Middle East and North Africa

DJIBOUTI • IRAQI REFUGEES IN EGYPT, JORDAN, LEBANON AND THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC • OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY • SUDAN • YEMEN
Middle East and North Africa

CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN CRISIS

The Middle East and North Africa region has long been marked by political instability, human rights crises and protracted humanitarian emergencies. During 2011, the region witnessed a series of historical transformations – popularized as the ‘Arab Spring’ – ignited by a multitude of root causes, including wide-ranging social inequities and perceptions of inadequate governance. This was aggravated by corruption and constrained political representation, and by record levels of unemployment, soaring food and fuel prices, severe water scarcity and a volatile political and security context.

Tunisia provided the flash point in December 2010–January 2011 with an unprecedented wave of socio-political change that spread to Egypt, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Egypt and Tunisia experienced refugee crises along their borders following the forced displacement of 930,000 civilians in Libya.\(^1\) Children throughout the region were exposed either directly or indirectly to scenes of violence.

In the wake of similarly widespread popular contestation, political deadlock and escalating violence in Yemen have contributed to a further deterioration in humanitarian conditions in-country. The disintegration of basic services, regional drought, alarming rates of undernutrition and a lack of state authority to address these challenges are compounding issues for an already weakened population. Yemen remains at risk of slipping into a full-blown subregional humanitarian crisis should the current political crisis remain unresolved.

While not directly impacted by the ‘Arab Spring’, the situation for children in the Sudan remains of extreme concern. In July 2011, South Sudan seceded from the Sudan, relatively peacefully. In the final months of 2011, however, protracted crises in the Sudan continued to severely impact children’s rights to life and access to essential services, while significantly hampering humanitarian access and UNICEF outreach for children in need in Abyei, the Blue Nile, Darfur and South Kordofan. More specifically, the ‘border states’ of Abyei, the Blue Nile and South Kordofan have been characterized by forced displacement of civilians and severe interruptions to the delivery of humanitarian aid. Meanwhile, severe malnutrition grew increasingly worse in the Sudan: acute malnutrition levels, at 16.4 percent, are above the internationally accepted emergency threshold of 15 per cent, with 5.3 per cent of these children suffering from severe acute malnutrition.\(^2\)

Throughout the region, large numbers of internally displaced people (estimated in the millions) continue to be highly vulnerable and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, due to protracted conflicts, combined with natural hazards, climate change, rapidly expanding urbanization, and fast water-table resource depletion. Drought and famine continue to threaten lives across the Horn of Africa, causing high levels of undernutrition and food insecurity in Djibouti.

The impact of the ongoing global financial crisis combined with protracted emergencies in Djibouti, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Sudan and Yemen, and the extremely fragile situations of Lebanon, Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic require sustained and consistent humanitarian funding in order to meet the critical needs of women and children in 2012.

MEETING URGENT NEEDS IN 2012

UNICEF plans to strengthen disaster risk reduction and crisis preparedness in the Middle East and North Africa by helping country offices with technical assistance and resource mobilization. The regional office will continue to provide surge capacity, leadership and oversight to support UNICEF efforts in countries in crisis, in line with inter-agency cluster coordination mechanisms to meet UNICEF’s commitments as cluster lead in the areas of WASH, nutrition, education and child protection.

- National and regional disaster preparedness systems/infrastructure will be supported with the creation of a regional training hub/centre on emergency preparedness and response. The centre will aim to provide capacity building specifically for government partners at senior levels and other humanitarian stakeholders with emergency preparedness and response training programmes and risk reduction policy development.
- The regional office will continue its efforts towards strengthening and expanding disaster reduction initiatives in support of national ministry partners throughout the region, with a specific focus on the education and WASH sector.
- The regional office will initiate phase 2 of the establishment of a subregional supply procurement capacity by pre-positioning life-saving supplies for some 50,000 people in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Syrian Arab Republic.

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UNICEF had received US$700,394 (28 per cent) of the requested US$2,540,000 as of end October 2011 for its humanitarian work in the region. An additional US$10,351,965 was received in response to the Libya flash appeal requesting US$20,540,000.

The regional office dispatched emergency and technical staff to Djibouti, Egypt, Libya, the Sudan and Tunisia. The protracted crisis in Libya required the most attention, with oversight and management of finances, surge capacity and programmatic support.

The regional office provided leadership to country offices, technical guidance through contingency planning, simulation exercises and strategic reflection leading up to and during the secession of South Sudan from the Sudan.

In Yemen, field mission support and strategic guidance was provided from the beginning of the Saada crisis and during the persistent political impasse.

The establishment of a sub-regional supply procurement capacity progressed significantly, with long-term agreements with suppliers in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic to facilitate quick emergency response within the region.

In response to the Horn of Africa nutrition crisis, emergency advisors worked alongside the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office and the UNICEF Djibouti team to strengthen communication and the health and nutrition response.

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN NEEDS FOR 2012 (in US dollars)

- **250,000** Disaster risk reduction
- **350,000** Risk mitigation
- **500,000** National capacity development
- **500,000** Surge, technical leadership and cluster management
- **$1,600,000** TOTAL

**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012**

UNICEF requests US$1,600,000 to continue its work pre-empting risks to women and children in the region. It is important to note that UNICEF, together with the wider UN system, is facing great challenges in the Middle East and North Africa with the multitude of protracted and new humanitarian crises occurring at a time of declining financial resources. Therefore, full funding is critical.

More information on humanitarian action planned in 2012 can be found at www.unicef.org/hac2012.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Djibouti

CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN CRISIS

Some 120,000 people living in the northwest, central and south-eastern parts of Djibouti are in dire need of humanitarian assistance, largely due to five consecutive years of drought and six consecutive years of rainfall deficit. The 2011 July–September Karan/Karma rains have been below average in intensity and spatial distribution, and ineffective in regenerating pastures and water points. This situation, coupled with the rise of staple food prices, has drastically deteriorated the coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable women and children. Additionally, Djibouti City faces a critical shortage of water. The country’s children and women are vulnerable to food insecurity and extreme undernutrition. There is also an influx of refugees from Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, with an estimated 500 refugees arriving every month.¹ There are currently about 17,000 refugees in camps, many among them children, women and elderly often arriving in poor health and nutritional status.² In Djibouti, 210,000 people – including 120,000 people in rural areas, 60,000 people in urban areas and 30,000 refugees – are in need of assistance.³

MEETING URGENT NEEDS IN 2012

UNICEF provides leadership for the nutrition and WASH clusters in Djibouti. UNICEF will continue to work with the Government of Djibouti, other UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and partners in 2012 to respond to the needs of 180,000 people affected by drought and other hardships, especially women and children, out of which 7,500 women, 37,500 girls and 43,500 boys have already been identified as needing immediate assistance. Given current trends, the numbers of women and children needing assistance during the course of the next 12 months are likely to increase.

- Nutrition interventions will target community management of undernutrition in 40 communities and 30 health centres, promote infant and young child feeding practices, provide blanket supplementary feeding and address micronutrient deficiencies. Other activities will assist prevention of malnutrition and transition towards development.
- The health and nutrition surveillance system will be strengthened through the timely collection of comprehensive data for situation monitoring and early warning systems. More than 100,000 children under 5 (at least 95 per cent) will receive high-impact interventions, including polio vaccines, deworming tablets and vitamin A supplementation. An estimated 26,000 pregnant women and children under 5 will receive insecticide-treated mosquito nets for malaria prevention in 16 localities of Djibouti’s peri-urban areas and regions.
- An estimated 120,000 people will have access to drinking water through water trucking as well as construction and/or rehabilitation of water points. Hygiene promotion campaigns will educate 80,000 people on improved hygiene behaviours.
- Both basic primary and early childhood development education will be provided for the 3,000 Ethiopian, Somali and Yemen refugee children in the Ali Addeh and Holl Holl refugee camps. UNICEF will support 20 public early child centres to benefit 600 vulnerable children 3 to 5 years old.
- An estimated 700 orphans and vulnerable children will receive care, support and protection through the provision of social services, including conditional cash transfers and vocational training. Establishment of a youth drop-in centre will provide services to an additional 500 children.
- About 42,000 adolescents will be able to better protect themselves from HIV by increased access to essential information provided through community mobilization, capacity building and communication for development.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012

UNICEF is requesting US$8,390,000 for its 2012 humanitarian work in Djibouti, in order to respond to the increasing needs of the population affected by persistent drought, food insecurity and conflicts in neighbouring countries. Without funding for the key activities described above, the shortfall of food, water and safe housing will continue to threaten the welfare of Djibouti’s children and women. This amount is aligned with the 2012 Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) requirements.

More information on humanitarian action planned for 2012 can be found at www.unicef.org/hac2012 and the country office website at www.unicef.org/djibouti.

Iraqi refugees in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic

CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN CRISIS

With a persistent atmosphere of conflict, violence and political discord inside Iraq, more than 1.5 million Iraqis continue to seek refuge in surrounding countries, most notably Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. According to UNHCR, the Syrian Arab Republic received the largest number of Iraqi refugees (estimated at 1 million by the Government) with approximately 113,000 people, including 45,000 children. There are an estimated 34,000 Iraqi refugees in Jordan; 9,300 in Lebanon; and 7,500 in Egypt. The return of people to their homes is impeded by continuing fears and insecurity, while economic deterioration, a by-product of the current regional instability, presents major financial and social challenges for refugee families in their countries of asylum.

MEETING URGENT NEEDS IN 2012

UNICEF will continue to work with the Governments of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as UNHCR, other UN agencies and NGOs to address the needs of vulnerable Iraqi refugees by providing the following interventions:

- In the Syrian Arab Republic, more than 10,000 refugees will receive primary health and nutrition care services; 25,000 Iraqi children will be enrolled in preschool and primary and secondary schools; and 1,000 vulnerable refugees and Syrians from hosting communities will receive vocational training focusing on refugee minors, youth and school dropouts. Another 11,000 Iraqi and vulnerable Syrian children and 600 families will benefit from community-based psychosocial and protection services, and 7,500 Iraqis and Syrian adolescents will benefit from improved adolescent spaces and activities.

- In Jordan, UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education in accommodating Iraqi children in public schools. At the community level, greater emphasis will be placed in providing educational and psychosocial assistance to the most vulnerable groups of Iraqis, including drop-out and out-of-school children, pre-primary school-age children, and children with disabilities. More than 9,000 Iraqi and Jordanian children and their parents will receive assistance through community-based education interventions. Some 3,800 children and their parents and NGO professionals will benefit from psychosocial interventions. UNICEF will continue to co-lead the education sector working group with Save the Children to ensure effective coordination.

- In Lebanon, UNICEF will promote the protective environment within schools and communities for Iraqi refugee children and families. Psychosocial interventions will be provided to 300 Iraqi refugee children and their families. Communities will benefit from outreach activities of 200 service providers in child protection mechanisms. UNICEF will enhance the capacity of 150 teachers and administrators from the Ministry of Education, 50 social development centres and 200 parents to improve the integration of Iraqi refugees in the national school system. In addition, 200 Iraqi children and youth who are dropouts will be supported through vocational training, life-skills activities, recreational activities and assistance for reintegration into the formal educational system. In close coordination with UNHCR, identified cases of at-risk children will be monitored, and advocacy for the integration of Iraqi refugee concerns into the national agenda continued.

- In Egypt, UNICEF will improve access to psychosocial counselling for 1,500 Iraqi children. Capacity building for 25 psychosocial workers will be supported in collaboration with the Psychosocial Training Institute. UNICEF will increase the capacity of 13 primary health centres to operate as healthy baby clinics, and conduct health awareness and screening among Iraqi mothers and 3,000 children.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012

UNICEF is requesting a total of US$11,404,000 for its work assisting vulnerable Iraqi women and children in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, who require sustained assistance to assure basic living standards and fundamental protection.

More information on humanitarian action planned for 2012 can be found at www.unicef.org/hac2012.


UNICEF HUMANITARIAN NEEDS FOR 2012 (in US dollars)

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<th>Health</th>
<th>Cluster coordination</th>
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CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN CRISIS

The protracted conflict and Israeli military occupation continue to take a toll on the children and women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, resulting in the death of 15 children and the injury of 351 children between January and October 2011.1 Demolitions of homes, schools and healthcare centres continue to cause disruption in services basic to human rights, such as education and health care. Heightened regional tension during the ‘Arab Spring’, coupled with internal political reconciliation and statehood application have brought about further strain. The Israeli blockade on Gaza has entered its sixth year, with continued serious humanitarian consequences for 1.6 million people, of which more than 50 per cent are under age 18.2 Limited access to goods, services and human resources presents a daily challenge for citizens as well as the humanitarian aid community.

MEETING URGENT NEEDS IN 2012

UNICEF leads the WASH cluster, the child protection working group and the Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory working group on grave violations against children, and co-leads the education cluster in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. UNICEF also contributes to the health, food security and nutrition clusters. Together with the Government of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, other UN agencies and NGOs, UNICEF will provide an effective emergency response to reach 1.8 million children and women (including more than 803,000 children, 240,000 women and 68,000 caregivers) through well-informed, collective and coordinated interventions.

- About 280,000 children and 120,000 women will benefit from mobile clinics, provision of essential drugs and medical commodities. At least 210,000 children and 110,000 women will receive nutritional support through micronutrient supplementation and promotion of exclusive breastfeeding through post-natal home visits. They will benefit from the implementation of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative3 in five hospitals (two in the West Bank and three in Gaza).
- Access to safe water and sanitation will be provided to approximately 20,000 children and 10,000 women through water tanks, rehabilitated sanitation facilities and installation of water and sewage pipes.
- As many as 4,800 children will have safe access to education and 12,600 adolescents will benefit from alternate learning opportunities, while nearly 1,500 parents and school staff will have improved capacity to work with adolescents in emergencies.
- Protection and psychosocial support will be provided to about 157,000 children. An estimated 61,000 caregivers will be trained in protection and coping skills, and some 4,000 professionals and volunteers will be mobilized in child protection networks, family centres and child safe spaces.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012

UNICEF requests US$15,436,000 for its humanitarian work in 2012. UNICEF has aligned the request with the 2012 Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) requirements. Without the funding, children and women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory will not have basic needs met in terms of clean water, quality education, protection, health and nutrition.

More information on humanitarian action planned for 2012 can be found at www.unicef.org/hac2012 and the country office website at www.unicef.org/op.t.

Republic of Sudan

CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN CRISIS

The Republic of Sudan experienced an outbreak of armed conflict in the border areas in 2011, as well as a lack of humanitarian access in the wake of the Republic of South Sudan’s secession in July. Violence and insecurity, particularly in Abyei, the Blue Nile and South Kordofan, severely affected or displaced more than an estimated 440,000 people1 – most of them women and children – and is but one example of the urgent need for intervention. In the three Darfur states where 1.9 million people remain displaced in camps,2 inadequate humanitarian access due to insecurity, weak physical infrastructure and the sharp decline in funding levels has been a significant challenge.

The nutrition situation in Sudan is characterized by chronically high levels of acute malnutrition, a trend confirmed by the Sudan Household Survey 2010, which showed a prevalence of global acute malnutrition of 16.4 per cent and severe acute malnutrition of 5.3 per cent,3 both well above international thresholds for an emergency situation. This translates to more than 300,000 children in Sudan with life-threatening severe wasting at any given time. Meanwhile, diminishing harvests caused by drought and below-average rainfall, as well as the steady increase in food prices throughout the past five years, rising inflation and increased cost of living have exacerbated the existing socio-economic context and is likely to have further negative effects on children and women, particularly in conflict zones.

MEETING URGENT NEEDS IN 2012

In 2012, UNICEF will aim to meet the urgent needs of more than 7 million at-risk children and women in conflict-affected regions, particularly in Darfur and the Three Transitional Areas,4 as well as in East Sudan.

- At least 150,000 severely malnourished children will receive ready-to-use therapeutic food.
- Sustained access to essential health services for high-impact preventive and curative interventions, to reduce common childhood illnesses including diarrhoea, malaria, acute respiratory infections and vaccine-preventable diseases, will reach nearly 7 million pregnant women and children under 5.
- Sustained access to WASH services will be provided to at least 4 million people, including 800,000 children.
- Protective services, for 3 million people, including 500,000 women and 2.4 million children, will be improved by providing reintegration and psychosocial support, capacity building, coordination, mine-risk education and supplies.
- More than 400,000 children in the most disadvantaged and difficult-to-reach communities in Darfur, East Sudan and the Three Transitional Areas will have improved access to quality education.
- More than 2 million children, adolescents and women will have access to information on prevention, care and treatment of HIV and AIDS.
- UNICEF will focus on communication and advocacy to facilitate improved mobilization and community readiness in response to emergencies.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012

UNICEF is requesting US$98,083,000 to continue its humanitarian work in Sudan. UNICEF has aligned this request with the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) requirements. With the continued disruptions of livelihoods in Darfur, the intensification of localized conflicts and ongoing challenges of HIV, undernutrition, disease outbreaks and food insecurity, funding and support from donors and partners will enable UNICEF to reach more than 7 million children and women throughout Sudan with critical life-saving support.

More information on humanitarian action planned for 2012 can be found at www.unicef.org/hac2012 and the country office website at www.unicef.org/sudan.

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4. The Three Transitional Areas, which include Abyei, Blue Nile State and Southern Kordofan State, were afforded special status under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.
Yemen

CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN CRISIS

The civil unrest that began in February 2011 exacerbated pre-existing political and tribal tensions, heightening levels of violence in the main cities and towns of Yemen. This added new sources of instability to an already volatile and impoverished country that has very high levels of undernutrition among children and, increasingly, among pregnant women. The total number of displaced people in the northern, southern and central governorates reached 420,000 people, of whom about 80,000 are children under 5 and another 80,000 are pregnant or breastfeeding women in the emergency sites alone.1 A lack of safe water resulted in increased outbreaks of waterborne diseases, such as cholera and acute watery diarrhoea.

The unrest led to disrupted education and return to school has been hindered for more than 280,000 children, as their schools are inaccessible, occupied by armies or hosting internally displaced persons.2 The recruitment of children by anti- and pro-government militia in the north and by both government formal forces3 and other armed groups in other parts of the country is increasingly a concern. The unrest has also impacted the psychosocial well-being of children and has increased child labour, child trafficking, and the likelihood of forced early marriage for girls as an economic coping mechanism.4

Security, political instability and conflict are major constraints to programme implementation that are partially being overcome through remote programming, strengthening local capacity and expanding partnerships with NGOs.

MEETING URGENT NEEDS IN 2012

UNICEF will provide leadership and coordinate the education, nutrition and WASH clusters and the child protection sub-cluster, as well as participate actively in the health cluster to achieve the following results:

- UNICEF will assist community- and facility- level screening, management and treatment of some 105,000 severe acute malnutrition cases, and will provide micronutrient supplements to 1.1 million pregnant or breastfeeding women and children under 5. The availability of supplies such as ready-to-use therapeutic foods, related medicines and micronutrients, in addition to anthropometric equipment, will be provided in all governorates, targeting two health facilities per district.
- Pre-emptive vaccination campaigns and comprehensive outreach services for 1.3 million children under 5 and 325,000 pregnant or breastfeeding women will be provided.
- UNICEF will provide, through formal and non-formal education, an environment conducive to learning for 700,000 of the 1 million children at risk of education disruption.
- More than 240,000 vulnerable and affected people, half of whom are children, in north, central and south Yemen will be assisted with WASH services, including water supply through trucking, household water treatment/storage, repair of water systems and sanitation promotion through safe excreta disposal and solid waste management, while providing hygiene education and supplies.
- Approximately 400,000 conflict-affected and vulnerable children will be provided protection assistance from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. UNICEF will also continue to report on grave child rights violations through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012

In line with the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) requirements, UNICEF is seeking US$49,807,000 to procure essential supplies and implement proposed interventions across all governorates in Yemen. Funding shortfalls will seriously compromise the protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and recruitment by armed groups. In addition, some 53,000 children will be at serious risk of undernutrition, and the lack of water and sanitation will increase death and illness.

More information on humanitarian action planned for 2012 can be found at www.unicef.org/hac2012 and the country office website at www.unicef.org/yemen.