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 1.75 million people. The 4.3 million people who have returned to conflict-affected areas face risks of violence and retaliation and lack of access to basic services. For the 1.5 million people experiencing protracted 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 sizable. Children under 5 years will receive 106,121 vaccinations against polio. 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 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 the transition to sector coordination and mainstream child-centred emergency preparedness into national development plans. UNICEF will use its convening power to 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 and systems strengthening, UNICEF will continue safe water, gender-sensitive sanitation and hygiene awareness interventions in camps and return areas in need. Children under five years will receive 815,582 litres of water per day, and food for 150,000 children. Infant and young child feeding counselling for 32,505 children, and access to appropriate food for 430,890 children.

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.
**NUTRITION**  
Children under 5 years accessing nutrition services 363,444 38,746
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 1,152,676 615,611

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

**CHILD PROTECTION**  
Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained resilience or psychosocial support programmes 208,080 158,541
Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services) 31,566 19,889
Girls, boys and women receiving individual or group psychosocial support 16,381 28,458

**EDUCATION**  
Boys and girls receiving educational supplies 461,747 184,837
Teachers, facilitators and education personnel trained on emergency education, life skills and delivering psychosocial support 18,395 3,482
Conflict-affected boys and girls aged 6 to 17 years enrolled in formal and non-formal education programmes 461,747 296,880

**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

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**Funding requirements**  
UNICEF is requesting US$58.85 million to meet urgent humanitarian needs in Iraq in 2020. The response focuses 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, health, nutrition and education 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.

### Funding requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2020 requirements (US$)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and nutrition</td>
<td>4,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>17,820,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>22,959,103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>7,150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency preparedness and capacity</td>
<td>1,631,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-food items</td>
<td>4,593,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>58,854,223</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1. Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs and planning documents. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Iraq: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (draft), OCHA, October 2019.
2. Ibid.
4. In August and September 2019, renewed waves of internally displaced people took place in Iraq, including between Arbil, Ninth, Kirkuk and Salah al Din governorates. These movements may affect figures of displaced individuals and returnees and related programming in camps for internally displaced people.
5. These figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs and planning documents. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, ‘Iraq: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview’ (draft).
7. Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccine coverage against tuberculosis increased from 90 per cent in 2019 to 95 per cent in 2020 academic year, but measles vaccination coverage has not improved (75 per cent in 2011 and 71 per cent in 2018). Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6, 2018.
8. Eighty per cent of children under 14 years report having experienced one form of violent discipline in the month preceding the survey. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6.
11. These figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs and planning documents. ‘Iraq: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview’ (draft).
12. Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs and planning documents. ‘Iraq: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview’ (draft).
13. Available funds include US$11.4 million received in 2019 and US$13.8 million carried forward from the previous year. Although the overall appeal is 101 per cent funded, a significant amount of funding is earmarked to specific programme areas for 2019 and 2020 and cannot be used to support other sectors. As of 31 August 2019, the cash-based transfer and non-food item (winter) responses had critical funding gaps.
15. This includes 665,831 children under 5 years targeted for polio vaccination; 145,000 children targeted for formal education; and 432,385 adults targeted for access to water. An estimated 51 per cent of all people to be reached will be women and girls. An average of 4 per cent of children aged 2 to 4 years, 5 per cent of children aged 5 to 17 years, and 1 per cent of adults aged 18 years and above live with at least one disability. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6.
16. This includes 665,831 children under 5 years targeted for polio vaccination; 145,000 children targeted for formal education; and 432,385 adults targeted for access to water. An estimated 51 per cent of all people to be reached will be women and girls. An average of 4 per cent of children aged 2 to 4 years, 5 per cent of children aged 5 to 17 years, and 1 per cent of adults aged 18 years and above live with at least one disability. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6.
17. Available funds include US$8.4 million received in 2019 and US$18.8 million carried forward from the previous year. Although the overall appeal is 101 per cent funded, a significant amount of funding is earmarked to specific programme areas for 2019 and 2020 and cannot be used to support other sectors. As of 31 August 2019, the cash-based transfer and non-food item (winter) responses had critical funding gaps.
18. This includes 665,831 children under 5 years targeted for polio vaccination; 145,000 children targeted for formal education; and 432,385 adults targeted for access to water. An estimated 51 per cent of all people to be reached will be women and girls. An average of 4 per cent of children aged 2 to 4 years, 5 per cent of children aged 5 to 17 years, and 1 per cent of adults aged 18 years and above live with at least one disability. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6.
19. UNICEF’s national coverage rate for birth registration is 98 per cent. However, in some areas, a much higher proportion of children have been found to be unregistered. In Nineveh, 23 per cent of children do not have birth certificates. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6.
20. The progress reported reflects children reached in camps only as data availability from health facilities in non-camp areas is limited due to high turnover of personnel, low staff capacity and the use of paper-based systems.
21. Funding requirements are subject to change upon finalization of the 2020 inter-agency appeals/planning documents.
22. Available funds are subject to change upon finalization of the 2020 inter-agency appeals/planning documents.
23. The 2020 programming for child protection includes US$5.5 million dedicated to interventions supporting prevention of gender-based violence and response for survivors.
24. The figures refer to countrywide access. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6.
25. Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the 2020 inter-agency appeals/planning documents.
26. Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the 2020 inter-agency appeals/planning documents.