

## UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

# IRAQ

## VULNERABLE IRAQIS IN JORDAN, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, LEBANON AND EGYPT IN 2009



Core Country Data	
Child population (thousands)	14782
U5 mortality rate	41
Infant mortality rate	34
Maternal mortality ratio (1980–1999)	193
Primary school enrolment ratio	83
Primary school enrolment ratio for girls	79
% U1 fully immunized (DPT)	55
% population using improved drinking-water sources	79
HIV/AIDS prevalence (thousands)	0.2
% U5 suffering moderate and severe malnutrition	8

Source: Iraq Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006.

Following decades of hardship and repression and five years of violent conflict, the futures of millions of Iraqi children continue to be at risk. Vulnerabilities, deprivation and serious human rights abuses are widespread. Violence remains a leading cause of death. It is estimated that at least 60 per cent of Iraqi children do not have access to one or more essential social services. Despite improvements in security in 2008, protracted effects of conflict continue to have a devastating impact inside and outside Iraq. In 2009, UNICEF will assure that up to 1,120,000, of Iraq's most vulnerable children and women have access to essential social and protective services. UNICEF will also strive to assist Iraqis who have left the country and are now living in the neighbouring Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Egypt.

### Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009\*

Country	Iraq	Jordan	Syrian Arab Republic	Lebanon	Egypt
<b>Sector</b>	<b>US\$</b>				
Health and Nutrition	8,138,000	–	3,750,000	438,700	250,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	10,680,000	–	–	–	–
Education	5,008,000	9,278,562	8,000,000	650,000	200,000
Child Protection	5,634,000	4,000,000	5,650,000	–	–
<b>Total**</b>	<b>29,460,000</b>	<b>13,278,562</b>	<b>17,400,000</b>	<b>1,088,700</b>	<b>450,000</b>

\* Funds received against this appeal will be used to respond to both the immediate and medium-term needs of children and women as outlined above. If UNICEF should receive funds in excess of the medium-term funding requirements for this emergency, UNICEF will use those funds to support other underfunded emergencies.

\*\* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

## 1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Over five years of conflict have placed Iraq's children at enormous risk. The life of every Iraqi child has been defined by hardship and violence, with the current war compounding deterioration of existing infrastructure and services. While improvements in security in 2008 have been welcome, this alone does not lead to better living conditions for children. In fact, the greater access now possible for humanitarian actors has revealed pockets of acute vulnerability that were previously hidden. Large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees remain unwilling or unable to return home in addition to the many millions more who had no option but remain in communities where access to life's essentials – food, water, health, shelter and protection – became increasingly precarious.

Based on the most reliable data available, the situation for children in Iraq looks dire. It is estimated that up to 8 per cent of children have lost a parent over the past five years of conflict. One out of 10 was forced to leave his/her home due to threat of violence and persecution and is unable to return. Immunization coverage has reduced to less than 60 per cent nationally, with some neglected pockets having less than 20 per cent coverage. Although figures are currently being confirmed, it is likely that over 1 million primary school-aged children are not attending school. At home, over 60 per cent of children do not have regular access to safe drinking water and some 80 per cent of households do not have functioning sewage. And a serious and growing concern is the increasing number of reports of gender-based violence from across the country, as well as the ongoing recruitment of children by extremist groups.

The situation is not easier for Iraqis who have fled the country. Refugees in Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Egypt continue to be exposed to limited access to services, lack legal protection and are particularly affected by the deterioration of the economic situation. While the Syrian Arab Republic hosts the largest population of Iraqis outside the country and the number of the officially registered with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is low, the total number of Iraqis currently residing in neighbouring countries remains unconfirmed and varies from 161,000 to 500,000 in Jordan, from 800,000 to 1.5 million in the Syrian Arab Republic, from 20,000 to 50,000 in Lebanon and from 100,000 to 150,000 in Egypt, living mostly in the urban areas.

Iraqis in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic are showing signs of distress and struggle to access basic services. The national health and education sectors are not able to cope with the increased number of Iraqi children and families in need of support. Iraqi children and their families are in dire need of protective social networks.

Iraqi refugees living in Lebanon and Egypt are also exposed to economic difficulties and access to basic services. Some of the Iraqis in Lebanon and Egypt came with resources and have succeeded in opening businesses and obtaining residency but many have fallen into an illegal status and fear having to return to Iraq.

## 2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008 (IRAQ, JORDAN AND SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC)

Despite enormous challenges on the ground in Iraq, UNICEF maintains a strong capacity to respond to emergencies affecting children and women nationwide. UNICEF's emergency action in 2008 enjoyed a massive increase in humanitarian resources and capacity compared to the previous year, engaging a range of key international NGO partners made possible through successful fundraising efforts against the 2008 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) (the first Iraqi CAP since 2003), including Mercy Corps, International Medical Corps (IMC), INTERSOS and Relief International. This action was complemented by the ongoing delivery of a substantial national programme boosting Iraq's capacity to deliver health, education and water, sanitation and hygiene services. UNICEF Iraq partners with the Government of Iraq and its various line ministries, and has well-established formal agreements for humanitarian action with NGO partners totalling over US\$ 24 million, targeting up to 720,000 people over a 12-month period. These external partnerships are supported by a network of over 100 national staff and facilitators based in every governorate of the country. Through these efforts, UNICEF continued to deliver humanitarian assistance in 2008, reaching over 600,000 people in Iraq affected by mass casualty attacks, disease outbreaks, military action, natural disaster, or simply severe deprivation due to the effects of years of hardship and conflict.

Since 2007, UNICEF has been working to ensure that the most pressing needs and vulnerabilities of Iraqi women and children in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic are being addressed. In this regard UNICEF has been particularly active in the field of education, and in the areas of protection and health where the agency has a comparative advantage. UNICEF in Jordan has formed key partnerships with a number of leading international NGOs to support the integration of vulnerable children into appropriate forms of education. Some 10,000 vulnerable children and youth of all nationalities have been helped to date. In

particular a strategic partnership with Save Children Federation is contributing to ensure that not only are children helped to get into school but that whilst in school they receive a quality education and remain there.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF has been focusing on reinforcing the capacity of social services infrastructures and systems (health, education and child protection) with specific emphasis on children, adolescents and women in order to accommodate the increasing pressure and ensure further sustainability. This has been undertaken in partnership and in coordination with the Ministries of Education, Health and Culture as well as with national and international NGOs and sister UN agencies.

In Egypt, UNICEF in coordination with other UN agencies and national NGOs has been focusing on meeting the health and psychosocial needs of Iraqi refugees. Seventy-five per cent of the total 10,000 Iraqi refugees received subsidized health care provided by UNICEF Iraq's implementing partners. In education, 100 per cent of the total 2,600 targeted Iraqi refugee school-aged children enrolled in the Egyptian formal education system.

### **3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009 (IRAQ, JORDAN, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, LEBANON AND EGYPT)**

#### **Coordination and Partnership**

UNICEF Iraq has reinforced its humanitarian programming through an integrated operational framework designed to reach a greater number of affected Iraqi families with a needs-based and holistic assistance package. This mechanism links into existing coordination structures, namely the Sector Outcome Teams (SOTs) and the Humanitarian Working Group (HWG). UNICEF has been actively encouraging the creation of field-based coordination structures to further strengthen joint programming efforts. UNICEF is the SOT leader for education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and deputy SOT leader for health and protection. UNICEF is working in close collaboration with partners to implement emergency activities in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. UNICEF coordinates education and has an important role in child protection, with particular focus on psychosocial support in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

#### **Linkages of HAR with the Regular Programme**

UNICEF Iraq is completing the second year of its current Country Programme of Cooperation 2007–2010. The programme addresses the rights of the child through activities in early childhood development, primary education, maternal and child health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and legal and social protection of the child throughout the country. UNICEF's emergency activities in Iraq, Jordan and Syrian Arab Republic are integrated into the programme structure with oversight by Emergency Coordinators in the three countries.

In 2009, UNICEF will ensure that the most pressing needs and vulnerabilities of Iraqi women and children in Iraq, Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Egypt are being addressed. In this regard, UNICEF has been particularly active in the field of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child protection. UNICEF-supported programmes are expected to reach at least 1,120,000 people in Iraq, around 400,000 in the Syrian Arab Republic, 12,000 in Jordan, 4,000 in Lebanon and 12,000 in Egypt in 2009.

## **IRAQ**

### **Health and Nutrition (US\$ 8,138,000)**

For 2009, the overall goal is to address the primary health and nutrition needs of 180,000 children and their families in the most vulnerable communities in every governorate through the following key activities:

- Support the vaccination of 180,000 children against measles (including vitamin A supplementation);
- Support the vaccination of 75,000 women against maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT);
- Provide emergency medical supplies to deal with mass casualty attacks and disease outbreaks;
- Provide therapeutic and supplementary feeding and facilitate nutritional surveillance activities;

- Support capacity-building of Ministry of Health/Directorate of Health and NGO staff to increase outreach services;
- Support health education campaigns reaching 360,000 people in affected areas.

### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (US\$ 10,680,000)**

For 2009, the overall goal is to increase access to safe and reliable water and sanitation services for 760,000 children and their families in the most vulnerable communities through the following key activities:

- Provide safe drinking water to 360,000 people through water tankering, distribution of water purification materials at household and community levels, and/or repair/extend existing water supply networks;
- Provide hygiene supplies (soap, sanitary napkins, hygiene kits) and increase water storage;
- Undertake awareness campaign on key hygiene messages focusing on waterborne diseases;
- Repair/clean existing sewage lines/networks;
- Facilitate garbage collection and disposal at community level;
- Engage in capacity-building with local authorities and NGO partners to increase sustainability of emergency preparedness and response;
- Curtail spread of cholera among 400,000 most vulnerable rural population in Babil Governorate;
- Provide WASH SOT leadership.

### **Education (US\$ 5,008,000)**

For 2009, the overall goal is to increase access to quality learning for 150,000 children in the most vulnerable communities in every governorate, focusing on the following key activities:

- Provide emergency learning spaces/light rehabilitation of existing facilities benefiting 150,000 children;
- Support 200 schools through supply of basic materials and furniture;
- Support the reintegration of students and teachers, with a focus on reinforcing psychosocial assistance;
- Improve water and sanitation facilities in 200 schools and undertake hygiene awareness campaigns, benefiting 150,000 children;
- Support 1,000 out-of-school children through the accelerated learning programme (ALP);
- Increase early childhood development (ECD) activities in acutely vulnerable communities;
- Increase support for supplementary learning at home;
- Increase capacity-building activities for emergency education for counterparts and partners;
- Provide education SOT leadership.

### **Child Protection and Mine-Risk Education (US\$ 5,634,000)**

For 2009, the overall goal is to improve prevention and response strategies and services for 29,800 children and young people affected by violence through the following key activities:

- Conduct rapid assessment and analysis of the effects of violence on children and young people;
- Provide life skills education to 24,000 children and young people to avoid risky situations and train family members, teachers and social workers in protection from violence, including gender-based violence (GBV);
- Produce a directory of services that can be used for the referral of victims of violence, including GBV;
- Initiate community-based psychosocial care activities in youth- and child-friendly centres;
- Develop community protection teams for monitoring, reporting and responding to violence against children and young people in the homes and in the community;
- Provide immediate medical care, legal aid, psychosocial support and protection services to victims of violence, including survivors of GBV (100 per cent of identified cases);
- Create and train specific teams at national and governorate levels for monitoring, reporting and responding to grave child rights' violations;
- Establish a database for systematic documentation of reports on child rights' violations.

## **JORDAN**

### ***Education (US\$ 9,278,562)***

For 2009, the overall goal is to address the basic education needs of 12,000 vulnerable children through formal, informal and remedial activities, such as:

- Support the double shifting of 20 schools and support the costs of renting buildings, giving 12,000 children access to school;
- Engage in continued advocacy to increase the number of Iraqi children in school;
- Provide individual support to 12,000 children (school uniforms, stationery and books);
- Create opportunities for alternative forms of education;
- Support informal education activities, such as life skills, international computer driving licenses, and recreational activities;
- Provide education SOT leadership.

### ***Child Protection (US\$ 4,000,000)***

In 2009, the overall goal is to build upon the base of the 2008 psychosocial work and expand upon it, targeting a total of 3,000 children by training Jordanian professionals (social workers) in the Ministry of Social Development.

## **SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

### ***Health, Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (US\$ 3,750,000)***

For 2009, the overall goal is to improve access to and quality of primary health services for 400,000 Iraqis and improve the provision/access to safe drinking water for 470,000 people in areas of high refugees' concentration, through the following activities:

- Increase immunization coverage among Iraqi refugee children under age five and women;
- Monitor the nutritional status of Iraqi refugee children in Syrian Arab Republic;
- Promote hygiene practices among 75,000 targeted Iraqi refugee children in schools;
- Raise awareness on health and nutrition issues to promote proper home care and increase the utilization of primary health-care services;
- Improve the availability and quality of adolescent primary health-care services in high-risk areas, with emphasis on girls;
- Drill, equip and connect to the network 10 new boreholes, benefiting 75,000 people.

### ***Education (US\$ 8,000,000)***

For 2009, the overall goal is to help the education system cope with the large number of Iraqi children and adolescents in Syrian schools and increase the school enrolment of Iraqi children from 49,000 to 75,000, through the following key activities:

- Rehabilitate/supply education infrastructures (30 kindergartens and 145 new schools);
- Enhance the quality of education in schools (145 new schools and continuation in 323 schools);
- Provide remedial classes to 6,800 Iraqi and Syrian children and adolescents;
- Provide non-formal education, including registered, out-of-school children and children/adolescents with special needs;
- Provide education SOT leadership.

### ***Child Protection (US\$ 5,650,000)***

For 2009, the overall goal is to increase protection and psychosocial support activities from 14,000 to 26,000 children, from 600 to 3,250 mothers, from 400 to 6,000 adolescents, as well as mental treatment activities from 2,000 to 4,500 beneficiaries, through the following key activities:

- Maintain existing child protection and psychosocial services structures: five child-friendly spaces, two adolescent-friendly spaces and three psychosocial support (PSS) and child protection multidisciplinary units;

- Develop new child protection and psychosocial service structures: ten child-friendly spaces, two adolescent-friendly spaces and two multidisciplinary units;
- Improve equal access to and provision of quality social services for 1,250 Iraqi children and adolescents;
- Expand collection, analysis and dissemination of UNICEF partners/inter-agency data and assessments on vulnerable Iraqi children, mothers and adolescents.

## LEBANON

### *Health (US\$ 438,700)*

For 2009, the overall goal is to provide community outreach health services for 4,000 Iraqi children and mothers through the following key activities:

- Vaccinate vulnerable children under age five (80 per cent of Iraqi children under age five);
- Undertake awareness campaigns for 500 women of childbearing age on the importance of mother and child health, including immunization, childhood diseases, infant feeding and nutrition in general, water, sanitation and hygiene, smoking etc.;
- Train community health workers;
- Provide maternal, neonatal and child health services as per the Safe Motherhood Initiative;
- Develop information, education and communication (IEC) materials on health life skills, infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices and maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH);
- Enhance capacity of health-care workers and NGOs on health life skills, IYCF practices and sexually transmitted infections/HIV counselling and management.

### *Education and Child Protection (US\$ 650,000)*

For 2009, and in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the overall goal is to develop integrated programmes focusing on the worst forms of child labour, pulling together experiences in the areas of vocational training, education and empowerment for 2,000 Iraqis and vulnerable Lebanese hosting communities.

## EGYPT

### *Health and Nutrition (US\$ 250,000)*

For 2009, the overall goal is to ensure that 12,000 Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers access decentralized subsidized comprehensive health care, through the following key activities:

- Support a network of health-care providers in the targeted locations;
- Provide psychosocial support (PSS) to affected Iraqi refugee children and mothers;
- Create social awareness about the importance of immunization, family care and breastfeeding;
- Support 'well-baby clinics' to provide expanded services, including antenatal and postnatal care, as well as rehabilitation of malnourished children;
- Provide primary health-care outreach programme for home-based support to 200 households with children under age five.

### *Education (US\$ 200,000)*

For 2009, the overall goal is to support the enrolment/retention in school of 4,000 children through the following activities:

- Train school managers and teachers in counselling and dealing with children in emergency situations, to enhance their capacity to meet children's educational and psychosocial needs;
- Provide institutional capacity-building to implementing NGOs aiming at establishing evening/make-up classes for children in their schools, in addition to providing learning materials.