Iraq
May 2019

3.3 million
# of children in need
of humanitarian assistance

6.7 million
# of people affected
(UNOCHA, 2019 Iraq
Humanitarian Needs
Overview)

1.66 million
# of internally displaced
people (IDPs)

IOM DTM January 2014 to
April 2019

In 2019, 7,514
children received
specialized child protection
services, including
reunification or alternative
care

In 2019, 392,272
people had access to
adequate sanitation
through newly-established
or maintained latrines

SITUATION ANALYSIS

By the end of May, flood waters had declined, and affected families have been returning to places of origin. However, damages to water treatment facilities have been noted - in Missan, south-eastern Iraq, the Directorate of Water reported almost all treatment plants have been affected, but full damages are yet to be assessed. Fires in agricultural areas affected 11 of 18 governorates since mid-May. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has claimed responsibility for some attacks, but reported causes vary - some authorities believe fires are an intentional tactic targeting returnees or aiming to deter IDPs from returning. In 2019, high rainfall has yielded good crop growth meaning greater than average presence of combustible fuel in fields. Humanitarian partners including UNICEF are assessing negative impacts on returns, food security, livelihoods and water supply. In relation to anticipated return of Iraqis from the Al Hol camp in Syria, 2,000 families have been registered for repatriation so far. The majority are women and children who have been identified as experiencing significant protection risks and concerns, as well as health and nutrition needs. In addition, a further 15,000 displaced Iraqis living in informal settlements in Deir al Zor, a governorate in Syria, may be transferred to the Al Hol displacement camp, increasing the overall caseload of Iraqis in the camp to around 46,000 individuals. Humanitarian partners in Iraq, including UNICEF, have updated preparedness plans accordingly. As of May 2019 there has been no information available on the timeframe of returns.

RESULTS

INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESULT</th>
<th>% REACHED</th>
<th>TARGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>609,072</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>972,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37,879</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93.103</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>135,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17,729</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>314,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,354</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>15,000</td>
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</tbody>
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PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

WASH: As of May 2018, UNICEF and its partners have contributed 54 per cent of Cluster response for water supply in 2019 and 61 per cent of Cluster sanitation response (access to functional latrines) country wide. In Missan and Salah al Din, UNICEF ensured immediate response for around 3,719 flood-affected families, including temporary sanitation facilities and hygiene kits as needed per location. As part of efforts for more sustainable programming, in Sheikhan, Nineawa, UNICEF partners completed a hybrid solar-powered generator for water supply, benefitting around 7,000 individuals (3,250 children). In the final week of May, a UNICEF partner in Jeddah 1-6 camps, Nineawa (pop. 8,621 families, 24,311 children) has begun rehabilitation of WASH facilities. In al Meshahda, Baghdad, a UNICEF-supported Water Compact Unit was installed, improving supply for 3,500 individuals (1,645 children). As summer temperatures rise, so does demand for water for drinking but also for use in air coolers. WASH Cluster and Camp Management partners are coordinating on this issue.

Education: As the final term of the academic year 2018-2019 comes to an end, May and June are the main examination months. As a consequence, certain activities are limited in this period. In May, 170 educational supervisors and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) members from Nineawa and Sulaymaniyah completed trainings on elements of School Based Management (SBM). Also in Sulaymaniyah, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities for earthquake preparedness took place in 70 schools reaching 28,424 children (15,580 girls). In Anbar and Sulaymaniyah, 7,337 children (3,376 girls) have benefitted from improved learning environments due to school rehabilitation and construction efforts. Shortage of teachers in IDP camp schools remains a challenge – in Nineawa, the gap is estimated to be 345 teachers, in Sulaymaniyah 110, and in Kirkuk 50.

Child Protection: Since the start of the year, 93,103 children (43,204 girls) have accessed structured, sustained psychosocial support (PSS) (85 per cent of Sub-Cluster response) through UNICEF partners, with 7,514 children (3,412 girls) accessing specialized protection assistance (61 per cent). Community awareness sessions on GBV prevention reached 15,021 community members (5,074 women, 4,894 girls), of which 3,482 were reached in May. Between January and May 2019, 26 reports of grave violations of child rights were recorded, affecting 34 children (27 boys, 2 girls and 5 sex unknown), of which 21 incidents affecting 30 children were verified (killing of 18 children and maiming of another 8). Undetonated explosive material and attacks using explosives targeting civilian areas continue to pose the main risks to children’s safety. Other conflict-related risks to children include abductions and recruitment. Monitoring of children affected by conflict continues.

Health and Nutrition: As of May 2019, UNICEF and partners reported 17,929 children under one year (9,144 girls) vaccinated against measles through routine immunization, and 39,664 children under five (20,229 girls) vaccinated against polio. In 2019, 12,935 children have received Vitamin A supplementation with their routine vaccination. Since the start of 2019, 470 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases have been identified and treated. In the year, 3,505 pregnant women and new mothers in IDP camps participated infant and Young Child Feeding (YCF) sessions.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM): Plans have been adjusted to reflect the new information on the Iraqi repatriation caseload from the Al Hol camp in Syria. In case of return, the RRM Consortium will deliver critical assistance at the border crossing. RRM supplies have been prepositioned in Dahuk, with more supplies available in Erbil warehouses.
Heavy floods leave over 100,000 children in need of assistance

Baghdad, 5 May 2019 — Heavy rains in Iraq and neighbouring Iran resulted in floods that left over 100,000 children and their families without clean water and sanitation in Missan, a governorate in Iraq’s south. A further 20,000 people, including children, have been displaced. Vulnerable communities resort to using flood water for basic needs, which poses a significant health risk.

“UNICEF is working around the clock to support children and families,” said Hamida Lasseko, UNICEF’s Representative in Iraq. “We are also working with the community to raise awareness on proper hygiene and sanitation. We are doing everything we can to prevent the outbreak of diseases.”

Read the full Press Release here.

Funding Status and Donor Recognition: UNICEF’s funding gap is 13 per cent. As of May 2019, UNICEF received new contributions towards its 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal response for IDPs from the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFD) and from the Department of International Development (DFID, United Kingdom). UNICEF thanks all its donors for their ongoing support to some of the most vulnerable children and women in Iraq, especially to partner governments, UNICEF National Committees, Foundations and private individuals for their sustained commitment. In 2019, UNICEF and partners were enabled to provide life-saving and life-sustaining interventions, thanks to the contributions of donors including the European Union (ECHO), the governments of Germany, the United States (Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration), Canada, Denmark, Japan, Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Kuwait. Humanitarian funding was received through the UNOCHA-administered Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF). Special thanks go to donors who provide financial support through multi-year thematic and flexible contributions.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

More than 6.7 million people in Iraq, at least 3.3 million children under 18 years old, are in need of at least one form of humanitarian assistance in 2019 (Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2019). The strategic objectives of the 2019 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) are: Post-conflict transition towards durable solutions; strengthening the centrality of protection; and contingency planning and preparedness for any future emergency response. The 2019 UNICEF HAC appeal will support just over one million people, at least 540,000 children. Strategic objectives of the 2019 HAC are aligned with the 2019 HRP. Humanitarian action in Iraq is complemented by the UN’s 2019-2020 Recovery and Resilience Programme (RRP) 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. UNICEF Iraq is committed to ensuring a risk-informed and conflict-sensitive approach going forward, seeking to strengthen adaptive programming for resilient development in consideration of the still-complex, fragile, and dynamic environment in the country.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

Increased water usage during summer creates a deficit of around 100 litres per person per day in some camps, due to use of safe water in air coolers. The WASH Cluster is coordinating with Camp Management partners to overcome this challenge. As part of the Child Protection Sub-Cluster, in May, the Psychosocial Support Task Force (PSS TF) celebrated the one-year anniversary of the of structured PSS modules. In the last year, 135 staff from 42 agencies in Iraq were trained. Members reviewed evaluation results; generally there are positive improvements observed for children due to use of structured PSS. The Education Cluster has decided to transition the Erbil sub-national Cluster to the first Education Working Group (EWG) as a move towards development-focused coordination. Cluster partners including UNICEF will with government bodies to strengthen needed capacities.