



## Iraq Mid-Year 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 June 2019

In 2019, **9,009** children received specialized child protection services, including reunification or alternative care

In 2019, **431,507** people had access to adequate sanitation through newly-established or maintained latrines

### SITUATION ANALYSIS

In 2019, numbers of internally displaced people (IDP) and returnees have remained largely static. Around 30 per cent of displaced families live in camps; 80 per cent are in Ninewa (52 per cent) and Dahuk (27 per cent). The majority of IDPs have been displaced for three or more years. Risks to children continue to be high. Protection concerns remain prominent due to explosive remnants of war, lack of access to basic education and healthcare, and missing civil registration/birth documentation, among others. Infrastructure, including for water and sanitation services, remains weak in areas previously affected by armed conflict, with large-scale investment needed to attain full delivery capacity. Schools run multiple 'shifts' in areas affected by displacement or by infrastructure damage, with difficulties in deploying qualified teachers to serve in these locations. Health providers struggle to ensure access to maternal, neonatal, and infant care, including vaccinations, growth monitoring and parent/caregiver support. In the first quarter of the year, children in many parts of the country, especially the centre and south, were at risk of flooding caused by unusually heavy rains. In May and June fires in agricultural areas affected 11 of 18 governorates. Causes are unclear, but high summer temperatures and arson have been suggested. Return of Iraqis from Al Hol camp in Syria was expected however first returns of around 1,000 people are expected in July; the majority are women and children with identified protection and health/nutrition needs. Humanitarian partners, including UNICEF, are updating preparedness plans in coordination with relevant Government counterparts as new information becomes available.

### RESULTS

Individuals reached by UNICEF interventions (Jan-June 2019)  
Individuals targeted (2019)

INDICATORS	RESULT	% REACHED	TARGET
Emergency affected populations with access to sufficient safe water supply	615,611	63%	972,808
Girls and boys receiving education supplies	44,127	22%	200,000
Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes	108,839	81%	135,000
Children under 1 year old vaccinated against measles (routine)	25,290	8%	314,985
Most vulnerable children receiving child-focused cash transfer	3,354	22%	15,000

Full summary of programme results (January to June) available here.

### PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

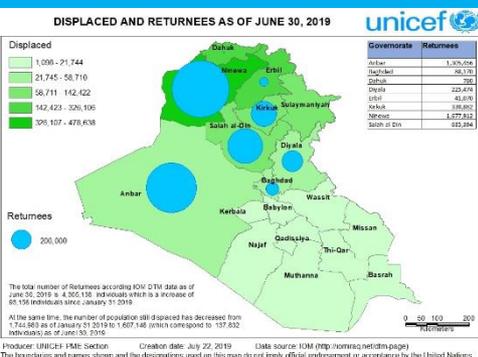
**WASH:** UNICEF and partners contributed 63 per cent of Cluster water supply response and 89 per cent of Cluster sanitation response (access to functional latrines). Four water projects were completed in Mosul City, and 19 water supply systems in northern Ninewa, one water treatment plant in Kirkuk and seven water compact units in western Anbar were rehabilitated, improving access to safe water for 218,000 people (102,455 children). Fifty one schools with 18,096 students (8,952 girls) and 49 healthcare centres (catchment population of 607,700 individuals, 285,600 children) have improved WASH facilities. More than 83,000 individuals, at least 72,000 children (36,740 girls) participated in hygiene promotion events since January, improving knowledge on healthy practices. Good progress was supported by timely availability of resources and partnerships with government and NGOs. Continued investment is needed to maintain acceptable standards in remaining IDP camps, with some requiring more investment than others. Poor treatment of wastewater and its direct discharge to watercourses remains a concern for potential waterborne disease outbreaks, including cholera.

**Education:** Since January, UNICEF and partners have supported more than 131,000 children (53,088 girls) to access formal and non-formal education in camp and non-camp locations. Larger-scale teacher trainings are planned from July to September, to minimize disruption to learning; similarly, the next mass distributions of learning materials are planned for autumn 2019, at the start of the next academic year. Shortage of teachers in IDP camps is a persistent challenge. UNICEF has extended exceptional temporary incentives support to hire 345 'volunteer' teachers (65 female) to ensure 29,600 children in Ninewa camps continued to learn until June. Similar actions were taken in Anbar, Kirkuk, and Salah al Din.

**Child Protection:** UNICEF and partners reached over 80 per cent of the 2019 target for psychosocial support (PSS) and 87 per cent of planned specialized protection assistance, contributing 84 and 62 per cent of Sub-Cluster response respectively. Services supporting girls and women who have experienced, or who have been found at risk of, Gender-Based Violence exceeded the target by 20 per cent. Timely availability of resources has helped to continue and expand partnerships with government and NGO counterparts. Thirty nine reports of grave violations of child rights were recorded between January and June, affecting 58 children (40 boys, 13 girls and five sex unknown), of which 34 incidents affecting 54 children were verified. Protection concerns remain high for children due to continued presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW) in many locations, lack of civil/birth registration documents, and poor access to basic services such as health and education.

**Health and Nutrition:** As of June, progress under planned new-born home services (38 per cent of target) and infant/child nutrition counselling (59 per cent) has been good, while UNICEF ability to demonstrate progress against its main vaccination indicators (measles under 1 year at 8 per cent, and polio under 5 years at 5 per cent) has been constrained by systemic challenges relating to availability of verified immunization data from the Ministry of Health. Other bottlenecks include data flow from Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC) in non-camp areas, especially in governorates affected by conflict in 2016/2017 – in many places, PHC records are paper-based, which slows data sharing and validation. UNICEF supports the Health Management Information System (HMIS), but the higher-level interventions, and resulting change, take time.

**Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM):** Plans have been adjusted to reflect new information on the Iraqi repatriation caseload from Al Hol, Syria. In case of return, the RRM Consortium of UN and NGO partners will deliver critical assistance at border crossings. Efforts to identify a suitable government partner for capacity building/eventual handover of RRM will be accelerated in the second half of 2019.





**72.9** million  
UNICEF Iraq Appeal 2019

**73.1** million  
Funding available\*

Of which **18.8** million  
carried forward from 2018

\*Funding available includes funding received for the current appeal year as well as carry-forward from the previous year. Funding gap is calculated per programme.

## \$ FUNDING STATUS

Appeal Sector	Available (US\$)	% Gap	Requirement (US\$)
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	24.33M	2%	24.9M
Education	11.72M	0%	9.97M
Child Protection	25.9M	0%	20.4M
Health and Nutrition	7.26M	0%	5.8M
Cash-based Transfers	1.14M	77%	4.89M
Non-Food Items	1.59M	73%	6M
Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)	1.07M	0%	890,245

**Funding Status and Donor Recognition:** As of June 2019, UNICEF's 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal shows a 12 per cent funding gap. In most cases, 2018 carry-over funds and 2019 funds received are earmarked to specific programmes and cannot be used to support gaps in other areas. UNICEF Iraq remains significantly underfunded for its cash-based transfer and non-food item (winter) responses. In June 2019, UNICEF received a generous contribution towards its IDP response from ECHO. UNICEF thanks its donors for their continued support to vulnerable children and women in Iraq. In 2019, UNICEF and partners were enabled to provide life-saving and life-sustaining interventions thanks to 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). UNICEF is grateful to donors who provide financial support through multi-year thematic and flexible contributions.



©UNICEF/Iraq/2018/Anmar - A young girl concentrates in classes at Ithar School, West Mosul.

## Re-committing to realizing the rights of children in Iraq

Baghdad, June 2019 – This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). UNICEF Iraq launched a year-long #CRC30 campaign celebrating this world-changing event for children's rights. The campaign began with a [video by the UNICEF Iraq Representative](#), about the CRC and how committing to it can help to push children's issues to the forefront of the political agenda including through effective public financing of health and education, increased protection, support for adolescents through empowerment, and citizenship and active participation in their own lives. For an Iraq that invests in children and commits to fulfilling all their rights, the [public petition](#) can be signed [here](#).

[Read the full Press Release here](#)

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## HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

As of June 2019, UN and humanitarian partner strategy in Iraq continues to be: 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 appeal intends to support at least one million people, including 540,000 children. 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). 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 by building on existing humanitarian efforts to ensure tangible improvements in their daily lives early in the reconstruction process, and by the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for Syrian refugees. 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

In 2019, the UNICEF-led WASH and Education Clusters, Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC), and Nutrition Working Group continued to play a central role in coordination, advocacy, and information management. The WASH Cluster undertook substantial capacity-building efforts reaching 222 participants on topics including Water Quality, GBV Mainstreaming, and Hygiene Promotion. The Education Cluster hosted training for sub-national cluster focal points, supporting improved coordination after staff turnover. Advocacy with government on teacher salaries has been ongoing. Roll-out of Child Protection Sub-Cluster endorsed PSS modules and Standard Operation Procedures supported partners and government counterparts to scale-up services while more consistent quality. The web-based online case management platform (CPIMS+) was launched in Dahuk as a pilot, with the goal of supporting more efficient and effective case management.