Iraq

Despite improvements in overall security and stability in Iraq, some 4.1 million people – half of them children – remain in need of humanitarian assistance. The needs are severe for some 1.78 million people. The 4.55 million people who have returned to conflict-affected areas face risks of violence and retaliation and lack of access to basic services. For the 1.44 million people experiencing prolonged displacement, these risks must be weighed against the difficult life in camps and host communities, where water, sanitation, education and health infrastructure and services are overburdened or damaged. Only 39 per cent of households have safely-managed drinking water and despite some progress, outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases continue to affect the vulnerable. Violence against children is extensive, psychosocial distress is high, and many children lack official identity documents, jeopardizing access to basic services, including education. Inequity is persistent and significant. Nearly 10 per cent of primary school-aged girls are out of school, compared with 7 per cent of boys. The poorest children are twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday. Girls, boys and women who have survived gender-based violence are in dire need of higher quality and more accessible specialized services to support their recovery.

Humanitarian strategy

The UNICEF strategy in Iraq is informed by national humanitarian priorities, the 2020–2024 Country Programme and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is aligned with the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan. UNICEF emphasizes protecting and empowering vulnerable children, adolescents, women and people with disabilities. UNICEF leads the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) cluster, child protection sub-cluster and Nutrition Working Group; co-leads the education cluster; and is an active member of the health cluster and gender-based violence sub-cluster. In 2020, UNICEF will work with humanitarian and development actors, including United Nations agencies, government counterparts and non-government partners, to support transition to sector coordination and mainstream child-centred, gender-responsive emergency preparedness into national plans. UNICEF will strengthen capacities, enabling national partners to reach crisis-affected children and integrate gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and youth engagement across all programmes. To reinforce resilience, UNICEF will continue safe water, gender-sensitive sanitation and hygiene awareness interventions in camps and return areas in need. Children under 5 years will receive critical vaccination and nutrition services, focusing on low-coverage areas. UNICEF will continue to support education in camps and return areas, and critical psychosocial support and specialized protection services for at-risk children and caregivers.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US$73.7 million available against the US$72.9 million appeal (101 per cent funded). While funding was strong overall, achievement of targets in some sectors, including cash-based transfers and non-food item distributions, was severely hampered by lack of funding. In 2019, the timely availability of resources supported progress in WASH, child protection, gender-based violence, health and nutrition programming. UNICEF supported partners contributed 63 per cent of cluster water supply response and 89 per cent of cluster sanitation response. UNICEF maintained critical child protection services in displacement camps after other partners withdrew due to lack of funding, which supported higher than anticipated progress against annual targets. Good funding for the gender-based violence response led to 174 per cent achievement against UNICEF targets. Reporting against health and nutrition has proven challenging due to poor data from non-camp returnee areas, where government staff turnover is high and there is a reliance on outdated paper-based systems. Progress against education targets is expected to increase after the start of the 2019/20 academic year in fall 2019. Procurement of critical supplies (warm clothes) for the 2019 winter is underway, with the response scheduled to start as temperatures drop in fall 2019.

2020 programme targets

Nutrition
- 32,505 caregivers of children reached with infant and young child feeding counselling
- 150,000 vulnerable children receive appropriate winter clothing

Health
- 865,831 children aged 0 to 59 months vaccinated against polio
- 27,775 girls, boys, women and men who receive individual and group psychosocial support
- 8,053 women and girls who receive gender-based violence case management services

Emergency preparedness
- 50 government staff benefiting from capacity building for emergency preparedness and response

Non-food items
- 150,000 vulnerable children receive appropriate winter clothing

Total people in need
- 4.1 million13

Total children (<18) in need
- 1.89 million14

Total people to be reached
- 1.17 million15

Total children to be reached
- 835,80016
Cluster 2019 targets | Cluster total results | UNICEF 2019 targets | UNICEF total results
--- | --- | --- | ---
NUTRITION
Children under 5 years accessing nutrition services | 363,444 | 28,746 | 
Mothers of children aged 0 to 23 months with access to infant and young child feeding counselling for appropriate feeding | 20,000 | 9,557 |

HEALTH
Newborn babies of conflict-affected families benefiting from newborn home services | 2,043 | 1,011 |
Children under 1 year vaccinated against measles through routine immunization | 314,985 | 244,702 |
Children under 5 years vaccinated against polio | 1,152,676 | 1,102,072 |

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE
Emergency-affected populations accessing a sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene | 1,272,085 | 1,459,842 | 972,808 | 615,611 |
Emergency-affected populations benefiting from latrines that have been established, rehabilitated or maintained | 1,272,085 | 733,812 | 486,404 | 431,576 |

CHILD PROTECTION
Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained resilience or psychosocial support programmes | 208,080 | 158,541 | 135,000 | 133,711 |
Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services) | 31,566 | 19,899 | 10,400 | 12,669 |
Gals, boys and women receiving individual or group psychosocial support | 16,381 | 28,458 |

EDUCATION
Boys and girls receiving educational supplies | 461,747 | 184,837 | 200,000 | 50,710 |
Teachers, facilitators and education personnel trained on emergency education, life skills and delivering psychosocial support | 18,395 | 3,482 | 5,000 | 1,661 |
Conflict-affected boys and girls aged 6 to 17 years enrolled in formal and non-formal education programmes | 461,747 | 290,890 | 200,000 | 158,527 |

CASH-BASED TRANSFERS
Children from vulnerable families receiving child-focused cash assistance | 15,000 | 3,354 |

RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM AND WINTERIZATION
Emergency response capacity-building workshops conducted for government staff | 50 | 0 |
Most vulnerable children better protected from the risks of winter with appropriate clothing | 180,000 | 0 |

### Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US$62.2 million to meet urgent humanitarian needs in Iraq in 2020. The response will focus on girls, boys and women affected by the 2014–2017 conflict, prioritizing support to the most vulnerable children and women. Without timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the continuing protection crisis and provide critical WASH, nutrition, education and psychosocial services to conflict-affected children and families. In line with the Grand Bargain commitments, UNICEF is advocating for flexible and multi-year funding, which will be crucial to meeting protracted and complex humanitarian needs using a resilience-focused and systems-building approach.

### Sector Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2020 requirements (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and nutrition</td>
<td>4,700,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>17,820,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>18,748,555</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender-based violence preparedness and response</td>
<td>6,136,915</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>8,613,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency preparedness and response capacity</td>
<td>1,631,124</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-food items</td>
<td>4,593,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>62,243,590</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The figures refer to countrywide access. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6.