



Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Iraq

Despite improvements in overall security and stability in Iraq, some 4.1 million people – half of them children – remain in need of humanitarian assistance.¹ The needs are severe for some 1.78 million people.² The 4.55 million people who have returned to conflict-affected areas³ face risks of violence and retaliation and lack of access to basic services. For the 1.44 million people experiencing prolonged displacement,⁴ these risks must be weighed against the difficult life in camps and host communities, where water, sanitation, education and health infrastructure and services are overburdened or damaged. Only 39 per cent of households have safely-managed drinking water⁵ and despite some progress, outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases continue to affect the vulnerable.⁶ Violence against children is extensive,⁷ psychosocial distress is high,⁸ and many children lack official identity documents, jeopardizing access to basic services, including education.⁹ Inequity is persistent and significant. Nearly 10 per cent of primary school-aged girls are out of school, compared with 7 per cent of boys.¹⁰ The poorest children are twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday.¹¹ Girls, boys and women who have survived gender-based violence are in dire need of higher quality and more accessible specialized services to support their recovery.

Humanitarian strategy

The UNICEF strategy in Iraq is informed by national humanitarian priorities, the 2020–2024 Country Programme and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is aligned with the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan. UNICEF emphasizes protecting and empowering vulnerable children, adolescents, women and people with disabilities. UNICEF leads the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) cluster, child protection sub-cluster and Nutrition Working Group; co-leads the education cluster; and is an active member of the health cluster and gender-based violence sub-cluster. In 2020, UNICEF will work with humanitarian and development actors, including United Nations agencies, government counterparts and non-government partners, to support transition to sector coordination and mainstream child-centred, gender-responsive emergency preparedness into national plans. UNICEF will strengthen capacities, enabling national partners to reach crisis-affected children and integrate gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and youth engagement across all programmes. To reinforce resilience, UNICEF will continue safe water, gender-sensitive sanitation and hygiene awareness interventions in camps and return areas in need. Children under 5 years will receive critical vaccination and nutrition services, focusing on low-coverage areas. UNICEF will continue to support education in camps and return areas, and critical psychosocial support and specialized protection services for at-risk children and caregivers.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US\$73.7 million available against the US\$72.9 million appeal (101 per cent funded).¹² While funding was strong overall, achievement of targets in some sectors, including cash-based transfers and non-food item distributions, was severely hampered by lack of funding. In 2019, the timely availability of resources supported progress in WASH, child protection, gender-based violence, health and nutrition programming. UNICEF-supported partners contributed 63 per cent of cluster water supply response and 89 per cent of cluster sanitation response. UNICEF maintained critical child protection services in displacement camps after other partners withdrew due to lack of funding, which supported higher than anticipated progress against annual targets. Good funding for the gender-based violence response led to 174 per cent achievement against UNICEF targets. Reporting against health and nutrition has proven challenging due to poor data from non-camp returnee areas, where government staff turnover is high and there is a reliance on outdated paper-based systems. Progress against education targets is expected to increase after the start of the 2019/20 academic year in fall 2019. Procurement of critical supplies (warm clothes) for the 2019 winter is underway, with the response scheduled to start as temperatures drop in fall 2019.

Total people in need

4.1 million¹³

Total children (<18) in need

1.89 million¹⁴

Total people to be reached

1.17 million¹⁵

Total children to be reached

835,800¹⁶

2020 programme targets

Nutrition

- 32,505 caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling

Health

- 665,831 children aged 0 to 59 months vaccinated against polio

WASH

- 623,613 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene¹⁷
- 341,099 people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities

Child protection

- 106,121 children accessing psychosocial support
- 16,094 girls and boys receive specialized child protection services¹⁸

Education

- 170,000 children accessing formal and non-formal education
- 3,000 teachers trained in pedagogy and inclusive education

Gender-based violence prevention and response¹⁹

- 27,775 girls, boys, women and men who receive individual and group psychosocial support
- 8,053 women and girls who receive gender-based violence case management services

Emergency preparedness

- 50 government staff benefiting from capacity building for emergency preparedness and response

Non-food items

- 150,000 vulnerable children receive appropriate winter clothing

	Cluster 2019 targets	Cluster total results	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF total results
NUTRITIONⁱ				
Children under 5 years accessing nutrition services			363,444	28,746
Mothers of children aged 0 to 23 months with access to infant and young child feeding counselling for appropriate feeding			20,000	9,557
HEALTH				
Newborn babies of conflict-affected families benefiting from newborn home services			2,043	1,011
Children under 1 year vaccinated against measles through routine immunization			314,985	244,702 ⁱⁱ
Children under 5 years vaccinated against polio			1,152,676	1,102,072 ⁱⁱⁱ
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
Emergency-affected populations accessing a sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	1,272,085	1,459,842	972,808	615,611
Emergency-affected populations benefiting from latrines that have been established, rehabilitated or maintained	1,272,085	733,812	486,404	431,576
CHILD PROTECTION^{iv}				
Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained resilience or psychosocial support programmes	208,080	158,541	135,000	133,711
Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services)	31,556	19,889	10,400	12,669
Girls, boys and women receiving individual or group psychosocial support			16,381	28,458 ^v
EDUCATION				
Boys and girls receiving educational supplies	461,747	184,837	200,000	50,710 ^{vi}
Teachers, facilitators and education personnel trained on emergency education, life skills and delivering psychosocial support	18,395	3,482	5,000	1,661 ^{vii}
Conflict-affected boys and girls aged 6 to 17 years enrolled in formal and non-formal education programmes	461,747	296,890	200,000	158,527 ^{viii}
CASH-BASED TRANSFERS				
Children from vulnerable families receiving child-focused cash assistance			15,000	3,354 ^{ix}
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM AND WINTERIZATION				
Emergency response capacity-building workshops conducted for government staff			50	0 ^x
Most vulnerable children better protected from the risks of winter with appropriate clothing			180,000	0 ^{xi}

* Results are as of 31 August 2019 unless otherwise noted.

ⁱ The progress reported reflects children reached in camps only as data availability from health facilities in non-camp areas is limited due to high turnover of personnel, low staff capacity and the use of paper-based systems.

ⁱⁱ Reporting delays due verification of data by the Ministry of Health prior to sharing with partners (data receipt and entry into ActivityInfo).

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} The timely availability of funds enables UNICEF expanded its child protection services, including psychosocial support and specialized protection assistance to four additional camps.

^v This indicator reflects UNICEF support to girls and women receiving multi-sectoral services that respond to the specific needs of survivors or people at risk of gender-based violence. Progress as of 31 August 2019 has been supported by existing partnerships in eight governorates and the good funding status.

^{vi} UNICEF's next large-scale distribution of learning materials is planned for the start of the 2019/20 school year in September 2019. Progress will be updated in the third and fourth quarter humanitarian situation reports.

^{vii} UNICEF-supported trainings take place in agreement with the Ministry of Education; larger-scale trainings will take place outside of the academic year to minimize disruption to children's learning.

^{viii} The next round of large-scale formal enrolment will take place in September/October for the 2019/20 academic year. The appeal year and the academic year do not align. Figures reported here are 1 January through 31 August 2019.

^{ix} UNICEF cash transfer response had a 77 per cent funding gap.

^x In 2019, the Rapid Response Mechanism Consortium will enhance the capacities of government structures and local authorities to include responsibility for/operation of the Rapid Response Mechanism. A feasibility assessment led by a dedicated consultant is ongoing and planned efforts include 50 workshops and/or training sessions for government officials and local authorities on emergency concepts and practices.

^{xi} Response and reporting for the 2019 winter response is planned to start in October/November 2019. As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had received US\$1,596,387 (73 per cent funding gap against the 2019 appeal) to support the delivery of critical items for winter.

Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US\$62.2 million to meet urgent humanitarian needs in Iraq in 2020. The response will focus on girls, boys and women affected by the 2014–2017 conflict, prioritizing support to the most vulnerable children and women. Without timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the continuing protection crisis and provide critical WASH, health, nutrition and education services to conflict-affected children and families. In line with the Grand Bargain commitments, UNICEF is advocating for flexible and multi-year funding, which will be crucial to meeting protracted and complex humanitarian needs using a resilience-focused and systems-building approach.

Sector	2020 requirements (US\$)
Health and nutrition	4,700,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	17,820,000
Child protection	18,748,555
Gender-based violence preparedness and response	6,136,915
Education	8,613,000
Emergency preparedness and response capacity	1,631,124
Non-food items	4,593,996
Total	62,243,590

¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Iraq: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, October 2019.

² Ibid.

³ International Organization for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix, 'Iraq Mission', <<http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>>, accessed 8 February 2020. The figure represents the total people tracked as returning to their place of origin. The number of returnees targeted under the Humanitarian Response Plan 2020 is 2.85 million.

⁴ Ibid. In August and September 2019, renewed movement of internally displaced people from camps either to other camps or non-camp areas took place in Iraq, including between Anbar, Ninewa, Kirkuk and Salah al Din governorates. These movements may affect figures of displaced individuals and returnees and related programming in camps for internally displaced people.

⁵ The figures refer to countrywide access. Iraq Central Statistics Organization, Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office and United Nations Children's Fund, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6, 2018.

⁶ Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccine coverage against tuberculosis increased from 90 per cent in 2011 to 95 per cent in 2018, but measles vaccination coverage has not improved (75 per cent in 2011 and 71 per cent in 2018). Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6.

⁷ Eighty per cent of children under 14 years report having experienced one form of violent discipline in the month preceding the survey. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6.

⁸ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and REACH, Multi Cluster Needs Assessment VII, 2019.

⁹ Iraq's national coverage rate for birth registration is 98 per cent. However, in some areas, a much higher proportion of children have been found to be unregistered. In Ninewa, 23 per cent of children do not have birth certificates. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6.

¹⁰ The figures refer to countrywide access. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Available funds include US\$54.8 million received in 2019 and US\$18.8 million carried forward from the previous year. Although the overall appeal is 101 per cent funded, a significant amount of funding is earmarked to specific programme areas for 2019 and 2020 and cannot be used to support other sector gaps. As of 31 August 2019, the cash-based transfer and non-food item (winter) responses had critical funding gaps.

¹³ Iraq: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview.

¹⁴ Ibid. Calculated based on children making up 47 per cent of the population according to demographic data from the Ministry of Planning Central Statistics Office.

¹⁵ This includes 665,831 children under 5 years targeted for polio vaccination; 170,000 children aged 6 to 17 years targeted for formal and non-formal education; and 330,515 adults over 18 years targeted for access to water. An estimated 51 per cent of all people to be reached will be women and girls. An average of 4 per cent of children aged 2 to 4 years, 5 per cent of children aged 5 to 17 years, and 1 per cent of adults aged 18 years and above live with at least one disability. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6.

¹⁶ This includes 665,831 children under 5 years targeted for polio vaccination and 170,000 children targeted for formal and non-formal education. An estimated 51 per cent will be girls. Based on the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, an average of 4 per cent of children aged 2 to 4 years, 5 per cent of children aged 5 to 17 years, and 1 per cent of adults over 18 years live with at least one disability (categories: seeing, hearing, walking, fine motor or learning).

¹⁷ The UNICEF target is based on the overall cluster target and the UNICEF contribution is around 70 per cent of the whole cluster response for WASH.

¹⁸ This indicator and target aggregate girls and boys who receive case management services (13,238) plus girls and boys at risk who receive child protection legal assistance (2,856).

¹⁹ The gender-based violence targets and funding request are presented as a separate line instead of under the child protection sector to align with the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan.

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