

UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010

IRAQ AND VULNERABLE IRAQIS IN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, JORDAN, EGYPT AND LEBANON

SITUATION UPDATE

Iraq is in a phase of early recovery and rehabilitation. While life-threatening emergencies and massive population movements previously witnessed are no longer as prevalent, there are still small scale movements of population due to floods and droughts, in addition to localized violence, especially prior to the March 2010 elections.¹ Uncertainties related to the election are influencing low returns of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees from abroad, resulting in a 30 per cent lower rate of return in the first quarter of 2010 compared to the last quarter of 2009. Due to these constraints, the biggest challenge remains that many IDPs are unwilling or unable to return home. At the same time, the population who remained in Iraq are increasingly vulnerable. Their resources depleted, 19.2 per cent have a serious medical condition, 9.2 per cent of the registered population are survivors of torture, and 4.8 per cent are women at risk.² Current efforts from UNICEF are shifting programme implementation beyond distribution of relief items and small-scale rehabilitation towards addressing more durable solutions for communities.

The number of Iraqi children in Jordan is decreasing. As families savings are being depleted, coupled with the low degree of donor response, the situation of some Iraqi families in Jordan is deteriorating. The task of all educational support and coordination has been passed from UNHCR to UNICEF during the present calendar year. This has increased the pressures on the Jordan Country Office (JCO). JCO is working closely with partners and the government to ensure the rights of Iraqi children in Jordan to proper and quality education is fulfilled and protected.

In Syria, the Iraqi refugees registered with UNHCR stand at 165,493 as of May 2010. UNHCR recently deactivated the files of approximately 58,000 refugees who had not had any form of contact with UNHCR in the last six months. This reduction in numbers is attributed largely to repatriations, deaths or resettlement to third countries. Persisting violence in some areas of Iraq and political challenges continue to deter many refugees from a potential return to their country. The 2009-2010 school year witnessed a decrease in the number of children enrolled at school of about 24 per cent. The challenge remains to prevent further drop-out due to deteriorating socio-economic conditions of families, while providing opportunities to most at-risk school children and adolescents.

KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

In Iraq, UNICEF is focused on responding to humanitarian needs of the 4.5 million Iraqis with acute vulnerabilities (of which two million children), in addition to Iraqis living in shelters, host communities, or refugees in neighbouring countries.

Health and Nutrition:

- For the first round of Polio National Immunization Days (PNIDs), social mobilization activities were undertaken targeting 5.4 million under five children across the country, with a coverage rate of 96 per cent. Additionally, measles vaccination mop-up efforts benefited over 135,000 children aged 9-59 months in Diala.
- A total of 200,000 persons (including 43,000 children under five and 17,000 pregnant women) in selected vulnerable communities now have increased access to quality Primary Health Care services. Additionally, UNICEF also assisted with the capacity building of 600 different level medical and paramedical staff in 16 south centre governorates, benefiting over 500,000 children under five and 100,000 pregnant women.

WASH:

- Access to safe water and sanitation was provided to 500,000 children and their families.
- In selected communities, UNICEF has completed the rehabilitation or installation of treatment plants and Compact Units, and the supply of chlorination equipment.

Education:

- In the first half of the year, a total of 117,360 children were directly supported through various education interventions, including the procurement and distribution of teaching and learning materials and basic school

¹ UNHCR (Data from MODM, DDM January 2010), there are 265,499 families (1,552,003 capita) considered as internally displaced people in all Iraqi governorates, the most of whom in Baghdad (37%), Ninawah (11%), and Diala (8%).

² Regional Response Plan for Iraq refugees (RRP), 2010.

supplies. An additional 48,994 previously out of school children (of which 30 per cent female) have been supported through the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP).

- Psychosocial care training was supported for 41 teacher trainers, 1,575 teachers (596 male, 979 female), and 61,581 children.

Child Protection:

- Around 6,885 children and their families have benefited from direct child protection services, such as child friendly spaces, child protection training, life skill education while 507,419 boys, girls, men and women have participated in child protection awareness raising campaign aimed at increasing awareness on protective and risk factors for children in their communities.

In **Syria**, UNICEF achieved the following results:

- In partnership with Ministry of Health, and the Syrian Association of Health Promotion & Development, primary health care services were provided to 76,849 patients compared to the target of 145,000 for the whole year.
- About 3,000 mothers received health education on breastfeeding and proper complementary feeding to contribute to the target of 60 per cent exclusive breast feeding among infants.
- More than 95 per cent of Iraqi refugee children were reached with immunization services through routine and supplementary vaccinations (NIDs), out of target 100 per cent.

Education:

- In partnership with the Ministry of Education and INGOs (Danish Refugees Council, Action Contre la Faim and Premiere Urgence), UNICEF has ensured the improvement of the physical environment and quality of education. So far this year, 45,000 children (of which 1,600 Iraqi) have benefited from improvements of the physical environment in 58 schools. Similarly, infrastructure and supply improvements during the summer break for 80 schools, along with intensive training on Child Friendly Schools, will benefit 65,000 children (of which 3,500 Iraqi).

Child Protection and Adolescents:

- In order to increase awareness of Iraqi women on women's rights, gender equality, and improved parental skills and empowerment, as well as early identification of protection issues among mothers and children, the operation of planned eight child friendly spaces was supported, which served more than 1,677 newly registered children. More than 483 mothers (more than half of planned 800) engaged in 14 support groups (planned 16) run by Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), Enfants du Monde – Droit de l'Homme (EMDH) and Terre des hommes (TDH) Syria
- More than 10,161 children and parents benefited from social and psychological counselling sessions (against planned 30,000) and there were around 1400 psychological and psychiatric referral cases (more than half of planned 1800).

In **Jordan**, UNICEF worked to strengthen its relationship with Ministry of Education (MoE) and facilitated capacity building of ministry staff at various levels. Child to Child (CtC) methodology training was provided to 100 teachers, 900 teachers received training on psychosocial interventions, and 250 MoE and directorate officials, teachers, principals, assistant principals were oriented on CtC methodology. Additionally, approximately 2,400 students participated in CtC activities and approximately 800 parents have participated in PTA meetings to support CtC implementation. All Iraqi children benefited from the payment of public school fees for primary and secondary education for the school year ending in June 2010. Approximately 5,000 Iraqi children and youth benefited from remedial, non-formal and informal education, and more than 1,800 Iraqi youth benefited from vocational training.

In **Egypt**, UNICEF continues to support health and psychosocial intervention to Iraqi refugees through capacity development activities with the Psycho-social Training Institute (PSTI), to train and graduate up to 35 psycho-social workers who will provide psycho-social support to the estimated number of 2,000 refugee children, families and communities in 13 centres. UNICEF continues to work on enhancing the capacity of 11 primary health workers to provide a comprehensive health screening to 920 refugee children from age 0 to 5 and provide their mothers with awareness, advice, support, regarding nutrition and disease prevention through one-on-one education and group teaching sessions. A referral system will also be established for needy cases to general medical system.

In **Lebanon**, UNICEF worked with partners to link education and protection components by reaching the most marginalized families and individuals, and by ensuring long term psychosocial interventions. Better linkages with governmental entities are currently being discussed to fully mobilize the existing Social Development Centres (functioning under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs) and schools (Ministry of Education) in reaching out to Iraqi children and making sure they have access to education and, if necessary, to various support services while adjusting a new educational and social environment. Civil society organizations who have been traditionally leading in

delivering assistance to Iraqi refugee populations in the country are also being consulted and considered as key players who can contribute to an improved protective network for the most marginalized.

KEY CHALLENGES

The security situation inside Iraq remains the main challenge for the implementation and for effective monitoring. Further expansion of partnerships is necessary to assure quality and comprehensiveness of responses. In Syria, many Iraqi children face a chronic lack of resources and are unable to continue schooling. As a result, there has been a decline in the school age population, and there are numerous reports of Iraqi children being denied enrolment, as reflected in the UNICEF external evaluation and the UNHCR study of 2009. Any plan aimed at boosting the enrolment of Iraqi children and adolescents in Syrian schools will need to integrate measures addressing the causes of dropout and be sustained over a longer period of time; through preventing non-enrolment of young children, remedial education for others, and opportunities for vocational training for adolescents out of school. In Jordan, a lengthy approval processes for proposals, work-plans, research and assessments and the difficulty in obtaining validated data on the education status of Iraqi children has challenged timely implementation. In Lebanon and Egypt, the key challenge is to enhance the capacity of government institutions to deliver services with standards and quality control.

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

In Iraq, UNICEF leads two Sector Outcome Teams (Education and WASH), and is the deputy leader of two others (Health and Nutrition and Protection), in alignment with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster denomination. UNICEF also remains an active participant of multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms such as the Baghdad Humanitarian Coordination Team, chaired by OCHA, the Information Analysis Unit of OCHA and is a permanent member of the Humanitarian Country team that meets under the leadership of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. In Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon partners worked together and consolidating their activities to best respond to existing and emerging needs.

In Egypt UNICEF cooperated with Terre des Hommes Foundation and Refugee Egypt who played as umbrella organizations to the refugee's organization supporting them with financial and technical support while the Psycho-Social Training Institute of Cairo (PSTIC) played the academic and training role through training of the psychosocial works.

In Syria, UNICEF continues to lead the Education coordination group that ensures the interface between international NGOs and Ministry of Education. In 2010 group was able to produce a consolidated plan agreed with MoE, setting emphasis on the consolidation of the contribution of all partners related to both improvement of school physical environment and remedial classes for children facing difficulties. UNICEF also continued to be an active member of the health and protection groups led by UNHCR.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The UNICEF Iraq HAR requirements have been adjusted to the Iraq Humanitarian Action Plan requirements, and are currently US\$22 million. To date, UNICEF Iraq has received US\$5,328,200 of this amount, equivalent to 24 per cent of requirements for the year, leaving a gap of US\$16,671,800. Carry-over of humanitarian funding received in late 2008 and in 2009 has assured a certain degree of programme implementation's continuity.

In Syria and Jordan, the 2010 HAR requirements have been adjusted to match the requirements of the Regional Response Plan (RRP) for Iraq refugees and its review process with the respective Governments and partners. Requirements for Syria remained unchanged as mostly geared to improving services shared by refugee and hosting community children.

The requirements for Egypt and Lebanon remain unchanged.

Funds received against the HAR 2010 (US\$)						
Sector	Original 2010 HAR requirements	Revised HAR requirements	Funds received	Funding gap	Additional funds utilized in 2010	Final funding gap
Iraq						
Health and Nutrition	6,901,000	6,077,257	1,471,856	4,605,401	0	4,605,401
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	9,056,500	7,975,560	1,931,608	6,043,952	1,302,319	4,741,633
Education	4,246,800	3,739,850	905,758	2,834,092	598,383	2,235,709
Child Protection	4,777,600	4,207,333	1,018,978	3,188,355	1,761,025	1,427,330
Total*	24,981,900	22,000,000	5,328,200³	16,671,800	3,661,727	13,010,073
Syria						
Health and Nutrition	2,000,000	2,200,000	1,325,538	874,462	1,596,187	0
Education	6,800,000	11,965,000	3,166,563	8,798,437	5,828,244	2,970,193
Child Protection	5,000,000	5,000,000	2,871,999	2,128,001	3,470,458	0
Total*	13,800,000	19,165,000⁴	7,364,100⁵	11,800,900	10,894,889	2,970,193
Jordan						
Health and Nutrition	650,000	650,000	0	650,000	0	650,000
Education	5,950,000	4,950,000	664,100	4,285,900	1,076,868	3,209,032
Child Protection	1,760,000	2,242,545	0	2,242,545	1,291,545	951,000
Total*	8,360,000	7,842,545	664,100	7,178,445	2,368,413	4,810,032
Egypt						
Health and Nutrition	250,000	250,000	0	250,000	0	250,000
Education	250,000	250,000	0	250,000	0	250,000
Total*	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	0	500,000
Lebanon						
Education	150,000	150,000	0	150,000	0	150,000
Child Protection	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	0	200,000
Total*	350,000	350,000	0	350,000	0	350,000
Totals						
Sector	Original 2010 HAR requirements	Revised HAR requirements	Funds received	Funding gap	Additional funds utilized in 2010	Final funding gap
Health and Nutrition	9,801,000	9,177,257	2,797,394	6,379,863	1,596,187	4,783,676
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	9,056,500	7,975,560	1,931,608	6,043,952	1,302,319	4,741,633
Education	17,396,800	21,054,850	4,736,421	16,318,429	7,503,495	8,814,934
Child Protection	11,737,600	11,649,878	3,890,977	7,758,901	6,523,028	1,235,873
Total*	47,991,900	49,857,545	13,356,400	36,501,145	16,925,029	19,576,116

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

³ The amounts received in May 2010 against the RRP will be partially rolled over to cover 2011 activities addressing Iraq refugees' needs

⁴ The Revised HAR requirement is aligned with initial UNICEF required amount in the Regional Response Plan for Iraq refugees for 2010, only partially reflected in Original 2010 HAR requirements.

⁵ The amounts received in May 2010 against the RRP will be partially rolled out to 2011 activities addressing Iraq refugees' needs.

EMERGENCY PROGRAMME PRIORITIES: JULY – DECEMBER 2010

The priorities for UNICEF in Iraq will be to continue its area-based approach to reduce vulnerability and increase access to all services for Iraqi children and to ensure preparedness to react to any emergencies and carry out the leadership roles in the clusters and continue supporting all the areas of WASH, health and nutrition, child protection and education.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF together with the Ministry of Health will continue to provide sufficient rounds of Polio and measles vaccines and vitamin A supplements to ensure immunization and micronutrient fortification to meet the goal of vaccinating two million children under five as well as tetanus vaccines to protect pregnant women against maternal and neonatal tetanus. UNICEF and the Ministry of Health will strengthen vulnerable communities' ability to reduce exposure to HIV infection, reaching up to 1.2 million children, youth and women with messages and materials to encourage behavioural change.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: UNICEF will continue to meet its planned goal of responding to the immediate needs children and their families for safe water and sanitation. To reach the goal that is planned of over two million children and their families. This will be achieved by supporting national partners, including the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, and international and local NGOs.

Education: UNICEF will continue to strive to reach the goal of further reaching the basic education needs of over 300,000 children in the most vulnerable communities in every governorate of the country. Specific planned activities for the rest of the year 2010 include: the installation of 29 pre-fabricated classrooms with WASH units in Diala; the distribution of educational supplies for approximately 167,000 students and 8,460 teachers; the printing of ALP textbooks in Kurdish for 22,000 students; the support for Early Childhood Development activities in acutely vulnerable communities; and the continuation of support for psychosocial for teachers and students and teachers' training.

Child Protection: UNICEF and partners will continue to meet the goal that is set to strengthen monitoring, reporting, prevention and response services for up to three million children, youth and women affected by the extreme forms of abuse and exploitation.

HIV/AIDs: UNICEF and the Ministry of Health will strengthen vulnerable communities' ability to reduce exposure to HIV infection, reaching up to two million children, youth and women with messages and materials to encourage behaviour change.

In **Syria**, UNICEF is working hard with MoE and partners to make the best out of the summer break so schools are ready for the new school year starting in September and improved according to agreed upon plans with teachers, parents and children. School staff will undergo intensive training during this time year. Regarding child protection, UNICEF will continue to work with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and other partners so child friendly spaces continue operate full speed. An evaluation of the psycho-social support by UNICEF and partners since 2007 should allow enhanced planning and sustainability of interventions. Together with Youth Union and Ministry of Culture, UNICEF will ensure that adolescents, particularly girls, are provided for chances to learn while having fun, especially during the summer break. New vocational training classes by MoE, as well as NGOs should start with the new school year. UNICEF continues to support MoH in enhancing its immunization and nutrition surveillance systems.

In **Jordan**, priorities July-December 2010 include the promotion of inclusive education for all Iraqi children; ensuring access costs of Iraqi children to the Jordanian education system are covered; and ensuring early childhood education for Iraqi children.

In **Egypt**, UNICEF will continue training and graduate more psycho-social to reach up to 35 workers who will keep on providing psycho-social support to the estimated number of 300 refugee children and adults monthly; approximately 2,000 in 13 centres. UNICEF continues to work on enhancing the capacity of 11 primary health workers to provide a comprehensive health screening to more 920 refugee children from age 0 to 5 and provide their mothers.