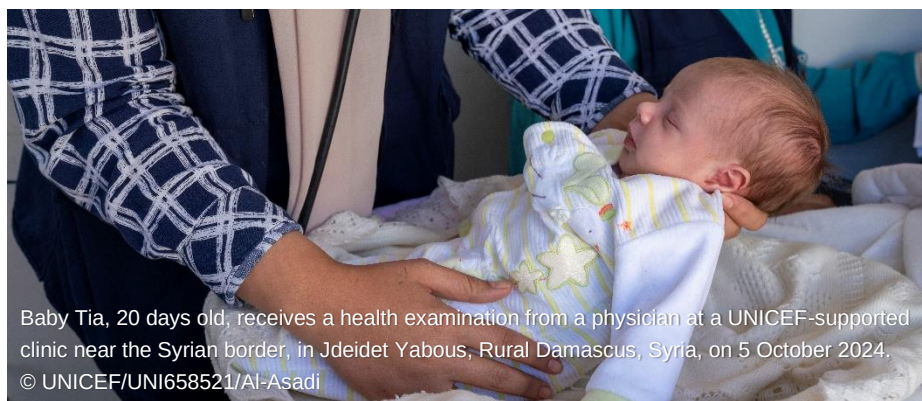




Baby Tia, 20 days old, receives a health examination from a physician at a UNICEF-supported clinic near the Syrian border, in Jdeidet Yabous, Rural Damascus, Syria, on 5 October 2024.
© UNICEF/UNI658521/Al-Asadi

Reporting Period: 16 – 21 October 2024

Highlights

- Over 425,000 people have crossed from Lebanon into Syria since the escalation in Lebanon.
- Around 28 per cent of those crossing the border are Lebanese nationals, and approximately 58 per cent of the population crossing the border are children.
- In the reporting week, UNICEF through its partners vaccinated 729 children (318 girls) against polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT3), and measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR).
- Over 500 children (266 girls) were screened for child wasting and 385 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were screened for severe wasting during reporting period.
- UNICEF requires US\$ 68.2 million to continue its response and fulfil the most immediate needs of the displaced population.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

- Over the reporting period, the arrivals at the various border crossing points continued with steady but reduced inflows.¹ As of 20 October 2024, approximately 425,000 people² have crossed from Lebanon into Syria since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon started on 23 September. This significant influx of displaced people includes approximately 72 per cent Syrians and 28 per cent Lebanese, and a few from other nationalities. Homs, Rural Damascus, and Ar-Raqqa Governorates have recorded the highest numbers of new arrivals to date.³
- Since 24 September, over 37,500 people⁴ have arrived in northeast Syria, mostly in Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, and Al-Hasakeh Governorates. As of 16 October,⁵ around 4,000 people, including 80 per cent women and children, have fled the conflict in Lebanon into northwest Syria. According to UNHCR,⁶ over 3,000 people have crossed through Aoun al-Dadat and are now residing in host communities.

¹ UNHCR Syria Flash Update No.17: Response to Displacement from Lebanon to Syria, 24 Sep - 20 Oct 2024

² Ibid.

³ UNHCR Syria Flash Update No.15: Response to Displacement from Lebanon to Syria, 24 Sep - 16 Oct 2024

⁴ UNHCR Syria Flash Update No.16: Response to Displacement from Lebanon to Syria, 24 Sep - 18 Oct 2024.

⁵ OCHA north-west Syria Situation Report, 18 Oct 2024.

⁶ UNHCR Northwest Syria Flash Update No. 4, 24 Sep - 18 Oct 2024.

Syria Country Office

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 4

unicef 
for every child

Situation in Numbers



425,000 people crossed into Syria
(UNHCR Syria Flash Update No.17, 24 Sep -20 Oct 2024)



72 per cent Syrian
(UNHCR Syria Flash Update No.17, 24 Sep -20 Oct 2024)

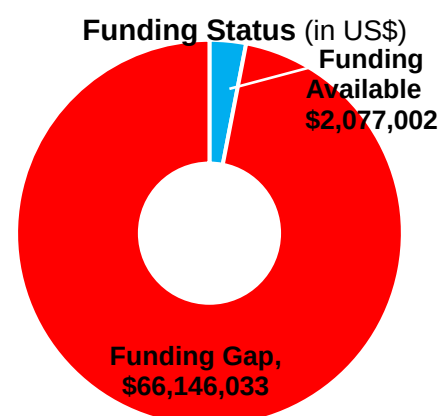


28 per cent Lebanese
(UNHCR Syria Flash Update No.17, 24 Sep -20 Oct 2024)



58 per cent children
(SARC Emergency Response for the influx from Lebanon to Syria, 16 Oct 2024)

UNICEF Funding Request US\$ 68.2 million



- According to UNICEF's partner Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), as of 17 October, over 13,000 displaced Syrians from Lebanon have crossed into Aleppo Governorate. Additionally, 142 Lebanese refugees have also arrived in the Jebel Saman district within the Governorate.
- According to UNRWA,⁷ 635 Palestinian refugee families representing approximately 3,000 people, including at least 202 children enrolled in schools in grade 1 to 9,⁸ in Damascus, central, north and south of Syria.⁹
- SARC reports indicate that of the total estimated arrivals, 58 per cent are children, with at least 360 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).¹⁰ SARC has provided family tracing and reunification services to eight families and is following up on search and reunification request to locate and reconnect children with their families.
- There are currently 35 hosting centres¹¹ across Syria, of which 17 are accommodating over 5,000 new arrivals from Lebanon, primarily Lebanese refugees. In Rural Damascus Governorate, the Herjaleh hosting centre is sheltering approximately 260 Lebanese families (1,015 people). In Tartous and Lattakia Governorates, 12 hosting centres and two reception centres are providing shelter to 950 Lebanese families (approximately 3,200 people). In Homs and Hama Governorates, five hosting centres are accommodating 161 Lebanese families (841 people).

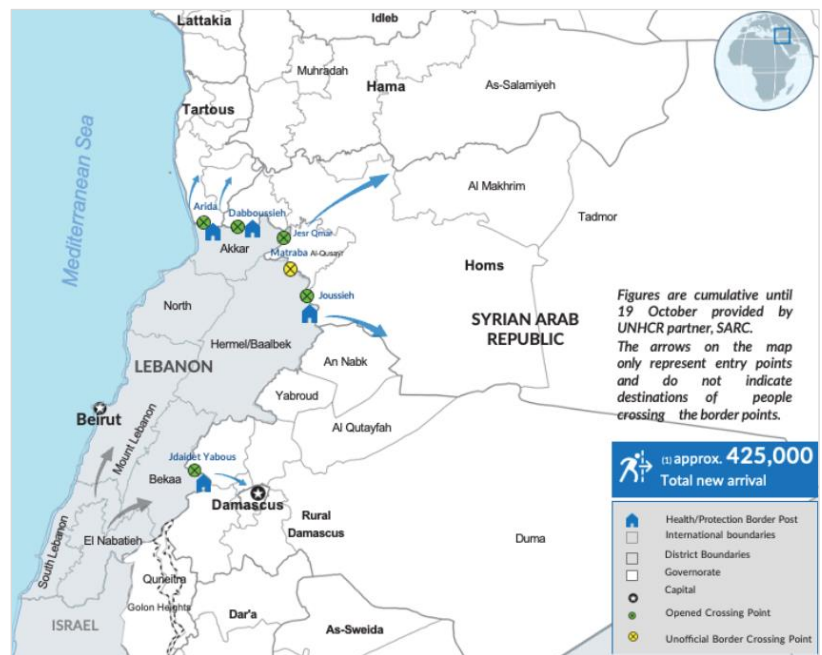


Figure 1: Situational map of the crossing points showing influx into Syria
Source: UNHCR Syria Flash Update No.17

UNICEF Programmatic Response Strategy

- UNICEF is actively supporting displaced Syrians and Lebanese refugees at border crossings, hosting centres and within host communities in response to the security situation in Lebanon. These efforts aim to assist the most vulnerable populations by building on existing programmes and resources. The focus is on providing gender-responsive and disability-inclusive aid, ensuring that all affected people receive necessary support.
- Key efforts include expanding partnerships with local and international organizations to enhance the reach and effectiveness of the response. UNICEF is also prepositioning emergency supplies to facilitate timely distribution when needed. Critical information is being shared with affected populations to inform them about available services and how to access them while also promoting protective behaviours such as hygiene practices and disease prevention.
- UNICEF aims to strengthen social cohesion by addressing the needs of both displaced children and those within the host community through its inclusive programmes, thereby bridging the gap and ensuring that all vulnerable children are supported and integrated.

⁷ UNRWA Situation Report No.6, Syria Emergency Response to the Situation in Lebanon from Lebanon - 21 Oct 2024.

⁸ Ibid

⁹ UNRWA Situation Report No.4, Syria Emergency Response to the Situation in Lebanon from Lebanon - 14 Oct 2024.

¹⁰ SARC Emergency Response for the influx from Lebanon to Syria, 16 Oct 2024.

¹¹ UNHCR Syria Flash Update No.16: Response to Displacement from Lebanon to Syria, 24 Sep - 18 Oct 2024.

- Additionally, UNICEF has activated feedback mechanisms to gather inputs from affected populations, ensuring that the response is adaptive to their needs. UNICEF is also integrating the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) by providing accurate information about available services and training staff, partners, and contractors on expected conduct.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF, in coordination with other humanitarian actors, including UNHCR, UNFPA, WFP, WHO, ICRC, SARC, and its implementing partners is actively responding to the growing humanitarian crisis, working to address the immediate humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, particularly children, PLW, and other at-risk groups at the border crossing points, hosting centres, and the host communities.

Health

- UNICEF and its partners focus on addressing health needs of the displaced population by providing access to quality primary health-care services. With UNICEF's support, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) provided medical check-ups, treatments, and referrals for children and women. Since the onset of the humanitarian response, UNICEF has provided health services to 6,074 people, including 3,519 women in Homs, Tartous, and Rural Damascus, at three crossing points.
- In host communities, UNICEF partners provided medical check-ups and treatments, reaching 3,104 people, including 2,038 women and 208 children in Idleb, Latakia, and Ar-Raqqa.
- Additionally, during the reporting period, UNICEF-supported MoH vaccination teams immunized 729 children (318 girls) against polio, DPT3, and MMR. This included 291 children (113 girls) in Homs, 411 children (189 girls) in Tartous, 26 children (15 girls) in Latakia, and one girl in Idleb.

Nutrition

- UNICEF and its partners focus on enhancing children's nutrition by ensuring access to quality preventive and curative nutrition services. UNICEF continued to collaborate with the Directorate of Health (DoH), SFPA, and Syria Al Yamama at the crossing points, hosting centres, and in host communities to identify the nutrition needs of children under the age of five and PLW, and to provide the most adapted package of nutrition services. These services include early detection and treatment of severe wasting, preventing child wasting, and providing skilled counseling on optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices to promote child health and nutrition. In Tartous, Latakia, Idleb, Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus, Qunaitra, and Ar-Raqqa Governorates, 516 children and 385 PLW received nutrition services.
- To date, 516 children (266 girls) were screened for child wasting, including 15 children (8 girls) that were referred for treatment of moderate wasting. Additionally, to prevent child malnutrition in all its forms, all 516 screened children received fortified food and multiple micronutrient powders.
- Furthermore, 385 PLW were screened for severe wasting, and received multiple micronutrient supplementation, and counselling on infant feeding in emergencies.

WASH

- UNICEF is delivering essential water services at hosting centres and border crossing points. UNICEF-supported water trucking services continue to be provided, including delivering 15,000 litres of water daily at Al Arida, supporting around 600 people. Also, 50,000 litres are supplied daily at Herjaleh hosting centre in Rural Damascus, benefiting 557 people. Furthermore, at the Al-Baseet hosting centre in Latakia Governorate, UNICEF has installed 10 water tanks and is delivering 30,000 litres of drinking water each day, ensuring consistent access to safe drinking water for over 2,000 people at the centre.
- In the first week of October 2024, UNICEF installed prefabricated, disability-inclusive, and gender-disaggregated toilet units at the Joussieh and Al Arida crossing points in Homs and Tartous Governorates. These units continue to be cleaned daily, significantly enhancing hygiene and sanitation services for approximately 1,100 people.

- Additionally, in collaboration with SARC, UNICEF is maintaining the water and sanitation facilities, including desludging sewage networks at the Jesr Al Qmar crossing point, providing sanitation for over 500 people daily.
- In Rural Damascus, UNICEF in coordination with UNHCR, conducted a shelter and WASH assessment of the Dewair hosting centre in Adra, Rural Damascus. Dewair hosting centre is being considered as a potential site for additional Lebanese refugees, should Herjaleh hosting centre exceed its capacity. This assessment is vital in preparing to meet the growing needs of displaced populations.
- UNICEF has provided the water institute in Qamishli and Al Hassaka with sodium hypochlorite for water chlorination as a preventive measure for any potential cholera outbreak.

Child Protection

- According to UNICEF partners at border crossing points and hosting centres, arriving children are showing signs of acute stress. Some have been observed to be withdrawn, lacking appetite, and expressing fear in response to loud noises or sudden movements, which may be triggers linked to their experiences in Lebanon. Adults are also exhibiting symptoms of severe stress and anxiety, including insomnia, increased irritability, and feelings of helplessness. Many feel overwhelmed by the uncertainty of their situation and the safety of their children, leading to physical exhaustion, difficulty concentrating, and emotional withdrawal.
- To address these identified needs, UNICEF, together with our local NGO partners, continue to support displaced people across various areas in Syria, including border crossing points, hosting centres, and host communities. Activities encompass family tracing and reunification, provision of psychological first aid (PFA), recreational activities, and raising awareness about child protection issues. Parents are also receiving support through PFA. Since the onset of the emergency, over 6,000 children and adults (approximately 3,000 women and girls) have participated in PFA and awareness-raising sessions.



UNICEF- supported child protection services in Herjaleh hosting centre, Rural Damascus, Syria ©UNICEF/Atef

Education

- The response continues across all Governorates, with recent efforts extending to Idleb following a comprehensive needs assessment. In Idleb, UNICEF has focused on providing learning spaces, installing tents, and lightly rehabilitating rooms in hosting centres to reopen schools for students.
- In Tartous and Lattakia, UNICEF supported 1,950 Lebanese students (803 girls) through non-formal education (NFE), early childhood education (ECE), and psychosocial support (PSS) activities.
- In Aleppo, UNICEF partner launched new classes, attracting recent arrivals through various NFE programmes, while the Directorate of Education (DoE) reported that 3,621 students (1,955 girls, including 121 girls from Lebanon) have enrolled in formal schools.
- In Ar-Raqqa, many children are reported to be out-of-school for several years as their families often lacked official documentation while in Lebanon. UNICEF provided stationery kits to 2,429 students (1,312 girls) who have re-enrolled in formal education.



Children attending 'Learning Cinema', Tartous, Syria
© UNICEF/Ahmad Riyad Maarouf

- In Hasakeh, UNICEF has proactively launched new classes in collaboration with partner education centres in both the city and hosting centres to accommodate newly displaced students.

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers

- On 7 October, UNICEF started to conduct a rapid needs assessment (which is still ongoing) across Rural Damascus, Homs, Lattakia Governorates, and in some areas of northeast Syria to assess the living conditions of displaced families with children in hosting centres and host communities. The assessment reveals significant gaps in humanitarian assistance and highlights the need for cash-based support. An estimated 83 per cent of the 202 interviewed families have children aged 0-17, and 21 per cent of families have at least one member with a disability, mostly children. In addition, 18 per cent of households are female-headed, while 42 per cent of families include children aged 6-23 months, PLWs, or both. Finally, 76 per cent of families reported not having received any assistance, particularly affecting displaced Syrians. Among the 24 per cent who received support, most was in-kind; however, 80 per cent preferred cash assistance. The urgent needs identified through the assessment are food, winter supplies, and medicines. The assessed families are borrowing money, spending savings, and relying on in-kind support to meet essential needs.
- UNICEF is planning to provide emergency cash assistance to the displaced families, in coordination with UNHCR and WFP, in hosting centres and host communities based on the findings from rapid needs assessments to ensure a targeted and effective response.

Adolescent Development and Participation

- In Tartous and Lattakia Governorates, 32 young volunteers (19 women) participated in UNICEF training sessions on essential data collection methods for rapid needs assessments. The training covered tools related to social policy, social behaviour change, and harmonized needs assessment. In Lattakia, 8 volunteers (7 women) collected data on Social Policy needs at one hosting centres. Further assessments are planned to fully engage all trained volunteers in ongoing emergency efforts.
- Meanwhile, another 46 trained young volunteers (29 women) from five Governorates including Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Tartous, and Lattakia attended a training session on UNICEF's cross-sectoral harmonized needs assessment tool, facilitated by the UNICEF Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) section. These volunteers will be involved in conducting needs assessments for over 1,000 households across 15 hosting centres in the five Governorates.

Cross-sectoral Response

Social and Behavioural Change

- In the ongoing response, social and behaviour change (SBC) efforts have been vital in ensuring that displaced populations receive information and are aware of available services. These activities have played a critical role in raising awareness, promoting health and hygiene, and providing access to essential services to those affected.
- Since the start of the humanitarian response, UNICEF, in collaboration with partners, has conducted awareness-raising sessions for parents and caregivers in Tartous, Lattakia, Ar-Raqqa, and Idleb, reaching 2,086 people (1,730 women) to promote social and behaviour change.
- Additionally, UNICEF supported the promotion of critical health and hygiene measures, engaging 1,645 people (1,142 women) in Lattakia, Idleb, and Homs with preventive messages to mitigate the risk of disease outbreaks in hosting centres. Furthermore, 254 women, including 119 PLW, were counselled on the significance of breastfeeding for child health and development. In collaboration with implementing partners, UNICEF reached 683 people (395 women) in Lattakia and Idleb to assess educational needs, resulting in 233 referrals for formal and non-formal education.
- Additionally, UNICEF supported the promotion of critical health and hygiene measures, engaging 1,645 people (1,142 women) in Lattakia, Idleb, and Homs with preventive messages to mitigate the risk of disease outbreaks in hosting centres. Furthermore, 254 women, including 119 PLW, were counselled on the significance of breastfeeding for child health and development.
- During the reporting period at Al-Thawra crossing point (Al-Tabqa), UNICEF and partners conducted 12 group sessions for 183 people (148 women) and 85 individual sessions (40 women), reinforcing personal

hygiene and proper breastfeeding practices to safeguard the health and well-being of displaced families crossing into northeast Syria.

Accountability to the Affected Population

- UNICEF and its partners have taken steps to strengthen Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP). To reinforce AAP, UNICEF visited eight centres of four implementing partners in Homs and Damascus, providing AAP awareness sessions for 53 women caregivers at health clinics. Many of these caregivers were members of displaced families and host community.
- UNICEF's service line received two calls from the displaced population from Lebanon, both Syrians who learned about the service through word of mouth. This underscores the need to expand outreach efforts to ensure that critical information about available humanitarian services reaches those in need. These feedbacks will inform UNICEF programming and will be reflected in our response, enabling us to better tailor our strategies and improve services accessibility.
- Printed materials on AAP messages and complaint and feedback channels were distributed to both staff and caregivers, ensuring they have the tools to voice their concerns.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

- As part of the response, PSEA focal points have continued delivering orientation sessions to 35 frontline workers from nine partners in Homs, Tartous, and Rural Damascus partners. These sessions aim to strengthen SEA risk mitigation and ensure proper reporting mechanisms, including the use of the sector risk mitigation checklist. Additionally, three partners with low PSEA capacity have received support in developing PSEA improvement plans, and focal points will be regularly monitored to ensure adherence.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

- UNICEF's humanitarian strategy aligns with the [Inter-Agency Emergency Appeal for the Influx from Lebanon to Syria](#), as well as the priorities set by relevant sectors and programmes.
- UNICEF continues to lead the Nutrition, WASH, and Education sectors and Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) at national and sub-national 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.
 - o The WASH sector continues to coordinate its response with UNICEF, UNHCR, SARC, and various WASH partners. A WASH response tracking system has been established and shared with partners to facilitate updates on their response, ensuring maximum integration of interventions and minimizing overlaps. Eight WASH partners – DRC, NRC, UNICEF, ADRA, UNDP, PUI, HEKS, and ONG Rescat – have collectively provided essential WASH services to approximately 90,000 people at border crossing points, in hosting centres, and within host communities since the influx began. Furthermore, the sector, in collaboration with partners, has developed unified standards, specifications, and operational procedures for the influx response to ensure high-quality WASH services are delivered to targeted populations.
 - o The Nutrition sector, under the leadership of the MoH and UNICEF, and with support from 12 partners, deployed 33 rapid-response nutrition teams to crossing points, hosting centres, and host communities since the start of the response. Overall, the sector focuses on integrating nutrition services with basic health to effectively combat malnutrition among vulnerable groups. Since the onset of the influx, partners reached 8,728 people, including 1,744 PLW and 3,622 women, with lifesaving preventive and curative nutrition services. About 82 per cent of these services were provided to vulnerable populations at crossing points in Rural Damascus, Homs, Tartous, and Ar-Raqqa Governorates. The sector coordinated the treatment of 111 children (59 girls) for moderate wasting, and 9 children (6 girls) for severe wasting, including one severe case referred to a stabilization centre in Tartous. Furthermore, the sector coordinated the treatment of 46 PLWs with moderate wasting. Partners also expanded maternal, infant, and young child feeding (MIYCF) services, reaching 2,438 women with IYCF awareness and providing high-energy biscuits and micronutrient supplements to PLW and children.

- The Education sector has begun coordinating responses among various partners, including UNICEF, UNRWA, UNHCR, ADRA, FCA, NRC, TGH, INTERSOS, SIF, PUI, WWGVC, and SOS-CV, to support education initiatives. A response tracking tool has been developed specifically for the influx response, and harmonized data collection tools have been shared with all partners. Additionally, ongoing discussions are taking place with the MoE to identify schools that will receive Syrian and Lebanese children for schooling.
- As for the Child Protection AOR, in hosting centres across Lattakia, Tartous, Homs, Hama, and Rural Damascus, partners are providing PFA, recreational activities, case management, and gender-based violence (GBV) awareness. Rapid assessments in Homs and Tartous identified the need for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), winter clothing, and recreational materials; initial PFA and recreational activities have begun. A rapid assessment conducted by Child Protection AOR partners in Aleppo revealed key needs such as MHPSS, legal support, and risks from unexploded ordnance (UXOs). Child Protection partners are already providing PFA, recreational activities, and GBV and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) awareness, with UXO risks being reported to OCHA for clearance coordination.
- At the interagency level, UNICEF continues to support efforts to review existing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for recording SEA complaints.
- UNICEF is also coordinating with line ministries on the emergency response as part of its regular programmes. On 14 October, the UN team in Tartous, including UNICEF, met with the Governor of Tartous and the delegated task force from Tartous Governorate to discuss the emergency response and the areas of intervention at the borders, in the hosting centres, and for the host communities.

Media and External Relation

- 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 in at border crossings and hosting centres. The external media content for the ongoing response can be accessed [here](#).



Alaa, age 3, holds her energy biscuit provided by UNICEF-supported mobile clinic at the Syrian border. Alaa's family fled the escalating violence in Lebanon and recently arrived at the border in Jdeidet Yabous, Rural Damascus, Syria, on 5 October 2024. UNICEF-supported mobile clinics are providing critical healthcare and nutrition services to vulnerable mothers and children.
© UNICEF/UNI658371/Al-Asadi

Humanitarian Funding Requirements

The UN and other humanitarian actors launched an Inter-Agency Flash Appeal on 7 October 2024.¹² Based on the indicative population in need, UNICEF's preliminary funding requirements stand at US\$68.2 million for a period of 6 months, as per the 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.¹³ 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. Without adequate funding, UNICEF's ability to provide essential assistance to children will be hindered, leading to increased protection risks and impacting life-saving interventions. UNICEF urges all stakeholders to support its mission to alleviate the suffering of the affected population.

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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¹² [Inter-Agency Emergency Appeal for the Influx from Lebanon to Syria, October 2024 to March 2025](#)

¹³ 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.