



Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Syrian refugees

The Syrian refugee crisis remains the largest displacement crisis in the world, with 5.6 million registered refugees, including over 2.5 million children, living in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.¹ Among the 18.8 million people in need (including in host communities), 6.3 million people require water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance and 7 million children require education support.² Despite host government efforts to provide public services for refugees, vulnerability remains high and is exacerbated by lack of livelihood opportunities, growing inequalities and economically strained institutions. In some locations, pressure has been steadily mounting on refugee populations,³ affecting the already fragile social cohesion. Refugee women and children – including unaccompanied and separated children and women and children with disabilities – are most at risk. In schools, overcrowded classrooms, lack of supplies, violence and discrimination are seriously undermining children's access to education. Years of conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and prolonged displacement have negatively impacted the psychosocial well-being and learning abilities of refugee children, many of whom have dropped out of school.⁴ While Syrian refugees and host community households do experience similar challenges, refugees are also vulnerable to additional challenges – particularly in regard to meeting their basic needs – due to their legal status and the impact of residency and labour policies on their mobility and access to essential services and livelihood opportunities. In this context, risks of exploitation and abuse are high, and households are forced to resort to negative coping mechanisms such as child labour to generate income. Moreover, women and girls remain at risk of gender-based violence, including child marriage, which is rooted in harmful social and gender norms and exacerbated by years of displacement and fragmented social safety nets. The registered Syrian refugee population is expected to remain significant throughout 2020. The deteriorating security situation in the northern Syrian Arab Republic could further destabilize the region, hinder voluntary and safe returns⁵ and trigger new large-scale refugee influxes. UNICEF estimates that nearly 160,000 people, including 70,000 children, have been displaced since hostilities in the northeast Syrian Arab Republic escalated following the launch of military operations.

Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy is aligned with the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan,⁶ and aims to address the needs of Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities by delivering a more effective, inclusive and gender-sensitive humanitarian response.⁷ To address the protracted nature of the refugee crisis, UNICEF will continue to reinforce the linkages between humanitarian response and longer-term development goals.⁸ The programmatic focus on key cross-cutting issues will be strengthened, including the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse,⁹ including gender-based violence, and improving accountability to affected populations. To enhance access to and quality of education, UNICEF will expand its support to national education systems, focusing on out-of-school children and children with disabilities. Other priorities within the education programme will include the provision of early childhood care/education, conditional cash transfers to support access to schooling, capacity building of local educational institutions and teacher certification and trainings.¹⁰ The WASH programme will provide Syrian refugees in camps, informal settlements and urban and rural areas with safe WASH services and emphasize the transition to more sustainable

and cost-effective WASH solutions.¹¹ In addition to routine vaccination and mass vaccination campaigns to address outbreaks of diseases such as polio and measles, the UNICEF health and nutrition programme will promote equitable access to preventive and curative interventions. This will include the identification and treatment of acutely malnourished children, the promotion of infant and young child feeding and support for newborn care services and growth monitoring. UNICEF will reinforce the capacities of primary health care units and provide parents and caregivers with awareness-raising sessions on early childhood development. UNICEF will continue to work closely with local authorities to strengthen national child protection systems and policies. Children and caregivers will gain equitable access to community-based mental health and psychosocial support services and child protection assistance. Key interventions will include the provision of cash grants to unaccompanied and separated children; identification, referral and service provision for children with protection needs; support for safe spaces for women and girls (including survivors of gender-based violence); and efforts to prevent child marriage and child labour. UNICEF will continue to address the

Total people in need

18.82 million¹⁴

Total children (<18) in need

7.35 million¹⁵

Total people to be reached

3.69 million¹⁶

Total children to be reached

2.77 million¹⁷

2020 programme targets

Turkey

- 846,500 children accessing formal and non-formal education
- 150,000 children assessed for protection needs, including 70,000 children accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- 40,000 people reached through community-based gender-based violence prevention and mitigation activities
- 100,000 children aged 0 to 12 months receiving routine vaccinations

Lebanon

- 513,000 children accessing formal and non-formal education
- 18,400 women and girls accessing mobile and safe spaces
- 438,911 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- 303,652 children under 5 years receiving micronutrient supplements

Jordan

- 145,715 children accessing formal and non-formal education
- 18,300 children vaccinated against polio
- 181,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- 130,000 children/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support

Iraq

- 34,475 children accessing formal and non-formal education
- 13,676 children vaccinated against polio
- 72,064 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- 7,280 children accessing mental health and psychosocial support

Egypt

- 58,000 children accessing formal and non-formal education
- 288,000 children accessing improved WASH facilities in learning environments/schools
- 670,000 women and children under 5 years provided with primary health consultations
- 90,000 children, adolescents, youth and caretakers accessing mental health and psychosocial support

needs of adolescents and youth¹² by increasing access to and quality of technical and vocational training and innovative skills-building programmes, to enhance adolescents' meaningful engagement, empowerment and employability.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US\$579 million available against the US\$902 million appeal (64 per cent funded).¹³ UNICEF supported governments and partners to deliver essential services to the most vulnerable children in refugee camps and host communities, focusing on integrated programming, technical assistance and capacity building of national institutions and systems; as well as cost-efficient and sustainable approaches to service delivery through community-based interventions. In Jordan, UNICEF strengthened a child vulnerability approach supporting children regardless of status, ability or nationality, which continued to play a key role in enhancing inclusiveness and social cohesion. In Egypt, UNICEF supported high beneficiary reach despite the funding shortfall through integrated programming and the use of a community-based child protection approach and other highly cost-effective working models, such as working through primary health care units to deliver child protection services. In Iraq, UNICEF worked with government partners to sustain WASH services in eight Syrian refugee camps in Dahuk and Erbil, focusing on durable water and sanitation systems. In Lebanon, linkages between cash-based social protection and adolescent programming were strengthened to support an integrated and inclusive education response addressing multiple deprivations affecting children's well-being and their learning outcomes. UNICEF also contributed to social cohesion through a WASH intervention in Tripoli, Lebanon, by rebuilding trust between divided neighbourhoods in the city. In Turkey, UNICEF expanded its programme to prevent child labour by strengthening the capacities of public and private sector actors to better identify and address cases of child labour, while providing targeted services to at-risk children and adolescents and their families. Overall, donor funding helped UNICEF reach over 934,000 children with formal education and some 45,000 children with non-formal education opportunities. Over 217,000 children accessed structured child protection services, including community-based psychosocial support, and more than 85,000 children, youth and adolescents enhanced their life skills through training in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. More than 245,000 people gained improved access to safe water and over 200,000 people benefited from temporary water provision in camps and informal settlements. In addition, over 339,000 people gained improved access to appropriate sanitation facilities and services. About 22,000 children were vaccinated against polio and almost 19,000 caregivers/mothers enhanced their awareness of infant and young child feeding practices.

	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION		
Children under 5 years receiving multiple micronutrient supplements		
Lebanon	254,000	6,344 ⁱ
Caregivers/mothers reached with infant and young child feeding counselling		
Jordan	30,000	14,576 ⁱⁱ
Iraq	6,000	8,512 ⁱⁱⁱ
HEALTH		
Children immunized against polio		
Jordan	20,000	16,318
Iraq	15,000	11,900
Women who received primary health care services		
Egypt	120,000	6,843 ^{iv}
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE		
People accessing an adequate quantity of safe water through improved water systems		
Lebanon	386,191	79,461 ^v
Jordan	200,000	165,993 ^{vi}
People having improved access to an adequate quantity of safe water in camps		
Iraq	75,000	70,245
CHILD PROTECTION		
Children participating in child protection/psychosocial support programmes		
Turkey	80,000	68,845
Lebanon	10,000	7,123
Jordan	80,000	73,348
Iraq	12,370	10,592
Egypt	40,000	57,133 ^{vii}
EDUCATION		
Children enrolled in formal education		
Turkey	700,000	648,592
Lebanon	465,000	121,750 ^{viii}
Jordan	137,206	134,121
Iraq	30,700	29,730
Egypt	51,310	523 ^{ix}
Children enrolled in non-formal education		
Turkey	20,000	12,814
Lebanon	43,000	25,629
Jordan	8,000	6,631
Children receiving conditional cash grants		
Turkey	525,000	519,665
Children aged 5 to 17 years supported with cash transfers		
Egypt	6,000	776 ^x
Children receiving life-skills education		
Egypt	21,000	11,835
SOCIAL PROTECTION		

Children benefiting from humanitarian winter kits		
Lebanon	20,000	0 ^{xi}
People receiving monthly cash assistance		
Jordan	30,000	10,106 ^{xii}
Children aged 5 to 17 years supported with cash transfers		
Iraq	5,000	2,251 ^{xiii}
Children who received multipurpose cash assistance on a monthly basis		
Egypt	2,000	0 ^{xiv}
YOUTH/ADOLESCENTS		
Syrian and Turkish adolescents and youth engaged in empowerment programmes		
Turkey	100,000	53,706
Youth trained on life skills		
Lebanon	19,000	12,546
Children, youth and adolescents benefiting from life-skills education in non-formal settings		
Jordan	100,000	61,019 ^{xv}
BASIC NEEDS		
People receiving cash-based interventions, including winter support		
Turkey	60,000	50,932
Refugee children in camps provided with cash for winter clothes		
Iraq	10,500	0 ^{xvi}

* Results are as of 31 August 2019 unless otherwise noted.

ⁱ This number reflects Ministry of Public Health reporting through March 2019 (micronutrients distributed through primary health care centres). To increase this result, UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health will explore the feasibility of distributing micronutrients at the community level through community-based awareness-raising sessions and household visits.

ⁱⁱ Following a revision of the implementation strategy, as agreed with partners, the activity has been downscaled and therefore the number of beneficiaries has been reduced.

ⁱⁱⁱ Overachievement of the target is due to the use of cost-efficient approaches.

^{iv} The results represent Syrian women only, whereas the revised appeal target includes Syrian women and host community women. Ministry of Public Health reporting is currently being adjusted to align with the revised target.

^v The result will be reported after the contractors complete the work in the last quarter of 2019.

^{vi} Results are relatively fixed as services are provided to a stable target population and a limited monthly increase is envisioned.

^{vii} Overachievement is due to the use of cost-effective approaches, including the expanded partnership with the Ministry of Public Health and the activation of family clubs within more governorates, with staff costs covered by the Ministry.

^{viii} UNICEF expects that an additional 55,000 beneficiaries will be reached once funds are disbursed. The remaining beneficiaries will be covered by the World Bank.

^{ix} A major distribution of school supplies is planned for the start of the 2019/20 academic year in September 2019.

^x The education grant disbursements for the 2019/20 academic year will start in September 2019.

^{xi} Results will be reported in December 2019 upon implementation of the 2019–2020 winter response.

^{xii} Due to the substantial funding shortfall, UNICEF will not be able to reach the planned target.

^{xiii} No new funding for cash transfers was received in 2019. The results were achieved using flexible, multi-year funding carried over from previous years.

^{xiv} No funding was received for regular cash grants in 2019.

^{xv} Due to a late approval by the Government, life-skills training only started in July 2019, which delayed implementation. The activity is now on track for full achievement.

^{xvi} The 2019–2020 winter response will begin by October 2019. As of the end of August 2019, procurement and distribution planning is underway for targeted Syrian refugee-hosting locations in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Funding requirements

In line with the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2020–2021, UNICEF is requesting US\$864.1 million for 2020¹⁸ and US\$852.5 million for 2021 to meet the humanitarian and resilience needs of Syrian refugees and other vulnerable children in the region. In addition to country-level requirements, a regional funding requirement of US\$4 million per year is included to cover technical and quality assurance support to the responses in the five refugee-hosting countries. In line with its Grand Bargain commitments, UNICEF is advocating for flexible and long-term funding, which is crucial to implementing a consistent approach and prioritizing allocations to the most vulnerable children. This Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Syrian refugees and other affected populations complements the separate appeals for the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.

Country	2020 requirements (US\$)	2021 requirements (US\$)
Turkey	219,000,000	220,750,000
Lebanon	461,686,080	457,559,234
Jordan	141,800,000	129,600,000
Iraq	9,010,825	7,978,593
Egypt	28,617,800	32,615,840
Regional coordination	4,000,000	4,000,000
Total	864,114,705	852,503,667

2020	Turkey	Lebanon	Jordan	Iraq	Egypt	Regional coordination	Total (US\$)
Nutrition and health	1,000,000	12,727,000	5,562,000	2,400,000	875,000		22,564,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene		105,262,999	26,684,000	1,640,200			133,587,199
Child protection	37,000,000	24,651,470	19,778,000	1,912,625	10,250,000		93,592,095
Education	176,000,000	260,325,000	55,495,000	3,058,000	8,342,800		503,220,800
Basic needs/non-food items	3,000,000						3,000,000
Social protection		17,597,517	15,419,000		8,000,000		41,016,517
Youth/adolescents	2,000,000	34,619,754	18,862,000		1,150,000		56,631,754
Palestinian programme		6,502,340					6,502,340
Regional technical support and coordination						4,000,000	4,000,000
Total	219,000,000	461,686,080	141,800,000	9,010,825	28,617,800	4,000,000	864,114,705

2021	Turkey	Lebanon	Jordan	Iraq	Egypt	Regional coordination	Total (US\$)
Nutrition and health	1,000,000	12,727,000	5,032,000	2,168,300	680,000		21,607,300
Water, sanitation and hygiene		105,262,999	20,274,000	1,490,200			127,027,199
Child protection	37,000,000	24,651,471	17,648,000	1,873,693	12,850,000		94,023,164
Education	177,750,000	260,325,000	50,365,000	2,446,400	9,640,840		500,527,240
Basic needs/non-food items	3,000,000						3,000,000
Social protection		20,522,897	15,419,000		8,000,000		43,941,897
Youth/adolescents	2,000,000	27,567,527	20,862,000		1,445,000		51,874,527
Palestinian programme		6,502,340					6,502,340
Regional technical support and coordination						4,000,000	4,000,000
Total	220,750,000	457,559,234	129,600,000	7,978,593	32,615,840	4,000,000	852,503,667

¹ Out of the 5.6 million registered refugees, 45.4 per cent are women/girls. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) data portal accessed 30 September 2019. Throughout this appeal, the order of countries reflects the number of hosted Syrian refugees, in descending order.

² Calculated by UNICEF based on the humanitarian needs overview and humanitarian response plan documents for Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

³ Notably in Lebanon, where during the second quarter of 2019, different government measures have led to increased pressure on refugees and a shrinking protection space. Examples include cases of alleged forced return, stricter enforcement of existing laws, including against Syrians entering Lebanon illegally, Syrians working without permits and the dismantlement of unauthorized solid structures of refugee shelters (increasing vulnerabilities during winter due to harsh weather conditions). UNICEF is looking at the implications on children and possible mitigation measures, providing assistance in response to dismantlement and intensifying high-level advocacy efforts.

⁴ In 2018, an estimated 800,000 Syrian children lacked access to any form of education in the five Syrian refugee-hosting countries. No Lost Generation Initiative, 'Investing in the Future: Protection and learning for all Syrian children and youth', March 2019.

⁵ In addition to other obstacles such as those related to housing, land and property.

⁶ The 2020–2021 inter-agency Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan process has started but is not yet finalized. It aims to identify and address refugees' protection needs by mainstreaming age, gender and diversity approaches across all sectors to address these risks and realize durable solutions. This includes leveraging national social protection systems to address the vulnerabilities of refugees and host communities and integrating community-based protection for people-centred interventions and community empowerment initiatives.

⁷ To reach the most vulnerable women and children, such as child workers and children with disabilities. Socio-economic vulnerabilities are worse for female-headed households, and even greater for families that include a person with a disability, as they face increased risk of violence, discrimination, abuse and neglect and bear a greater brunt of poverty and challenges accessing basic services. Activities will also benefit vulnerable/affected host community members.

⁸ Through supporting community-based services, developing the capacities of local actors, influencing more child-inclusive policies and sector coordination.

⁹ UNICEF will continue to engage and provide leadership to inter-agency/humanitarian community efforts on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

¹⁰ Including support for the integration of Syrian refugee teachers into education systems.

¹¹ This entails reducing health and environmental risks and improving water quality by increasing the proportion of wastewater that is safely treated. This will also be done through operation, maintenance/rehabilitation and expansion of connections to public water networks, such as for schools and hospitals.

¹² UNICEF will continue to strengthen the linkages between education, child protection and adolescent and youth programming under the No Lost Generation Initiative (i.e., children and youth accessing certified quality education, while benefiting from a protective environment; and adolescents and youth contributing to resilience and social cohesion in their communities and having expanded livelihood opportunities in line with national legislation). In addition, Generation Unlimited, the United Nations partnership and commitment for youth, will be streamlined into the refugee response with programmes supporting the education and skills training/employment of youth and youth-led initiatives that provide opportunities for meaningful engagement and social cohesion.

¹³ Available funds include US\$350.8 million raised against the 2019 appeal and US\$228.2 million carried forward from the previous year.

¹⁴ As the 2020–2021 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan process is not finalized, figures are based on the 2019 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan, and are therefore provisional. This includes 11,695,014 people in Turkey; 3,208,800 in Lebanon; 939,209 in Jordan; 228,753 in Iraq; and 2,744,455 in Egypt. These figures include refugees and host community members.

¹⁵ This includes 3,975,498 children in Turkey; 1,350,371 in Lebanon; 474,422 in Jordan; 101,486 in Iraq; and 1,446,830 in Egypt. These figures include refugees and host community members.

¹⁶ In 2020, UNICEF plans to reach 1,166,500 people in Turkey; 1,076,849 in Lebanon; 331,546 in Jordan; 80,489 in Iraq; and 1,034,000 in Egypt. Out of the total people to be reached, 2,111,626 are women and girls and 168,378 are people with disabilities. Overall targets include host community members: by supporting the broadening of quality services to Syrians and host communities alike, UNICEF aims to mitigate the risk of social tensions between communities. However, only a low percentage of the host community is generally considered in the UNICEF people to be reached figures. This largely explains the discrepancies between the people/children in need and people to be reached figures. Notably, the Turkish host community is estimated to be around 8 million people, according to the 2019 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan.

¹⁷ In 2020, UNICEF plans to reach 1,096,500 children in Turkey; 801,652 in Lebanon; 237,906 in Jordan; 35,415 in Iraq; and 601,000 children in Egypt. Out of the total people to be reached, 1,374,599 are girls and 142,383 are children with disabilities.

¹⁸ Country-level financial requirements are subject to change upon finalization of the 2020–2021 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan.

Who to contact for further information:

Ted Chaiban
Regional Director, Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
Tel: +962 6 5502401
Email: tchaiban@unicef.org

Manuel Fontaine
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
Tel: +1 212 326 7163
Email: mfontaine@unicef.org

Carla Haddad Mardini
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)
Tel: +1 212 326 7160
Email: chaddadmardini@unicef.org