



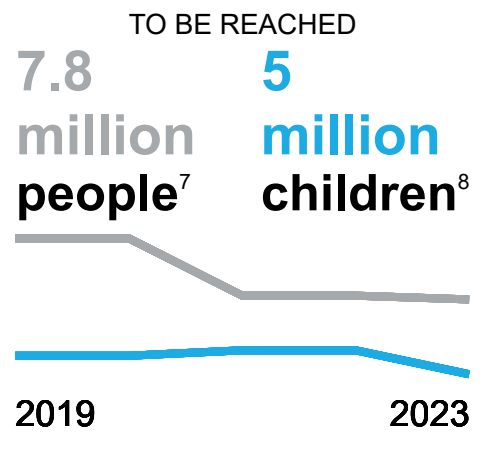
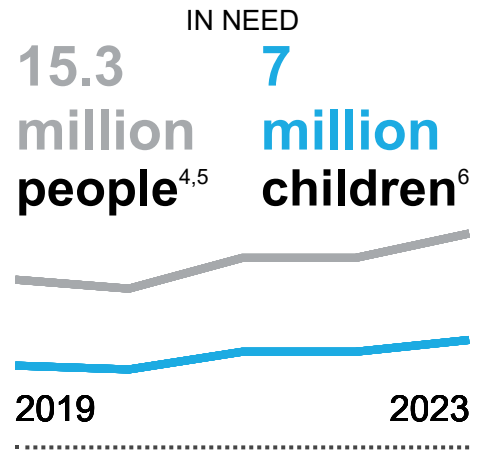
Humanitarian Action for Children

Girls in a UNICEF-supported informal school near Atma, Idlib where they are opening up, learning and having fun. The 12 years of conflict and the 2023 earthquakes have impacted all of their childhoods.

Syrian Arab Republic

HIGHLIGHTS^{1,2}

- Children throughout the Syrian Arab Republic face one of the world's most complex emergencies, including the multiple earthquakes that hit parts of Syria and Türkiye on 6 February 2023, which resulted in more people in urgent need of water, sanitation, shelter, food, and emergency medical and psychosocial assistance. More than 15.3 million people (including 7 million children) require assistance, and 6.8 million people are internally displaced.³ Almost 70 per cent of the population requires assistance due to a worsening economic crisis, localized hostilities, mass displacement and devastated public infrastructure.
- In 2023, UNICEF will deliver lifesaving services that address recovery needs with its partners and through its field offices, fostering the resilience of children and families. UNICEF will address the needs of girls, boys, adolescents, and families through integrated gender-responsive programming prioritizing high-severity areas, social and behavioural change interventions, and by systematizing preparedness, accountability to affected populations and the prevention of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation.
- UNICEF requires US\$468.5 million to meet the needs of children in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2023. The greatest funding requirements are for WASH, health, and education, as these sectors need investment in restoration and rehabilitation as a result of the earthquake, while protection remains a high priority for UNICEF.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



2.4 million children and women accessing primary healthcare



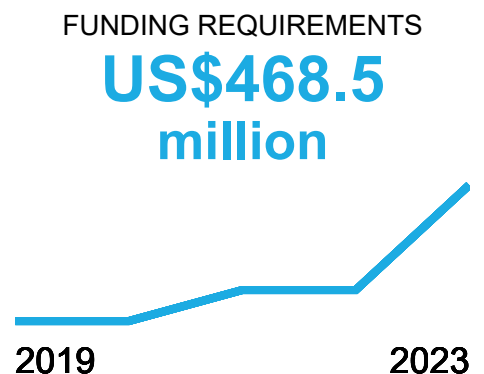
1.6 million primary caregivers receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



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



5.3 million people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents. These are currently under discussion with the Government of Syria.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Children in the Syrian Arab Republic continue to face one of the most complex emergencies in the world. Over two-thirds of the population require assistance because of a worsening economic crisis, continued localized hostilities, mass displacement, devastated public infrastructure, and the effects of the earthquakes. The 15.3 million people in need include 4.5 million women, 7 million children (3.2 million girls), 2.6 million people with disabilities and 5.3 million internally displaced people.⁹ Over half of the displaced people are in North-West Syria.¹⁰

The cholera outbreak declared in September 2022 continues to spread across the country, with 105,959 suspected cases and 104 attributed deaths reported between 25 August 2022 and March 2023.¹¹ The outbreak is a result of the large-scale destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure, the economic crisis, electricity outages, and prolonged drought. Up to 52 per cent of the population are relying on often unsafe alternative water supply modalities other than piped water to meet or complement their needs; one million fewer people are using water networks than in 2021 due to decreased reliability and efficiency of water systems.¹²

The severity of humanitarian needs in Syria was further exacerbated by the multiple earthquakes that hit parts of Syria and Türkiye on 6 February. Approximately 6,000 people, including children, have reportedly been killed and more than 12,000 injured across Syria as a result of the earthquake.¹³

People in Syria are sliding deeper into poverty and finding it overwhelmingly difficult to make ends meet, whilst 55 per cent are food insecure.¹⁴ The war in Ukraine continues to affect global supply chains and inflationary trends.¹⁵ Approximately 3.75 million children were in dire need of nutritional assistance, which became even more vital following the earthquake and all its implications on the key determinants of maternal and child nutrition (Food, health and WASH sectors).¹⁶ Over 7,000 schools have been damaged or destroyed¹⁷ and only 57 per cent of health centres are fully functional.¹⁸ There are over 2 million children out of school and 1.6 million at risk of dropping out.¹⁹ Furthermore, over 60 per cent of school-age children with severe mental or physical disabilities have never attended school or any other form of education.²⁰

Protection concerns remain paramount. In 2022, 2,438 grave violations were recorded against children, including recruitment, killing, and maiming, attacks on schools and hospitals.²¹ The economic crisis is worsening negative coping mechanisms and particularly affecting female-headed households; it is contributing to the normalization of gender-based violence and child labour and marriage, which predominantly affects girls and boys.²² Eighty-four per cent of communities surveyed reported child marriage (often affecting girls) and 96 per cent reported that children are working (often affecting boys).²³

Ninety-one per cent of the 4.5 million people living in the northwest are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 2.9 million internally displaced people.²⁴ Food insecurity affects 3.3 million people in the area, and more than 1 million children are in need of education support.²⁵ Furthermore, some 2.4 million children are in need of child protection support in northwest Syria following the earthquakes.²⁶

In the northeast, political and conflict dynamics drive elevated protection concerns and complicate aid delivery. Among those affected are internally displaced people in Al-Hol camp (53,000 people, 64 per cent children) and Al-Roj camp (2,500 people, 66 per cent children),²⁷ including children who are third-country nationals and need repatriation to their countries of origin.

SECTOR NEEDS



15.3 million people in need of health assistance²⁸



5.9 million people in need of nutrition assistance²⁹



6.3 million children in need of child protection services³⁰



6.9 million children in need of education support³¹



13.6 million people require access to WASH services³²

STORY FROM THE FIELD



“During these past few days, when I go to sleep, I feel that I’m never sure what tomorrow will bring. Uncertainty is everywhere, but we keep going to support the people who need us,” said Hiba, a mobile health team leader. She is one of the unsung heroes involved in the humanitarian response to the devastating earthquakes.

After massive tremors sent people fleeing to the streets, she left her husband and two children at home, and started supporting vulnerable children who had been affected. Her team screened children under five for malnutrition. Besides her, there are many more teachers, principals, healthcare workers, engineers, and others who stood up to help.

[Read more about this story here](#)

On 10 February 2023, Hiba, a UNICEF-supported mobile health team leader, screens children under five for malnutrition, in the Alsheen neighbourhood, Aleppo city, north Syria, as part of UNICEF’s eme

UNICEF programme follows a Whole of Syria approach³⁷ and prioritizes areas that have been identified as high severity. UNICEF leads the Education, Nutrition, and WASH Sectors/Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.³⁸ In January 2023, the Security Council resolution on cross-border access from Türkiye to North-West Syria was extended for six months.³⁹

UNICEF is gradually incorporating early recovery programming while maintaining a strong focus on humanitarian assistance, which also includes cholera and earthquake response. Working along this nexus strengthens linkages between the needs-based emergency response and essential service restoration, resilience building, and social cohesion. For example, following the earthquakes UNICEF alongside partners, scaled up lifesaving assistance to affected children and families and made a strategic shift in the response, moving towards supporting people recover, through the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure and restoration of basic services.

UNICEF and its implementing partners will promote multisectoral collaboration to address the underlying determinants of malnutrition, and facilitate the delivery of life-saving preventive and curative interventions at the facility and community levels in the most affected areas. In parallel, support will be extended to rebuild local health systems and improve the coverage of the expanded programme on immunization. Emergency WASH services will be upgraded from trucking to more cost-effective network rehabilitations, with a focus on high-severity areas, and increasingly on climate resilience.

Through the No Lost Generation initiative, UNICEF will reach children at scale with integrated education, child protection, and adolescent development opportunities. Non-formal education will be delivered with implementing partners, while investments are planned to allow the education system to absorb the current cohort of school-aged children, including inclusive and early childhood education, particularly for adolescent girls. Adolescents will participate in their communities through life skills and social cohesion programming.

Eliminating violence against children will be integrated into all programme areas, with a social norms and behaviour change communications lens, ensuring children are safe in their homes, schools, and communities. Psychosocial support, explosive ordnance risk education, case management and gender-based violence prevention will aim to reduce children's exposure to violence, exploitation and abuse. Vulnerable families, including those with children with disabilities, will receive cash transfers, combined with case management to meet their essential needs.

UNICEF will also respond to the cholera outbreak,⁴⁰ mainly through the WASH, Health, and RCCE Pillars.⁴¹ UNICEF through the capacity building of local staff, community engagement, and the improvement of WASH and health infrastructures,⁴² will create the soil for responsive and resilient health systems able to limit and control epidemics.

The response is informed by gender analysis, accounting for the risks, needs and capacities of women, girls, men and boys. UNICEF and all its partners will uphold protection from sexual exploitation and abuse protocols, with safe and confidential reporting mechanisms made available to communities. Mechanisms to engage UNICEF beneficiaries in programming - through information provision, risk communication, and community engagement and feedback mechanisms - will be mainstreamed. This includes promoting positive social norms and practices to reduce communities' vulnerability and increase their resilience. Programme strategies will be improved through a comprehensive evidence base, including evaluations of programming in the areas of adolescence, WASH and social and behavioural change, integrated programming, and earthquake response.⁴³

UNICEF addresses the immediate life-saving and urgent humanitarian needs of girls, boys, adolescents, and families through an integrated and gender-responsive approach prioritizing highly affected areas and areas of large displacement, and also systematizes accountability to affected populations and the prevention of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation.

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.



Health

- **1,043,200** children vaccinated against polio⁴⁴
- **2,439,799** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities⁴⁵
- **742,880** children under 1 year receiving three doses of DTP-containing vaccine



Nutrition

- **44,868** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment⁴⁶
- **1,970,300** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **1,604,900** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling⁴⁷
- **256,000** children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation
- **2,030,900** children and pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **131,494** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **7,934,782** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **5,800** children who have received individual case management
- **1,451,579** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions
- **488,782** children accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support⁴⁸



Education

- **2,614,570** children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings
- **536,466** children in non-formal education benefiting from education services
- **37,058** teachers and education personnel trained⁴⁹



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **5,276,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs⁵⁰
- **2,290,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services⁵¹
- **330,000** people reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes
- **2,361,000** people are accessing WASH non-food items



Social protection and cash transfers

- **472,293** individuals reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers⁵²
- **17,000** children with disabilities reached with regular cash transfers and case management services⁵³



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

- **10,999,998** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services⁵⁴
- **4,200,001** people who participate in engagement actions⁵⁵
- **5,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms



Adolescents/youth

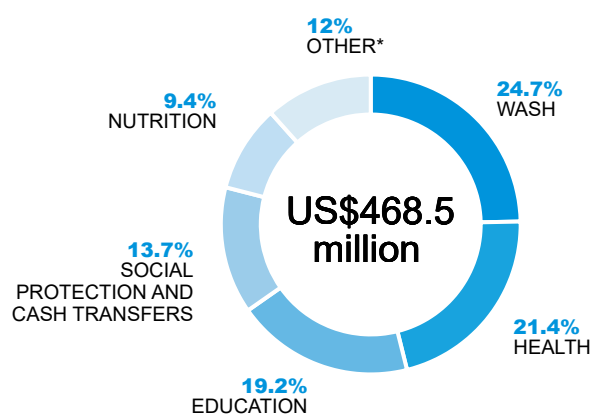
- **225,017** affected adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills
- **342,883** adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years promoting social cohesion and civic engagement at the community level

Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents. These are currently under discussion with the Government of Syria.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF requires US\$468.5 million in 2023 to meet the urgent humanitarian and early recovery needs of the most vulnerable children and families in the Syrian Arab Republic and fulfil children's rights.^{56 57} This funding will cover interventions delivered from within the country as well as cross-border assistance delivered as part of the Whole of Syria approach. Funding will be prioritized for programming in areas with the highest severity of need in health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection, social protection and cash transfers, and adolescent programming.

Without sufficient and timely funding, the protection needs of vulnerable populations will go unmet, and the long-term effects of this will increase including mental health issues, domestic violence, substance abuse, and increasing use of harmful coping mechanisms including early and forced marriage and sexual exploitation, exposure to recruitment, and other forms of abuse and child labour, including unpaid labour for adolescent girls. Furthermore, a lack of funds has 75,000 severely malnourished children aged below five years risk of death, more than 300,000 moderately malnourished children to fall into severe acute malnutrition category and 900,000 pregnant and lactating women to practice suboptimal infant and young child feeding practices. Any further funding cuts will bring dire consequences to 5.8 million boys and girls including education personnel with severe, extreme and catastrophic education needs. If the funding gaps continues to widen, all the gains made in the last 18 months will be reversed.⁵⁸



Appeal sector	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health	100,343,826
Nutrition	43,939,584
Child protection	40,507,632
Education	89,840,465
WASH	115,637,760
Social protection and cash transfers	64,259,430
Cross-sectoral	1,520,640
Adolescents/Youth	12,409,826
Total	468,459,163

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child protection (8.6%), Adolescents/Youth (2.6%), Cross-sectoral (<1%).

Appeal sector	Original 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$) ^{59,60}	Funds available (US\$) ^{61,62}	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	43,777,282	100,343,826 ⁶³	42,357,501	57,986,325	57.8%
Nutrition	35,817,253	43,939,584	25,889,985	18,049,599	41.1%
Child protection	32,178,566	40,507,632	21,360,323	19,147,309	47.3%
Education	93,858,348	89,840,465	35,386,977	54,453,488	60.6%
WASH	90,128,127	115,637,760	63,731,526	51,906,234	44.9%
Social protection and cash transfers	19,474,619	64,259,430 ⁶⁴	17,222,693	47,036,737	73.2%
Cross-sectoral	1,523,078	1,520,640 ⁶⁵	2,493,290	-972,650	0%
Adolescents/Youth	11,729,219	12,409,826	1,153,830	11,255,996	90.7%
Total	328,486,492	468,459,163	209,596,125	258,863,038	55.3%

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ENDNOTES

1. This appeal has been revised to include earthquake needs in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) that is currently being finalised. This appeal also includes cholera needs in line with the UNICEF Whole of Syria AWD/cholera response note January to December 2023.
2. COVID-19 remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as declared by the World Health Organization in January 2020. On 1 July 2022, UNICEF deactivated its Level 3 Sustained Phase for the global COVID-19 pandemic response. All activities related to COVID-19 pandemic response, including programme targets and funding requirements, have been shifted into regular development programming and operations. While UNICEF's Level 3 emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was deactivated, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, their families and their communities and on the social systems they rely on. The use of the following Polio and Cholera Emergency Procedures (PCEPs) was activated and adapted from the L3 Emergency Procedures, for the polio and cholera responses for a period of six (6) months from 27 March to 26 September 2023 – Syria is listed as "acute crisis" for cholera.
3. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, December 2022.
4. Ibid.
5. 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.
6. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, December 2022.
7. Figures are provisional and subject to change upon government approval and finalization of the inter-agency planning documents. This figure was calculated considering the various interventions planned for different age groups and locations to avoid double counting. This includes 1,615,200 children under 5 years to be reached with polio and DPT3 immunization; 3,151,036 children older than 5 years to be reached with formal and non-formal education; 257,005 adolescents (aged 15, 16 or 17) to be reached with social and civic engagement; and 2,738,830 adults to be reached with WASH services. The total figure includes 4,118,629 women/girls and 765,380 people with disabilities.
8. Figures are provisional and subject to change upon government approval and finalization of the inter-agency planning documents. This figure was calculated considering the various interventions planned for different age groups and locations to avoid double counting beneficiaries. This includes 1,615,200 children under 5 years to be reached with polio and DPT3 immunization; 3,151,036 children older than 5 years to be reached with formal and non-formal education; and 257,000 adolescents (aged 15, 16 or 17) to be reached with social and civic engagement. The total figure includes 2,722,328 girls and 437,850 children 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.
9. Of the total 6.8 million internally displaced people, 5.3 million are considered in need. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, December 2022.
10. The displaced people count 65 per cent of the total population in North-West Syria.
11. UNICEF Whole of Syria AWD/Cholera response note January to December 2023.
12. Following on from cholera the WASH situation further worsened after the earthquake, as additional damage in water supply and sanitation infrastructure was witnessed in Aleppo and Idlib governorates.
13. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, December 2022.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, December 2022. 2,149 schools have been damaged according to the Syria Earthquake Recovery Needs Assessment (SERNA) as a result of the earthquakes.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. United Nations, Report of the Secretary-General: Children and armed conflict, A/77/895-S/2023/363, United Nations, New York, 5 June 2023.
22. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, December 2022.
23. Ibid.
24. OCHA, North-west Syria: Situation report, 28 April 2023.
25. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, December 2022.
26. OCHA, North-west Syria: Situation report, 28 April 2023.
27. UNICEF Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report, January-December 2022, published February 2023.
28. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, December 2022. Includes 6.81 million children.
29. Ibid. Includes 3.8 million children.
30. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, December 2022.
31. Ibid.
32. Ibid. Includes 6 million children.
33. Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs and Tartous.
34. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. All cluster coordinators costs are included into sectoral programme budgets.
35. 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.
36. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.
37. Through the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach, UNICEF implements its humanitarian response through the Syria country office in Damascus and its six field offices, as well as through the Gaziantep Office (an outpost of the regional office, based in Türkiye), and the WoS office (the regional office in Jordan).
38. Under the Humanitarian Country Team's framework led by UN Humanitarian Coordinator.
39. At the time of writing, the Council decision on extension beyond 10 July 2023 was still in discussion. United Nations "Adopting Resolution 2672 (2023), Security Council Renews Cross-Border Aid Operations into North-West Syria for Six Months, Requests Special Report on Humanitarian Needs", 9 January 2023, available at < <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15168.doc.htm>>.
40. As detailed in the UNICEF Whole of Syria AWD/Cholera response note January to December 2023. The planned activities aim to ensure life-saving interventions in the most affected areas, while increasing prevention and preparedness in other at-risk areas.
41. Risk Communication and Community Engagement.
42. This includes the electrification through solar systems.
43. These programmes have been chosen for evaluation as large-scale programmes in which UNICEF has significantly invested. The outcomes of the evaluations will help strategically position UNICEF going forward.
44. Syria is not implementing national immunization day (NIDs) against polio anymore as recommended by the World Health Organization mission who visited Syria last year and excluded Syria from the high-risk countries for polio. The NIDs are now recommended only for countries with active polio outbreaks, hence the decrease in the target due to no activities in areas targeted by Syria Country Office.
45. Counts consultations provided, not unique beneficiaries, so the same person may be counted multiple times if they attend multiple consultations.
46. The target includes the additional need in North West Syria due to the increase of the internally displaced people due to the impacts of the earthquake.
47. The target includes both counselling and awareness-raising sessions. The target is a percentage of people in need in high-severity areas and differs from year to year.
48. Caregivers are targeted separately through parenting programmes, in line with the HRP.
49. Includes fundamentals of pedagogy and learning evaluation; life skills; psychosocial support; early childhood education; and learning assessments.
50. This indicator includes the repair/rehabilitation of water systems. Chlorination and water disinfection activities are not reported under this indicator.
51. This indicator includes the repair/rehabilitation of sewage systems.
52. Under the shelter/non-food items sector. The total programme target of 472,293 individuals equals to 94,458 households, using the average of 5 individuals per household.
53. Under the early recovery and livelihoods sector.
54. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach. The target has decreased to be able to focus on areas / population of most need in governorates with compounded inequities. This approach will allow SBC reach and engagement to be more effective than only utilizing mass approaches that have limited impact on the desired behavior change.
55. The target has decreased to be able to focus on areas / population of most need in governorates with compounded inequities. This approach will allow SBC reach and engagement to be more effective than only utilizing mass approaches that have limited impact on the desired behavior change.
56. This funding requirement is updated from the beginning of the year to include the earthquake and cholera responses.
57. Despite the slight decrease in the overall target the increase in the funding requirements is due to the increased severity as result of the aftermath of the earthquake, including the need to restore the basic services and infrastructure as specified in each sector requirements.
58. Syrian Arab Republic Critical Humanitarian Funding Gap: As identified for the period of May - October 2023 – Issued May 2023.
59. Funding requirements have increased due to the integration of the earthquake and cholera responses for 2023.
60. One per cent of the total funding requirements will be dedicated to evaluation.
61. Please note these are funds received for all responses in 2023 (HAC 2023, Earthquake immediate response plan and cholera). There is also an additional US\$3,157,009 received which are still to be allocated.
62. Data is as of 10 June 2023.
63. The funding requirement for health has increased significantly due to the addition of the health systems strengthening component following the earthquakes, which includes light to moderate rehabilitation of approximately 80 health centres.
64. The funding requirement for social protection has increased significantly due to (i) the inclusion of the emergency cash response to the earthquake (US\$ 30.7 million requirements to reach 200,000 earthquake affected people) and (ii) the expansion of the Integrated Social Protection Programme for Children with Disabilities (CWD) in line with the targets in the Programme Expansion Plan for the period 2023-2025: 17,000 CWDs in 2023, 25,000 CWD in 2024, and 30,000 CWD in 2025.
65. Funding for accountability to affected populations will be used to support work including the operation of the Service Line; awareness raising for the Service Line (including SMS, posters, door-to-door visits and business cards); procuring and distributing suggestion boxes; regular surveys and feedback through third-party monitors; training of partners; and regular focus group discussions and consultations with communities to understand and respond to their needs.
66. Note: 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) total is 327,653,473. The difference related to social and behaviour change requirements.
67. One per cent of the total funding requirements will be dedicated to evaluation.
68. Funding for accountability to affected populations will be used to support work including the operation of the Service Line; awareness raising for the Service Line (including SMS, posters, door-to-door visits and business cards); procuring and distributing suggestion boxes; regular surveys and feedback through third-party monitors; training of partners; and regular focus group discussions and consultations with communities to understand and respond to their needs.