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Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Libya

After six years of conflict, the humanitarian situation in Libya continues to deteriorate, with increasing reports of grave protection and human rights violations. In 2017, an estimated 1.6 million people were directly affected by ongoing conflict in populated areas, including 1.1 million people—378,000 of them children—who require life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection.⁴ Violence and armed conflict have left nearly 170,000 people displaced and economic crisis and loss of livelihood have led to inadequate access to basic services.⁵ Only 64 per cent of the affected population has access to adequate drinking water sources, down from 88 per cent before the conflict.⁶ As a transit and destination country for economic and other temporary migrants from neighbouring countries and West Africa, Libya is also currently hosting an estimated 400,000 migrants and refugees, including 33,000 children, of which nearly 13,000 are unaccompanied.⁷ These children are at risk of abuse and human rights violations, and vulnerable to armed groups engaged in smuggling, trafficking and the exploitation of children.⁸

Humanitarian strategy

In 2018, UNICEF will restore its full presence of staff and partners in Libya,⁹ and provide life-saving assistance to children and families, while building the resilience of affected communities and local institutions. UNICEF's response will be carried out across sectors to reach the most vulnerable children, including children on the move, and address grave violations of children's rights. UNICEF leads the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education sectors and the child protection sub-sector and is supporting the establishment of a nutrition working group. Humanitarian assistance will be delivered in partnership with line ministries, municipalities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). UNICEF, United Nations agencies and NGOs are also working to establish a Rapid Response Mechanism for coordinated and timely response. Affected children will benefit from educational materials and safe access to quality education and learning spaces. UNICEF will also improve access to safe water, sanitation facilities and WASH in schools. Women and children in underserved southern areas will receive targeted health services, and an estimated 1.4 million children will receive polio vaccination. UNICEF will also reach affected children, including migrant children, with psychosocial support and child-friendly spaces, and children associated with armed groups will benefit from release and reintegration support.

Results from 2017

As of 31 October 2017, UNICEF had US\$8.2 million available against the US\$14.9 million appeal (55 per cent funded).¹⁰ In 2017, UNICEF worked with partners to respond to emergencies by strengthening the provision of WASH, health, child protection and education services for refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons and Libyans otherwise affected by humanitarian crisis. Despite the challenging operating environment and insecurity, UNICEF and partners were able to reach affected populations with life-saving emergency assistance and expanded access to services. Some 1.35 million children were vaccinated against polio and measles, achieving universal coverage for all children under 6 years. More than 83,000 people, including 37,350 children, benefitted from improved access to safe drinking water and gender-appropriate sanitation facilities. Some 23,000 crisis-affected school-aged children gained access to non-formal education and recreational activities and received essential learning materials and supplies. School rehabilitation work helped 6,000 children in conflict-affected areas of Benghazi, Sabha and Ubari return to learning. Some 27,000 children participated in structured and sustained child protection and psychosocial support services in UNICEF-supported child-friendly spaces. UNICEF advocacy efforts and engagement with Zintan municipality led to the release of 125 children from local armed groups. These children also benefitted from specialized services.

Total people in need:

1.1 million¹

Total children (<18) in need:

378,000²

Total people to be reached:

245,000

Total children to be reached:

165,000³

2018 programme targets:

Health and nutrition

- 1.4 million children aged 0 to 6 vaccinated against polio
- 100,00 people covered with child and mother health care services
- 300 children aged 0 to 6 received emergency nutrition services (screening, supplementation or referral)

WASH

- 35,000 people with improved access to safe drinking water
- 20,000 people with improved access to sanitation facilities
- 45,000 people received essential hygiene items and critical WASH-related information
- 10,000 children provided with improved WASH facilities in their learning environments

Child protection

- 93,450 children receiving psychosocial support
- 1,500 children (boys and girls) associated with the armed conflict benefitting from specialized child protection services

Education

- 33,450 school-aged children accessing formal or non-formal education
- 80,000 children having received essential learning materials and supplies

	Sector 2017 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2017 target	UNICEF total results
HEALTH				
Children aged 0 to 6 years vaccinated against polio			1,400,000	1,444,677 ¹
Children aged 9 months to 6 years vaccinated against measles			1,200,000	721,488 ¹
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
People accessing water for drinking and sanitation facilities	150,000	113,012	95,000	83,012
Children accessing WASH facilities in their learning environments	83,000	10,799	10,000	10,799
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children participating in structured, sustained child protection or psychosocial support programmes (girls and boys)			35,000	26,941
Children supported with specialized child protection services (girls and boys)			3,500	606
EDUCATION				
School-aged children (boys and girls) accessing non-formal education and recreational activities	115,276	23,362	35,000	23,362
Children (boys and girls) having received essential learning materials and supplies	111,600	23,362	80,000	23,362 ⁱⁱ

Results are through 31 October 2017 unless otherwise noted.

ⁱ Polio and measles results are as of the end of November 2017 per the official launch of the campaign results. The low achievement is attributed to the Ministry of Health's lack of sufficient antigens.

ⁱⁱ Low achievement against the target is due to operational and logistical constraints that delayed the arrival of supplies into Libya. However, the response is ongoing and reach will increase significantly by the end of the year.

Funding requirements

In line with the country's inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is requesting US\$20,161,000 to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of vulnerable children and their families in Libya in 2018. This includes US\$1,548,000 to provide life-saving support and protection services to refugee and migrant children in Libya.¹¹ Funds are critically needed to provide vaccination and primary health care services in hard-to-reach areas and for children on the move, as well as to provide essential WASH, child protection and education services. The increased field presence inside Libya will also require dedicated resources to ensure adequate support for security and operational measures.

Sector	2018 requirements (US\$)
Health and nutrition	4,050,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	3,200,000
Child protection	5,908,000
Education	5,338,000
Cross-sectoral/coordination and communication	1,665,000
Total	20,161,000

¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, '2018 Libya Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2017.

² Ibid.

³ This target does not include the 1.4 million children to be reached with polio vaccination because it is not indicative. This target is mentioned to highlight UNICEF's contribution to epidemic prevention in Libya. Hence the decrease in the overall population targeted from 2017.

⁴ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, '2018 Libya Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2017.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ International Organization for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix, Libya report, June/July 2017. The absolute number of people in need of safe water is not yet available.

⁷ International Organization for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix, Round 13 Libya report, September-August 2017.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ UNICEF is planning to restore its full presence in Libya in early 2018 by scaling up the number of national staff and partners until the full return of international staff. The increased field presence requires dedicated resources to ensure adequate support for security and operational measures.

¹⁰ Available funds include US\$14.9 million raised against the current appeal and US\$3.7 million carried forward from the previous year.

¹¹ Part of the migration and refugee response is funded by non-humanitarian resources.

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