The Humanitarian Situation in the Middle East and North Africa Region

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MENA a set of complex and unprecedented humanitarian needs

- A dramatic and unforeseen transformation in the last decade: from middle-income to the most acute humanitarian needs
- **Set of complex crises:** conflict, natural disasters, economic shocks, erosion of social services
- Acute, protracted and cyclical crises
- **71 million people need humanitarian assistance. 36 million children (1 in 4)**
- 1 million more children in need in 2018 alone
- 36% of the global UNICEF target of children in need of humanitarian assistance in MENA
MENA: a set of complex and unprecedented humanitarian needs

**2018 HAC Targets (People)**
- Global: 82 million
- MENA: 33 million (40%)

**2018 HAC Targets (Children)**
- Global: 48 million
- MENA: 17.3 million (36%)

**Graphs:**
The Humanitarian Situation of Children in MENA

16.1 million children and mothers in need of nutrition support; about 48 million people in need of WASH; large AWD/cholera and measles outbreaks

Macroeconomic challenges threaten the futures of millions of children

3.5 million children have experienced siege or siege-like situations

14 million children out of school

Collapse of social safety nets

Erosion of social services

Natural disasters

Drought, earthquakes, floods, cyclones

Forced displacement

5.8 million child refugees

5.7 million child IDPs

5.7 million child IDPs

Mixed migration

21% of sea arrivals in Europe are children transiting through MENA

Economic shocks

IHL Violations

Conflict

More than 25 million children are living in conflict situations

The Humanitarian Situation in MENA – UNICEF | for every child
Children Affected by Armed Conflict

Notable Trends:

- **Widespread grave violations** against children
- Education, health, water sources under attack.
- Children recruited are becoming **younger and increasingly used in combat**.
- Detention.
- Complex challenge is the **issue of women and children allegedly affiliated with ISIL combatants**
  - Major protection concerns
  - No clear durable solutions
  - Women and children come from at least 60+ countries of origin, making this a truly global challenge.

In 2017 the UN verified 8,390 grave violations in MENA

In the first nine months of 2018:

**Yemen:**
- 1,600+ children killed or maimed
- 300+ boys were recruited
- Military use of schools is rising

**Syria:**
- 1,300+ children killed or maimed.
- 80+ attacks on schools and 140+ attacks on hospitals and personnel
- 600+ verified cases of child-recruitment

**Israel and the State of Palestine:**
- Spike in killing (50+) and injuring (2,300+) of children.
- Security detention of children remains a common practice with on average 283 children in military detention per month.
UNICEF’s Response

Unique Context → Unique Approaches

• Regional Partnerships and Advocacy Platforms (e.g. UNHCR; NLG)
• Systems-strengthening/Linking Humanitarian and Development/SDGs (e.g. WASH in Syria and Yemen, work with MoE across Syria crisis)
• Direct implementation (e.g. Berm, Makani centers)
• Growing roll-out of cash programming both on smaller scale and Yemen ECT
• Remote implementation with third party monitoring
• Cross-border and cross-line responses when necessary
• Partnerships with Private Sector (e.g. WASH in Gaza)
• Enhanced preparedness to remain flexible to continuing shocks
• Decentralization – importance of field offices
Grand Bargain—where we stand

• Strong on localization  ➔  Nearly 40% of funds to local actors (25% target)

• Strengthening social protection systems to be ready to scale-up cash transfers in emergencies  ➔  large scale models including ECT in Yemen

• Community engagement/putting people at the centre of humanitarian action  ➔  investments into Accountability to Affected Population such as Iraq IDP Information Center

• Multi-year response planning and funding  ➔  using leverage to push for this but in 2018 only 12% of funding was multi-year.
Looking forward - opportunities for Board Members’ support:

• Leverage influence over parties to the conflict to halt grave violations against children and to grant unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access

• Influence parties to the conflict to commit to child-focused confidence building measures and meaningfully engage children and youth in reconciliation/peacebuilding initiatives

• Maintain a steady flow of multi-year and flexible resources including in support of humanitarian-development continuum

• Invest in preparedness and conflict prevention
Thank You