



UNICEF Turkey

Humanitarian Situation

Report No. 40

Reporting Period: January—December 2020

Turkey Highlights

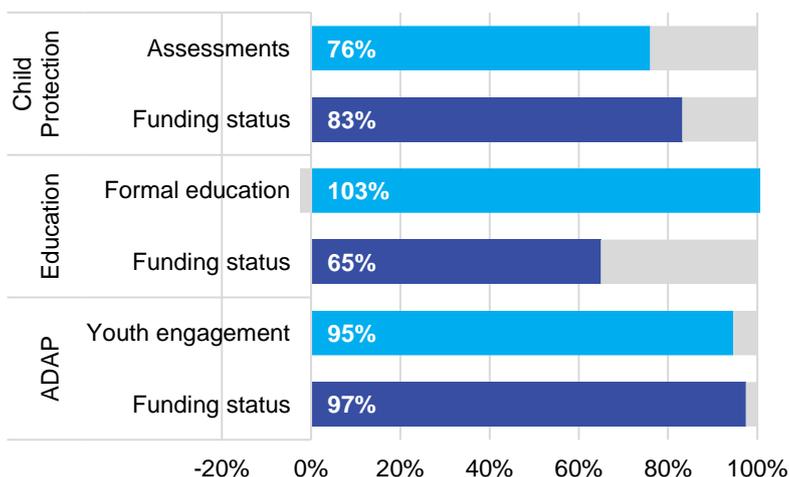
- In Turkey, **768,839** Syrian and other refugee students have been enrolled in formal education services across the country, and over **7,000** out-of-school children enrolled in the Accelerated Learning Programme.
- The coverage of the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) Programme for Refugees continued growing, increasing from **562,016 children** in December 2019 to **668,900** in December 2020. To support refugee families facing increased economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF also provided one-time CCTE top-up in November 2020, benefitting **518,794 children**.
- A total of **278,124 vulnerable refugees and Turkish children and their parents/caregivers** benefited from a range of protection services, implemented through over 70 UNICEF-supported child and adolescent-friendly spaces.
- A total of **17,870 adolescents and young people** were reached by UNICEF supported skills development, social cohesion and engagement activities.

Situation in Numbers*

- 1,810,465** children in need
- 11,624,941** people in need
- 3,643,769** # of registered Syrian refugees

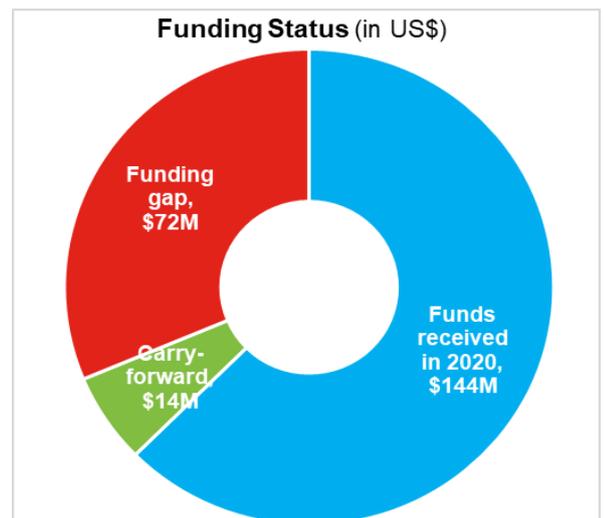
*3RP 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status*



UNICEF Appeal 2020

US\$ 229 million



* Results achieved is as per selected indicators only, whereas funding is for the entire sector. Please refer to the funding and HPM tables at the end of the SitRep for more details.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2020, UNICEF Turkey appealed for **US \$229.4 million** to respond to the needs of over 4 million refugees and migrants, as well as vulnerable host community families, under the framework of the Regional Refugee and Response Plan (3RP). Of this, UNICEF received **US \$143.5 million** in new funding in 2020, with generous contributions from key donors, including the European Union (EU) and the governments of Germany, Japan, Norway and the United States of America. Together with funding carried forward from 2019, this left the humanitarian response in 2020 with a **31 per cent funding gap**. UNICEF also received some US \$147 million in funding for use in 2021 and 2022, the majority of which is provided for the Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (CTE). UNICEF expresses its gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received to date. As, available funding remains heavily earmarked, additional flexible funding is urgently needed to ensure continued coverage of essential services for thousands of vulnerable children who remain at high risk of school drop-out, exploitation and abuse — particularly in light of the significant longer-term secondary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugee children and families in Turkey.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As of end 2020 Turkey remained home to over four million refugees and migrants—the largest such population in the world. This number includes more than 3.6 million Syrian refugees—of whom over 1.6 million are children—under temporary protection¹. A significant majority of Syrian refugees (98.4%) are residing in host communities, while less than 2% continue residing in the remaining seven temporary accommodation centres located in the South-east Turkey.

In addition, Turkey remains a leading transit country for registered and unregistered refugees and migrants on the move. By end 2020 a total of 18,431 people—primarily Afghans (36%) and Syrians (23.3%)—successfully crossed by sea and land from Turkey into the EU. An additional 122,302 people were rescued or apprehended by Turkish authorities as of end of December, four times lower than in 2019. This significantly downward trend compared to the last year is most likely due to the COVID-19 outbreak and associated movement restrictions in countries of origin and transit.

On 11 March, Turkey reported its first official case of COVID-19; by end December 2020 the Ministry of Health reported a total of 2,194,272 confirmed cases² (including 10% healthcare professionals) and 20,642 deaths, with 2,078,629 people reported to have recovered³.

Since the beginning of the outbreak more than 24 million COVID-19 tests have been performed, including tests carried out amongst refugees and migrants, with the average number of tests performed daily being over 100,000, since mid-2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put significant strain on Turkey's infrastructure and essential services, already overburdened after years of increased demand due to the Syrian refugee crisis. While to date the direct health impact of the pandemic in Turkey has been milder for children than for other age groups, the potential socio-economic impact—if not adequately addressed—could prove devastating and reverse gains thus far achieved in terms of access to and quality of services for children, including education, health and social protection.

The most vulnerable children in Turkey, particularly refugee and migrant children, continued to be at risk due to the interruption of essential services like education, child protection and social protection. The COVID-19 pandemic had a particularly marked effect on school enrolment, attendance and retention, making it harder for vulnerable children in Turkey, especially refugees and migrants, to continue their education. More than 400,000 school-aged refugee children are still out-of-school and do not have any access to education opportunities. Moreover, the effects of prolonged social distancing and confinement measures resulted in increased unemployment and fewer livelihood opportunities for vulnerable families, which will make it more difficult for them to meet their basic needs and could likely to lead to increased negative coping strategies, such as child labour and early marriage. There is also an increased risk of gender-based violence and violence against children, with higher levels of stress within households and many women and children potentially confined at home with their abusers for long periods of time.

Syrian Refugees by Province, December 2020



¹ Data from DGMM (<https://en.goc.gov.tr/temporary-protection27>), UNHCR and IOM (<https://en.sg.gov.tr/irregular-migration-statistics>)

² Total number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Turkey includes refugees and migrants, however no breakdown between the local and refugee / migrant communities is presented in the official statistics issued by the Ministry of Health (MoH)

³ estimated recovery rate in Turkey has been 94%, data from the MoH, 30 December 2020.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The Government of Turkey continued to lead the overall response to the Syrian refugee crisis, supported by the United Nations through the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for Syrian refugees in Turkey. The overall strategic planning and coordination of the 3RP continued to be led by the Syria Response Group, which is supported at the technical level by the Syria Task Force and 3RP sector coordination working groups at central and sub-regional level. UNICEF continued to lead the Education Working Group (WG) and the South-East Turkey Education Sub-WG and co-leads the Child Protection WG as well as South-East Turkey Child Protection Sub-WG. UNICEF also remained an active member of the Durable Solutions WG and the 3RP WG on Contingency Planning.

The scale-up of services and strengthening of national systems remained as key priorities underpinning the UNICEF humanitarian strategy in 2020, despite challenges generated by the COVID-19 outbreak in Turkey. Continued efforts have been made throughout 2020 to enhance the inclusivity and gender sensitivity of coverage and care to reach the most vulnerable children.

UNICEF is also coordinating closely with 3RP partners to support national efforts to address the COVID-19 outbreak in Turkey. Based on the analysis of the outbreak's impact on Syrian refugees and host communities UNICEF and 3RP partners revised the 2020 Turkey chapter of 3RP to include COVID-19 response specific activities as well as funding requirements. COVID-19 response has been mainstreamed within the 3RP planning process for the 2021 – 2022 period and the related activities, targets and performance indicators have been incorporated in the new Turkey 3RP chapter, which is expected to be launched in February 2021.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Child Protection

UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS) , local authorities and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) partners to improve the coverage and quality of child protection systems and services for vulnerable refugee, migrant and Turkish children across the continuum of care. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF partners continued to ensure that vulnerable children and their families have access to child protection services through a blended approach of face-to-face and online modalities for continuity of essential child protection programmes. Over **278,124 vulnerable refugee and Turkish children** and their parents/ caregivers benefitted from a range of protection services offered by a network of 70 UNICEF-supported child and adolescent-friendly spaces throughout Turkey by the end of 2020.

UNICEF continued to support MoFLSS to expand the outreach capacity of the national Family Support Teams ('ASDEP') and the Social Services Centers (SSC) by standardizing the service delivery model, improving the case management approaches and tools and supporting recruitment and training of an additional 73 case workers and interpreters in 15 provinces. In 2020, these efforts resulted in the early **identification of 7,263⁴ at risk children**, out of which **1, 604 children⁵ received individualized care**. The child protection component of the Conditional Cash Transfers for Education (CCTE) programme, implemented in collaboration with MoFLSS and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), continued to reach out to vulnerable children and families. TRC outreach team capacities were enhanced to improve their efficiency in remote assessment, identification, response, and case management. As a result, a total of **6,637 children⁶** were reached in 15 provinces, of which **500 children⁷** were referred to specialized services. The restriction of movement in provinces and the safety measures put in place due to COVID, including changing to remote assessment modality, limited the number of children and families reached in comparison with previous years.

Education

UNICEF worked closely with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and other partners to increase access to quality inclusive education for all refugee children. As a result, 768,839 children enrolled in formal education (pre-primary-grade 12), compared to 684,728 children in 2019.

4 43,551 girls; 23,712 boys

5 774 girls;830 boys

6 3,179 girls; 3,458 boys

7 206 girls;294boys

As face-to-face learning was largely suspended for eight months between March and December 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak, UNICEF supported MoNE to ensure all children continued to learn during school closures, including refugees and migrants. Although blended learning was introduced briefly for some grades, including kindergartens between June and November 2020, however, as of 23 November, the learning process is now continuing only through distance learning modalities.

A total of **23,038 Syrian and vulnerable Turkish children**⁸ benefitted from home and community-based Early Childhood Education programmes. **69,403 vulnerable Syrian children** received Learn at Home kits to ensure continuity of learning in a safe environment during school closures. In order to close the digital divide among the vulnerable learners, UNICEF supported the establishment of 170 Education Information Network” (EBA) centers, including **6 mobile centers**. These Centers allowed children, including Syrians, without a computer and/or internet access at home to continue learning during school closures. UNICEF also continued to support **12,246 Syrian Volunteer Education Personnel**⁹ who provide support to integrate Syrian children into the formal education system. During school closures, they provided remote support to children and families by social media and other messaging channels to ensure learning continuity.

Support for School Enrolment (SSE) programme continued to help out-of-school refugee children (OOSC) in accessing relevant and appropriate education opportunities in 8 provinces. The referral and support modalities were modified from traditional household visits to phone visits due to COVID-19, resulting in greater outreach. By end-year, **76,845**¹⁰ **vulnerable children**, including **27,175 out-of-school children (OOSC)**¹¹ were identified, counselled, and/or referred to all forms of education. **7,483 children**¹² were enrolled in the Accelerated Learning Programme and **43 OOS adolescents** enrolled in Vocational Education Centres. A total of **3,261 vulnerable refugee children** (1,754 girls and 1,507 boys) benefited from Turkish Language Courses, while **2,361 refugee children** (1,425 girls and 936 boys) received homework and distance learning support. Due to the COVID-19 situation, both these programmes were adapted and delivered remotely through phones, WhatsApp, and small group learning sessions.

Social Protection and Basic Needs

In 2020, UNICEF continued working with the MoFLSS, civil society and the private sector to strengthen existing national systems to ensure vulnerable refugee and Turkish children have increased access to social protection services and their wellbeing is improved. The coverage of the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) Programme for Refugees continued growing, increasing from 562,016 children in December 2019 to **668,900**¹³ **in December 2020**. As part of the CCTE programme implementation and in order to provide additional support to targeted beneficiary families, related to back to school expenses and socio-economic challenges faced by older students, UNICEF supported 521,270 students with top-up payments in 2020. To support refugee families facing increased economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF also provided one-time CCTE top-up in November 2020, benefitting **518,794 children**.

UNICEF and partners supported **25,72**¹⁴ **refugee and Turkish children** at risk of child labour in Adana, Şanlıurfa, Hatay, and Diyarbakır with tailored Psychosocial Support (PSS) services. 2,501¹⁵ refugee and Turkish children and 2,503 parents benefited from child protection, awareness-raising and referrals to social services. 150 government staff were equipped on skills on how to combat child labour among refugees and Turkish population, whilst capacities of 23 staff from private firms and NGOs were increased to prevent child labour in the agriculture sector.

A total of **13,388 people** including **6,243 children**¹⁶ in the districts of Kirikhan, Altinözü and Yayladagi in Hatay province benefited from the UNICEF’s 2019/20 seasonal (winter) cash-assistance programme, implemented in partnership with the three district Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASF), targeting vulnerable Syrian refugee and host community households. Implementation of the 2020/2021 seasonal (winter) cash-assistance programme, targeting 4,900 Syrian refugee and vulnerable Turkish households, started in December 2020 and will be completed in the first quarter of 2021.

8 11,742 girls:11,296 boys

9 6,515 female, 5,731 male

10 37,654 girls:39,191 boys

11 11,685 girls:15,490 boys

12 3,732 girls: 3,751 boys

13 332,184 girls, 336,716 boys.

14 1240 girls, 1332 boys

15 1170 girls, 1331 boys

16 2,870 Syrian and 298 Turkish households (a total 13,388 people including 6,243 children)

Adolescent and Youth Engagement

UNICEF continued to collaborate with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), the MoFLSS and NGO partners to expand opportunities for meaningful engagement and life skills education for Syrian and Turkish adolescents and youth. Following the COVID-19 outbreak, almost all programs transitioned to online activities. By end-year, **17,870** adolescents and young people had increased their skills and competencies through structured programmes and an additional **324,023 adolescents** were engaged online through UNICEF supported social cohesion programmes.

In partnership with Southeast Anatolia Regional (GAP) Administration and Development Foundation of Turkey, the digital skills development programme for young people “Maker and Innoba” in Mardin, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Kilis and Adiyaman reached **1,233 adolescents and young people** (900 Turkish, 333 Syrian). This number was short of the set target of 2,000 due to pandemic health measures that constrained activities at the ‘digital skills’ centres. Through the network of GAP Youth Houses, UNICEF and partners organized activities aimed at enabling young people to identify and develop local entrepreneurial solutions. A total of 49 youth entrepreneurial projects have been developed, and 28 of them were identified for further support.

Health

UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and health partners to improve the coverage and quality of health services for vulnerable refugee and migrant children. UNICEF supported MoH to ensure that all children including refugees and migrants continue their routine vaccination as part of the expanded national vaccination programme that introduced shifts from school-based to health facility-based vaccination programme. This included support to MoH to create awareness of this policy shift through printing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials (190,000 posters, 1,610,000 leaflets, 1,398,000 vaccination cards) as well dissemination of social media messages in Turkish and Arabic. By end of 2020 a total of **81,341 refugee children (0-11 months)**¹⁷ have been vaccinated with DTP3¹⁸ vaccine. UNICEF support continues to be instrumental in monitoring, communication, and advocacy to ensuring uninterrupted vaccine services, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With UNICEF support, a total of 20 training modules related to Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) have been updated and adapted for online delivery by MOH. These training modules are being used for capacity development and training of both Turkish and Syrian health professionals and this training programme will continue in 2021. In addition, UNICEF supported MoH in preparation of new training modules for healthcare professionals, related to implementation of the new regulation on special health reporting (COZGER) related to children with disability/developmental delays. UNICEF supported production and dissemination of 110,000 posters and seven social media messaging packages, in Turkish and Arabic languages, on the national breast-feeding promotion campaign¹⁹ carried out by the MoH in October 2020.

Under community-based child protection services, UNICEF partners continued providing counselling on basic health services including hygiene, disability, nutrition services since the beginning of the year. Beneficiaries that needed specialized health services were referred to hospitals and followed up. Due to COVID19 pandemic, the demand after March 2020 highly increased and from March to December 2020, **76,372 individuals (43,283 children)** were reached with health, nutrition and disability services.

Media & Communications

UNICEF Turkey produced a range of media content to highlight UNICEF’s humanitarian response in Turkey, including: a video showcasing [UNICEF humanitarian response in Edirne](#), a [video](#) and [four human interest stories](#) highlighting the positive impact of the CTE programme on the beneficiaries, [two human interest stories](#) showcasing the Support for School Enrolment (SSE) programme, a [video](#) was highlighting the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) interventions and [three videos](#) on the Syrian Volunteer Education Personnel ([SVEP](#)) programme. In addition, a [video](#) was also produced on the ALP programme as part of UNICEF Turkey’s contribution to the global campaign “Champions for children”.

UNICEF Turkey also implemented [#IChooseEducation](#) social media campaign in three languages to raise awareness in EU countries on the ECHO-funded CTE programme. The campaign reached more than 24 million citizens in six EU member states.

¹⁷ MoH data from November 2020.

¹⁸ DTP3 (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)

¹⁹ A Breast-feeding promotion week took place between 1 – 7 October 2020, coinciding with the Global Breast-feeding promotion campaign

Next SitRep: 31 March 2021

UNICEF Turkey: <https://www.unicef.org/turkey/en>

UNICEF Syrian Refugees Humanitarian Action for Children: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/syrianrefugees.html>

Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP): <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>

No Lost Generation (NLG) Initiative: <https://www.nolostgeneration.org/>

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Summary of Programme

Sector	Sector Response			UNICEF and IPs		
	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲ ▼	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲ ▼
Education						
# of children enrolled in formal education (pre-primary-grade 12)	750,000	768,839	▲ 83,920	750,000	768,839 ¹	▲ 83,920
# of refugee children benefiting from the conditional cash transfer for education	550,000	671,343 ²	▲ 42,487	550,000	668,900 ³	▲ 40,044
# of (5-17 year, girls/boys) children receiving support (including case-based support) for enrolment to all forms of education	63,550	141,782 ⁴	▲ 27,642	51,100	76,845 ⁵	▲ 20,254
# of children (3-5 years) enrolled in ECCE and pre-primary education	60,120	58,165	▲ 6,710	60,000	57,756 ⁶	▲ 6,618
# of children enrolled in accredited non-formal education	60,680	13,273 ⁷	▲ 3,964	25,500	10,744 ⁸	▲ 3,374
# of teachers and other education personnel trained	35,427	196,786	▲ 196,063	23,750	196,786 ⁹	▲ 196,063
# of Syrian teachers and other education personnel receiving incentives	12,500	12,246	0	12,500	12,246 ¹⁰	0
Child Protection						
# of children assessed for protection needs	181,250*	128,700	N/A	120,000	91,222 ¹	▲ 22,923
# of children participating in structured, sustained psychosocial support programmes	76,165	80,562	N/A	70,000	72,976 ²	▲ 22,363
# of individuals reached through community based GBV prevention and mitigation programmes	93,720	179,370	N/A	40,000	20,102 ³	▲ 12,669
Adolescents & Youth¹						
# of Syrian and Turkish adolescents and youth engaged in empowerment programmes	7,250	6,861 ¹	▲ 1,374	7,250 ¹	6,861 ¹	▲ 1,374
# of Syrian and Turkish adolescents and youth benefitting from community-based social cohesion activities	N/A	N/A	N/A	40,000	324,023 ²	▲ 217,065
Basic Needs						
# of persons benefitting from cash-based interventions (including winter support)	2,010,100	N/A	N/A	60,000	13,388 ¹	0
Health						
# of children (0-12 mos.) receiving routine vaccinations (DTP3)	100,000	81,341	▲ 24,094	100,000	81,341 ¹	▲ 24,094
* Results are cumulative January-December 2020. Sector results for some indicators are not yet available.						
EDUCATION 1: 376,812 girls and 392,027 boys. Official MoNE statistics from November 2020. *Sector target aligned with 3RP.						
EDUCATION 2: Sector results include all conditional and non-conditional cash grants for education of children.						
EDUCATION 3: 332,184 girls and 336,716 boys. Overachievement 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.						
EDUCATION 4: In 2020, overachievement can be attributed to the modification and adaptation of referral and support modalities from traditional household visits to phone visits due to Covid-19 allowing for greater reach. Some partners expanded their outreach team capacity to meet the needs and demands during Covid-19. During this time, the outreach teams undertook household visits for Covid-19 activities, but also conducted education assessments, thereby expanding the reach of children receiving support to enrol in education services.						
EDUCATION 5: 37,572 girls, 39,269 boys and 4 non-binary. After commencement of new academic year in Sep 2020; both UNICEF and sector partners expanded the outreach activities considerably resulting in substantial achievement.						
EDUCATION 6: 28,706 girls and 29,050 boys. The result includes children enrolled in formal, community- and home-based ECE.						
EDUCATION 7: Significant underachievement can be attributed to extended school closures in Turkey due to Covid-19						
EDUCATION 8: 5,486 girls and 5,258 boys. Lower result achieved against the overall target due to Covid-19 outbreak and disruption in availability of accredited non-formal education programs						
EDUCATION 9: 114,136 female, 82,650 male. The change in the training modality from face to face to online training helped overachievement in terms of numbers. These trainings aimed to improve teacher's capacity in online teaching.						
EDUCATION 10: 6,515 female, 5,731 male This represents the highest number of education personnel supported in 2020; the number supported in September was 12,176 (6,481 women, 5,695 men)						

CHILD PROTECTION 1: 44,830 girls, 46,384 boys, 8 non-binaries.
CHILD PROTECTION 2: 38,553 girls, 34,418 boys, 5 non-binaries.
CHILD PROTECTION 3: 13,452 female, 6,650 male. Due to COVID-19 pandemic all community-based activities were postponed, therefore progress on indicator has been under-achieved
ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH 1: Due to the multi-sectoral nature of Adolescents & Youth programming and because it is not reflected as a separate sector in the 3RP, UNICEF targets/results are reported differently against the HAC and 3RP.
ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH 2: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, face to face engagement opportunities were replaced by online activities. This modality provided additional opportunities for adolescent/youth to be engaged, hence the significant overachievement on this result.
BASIC NEEDS 1: Low achievement on this indicator is due to limited availability of funding for the UNICEF's seasonal (winter) cash-based assistance programme as well as high inclusion of vulnerable Syrian refugee families into the ESSN cash-assistance programme, implemented by TRC and IFRC, which reduced the need for complementary programming.
HEALTH 1: Data reported by Ministry of Health as of December 2020.

Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Education	184,638,010	109,756,613	10,066,124	64,815,273	35%
Child Protection**	40,740,000	31,274,869	3,515,876	5,949,255	15%
Basic Needs	3,000,000	2,158,984	378,682	462,334	15%
Health	1,000,000	334,400	80,079	585,521	59%
Total	229,378,010	143,524,866	14,040,761	71,812,383	31%

* As defined in the 2020 3RP Appeal for a period of 12 months.

** The budget for Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP) is included within Child Protection, in line with the 2020 3RP.