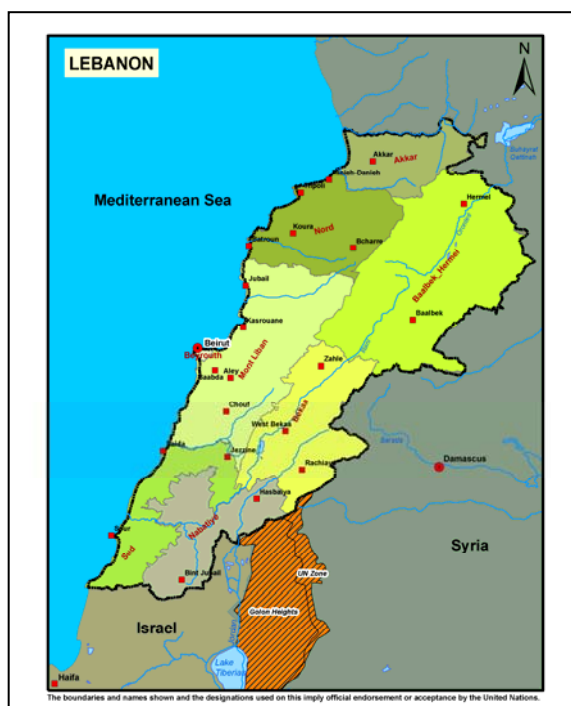


For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION LEBANON IN 2008



CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 18 (thousands)	1367
U5 mortality rate (2006)	30
Infant mortality rate (2006)	26
Maternal mortality ratio (2000-2006, reported)	100
Primary school enrolment ratio (2000-2006, net, male/female)	93/92
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	92
% population using improved drinking water sources (rural/urban)	100
Estimated no. of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2005 (thousands)	2.9
% U5 suffering moderate and severe underweight	4

Source: *The State of the World's Children 2008*

The main challenge facing the 2008 programme will be to continue addressing the impact of the July 2006 war combined with decreasing socio-economic indicators because of political instability in the aftermath of the war, specifically affecting underserved areas within the country. The programme aims at strengthening and increasing the scope of multidisciplinary programmatic interventions in six Governorates with emphasis on improving conditions of at least 600,000 children in targeted districts and ensuring support to the national measles campaign for over 1 million children.

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2008

Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	2,000,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	2,500,000
Education	700,000
Child protection	600,000
Mine action	150,000
Total*	5,950,000

* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The July 2006 war that affected over 1.7 million people, the majority being women and children, resulted in the destruction of 12,000 households and the partial damage of 95,000 family units, combined with the destruction of some 250 schools and dispensaries and the loss of 8,000 small enterprises. Severe damage to the transport infrastructure limited the access to entire communities. Moreover, because of the massive displacement of some 900,000 persons, who sought temporary refuge in schools or community shelters, 700 schools needed rehabilitation – mainly water and sanitation facilities and other community infrastructure. Over 90 per cent of the population returned to their places of origin in the aftermath of the war, while the residual caseload remains in rented homes or with family members in other parts of the country. Government compensation claims against destroyed or damaged houses have yet to be completed further exacerbating the integration process of the affected population.

The war has had a devastating impact on women and children. More than 80,000 primary schoolchildren are facing hardship in reintegrating into partially destroyed schools, while a much larger segment of children are exposed to an estimated 1 million unexploded devices. Distress amongst school-aged children and their families has contributed to an increase in drop-out rates and in violence in schools. The situation of at-risk children, such as street children, children in institutions or children with disabilities, has become more desperate due to depleted resources and the focus on reconstruction. Displacements contributed to the disruption of health and education personnel, which in turn affected the quality of services offered upon return.

The aftermath of the July 2006 conflict led to political instability and standstill of the Government affected public services, while the national economy faces one of its biggest challenges in addressing the impact of the war in a social environment threatened by ongoing civil unrest. In 2007, Lebanon sustained six bombings, which resulted in the killing of two members of Parliament, and a military conflict in the Palestinian camp of Nahr el Bared where 167 soldiers lost their lives fighting against Fateh el Islam, a militant group allegedly related to Al Qaeda. Some 30,000 Palestinians are displaced since the four-month conflict that ended with a victorious army but with threatening members of Fatah el Islam still at large. Social and economic indicators have deteriorated; unemployment is increasing; the number of out-of-school children, mostly at the intermediate level, is growing. In addition to the trauma of war, families are now facing economic hardship. UNICEF's programmatic inputs will give priority to these families, particularly those living in conflict-affected and underserved areas facing decades of regional disparities in development plans.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

In close collaboration with government counterparts and some 20 NGO partners, UNICEF continued to respond to the humanitarian needs of the population in war-affected and underserved areas. UNICEF's assistance primarily focused on health, water and sanitation, education and child protection, including mine-risk education. UNICEF also provided support to some 30,000 Palestinian refugees who, due to the conflict between the Lebanese Armed Forces and Fatah el Islam, fled the fighting at Nahr el Bared camp and moved to the nearby Beddawi camp. The emergency operation that started in May 2007 is providing safe drinking water and health services to the overall camp population and ensuring a protective environment for 12,000 displaced Palestinian children.

In the area of health, UNICEF reinforced the cold chain in all districts procuring equipment as well as vaccines and trained Ministry of Public Health staff. The main challenge, however, was to complete the very first national expanded programme on immunization (EPI) policy by the end of 2007, while promoting health education in schools and breastfeeding countrywide. UNICEF provided the Ministry of Public Health with 27 vehicles to strengthen health monitoring in all districts. In partnership with Lebanese Water Authorities, UNICEF supported the construction and rehabilitation of major water schemes destroyed during the conflict, including seven elevated water tanks. The assessment of damaged schools led to the improvement of sanitary facilities and safe water supplies in 87 schools and of community water schemes in 12 villages. UNICEF procured 22 mobile water treatment systems to guarantee water quality control in affected areas.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF supported the child-friendly school initiative in some 100 targeted schools through an integrated approach combining school rehabilitation, health/nutrition and hygiene education as well as extracurricular activities, such as literacy and remedial classes. Moreover,

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UNICEF supported environmental awareness activities in 1,100 schools, including recuperation and promotion campaigns targeted towards children.

In the area of child protection, UNICEF helped enhance its partners' capacity to provide psychosocial support through recreational programmes for an estimated 8,000 children. Twenty-five child-friendly spaces established shortly after the war received minimal support. By mid-2007, UNICEF focused on aligning partners to establish child protection networks involving adolescents. Seven youth/community centres, comprising mobile teams, provided training on psychosocial counselling, mine-risk education and conflict resolution in 71 villages to over 65,000 persons.

In collaboration with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and under the leadership of the UN Country Team (UNCT), UNICEF responded to the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian refugees in northern Lebanon providing medicines, tanks and bladders to meet the water requirements of the displaced population along with bottled water for vulnerable groups. Through its partners, UNICEF distributed daily some 100,000 litres of tankered water. Transportation was arranged for more than 2,500 schoolchildren to undergo final school examinations and to attend remedial classes, and recreational activities were organized for 3,000 children residing in Beddawi camp. Palestinian Red Crescent medical doctors underwent training on disaster management, while 250 UNRWA teachers and social workers were trained on mine-risk education and received awareness-raising materials.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2008

Coordination and partnership

UNICEF works with government counterparts and some 20 NGOs. As part of the inter-agency emergency preparedness plan, UNICEF is the lead agency for the education and water, sanitation and hygiene clusters and sub-lead for nutrition and child protection. Currently, UNICEF participates in working groups covering all sectors (health, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, and child protection), co-chairing with the authorities.

Regular programme

The *Humanitarian Action Report* helps identify and address the gaps that will set the planning basis for the next UNICEF Programme and the UN Development Assistance Framework for the period 2009-2013.

Health and nutrition (US\$ 2,000,000)

In 2008, UNICEF aims to strengthen and expand its emergency health recovery response providing primary health-care services to some 400,000 beneficiaries and ensuring measles vaccination coverage for over 1 million children. UNICEF will ensure that Ministry of Public Health- and NGO-run health facilities have both the supplies and the technical and logistical capacity to fully immunize and provide emergency obstetric and neonatal care to all women and children in the 10 targeted districts. Community-based networks will be established through the child-friendly school initiative using schools as community entry points. Key activities will include:

- Vaccinate 1 million children against measles and, as required, against other communicable diseases;
- Establish three regional expanded programme on immunization (EPI) cold rooms and complete procurement of cold-chain and related equipment for 300 health centres; support both public and NGO-managed health centres with a focus on child immunization and other maternal and child health care, including the provision of supplies;
- Train health personnel at district level on immunization services, including monitoring, vaccine management and cold-chain maintenance;
- Support the implementation of an EPI surveillance/health management information system;
- Provide to at least 50,000 families particularly at risk information on maternal and child health issues, such as breastfeeding, hygiene and child immunization; train relevant health and social workers on primary health care, health education and outreach services; support home visits by community health workers, and organize health awareness-raising sessions;
- Based on a nationwide evaluation of health staff skills and qualitative assessments, develop and support a health promotion and communication for behaviour change strategy;

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- In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), increase accessibility of high quality and effective maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) services, particularly for the poor and the disadvantaged, developing and implementing sustainable MNCH programmes at all levels of the health-care delivery system;
- Train health staff on the management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs); train social workers on HIV counselling; train peer educators on healthy life skills, drugs and HIV/AIDS, aiming to prevent STIs and HIV/AIDS;
- Support four newly established centres for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV;
- Support institutions and partners in developing their capacity for emergency preparedness and response;
- Procure contingency emergency health kits and supplies, as required.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (US\$ 2,500,000)

In collaboration with the Lebanon Water and Wastewater Establishments (LWWE), UNICEF will provide access to safe water for some 600,000 persons in conflict-affected or underserved areas. In addition, 100,000 persons will benefit from improved sanitation facilities through the rehabilitation of semi-public installations in schools and health centres and 200,000 will benefit from hygiene sessions encouraging behaviour change. Key activities will include:

- Rehabilitate/construct water reservoirs or water supply networks;
- Rehabilitate/construct small individual and semi-collective sanitation systems;
- Complete comprehensive joint assessment, surveys and baseline studies;
- In partnership with LWWE, support the formulation of a joint three-year water, sanitation and hygiene programme;
- Combine the training of LWWE staff on the analysis, treatment and utility of safe drinking water with the training of all stakeholders involved in sanitation and hygiene;
- Conduct a knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) study on consumer response, testing, analysis, and treatment of drinking water;
- Provide submersible pumps, boosters, pipes and fittings, generators and electrical panels;
- Drill boreholes and construct gravity-fed schemes by developing water sources at springs;
- Conduct KAP studies/focus groups to identify global strategies on hygiene education and behaviour change;
- Provide technical assistance to LWWE on the management of waste disposal;
- Promote hygiene awareness in schools by providing hygiene kits and organizing awareness activities in 120 schools;
- Support institutions and partners in developing their capacity for emergency preparedness and response;
- Procure contingency emergency water and sanitation supplies, as required.

Education (US\$ 700,000)

In partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education, UNICEF will promote the child-friendly school initiative by adding 55 new schools to the existing network, reaching out to some 30,000 students. Key activities will include:

- Produce guidelines and printing materials on the child-friendly school initiative;
- Strengthen and promote the child-friendly school initiative by rehabilitating and providing equipment to 55 additional elementary and intermediate public schools;
- Develop a teaching curriculum and job profile for school counsellors;
- Train 1,000 teachers and school managerial staff, such as principals and counsellors, on subject training and emergency response;
- Support parents' associations and mobilize networks in order to create an environment conducive to learning and to the development of individual skills;
- In partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, establish and implement an early childhood development policy;
- Support the Ministry of Education in developing and disseminating new educational modules and materials for children with special needs;
- Support institutions and partners in developing their capacity for emergency preparedness and response.
- Procure contingency education kits, as required.

Child protection (US\$ 600,000)

In partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and NGOs, some 250,000 children and youth vulnerable to discrimination, violence and internal conflict and with limited family support, living in conflict-affected and underserved areas, will benefit from the following activities:

- Develop five regional child protection networks of civil society, community actors, municipalities and social centres to identify needs and address issues related to disability, marginalization, psychosocial support, residential care, juvenile justice etc.;
- Develop a national network of youth centres and groups for a total of 15 hubs in the targeted areas empowering young people to take an active role in the recovery of their communities through community mobilization, conflict resolution and tolerance networks;
- Train 250 social workers, community workers, municipality focal points and community actors on psychosocial support, conflict resolution, inclusion and child protection responses;
- Establish referral systems for the most vulnerable children through child protection networks and specialized coaching;
- Support institutions and partners in developing their capacity for emergency preparedness and response;
- Procure contingency emergency recreational kits and supplies, as required.

Mine action (US\$ 150,000)

Some 100,000 beneficiaries will be reached through the following activities:

- Conduct regular mine-risk education (MRE) activities responding to mine/unexploded ordnance (UXO) accidents, including the production of various child-friendly MRE materials for some 150 affected villages/areas (in northern and southern Lebanon);
- Work with the national steering committee to introduce MRE into the national teaching curriculum for sustainable and widespread dissemination;
- Support the national steering committee to effectively monitor and respond to MRE needs in all affected areas;
- Train 250 stakeholders on MRE;
- Provide vocational training and economic empowerment to 100 mine/UXO survivors;
- Train 60 teachers from 15 villages on educational inclusion of child mine/UXO survivors.