



Engineers are working to protect the embankment of the Euphrates River so that the critical structure of the Al Baghouz Water Treatment Plant in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate is not flooded. @UNICEF/Syria-2026/Bashar Al Kheder

Situation Update

While the water level of the Euphrates River has receded significantly across Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Raqqqa governorates, and the flood wave is gradually stabilizing, the river flow remains at twice the seasonal average, putting children and their families at continuous risk and disrupting access to essential services and humanitarian assistance.

The flooding has already caused humanitarian impacts across communities located along the Euphrates. Approximately 3,400 households were affected, with over 700 families displaced. Reports also indicate the death of nine people by drowning, including children, due to the sudden rise in water, and the flooding of multiple informal settlements. Around 20,000 dunums of agricultural land have been flooded, and poultry farms and fishponds have been damaged.

Critical infrastructure has sustained extensive damage. Several bridges and river crossings have collapsed or are inaccessible, severely disrupting humanitarian and commercial access between the two banks of the river. Water infrastructure has also been severely damaged, with multiple water stations flooded, but the repair efforts have been tremendous. As for Raqqqa Governorate, out of 86 affected water stations, only 3 remain out of service, but 46 water treatment plants remain out of service in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. The Water Establishment and UNICEF's support enabled the continuation of operations at the Euphrates Water Treatment Plant, which supplies water to approximately 400,000 people, despite the collapse of protective embankments and flooding on the plant premises.

Key figures

As of 7 June 2026

17,000 people directly affected by the floods.

700 families displaced, representing around 2,000 children.

Thousands of children exposed to heightened risks.

49 water treatment plants out of service in Deir-ez-Zor and Raqqqa Governorates.

Children continue to face heightened vulnerabilities as families recover from displacement, damaged shelters, and disruptions to basic services. Protection risks remain a key concern, including the risk of drowning in residual floodwaters and increased exposure to Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), as floodwaters may have shifted explosive remnants into residential and agricultural areas. Additional protection concerns include increased risks of violence against children, psychosocial distress, and challenges faced by families who have lost civil documentation required to access essential services and assistance. Damage to infrastructure and public facilities may also continue to affect children's access to education.

The flooding has occurred against a backdrop of ongoing public health challenges, including continued measles transmission in several areas. While floodwaters are receding, deteriorated WASH conditions continue to increase the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks and may further exacerbate disease transmission among already vulnerable populations. Disease surveillance in affected locations has reported cases of acute watery diarrhea and confirmed measles cases in the last few months, underscoring the need for sustained public health interventions.

Despite the gradual decline in water levels, continued humanitarian support remains essential to address immediate needs and prevent secondary impacts on affected populations. Timely assistance – including access to safe water, health and immunization services, child protection support, mine and child protection risk awareness, and cash assistance – will be critical to helping families recover and reducing the risks faced by children and caregivers. Without sustained support, affected communities may face prolonged disruptions to essential services and increased vulnerability after years of protracted crisis.

UNICEF and partners continue to coordinate closely with local authorities and humanitarian actors to monitor the evolving situation, assess remaining needs, and support response and early recovery efforts across affected governorates.

UNICEF's Response

In coordination with the governorate authorities, the Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management, the respective Line Ministries, and the Sectors' partners, UNICEF has implemented a multisectoral response since 25 May to support populations and infrastructure affected by the flooding.



WASH:

- Heavy machinery support to secure the water intake and reinforce embankments at Euphrates Water Treatment Plant that provides drinking water to 400,000 people in Deir-ez-Zor City, and other affected plants and WASH facilities along the river
- Maintenance of WASH facilities in three shelters in Deir-ez-Zor, restoring access to essential services for approximately 1,023 people
- Distribution of 916 family hygiene kits in shelters and hosting communities, benefiting 5,357 people
- Water trucking for around 68,000 people in flood-affected communities
- Provision of 5,000 litres of fuel to maintain operations during power cuts
- Support to the protection, monitoring, and recovery planning of flood-affected water treatment plants, including emergency measures to safeguard electromechanical equipment and reduce the risk of prolonged service disruption



Above: UNICEF team supports the restoration of a collapsed embankment following the floods to help secure the water supply in Deir ez-Zor, Syria, on 31 May 2026.
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Right: Rising levels of the Euphrates River have flooded Al Baghouz Water Treatment Plant in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate @UNICEF/Syria-2026/Kitka Goyol



Health and Nutrition:



- Deployment of Health and Nutrition teams under the supervision of the Directorate of Health to support the most vulnerable families in affected areas, reaching:
 - 959 children and women reached with outpatient consultations
 - 483 children under five and 339 pregnant and lactating women through nutrition interventions including nutrition screening, provision of micronutrient supplements and deworming services
 - 5 acute malnutrition cases identified (one Severe Acute Malnutrition and four Moderate Acute Malnutrition cases)
 - More than 800 people through health and nutrition awareness sessions
- Prepositioning and distribution of Health and Nutrition Emergency supplies, including newborn kits, emergency health kits, pediatric kits, Lipid-Nutrient Supplement,¹ fortified biscuits, and iron and folic acid supplements
- Support to the vaccination campaign in coordination with the Deir-ez-Zor Directorate of Health, resulting in the vaccination of 106 children under five and 27 women



Child Protection:

- 1,715 children and caregivers received awareness-raising sessions on child protection issues, including Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), MHPSS, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), safety messages, and entertainment activities, and sessions covering positive parenting, child well-being, gender-based violence, and child protection concerns in emergency settings
- Prepositioning of 300 Play and Heal kits, 50 MHPSS kits, 50 Parenting kits, 2,500 EORE awareness materials, and 1,000 Laha dignity kits
- Training of frontline Child Protection facilitators and responders
- Monitoring of potential cases of unaccompanied and separated children

¹ LNS Small Quantity



Affected children receiving counselling through interactive games for mental health and psychological support at Kamal Asa'ad Kamala, a temporary shelter in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate @UNICEF/Syria-2026/Bashar Al Kheder



Education:

- Identification and referral of students preparing for national examinations to enhance their preparedness and participation
- Launch of a Back-to-Learning campaign around four education centres to identify out-of-school children among the affected populations and the hosting communities to facilitate referrals and ensure affected children are connected to appropriate learning opportunities and educational pathways upon return to their areas of origin



Social Behavioural Change:

- More than 236 rapid assessment interviews within flood-affected households to better identify urgent needs and community priorities
- Group awareness sessions, household visits and one-to-one discussions focusing on waterborne diseases, personal hygiene and preventive measures, including on contaminated water and risks of drowning, benefiting 1,813 people, including 737 children.
- Awareness campaign on drowning risks in collaboration with the Deir-ez-Zor Directorate of Emergency and Disaster Management

Funding needs

UNICEF Syria requires US\$481 million under its 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal to deliver life-saving assistance and basic services to 7.3 million people, including 4.8 million children.

To respond to the developing Euphrates flood emergency, an additional USD 656,000 is urgently needed to scale up the response and prevent further damage to infrastructure. We are grateful to ECHO, the UK/FCDO, Canada, and Australia, whose flexible funding allowed UNICEF to respond immediately when the emergency hit.

Sector	Target	Budget (USD \$)	Allocation (USD \$)	Gap (USD \$)
Health and Nutrition	273,000 children	185,000	185,000	-
WASH	450,000 people	500,000	128,000	372,000
Child Protection	5,000 children and caregivers	75,000	95,000	-20,000
Education	3,000 children	50,000	56,000	-6,000
Social Protection	1,765 families	520,000	250,000	270,000
Social Behavioural Change	6,000 children and caregivers	40,000	-	40,000
Total		1,370,000	714,000	656,000

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