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for every child

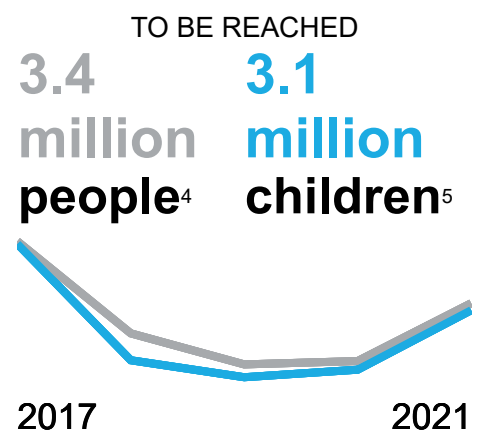
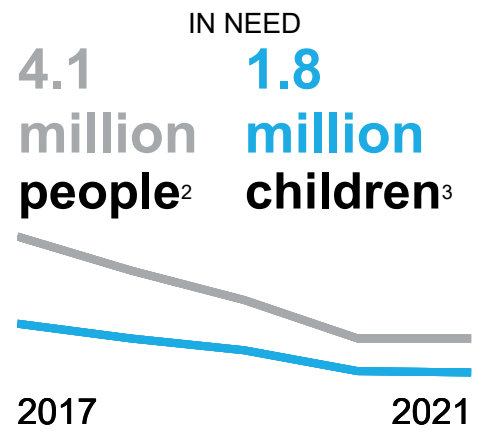
Humanitarian Action for Children

“I help my mother to raise my little brother. We are now without schools. I hope this disease will go away and we will return to our normal life,” says Raghad, 9, carrying her brother Ali, 2 year old.


Iraq


HIGHLIGHTS


- Following the 2014–2017 conflict, which displaced over 6 million people, an estimated 4.1 million people, including 1.8 million children, need humanitarian assistance in Iraq. The country is also severely affected by the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, with nearly 1.3 million confirmed cases and over 16,900 deaths.¹
- UNICEF’s multi-pronged humanitarian strategy in Iraq includes the provision of integrated critical services to save young lives and system strengthening for a sustained impact. To support an effective transition from humanitarian assistance to longer-term development, UNICEF will facilitate strong linkages between humanitarian action and development programming.
- UNICEF is requesting US\$ 65.9 million to meet the critical and acute humanitarian needs of children and families affected by a combination of humanitarian situations, including protracted crisis due to conflict, political instability and the COVID-19 situation. The response will focus both on prevention and on the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.



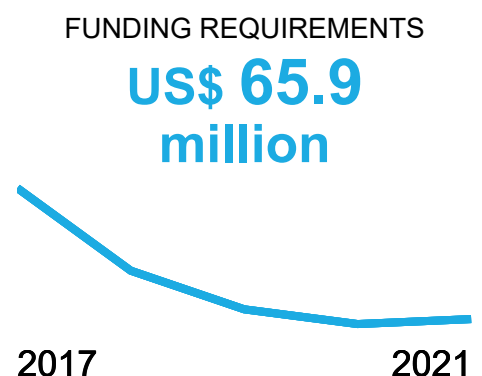
KEY PLANNED TARGETS

 **2.7 million** children vaccinated against polio

 **449,300** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water

 **180,443** children/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support

 **447,786** children accessing educational services



Figures are updated based on Iraq 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Iraq 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The humanitarian crisis in Iraq stems primarily from the 2014–2017 conflict, which led to the displacement of 6 million people.⁶ There has been a steady stream of returnees, with 4.9 million people returning to their places of origin, and 1.2 million people still displaced.⁷

In late 2020, the Government of Iraq (GOI) resumed the closure of camps and large informal sites for Internally Displaced People (IDPs).⁸ Consequently, the total number of in-camp individuals dropped from 256,861⁹ in August 2020¹⁰ to 185,000¹¹. The number of out-of-camp IDPs increased from 104,000 in October 2020 to over 275,000 in February 2021¹². Additionally, an estimated 4.87 million individuals are returnees.

Overall, 4.1 million people, including 1.8 million children, continue to need humanitarian assistance. This includes 2.4 million people (1,056,000 children and 15 per cent people with disabilities) facing acute humanitarian needs.¹³

The country is also severely affected by COVID-19, with the number of new cases increasing from 900 per day in January to more than 5,040 per day by mid-June 2021.¹⁴

The political, economic and social instability in Iraq is challenging the humanitarian response. Security remains a major concern, with continued attacks and violence. During the first quarter of 2021, ISIS operations increased, mainly within the disputed areas and Baghdad. The demonstrations and unrest in the southern governorates also escalated and were confronted with force and violence by security forces.

The reduction in oil prices has led to a severe economic downturn, which has further exacerbated humanitarian needs for the most vulnerable. The number of children living below the poverty line has doubled to 38 per cent.¹⁵ While maternal mortality has declined, neonatal deaths remain high (56 per cent of under-five mortality).¹⁶ At least 200,000 infants are missing out on routine life-saving vaccinations against preventable childhood diseases.¹⁷

Due to both COVID-19 and displacement, 1.3 million IDP and returnee children face obstacles to accessing education, while some 1.7 million children are in need of child protection and gender-based violence support.¹⁸ According to a remote monitoring exercise conducted by UNICEF in 2020, commonly reported issues include lack of access to education; stress, fear and anxiety; child labour; and violence, abuse or neglect within the household.¹⁹ While more than 86 per cent of people in Iraq have access to basic drinking water, only 39 per cent have access to safely managed water services. Only 24 per cent of the population has access to safely managed sanitation services.²⁰

SECTOR NEEDS



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

1.7 million children need protection services^{21,22}



Education

1.3 million children in need of assistance to continue education²³



Social protection and cash transfers

38 per cent of children live in poverty²⁴



Population displacement

5.8 million people are returning or displaced²⁵

STORY FROM THE FIELD



This winter, despite the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic, field workers from UNICEF and its partner, Public Aid Organization (PAO) more than 30,000 winter clothing boxes to IDP camps across Iraq.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Nour, 4 years old and her mother after receiving her winter clothes box, in Baharka camp for displaced people in Erbil, Iraq

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF's multi-pronged humanitarian strategy in Iraq includes the provision of integrated critical services to save young lives and system strengthening for a sustained impact. The response will focus on those made most vulnerable by the ongoing humanitarian crisis and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In line with the Humanitarian Country Team strategy, and the five-year country programme between UNICEF and the Government, UNICEF will facilitate strong linkages between its humanitarian action and development work to enhance sustainability and support the transition from a humanitarian assistance framework to a longer-term development approach.

Protection will remain central to the response. UNICEF will adopt a holistic/multi-sectoral case management approach, integrating gender-based violence risk mitigation and promoting resilience and recovery. The prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse will be mainstreamed through awareness-raising activities and by promoting the accessibility of secure and safe reporting channels.

UNICEF will improve access to life-saving interventions and essential services in sectors in which it has a comparative advantage, namely health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, child protection and social protection. Communication for development will cut across this work to facilitate linkages with affected populations. UNICEF will integrate the COVID-19 response both in humanitarian response plans and longer-term development programming to improve synergies and complementarities. Across sectors, gender- and disability-inclusive programming will ensure that the special needs of girls and boys and people with disabilities are addressed.

UNICEF will also rehabilitate and upgrade physical/digital infrastructure; reach people with messages on prevention and access to services; and provide critical supplies in camp health care facilities, for returnees and high-risk communities and to address waterborne diseases and COVID-19. UNICEF will build the capacities of the Government and civil society partners to identify, prepare for and respond to crises/shocks and integrate an adolescent/youth-centred approach into humanitarian response to ensure that youth are systematically engaged.

UNICEF will partner with sister United Nations agencies and civil society partners in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan and the Durable Solutions Action Plan. As part of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, UNICEF will lead the WASH and education clusters and the child protection sub-cluster and engage as a key member in the health cluster. UNICEF will continue to provide leadership and coordination on risk communication and community engagement, as per the United Nations Country Team decision to delegate this role to UNICEF, and in line with its robust communication, advocacy and community engagement strategies.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/iraq/situation-reports>

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **462** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **139,800** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **46,200** children aged 6 to 59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders



Health

- **2,685,854** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio
- **2,900,554** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **5,000** health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **449,300** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene²⁶
- **207,600** people accessing appropriately designed and managed latrines²⁷
- **500,000** people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services²⁸
- **1,317,000** people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services²⁹



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **180,443** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support³⁰
- **193,566** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions³¹
- **120,750** people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse



Education

- **447,786** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **160,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **108,857** children/adolescents accessing skills development programmes³²
- **700** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)



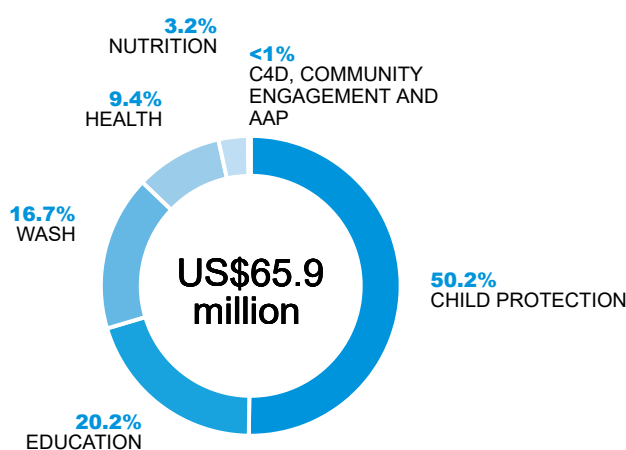
C4D, community engagement and AAP³³

- **840,000** people reached with messages on key lifesaving behaviors (H&N, WASH, Education and CP)

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF is requesting US\$ 65.87 million³⁴ to meet the critical and acute humanitarian needs of vulnerable children and families affected by a combination of humanitarian situations, including protracted crisis due to conflict, political instability and the COVID-19 situation. This support will focus on both prevention and the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. Nearly 30 per cent of the total funding appeal is for the COVID-19 response. As protection is central to UNICEF's humanitarian action, the child protection response – including prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and gender-based violence interventions – is the largest component of the country appeal at 50 per cent, followed by Education and WASH.

UNICEF requests timely, multi-year and flexible funding and resources from partners globally and in Iraq to support integrated humanitarian service delivery in the areas of its comparative advantage, namely WASH, health, nutrition, child protection, education and social protection. This will enable UNICEF to support its national partners to deliver improved and sustainable services that are durable and resilience-focused and that strengthen linkages with longer-term system-building efforts. Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the delivery of essential services benefiting vulnerable children and families in Iraq.



Appeal sector	Revised 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)
Nutrition	2,085,523
Health	6,181,920
WASH	11,022,480
Child protection	33,067,871
Education	13,308,624
C4D, community engagement and AAP	200,000 ³⁵
Total	65,866,418

Appeal sector	Original 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	2021 funding gap (%)
Nutrition	2,074,080	2,085,523	1,032,666	1,052,857	50.5%
Health	6,181,920	6,181,920	1,746,016	4,435,904	71.8%
WASH	14,848,272	11,022,480	2,855,664	8,166,816	74.1%
Child protection	33,264,510	33,067,871	6,079,252	26,988,619	81.6%
Education	14,254,574	13,308,624	6,130,675	7,177,949	53.9%
C4D, community engagement and AAP	200,000	200,000 ³⁵	200,000	-	0.0%
Total	70,823,356	65,866,418	18,044,273	47,822,145	72.6%

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ENDNOTES

1. World Health Organization, 'WHO Coronavirus Disease Dashboard: Iraq', <<https://covid19.who.int/region/emro/country/iq>>, accessed 22 June 2021.
2. Based on 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview' and the acute needs of vulnerable populations in governorates with high COVID-19 caseloads.
3. Ibid.
4. This was calculated using the highest coverage programme target of 2,685,854 children under 5 years to be reached with polio vaccination; 270,000 adults to be reached with WASH supplies and services (54 per cent of 500,000 people); and 447,786 primary school-aged children to be reached with formal and non-formal education. The highest coverage communication for development/risk communication and community engagement and information/awareness/messaging targets in health, nutrition and WASH are not included due to a significant mass media component for outreach. An estimated 51 per cent of all people to be reached will be women and girls. In the WASH response, 5 per cent of people to be reached have a disability, based on internal UNICEF assessments. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
5. The figure for children to be reached is higher than the figure for children in need because the highest coverage programme target for children to be reached with polio vaccination. The figure was calculated using the highest coverage programme target of 2,685,854 children under 5 years to be reached with polio vaccination and 447,786 primary school-aged children to be reached with formal and non-formal education. The highest coverage communication for development/risk communication and community engagement and information/awareness/messaging targets in health, nutrition and WASH are not included due to a significant mass media component for outreach. An estimated 51 per cent of all people to be reached will be women and girls. In the WASH response, 5 per cent of children to be reached have a disability, based on internal UNICEF assessments.
6. 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
7. <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>, Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), accessed on 22 June 2021.
8. 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
9. living in 43 camps
10. 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
11. living in 27 camps
12. the number of self-settled and informal sites also increased from 575 to 950
13. 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
14. World Health Organization, 'WHO Coronavirus Disease Dashboard: Iraq', <https://covid19.who.int/region/emro/country/iq>, accessed 22 June 2021
15. 11. Ministry of Planning, World Bank and United Nations Children's Fund Iraq, 'Assessment of COVID-19 Impact on Poverty and Vulnerability in Iraq', July 2020.
16. Iraq Ministry of Health, Health Management Information System, March 2020.
17. Iraq Ministry of Health, Health Management Information System, March 2020.
18. 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
19. lack of access to education was reported by 83 per cent of the respondents; 51 per cent of the respondents reported stress, fear and anxiety; child labour and violence, abuse or neglect within the household were reported, respectively, by 26 and 24 per cent of the respondents.
20. Central Statistical Organization, Kurdistan Region Statistics Office, Ministry of Health and United Nations Children's Fund, 'Iraq 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey', 2019.
21. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
22. This is based on 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview' and the acute needs of vulnerable populations in governorates with high COVID-19 caseloads.
23. 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'. This includes 648,000 girls and 131,000 children with disabilities. The initial figure of 10 million reflects the approximate number of children affected by the spread of COVID-19 countrywide, while the revised figure of 1.3 million corresponds to the number of People In Need based on HNO calculations.
24. 'Assessment of COVID-19 Impact on Poverty and Vulnerability in Iraq'.
25. Total affected population in-camp IDPs, out-of-camp IDPs and returnees. 'Iraq: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
26. Further to the reduction of the overall PiN from 1.6 million to 1.25 million, UNICEF and cluster targets were reduced proportionally. The decrease in the number of PiN is due to the reduced number of IDPs in camps; the cluster is thus filling the gap not covered by the government response.
27. Due to the reduction of the overall PiN from 1.6 million to 1.25 million, UNICEF and cluster targets were reduced proportionally. The decrease in the number of PiN is due to the reduced number of IDPs in camps; the cluster is thus filling the gap not covered by the government response.
28. The target was reduced from 750,000 to 500,000 to avoid overlaps and double counting, since the indicator refers to three different activities.
29. UNICEF's initial target of 1.9 million – which was estimated during the peak of COVID-19 infections – was adjusted to 1.3 million due to the increased capacity of the government response.
30. UNICEF's target was reduced from 190,303 to 180,443 further to the decrease in the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC) target based on the HRP. UNICEF original target was based on the assumption that the cluster target would be higher.
31. UNICEF's target was reduced from 224,475 to 193,566 further to the decrease in the overall target for the GBV Sub-Cluster. UNICEF generally contributes 25 per cent of the GBV HRP target.
32. The target was reduced due to the limited capacity of partners as a result of the prolonged school closure and COVID-19. UNICEF is working to increase partners' capacity.
33. The indicator was changed from "number of people engaged" to "number of people reached with messages". Since the number of people reached is usually higher than the number of people engaged, the target increased without affecting the budget. The rationale behind this change lies in the necessity to strengthen UNICEF's presence and footprint on the ground through messaging/information sharing to be able to engage people in mobilization activities in the next phase.
34. The funding requirements have decreased compared to December 2020 as a result of the reduction in the PiN and, consequently, of UNICEF's target, which is partially due to the closure of IDP camps.
35. The C4D indicator was changed from "number of people engaged" to "number of people reached with messages". Since the number of people reached is usually higher than the number of people engaged, the target increased without affecting the budget.