



UNICEF-supported nutrition workers provide a nutrition check-up at the Syrian border, in Jdaidet Yabous, Rural Damascus, Syria ©UNICEF/UNI658547/Al-Asadi

Syria

Country Office

Humanitarian Situation

Report No. 3

15 October 2024

unicef 

for every child

Highlights

- An estimated 283,000 people are displaced into Syria from Lebanon since 23 September 2024 following an escalation of hostilities in Lebanon.
- Around 30 per cent of those crossing the border are Lebanese, and approximately 58 per cent of the population crossing the border are children.
- New arrivals remained comparatively low at all the border crossing points as compared to the previous week.
- With UNICEF's support, a total of 2,224 children (1,112 girls and 1,112 boys) were vaccinated, and 6,265 children (3,209 girls, 3,056 boys) and 1,346 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) received nutrition services (4,186 Syrians, 3,425 Lebanese).
- UNICEF, through its partners, continued to provide WASH services at the crossing points. Approximately 56,570 people were provided with access to safe and clean water, while 5,000 women and 5,000 children received hygiene support.
- UNICEF requires US\$66.1 million to continue its response to fulfil the most immediate needs of the displaced population.

Situation in Numbers



283,000 people crossed to Syria

(UNHCR Syria Flash Update No.14, 24 September - 15 October 2024)



Around 30 per cent of the people crossing the border are Lebanese.

(UNHCR Syria Flash Update No.14, 24 September - 15 October 2024)



58 per cent children under 18 years

(SARC Emergency Response for Lebanese Refugees and Syrian Returnees, 12 October 2024)

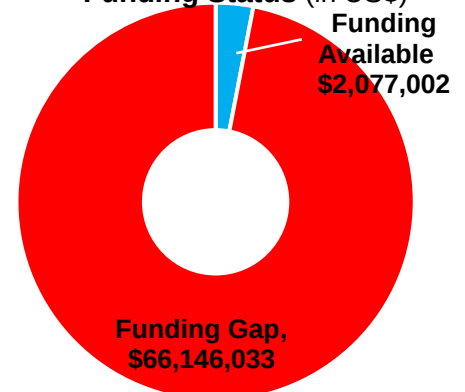
UNICEF Funding Request

US\$68.2 million

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

- Since 23 September 2024, escalating hostilities in Lebanon have displaced an estimated 283,000 people into Syria,¹ approximately 58 per cent of whom are children.² The number of registered unaccompanied and separated children reported by UNICEF's partner the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) stands at 247 cases.

Funding Status (in US\$)



¹ UNHCR Syria Flash Update #14, 24 September - 14 October 2024.

² SARC Emergency Response for Lebanese Refugees and displaced Syrians 10, 24 September - 12 October 2024

- Around 200,000 people³ have entered Syria through the Jdaidet Yabous crossing point in Rural Damascus.⁴ However, the rate of arrivals remained comparatively slow at all border crossing points compared to the previous weeks. Over the past week, the influx of arrivals has slowed, although a slight surge was observed at four official Syrian crossing points, namely Al Arida, Joussieh, Daboussieh and Jesr Al Qmar, accounting for approximately 30 per cent of the total border crossings. Refer to Figure 1 for further details. Around 30 per cent of the people crossing the border are Lebanese.
- As of 11 October, 21,305 people⁵ have arrived to Northeast Syria (NES) since the start of the escalation. Currently, five formal crossline entry points have been identified for displaced people entering Syria from Lebanon in NES, including four in Raqqa Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.
- According to UNRWA, 400 Palestinian refugee families⁶ (representing approximately 2,000 individuals) have been reported in various locations, including Damascus, and the central, north and south areas, since the beginning of the escalation.
- The majority of Syrian and Lebanese families registered with SARC have relocated to Homs, Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Aleppo Governorates. In Rural Damascus Governorate, 274 Lebanese families are housed in the Herjaleh hosting centre, while over 14,000 Lebanese refugees in Sayyidah Zeinab are living in hotels or apartments with inadequate amenities. In Homs and Hama Governorates, several churches and schools serve as hosting centres for Lebanese families, with 1,200 additional families living in host communities. In Aleppo Governorate, 358 Lebanese refugee and 32,000 Syrian households are expected to cross into the city, although no hosting centres are available for Syrians. UNICEF's partner on the ground reported that 1,900 households have crossed into Manbij city under the Kurdish Self-Administration, and over 1,000 people have entered Kurdish-administered areas in Aleppo city.
- Most of displaced Syrians and Lebanese opt to stay with relatives and friends, highlighting the need to extend UNICEF's support to host communities. UNICEF with its partners is following up on potential protection concerns and needs, at the border crossings, in hosting centres and in the host communities.

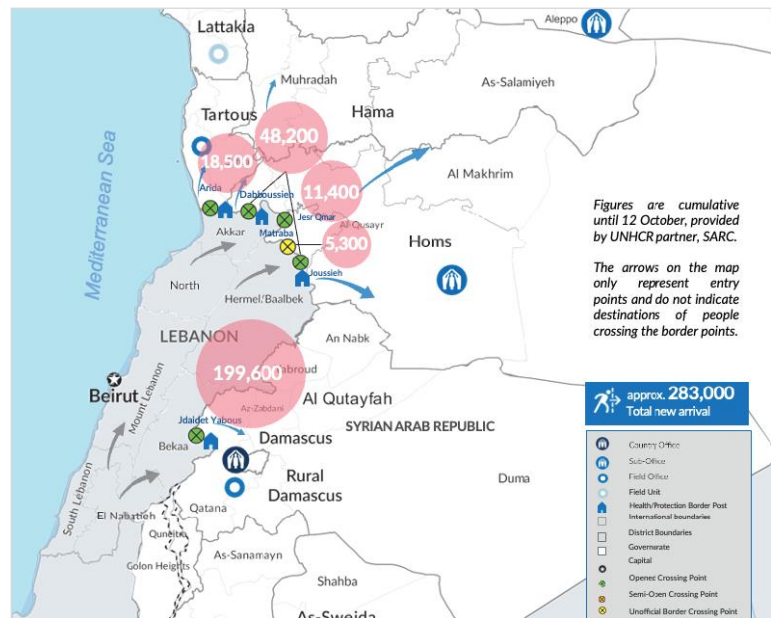


Figure 1: Situational map of the crossing points showing influx into

UNICEF Programmatic Response Strategy

UNICEF programmatic response to the influx of population affected by the security situation in Lebanon focuses on supporting the displaced Syrians and Lebanese refugees at the crossing points during the first few weeks of the escalation. In parallel, UNICEF is providing immediate assistance and support to the families staying at the hosting centres and with host communities. UNICEF's response plan will target the most vulnerable communities in line with the interagency strategy. Additionally, UNICEF's ongoing programmes will continue to support the most vulnerable children and families, in line with the severity criteria for each programme. The response will focus on:

- Leveraging existing programmes and resources, capitalizing on UNICEF's on-the-ground presence, and focusing on gender-responsive and disability-inclusive humanitarian response.

³ The current trends show that the majority of displaced Syrians entering from Jdaidet Yabous crossing point, have moved to the eastern part of the country including, Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zour Governorates, and the Lebanese refugees have mostly settled in Sayyida Zeinab city in Rural Damascus

⁴ The arrivals at the Jdaidet Yabous crossing reduced after the air strikes on 4 October damaging road between Lebanon and Syria rendering it unusable for vehicles.

⁵ Flash update # 6 – Emergency Response – Northeast Syria (NES) 11 October 2024

⁶ UNRWA Syria response to the influx from Lebanon - UNRWA Situation Report 3, 10 October 2024.

- Extending and expanding current partnerships to include displaced Syrians and Lebanese refugees.
- Prepositioning and distributing emergency supplies and diversifying operational modalities to deliver services and goods, prioritizing local procurement.
- Disseminating critical information on available services and how to access these services, while promoting protective behaviours, such as hygiene practices and disease prevention to mitigate high-risk factors and ensuring that the targeted population receives timely and relevant information fostering resilience and informed decision-making.
- Activating a feedback mechanism to provide programming input and feedback in a timely and dignified manner, adhering to Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) standards.
- Mainstreaming Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and disseminating accurate information about available services for the victims, and training staff, partners, and contractors on their expected conduct.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF, in coordination with other humanitarian actors, including UNHCR, WFP, WHO, ICRC, SARC and its implementing partners continues to deliver lifesaving interventions at the border crossing points, hosting centres and communities to meet the most immediate needs.



Health

- UNICEF through partners and in coordination with WHO continued to support children and women at the border crossing points and in host communities. At the Al Arida crossing point in Tartous Governorate, in cooperation with the Directorate of Health (DoH), 1,348 children (636 girls and 712 boys) received vaccinations (polio, DPT3, and MMR),⁷ and 1,510 children (719 girls and 791 boys) received medical check-ups, while 1,037 women of childbearing age received maternal health support.
- In Lattakia city, 267 Lebanese children in the host community received vaccinations (polio, DPT3, and MMR), 1,239 children received medical consultations, 1,053 women received maternal consultations, and 1,020 women were reached with health messages on maternal and child health.
- At three crossing points in Homs Governorate, UNICEF's partners, DoH and the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) vaccinated 876 children (476 girls and 400 boys) with polio, DPT3, and MMR vaccines, while 942 children (530 girls and 412 boys) received outpatient consultations.



Nutrition

- UNICEF continued to collaborate with the DoH, the SFPA, and Syria Al Yamama at crossing points, hosting centres, and in host communities to respond to the nutrition needs of children under the age of 5, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). In Tartous, Latakia, Idlib, Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus, Qunaitra, and Ar-Raqqa Governorates, 6,265 children (3,209 girls and 3,056 boys) and 1,346 PLW received nutrition services, including 4,186 Syrians and 3,425 Lebanese.
- Notably, 8 children (4 girls and 4 boys) were admitted for severe wasting treatment and 33 children (18 girls and 15 boys) were referred for moderate wasting treatment. Additionally, to prevent child malnutrition in all its forms, 4,959 children (2,603 girls and 2,356 boys) received fortified food and multiple micronutrient powders.
- Furthermore, 1,214 PLW were screened for acute malnutrition, received multiple micronutrient supplementation, and participated in skilled counselling on infant feeding in emergencies.

⁷ DPT3 refers to diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus and MMR refers to measles-mumps-rubella.



WASH

- WASH services and supplies, including water, latrine units, baby diapers, sanitary napkins, are among the most needed services at the crossing points.
- UNICEF installed prefabricated disability-inclusive toilet units at Joussieh and Al Arida crossing points in Homs and Tartous Governorates, providing WASH services for approximately 1,100 people daily. These units include separate toilets and basins for males and females and are cleaned daily to ensure hygiene. Additionally, in collaboration with SARC, UNICEF initiated the maintenance of WASH facilities and desludging of sewage networks at the Jesr Al Qmar crossing point, ensuring clean water and sanitation for over 500 people on a daily basis. Furthermore, UNICEF rehabilitated the water network from the borehole to the water tanks at Jesr Al Qmar crossing point, securing a reliable drinking water supply for people. Water trucking services are also delivering 15,000 litres of water daily at Al Arida, supporting 600 individuals. At the Jdaidet Yabous crossing point, UNICEF distributed 40,000 bottles of water benefiting over 60,000 people. Additionally, 6,000 sanitary napkins, 6,000 diapers, and 20 cleaning kits were provided to ensure the health and hygiene of approximately 5,000 children and 5,000 women.
- In Rural Damascus Governorate, UNICEF provides water trucking of 50,000 litres daily and is maintaining WASH facilities, benefiting 557 residents of the Herjaleh hosting center.



UNICEF-supported prefabricated toilet unit in Joussieh crossing point in Homs Governorate.
© UNICEF/Rahman Khateeb



Child Protection

- In Hama Governorate, UNICEF partner, the Social Care Society (SCS), established a Child-Friendly Space (CFS) at the Al Sum Wa Al Bukem hosting centre and reached 28 children (16 girls and 12 boys) with recreational activities and PSEA interventions. Also, 8 children (5 girls and 3 boys) were identified as vulnerable and are being supported to address their needs through the case management approach. A total of 19 mothers benefited from Psychological First Aid (PFA) and PSEA interventions.
- In Homs Governorate, UNICEF partner St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee (EPDC) has initiated comprehensive child protection interventions at the Virgin Mary Monastery. These interventions, which include recreational activities, have reached 42 children (23 girls and 19 boys).
- In Tartous Governorate, UNICEF partner Angelic Association of Anis Saade (AAAS), provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 19 children (9 girls and 10 boys) and 36 children (64 girls and 72 boys) were reached with PFA. A total of 40 mothers at the Blue Bay hosting centre received parenting support sessions.



Children join recreational activities at UNICEF supported Friendly Space established in the Al Sum Wa Al Bukem Hosting Centre in Hama Governorate ©UNICEF/Rana Farah

Also, 3 children (1 girl and 2 boys) and 1 man were referred to specialized services. Moreover, AAAS provided recreational activities to 38 children (23 girls and 12 boys) in the Al Karnak hosting centre.

- In Latakia Governorate, UNICEF partner Mosaic Human Relief and Development (Mosaic) conducted Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions at the Al Baseet hosting centre, reaching 56 children (26 girls and 30 boys) to increase their awareness. Moreover, Mosaic provided 22 children (13 girls and 9 boys) and 43 adults (22 women, 21 men) with PFA at the Blue Beach hosting centre.
- UNICEF has created targeted child protection message packages for social media and activities within hosting centres, aimed at supporting the mental wellbeing of parents and children and reducing anxiety levels. These messages will be broadcasted in the days to come on various channels.



Education

- Over 7,000 children (3,862 girls) across Homs, Hama, Latakia, Tartous, Idleb, and Rural Damascus Governorates have been identified as eligible for education support through formal education, with the numbers rising daily.
- In Ar-Raqqa and Hasakeh Governorates, over 2,000 displaced children (1,080 girls and 920 boys) have been enrolled in formal schools, with 23 per cent placed in Curriculum B to address learning gaps. UNICEF actively collaborates with stakeholders to assess and address children's evolving educational needs.

Cross sectoral Response

Social and Behaviour Change

- In Homs Governorate, UNICEF supported health educators from DoH mobile teams at border crossings, which included engaging 366 women, including 152 PLW, on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices and breastfeeding. Additionally, the health team reached 779 people (453 women and 326 men) with disease prevention messages. In Tartous Governorate, DoH teams reached 412 caregivers with hygiene and health messages and provided IYCF counseling to 289 PLW.
- UNICEF-supported social and behaviour change (SBC) teams in Latakia reached 157 caregivers (85 women and 62 men) with health and hygiene promotion messages at Al-Shir hosting centre. SFPA mobile teams and DoH clinics in Idleb Governorate delivered health and nutrition services to host communities, reaching 157 caregivers (103 women and 54 men).
- UNICEF partner Syria Al-Yamama, held group sessions at the Tabqa border crossing in Ar-Raqqa, engaging 90 people (55 women and 35 men), and conducted one-on-one sessions with 61 people (36 women and 25 men), focusing on hygiene and breastfeeding promotion to prevent child malnutrition.

Accountability to Affected Population

- UNICEF and through partners have taken steps to ensure that people in hosting centres and communities are well-informed about the available complaint and feedback mechanisms (CFM) to report their needs and provide feedback about the supplies and services. UNICEF has conducted training sessions for 43 staff members (40 women) from four partners. Additionally, 53 women caregivers were oriented to reinforce the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and CFM at health centres in Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Homs Governorates. Flyers were distributed containing information about the UNICEF service line and suggestion boxes.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

- UNICEF oriented 9 partners in Damascus Governorate on PSEA, focusing on risk mitigations, SEA reporting responsibilities, and existing reporting mechanisms. This training was collaborative, with all partners contributing to the discussion and agreeing on a PSEA risk mitigation checklist. This checklist will enable partners to apply assessments and observations to identify, prevent, and mitigate potential SEA and associated risk factors in programme activities during the response, including sectoral response activities, thereby minimizing SEA risks.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

- UNICEF is the lead agency for the WASH, Education, and Nutrition Sectors and Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) at both the national and subnational levels. Additionally, UNICEF contributes to the Health, Gender-based Violence, Gender, and Livelihoods Working Groups and co-chairs the PSEA In-Country Network meetings.
- All UNICEF-led sectors are holding regular meetings at national and sub-national levels to ensure an optimal response to the ongoing influx of displaced Syrians and Lebanese refugees.
- At the interagency level, UNICEF continues to support efforts to review existing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for recording SEA complaints.
- UNICEF is coordinating with line ministries on the emergency response as part of its regular programmes. Courtesy calls with Governors of Tartous and Lattakia were made by UNICEF senior management to ensure our support to and partnerships with both displaced and host community children and families.

Media and External Communication

- UNICEF continues to highlight the situation of children and families crossing into Syria affected by the escalation in Lebanon by producing content for its local, regional, and global media platforms.
- To demonstrate the impact of the Lebanon crisis on children, UNICEF produced various content, including photo albums, videos, and social media packs, showcasing the dire circumstances faced by arriving families and the critical support UNICEF provided to them.



Abdullah, aged 2, is held by his grandmother while receiving health and nutrition support by a UNICEF-supported mobile clinic at the Syrian border. Abdullah's family fled the escalating violence in Lebanon and recently arrived at the Syrian border in Jdeidet Yabous, Rural Damascus, Syria, on 5 October 2024.

"We are originally from Deir ez-Zor. We left our home 10 years ago, and we have no place to go to. My son is looking for a room in Rural Damascus to stay in tonight," said the grandmother.

Humanitarian Funding Requirements

The UN and other humanitarian actors launched an Inter-Agency Flash Appeal on 7 October 2024. Based on the indicative population in need, UNICEF preliminary funding requirements stand at USD 68.2 million for a period of 6 months as per table below. UNICEF has been mobilizing and reallocating core resources and flexible thematic funds to respond to the onset of the emergency so far. UNICEF is grateful for the critical support provided through unearmarked core and lightly earmarked thematic funding.⁸ This funding gives UNICEF critical flexibility and enables the provision of timely and effective lifesaving assistance and support to children and families across Syria. However, available resources are not sufficient to cover the increasing needs.

UNICEF FUNDING NEEDS FOR LEBANESE REFUGEE INFLUX AND DISPLACED SYRIANS

Programme	Funding requirements USD	Funding Available USD	Funding Gap USD
Child Protection	11,077,344	276,934	10,800,410
Education	20,919,564	692,334	20,227,230
Health	11,077,344	540,021	10,537,323
Nutrition	5,954,072	138,467	5,815,606
WASH	3,122,426	-	3,122,426
Social Policy	12,846,008	387,707	12,458,301
PSEA	235,394	27,693	207,700
ADAP	2,769,336	-	2,769,336
SBC	221,547	13,847	207,700
Total	68,223,035	2,077,002	66,146,033

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⁸ As well as the UNICEF National Committees, UNICEF is particularly grateful to the governments of the United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan, Australia, and Canada who were the top global providers of core and global thematic support last year.