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for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Children in a UNICEF-supported nursery where facilitators received training on hygiene practices and were provided with hygiene supplies.

Middle East and North Africa Region

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- Armed conflict, protracted crises and natural hazards compounded with climate change and COVID-19 are threatening the lives and well-being of 35.1 million children, including 5.5 million refugees² and over 7.2 million internally displaced children,³ in the Middle East and North Africa region.⁴
- The UNICEF Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Office will continue supporting national efforts to provide 24.2 million children with humanitarian assistance, and ensure continuity in provision of basic health, education, WASH and protection services in the context of COVID-19.⁵
- UNICEF will further implement Grand Bargain⁶ commitments with governments and partners, localize capacities for emergency preparedness and response, improve accountability to affected communities, prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse, and build shock-responsive systems for better child-centered resilience.
- UNICEF requests US\$55.8 million to address COVID-19 and other humanitarian needs of 6.2 million people in Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Oman and Tunisia and support overall humanitarian action in the region.

IN NEED⁷



80 million people in need of health and nutrition services⁸



45 million people lack access to safe water⁹



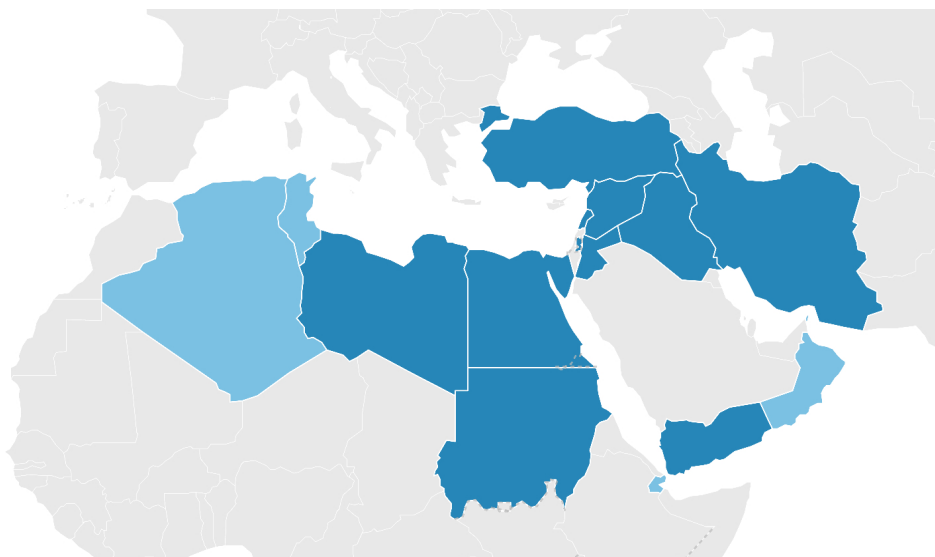
27 million children in need of protection services¹⁰



23 million people in need of GBV services¹¹



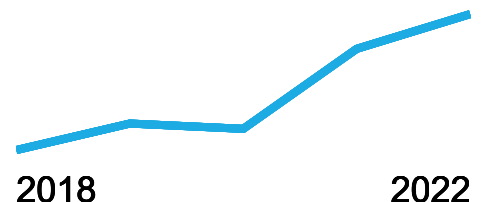
29 million children in need of education support¹²



This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The countries in light blue are embedded in this regional appeal. The countries in dark blue have corresponding standalone appeals or are covered under crisis appeals.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 55.8 million



2018

2022

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

With 79 million people,¹³ including 35.1 million children,¹⁴ in need of humanitarian assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, the region continues to experience some of the gravest humanitarian situations in the world. Complex emergencies, including armed conflicts and protracted crises, in a region prone to natural hazards affect communities and threaten the lives of vulnerable groups, especially children, women and refugees and internally displaced people.¹⁵ Direct and indirect effects of COVID-19 and climate change, as crises and crisis-drivers, have exacerbated vulnerabilities. These continue to damage national economies, increase extreme poverty, disrupt provision of child-centered services, increase protection risks, and threaten social cohesion in vulnerable communities.

Protracted conflicts and hostilities continue to affect children in the region while the migration crisis puts more children at risk. In 2022, there will be around 14 million refugees and 14.5 million internally displaced people in MENA,¹⁶ with new refugee emergencies affecting Sudan and Iran. In Yemen and Syria¹⁷ alone, 14.8 million children suffer from conflicts. Widespread economic downturn, aggravated by COVID-19, has disrupted the livelihoods of millions of people across the region, plunging them into poverty¹⁸ and potentially reversing the development gains of the past few decades. Among others, sinking into one of the most severe global crises is Lebanon, with the majority of the country's population, including 844,000 registered Syrian refugees,¹⁹ falling into poverty. Tunisia is suffering from a deteriorating economic situation and increased vulnerabilities, while political uncertainties will further jeopardize essential services to children. The COVID-19 pandemic has put systems in MENA under unprecedented stress, with over 80 million children in need of urgent health and nutrition assistance and 29 million children in need of urgent assistance to access education.²⁰ Climate change is contributing to water scarcity in the region, leaving 45 million people without access to safe drinking water.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In view of an active humanitarian crisis and the current risk profile of the region, UNICEF MENA adopts a two-pronged strategy to address the immediate humanitarian needs and build local capacities for emergency preparedness. Guided by the revised Core Commitments to Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF will provide timely humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable populations, including children, women, and persons with disabilities.

UNICEF MENA Regional Office will continue its strategic investments to build capacities at the regional and country levels for effective preparedness and response to ensure equitable and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable populations. It will continue to provide strategic guidance and technical support to promote and inform child-centred, risk-informed humanitarian and development nexus programming across all contexts, in order to contribute to crisis prevention and preparedness, build strong and resilient systems, and strengthen social cohesion. Drawing on COVID-19 lessons, UNICEF will further support strengthening national systems through support to governments and greater localization of aid to address the immediate needs of vulnerable people during future public health emergencies.

Promoting accountability to affected populations and working with local partners remains a key strategic priority, contributing to building trust and strengthening local capacities to save lives and alleviate suffering. Focus will be placed on further developing predictable partnerships with national organizations, strengthening community-based interventions and adolescent and youth engagement. Regional Office activities will also contribute to increase protection from sexual exploitation and abuse - an organization-wide responsibility - by scaling up safe and accessible reporting channels, survivor-centred assistance, and strengthened accountability for child survivors.

Finally, UNICEF will continue to increase collaboration and coordination with the United Nations agencies for more predictable, timely, efficient and effective humanitarian action. Notably, the blueprint initiative with UNHCR will support building inclusive national systems to include refugee children.

STORY FROM THE FIELD



"You can't take your children to any nursery after COVID-19," said Seham, "here, there is someone washing and sterilizing their hands all the time. My son once told me while I was spraying his hand with alcohol: "you're doing like Mr. Ahmed?" They bring healthy behaviors from the nursery to home."

During the lockdown, UNICEF supplied the nursery's facilitators with high-speed internet, developed a digital library and distributed hard-copies of books on activities with children for families who do not have access to internet. Centres received hygiene kits (including masks, chlorine, soap) and training for facilitators on hygiene practices.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Four-year-old Mostafa from Cairo is finally back at his nursery.

COVID-19 REGIONAL RESPONSE

Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Oman, Tunisia

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION (COVID-19)

Directly and indirectly, COVID-19 threatens the lives and well-being of children across the region. As of 23 September 2021, there were 15,205,042²¹ confirmed cases and 277,804 deaths reported throughout MENA. The pandemic's tremendous pressure on fragile health systems across the region has disrupted provision of children's essential health and nutrition services and nurturing care, including immunization, and put at risk achievements in this area.

COVID-19 has deprived many children from access to education across the region. Extended lockdowns, school closures and isolation have exposed women and children to increased protection risks, including domestic violence, resulting in negative coping mechanisms such as child labour and early marriage, among others.²² As schools reopen in some countries, the challenge is to support governments with a clear path to address learning systematically. COVID-19 has posed unprecedented socioeconomic challenges for communities and individual households. Despite a projected growth for the global economy in 2022, the regional economic growth will lag behind the global recovery because of certain structural challenges and slow vaccine roll-out. Under a continued COVID-19 situation in the region, households and children will suffer more than before from the consequences of economic deterioration and declining social services.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY (COVID-19)

Inspired by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian action, and in line with global efforts led by the United Nations and the World Health Organization, UNICEF Middle East and North Africa will support regional, national and local responses to COVID-19 pandemic. Following an examination of its preparedness measures and COVID-19 response, UNICEF MENA Regional Office will commence the implementation of its Preparedness Roadmap to enhance capacities for effective humanitarian response in a timely manner. UNICEF will take COVID-19 crisis to further build local capacities for emergency preparedness and response and build shock-responsive national systems to maintain provision of essential services to vulnerable children, including health and social protection.

UNICEF further supports risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and social behavior change measures against COVID-19 at the regional and local levels. UNICEF will procure personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention control(IPC) items for front-line health workers, social workers and caregivers to ensure the continuity of essential health and social services to children. UNICEF will procure required hygiene materials for teachers and students to support safe school reopening across the region, and support regional and national efforts to compensate learning loss and gaps caused by school closures.

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^{23,24}



Nutrition

- **3,300** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **289,888** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



Health

- **111,682** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles
- **125,357** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio
- **2,227,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **30,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs
- **100,000** children use safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces
- **2,241,328** people reached with critical WASH supplies



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA²⁵

- **1,476,000** children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **32,200** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **65,500** people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers
- **18,060** children who have received individual case management



Education

- **2,969,519** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **22,947** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)²⁶



Social protection

- **80,000** households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and/or funding
- **314,000** households benefitting from new or additional social transfers from governments with UNICEF technical assistance support



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

- **63,940,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services

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

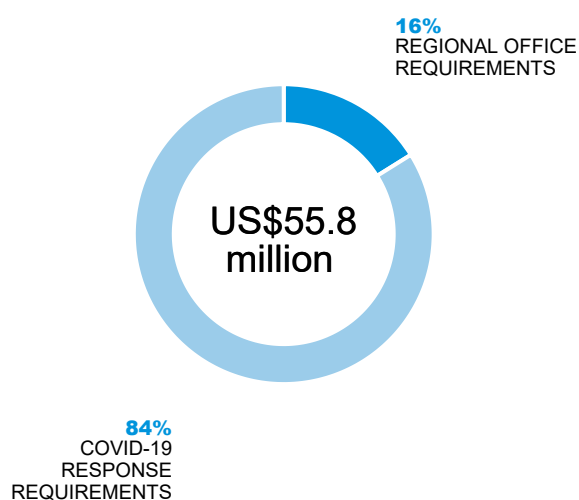
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2022

UNICEF is requesting US\$55.8 million²⁷ to: (a) cover COVID-19 response requirements in countries without stand-alone 2022 appeals (Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Oman and Tunisia); (b) respond to small- or medium-size sudden-onset emergencies, such as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, displacement, civil unrest and economic deterioration, which are not benefiting from inter-agency appeals; and (c) support all countries in the region, including Level 3 emergencies, with multi-sectoral technical support, strengthen coordination and ensure adequate capacities to prepare for and launch emergency responses.

This funding will also allow UNICEF to continue supporting host governments and vulnerable populations with risk communication and community engagement, infection prevention control and essential health, nutrition, education, child protection and social protection services.

Health needs and funding requirements have grown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds will allow UNICEF to support local healthcare facilities with key supplies and technical capacities to deliver essential services, such as immunization (polio and measles), and prevent new infections through public health education and outreach in vulnerable communities. This will help ensure that over 2.5 million mothers and children have access to primary health care, nutrition services and nurturing care. Social protection needs have also increased, and the requested funds will allow UNICEF to address the pandemic's socioeconomic effects on children by supporting national efforts to build shock-responsive social protection systems to provide services to children and caregivers during COVID-19 and future emergencies. The increased funding requirement for education will allow UNICEF in five focus countries to ensure safe school reopening and operations in vulnerable communities and address the learning loss caused by COVID-19. The requested funding for C4D and community engagement will be utilized to address misinformation and false information that could have harmful consequences for children and communities. Moreover, it will allow supporting local efforts to manage people's fears, address health risks and provide credible and timely information and services to curb the spread of COVID-19.

This humanitarian action has been designed in close collaboration with local partners, as a last resort, to boost efforts for timely and effective assistance to vulnerable communities. Timely and predictable resources will be vital in addressing pressing humanitarian needs of vulnerable children and women in the region as well as implementing the 2022 UNICEF Middle East and North Africa strategy to enhance regional preparedness.



Sector	2022 requirements (US\$)
Regional office requirements	9,000,000
Emergency response	4,145,000
Emergency preparedness	2,400,000
Regional office technical capacity	2,455,000
COVID-19 response requirements	46,835,315
Nutrition	890,000
Health	17,143,060
Water, sanitation and hygiene	4,762,415
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	2,674,840 ²⁸
Education	9,617,000
Social protection	7,850,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	3,898,000
Total	55,835,315

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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 Humanitarian Action for Children 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. 5.5 million registered refugees and asylum-seekers according to UNHCR's data of 2021. This includes 1.8 million registered Palestinian refugee children according to UNRWA's registered population data of 2020.
3. 500,000 in Iraq; OCHA, 'Iraq 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', 71,000 in Libya; OCHA, 'Libya 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', 7,000 in SoP; OCHA, 'State of Palestine 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', 1.4 million in Sudan; OCHA, 'Sudan 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', 3.1 million in Syria; OCHA, 'Syria 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview' and 2.2 million in Yemen; OCHA, 'Yemen 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan'.
4. These figures represent all humanitarian needs across the Middle East and North Africa region, including all Humanitarian Action for Children/Humanitarian Response Plan countries. This regional appeal includes COVID-19-specific targets in five countries only (Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Oman and Tunisia), as well regional requirements to ensure technical support to all countries in the region (i.e., country appeals and the Syrian refugee appeal). Other humanitarian needs are directly addressed through the country-specific appeals for Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the State of Palestine, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, and the Syrian refugee appeal covering Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The number of children in need has increased by 1 million from the previous year.
5. The total targeted children of Syrian Refugees Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal (HAC) 2021; Iran Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal (HAC) 2021; Iraq Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal (HAC) 2021; Lebanon Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal (HAC) 2021; Libya Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal (HAC) 2021; SoP Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal (HAC) 2021; Sudan Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal (HAC) 2021; Syria Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal (HAC) 2021; Yemen Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal (HAC) 2021.
6. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations, who have committed to getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.
7. The in-need figures reflect the pressing needs of the major sectors that UNICEF supports for all countries in the region.
8. The target groups are children and pregnant and lactating women. UNHCR, 'Egypt Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2020-2021 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, 2020; OCHA, 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, February 2021; UNHCR, 'Iraq Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2021-2022 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, April 2021; UNHCR, 'Lebanon Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2017-2021 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, 2021 update; Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2021-2022, August 2021; OCHA, 'Libya: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, January 2021; OCHA, 'OPT: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, December 2020; OCHA, 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, January 2021; OCHA, 'Syrian Arab Republic: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, March 2021; OCHA, 'Yemen: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, March 2021.
9. OCHA, 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, February 2021; UNHCR, 'Iraq Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2021-2022 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, April 2021; UNHCR, 'Lebanon Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2017-2021 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, 2021 update; Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2021-2022, August 2021; OCHA, 'Libya: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, January 2021; OCHA, 'OPT: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, December 2020; OCHA, 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, January 2021; OCHA, 'Syrian Arab Republic: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, March 2021; OCHA, 'Yemen: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, March 2021.
10. UNHCR, 'Iraq Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2021-2022 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, April 2021; UNHCR, 'Egypt Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2020-2021 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, 2020; UNHCR, 'Lebanon Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2017-2021 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, 2021 update; UNHCR, 'Turkey Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2021-2022 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, February 2021; Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2021-2022, August 2021; OCHA, 'Libya: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, January 2021; OCHA, 'OPT: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, December 2020; OCHA, 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, January 2021; OCHA, 'Syrian Arab Republic: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, March 2021; OCHA, 'Yemen: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, March 2021; OCHA, 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, February 2021.
11. OCHA, 'Libya: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, January 2021; OCHA, 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, January 2021; OCHA, 'Syrian Arab Republic: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, March 2021; OCHA, 'Yemen: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, March 2021; OCHA, 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, February 2021.
12. UNHCR, 'Iraq Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2021-2022 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, April 2021; UNHCR, 'Egypt Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2020-2021 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, 2020; UNHCR, 'Lebanon Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2017-2021 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, 2021 update; UNHCR, 'Turkey Country Chapter: 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2021-2022 in Response to the Syria Crisis', UNHCR, February 2021; Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2021-2022, August 2021; Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2021-2022, August 2021; OCHA, 'Libya: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, January 2021; OCHA, 'OPT: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, December 2020; OCHA, 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, January 2021; OCHA, 'Syrian Arab Republic: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, March 2021; OCHA, 'Yemen: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, March 2021; OCHA, 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, February 2021.
13. Please refer to endnote 3.
14. Ibid.
15. Women, girls, and boys also face increased protection risks, including GBV and other forms of exploitation and abuse.
16. UNHCR 2021; and OCHA Humanitarian Response Plans 2021.
17. OCHA, 'Syrian Arab Republic: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, March 2021; OCHA, 'Yemen: 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, March 2021.
18. Please refer to endnote 3.
19. Syria Regional Refugee Response, UNHCR December 2021.
20. Despite recent gains as a region, educational inequalities between males and females persist. These inequalities are based on a number of additional factors (e.g., migration, conflict, language of instruction, ethnicity or social group, disability status, privatization of educational access, uneven educational opportunities) and manifest in myriad forms, most often affecting the most marginalized girls and women (e.g., rural, impoverished, displaced or nomadic communities, and those with disabilities). Female youth are more than twice as likely to be Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) than male youth. Another group that is often marginalized when it comes to accessing education are females with disabilities – between 63 per cent and 92 per cent of females with disabilities report having no schooling at all.
21. COVID-19: WHO EMRO Biweekly Situation Report #18, September 2021.
22. The pandemic has also disrupted essential child protection and GBV services requiring innovative approaches to reach women, girls, and boys in need.
23. This section reflects the consolidated targets of the countries included in the regional appeal only: Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Oman, Tunisia.
24. 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.
25. The increase in this target is due to a capacity building intervention with national coverage by UNICEF in Oman. To address the rise in the cases of violence against children in the context of COVID-19, the strengthening of the child protection system in the country for faster response in this emergency and beyond is essential. Current gaps include inadequate prevention and response capacity, the limited mandate of the social workforce and limited cross-sectoral collaboration. Building on a training of trainers component on MHPSS with a focus on Prevention, Analysis, Intervention and Referral, UNICEF will support the Ministries of Social Development, Education and Health with development and institutionalization of an accredited training programme, including a coaching component, to strengthen capacities of the social service workforce as well as the case management system to ensure that the diverse needs of vulnerable children and families are met with more effective and sustainable impact.
26. Provision of support implementing safe school protocols will be limited to the highly vulnerable communities, such as refugee populations. The closure of schools and the adoption of distance learning approaches throughout 2021 has negatively impacted children's learning as well as their psychosocial well-being. More importantly, it has exacerbated existing inequalities in educational outcomes, especially for children with disabilities. The reopening of schools is essential but it does not come without challenges as teachers need to be upskilled; catch-up classes need to be put in place; prevention, response and safety measures in schools must be continuously implemented and monitored, and associated funding demands must be met. Therefore, UNICEF, in different countries, has prioritized supporting national efforts addressing learning gaps and targeting children dropped out of school during the COVID-19 pandemic.
27. The funding requirement has increased by US\$13.7 million from US\$42.1 million from the previous year.
28. Child Protection activities integrate PSEA interventions with about US\$480,000 dedicated to PSEA activities.