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for every child

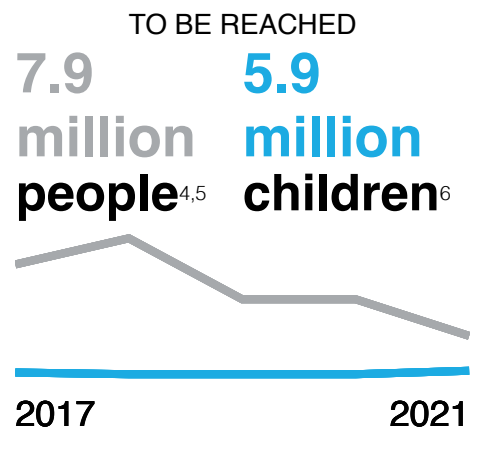
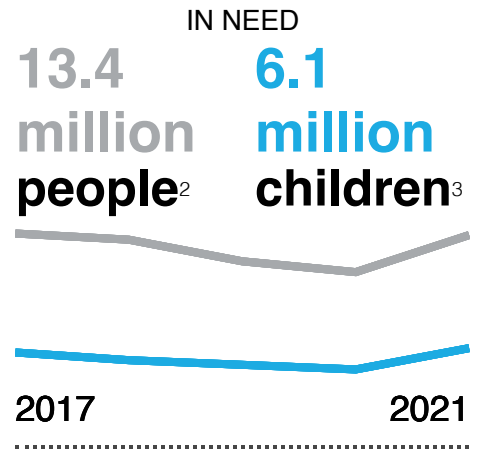
Humanitarian Action for Children

Hiba 14, from Manbij northeast of Aleppo in UNICEF supported accommodation centre, Hiba wants to be a pediatrician though she lost her father, and currently sitting for her Grade 9 national exams.

Syrian Arab Republic

HIGHLIGHTS

- The scale, severity and complexity of humanitarian needs in the Syrian Arab Republic remain extensive. Over 13.4 million people (6.1 million children) require assistance and seven million people are internally displaced (three million children).¹ Continued hostilities have caused multiple displacements, and the socio-economic impacts of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) are hitting families and children extremely hard.
- In 2021, UNICEF will deliver life-saving services to children and families and apply a targeted, multi-sector systems strengthening approach through its partners and field offices. UNICEF will address the specific needs of girls, boys, adolescents, women and men using a conflict-sensitive approach, emphasizing accountability to affected populations and focusing on the prevention of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation.
- UNICEF requires US\$334.4 million to reach children in the Syrian Arab Republic with humanitarian assistance in 2021. This includes significant funding requirements for health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child and social protection.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



1.2 million primary caregivers receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



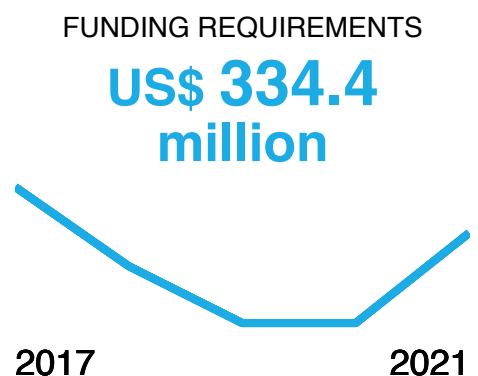
3.2 million children vaccinated against polio



3.6 million people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



1.9 million children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education/survivor interventions



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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Following a decade of conflict and humanitarian crisis, localized hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic continue to intensify. The situation is further aggravated by the economic downturn, the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts, and the rising cost of basic food items. The scale, severity and complexity of humanitarian needs remain extensive.

Over 13.4 million people in the Syrian Arab Republic, including 6.1 million children and 3.34 million people with disabilities, require humanitarian assistance; and 7 million people are internally displaced.⁷ People spontaneously returning home urgently require critical assistance and the restoration of basic services in destroyed communities.

Grave violations of children's rights continue unabated. Children are killed and injured by the persistent use of explosive weapons in civilian areas, the destruction of health and educational facilities and recruitment into the fighting.⁸ Nearly one-third of communities are affected by explosive contamination, with 10.3 million people (5.05 million children) at risk.⁹ Women and girls are disproportionately affected by harmful coping mechanisms, including early marriage and gender-based violence.

Years of conflict have dramatically reduced access to basic services in the Syrian Arab Republic: 2.5 million children aged 5 to 17 years are out of school and an additional 1.6 million children are at risk of dropping out or not learning.¹⁰ Some 12.2 million people require access to WASH services, including 7.6 million people who are experiencing extreme or catastrophic needs.¹¹ COVID-19 containment measures are further eroding access to services, including routine immunization, education, protection, case management and mental health and psychosocial support.

In addition, 600,000 children are chronically malnourished and 90,000 children under 5 years are suffering from acute malnutrition,¹² heightening their risk of contracting a preventable illness and even death.

Since December 2019, some 940,000 people in the northwest (194,000 women and 566,000 children) have been displaced, in addition to the 2.7 million people who are already displaced. Of the 4 million people living in northwest Syrian Arab Republic, 2.8 million are in need of humanitarian assistance.

The northeast is a highly complex operating environment. Al-Hol camp currently hosts over 58,000 people (93 per cent children and women; 51 per cent children under 12)¹³ who are fully dependent on humanitarian assistance. In addition, over 2,600 people in Al-Roj camp need humanitarian assistance.¹⁴ In the south, Rukban camp has not been reached by a humanitarian convoy since September 2019, and informal commercial routes are closed.

SECTOR NEEDS



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

5.9 million children need child protection assistance^{15,16}



Health and nutrition

12.4 million children/women need health/nutrition assistance¹⁷



Water, sanitation and hygiene

12.2 million people require access to WASH services¹⁸



Education

6.9 million children and teachers need education services¹⁹

STORY FROM THE FIELD



In 2018, Mahasen and her five children were caught in a spiral of escalating violence in Hamoriya, rural Damascus.

"In the blink of an eye our lives turned to hell. Two of my children were trapped in a collapsed basement. I found them screaming under the rubble."

After this incident, Omar, then 5, often became agitated and sometimes Mahasen found him hitting his head against the wall. Omar and his siblings are now participating in activities, provided through UNICEF-supported case management and psychosocial support interventions, that allow them to express their feelings and help them cope with the trauma.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Omar and his sister, Marwa, draw on the walls of the living room at their home in Nashabiya, East Ghouta. Both have survived intense shelling that left them in need of psychosocial support.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF will prioritize its assistance in high severity areas using the Whole of Syria approach through its hubs in Damascus and Gaziantep.²⁰

UNICEF will strengthen life-saving and preventative nutrition services, including treatment for acute malnutrition and safe and appropriate infant and young child feeding practices. A priority will be supporting continuous access to equitable health and nutrition services for the most vulnerable. This includes reaching children under 5 years through the Expanded Programme on Immunization and supplementary immunization activities in hard-to-reach areas. UNICEF will also support infection prevention and control interventions in health care facilities, schools, learning spaces and service centres and ensure safe access. The use of personal protective equipment will be promoted extensively given the COVID-19 context.

To foster strong linkages between humanitarian action and development programming, UNICEF will deliver life-saving and sustainable interventions, including emergency water, support for sanitation and solid-waste facilities, hygiene promotion, hygiene kit distribution, and the restoration and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities. The COVID-19 response will include the light rehabilitation of WASH services in quarantine and isolation centres and support for increasing per capita water supply and access to soap.

UNICEF will support equitable and continued access to quality education, alternative learning, self learning and early learning through the implementation of safe-school protocols and remote-learning methods, in line with the No Lost Generation initiative. This will include the light rehabilitation of over 13,000 schools to decrease crowding.

In child protection, UNICEF will support equitable and continued access to psychosocial support, parenting programmes, case management for vulnerable children (including those with disabilities), and specialized services for survivors of violence, exploitation and abuse. To address the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, UNICEF will expand social protection for the poorest families through cash transfers, in line with the Grand Bargain commitments.²¹ This will facilitate continued learning, support children with disabilities and supplement hygiene kits and clothing.

Gender-based violence risk mitigation will be strengthened across all sectors, and prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse will be scaled up. UNICEF will also continue to strengthen its leadership role on risk communication and community engagement and support mine risk education.

UNICEF will integrate gender and disability considerations across its programmes. Communications will promote positive practices and behaviours. The focus on adolescents and young people will be expanded through positive engagements and cross-sectorial services, life-skills programmes, vocational education and entrepreneurship training.

In 2020, the United Nations Security Council reduced the number of border crossings authorized for cross-border humanitarian assistance, leaving only the Bab al-Hawa gate between the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey. In response to the new United Nations Security Council Resolution, the United Nations has been working to expand the capacity of Bab al-Hawa and UNICEF will continue to deliver life-saving programmes and supplies, while expanding cross-line activities within the Syrian Arab Republic, including to Al-Hol camp.

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.

2021 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 counselling²²
- **1,970,000** children and pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients



Health

- **3,200,000** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio²³
- **1,800,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities²⁴
- **550** health care facility staff trained on infection prevention and control



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **3,600,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene²⁵
- **600,000** people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes
- **1,950,000** people have improved access to sanitation services²⁶



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **120,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions²⁷
- **384,000** children accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **1,947,300** children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions²⁸



Education

- **2,250,000** children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings²⁹
- **430,000** children in non-formal education benefiting from education services³⁰
- **44,000** teachers and education personnel trained



Social protection and cash transfers

- **86,000** households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors³¹
- **250,000** girls and boys protected from extreme weather through the provision of non-food items³²



C4D, community engagement and AAP³³

- **8,725,728** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change



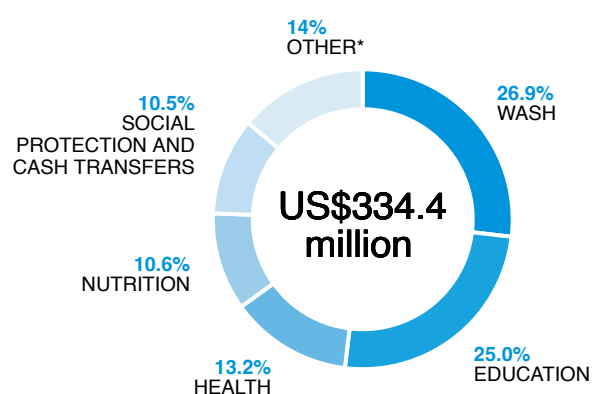
Adolescents/youth

- **300,000** adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years promoting social cohesion 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

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

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF requires US\$334.4 million to align its targets and requirements with the Syria 2021 HRP, including the increased financial requirements driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are required to meet the urgent humanitarian needs and fulfill the rights of the most vulnerable children and families in the Syrian Arab Republic. 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. A large share of the funding request will cover the WASH, education and social protection response. Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the 5.9 million children it has planned to reach who require urgent assistance suffering from the continued hostilities, displacement, and the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19. UNICEF programmes are planned for nationwide reach, targeting populations in areas with acute needs, and the population groups most in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance. UNICEF plans to continue its substantive support to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including through its leadership on risk communication and community engagement; the provision of infection prevention control, personal protective equipment and hygiene kits; and support for humanitarian coordination through the cluster approach.



Appeal sector	Revised 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)
Nutrition	35,322,929
Health	44,030,777 ³⁴
WASH	89,862,782 ³⁵
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	33,409,390
Education	83,728,121
Social protection and cash transfers	35,100,698
C4D, community engagement and AAP	1,246,154
Adolescents/youth	11,729,219
Total	334,430,070

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions: Child protection, GBViE and PSEA (10.0%), Adolescents/youth (3.5%), C4D, community engagement and AAP (<1%).

Appeal sector	Original 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	2021 funding gap (%)
Nutrition	23,920,391	35,322,929	13,657,659	21,665,270	61.3%
Health	38,819,972	44,030,777 ³⁴	22,637,804	21,392,973	48.6%
WASH	98,314,219	89,862,782 ³⁵	62,533,962	27,328,820	30.4%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	34,221,760	33,409,390	19,086,405	14,322,985	42.9%
Education	74,666,582	83,728,121	52,878,292	30,849,829	36.8%
Social protection and cash transfers	48,850,736	35,100,698	14,809,594	20,291,104	57.8%
C4D, community engagement and AAP	1,119,960	1,246,154	247,394	998,760	80.1%
Adolescents/youth	10,912,957	11,729,219	7,427,151	4,302,068	36.7%
Total	330,826,577	334,430,070	193,278,261	141,151,809	42.2%

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ENDNOTES

1. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2021.
2. OCHA, 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', 2021
3. OCHA, 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', 2021. The children in need figure is less than the children to be reached figure because the number of children in need is calculated as 45 per cent of the total number of people in need while the number of children to be reached is calculated based on polio immunization targeting all children under 5 years in the country, not only children in need of humanitarian assistance.
4. This figure was calculated considering the various interventions planned for different age groups and locations to avoid double counting beneficiaries. This includes 3.2 million children under 5 years to be reached with polio immunization; 2.7 million children older than 5 years to be reached with formal and non-formal education; 60,000 adolescents to be reached with social and civic engagement (aged 15, 16 or 17); and 1.9 million adults to be reached with WASH services. The total figure includes 4.1 million women/girls and 1,218,600 people with disabilities. 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.
5. The reduction in the overall figure to be reached is based on the indicator on provision of safe water to adults. The provision of safe water is being done increasingly through restoration of services and strengthening resilience of water networks, with a smaller target. Lifesaving water trucking and other humanitarian water interventions remain at scale in the most severely affected areas, including for IDP camps. Additionally, UNICEF continues to provide the majority of supplies for the disinfection of water across the country, though this is not included in the calculation of this indicator. Other support to adults (e.g. safe sanitation) including caregivers (e.g. infant and young child feeding counselling, parenting programmes and explosive ordnance risk education), especially pregnant and lactating women (e.g., maternal health, provision of micronutrients) also continue, though are not counted towards the indicator to reduce the potential for double counting.
6. This figure was calculated considering the various interventions planned for different age groups and locations to avoid double counting beneficiaries. This includes 3.2 million children under 5 years to be reached with polio immunization; 2.7 million children older than 5 years to be reached with formal and non-formal education; 60,000 adolescents to be reached with social and civic engagement (aged 15, 16 or 17). The total figure includes 3.0 million girls and 927,000 children with disabilities, based on 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
7. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'. The sectoral needs and situation are inclusive of northwest and northeast Syrian Arab Republic.
8. In 2020, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism verified 2,140 grave violations against children, including 1,211 children killed or maimed. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
9. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
10. Numbers for 2020 provided as, according to the 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', no estimate was possible for 2021.
11. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
12. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
13. UNICEF, 22 September 2022.
14. UNICEF, 22 September 2022.
15. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBVIE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
16. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
17. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', including 5.6 million children.
18. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
19. 'Syria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'. This includes 6.8 million school-aged children and 200,000 teachers and education personnel (49 per cent male and 51 per cent female).
20. UNICEF leads cluster coordination for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters and the child protection area of responsibility.
21. 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.
22. The target includes both counselling and awareness-raising sessions. Target varies year-to-year based on the population of high-severity areas.
23. The target includes children reached through campaigns.
24. The remaining needs will be covered by health sector partners (United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations). Reduction due to focus on health care facilities in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan.
25. This indicator includes the repair/rehabilitation of water systems. Chlorination and water disinfection activities are not reported under this indicator.
26. This indicator includes the repair/rehabilitation of sewage systems.
27. Includes 48,000 girls, 43,000 boys, 23,000 women and 6,000 men.
28. 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 Humanitarian Response Plan.
29. The move from single supply items to more intensive and costly integrated services (such as the comprehensive school approach including both services and supplies) means fewer children can be reached but with higher quality education. In addition, education funding is very earmarked, and the delivery of services to children through the formal school system is not permitted by donors, while service delivery through non-governmental organizations is much more expensive and can reach fewer children.
30. All educational services and supplies are related to non-formal education.
31. This is under the early recovery and livelihood sector.
32. This is under the shelter and non-food items sector. Decrease in target relates to a programmatic shift towards cash transfers where possible.
33. Communication for development, including accountability to affected populations, is integrated into sectoral responses and interventions.
34. Funding for Health increased in line with increased requirements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
35. Funding requirements reduced as the programme focuses now primarily on restoration of services and strengthening resilience. In previous years the programme focused more heavily on lifesaving interventions (water trucking, hygiene kits) which is a component that has been reduced in areas where is no longer as needed as before, which also involved higher operational costs. This explains why the funding requirement is lower while the targets of two out of three indicators have increased.