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Syrian refugees

The Syrian refugee crisis remains the largest displacement crisis in the world, with 5.4 million registered refugees, including over 2.4 million children, living in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt.¹ Despite the efforts of host governments to provide the refugees with access to public services, such as health and education, demand continues to exceed the capacity of institutions and infrastructure to respond. This is particularly the case in urban areas with significant concentrations of vulnerable populations, where high demand is impacting the quality of services. The protracted presence of Syrian refugees has exacerbated pre-existing socio-economic disparities in host countries,² with perceived competition for jobs and access to resources and services fueling local tensions. While Syrian refugees share similar challenges with poor host community members, such as high levels of economic insecurity, they often encounter additional challenges³ to meeting their basic needs, because of their legal status⁴ and the impact of residency and labour policies on their mobility and access to essential services. Among refugees, women, girls, boys, adolescents, youth, the elderly, unaccompanied and separated children and people with disabilities⁵ are most at risk. Lack of livelihoods and opportunities for self-reliance lead refugee households to resort to informal, sometimes unsafe, exploitative or dangerous work. Sometimes, children, often boys, are forced to drop out of school and go to work.⁶ Women and girls endure sexual and gender-based violence⁷ because of continued reliance on harmful cultural and traditional practices such as child marriage. The registered Syrian refugee population is expected to remain substantial throughout 2019. Insecurity, physical risks, lack of availability of essential services, livelihoods, and job opportunities, and legal obstacles to reclaiming property and obtaining civil documentation continue to challenge the sustainable, voluntary, safe and dignified return of refugees to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2019 and 2020, the inter-agency Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan will address the protection⁸ and humanitarian needs of refugees⁹ and vulnerable host communities, while strengthening the capacities of national and sub-national service delivery systems and providing strategic, technical and policy support to advance national responses.¹⁰ Given the protracted and complex nature of the refugee crisis, UNICEF will strengthen its inclusive strategy¹¹ and gender equity in life-saving humanitarian interventions,¹² while building local resilience by supporting community-based services, developing the capacities of local actors and influencing policies for children.¹³ Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and supplies¹⁴ will be provided in camps and informal settlements. UNICEF will also promote the transition to more sustainable and cost-effective WASH solutions, including through connections to existing water networks. Equitable access to preventive and curative health and nutrition interventions¹⁵ will be enhanced through routine vaccinations, the expansion of immunization coverage, mass campaigns against outbreaks of diseases such as polio and measles,¹⁶ improved identification, referral and treatment of acutely malnourished children and the promotion of proper feeding practices, including infant and young child feeding. UNICEF will continue to strengthen the linkages between education, child protection and adolescent and youth programming under the No Lost Generation initiative. Children and caregivers will gain

equitable access to community-based mental health and psychosocial support services and child protection assistance based on child protection minimum standards.¹⁷ Child protection monitoring, reporting on grave violations and support for survivors, including children at risk of child labour, child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence and prevention of family separation will be central to the response. UNICEF will strengthen national education systems and improve access to and the quality of learning opportunities for boys and girls, focusing on out-of-school children and children with disabilities. Non-formal/informal education interventions will be expanded and complemented by back-to-learning outreach. UNICEF will overcome demand-side barriers to education through cash incentives and transportation, building the capacities of teachers and education personnel¹⁸ and supporting integration of Syrian refugee teachers into education systems with financial incentives. Youth and families with vulnerable children, including with disabilities, will receive social protection, cash transfers, seasonal/winter support and non-food items to strengthen their capacities to address basic needs. Generation Unlimited, the new UN 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.

Humanitarian Action for Children

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Total people in need

19,013,923²³

Total children (<18) in need

7,462,093²⁴

Total people to be reached

3,136,224²⁵

Total children to be reached

2,545,308²⁶

2019 programme targets

Turkey

- 700,000 children (5-17 years) enrolled in formal education
- 20,000 children (5-17 years) enrolled in non-formal education
- 525,000 children (5-17 years) receiving conditional education cash grants
- 80,000 children accessing child protection/community-based psychosocial support services
- 60,000 people receiving cash-based interventions, including winter support
- 100,000 Syrian and Turkish adolescents and youth engaged in empowerment programmes

Lebanon

- 450,000 children enrolled in formal education
- 43,000 children enrolled in non-formal education
- 10,000 children accessing child protection/community-based psychosocial support services
- 386,191 individuals accessing adequate quantity of safe water through improved water systems
- 254,000 children U5 receiving micronutrient supplements
- 20,000 affected children benefited from humanitarian winter kits
- 19,000 youth trained on life skills

Jordan

- 137,206 children (5-17 years) enrolled in formal education
- 8,000 children (5-17 years) enrolled in non-formal education
- 80,000 children accessing child protection/community-based psychosocial support services
- 200,000 individuals accessing adequate quantity of safe water through improved water systems
- 20,000 children receiving polio vaccination
- 30,000 caregivers/mothers reached with infant and young child feeding counselling
- 30,000 vulnerable individuals receiving monthly cash assistance
- 100,000 children, youth and adolescents benefitting from life skills education

Iraq

- 30,700 children (5-17 years) enrolled in formal education
- 12,370 children accessing child protection/community-based psychosocial support services
- 75,000 individuals having improved access to adequate quantity of safe water in camps
- 15,000 children receiving polio vaccination
- 6,000 primary caregivers receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- 5,000 children (5-17 years) supported by cash transfers
- 10,500 refugee children in camps provided with cash for winter clothes

Egypt

- 51,310 children (3-17 years) enrolled in education and received school supplies
- 6,000 children (3-17 years) supported by cash transfers
- 21,000 children benefitting from life-skills and citizenship education programmes
- 40,000 children accessing child protection/community-based psychosocial support services
- 120,000 women received primary health care services
- 2,000 children received multipurpose cash assistance on monthly basis

Results from 2019

As of 15 June 2019, UNICEF had US\$495.5 million available against the US\$902 million appeal (45 percent funded).¹⁹ UNICEF continued to support 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, and the use of cost-efficient and sustainable approaches to service delivery through community-based interventions. UNICEF's integrated social protection programme in Jordan which expanded from supporting only registered Syrian refugees in 2016 to including all vulnerable Jordanian children in 2018, continued to play a key role in enhancing social cohesion.²⁰ In Egypt, 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 to further enhance beneficiary reach. The transition of the Makani programme²¹ to a community-based approach in Syrian refugee camps in Jordan generated efficiency gains and enhanced refugee ownership of the programme. In Iraq, UNICEF worked with government partners to sustain WASH services in the 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 education-based inclusive response addressing multiple deprivations affecting children's well-being and their learning outcomes. UNICEF continues in partnership with the Government of Lebanon to strengthen systems and support local communities to build youth and adolescent capacities to play a positive role in their communities and enhance employment opportunities. In Turkey, UNICEF continued to increase families' and Government's awareness on the negative effects of child labour and strengthen the national system's capacity to respond. Donor funding helped UNICEF reach over 922,000 children with formal education and about 30,000 children²² with non-formal education opportunities. Over 185,000 children had access to structured child protection services that include community-based psychosocial support services, while almost 28,000 children received specialized protection services. More than 235,000 people gained improved access to safe water and over 197,000 people benefited from temporary water provision in camps/informal settlements. In addition, over 332,000 people had improved access to appropriate sanitation facilities and services. Over 250,000 youth and adolescents received life skills training and almost 56,000 Syrian and Turkish adolescents and youth had access to empowerment programmes. Almost 18,000 children were vaccinated against polio and about 17,000 caregivers/mothers enhanced awareness of infant and young child feeding practices.

	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF 2019 results ¹
EDUCATION		
Children enrolled in formal education		
Turkey	700,000	648,592 ⁱⁱ
Lebanon	450,000	110,000 ⁱⁱⁱ
Jordan	137,206	134,121
Iraq	30,700	29,730
Egypt	51,310	0
Children enrolled in non-formal education		
Turkey	20,000	8,314
Lebanon	43,000	15,104
Jordan	8,000	6,554
Children receiving conditional cash grants		
Turkey	525,000	511,453 ^{iv}
Children (5-17 years) supported by cash transfers		
Egypt	6,000	775
Children enjoying life-skills education		
Egypt	21,000	11,301
CHILD PROTECTION		
Children receiving child protection services, including community-based psychosocial support services		
Turkey	80,000	66,797
Lebanon	10,000 ^v	5,764
Jordan	80,000	56,039
Iraq	12,370	6,887
Egypt	40,000	49,707 ^{vi}
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE		
Individuals accessing adequate quantity of safe water through improved water systems		
Lebanon	386,191	0
Jordan	200,000	165,993
Individuals having improved access to adequate quantity of safe water in camps		
Iraq	75,000	69,062
HEALTH		
Children receiving polio vaccination		
Jordan	20,000	9,816
Iraq	15,000	7,899
Women received primary health care services		
Egypt	120,000	3,911
NUTRITION		
Children U5 receiving multiple micronutrient supplements		
Lebanon	254,000	2,495
Caregivers/mothers reached with infant and young child feeding counselling		
Jordan	30,000	9,987 ^{vii}
Iraq	6,000	6,646
BASIC NEEDS		
People receiving cash-based interventions, including winter support		

Turkey	60,000	50,932 ^{viii}
Refugee children in camps provided with cash for winter clothes		
Iraq	10,500	6,328 ^{ix}
SOCIAL PROTECTION		
Affected children benefited from humanitarian winter kits		
Lebanon	20,000	0 ^x
Vulnerable individuals receiving monthly cash assistance		
Jordan	30,000	10,106
Children (5-17 years) supported by cash transfers		
Iraq	5,000	2,251
Children received multipurpose cash assistance on monthly basis		
Egypt	2,000	0
YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS		
Syrian and Turkish adolescents and youth engaged in empowerment programmes		
Turkey	100,000	55,512
Youth trained on life skills		
Lebanon	19,000	5,831 ^{xi}
Children, youth and adolescents benefitting from life skills-based education in non-formal settings		
Jordan	100,000	36,248

Results are through 31 May 2019 unless otherwise noted.

ⁱ No progress against some of the results/indicators is due to delayed reporting from partners. Results will be available in the last quarter of the year after verification of data.

ⁱⁱ This reflects the highest enrolment figures for 2019 and includes 32,103 pre-primary students (5 years and above) as well as 56,191 Iraqi students.

ⁱⁱⁱ The result is expected to increase once enrolment report is finalized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

^{iv} High achievement is due to a larger than anticipated increase in the number of refugee children enrolled in formal education; UNICEF and the Government of Turkey are in discussions to revise the target accordingly.

^v This also includes specialized protection services.

^{vi} UNICEF's Child Protection and Health integrated programme expanded the partnership with the Ministry of Health and Population and therefore activating Family Clubs within more governorates, with staff costs being covered by the Ministry resulting in greater beneficiary reach at lower costs.

^{vii} Due to rationalization of interventions, as agreed with implementing partners, the relevant activity has been downscaled and therefore the number of beneficiaries reduced.

^{viii} Result is for the current 2018/2019 winter season.

^{ix} UNICEF winter distributions for the 2018/2019 winter ran between December 2018 and January 2019. Results reported here reflect the target of the 2018 HAC appeal and the total results against the 2018/2019 winter response. The 2019/2020 winter response under the 2019 HAC Appeal is scheduled to start by October/November 2019 (target 18,500).

^x Result will be reported in December 2019 upon the implementation of the 2019/2020 winter response.

^{xi} Activities are ongoing and therefore the result is expected to increase in Q3 2019.

Funding requirements

In line with the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2019–2020, UNICEF has revised its appeal for 2019 from US\$904 million to US\$902 million. This includes revisions in all sector appeals for Egypt, Social Protection sector for Jordan and a correction to the Education sector appeal for Turkey and the Child Protection sector appeal for Jordan, while the appeal for 2020 remains unchanged at US\$828.5 million. In addition to country level requirements to meet the humanitarian and resilience needs of Syrian refugees and other vulnerable children in MENA, a regional funding requirement is included that covers 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 system 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	2019 original requirements (US\$)	2019 revised requirements (US\$)	Available funds (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Turkey	239,671,573	239,371,573	136,641,504	102,730,069	43%
Lebanon	467,629,148	466,729,148	261,941,100	205,688,048	44%
Jordan	161,970,000	159,427,600	89,520,637	72,449,363	45%
Iraq	18,395,650	18,395,650	2,711,221	15,684,429	85%
Egypt	12,310,000	13,191,500	4,406,007	8,785,493	67%
Regional coordination	4,000,000	4,000,000	244,383	3,755,617	94%
Total	903,976,371	901,115,471	495,464,852	406,550,619	45%

2019	Turkey	Lebanon	Jordan	Iraq	Egypt	Regional coordination	Total (US\$)
Nutrition and Health	1,000,000	11,269,278	6,190,000	1,937,500	1,400,000		21,796,778
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene		90,079,256	36,220,000	3,550,000			129,849,256
Child Protection	32,000,000	28,715,156	25,080,000	2,003,000	4,904,500		92,702,656
Education	203,371,573	280,399,819	65,280,000	9,205,150	4,587,000		562,843,542
Basic Needs/Non-Food Items	3,000,000	12,458,410		500,000			15,958,410
Social Protection		1,067,666	15,617,600	1,200,000	2,300,000		20,185,266
Youth/Adolescents		36,214,100	11,040,000				47,254,100
Palestinian programme ²⁷		6,525,463					6,525,463
Regional technical support and coordination						4,000,000	4,000,000
Total	239,371,573	466,729,148	159,427,600	18,395,650	13,191,500	4,000,000	901,115,471

2020	Turkey	Lebanon	Jordan	Iraq	Egypt	Regional coordination	Total (US\$)
Nutrition and Health	1,000,000	9,459,493	5,570,000	1,852,500	2,600,000		20,481,993
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene		61,396,859	26,250,000	2,850,000			90,496,859
Child Protection	31,740,000	22,915,970	23,978,000	1,400,000	5,485,000		85,518,970
Education	192,387,500	280,399,819	60,660,000	9,127,650	3,372,500		545,947,469
Basic Needs/Non-Food Items	2,350,000	16,034,474		880,000			19,264,474
Social Protection		1,388,400	13,624,000	1,200,000	1,806,796		18,019,196
Youth/Adolescents		25,806,127	12,502,000				38,308,127
Palestinian programme		6,502,323					6,502,323
Regional technical support and coordination						4,000,000	4,000,000
Total	227,477,500	423,903,465	142,584,000	17,310,150	13,264,296	4,000,000	828,539,411

- ¹ The order of countries reflects the number of hosted Syrian refugees, in descending order. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees data portal, accessed 16 June 2019.
- ² Socio-economic vulnerabilities, exacerbated by the protracted emergency, are worse for female-headed households, and even worse for families that include a person with a disability, who are also less food secure, have worse diets, adopt severe coping strategies more often, and have higher poverty levels.
- ³ An increased number of displaced Syrians living in urban areas makes it harder for organizations to assist, as people in need are more dispersed and difficult to identify and locate. Other challenges include the shortage of data and the lack of partners with experience in urban responses. Displaced Syrians living in urban areas face challenges in obtaining information on access to services and making informed decisions.
- ⁴ Including timely access to residency, due to centralized and lengthy administrative procedures.
- ⁵ People with disabilities are at high risk of violence, discrimination, and exclusion. A data gap on disability persists, limiting the targeting of interventions aimed at improving the situation of children and youth living with disabilities. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, disability and illness are still a barrier for at least 7 percent of school-aged Syrian refugee children. See the Iraq country chapter in the 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2019-2020.
- ⁶ An estimated 700,000 Syrian children remain without access to any form of education in the five Syrian refugee-hosting countries. 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2019-2020.
- ⁷ In Iraq, sexual and gender-based violence incidents are mostly reported by women (48 percent) and girls (27 percent), with low reporting by men (13 percent) and boys (12 percent). See Iraq country chapter in the 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2019-2020.
- ⁸ The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan aims to ensure that refugees' protection needs are identified and addressed 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 both refugees and host communities and the integration and application of community-based protection for people-centred interventions and community empowerment initiatives.
- ⁹ Including those living in camps, settlements and local communities, across all sectors.
- ¹⁰ The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan emphasizes continued outreach and partnership with local organizations and the private sector for innovative solutions in the response, engaging with young people and adolescents to ensure a better reflection of their needs and to unlock their full potential and enhanced accountability mechanisms and durable solutions for refugees.
- ¹¹ Noting the protracted nature of the crisis, 'durable solutions for Syrian refugees' has been added as a strategic direction for 2018. These are defined as: voluntary refugee returns; local solutions and opportunities; resettlement to a third country; and access to a third country through legal means other than resettlement (complementary pathways).
- ¹² Targeting the most vulnerable populations, including children with disabilities, in areas with the most acute needs.
- ¹³ Priority will be given to local actors, in line with the Grand Bargain commitments. These efforts will be advanced through policy development, planning, sector coordination, information management and monitoring.
- ¹⁴ Including provision of safe water, water system rehabilitation, operation/maintenance, wastewater and sewage services, as well as the delivery of hygiene kits and hygiene promotion to reduce the risk of WASH-related morbidity.
- ¹⁵ Particularly to children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women.
- ¹⁶ Health systems and capacities will be also strengthened through training of health service providers and increasing access to essential health supplies and quality primary health care services.
- ¹⁷ Such as case management, legal services, family tracing and reunification, emergency alternative care and release, rehabilitation and reintegration support.
- ¹⁸ On life-skills education, psychosocial support and improved pedagogy to help deliver quality education.
- ¹⁹ Available funds include US\$267.3 million raised against the current appeal and US\$228.2 million carried forward from the previous year.
- ²⁰ In addition, building on the launch of the national youth engagement programme (Nahnu) in Jordan in 2018, UNICEF continued efforts to enhance the skills and the employability of a generation of young people by providing access to volunteering and training opportunities, with a focus on youth living in vulnerable locations.
- ²¹ The Makani programme provides vulnerable children and youth with access to integrated services that include learning support, community-based child protection, early childhood development and life skills, through 150 centres. The Makani centres also provide parenting skills to parents and caregivers and mobilize community leaders to address various issues that children and youth face in their respective communities.
- ²² In Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.
- ²³ The population in need by country is: 11,687,790 in Turkey; 3,208,800 in Lebanon; 871,310 in Jordan; 447,548 in Iraq and 2,798,475 in Egypt. The total number of people in need includes the affected host community.
- ²⁴ The number of children in need by country is: 3,975,396 in Turkey; 1,350,371 in Lebanon; 437,398 in Jordan; 197,478 in Iraq and 1,501,450 in Egypt. The total number of children in need includes the affected host community.
- ²⁵ In 2019, UNICEF plans to reach 1,263,900 people in Turkey; 811,808 people in Lebanon; 378,206 people in Jordan; 75,000 people in Iraq and 607,310 people in Egypt.
- ²⁶ In 2019, UNICEF plans to reach 1,053,250 children in Turkey; 727,042 children in Lebanon; 245,206 children in Jordan; 47,500 children in Iraq and 472,310 children in Egypt.
- ²⁷ The Palestinian programme covers the response to Palestinian refugees in Syrian-refugee hosting countries.

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