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Draft country programme document**

Syrian Arab Republic

Summary

The draft country programme document (CPD) for Syrian Arab Republic is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comment. The draft CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $8,452,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $404,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period March 2027 to December 2030.

* E/ICEF/2027/1.

** In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, country programme documents (CPDs) are considered and approved in one session, on a no-objection basis. This draft CPD, and a costed evaluation plan, will be presented to the Executive Board for review from 10 to 30 November 2026. The final CPD will be posted to the Executive Board web page in English six weeks in advance of the 2027 first regular session and in the other designated languages four weeks in advance.

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Programme rationale

1. The Syrian Arab Republic country programme, March 2027 to December 2030, builds on the country's political transition since December 2024 and its nationally owned agenda to restore stability, rebuild institutions and expand opportunities. Despite the easing of sanctions-related constraints and signs of gradual economic recovery, the country faces persistent fiscal constraints, weak governance capacity and unequal service delivery, which continue to limit equitable access to essential social services, slowing progress on child rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. In mid-2026, there were 9.2 million children aged 0–17 years (34.6 per cent of the population of 26.5 million)[1] and 4.2 million young people aged 18–24 years (15.8 per cent)[2] underscoring the country's young demographic profile. Around 3.8 million Syrian refugees remain in neighbouring countries,[3] while more than 1.8 million have returned since December 2024.[4] An estimated 5.5 million are internally displaced persons (IDPs).[5] Many people remain in camps, collective shelters or temporary settings, although the Government's no camps vision signals a shift towards community-based arrangements affecting social cohesion, reintegration and access to services for returnees and host communities. Vulnerability is high, particularly among women and girls: 52 per cent of IDPs are female[6] and 33 per cent of displaced households are female-headed.[7] Barriers to safe, voluntary and dignified returns persist, including documentation, access to services and durable solutions.[8]

3. Years of conflict have intensified children's exposure to violence and gender-based violence, emotional distress, poverty, learning loss and malnutrition, while damaged infrastructure, weakened services, workforce gaps and limited evidence constrain the response. These challenges are acute in return areas and require differentiated responses. The national recovery agenda provides an opportunity to address critical bottlenecks, scale up inclusive and resilient solutions, and strengthen systems and social cohesion.

4. The prolonged conflict has had a severe impact on children's: it has damaged health infrastructure, disrupted essential services and weakened the systems protecting child survival. With only about 57 per cent of hospitals and 30 per cent of primary healthcare (PHC) centres fully functional,[9] supply-chain gaps, workforce shortages, geographic disparities and climate-related risks constrain access to essential maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) services. The consequences are stark: the under-5 mortality rate fell from 36.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to

[1] United Nations, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects 2024*, https://population.un.org/wpp, accessed on 30 October 2026.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Syria Regional Refugee Response, https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria, accessed on 30 October 2026.
[4] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Comprehensive Overview of Refugee Returns Dashboard as at 29.10.2026, Syrian Arab Republic, https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/124686.
[5] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Comprehensive Overview of IDPs and IDP Returns Dashboard as at 29.10.2026, https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/124685.
[6] International Organization for Migration (IOM), Syrian Arab Republic: Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment, Round 11 – December 2025, Geneva, 2025, p. 4.
[7] United Nations, *Common Country Analysis: Syria 2025,* March 2026, p. 6.
[8] Ibid, p.16.
[9] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), *Syria: Humanitarian needs and response plan*, April 2026, p. 11.

18.8 in 2010, climbed to 37.1 by 2015, and recovered to only 18.4 in 2024.[10] Coverage of three doses of the combined diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine (DTP3) among infants remains low and unstable, at 60 per cent in 2025, and one in four children is zero-dose.[11]

5. Stunting affects nearly one in six children, and acute malnutrition more than tripled between 2019 and 2025.[12] Some 13.3 million people are food insecure, including 0.7 million who are severely food insecure.[13] Micronutrient deficiencies remain widespread, with one in three women and adolescent girls aged 15–49 years affected by anaemia,[14] while low rates of exclusive breastfeeding continue to undermine child nutrition. Meanwhile, 36 per cent of children and adolescents aged 5–19 years are overweight,[15] highlighting a growing triple burden of malnutrition driven by inadequate diets, weakened food systems and structural vulnerabilities.

6. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services have deteriorated significantly over the past decade. More than 30 per cent of Syrian households have limited access to improved water sources and over 22 per cent are not connected to sewerage networks.[16] An estimated 12 million people require WASH assistance,[17] with significant geographic variances. These gaps reflect infrastructure damage, underinvestment, weak institutional capacity, fragmented governance and limited data for planning and service management. Inadequate hand-washing facilities undermine hygiene practices, including menstrual hygiene management.

7. Despite pre-conflict progress towards near-universal primary education, 2.7 million children are out of school, and 1 million children in school are at risk of dropping out.[18] Returnee children face barriers to re-enrolment and learning, including overcrowded classrooms and curriculum and language gaps. Children with disabilities face significantly higher rates of exclusion. These disparities reflect persistent gaps in inclusive education capacity, including limited accessible learning environments and assistive devices, infrastructure,[19] limited teaching and learning resources, and education quality. Learning outcomes remain constrained by teacher shortages, inadequate resources, weaknesses in sector governance and data systems.

8. Violence against children and harmful practices are widespread, with 6.2 million children requiring child protection services.[20] Gender-based violence support needs increased to 8.6 million in 2026,[21] while child marriage and child labour remain significant concerns. More than 28 per cent of the population aged 2 years and older lives with some form of disability.[22] Children and persons with disabilities face multiple barriers to protection and inclusion, including physical access constraints.

[10] United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation: Global Databases, https://childmortality.org/all-cause-mortality/data?refArea=SYR, accessed on 30 October 2026.
[11] UNICEF Global Immunization Database, 2025. https://data.unicef.org/resources/dataset/immunization, accessed on 30 October 2026.
[12] OCHA, *Syria: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan*, 2026, p. 10.
[13] Ibid, p. 49.
[14] Pennsylvania State University and UNICEF, *Regional Nutrition Situation Analysis – Middle East and North Africa,* UNICEF, 2024, p. 106.
[15] UNICEF, *Feeding Profit. How food environments are failing children*, *Data Tables*, *Child Nutrition Report 2025*, New York, p. 18.
[16] OCHA, *Syria: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan*, 2026, p. 66.
[17] Ibid, p. 66.
[18] Ibid., pp. 45 and 11.
[19] Ibid., p. 11
[20] Ibid., p. 38.
[21] Ibid.
[22] United Nations Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme, *Disability in Syria: Investigation on the intersectional impacts of gender, age and a decade of conflict on persons with disabilities*, 2021, p. 4.

Explosive ordnance incidents resulted in 667 child casualties in 2025.[23] Mental health and psychosocial support remain a growing concern.

9. Around 67 per cent of the population lives below the $3.65 a day lower-middle-income poverty line[24] with persistent geographic disparities and multidimensional deprivations affecting children's rights to survival, development, learning and protection, particularly for displaced children, girls and children with disabilities. In 2026, an estimated 15.6 million people required humanitarian assistance, including 8.6 million targeted and 4.3 million prioritized for the humanitarian response.[25] Social protection, including Cash Plus assistance, remains fragmented, limited in coverage, without a unified social registry and reliant on external aid. Despite prioritized allocation to social sectors, weak budget execution limits the availability, quality and equitable delivery of essential services. Youth unemployment stood at 31.5 per cent in 2024, [26] reflecting limited pathways for meaningful social and economic participation and reinforcing exclusion, vulnerability and pressures on social cohesion.

10. The country remains highly vulnerable to overlapping climate and environmental shocks and natural hazards, including air pollution, earthquakes, floods, extreme heat and recurrent droughts. These hazards exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, deepening food insecurity, undermining livelihoods, reducing access to water and increasing risks to child nutrition and public health. They can also drive further displacement, with implications for social cohesion.

11. Programme evaluations and results monitoring noted the UNICEF comparative advantage in delivering critical services at scale in complex emergencies, while highlighting the need to strengthen links between humanitarian response, recovery and systems strengthening.[27] They also underscored the importance of integrated data, evidence generation and knowledge management for adaptive programming, decision-making and monitoring of child well-being.

Programme priorities and partnerships

12. The country programme will support government efforts to expand equitable access to high-quality services and opportunities for children, adolescents and women. It will advance child rights, national recovery and development, laying foundations for sustainable human capital, resilience and social cohesion amid transition, recovery and climate and environmental shocks. Its twin-track approach combines sustained humanitarian action with a progressive transition towards government-led, resilient and inclusive systems, while differentiating the pace and sequencing by sector and geography, guided by recovery benchmarks agreed between the Syrian Government and United Nations partners. UNICEF will continue essential humanitarian assistance to populations affected by shocks, displacement, socioeconomic vulnerabilities and returns of IDPs and refugees, while strengthening governance, policy, service delivery, coordination and local capacities. Community engagement and local ownership will help to sustain outcomes for children and families.

[23] United Nations, Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General, A/80/723-S/2026/357, New York, 16 June 2026, p. 24.
[24] World Bank, *Syria Macro-Fiscal Assessment*, Washington, D.C., June 2025, pp. vii and 6.
[25] OCHA, *Syria: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan,* p. 3.
[26] International Labour Organization (ILO), 'Syrian Arab Republic: The Employment, Environment, Climate Nexus Factsheet', 23 October 2025, p. 2.
[27] See, for example: UNICEF, *Formative evaluation of the explosive ordnance risk education programmes in the Syrian Arab Republic*, November 2024.

13. UNICEF will work through government, civil society organization (CSO), non-governmental and community-based structures while strengthening national and subnational ownership and institutional capacity. The delivery model will centre on:

(a) upstream system strengthening and localization;

(b) integrated, inclusive and participatory community approaches fostering social cohesion;

(c) area-based programming with other United Nations organizations;

(d) public finance for children (PF4C) and strategic partnerships;

(e) evidence and policy engagement;

(f) advocacy, youth engagement and strategic communications;

(g) adaptive, risk-informed programming.

14. UNICEF will apply a child-centred, equity-based, gender-responsive and climate-sensitive approach across the life cycle, with early childhood development as a cross-sectoral priority, guided by evidence on vulnerabilities and disparities among underserved groups, including girls, adolescents, children with disabilities, displaced populations and returnees. Social and behavioural change (SBC) approaches will address harmful gender and social norms, strengthen positive practices and support the prevention of and response to gender-based violence.

15. Guided by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and the Accountability to Affected Populations Framework, UNICEF will promote policy and legal reforms aligned with international human rights obligations as part of its support for national recovery.

16. The country programme is aligned with the national Statement of Recovery Priorities for International Cooperation [28] and its four pillars: restore critical infrastructure; resume delivery of basic services; build social and economic resilience; and support core systems and public administration. It also aligns with UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029 priorities, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) pillars and the evolving configuration of the UN80 Initiative, with an emphasis on coherence, integration and efficiency. The programme was informed by consultations with government counterparts, CSOs, other United Nations organizations and other development partners, and children, adolescents and young people.

17. The country programme is organized around five integrated programme pathways – health and nutrition; WASH; education; child protection; and economic and social policy.

Health and nutrition

18. The programme aims to improve equitable access to high-quality, equitable, resilient and people-centred PHC and nutrition services, particularly for children, adolescent girls, women, persons with disabilities and underserved populations. It will contribute primarily to UNSDCF outcomes 2 and 3 and support multisectoral national health and nutrition strategies, focusing on three priorities:

(a) strengthening multisectoral governance, financing and information systems;

[28] Syrian Arab Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, *Statement of Recovery Priorities for International Cooperation*, March 2026.

(b) improving PHC and food systems and equitable access to services;

(c) strengthening community-based systems, engagement, demand and accountability.

19. As part of the progressive transition towards sustainable, government-led PHC and nutrition systems, UNICEF will support a shift towards prevention-oriented multisectoral PHC and nutrition through implementation of the multisectoral national PHC road map, essential health services package and multisectoral nutrition strategy. Strengthened governance, planning, monitoring and sustainable financing will reinforce policies and standards on immunization, MNCH, breastfeeding, food standards and dietary guidelines. UNICEF will support government-led coordination across food systems and the health and nutrition-sensitive sectors to address child food poverty and nutrition insecurity. Advocacy for PF4C will promote increased domestic investment and more efficient resource allocation, while digital health and nutrition information systems will strengthen data, evidence and decision-making.

20. To sustain access to essential PHC and nutrition services, UNICEF will support equitable, quality and climate-resilient service delivery through PHC facility rehabilitation, including solarization, workforce development and integration of MNCH and nutrition services. Integrated packages of essential PHC interventions will include maternal and child nutrition, growth monitoring, infant and young child feeding, micronutrient supplementation, prevention, early detection and treatment of malnutrition, immunization, WASH, disease outbreak preparedness and response. UNICEF will strengthen supportive supervision, facility management and operational readiness, and improve procurement, supply and logistics for vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and nutrition commodities through better forecasting, digital systems, cold chain capacity and supply chain governance. Service delivery will progressively shift from NGO-supported and mobile modalities towards government-led facilities, as facility functionality, workforce capacity and service readiness improve.

21. UNICEF will support community-based PHC and nutrition services through behavioural insights, social listening and digital engagement and feedback mechanisms to identify and address barriers to service use. UNICEF will help to institutionalize the national community health worker (CHW) programme through standardized guidance, competency-based training, supportive supervision and enabling policies that integrate CHWs into the national health workforce. They will provide integrated counselling, referrals and follow-up, promote preventive and responsive care, and help to strengthen health and nutrition literacy, accountability and demand for quality services.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

22. The programme will seek to improve equitable access to inclusive and climate-resilient WASH services, particularly for children, persons with disabilities and populations affected by displacement and crisis. It will contribute primarily to UNSDCF outcome 1 through UNICEF work with the Ministry of Energy and other government authorities to strengthen resilient WASH systems, institutions and communities. Its priorities are:

(a) strengthening the enabling environment for sustainable and resilient WASH systems;

(b) expanding inclusive and climate-resilient service delivery;

(c) promoting community engagement, behaviour change and social accountability.

23. As part of the progressive transition towards sustainable, government-led and climate-resilient WASH systems, UNICEF support will help to strengthen WASH governance at the national and subnational levels, focusing on leadership for gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and climate-resilient sector-wide coordination and updated policy and regulatory frameworks. Support for integrated planning, budgeting, monitoring and information and data systems will improve evidence-based decision-making and accountability, reduce disaster risks and increase emergency preparedness.

24. To sustain access to essential WASH services, UNICEF will support the rehabilitation and restoration of WASH infrastructure and sanitation systems, prioritizing climate-resilient, energy-efficient and cost-effective solutions, including solar-powered systems. The programme will strengthen operation and maintenance systems, service provider capacity and sustainable financing and cost-recovery mechanisms to improve utility performance, including through targeted private sector engagement. Integrated service delivery will ensure continuity across humanitarian, early recovery and development contexts, with particular attention to safe, inclusive and disability-responsive WASH in schools and health facilities.

25. UNICEF will help to strengthen community engagement and social accountability by involving women, adolescents, youth and persons with disabilities in WASH planning, monitoring and decision-making. Social and behavioural change approaches will promote safe hygiene practices, menstrual health and hygiene and water conservation. Community platforms will facilitate dialogue among users, service providers and local authorities, reinforcing transparency, responsiveness, social cohesion and local ownership of monitoring and collective water management.

Education

26. The programme will seek to improve equitable access to high-quality, inclusive and digitally enabled education for vulnerable children, including girls, children with disabilities and children affected by poverty, climate-related shocks and displacement. It will contribute mainly to UNSDCF outcome 2 and support a resilient and equitable education system that enables children and adolescents to access safe learning and foundational, digital, transferable and workforce-relevant skills. Priorities are:

(a) strengthening education governance, data and financing;

(b) expanding access by rehabilitating and equipping schools as integrated learning and service platforms;

(c) strengthening community engagement, demand and social accountability.

27. As part of the progressive transition towards a sustainable, government-led education system, UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education to strengthen governance, planning, sector coordination and accountability at the national and subnational levels, with a primary focus on improving data systems through the Al Modeer Education Management Information System (EMIS). Strengthened EMIS capacity will enhance monitoring and evidence-informed decision-making for vulnerable children. Public finance for children approaches will promote equitable, gender-responsive and efficient education financing, alongside risk-informed planning, through humanitarian response and recovery, disaster risk reduction, school safety and emergency preparedness.

28. To sustain access to safe and high-quality learning opportunities, UNICEF will support the rehabilitation of schools into inclusive and safe learning platforms, with a clear focus on reaching out of school children. Damaged and non-functional schools will be rehabilitated with climate-resilient, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive

infrastructure. Quality learning will be strengthened through competency-based curricula, inclusive pedagogy and teacher development and assessments, with emphasis on foundational, remedial and accelerated learning for vulnerable children, including refugee and IDP returnees. Flexible pathways – such as non-formal and alternative learning and links to technical and vocational education – will support transitions from learning to earning and reduce dropout linked to poverty, child labour and child marriage.

29. UNICEF will help to strengthen community engagement and social accountability through meaningful participation of school management committees, parent-teacher associations, local authorities, youth and CSOs in education planning, monitoring and improvement. Girls' education, disability inclusion, regular attendance, positive learning norms and social cohesion, as well as the use of accessible complaint and response mechanisms to reinforce accountability, will be promoted through SBC approaches.

Child protection

30. The programme will seek to protect children and adolescents at risk of, or affected by violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and harmful practices through timely, high-quality protection services. It will contribute to UNSDCF outcomes 2 and 4 and support the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in implementing its Strategic Plan, 2026–2028. The programme will focus on three priorities:

(a) strengthening child protection systems;

(b) integrated service delivery;

(c) community-based prevention and engagement.

31. As part of the progressive transition towards sustainable, government-led child protection systems, and informed by a recent analysis of system maturity, UNICEF will support strengthening child protection data systems as a foundation for multisectoral coordination and accountability at the national and subnational levels. Evidence generation will focus on addressing the most urgent gaps in the legal framework, notably alternative care, statutory child protection and the development a national plan of action for children. Advocacy for PF4C will promote increased investment in child protection.

32. To sustain access to essential protection services, UNICEF will support the institutionalization of the social service workforce, alongside capacity development, as the foundation for quality, integrated protection services at scale. Priority will be given to interoperability across the protection system to strengthen case management, mental health and psychosocial support, and access to justice. Priority will be given to children at risk of violence and abuse, including gender-based violence, returnees, displaced children and children with disabilities.

33. Community-based prevention and protection approaches, including parenting support and strengthened community-based governance structures, will promote inclusion and demand for child protection services. Adolescents and communities will be engaged through SBC to promote positive social norms, strengthen prevention and preparedness in climate, displacement and emergency contexts, and support social change and cohesion. Digital engagement will extend outreach and stimulate demand for services, including strengthened delivery of explosive ordnance risk education through schools, communities, social services and integrated child protection platforms.

Economic and social policy

34. The programme will seek to improve equitable access to social protection, strengthen PF4C and expand pathways towards economic participation for adolescents and young people. It will contribute to UNSDCF outcomes 2, 3 and 4 and the national poverty agenda through three mutually reinforcing priorities:

(a) data, evidence and PF4C;

(b) inclusive and shock-responsive social protection systems;

(c) pathways for adolescent and youth livelihoods and local economic recovery.

35. As part of the progressive transition towards sustainable, government-led and child-sensitive social protection systems, UNICEF will strengthen national capacity to measure child poverty and generate disaggregated data, including for children affected by displacement, disability and gender inequality. Support will include social sector budget analysis, expenditure tracking and budget advocacy to improve equity, efficiency and execution of public spending and ensure children's priorities are reflected in sector budgets and recovery plans.

36. UNICEF will strengthen government capacity for targeting, delivery and system management. Support will reinforce inter-ministerial coordination with other United Nations organizations, development partners and international financial institutions to operationalize the national social protection framework, including targeting, social registry, payments, grievance mechanisms and referrals. UNICEF will support the Government to ensure interoperable systems and inclusive delivery mechanisms for children affected by poverty, displacement and disability.

37. UNICEF will support adolescents and young people as agents of recovery by strengthening pathways from learning to earning and by linking social protection with economic inclusion. Support will expand access to apprenticeships, entrepreneurship, savings and financial inclusion, prioritizing young women, returnees and young people with disabilities, thereby strengthening resilience, reducing reliance on assistance and contributing to social cohesion and sustainable recovery.

Programme effectiveness

38. Programme effectiveness will strengthen management functions to ensure quality results and optimal use of financial and human resources. UNICEF will coordinate cross-cutting support for planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; SBC; accountability to affected populations; communication and advocacy; resource mobilization and partnerships; and operational and administrative support.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Health and nutrition	1 428	61 789	63 217
Water, sanitation and hygiene	1 110	117 547	118 657
Education	1 628	122 225	123 853
Child protection	1 132	35 156	36 288
Economic and social policy	1 031	28 653	29 684
Programme effectiveness	2 123	38 630	40 753
Total	**8 452**	**404 000**	**412 452**

Programme and risk management

39. This CPD outlines UNICEF contributions to national recovery priorities and serves as the primary accountability framework to the Executive Board. The country programme will be coordinated, implemented and monitored within the UNSDCF, 2027–2030, under the coordination of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates. UNICEF will leverage its leadership to strengthen sector governance, coordination and evidence, enabling national and local leadership for preparedness and response, and supporting the transition towards nationally owned, people-centred and locally-led solutions.

40. The Syrian Arab Republic remains a high-risk operating environment, facing political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges. Although large-scale hostilities have decreased, the security situation remains volatile. Prolonged economic decline continues to exacerbate instability and humanitarian needs. The country remains a large and complex humanitarian, returns and recovery context, requiring sustained, predictable, flexible and multi-year financing to address the needs of children and vulnerable populations.

41. Reduced, delayed, earmarked or unpredictable funding could impact results and continuity of services. Programme implementation may be affected by insecurity and access constraints, large-scale population movements, economic volatility, sanctions-related restrictions and fiduciary risks. Other risks include public health emergencies, climate-related hazards and sexual exploitation and abuse, amid limited safeguarding mechanisms. UNICEF will manage these risks through risk-informed programming, due diligence, emergency preparedness, security risk management, adaptive delivery modalities, and programme and financial assurance.

42. Financial sustainability risks will be addressed through evidence- and results-based advocacy for increased, equitable and more efficient investment in children, strengthened partnership management and diversified financing and partnerships. This will include engagement with international financial institutions, non-traditional partners and the private sector, exploration of innovative and blended financing opportunities and strengthened PF4C. Implementation will be guided by UNICEF policies and mechanisms on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, child safeguarding, and environmental and social safeguarding, supported by United Nations coordination, third-party monitoring and accountability measures.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

43. UNICEF will monitor results through annual reviews and joint field and performance monitoring with the Government and partners, tracking progress against output-level results and addressing strategic, programmatic, operational and financial risks. The 2029 midterm review of the country programme will assess the UNICEF contribution to UNSDCF recovery and transition benchmarks and guide course correction.

44. UNICEF will support national statistical systems to improve the coverage and quality of disaggregated data by gender and disability, building on the 2026–2027 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) – the first in nearly two decades – to monitor the situation of children and progress towards outcome-level results and the Sustainable Development Goals. Complementary evidence, including real-time data and community feedback, will support programme adjustments.

45. Programme relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and impact will be assessed through the costed evaluation plan. Evaluations will reinforce national monitoring and evaluation systems and generate outcome-level and qualitative evidence on system change, service quality and community engagement to inform decision-making, advocacy and programme improvement.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Syrian Arab Republic – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, March 2027–December 2030

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 1–4, 6–10, 12–15, 17–20, 23–24, 26–29, 31–32, 34–37, 39–40

National priorities: Statement of Recovery Priorities for International Cooperation

Sustainable Development Goals: 1–6, 8, 10–13, 15–17

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF:
By 2030, people in Syria:
1. have restored accessible, sustainable, safe and climate-resilient water, sanitation, energy, and transportation systems with a focus on vulnerable communities;
2. especially vulnerable communities, access inclusive, quality, and resilient health, nutrition, education, social protection, civil documentation, and justice services, with strengthened protection outcomes and equitable impact coverage across locations and all population groups;
3. enjoy self-reliance, reduced vulnerability, improved food security and nutrition, decent income, housing, and economic opportunities in safer, more sustainable recovery conditions free from explosive ordnance, through strengthened systems and area-based economic and livelihoods recovery that revitalizes productive sectors and supports dignified returns;
4. benefit from effective, accountable, transparent, and digitally enabled public institutions and core systems capable of managing resilient recovery, reconstruction, and social cohesion in an equitable and evidence-informed manner, strengthening trust through inclusive participation of all Syrians including vulnerable groups, upholding the rule of law, and grounded in a human rights-based approach.

Related Impact Results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029: 1–5

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
						RR	*OR*	*Total*
2 and 3	1. By 2030, children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, quality, resilient health and	Percentage of children under 5 years of age with symptoms of acute respiratory infection for whom advice or treatment was sought from a health facility or provider B: To be confirmed (TBC)[a]	MICS; Study on causes of under-5 mortality [Ministry of Health (MOH)/UNICEF	1.1. National health authorities have strengthened governance, policy, planning, resource allocation and digital systems to support equitable, quality and	MOH and other relevant ministries, United Nations organizations, international and national CSOs, private sector, academia	1 428	61 789	63 217

[a] To be established through the 2026–2027 MICS by the second quarter (Q2) of 2027.

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
						RR	*OR*	*Total*
	nutrition services that fully integrate strengthened food systems, gender-responsive nurturing care and health-seeking behaviours.	T: TBC[b]		resilient PHC service delivery. 1.2 Health facilities and the health workforce have improved capacities and systems to deliver integrated, quality, resilient and inclusive PHC services. 1.3 Government has strengthened governance, policies, strategies, frameworks, guidelines and coordination mechanisms to prevent and treat all forms of malnutrition. 1.4 Health and nutrition systems and service providers have improved capacities to deliver equitable, quality nutrition services, diets and supplies for the prevention and treatment of all forms of malnutrition, including in humanitarian contexts. 1.5 Community-based PHC systems and accountability				
		Percentage of children receiving at least three doses of DTP3 vaccine B (2025): 60% T: 85%	District Health Information System; MICS; partners' reports					
		Percentage of infants aged 0–5 months exclusively fed with breastmilk B (2025): 45% T: ≥60%	Household surveys (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) nutrition surveys; MICS)					
		Percentage of children aged 6–23 months receiving the minimum number of food groups B (2025): 45% T: 60%	SMART surveys; MICS					

[b] To be determined following establishment of the baseline from the 2026–2027 MICS by Q2 2027.

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
						RR	*OR*	*Total*
		Prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children under 5 years of age* B (2025): 5.5% T: ≤3%	SMART surveys; MICS	mechanisms, and the capacities of communities and caregivers, are strengthened to promote equitable access to and use of PHC services and responsive caregiving for early childhood nutrition and stimulation.				
1	2. By 2030, children, adolescents and their families benefit from improved and equitable access to safe, climate-resilient WASH services, supported by stronger institutions and empowered communities.	Percentage of population using safely managed drinking water services* B (2026): 70% T: 90%	WASH Information Management System (IMS), MICS	2.1 Government institutions have strengthened gender-responsive policies, institutional capacities and multisectoral coordination mechanisms for sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient WASH service delivery. 2.2. WASH service providers have strengthened capacities and systems to deliver and maintain safely managed and climate-resilient water and sanitation services. 2.3 Communities have strengthened capacities	Ministry of Energy and other relevant ministries, United Nations organizations, international and national CSOs, private sector, academia	1 110	117 547	118 657
		Percentage of population using safely managed sanitation services* B (2026): 50%[c] T: 70%	WASH IMS, MICS					
		Number of children highly exposed to climate hazards in countries implementing child-sensitive climate policies and programmes B (2026): 3.6 million	WASH IMS, MICS					

[c] The baseline is based on WASH IMS (Ministry of Energy) data that measure sewage safe disposal or treatment, irrespective of household sewerage network connectivity.

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
						RR	*OR*	*Total*
		T: 2 million		for engagement, social accountability and social cohesion in support of climate-resilient WASH services and climate action.				
2	3. By 2030, children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, have increased and equitable access to, participation in and completion of safe, inclusive and quality education and skills development, and demonstrate improved foundational, digital and transferable skills for lifelong learning, active citizenship and gender equality.	Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning B (2025): 4.4 million T: 5.4 million	EMIS; Ministry of Education (MOE) school statistics; partners' reports UNICEF education sector reports; school-based assessments; programme monitoring	3.1 Education institutions and authorities have strengthened capacities and systems for inclusive, resilient and evidence-based education planning, management, financing and service delivery. 3.2 Education providers have strengthened capacities to provide safe, inclusive, climate-resilient and digitally enabled learning environments and pathways. 3.3 Schools, education authorities and stakeholders have strengthened mechanisms for meaningful participation of children, adolescents and communities in school governance, feedback and social accountability.	MOE and other relevant ministries; United Nations organizations, international and national CSOs, private sector, academia	1 628	122 225	123 853
		Percentage of supported learners (children and adolescents) demonstrating improved foundational, digital and transferable skills, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and learning pathway. B: Not available (N/A)[d] T: 40%	Learning assessments; teacher/classroom observation tools; Learning Passport analytics; post-training assessments; programme monitoring					

[d] To be established through the 2026–2027 MICS by Q2 2027.

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
						RR	*OR*	*Total*
2 and 4	4. By 2030, children and adolescents at risk of or affected by violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and harmful practices have improved access to and benefit from quality, integrated and disability-inclusive child protection systems and services.	Maturity of the national child protection system[e] B (2025): System enhancement[f] T: System integration[g]	Programme monitoring tools and annual reviews, child protection system assessment	4.1 Government institutions have strengthened child protection governance, legislation, policies, coordination, workforce, financing and accountability mechanisms for an integrated, inclusive and government-led child protection system. 4.2 Child protection service providers and coordination actors have strengthened capacities to deliver quality, integrated and disability-inclusive prevention and response services and referral pathways. 4.3 Communities, families, children and adolescents have strengthened capacities and mechanisms to promote positive social norms, practices and protective behaviours.	Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSAL) and other relevant ministries, United Nations organizations, international and national CSOs, private sector, academia	1 132	35 156	36 288
		Percentage of vulnerable children accessing quality child protection services in accordance with national standards B (2025): 60% T: 85%	Child protection IMS Partners' reports					

[e] The CPD indicator contributes to the measurement of indicator 4.1.7 of the Integrated Results and Resources Framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029. The indicator is taken from the UNICEF Global Monitoring Framework, which rates national child protection system maturity across defined subdomains on a four-level scale: Level 1, system building; Level 2, system enhancement; Level 3, system integration; Level 4, system maturity. The baseline was assessed jointly in 2025–2026 by UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, and progress will be measured using the same tool.

[f] Definition of "system enhancement": Greater attention to child protection concerns leads to system-level analysis, yet despite completed mapping and assessments, interventions remain issue-based and fragmented.

[g] Definition of "system integration": The national child protection system and its key elements are defined in policies/plans, including its boundaries and links with allied systems (e.g., health, justice, education and social protection). Responses to specific issues are designed system-wide.

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
						RR	*OR*	*Total*
2–4	5. By 2030, children, adolescents, young people and vulnerable households benefit from more inclusive and shock-responsive social protection and improved access to economic opportunities, and public institutions enhance the adequacy, equity and child-sensitivity of public financing.	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems* B (2023): 11% T: 35% Proportion of young people aged 15–24 years not in education, employment or training* B: N/A[h] T: N/A	Unified Social Registry, National Social Protection Management Information Systems, national voluntary review report, and joint United Nations organizations programming reports	5.1 Government institutions and data stakeholders have strengthened capacities and systems to generate, analyse and use high-quality, disaggregated data for child-sensitive policy, planning, budgeting and programme design. 5.2 Government institutions and social protection actors have strengthened capacities and systems to develop and implement inclusive, child-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection, including policy frameworks, financing approaches, delivery mechanisms and linkages to essential services and economic opportunities. 5.3 Government institutions and national partners have strengthened institutional mechanisms and partnerships for linking young people to social protection, livelihoods, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion opportunities.	MOSAL, Ministries of Finance, Sports and Youth and other relevant ministries, United Nations organizations, international and national CSOs, private sector, academia	1 031	28 653	29 684

[h] Baseline and target to be determined after the release of the results of the 2026 survey carried out by the Syrian Planning and Statistics Commission, with the support of ILO, by Q1 2027.

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
						RR	*OR*	*Total*
1–4	6. The country programme is efficiently and effectively coordinated and managed to achieve results for children.	Percentage of management and programme indicators on track B (2025): 90% T:100%	InSight (performance management system)	Programme coordination Planning, data, monitoring and evaluation Communication, advocacy and partnership Cross-sectoral operations and administrative support	International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Planning and Statistics Commission	2 123	38 630	40 753
Total resources						**8 452**	**404 000**	**412 452**

[*] Outcome indicator aligned with UNSDCF indicator.