Humanitarian Action for Children

Syrian Arab Republic

HIGHLIGHTS

- The scale, severity and complexity of humanitarian needs in the Syrian Arab Republic remain extensive. Over 11 million people (4.8 million children) require assistance and 6.1 million people are internally displaced (2.5 million children). Continued hostilities have caused multiple displacements, and the socio-economic impacts of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) are hitting families and children extremely hard.

- In 2021, UNICEF will deliver life-saving services to children and families and apply a targeted, multi-sector systems strengthening approach through its partners and field offices. UNICEF will address the specific needs of girls, boys, adolescents, women and men using a conflict-sensitive approach, emphasizing accountability to affected populations and focusing on the prevention of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation.

- UNICEF requires US$330.8 million to reach children in the Syrian Arab Republic with humanitarian assistance in 2021. This includes significant funding requirements for health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child and social protection.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS

- 1.5 million primary caregivers receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- 3.2 million children vaccinated against polio
- 4.1 million people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water
- 2.4 million children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education/survivor interventions

IN NEED

- 11.1 million people
- 4.8 million children

TO BE REACHED

- 9.1 million people
- 5.5 million children

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

- US$ 330.8 million

Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Following a decade of conflict and humanitarian crisis, localized hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic continue to intensify. The situation is further aggravated by the economic downturn, the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts, and the rising cost of basic food items. The scale, severity and complexity of humanitarian needs remain extensive.

Over 11 million people in the Syrian Arab Republic, including 4.8 million children and 3 million people with disabilities, require humanitarian assistance; and 6.1 million people are internally displaced. People spontaneously returning home urgently require critical assistance and the restoration of basic services in destroyed communities.

Grave violations of children’s rights continue unabated. Children are killed and injured by the persistent use of explosive weapons in civilian areas, the destruction of health and educational facilities and recruitment into the fighting. Nearly 2,600 communities are affected by explosive contamination, with 11.5 million people (3.1 million children) at risk. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by harmful coping mechanisms, including early marriage and gender-based violence.

Years of conflict have dramatically reduced access to basic services in the Syrian Arab Republic: 2.5 million children aged 5 to 17 years are out of school and an additional 1.6 million children are at risk of dropping out or not learning. Some 10.7 million people require access to WASH services, including 3 million people who are experiencing acute needs. COVID-19 containment measures are further eroding access to services, including routine immunization, education, protection, case management and mental health and psychosocial support.

In addition, half a million children are chronically malnourished and 137,000 children under 5 years are suffering from acute malnutrition, heightening their risk of contracting a preventable illness and even death.

Since December 2019, some 940,000 people in the northwest (194,000 women and 566,000 children) have been displaced, in addition to the 2.7 million people who are already displaced. Of the 4 million people living in northwest Syrian Arab Republic, 2.8 million are in need of humanitarian assistance.

The northeast is a highly complex operating environment. Al-Hol camp currently hosts over 65,000 people (94 per cent children and women; 53 per cent children under 12) who are fully dependent on humanitarian assistance. In addition, over 2,200 people in Al-Roj camp need humanitarian assistance. In the south, Rukban camp has not been reached by a humanitarian convoy since September 2019, and informal commercial routes are closed.

SECTOR NEEDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Need</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and nutrition</td>
<td>8.1 million children/women need health/nutrition assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>10.7 million people require access to WASH services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection, GBViE and PSEA</td>
<td>5.7 million children need child protection assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>7 million children and teachers need education services</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

STORY FROM THE FIELD

In 2018, Mahasen and her five children were caught in a spiral of escalating violence in Hamoriya, rural Damascus. “In the blink of an eye our lives turned to hell. Two of my children were trapped in a collapsed basement. I found them screaming under the rubble.”

After this incident, Omar, then 5, often became agitated and sometimes Mahasen found him hitting his head against the wall. Omar and his siblings are now participating in activities, provided through UNICEF-supported case management and psychosocial support interventions, that allow them to express their feelings and help them cope with the trauma.

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Read more about this story here

Omar and his sister, Marwa, draw on the walls of the living room at their home in Nashabiya, East Ghouta. Both have survived intense shelling that left them in need of psychosocial support.
HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF will prioritize its assistance in high severity areas using the Whole of Syria approach through its hubs in Damascus, Gaziantep and Amman.21

UNICEF will strengthen life-saving and preventative nutrition services, including treatment for acute malnutrition and safe and appropriate infant and young child feeding practices. A priority will be supporting continuous access to equitable health and nutrition services for the most vulnerable. This includes reaching children under 5 years through the Expanded Programme on Immunization and supplementary immunization activities in hard-to-reach areas.

UNICEF will also support infection prevention and control interventions in health care facilities, schools, learning spaces and service centres and ensure safe access. The use of personal protective equipment will be promoted extensively given the COVID-19 context.

To foster strong linkages between humanitarian action and development programming, UNICEF will deliver life-saving and sustainable interventions, including emergency water, support for sanitation and solid-waste facilities, hygiene promotion, hygiene kit distribution, and the restoration and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities. The COVID-19 response will include the light rehabilitation of WASH services in quarantine and isolation centres and support for increasing per capita water supply and access to soap.

UNICEF will support equitable and continued access to quality education, alternative learning, self learning and early learning through the implementation of safe-school protocols and remote-learning methods, in line with the No Lost Generation initiative. This will include the light rehabilitation of over 13,000 schools to decrease crowding.22

In child protection, UNICEF will support equitable and continued access to psychosocial support, parenting programmes, case management for vulnerable children (including those with disabilities), and specialized services for survivors of violence, exploitation and abuse. To address the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, UNICEF will expand social protection for the poorest families through cash transfers, in line with the Grand Bargain commitments.23 This will facilitate continued learning, support children with disabilities and supplement hygiene kits and clothing. Gender-based violence risk mitigation will be strengthened across all sectors, and prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse will be scaled up. UNICEF will also continue to strengthen its leadership role on risk communication and community engagement and support mine risk education.

UNICEF will integrate gender and disability considerations across its programmes. Communications will promote positive practices and behaviours. The focus on adolescents and young people will be expanded through positive engagements and cross-sectoral services, life-skills programmes, vocational education and entrepreneurship training.

In 2020, the United Nations Security Council reduced the number of border crossings authorized for cross-border humanitarian assistance, leaving only the Bab al-Hawa gate between the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey. In response to the new United Nations Security Council Resolution, the United Nations has been working to expand the capacity of Bab al-Hawa and UNICEF will continue to deliver life-saving programmes and supplies, while expanding cross-line activities within the Syrian Arab Republic, including to Al-Hol camp.

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS

Nutrition
- 13,500 children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- 1,450,000 primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling24
- 960,000 children and pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients

Health
- 3,200,000 children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio25
- 1,800,000 children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities26
- 1,000 health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control

Water, sanitation and hygiene
- 4,140,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene27
- 550,000 people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes
- 1,360,000 people have improved access to sanitation services28

Child protection, GBViE and PSEA
- 415,000 children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support29
- 120,500 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- 2,380,000 children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions30

Education
- 1,750,000 children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings31
- 400,000 children in non-formal education benefiting from education services32
- 44,000 teachers and education personnel trained

Social protection and cash transfers
- 86,000 households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors33
- 490,000 girls and boys protected from extreme weather through the provision of non-food items34

C4D, community engagement and AAP35
- 1,002,500 people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change

Adolescents/youth
- 200,000 adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years promoting social cohesion and civic engagement at the community level
- 300,000 affected adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF requires US$330.8 million to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable children and families in the Syrian Arab Republic and fulfill children's rights in 2021. This funding will cover programmes delivered from within the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as cross-border assistance delivered as part of the Whole of Syria approach. A large share of the funding request will cover the WASH, education and social protection response. UNICEF programmes are planned for nationwide reach, targeting populations in areas with acute needs, and the population groups most in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance. UNICEF plans to continue its substantive support to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including through its leadership on risk communication and community engagement; through the provision of infection prevention control, personal protective equipment and hygiene kits; and its support for humanitarian coordination through the cluster approach.

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Nutrition (7.2%), Adolescents/youth (3.3%), C4D, community engagement and AAP (<1%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2021 requirements (US$)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>23,920,391</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>38,819,972</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>98,314,219(^{38})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA</td>
<td>34,221,760(^{36})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>74,666,582(^{39})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection and cash transfers</td>
<td>48,850,736(^{40})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4D, community engagement and AAP</td>
<td>1,119,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents/youth</td>
<td>10,912,957(^{37})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>330,826,577</td>
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with higher quality education. In addition, education funding is very earmarked, and the delivery of services to children through the formal school system is not permitted by donors, while service delivery through non-governmental organizations is much more expensive and can reach fewer children. All educational services and supplies are related to non-formal education. This is under the early recovery and livelihood sector.

This is under the shelter and non-food items sector.

Communication for development, including accountability to affected populations, is integrated into sectoral responses and interventions.

35. UNICEF has received more data, enabling it to set a more accurate target and funding requirement.

36. This includes both education and early recovery components of the adolescent development and participation programme.

37. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations, who have committed to getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.

38. This is for the academic year 2020/21.

39. UNICEF leads cluster coordination for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters and the child protection area of responsibility.

40. The remaining needs will be covered by health sector partners (United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations).