



Maram, 12, on her way to the UNICEF-supported education centre in Al-Jazmati, Aleppo City © UNICEF/UN0603200/Deeb

Reporting Period: 1 January to 31 March 2022

Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report

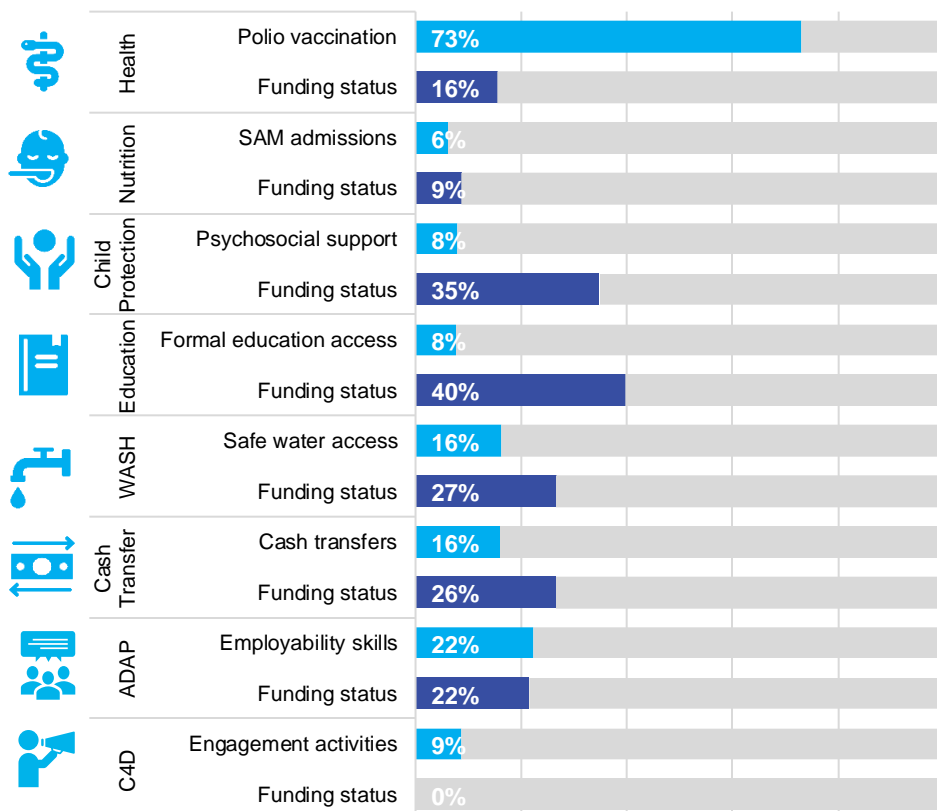
March 2022



Highlights

- Some increases in rates of acute malnutrition have been recorded as the nutrition situation deteriorates across Syria, driven by food insecurity and drastic food price increases along with economic deterioration, the sub-optimal WASH environment and inadequate access to health care compounded by poor maternal, infant and young child feeding practices.
- On 30 March, UNICEF delivered life-saving nutrition, health, hygiene, and child protection supplies to the most vulnerable families and children in Idleb as part of an OCHA-led crossline convoy from Aleppo, which consisted of 14 trucks from UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and WFP.
- The security situation in Al-Hol Camp has interrupted the delivery of water, and suspended non-life-saving interventions, including for the 1,700 children attending UNICEF-supported learning centres in the camps.
- The first round of national polio vaccination reached 2,337,945 children under 5 in March. UNICEF provided an additional two million vaccine doses as well as supporting social mobilization, post-campaign monitoring and operational costs in three governorates.
- 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 for Children](#). \$88,732,936 has been made available so far, leaving a \$245,697,136 (74 per cent) gap.


UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



Situation in Numbers

 **6,500,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance

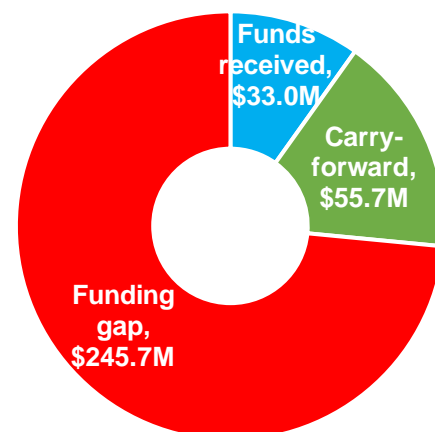
 **14,600,000** people in need

 **6,900,000** internally displaced persons (IDPs)

 **2,730,000** children in difficult to access areas

(source: OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2022)

UNICEF Appeal: \$334.4 million



Note: 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, \$88,732,936 have been made available, leaving a \$245,697,136 (74 per cent) gap. 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

Socio-economic situation: After a year of mostly stable food prices, the national average food basket¹ increased by 24 per cent from February to March 2022.² This was the greatest monthly increase and the highest price (SYP 286,757³) recorded since tracking began in 2013. This includes a 17 per cent increase in Al-Hasakeh and 15 per cent in Ar-Raqqa. According to WFP, these increases are due to the conflict in Ukraine, and it mirrors the increase in the FAO Global Price Index⁴. Food prices in north-west (NW) Syria are up by as much as 67 per cent since the start of the war in Ukraine.⁵ Cooking oil in NW Syria increased by 45 per cent in March while chicken and lamb increased by 25-45 per cent.⁶

Meanwhile, access to electricity remains highly constrained; of 1,087 UNICEF beneficiaries across the country surveyed in February and March, 15 per cent had no access to electricity while 50 per cent reported having electricity less than two hours per day. Water was available for these beneficiaries once a week or less (15 per cent) or not at all (19 per cent), with families relying on water trucking or buying the water they need.

UNICEF programming has also been affected. For example, costs for construction materials used for WASH programming have risen by 55 per cent on average over the past six months, including items such as pipes (up 28 per cent) and cables (up 42 per cent). Driving these price increases are global price increases, the rising cost of oil and higher sea freight rates, with the cost of one container increasing from \$1,600 to \$15,000.

North-west Syria: Shelling continued in NW Syria on most days in March⁷ and reports from the field indicate that at least 59 children have been killed and 82 injured in the conflict in NW Syria so far in 2022. The ongoing security situation in NW Syria along with the impacts of COVID-19 and economic hardship have impacted children's access to life-saving services as families prioritize the essential expenses. This is of critical concern given that the population in need of humanitarian aid in NW Syria has increased by over 20 per cent (from 3.4 million in 2021 to 4.1 million in 2022), representing 93 per cent of the population.⁸

On 30 March, UNICEF delivered additional life-saving nutrition, health, hygiene and child protection supplies to the most vulnerable families and children in Idleb. The supplies were delivered as part of a joint UN humanitarian crossline convoy led by OCHA. The convoy departed from Aleppo and consisted of 14 trucks from UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and WFP. The last convoy sent to this area departed from Aleppo on 9 December 2021.

Al-Hol Camp: On 28 March, heavy gunfire and explosions were heard in phases 4 and 5 of Al-Hol Camp, reportedly due to clashes between the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the security forces in the camp. Three deaths and 11 injuries were reported. Security enforcements have been deployed, and a lockdown imposed across the camp. These restrictions have interrupted life-saving activities, including the supply of water. Twenty water tankers (15 for

¹ 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.

² WFP, Market Price Watch Bulletin Issue 88, March 2022.

³ The formal exchange increased from SYP 2,512 to SYP 2814 to the US Dollar on 13 April.

⁴ WFP, [Syria Country Office Market Price Watch Bulletin Issue 88](#), March 2022

⁵ Mercy Corps, [The Russian-Ukrainian Conflict and its Food Security Implications in Northwest Syria: Situation report](#), April 2022.

⁶ OCHA, [North-west Syria Situation Report](#), updated 20 April 2022.

⁷ OCHA, [North-west Syria Situation Report](#), updated 20 April 2022.

⁸ OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic: Developments in north-west Syria and Ras Al Ain – Tell Abiad Situation Report No. 36, February 2022.

drinking water and 5 for domestic water) were allowed to operate inside the camp, provided with water through larger tankers from outside the camp. This was later increased to 46 tankers inside the camp. UNICEF-supported learning centres have been closed since 17 March in line with the suspension of non-life-saving interventions. Prior to the closure, 1,700 children of ages 3-18 were attending non-formal education at the three UNICEF learning centres in the camp.

Alouk Water Station: Alouk water station operated 12-18 of its 34 boreholes and 2-4 of its 12 horizontal pumps with several interruptions from 3 to 4 and 20 to 23 March due to problems with the power supply. UNICEF has installed 16 reverse osmosis units to improve drinking water quality for 200,000 people in Al-Hasakeh City in partnership with the Syria Arab Red Crescent (SARC) in response to the on-going water interruptions. Since the end of 2019, over 960,000 people in Al-Hasakeh City and surrounding areas have been intermittently deprived of access to safe drinking water due to these interruptions. High-level advocacy continues for unhindered humanitarian access to the water station and its electrical infrastructure.

Rukban: During March, UNICEF partners provided routine vaccinations (including polio and measles) for the eight children who passed from Rukban to Homs through Al-Waha transit point as part of the emergency medical evacuations by WHO. Five children and one lactating woman were screened for malnutrition; one girl child was identified with malnutrition and admitted for treatment.

COVID-19: Since the start of the pandemic, 196,446 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Syria, along with 7,121 deaths. Of these, 38,559 were confirmed in NE Syria and 102,237 in NW Syria. Cases in the country declined by a quarter in March, compared to the fourth wave in February driven by the Omicron variant. During March, cases increased by 21 per cent in NW Syria.⁹

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

During the first quarter of 2022, 542,711 **free medical consultations** (214,657 for girls, 211,206 for boys, 107,442 women, 9,446 men) were provided by UNICEF implementing partners through fixed centres and mobile teams in 14 governorates, which is 30 per cent of the annual target. This includes 113,784 in NE Syria (16,942 in Al-Hol Camp) and 58,950 in NW Syria. Of these, 196,603 were delivered in March. To increase the uptake of health services, 375,326 caregivers (208,456 women) were reached with health promotion, including 64,705 in NE Syria and 186,345 in NW Syria. The first round of third-party monitoring visits to all UNICEF-supported health services in government-controlled areas showed a 95 per cent satisfaction rate with services in static centres and 91 per cent in mobile clinics. The results were discussed with all partners to improve the quality of services, with key takeaways including the need to improve patient privacy and access for patients with disabilities.

Since the beginning of 2022, 305 health workers (291 females) have been trained to improve the **quality of care for newborns** in hospitals, public health centres and the community. These trainings include neonatal resuscitation, hearing screening, Kangaroo mother care¹⁰ for premature babies and newborn care at home. This is 15 per cent of the annual target; the underachievement is due to funding gaps. During the first quarter of 2022, trained community volunteers conducted 5,089 home visits to 1,515 pregnant women and 810 newborns (411 boys) in their villages in 12 governorates. They provided health and breastfeeding counselling as well as referring mothers and children to further care, as needed.

In January and February, 55,748 children under 1 were vaccinated with their third dose of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT3) vaccine, 11 per cent of the annual target. **Routine vaccination** efforts continue to be constrained by the focus on COVID-19 vaccination as well as by rising fuel prices. To improve the expanded programme for immunization, UNICEF helped introduce a system to track vaccine stock and improve cold chain information. Through this system, critically low levels have been found for some vaccines, identifying needed actions. Separately, immunization services were delivered through 93 centres in NW Syria reaching 29,220 children (14,136 girls) with DPT3.

The first round of **national polio vaccination** ran from 6 to 10 March 2022, with UNICEF providing an additional two million vaccine doses as well as supporting social mobilization, post-campaign monitoring and operational costs in three governorates. The campaign targeted 2,780,911 children under 5, of whom 2,337,945 were vaccinated (84 per cent). The low coverage relates in part to the target including areas of Idleb and Aleppo to be reached separately, though the economic situation and fuel costs also suppressed turnout. The next round of polio campaign in NW Syria is planned for October 2022.

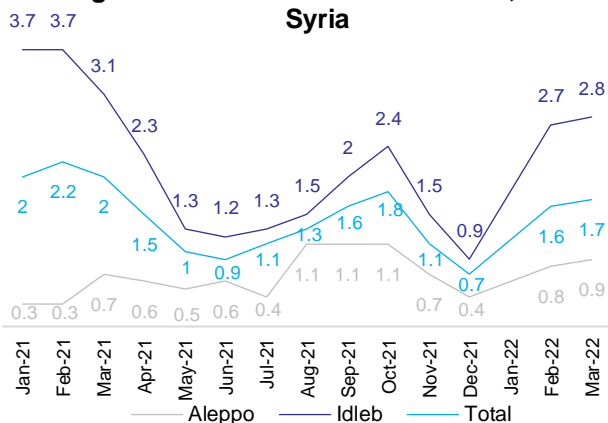
⁹ WHO, [Monthly COVID-19 Bulletin](#), March 2022.

¹⁰ Skin-to-skin contact—usually a parent's own body—to warm and nurture a newborn baby in particular those pre-term and low birth weight.

To date, 2,350,300 people have received at least one dose of **COVID-19 vaccine** in Syria (11.4 per cent of the population), including 372,294 in NW Syria (8.7 per cent of the population). Only 6.6 per cent of the overall population are fully vaccinated, including 4.4 per cent of those in NW Syria.¹¹ In NW Syria, hesitancy and misinformation are affecting vaccine uptake, as is the limited number of vaccination teams (100 teams to cover 4.4 million people). Six ultra-cold freezers have arrived in Lattakia, two of which have entered the country while four others are under clearance. In NW Syria, 35 refrigerators were secured and installed in health facilities to improve the cold chain.

Nutrition

Figure 1: Global acute malnutrition, NW Syria



The nutrition situation continues to deteriorate across Syria, driven by food insecurity, economic deterioration, the sub-optimal WASH environment and inadequate access to health care compounded by poor maternal, infant and young child feeding practices. Acute malnutrition among children under 5 in NW Syria increased from 1.6 per cent in February to 1.7 per cent in March. In other areas of the country, SAM rates increased to 0.4 per cent of those screened, up from 0.3 per cent in the first quarter of 2021. Stunting prevalence was 29 per cent in both Aleppo and Idleb Governorate in March, slightly higher than the rates found in the June 2021 SMART survey. There were improvements in the rates for exclusive breastfeeding for infants under 6 months in NW Syria, at over 75 per cent in both February and March. This is attributed to the

scaled-up counselling and support through the rapid response teams (RRTs).

During the first quarter of 2022, UNICEF screened 254,522 children under 5 (134,217 girls) and 85,733 pregnant and lactating women for acute malnutrition. Of these, 1,142 children (697 girls) were identified with **severe acute malnutrition (SAM)** and admitted for treatment, including 519 in NW Syria. This includes 407 children (161 in NW Syria) identified and admitted for treatment in March. In NW Syria, as part of the contingency planning process in case the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) is not renewed, UNICEF held bilateral discussions with its partners to develop business continuity plans. While RRTs will continue to be the main delivery mechanism, efforts are being made to scale up service delivery through health facilities.

To help prevent anaemia, 99,266 children (49,367 girls) and 54,142 pregnant and lactating women have received **micronutrient supplementation** so far this year, including 59,247 children and 27,802 women in March. Separately, in NW Syria, 6,771 children (3,416 girls) have received micronutrient supplementation and 17,824 pregnant and lactating women have received iron folate. This includes 5,015 children (2,570 girls) and 15,987 women in March. Only eight per cent of the annual target has been reached, with UNICEF facing delayed funding to buy micronutrients as well as logistical delays. UNICEF is on-going with UNFPA to institutionalize detection and treatment of anaemia among pregnant and lactating women as part of the antenatal and post-natal care practices.

So far this year, 129,200 caregivers (3,668 males, 25,956 total in NW Syria) have received skilled counselling on **infant and young child feeding (IYCF)**. This includes 27,278 caregivers in March, of whom 7,543 (all female) were in NW Syria. In NW Syria, hygiene promotion and COVID-19 RCCE messaging are delivered during counselling sessions. Women and children with visible signs of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) or child neglect were referred to appropriate child protection centres.

Nutrition Sector

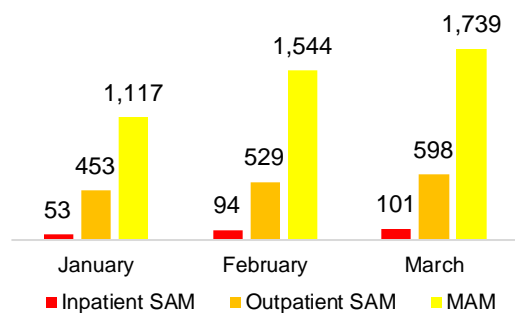
In January and February, Nutrition Sector-Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) partners reached 471,143 children under 5 (161,113 girls) and 166,821 women. This includes 131,481 children under 5 (66,058 girls) and 41,934 pregnant and lactating women screened for malnutrition. Of those screened, 3,027 children (1,826 girls) and 1,706 women with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 602 children (356 girls) with SAM were enrolled for treatment. To prevent micronutrient deficiencies, 65,915 children under 5 (32,892 girls) and 33,883 pregnant and lactating women received micronutrients; 102,920 women were counselled on IYCF; and 136,176 children under 5 (66,373 girls) received lipid-based nutrition supplements.

Nutrition Sector partners WFP, UNICEF, WHO and the Aga Khan Foundation are supporting a national-level Nutrition Situation Assessment targeting children aged 6-12 years attending the public primary schools in Syria. The findings on

¹¹ WHO, [Monthly COVID-19 Bulletin](#), March 2022.

stunting, wasting, overweight, eating habits and anaemia will inform decision making and future programming. Data collection started in mid-March and will be completed by April, with results expected in quarter three.

Figure 2: Cluster acute malnutrition admissions in NW Syria, Quarter 1 2022



In March, in NW Syria, the 35 nutrition partners reached 173,891 women, 81,178 boys and 84,060 girls (35 per cent of the cluster target). This over-reach comes from the use of both RRTs and the Family Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) approach. This year, 19,823 women have been trained on the Family MUAC approach to screen their children at home and refer them for treatment as necessary. These caregivers, alongside the RRTs, screened 389,511 children (193,928 boys and 195,583 girls) and 170,915 women for acute malnutrition. Of those screened, 1,828 children (1,082 girls) were treated for SAM while 4,400 children (2,674 girls) and 5,698 women were treated for MAM.

To promote maternal and young child nutrition, 154,777 pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children aged under 2 were counselled on IYCF while 46,189 pregnant and lactating women and 23,408 children (12,006 girls) received micronutrient supplementation. The blanket supplementary feeding programme 163,513 children aged 6 to 59 months (83,100 girls). To promote access to quality diets for children and women, 2,669 pregnant and lactating women received cash or voucher assistance (CVA) to improve their dietary diversity. The Sector has begun the process of developing CVA operational guidance to improve nutrition outcomes. This is also part of the UNSCR non-renewal contingency planning measures, in addition to the comprehensive and robust gap analysis and response planning exercise.

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Child Protection



EORE session in Azaz, ©Bunyan 2022

Through home visits, mobile teams, schools, community centres and child-friendly spaces, UNICEF partners provided **explosive ordnance risk education** (EORE) to 12,089 children (6,445 girls) and 1,604 caregivers (1,008 women) in March, including 11,230 children and caregivers in NW Syria, bringing the total from the beginning of the year to 171,813 children (87,185 girls) and 60,412 caregivers (26,959 women) including 17,585 in NW Syria. Activities prioritized areas highly affected by explosive ordnance.

(15,790 girls) including 5,910 in NW Syria. The new mental health and psychosocial support manual is being tested in Qamishli and Rural Damascus; upon finalization, it will be rolled out to all regions in Syria in the second half of 2022. Additionally, 53 children with disabilities (24 girls) in Tartous celebrated the International Days for Down's syndrome and Autism as part of efforts to better integrate children with disabilities in the centres.

In March, 3,355 children (1,890 girls) including 1,654 in NW Syria participated in structured and sustained **child protection and psychosocial support services** to help them cope with stress and regain a sense of normalcy, bringing the total number reached this year to 30,390

Parenting programmes engaged 1,801 caregivers (1,459 females) in March (979 in NW Syria) to enhance their knowledge and skills to care for and protect their children, bringing the total of parents and caregivers reached this year to 10,733 (8,234 female) including 3,449 in NW Syria.

In March, 370 girls and 389 boys were reached with **case management services**, including 146 in NE Syria and 121 in NW Syria. This brings the total of children reached in 2022 to 2,991 (1,409 girls), of which 159 are boys and 172 girls in NW Syria. GBV case management has been extended to 21 girls and 50 women in NW Syria. A workshop with all stakeholders supporting the case management system pilot in Rural Damascus generated recommendations to scale up, such as the need to build the long-term capacity of social workers. Successes of the pilot have included heightened trust among stakeholders and families and the effectiveness of the agreed processes and forms.



Children celebrating Mother's Day ©SAWA association/Dalal Yassmin

During March 2022, 50 **unaccompanied and separated children** (16 girls) were supported with 24/7 caregiving services in the interim care centres (ICCs) in Al-Hol Camp, where case management, psychosocial support and

recreational activities were also provided, along with referrals to other services. The new ICC for boys, in a safer area of the camp, is now open and the boys over age 10 have been transferred. Establishment of the new ICC prefabs for girls and boys under 10 is being accelerated.

GBV awareness-raising, prevention and/or empowerment activities reached 1,919 children (1,243 girls) and 687 caregivers (518 women) in March, including 84 children and 21 caregivers in NW Syria. Overall, 23,429 children (12,115 girls) and 7,205 caregivers (5,241 women) have been reached with GBV awareness-raising activities in 2022.

Capacity building of partners is integral to ensuring quality services and programmes. In Qamishli, a training workshop was held on the newly developed mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) manual for 28 facilitators (21 female) from Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa. Training was also provided for 39 case managers (21 female) supporting children enrolled in the Integrated Social Protection Programme for children with disabilities. A Trainings of Trainers on case management in Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor reached 44 staff (21 females). Finally, capacity building on GBV and risk education was conducted for 39 staff (20 women) in NW Syria.

Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AOR)

The Child Protection AOR-HCT is supporting the Case Management Taskforce among UN agencies to harmonize the case management system. This requires developing a capacity building plan to frontline staff to enhance their capacities on case management and referrals. To enhance inter-sectoral collaboration, the Child Protection AOR worked closely with MPHSS actors to ensure psychosocial support for children is integrated within the wider MHPSS response.

Despite challenges and funding restrictions, Child Protection AOR partners in NW Syria reached 77,590 children and parents/caregivers (36,658 girls, 36,098 boys, 3,038 women and 1,796 men) in high severity locations in January and February. Psychosocial support cycles have been completed by 72,756 children (36,658 girls) while parenting programmes have been completed by 4,834 parents/caregivers (3,038 women). Case management has been initiated for 2,218 children (1,090 girls) showing severe protection concerns.

The Child Protection AOR has coordinated capacity building exercises on positive parenting (9 male and 12 female staff), case management (17 female and 23 male case workers), child labour (webinar) and the delivery of legal consultations on Child Protection and GBV cases (16 female and 5 male protection staff). A dashboard for referrals building on the service mapping in NW Syria has been launched. The Child Protection AOR coordination team with the support of the Child Protection Monitoring Working Group and an extensive web of collaborators in the field undertook 842 key informant interviews in 37 sub-districts in January and February. The outcomes can be viewed [here](#). The AOR has also been engaged in contingency planning towards the tabling of the UNSCR 2585 in July 2022.

Education

So far this year, UNICEF has supported 170,101 children (84,957 girls) in **formal settings**, including 17,582 in NW Syria. Of those reached, 37,316 were newly reached in March (11,463 in NW Syria). **Non-formal education (NFE)** services have engaged 117,032 children (58,944 girls) including 51,470 children (24,700 girls) in NW Syria. This includes 27,187 (15,496 girls) children newly enrolled in March, 12,098 of whom were in NW Syria.

Since the beginning of 2022, UNICEF has provided 58 **prefabricated classrooms** for 2,160 children (1,036 girls), including 1,314 children (649 girls) newly reached in March. UNICEF views schools as humanitarian infrastructure which are a fundamental pre-requisite to strengthen the resilience of children and communities. In NW Syria, temporary learning spaces have been provided, either through classrooms in tents or prefabricated classrooms in formal and non-formal settings, benefiting 17,516 children (8,959 girls).

In the first quarter of 2022, UNICEF has **trained 2,276 (1,596 female) teachers** and other education personnel. Of these, 1,593 (1,134 females) were newly reached in March. Training topics include protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, the Code of Conduct and inclusive education. UNICEF considers the quality of education as one of the main components of supportive learning for out-of-school children. UNICEF in coordination with the Directorate of Education has selected 192 schools in Dara'a, 172 in As-Sweida, 197 in Rural Damascus, 92 in Quneitra and 161 in Damascus for a training on **preventing violence in schools** as part of a comprehensive programme to end violence against children. This is in light of increasing incidents of violence in schools. UNICEF is focusing on prevention, addressing immediate causes and drivers of violence in schools while also working to transform negative norms and strengthen protective norms.

This quarter, UNICEF reached 8,575 people (1,238 men, 1,237 women, 3,084 girls and 3,016 boys) including 2,759 people newly reached in March, through its **Back to Learning (BTL) campaign**. The campaign uses mass and social

media messages and door-to-door visits to reach out-of-school children and their social support networks. The messaging includes a specific focus on girls' education. In NE Syria, the campaign has contributed to the increase in female students in Al-Hol Camp in March 2022: 48 per cent of the students attending the learning programme are now females, up from 30 per cent, despite the rigidly conservative nature of the community. UNICEF provides separate classes for females when necessary, organizes Parent-Teacher Associations and ensures the close involvement of the community as well as the recruitment of female volunteers from the camp. Female volunteers help convey messages about the importance of education in a culturally acceptable way. Separately, in NW Syria, UNICEF through its partners reached 2,500 caregivers and children (1,220 female) through media outreach, awareness raising activities and community mobilization.

Focused support is provided to **Rukban returnee children** in Zohoria in rural Homs, offering remedial classes, supplies and the learning passport system to 210 out-of-school children. The learning passport is a new initiative targeting this small number of children through an online, mobile and offline platform enabling children to access to blended learning modalities via tablets and/or mobile phones. UNICEF plans to expand this initiative and strengthen its link to sustainable education pathways to build the resilience of Syrian children.

Across formal education and NFE, UNICEF partners provided 22,283 children (10,186 girls) in NW Syria with school-based **psychosocial support** and 151 children with child protection case management referrals. Meanwhile, 6,979 children, adolescents and youth (5 to 24 years) in NW Syria (3,400 girls) participated in life skills and citizenship education programmes in formal and non-formal settings.



UNICEF supported Learning Points, conducting Learning Passport lessons, Rural Homs ©UNICEF/2022

Education Sector

As the cluster co-lead agency in NW Syria, UNICEF provides leadership and technical support to 104 Education Cluster members. In January and February, 540,970¹² people including 257,226 boys, 268,545 girls and 8,445 male and 6,754 female education personnel were supported by Education Cluster members. At the Humanitarian Liaison Group (HLG) meeting in early February, Education was made a funding priority for 2022 and beyond. Based on this decision, the Education Cluster presented the [2022 Inter-Cluster Coordination Group \(ICCG\) Integrated Education IDP Action Plan](#) to the ICCG for endorsement. The updated version was submitted to OCHA. Out-of-school IDP children in camps are prioritized in the plan as a highly vulnerable group.

WASH

In March, UNICEF supported the rehabilitation and maintenance of Tal Ehemer water pumping station that provides drinking water to 20,200 people (3,884 boys, 3,932 girls, 5,816 men, 6,568 women) in Tal Hmis Sub-District in NE Syria. So far this year, 584,593 people (163,413 boys, 161,903 girls, 122,208 men and 137,069 women) have gained access to a **safe, sustainable water** source with UNICEF support, including 242,393 people (70,294 boys, 75,141 girls, 46,055 men and 50,903 women) in NW Syria. Rehabilitation of **sanitation services** has been completed for 339,300 people (92,639 boys, 91,840 girls, 73,701 men and 81,120 women) this quarter including 92,700 people in NW Syria.

UNICEF sustained **emergency life-saving WASH services** including water trucking, solid waste and wastewater management and/or upkeep of public latrines in IDP camps and collective shelters in NE Syria, rural Aleppo, Rural Damascus and NW Syria benefiting 739,342 people (187,125 boys, 202,022 girls, 166,531 men, 183,664 women) of whom 582,738 people were in NW Syria.



Hygiene distribution in Idleb ©Ihsan

In March, UNICEF provided 3,820 returnees (740 boys, 949 girls, 2,131 women) in Aleppo with **hygiene supplies** including baby diapers and sanitary napkins. In addition, 11,948 people (2,999 boys, 3,558 girls, 2,429 men, 2,962 women) in rural Aleppo received jerry cans. Water purification tablets were provided to 33,500 people (7,430 boys, 7,966 girls, 8,694 men, 9,410 women) in Dara'a Governorate to sterilize the water they are using from the local wells. In terms of WASH in schools, UNICEF provided 41 schools in Rural Damascus with water trucking, reaching 15,410 school children (8,541 girls) with safe drinking water.

¹² In the February SitRep, a reach of over 700,000 was reported in January, however, this has reduced after data cleaning.

In total, WASH supplies have been provided to 422,795 people (107,233 boys, 114,571 girls, 92,681 men and 108,310 women) so far this year, including 295,243 people in NW Syria.

UNICEF reached 29,501 people (9,150 boys, 10,817 girls, 3,732 men, 5,802 women) through **hygiene promotion** activities, including through 42 school clubs, to shed light on handwashing, hygiene and disease prevention, as well as menstrual hygiene. To date, 125,785 people (36,700 boys, 40,222 girls, 22,125 men, 26,738 women) have participated in hygiene promotion this year, including 96,284 in NW Syria.

WASH Sector

Based on data received from 17 out of 26 sector partners, in January and February, the WASH Sector-HCT reached 1,060,785 people (540,595 female). Of these, 691,488 people (355,149 female) were supported through resilience focused interventions including the repair, rehabilitation and improvement of water supply and sewerage systems. Humanitarian WASH supplies and services, including on hygiene practices, reached 393,256 people (197,018 female). In response to the findings of the 2021 Core Cluster Performance Monitoring Survey, a workshop was conducted on 1 March where 26 participants from UN agencies and NGOs developed an action plan to enable the Sector to further fulfil its core functions while continuing to ensure more efficient and effective coordination. This includes Sector members agreeing to reporting into the OCHA Financial Tracking System and to provide updates for the Sector budget tracker to better understand the funding status.

In NW Syria, 1,238 camps have been supported with safe water, sewage management, solid waste management, hygiene promotion, hygiene kits and/or COVID-19 messaging by WASH Cluster partners. Partners provided 1.73 million people (880,000 females) with water trucking; the number of people served by water trucking is gradually decreasing in line with WASH Cluster strategy, as more camps are being connected to existing water networks. Meanwhile, 1.32 million people (660,000 females) were reached through existing water systems. WASH services were provided in 104 health facilities including safe water, hygiene kits and hygiene promotion. These interventions supported a catchment population of 173,000 people. Water for health units continues to be provided mostly by water trucking; as funds become available, it will be phased out and replaced by connecting schools and health centres to existing water networks.

The Arshani water station in Idleb City was damaged in an airstrike on 2 January, disrupting the water supply of 241,133 people. With the support of the WASH Cluster, the INGO GOAL, which is operating the water station, carried out immediate repairs to partially restored the water supply. CARE, in partnership with Syrian NGO IYD, has carried out a comprehensive assessment of the damage and the procurement process for the rehabilitation has been initiated. The water station was originally rehabilitated with a generator by UNICEF in the year 2020.

Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP)

During the first quarter of 2022, UNICEF reached 44,698 young people (25,557 female) including 3,712 young people with disabilities with age-appropriate and gender-sensitive **engagement opportunities** in 23 youth-friendly spaces. This includes 11,769 newly reached in March. UNICEF focused on the most disadvantaged youth who have limited access to services. For example, UNICEF newly engaged 18 young women in Aleppo through the School of Deaf and Mute to offer technology and robotics courses.

UNICEF supported the **civic engagement** and participation of 51,957 young people (27,112 females) including 4,154 young people with disabilities through youth-led initiatives. For example, to celebrate International Women's Day, 10 young women specialized in fields of science conducted workshops for 117 youth and adolescents on: The Treatment of Leishmaniosis Using Nanotechnology, Early Detection of Breast Cancer Using Lasers and the Active Role of Women in Technology. Meanwhile, 15 youth mobile teams supported displaced families in NE Syria by helping with the distribution of food and winter kits. Fifty young people (35 female) trained by the UNICEF C4D team distributed COVID-19 prevention and awareness messages along with face masks in Areesha Camp.



A young entrepreneur practices marketing her product to the trainer ©UNICEF/2022

In Tartous, UNICEF and its implementing partners conducted an eight-day Social Entrepreneurship Skills Bootcamp for 25 youth between 16 to 24 years (12 females). The young entrepreneurs were trained on the concepts of social entrepreneurship including analysing social needs, innovation, marketing, financial and human management and feasibility studies, among others. The youth are now finalizing their feasibility studies and proposals prior to a final pitching of their projects; the top five projects will receive seed funding.

UNICEF and UNDP launched imaGen Ventures Youth Challenge to engage young people (aged 14 to 24) from 40 countries in the co-design of solutions to challenges in their communities. A total of 373 proposals were submitted including 17 teams with one or more young participant with a disability. During the second quarter, UNICEF, UNDP and partners will choose the finalists and conduct a three-day bootcamp. Five teams will be selected at the end of the bootcamp and provided seed funding to develop their prototype. After two months of incubation for those five teams, two finalists will participate in the global challenge with 40 other countries.

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

So far this year, UNICEF has reached over 115,000 children through its humanitarian social protection interventions. The **Integrated Social Protection Programme for children with disabilities** addresses the economic and social vulnerabilities of children with disabilities and their families. It combines the provision of regular, unconditional cash transfers with case management services to facilitate the referral of children with disabilities to available social services and increase their social inclusion. This year, 7,509 children with severe mental and/or physical disabilities (2,966 girls) have been reached in five governorates: Rural Damascus, Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Homs and Hama. [Recently released survey findings](#) indicate the programmes strong positive impact to help the participating children access health care and disability cards. However, ensuring access to education remains a key challenge. For example, among school-aged children supported this year, more than 70 per cent were out of school.

The **Basic Needs Support Programme** has two components: (i) humanitarian and unconditional cash transfers to vulnerable families in urban and peri-urban areas; and (ii) winter clothes for displaced children in camps and collective shelters. So far this year, 14,604 families (around 75,000 people) have been provided with unconditional cash transfers in Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Hama to support the basic needs of their children during winter. Of these, 4,323 families were newly reached in March. There have been 38,136 children (18,585 girls) among the total families reached; 563 were children with disabilities. The limited availability of financial service providers that meet UNICEF criteria and the security situation in NE Syria have been the key obstacles that have prevented UNICEF from achieving its targets, with more than 4,300 families in Al-Hasakeh not yet receiving their planned payments in 2022. Reaching them will be a top priority in quarter 2. UNICEF also distributed **winter clothing kits** to about 54,553 children (26,943 girls), bringing the total number of children reached with winter clothes during the 2021-2022 winter season to 89,892 children in Idleb, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Al-Hasakeh, Homs, Hama and Ar-Raqqa.

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

UNICEF Syria leads the COVID-19 RCCE Pillar, helping partners to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, the Government relaxed its measures mandating COVID-19 vaccination to enter public facilities, lowering demand for the vaccine. UNICEF and its partners, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Awqaf¹³, undertook demand generation interventions combined with service delivery through mobile teams in 14 governorates to encourage communities get vaccinated. UNICEF also kicked off intensified demand generation interventions on the eve of Ramadan to harness opportunities through all religious platforms (places of worship, religious schools, religious youth and women teams, etc.).

UNICEF with WHO also conducted a master training for staff from 110 UNHCR community centres who will aim to encourage over one million people to get vaccinated. UNICEF also coordinated with the Ministry of Health to launch the school health COVID-19 prevention programme, training 60 Master Trainers to engage teachers who will then carry out demand generation interventions in 11,034 schools in 14 governorates.



Mass vaccination event, Al-Hasakeh, ©UNICEF/2022

Overall, in March, UNICEF partners used edutainment (community events, theatre, etc.); advocacy meetings with community leaders; community dialogues; and door-to-door/tent-to-tent mobilization to reach 358,781 people (156,718 female) with **messaging** and 390,913 people (238,650 female) with **engagement activities** in March. So far this year, 1,254,596 people have been reached with messaging and 756,558 with two-way engagement.

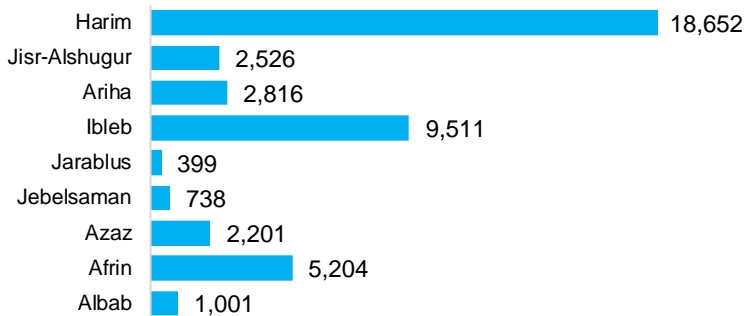
Following COVID-19 RCCE engagement activities, UNICEF third-party monitors ask community members to **recall key messages**. The most recalled were: 'the vaccine will help protect you and your family from COVID-19 (86 per cent); 'the vaccine will reduce your risk of contracting COVID-19 by increasing your immunity' (75 per cent); and 'the vaccine is given by injection and in two doses' (52 per cent). The most commonly asked questions from participants are: is it safe

¹³ The ministry is responsible for religious affairs and the administration of endowments.

for pregnant and lactating women? (32 per cent); can a person suffering from diseases be vaccinated? (19 per cent); the symptoms associated with the vaccination (8 per cent); and the types of vaccines available (7 per cent).

In NE Syria, UNICEF continued **tracking insights** of social media users and community engagement participants. As of 31 March, 169 comments (rumours and misinformation) about COVID-19 the vaccine were received through sessions conducted by UNICEF partners and on social media platforms and forums (Facebook, WhatsApp). In response, UNICEF and WHO distributed FAQs to be utilized in RCCE COVID-19 vaccination interventions.

Figure 3: Number of people reluctant to take a COVID-19 vaccine in NW Syria, quarter 1 2022



In NW Syria, UNICEF partners have scaled up awareness sessions, house-to-house visits, orientation of teachers and students and other COVID-19 vaccination RCCE activities, including through two hotlines. This allowed UNICEF partners to increase their reach from 97,497 people in January, to 125,234 people in February to 276,543 people reached in March. These efforts focused on highly vulnerable areas with poor sanitation, high population density, high case rates and

low vaccination coverage. Mobilization efforts identified 43,408 people in the first quarter of the year in NW Syria who were reluctant to a vaccine; these individuals were follow-up with one-on-one interpersonal communication under the supervision and joint effort of the religious leaders, local organizations and camp management.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

During the reporting period, Syria Country Office (SCO) marked International Women’s Day with a [story](#) about a robotics teacher, helping to empower girls with disabilities with knowledge on the subject. [Social media posts](#) were also published, through [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), to mark the day.

Marking the grim milestone of 11 years of conflict in Syria, UNICEF issued a [news note](#), produced a [multimedia package](#) and published [human-interest stories](#), from [Aleppo](#) and [Rural Damascus](#), making the [voices](#) of children heard. A [video](#) story was also produced and published as part of the package. Social media posts were pushed through UNICEF Syria platforms, on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) for two weeks to highlight the milestone, in both [English](#) and [Arabic](#).

UNICEF acknowledged the Kuwait Fund for supporting to provide children with cancer in Syria with treatment drugs via a [press release](#) and through [Twitter](#). SCO also marked World Water Day, via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Moreover, supporting the launch of UNICEF-UNDP ‘Generation Unlimited’ Youth Challenge for the second time in Syria, SCO [regularly](#) amplified social media [posts](#) about the [application process](#). UNICEF underlined its support to children’s education through school rehabilitation with a [story](#). Finally, SCO highlighted its winter support to children in [Syria](#), including in [Aleppo](#) and [Ar-Raqqa](#), provided during this winter.

Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall Needs	UNICEF and IPs response			Sector response		
		2022 target	Total results	Change since last report	2022 target	Total results	Change since last report
Health							
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio	12.4M	3,200,000	2,337,945	2,337,945			
Number of children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities		1,820,000	542,711	196,603			
Number of health care facility staff trained on infection prevention and control		550	175	150			
Nutrition							
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	4.9M	18,400	1,142	407	17,447	1,958	506
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling		1,245,000	129,200 ¹⁴	27,278	915,063	251,608	108,990
Number of children and pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients		1,970,000	153,485 ¹⁵	42,679	2,563,000	179,574	105,843
Child Protection, GBVIE & PESA							
Number of children accessing mental health and psychosocial support	5.9M	384,000	30,390	3,355	880,000		
Number of girls, boys and women benefiting from case management for child protection and/or GBV		24,300	3,096	798			
Number of women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions		120,000	30,634	2,606			
Number of children and caregivers accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions		1,947,300	232,225	13,693			
Education							
Number of children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings	6.9M	2,250,000	170,101 ¹⁶	37,316	3,300,000		
Number of children in non-formal education benefiting from education services		430,000	117,032	27,187	1,256,530		
Number of teachers and education personnel trained		44,000	2,276 ¹⁷	1,400	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	584,593 ¹⁸	116,172	8,000,000	871,609	871,609
Number of people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes		600,000	125,785	96,975	5,500,000	396,889	396,889
Number of people have improved access to sanitation services		1,950,000	339,300	0 ¹⁹	4,000,000	145,171	145,171

¹⁴ Under-achievement due to funding gaps.

¹⁵ Under-achievement due to funding delays and in-country logistical issues.

¹⁶ Under-achievement due to delayed reporting and data validation

¹⁷ Under-achievement due to funding gaps for this activity.

¹⁸ UNICEF has 28 on-going water projects; eight will be completed within two months, which will increase the reach

¹⁹ UNICEF has 12 on-going sanitation projects; six will be completed within two months, which will increase the reach.

Social Protection & Cash Transfers							
Number of households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors		86,000	13,728 ²⁰	4,323			
Number of girls and boys with disabilities provided with regular cash transfers		14,000	7,509	3,367			
Adolescents & Youth							
Number of adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years promoting social cohesion and civic engagement at the community level		300,000	51,957 ²¹	27,592			
Number of affected adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills		200,000	44,698	11,769			
C4D, RCCE & AAP							
Number of people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services		25,611,884	1,254,596	333,801			
Number of people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change		8,725,728	756,558	289,902			

Annex B

Funding Status

Section	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received in 2022	Carry-Over	\$	%
Health	\$44,030,777	\$2,959,932	\$3,906,065	\$37,164,780	84%
Nutrition	\$33,923,083	\$1,200,561	\$1,747,892	\$30,974,630	91%
Child Protection, GBVIE & PSEA	\$31,472,313	\$2,235,884	\$8,719,155	\$20,517,274	65%
Education	\$82,513,164	\$12,902,696	\$19,888,066	\$49,722,401	60%
WASH	\$87,438,477	\$9,812,856	\$13,535,781	\$64,089,840	73%
Social Protection & Cash Transfers	\$35,100,698	\$3,883,984	\$5,412,199	\$25,804,515	74%
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	\$32,995,915	\$55,737,021	\$245,697,136	74%

*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 July 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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²⁰ Under-achievement due to the limited absorption capacity and availability of financial service providers and the security situation in NE Syria.

²¹ Under-achievement due to a lack of flexible funds to scale up the civic engagement and expand partnerships.