Results from 2017

As of 31 October 2017, UNICEF had US$125.9 million available against the US$161.4 million appeal (75 per cent funded). Complementary resources were used to fund technical support needs not covered by emergency funding. The significant number of new displacements and the adoption of low-cost, high-impact interventions resulted in achievements beyond planned targets for RRM, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education clusters, and hygiene awareness will be supported in camps, host communities and retaken areas where people remain or return. Children under 5 years will receive immunization and nutrition services, especially in areas recently affected by conflict. UNICEF will expand access to safe and quality education, particularly in retaken areas, and facilitate sustained psychosocial support and protection services for children in need and their caregivers. UNICEF will work with United Nations and government partners to carry out cash-based interventions, and with non-governmental organizations and government emergency bodies to support capacity building for longer-term recovery.

Humanitarian strategy

The UNICEF strategy in Iraq is aligned with the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). UNICEF leads the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education clusters, the child protection sub-cluster and the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and is an active member of the health cluster. UNICEF will contribute to reaching people in need in Iraq, regardless of location. Families on the move will be reached through the RRM, and people in retaken communities will be reached with a multi-sectoral response during conflict or after it subsides. Access to safe water, gender-sensitive sanitation facilities and hygiene awareness will be supported in camps, host communities and retaken areas where people remain or return. Children under 5 years will receive immunization and nutrition services, especially in areas recently affected by conflict. UNICEF will expand access to safe and quality education, particularly in retaken areas, and facilitate sustained psychosocial support and protection services for children in need and their caregivers. UNICEF will work with United Nations and government partners to carry out cash-based interventions, and with non-governmental organizations and government emergency bodies to support capacity building for longer-term recovery.

Iraq

Nearly 9 million people in Iraq require humanitarian assistance, including 5 million people who are in critical need of safe water. Although 2 million people have returned to their homes, 3 million people remain displaced, including 1.4 million children. In 2018, the humanitarian community anticipates a reduction in armed violence, though new displacements may continue to occur in complex contexts and the trend of increasing returns to retaken areas is expected to continue. Maintaining camp services such as water supply, sanitation facilities, schools and protective spaces for displaced children and their families is essential but costly, as is ensuring critical services for returnees. Children remain highly vulnerable and protection concerns are significant. Nearly half of the population of internally displaced school-aged children—some 335,000 children—are out of school. Children who have lived in areas formerly held by the armed group Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant are in need of psychosocial support, vaccinations, support to re-enter school, and safe spaces to play. Outside of camps, Iraq’s public services remain overstretched, with water and sanitation networks damaged by war or neglect and overburdened health systems struggling to serve displaced children and families.

Humanitarian Action for Children

Total people in need: 8.7 million
Total children (<18) in need: 4.1 million
Total people to be reached: 2.24 million
Total children to be reached: 1.2 million

2018 programme targets:

Rapid Response Mechanism and winterization response
- 1.03 million vulnerable people displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response
- 200,000 children with warm winter clothing

WASH
- 1.3 million emergency-affected people, including 611,000 children, provided with sufficient safe water as per agreed standards
- 300,000 people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities

Education
- 450,000 school-aged children accessing quality education, including through temporary structures

Child protection
- 186,300 children and caregivers reached with psychosocial support
- 18,630 girls and boys accessing specialized protection services

Nutrition
- 50,000 children under 5 accessing nutrition services

Health
- 1.2 million children under 5 vaccinated against polio
- 18,000 children under 1 vaccinated against measles

Cash assistance
- 15,000 children from vulnerable families receiving child-focused cash transfers

Complementary resources were used to fund technical support needs not covered by emergency funding. The significant number of new displacements and the adoption of low-cost, high-impact interventions resulted in achievements beyond planned targets for RRM, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education clusters, and hygiene awareness will be supported in camps, host communities and retaken areas where people remain or return. Children under 5 years will receive immunization and nutrition services, especially in areas recently affected by conflict. UNICEF will expand access to safe and quality education, particularly in retaken areas, and facilitate sustained psychosocial support and protection services for children in need and their caregivers. UNICEF will work with United Nations and government partners to carry out cash-based interventions, and with non-governmental organizations and government emergency bodies to support capacity building for longer-term recovery.
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM AND WINTERIZATION

Vulnerable people newly displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of the trigger for response

Most vulnerable children better protected from risks of winter with appropriate clothing

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Emergency-affected populations with access to a sufficient safe water supply

Emergency-affected populations with access to appropriate sanitation facilities

Internally displaced persons receiving hygiene kits or other hygiene supplies

EDUCATION

Boys and girls receiving educational supplies

School-aged children reached through temporary learning spaces (pre-fabricated)

Out-of-school children aged 6 to 17 years accessing education

CHILD PROTECTION

Children participating in structured, sustained resilience or psychosocial support programmes

Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services)

Females receiving individual or group psychosocial support

HEALTH

Newborn babies of conflict-affected families benefitting from newborn home services

Children under 1 vaccinated against measles through routine immunization

Children aged 0 to 59 months vaccinated against polio in crisis-affected areas through campaigns

NUTRITION

Children under 5 have access to nutrition services (screening, referral and treatment services)

Targeted mothers of children aged 0 to 23 months with access to infant and young child feeding counselling for appropriate feeding

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Most vulnerable children receiving cash assistance

Results are through 31 October 2017 unless otherwise noted. The 2017 cluster targets are as per the 2017 Iraq HRP. The 2017 UNICEF targets are higher in some cases because UNICEF planned to reach more children than those targeted under the HRP.

Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US $101,151,160 to meet the humanitarian needs of children in Iraq in 2018. Without adequate and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the country’s continuing protection crisis. This includes the provision of critical WASH services for internally displaced persons and returning populations facing the spread of cholera, and health services to ensure children are immunized against childhood diseases. Basic supplies and classroom space are also urgently needed to uphold children’s right to education. Child-focused cash assistance will support parents and caregivers to feed, clothe and educate their children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2018 requirements (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Response Mechanism</td>
<td>4,870,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterization</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>37,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>15,950,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>21,767,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and nutrition</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection (cash assistance)</td>
<td>5,584,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>101,151,160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Patterns of displacement may occur such that individuals are affected by multiple displacements and many internally displaced persons may return to their areas of origin.
Available funds include US$84.3 million raised against the current appeal and US$41.6 million carried forward from the previous year. In addition, US$274.1 million of regular resources and US$2.8 million other resources-regular were used to meet critical humanitarian needs during the appeal year.


In 2017 UNICEF entered into a new partnership with a national mobile network provider who facilitates UNICEF-supported cash transfer via mobile phones. This has increased accessibility for people in need, improved the reliability, timeliness and security for cash assistance delivery, and contributed to reducing UNICEF operational costs.

The overall target for the 2017 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal was established based on the polio immunization target of all children under 5 years old in Iraq (5.7 million), of which UNICEF supported the immunization of 5.6 million children. For 2018, the polio immunization target has been reduced to 1.2 million because UNICEF will focus on the most recently conflict-affected governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din.

UNICEF cash assistance targets vulnerable families with children who are identified as at risk of dropping out of school, or who have already dropped out. The child-focused cash assistance is a monthly payment intended to support the removal of financial barriers to children’s education or child-focused spending.

The UNICEF requirement in Iraq is higher than its portion of the Iraq HRP as UNICEF interventions will target larger populations than the HRP.

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