UNICEF Iraq Humanitarian Situation Report

December 2018

4 million children in need out of 8.7 million people affected (OCHA, HRP 2018)

1.8 million internally displaced people (IDP)

4.16 million people returned to newly-accessible areas (IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix, January 2014 to 31 December 2018)

Target population in 2018
Rapid Response: 1,030,000 IDPs
WASH: 1.3 million people
Education: 450,000 children
Health: 1.2 million children (polio)
Child Protection: 186,300 children and caregivers

UNICEF Appeal 2018
US$ 101.2 million
Funding Status*
US$ 100.4 million

* ‘Funding status’ includes funding received for the current appeal year as well as carry-forward from the previous year.

** ‘Funding gap’ is calculated per programme. The funding gap and funds available do not equal the total HAC requirements – as of September 2018, there is a surplus under WASH, Education, and Child Protection. See page 9 for more detailed information.

Highlights

- Between January and December 2018, UNICEF and its partners ensured 384,190 individuals (280,569 children) had continued access to sanitation in 2018. UNICEF-supported partners contributed 79 per cent of the WASH Cluster sanitation response.
- In 2018, UNICEF rehabilitated 786 schools, installed 640 new prefab classrooms in 222 schools, and delivered educational supplies for 339,312 IDP children (148,006 girls).
- In the year, 390,207 children (90,080 girls) accessed structured psychosocial support services through community structures and outreach teams through UNICEF-supported partners. Community-based centres and mobile teams were used as an entry point for identification of children with specific protection needs.
- More than 1.2 million children were vaccinated against polio in the year through emergency campaigns. UNICEF supported social mobilization activities for one Nationwide Immunization Day in 14 governorates, one Sub-National Immunization Day and three emergency campaigns in areas of concern in Anbar (Qa’im, Ana, Rawa), Kirkuk (Hawiga), Ninewa (Ba’aj, Hathar, Tel Afar, Sinjar), and Salah al Din.

UNICEF Response with partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Indicators</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>Cluster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable people newly-displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response</td>
<td>1,030,000</td>
<td>126,259**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency affected populations with access to sufficient safe water supply</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>959,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls and boys receiving education supplies</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>339,312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes</td>
<td>186,300</td>
<td>190,207</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children under 5 vaccinated against polio in crisis-affected areas through campaigns</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,283,252</td>
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*Results are cumulative (January–December 2018). For explanation of results compared to targets see the narrative report and footnotes under the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) table starting on page 10.

** RRM targets were set at contingency levels for 2018, but new displacements in the year were lower than anticipated. Discussion on camp consolidation/closure was inconclusive, and there were no large-scale camp relocations.
In 2018 the main trend in Iraq has been one of return to places of origin and decrease in armed violence. As of January, there were 3.34 million individuals (1.5 million children) recorded as returned to places of origin, compared to 4.1 million (1.9 million children) as of December 2018, for a net increase of more than 650,000 people in the year. The main movements took place up to September 2018, however figures remaining relatively static in the final quarter. Despite overall decrease in internal movements, smaller-scale secondary displacements and new arrivals to IDP camps continued throughout the year. As of 31 November, 17,762 newly-arrived IDP families (approximately 106,572 individuals, including 55,000 children) were recorded entering IDP camps in Ninewa, with around 52 percent of these arrivals reported to be secondary displacement. The major reason for return to camps continued to be financial or economic hardships accompanied by limited or no access to adequate shelter due to damaged houses in areas of origin.

As of 15 December, over 1.86 million Iraqis, including over 900,000 children, remained internally displaced. More than half, 54 percent, have been displaced for more than three years. Families from Kirkuk and Salah al Din are most likely to return home within the next year, while those from Sinjar in Ninewa are least willing to do so. As per 2019 HNO projections, it is anticipated that the remaining IDP population is likely to stay in protracted displacement over 2019. Around 30 per cent of families are displaced in camps and 70 per cent remain in out-of-camp settings, with nearly eight per cent of those living in critical shelter arrangements. Of those in camps, 80 per cent remain in Ninewa (52 per cent) and Dahuk (27 per cent). Key issues hindering returns include problems with housing, earning a living, accessing basic services, social cohesion, security, and mental health issues. Of these, destruction of houses in areas of origin is the most prevalent self-reported reason for continued displacement. According to respondents to the Integrated Location Assessment, livelihood opportunities was among the top three concerns in locations where 93 per cent of IDPs are currently hosted compared to 63 per cent in the previous assessment in May 2017.

Returnee populations also face challenges – more than 330,300 individuals (3 per cent) are in critical shelters, which increases their vulnerability to illness during the winter season, and many have returned to areas that were sites of armed violence, and where presence of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) remain high. In the coming 12 months, 64 per cent of IDPs indicated intention to stay in displacement, 11 per cent plan to return, one per cent want to leave the country or resettle elsewhere within Iraq, and 24 per cent are undecided.

A health concern for children in 2018 were pockets of measles outbreaks. In August the federal Ministry of Health (MoH) declared an outbreak and requested support from UNICEF and the World Health Organisation for an emergency measles vaccination campaign targeting five million children aged 9 to 59 months across the country. In further concerns, during the year, water scarcity in southern Iraq was highlighted as a challenge. It was estimated 25 per cent (around 1.8 million people) of the population in 27 districts of the four most-affected governorates were critically impacted by water shortages, as well as an outbreak of gastrointestinal illness which

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1. **CCCM Mosul Camps New Arrivals Monitoring** - January to November 2018
2. **IOM DTM Integrated Location Assessment II Report** - November 2018
3. **UNICEF IRAQ HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT** - December 2018
4. **IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)** - 15 December 2018
5. **United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI)**, *Briefing to the Security Council*, 8 August 2018
affected more than 100,000,000 people. In November, reduction in Acute Watery Diarrhoea incidence continued in Basrah and total cases returned to below World Health Organisation (WHO) thresholds. Water scarcity-related displacements were also recorded, of 3,500 families (over 21,000 individuals including 10,000 children). Following heavy rains between 22 November and 9 December, floods caused widespread destruction. Several deaths and injuries were reported, while tens of thousands of people were displaced from homes. Ninewa, Salah al Din and Thi Qar were the most heavily-affected governorates, while damages were also reported in the southern Basrah, Diyala, Missan, Muthanna, and Wasit governorates. Statistics from the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster revealed floods affected around 18 IDP camps across Iraq, damaging infrastructure and shelters and impacting over 130,000 IDPs including 65,000 children. In the north, in Erbil and Ninewa the camps of Qayyarah Airstrip, Jeda’ah, Salamiyah, Nimrud and Debaga also sustained heavy damages. Assessments in flooded camps identified tent replacement, provision of WASH services, and drainage/clearing operations as most critical needs. Mitigation measures put in place in November and December appear to have been effective - despite continued rains in December, no further damages have been reported from camps.

As of end-December, despite high-level advocacy humanitarian partners in northern Iraq continued to face challenges in delivery of humanitarian aid and access constraints remained unresolved. In 2018, Iraq also saw two earthquakes in August (6.2 magnitude) and November (6.3 magnitude)\(^9\). Despite the epicentre being in western Iran in both cases, the impact in Iraq was enough to cause at least three deaths as well as injuries that required hospitalisation and destruction of property in northern parts of the country.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster, co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children International, leads the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC) and Nutrition Working Group, (NWG) and is an active member of the Health cluster, and the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sub-cluster. UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Food Programme (WFP) coordinate the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Consortium serving people on the move, and the Multi-Sector Emergency Package (MSEP) delivering aid in retaken areas. In addition, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) coordinate with relevant line Ministries through the Cholera Taskforce, led by the Ministry of Health (MoH).

In 2018, UNICEF as lead or co-lead agency for WASH, Education, Child Protection, and Nutrition Clusters and Sub-Clusters contributed to and supported needs assessments and humanitarian planning, including the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), and the Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment VI (MCNA). The Iraq WASH Cluster, consisting of 48 UN, international and national NGO partners reached 2.2 million individuals with WASH services across 9 governorates, including in 97 formal camps. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) was endorsed as the new WASH co-lead agency from 2019 replacing Action Contre la Faim (ACF) who had filled the role since 2015. A lesson learned workshop took place in April 2018, attended by WASH actors, government counterparts, and donors. The workshop documented WASH sector progress from 2014 to 2018, highlighted challenges and best practices, as well as recommendations for improvement in coordination and delivery, helping to adapt WASH strategy for 2019 and supporting transitions towards sector coordination.

The CPSC had a total of 51 partners working across 16 governorates, coordinated through eight sub-national Child Protection Working Groups (CPWG). As part of transitions towards sustainability KRI CPWGs are co-led by the government Directorate of Social Affairs (DoSA); the Iraqi CPSC Information Management Officer participated in regional Protection Information Management Training in June; and two CPWG coordinators and one Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) member (all Iraqi nationals) participated in Child Protection coordination training in November. A CPSC Task Force for psychosocial support (PSS) was established in June 2018, to roll out and measure impact of the structured PSS module; the common inter-agency impact measurements were agreed, and the PSS Task Force started gathering baseline and end line data. Guidance for child protection partners was strengthened in the year, including the Alternative Care guide in August and the Child Survivor Case Management guide in October. The Iraq CPSC has been part of the roll out of four global initiatives, namely the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+), Case Management coaching and supervision training, the Child Survivor Initiative, and revision of the CP Minimum Standards. At least 17 inter-agency trainings were held, attended by around 250 participants from

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\(^8\) IOM, Iraq Water Crisis Central/South – November 2018

\(^9\) Affected areas included KRI, Baghdad, Kirkuk, and Diyala

\(^10\) Affected areas include Garmiyan, Kifri, Khanaqin and Kalar.
different member agencies. Throughout the year, UNICEF has contributed to the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network in Iraq, as the primary mechanism for awareness-raising, capacity building, follow up and victim support.

The Education Cluster undertook sustained and successful advocacy on a range of issues in 2018, including against closure of IDP schools in the KRI before the start of the 2018-2019 academic year, for the registration of undocumented children in schools, which led to a specific Ministry of Education (MoE) Directive on the topic, and the standardizing of payments for incentives for teachers teaching in IDP and refugee schools.

Humanitarian Strategy

The 2018 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) targets 3.4 million people in need through 102 humanitarian partners. The plan was jointly launched alongside the Government's 2018 Plan for Relief, Shelter and Stabilization of Displaced People. UNICEF’s strategy under its 2018 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal in Iraq is aligned with the HRP.

In December, the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) was published, indicating 6.7 million people in Iraq, at least 3.3 million of them children under 18 years, will be in need of at least one form of humanitarian assistance in the coming year. The Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) will be launched early in 2019; UN and national and international NGO partners will target approximately 1,750,000 people of which 500,000 will be IDPs in camps, 550,000 will be non-camp IDPs, 500,000 returnees, and 200,000 vulnerable host community individuals. The strategic objectives of the 2019 plan will focus on: Post-conflict transition towards durable solutions; strengthening the centrality of protection; and contingency planning and preparedness for any future emergency response. The 2019 UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal will support just over one million people, at least 500,000 children. Strategic objectives of the 2019 HAC are aligned with the 2019 HRP.

Humanitarian action in Iraq is complemented by the UN's two-year Recovery and Resilience Programme which aims to fast-track the social dimensions of reconstruction. The RRP builds on existing humanitarian efforts and is designed to ensure people see tangible improvements in their daily lives early in the reconstruction process.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) and Multi-sector Emergency Response Package (MSEP)\(^5\)

In 2018, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Consortium delivered lifesaving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people including children on the move due to crisis or camp relocation. RRM assistance was also extended to vulnerable populations displaced or affected by the floods, mainly in the last quarter of the year. In 2019, focus will shift from direct deliveries to capacity building of government partners for the handover of the RRM.

During 2018, the Consortium reached 126,259 vulnerable people including 69,414 children on the move, with emergency items to support access to safe water, good hygiene practices, and immediate food rations. Of the total reached, the majority (63 per cent) were supported during new or secondary displacements, 5 per cent during camp relocations and the remaining 32 per cent during emergency response to flooding in Sinjar, Shirqat, Hamdaniyah and Mosul (Ninewa). RRM targets were set at contingency levels for 2018. Due to lower than anticipated levels of new displacements, funds available were sufficient to meet RRM requirements in the year. In addition, discussion on camp consolidation/closure remained inconclusive, meaning none of the anticipated large-scale camp relocation movements requiring RRM assistance took place. During December, RRM partners distributed 3,323 emergency kits to 14,133 individuals (7,252 children) across four governorates, ensuring provision of immediate supplies to highly at-risk families. The majority (72 per cent) were in flood-affected camps in Hamdaniyah and Erbil (Nimrud and Debaga camps), where the Consortium activated RRM to assist 1,904 affected families (10,095 individuals, 5,048 children) in the first 48 hours of flooding.

The Multi Sectoral Emergency Package (MSEP) continued only in the first quarter of 2018, after which there was no further need for this type of response as the level of active conflict had declined, and there were no people caught in frontline locations. UNICEF and

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\(^5\) People may be reached by RRM more than once during displacement, including at mustering points; at a screening site with an initial package; and with the full package on arrival at a camp or in host communities. RRM does not register beneficiaries; all efforts are made to reduce duplication in reporting between partners.
partners reached 18,824 individuals (10,165 children) in re-taken communities of west Anbar, through Multi Sectoral Emergency Package, ensuring delivery of most essential items.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In 2018, UNICEF supported vulnerable displaced families with temporary and sustainable WASH services and facilities, including emergency water trucking, rehabilitation of water and sewage treatment plants and water supply networks, and upgrade of WASH facilities in schools and Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC). UNICEF progress is at 74 per cent against its 2018 IDP water supply targets, and UNICEF-supported partner contribution has constituted 45 per cent of WASH Cluster results as of December 2018. Between January and December 2018, UNICEF has supported a maximum of 959,987 IDPs with access to safe water (489,593 females, 451,194 children). In all UNICEF-supported sites, provided water is routinely tested for bacterial, chemical, and physical contamination, including through Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) tests. UNICEF-supported WASH partners have worked in a maximum of 374 sites hosting IDPs since January 2018, whether formal camps, informal settlements, or temporary shelters, in fourteen governorates.

The conflict against ISIL heavily affected Ninewa governorate and caused severe damage to municipal water and sanitation networks. In Mosul’s Old City. Since October 2017, UNICEF, in coordination with Government, has been supporting water trucking to vulnerable city inhabitants while larger-scale rehabilitation works have been ongoing. Construction has been challenging, with significant amounts of rubble and dangers posed by explosive remnants of war (ERW). Through private sector partners, UNICEF trucked safe drinking water to the Old City, reaching 93,649 individuals (44,015 children, of which 22,448 girls) across 21 neighbourhoods at the peak in August. In December, the rate was 190m3 per day serving 16,800 individuals in five Old City neighbourhoods. UNICEF, the Ninewa Directorate of Water (DoW) and Cluster partners continued rehabilitations of the water network with the aim to eliminate trucking as soon as possible. Since January 2018 UNICEF has completed the upgrade of four water supply systems (of a planned 12) improving water supply for 25,000 individuals in the Old City. Water trucking has been decreasing in the second half of 2018 as networks are repaired in stages.

As of December, UNICEF-supported partners had contributed to 79 per cent of the Cluster sanitation response. In the year 384,190 individuals (195,937 females, 180,569 children) have had continued access to adequately-maintained latrines and solid waste management. If of these, more than 332,500 IDPs were in northern Iraq (Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Sulaymaniya), in addition to the approximately 66,000 IDPs reached in IDP camps in Anbar, Baghdad, and Salah Al Din. After heavy rains and flooding from late November, UNICEF intensified hygiene promotion in particular areas of concern, especially in the Jed’aah camp complex.

The 2018-2019 Cholera Preparedness and Response Plan was agreed in late November by the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNICEF, the World Health Organisation (WHO), WASH and Health Clusters and concerned Directorates of Water and Health. UNICEF has supported its translation to Arabic. In 2018, more than 290,100 individuals, at least half of them children, have participated in UNICEF-supported hygiene promotion and social mobilization actions in camps and schools across the country, helping to improve behaviours for good health and reduce likelihood of waterborne disease outbreak. At the close of the year, UNICEF has supported WASH rehabilitation in 256 schools, with 139,700 school-aged children, and 78 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC).

The criticality of water management and conservation in Iraq was highlighted in the year, most notably in September and October where large-scale civil demonstrations in Basrah, southern Iraq, protested lack of drinking water among other issues. After a joint needs assessment with government and UN partners, in mid-October UNICEF installed five water pumps in Basrah’s central ‘R-Zero’ water treatment plant, conducted ‘quick fix’ rehabilitations in four key water treatment facilities to ensure water quantity increased, and delivered safe water and educational messages to more than 50,000 children (25,000 girls) in 70 schools buildings in Abu Khaseeb district, Basrah. UNICEF also supplied 68 water desalination membranes to Thi Qar’s Directorate of Water (DoW), improving water quality for 40,000 individuals in most-affected communities.

Where possible in the year, services were handed over to government partners to deliver as part of UNICEF’s exit strategy, particularly in areas of return. However, planned handover has not moved as fast as anticipated due to prolonged discussions and uncertainty around camp closure and consolidation, differences in government capacity in various parts of the country, and recurring
challenges caused by limited government budget allocations.

Education

UNICEF supports access to education through establishment of temporary learning spaces, increasing space for formal education, and delivering non-formal education (NFE) interventions through partners. Quality of learning is supported through teacher training and the provision of teaching and learning materials. UNICEF also works to strengthen the capacity of national education actors to implement services in humanitarian situations.

In 2018, to improve learning environments, UNICEF rehabilitated 786 schools in Anbar, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk and Ninewa, installed 640 new prefab classrooms in 222 schools, procured and distributed 44,959 two-seater student desks to schools, and repaired 24,395 damaged desks for schools in host communities and return areas, and reached at least 339,312 IDP children (148,006 girls) with educational supplies. A total of 2,906 teachers (1,023 female), facilitators, and education personnel have completed UNICEF-supported trainings (471 in December) that covered a range of topics including delivering education in emergency settings and psychosocial support in the classroom, and life skills. Rollout of the School Based Management (SBM) approach continued across the country and, by the end of the year, 119 UNICEF-supported schools had School Improvement Plans (SIP) in place; SIP are consultative and collaborative plans led by a school’s Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or School Management Committee (SMC) which aim to improve learning environments for children. In the year, 2,306 PTA members attended training on their roles and responsibilities. It is intended that closer engagement from parents and communities will ensure consistent encouragement of children’s attendance at school, and broader understanding of the benefits of formal education for children’s futures. UNICEF and Cluster partners also successfully worked to avoid closure of IDP schools before the start of the 2018-2019 academic year, for a Ministry Directive allowing registration of conflict- or displacement-affected children lacking necessary documentation into formal schools, and the standardizing of payments for incentives for teachers teaching in IDP and refugee schools. These efforts supported 16,590 children from Ninewa, an area formerly held by ISIL, to access education despite lack of documentation required by the Ministry of Education (MoE) policy. Additionally, UNICEF supported 16,552 out-of-school children (OOSC) in Hawiga district, Kirkuk, where active conflict and insecurity has continued in 2018, to access non-formal learning in preparation for reintegration into formal education.

Actual or apparent shortages of teachers is a recurrent challenge, particularly in IDP camps. UNICEF plans to support 400 volunteer teachers in the IDP camp schools in southern Mosul district, and continues to work with the MoE and the DoE Ninewa to find longer-term solutions to this issue, including improvements in educational planning. Delivery of certain education supplies faced challenges in November and December due to new customs checkpoints/regulations. UNICEF and UN partners continue to advocate with the relevant government ministries on this issue.

Child Protection

In 2018, UNICEF is reaching vulnerable children and caregivers through structured, sustained psychosocial support services (PSS), with referral to specialized child protection assistance when needed, including for children with disabilities. UNICEF is working to deliver support to children in contact with the law, including children accused of affiliation with ISIL. UNICEF integrates a focus on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention across its work. UNICEF and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC) promote integration of services in community centres, aiming to minimize stand-alone activities as part of resilience-focused interventions. At the close of the year, UNICEF partnership encompassed 30 government and non-government partners (of a total 51 partners under the CPSC) working on child protection, across IDP camps, non-camp communities with high concentrations of IDPs (and, where relevant, Syrian refugee children), and in areas of return.

Overall in the year, UNICEF partners delivered structured PSS to 190,207 children (90,080 girls) (22,778 children in December) through community structures and outreach teams, exceeding its annual target by 2 per cent. Community-based centres and mobile teams were used as an entry point for identification of children with specific protection needs. Specialised services include family tracing and reunification, legal assistance, case management and alternative care; these services reached 10,601 IDP children (4,556 girls) in 2018 (1,255 IDP children, 530 girls, in December). During 2018 planning, need for specialised services was anticipated to be high, but end-year achievement remained low (57% of annual target). Progress was affected by transfer of facilities and case management activities to government, as part of a strategic shift as presence of humanitarian child protection reduced. UNICEF supported the KRG Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and its Directorates to take over community-based CP intervention in Garmiyan, Sulaymaniyah and some locations in Erbil, undertaking 5 to 6 months of capacity building with social workers before...
responsible administrations. In addition, there remained limited case management capacity among non-government partners, which affected achievement.

UNICEF, with the CPSC and other protection partners, continue to ensure good coordination through information-sharing and capacity building in relation to child protection assessments and referrals. UNICEF initiated a pilot of the Child Protection Information Management System Plus (CPMIS+) in the KRI starting in Dahuk; initial features of the system have been developed and are being tested by CP case management agencies. The CPMIS+ will strengthen the overall system, and specifically improve management of case records.

In the year, 37,184 women, girls and boys who have experienced, or who are found to be at risk of, Gender Based Violence (GBV) have received PSS through UNICEF partners. High achievement against annual targets was enabled through expanded GBV partnerships, 22 in total, which enabled programme spanning nine governorates and resulted in increased access to specialized PSS and case management for survivors. In addition, 23,616 women and girls, including adolescents, participated in social and recreational activities, and UNICEF and partners also trained 1,439 humanitarian actors, and service providers from the NGO and government sectors which contributed to quality multi-sector care for survivors. Adolescent girls’ programming was supported through use of the Adolescent Girls’ Toolkit, which covers topics such as gender, menstruation, and self-esteem among others. Management of cases involving gender-based violence (GBV) remains a challenge as there are limited service providers.

Through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), UNICEF recorded a total of 175 grave violations in Iraq throughout 2018, affecting 252 children (211 boys, 32 girls and sex unknown). Of these, 147 violations were verified, affecting 206 children (177 boys and 29 girls). The most common violation was killing and injuring (65 per cent of cases). The baseline for MRM verification as of 2015 was 59 per cent, with a target of a 75 per cent to be reached by 2019; for 2018 the rate was 84 per cent, with improvements supported by a total of 161 UNICEF-trained MRM NGO staff and 190 volunteers working in eight governorates, all of whom participated in capacity building in the year. Due to insecurity, sensitivity of information, and a need for still more trained partners operational in more areas, it is believed grave violations remain significantly under-reported.

There remain significant protection concerns for children and adolescents in Iraq. Those suspected of association with extremist groups continue to be tried under anti-terrorism laws, not under Juvenile Care Law; many displaced children born in areas previously held by ISIL lack documentation or proof of nationality, and risk becoming victims of arbitrary arrest and detention. UNICEF continues to support monitoring of conflict affected children and services to protect and address needs of children in contact with law, including children suspected of association with ISIL. However, the sensitivity of the issue and limited numbers of qualified staff - including in juvenile reformatory centres - pose key bottlenecks in ensuring child-friendly services and spaces for juveniles during the pre- and post-trial period.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF supports delivery of routine immunization services, monitoring of infant and young children’s growth, and counselling on Infant and Young Child feeding practices (IYCF). Where a child is identified with malnutrition, UNICEF and partners ensure referral to specialised care per UNICEF and WHO guidelines. Neonatal health services are supported, including awareness sessions in IDP camps. UNICEF supports government partners through delivery of supplies and staff capacity building and engages NGOs to mitigate for short-term gaps in critical service provision.

As of December 2018, UNICEF and partners reported 37,758 children under one year (19,257 girls) vaccinated against measles (76 per cent of target) through routine Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) services, and, as part of ongoing polio prevention campaigns, 1,283,252 children under five (857,968 girls) vaccinated against polio (107 per cent of target) since January. For measles, the main UNICEF support to routine immunization was focused on IDP camp settings; as people increasingly returned to places of origin, the number of children under one year in camps likewise reduced during the year. At least 34,908 doses of Vitamin A supplementation were given to children 9 to 59 months in 2018 (4,052 doses in December).

UNICEF has supported social mobilization activities for one Nationwide Immunization Day (NID) in 14 governorates, one Sub-National Immunization Day (SNID) and three emergency campaigns in areas of concern in Anbar (Qa’im, Ana, Rawa), Kirkuk

48 In this figure are 2,523 boys; not all services delivered for these boys were specifically for GBV cases. With these cases removed, achievement against the annual target was 417 per cent.
49 Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Sulaymaniyah
50 Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din
51 Routine polio services are supported by UNICEF through fixed units in IDP camps – in October 4,608 doses of polio vaccine reached children 9 to 59 months.
52 Correction from October where two National Immunization Days were reported.
In nutrition interventions, through UNICEF-supported partners, 21,319 pregnant women and new mothers attended health promotion sessions on IYCF between January and December 2018 (107 per cent of target), and 149,410 nutritional status screenings for children aged 6-59 months (76,199 girls) have taken place (299 per cent of target). The figure of nutrition screening in 2018 appears overachieved threefold; this is caused by data management challenges. UNICEF is planning to build capacity of relevant partners in 2019, including on target setting and creation of a database that will support stronger tracking of children’s visit records. The IYCF achievement of 107 per cent is due to pregnant women or new mothers who have repeated visits by mobile counselors to cover all topics related to optimal feeding practices.

Regarding malnutrition rates, in 2018 two national and two international NGOs with UNICEF’s support ran nutrition programs in 12 Nineawa IDP camps. Evaluation of data shows a Global Acute Malnourishment (GAM) rate of below 5 per cent (accepted per international standards in emergency).\(^1\) Cases with complications were referred to specialist Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRC). To support treatment of children identified with malnourishment, in 2018 UNICEF delivered 80 tons of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC) serving IDPs and returnees, and 11 tons of PlumpyNut to support management of SAM in IDP camps. Finding qualified nutrition staff was a challenge, IYCF counsellors in camps. While longer-term coordination with the national Nutrition Research Institute (NRI) is needed to build sustained capacity, UNICEF is supporting local-level capacity of DoH and, in some cases, NGO staff. In 2018, 100 DoH and NGO staff (at least 37 female) have been trained on children’s nutritional needs and ways to monitor growth through three sessions run in July (50 staff) and November (50 staff). In addition, high turnover of staff, especially nurses, and a lack of female staff have been reported as further bottleneck to service delivery.

UNICEF has been working to scale up health promotion programmes in IDP camps in 2018, including a ‘home visits’ initiative that supports maternal and neonatal health. In the year, 2,797 new-borns (1,426 girls) and their mothers were visited by trained health worker teams during the critical first month of life (35 per cent of target). In cases where risk signs were identified, new-borns and mothers were referred to the nearest health facility. Progress against this target has been constrained by shortage of funds, as not all IDP camps originally planned for could be included in the 2018 services. UNICEF preparedness against outbreak of waterborne diseases are joint actions between WASH and Health teams, in coordination with WHO and the MoH. Supplies for treatment of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) have been prepositioned with local authorities in areas considered to be at high risk of outbreaks. To support national capacity, UNICEF has trained 25 government staff from Basrah’s Directorate of Health on water quality monitoring, and 300 staff from 13 Basrah hospitals on treating waterborne diseases, including cholera, which is endemic in Iraq. Actions contribute to reducing risk of waterborne disease outbreak.

**Cash Assistance**

UNICEF is establishing links between humanitarian assistance and the Government’s social protection framework to provide integrated support to vulnerable children. UNICEF delivers an integrated package of support alongside government partners to identify protection-related concerns and refer cases to social workers for additional support for the families enrolled in the cash assistance programme. In the academic year 2017-2018, UNICEF had supported 3,902 children (1,877 girls) with US$30 per child per month. In 2019, UNICEF intends to support 3,000 children from 1,495 families in Mosul City\(^2\). The contract with the service provider for cash delivery\(^3\) was signed on 31 December 2018, and registration of beneficiaries will take place in January 2019.

The planned 2019 intervention will be supported only through funds carried over from previous years. Funding has been limited for UNICEF cash assistance for IDP response in 2018, with a 70 per cent funding gap as of end-December. US$3.8 million is urgently needed to help parents to meet hidden costs of learning. Without these resources, UNICEF was not able to reach its planned target of 9,000 children in 2018. These children may be at increased risk of drop-out, with longer-term consequences to their future.

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\(^1\) Numbers of children screened are a mix of anthropometric and Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening, and figures of MAM and SAM cannot be used to infer prevalence in the population; 79,337 children in Nineawa camps checked for malnourishment by MUAC and anthropometric measurements; of these 322 SAM (0.4%) cases and 176 MAM (2.2%) cases detected. This sample analysis is a qualitative representation (there are 67 IDP camps) but it offers an overview of the nutritional status of IDP children in camps that is also consistent with 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster 6 (MICS-6) findings.

\(^2\) Exact figures may change depending on final registration of families in the programme.

\(^3\) UNICEF cash assistance is unconditional but aims to reduce the barriers to education access experienced by children from vulnerable families.
**Winter Response**

In Iraq, extreme summer heat quickly turns to zero-degree temperatures, bringing with it heavy rains, snow storms, and freezing temperatures, especially at night. Children are especially vulnerable to winter weather that exacerbates risk of diseases such as pneumonia. For the 2018-2019 winter, UNICEF plans to reach 151,000 of the most vulnerable displaced Iraqi children, delivering warm clothing in nine governorates. All distribution locations have been selected in consultation with the Non-Food Items (NFI) cluster, targeting camps that recorded highest needs for winter clothes in the Multi-Cluster Need Assessment (MCNA). VI. UNICEF’s winter distributions were initiated on 2 December in Debaga camp, Erbil. As of 31 December, UNICEF and partners had reached 90,322 children (42,400 girls), plus 1,497 pregnant women in 15 camp locations across northern Iraq, which is 45 per cent of its seasonal achievement. The majority (82 per cent) of deliveries took place in IDP camps in Dahuk and Ninewa; distributions are followed by post distribution monitoring (PDM) for which responses have been largely positive. Start of winter deliveries in central and southern Iraq governorates were delayed due to access constraints and restrictions to move supplies from the KRI to Federal Iraq. Approval to move supplies is expected in the first week of January, following which UNICEF will commence winter deliveries in Anbar, Baghdad and Basrah governorates. UNICEF intends to conclude winter response by mid-January.

**Supply and Logistics**

In 2018, UNICEF Iraq dispatched relief items to government and non-government partners with a value of over US$21.9 million. Significant challenges faced movement of supplies and goods in the year, specifically in the Kurdistan Region. Until March 2018 all international air and land border crossings were closed between the KRI and the neighbouring countries of Iran and Turkey while political solutions were sought to the disputed KRI independence referendum (which took place in September 2017). Between March and October 2018, the situation improved. However from November 2018 the situation deteriorated once more due to new customs checkpoints established between the KRI and Federal Iraq. UNICEF has warehouses in the KRI (Dahuk and Erbil) that receive and store items intended for onward delivery by road to partners and affected communities including in Kirkuk and Ninewa. Improved and simplified mechanisms to move humanitarian items are being sought with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

**Media and External Communication**

UNICEF’s work to support children was picked up by international and national media throughout the year with over 200 media mentions including by AFP, REUTERS, France 24, Al Jazeera, Voice of America, RT, SkyNews and BBC. UNICEF Iraq gained over 10,000 new followers on digital platforms and engaged more than 50,000 followers with messaging on taking action for children.

In December, UNICEF, the Central Statistics Office (CSO), and the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO) held the KRI launch of the sixth Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Erbil, presenting key data on children and women. The launch was attended by the KRG Minister of Planning, as well as the UNICEF Representative, and was covered by local and international media. During the month, UNICEF highlighted the national polio vaccination campaign mobilisation with a video featured on UNICEF digital media channels, and winter distributions.

**Security**

In 2018, armed violence in Iraq significantly declined. In the last quarter of 2018, civilian casualties were recorded at their lowest in the last six years. Nonetheless, January 2018 started with two suicide bombers killing at least 35 people and injuring 90 people in an attack on a Baghdad square. On 12 May 2018, Iraqis voted in the first parliamentary elections since the government declared victory over ISIL. In October, the parliament elected Kurdish politician Barham Salih as president, who appointed Shia former minister Adel Abdul Mahdi as Prime Minister. Statistics suggest that Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) remained the most common attack tactic by armed groups and ISIL followed by armed clashes (mainly initiated by ISF), and airstrikes by international actors. The three main international actors in Iraq, Turkey, Iran and Coalition, remain constant in terms of overall activities and engagement in the conflict. Another significant development in 2018, was civil action in parts of Iraq, particularly in Basrah. Demonstrations often turned violent, with deaths and injuries reported. A significant spike in violent demonstrations was seen between June and October.

**Funding as of 31 December 2018**

In 2018 the top donors to UNICEF Iraq were the United States Government (through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration), the Governments of Germany, Canada, Japan and Denmark. Other significant contributions were received from the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the Government of the Netherlands, the State of Qatar, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), and the Government of Norway. In December, UNICEF Iraq received new contributions of US$1.13 million from the Government of Italy in support of child protection and health and nutrition interventions, US$267,500 from UNICEF regional thematic funds in support of 2018 winter response, and US$17,200 from the US Fund for UNICEF to support health and nutrition interventions. In 2018, flexible thematic humanitarian funds have helped to support underfunded health and nutrition and cash assistance programmes. RRM needs have been less acute than anticipated in 2018, and resources received are adequate to meet needs. In most cases, 2017 carry-over funds and 2018 funds are earmarked to specific programmes and cannot be used to support gaps in other areas. In cases of prolonged underfunding, UNICEF adjusted programming to focus on first-line response or maintenance of existing basic services for most vulnerable groups.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds Available*</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Funds Received</td>
<td>Carry-Over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Current Year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)</td>
<td>4,870,000</td>
<td>1,189,344</td>
<td>819,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**</td>
<td>37,000,000</td>
<td>28,266,948</td>
<td>10,002,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education**</td>
<td>15,950,000</td>
<td>12,764,536</td>
<td>6,407,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection**</td>
<td>21,767,000</td>
<td>18,537,054</td>
<td>7,982,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Nutrition</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>5,294,696</td>
<td>1,310,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Needs (Multipurpose Cash Assistance)</td>
<td>5,564,160</td>
<td>1,067,572</td>
<td>621,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterization (Seasonal Response)</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td>4,384,136</td>
<td>1,759,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>101,151,160</strong></td>
<td><strong>71,501,466</strong></td>
<td><strong>28,904,136</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Funds available include HQ cost recovery and cross sectoral costs. Carry-forward figure is programmable balance as of 31 December 2017, for the 2017 HAC Appeal.

**2018 response: As of December 2018, UNICEF Iraq had received an additional US$1,169,732 for WASH; an additional US$3,222,490 for Education; an additional US$4,762,236 for Child Protection; and an additional US$140,335 for winterization above its 2018 requirements.

Next SitRep: 19 February 2018


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### Annex A

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS (January-December 2018)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM - Needs: 860,000 people</th>
<th>Cluster Response</th>
<th>UNICEF and IPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable people newly displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response</td>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 1,030,000</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 126,259³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most vulnerable children better protected from risks of winter with appropriate clothing</td>
<td>Cluster Results: 1,413</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINTERIZATION</td>
<td>Vulnerable people newly displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response</td>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 2,110,283³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency affected population benefiting from latrines established/rehabilitated/maintained</td>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 487,475²</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 5,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE - Needs 5.4 million people</td>
<td>Cluster Response</td>
<td>UNICEF and IPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency affected population accessing sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene</td>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 2,309,765</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 141,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education – Needs 3.3 million school-aged children*</td>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 450,000</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 51,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys and girls receiving educational supplies</td>
<td>Cluster Results: 56,222</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 339,312³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers, facilitators, and education personnel trained on emergency education, life skills, and delivering PSS</td>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 9,000</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict-affected boys and girls (6-17 years) enrolled in formal and non-formal education programmes</td>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 528,222</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 1,034,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILD PROTECTION – Needs 2.4 million children under 18</td>
<td>Cluster Response</td>
<td>UNICEF and IPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes</td>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 203,865</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 22,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services)</td>
<td>Cluster Results: 35,717</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 22,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls, boys, and women receiving individual or group psychosocial support¹</td>
<td>Cluster Results: 186,300</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 22,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 190,207³</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 22,778</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster Results: 10,601²</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 1,225</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH – Needs: 1.2 million children under 5**</td>
<td>Cluster Response</td>
<td>UNICEF and IPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New-born babies of conflict-affected families benefitting from new-born home services</td>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 8,000</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 1 year old children vaccinated against measles through routine immunization</td>
<td>Cluster Results: 37,758</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 50,000</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 216</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5 vaccinated against polio in crises-affected areas through campaigns</td>
<td>Cluster Results: 18,630</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 1,283,252³</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 1,225</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOURISHMENT</td>
<td>Cluster Response</td>
<td>UNICEF and IPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5 vaccinated against polio in crises-affected areas through campaigns</td>
<td>Cluster Results: 1,283,252³</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 14,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 1,283,252³</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 14,004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted mothers of children 0-23 months with access to IYCF counselling for appropriate feeding</td>
<td>Cluster Results: 21,319</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 14,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 20,000</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 14,004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL PROTECTION – Needs: 1,080,000</td>
<td>Cluster Response</td>
<td>UNICEF and IPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most vulnerable children receiving child-focused cash transfer</td>
<td>Cluster Results: 3,902¹</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster Target 2018: 9,000</td>
<td>Change since last Report: 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Footnotes:**

1. RRM: Consortium led by UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA: Females: 64,392, Males: 62,867. Since January, progress against 2018 targets has been limited, mainly because of lower than anticipated levels of new displacements. Also, as discussion on camp consolidation/closure remains inconclusive, there have been no large-scale camp relocation movements. Funds received were sufficient to meet requirements.


5. Education: Cluster: Females: 1,023, Males: 983. UNICEF-supported trainings take place in agreement with the MoE; larger-scale trainings are scheduled to take place outside the academic year to minimise disruption to children’s learning.
**Education 3:** Cluster: Females: 308,375, Males: 380,347. UNICEF: Females: 308,375, Males: 380,347. Enrolment to formal education takes place once per year (data available after verification by MoE). UNICEF is working with the MoE to support enrolment through establishment of schools, providing pre-fabricated classrooms, and opportunities for children to access formal and non-formal learning.

**Child Protection 1:** Sub-cluster: Females: 158,714 Males: 175,435. UNICEF: Females: 117,007, Males: 159,770. In relation to funding versus progress in 2018: as the acute emergency phase of the Mosul response concluded, UNICEF began to consolidate partnerships both for geographic coverage and case management capacity. This process took time and resulted in periods of lower activity in 2018 as some partnerships were concluded and new ones were negotiated.

**Child Protection 2:** Sub-cluster Females: 12,008 Males: 14,357. UNICEF Females: 4,556, Males: 6,045. In relation to funding versus progress in 2018: See CP footnote [1]

**Child Protection 3:** This indicator reflects UNICEF support to individuals receiving multi-sectoral services to respond to needs of survivors or people at risk of Gender-Based Violence. High achievement against annual targets was enabled through expanded GBV partnerships, 12 in total, which enabled programming spanning nine governorates, and resulted in increased access to specialized PSS and case management for survivors.

**Health 1:** Females: 1,426, Males: 1,371. In certain governorates, mobile community health worker teams (covering new-born/nutrition services among others) were paused earlier in 2018; it was instead planned to establish nutrition teams in IDP camps to do growth monitoring by anthropometric measurement. Due to restricted funds, this has been postponed.

**Health 2:** Females: 19,257 Males: 18,501. In a context of underfunding response strategies were refined to focus on work through government where possible, or on first-line response combined with high-level advocacy to ensure child-focused prioritization – for example, support to one-off vaccination campaigns reaching newly-displaced children rather than longer-term capacity-building work.

**Health 3:** Females: 657,968. Males: 625,285. UNICEF reports for the governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din, per 2018 HAC.

**Nutrition 1:** Females: 76,199. Males: 73,211. Indicator counts sessions delivered rather than children reached due to national data collection systems.

**Social Protection 1:** UNICEF: Females: 1,877, Males: 2,025. UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children target of 15,000 children is a two-year target 2018-2019. The target of 9,000 reflected is the 2018 target only. Funding for UNICEF cash assistance for IDP response has been limited in 2018, with a 70 per cent funding gap as of end-October. Syrian refugee households are reflected in UNICEF Syrian refugee reporting.

*Needs per UNOCHA. Each cluster targets its own population in need based on countrywide vulnerability analysis

**Population of 1.2 million children under 5 in need based on estimated population in Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din targeted for polio vaccination campaigns.

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*Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Sulaymaniyah*