

January to May 2023

# WHOLE OF SYRIA

## Child Protection Response

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**14.2 million**  
People in need



**6 million**  
Children in need



**71%**  
Communities that report early marriage



**84%**  
Communities that report children are working



**2,271**  
Grave violations against children in 2021



**10.2 million**  
People at risk from explosive contamination

## SITUATION

From March 2011 to December 2021, **22,375 cases of grave violations have been verified along with 1,899 related violations of concern by all parties to the conflict.** While active conflict in Syria has significantly receded, it remains a very real threat for children living in north-west (NW) and north-east (NE) Syria. Other key concerns include:



Girls and boys of all ages are affected by **violence at homes, schools and their communities:** Family violence figures indicate a high prevalence for girls 12-17 years (47 per cent), boys 12-17 years (44 per cent), boys below 12 (45 per cent) and girls below 12 (44 per cent).



**Child labour** is a concern in 84 per cent of assessed communities, with boys more likely to be involved in hazardous forms of labour and girls in domestic work.



**Child marriage** was reported in 71 per cent of assessed communities.



Tens of thousands of **children of Third Country Nationals (TCNs)** including unaccompanied children are stranded in camps or detention centres in NE Syria in need of repatriation and reintegration.



Children deprived of their liberty or **in conflict with the law** is a significant issue; child-friendly and gender-sensitive justice procedures anchored in community-based solutions are needed.

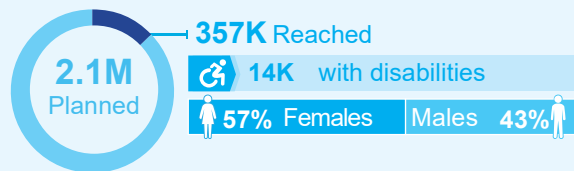


The lack of **birth registration and civil documentation** limits access to assistance and services provided by authorities, as expressed 76 per cent of communities.

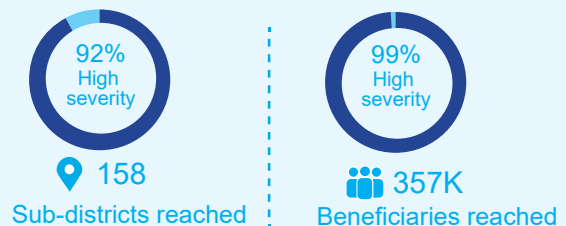
1 OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2022.



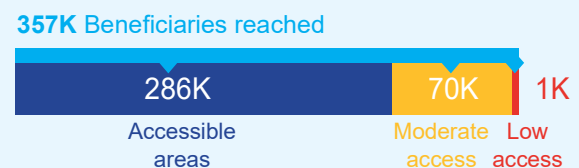
### Beneficiaries



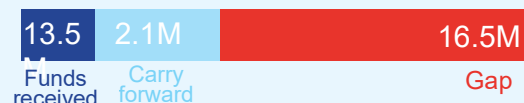
### Child protection reach by severity



### Child protection reach by access quality



### Funding status (\$) **32.1M REQUIRED**



# RESPONSE

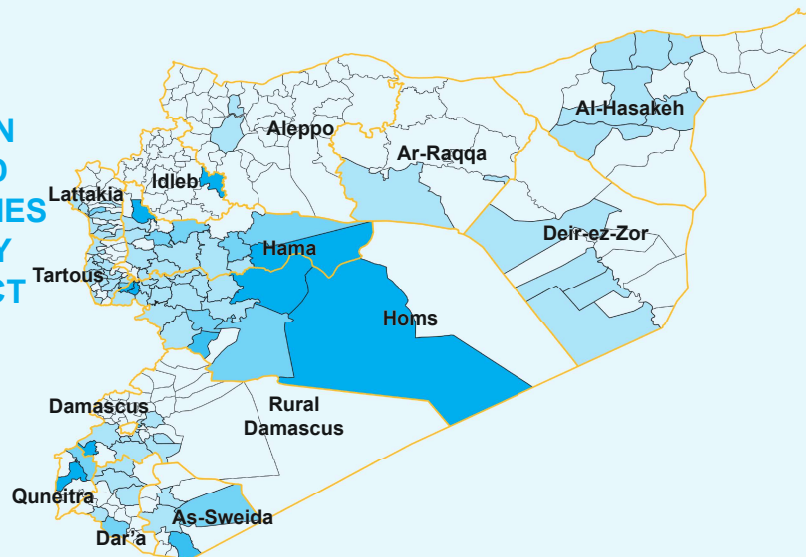
- 1 Universal Prevention** will tackle the behavioural, social and cultural determinants of child protection violations at scale with the aim of addressing harmful social and gender norms. This will include delivering an integrated package of mental health psychosocial support, violence prevention, including gender-based violence (GBV), parenting and explosive ordnance risk education. The package will be delivered through the school and health systems and other multi-service platforms to improve coverage and mainstream child protection in existing systems and community platforms
- 2 Leaving No One Behind:** UNICEF will ensure adherence to international commitments, especially on critical issues that require strengthening laws and policies for vital areas, such as grave violations or abuse and exploitation against children. The programme will link emergency response with systems strengthening. Overall, strengthening protection system at local level and multi-sectoral and integrated approaches are essential for Syria to provide preventive, responsive and promotive critical social services at scale through strengthening social workforce and case management to address children's and communities' needs and vulnerabilities through enhancing their resilience while also promoting social cohesion, strengthening the protection of children's rights and building on local systems for recovery.

- 3 Prevention of recurrence of grave violations against children:** Children experiencing grave violations will receive services aimed at saving lives, alleviating suffering and effectively addressing child protection issues in humanitarian settings. Special attention will be given to children deprived of parental care and unaccompanied and separated children whether third country national or Syrian. An urgent humanitarian priority will be working with state and non-state armed actors to bring grave violations to a halt. Tackling the issue of children affiliated/ associated with armed groups/forces requires the development of a contextualized reintegration programme for children under the Government of Syria, NE Syria and NW Syria.



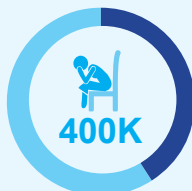
## PROPORTION OF PLANNED BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY SUB-DISTRICT

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and designations used, on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



## KEY RESULTS 2023

Planned  
Reach



Girls and boys engaged in structured and sustained psychosocial support



Women and men engaged in structured and sustained parenting programmes



People reached with explosive hazards risk education



Girls and boys benefiting from case management



People reached by GBV prevention or empowerment activities