



# Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

## Iraq

More than 6.7 million people in Iraq, including 3.3 million children under 18 years, will need humanitarian assistance in 2019.<sup>1</sup> Although armed violence has declined, and over 4.2 million people are returning to their homes,<sup>2</sup> 1.7 million people, including 800,000 children,<sup>3</sup> remain displaced. Over 30 per cent of displaced children live in camps, where the delivery of basic services is essential to reducing the risk of disease and ensuring access to water and sanitation facilities, vaccination, education and protective spaces. Vulnerable families returning to affected communities are in danger due to explosive hazards. Children are increasingly out of school in both in camps for displaced populations and in non-camp settings.<sup>4</sup> Girls, boys and women who have survived gender-based violence require specialized services to recover and re-engage with their families and communities. After decades of violence and neglect, Iraq's public services remain overstretched, with damaged water and sanitation networks and overburdened health systems putting children at risk of disease outbreaks. Since the start of 2018, 232 children have suffered grave violations of their rights, including killing, maiming, and recruitment into armed groups.<sup>5</sup> The humanitarian crisis is compounded by natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods and drought, which are threatening children's safety across the country.

### Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy in Iraq is aligned with the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan. UNICEF leads the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster, the child protection sub-cluster and the Nutrition Working Group; co-leads the education cluster; and is a member of the health cluster. UNICEF is using its leadership position to strengthen the capacities of humanitarian partners to reach crisis-affected children, and continues to integrate gender-based violence risk mitigation into all programming. With the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF is maintaining temporary capacity for the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), which government partners will take over in 2019. Safe water, gender-sensitive sanitation facilities and hygiene awareness activities are supported in camps, host communities and retaken areas. Children under 5 years are receiving immunization and nutrition services, especially in low-coverage areas. UNICEF plans to expand access to safe, quality education and facilitate psychosocial support and specialized protection services, including legal assistance and support for survivors of gender-based violence. Cash-based interventions and capacity building for longer-term recovery are being planned by UNICEF and partners. Recovery actions are complementing the UN Recovery and Resilience Programme in Iraq and the UNICEF Recovery and Resilience for Children appeal.

### Results from 2019

As of 28 February 2019, UNICEF had US\$30.8 million available against the US\$72.9 million appeal (42 per cent funded).<sup>6</sup> UNICEF continued critical water and sanitation interventions, reaching more than 300,000 conflict-affected people in camps, return locations and vulnerable host communities by February 2019. Community-based psycho-social support services for nearly 41,000 children, and more than 3,800 children have been supported to access more specialised protection assistance according to need. Iraq's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, which gathers data on grave violations of children's rights, had a verification rate of 83 per cent of all reports, supporting evidence-based advocacy.<sup>7</sup> Measles and polio vaccination data is not yet available as of February 2019, but campaign and routine efforts continue. In the 2018-2019 winter, more than 150,000 children were protected from Iraq's harsh winter by delivery of warm clothing. Although crowded classrooms and displacement of teachers continued to present a challenge, 4,600 conflict-affected children have enrolled in formal or non-formal learning since January. Response through RRM has been limited in 2019 due to the lower numbers of newly-displaced people. Data delays in the first two months have resulted in incomplete partner reporting as of February 2019.

#### Total people in need

6.7 million<sup>8</sup>

#### Total children (<18) in need

3.3 million<sup>9</sup>

#### Total people to be reached

1,039,304<sup>10</sup>

#### Total children to be reached

543,444<sup>11</sup>

### 2019<sup>12</sup> programme targets

#### Nutrition

- 363,444 children under 5 years in camps for internally displaced people screened for malnutrition

#### Health

- 314,985 children aged 9 to 59 months vaccinated against measles through routine immunization
- 2,043 newborn babies in camps for internally displaced persons visited by trained health workers

#### WASH

- 972,808 people with continued and more resilient and equitable access to a sufficient safe water supply
- 486,404 people with continued access to safe and gender- and disabilities-sensitive sanitation facilities and hygiene items

#### Child Protection

- 135,000 girls and boys participating in structured, sustained psychosocial support
- 10,400 at-risk girls and boys receiving case management services
- 16,381 girls and women receiving individual or group psychosocial support

#### Education

- 200,000 conflict-affected children accessing quality and inclusive formal and non-formal education

#### Cash-based transfer

- 15,000 children from most vulnerable households benefiting from child-focused direct cash support

#### Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

- 50 emergency response workshops conducted for government staff

#### Non-Food Items

- 180,000 most vulnerable children received warm clothing for winter

	Cluster 2019 targets	Cluster total results	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF total results <sup>i</sup>
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
Children under 5 years accessing nutrition services			363,444	0
Targeted mothers of children 0-23 months with access to IYCF counselling for appropriate feeding			20,000	614
<b>HEALTH</b>				
New-born babies of conflict-affected families benefiting from new-born home services			2,034 <sup>ii</sup>	172 <sup>iii</sup>
Children under 1 year vaccinated against measles through routine immunization			314,985	0
Children under 5 years vaccinated against polio through campaigns			1,152,676	0
<b>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE</b>				
Emergency-affected populations accessing sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	1,272,085	449,156 <sup>iv</sup>	972,808	301,844 <sup>v</sup>
Emergency-affected populations benefiting from latrines established, rehabilitated, or maintained	1,272,085	266,873 <sup>vi</sup>	486,404	228,253 <sup>vii</sup>
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>				
Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained resilience or psycho-social support programmes	208,080	40,696 <sup>viii</sup>	135,000	36,196 <sup>ix</sup>
Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services)	31,556	5,840 <sup>x</sup>	10,400 <sup>xi</sup>	3,846 <sup>xii</sup>
Girls, boys, and women receiving individual or group psycho-social support <sup>xiii</sup>			16,381 <sup>xiv</sup>	0
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
Boys and girls receiving education supplies	461,747	47,145 <sup>xv</sup>	200,000	0 <sup>xvi</sup>
Teachers, facilitators, and education personnel trained on emergency education, life skills, and delivering PSS	18,395	216 <sup>xvii</sup>	5,000	15 <sup>xviii</sup>
Conflict-affected boys and girls aged 6 to 17 years enrolled in formal and non-formal education programmes	461,747	81,25 <sup>xix</sup>	200,000	4,645 <sup>xx</sup>
<b>CASH-BASED TRANSFERS</b>				
Most vulnerable children receiving child-focused cash transfer			15,000	0 <sup>xxi</sup>
<b>RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM AND WINTERIZATION</b>				
Emergency capacity building workshops conducted for government staff			50	0 <sup>xxii</sup>
Most vulnerable children better protected from risks of winter with appropriate clothing			180,000	151,000 <sup>xxiii</sup>

Results are through 28 February 2019 unless otherwise noted.

<sup>i</sup> Some of the 2019 results reflect zero progress due to delays/incomplete partners reporting. Complete results will be available and reported after the first quarter of 2019 in the situation reports.

<sup>ii</sup> This figure includes - Girls: 88, boys: 84.

<sup>iii</sup> This figure includes 229,070 girls/women and 220,086 boys/men

<sup>iv</sup> This figure includes 153,940 girls/women and 147,904 boys/men.

<sup>v</sup> This figure includes 136,105 girls/women and 130,768 boys/men.

<sup>vi</sup> This figure includes 116,409 girls/women and 111,844 boys/men.

<sup>vii</sup> This figure includes 18,507 girls/women and 22,189 boys/men.

<sup>viii</sup> This figure includes 15,960 girls and 20,236 boys.

<sup>ix</sup> This figure includes 2,758 girls and 3,082 boys.

<sup>x</sup> In March 2019, UNICEF Iraq revised its 2019 HAC specialised protection assistance target after discussions with the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC) in early 2019; the adjusted target is an amalgamation of two targets pre-existing in the more detailed HRP UNICEF project sheet: 7,000 children reached with case management services plus - 3,400 children reached with legal assistance, for a total of 10,400 children targeted with specialized services.

<sup>xi</sup> This figure includes 1,766 girls and 2,080 boys.

<sup>xii</sup> This indicator reflects UNICEF support to individuals receiving multi-sectoral services to respond to needs of survivors or people at risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

<sup>xiii</sup> In March 2019, UNICEF Iraq revised its 2019 HAC GBV indicator; adjustment to the 16,318 figure is an aggregation of two pre-existing targets – GBV PSS, and GBV case management, and is a more accurate reflection of the efforts that will be going into GBV programming in 2019.

<sup>xiv</sup> This figure includes 20,733 girls and 26,412 boys.

<sup>xv</sup> For the academic year 2018/2019 distribution of school supplies were done in the first quarter of 2018. UNICEF's next large-scale distribution of learning materials is planned for the start of the next academic year in autumn 2019.

<sup>xvi</sup> This figure includes 97 women and 119 men

<sup>xvii</sup> This figure includes 7 women and 8 men. UNICEF-supported trainings are done in agreement with the Ministry of Education and are scheduled in the school holidays period, for minimum disruption of classes during the academic year.

<sup>xviii</sup> This figure includes 34,663 girls and 46,857 boys.

<sup>xix</sup> This figure includes 2,634 girls and 2,011 boys. Enrolment to formal education takes place once per year (data available after verification by MoE).

<sup>xx</sup> The target of 15,000 children is a two-year target 2018-2019. Due to limited funding for displacement response in 2018, with a 70 per cent funding gap, no progress was made in 2018. A new contract was signed with a mobile services provider supporting cash delivery and the first transfers are expected in second quarter of 2019.

<sup>xxi</sup> in 2019 the RRM Consortium led by UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA plans to enhance capacity of existing government structures and local authorities, to enable them to better cope with future emergencies, including taking over responsibility for RRM operations. For this 50 workshops and/or training sessions for government officials and local authorities on emergency concepts and practices, however workshops/trainings are planned after a relevant counterpart has been identified for handover.

<sup>xxii</sup> UNICEF Non-Food Items (NFI) (Winter Response) Girls: 77,265 Boys: 74,235. UNICEF winter distributions for the 2018/2019 winter ran between December 2018 and January 2019. Results reported reflect progress against the 2018 appeal target and the 2018/2019 winter response.

## Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting nearly US\$73 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children in Iraq in 2019. Without adequate and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the country's continuing protection crisis or post-conflict needs. This includes critical WASH services for internally displaced persons and returning populations facing the spread of cholera as well as health and nutrition services to ensure children are immunized against childhood diseases, grow and thrive. Basic learning materials and classroom space are urgently needed to uphold children's right to education. Child-focused cash assistance will support parents and caregivers to feed, clothe and educate children.

Sector	2019 requirements (US\$)	2019 revised requirements (US\$)	Funds Available (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)	Funding Gap (%)
Health and nutrition	5,800,000	5,800,000	472,107	418,138	47%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	24,948,000	24,948,000	5,571,795	19,376,205	78%
Child protection	20,476,825	20,476,825	7,938,015	2,037,692	20%
Education	9,975,707	9,975,707	13,232,465	7,244,360	35%
Cash-based transfers	4,897,000	4,897,000	2,409,794	3,390,206	58%
Rapid Response Mechanism	890,245	890,245	1,140,596	3,756,404	77%
Non-food items	6,000,000	6,000,000	96,387	5,903,613	98%
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,987,777</b>	<b>72,987,777</b>	<b>30,861,160</b>	<b>42,126,617</b>	<b>58%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Children make up 47 per cent of the population. United Nations Children's Fund, 'Iraq: Statistics', UNICEF, <[www.unicef.org/infobycountry/iraq\\_statistics.html#118](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/iraq_statistics.html#118)>, accessed 5 December 2018.

<sup>2</sup> International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), February 2019

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> UNOCHA, Iraq, 2019, Humanitarian Needs Overview p 52. "Girls and boys are increasingly out of school in both IDP camps and out-of-camp settings, mainly due to lack of financial means, exposing them to higher child protection risks." The main reason children are left out of education is because households can "not afford to pay the fees". Source: Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment VI (MNCA), 2018.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq (UNAMI) and UNICEF, Iraq Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, February 2019

<sup>6</sup> Available funds include US\$12 million raised against the current appeal and US\$18.8 million carried forward from the previous year.

<sup>7</sup> Between January and December 2018, the Iraq Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism received 169 reports of grave violations of child rights (of which 139 were verified according to Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism requirements), affecting 177 children (130 children were affected in the 139 verified reports). Verification rates will be updated in the 2019 mid-year Results Assessment Module (RAM) reporting against the Iraq Country Programme targets.

<sup>8</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Iraq 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA. The Humanitarian Needs Overview document was not finalized/published at the time of writing the original 2019 HAC Appeal. This appeal has been updated to be aligned with the published HNO 2019.

<sup>9</sup> Children make up 47 per cent of the population. United Nations Children's Fund, 'Iraq Statistics', UNICEF <[www.unicef.org/infobycountry/iraq\\_statistics.html#118](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/iraq_statistics.html#118)>, accessed 5 December 2018.

<sup>10</sup> The total number of people to be reached was calculated based on: UNICEF WASH maximum people to be reached: 972,808 individuals (water supply under cluster objective 4). Adults (18 and above) constitute around 52 per cent of the population = 515,860 adults 18 and above. UNICEF education maximum children (aged 3 to 17 years) to be reached: 200,000 school-aged children (access to formal and non-formal learning), of which an estimated 10 per cent are aged 3 to 4 years old, so a total of 180,000 children aged 5 to 17 years old. UNICEF health and nutrition maximum children under 5 years to be reached (nutrition screening): 363,444 children 5 years and under.

<sup>11</sup> This figure includes 363,444 children under 5 years screened for malnutrition plus 180,000 children aged 5 to 17 years in need of quality and inclusive formal and non-formal education.

<sup>12</sup> Programme targets under the health and child protection response were revised to align with the 2019 Iraq HRP published in early 2019.

**Who to contact for further information:**

**Peter Hawkins**  
Representative - Iraq  
Tel: +390381052470/2490  
Email: [phawkins@unicef.org](mailto:phawkins@unicef.org)

**Grant Leaity**  
Deputy Director, Office of  
Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)  
Tel: +1 212 326 7150  
Email: [gleaity@unicef.org](mailto:gleaity@unicef.org)

**Carla Haddad Mardini**  
Director, Public Partnership  
Division (PPD)  
Tel: +1 212 326 7160  
Email: [chaddadmardini@unicef.org](mailto:chaddadmardini@unicef.org)