



unicef 
for every child

UNICEF IN IRAQ

FOR EVERY CHILD

Annual Report 2022



UNICEF IN IRAQ

FOR EVERY CHILD

Annual Report 2022



TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
HIGHLIGHTS 2022.....	6
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND WAY FORWARD.....	8
STRATEGIC VISION.....	9
EVERY CHILD SURVIVES AND THRIVES.....	10
EVERY CHILD LEARNS.....	13
EVERY CHILD IS PROTECTED FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION.....	16
EVERY CHILD LIVES IN A CLEAN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT.....	19
EVERY CHILD HAS AN EQUITABLE CHANCE IN LIFE.....	22
STRENGTHENING HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT...	24
YOUNG PEOPLE	26
GENDER	28
PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS	30
ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION	31
PARTNERSHIPS	32
DATA AND EVIDENCE	34
OPERATIONS	35
ENDNOTES	36
CAPTIONS AND CREDITS	37

ACRONYMS

CLAC	Climate Landscape Analysis for Children
DTP	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECE	Early Childhood Education
EMIS	Education Management Information System
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
LSCE	Life Skills and Citizenship Education
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MIS	Management Information System
PHC	Primary Health Care
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

FOREWORD

SHEEMA SEN GUPTA

UNICEF Country Representative

In 2022, UNICEF has been a crucial partner for Iraq, as the country increasingly shifts its focus from humanitarian response to longer-term development. As the largest UN agency safeguarding the rights of children, we continued to work across sectors, bringing our expertise and our hearts to safeguard the wellbeing and rights of girls and boys.

Our vast experience across the development cycle, from emergency and post-conflict settings to development and middle-income settings, helped us reach almost 2 million children with improved access and quality of learning, provide almost 1.5 million people access to safely managed water and achieve 90 per cent coverage of measles and DTP immunization, the highest in two decades.

The winding down of the longstanding cluster system for humanitarian assistance to Iraq opened a space in which, going forward, government will lead on preparing for and coordinating response to Iraqis in need. UNICEF and UNHCR worked with partners to guarantee the right to learn to all refugee children in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) through the implementation of the Refugee Education Integration Policy.

We are proud of the groundwork we have done, such as the child rights legislation drafted and awaiting approval in Federal Iraq and KRI, to build systems and institutional structures that will support an effective, equitable response to the needs of girls and boys, and their families.

We have covered the whole life-cycle of a child. From birth, through the introduction of ECD screening and counselling services to mother and child, to young adulthood, supporting over 120,000 vulnerable young people, 55,000 of them girls, who are most affected by harmful social norms, to identify issues and lead community initiatives, advocacy and education interventions. In addition, we have supported



almost 91,000 girls and women with risk mitigation, prevention and response for gender-based violence (GBV).

We have also increased our advocacy on key issues for children in Iraq. As climate change becomes a global concern, we generated evidence through the Climate Landscape Analysis for Children and Young People, measuring the impact of climate change. At the same time, poverty continues to be a scourge threatening children in Iraq, and the preparation of the Child-adjusted Multidimensional Poverty Index will help to build a stronger social protection system for the most vulnerable children.

We work within a constellation of partners and donors who share our values and commitment to children, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable. The results in this report are rooted in their commitment to Iraq's future. My colleagues at UNICEF Iraq and I extend to them our heartfelt thanks for their support and wholehearted belief in our shared vision for children.

Now, as we look to the future, UNICEF also issues a call to action: it is time for partners in Iraq to come together and invest in children's future, a future where they can fully realize their rights to education, health, protection, clean water and environment and to a life of wellbeing and opportunity.



90%

**coverage of
measles and DTP
immunization**

achieved in 2022,
the highest in two
decades.



1.9

million children

benefitted from improved
access and quality of
learning through UNICEF
support.



ECD screening and
counselling services were
introduced in **30 PHC
centres**, accelerating
ECD coverage and quality
at primary healthcare
facilities.



**Legislations
protecting child
rights**

were drafted
and are now awaiting
approval in both
Federal Iraq and KRI.



All refugee children in
the Kurdistan Region of
Iraq (KRI) were guaranteed
the right to learn with
the implementation of
the Refugee Education
Integration Policy.



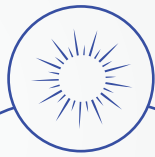
576,000

**people (220,000 girls,
127,000 women)**

received at least one
UNICEF-supported
child protection
or GBV service.

HIGHLIGHTS

2022 UNICEF Iraq



The Climate Landscape Analysis

for Children and Young People provided evidence of the impacts on climate change on children and young people.



1.49

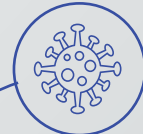
million people

gained access to safely managed water and 437,000 to safely managed sanitation.



A Child-adjusted Multidimensional Poverty Index

was finalized, providing data on the deprivations experienced by Iraq's most vulnerable children.



86%

of Iraq's population

learned to protect themselves against COVID-19 through digital, media and in-person communication.



nearly
122,000

vulnerable young people
(55,690 girls) from 10

governorates applied their learning from life-skills and citizenship education (LSCE) to identify issues and lead community, advocacy and education initiatives.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND WAY FORWARD

Iraq experienced a time of transition in 2022, amidst a complex global environment. A changing funding landscape and a need to move from a humanitarian response toward building coordination structures designed for long-term sustainable development, meant that UNICEF invested heavily in supporting national and sub-national governments to strengthen policies, systems, institutions, and capacities to guide services for children.

UNICEF supported the Government of Iraq's digital transformation in the health, education, child protection and social protection sectors, to enable effective planning, monitoring and equitable coverage and access to services.

Climate change issues came to the fore in 2021. UNICEF amplified the voices of

young people and adolescents who are most vulnerable to their impacts, and conducted a climate change landscape analysis which looked at how the rights of all children are impacted. UNICEF also worked with health, education and child protection sectors to renew focus on early childhood development and create pathways to integrated services that benefit the whole child.

UNICEF is committed to supporting the Government of Iraq in accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and fulfilling our rights-based, gender-transformative agenda for children and young people, especially the most vulnerable.

STRATEGIC VISION

Digital Transformation

Going digital is essential to generate and analyse quality data for modern, efficient health, education and social services for children. UNICEF's technical expertise and strategic presence on the ground is key to developing management information systems (MIS), linking databases and providing services to the most marginalized children and young people.

Climate Change

Climate change has dramatic impacts on children and young people, and its effects are growing exponentially. UNICEF amplifies the voices of the young people and children who are at its frontlines, which is key to placing climate change at the centre of discussions.

Gender

UNICEF aims to achieve truly gender-transformative results by convening partners for a shared vision; engaging with adolescents, especially girls, on gender equality and citizenship; and changing social norms by engaging parents, community leaders and men as active partners.

Triple Nexus

As Iraq transitions from a humanitarian context towards peace and development, UNICEF is supporting systems to address the remaining needs of vulnerable people affected by protracted conflict and building resilience of people, communities and systems, while scaling down humanitarian programmes.

Data and Evidence

Evidence-based policy is more effective, efficient and equitable. UNICEF's expertise in building evaluation capacity, support for digitalization and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey planned in 2023 will generate evidence on progress towards the SDGs, inform national programming and budgeting, and guide UNICEF work for children.



EVERY CHILD SURVIVES & THRIVES

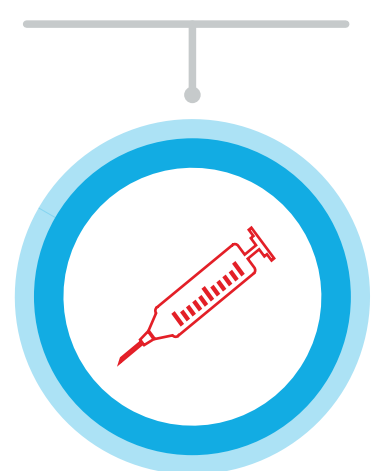
25 of every 1,000 children born in Iraq die before their fifth birthday.¹ This rate is about a third higher in the poorest families relative to the richest



1 child in 3 is **breastfed** within an hour of birth²



Over 1 in 5 children don't receive DTP immunization³



Key issues

Hospitals institutionalized quality care for mothers and children through training health care workers to resuscitate newborns, provide kangaroo mother care (the practice of providing continuous skin-to-skin contact between mother and baby), support exclusive breastfeeding, and early discharge from hospital; and counsel mothers on appropriate infant and young child feeding.

The introduction of perinatal death records across all governorates is generating evidence to improve practices and reduce the incidence of newborn death.

In pursuit of Iraq's new early childhood development (ECD) strategy, children will now be screened and provided with timely health services at primary healthcare (PHC) facilities or through referral. Through ECD screening, over 6,000 children were diagnosed with and treated for malnutrition.

UNICEF procurement of vitamin A and multi-micronutrient supplements targeted 5.5 million children for vitamin A supplementation and protected 10,000 against micronutrient deficiencies. Two million caregivers were counselled on the best nutrition for their children.

About 134,000 "zero-dose" children who had not previously been vaccinated received essential childhood vaccinations.

By integrating emergency COVID-19 vaccination with routine immunization of children through outreach, UNICEF brought safe, high-quality lifesaving vaccines to eligible recipients. The 3iS (Intensifying Integrated Immunization) campaign, initiated in February 2022, and a multi-antigen campaign late in 2022 saw rates of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP) and measles vaccination increase to 90 per cent: the highest in two decades.

In 2022, UNICEF advanced its strategic shift towards the digital transformation of health systems, preparing to roll out DHIS2, a system for aggregating and managing health data, geo-mapping and link digital birth registration with health facilities to track the health needs of individual children.

Within governorates, UNICEF training supported better planning and monitoring of public finance allocations for health which will ensure limited resources are used effectively for the most vulnerable children. UNICEF assessed domestic capacity to manage medical gases, leading to revised oxygen therapy guidelines for sick newborns, and how solar

Key Results



Measles and DTP immunization achieved **90 per cent** coverage in 2022: the highest in two decades.

The institutionalization of perinatal death recording in **52 central hospitals** helped enhance understanding of how and why babies die.



Eight kangaroo mother care units were established, providing better care for small and preterm babies.

ECD screening and counselling services were introduced in 30 PHC centres, accelerating ECD coverage and quality at primary healthcare facilities.



5.5 million children were targeted for protection against the lifelong impacts of Vitamin A deficiency through UNICEF procured supplies.

power could contribute to greener PHC facilities and vaccination cold chain.

Research studies completed in collaboration with national counterparts on COVID-19 vaccine coverage, cost of PHC in Iraq and maternal and newborn care in the private sector, provided evidence for improved care.

Looking ahead, UNICEF will continue to provide humanitarian support as feasible while accelerating the transition to development programming, create local capacity on the digital transformation to track children's needs, build cross-sectoral links for ECD, and ensure sustainable, greener services and national ownership of children's health and wellbeing.

●○FOCUS

Early Childhood Development

The development of the national cross-sectoral ECD Strategy (2022–2030) created a pathway towards health, learning and appropriate care for all Iraqi children at a crucial time of life. It includes ECD screening which will build public trust in PHC, and development of an integrated package of care that will particularly benefit vulnerable children.

Standardized records for children covering a package of services were rolled out in 30 PHC centres. Over 20,000 children under five were screened for risk factors and developmental delays, and offered services or referrals, with over 6,000 children treated for malnutrition. Community-based early childhood education models were endorsed in Federal Iraq, following UNICEF pilots.

VOICES●○

from the field

Loreen's daughter Roz was born only 28 weeks into her pregnancy. The young mother feared that her daughter would not survive. "I was worried that I would lose her. I cried a lot," says Loreen. Having just fled the war in Syria, she lost all hope.

Roz was admitted to the kangaroo mother care unit in Sulaymaniyah Hospital. Here, she was helped to adapt to life outside the womb through skin-to-skin contact with her parents. Today, Roz is a happy six-month-old." This place was like a miracle to me," says Loreen, "It completely changed my life. Little by little, my daughter's health improved."





EVERY CHILD LEARNS

28% of girls and 15% of boys of lower secondary school age are out of school⁴



9 out of 10 children don't receive early childhood education⁵



11 million children missed 25 weeks of face-to-face learning during COVID-19⁶



46% of children don't complete lower secondary school⁷



Key issues

In 2022, the national vision for education was consolidated through a draft education strategy supported by UNICEF and its partners, with a commitment aligned to this strategy, endorsed by the prime minister at the Transforming Education Summit at the UN Headquarters. This will guide national efforts to ensure all children in Iraq have the opportunity to access a quality education.

UNICEF enhanced cross-sectoral approaches to education, such as life skills and citizenship education (LSCE) that empowered children and young people, and improved hygiene and sanitation facilities that created safer environments in schools.

The digital transformation created ways to reach children otherwise excluded from learning, through tools like e-pedagogy and training programmes for teachers who were unfamiliar with the use of digital tools. Nearly 6,000 teachers also learned to provide LSCE, mental health and psychosocial support and address violence against children and young people.

Four governorates developed education sector plans and four more updated their plans to

guide education services and planning for children and address climate change impacts. The Education Management Information System (EMIS) was expanded to provide reliable data on 2,570 schools with over 5,000 teachers trained on data entry. This provides the accurate, granular education data needed to reach all children with quality learning.

Communities participated in managing 1,331 schools to improve quality of learning, with many receiving block grants to implement improvement plans like renovated classrooms and facilities for students with disabilities.

While many families would like to ensure their children get early childhood education (ECE), few Iraqi children can access it. UNICEF trialled cost-effective ECE models for children to learn in communities – a model now also adopted in Federal Iraq through officially issued guidelines.

UNICEF brought more than 28,000 children excluded from learning, back into education, including children who were out of school, in humanitarian situations, suffered learning loss, or girls at risk of not transitioning to secondary school. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), the Refugee Education Integration Policy integrated

Key Results



Iraq made an **international commitment** to education during the Transforming Education Summit in September 2022 at UN Headquarters

1.9 million children

benefited from improved access and quality of learning through UNICEF support.



357,072 children in humanitarian situations benefited from interventions to keep learning.



Government approvals were obtained for innovative ECE models which have **14,235 children** already learning.



2,570 schools began collecting EMIS data, many with equipment provided by community-led school management committees.



All refugee children in KRI were guaranteed the right to learn with the implementation of the Refugee Education Integration Policy.

refugee children into the public education system, while the Back2Learning campaign encouraged children to return to school in two Federal Iraq governorates.

Looking ahead, UNICEF will build on progress in 2022 to strengthen systems and build

capacity, accelerate the digital transformation to support government to reach all children, establish creative approaches to ECE provision, expand Back2Learning campaigns to all governorates, and build national capacity to manage education in emergencies.

●○ FOCUS

Digital tools for learning

The e-pedagogy initiative, developed by UNICEF and UNESCO with the Ministry of Education, empowered 4,000 teachers (1,938 women) to support children remotely during crises and maintain continuity of learning.

Even when face-to-face learning is not possible, due to disease outbreaks, insecurity or living in remote locations, teachers learned how to teach remotely through interactive online teaching and learning methodologies designed for the online world.

Since many teachers lack strong computer skills, UNICEF and Directorates of Education developed additional ICT training to familiarize them with the tools they would need to teach

The Ministry of Education in Federal Iraq has agreed to continue the Edu Kids-2 satellite channel which kept children in grades 1–6 learning during pandemic school closures with UNICEF support.

VOICES ●○

from the field

As a member of the school-based management committee at Nahari School, Erbil, Shekwan Ghafoor implements plans to make the school a place where children thrive.

Since the committee was established, the school has been transformed. The classrooms are clean and new, and bathrooms are accessible for students with disabilities. There is a playground now, where students play football and volleyball.

“My children’s mental health changed,” says Shekwan. “They come to school and spend a long time. This time should be special for them.”

His daughters’ delight in learning is his reward. “We love school, and we love education!” says nine-year-old Shane.



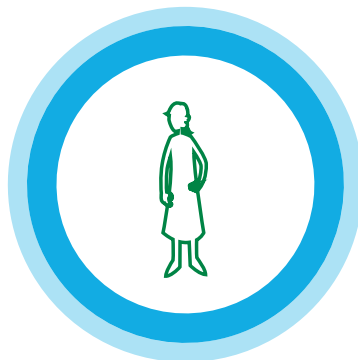


EVERY CHILD IS PROTECTED FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

81% of children
under 14 are exposed
to violent discipline⁸



7% of children and
adolescents aged 5–17 years
are engaged in child labour⁹



around **200** grave
violations against
children recorded in 2022¹⁰



Key issues

With UNICEF support, children, young people and women in humanitarian and non-humanitarian contexts accessed routine and specialized child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services.

The institutionalization of such services advanced in Federal Iraq and KRI, including the presentation of child protection legislation and the establishment or approval of child protection units which will register, track and provide essential services to children in need of child protection. In addition, MISs for GBV and child protection created a means to track cases and fill data gaps.

A new labour monitoring system created the capacity to apply newly validated child labour standards.

UNICEF completed a Justice for Children system mapping in KRI to better understand how children come into contact with the law and what happens next. The findings informed the guidelines on child-friendly courts and a framework to divert children from detention. A module on juvenile justice added to the police academy curriculum made frontline workers aware of alternatives to detention for children.

A total of 5,381 children and adolescents (645 girls) received child-friendly justice services, and 6,146 (3,086 girls) gained proof of identity through civil registration. Services for children returning from north-east Syria enabled 2,245 children and adolescents and 137 women to reintegrate and rebuild peaceful lives.

About 36,334 men, women, boys and girls learned to protect themselves against explosive ordnance. As funding declined, UNICEF explored new approaches to providing lifesaving information through trained teachers and peer educators.

Looking ahead, UNICEF will continue to strengthen the triple nexus approach, which bridges development, humanitarian and peace activities by building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities. Social and behaviour change will empower communities to take charge of child protection and GBV prevention. With the humanitarian cluster system deactivated at the end of the year, UNICEF will build domestic capacity to coordinate services for the most vulnerable children and young people, and to advocate for those affected by armed conflict and those released from detention.

Key Results



Legislations protecting children's rights

were drafted and are now awaiting approval in both Federal Iraq and KRI.

576,000 people (220,000 girls, 127,000 women) received at least one UNICEF-supported child protection or GBV service.



A child-friendly court guidelines and diversion

framework were developed.

1,505 children (173 girls) received unconditional release, completed their sentences or were released during pre-trial detention.



36,334 people (3,815 women; 11,787 girls) learned to protect themselves against explosive ordnance.

FOCUS

Finding alternatives to detention

In Iraq, children and young people in conflict with the law risk being detained. The law has no specific alternatives to detention even for children, nor does it explicitly mention restorative justice. Now, with UNICEF support, legislation protecting children's rights in juvenile justice is under review.

In KRI, a mapping study of Justice for Children led to the development of child-friendly court guidelines and a diversion framework offering alternatives to detention for children.

Legal assistance, after-care services and mental health and psychosocial support sustained the rights and wellbeing of 5,381 children and young people (645 girls) in contact with the law. Following advocacy by UNICEF and its sister agencies, 1,505 children and young people (173 girls) were released from detention.

VOICES from the field

Jinan lives in Debaga Camp, near Erbil, home to more than 3,300 people who have been internally displaced by conflict.

"It's been one year. I came here with my mother and sisters," says Jinan, a 13-year-old girl. "We were afraid of going out by ourselves, because we were new and we felt lonely."

At a child-friendly space supported by UNICEF, Jinan is now receiving specialized child protection services and psychosocial counselling. She's returned to school. And she's found her passion: dancing. In fact, she's formed a dance troupe with her friends.

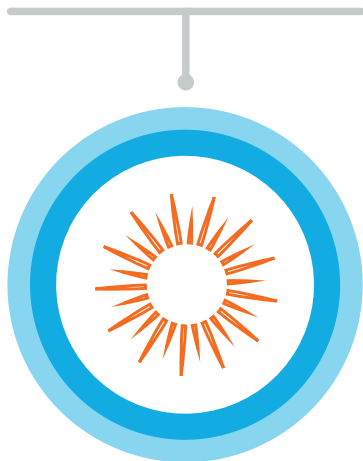
"I will continue to dance, I will never stop," says Jinan.





EVERY CHILD LIVES IN A CLEAN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Iraq ranks **61st** out
of **163 countries** on
climate change risks¹¹



Iraq is the **42nd** most
water-stressed country
in the world¹²



50% of Iraqi
schools lack basic
WASH services¹³



Key issues

In 2022, UNICEF supported systems to oversee and deliver equitable WASH services in an age of climate change – with digitalization to effectively monitor and conserve water, better services for children and young people, and innovative solutions to climate challenges.

The Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC), along with a survey of municipal WASH services, and an assessment of WASH facilities in almost 23,000 schools and healthcare facilities, generated evidence that will underpin climate-smart services so every child lives in a clean and safe environment.

In KRI, water safety planning and quality monitoring were institutionalized through the establishment of a water safety plan committee. Local government staff conducted climate risk assessment analyses in three governorates and created costed environmental action plans for safe and reliable water supply in the context of climate change

A series of pilots tested out innovative climate-resilient services, like rainwater harvesting for climate-smart water management benefiting 12,000 people. Government staff drew on expertise in water system design to reduce water losses by 15 per cent in seven water-scarce governorates, and designed a fairer rationing system for 2 million people.

Students and patients benefited from clean and safe school and health facilities, with continuous water supply and hazardous waste treatment facilities, while 119,629 people in humanitarian situations accessed clean water.

Looking ahead, UNICEF will create an environment that supports child and youth-centred, climate-resilient WASH planning informed by CLAC findings – with sectoral plans to guide WASH investment, strong government coordination and leadership, and plans to ensure every school and health facility in Iraq offers a clean and safe environment for children.

Key Results



Patients at **39 health facilities** benefited from safe sanitation through the provision of WASH facilities.

Water safety planning and quality monitoring were institutionalized in KRI and a water safety committee was established.



1.49 million people gained access to safely managed water and 437,000 to safely managed sanitation.

The **Climate Landscape Analysis for Children and Young People** provided evidence of the impacts on climate change on children and young people.



156,000 schoolchildren learned in cleaner, more hygienic school environments with basic WASH facilities.



FOCUS

Innovations for climate change resilience

In an age of climate change, children and young people are confronting water scarcity which makes it harder to maintain clean and hygienic environments.

In 2022, pilots implemented with UNICEF technical advice, government resources, and private sector expertise, offered pathways to managing water resources sustainably.

The pilots included solar-powered water systems, medical waste treatment, seawater desalination for schools, wastewater treatment and recycling, rainwater harvesting and aquifer recharge, and were complemented by digital monitoring.

They included a pioneering system to eliminate freshwater wastage in Basra which was installed in a plant treating 2,000 cubic meters of water per hour, and saved enough water for 8,000 more households.

VOICES

from the field

Abdel Aleem is one of the young people holding back the impacts of climate change in Basra.

Leading a team that conducted participatory action research on water scarcity in the city, he found that people in Basra have little awareness of this important issue.

Based on the findings, Abdel Aleem is now raising awareness among his peers on the importance of using water carefully, and pointing out ways to go green in daily life.

"I aspire to continue my education and to turn Basra into what it used to be – a greener and healthier place to live," says Abdel Aleem.





EVERY CHILD HAS AN EQUITABLE CHANCE IN LIFE

Nearly **1 in 2**
children in Iraq live in
multidimensional poverty¹⁴



2 out of 5 Iraqi
children face monetary
poverty due to COVID-19¹⁵



Key issues

In 2022, the child-adjusted multidimensional poverty index provided crucial evidence on the exclusions experienced by Iraq's most vulnerable children and young people.

In response, the government's ongoing reforms to public financial management provided an opportunity to bring children to the centre of budget allocations. UNICEF supported a child-focused review of government spending in three key sectors (WASH, education and social protection) to identify opportunities, and developed a dashboard for the Ministry of Finance to track child-focused expenditures.

About 4,500,000 children are currently covered by Iraq's social safety net programme. As social protection reform gained momentum, UNICEF

supported development of a social safety net MIS to support equitable and efficient distribution of resources for KRI and piloted it in Dohuk.

Critical evidence and research were generated, informing the development of social policies and programmes in the country.

Looking ahead, UNICEF will link social protection to ECD through child grant pilots. As Iraq develops the Social Protection National Strategy, with support from UNICEF and UNCT, UNICEF will seek to enhance shock-responsiveness in the face of climate change. The digital transformation will proceed, with MISs linked to other sectoral systems.

Key Results



The first **Child-adjusted Multidimensional Poverty Index** in Iraq was finalized, providing data on the deprivations experienced by Iraq's most vulnerable children.



A child-focused **review of government expenditure** in three social sectors highlighted opportunities to bring children to the centre of public finance.

A dashboard to **track child-focused expenditures** developed with UNICEF support was presented to the Ministry of Finance.



Critical evidence and research to inform policy and programme design was completed: a social protection mapping, an assessment of the social safety net MIS, a child sensitivity assessment of the social safety net programme and a social service workforce assessment.





STRENGTHENING HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

2.5 million people, including
1.1 million children, are in need of
humanitarian assistance¹⁶



1.2 million returnees are in
need of humanitarian assistance¹⁷



Key issues

As part of the Humanitarian Country Team, UNICEF supported the transition towards government-led coordination. Humanitarian clusters were discontinued, and coordination mechanisms created in government ministries. Inter-ministerial WASH coordination mechanisms were created in Federal Iraq and KRI ministries and, by end-2022, three governorates had established effective emergency management structures. Most WASH services in camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) were handed over to government entities, mainly in KRI.

Emergency coordination mechanisms were also established in the ministries of education, while work continued with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to establish child protection units at ministerial and governorate levels.

UNICEF worked with UNHCR and the KRI government to implement the Refugee Education Integration Policy, bringing all refugee children in KRI into the regular

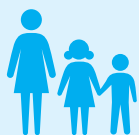
education system. The first four grades were integrated in 2022, with further grades to follow.

UNICEF and IOM co-chaired the Technical Working Group on the Implementation of the Global Framework in Iraq, coordinating the return of Iraqi citizens from northeast Syria.

Continued humanitarian support enabled children returning from northeast Syria, refugees and displaced families in camps and host communities to benefit from essential services. In 2022, 11,760 children received winter gear to protect against the elements, and 453,080 people received messages on preserving wellbeing and accessing services.

Looking ahead, UNICEF will continue to support durable solutions and the transition process as the government takes the lead in coordinating humanitarian assistance; support the returns process from northeast Syria; and provide assistance to the most vulnerable while mainstreaming services into government plans.

Key Results



668,366 children and women in humanitarian situations accessed primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities.

73,873 children and their caregivers accessed mental health and psychosocial support.



290,098 children benefited from formal or non-formal education.



265,595 people received as much safe water as they needed for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.





YOUNG PEOPLE

1 in 4 male youth and
1 in 2 female youth are
not in employment, education
or training¹⁹

Youth unemployment:
35.8% – more
than thrice the adult rate¹⁸

Nearly 1 in 5
adolescents experience
depression or anxiety²⁰



Key issues



With UNICEF technical and financial support, government and partners operationalized Youth Vision 2030 and create the conditions for young people to learn, earn and lead development in their communities.

Young people aged 10–24 years gained the tools to be active members of society through LSCE and skills for work and entrepreneurship provided via Innovation Labs, Youth Centres, Learning Passport and social media.

Young people designed and led community initiatives, including advocacy campaigns and peer-to-peer education on issues related

to climate change, social cohesion, mental health, drug abuse, learning and skilling and gender equality. Through the National Youth Volunteering Programme, young people played an active part in building their communities. With an online rollout planned in 2023, this opportunity will be expanded across Iraq.

Looking ahead, UNICEF will continue to strengthen implementation of Youth Vision 2030, build capacity for sustainable services for the most vulnerable, facilitate young people in transitioning to the labour market and provide opportunities as change makers in communities and decision-making.

Key Results



Nearly **122,000 vulnerable young people** (55,690 girls) from 10 governorates applied their learning from life-skills and citizenship education LSCE to identify issues and lead community, advocacy and education initiatives.

41,814 vulnerable young people (17,955 girls and women) built skills to improve their employability through Innovation Labs, Learning Passports and other channels.



4,929 young people (1,718 girls) committed to their communities' betterment through the National Youth Volunteering Platform.

FOCUS Learning Passport

The Learning Passport is young people's route to gaining the skills they need to build their future. In Iraq, it provided online and blended lessons for adolescents and children to learn essential skills for school and the workplace, like maths, digital skills, gender equality and LSCE.

In 2022, 4,971 young people gained skills and built employability using the Learning Passport, including 1,907 girls.

Led by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education in Iraq, and developed in partnership with Microsoft and the University of Cambridge, Learning Passport created opportunities to learn and grow for the most vulnerable children and adolescents, including those living in remote areas, or in displaced and host communities.





GENDER

Iraq ranks **154th** out
of **156** countries on
Gender Inequality Index²¹



1 in every 10
girls in Iraq doesn't
transition from primary to
secondary school²²



Key issues

More than 1
woman in 4 in Iraq is
married as a child²³



Gender, and the specific needs of girls and women, is fundamental to UNICEF's work in Iraq and inextricably tied to its mandate. UNICEF is committed to identifying opportunities to confront the root causes of gender inequality and investing in gender-transformative approaches for meaningful change.

In 2022 UNICEF focused on preventing and responding to gender-based violence and empowering adolescent girls; hence laying

the groundwork for accelerated work on transformative interventions for child marriage.

Across its programmes, UNICEF challenges restrictive gender norms and expands partnerships with government, women-led and girl-centred organizations for gender-transformative change focusing on vulnerable populations. Staff training on gender equality and prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation will ensure that gender remains at the heart of all we do.

Key Results



3,983 girls were supported to return to education through learning campaigns.

91,000 women

and girls were helped with GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response.



93,135 children

(40,828 girls) reported an understanding of positive gender attitudes.

VOICES from the field

Forced into marriage as a child and a mother of four, Sara* endured 18 years of violent abuse from her husband. So terrible was her experience that she tried to set herself alight.

When in hospital following the suicide attempt, she reached out to the UNICEF-supported Women and Girls' Centre which offers support to address gender-based violence.

With the help of the medical, legal and psychosocial support offered by the centre, Sara was able to take control of her life.

"I hope I am inspiring other women and girls to seek support and speak up," says Sara with a smile.

*Names have been changed to protect privacy.





PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS

UNICEF accelerated its strategic shift towards a human-centred approach to encouraging families and communities to adopt positive behaviours, with hyper-local, community-centric interventions that depend on community participation for sustainable social and behaviour change.

The focus in 2022 was on evidence generation and behavioural scientific research on the drivers of behaviour change. UNICEF conducted six social and behavioural research projects and augmented their findings with online listening tools and rumour tracking to better understand the decisions people make and design online and in-person communication accordingly.

UNICEF used this approach to encourage lifesaving behaviours including COVID-19 prevention and vaccination, and routine immunization. Children excluded from education during the pandemic returned to school, and communities gained tools to participate in planning and provide feedback.

Looking ahead, UNICEF will implement its new social and behavioural change communication strategy, clarify priority groups and refocus on addressing social norms. Shift approach towards COVID-19 sensitive communication with bundled messaging and campaigns targeted at specific groups.

Key Results



86% of Iraq's population learned to protect themselves against COVID-19 through lifesaving messages via digital, media and in-person communication.

10,000 people vaccinated at major religious events in partnership with religious leaders.



50,000 young people engaged through four social mobilization campaigns.



Accountability to Affected Populations strategy developed, with 200 partner organizations trained and mechanisms to facilitate community engagement and accountability.



4,000 workers in health and child protection learned to apply the principles of social and behaviour change.



20,000 children enrolled in schools following community engagement around girls' education.



ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

In 2022, UNICEF communication and advocacy positioned child rights firmly in the public eye through media, engaging 1.7 million people, while promoting children and young voices, and supporting training for key partners, including the Ministry of Health, to communicate proactively on messages in line with the UNICEF mandate.

UNICEF set Climate Change and ECD as advocacy priorities. On World Children's Day, two young people, Tuqa AlBakri and Mujtaba Alshawi, were appointed Youth Advocates for ECD and Climate Change respectively. They are bringing the perspective of Iraqi youth to these crucial issues, speaking at a climate change seminar at the University of Technology, making videos to share nationally for the UN Climate Change Summit (COP27), holding meetings

at the United Nations General Assembly, and commemorating World Breastfeeding Week and World Immunization Week.

UNICEF's work in Iraq with vulnerable children affected by explosive remnants of war was featured by the organization globally through a multimedia package to advocate for the end of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, in support of an international declaration led by Ireland.

Outreach on the work on gender-related harmful social norms continued to be positioned and several stories were developed aimed at raising awareness around key moments in the calendar, including International Women's Day and 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.

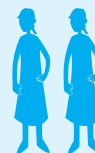
Key Results

10 million TV viewers had the opportunity to watch messages that raised awareness on issues related to children.



Six stories from Iraq were showcased in UNICEF global advocacy on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas on support of an international declaration by Ireland.

Two young people, Tuqa AlBakri and Mujtaba Alshawi, led advocacy around ECD and climate change as UNICEF's first **Youth Advocates** in Iraq.



World Children's Day events put children at the centre, with public monuments illuminated in blue and children's takeovers of public figures.



Multi-year flexible funding and innovative partnerships with shared values remained critical to achieving positive results for children in Iraq.

Key partners in delivering results for children and young people were government entities in Federal Iraq and KRI, down to governorate and local levels, academic institutions in Iraq and beyond, United Nations agencies, NGOs, women-led organizations and the private sector.

Private sector partnerships including with Zain, Daewoo Co Ltd, Iraqi Banks Association and Arab Countries Water Utilities Association expanded the digital reach of lifesaving messages, created access to early childhood education, supported school greening campaigns and improved water management practices.

UNICEF and its sister UN agencies collaborated closely to realize children's rights to health, education, protection and a safe environment

through partnerships with WHO, ILO, UNESCO, UNHCR, World Bank and the Resident Coordinator's Office. Under the EU-UN Joint Programme on Social Protection, UNICEF, WFP and ILO collaborated on social protection reform and expansion, including disability-friendly reforms. Under the PROSPECTS joint programme funded by Netherlands, UNICEF collaborated with ILO to support vulnerable young people build skills for employment.

Under its localization agenda to strengthen local capacity, UNICEF partnered with 21 local non-governmental and civil society organizations, and utilized US\$ 18.86 million through partnerships with these local organizations and government. Innovative partnerships with private sector partners leveraged over US\$ 5 million.

UNICEF maintained close partnerships with donors, with regular meetings and field missions to keep partners informed of

successes, needs and opportunities on the ground. Nearly US\$88 million in new funding was received. Major donors in 2022 included Canada, the European Commission, Germany through the KfW Development Bank, the Netherlands and the United States. The annual requirements for the country programme were fully met, and new multi-year partnerships were established with Germany through KfW, EU and Canada. UNICEF received US\$ 1.28 million in humanitarian thematic funding and US\$ 826,000 in thematic funding. The flexibility of these funding streams enabled UNICEF to respond agilely to urgent needs and fill gaps to deliver results for children.

Despite declining trends in humanitarian funding, UNICEF received over US\$ 44 million to provide humanitarian assistance for COVID-19 response, IDPs and host communities, and Syrian refugees.

Financial implementation was strong, with US\$ 85,140,374 in funding utilized during 2022.

In 2023, UNICEF requires US\$ 92.2 million in humanitarian funding to support refugees, returnees and internally displaced people in Iraq. For the remaining two years of its country programme, UNICEF's funding requirement is US\$ 126.4 million.

Funding utilized in 2022 (millions)

\$41.5M

Other Resources - Emergency

\$41.4M

Other Resources - Regular

\$2.1M

Regular Resources



DATA AND EVIDENCE

Generating knowledge for evidence-based decision-making enabled limited resources to be effectively directed towards the most vulnerable children and young people. Evaluations, research and studies provided insights on how to better achieve results for children.

Improved programme monitoring ensured that UNICEF programmes were on track to deliver results for children. Five Unified Monitoring Reports laid the foundation for strong collaboration across programmes to work together, assess progress and remain accountable to children, young people and families they seek to benefit.

Key Results



Major evaluation of humanitarian WASH

completed, and its results discussed in an innovative workshop for stakeholders.

92%

management response actions implemented for the three evaluations in 2020/2021.



National evaluation capacity development began with **South-South exchange** through the MENA Evaluation Societies.



Looking ahead to MICS

UNICEF began preparations for a new round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in 2023, with a cost-sharing arrangement with the Government of Iraq. This will provide comprehensive data on the situation of children, and incorporate the innovative MICS+ approach for frequent data collection in response to changing needs.



OPERATIONS

Management

UNICEF's strategic meetings continued oversight of all operations and steered programme implementation while maintaining flexibility to ensure staff safety during political crises and interruptions to office access. IT services and cost effectiveness was improved, with support for business continuity through an updated critical response team to accommodate staffing changes.

Financial management

Cost-saving was a UNICEF priority in 2022, with potential savings identified in rents, warehousing, facilitator contracts and telephone and banking services. By increased efficiencies and reduced operational costs, UNICEF achieved savings of over US\$363,000, while maintaining full administrative support, including for essential travel, to UNICEF programmes.

Human resources

Staff structures and responsibilities were reassessed following adjustments to the

country programme. New staff were rapidly recruited, with the average time to recruit falling from 84 days in 2021 to only 35. Gender diversity of national staff remained a concern and UNICEF will collaborate with UN Volunteers to attract female talent.

Goods and services

UNICEF procured quality supplies and services valued at US\$46.6 million on time, supporting delivery of results for children. These included supplies for COVID-19 and routine immunization, construction projects for schools and water plants, and professional services in digitalizing health systems, social and behaviour change activities and preparing education sector analyses.

Security

In an uncertain security context, UNICEF kept its staff and beneficiaries safe through careful planning and regular security briefings. National staff were given training to make sure they had the skills and confidence needed to implement security decisions in field offices.

ENDNOTES

- 1 data.unicef.org.
- 2 MICS 2018.
- 3 World Bank DataBank using WHO/UNICEF figures 2021.
- 4 MICS 2018.
- 5 MICS 2018.
- 6 Iraq Central Statistical Office estimate.
- 7 MICS 2018.
- 8 MICS 2018.
- 9 MICS 2018.
- 10 Recorded by Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, 2022.
- 11 UNICEF Climate Change Risk Index, 2021.
- 12 UNICEF Climate Change Risk Index, 2021.
- 13 WASH-IPC in Schools dashboard, 2022.
- 14 Child-Adjusted Multidimensional Poverty Index Analytical Report, 2022.
- 15 UNICEF & World Bank, Assessment of COVID-19 impact on poverty and vulnerability in Iraq, 2020.
- 16 Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022.
- 17 Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022.
- 18 ILO Labour Force Survey 2022.
- 19 Ibid.
- 20 MICS 2018.
- 21 Global Gender Gap Report 2021.
- 22 MICS 2018.
- 23 MICS 2018.

CAPTIONS AND CREDITS

Cover picture: Nine-year old Nour attends a UNICEF-supported school in Sharia camp for internally displaced persons in Dohuk, Iraq. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Anmar Rfaat

Page 2: Children at a UNICEF-supported public school in Baghdad, Iraq, receive school supplies. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Murtadha Ridha

Page 5: UNICEF Representative in Iraq, Sheema Sen Gupta, visits a UNICEF-supported school in Chibayish, in the south of Iraq, on 7 February 2023. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Hussien Faleh

Page 8: Children at a UNICEF-supported public school in Baghdad, Iraq, receive school supplies. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Murtadha Ridha

Page 10: A baby waits to be vaccinated, at a health centre supported by UNICEF in Mosul, Iraq. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Anmar Rfaat

Page 12: On 11 April 2022 in Sulaymaniyah (Iraq), Loreen, 18, holds her daughter Roz while sitting on a chair at the Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) unit in the Sulaymaniyah Maternity Teaching Hospital, part of the Neonatal Care Unit supported by UNICEF. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Ilvy Njiokiktjien

Page 13: A student attends a class in Erbil, Iraq. This school implements school-based management, through which community members develop and implement improvement plans with UNICEF support. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Anmar

Page 15: Shane inside the class in Nahari school in Erbil, Iraq. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Anmar

Page 16: Twelve-year-old Hanan stands in her family's temporary home in Habaniya, on the outskirts of Fallujah, Iraq. In January 2021, Hanan was herding sheep with her father when some unexploded ordinance detonated and threw them into the air. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Beshad

Page 18: Jinan shares her story right next to the UNICEF-supported child-friendly space where children play. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Beshad

Page 19: Children wash their hands using a sustainable water supply at a UNICEF-supported public school in Baghdad, Iraq. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Murtadha Ridha

Page 21: Abdul Aleem waters plants in Basra, Iraq. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Hussain Faleh

Page 22: 10-month-old Shahad Mahmood has just received routine immunization from a mobile team visiting in Ashti camp near Arbat city, Iraq, where many internally displaced people live. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Ilvy Njiokiktjien

Page 23: ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Ilvy Njiokiktjien

Page 24: A child from an internally displaced family in Sinjar, Iraq, sits by the hygiene kit his family has just received. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Beshad Shwani

Page 25: A child in Anbar, Iraq, carries a set of winter clothes. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Murtadha Ridha

Page 26: Young people in Erbil celebrate as the U-Report platform in Iraq exceeds 100,000 reporters. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Mohamad Haider

Page 27: Shahraban, 16, who lives in Shekhan IDP camp, Iraq attends a workshop on the Learning Passport platform. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Anmar Rfaat

Page 28: Children take part in group activities at a child-friendly space in the Ashti camp for internally displaced persons in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Anmar Rfaat

Page 29: Sarah sits at the UNICEF-supported GBV Center in Erbil, Iraq. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Beshad

Page 30: A UNICEF-supported team goes door-to-door in Kabarto camp, Dohuk, Iraq, to raise awareness about COVID-19 vaccination. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Zaid Obaide

Page 31: UNICEF Representative in Iraq, Sheema Sen Gupta, with the newly appointed UNICEF Youth Advocates, for Iraq, Tuqa AlBakri and Mujtaba Alshawi. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Anmar Rfaat

Page 32: A new climate-resilient water supply is inaugurated in Najaf, Iraq, funded by the German government. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Murtadha Ridha

Page 34: Mustafa, Youssef and Ahmed live in Zummar district, Ninawa, Iraq. This is one of the areas that remain affected by unexploded bombs. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Anmar Rfaat

Page 35: Eight-year-old Diab stands in his home in Fallujah, Iraq. In 2020, he was playing with his friends when some unexploded ordinance detonated. Diab's leg was injured and he now relies on crutches to walk. He also suffered from hearing loss due to the explosion. ©UNICEF in Iraq/2022/Anmar Rfaat



UNICEF Iraq
www.unicef.org/iraq
Office Tel: 07801964521
UN Compound (Diwan)
Karadat Maryam District, Haifa Street
10011 Baghdad, Iraq

©UNICEF