



Syrian Arab Republic

After almost five years of conflict, Syrians are now facing the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, with grave protection and human rights violations occurring daily. An estimated 13.5 million people are in need of urgent life-saving assistance inside the Syrian Arab Republic, including 6 million children. Families have been forced from their homes and livelihoods have been destroyed as a result of relentless violence and the disruption of basic services. More than 4 million people have already fled the country and 6.5 million people are internally displaced.¹ Children are particularly vulnerable to grave child rights violations such as recruitment into armed groups, exploitation and abuse, including forced early marriage and child labour. Access to education, health care, water, sanitation and social services remains inadequate. Some 26 per cent of hospitals are not functioning, resulting in 42 per cent of the population lacking access to basic health care and approximately one third of children under 5 years not yet reached with routine immunization.² One in every four schools is destroyed, damaged or occupied and more than 2 million children are out of school. This dire situation is further compounded by water shortages; today 70 per cent of the population lives without regular access to water, both due to deliberate cuts by parties to the conflict and extensive damage to water infrastructure.

Humanitarian strategy

The UNICEF humanitarian strategy, which is anchored in the United Nations 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, aims to provide immediate life-saving support to conflict-affected women and children while simultaneously supporting the longer-term resilience of local communities. UNICEF will focus on reaching the most vulnerable, especially those living in hard-to-reach and besieged locations, and leverage its strong field presence inside the Syrian Arab Republic by operating out of five field hubs and through cross-border programmes. As part of the Whole of Syria approach, UNICEF will continue to lead and coordinate the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and nutrition sectors and the child protection sub-sector. UNICEF WASH efforts will focus on providing life-saving water trucking and quick repairs to critical water sources, while developing alternative water sources and rehabilitating and maintaining water infrastructure. In health and nutrition, the focus will be on reactivating and strengthening routine immunization services, including through cross-border efforts and expanding access to primary and maternal care. UNICEF will strengthen capacities to address malnutrition amidst increasing economic deprivation and scarcity. Education, child protection and adolescent development programmes will be framed under the No Lost Generation Initiative. UNICEF will focus on increasing school enrolment; facilitating alternative, life-skills-based and remedial education opportunities; and providing psychosocial support, vocational training, recreational activities and risk education on

the dangers of unexploded remnants of war. UNICEF will also launch a cash transfer programme in 2016 to provide economic relief to the most vulnerable families. To face the winter months, UNICEF will provide seasonal clothes, blankets, school heaters and vouchers as a life-saving intervention.

Results from 2015

As of 31 October 2015, UNICEF had received 46 per cent (US\$129 million) of the US\$279.3 million 2015 appeal, in addition to US\$31.3 million carried forward from 2014. Despite a challenging operating environment, UNICEF and partners reached 7.5 million people in 2015, including 1.5 million people in hard-to-reach and besieged locations. This was made possible by the various operating modalities, including regular programming and assistance across borders and active conflict lines. With additional funding, however, even more children could have been reached. Education and nutrition were the most underfunded sectors (64 per cent and 86 per cent funding gaps, respectively). The WASH programme response has been critical to averting humanitarian catastrophe in Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Dar'a. UNICEF supported the construction of 162 groundwater wells servicing some 2 million people, provided water trucking for 750,000 people and improved water and sanitation services for 7.3 million people. WASH services reached 2.5 million internally displaced persons. Successive polio campaigns immunized close to 3 million children under 5 years (surpassing targets), contributing to the prevention of

Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Total affected population: 13.5 million
Total affected children (under 18): 6 million

Total people to be reached in 2016: 12 million

Total children to be reached in 2016: 5.3 million

2016 programme targets

WASH

- 4,608,600 people served with safe water through repair/rehabilitation and augmentation of systems
- More than 1.5 million people benefitted from access to improved life-saving emergency WASH services/facilities

Health

- 2.9 million children under 5 years vaccinated against polio

Nutrition

- 951,500 children under 5 years, pregnant women and lactating women received multi-micronutrient supplementation
- 1.19 million children screened and 8,000 children under 5 years treated for acute malnutrition

Child protection

- 2,192,500 individuals reached with risk education
- 425,000 children and adults participated in structured and sustained child protection and psychosocial support programmes

Education

- 3,195,000 children enrolled in formal education
- 983,000 children enrolled in non-formal education

Non-food items

- 818,874 children received summer and winter materials
- 50,000 internally displaced persons and host families received voucher or cash assistance to meet children's seasonal non-food needs

further disease spread. Full coverage has not yet been possible, however, due to access and security constraints. As of October 2015, nearly 900,000 children and women were supported with access to primary health care services (69 per cent of the target). UNICEF and partners screened more than 700,000 children for acute malnutrition and supported full treatment for more than 11,000 children in 2015 (53 per cent of the target). UNICEF launched the Back-to-Learning campaign in September, reaching 578,000 children, and rehabilitated 105 schools, with an additional 185 schools planned by the end of 2015. Almost 650,000 children were reached with structured and unstructured psychosocial support (92 per cent of the target) and 879,000 children were sensitized on the risk of explosive remnants of war. UNICEF also reached 377,000 children with seasonal clothes and blankets and procured an additional 384,000 winter clothing kits that will be distributed to children before the harsh winter sets in.

	2015 sector target	2015 sector results	2015 UNICEF target	2015 UNICEF results
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE³				
Affected population provided with improved water and sanitation services by developing, rehabilitating and maintaining the public infrastructures ⁴	6,000,000	10,502,109	3,500,000	7,386,798
Affected population with access to safe drinking water and appropriately designed toilets and sanitation services in the collective shelters and in host community settlements	2,900,000	n/a	2,340,000	2,700,569
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children receiving risk education on explosive remnants of war in schools and communities			1,450,000	879,123
Girls and boys participating in structured, sustained child protection or psychosocial support programmes			385,000	327,477
Child protection actors/stakeholders trained (women and men)			3,600	1,739
EDUCATION				
Children aged 6 to 19 with access to non-formal education opportunities	4,500,000	372,755	1,600,000	453,000 ⁵ *
Children aged 3 to 15 receiving Back-to-Learning materials	4,500,000	190,606	3,000,000	700,000 ⁶ *
HEALTH				
Children under 5 years reached with polio vaccine			2,900,000	2,989,659
Children under 1 year with routine vaccination			570,000	238,836
Children and women of child-bearing age accessing basic health services			1,300,000	893,611
NUTRITION				
Children under 5 years, pregnant women and lactating women receiving multi-micronutrient supplementation	2,200,000	531,281	1,000,000	484,125
Children aged 6 to 59 months receiving nutrient supplements	517,000	958,303	370,000	575,019
Children aged 6 to 59 months treated for global acute malnutrition	21,000	11,520	21,000	11,267
SOCIAL PROTECTION				
Children benefitting from winter and summer materials including winter/summer clothes and blankets			500,000	377,063

Results are through 31 October 2015 unless noted

* UNICEF results for education are as of December 2015

Who to contact for further information:

Hanaa Singer
Representative, the Syrian Arab Republic
Tel: +963 116122593
Email: hsinger@unicef.org

Yasmin Haque
Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
Tel: +1 212 326 7150
Email: yhaque@unicef.org

Olav Kjørven
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)
UNICEF, New York
Tel: +1 212 326 7160
Email: okjorven@unicef.org

Funding requirements

As part of the United Nations 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan for the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF is requesting US\$316,720,344 to meet the needs of children and families in 2016. This funding requirement covers programming delivered from within the Syrian Arab Republic as well as cross-border assistance delivered as part of the Whole of Syria approach.

Sector	2016 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	22,066,733
Health	51,424,917
Water, sanitation and hygiene	72,383,566
Child protection	25,280,640
Education	89,883,854
Non-food items	32,841,000
Early recovery	15,618,000
Cluster/sector coordination	7,221,634
Total	316,720,344

¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Syrian Arab Republic', <www.unocha.org/syria>, accessed 28 December 2015.

² Ibid.

³ It is estimated that up to 12.2 million people will benefit from sustained supply of water treatment chemicals for drinking water nationwide.

⁴ Water and sanitation systems were a programme focus in 2015 and the result exceeded the target. In 2015, UNICEF supported WASH infrastructure in communities hardest hit by conflict, repairing systems and providing water treatment supplies to ensure water is safe for consumption.

⁵ UNICEF procured and delivered Back-to-Learning materials (a set of school bags and textbooks) to schools for 2 million children in the Syrian Arab Republic during the 2015-2016 academic year. Although the receipt of school-level data was delayed due to the difficult operating environment, UNICEF has so far received partner reports confirming distribution for 700,000 children as of the end of December 2015, with remaining reports forthcoming. Quality assurance and review of the non-formal education material required more time than expected, which delayed the implementation of new initiatives such as self-learning and curriculum B material. These interventions will be implemented in 2016.

⁶ Ibid.

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Hanaa Singer
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Tel: +963 116122593
Email: hsinger@unicef.org

Yasmin Haque
Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
Tel: +1 212 326 7150
Email: yhaque@unicef.org

Olav Kjørven
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)
UNICEF, New York
Tel: +1 212 326 7160
Email: okjorven@unicef.org