

January to December 2023

WHOLE OF SYRIA

Social Protection Response

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90%
People living in poverty



24%
People living with disabilities



144%
Food price inflation



70%
Children with disabilities out of school

SITUATION

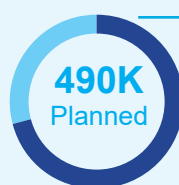
Economic crisis and widespread poverty. Syria is witnessing its worst economic crisis in recent history. The economy has shrunk to less than half of its 2011 level. By mid-2022, the national currency lost more than 90 per cent of its value against the US Dollar. The economic collapse has resulted in increased hardship for many Syrian families, who face devastating price hikes, limited access to basic social services, fuel shortages, increased poverty and unemployment. Ninety per cent of people now live in poverty, compared to about 25 per cent pre-crisis.

Breakdown of national social protection programmes. The conflict has been accompanied by significant downscaling in government social spending. This has led to the complete breakdown of critical national social protection programmes, including the pre-conflict programme for people with disabilities. This situation has left many families unable to provide for the basic needs of their children, in particular families caring for children with severe disabilities and families headed by women or taking care of orphaned children. To cope with the economic hardship, families are increasingly adopting harmful coping mechanisms, often directly impacting children. Twenty-eight per cent of families now adopt 'crisis' or 'emergency' food related coping strategies. This can mean withdrawing children from school to work, selling property, migrating due to lack of food and early child marriage.

High level of exclusion and vulnerability among children with disabilities. As the humanitarian and overall socio-economic situation continues to deteriorate, children with severe disabilities, particularly severe mental and physical disabilities, are increasingly suffering from social exclusion. They are more likely to be poor and have more difficulties in accessing services. For example, UNICEF surveys indicate that about 70 per cent of children with severe forms of disabilities are out of school. In addition, they are often discriminated against and face greater risks of abuse, harassment and violence.



Beneficiaries

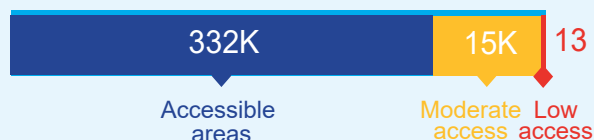


50% Females | Males 50%

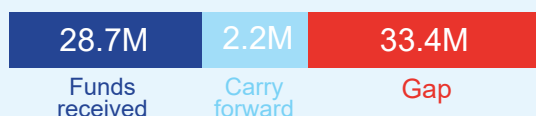


Social Protection reach by access quality

347K Beneficiaries reached



Funding status (\$) **64.3M REQUIRED**



1 Poverty and Inequality in Syria (1997–2007)", UNDP; OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021, March 2021.

RESPONSE

To address this situation, UNICEF is supporting two humanitarian social protection interventions: (i) the Integrated Social Protection Programme for Children with Disabilities; and (ii) the Basic Needs Support Programme:

1 Integrated Social Protection Programme for Children with Disabilities: It is the largest social protection scheme for children with disabilities in Syria. The programme combines regular and unconditional cash transfers (US\$ 40 per month, paid quarterly) with case management services to facilitate the referral of children to available social services and increase their social inclusion. The programme is implemented in Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Deir-ez-zor, Hama, Homs and Rural Damascus governorates.

The integrated response through cash transfers and case management is a lifeline for children with disabilities. Rigorous monitoring of the programme continues to show its strong positive impact on increasing access to essential services for children with disabilities and helping families meet their essential needs.

2 Basic Needs Support Programme. This programme supports families to respond to the essential needs of their children through the provision of unconditional humanitarian cash transfers. The programme focuses on highly vulnerable families, such as female-headed families, in urban and peri-urban areas. It is implemented during the harsh winter months when families face increased expenditures due to the cost of heating and the need to purchase warm clothes for children.

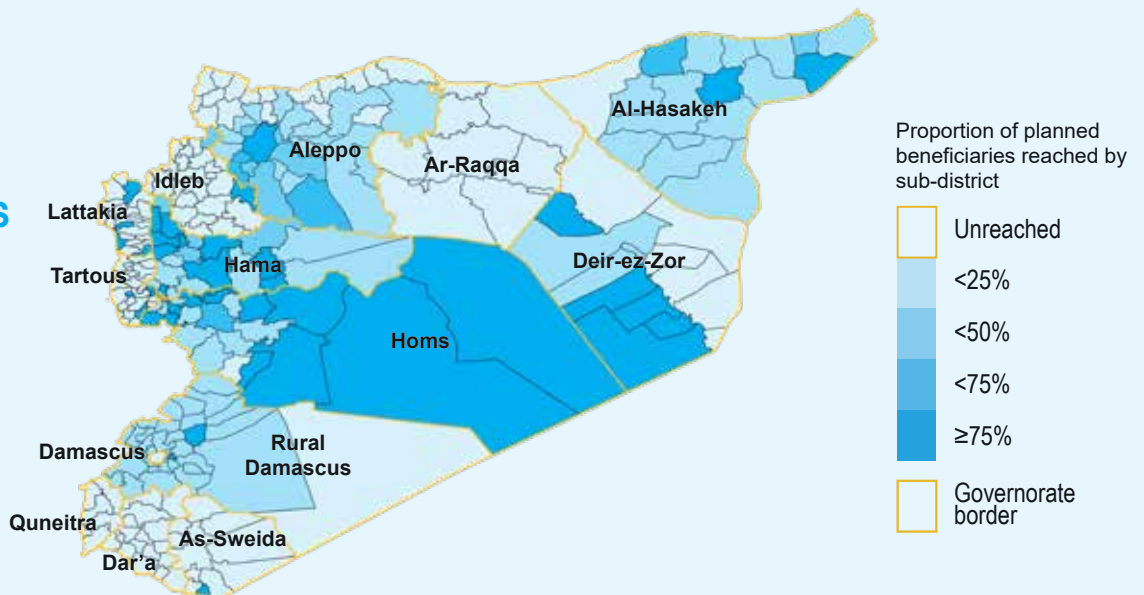


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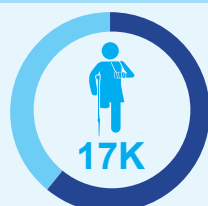
PROPORTION OF PLANNED BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY SUB-DISTRICT

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



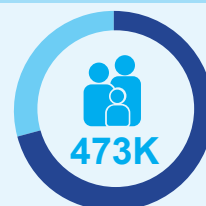
KEY RESULTS 2023

Planned
Reach



10K / 61%

children with disabilities reached with regular cash transfers and case management services



337K / 71%

Individuals reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash