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Syria

SITUATION UPDATE

The crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic has escalated significantly in 2012 and is currently in its 17th month. As the violence has increased, the humanitarian situation inside Syria has worsened. The UN now estimates that 2.5 million people are in need of assistance including an estimated 1.2 million¹ internally displaced people – half of whom are children – and a consistent and increasing outflow of refugees to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Children are paying the heaviest price of this crisis. The Independent Commission of Inquiry for Syria has reported that children have borne the brunt of sustained violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, torture, arbitrary detention, as well as maiming and killing. Health facilities have been attacked, and more than 2,000 schools have been affected – many damaged, looted or destroyed – while around 800 schools are currently hosting IDPs. Those who have pursued safety in surrounding countries bear the scars of physical violence as well as its psychological repercussions.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

UNICEF continues to deliver key humanitarian assistance in Syria despite volatile and insecure conditions. During the recent August escalation of violence in Damascus, staff delivered vital humanitarian assistance to more than 25,000 children and their families through child-friendly spaces (CFS), as well as 40 schools, mosques and public buildings in 12 separate neighbourhoods.

Although there are no formal clusters activated in Syria, UNICEF is working alongside UN partners to lead in its traditional sectors. The organization is co-chairing with key partners and working groups in child protection, education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and working in collaboration with international and national NGOs, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the Palestinian Red Crescent. A cadre of over 40 community-based organisations and neighbourhood support groups – traditional partners of UNICEF for regular programmes – have also been enlisted and trained to support programmes in areas that have been the most affected by the violence, including Aleppo, Damascus, Deraa and surrounding rural areas.

In Health and Nutrition, UNICEF is working with partners to maintain routine and supplementary immunization; to date, over 280,000 children have been vaccinated, and UNICEF provided the national immunization programme with much-needed logistical support and cold chain equipment. Additionally, 19,400 baby food kits and 9,400 first aid kits have been delivered by UNICEF to families across different neighbourhoods in the most severely-affected areas. UNICEF is also collaborating with approximately 30 local partners to ensure mothers have access to safe delivery, neonatal care and first aid services.

In WASH, UNICEF has distributed soap and other essential hygiene items to 106,000 people through 17,800 family hygiene kits and 10,500 baby hygiene kits to displaced people in Damascus, Rif Damascus and the other governorates. In July, UNICEF established a WASH coordination mechanism and has been engaging with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and international NGO partners on the WASH response. UNICEF partners have provided sufficient water for drinking and domestic purposes to about 6,000 IDPs in 10 collective centres. Four UNICEF international NGO partners are currently assessing the most urgent needs in water and sanitation. Programmatic interventions by UNICEF and partners will start as soon as the security situation allows. In addition, UNICEF has distributed a variety of non-food items including children's clothes, blankets, school and recreation kits to thousands of beneficiaries who have been affected by the unrest.

In Child Protection, nearly 27,000 children in rural Damascus, Daraa and Lattakia have been reached through a combination of key partners and public services. One hundred UNICEF-supported after school activities (remedial courses, recreational and psychosocial support activities) have been opened in the most affected areas of Damascus. A further 33 national master trainers from NGOs and local communities were trained in Psychological First Aid (PFA) with follow up trainings for more than 145 front line workers, community volunteers, women, civil society and charity organizations. Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) have been established in Homs, Aleppo and rural Damascus through local partners to provide PFA to children and families in several affected areas. Eight mobile CFS have been opened in rural Damascus, Homs and Aleppo to ensure access to PFA and recreational activities for around 200 children.

According to the Syrian Ministry of Education (MoE), more than 2,000 schools in Syria have been damaged, looted, destroyed or otherwise affected; while a further 450 schools are currently hosting IDP families. With the new school term scheduled to start on 16 September, thousands of children will potentially be denied access to education. UNICEF is currently working with partners to mitigate and ensure that children do not lose another school year. Throughout the crisis and in collaboration with key partners, UNICEF is currently supporting 92 school clubs providing remedial classes and recreational activities to 17,700 children in rural Damascus, Deraa, Lattakia and Tartous.

	UNICEF target (people to be reached by 31 Dec. 2012)	UNICEF total progress (people reached by 30 August)
HEALTH		
Children <5 receiving measles vaccination	1,400,000	284,684
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE		
Emergency affected population provided with access to soap and functional hand-washing facilities	230,000	106,888*
CHILD PROTECTION		
Children with safe access to community spaces for socializing, play, learning	60,000**	27,000
EDUCATION		
School-aged children in affected areas in schools/learning programmes	52,500**	17,716
Children with access to psychosocial support in education programmes	52,500**	17,716

* Covers only the distribution of 17,800 kits. ** To be revised upwards in September.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE IN 2012

With an estimated 2.5 million² people (almost half of whom are children) currently affected by the violence and insecurity in Syria, UNICEF is scaling up its humanitarian response. UNICEF will achieve this with programme staff in Syria, supported by staff from the Middle East and North Africa Regional Office based in Amman. UNICEF will work with UN partners and NGOs under the auspices of the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (SHRP) to:

- Provide 187,500 children and adolescent with psycho-social support within CFS and through strengthened community support groups
- Ensure that 1,653,000 children in the most affected communities have access to basic health and nutrition care
- 230,000 individuals have access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene for children in schools and IDPs' collective shelter in the most affected areas
- 160,000 children are helped to resume education and schools are maintained as friendly environments for children
- 300,000 individuals are provided with supplies for children and family non- food and shelter items
- Enhance the safety and security of humanitarian assistance
- Reinforce coordination at sector level and across the sub region

UNICEF Funding Requirements from 31 August 2012 – 31 December 2012

UNICEF's humanitarian response to the crisis in Syria is critically underfunded. In order to meet the increasing humanitarian needs of the estimated 2.5 million people who have been affected³ including 1 million children affected by the violence and insecurity in Syria, UNICEF requires US \$44 million (with a funding gap of \$34.7 million). These requirements are aligned with the needs stated in the revised Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (September 2012).

Sector	Original 2012 HAC requirements	Revised HAC requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap
Health and Nutrition	n/a	4,750,000	1,067,391	3,682,609
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	n/a	8,500,000	2,803,858	5,696,142
Child Protection	n/a	7,750,000	1,430,394	6,319,606
Education	n/a	10,000,000	1,098,424	8,901,576
Non-food items & shelter	n/a	10,500,000	260,480	10,239,520
Cluster/Sector coordination	n/a	1,400,000	0	1,400,000
Staff Security	n/a	1,190,000	0	1,190,000
Total	n/a	44,090,000	9,399,647	34,690,353

* Figures reflect funds received as of 31 August 2012 against the SHRP. Including \$2,739,100 funds received and currently being allocated against programmes. Pledges are not included. All income figures are provisional.

¹ See OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin for Syria, Issue 6 (4-17 August 2012).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.