

WINTER RESPONSE 2015/16

# WINTER IS COMING

CHILDREN CAN'T FACE IT ALONE



How much does it cost to keep a child warm this winter?

**\$US 3**

Medical check-up from a mobile health team

**\$US 4**

Children's mittens or gloves

**\$US 10**

Children's winter boots

**\$US 12**

Baby quilt or thermal blanket

**\$US 20**

Baby winter clothing kit

**\$US 40**

Children's winter clothing kit

**\$US 150**

Heats a classroom for the entire winter

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN TO BE REACHED THIS WINTER

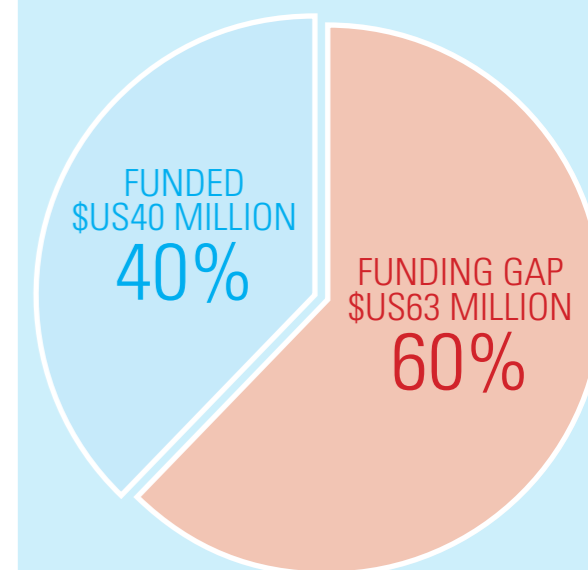
**2.6 MILLION**

FUNDING REQUESTED

**\$US103 MILLION**

FUNDING GAP

**\$US63 MILLION**



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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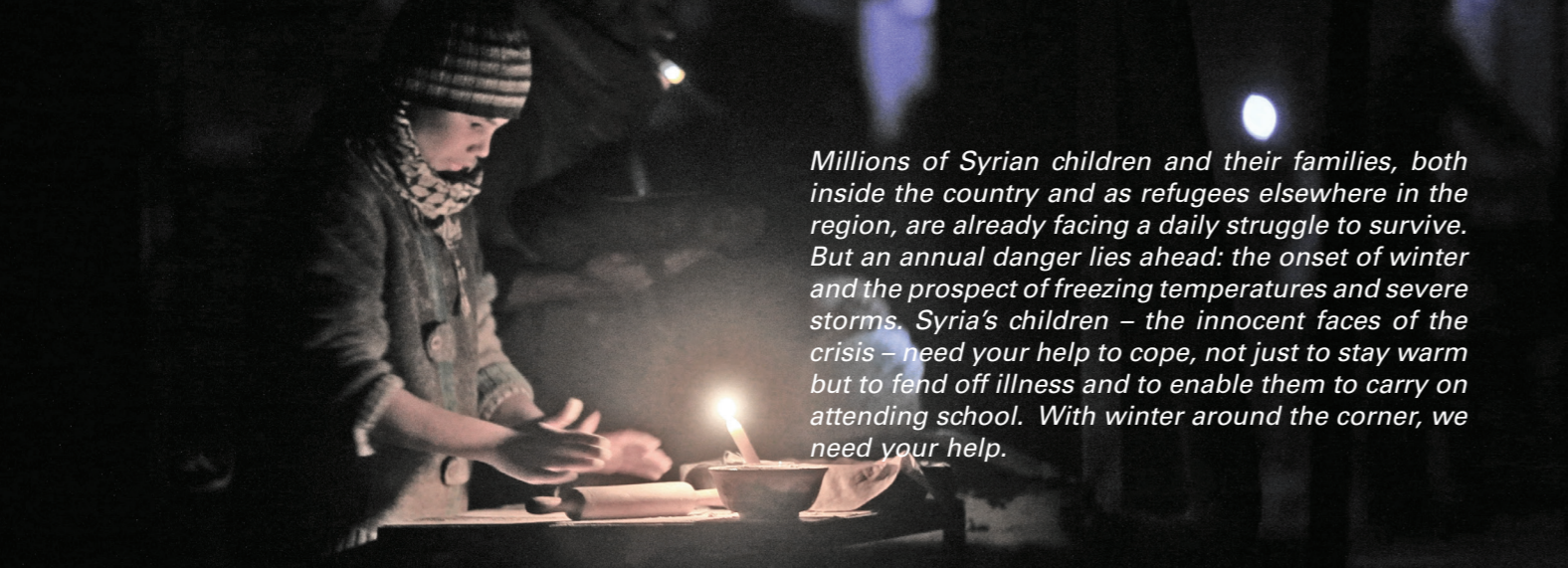
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Millions of Syrian children and their families, both inside the country and as refugees elsewhere in the region, are already facing a daily struggle to survive. But an annual danger lies ahead: the onset of winter and the prospect of freezing temperatures and severe storms. Syria's children – the innocent faces of the crisis – need your help to cope, not just to stay warm but to fend off illness and to enable them to carry on attending school. With winter around the corner, we need your help.

**More than eight million Syrian children** have already endured almost five years of unrelenting war, with the resulting violence and displacement. The majority are still living inside Syria, often in improvised communal shelters and under the constant threat of more bombings. But about two million Syrian children have fled, with their families, in perilous journeys from a country torn apart by fighting and civil strife to neighbouring states or to Europe, in what has become the biggest displacement crisis since the Second World War. Children in Iraq continue to live in precarious conditions. The relentless violence across parts of the country has left many children displaced. Of the 3.1 million Iraqis displaced in their own country – 45% are children.

With winter now only weeks away, the children of Syria are likely to face months of additional hardship and suffering. Left without help, they face the prospect of shivering in destroyed homes, in schools, in makeshift community shelters or in refugee camps, miles away from home.

This winter, you have the chance to be the person who provided children with warmth.

## If only it were as simple as providing scarves and shoes

For a refugee or someone who has been displaced, winter is a particularly challenging time. For children, the cold weeks and months can be lethal.

The Middle East in recent years has experienced severe winter storms with snow and temperatures below zero that have had an unprecedented impact. Snowstorms, flooding and bone-chilling winds are hard to bear at the best of times – but much harder still if you are living under canvas with threadbare clothing.

More and more Syrian families have seen their income plummet and savings vanish in the face of prolonged unemployment and displacement and increased inflation, including sharp rises in fuel costs and food prices. Half of Syrians now live below the poverty line. Families struggle to buy the most basic goods – including clothes, scarves, gloves and shoes – to keep their children warm in the winter months. These are items that we all take for granted. Cold weather also prevents children from attending school or reaching healthcare centres. Children face a higher risk of developing respiratory infections and getting exposed to indoor pollution, as impoverished families rely on unhealthy heating methods like burning plastic to keep their shelters warm.

UNICEF aims to provide 2.6 million children both inside Syria and those who have taken refuge in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey with clothes and supplies for the coming winter. Our priority is to reach the most vulnerable children such as those in besieged or inaccessible areas, the youngest and those living in the poorest shelter conditions in host communities and in refugee camps.

This year, UNICEF is providing a package of assistance for children to face the looming winter. Children will be provided with age and gender-appropriate winter clothing kits (with gloves, hats, shoes, socks, scarves and thermal blankets).

A significant aspect of the response will be providing complementary cash assistance and vouchers to families with children up to 15 years of age wherever families have access to markets. This allows them to choose the most needed items or services for their children.

Schools will also benefit during the winter months. UNICEF recognises that children's learning is enhanced if they are able to study in classrooms that are heated. This winter UNICEF is planning to warm classrooms with heaters and fuel for 312,000 children in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.



## How your money helped **Children** in winter 2014?

**1.36 MILLION**  
CHILDREN  
RECEIVED WINTER SUPPORT IN  
FIVE COUNTRIES



**562,000**  
CHILDREN  
REACHED WITH HEATED  
CLASSROOMS/ CHILD FRIENDLY  
SPACES IN SYRIA AND LEBANON  
AND IRAQ



**1,200**  
SCHOOLS  
IN IRAQ WERE  
PROVIDED WITH  
HEATING



## Snapshot of the 2015 UNICEF planned winter response across the region

### Syria

- Provide one million children with clothes and supplies including special clothing sets and quilts for babies.
- Distribute vouchers to 20,000 families. The vouchers can be exchanged for winter clothes in shops and markets.
- Establish mobile health clinics for door to door monitoring and treatment of children.
- Equip 2,000 classrooms with heaters, water tanks, fuel and insulation.

### Lebanon

- UNICEF Lebanon aims to provide assistance to 375,000 vulnerable Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian refugee children living in winter-exposed areas. The types of assistance include: Unconditional cash; Clothes for children and Fuel for heating schools. The \$40 one-time cash transfers, for each child between 0 and 15 years of age in Informal Settlements, as well as the poorest Lebanese and vulnerable Palestinian children, is to provide their households with the means to cover a portion of their winter expenses in hard-to-reach areas where no ATM is available.
- Distribute winter clothing kits to 40,000 children.
- Provide fuel for heating of public schools in high-altitude areas and child care institutions.

### Jordan

- Reach 353,000 most vulnerable children with winter supplies.
- Provide 18,000 children with winter clothing kits.
- Distribute more than 56,000 children with winter clothing vouchers.
- Nearly 280,000 children will get cash assistance.

### Iraq

- Provide 450,000 internally displaced Iraqi children and 100,000 Syrian Refugee children with winter clothing kits.
- Distribute thermal blankets to 60,000 Internally displaced Iraqi children and 6,000 Syrian refugees children
- Provide school heating to 76,990 Iraqi children who are internally displaced.

### Turkey

- Provide 90,000 Syrian refugee children living in host communities with cash assistance