Highlights

- In 2018, UNICEF supported nearly 695,000 IDPs (326,500 children) with access to safe water in 174 formal and informal camps, collective centres, and non-camp locations in twelve out of Iraq’s 18 governorates.
- Between January and June 2018, UNICEF and partners provided psychosocial support services (PSS) to 96,054 children (46,088 girls). A total of 4,390 IDP children (1,945 girls) accessed specialised protection assistance including case management, legal assistance, and family tracing services.
- In 2018, 5,917 individuals (3,357 women, 2,468 girls, and 92 boys) who have experienced, or who have been found at risk of, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) accessed case management and PSS through UNICEF partners in eight governorates.
- Over 1.55 million children under five were vaccinated against polio in a joint campaign in late April, of which 421,060 children were in UNICEF’s priority governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din.
- In 2018, UNICEF called for investment in social services, particularly health and education launching Committing to Change: Securing the Future, a joint report with UN Habitat advocating for the potential of Iraq’s young people.

UNICEF Response with partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Indicators</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>Cluster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>65,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency affected populations with access to sufficient safe water supply</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>694,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls and boys receiving education supplies</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>181,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes</td>
<td>186,300</td>
<td>96,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5 vaccinated against polio through campaigns</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>452,768</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Results are cumulative (January–June 2018). For explanation of results compared to targets see the narrative report and footnotes under the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) table on pages 8-9.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Although armed conflict has decreased in Iraq since the end of 2017, in the first half of 2018 protection concerns for children and families remain high, and there is continued need for humanitarian services in camps, host communities and areas of return. Despite overall improvements in security, parts of the country including Hawiga (Kirkuk) have continued to see armed violence, and population movements have continued in the first half of 2018. Although smaller-scale new displacements have occurred, movement has been largely caused by families who, after returning to their place of origin, experienced violence or inter-communal tension, fear of retaliation due to perceived affiliation with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), or who have found there is no access livelihoods or basic services in the area of return. Faced with these conditions, some families have decided to leave their place of origin again, and go back to their displacement location. Some families reported waiting until the end of the academic year in June before considering return, in order to minimise disruption to children’s education. In recent surveys of the remaining displaced population, only 30 per cent indicated an intention to return to their place of origin before the end of 2018. Moreover, 22 per cent reported wanting to integrate locally in their place of displacement, and 15 per cent indicated wanting to integrate because they had no other viable options. The greatest need expressed by returnees was access to livelihood opportunities, followed by solutions for displacement-related rights violations, and improved safety, security and freedom of movement.1 The multiple factors influencing families’ decisions to return or remain have presented a complex context for humanitarian partners’ planning for continuation of services. As of June 2018, over 3.9 million people, including 2 million children, have returned to their homes, while just over 2 million people (1 million children) remain displaced. Of these, 588,000 internally displaced people (IDP) (around 276,360 children) are in camps and 1.4 million (658,000 children) remain in non-camp locations, including nearly 188,400 in critical shelter (informal settlements or municipal buildings such as schools).2 Between January and June 2018, the number of IDPs has decreased by 613,000 individuals; the highest returns have been to Ninewa governorate, with 1.4 million people mainly arriving in Mosul, Tel Afar, and Hamdaniya districts, followed by Anbar with 1.2 million returnees (mainly to Fallujah and Ramadi districts), and Salah al-Din, with over 543,000 returnees.

Internal tension between the federal Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) continued until late March 2018, in the wake of the September 2017 referendum on the Kurdistan Region of Iraq’s (KRI) independence; the closure of air and land borders to the KRI caused challenges for movement of humanitarian supplies and staff. Further uncertainty after the parliamentary elections in May continued into June, with complaints of irregularities in polling stations. On 5 June, Iraq’s Supreme Judicial Council announced its intention to form a new oversight committee to manage the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC)’s vote recount process. On 10 June in Baghdad, a fire destroyed a Commerce Ministry warehouse used to store ballot papers, although the number of ballots affected is unknown. The term of Iraq’s current parliament expired on 30 June 2018. The proposed recount of votes from areas with high numbers of complaints is due to start in July; at the same time, high-level negotiations continue among political groups, aiming to form an inclusive national government.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

In 2018, 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. 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, UNHCR, and the World Health Organization (WHO) coordinate with relevant line Ministries through the Cholera Taskforce, led by the Ministry of Health (MoH).

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1 IOM, Integrated Location Assessment (ILA) Round III - IDPs cite damage and destruction to housing (26%), lack of job opportunities (25%), and lack of safety in locations of origin (18%), as main obstacles to return.

In the first half of the year, uncertainty in relation to camp closures has presented a challenge to UNICEF programming with a lack of clear information to support future planning and resource allocation. After initial efforts made in February, in April and May the Education Cluster continued to advocate with the Ministry of Education for clarity on this issue, alongside other clusters. While a small number of camps have been closed, and governorate-level working groups have been established, as of June there is not yet a final decision on this issue. In preparation for Iraq's harsh summer weather, the WASH Cluster, Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI), and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters jointly finalized a summer response plan that started in May, targeting around 68,000 vulnerable families in camps and informal settlements (aligned with HRP 2018 anticipated summer needs). The plan lays out provision for continuous water supply at adequate levels, and includes a cash grant of US$150 per family (non-camp families only) enabling them to buy needed items directly, and delivery of summer kits (including jerry can, cold box and air water cooler) for families in camps.

In the first half of the year, the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC) conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) on evidence-based psychosocial support services (PSS) modules for 60 participants. Further training will be monitored by the technical PSS Task Force. The Iraq CPSC also participated in the Global Protection Cluster retreat at the end of May. The meeting focused on integration of protection actions, including for child survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), case management, and aftercare of children affected by unexploded ordnance (UXO). The CPSC also delivered trainings on case management coaching and supervision; roll out has begun in Ninewa, while similar trainings in Baghdad, Dahuk and Sulaymaniyah will be rolled out in the second half of the year; Iraq was selected as a pilot country for the Child Survivor Initiative, which seeks to improve quality of and access to services for child and adolescent survivors of sexual abuse in emergencies; in June the first of four visits took place, with the purpose to document opportunities and challenges for services, and to draft a six-month workplan. During April, the CPSC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) introduced a new criterion for cluster membership for 2018, namely a Code of Conduct that includes Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Child Safe Guarding.

The Nutrition Working Group (NWG) led by UNICEF facilitated an agreement between the DoH Ninewa and the World Food Programme to deliver and distribute 18 MT of ready-to-use supplementary food, to be used for treatment of moderate acute malnourished children in Ninewa IDP camps and host communities. In June, cluster preparation for the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) was initiated, with development of indicators for a Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA). Data collection on in-camp and non-camp IDPs and returnees is scheduled to start in July and run for at least one month.

Humanitarian Strategy

The Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) targets 3.4 million people in need. The plan was jointly launched alongside the Government’s 2018 Plan for Relief, Shelter and Stabilization of Displaced People. The 102 humanitarian partners engaged in the HRP will reach as many newly displaced families as possible by securing safe access and providing sequenced emergency packages. UNICEF’s strategy under its 2018 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal in Iraq is aligned with the HRP.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) and Multisector Emergency Response Package (MSEP)

In 2018, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Consortium targets delivery of lifesaving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people, including children, on the move due to crisis or camp relocation. RRM assistance will be extended to highly vulnerable returnee populations intending to return to their areas of origin and requiring support during their repatriations. Between January and June 2018, the Consortium has reached 65,807 vulnerable people including 38,000 children on the move, with emergency response items to support access to safe water, good hygiene practices, and immediate food rations. Most of delivered assistance in the first half of the year has been first-line response to new and secondary displacements and to camp relocations, providing basic lifesaving items to affected populations. Although 40 percent of required funds are available in the first half of the year progress against 2018 targets has been limited, mainly because of lower than anticipated levels of displacements. The RRM

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3 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.

4 Funding availability for UNICEF; includes 2017 carry-over. Total funding for the Consortium stands at 35 per cent of 2018 requirement.
Consortium planned to support anticipated camp relocation caseloads with immediate response items; however, as discussions on camp consolidation/closure remain inconclusive, there have been no large-scale camp relocations in the first half of the year.

In June, RRM partners distributed 1,284 emergency kits to reach 4,917 individuals including 2,814 children across four governorates, ensuring provision of immediate, life-saving emergency supplies to highly at-risk families. In the month, partners mainly responded to secondary displacements and small camp relocation caseloads. The majority of people (85 percent) were reached in Qayyarah camps, Ninewa, during the month. All distributions to new camp arrivals were coordinated with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and local authorities. There were no Multi-Sector Emergency Package (MSEP) deliveries in June, as there was no need to reach people caught in conflict areas.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

UNICEF supports 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).

In the first half of 2018, UNICEF has supported at least 634,812 IDPs (326,562 children of which 166,546 girls) in 174 formal and informal camps, collective centres, and non-camp locations in twelve governorates through government and non-government partners, including through WASH Service Centres (WSC). The conflict against ISIL heavily affected Ninewa governorate and caused severe damage to municipal water and sanitation networks. In Mosul’s Old City, out of 54 residential neighbourhoods, 15 are considered heavily damaged and at least 23 moderately damaged. Since October 2017 UNICEF, in coordination with Government, is one of two WASH partners supporting water trucking. As of June 2018, an estimated 112,200 individuals (52,730 children) have access to safe water for drinking in the 14 Old City neighbourhoods served by UNICEF partners.

In the first half of 2018, UNICEF has worked with Government and UN partners to deliver a parallel ‘quick fix’ strategy for water network breakages. Construction is challenging in Mosul, with significant amounts of rubble and dangers posed by explosive remnants of war (ERW). As of June, it is estimated only 10 percent of needed network upgrading is completed. In early July, UNICEF is initiating three upgrading projects, two in the Old City and one in East Mosul, through a private sector partner. In the intervening period, UNICEF has been asked by the Directorate of Water to extend water trucking through at least July and August (the hottest time of year with highest demand for water), and to expand from 14 to 21 neighbourhoods as rates of return increase. It is anticipated by end-August sufficient progress will have been made that water trucking can be significantly reduced; and it is expected by end-2018 no further trucking will be required.

In worst-affected areas of Mosul UNICEF has also ensured delivery of supplementary items as needed, including 6km-length of pipes in May, and 408 water tanks (total 500 litres capacity) in June to increase capacity for safe storage of water. UNICEF is also supporting government partners to complete a full mapping of the water network. In 2018 so far, UNICEF has delivered more than 2,800 tonnes of water treatment materials countrywide, contributing around 10 percent of the national annual requirement (currently covered to end-September 2018). Water treatment materials support preparedness against waterborne diseases such as cholera; it is estimated 1.5 million people have benefitted from this supply to date.

In sanitation interventions, in the first half of 2018 UNICEF and partners supported solid waste management in camps across the country through cleaning campaigns, distribution of garbage bags, and garbage disposal benefiting an estimated 396,078 individuals (186,157 children). UNICEF and partners also supported camp-based operation and maintenance (O&M) of latrines and showers, along with desludging of cesspools benefiting 260,288 IDPs (132,747 children). Awareness-raising sessions, and hygiene kit distribution in camps, informal settlements, and retaken village, across the country reached 261,507 individuals (122,908 children). A total of 89,746 children (45,770 girls) in schools and Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) have improved access to water supply, and 93,143 children (47,503 girls) have access to improved sanitation facilities. In addition to May events marking global Menstrual Hygiene Management (MMH) day, in June, 378 girls and women in Erbil (youth centres), Kirkuk, (Laylan camp), and Nineawa (Qayyara camp) participated in MMH information sessions in June, as part of UNICEF’s increasing focus on this area of work. Where possible, UNICEF is handing over responsibility for camp services to government partners – in Sulaymaniyah, garbage collection has been taken over by government in Sardash, Arbat, Ashti and Tazade camps. Similar efforts are extended to other camps as government funds permit.

Electricity cuts remain regular in parts of the country, and shortage of fuel hampers consistent pumping of water. As the government has provided water-powered air coolers for certain IDP camps, this is placing additional pressure on water resources in Iraq’s intense}

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5 Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah Al Din and Ninewa
6 Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Duhuk, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Missan, Muthanna, Ninewa, Salah al Din, and Sulaymaniyah. Source: Partner ActivityInfo reports.
7 Population in 14 neighbourhoods increased in June as more people have returned.
8 Materials include: chlorine gas, alum sulphate, calcium hypochlorite.
summer heat. The Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoDM) is promising to provide ‘top up’ supply from a safe source (up to 50 litres per person per day) to compensate for additional water requirements created by coolers. In a context where national management of water resources is of increasing concern, with low groundwater levels reported across the country, UNICEF and WASH Cluster partners are looking at possibilities for new water sources for IDP camps, as well as ensuring repair of existing water projects where needed.

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

In the past six months, UNICEF supported an estimated 471,726 school-aged children in humanitarian situations including out of school, through a range of interventions. UNICEF rehabilitated 213 schools in Mosul (Ninewa), renovated 88 classrooms in Salah al Din and installed 36 pre-fabricated classrooms in Anbar, Dahuk, Erbil and Ninewa. A further 24 tented classrooms were provided in Salamiyah and Hassansham IDP camps (Ninewa), supported the Directorates of Education (DoE) in Dahuk and Ninewa to repair 12,000 desks and distributed school uniforms to 25,639 students in Dahuk, Erbil, and Ninewa. In addition, UNICEF has delivered education supplies for 181,681 children (78,103 girls), and supported 93,310 children (36,439 girls) to enroll in formal or NFE programmes.

In the first half of the year, discussions on more formal teacher training with the Ministry of Education (MoE) training department was delayed due to national elections in May, uncertainty over post-election government formation, as well as by Ramadan between mid-May to mid-June; also, trainings could not initiate prior to completion of end of year exams. However, trainings for a small group of master trainers on psychosocial support (PSS) in the classroom are scheduled to be completed before the start of the next academic year. In the same reporting period, 392 schools signed up to participate in the roll out of the School Based Management (SBM) approach. Of these, 202 schools have received their ‘block grants’ (a one-off incentive) that support activation of locally-designed School Improvement Plans (SIP). A total of 719 head teachers, education staff, parents and community members (149 females) have participated in SBM-related trainings between January and June 2018. As the current school year has come to a close, in June summer education activities were launched including NFE and catch-up classes by two UNICEF partners in 46 locations across Anbar and Salah al Din with an estimated 8,350 IDP and returnee students (3,925 girls) participating so far.

At the start of the year, humanitarian partners estimated that 1.4 million children will remain displaced in 2018. As the overall trend is of increasing return, total numbers of children remaining displaced by the start of the coming academic year will be below the anticipated number; however, education needs remain high because, as rates of return increase, so does pressure on education services in return communities. There remain specific protection concerns for education infrastructure in some of these areas; repair, rehabilitation, and clearance of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) are significant needs. With continuing fluctuations in population movements in the first half of the year, planning for education services in camps has been challenging. Despite returns, it is anticipated that education services for children in camps will be needed until at least the end of 2018.

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 if needed. Specialized assistance includes case management, legal services, family tracing and reunification, and emergency alternative care. 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.

Between January and June 2018, UNICEF and partners provided psychosocial support services (PSS) to 96,054 children (46,088 girls; in June 9,658 children, of which 4,747 girls) received the services. Specialised protection assistance was provided for 4,390 IDP children (1,945 girls) in the first half of the year. Since the beginning of 2018, 26 UNICEF-trained MRM partners and 193 volunteers working in three conflict-affected governorates (Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din) have increased knowledge on identifying, reporting, and verifying grave violations of child rights. During the first six months of 2018, 130 incidents were reported, affecting 110 children (87 boys, 14 girls and nine sex unknown). Out of the 130 incidents, 108 were verified, affecting 69 children (57 boys and 12 girls). The majority of incidents related to children injured or killed by unexploded ordnance in retaken areas. The baseline for the 2016-2019 country program was a 59 percent verification rate, with a target of a 75 percent verification rate. As of end-June, 2018 the verification rate stood at 83 percent.

Overall, there has been a decrease in reported violations in the first six months of 2018 compared to previous periods, mainly because fewer areas are experiencing active hostilities. In June, three incidents of grave violations were verified including deaths of two children (both boys) and injury of one child (a boy). Access and security threats as well as sensitivities around violations remain the biggest challenge to obtaining and verifying reports.
So far in 2018, a total of 5,917 individuals (3,357 women, 2,468 girls, and 92 boys) who have experienced, or who have been found to be at risk of, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) have accessed case management and PSS through UNICEF-supported partners in eight governorates9. In addition, 4,856 individuals (3,188 women and 1,668 girls) participated in social and recreational services that support resilience; in June, 1,264 individuals (965 women, 299 girls) were reached. To date, awareness-raising activities and trainings to reduce GBV stigma and promote safer environments for women and girls reached 40,830 community members (12,048 women, 9,747 girls, 8,923 boys, 10,112 men). A challenge is the low availability of Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) services, and low capacity among partners in relation to specific methods of working with child survivors. UNICEF and partners have conducted trainings on increasing access to quality services that have reached 343 providers (212 women, 131 men) as of June 2018. In addition, 41 case managers and social workers are participating in a GBV case management coaching and peer mentoring programme launched by a UNICEF partner to build capacity and provide technical support in dealing with complex GBV issues.

Government engagement and accountability to vulnerable children remains a gap. Provision of adequate and consistent services for extremely vulnerable groups especially children found unaccompanied by any parent of caregiver, children in detention, and children with disabilities remains challenging. UNICEF and CPSC partners continue to advocate for, and support the Government in, delivering effective and sustained services for children.

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) that improve understanding of children’s nutritional needs. Where a child is identified with malnourishment, 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. UNICEF also engages NGOs to mitigate for short-term gaps in service provision.

Through government and NGO partners, since January 2018, 931 new-borns and their mothers (475 girls) have been visited by trained health worker teams as part of the home visits programme in the critical first month of life. Immunization support continued, with UNICEF and partners reporting 11,505 children under one year (5,868 girls) vaccinated against measles. A sub-national polio campaign reached 1,558,208 children under five (U5) across the country in late April (over 98 percent of the target of 1,623,926 children U5); of these, 421,060 children were reached in UNICEF’s targeted governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din. Progress as of June is 23 percent (measles) and 38 per cent (polio) of UNICEF 2018 targets. In response to increases in the cases of measles found mainly in Erbil governorate, UNICEF provided additional support of incentives, transportation allowance, and necessary stationery for 20 mobile DoH immunization teams (40 staff) to run outreach vaccination sessions in Erbil districts10, where 2,512 children aged between 12 to 59 months were provided with measles-containing vaccines11.

In nutrition interventions, 10,252 pregnant women and new mothers attended health promotion sessions on IYCF, and 87,814 children aged 6-59 months (44,785 girls) were screened for nutritional status; 2,881 children (3.28 percent) were identified with Moderate Acute Malnourishment (MAM) and 592 children (0.67 per cent) with Severe Acute Malnourishment (SAM). For cases with complications, referral to specialist Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRC) was undertaken. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 3.95 percent in IDP camps remains acceptable per international standards. The planned Iraq health and nutrition response remains underfunded; as needed, UNICEF is prioritising interventions to ensure basic services. 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.

Cash Assistance

UNICEF is establishing links between humanitarian assistance and the Government’s social protection framework to provide integrated support to vulnerable children. UNICEF’s cash assistance is unconditional, but aims to support removal of barriers to children’s access to education. UNICEF delivers an integrated package of support alongside government partners to identify protection-related concerns and refer cases to social workers for additional support.

In the first half of 2018, UNICEF has supported 3,902 children (1,877 girls) with cash assistance of US$30 per child per month. Funding has been limited in 2018 for UNICEF cash assistance. To continue support for the current caseload of 3,900 children in the next academic year, at least US$1.25 million is needed before school reopens in late September/early October. To achieve its planned target of 15,000 IDP children, UNICEF needs US$4.8 million to cover 2018/2019.

9 Anbar, Diyala, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al Din, and Sulaymaniyah
10 Dashti Hawler, Khabat, Shaqlawa, Soran, Barzan, Choman, Koya and Makhmour.
11 Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) table on page 8 reflects children supported through routine immunization only (not campaign).
Supply and Logistics

Since January 2018, UNICEF Iraq dispatched relief items to government and non-government partners with a value of nearly US$6 million, with the total value of supplies ordered for IDP response at US$3.5 million. Since the start of 2018, Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) and winter programmes accounted for 80 percent of aggregated dispatched items. In the first quarter of the year, movement of humanitarian supplies into the KRI faced challenges due to the closure of the two international airports in the region in the wake of the internal political tension after the September 2017 KRI referendum on independence. After agreements reached in late March 2018, the airports opened and movement of supplies became easier. There were some delays as alternative supply routes and storage capacity had to be found, but overall the impact on 2018 humanitarian operations was minimal.

Media and External Communication

In the first half of 2018, UNICEF Iraq published 7 news notes highlighting the situation of children in Iraq. As part of a high-level advocacy campaign, UNICEF used the Kuwait Reconstruction Conference for Iraq in February 2018 to call for investment in social services, particularly health and education. In partnership with UN Habitat, UNICEF launched Committing to Change: Securing the Future, a report making the case for investing in Iraq’s children and young people. During the Kuwait Conference, UNICEF was mentioned in over 45 media outlets, including Sky News, Reuters, Al Jazeera, and France 24. UNICEF Iraq connected young displaced girls with their age-mates in London, covered by BBC world service and a follow-up ‘Facebook live’ feed that was watched by over 30,000 people. Additionally, UNICEF supported visits by delegations from Germany and the Netherlands to Mosul City, Nineawa. Digital engagement has expanded significantly in the first half of the year, with the UNICEF Iraq Facebook page gaining nearly 10,000 followers, bringing total followers to 119,000.

Security

In the first half of 2018, Iraq’s security situation has improved but remains unpredictable, with lack of defined areas of control. Despite the announcement of the end of the conflict against ISIL in December 2017, in 2018 the group has maintained presence and capacity to carry out attacks in Iraq. Internal political and ethnic tension between Arabs and Kurds remained in the wake of the September 2017 independence referendum held by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), with outstanding issues only reaching partial resolution in late March 2018. Although the national parliamentary elections in May were largely peaceful, Sunni-Shia tensions remained noticeable, and Shia-Shia tensions also became apparent. Between January and June 2018, UNICEF and partners faced access and delivery challenges in areas with remaining armed group presence, such as Hawiga (Kirkuk) and Sinjar (Nineawa), however programme activities and field monitoring presence were largely sustained without significant breaks. In the coming months, asymmetric attacks by ISIL or other armed groups against Security Forces are likely to continue in central and northern Iraq. Security clearance operations in targeted regions expected to yield further terrorism and/or crime suspects. Public demonstrations for issues such as public services provision (mainly electricity and water) remain likely across the country, especially as temperatures rise to close to 50 degrees Celsius.

Funding as of 30 June 2018

With significant resource gaps facing some programmes in the first half of the year, carry-over funds from 2017 have helped to ensure continued humanitarian response. Flexible thematic funds from UNICEF Portugal, UNICEF Germany, and UNICEF’s global thematic humanitarian funds (total allocation of US$644,000) has helped to support RRM, health and nutrition, and cash assistance programmes. In June, UNICEF received new contributions of US$3.19 million for education from the US Bureau of Refugees, Population, and Migration (PRM), and US$1.2 million from the Government of Norway to support child protection awareness-raising actions on risks of explosive remnants of war (ERW). In most cases, carry-over and 2018 funds are earmarked to specific programmes and cannot be used to support gaps in other areas. In cases of prolonged underfunding, UNICEF will adjust programming to focus on first-line response or maintenance of existing basic service provision for the most vulnerable groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds Available*</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funds Received</td>
<td>Carry-Over</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Current Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)</td>
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<td>532,034</td>
<td>819,370</td>
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<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)</td>
<td>37,000,000</td>
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<td>Education**</td>
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<td>Basic Needs (Multipurpose Cash Assistance)</td>
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<td>Winterization (Seasonal Response)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>37,706,038</strong></td>
<td><strong>28,904,136</strong></td>
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</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.

Next SitRep: 19 August 2018

UNICEF Iraq Country Office Official Website: http://www.unicef.org/iraq/
UNICEF Iraq Country Office Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/unicefiraq

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Annex A

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS (January-June 2018)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster Response</th>
<th>UNICEF and IPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cluster Target 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM - Needs: 860,000 people</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable people newly displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,030,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE - Needs 5.4 million people</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency affected population accessing sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene</td>
<td>2,309,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency affected population benefiting from latrines established/rehabilitated/maintained</td>
<td>436,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION – Needs 3.3 million school-aged children*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys and girls receiving educational supplies</td>
<td>528,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers, facilitators, and education personnel trained on emergency education, life skills, and delivering PSS</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict-affected boys and girls (6-17 years) enrolled in formal and non-formal education programmes</td>
<td>528,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILD PROTECTION – Needs 2.4 million children under 18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes</td>
<td>203,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services)</td>
<td>29,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls, boys, and women receiving individual or group psychosocial support³</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH – Needs: 1.2 million children under 5*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New-born babies of conflict-affected families benefiting from new-born home services</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 1 year old children vaccinated against measles through routine immunization</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5 vaccinated against polio in crises-affected areas through campaigns</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTRITION</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children U5 accessing nutrition services</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted mothers of children 0-23 months with access to IYCF counselling for appropriate feeding</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL PROTECTION – Needs: 1,080,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Most vulnerable children receiving child-focused cash transfer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Footnotes:

RM 1: Consortium led by UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA: Females: 33,562, Males: 32,245. In the half of 2018, progress against 2018 targets has been limited, mainly because of lower than anticipated levels of displacements. Also, as the discussion on camp consolidation/closure remains inconclusive, there have been no large-scale camp relocation movements yet.


Education 2: Cluster: Females: 3,147, Males: 3,023. UNICEF-supported trainings will take place in agreement with the MoE; larger-scale trainings are scheduled to take place outside the formal academic year to minimise disruption to children’s learning.

Education 3: Cluster: Females: 143,030, Males: 178,707. UNICEF: Females: 36,439, Males: 56,871. Enrolment to formal education takes place once per year (data usually available from MoE by October/November). UNICEF is working with the MoE to support enrolment through establishment of schools, providing pre-fabricated classrooms, and learning opportunities for children to access schools.

Child Protection sub-cluster 2: Females: 4,917 Males: 5,793. UNICEF Females: 1,954 Males 2,436. In 2018, as the acute emergency concluded, UNICEF has engaged in a process of consolidating partnerships both for geographic coverage and case management capacity. This process took some time and resulted in periods of lower activity as some partnerships were concluded and new ones were negotiated. It is anticipated that achievement towards targets will come back on track as partnerships for specialized protection assistance are now in place.

Child Protection 3: This indicator reflects UNICEF support to individuals receiving multi-sectoral services designed to respond to the needs of survivors or people at risk of Gender-Based Violence. In late 2017, UNICEF issued a call for expression of interest for partnerships in GBV service delivery in underserved and hard to reach areas. As part of partnership development, in the first quarter of 2018, UNICEF assessed the capacity and coverage of a variety of organizations in multiple locations across the country, in coordination with GBV subcluster and gap analysis. Within the second quarter of 2018, partnerships for GBV have been finalized and projects have begun. It is anticipated that progress against planned targets will increase in the coming months.

Health 1: Females: 475 Males: 456. In certain governorates, mobile community health worker teams (covering new-born/nutrition services among others) were paused in 2018; it was instead planned to establish nutrition teams in IDP camps to do growth monitoring by anthropometric measurement. Due to restricted funds available for UNICEF H&N, this has been postponed until funds are received.

Health 2: Females: 5,868 Males: 5,637. Potential underreporting by partners into ActivityInfo is being investigated.

Health 3: Females: 230,8912 Males: 221,856. UNICEF reports only for its targeted governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din, per the HAC 2018. Potential underreporting by partners into ActivityInfo is being investigated.

Nutrition 1: Females: 44,785 Males: 87,814. Indicator counts number of sessions delivered, rather than number of children served.


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