



Shahd and Duaa, both 11, hold explosive ordnance risk education materials at a UNICEF-supported child-friendly space in At Tall, Rural Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic in March 2026.

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Humanitarian Action for Children

Syrian Arab Republic

HIGHLIGHTS

- Since December 2024, the Syrian Arab Republic has undergone a political transition that has improved humanitarian access and reduced conflict-related constraints. However, humanitarian needs remain high due to large-scale returns, economic deterioration, localized escalations, climate shocks and damaged infrastructure.
- Displacement remains widespread. There are more than 5 million internally displaced persons: around 833,000 live in camps, while the majority live in precarious conditions outside camps.¹ In 2025, approximately 3.7 million refugees and internally displaced persons (57 per cent children) returned, with additional returns expected in 2026, further straining overstretched services.²
- Explosive ordnance contamination continues to threaten children's safety and access to services, with 252 children killed and 601 injured since December 2024.³
- Critical needs persist across sectors. More than 10 million people lack access to safe water, nearly 100,000 children under age 5 are affected by severe wasting, 2.7 million children are out of school and 6.2 million children are in need of protection services.⁴
- UNICEF is appealing for \$431.3 million to reach 6.9 million people, including 4 million children, with life-saving interventions, including protection interventions, that safeguard children's survival, learning and resilience.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



2.3 million

children and women
accessing primary health
care



125,000

Children accessing
community-based mental
health and psychosocial
support



2.6 million

children supported with
educational services and
supplies in formal settings



4.1 million

people accessing a
sufficient quantity and
quality of water

IN NEED

**15.6
million
people**⁵

**7.2
million
children**⁶

2022

2026

TO BE REACHED

**6.9
million
people**^{7,8}

**4
million
children**⁹

2022

2026

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$431.3
million**

2022

2026

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Since December 2024, the Syrian Arab Republic has undergone a political transition and evolving governance arrangements that have improved humanitarian access and reduced conflict-related constraints, including in previously inaccessible areas. However, these gains have yet to translate into tangible improvements in the lives of most Syrians, particularly children. Early recovery remains limited, as extreme poverty affects one in four Syrians.¹⁰ With the modest economic growth of 1 per cent¹¹ in 2025, the economy remains fragile and insufficient to address widespread vulnerability and the cumulative impact of more than 14 years of conflict.

Humanitarian needs across the country remain extremely high, with an estimated 15.6 million people requiring humanitarian assistance, including 7.2 million children.¹² Needs are driven by persistent displacement, localized escalations, climate shocks and regional conflict spillover, limiting access to essential services for affected populations. These are further exacerbated by deepening economic challenges – including inflation, exchange rate volatility, unemployment and liquidity constraints – and severely degraded public services. Explosive ordnance contamination continues to threaten children and has killed 252 children and injured 601 since December 2024.¹³

Displacements in the Syrian Arab Republic remain widespread, with more than 5 million internally displaced persons. There are around 833,000 residing in 1,226 camp sites, while the majority of those displaced live outside the camps in precarious conditions.^{14,15} Renewed violence in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh in early 2026 displaced more than 170,000 people;¹⁶ and conflict escalations in Lebanon forced 336,000 people¹⁷ to cross into the Syrian Arab Republic after 2 March 2026. The July 2025 escalation of conflict in As-Sweida Governorate prompted a large-scale displacement of 187,000 people.¹⁸ In 2025, approximately 3.7 million refugees and internally displaced persons (57 per cent children) returned to the country and/or to their areas of origin,¹⁹ with returns²⁰ continuing in 2026, placing additional strain on resources that are already overstretched.^{21 22}

Basic services in the country remain critically constrained. Only 57 per cent of hospitals and 30 per cent of primary healthcare centres are fully operational, limiting access to life-saving healthcare.²³ Neonatal mortality accounts for 50 per cent of under-five mortality, and the country has more than 150,000 zero-dose children.²⁴ Malnutrition is increasing, threatening children's survival and development. Wasting prevalence is at 5.5 per cent among children under age 5, with an estimated 587,000 children requiring treatment, including 96,000 children severely wasted, while stunting affects nearly 592,000 children.²⁵

Access to safe water remains a major challenge, with 10 million people unable to meet basic water needs.²⁶ Water scarcity, inadequate sanitation and hygiene gaps continue to drive the occurrence of water-borne diseases. Climate shocks – including drought-like conditions, increasingly erratic rainfall and flooding across the Northern governorates, along the Euphrates, and in coastal regions – have exacerbated existing vulnerabilities.

The education sector remains in a state of emergency. There are 2.7 million children out of school; around 8,000 schools are non-functional.²⁷ Overcrowding persists, with schools in some areas continuing to be used as shelters.

Protection risks are acute, with 6.2 million children in need of child protection services. Displacement and overcrowded conditions are heightening risks of violence, including sexual violence, abuse and reduced safety and dignity. Economic hardships are leading to adverse coping strategies that negatively impact children, including delaying healthcare and withdrawing children from school.

SECTOR NEEDS²⁸



12.8 million

people in need of health assistance



6.7 million

people in need of nutrition assistance



6.2 million

children in need of child protection services



6.5 million

people in need of education support



12 million

people require access to WASH services

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Walaa holds her son, Abdulrahman, 1, at their temporary residence in Kafr Zeita, Hama, Syrian Arab Republic, in December 2025. The family returned after years in a displacement camp in northern Idlib.

When the fighting subsided, Walaa, 27, returned to Kafr Zeita with her husband and five children, hoping to rebuild their lives. After years in a displacement camp in northern Idlib, they found their home destroyed and were forced to seek temporary shelter in a neighbour's house.

"We are safe," Walaa says, "but we are always searching for where we can stay next."

UNICEF supports vulnerable returnee and displaced families like Walaa's through integrated humanitarian assistance, helping them meet urgent needs, access essential services and restore stability during the process of recovery and reintegration.

[Read more about this story here](#)

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

Guided by the Humanitarian Reset, UNICEF is prioritizing a focused, child-centred response in the Syrian Arab Republic that addresses immediate, severe, protracted and prioritized needs. In line with the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for the country, which identifies 15.6 million people in need and targets 8.6 million for assistance, UNICEF will reach 6.9 million people, including 4 million children. This focus is on vulnerable children, women and families in areas of severity scale 4 and 3. Compared with UNICEF's original 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, this revised appeal reduces targets by 5 per cent and funding requirements by 10 per cent, reflecting sharper prioritization, efficiency and high-impact programming.

To fulfil its mandate, UNICEF will deliver life-saving services, including protection services, linked to early recovery, resilience and peacebuilding. UNICEF will sustain its coordination leadership in the nutrition, WASH and education sectors and the child protection area of responsibility under the protection sector, while supporting internally displaced persons, returnees and vulnerable host communities; advancing localization; and expanding partnerships.

UNICEF will apply a twin-track approach that combines emergency response with system strengthening. Improving resilience and preparedness through national and subnational systems underpins UNICEF's multisectoral response. Risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and gender-responsive programming will reach the most vulnerable children, including children with disabilities.

UNICEF supports high-quality life-saving health services, including for newborns and children, through a continuum of outreach, community engagement, restoration of local health systems and strengthening health workers' capacity to respond to health emergencies. Nutrition priorities include preventive and curative services integrated within the health system, as part of multisectoral support for children and women.

WASH programming ensures equitable and sustainable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services; climate-informed water resource management; and system strengthening to enhance resilience and governance and mitigate the impacts of shocks.

UNICEF's education programme strategically prioritizes safe, inclusive and uninterrupted learning for conflict-affected, returnee and host-community children by expanding access to formal and non-formal education. This is complemented by strengthened teacher capacity and system-level investments, including in preparedness and anticipatory action, to reinforce resilient and adaptive national education systems.

Child protection interventions prevent and respond to violence, including gender-based violence, through case management. UNICEF supports children at risk and survivors of violence, exploitation and abuse through community-based mental health and psychosocial support; strengthens positive parenting; and improves awareness about explosive ordnance risk education. UNICEF is working to strengthen systems to respond to shocks and displacement.

Humanitarian cash assistance and shock-responsive social protection will support vulnerable families with younger children, prioritizing children with disabilities. UNICEF will also support adolescent livelihoods and link cash to sustainable pathways that build youth resilience.

Adolescent and youth programming also prioritizes skills development, protection and education-to-employment pathways, while promoting youth participation and strengthening preparedness to maintain services for vulnerable adolescents.

UNICEF uses inclusive, evidence-based and data-driven programming to prioritize its response and reach the most vulnerable children.

Social and behaviour change approaches promote informed decision-making, safe practices and demand for services. At the same time, they strengthen community engagement through supporting community networks and platforms, fostering social cohesion and promoting accountability to affected populations and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

UNICEF will maintain its sector leadership role, supporting coordinated planning and response with the Government and other partners and promoting child-focused interventions, while strengthening localization.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/syria/situation-reports>

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

2026 PROGRAMME TARGETS^{29,30}



Health (including public health emergencies)

- 2,334,624 children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 709,011 children under 1 year reached with routine vaccination (DTP3 containing vaccine)
- 2,900,000 caregivers reached with health promotion, including immunization messages



Nutrition³¹

- 1,632,502 children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- 25,000 children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- 1,510,300 primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- 828,000 children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder
- 1,898,435 children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation



Child protection and GBVIE

- 200,000 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- 18,000 children who have received individual case management
- 184,796 Children and caregivers provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions³²
- 125,000 Children accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support³³
- 48,038 mothers, fathers and caregivers reached through parenting programmes through UNICEF-supported programmes
- 450,000 women, men, girls and boys engaged by behaviour change communication (BCC) interventions for child protection issues



Education

- 2,614,570 children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings
- 193,485 children in non-formal education benefiting from education services³⁴
- 15,271 teachers and education personnel trained



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- 4,089,406 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- 2,317,407 people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- 625,000 people reached with handwashing behaviour-change programmes
- 734,714 people reached with critical WASH supplies
- 290,000 people benefiting from access to life-saving/emergency WASH facilities and services



Social protection

- 200,000 individual reached through UNICEF social assistance (cash-based)



Adolescents/youth

- 200,000 affected adolescents and youth (10-24 years) receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills
- 295,134 adolescents and youth (10-24 years) promoting social cohesion and civic engagement at community level



Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)³⁵

- 460,597 people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms³⁶
- 15,643 people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms
- 3,500,000 people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers

Programme targets are based on people and children in need and align with the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. Prioritized targets for each programmes are 40 per cent of the overall Humanitarian Action for Children targets.

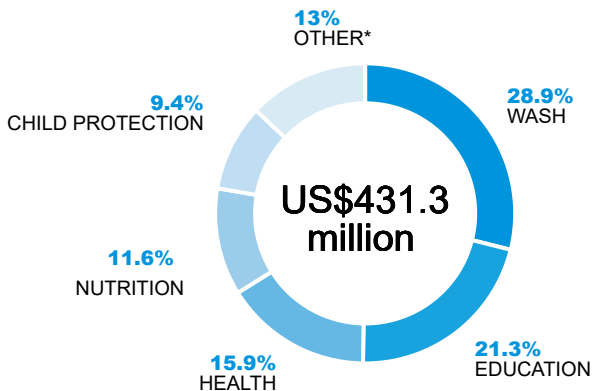
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2026

UNICEF is seeking \$431.3 million in 2026 to provide life-saving assistance to 6.9 million people – including 4 million children – in the Syrian Arab Republic. This revision of the 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal closely aligns with the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, focusing resources on populations with the highest levels of vulnerability. In line with prioritization of the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, 40 per cent of the target population of this revised appeal is located in severity level 4 subdistricts, where needs are most acute and gaps in critical services persist.³⁷ Reaching prioritized populations with a targeted package of life-saving and protection interventions requires \$172 million.

UNICEF is pursuing a twin-track approach that combines the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance with support for restoring and strengthening essential systems and services. This approach is critical in the context of the country's evolving transition, where humanitarian needs remain acute even as opportunities for recovery are emerging. UNICEF urgently requires timely and flexible funding to address immediate needs, support dignified returns and bridge services and systems gaps during transition and recovery.

In line with the Government's Statement of Recovery Priorities for International Cooperation, funding is required to restore essential public services in an effective and sustainable manner, including by strengthening primary healthcare and routine immunization, addressing severe wasting and expanding access to quality learning, safe water and sanitation in the most affected and vulnerable areas. These investments will support safe, voluntary and dignified returns and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons who are returning, while strengthening the resilience of host communities. Continued investment in preparedness and anticipatory action is critical to protect vulnerable children and families in high-risk areas from future shocks.

The Humanitarian Reset underscores the urgency of prioritizing humanitarian needs in the Syrian Arab Republic. However, declining funding is constraining UNICEF's ability to sustain critical services and reach the most vulnerable populations. Without sustained support, the consequences for children will be immediate and long-lasting: rising malnutrition, preventable disease, lost learning and heightened protection risks.



Appeal sector	Revised 2026 HAC requirement (US\$)
Nutrition	49,846,155
Child protection	40,400,308
Education	92,000,689
Social protection	33,011,834
Adolescents/youth	19,852,957
Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)	2,990,769
Health	68,538,462
WASH	124,615,386
Total	431,256,560

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (7.7%), Adolescents/youth (4.6%), Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA) (<1%).

Appeal sector	Original 2026 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2026 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Nutrition	39,242,342	49,846,155 ³⁸	12,679,874	37,166,281	74.6%
Child protection	55,273,846	40,400,308	23,130,452	17,269,856	42.7%
Education	133,893,107	92,000,689 ³⁹	32,452,083	59,548,606	64.7%
Social protection	28,661,539	33,011,834 ⁴⁰	15,092,386	17,919,448	54.3%
Adolescents/youth	15,931,385	19,852,957 ⁴¹	3,054,157	16,798,800	84.6%
Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)	3,029,995	2,990,769	2,529,098	461,671	15.4%
Health	75,461,599	68,538,462	25,418,218	43,120,244	62.9%
WASH	129,938,901	124,615,386	19,704,959	104,910,427	84.2%
Total	481,432,714	431,256,560	134,061,227	297,195,333	68.9%

The funding requirement for the revised 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal is \$431.3 million, of which \$172.2 million is required for prioritized targets and programme interventions.

Who to contact for further information:

Meritxell Relaño Arana
Representative, Syrian Arab Republic
T +963 (0) 938 887 755
mrelano@unicef.org

Lucia Elmi
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
T +12123267448
lelmi@unicef.org

Mandeep O'Brien
Director, Public Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Division (PPR)
T +1 212 326 7118
mobrien@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Comprehensive Overview of IDPs and IDP Returns Dashboard: Syrian Arab Republic – as of 6 August 2026, UNHCR <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/comprehensive-overview-idps-and-idp-returns-dashboard-august-6-2026>.
2. UNHCR, Comprehensive Overview of Refugee Returns Dashboard, Syrian Arab Republic, Syrian refugee returnees by governorate, as of 23 July 2026 <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/comprehensive-overview-refugee-returns-dashboard-23-july-2026>.
3. International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO), data as of 26 June 2026, shared by the Mine Action area of responsibility under the protection sector.
4. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Syrian Arab Republic: 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, OCHA, April 2026.
5. Ibid.
6. Based on the OCHA baseline population dataset for August 2025, children comprise 46 per cent of the total population in the Syrian Arab Republic. The proportion of children varies across population segments; UNHCR data on refugee returnees indicate that children account for 57 per cent of the refugee returnee population.
7. For the 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, the total number of people to be reached has been calculated using a harmonized methodology that draws on planned figures from output-level indicators disaggregated by age, gender, disability status and beneficiary type at the subdistrict level. This approach ensures equitable and targeted delivery of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF's planned response includes support for the following population groups: host communities, internally displaced persons, internally displaced persons returning to their places of origin and Syrian refugees returning from refugee-hosting countries. For children under age 18, the highest planned figures for those under age 5 and those aged 5–17 were combined to estimate the total number of children to be reached. For adults, the highest planned figures for women and men, including persons with disabilities, were used to calculate the number of adults to be reached. The total number of people to be reached in the 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal is the sum of unique children and adults identified through this approach.
8. Although persons with disabilities are estimated at 16 per cent of the affected population in the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, UNICEF is targeting 10 per cent of the overall people to be reached figure based on historical reach, verified identification rates, programme modalities and operational capacity to provide inclusive services. However, the number of children with disabilities will be supported irrespective of programme targets and will remain an integral part of UNICEF's inclusive programming and rights-based approach.
9. See endnote 7.
10. The World Bank, Syria Macro-Fiscal Assessment: June 2025, World Bank, 2025.
11. Ibid.
12. See endnote 6.
13. INSO, data as of 26 June 2026, shared by the Mine Action area of responsibility under the protection sector.
14. UNHCR, Comprehensive Overview of IDPs and IDP Returns Dashboard: Syrian Arab Republic – as of 6 August 2026.
15. Under the its 'Syria Without Camps' initiative, the Government is phasing out long-term displacement camps and promoting return and reintegration.
16. OCHA, Humanitarian Response in Aleppo and East Syria: Humanitarian situation report no. 1 – As of 27 January 2026, OCHA, 30 January 2026, available at <www.unocha.org/publications/report/syrian-arab-republic/humanitarian-response-aleppo-and-east-syria-situation-report-no-1-27-january-2026>.
17. OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian overview, issue no. 5, March–April 2026, OCHA, 29 June 2026, available at <<https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-humanitarian-overview-no-5-march-april-2026>>.
18. OCHA, Humanitarian Response in Southern Syria: Humanitarian situation report no. 1 – As of 22 September 2025, OCHA, 23 September 2025, available at <www.unocha.org/publications/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-humanitarian-response-southern-syria-situation-report-no-1-22-september-2025>.
19. According to UNHCR, 1,747,668 refugees and 1,974,456 internally displaced persons had returned to the Syrian Arab Republic and their areas of origin as of 6 August 2026.
20. Per the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, 1.6 million Syrian refugees are expected to return in 2026.
21. UNHCR, Comprehensive Overview of IDPs and IDP Returns Dashboard: Syrian Arab Republic – as of 25th June 2026.
22. UNHCR, Syria Governorates of Return Overview, as of 25 June 2026.
23. 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.
24. MoH, UNICEF and WHO, Study on Causes of Under-Five Mortality in Syria.
25. Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) Nutrition Survey, Nutrition Cluster, 2025.
26. 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. UNICEF's 2026 programme targets are aligned with the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan and reflect a prioritized response to the most critical needs and service gaps in the 85 subdistricts classified as severity scale 4 and in selected districts classified as severity scale 3. The targets are anchored in UNICEF's mandate to uphold the rights of every child, with a focus on children's survival, protection, development, learning and well-being. Targets are guided by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. This ensures that planned interventions remain focused on the most vulnerable children, adolescents, women and families, particularly those affected by conflict, displacement, poverty and limited access to essential services. The targets are informed by the latest available evidence, including UNICEF monitoring data, and take into account humanitarian needs, severity levels, operational constraints and the funding outlook. This approach helps ensure a relevant, needs-based and adaptive response in an increasingly constrained funding environment. The 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan presents two planning figures: total people in need and number of people targeted for prioritized assistance. UNICEF's overall funding request is aligned with the population targeted based on the total needs planning figure, reflecting UNICEF's mandate to support the realization of children's rights and to ensure access to essential services – including health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection and social protection – for children and their caregivers.
30. The 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan identifies 15.6 million people in need and targets 8.6 million people for assistance, a 17 per cent decrease from 2025. The targets in UNICEF's revised 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal are 5 per cent lower than those presented in the original 2026 appeal, which was published in December 2025. This August 2026 revision reflects a sharper focus on the most vulnerable children and communities, while maintaining targets aligned with UNICEF's humanitarian mandate and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. Enhanced subdistrict-level prioritization is expected to improve targeting efficiency, contributing to a reduction in overall funding requirements compared with the original 2026 appeal.

31. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF is shifting its paradigm to broaden the focus of response from a predominantly treatment approach to the one that focuses on identifying pathways to accelerate the prevention of all forms of malnutrition through delivery of a comprehensive package of essential services, improved access to diverse nutritious foods for nutritionally at-risk groups and promotion of responsive caregiving.
32. The target covers all governorates, with a particular focus on such high-risk governorates as Homs, Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor and Dar'a, to ensure adequate coverage of life-saving risk education interventions.
33. This target distinguishes between structured mental health and psychosocial support interventions and other psychosocial activities, such as psychological first aid and recreational support.
34. The targets related to non-formal education have been reduced substantially because the programmatic focus is on improving access to inclusive formal education.
35. Key cross-cutting priorities integrated across sectors include social and behaviour change, accountability to affected populations and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
36. UNICEF will ensure inclusion of Syrian refugees and other community groups through existing community structures and ongoing community engagement interventions.
37. Prioritization of interventions has been aligned with the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. However, additional pockets of vulnerability have been identified through sector-specific and multi-sector assessments, including SMART surveys, school-level education and WASH assessments, the School Based Needs Assessment, the Inter-Sector Humanitarian Assessment and the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment.
38. The increase in the nutrition requirement in this revised appeal is due to the need to sustain and expand life-saving nutrition support in areas of the country where children and women continue to face acute humanitarian risks linked to conflict, displacement, economic hardship and climate-related shocks. The dedicated investment in capacity building, governance and coordination will help strengthen government-led nutrition systems so they can better anticipate, absorb and respond to recurrent emergencies while maintaining continuity of essential services in vulnerable and underserved areas. In 2026, UNICEF plans to support an additional 92 centres for community management of acute malnutrition, expanding the network from 175 centres in 2025 to 267, because the SMART survey flagged many geographic areas where nutrition interventions needed to be scaled up. This will bring critical treatment and prevention services closer to at-risk children and women, particularly in hard-to-reach and shock-affected communities. It will improve timely detection, referral and management of acute malnutrition. The increased nutrition requirement also supports the scale-up of nutrition-sensitive cash assistance for vulnerable households, with a specific focus on the 85 subdistricts at severity scale 4. This will help families meet immediate needs, reduce negative coping mechanisms and address key drivers of malnutrition, while strengthening their ability to withstand future shocks. Overall, the investment positions UNICEF to transition to early recovery and deliver a more equitable, timely and shock-responsive nutrition response in the Syrian Arab Republic.
39. Funding requirements for the education programme have been reduced primarily due to lower targets for non-formal education activities. The UNICEF response is shifting towards more sustainable, early recovery-focused interventions that strengthen and restore the education system.
40. The planned increase in funding requirements for the humanitarian cash transfer programme is due to the need to sustain critical support for vulnerable households, primarily in subdistricts classified as severity scale 4 under the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. A total of 85 subdistricts have been identified for prioritization. UNICEF is focusing on high-severity locations, including in the southern governorates, where livelihoods have been severely affected by continued insecurity and intermittent localized conflict. Areas of return hosting high numbers of returnees are also prioritized given heightened vulnerabilities, limited coping capacities and increased pressure on basic services in these areas. In a context where families continue to face intersecting humanitarian risks, including economic hardship, displacement, reduced purchasing power and recurrent shocks, humanitarian cash transfers remain an essential way to help households meet immediate needs, protect children and reduce negative coping mechanisms. At the same time, UNICEF's increased investment in this area will support a gradual transition from short-term humanitarian cash assistance towards more resilient, nationally owned and shock-responsive social protection systems. This will help ensure that vulnerable families are not only supported during crises but are also better able to withstand future shocks and move towards more sustainable pathways out of poverty.
41. The overall target for adolescent development and participation has not changed substantially. However, the increased budget of the revised 2026 appeal compared with the original appeal issued in December 2025 reflects UNICEF's twin-track approach: integrating humanitarian interventions into early recovery, sustaining direct humanitarian support while investing in systems strengthening and institutional capacity at subnational, national and community levels. Additional resources are required for technical assistance, coordination, policy engagement, strengthening systems and building resilience to future humanitarian and environmental shocks.