As the Syria refugee crisis entered its 8th year in March, Turkey remained home to the largest refugee population in the world. Close to 4 million refugees and asylum-seekers were registered in Turkey, more than 1.7 million of whom were children. Nearly 3.6 million Syrians – including over 1.6 million children – were under temporary protection in Turkey, in addition to over 366,000 refugees mainly from Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran, of whom some 116,000 were children.¹

The scale of the crisis continues to put an enormous strain on Turkey’s infrastructure and basic services – particularly in host communities across the southeast and the northwest, where 94 per cent of refugees reside.

Meanwhile, along Turkey’s western coast nearly 2,250 people made the sea journey to Greece in March – almost double the number from February, and an indication that warmer weather and calmer seas are encouraging more attempts. In addition, almost 2,500 people were rescued or intercepted at sea or on land, of whom over 600 were children.² Under the framework of the EU-Turkey Statement, four rounds of returns took place for 22 people, bringing the total number of returns to 1,577 since the Statement came into effect in March 2016. The majority of returned people were young adult men predominantly from South Asia and North Africa.

¹ Source: Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM), 5 April 2018.
² Source: Turkish Coast Guard and Gendarmerie, March 2018.
Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The Government of Turkey leads the overall crisis response in-country, and remains the largest provider of humanitarian aid to Syrians as well as other refugee and migrant groups. In 2018, the United Nations Country Team continues to support national efforts to respond to the Syria Crisis within the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), as well as those related to the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe. Overall leadership of the inter-agency response continues through the Syria Response Group, with technical coordination taking place through the Syria Task Force. UNICEF actively participates in all relevant working groups (WG), co-leading the Education WG and Child Protection Sub-WG, as well as the South-East Turkey Education and Child Protection WGs.

In March, UNICEF renewed two partnerships with key government and NGO partners to sustain and expand the delivery of essential services to vulnerable refugee and migrant families across Turkey. Under the framework of a two-year Rolling

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1 Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM), March 2018. These figures include only registered Syrians and non-Syrians.
2 Ministry of National Education (MoNE), February 2018. Registration for refugee children remains open throughout the school year.
3 UNICEF projection based on the estimated number of school-aged and enrolled refugee children in Turkey, as of March 2018.
Work Plan with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE), UNICEF will continue to focus on strengthening the Turkish education system to ensure access to quality, inclusive learning for vulnerable Turkish, refugee and migrant children. In partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS), over the next 12 months UNICEF will provide essential child protection and psychosocial support (PSS) services to 150,000 vulnerable refugee, migrant and Turkish children in camps and host communities via a broad network of 47 Child and Adolescent Friendly Spaces, two mobile Child Friendly Spaces, and five mobile PSS teams.

**Humanitarian Strategy**

UNICEF’s work in Turkey is guided by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and through its close partnership with the Turkish government. Under the frameworks of the 3RP and the “No Lost Generation” Initiative, UNICEF focuses on five priority areas – Education, Child Protection, Adolescents and Youth, Health and Basic Needs – to reach refugee children in camps and host communities, as well as vulnerable Turkish children affected by the crisis. UNICEF also provides targeted protection and basic needs support to vulnerable children and families on the move toward Europe.

The scale-up of services and strengthening of national systems remains a top priority in 2018, with an increased focus on resilience to reflect and address the protracted, complex nature of the refugee crisis. In light of the restricted operational space for NGOs on the ground, UNICEF continues to explore opportunities with new partners, such as local municipalities and social assistance foundations, to ensure the needs of vulnerable children are being met.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

**Child Protection**

UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP) and other partners to strengthen existing child protection systems to expand coverage and improve the quality of services for refugee and migrant children across the continuum of care, with a focus on the provision of psychosocial support (PSS) and the identification and referral of at-risk children.

In March, UNICEF worked closely with the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) to finalize minimum standards to strengthen the protection of refugee and migrant children, including the application of codes of conduct for staff working with children in camps as well as reception and removal centres. UNICEF also provided DGMM-managed centres with child-friendly furniture as well as child development materials to facilitate the provision of PSS. In addition, UNICEF provided technical support to the MoFSP to tailor its existing ANKA Child Support Programme to meet the needs of unaccompanied and/or separated children arriving from the Middle East, North Africa, West Asia and South Asia.

Under the child protection component of the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) for refugee children, around 2,400 girls and boys were screened by UNICEF-supported outreach teams in 15 provinces – bringing the total number of children reached to date to nearly 32,000. The CCTE child protection component is now fully operational with the opening of the last remaining child protection offices in Mardin, Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye and Kayseri.

**Education**

In close collaboration with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and NGO partners, UNICEF uses a multi-pronged strategy to increase demand, expand access and improve the quality of educational opportunities for refugee children in Turkey – with a focus on the estimated 350,000 who remain out-of-school.

In March, UNICEF and the MoNE organized several workshops to improve inclusiveness, data collection and outreach. In Istanbul, UNICEF convened academics, school administrators, teachers and MoNE staff to finalize the Inclusive Education Teacher Training module. The module aims to strengthen the ability of school teachers, counsellors and administrators to

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6 The ANKA Child Support Programme is implemented in MoFSP-managed Child Support Centres across the country. The programme was revised to include PSS and social cohesion modules to improve the well-being of children affected by acute trauma.
address the needs of vulnerable students in public schools, such as refugee/migrant children, children with disabilities, and those in need of PSS. The module will soon be implemented in eight pilot provinces\(^7\) before expanding across Turkey.

UNICEF and the MoNE also conducted 3-day trainings on education outreach to around 165 Turkish and Syrian volunteer teachers in Ankara and Hatay. These teachers will now conduct outreach to an estimated 10,000 refugees in six provinces\(^8\), providing them with essential information on available opportunities in formal and non-formal education.

**Adolescent Development and Participation**

Under the framework of the “No Lost Generation” strategy, UNICEF works closely with the MoFSP, the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) and NGO partners to address the specific needs of Syrian and Turkish adolescents and youth by expanding opportunities for meaningful engagement, empowerment and life skills education throughout the country.

In March, UNICEF held two key workshops to strengthen social cohesion programming in Turkey. 30 participants from seven government and NGO partners\(^9\) met in Gaziantep to explore new social cohesion strategies for engaging adolescents in host communities – with a focus on applying the global Adolescent Toolkit for Expression and Innovation\(^10\), which will be piloted in select locations in April and May 2018. Following the pilot phase, participants will reconvene to share their experiences and lessons learned, to develop a more comprehensive and tailored strategy by June 2018.

In addition, UNICEF and UNHCR co-organized the first National Consultation on Adolescents and Youth Programming in Humanitarian Action on 21-22 March in Turkey. Over 50 representatives from various government and non-governmental organizations discussed the status of adolescent and youth engagement programmes in Turkey, and exchanged best practices and lessons learned. The discussions will form the basis of a regional report on promising practices in adolescent initiatives and innovative programmes for adolescent and youth engagement, as well as community-based protection approaches in humanitarian programming for refugee-hosting countries.

**Social Protection**

In collaboration with the MoFSP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS) as well as civil society and the private sector, UNICEF seeks to strengthen the social protection system for vulnerable children, while providing targeted education, child protection and social services for children engaged in labour.

In March 2018, 292,924 refugee children\(^11\) benefitted from a conditional cash transfer for education (CCTE) payment for attending school regularly in preceding months – a nearly 10 per cent increase over the previous payment in January.\(^12\) This brings the total number beneficiaries (those who have received at least one CCTE payment since the programme’s launch in May 2017) to 330,625 children. The next CCTE payment to beneficiaries will be made in May 2018.

Approximately 82 per cent of children receiving the CCTE in March also benefitted from the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme, which provides cash assistance to families to cover basic needs, demonstrating that the complementarity of the two programmes continues to work as intended.

**Basic Needs**

In Basic Needs, UNICEF and NGO partners coordinate closely with local authorities to provide core relief items and one-off, cash-based winter assistance to the most vulnerable refugee, migrant and Turkish families.

During the 2017-2018 winter, UNICEF partners are providing cash-based assistance to approximately 10,000 vulnerable Syrian and Turkish households in the provinces of Hatay, Mardin and Batman – benefitting an estimated 30,000 children.

\(^7\) The planning process is still ongoing, but pilot implementation will take place in 8 of the following 12 provinces: Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Bolu, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Istanbul, İzmir, Kayseri, Nevşehir, Trabzon, Van.

\(^8\) İstanbul, Ankara, Konya, Hatay, Gaziantep, Sanlıurfa. The programme will eventually expand to 12 provinces, targeting 20,000 people.

\(^9\) The MoYS, MoFSP, DGMM, Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP), TRCS, RET International and Association for Solidarity with Asylum-Seekers and Migrants (ASAM).

\(^10\) A package of guidance, tools and supplies to reach and engage adolescents affected by conflict and emergencies through education, child protection, youth development and/or peacebuilding initiatives.

\(^11\) 147,864 girls and 145,060 boys.

\(^12\) 266,522 children received a CCTE payment for regular school attendance in January 2018.
Under this programme, eligible families receive a debit card valued at 600-1000 Turkish Lira (based on family size) which they can use to purchase warm clothes and other winter items, allowing them to spend their remaining resources on essential expenses such as food, heating and rent.

To date, nearly 8,000 households have received their winter cards – benefitting an estimated 24,000 children – and distribution to the remaining approximately 2,000 households was completed in the first week of April. Implementation was unfortunately delayed this winter season due to capacity gaps as well as security concerns arising from military actions along the border in northern Syria.

Media and External Communications

In March, UNICEF Turkey commemorated the 7th year of the Syrian Crisis with a photo story entitled Education to Overcome the Hardships, and a human interest story entitled Syrian crisis takes tragic toll on refugee families. UNICEF also acknowledged the generous financial support of donors such as the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), the European Union, Norway and the United States through multiple social media posts on UNICEF’s website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Funding

<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>Received</td>
<td>Carry-forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria Crisis (3RP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$194,370,000</td>
<td>$60,273,530</td>
<td>$58,354,075</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>$30,850,000</td>
<td>$19,517,971</td>
<td>$4,916,164</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Needs14</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$325,700</td>
<td>$3,257,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
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<td>$101,529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Being allocated</td>
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<td>$214,000</td>
<td>($214,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$229,220,000</td>
<td>$80,331,201</td>
<td>$66,629,468</td>
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<tr>
<td>Re-phased to 201915</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next SitRep: 20/05/2018

UNICEF Turkey: http://www.unicef.org.tr
UNICEF Syria Crisis Facebook: www.facebook.com/unicefmena

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13 Approximately US $160-$260 according to current exchange rates.
14 Funds reported under Basic Needs also include allocations for interventions in Social Protection related to the Syria response.
15 This amount refers to funds received in 2018, but expressly earmarked for use in 2019.
# SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SYRIA CRISIS</th>
<th>Sector Target</th>
<th>Sector Results*</th>
<th>UNICEF Target</th>
<th>UNICEF Results*</th>
<th>Change since last report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong> (2018 Needs: 1.2 million school-aged Syrian refugee children)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children (3-5 years) enrolled in ECCE and pre-primary education</td>
<td>51,200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children (5-17 years) enrolled in formal education (grades 1-12)</td>
<td>650,000</td>
<td>604,154</td>
<td>650,000</td>
<td>604,154</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children (5-17 years) enrolled in accredited non-formal education</td>
<td>36,200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>1,452</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of teachers and other education personnel receiving incentives</td>
<td>13,440</td>
<td>12,994</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>12,994</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of teachers and other education personnel trained</td>
<td>146,620</td>
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<td>146,200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td># of refugee children (5-17 years) benefiting from the conditional cash transfer for education</td>
<td>325,000</td>
<td>330,625</td>
<td>325,000</td>
<td>330,625</td>
<td>9,633</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **CHILD PROTECTION** (2018 Needs: 1.55 million Syrian refugee children) | | | | | |
| # of individuals (women/men, girls/boys) accessing protection services in camps and host communities | 862,580 | 134,352 | 150,000 | 51,441 | 17,956 |
| # of children participating in structured, sustained child protection or psychosocial support programmes | 122,000 | 19,195 | 80,000 | 12,865 | 5,440 |
| # of children with protection needs identified and assessed | 168,400 | 10,297 | 77,000 | 7,020 | 2,566 |
| # of children who are referred to specialized services | 49,000 | 7,135 | 20,000 | 6,519 | 1,847 |

| **ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH** (2018 Needs: 3.3 million Syrian refugees, including 1.55 million Syrian refugee children) | | | | | |
| # of Syrian and Turkish adolescents and youth (girls/boys) engaged in empowerment programmes | 220,850 | 50,017 | 200,000 | 39,009 | 13,607 |

| **BASIC NEEDS** (2018 Needs: 10.6 million Syrian refugee and vulnerable Turkish individuals, including 3.7 million children) | | | | | |
| # of persons benefitting from cash-based interventions (including winter support) | 2,130,650 | 153,839 | 60,000 | 47,940 | 47,940 |

| **HEALTH** (2018 Needs: 3.3 million Syrian refugees, including 1.55 million Syrian refugee children) | | | | | |
| # of Syrian health care providers (women/men) trained | 1,650 | 0 | 1,400 | 0 | 0 |
| # of Syrian refugee children under 5 (girls/boys) who have received routine vaccinations | 130,000 | 2,291 | 130,000 | 0 | 0 |

**FOOTNOTES**

* Results: Sector and UNICEF results are cumulative (January–March 2018).

**EDUCATION 1:** The result for this indicator was reset to zero, in order to report only newly enrolled children in 2018. This has been done to align with the targets of the recently signed Rolling Working Plan with the MoNE.

**EDUCATION 2:** 293,316 girls and 304,603 boys. This data also includes pre-primary school children aged 5 years and up. The slight decrease in enrolment compared to last month is the result of a cleaning of registry rolls to remove those students who were double-counted or dropped out of school. Enrolment figures will continue to fluctuate as the school year goes on; max enrolment achieved will be reported in the HPM until the school year concludes.

**EDUCATION 3:** 84 girls and 65 boys. The total number of children enrolled in accredited non-formal education year to date is 1,452 (750 girls and 702 boys).

**EDUCATION 4:** 12,994 represents the highest achieved as of January 2018; the number of teachers supported in March is 12,965 (6,902 women, 6,063 men).

**EDUCATION 5:** With the signing of the RWP this month, UNICEF and MoNE have commenced planning for this intervention, with the first round of trainings expected to take place during summer 2018.

**EDUCATION 6:** 165,975 girls and 164,650 boys.

**CHILD PROTECTION 1:** 9,297 girls and 8,653 boys.

**CHILD PROTECTION 2:** Gender disaggregation unavailable for this month.

**CHILD PROTECTION 3:** 1,371 girls and 1,298 boys.

**CHILD PROTECTION 4:** 774 girls, 1,072 boys, 1 LGBTI.

**ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH 1:** 7,902 girls and 5,705 boys.

**HEALTH 1:** UNICEF is currently in discussions with the Ministry of Health and WHO on the design and implementation of trainings; dates are TBD.

**HEALTH 2:** UNICEF provides support to national vaccination campaigns in partnership with the Ministry of Health; the next campaign is TBD.