



Children at a UNICEF-supported child-friendly space in Damascus take part in an activity on the dangers of explosive ordnance. 20 July 2025.

unicef
for every child

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 18

Reporting Period
1 January to 31
December 2025

Syrian Arab Republic

HIGHLIGHTS

- Since the change of government in December 2024, close to 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)¹ and 1.3 million Syrian refugees have returned to their areas of origin or other locations in Syria during 2025—children comprising 57 per cent of all returnees.²
- Explosive ordnance (EO) remains a significant threat to children, with 892 incidents³ recorded since December 2024, resulting in the deaths of 171 and injuring 436 children.
- Economic hardships, impacts of drought-like situations, localised escalations, and huge returnee flows are placing additional pressure on already fragile basic services and limiting families' access to essential livelihoods.
- In 2025, UNICEF and partners reached 7.1 million people,⁴ including 4 million children,⁵ with lifesaving and life-sustaining support across health, nutrition, education, WASH, child protection, social protection, and social and behavioural change.
- With UNICEF Syria HAC 2025 only 37 per cent funded, the funding gaps undermine continuity of essential lifesaving and protection services for vulnerable children and women.⁶

SITUATION IN NUMBERS



7,400,000
Children in need of humanitarian assistance⁷

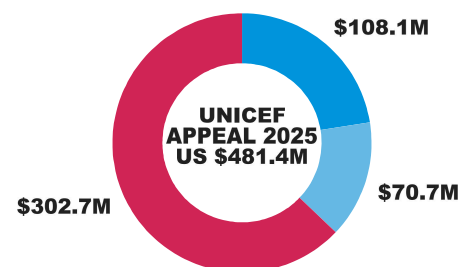


16,500,000
People in need of humanitarian assistance⁸



1,955,879
IDP returnees since 27 November 2024

FUNDING STATUS (IN US\$)**



● Humanitarian Resources
● 2024 carry over
● Funding gap

** Funding available includes: funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors

UNICEF RESPONSE AND FUNDING STATUS*

	Health	DTP3 vaccination	62%
		Funding status	43%
	Nutrition	SAM admissions	79%
		Funding status	69%
	Child protection and GBVIE	Case management	82%
		Funding status	41%
	Education	Formal education access	36%
		Funding status	28%
	WASH	Access to safe water	49%
		Funding status	31%
	Social protection	Cash transfer	58%
		Funding status	49%

* UNICEF response % is only for the indicator, the funding status is for the entire sector.

FUNDING OVERVIEW AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2025, UNICEF appealed for **US\$481 million** to deliver life-saving assistance and essential services to **7.3 million** people across Syria, including **4.8 million** children whose lives and futures continue to be shaped by more than a decade of crisis. This appeal supports critical interventions across health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection, and social protection—ensuring that the most vulnerable girls and boys can access the services they need to survive, grow, and develop.

UNICEF expresses its deep appreciation to all partners whose solidarity has made this response possible. Contributions from the **governments of Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (FCDO), and the United States (PRM)** have been vital in enabling rapid, principled humanitarian action.

UNICEF also gratefully acknowledges the support of key institutional partners, including **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), ECHO, CERF, and the Syria Humanitarian Fund**, whose investments strengthen essential systems and ensure services reach children in hard-to-access areas. Special thanks go to **Denmark, the Netherlands, UNICEF National Committees, and private sector partners** for their flexible contributions, which enabled UNICEF to respond swiftly where needs are greatest.

Despite this generosity, the 2025 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal remains only **37 per cent** funded. This significant shortfall threatens the continuity of life-saving and child protection services and programmes. Current resources remain insufficient to meet growing needs, limiting UNICEF's ability to deliver life-saving assistance and protection support to children and women. Without additional flexible funding, children in Syria face heightened protection risks and reduced access to essential, multisectoral services.

SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Humanitarian Situation

In 2025, Syria remained one of the most complex child-rights and humanitarian contexts globally. Following the change of authorities in December 2024, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic consolidated its control, though optimism regarding broader changes remained cautious. Despite progress in political normalisation, hostilities in the northern and southern governorates continued, affecting children and families.

The year was marked by continued security challenges, fiscal and monetary pressures, liquidity constraints, exchange rate fluctuations, inflation, limited banking operations, limited services and damaged infrastructure. Although institutional processes and engagement with authorities strengthened, 14 years of protracted crisis have severely eroded national capacities, and services and supplies remain overstretched. The prolonged conflict has devastated the economy, with GDP contracting by about 53 per cent⁹ between 2010 and 2022—leaving two-thirds of Syrians below the lower-middle-income poverty line. Nearly one-third of Syria's pre-conflict gross capital stock has been damaged, with infrastructure hardest hit, accounting for 48 per cent (US\$52 billion) of total losses.¹⁰

Over the year, local and regional escalations continued to shape the humanitarian situation and posed challenges to the recovery and reconciliation efforts in Syria. The overall security situation in Syria remains volatile and unpredictable. In northern Syria, the areas around the Tishreen Dam remained a hotspot in early 2025, with sporadic armed clashes, which continued to threaten the electricity supply and water provision for more than 3.5 million people.¹¹ However, following a landmark March 2025 agreement between the local authorities and the Syrian government, the situation subsided.¹² Northern Aleppo remained a hotspot throughout the year, with the escalation of violence after clashes in December 2025. In the southern governorates, clashes damaged key WASH and health infrastructure, and schools were used as shelters. Coastal areas also experienced escalations in March and wildfires in July that affected communities, triggered displacement, and damaged infrastructure.

The overstretched water infrastructure remained vulnerable, further compounded by the drought-like conditions Syria is experiencing, which are the most severe in 36 years.¹³ Climate-induced shocks, including extreme heatwaves, winter conditions, and erratic rainfall, have heightened water scarcity and pose serious risks to human, animal, and plant health. Lack of access to water has led to inadequate sanitation, resulting in waterborne diseases such as Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), health emergencies, and malnutrition, affecting 8.5 million people, including 1.8 million severely impacted. Food insecurity persists, with two in five Syrians affected and 9.1 million people acutely food insecure. Nutrition needs remain high, with 6.4 million people requiring assistance, including over 600,000 children under five acutely malnourished, 177,000 of whom are severely wasted.¹⁴

Health services remained constrained in 2025, with 15.9 million people in need. Frequent disruptions affected essential drugs for chronic and non-communicable diseases, mental health, and maternal and child health care. Only 57 per cent of hospitals and 37 per cent of primary health care centres remained functional, and funding cuts risk further closures, affecting around 5 million people.¹⁵

Education infrastructure has also been heavily impacted by the conflict, with an estimated 8,000 schools (40 per cent of the total) damaged¹⁶ and requiring rehabilitation or reconstruction. Many functioning schools face overcrowded classrooms, inadequate infrastructure and insufficient furniture. Access to learning materials and WASH facilities also remains constrained. Official estimates indicate 2.4–3 million¹⁷ children are out of school. Additionally, approximately 1.7 million internally displaced and refugee children have returned to their areas of origin or other locations, placing further pressure on overstretched facilities and available teaching resources. 121 schools in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa remain occupied¹⁸ as collective shelters for displaced families, limiting safe learning spaces for children. Protection concerns remain acute, particularly for women and children, whose safety and dignity are continuously at risk.¹⁹ Displaced populations living in overcrowded camps or returning to areas with inadequate infrastructure face heightened risks. Effects of economic crisis and prolonged conflict exacerbate gender-based violence and use of harmful coping mechanisms, including child marriage, child labour and sexual exploitation. In 2024, the United Nations verified 1,301 grave violations against 1,205 children, including 238 girls.²⁰

Fourteen years of conflict have left Syria with extremely high levels of explosive ordnance contamination. 15.4 million Syrians are at immediate risk of death or injury from landmines scattered across the country. Since December 8, 2024, there have been 892 incidents, resulting in 1,634 casualties—596 killed (387 men, 38 women, 171 children) and 1,038 injured (551 men, 32 women, 436

children). Of these incidents, 549 occurred in pastoral contexts, causing 357 deaths and 569 injuries, making activities such as agriculture, animal grazing, and scrap metal collection among the most dangerous for civilians. Deir-ez-Zor is the most affected governorate with 239 casualties (135 killed and 204 injured), followed by Aleppo with 268 casualties (100 killed and 160 injured).²¹

Population movement

In 2025, nearly 2 million IDPs, including 1.1 million children, returned to their areas of origin, with Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Idlib, and Rural Damascus governorates receiving the largest numbers.²² Refugee returns from neighbouring countries also continued, bringing the cumulative total of refugee returnees to 1.3 million, including 627,000 children. These population movements placed significant pressure on already overstretched essential services and began to strain social cohesion. Despite the scale of returns, overall displacement remained substantial: 4.82 million IDPs lived outside formal sites, while 1.4 million resided in IDP sites and camps.²³

In the coastal areas, violent unrest in Latakia and Tartous in March triggered the displacement of around 40,000 people²⁴ to Lebanon. In early July, the humanitarian situation further deteriorated as wildfires affected about 14,000 people. Rapidly advancing fires across the mountainous and densely forested northern countryside of Latakia escalated into a large-scale emergency, forcing more than 1,150 people to flee high-risk areas and leaving urgent needs for shelter, water, and essential services.²⁵

In July, escalations in As-Sweida Governorate prompted the large-scale displacement of 187,000 people²⁶ to Dar'a and Rural Damascus, with approximately 155,200 remain displaced.²⁷ While the security situation in As-Sweida stabilised, it remained fragile, and humanitarian needs remained significant and prolonged.

On 31 December 2025, heavy snowstorms hit IDP sites and camps across the north of the country that lasted for several days, blocking roads within and to the camps and disrupting access, affecting around 158,000 IDPs across Aleppo, Idlib and Al-Hasakeh governorates.

Since 6 January 2026, hostilities between Syrian Government forces and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) sharply escalated across Aleppo and the north-eastern governorates, driving large-scale civilian displacement throughout the first half of January. Although ceasefire agreements and their subsequent extensions have created periods of relative calm in some areas, the overall situation remains highly volatile and unpredictable. As of 25 January 2026, more than 170,000 people have been recorded as newly displaced across 178 communities in 27 sub-districts in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, and Ar-Raqqa governorates. The largest concentration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is in Qamishli District, hosting an estimated 97,900 IDPs, followed by Al-Malikiyyeh District with approximately 32,000 IDPs.²⁸

For additional details on the escalation and UNICEF's response, please refer to the [UNICEF Flash Updates](#) on escalation in Aleppo and the northern governorates.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

Health (including public health emergencies)



Nour, eight months old, receives his vaccine at a health centre during the national immunization campaign in Arbin city, Rural Damascus, Syria, on 15 October 2025.

In 2025, UNICEF continued delivering essential primary health care services across Syria through life saving interventions and system strengthening measures to address the impact of more than 14 years of conflict. Through 20 implementing partners operating in 122 health centres and 87 mobile medical teams, UNICEF reached over 1.8 million people, including 1.4 million children (half of them girls), with consultations, treatment, and preventive services. These efforts ensured continuity of care in remote, underserved, and displacement affected communities, including IDPs, returnees, and host populations.

UNICEF strengthened the health workforce by training 625 nursing staff, including 544 women, on maternal and child health, and expanded the Every Newborn Action Plan to 14 hospitals supporting 50,000 annual deliveries. A total of 2,119 Ministry of Health staff, including 1,844 women, received training on neonatal resuscitation, essential newborn care, and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC). Early Childhood Development services delivered through 79 primary health centres reached 158,730 children under five, including 78,906 girls, and identified 3,661 children (2,023 girls) with developmental delays, referring 134 for specialised care. The Me and My Child initiative provided disability support to 699 children (264 girls). Community volunteers conducted 40,707 home visits for 26,333 pregnant women and 3,959 newborns.

During the wildfires in Latakia Governorate and the escalation in southern Syria, UNICEF deployed rapid response teams to maintain essential services. In Latakia, 12 teams reached 2,433 children (1,250 girls), 386 women, and 2,159 adults (1,088 women). Across Dar'a, As-Sweida, and Rural Damascus, 14 medical and nutrition teams, together with teams supported by the Directorate of Health (DoH) in Quneitra, reached 52,037 children (26,036 girls) and 15,768 women.

UNICEF supported the development of the National Immunisation Strategy 2026–2030 and reached 2.1 million children (1 million girls), identifying 93,674 zero dose children through vaccination campaigns. System strengthening efforts included expanding the cold chain, rehabilitating 24 health centres, equipping 48 facilities with essential supplies and solar systems, and advancing the Ministry of Health (MoH) National Strategic Health Plan 2026–2028.

Nutrition

Throughout 2025, UNICEF and partners sustained and expanded critical nutrition services across Syria, responding to acute emergencies in coastal areas (conflict and wildfires) and to the unrest in As-Sweida, which extended into Dar'a and Rural Damascus. Nationwide efforts covered all 14 governorates, reaching

host communities, IDPs, and returnees through fixed facilities and mobile teams.

In 2025, **1.3 million children aged 6–59 months (685,745 girls)** were screened for acute malnutrition, alongside **432,974 pregnant and lactating women**. Life-saving treatment was provided to 19,679 children (10,699 girls) with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), supported by counselling and enrolment of both children and women into moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) programmes.

Preventive nutrition programming remained central to the response. **350,314 children aged 6–23 months (175,317 girls)** received lipid-based nutrient supplements in small quantities (LNS-SQ), while 995,775 children aged 6–59 months (595,072 girls) received multiple micronutrient powders (MNPs). Skilled maternal, infant, and young child nutrition counselling scaled up significantly, reaching 1,272,884 caregivers.

To tackle anaemia, **603,633 pregnant and lactating women** received multiple micronutrient supplements. UNICEF and the Ministry of Education also rolled out weekly iron–folate supplementation in public schools, reaching 175,000 adolescent girls across five governorates, with national expansion planned for the 2025–2026 academic year.

UNICEF also launched a nutrition-sensitive social protection programme to address child food poverty and inadequate dietary diversity. Cash assistance was provided to 8,691 households with children aged 6–23 months, complemented by LNS-SQ, complementary feeding bowls, and counselling on appropriate feeding practices.

Emergency responses continued in wildfire-affected areas in Lattakia, conflict-affected communities in As-Sweida, and displacement sites in Dar'a and Rural Damascus. In As-Sweida, 18,000 children under five (9,720 girls) and 4,758 pregnant and lactating women were screened and provided with nutrition services.

Overall, these services helped maintain life-saving nutrition coverage despite access constraints and localised displacement. However, the continuity and scale-up of nutrition services remain at risk due to funding limitations.

Child Protection



Rural Aleppo, 9 October 2025: Christian Schneider, Executive Director of the UNICEF National Committee for Germany, plays Lego with children at the Multi-Purpose Centre in Wedehi, Rural Aleppo.

UNICEF, through its partners, delivered comprehensive child protection services, reaching vulnerable children affected by conflict and displacement. Interventions included case management, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), parenting support,

Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) and disability inclusive child protection, alongside sustained assistance to children affected by armed conflict. This encompassed reintegration support, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), victim assistance, and specialised protection and reintegration services for children deprived of liberty and those returning from camps or detention settings.

In 2025, UNICEF and partners reached **1.1 million individuals with child protection services, including 902,554 children (462,492 girls)** and 222,995 adults (162,547 women). A total of 14,768 highly vulnerable children (7,262 girls) received case management, while 18,627 children (9,458 girls) were referred to specialised services for further support. A total of 178,965 children (96,321 girls) participated in structured MHPSS activities. In addition, 77,671 individuals comprising 55,498 children (28,075 girls) and 22,173 adults (14,965 women), were reached with PFA. 68,274 adults (61,069 women) benefited from positive parenting support to strengthen their capacity to care for their children.

To enhance service quality and coverage, 4,276 front-line workers (2,710 women) completed capacity-building training on core child protection interventions. Awareness-raising activities reached 477,604 individuals, including 381,957 children (199,852 girls). EORE remained a key preventive intervention, **benefiting 846,423 people, including 707,199 children (359,567 girls)**. Gender based violence (GBV) prevention and response services reached 270,826 individuals, including 214,899 children.

UNICEF played a central role in reintegration and return processes. In coordination with UN agencies, UNICEF supported Syrian returnees departing Al Hol, Areesha, and Mahmoudli camps and facilitated the repatriation of Iraqi families from Al Hol. These efforts enabled the return and reunification of 510 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).

In Qamishli, UNICEF partners expanded service delivery across 34 camps and surrounding communities, strengthening resilience among children and youth and enhancing parental capacities. In Deir-ez-Zor, UNICEF's programmes expanded their outreach on both sides of the Euphrates River, including support to 155 households in Abu Khashab camp through awareness activities, including EORE.

Education

In 2025, in close coordination with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and partners, UNICEF continued to respond to urgent education needs while promoting inclusive and dignified learning opportunities for all children in Syria, particularly internally displaced children, returnees, and vulnerable host communities.

Overall, UNICEF supported 1.2M children (600,000 girls), including 24,289 children with disabilities, through various education interventions. Strengthening the formal education system remained a central focus, particularly as a pathway for the reintegration of returnee children. Throughout the year, 78 schools were rehabilitated, benefiting 43,127 children (23,076 girls), and 20,353 education personnel (14,361 women) received capacity-building support. As teachers re-entered the workforce, UNICEF advanced a comprehensive professional development approach, delivering training on early childhood education (ECE), psychosocial support (PSS), crisis-responsive pedagogical practices, and the rollout of the School Safety Initiative (SSI) across multiple governorates—contributing to safer, more inclusive learning environments.

A major achievement of 2025 was UNICEF's leadership in expanding access to nationally harmonised Grade 9 and 12 examinations, particularly in northeast Syria, where the absence of accreditation had long hindered learning progression. Through

sustained advocacy and coordinated efforts with the MoE and local authorities, 64,024 children (31,325 girls) sat for nationally recognised examinations in their own areas for the first time in more than a decade.

In As Sweida Governorate, UNICEF supported the restoration of 6 damaged schools, established 6 temporary learning spaces, and supplied essential learning materials, enabling 73,163 children (37,300 girls) to resume their education. In the coastal region, 41,000 children (22,366 girls) accessed catch-up classes, psychosocial support (PSS) services, and other education programmes across 135 learning spaces, complemented by the rehabilitation of 40 schools affected by wildfires and security incidents.

UNICEF also expanded non-formal education (NFE) as a second-chance learning pathway, reaching 295,185 children (153,639 girls) through structured NFE programmes, including self-learning, remedial education, ECE, and life skills.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

In 2025, UNICEF's WASH response across Syria addressed critical humanitarian needs driven by protracted conflict, large-scale displacement and returns, climate stress, deteriorated infrastructure, and chronic energy shortages. Life saving emergency assistance was combined with early recovery and systems strengthening interventions to stabilise and sustain access to WASH.

Water supply interventions represented the largest component of the response, reaching approximately **3.5 million people** nationwide. Across Syria, UNICEF rehabilitated and expanded water treatment plants, pumping stations, boreholes, reservoirs, and transmission and distribution networks. In Tartous and Latakia governorates, more than 105,000 people benefited from the rehabilitation of 6 pumping stations, pipelines, and electrical lines. Across four governorates in the south, 4 major pumping stations, 9 wells, and water networks were restored or repaired, alongside the installation of new pump motors and the rehabilitation of strategic facilities serving large urban and rural populations. In Al-Hasakeh, Ar Raqqa, and Deir ez Zor governorates, continuous water trucking was complemented by the rehabilitation of 7 water stations, 3 boreholes, 7 reservoirs, and 19 water treatment plants, including Euphrates-linked systems, which stabilised services for IDPs, returnees, and host communities benefiting more than 730,000 people. In Homs, Hama, Aleppo, and Idleb governorates, system rehabilitation, solarisation, network repairs, and emergency power solutions improved production reliability and household access, including in conflict-affected and earthquake-impacted areas.

Sanitation interventions reached approximately **1.2 million people**, reducing environmental and public health risks in densely populated, vulnerable areas, and in camps and collective shelters. UNICEF rehabilitated sewage networks, pumping stations, and wastewater treatment facilities in major urban centres and high return areas, including Damascus city, Dar'a, Deir ez Zor, Homs, Hama, Hasakeh, and Ar Raqqa.

UNICEF supplied 7,800 metric tons of liquid sodium hypochlorite, installed over 1,000 dosing pumps, rehabilitated laboratories, and strengthened water safety planning to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases across multiple governorates. These interventions, focusing on water quality management, ensured access to safe water for approximately **15.4 million people nationwide**

Emergency WASH assistance and hygiene promotion reached approximately **1.4 million people** in camps, shelters, schools, and host communities across Syria through water trucking, bottled water, hygiene kits, jerrycans, Aqua Tabs, and hygiene promotion activities addressing acute gaps during displacement, service disruptions, and

disease outbreaks.

Social Protection

In 2025, UNICEF's social protection programme focused on four pillars—social protection, child poverty reduction, public finance for children (PF4C), and disability inclusion—while strengthening humanitarian–development linkages to support Syria's transition toward early recovery. This approach ensured that cash-based humanitarian assistance contributed to resilience during 2025, a year of significant socioeconomic transition.

The **Integrated Social Protection Programme (Cash+)** reached **86,708 individuals, including 50,499 children (24,565 girls)** and 19,788 women, across 22,782 households in 11 governorates. Complementing this, the Integrated Social Protection Programme for Children with Disabilities supported **6,367 children (2,630 girls)** as the intervention specifically targeted **children with disabilities** from the host, displaced, and returnee populations. Through the Cash for Basic Needs Programme, UNICEF reached 39,067 individuals, including 18,288 children (8,908 girls) and 12,034 women across 8,391 households. Targeted Cash Assistance for Nutrition outcomes supported 41,274 individuals, including 25,844 children (13,027 girls) and 7,754 women in households with children aged 0–23 months.

Across all programmes, UNICEF prioritised families with young children, female-headed households, and families caring for children with disabilities or chronic illnesses. Beneficiaries received four US \$150 transfers, complemented by nutrition and child-focused services that addressed immediate needs while linking families to broader social support. The Cash+ platform also demonstrated strong shock-responsiveness, enabling rapid expansion during emergencies in Latakia, Aleppo, and southern governorates. This scale-up was supported by established delivery systems, robust monitoring, and the digital cash management platform (HOPE), ensuring timely and accountable assistance.

Adolescent Development and Participation



Adolescents take part in activities at a UNICEF-supported adolescent-friendly space in Tartous City, Syria, on 7 July 2025.

In 2025, UNICEF's Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP) programme implemented a nationally coordinated emergency and early recovery strategy to address the compounded impacts of conflict escalation, displacement, widespread returns, and deepening socio-economic deterioration across Syria. The programme strengthened the resilience, agency, and social cohesion of adolescents and youth by providing integrated pathways in life skills, employability, and civic engagement, with intensified support in As-Sweida and high-return Governorates. By leveraging community platforms and institutional partnerships, UNICEF ensured inclusive

access for internally displaced persons, returnees, Syrian refugee returnees, and host communities, enabling young people to manage immediate humanitarian risks while contributing to local recovery.

By the end of 2025, UNICEF reached **378,249 adolescents and youth, including 203,116 young girls**. Among them, **221,587 engaged in social cohesion, civic engagement**, emergency response initiatives, and SBC messaging; **156,662 accessed life skills, citizenship education, and employability training**. These results strengthened coping capacities, reinforced social connectedness, and expanded meaningful youth participation in community recovery.

Across high-return governorates including Aleppo, Idlib, Al-Hasakeh, and Ar-Raqqa, ADAP programming aligned employability and skills pathways with local recovery needs, helping returnee adolescents and youth overcome disrupted education trajectories and reintegration challenges. In Aleppo, more than 2,000 young volunteers supported post-hostility recovery through debris removal in university facilities, municipal cleaning, damage assessments, and temporary traffic management.

UNICEF also strengthened youth engagement in emergency response. In camps in Idlib Governorate, 50 trained youth volunteers led life-skills sessions, PSS activities, and community-based projects. In the Coastal Area, 14 volunteers supported family registration for cash assistance and delivered awareness sessions on EORE and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

In As-Sweida Governorate, youth-led initiatives supported more than 8,500 displaced families with food assistance and community services. In Hama Governorate, youth groups promoted access to safe water and healthier lifestyles and rehabilitated educational spaces, contributing to safer, more supportive learning environments.

Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)

In 2025, UNICEF's Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) programme implemented a community-driven, evidence-based strategy to strengthen recovery, protection, and resilience for IDPs, returnees, and host communities across Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Tartous, Qamishli, and Deir-ez-Zor governorates. The approach prioritised children, youth, adolescents, and women, ensuring inclusive and adaptive interventions.

Central to this strategy was community engagement. Through UNICEF-supported platforms, **over 4.2 million people participated** in reflective dialogues promoting positive practices, while **5.4 million individuals received life-saving and risk-reduction messages**. Additionally, 56,331 community members engaged in discussions fostering social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, reducing tensions in displacement and return contexts.

UNICEF supported strengthening local governance and accountability by establishing **participatory mechanisms in 51 sub-districts** to enable communities to actively shape local decision-making, planning, and monitoring. Recovery priorities reflected the needs of children, youth, and women, including safe learning environments and health services.

A total of 941 frontline workers (619 women) were trained in SBC, and 294 health workers and volunteers were trained in gender integration into immunisation. Evidence-driven programming was reinforced through monthly social listening reports and two phases of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) surveys, enabling rapid adjustments to messaging and interventions in response to evolving risks and perceptions.

As part of the As-Sweida humanitarian response, over 15,000

caregivers were engaged in health promotion, 25,354 pregnant and lactating women received counselling on infant feeding, and 3,740 individuals (1,920 women) participated in child protection-focused activities. Overall, 6,594 community members actively participated in SBC engagement activities.

Working across health, nutrition, education, ADAP, child protection, and Social Policy, UNICEF integrated PSEA, disability inclusion, and gender mainstreaming into interventions. Initiatives included youth-led projects, storytelling, women's safe spaces, and cultural dialogue, promoting positive behaviours, inclusion, and trust while reducing misinformation.

Accountability to affected population

In 2025, UNICEF implemented AAP actions in line with the revised 2024 AAP Strategy, strengthening community participation and updating the complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM) to improve transparency and responsiveness.

UNICEF trained **774 people (143 women)** on AAP, including 18 UNICEF staff (9 women), 113 implementing partner staff (71 women), 89 volunteers (46 women), 37 third-party facilitators (7 women) and 14 PSEA focal points (10 women). Awareness sessions reached 33 women caregivers and 18 children (9 girls) at partner service centres.

To reinforce community engagement, UNICEF trained 28 focal points (17 women) from six implementing partners supporting community committees under the SBC programme. These focal points trained 424 committee members—388 adults (198 women) and 36 children (19 girls)—across 30 committees in four governorates.

UNICEF coordinated with the inter-agency AAP Working Group and neighbouring country offices to strengthen information sharing for Syrian refugee returnees across UN agencies. Complaint and feedback materials were distributed in emergency kits, and UNICEF produced an analytical report based on 33 community consultations conducted in 2024.

UNICEF shared customised SMS messages with 8,341 families under the social policy programme and conducted post-transfer verification to confirm receipt of cash. WhatsApp was activated as an additional feedback channel in areas without Syrian mobile coverage, and a new quality assurance system was introduced for the UNICEF service line.

The UNICEF service line handled **4,160 beneficiaries in 2025**, achieving a 99 per cent resolution rate. Aleppo accounted for 45 per cent of cases. Information requests represented 77 per cent, followed by new needs (15 per cent) and complaints (8 per cent). Most cases related to the social policy programme (80 per cent), with the remainder linked to health, nutrition and education.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

In 2025, and abuse (PSEA) efforts by integrating messaging across services and reaching children, women, men, girls, boys, and caregivers through awareness sessions on SEA reporting and rights to free humanitarian services and protection. These actions prioritized safe reporting channels and survivor-centred responses, reducing SEA risks and strengthening accountability.

UNICEF Syria designated 15 PSEA focal points and alternates, trained through Training of Trainers (ToT) to address context-specific risks. In partnership with 42 partners, UNICEF identified and trained 150 PSEA focal points (110 women) to reinforce partner capacity. In June, 52 partners attended a five-day training on administrative

investigations in Damascus and Aleppo, enhancing skills for safe and confidential SEA investigations. In September, 53 focal points from partners and 4 staff from the Directorate of Social Affairs and Labour (DOSAL) participated in ToT sessions in Tartous, Latakia, Aleppo, and Idlib governorates. Additionally, 300 UNICEF staff and facilitators were trained on PSEA risk mitigation to strengthen emergency response.

Community engagement expanded significantly during the year. Monitoring data shows **1,658,342 people, including 808,595 children (432,119 girls) and 671,711 women**, could identify at least one safe reporting channel. UNICEF trained over 500 focal points, updated SOPs for survivor-centred practices, and deployed 500 youth volunteers to extend outreach to remote areas.

UNICEF assessed 99 per cent of partners on PSEA capacity, conducted refresher trainings, and led interagency coordination under the 2025 PSEA UNCT Action Plan. Youth volunteers facilitated 110 focus group discussions in northeast Syria, strengthening community engagement and accountability. These efforts embedded minimum PSEA standards across humanitarian and resilience programming, improving predictability and quality at scale.

Supply and Logistics

Since January 2025, UNICEF Syria has procured **US\$96.7 million** worth of goods and services to sustain the delivery of essential, life-saving support to children and families across the country. Of the total procurement value, 30 per cent was allocated to goods and 70 per cent to services, reflecting the operational needs of large-scale humanitarian programmes.

The procurement of critical supplies—including health and nutrition commodities, WASH items, emergency kits, and key education materials such as school furniture and textbooks—helped ensure uninterrupted access to essential services and learning opportunities for vulnerable children. Complementing these efforts, UNICEF also engaged construction and rehabilitation services to restore and improve damaged facilities, alongside procuring essential office equipment to support field presence and programme implementation.

To enhance the efficiency and reliability of the supply chain, UNICEF Syria maintains 77 active Long-Term Agreements (LTAs) for priority goods and services. These LTAs strengthen supply chain predictability, reduce lead times, and improve UNICEF's ability to rapidly respond to evolving humanitarian needs.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION AND STRATEGY

In 2025, humanitarian sectors in Syria advanced a major transition from the former Whole of Syria architecture to unified, Damascus-based national coordination mechanisms, strengthening coherence, leadership, and accountability across responses. Under government leadership and with UNICEF support, sectors including WASH, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) established streamlined national and sub-national coordination structures, supported by Strategic Advisory Groups (SAGs) and technical working groups, to harmonise standards, reporting tools, and technical guidance. This shift reinforced collaboration among partners across all governorates, improved alignment with sector priorities, and strengthened linkages with national and sub-national authorities. In line with UNICEF's localisation agenda, sectors also advanced efforts to progressively engage local actors in coordination and leadership roles, contributing to strengthened national ownership, enhanced capacity at the sub-national level, and more effective, needs-based service delivery

across Syria.

The **Nutrition Sector** in Syria continued to strengthen its coordination and evidence-based response in 2025. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, with UNICEF serving as co-lead and Save the Children International as co-chair, the sector established a streamlined national platform supported by a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and three technical working groups focusing on the prevention and management of wasting, maternal and young child nutrition, and assessment and information management. This national coordination system is reinforced by six sub-national forums jointly led by the Directorates of Health and UNICEF.

A major milestone for the sector was the completion of the SMART Plus survey on 25 December 2025, which covered all 14 governorates for the first time. This marked the first unified nationwide nutrition survey conducted under MoH leadership following the transition to the "One Syria" framework. The survey provides a critical evidence base for strategic planning across the Humanitarian Programme Cycle and will inform the priorities not only of the Nutrition Sector but also for Health, WASH, and food security. Complementing this effort, the sector actively contributed to OCHA's Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment, finalised on 21 December 2025, ensuring that nutrition needs are fully integrated into broader inter-sectoral analysis.

By the end of 2025, the Nutrition Sector's **79 partners** had reached more than **2.3 million** people with life-saving preventive and curative nutrition services.

In 2025, the **WASH Sector** advanced the transition to a unified, Damascus-based coordination structure, strengthening collaboration across all actors. The sector also harmonised standards and reporting tools and formally engaged the Ministry of Energy (MoE) as the governmental lead for WASH coordination in Syria.

The sector worked closely with partners and the MoE to implement an integrated response strategy to restore basic WASH services, deliver humanitarian assistance in camps, and promote the long-term sustainability of water and sanitation systems. Coordination encompassed planning, implementation, and monitoring across multiple response streams, including the 2025 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), drought response efforts, and response to the escalations in the coastal and southern regions. More than **97 partners** contributed to the response, reaching **over 7.5 million people** in 3,700 communities and camps through more than 11,500 WASH interventions—demonstrating strong collective reach and impact.

Preparedness efforts were also strengthened. In collaboration with WASH partners, the Ministry of Emergency and Disaster (MoED), and the Ministry of Education (MoE), the sector completed comprehensive contingency and preparedness planning. This process identified expected hazards, governorate-level risks and impacts, anticipated humanitarian consequences, and required response and preparedness actions, along with partners' operational capacities.

Looking ahead, the **WASH Sector** facilitated early planning for the 2026 response. This included supporting and supervising several national assessments—such as WASH vulnerability mapping, drought assessments, and the 2025 MSNA—and contributing to the development of the 2026 WASH response framework, as well as reviewing partners' capacities to ensure a coherent and well-resourced response for the coming year.

In 2025, the **Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR)** played a central role in ensuring coherence, prioritisation, and quality across child protection interventions in all 14 governorates. The CP AoR supported the transition not only from the former Whole of Syria coordination hubs to a unified, UN-led centralised child protection

coordination system in Damascus, but also furthered integration into the broader protection section in the face of the humanitarian reset, following a reduction in the number of sectors and AoRs.

In 2025, CP AoR partners had reached approximately **1.7 million people**, including around **1.3 million children**, with essential child protection services. Interventions included specialised case management, MHPSS, parenting programmes, and prevention and awareness activities addressing Explosive ordnance, protection risks and harmful social norms.

Inter-agency coordination and strategic planning were strengthened through close collaboration and capacity building initiative with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MoSAL) and child protection partners. Joint analysis, prioritisation, and response planning were conducted in line with evolving conflict dynamics and population movements. Key coordination strategies were finalised and implemented, including the Syria CP AoR Strategy, the capacity-building strategy, the localisation strategy, and the National Prevention Toolkit, promoting a harmonised, quality-driven, and community-focused approach to child protection.

In 2025, the **Education Sector** strengthened the national education response by enhancing the MoE's leadership and coordination capacity to provide strategic guidance and oversight. This was complemented by improved collaboration and alignment among education partners to ensure coherent and needs-based interventions across the country. Following the transition from the Whole of Syria architecture to a unified national coordination mechanism, a transitional Strategic Advisory Group was established to support inclusive and evidence-informed decision-making. In parallel, national-level Technical Working Groups (TWGs) were activated, bringing together partners from all 14 governorates to harmonise standards and reporting tools and to collectively address priority gaps identified by the MoE.

Learning environments were strengthened through coordinated investments in school infrastructure and essential services, implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and education partners. These efforts supported safe, functional schools and ensured continuity of learning, particularly in underserved areas.

Psychosocial well-being and safety in education settings were enhanced through a coordinated approach that integrated psychosocial support within schools. Partners aligned tools and interventions to strengthen teachers' capacity to provide basic psychosocial care, contributing to more protective and supportive learning environments.

The quality of teaching and learning improved through coordinated capacity-strengthening initiatives across formal and non-formal education programmes. Partners aligned the provision of learning resources, teacher incentives, and professional development support to strengthen instructional practices, sustain teacher motivation, and promote consistent education quality.

Access to education was significantly expanded across formal education pathways. A total of **706,563 children** were supported by Education Sector partners **to access national examinations**. In addition, **3.3 million students** benefited from the provision of textbooks and basic learning materials in formal education settings. Early childhood education was also strengthened, with approximately 30,000 children aged 3–5 years supported to enrol and participate in early learning programmes.

Access to education for out-of-school children was enhanced through the provision of non-formal education opportunities, reaching 429,972 children in 2025. Skills development opportunities were expanded, with 71,346 children and adolescents aged 5–17 years participating in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and life-skills programmes to support employability and

school-to-work transitions.

UNICEF has begun adapting its humanitarian structure in line with the Humanitarian Reset reform launched by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator and the IASC. This includes strengthening its operational footprint through six field offices to ensure a more localised, accountable, and community-proximate response. As part of the reset, the Child Protection AoR is planned to be gradually phased out by June 2026, while ensuring UNICEF continues to play a central role within the Protection sector to safeguard children's rights and well-being. In the context of significant funding reductions, sporadic escalations, and persistent socio-economic challenges in Syria, UNICEF is prioritising more efficient, child-centred and integrated ways of working. UNICEF's active engagement in inter-agency coordination supports system-wide planning and harmonised delivery. Efforts to strengthen PSEA were guided by the 2025 UNCT PSEA Action Plan, aligned with IASC priorities, and UNICEF served as the Inter-Agency PSEA Coordinator, co-funding the position at a time when no full-time coordinator was available. UNICEF has also signed an MoU and developed a joint workplan with UNHCR to enhance support to returnee populations. Additionally, UNICEF remains actively engaged in the Durable Solutions Working Group with UNHCR and UNDP, engagement with FAO on Drought response, and collaborates with UNDP's area-based response model to ensure coherent, context-specific interventions.

UNICEF continued to play a strategic role in shaping the humanitarian access agenda throughout 2025, maintaining active engagement in all Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG) deliberations and workstreams. UNICEF contributed to key system-wide processes, including the development of the Syria Joint Operating Principles and the HAWG Guidance Note on Beneficiary Data, and provided sustained technical inputs to the Humanitarian Country Team's Access Strategy, which is still under development.

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES AND EXTERNAL MEDIA

• Communication and advocacy:

In 2025, UNICEF positioned children's rights at the centre of Syria's national agenda, leveraging political and social space and digital platforms to translate policy engagement into tangible results for children. Building on political developments from late 2024, UNICEF ensured that children's voices informed emerging national priorities.

Children's voices gained unprecedented visibility, with 16 press releases issued and over 28 national and international media interviews. Daily media monitoring and rapid production of fact sheets, Q&As, and thematic briefs ensured accurate, child-centred information, while risk-informed crisis communication countered misinformation and protected UNICEF's credibility. All public communications were guided by strict safeguarding, neutrality, and do-no-harm principles, ensuring child protection and institutional credibility in a highly sensitive environment.

UNICEF became the first UN agency in Syria to publicly announce [Syria's first National Ambassador for Children](#), reinforcing its leading role in child rights. The appointment strengthened national ownership of child rights advocacy and expanded UNICEF's reach to new audiences.

Digital storytelling expanded significantly, generating over 50 human-interest stories, 90 photo essays, and 44 videos, while [Facebook](#) followers more than doubled organically. Content amplification by donors and UNICEF global platforms elevated reach and engagement dialogue, and Syria achieved the highest global engagement in the ["I Am" campaign](#).

A humanitarian advocacy strategy focused on inclusive recovery and sanctions-related barriers influenced national and UN priorities. Sustained advocacy enabled over 60,000 students in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor to sit for national exams, restoring a fundamental right to education and opening pathways for future policy coordination. [Advocacy kits](#) aligned partners, and youth focused campaigns broadened engagement. World Children's Day marked a milestone with the National [Ambassador's appointment](#) and child-led events "[Blue Seed and Blue Garden](#)", reaffirming children's rights to expression, participation, and hope.

UN partnerships amplified impact through joint initiatives on explosive ordnance risk education, immunization, disability inclusion, donor events and field visits. Donor confidence grew through coordinated communications, donor field visits, and visibility support. Consistent, transparent communications strengthened donor trust and reinforced UNICEF's role as a reliable partner during transition and crisis.

- **Key Communications Milestones:**

[**100 days: A historic moment of hope for Syria's children and young people**](#)

Since December 2024, Syria has entered a period of significant change, offering a rare moment of hope for children, young people and their families after 14 years of crisis. With essential infrastructure close to collapse and humanitarian needs at critical levels, UNICEF remains firmly committed to protecting and supporting Syria's most vulnerable. Over the first 100 days of 2025, UNICEF worked intensively to shape a principled, agile and nationally aligned programme to help the country move towards recovery, peace, and sustainable development.

[**Six months of renewed hope for children and young people in Syria**](#)

Over the first six months of 2025, Syria experienced historic changes, including the appointment of an interim President and the formation of new ministries. These developments offer renewed hope for children and families, potentially strengthening national unity, while supporting recovery after 14 years of conflict.

[**Delivering impactful results for every child and young person in Syria 2025-2026**](#)

For nearly 60 years, UNICEF has stood by Syria's children, guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Syria ratified in 1993. With six field offices, and 260 dedicated staff, 43 per cent of whom are women, UNICEF, together with its partners, is on the ground strengthening systems, scaling up services in the social sector and delivering life-saving supplies. From education and social protection, to health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and child protection, UNICEF is reaching every child, everywhere.

Yet the conflict that erupted in 2011 changed everything. As violence spread and needs deepened, UNICEF shifted its focus, responding to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable children and women across the country. Today, Syria remains one of the world's most complex humanitarian crises. In 2025, 16.7 million people, including 7.5 million children are in need of humanitarian support, 2.45 million children are out-of-school, and 2 million children are at risk of malnutrition. Recent clashes in various parts of the country clearly underscore the fragility of the situation on the ground, a reality made even more dangerous by nearly 300,000 explosive ordnance contaminating the country, placing children's lives under constant danger.

Despite these immense challenges, and for the first time in over five decades, Syria stands at a historic turning point, one that holds new hope for children and young people. The political transition, new

leadership, and renewed focus of ministries and institutions mark a decisive turning point, a powerful moment of hope emerging after nearly 14 years of conflict.

[**Marking World Children's Day 2025, UNICEF Syria presents the Blue Seed Art Contest**](#)

An inspiring platform where children express their dreams and rights through art

Every year on 20 November, UNICEF celebrates World Children's Day, a global moment to amplify children's voices and highlight their rights. In Syria, UNICEF marked the day in 2025 with "My Day. My Rights – The Blue Seed," a nationwide art initiative celebrating children's creativity and potential.

At the core of the initiative was the Blue Seed Art contest, which invited children and youth across Syria to express what their rights mean to them through photography, drawings, and digital art, sharing their vision of a world where every child can grow, learn, and thrive. More than 300 entries from children and youth in Syria, reflected children's creative vision of safety, learning, peace, inclusion and a future where every child has the right to express and be heard.

The celebration concluded on 20 November with the Blue Garden, a fully inclusive public celebration. The event featured an art exhibition of the top 30 artworks from the contest, the Tree of Rights, where children, youth and adults placed hundreds of paper leaves, each carrying a right and dream written in their words, an interactive corner for storytelling, drawing, scientific exploration and robotics and a safe space where children performed, presented, expressed and engaged freely and creatively.

The celebration brought together a broad and diverse audience, including the Deputy Minister of Social Affairs, embassy representatives, the newly appointed UNICEF Syria Ambassador Qays Sheikh Najib, UN staff, children, families, and partners, all united in celebrating creativity, hope, and children's bright futures.

"My Day. My Rights-The Blue Seed" is more than just an event, it is a celebration of imagination, expression and possibility. It shows that when we plant rights, we grow futures, for every child, everywhere.

[**UNICEF welcomes Qays Sheikh Najib as inaugural Ambassador in Syria Actor and humanitarian to advocate for children's rights nationwide**](#)

UNICEF appointed renowned actor Qays Sheikh Najib as its first-ever Ambassador in Syria during a widely covered press conference at the Four Seasons Hotel in Damascus on 19 November 2025. The announcement, made on the eve of World Children's Day, formalised his role through an agreement signed by UNICEF Deputy Representative Zeinab Adam.

Adam stressed the significance of the appointment at a time when 44 per cent of the 16.5 million Syrians in need are children, highlighting persistent challenges such as strained public services, food insecurity, out-of-school children, malnutrition and the worst drought in decades. She reaffirmed UNICEF's commitment, noting that 8.2 million people — more than half children — had been reached with essential services in 2025.

Qays Sheikh Najib described the ambassadorship as a responsibility and a call to action. Marked annually on 20 November, World Children's Day underscores the importance of protecting and empowering every child to realise their rights and shape their future.

HAC APPEALS AND SITREPS

- Syrian Arab Republic Appeals
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/syria>
- Syrian Arab Republic Situation Reports
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/syria/situation-reports>
- All Humanitarian Action for Children Appeals
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals>
- All Situation Reports
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/situation-reports>

NEXT SITREP: 15 APRIL 2026

ANNEX A - PROGRAMME RESULTS

Consolidated Programme Results

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response			Cluster/Sector response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2025 targets	Total results	Progress*	2025 targets	Total results	Progress*
Health (including public health emergencies)								
Children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities 29	Total	-	2.5 million ³⁰	1.9 million ³¹	▲ 75%	-	-	-
Children under 1 year reached with routine vaccination (DTP3 containing vaccine)	Total	-	691,895	429,416	▲ 62% ³²	-	-	-
Caregivers reached with health promotion, including immunization messages	Total	-	2.9 million	2.7 million	▲ 94%	-	-	-
Nutrition								
Children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	Total	-	25,000	19,679	▲ 79%	79,811	37,195	▲ 47%
Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	Total	-	1.5 million	1.2 million	▲ 82%	-	-	-
Children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder	Total	-	828,000	995,775	▲ 120% ³³	1.5 million	1.1 million	▲ 73%
Child protection and GBViE								
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Total	-	200,000	270,858	▲ 135%	1.6 million	1.3 million	▲ 81%
Children who have received individual case management	Total	-	18,000	14,768	▲ 82% ³⁴	69,320	77,550	▲ 112%
Children and caregivers provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions	Total	-	900,000 ³⁵	846,452	▲ 94%	1.1 million	861,363	▲ 82%
Children accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	Total	-	125,000	123,467	▲ 99%	702,106	357,775	▲ 51%
Education								
Children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings	Total	-	2.6 million	929,151 ³⁶	▲ 36%	3 million	5.1 million	▲ 172%
Children in non-formal education benefiting from education services	Total	-	598,057	295,185	▲ 49% ³⁷	810,604	621,740	▲ 77%
Teachers and education personnel trained	Total	-	26,556	19,255	▲ 73% ³⁸	-	-	-
Water, sanitation and hygiene								
People accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	-	4.4 million	2.1 million ³⁹	▲ 49%	7.3 million	12.3 million	▲ 168%

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response			Cluster/Sector response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2025 targets	Total results	Progress*	2025 targets	Total results	Progress*
People accessing appropriate sanitation services	Total	-	1.9 million	1,240,000	▲ 66%	690,113	632,117	▲ 92%
People reached with handwashing behaviour-change programmes	Total	-	625,000	448,720	▲ 72%	-	-	-
People reached with critical WASH supplies	Total	-	785,000	553,371 ⁴¹	▲ 70%	4.2 million	1.1 million	▲ 26%
Social protection								
Individual reached through UNICEF social assistance (cash-based)	Total	-	150,000	86,708 ⁴²	▲ 58%	-	-	-
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) ⁴³								
People engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms	Total	-	500,000 ⁴⁴	581,417	▲ 116%	-	-	-
People sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	Total	-	7,439	4,160	▲ 56%	-	-	-
People who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers	Total	-	3.5 million	1.4 million	▲ 41%	-	-	-
Adolescents/youth								
Affected adolescents and youth (10-24 years) receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills	Total	-	200,000	156,662	▲ 78% ⁴⁵	-	-	-
Adolescents and youth (10-24 years) promoting social cohesion and civic engagement at community level	Total	-	300,000	221,587	▲ 74% ⁴⁶	-	-	-

*Progress in the reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2025

ANNEX B — FUNDING STATUS

Consolidated funding by sector

Sector	Requirements	Funding available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2025	Resources available from 2024 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	75,461,599	20,635,523	12,011,534	42,814,542	57%
Nutrition	39,242,342	14,686,521	12,208,038	12,347,783	31%
Child protection	55,273,846	13,287,952	9,430,468	32,555,426	59%
Education	133,893,107	25,656,710	11,648,993	96,587,404	72%
WASH	129,938,901	23,829,573	17,059,957	89,049,371	69%
Social protection	28,661,539	7,364,593	6,793,920	14,503,026	51%
Cross-sectoral	3,029,995	1,105,751	313,162	1,611,082	53%
Adolescents/youth	15,931,385	1,533,672	1,200,818	13,196,895	83%
Total	481,432,714	108,100,295	70,666,890	302,665,529	63%

Funding available - funding available in the current appeal year to respond in line with the current HAC appeal.

Humanitarian resources— humanitarian funding commitments received from donors in the current appeal year.

Resources available from 2024 (carry over)— funding received in the previous appeal year that is available to respond in line with the current HAC appeal

Who to contact for further information:

Meritzell Relano

Representative - UNICEF Syria Country Office
T +963 (0) 938 887 755
mrelano@unicef.org

Zeinab Adam

Deputy Representative - UNICEF Syria Country Office
T +963 (0) 989 712 918
zeadam@unicef.org

Matteo Frontini

Chief Field Operations and Emergency - UNICEF Syria Country Office
T +963 (0) 950 044 269
mfrontini@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. UNHCR, Syria Governorates IDPs and IDP Returnees Overview, as of 11 Dec 2025

2. UNHCR, Syria Governorates of Return Overview, as of 18 Dec 2025

3. As per the data shared on 19 December by the Mine Action AoR, using information provided by the International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO), related to explosive ordnance incidents.

4. UNICEF Syria carried out an end-of-year review as part of its data verification and to calculate the number of people reached accurately, because UNICEF partners' data systems are not interconnected through unique identification numbers. UNICEF uses rigorous verification procedures to ensure that the final figures reflect the actual number of individuals reached, not the number of times various services were provided to the same individuals. As a result of this verification, the total number of people reached in 2025 had to be adjusted. In November 2025, UNICEF reported that programmes had reached around 10 million people based on the services received. After verification of the total annual results, the achievement is reassessed at 7.1 million people, reflected in the final end-of-year SitRep results.

5. Please refer to footnote No.4. The reduction in the numbers of individual and children reach does not mean that fewer services were provided. Instead, it means the unique number of individuals who benefited from UNICEF services. For example, in the health programme, data is recorded by the number of consultations. A person may receive more than one medical consultation per year. Therefore, the consultations do not reflect the unique beneficiary count. UNICEF and partners provided 2.6 million health consultations to 1.8 million unique individuals. So, the overall reach should reflect the number of individuals reached, i.e. 1.8 million, not the total number of 2.6 million consultation visits. By adjusting the numbers in this way, UNICEF ensures that reporting is transparent, accurate, and aligned with best practices. Although the total number of people reached is lower after removing it when compared to the number of services, the revised data provides a more accurate and reliable picture of UNICEF's impact across Syria. This was already applied in previous years, but the verification this time around helped to drill down and unpack different interventions (services) implemented and results achieved to establish a more robust understanding and reporting mechanism moving forward – plan for 2026.

6. Despite limited funding, UNICEF Syria was able to reach approximately 97 per cent of its targeted population. These results were achieved due to several contributing factors: a. The high number of internally displaced people (IDPs) and returning Syrian refugees increased the overall caseload, enabling some programmes—such as health consultations—to deliver higher results using the same teams and existing capacities. b. Pre-positioned health and nutrition supplies, including stocks valued at US\$3 million at the end of 2024, allowed UNICEF to continue providing key services such as micronutrient supplements (iron-folate and micronutrient tablets) in 2025 without requiring immediate new procurement and funding. c. WASH interventions focused on system-level improvements, such as rehabilitating pumping stations and distribution networks in many areas with a high number of returnees. These system-level investments made it possible for results at scale serving larger communities without additional or incremental intervention costs, resulting in a wider population reach.

7. Humanitarian Response Priorities, January - December 2025 issued in July 2025. Available at: <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-humanitarian-response-priorities-january-december-2025>

8. Ibid.

9. World Bank (2025), The Syrian Conflict, Physical Damage and Reconstruction Assessment (2011 - 2024)

10. World Bank (2025), Syria Macro-Fiscal Assessment

11. Estimated figures based on various internal and external monitoring reports.

12. Following Clashes between the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Syrian Government forces in early January, a new agreement was signed on 18 January 2026. Refer to UNICEF Flash Updates on escalations of hostilities in January 2026.

13. FAO (2025), Syrian Arab Republic Drought and widespread crop failure Urgent call for assistance June 2025-March

14. Estimates by the Nutrition sector using proxy indicators in the absence of the SMART survey.

15. Health sector estimates. <https://healthcluster.who.int/countries-and-regions/syria-whole-of-syria>

16. According to the Ministry of Education Syria.

17. Humanitarian Response Priorities January to December 2025 | OCHA

18. As per the Education Authorities in the northeast Syria covering Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates.

19. The number of schools used as shelters has increased substantially in recent developments in the northeast. Please refer to UNICEF Flash updates on Aleppo and Northeast Syria for details.

20. Children and armed conflict - Report of the Secretary-General (A/79/878-S/2025/247). <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/s-2025-247.php>

21. As per the data shared on 19 December by the Mine Action AoR, using information provided by the International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO), related to explosive ordnance incidents.

22. UNHCR, Syria Governorates IDPs and IDP Returnees Overview, as of 11 Dec 2025

23. UNHCR, Syria Governorates of Return Overview, as of 18 Dec 2025

24. Various UNHCR Regional Flash updates for May and June 2025.

25. OCHA Syrian Arab Republic Flash Update No.2, Wildfires in Lattakia (As of 13 July 2025).

26. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-humanitarian-response-southern-syria-situation-report-no-1-22-september-2025>

27. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-humanitarian-response-southern-syria-situation-report-no-4-14-december-2025>

28. OCHA, Humanitarian Response in Aleppo and East Syria, Situation Report No. 1 as of 27 January 2026

29. Under the revised HAC 2025, health indicator targets were increased. Consequently, the percentage achieved is lower than what was reported in the previous two monthly SitReps.

30. Under the revised HAC 2025, health indicator targets were increased. Consequently, the percentage achieved is lower than what was reported in the previous two monthly SitReps

31. The strong performance in reaching 72 per cent of targets for this indicator, despite limited funding at 57 per cent, is mainly due to UNICEF's mobile and fixed health units operating in areas with large numbers of returnees—an estimated 3 million IDPs and Syrian refugees returned in 2025. The substantial population increase in these locations increased demand for primary health care services, enabling health teams to deliver significantly more consultations than originally anticipated. Although operational budgets increased only marginally, existing teams were able to expand service coverage by maximising outreach capacity and leveraging established systems. This enabled UNICEF to reach more people without a proportional rise in costs.

32. The under-achievement of the DPT3 vaccination indicator is primarily due to population movement and displacement caused by the security situation in several areas, particularly the coastal regions and As-Sweida. In addition, recent wildfires have disrupted access to services, and overall instability in the northeast Syria (NES) has further limited health teams' ability to consistently reach children.
33. The overachievement of this indicator is due to UNICEF's mobile and fixed nutrition teams operating in areas with a high number of returnees—approximately 3 million IDPs and Syrian refugees returned in 2025. These units were able to screen more children and provide preventive nutrition services. Moreover, UNICEF nutrition teams pre-positioned and purchased nutrition supplies in late 2024, which were provided to children in 2025, enabling us to achieve higher results with less funding in 2025
34. The underachievement of the case management indicator is linked to the indicator itself, which relies on protection assessment results. Since there is no fixed or predictable percentage of children identified as needing case management support, the target can fluctuate and may not always be reached
35. The surge in return movements to areas contaminated by explosive ordnance has led to an increased demand for explosive ordnance and mine risk education. The revised target reflects the expanded reach needed to address critical protection risks among returning children and families in affected communities.
36. Education in Syria is critically underfunded and urgently requires increased donor support. Without additional funding, it will be very challenging to expand outreach and help children return to learning. An estimated 3 million children remain out of school, many schools are damaged or non-functional, and children lack basic learning materials. In addition, there are not enough teachers and education staff to support safe and effective learning. Immediate donor investment is essential to rehabilitate schools, provide learning supplies, support teachers, and ensure that children—especially the most vulnerable—can return to classrooms and regain their right to education.
37. The planned target reflected an estimated number of children to be reached through various non-formal education activities, including the distribution of Empowered Learning Materials (ELM) across multiple governorates. These materials were to be developed and rolled out jointly by MOE and UNICEF. However, the ELM design was not finalised nor officially launched by MOE in 2025. As a result, the implementation of this activity could not proceed as planned, directly affecting the achievement of the associated target.
38. Despite recent progress in expanding collaboration with the Ministry of Education on teacher training and capacity development, the security situation in several parts of Syria remained fragile throughout 2025. Access constraints in affected areas led to postponements of planned training activities. Teachers and education personnel faced challenges participating due to safety concerns, transportation limitations, and ongoing instability and displacement. Recent incidents in As-Sweida and Aleppo, for example, resulted in the displacement of many teachers, temporarily removing them from their schools and limiting their ability to participate in training during the reporting period.
39. 3. The higher WASH results, despite the existing funding gap of 69 per cent, are primarily due to UNICEF's emphasis on system-level interventions—specifically the repair, rehabilitation, and upgrading of key water pumping stations and distribution networks. These investments strengthen the overall water supply system and enable entire communities to access safe water, including in areas with significant population returns. Because system-level actions reach large numbers of people simultaneously, UNICEF was able to achieve broader impact and support more beneficiaries with comparatively fewer resources. In addition, UNICEF had committed US\$10 million prior to 2025 for the procurement of hygiene supplies and water kits, which were distributed throughout the reporting period. Several major water and sanitation infrastructure projects initiated in 2024 were completed in early 2025, further contributing to strong performance on this indicator.
40. Ibid
41. Ibid
42. The target could not be achieved due to significant funding shortfalls and persistent liquidity constraints throughout the year. These financial limitations directly affected programme implementation, delaying planned activities, reducing the scale of interventions, and limiting UNICEF's ability to reach the intended number of beneficiaries.
43. The cross-sectoral area in the Syria country office includes SBC, AAP, and PSEA.
44. With the planned target, the reach and inclusion of Syrian refugees and other community groups are ensured through the existing community structures and ongoing community engagement interventions.
45. The underachievement is primarily a result of funding shortfalls.
46. Ibid.