



An internally displaced girl holding her brother at Waleed Nofal school in Al-Hasakah City, north-east Syria on 27 January 2022. ©UNICEF/UN0583335/2022

Reporting Period: 1-31 January 2022

Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report

January 2022



Highlights

- On 20 January, an attack on Ghweiran detention centre in Al-Hasakeh City in north-east Syria (NE Syria) resulted in rapidly escalating hostilities. Nearly 700 boys, most Syrian and Iraqi with the rest of 20 other nationalities, some as young as 12 years old, were amongst those detained in the centre.
- The UNICEF Syria Representative and UNICEF Executive Director released statements on 21 and 25 January, respectively, calling for the immediate release of the almost 850 total estimated children from detention centres in NE Syria and stand ready to facilitate the repatriation and reintegration of foreign children to their communities of origin.
- UNICEF has provided safe water, hygiene items, nutrition and child protection services and non-formal education activities to families displaced in Al-Hasakeh City, including the 2,600 people sheltering in collective centres.
- In 2022, UNICEF requires \$334,430,071 to provide life-saving assistance to 9.1 million people (including 5.5 million children) across Syria according to the [Humanitarian Action Plan for Children](#). \$81,410,123 has been made available so far, leaving a \$253,019,949 (76 per cent) gap.

Situation in Numbers

6,080,000 children in need of humanitarian assistance

13,400,000 people in need

6,700,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs)

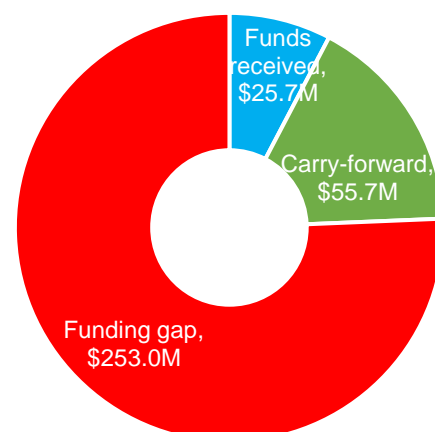
2,565,766 children in difficult to access areas

(source: OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2021)

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status

	Health	Polio vaccination	0%
		Funding status	13%
	Nutrition	SAM admissions	3%
		Funding status	6%
	Child Protection	Psychosocial support	6%
		Funding status	33%
	Education	Formal education access	3%
		Funding status	38%
	WASH	Safe water access	13%
		Funding status	26%
	Cash Transfer	Cash transfers	6%
		Funding status	19%
	ADAP	Employability skills	4%
		Funding status	22%
	C4D	Engagement activities	1%
		Funding status	0%

UNICEF Appeal: \$334.4 million



Note: Polio vaccination is undertaken in a campaign modality; the first results will be reported after the first campaign is completed. C4D results achieved with funds from other programmes.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2022, UNICEF requires \$334,430,071 to provide lifesaving assistance to 9.1 million people (including 5.5 million children) across Syria according to the [Humanitarian Action for Children](#) (HAC). Of the total funding requirements, \$81,410,123 have been made available, leaving a \$253,019,949 (76 per cent). This year, the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States as well as GAVI, ECHO, the Syria Humanitarian Fund and UNICEF national committees generously contributed to the UNICEF humanitarian response across Syria. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private partners for this critical support.

UNICEF continued to lead the Water and Sanitation, Education, Nutrition Sectors/Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility as well as the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Group and Risk Education Working Group. Further, UNICEF also co-leads, together with World Vision International, the No Lost Generation Initiative, bringing together 39 UN and NGO partners to advocate for the protection, education and development of Syrian children, adolescents and young people, under the umbrella of the Syria HRP and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP).

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Security situation in Al-Hasakeh: On 20 January, an attack on Ghweiran detention centre in Al-Hasakeh City in NE Syria resulted in rapidly escalating hostilities with gunfire and explosions reported. Civilian casualties were reported, and an estimated 45,000 people displaced from their homes. Most of those displaced sheltered with family and friends in nearby areas.¹ As of 31 January, as the security situation improved, 32,500 people are reported to have returned to their homes. Around 11,000 people remain displaced in host communities and 1,400 people are sheltering in four collective centres in Al-Hasakeh City.

Nearly 700 boys, most Syrian and Iraqi with the rest of 20 other nationalities, some as young as 12 years old, were amongst those detained in Ghweiran detention centre.² These boys live in over-crowded and unsanitary conditions, without access to basic services or communication with their families. Ghweiran detention centre houses an estimated 5,000 male detainees, many in prolonged detention without charge or review process. A special section was allocated for children, though some stay with relatives in the sections for adults.

The [UNICEF Executive Director](#) and [Representative for Syria](#) called for the protection and immediate release of the almost 850 total estimated children from detention centres in NE Syria. Member states of foreign children must repatriate these children urgently, and UNICEF stands ready to facilitate the repatriation and reintegration of foreign children to their communities of origin.

Humanitarian access was constrained in Al-Hasakeh City and other areas due to the insecurity, including to Al-Hol and other camps. Humanitarian actors negotiated access and an easing of restrictions on humanitarian supplies in Al-Hasakeh City, however, challenges were reported across lines of control.³ In the first week of the crisis when hostilities escalated, humanitarian partners prioritized ramping up emergency assistance through volunteers and local partners. At the height of the crisis, seven collective centres were hosting over 2,600 people with agencies providing food assistance and WASH, protection and health services (UNICEF response is highlighted in the Summary Analysis of Programme Response below).

North-west Syria (NW Syria): In the first four days of 2022, two children were killed and five injured in violence in NW Syria. A water station in Arshani Village in Idleb was also attacked, cutting off water for 241,000 people. An alternative water pump was activated and work is on-going to replace the damaged components of water stations, transmission main, and civil infrastructure.

Heavy snowfall and rainfall starting on 18 January affected over 250,000 people in 315 displaced communities in NW Syria, which hosts 2.8 million IDPs⁴. Two infants are reported to have died from the cold in Idleb⁵. Overall, 935 tents were destroyed and 9,562 tents damaged⁶. The severe weather constrained both access to affected families and aid shipments to NW Syria. A series of fires broke out due to the use of local heating stoves, injuring women, and children.

¹ OCHA, [Syria: Qamishli Flash Update - Flash Update 1: Displacement from Al-Hasakeh \(as of 23 January 2022\)](#), 23 January 2022.

² New York Times, [The ISIS Hostages: 'These Children Should Not Have Been There'](#), 26 January 2022.

³ OCHA, [Syria: Displacement in Al-Hasakeh Governorate Situation Report No. 1 \(21 to 31 January 2022\)](#), 2 February 2022.

⁴ OCHA, [Displaced families receive aid but more snow forecast for northern Syria Flash Update #2](#), 21 January 2022.

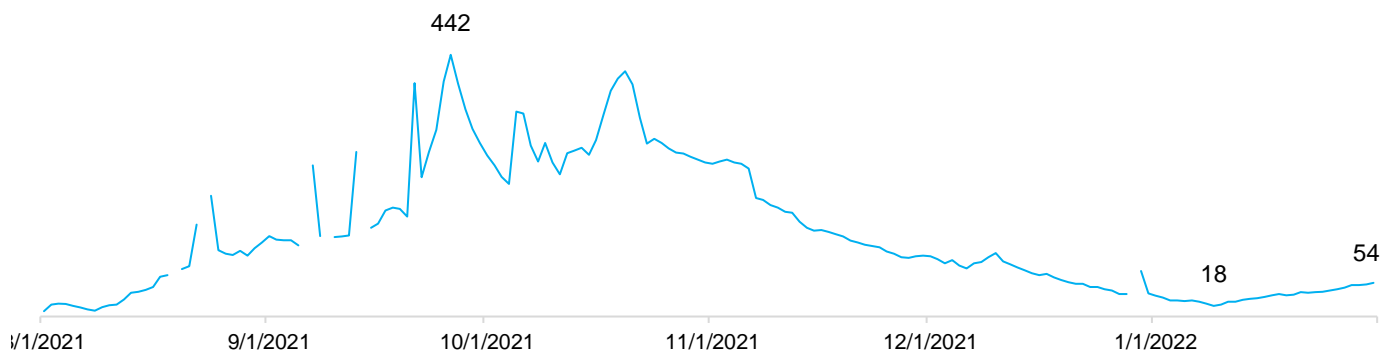
⁵ France24, [Two babies killed by winter cold in northwest Syria: UN](#), 2 February 2022.

⁶ OCHA, [Heavy snowfall hits northern Syria's displaced communities Flash Update #4](#), 28 January 2022.

Several demonstrations were reported in response to unannounced increases in the electricity bills. The one-week mid-term school holiday which began on 20 January, was extended by a week in Idleb and northern Aleppo; schools are reopened 5 February.

COVID-19: Since the start of the pandemic, 181,803 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed including 93,068 in NW Syria and 37,451 in NE Syria. Confirmed COVID-19 cases in government-controlled areas in January remained low compared to the fourth wave of the virus from September to November 2021. According to WHO, the increased numbers of cases seen towards the end of January may be attributable to the Omicron variant, considering its circulation in the region. Increased test positivity was also seen towards the end of January; however, testing is highly constrained and limited mostly to severe patients in hospitals⁷.

Figure 1: New cases in government-controlled areas, 2021



Al-Hol Camp: On 11 January, a staff member of a local relief organization was killed in a health facility in Al-Hol Camp. Insecurity is common in Al-Hol: From 1 January 2021 to 12 January 2022, 90 murders of Syrian and Iraqi camp residents were reported, including at least two humanitarian workers.⁸ The Camp hosts 56,000 IDPs and refugees, over half of whom are under 18. The United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria and the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis called on all parties to ensure appropriate security measures to allow humanitarian assistance to continue to be delivered in a safe and effective manner.

Alouk Water Station: During January, Alouk water station operated 20 of its 30 boreholes and 4 of its 8 horizontal pumps with several interruptions between 15 and 22 January due to problems with the power supply and electrical lines. Since the end of 2019, over 460,000 people in Al-Hasakeh City and surrounding areas, and an additional half million in NE Syria, have been intermittently deprived of access to safe drinking water due to these interruptions. UNICEF has installed seven reverse osmosis units to improve drinking water quality in Al-Hasakeh City in partnership with the Syria Arab Red Crescent (SARC). Nine more units are expected to be completed by the end of March 2022.

Rukban: Thirty-one people arrived from Rukban to the transitional shelter in Homs, including 9 women and 14 children. All arriving children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women were screened for malnutrition and those with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were referred to services. Five of the children who had not received their full routine immunization schedule were vaccinated. UNICEF continues to provide supplies (family hygiene kits, diapers and sanitary napkins) and services to families from Rukban in the transitional shelter as well as in their onwards destinations.

Socioeconomic situation: The national average price of WFP's standard reference food basket⁹ increased in December 2021 (latest available data) by three per cent compared with November 2021, reaching SYP 220,112 (USD 88 at the official exchange rate of SYP 2,500/USD). This is the fourth consecutive month registering the highest ever recorded price since monitoring started in 2013.¹⁰ On 11 December, the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection increased the price of subsidized 90-Octane gasoline from SYP 750 to SYP 1,100 per litre, representing the third increase in 2021. On 15 December, Decrees were issued raising the salaries civil servants, military workers and private professionals by 30 per cent as well as raising pensions by 25 per cent.¹¹

⁷ WHO, Syrian Arab Republic: COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin, EPI Week: 22W04, 31 January 2021.

⁸ OCHA, [United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria, Imran Riza, and Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, Muhannad Hadi – Joint Statement on the killing of a humanitarian aid worker, Al Hol Camp](#), 12 January 2022.

⁹ The standard food basket is a group of essential food commodities. In Syria, the food basket is set at a group of dry goods providing 2,060 kcal a day for a family of five during a month. The basket includes 37 kg bread, 19 kg rice, 19 kg lentils, 5 kg of sugar, and 7 litres of vegetable oil.

¹⁰ WFP, [Market Price Watch Bulletin Issue 85, December 2021](#), posted: 18 January 2022.

¹¹ WFP, [Market Price Watch Bulletin Issue 85, December 2021](#), posted: 18 January 2022.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

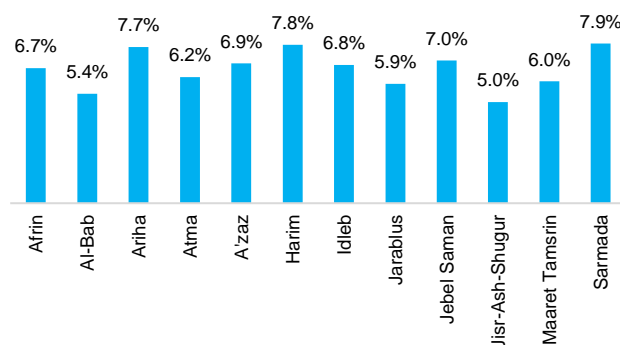
In January, 169,959 **free medical consultations** including 70,907 for boys, 71,358 for girls, 3,544 for men¹² and 24,150 for women were provided through fixed clinics and mobile teams in 14 governorates. This included 36,646 in NE Syria (of which 5,478 were in Al-Hol Camp) and 19,243 in NW Syria. In January, 82,264 caregivers (47,547 women) were reached with health promotion messages, of which 8,424 were in NE Syria and 65,234 in NW Syria.

In NW Syria, **routine vaccination** services continued with 9,366 children (4,523 girls) receiving a third dose of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccine, among other routine vaccines provided. UNICEF also continued to support routine immunization in government-controlled areas; results are expected in February. A **measles outbreak** was reported in the Al-Bab District, with 75 cases confirmed, the majority of which were in children under 5. Vaccination coverage in Al-Bab is low, with only 66 per cent of infants receiving their first dose of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. This is due primarily to displacement and low levels of uptake of immunization services. A measles campaign was launched in coordination with the Syria Immunization Group and WHO on 28 January. The campaign is targeting 65,720 children. UNICEF is supporting social mobilization activities.

From the start of the **COVID-19 vaccination** campaign to date, 2,059,727 people have been vaccinated in Syria. This includes 1,765,746 people who have received at least one dose in government-controlled areas (7.8 per cent of the population) of whom 950,266 had been fully vaccinated (4.2 per cent of the population). UNICEF has supported the importation of 4,978,240 donated doses of COVID-19 vaccine, including 3,458,400 received in late-January 2022. UNICEF has also provided the Ministry of Health (MOH) a simple excel-based tool to manage its vaccine supply and identify gaps in vaccine storage capacity. A rapid assessment of existing health infrastructure was undertaken with UNICEF support, and a plan developed to prioritize the rehabilitation of buildings to be used for vaccine storage and immunization services.

In NW Syria, 293,981 people have received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine (6.6 per cent of the population) with 150,549 people fully vaccinated (3.4 per cent of the total population). UNICEF delivered 35 refrigerators to NW Syria in January, with installation on-going at health facility-level.

Figure 2: COVID-19 vaccination rates in NW Syria



Nutrition

UNICEF and its implementing partners screened 75,700 children under 5 (38,298 girls) and 25,493 pregnant and lactating women for malnutrition, including 22,575 children and 9,909 women in NW Syria. Of those screened, 477 children (310 girls) were admitted for **treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)**, including 156 in NW Syria. In NW Syria, funding constraints have meant that only three of the eight required strategic partnerships for nutrition service delivery are in place. This has negatively affected UNICEF's operational presence, with only 45 of the 100 planned rapid response teams (RRTs) currently functional.

UNICEF held two strategic discussions with WFP in NW Syria to further strengthen the joint approach on the prevention and management of childhood and maternal acute malnutrition. Key recommendations from the discussions were agreements on joint geographical targeting, use of harmonized RRTs for the treatment of MAM and SAM, joint partnership capacity assessments and scaling up of the 'Family MUAC'¹³ approach as well as cash voucher assistance to promote nutrition outcomes. These discussions are expected to be further unpacked and translated into results for children and women in the coming months.

As part of prevention efforts, 33,572 children under 5 (16,859 girls) and 13,710 pregnant and lactating women received **multiple micronutrient supplementation**, including 324 children and 5,117 women in NW Syria. **Infant and young child feeding (IYCF)** counselling, meanwhile, was provided for 45,089 female and 98 male caregivers. UNICEF is working with MOH to develop a national IYCF plan in alignment with the IYCF Evaluation recommendations, including a new Social and Behaviour Change Strategy.

¹² Services target women and children.

¹³ MUAC stands for mid-upper arm circumference, which is used to measure malnutrition.

Nutrition Sector

During December 2021, the 45 Nutrition Sector partners reached 108,979 children under 5 (54,532 girls) and 88,985 women with life-saving preventive and curative nutrition services. This included 99,019 children under 5 (49,196 girls) and 25,378 pregnant and lactating women screened for malnutrition. Out of those, 1,059 children (605 girls) and 659 pregnant lactating women were identified with MAM and 376 children (210 girls) with SAM without complications, all of whom were enrolled in treatment. A further 104 children under 5 (55 girls) were identified as suffering from SAM with complications and were referred to hospitals for treatment.

In Al-Hasakeh City, two mobile nutrition teams were mobilized to provide services to those displaced to collective centres. In these centres, 922 children and 276 women were screened for acute malnutrition. Two children and one pregnant woman were identified with MAM and admitted for treatment while IYCF sessions were organized for 183 caregivers. Donations of infant formula by local charities was detected and reported. As per the Nutrition Sector protocol, the charities were briefed on the guidelines for infant feeding in emergencies and WHO's recommendations regarding the blanket distribution of breastmilk substitutes. The distribution was stopped by the third day of the response.

The harsh weather in NW Syria constrained access to nutrition centres and the ability of RRTs to reach beneficiaries. Nutrition Cluster partners undertook a swift emergency response through the RRT Technical Working Group and managed to restart nutrition services following a very brief stop, including for pre-existing winter emergency programmes (such as multi-purpose cash-vouchers). In January, 27 nutrition partners and 80 RRTs operating 81 outpatient treatment programmes and 46 targeted supplementary programmes treated 464 children with SAM (275 girls) and 1,004 children (627 girls) with MAM along with 13,118 pregnant and lactating women with MAM. IYCF counselling was provided for 30,179 pregnant and lactating women while micronutrient supplements were provided for 9,840 women and 1,489 children (743 girls). The blanket supplementary feeding programme, a preventative nutrition intervention for children 6-59 months, reached 26,848 children (13,948 girls).

Child Protection

UNICEF through partners delivered life-saving messages to mitigate the risk of explosive devices to 24,910 children (8,310 girls) and 8,764 caregivers (5,438 women) in schools and community centres, and through mobile teams, in nine governorates. This includes 1,873 children and 1,151 caregivers in NW Syria. In government-controlled areas of Idlib, 35 women received **explosive ordnance risk education (EORE)** awareness raising along with 103 children (28 girls). Mothers have shown appreciation of these sessions and report relaying the awareness messages to their children.

To help children cope with stress and regain a sense of normalcy, 23,608 children (11,946 girls) including 1,912 children in NW Syria, were reached with structured and sustained child protection and psychosocial support services. Capacity building efforts continued for partner staff on the new **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)** manual for children. Through two training-of-trainers (TOT) workshops, 55 staff (41 women) from 23 partner organizations were introduced to the new manual, went through the sessions by age group (6-9, 10-12, 13-17) and conducted mock-sessions with each other to test their facilitation skills. These trainers will conduct trainings in their respective organizations, and the trained staff will in turn conduct MHPSS activities with children as part of the testing process of the new manual. The pilot of the new manual is expected to continue through April 2022 whereafter feedback will be consolidated, and the manual will be revised for final approval.



Inash Fakeer Open Day in Rural Damascus ©UNICEF 2022

In January, 6,962 parents and primary caregivers (5,196 females) completed **parenting programmes**, including 1,206 in NW Syria. UNICEF has started developing a new positive parenting programme to equip caregivers with knowledge and skills to promote enriched caregiving and positive parenting practices. The manual is expected to be developed and field-tested in the first half of 2022.

UNICEF continued strengthening the **case management system** with a focus on violence and abuse against children, including gender-based violence (GBV), reaching 1,901 people: 1,876 children (865 girls) and 25 women, including 159 children and 21 women in NW Syria. The case management pilot initiative in Rural Damascus was extended for three additional months until the end of March to provide sufficient time for ensuring the required quality and assessing the intervention. Case managers continued following up on the cases and three coordination meetings and a case management training were conducted to enhance the capacities of the project case managers. **Referrals** to education, GBV support, cash assistance, health, legal and MHPSS services were provided for 767 children (352 girls) in January.

Implementing partners carried out **awareness-raising** sessions on child rights along with recreational activities through Open Days. Despite the harsh weather limiting access, 40,290 children and caregivers (16,285 girls, 6,179 women) were reached including 1,457 children and 815 caregivers in NW Syria. GBV awareness raising, meanwhile, was provided to 20,232 children (10,277 girls) and 5,746 caregivers (4,160 women). This includes 209 boys, 262 girls, 258 women and 91 men in NW Syria.

Fifty-six unaccompanied and separated children (18 girls) were provided with 24/7 caregiving services in the **interim care centres of Al-Hol Camp**, including case management and family tracing. Fifty-two psychosocial support sessions and recreational activities as well as 83 counselling sessions were held and 23 children were referred to health services. Twenty-three children and adolescents participated in life-skills sessions. The security situation in Al-Hol Camp remains tense, meaning only a minimum level of child protection activities were implemented and reunification of children was delayed. Focus discussion groups were conducted by UNICEF, UNHCR and Camp Management and an action plan was drafted aiming to end the violence in the camp. The security situation and lockdown measures in Qamishli and Al-Hasakeh delayed the purchase of essential items such as diapers and milk for children in the camp.

To respond to the needs of the recently displaced persons in Al-Hasakeh City, UNICEF and partners provided a package of child protection interventions, including key messages on the prevention of separation and GBV, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), for 917 children and 391 adults; psychosocial support for 438 children; parental care programming for 314 caregivers; and EORE to 147 children and 35 caregivers with the distribution of 600 EORE games, magazines and brochures.

Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AOR)

Coordination has been initiated between UNHCR and UNICEF on the repatriation of two Iraqi unaccompanied children in the Al-Hol interim care centres as part of an upcoming trip to Iraq. Both UNICEF and UNHCR are coordinating with the Camp Management. Meanwhile, the Child Protection AOR has coordinated with the Protection Working Group to standardize the services mapping template to facilitate the referral of children to quality services in a timely manner by the case managers.

There are over 70 partners in the NW Syria Child Protection AOR. The AOR coordination team has worked in supporting an advocacy package this period. Preparations have also been ongoing for the launch of call on projects on MHPSS. The Child Protection AOR coordination team with the support of its Task Forces and extensive network of collaborators in the field monitors key Child Protection concerns in NW Syria, the outcomes of which can be viewed [here](#).

Education

UNICEF supported 56,913 children (27,340 girls) with **educational services and supplies in formal settings**. This included the distribution of school bags, stationery, school-in-a-carton kits, and recreational kits, as well as cleaning materials for education spaces to ensure COVID-19 protocols are observed.

In **non-formal education (NFE) settings**, 49,923 (25,410 girls) received educational services. Of these, 199 children (114 girls) transitioned to formal education settings through the Self-Learning Programme (SLP). In NW Syria, this included catch-up classes for 1,752 children (840 girls) and 12,979 children (6,155 girls) engaged through the SLP.

Of the total children reached in both formal and non-formal settings in government-controlled areas, 1,713 were children (842 girls) with disabilities. Many children with disabilities are not enrolled due to lack of physical and human resources to meet their needs, as well as due to challenges in social exclusion. UNICEF will increase investments in **inclusive education** in 2022. For example, in March, UNICEF will facilitate a training for Early Childhood Development staff on disability inclusion, child protection referrals and digital/remote learning. Where possible, UNICEF will collaborate with specialized inclusive education organizations.

In Hama, a training was conducted in coordination with the Ministry of Education (MOE) as part of the plan to roll **Curriculum B** out nationwide. This comes after UNICEF supported the review and alignment of Curriculum B and Life Skills materials with the national curriculum in 2021. The training included 40 participants (28 female) from 16 schools Hama, Idleb and Homs including headmasters, headmasters' assistants and secretaries.

Back to Learning campaign activities encouraged parents, caregivers and community leaders to ensure young children access to pre-primary education and to highlight the education opportunities available for all children. In January, 938 caregivers and children (403 female) were reached with these interventions.

Temporary learning spaces were established in tents or prefabricated classrooms in NW Syria for 1,971 children (1,035 girls) this contributed to improve access of children to receive education services. Schools and learning spaces were also provided with maintenance and running costs to ensure the availability of cleaning products, stationery for school personnel and fuel for heating). UNICEF provided school-based **psychosocial support** in formal and non-formal settings for 10,389 children (4,496 girls) in NW Syria and PSEA training sessions were provided for 594 teachers and educational personnel (380 female). Additionally, in NW Syria, 806 teachers and education personnel (314 female) were provided with incentives to ensure continuation of learning and avoid teacher absenteeism.

Following the hostilities in Al-Hasakeh City, a prefabricated school established by UNICEF in mid-2021 is being used as a collective shelter¹⁴. A UNICEF education partner conducted recreational education activities such as games, poetry readings and songs in addition to the distribution of toys, balloons, colouring books and playdoh to 539 children (255 girls). The lockdown imposed from 24 to 31 January due to insecurity closed NFE centres in Al-Hassakeh, Al-Hol Camp and Areesheh Camp, affecting approximately 7,000 students.

In Deir-ez-Zor, in collaboration with UNDP, the Directorate of Education and sector partners, UNICEF rehabilitated 1,000 school desks. Forty young trainees in the UNDP-supported vocational training centre did the carpentry, fixed the metal structures and painted the desks using supplies provided by UNICEF. The desks were distributed to 25 schools in two sub-districts which, like many schools in Syria, have an acute need for school supplies including furniture.



UNICEF and UNDP rehabilitated 1,000 old school desks, Dier-ez-Zor. © UNICEF 2022/Bashar Al Kheder

Education Sector

Due to the cold weather and limited diesel fuel availability, the resumption of classes after the winter break was postponed by a week to 30 January. Considering the threat posed by the COVID-19 Omicron variant, MOE received 70,000 rapid antigen test kits from WHO. Together with MOH and WHO, MOE developed a plan to conduct, and respond to the results of, the rapid antigen tests. The Education Sector will monitor the progress and provide support if gaps are identified, while maintaining support for infection prevention and control measures.

With five new organizations joining in January 2022, the Education Cluster for NW Syria now has 104 cluster members. In NW Syria, the new semester was postponed to 5 February due to the severe weather conditions. When the first semester ended, nearly 300 teachers went on strike in 21 schools in Ariha and Jishr Ashugur. As seen in past strikes, the reason is the lack of payment (some have not been paid for four years). The number of schools affected by strikes has now grown to almost 100 schools including more than 5,000 teachers. The Education Cluster is continuously advocating to improve the difficult conditions faced by teachers and students in NW Syria.

WASH

UNICEF supported the rehabilitation and maintenance of **water supply systems**, ensuring safe drinking water for 467,421 people (131,505 boys, 128,025 girls, 97,869 men and 110,022 women). This included the rehabilitation of water systems in two neighbourhoods in Aleppo City, the rehabilitation of a water system in Tal Aswad Village in Aleppo, the installation of a water tank in Seraa Village in Idlib, the provision of equipment for the water pumping station in Sabka in Ar-Raqqa and the rehabilitation of water stations and operational support for 146,421 people in NW Syria.

UNICEF sustained **emergency lifesaving WASH services** including water trucking for the residents of camps, collective shelters and host communities in NE Syria, Rural Damascus and rural Aleppo, benefiting 190,617 people (45,413 boys, 43,229 girls, 48,067 men and 53,908 women). Water trucking was provided for 2,285 IDPs sheltering in

¹⁴ Education activities at the school were not affected as the security incidents took place during the mid-term break

collective centres in Al-Hasakeh City starting on 24 January. UNICEF also cleaned WASH facilities and desludged septic tanks in Al-Hol Camp, ensuring a clean environment for 11,992 IDPs (3,914 boys, 4,012 girls, 753 men and 3,313 women). Moreover, UNICEF provided 29,931 people (5,851 boys, 5,858 girls, 8,549 men and 9,673 women) in Aleppo and Dar'a with hygiene supplies including shampoo, jerry cans, soap and sanitary napkins. In NW Syria, UNICEF supported 206,423 IDPs with water trucking, solid waste and wastewater management, and the maintenance of public latrines. Hygiene kits were distributed to 157,083 IDPs.

The lack of local production or importation of sodium hypochlorite in Syria poses major risks for the availability of safe water. UNICEF secures the majority of the local requirements for sodium hypochlorite to disinfect all water systems in the country, ensuring the provision of safe drinking water to 11.8 million people across Syria. A further 1.8 million people are reached by locally manufactured chlorine from factories supported by UNICEF.



Water trucking in Al-Hasakeh ©UNICEF 2022/Sheikhi

WASH Sector

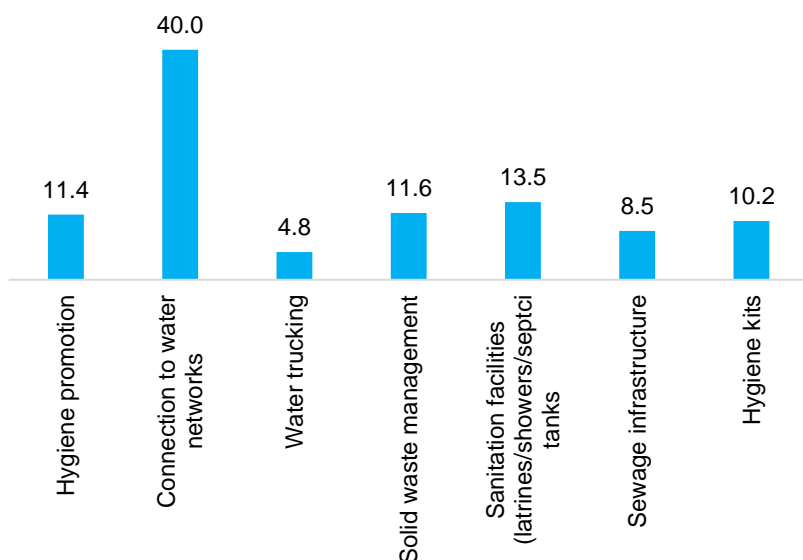
Based on data received from 13 of 36 Sector partners, in December 2021, the WASH Sector reached two million people (1,058,128 female), including 1.54 million people (802,378 female) who benefitted from the repair, rehabilitation and improvement of water supply and sewerage systems. Humanitarian WASH supplies and services reached 560,000 people (283,686 female). Finally, the Sector supported the rehabilitation of gender-responsive WASH facilities incorporating the needs of children with disabilities in 46 schools, benefitting 37,734 students (18,892 girls).

In response to the crisis in Al Hasakeh, the WASH Sector response included:

- UNICEF and ICRC, through SARC supplied 39m³ of safe water daily to six new IDP sites/centres and distributed buckets, garbage bins and 650 hygiene kits at six centres, with more distributions planned.
- Regular water trucking continued to IDP camps and neighborhoods in Al-Hasakeh city. So far, 739m³ of water has been delivered.
- Thirty-seven water 2m² storage tanks were installed at the six collective centres and host communities.
- Distribution of 2,100 bottles of water (1.5 litres) to displaced people to supplement water trucking.
- Support to maintain latrine facilities at one of the IDP sites

Key gaps and needs identified in Al-Hasakeh include the limited number of WASH sector actors, meaning the response has primarily been delivered by UNICEF and ICRC (through SARC) as well as inadequate funding to meet needs.

Figure 3: Percentage gap in population by WASH service, NW Syria, January 2022



The 107 WASH Cluster partners in NW Syria are supporting 4.3 million people with a combination of safe water, sewage and solid waste management, vector control, hygiene promotion and COVID-19 messaging and hygiene supplies, including soap for handwashing. There are still gaps in the response, as per Figure 3, including durable solutions such as the connection of camps to existing water networks and sewage networks.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion support have also reached 778 schools/learning centres attended by 389,000 children and 104 health facilities which serve 104,000 people. These WASH services have contributed to a reduction in water-borne disease from 109,036 cases in October 2021 to 19,848 in January 2022, according to Early Warning Alert and Response Network data.

Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP)

UNICEF supported 7,263 youth and adolescents (4,145 females) with **skills development** including Like Skills and Citizenship Education, enhanced employability skills and technical and vocational education and training (TVET). An additional 1,811 young people (1,000 females) promoted **social cohesion and civic engagement** at the community-level by supporting youth-led initiatives and organizing sports for development activities.

In January, UNICEF focused on **youth mobilization** to support UNICEF priorities. Capacity development was provided for 84 youth workers (55 females) on hygiene promotion and menstrual care. These youth workers will go on to conduct awareness-raising sessions for 114,640 targeted children, adolescents, teachers, health workers and young mothers in collaboration with the UNICEF WASH section in 2022.

UNICEF mobilized 45 youth volunteers (20 females) in the response to the recent displacement of families in Ghweiran. The youth mobile teams supported local organizations in the distribution of food, winter clothes and drinkable water as well as with the preparation of locations to be used as collective shelters. The youth volunteers provided displaced youth and adolescents with life skills sessions, reaching 429 young people (222 females) and sports for development activities, reaching 650 young people (370 females). Additionally, 26 young people designed and led “Warm Winter” initiatives where they packed and distributed 96 small winter kits to adolescents and children in the collective shelters.

UNICEF restarted its work with the **Special Olympics** after more than five years. Two days of activities were organized to promote the integration of people with physical and mental disabilities with the local community in Dara’a. The Special Olympics engaged 77 youth and adolescents including 12 girls and 6 young people with disabilities in a table tennis competition with counterparts from Iraq.



Table tennis match for people with disabilities, Dar'a, Ahl Al Sham Initiative centre, ©Zahra Sheikha

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

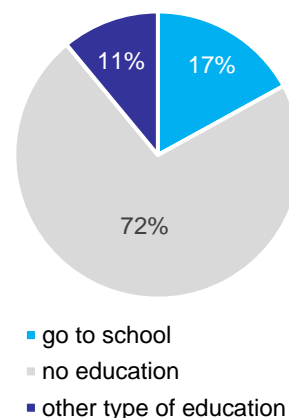
The **Integrated Social Protection Programme for children with disabilities** aims to address the economic and social vulnerabilities of children with disabilities and their families. It combines the provision of regular and unconditional cash transfers with case management services to facilitate the referral of children with disabilities to available social services and increase their social inclusion. In January, 3,120 children with severe mental and/or physical disabilities (1,187 girls) were reached in Rural Damascus, Al-Hasakeh and Hama Governorates.

Children reached continue to suffer multiple deprivations. For example, most school-aged children with disabilities reached in January are attending neither formal nor specialized education (Figure 4). Through case management, the priority during 2022 will be to identify education solutions for these children and increase their access to formal or non-formal education.

The **Basic Needs Support Programme** has two components: (i) provision of humanitarian, unconditional cash transfers to vulnerable families in urban and peri-urban areas; and (ii) provision of winter clothes for displaced children in camps and collective shelters. Over 25,000 people in 5,436 families were provided with unconditional **cash transfers** in Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Hama Governorates. These families include 13,894 children (6,641 girls). The cash transfers helped families cope with the economic hardship and increased cost of living during winter. Due to the limited absorption capacity of financial service providers and the security situation in NE Syria, cash could not be distributed to a further 25,000 targeted people. Reaching them in February will be a top priority.

In January, UNICEF also distributed **winter clothing kits** to 12,080 children (5,817 girls) in Al-Hasakeh, Homs and Hama. This brings the total number of children reached during the 2021-2022 winter response to 32,013 in Idleb, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Al-Hasakeh, Homs, Hama and Ar-Raqqa Governorates. Over 50,000 winter kits could not be distributed in NE Syria due to the recent insecurity and lockdowns and restrictions of movement, which negatively affected the timeliness of the winter clothes distribution process.

Figure 4: Educational status of school-age children with disabilities



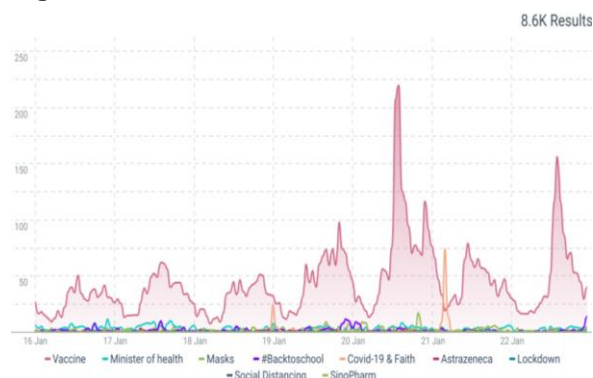
Communication for Development (C4D), RCCE and Accountability for Affected Populations (AAP)

UNICEF and its partners continue to implement the **COVID-19 vaccine demand generation** micro plans in coordination with Directorates of Health. Through SARC-led community engagement activities, 10,179 people (6,233 females) were educated and engaged through 800 group dialogue sessions, 6,629 household visits and advocacy and orientation with local leaders to encourage in 14 governorates. Efforts in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa were accelerated and integrated with other health messages with 3,970 awareness sessions on health care practices, including breastfeeding, reaching 20,662 caregivers in six camps, while 167,660 people (97,337 females) were reached through door-to-door and tent-to-tent visits.

An online Platform called “Talkwalker”, a **social listening tool** tracking 150 million websites and 20 social media platforms provided insights on the social media discourse related to COVID-19 in Syria. From 16 to 22 January, 85 per cent of related conversations were about “vaccine”, with most of the sentiments being neutral (71 per cent) while 21 per cent were negative.

In government-controlled areas, 308,261 people (168,933 female) were reached with COVID-19 messaging while 168,131 people (103,374 females) were engaged through activities such as puppet shows and songs, focus group discussions and advocacy meetings with local influencers. Third-party monitoring showed that the most frequently asked questions were about vaccine side effects and safety (similar to the assessment results in health centres), the location of the vaccination points (access) and types of vaccines and their side-effects. The most commonly recalled messages are listed below.

Figure 5: Talkwalker results



Key messages recalled by beneficiaries	%
The vaccine will help protect you and your family from COVID-19.	78%
The vaccine will reduce your risk of contracting COVID-19 by increasing your immunity.	71%
This vaccine is given by injection and in two doses.	55%
While the vaccine will protect you and your family, preventive behaviours are still required: using masks, washing hands with soap, and maintaining social distancing.	53%
The vaccine will be provided free of charge in public health facilities, designated vaccination centres and mobile clinics.	53%

Social and behaviour change activities in NW Syria included:

RCCE on COVID-19 in general reached 55,038 people:

- 1,449 awareness sessions for 18,222 caregivers
- 20,754 household visits
- 4,558 students oriented in schools
- 3,221 people engaged in two-way communication

COVAX/vaccination RCCE reached 42,446 people:

- 1,677 awareness sessions
- 1,246 religious leaders oriented
- 15,906 household visits
- 9,763 reluctant people identified and targeted

Human Interest Stories and External Media

During the reporting period, UNICEF acknowledged [Japan's](#) recent [contribution](#) in support of UNICEF's [winter response](#) through a [press release](#) and on [Twitter](#). Also, with a press release, UNICEF underlined the renewed cooperation with [Finland](#) to support children's education in Syria, highlighting the additional funding provided. Issuing a press release, Syria Country Office (SCO) underlined the impact of recent shipments of COVID-19 vaccines, donated by [Japan](#) and [Spain](#) via COVAX, to fighting the pandemic in Syria.

As part of its advocacy endeavours and communication work, SCO called for the urgent release of children held in detention, in light of escalating violence in the Sina'a detention centre and renewed its calls for the repatriation of foreign children in NE Syria via a [statement](#). UNICEF also highlighted its [response](#) to support the children and families forced to flee the violence in Ghweiran.

Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall Needs	UNICEF and IPs response			Sector response		
		2022 target ¹	Total results	Change since last report	2022 target ²	Total results ³	Change since last report
Health							
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio	12.4M	3,200,000	0 ⁴	0			
Number of children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities		1,820,000	169,959	169,959			
Number of health care facility staff trained on infection prevention and control		550	0	0			
Nutrition							
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	4.9M	18,400	477	477	17,447	-	-
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling		1,245,000	45,187	45,187	915,063	-	-
Number of children and pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients		1,970,000	47,282	47,282	2,563,000	-	-
Child Protection, GBVIE & PESA							
Number of children accessing mental health and psychosocial support	5.9M	384,000	23,608	23,608	880,000	-	-
Number of girls and boys benefiting from case management for child protection and/or gender-based violence		24,300	1,901	1,901			
Number of women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions		120,000	25,978	25,978			
Number of children and caregivers accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions		1,947,300	24,910	24,910			
Education							
Number of children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings	6.9M	2,250,000	56,913	56,913	3,300,000	-	-
Number of children in non-formal education benefiting from education services		430,000	49,923	49,923	1,256,530	-	-
Number of teachers and education personnel trained		44,000	394	394	76,524	-	-
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene							
Number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	12.2M	3,600,000	467,421	467,421	8,000,000	-	-
Number of people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes		600,000	28,810	28,810	5,500,000	-	-
Number of people have improved access to sanitation services		1,950,000	92,700	92,700	4,000,000	-	-

¹ Targets will reflect the 2021 HRP until the 2022 HRP has been finalized and approved.

² Targets will reflect the 2021 HRP until the 2022 HRP has been finalized and approved.

³ Sector results for January are not yet available.

⁴ Based on campaign modality; results pending first round of campaign.

Social Protection & Cash Transfers							
Number of households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors		86,000	5,436	5,436			
Number of girls and boys with disabilities provided with regular cash transfers		14,000	3,120	3,120			
Adolescents & Youth							
Number of adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years promoting social cohesion and civic engagement at the community level		300,000	1,811	1,811			
Number of affected adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills		200,000	7,263	7,263			
C4D, RCCE & AAP							
Number of people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services		25,611,884	79,787	79,787			
Number of people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change		8,725,728	76,671	76,671			

Annex B

Funding Status

Section	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received in 2022	Carry-Over	\$	%
Health	\$44,030,777	\$1,982,000	\$3,906,065	\$38,142,712	87%
Nutrition	\$33,923,083	\$293,706	\$1,747,892	\$31,881,485	94%
Child Protection, GBVIE & PSEA	\$31,472,313	\$1,543,613	\$8,719,155	\$21,209,545	67%
Education	\$82,513,164	\$11,628,547	\$19,888,066	\$50,996,550	62%
WASH	\$87,438,477	\$9,040,686	\$13,535,781	\$64,862,010	74%
Social Protection & Cash Transfers	\$35,100,698	\$1,184,549	\$5,412,199	\$28,503,950	81%
Adolescents & Youth	\$11,729,219	-	\$2,527,862	\$9,201,357	78%
C4D, RCCE & AAP	\$1,246,154	-	-	\$1,246,154	100%
Coordination	\$6,976,186	-	-	\$6,976,186	100%
Total	\$334,430,071	\$25,673,102	\$55,737,021	\$253,019,949	76%

*Funding for COVAX demand generation has been made available as part of health, and C4D funds have also been integrated into relevant sector funds.

Next SitRep: 20 March 2022

UNICEF Syria Crisis: <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/syrian-crisis>

UNICEF Syria Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/>

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