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Country programme document

Iraq

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Iraq is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$9,000,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$324,601,699 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2020 to 2024.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2019.

* E/ICEF/2019/21.



Programme rationale

1. At 38.7 million, the population of Iraq is predominantly urban (70 per cent), with 15 per cent of the population under five years old, 50 per cent under 18 years old and 70 per cent under 24 years old. With a growth rate of 2.55 per cent, the population is projected to double by 2050.

2. Iraq is an upper-middle income country with a projected gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of \$5,695 for 2018.¹ The economy is dominated by the oil sector, making it vulnerable to price fluctuations.² Overall GDP growth is projected to increase in the coming years, with a projected spike to 8.1 per cent in 2020. The non-oil reserve is expected to remain positive but higher investment will be needed to rebuild the country's damaged infrastructure. The 2019 budget presents a sizable increase in capital expenditure, allowing for more infrastructure and services. Without significant reorientation in fiscal policy towards a comprehensive recovery approach, there will be limited fiscal space to sustain post-war recovery and longer-term development.

3. The country's development has been thwarted by decades of conflict. The recent conflict has left nearly 6 million Iraqis, including 3 million children, displaced.³ While the return of internally displaced people to their areas of origin has advanced, approximately 1.9 million people remain in protracted displacement.⁴ Additionally, volatile political dynamics continue to create significant risks, potentially leading to additional humanitarian needs countrywide.

4. The macroeconomic outlook coupled with the humanitarian situation has led to increased poverty, with almost a quarter of the population classified as poor.⁵ Out of 17.7 million children, 23 per cent were living under the poverty line and 39 per cent were either income poor or experienced deprivations in two or more of their rights in 2012.⁶

5. Iraq has made notable progress in several health-related areas. The under-five mortality rate decreased from 37 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2011 to 26 in 2018⁷; over the same period, delivery by skilled birth attendants increased from 90 to 96 per cent; and institutional delivery from 77 to 87 per cent. Nonetheless, inequalities persist. Data show that children from the poorest families are twice as likely to die by their fifth birthday as children from the wealthiest households, demonstrating a wider divide between rich and poor than in 2011. Just half of children between 12–23 months old are vaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases, while child immunization rates are constrained by lack of access, quality of services and supply-chain management issues, including vaccine stock-outs.

6. There has been a major reduction in chronic malnutrition nationwide, with the rate dropping from 21 per cent in 2011 to 10 per cent in 2018. However, disparities

¹ The World Bank, Iraq's Economic Update, April 2019
<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/300251553672479193/Iraq-MEU-April-2019-Eng.pdf>, date accessed 16 June 2019.

² Government of Iraq, Poverty Reduction Strategy 2018–2022.

³ International Organization for Migration, Iraq Displacement Crisis Report 2014–2017.

⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2019.

⁵ Ibid 2.

⁶ UNICEF Iraq, An Analysis of Child Poverty Trends and Policy: Recommendations for the national Poverty Reduction Strategy 2017–2021, January 2017.

⁷ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2018.

remain: children on the outskirts of Baghdad have the highest stunting rate in the nation (18 per cent).⁸

7. Water scarcity is a source of tensions within communities and between communities and authorities. Only 39.2 per cent of households have an improved, potable and permanent drinking water source on premises. A low water tariff, compounded by lack of awareness about water scarcity, has led to a daily per capita consumption that exceeds the international average of 200 liters.⁹ Wastewater infrastructure deteriorated significantly between 2003 and 2018 and does not meet global sanitary requirements.

8. Large disparities remain in learning achievements. Preschool enrolment is alarmingly low (only 10 per cent), while the net primary school enrolment rate has increased by just over 1 per cent between 2011 and 2018 (from 90.4 to 91.6 per cent). As students move from primary education to lower secondary and then upper secondary, the gender gap (girls/boys) among out-of-school children increases correspondingly (primary: 9.6/7.2 per cent; lower secondary: 27.7/14.7 per cent; and, upper secondary: 46.1/34.8 per cent).¹⁰ Twenty-eight per cent of internally displaced children in camps and 27 per cent of children not living in camps lack access to formal education. Rates are equally low in areas of return, where 21 per cent of children lack access to formal education. Lack of data on and monitoring of out-of school children means this group is left out in national statistics.¹¹

9. Violence against children, gender-based violence, child marriage as well as the impact of prolonged conflict, fragility and instability in the country remain key challenges affecting boys, girls and women. There is no child protection unit or directorate within the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The juvenile justice system is retributive rather than restorative. Violence directed at women and girls within the family is often normalized and legitimized by survivors, perpetrators and communities by referencing cultural and religious norms. Forty per cent of women and girls aged 15–49 years believe a husband is justified in beating his wife if she refuses to have sex with him, goes out without telling him, argues with him, neglects the children, or burns his food.¹² Widespread gender-based violence, especially sexual violence and exploitation and family violence, persists.

10. From 2011 to 2018, the rate of child marriage increased from 24 to 28 per cent for females aged 20 to 24 married before the age of 18; and from 5.7 to 7.9 per cent for the same age group married before the age of 15.¹³ Eighty-one per cent of children aged 1–17 years have experienced some form of violent discipline (in and out of school), while 30 per cent have been subjected to physical violence. Over 18 per cent of caregivers surveyed believe physical punishment is needed to rear or educate a child properly.¹⁴

11. Children and adolescents¹⁵ living with disabilities are most likely to face violence, discrimination and exclusion. Yet, a lack of reliable data on disability persists, limiting targeted interventions.

⁸ MICS 2018.

⁹ Ministry of Water Resources.

¹⁰ MICS 2018.

¹¹ National Education Cluster 2018.

¹² MICS 2011, 2018.

¹³ MICS 2011, 2018.

¹⁴ MICS 2018.

¹⁵ The United Nations understands adolescents to include persons aged 10–19 years and youth as those between 15–24 years for statistical purposes, without prejudice to other definitions used by Member States. Together, adolescents and youth are referred to as young people, encompassing the ages 10–24 years.

12. The demographic structure presents an historic window of opportunity for investment in young people to contribute to society's development. However, young people face significant deprivations, including access to the labour market. Only 24 per cent of youth participate in the labour force – a rate that is considerably lower than for the rest of the population – with a gender gap of over 38 per cent.¹⁶ The main challenges impeding youth employment and equal opportunities are limited job growth,¹⁷ given minimal entrepreneurial prospects, and gender-based barriers to entering the labour market.¹⁸

13. Social protection remains fragmented and does not respond adequately to existing child deprivations and inequities. Only 21.3 per cent of children in the poorest quintile receive social safety net benefits and 32.5 per cent some form of social transfer assistance. The government's current efforts to move the social protection net to proxy means testing and establish a unified registry of beneficiaries will enhance the capacity to help the most vulnerable children and families.

14. Given the loss of human capital over the past three decades and continuing fragility, Iraq must increase the level of public spending in social sectors related to children and adolescents. The education sector accounts for only 9.6 per cent of the federal Government 2019 budget. In 2017, public health expenditure represented 3.8 per cent of GDP, a much lower rate than the regional and global average.

15. Decentralization has become government policy to improve public service delivery, reduce ethnic and sectarian tensions and increase the accountability of state institutions. This provides the opportunity for a much closer working relationship with subnational entities in the new country programme and greater opportunities to provide integrated programmes for children and families. Equally important, the decentralization process recognizes the differential conditions and varying capacities that exist across this diverse country.

16. In the past decades, Iraq has experienced violent conflict, natural hazards and disease outbreaks, which have caused severe human, financial and environmental losses. Children bear the brunt of indiscriminate climate change, the impact of which is magnified in a context of fragility. Significant capacity gaps limit the government's ability to prepare for and coordinate responses to emergency situations such as displacements, epidemic outbreaks and natural disasters.

17. Lessons learned from the previous programme, highlight the need to maximize synergies between sectoral programmes and enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of UNICEF-supported interventions. Specifically, UNICEF has seen the value of balancing its downstream and upstream work to achieve results at scale; bridging humanitarian response with systems strengthening and capacity-building to open up policy dialogues and leverage resources; investing in innovative monitoring and information-management systems to generate robust evidence on the situation of children, thus improving accountability and reporting on results; and maintaining sectoral programmes to allow alignment with government line ministries and capacity development for improved coordination, especially at decentralized level. Lessons from the protracted large-scale humanitarian crises underscore the need to promote a risk-informed, conflict-sensitive programming approach based on vulnerability and capacity assessments.

¹⁶ World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/country/iraq>, date accessed 16 June 2019.

¹⁷ UNICEF MENARO, 'Youth Unemployment in the Middle East and North Africa', unpublished background paper, 2018.

¹⁸ AVSI, 'Needs Assessment: Matching Skills and Jobs: An assessment of the labor market and the educational situation of vulnerable children and youth in northern Iraq', unpublished background paper, 2015.

18. Based on these lessons, the draft country programme is organized into six outcomes by sector, which are supported by two overarching outcomes: emergency capacity and coordination and programme effectiveness. Within the sectors opportunities for integration are identified through common entry points such as schools and health facilities, decentralized service delivery, referral mechanisms and evidence- building and monitoring systems.

Programme priorities and partnerships

19. The country programme of cooperation is designed to support the Government of Iraq, at national and subnational levels, to accelerate the realization of rights for all children in Iraq. The vision of this country programme is that “by 2024, children, adolescents and women in Iraq are better protected and have more equitable and inclusive access to quality basic services.” The theory of change supports the Government to develop an enabling environment at national and subnational levels to ensure that all girls and boys survive and thrive, learn, and are protected from violence and neglect on a sustainable basis.

20. The programme is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is aligned with UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 and Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021 and is consistent with the key pillars of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020–2024. Its outcomes support national priorities in the National Development Plan 2018–2022, the Poverty Reduction Strategy 2018–2022, and the Kurdistan Regional Government ‘Vision 2020’.

21. The programme addresses gaps in the enabling environment, including social norms; access to and quality of basic services (supply) as well as demand for services. To address the long-term impact of conflict and exposure to violence on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of children, adolescents, their caregivers and communities, a multisectoral risk-informed approach is required, relying on community structures and mechanisms. UNICEF will strengthen decentralized capacities for the effective, equitable and integrated provision of services, especially in geographic areas with pockets of higher vulnerability and greater disparities. While maintaining a sectoral programme structure, based on the multidimensional nature of Iraqi poverty, multisectoral programming will be applied for early childhood and adolescence.

22. Gender is mainstreamed throughout the programme, with a special focus on addressing gender-based violence. UNICEF will also integrate child and adolescent participation and the acquisition of life skills across sectors. The programme aims to better integrate conflict-sensitivity and social cohesion into development and humanitarian policies and programmes. While the country continues to face humanitarian challenges and inequalities in development outcomes, UNICEF will support capacity enhancement with the aim of systems and communities becoming more resilient and better able to respond to shocks, emphasizing innovation, scalability and environmental sustainability.

23. The country programme will work at national, subnational and community levels. While some system-strengthening elements will have national coverage, the programme will focus on 10 selected governorates (out of 18) and on most deprived and hard-to-reach children and women, including those with disabilities, internally displaced persons and refugees. The governorates were selected based on an analysis of multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS), population in need and child population data. The geographical focus will enable integration and synergy to effectively, holistically and equitably address children’s rights.

24. In its normative role, as a knowledge leader and advocate for children's rights, UNICEF will support efforts to reach marginalized children and adolescents.

Health and nutrition

25. The outcome statement is that by 2024 newborns, children, adolescents and women, especially the most vulnerable, access and equitably use affordable, high-impact, quality health and nutrition services. The programme will address three main deprivations: limited access to immunization and newborn care services; and poor nutrition practices by mothers, especially in the first 1,000 days of life.

26. The programme will focus on system-strengthening and improvement of the delivery and quality of decentralized services for the most vulnerable children, adolescents and mothers. The programme will generate evidence and data to inform adjustments in legislation, policies and the national budget and build the capacity of various duty-bearers, including the Government, health-care providers and community leaders.

27. The programme will support the design of packages to improve quality of care at health-facility level in the most vulnerable governorates and in humanitarian situations, starting from newborn care through promotion of the Kangaroo Mother Care initiative. Other priorities include strengthening immunization cold chain management system, effective vaccine storage and development of continuous improvement plans to deliver high quality, sustainable and equitable immunization services to the most vulnerable communities. Capacity will be developed to trace, count and reduce the number of unvaccinated children, and to strengthen emergency preparedness and response to disease outbreaks.

28. The programme will emphasize social and behaviour change, supporting community mobilization and outreach activities that aim to promote infant and young child feeding practices, micronutrient supplementation for children and adolescents, responsive parenting, and parents' demand for early childhood development services.

29. The programme will work closely with other sectors using immunization as platform to deliver an integrated package of services and interventions (e.g. birth registration, early stimulation, safe drinking water). It will support the development and implementation of the early childhood development policy and promote synergies at federal and decentralized levels. Communication for development (C4D) strategies will be used to support parents, caregivers and children to have knowledge, skills and confidence to practice positive parenting, good health and nutrition behaviours.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

30. The outcome statement is that by 2024 children, adolescents and their families, especially the most vulnerable, have improved access to sustainable, equitable and safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. The programme will address key barriers in supply, demand and quality of water in urban and rural settings, losses due to system inefficiencies, poor wastewater infrastructure and suboptimal sanitation.

31. Priority interventions will enhance the sector's governance, including clarification of accountabilities among policymakers, service providers and regulators, and mechanisms for service delivery. This component will continue to engage the Government and development partners in WASH sector reforms and innovations to improve governance, financing and accountability. It will strengthen government capacity to improve quality management of water and sanitation, integrated water management resource planning, and sustainable management of decentralized WASH services. Equitable access to safely managed, sustainable,

climate-resilient WASH services will be a focus area. The programme will use schools, health-care centres and communities to increase knowledge among children and families on appropriate use of water and improved hygiene practices, including menstrual hygiene management. (MHM).

32. The programme will work in an integrated manner with the education and health sectors to support implementation of MHM in schools and disease prevention in schools, health centres and communities. It will promote adolescent engagement in WASH interventions, particularly WASH behavioural change.

Education

33. The outcome statement is that by 2024 children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from equitable access to quality and inclusive education. Main bottlenecks to be addressed include inequitable financing; insufficient education infrastructure, especially schools in rural and crisis-affected areas; lack of critical education supplies limiting effective learning; lack of adequate and conducive WASH facilities for boys and girls; and inequitable distribution of qualified teachers, particularly in the most crisis-affected areas. The programme will emphasize curricula revision, development of child-centred teaching and learning materials and development of unified national standards for quality education.

34. The principal interventions will focus on strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Education to effectively plan, budget, implement and monitor equitable delivery of quality education services, especially at governorate levels. Special attention will be on collect and analyse data through better use of the Education Management Information System and to develop and implement decentralized governorate education sector plans in support of the school-based management approach, promoting a culture of effective school leadership and community participation in school management. Continuous teacher development focusing on monitoring learners' achievements and integration of Life Skills and Citizenship Education in classroom practices will be a major element of change. Psychosocial support will be integrated in teacher training to help children to cope with conflict and displacement.

35. Capitalizing on the previous country programme cycle, the new programme will prioritize multiple pathways to learning to ensure that the most vulnerable children and adolescents, especially those out-of-school, including internally displaced and refugee children, can develop to their full potential and acquire life skills. The programme will expand access to secondary education for adolescent girls in rural and poor communities to facilitate transition from primary to secondary education.

36. Integrated programming in early childhood and adolescence will bring the education programme together with other sectors. Pre-schools will be used as the entry point for early identification of disabilities and developing parental skills, while schools will involve adolescents actively in their learning and community-based engagement.

Child protection

37. The outcome statement is that by 2024 children, adolescents and women, especially the most vulnerable, are protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect, in accordance with international standards. The bottlenecks addressed by the programme include a weak and outdated legal framework, and an acute shortage of an experienced and well-trained social service/child protection workforce across mandated government departments (the Police and the Health, Justice, Education and Welfare Ministries, at national and local level).

38. Priority will be given to the strengthening of child rights-related legal and policy frameworks and gender-sensitive procedures, and aligning them to international standards, the establishment of child protection institutions and a modern social workforce. A main approach is addressing gaps in technical guidance and oversight in effective child protection and prevention, and in strengthening response to gender-based violence among the front-line workforce, including by case management. More data will be collected, and data will be better used through the development of Child Protection Information Management Systems.

39. UNICEF will provide support for improved quality multisectoral, gender-sensitive child protection prevention and response services, case management and other specialized services for children without parental care. Specifically, social welfare and justice systems, schools and health facilities will be platforms to prevent and detect cases of abuse, violence and exploitation and play a role in promoting birth registration, preventing child marriage and ensuring referral and care for affected women, girls and boys, including those with disabilities. UNICEF and its partners will provide crucial psychosocial support and referrals to specialized mental health services for children, adolescents and their caregivers to help them overcome their prolonged exposure to traumatic experiences.

40. Communication for development strategies will promote improved practices at community level, create demand for services in education and health and reduce harmful practices such as violence against children, child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting and gender-based violence.

41. In collaboration with its sister United Nations agencies, UNICEF will continue to engage government and other key actors to halt and prevent grave child rights violations, especially killing and maiming. UNICEF will support strengthening of existing system for monitoring, reporting and responding to violations of child rights in armed conflict, including prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration.

Social inclusion and policy

42. The outcome statement is that by 2024 children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, have improved access to equitable, integrated and adequately financed basic services and social protection, and contribute to a cohesive, peaceful and resilient society. The social inclusion and policy programme will address multiple deprivations as highlighted in the programme components above. UNICEF will advocate and work with the Government removing some barriers that children and adolescent face through improved public finance management.

43. The programme will strengthen government capacity to prioritize the needs of children, rationalize spending and strengthen existing social protection systems for equitable service delivery. The programme will prioritize data generation (including on child poverty), policy analysis, advocacy and government capacity development at central and subnational level to influence resource allocation for equitable basic social services and social protection programmes.

44. UNICEF will promote co-creation with young people as partners (e.g., engaging adolescents in the design and implementation of programmes on child marriage, gender-based violence, hygiene, health, education and social cohesion). Youth engagement will strengthen their voice and participation in decision-making.

Emergency capacity and coordination

45. The outcome statement is that UNICEF, government and key humanitarian partners effectively analyse, prepare and coordinate emergency response to children,

adolescents and families at risk to be affected by conflict and in humanitarian situations, especially those who are most vulnerable.

46. The efforts to invest in government's capacity and systems to coordinate and deploy emergency assistance will be informed by latest available data information and sharper analysis of the potential risk factors for better risk mitigation and preparedness.

47. Stronger collaboration will be promoted with government entities to deliver, support and coordinate the humanitarian response, and, jointly with the Government, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, cluster co-lead agencies along with key United Nations agencies, and civil society organizations, child-centred, risk-informed programme planning and emergency preparedness will be prioritized. This will support risk analysis, implementation of mitigation measures, and monitoring of operational preparedness. To respond to large-scale emergency situations, UNICEF will deliver assistance in WASH, health, education and child protection, including through its yearly winter response programme.

Programme effectiveness

48. This component will support programme planning, monitoring, evaluation, external relations and operational support to programme delivery. Standards, guidance and United Nations-wide tools will provide for effective programming. The results-based management capacity of programme staff and implementing partners will be enhanced, including by equipping them to analyse and generate information for management action.

49. To ensure that resources are well managed, UNICEF will provide guidance and oversight on partnerships, supplies, funds and contribution management. External communication, engagement with media, civil society, adolescents and children will be strengthened to raise awareness on the situation of children and women and promote their rights.

Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Health and nutrition	520	41 480	42 000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	0 000	101 125	101 125
Education	0 000	49 157	49 157
Child protection	0 000	39 761	39 761
Social inclusion and policy	1 146	37 765	38 911
Emergency capacity and coordination	0 000	0 000	0 000 ¹⁹
Programme effectiveness	7 334	55 314	62 648
Total	9 000	324 602	333 602

¹⁹ The requirement for other resources emergency for 2020–2024 is estimated at \$247 million.

Programme and risk management

50. This CPD outlines UNICEF contributions to the National Development Plan 2018–2022 and Poverty Reduction Strategy 2018–2022 and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for achievement of results and resources assigned to the programme. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization’s programme and operations policies and procedures.

51. The Ministry of Planning will coordinate planning and monitoring of the country programme with line ministries and departments responsible for implementation and management of programmes at national and decentralized levels.

52. UNICEF continues to participate in the United Nations country team, UNSDCF technical working groups, and United Nations-wide programme management team to support the achievement of the National Development Plan objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals.

53. UNICEF will mobilize resources from bilateral and multilateral donors, foundations, private sector and the National Committees for UNICEF, to be supplemented by core resources. Partnership analysis will be conducted, and a resource mobilization strategy will be formulated identifying potential innovative financing opportunities to diversify and leverage a wider network of partnerships for children to reduce risks related to funding.

54. For all the outcomes it is assumed that the Government’s commitment to children’s rights and the momentum for decentralization will translate into the policy framework and public investments. Among the risks are poor governance and inadequate leadership, resources, coordination and capacities, especially among frontline workers, decision-makers and administrators. Mitigating these risks includes building capacity and changing mindsets that perpetuate inequities. Managing and mitigating fiduciary risks will be supported through frequent spot-checks and the systematic monitoring, audit and triangulation of disaggregated data.

55. UNICEF will work in humanitarian and development settings with Government and partners, strengthening real-time monitoring and early warning assessments for effective emergency preparedness and response. UNICEF will stand ready to support and deliver immediate humanitarian assistance should a large-scale emergency or critical need for assistance arise. UNICEF will maintain its four field offices to lead governorate level programming for programme delivery.

Monitoring and evaluation

56. Jointly with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF will support the strengthening of national capacity in monitoring and evaluation including through the health, education and child protection management information systems at all levels for improved monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, the National Development Plan and the UNSDCF.

57. UNICEF will continue to strengthen its monitoring framework to facilitate identification and removal of barriers and bottlenecks and mitigate risks to the achievement of results. Regular field monitoring and periodic programme reviews with partners will contribute to assessing progress on results and ensuring timely adjustments. Disaggregation of indicators (e.g., gender, disability, ethnicity, geographical location) will be refined in annual workplans. UNICEF will use beneficiary voices as part of the UNICEF accountability to affected populations and monitor prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

58. In 2023, a MICS will be conducted to assess the situation of children and women and the impact of programmes. UNICEF will carry out the evaluations listed in the annexed costed evaluation plan and support national evaluation capacity to inform programme strategies and design.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Iraq – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2020–2024

<p>Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 3–10, 12, 19, 22–24, 26–30, 32, 34, 37, 39–40, 42</p> <p>Sustainable Development Goals: 1–6, 8, 10–11, 13, 16</p> <p>National priorities: National Development Plan 2018–2022, Iraq Poverty Reduction Strategy 2018–2022</p>
<p>UNSDCF outcomes involving UNICEF: Achieving Social Cohesion, Protection and Inclusion; Growing the Economy for All; Promoting Sustainable Climate Action; Strengthening National Institutions and Services</p>
<p>Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 Goal Areas: 1 to 5</p>

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
By 2024, newborns, children, adolescents and women in Iraq, especially the most vulnerable, access and equitably use affordable, high-impact health and nutrition services.	Percentage of mothers receiving postnatal checks within two days of childbirth B: 78% T: 90%	Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) Health Management Information System (HMIS)	Newborns and mothers, especially from the most vulnerable governorates benefit from improved maternal and neonatal health-care services. Integrated Management of Childhood Illness and immunization services for children, adolescents and pregnant women, especially in most vulnerable governorates are of high quality, sustainable and equitable. Increased quality of relevant key nutrition services for infants, children and adolescents especially in the most vulnerable governorates. By 2024, the Ministry of Health at central and governorate levels has strengthened capacities for better resource	Ministries of Health and Education, civil society, United Nations agencies and the World Bank.	520	41 480	42 000
	Percentage of newborn babies put to the breast within one hour of birth B: 32.4% T: 50%	MICS HMIS					
	Percentage of children vaccinated against measles through routine immunization programme B: 70% T: 85%	MICS HMIS					

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
			mobilization, equitable distribution and efficient utilization of maternal, neonatal and child health services, especially in the most vulnerable governorates.				
By 2024, children, adolescents and their families, especially the most vulnerable, have improved access to sustainable, equitable and safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, including in the most vulnerable communities.	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services B: 39.2% T: 50%	MICS Environment Survey Report	Improved government capacity for quality management of water and sanitation auditing, integrated water management resource planning, and sustainable management of WASH services. Schools and health-care centres have climate-resilient water and sanitation services and hygiene practices. Communities, especially the most vulnerable, have water security and climate-resilient WASH services.	Ministries of Construction and Housing and Municipalities and Public Works; Health; Education; and Water Resources; civil society; United Nations agencies; Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance/United States Agency for International Development (OFDA/USAID) and the private sector.	0	101 125	101 125
	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services B: 23.6% T: 30%	MICS Environment Survey Report					
	Number of governorates with a child-sensitive national climate change adaptation/ mitigation plan. B: 0 T: 5	Environmental Survey Report					
By 2024, children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from equitable access to quality, and inclusive education.	Percentage of children aged 36–59 months who are developmentally on track in at least three of the following four domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional and learning. B: 79% T: 85%	MICS	By 2024, the Ministry of Education at central and governorate levels has strengthened capacities for planning, coordination, budgeting and monitoring. By 2024, children and adolescents, including those out of school in selected governorates and in	Ministry of Education (federal and Kurdistan Regional Government), the Prime Minister’s Advisory Committee, academia, civil society, United Nations agencies	0	49 157	49 157

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
	Percentage of children aged 36–59 months attending an early childhood education programme (attendance rate) B: 2.4% T: 7%	Education Management Information System (EMIS) MICS	humanitarian situations, have increased access to basic education opportunities. By 2024, children and young people, especially the most disadvantaged, benefit from quality learning and acquire skills to develop to their full potential.	and the World Bank.			
	Net primary enrolment rate B: Total: 91.6% Girls: 90.4% Boys: 92.7% T: Total: 93.5% Girls: 94% Boys: 93% Net lower secondary education rate B: Lower secondary Total: 57.6% Girls: 57.5% Boys 57.5% T: Total: 60% Girl: 60% Boys 60%	EMIS MICS					
	Primary education completion rate (household survey data) B: 75% T: 80%	MICS					

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
	Effective transition rate of children to secondary education B: 90.9% T: 95%	MICS EMIS					
	Percentage of out-of-school children: (a) primary (b) secondary B: (a) 8.4% (b) 21.2% T: (a) 5% (b) 20%	MICS EMIS					
By 2024, children, adolescents and women, especially the most vulnerable, are protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect, in accordance with international standards.	Percentage of women aged 15–49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for at least one reason, (by age) B: 39% T: 30%	MICS	Strengthened child protection system with stronger legislative, policy, institutional and community structures and capacities to deliver high-quality multisectoral, age-appropriate child protection and gender-based violence services.	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (federal and Kurdistan Regional Government), Child Welfare Commission, High Judicial Council, Ministries of Interior, Justice and Defence, Inter-Ministerial Committee on Grave Violations, civil society, United Nations agencies and OFDA/USAID.	0	39 761	39 761
	Percentage of children 1–14 years who have experienced violent disciplinary practices by an adult member of the household during the past month B: 81.9% T: 70%	MICS	Children in contact with the law benefit from a functional and child-friendly system of justice that protects them and their rights, consistent with international standards. Children affected by armed conflict benefit from a strengthened system for monitoring, reporting and responding to violations of child rights in armed conflict, including prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.				
	Percentage of women/caregivers who think that physical punishment is necessary to raise/educate children B: 18.4% T: 15%	MICS					
	Percentage of women (20–24 years) married or in union before age 18 B: 27.9% T: 20%	MICS					

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
By 2024, children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, have improved access to equitable, integrated and adequately financed basic services and social protection, and contribute to a cohesive, peaceful and resilient Iraqi society.	Share of public spending on health, education and social protection B: Health: 6.46% (2014); Education: 8.5% (2017); Social protection: 2% (2017) T: Health 8%; Education: 11%; Social protection: 3%	Budget execution report	By 2024, national and subnational systems have enhanced capacity to plan, budget and address priorities for children, adolescent and youth. By 2024, the social protection system is evidence-informed and has enhanced capacity to address the priorities of most vulnerable children and young people. By 2024, adolescents and youth (ages 10–24) have increased opportunities to influence decision-making processes that impact their lives.	Ministries of Planning, Labour and Social Affairs, Finance, and Youth and Sports, civil society, United Nations agencies, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and the World Bank.	1 146	37 765	38 911
	Percentage of poor children covered by the social protection network B: 18.6% T: 50%	MICS					
	Number of children and adolescents living in monetary or multidimensional poverty [as per national measurements] B: 23% T: 19%	Government reports MICS					
By 2024, UNICEF, government and key humanitarian partners effectively analyse, prepare and coordinate emergency response to children and families at risk and in humanitarian situations, especially those most vulnerable.	Number of governorates with established and functional emergency management structures B: 0 T: 6	Government/ United Nations reports/ UNICEF internal reviews, studies, assessments and reports	UNICEF, key humanitarian partners and government emergency planning and coordination structures have strengthened capacities in humanitarian analysis, risk mitigation and emergency preparedness.	Ministry of Migration and Displacement, Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre, Joint Coordination Crisis Centre, Iraq Red Crescent Society and OFDA/USAID.	0	0	0
	Proportion of vulnerable children protected against harsh winter elements B: 50% T: 90%	Government reports	Critical emergency response to children facing humanitarian risk is effectively coordinated and delivered.				

<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
					<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
Enhanced programme effectiveness	Standard key performance indicators	Insight	Programme coordination; communication, advocacy, partnerships; cross-cutting operations support.	Ministry of Planning	7 334	55 314	62 648
Total resources					9 000	324 602	333 602