education services, including for early childhood development, with the aim to transition and retain children in formal, certified education. Adolescents will participate in their communities through life skills and social cohesion programming.

Psychosocial support, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), case management and GBV prevention and empowerment will aim to reduce children's exposure to violence, exploitation and abuse. All UNICEF humanitarian partners will be trained on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse protocols, with safe and confidential reporting mechanisms made available to UNICEF beneficiaries. Highly vulnerable families will receive cash or in-kind supplies to protect their children from extreme weather and meet the needs of children with disabilities.

Preparedness and mechanisms to engage UNICEF beneficiaries in programming – through information provision, risk communication and community engagement and feedback mechanisms – will be integrated into programming to build community resilience. Programme strategy will be improved through a comprehensive evidence base, including the results of the global evaluation of the UNICEF response in Syria (2021) and evaluations of the infant and young child feeding (2021) and EORE (2022) programmes.³³

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/syria/situation-reports>

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

2022 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **18,400** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **1,245,000** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling³⁴
- **1,970,000** children and pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients³⁵



Health

- **3,200,000** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio³⁶
- **1,820,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities³⁷
- **550** health care facility staff trained on infection prevention and control³⁸



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **3,600,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs^{39,40}
- **1,950,000** people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities⁴¹
- **600,000** people reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **384,000** children accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support⁴²
- **4,027,800** people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers⁴³
- **120,000** women, girls, boys and men accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions⁴⁴
- **1,947,300** children and caregivers accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions⁴⁵



Education

- **2,250,000** children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings
- **430,000** children in non-formal education benefiting from education services
- **44,000** teachers and education personnel trained⁴⁶



Social protection

- **86,000** households reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers⁴⁷
- **14,000** children with disabilities reached with regular cash transfer and case management services
- **250,000** girls and boys protected from extreme weather through the provision of non-food items⁴⁸



Adolescents/youth

- **300,000** adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years promoting social and civic engagement at the community level
- **200,000** affected adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills



Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)

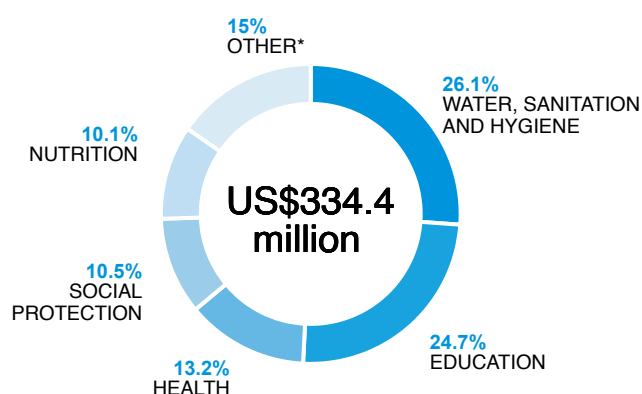
- **25,611,884** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services⁴⁹
- **8,725,728** people engaged in risk communication and community engagement actions⁵⁰

Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon government approval and finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2022

UNICEF requires US\$334.4 million to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable children and families in the Syrian Arab Republic and fulfill children's rights in 2022.⁵¹ This funding will cover programmes delivered from within the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as cross-border assistance delivered as part of the Whole of Syria approach. Funding will be prioritized for areas with the highest severity of need across health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection, social protection and adolescent programming as well as to protect children from, and mitigate the impact of, COVID-19.

Without these funds, 1.2 million children in the northwest affected by intensified conflict will go without life-saving and protective services.⁵² Up to 4.5 million people in the northeast could go without safe drinking water as a result of the water crisis⁵³ and 3.2 million children could miss out on life-saving vaccines. Meanwhile, the education loss of nearly 2.5 million children out of school across the country will only worsen without pathways back to the classroom, with girls, adolescents and children with disabilities most likely to be affected.⁵⁴



Sector	2022 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	33,923,083
Health	44,030,777
Water, sanitation and hygiene	87,438,477⁵⁵
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	31,472,313^{56,57}
Education	82,513,164
Social protection	35,100,698⁵⁸
Adolescents/youth	11,729,219⁵⁹
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	1,246,154⁶⁰
Cluster coordination	6,976,186
Total	334,430,071

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions: Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA (9.4%), Adolescents/youth (3.5%), Cluster coordination (2.1%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP) (<1%).

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ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF's public health and socioeconomic COVID-19 response, including programme targets and funding requirements, is integrated into the standalone country, multi-country and regional HAC appeals. All interventions related to accelerating equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines fall under the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) global appeal.
2. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2021
3. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021, March 2021.
4. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021, March 2021.
5. Children to be reached figure is higher because children in need is calculated as 45 per cent of the total number of people in need based on 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview.'
6. Calculated considering the various interventions planned for different age groups and locations to avoid double counting beneficiaries. Includes 3.2 million children under 5 to be reached with polio immunization; 2.7 million children over 5 with formal and non-formal education; 60,000 adolescents (aged 15, 16 or 17) with social and civic engagement; 1.9 million adults with WASH services. Total figure includes 4.1 million women/girls and 1,218,600 people with disabilities (based on the global estimate of 15 per cent). UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
7. Calculated same as above, excluding WASH. Total figure includes 3 million girls and 927,000 children with disabilities, based on same global estimate. Figures based on 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
8. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021, March 2021; inclusive of northwest and northeast Syrian Arab Republic.
9. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021, March 2021.
10. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, April 2020. No new figure for affected schools was provided in the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview.
11. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021, March 2021.
12. Ibid.
13. Central Bureau of Statistics, 2012
14. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021, March 2021.
15. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, April 2020. New figures were not provided in the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview.
16. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021, March 2021. Of the 1,565 grave violations and 287 related violations of concern verified between January and September 2020, half occurred in Q1 of the year and two thirds in the northwest Syria Arab Republic alone.
17. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021, March 2021.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. OCHA, Developments in north-west Syria and Ras Al Ain – Tell Abiad, Situation Report 30, August 2021.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. OCHA, Water Crisis in Northern and Northeast Syria: Immediate Response and Funding Requirements, September 2021. This includes some 460,000 people who depend on safe water from the Alouk water station in Al-Hasakeh.
24. Population figures based on internal United Nations sources.
25. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', including 5.6 million children.
26. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
27. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'. Acronyms: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
28. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'. Includes 6.8 million school-aged children in addition to teachers and education personnel (49 per cent male and 51 per cent female).
29. UNICEF leads cluster coordination for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters and the child protection area of responsibility (AOR).
30. Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs and Tartous. UNICEF leads the education, nutrition and WASH sectors/clusters and Child Protection AOR.
31. OCHA, Developments in north-west Syria and Ras Al Ain – Tell Abiad, Situation Report 30, August 2021.
32. Provides water directly for 460,000 people in the northeast; up to 1 million people impacted by disrupted operation, including many in camps and informal settlements.
33. Chosen for evaluation as large-scale programmes for which UNICEF has significantly invested. Evaluation outcomes will help strategically position UNICEF going forward.
34. The target includes both counselling and awareness-raising sessions. Target is a percentage of people in need in high severity areas and differs year to year.
35. Includes 658,000 girls, 632,000 boys and 680,000 women.
36. The target includes children reached through campaigns.
37. Counts consultations provided, not unique beneficiaries, so double counting is assumed. Includes 755,000 consultations for girls, 760,000 for boys and 305,000 for women. Remaining needs will be covered by health sector partners (United Nations agencies and NGOs).
38. Focus kept on health care workers, in line with 2021 Whole of Syria Humanitarian Response Plan, hence the reduction from the 2021 target.
39. This indicator includes the repair/rehabilitation of water systems. Chlorination and water disinfection activities are not reported under this indicator.
40. Targets were developed at end of 2020 whereas the water crisis in the north and northeast began in Q2 of 2021. However, beneficiaries impacted are primarily in Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa and southern Al-Hasakeh, areas already targeted by UNICEF, hence, no targets increase.
41. This indicator includes the repair/rehabilitation of sewage systems.
42. Caregivers are targeted separately through parenting programmes, in line with the 2021 Whole of Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).
43. Includes 1,327,900 girls, 1,294,400 boys, 1,147,000 women and 258,500 men.
44. Includes 48,000 girls, 43,000 boys, 23,000 women and 6,000 men.
45. Includes 831,700 girls, 780,600 boys, 215,000 women and 120,000 men. Caregivers are included in line with the 2021 Whole of Syria HRP.
46. Includes Fundamentals of Pedagogy and Learning Evaluation; Life Skills; Health Training (COVID-19 Prevention); Early Childhood Education; Learning Assessments.
47. Under the early recovery and livelihood sector.
48. Under the shelter and non-food items sector. Target reduced from 2021 as UNICEF is shifting from mass distribution of in-kind assistance (winter clothes) towards more flexible and efficient cash transfers. The non-food item response focuses where cash is not yet possible, such as IDP camps.
49. Population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
50. In 2021, target for this indicator focused on health promotion and education. Current target focuses on COVID-19 prevention (outside COVAX). Programme work, including health promotion and education as well as nutrition, child protection, hygiene promotion and others will also continue. However, the target for these programme-led areas are smaller than for COVID-19 prevention, and cannot be added to avoid potential double counting.
51. UNICEF requirements differ from the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) due to: 1) Removal of funding related to COVID-19 vaccinations, covered under a separate HAC; 2) Inclusion of funding for coordinating the Child Protection AOR not included within the HRP; 3) Inclusion of separate funds for C4D efforts not included in the HRP.
52. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021, March 2021.
53. OCHA, Water Crisis in Northern and Northeast Syria: Immediate Response and Funding Requirements, September 2021.
54. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021, March 2021.
55. Funding requirements decreased as programme now focuses more on restoring services and strengthening resilience rather than lifesaving interventions (water trucking, hygiene kits).
56. The 2021 Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA funding requirements were US\$34,221,760. In 2022, this is US\$33,409,390 when the amount for coordination (US\$1,937,077) which is included in a separate budget line is included.
57. Funding for PSEA is US\$400,000.
58. Includes both the non-food items and early recovery livelihood components of the social protection programme.
59. Includes both education and early recovery components of the adolescent development and participation programme.
60. One (1) per cent of the total funding requirements will be dedicated to evaluation.