



Reporting Period: 1 January to 31 March 2021

# Libya Country Office

## Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1

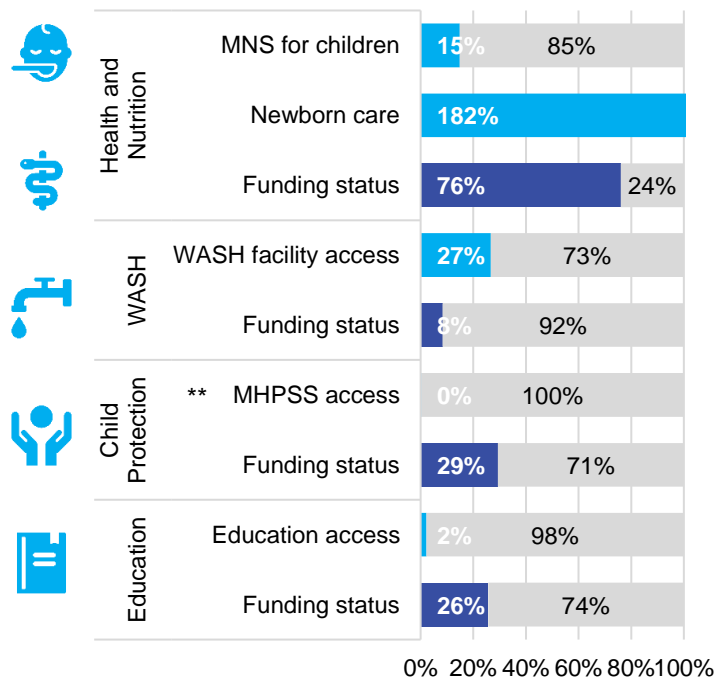
### Highlights

- In February, a new interim government, the Government of National Unity (GNU), was elected with the hope to unify institutions that were long divided, achieve national reconciliation and prepare for elections at the end of 2021.
- The aftermath of the conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the provision of basic services. In the first quarter of 2021, UNICEF, together with the partners, provided access to primary healthcare for 215,185 children and women. 5,258 people had improved access to safe drinking water, and 4,112 children had access to improved learning facilities.
- UNICEF Libya's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal for 2021 called for US\$ 49.1 million to reach 468,000 children across Libya. The UNICEF humanitarian response remains underfunded, with a funding gap of approximately US\$ 36.3 million (almost 74 per cent).

### Situation in Numbers

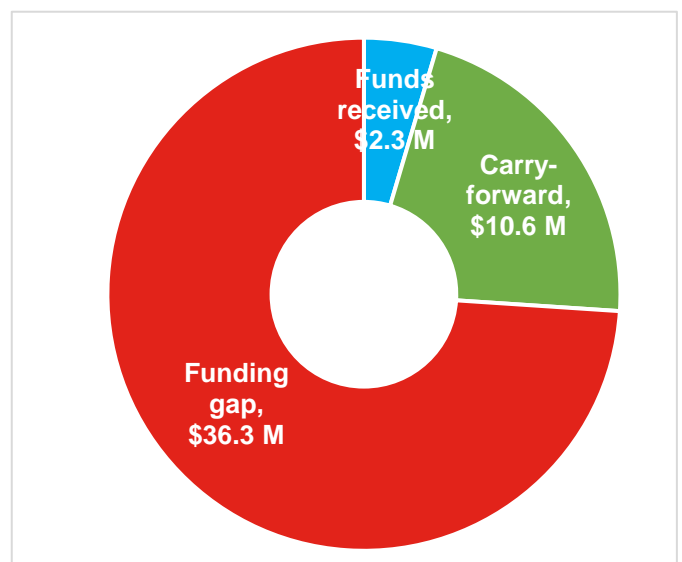
- 468,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance
- 1,251,000** people in need (OCHA 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview)
- 278,177** internally displaced people (IDPs)
- 571,464** registered migrants in the country (IOM Libya Monthly Update March 2021)

### UNICEF's Response and Funding Status 2021



### UNICEF Appeal 2021

#### US\$ 49.1 million



\*Funding available includes funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.

\*\* Result is 836 children reached this quarter

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF's humanitarian programmes in Libya aim to assist the most vulnerable children and families in collaboration with government ministries, 11 national and international non-governmental organizations and the UN agencies. In 2021, UNICEF is appealing for US\$ 49.1 million to provide emergency and life-saving services to the 468,000 children vulnerable children, including conflict-affected children and their families, migrants, and refugees. As of March 2021, the appeal had a critical funding gap of almost 74 per cent or US\$ 36.3 million, across all sectors. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and social protection are the most underfunded sectors, with funding gaps of over 90 per cent, while education and child protection are currently underfunded by around 70 per cent each.

In 2021, the Education Cannot Wait Fund, the Governments of Italy, Japan, Poland, Sweden, and the United States of America have generously contributed to UNICEF's humanitarian preparedness and response for Libya with funds carried over from Education Cannot Wait Fund, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland and United States of America from 2020. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all donors for the valuable contributions received.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As a continuing result of the peace talks and efforts in Libya, supported by the United Nations Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), elections took place in January 2021 to select a new interim unified executive authority to lead the country to the elections for the permanent authority in December 2021. In February, a new interim government, the Government of National Unity (GNU), was elected to represent all regions of Libya, in the hope to unify institutions that were long divided in the past and achieve national reconciliation, approved by parliament in March 2021. However, while subsequent negotiations and agreements seem to point towards stability after a decade of military conflict and political strife, the situation remains unpredictable, with risks linked to the complex roots of competing national and international interests affecting the country's underlying political and economic context. This fragile context, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and socioeconomic issues, impacted the physical and mental well-being and living standards of people in Libya, especially for children. For 2021, it is estimated that 271,000 children will need protection services including mental health and psychosocial support<sup>1</sup>.

The post-impact of the armed conflict and the deteriorated basic services left water and sanitation in a dire situation, that may lead up to the shortage of water for four million people if solutions are not made<sup>2</sup>. Previous attacks on the Man-Made River<sup>3</sup> rendered 190 wells out of service, and the deterioration faced by the desalination plants and general authority for water resources are adding additional pressure on the sector. For 2021, it is estimated that 175,200 children need WASH assistance<sup>4</sup>. Health services have also been steadily deteriorating due to damage from the conflict, and lack of supplies, equipment and staff. Especially in the south, additional issues are due to a lack of specialized healthcare workers. Since the first COVID-19 case was confirmed on 24 March 2020, the number has increased to over 133,000 cases by 31 March 2021<sup>5</sup>. In 2021, 480,000 children will require health service support<sup>6</sup>.

Schools officially reopened between January and February 2021, after their closure since mid-2020. However, with the unpredictability of the situation, the need for distance learning education has increased and new online modalities need to be adapted. For 2021, it is estimated that around 316,000 school children require education support<sup>7</sup>.

In their attempt to reach Europe, migrants and refugees choose Libya as the main access port, while many others choose to remain in Libya as the destination country. During the first quarter of 2021, the Libyan Coast Guard returned 5,904 migrants (273 children, 413 women) to Libya, where most of the migrants, including children, were placed in arbitrary detention<sup>8</sup>. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the increase in departing migrants may be due to warmer weather, increased smuggler activity, and difficult living conditions. As of February 2021, an estimated 575,874 migrants are residing in Libya, of which nine percent are children (an estimated 51,829 children)<sup>9</sup> and an estimated 11,517 children are unaccompanied or separated (UASC)<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Humanitarian Response Plan 2021

<sup>2</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/over-4-million-people-including-15-million-children-are-about-face-imminent-water>

<sup>3</sup> The Man-Made River is a 4,000 km (2,485 mile) pipeline system that provides Libya with more than 70 per cent of its fresh water

<sup>4</sup> Humanitarian Response Plan 2021

<sup>5</sup> The Ministry of Health and National Center for Disease Control

<sup>6</sup> Humanitarian Response Plan 2021

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health

During the first quarter of 2021, UNICEF's health programme reached approximately 215,185 people (60,576 girls, 58,310 boys, 96,299 women) and 12,370 new-borns (6,310 girls, 6,060 boys) with healthcare. Maternal, new-born, and child health (MNCH) and lifesaving packages improved primary healthcare access for approximately 18,480 children and women (3,771 girls, 3,620 boys, 11,089 women) in the health facilities of Tripoli, and Bani Walid in the West, and Sebha in the South. Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) were also provided to health facilities across all regions of the country, sufficient to cover the needs of 196,705 children and women (56,805 girls, 54,690 boys, 85,210 women).

As part of UNICEF's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) was provided to the Sebha and Surman isolation centres, benefiting 600 health care workers for 3 months, in addition to 10 oxygen concentrators for COVID-19 patients. PPEs were also provided to the Libyan Association for Care of Children with Down Syndrome in Tripoli, benefiting 90 staff for 3 months. IEHKs containing essential medical equipment and medications were distributed to the Tripoli, Wadi Etba, Surman, Mitiga, Sebha, Kabaw, Ghat, and Aljufra isolation and triage centres benefiting approximately 90,000 COVID-19 patients.

UNICEF participated in meetings with the Scientific Consultancy Committee for Combatting the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), to provide technical assistance for the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine through the establishment of national coordination mechanism and taskforces. Cold chain inventory analysis was carried out to evaluate the availability and functioning of cold chain equipment in all 430 vaccination sites that were assigned for the administration of the vaccine. In coordination with the MoH and NCDC, COVID-19 vaccine related supplies and equipment, including cold rooms, vaccine carriers, vaccination fridges and cold boxes, were procured for the safe management of the vaccine.

In preparation for the COVID-19 vaccine's arrival next quarter, UNICEF, in coordination with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and WHO, conducted a training in Tripoli for 90 vaccine supervisors from across the country. The vaccine supervisors received tablets during the training to collect and manage data. Additionally, 1,000 copies of the COVID-19 vaccine technical guide were distributed during the training. UNICEF also supported the training by the Primary Health Care vaccine supervisors for the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine, that reached 211 vaccinators and health staff in Tripoli. Furthermore, various infection prevention and control (IPC) training workshops were conducted targeting 129 health care workers (103 women, 26 men) from each primary healthcare centre (PHC) in municipalities in the western and eastern regions.

During the reporting period, UNICEF, in cooperation with the Health Information Centre at the Ministry of Health, conducted District Health Information System (DHIS2) training workshops targeting 141 health facilities' statistics focal points (51 women, 90 men) in the municipalities of Benghazi, Albeyda, Tobruk, Emsaed, in the east and Murzuq, Sebha and Algatroun in the south.

As part the MNCH programme strengthening, UNICEF in coordination with the PHCI, conducted training workshops on the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) for 16 health staff master trainers (12 women 4 men), who will then conduct cascade training in their designated primary healthcare facilities.

### Nutrition

During the first quarter of 2021, UNICEF, in coordination with the Primary Healthcare Institute (PHCI), distributed nutrition packages to the primary healthcare centres in Tripoli, Bani Walid, Misrata, and Sebha, benefiting 3,787 children (1,920 girls, 1,867 boys) aged 6-59 months, and 2,004 pregnant and lactating women. In coordination with the Libyan Red Crescent Society and in response to Alkufra's migrant emergency situation, UNICEF dispatched 50 cartons of high energy and protein biscuits, and 150 cartons of emergency food rations to 347 migrants. Additionally, in collaboration with our partner, 1,212 adolescents (980 girls, 232 boys) received micro-nutrient supplements in Misrata and Tripoli.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Monthly Update - March 2021, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Libya

<sup>9</sup> Migrant Report 35 (January to February 2021), IOM-DTM

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

## Child Protection

UNICEF and its partners reached 836 children (424 girls, 412 boys) and 354 adults (including 114 women) with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, carried through static centres i.e. Bayti Centres<sup>11</sup>, mobile outreach teams and remotely, in Misrata, Sebha, Tripoli and Zvara. From these, 22 children (girls and boys) were referred to child protection case management and specialized services mainly in the Tripoli area.

Also, 999 people including 580 children (300 girls, 280 boys) and 419 women accessed GBV prevention and response interventions, through the women and girls' safe spaces, GBV risk reduction/awareness raising sessions and focused group activities in Misrata, Tripoli, Benghazi, and Sebha. Parents showed a strong interest in the discussions. Out of the total 999 beneficiaries, 68 children and adolescents benefitted from services, such as behavioural therapy.

UNICEF is also accelerating its work with local civil society partners on strengthening community-based child protection and GBV mechanisms, including strengthening referrals to services such as mental health support. 57 local child protection stakeholders (49 women, 8 men), mainly comprised of community committees' members, were trained on child protection risks, and its safe identification and referrals by UNICEF partners.

In comparison to the previous quarter, there was a decrease in the number of children and women accessing MHPSS services through the Bayti Centres and in child victims/survivors of violence provided with case management and specialized services. In fact, 836 were reached with the former and 22 with the latter services during the reporting period. Partnerships are also being renewed with explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) partners, and EORE activities are urgently being planned given vast areas of hazardous locations identified after the completion of non-technical surveys during this year's first quarter, particularly in the greater Tripoli areas severely affected by the conflict in 2020.

## Education

In the first quarter of 2021, UNICEF and implementing partners across all regions of Libya reached 3,174 host-community, internally displaced, and migrant children (1,835 girls, 1,339 boys) through non-formal education programmes, including early learning. Remedial and catch-up classes used a blended in-person and online approaches to ensure all children's access to education and continued learning during school closure. Individual learning materials were distributed to 116,838 children (59,662 girls, 57,176 boys). UNICEF also supported the enrolment of 20 migrant and refugee children (6 girls, 14 boys) and four young adults (2 women, 2 men) in national schools in Tripoli and Aljara, some of whom were referred to UNICEF by the non-formal education programme they were enrolled in. These children were from Sudan and Palestine, with an age range between six and 25.

UNICEF continued capacity building activities, reaching 204 teachers (111 women, 93 men) trained on education in emergency, distance education and child centred pedagogy. Extensive meetings and discussion were held in Q1 with the ministry, in preparation for a training of trainers (ToT) for 400 trainers from the MoE expected to start in the second quarter.

UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Education in the back-to-school campaign "We Protect Our Children and Teach Them". During the reporting period, 30 billboards were installed across Tripoli, Misrata, Benghazi, Sebha, Sabratha and Zliten and 25,000 posters were distributed to schools across the country. A training was conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Education on the "Epidemiological Reopening of Schools Framework", where over 50 health officers from the municipalities of the western, southern and central regions attended the two-day workshop. The same training was recorded and shared with over 300 participants from across country. UNICEF also continues to support the safe re-opening of schools. In March 2021, 3,960 packs of masks, 1,248 thermometers and 11,505 liters of hand sanitizers were provided to the Ministry of Education branch in the eastern region in addition to the support on IPC protocols to 12 schools through our partners.

UNICEF rehabilitated seven schools, reaching 4,112 children (2,067 girls, 2,045 boys) in Tripoli, Albeyda, Ghat, Obari and Sebha. Particular focus was placed on the rehabilitation of WASH facilities as well as accessibility for children with special needs.

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<sup>11</sup> Bayti Centres are community centres that promote an integrated child protection-education approach to services for vulnerable children.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

During the first quarter of 2021, UNICEF provided safe drinking water to 5,258 people (536 girls, 510 boys, 1,494 women, 2,718 men) through various activities included below. Maintenance work for the water truck to ensure adequate water supplies was carried out in the Alhelis camp for internally displaced people (IDP) and three water pumps were installed at the Alhilar IDP camp, both in Benghazi, benefiting 1,515 people (273 girls, 260 boys, 569 women, 413 men). Access to safe drinking water was also improved in the Alakademia IDP camp in Janzour, through the installation of a water treatment unit, reaching 2,243 people (256 girls, 244 boys, 900 women, 843 men). In collaboration with our partner, the WASH facilities of the Bin Khaldoun healthcare clinic in Janzour and Tamen Hant healthcare clinic in Sebha, were rehabilitated for 8,000 people (1,999 girls, 1,920 boys, 2,081 women, 2,000 men).

UNICEF provided critical WASH items to 31,498 people (10,938 girls, 10,583 boys, 5,064 women, 4,904 men). Hygiene materials were provided in the Souq Alahad, As Sayeh and Tarhouna IDPs camps benefitting 1,078 IDPs (412 children, 358 women, 308 men). Also, 20,000 soap bars were provided to the Ministry of Education to ensure a safe learning environment in the schools in Benghazi.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF continues to participate in the Humanitarian Country Team to coordinate the multi-sectoral emergency preparedness and response in Libya. To strengthen the linkages between humanitarian action and development programming in Libya, UNICEF continues to prioritize its coordination role and support for capacity building for all partners, including local authorities and municipalities. UNICEF's overall humanitarian strategy remains aligned with the Humanitarian Needs Overview, Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children within the framework of the Core Commitment for Children in humanitarian action, Sectors and Sub-Sectors priorities. UNICEF continued to lead the WASH and Education Sectors, and Child Protection sub-Sector.

The WASH Sector regularly coordinated humanitarian and COVID-19 response in the country, conducting three meetings this quarter and revising its strategic operational framework for sector partner's guidance. Sub-national sectoral presence is being established in the southern (Sebha) and eastern (Benghazi) parts of country, which will strengthen the humanitarian WASH response throughout the country. Trainings for sector partners and WASH assessment are planned for the next quarters. The WASH Sector workplan is being revised and inputs were provided to the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) timeline for 2021.

The Education Sector conducted three monthly virtual coordination meetings which provided a discussion platform for sector members to share issues, education needs and progress on the harmonized response actions. In addition to preparing the sector workplan for 2021, input was provided to the intersectoral coordination meetings and the Humanitarian Programme Cycle timeline for 2021 was finalized. In addition, the Education Sector Strategy 2021 was drafted by all members.

A new coordinator joined the Child Protection sub-Sector (CPSS) and four meetings were conducted including ad-hoc meetings to discuss specific issues related to the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) and Child Protection Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) reporting. Work was jointly carried out with the Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility – Arabic Helpdesk to identify and nominate frontline child protection staff from both national and international organizations to participate in a Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS) training in April 2021. Focus will also be on nationalization/localization of partners with emphasis on capacity building interventions. The CPSS coordinator also participated in the monthly GBV sub-Sector meetings, as well as the GBV information management system and case management working group.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

### Press Releases and Updates

Press releases:

[UNICEF Welcomes the Phased Reopening of Schools in Libya](#)

[Over 4 million people, including 1.5 million children are about to face imminent water shortage in Libya](#)

[The European Union supports COVID-19 pandemic response in Libya](#)

[The People of Japan continues to support the education and child protection services of children in Libya during the COVID-19 pandemic and on-going conflict.](#)

Statements:

<https://bit.ly/3enR5EL>

<https://bit.ly/2RMI4hY>

<https://bit.ly/32CsA19>

<https://bit.ly/3er7J6i>

Audio-visual and Multimedia

[UNICEF commemorating the International Women's Day with women and girls in Libya](#)

[UNICEF Commemorating the International Women's Day with Women and Girls in Libya](#)

[Actor Fathi Badir shares advises on how to stay safe & prevent the spread of COVID-19](#)

External Media:

[CGTN Africa](#) [Xinhua](#) [Libyan Express](#) [Libya Observer](#) [MENA FN](#) [The Libyan Address](#) [Xinhua](#) [Libya Channel](#) [Libya Observer](#) [The Manila Times](#)

Next SitRep: 31 July 2021

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## Summary of Programme Results

Sector		Total needs	UNICEF and IPs Response <sup>12</sup>			Cluster/Sector Response		
			2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼
Indicator   Disaggregation								
<b>Health</b>								
# of children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities (M/F)	girls		120,000	60,576	▲ 215,185			
	boys			58,310				
	women			96,299				
# of new-borns receiving essential lifesaving care	girls		6,800	6,310	▲ 12,370			
	boys			6,060				
# of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control	women		500	103	▲ 129			
	men			26				
<b>Nutrition</b>								
# of children aged 6 to 59 months receiving MNPs (M/F)	girls		25,500	1,920	▲ 3,787			
	boys			1,867				
# of Pregnant and Lactating Women who have receive micro-nutrient supplements and emergency nutrition services	women		13,600	2,004	▲ 2,004			
# primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling			40,000	0	0			
<b>Child Protection</b>								
# of children accessing mental health and psychosocial support (M/F)	girls	271,000	266,990	424	▲ 836	63,660	1,958	▲ 1,958
	boys			412				
# of women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions (M/F)	girls		27,000	300	▲ 999		1,049	▲ 1,049
	boys			280				
	women			419				
# of girls and boys referred specialized CP services	girls	35,000	34,900	7	▲ 22	63,000	39	▲ 39
	boys			15				
# of children accessing mine/explosive weapons risk education (M/F)		505,486	451,196	0	0	67,290	0	▲ 0
# of actors from service providers and/or institutions trained on CP approaches (M/F)	women	5,000	4,840	49	▲ 57	827	57	▲ 57
	men			6				
<b>Education</b>								
# of children accessing formal/non-formal education, including early learning (M/F)	girls	392,000	143,159	1,835	▲ 3,174	65,091	4,042	▲ 4,042
	boys			1,339				
	girls	152,000	148,060	59,662	▲ 116,838	43,940	116,838	▲ 116,838

<sup>12</sup> Part of the results were achieved using non-emergency (SC) and COVID-19 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal

# of children receiving individual learning materials	boys			57,176				
# of school-aged children accessing rehabilitated and repaired educational facilities/prefabricated classrooms	girls	50,000	31,060	2,067	▲4,112	10,940	4,112	▲4,112
	boys			2,045				
# of teachers and educational personnel trained on child protection and improved teaching methods	women	5,000	9,336	111	▲204	870	204	▲204
	men			93				
# schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)		326,000	852	12	▲12	130,100	12	▲12
<b>WASH</b>								
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene (M/F)	girls	437,962	70,000	536	▲5,258	70,000	5,258	▲5,258
	boys			510				
	women			1,494				
	men			2,718				
# of people accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities, safe spaces and health care facilities	girls	170,000	30,000	1,999	▲8,000	67,140	31,304	▲31,304
	boys			1,920				
	women			2,081				
	men			2,000				
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	girls	437,962	150,000	10,938	▲31,498	87,400	48,155	▲48,155
	boys			10,583				
	women			5,064				
	men			4,904				
# of people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes		437,962	50,000	0	0	80,000	0	0

\* Change since last report.



## Annex B

### Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2021	Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	\$	%
Health and Nutrition	\$4,692,000	\$540,000	\$3,028,062	\$1,123,938	23.95%
Child Protection	\$12,664,800	\$1,290,628	\$2,429,732	\$8,944,440	70.62%
Education	\$12,090,600	\$231,356	\$2,879,735	\$8,979,509	74.27%
WASH	\$12,617,280	\$188,016	\$861,067	\$11,568,197	91.69%
Social Protection	\$3,600,000	-	\$263,809	\$3,336,191	92.67%
Communication	\$2,880,000	-	\$941,682	\$1,938,318	67.30%
Cluster Coordination	\$600,000	-	\$148,599	\$451,401	75.23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49,144,680</b>	<b>\$2,250,000</b>	<b>\$10,552,687</b>	<b>\$36,341,993</b>	<b>73.95%</b>