



Reporting Period: 1 January to 31 March 2021

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# UNICEF Syria Crisis Humanitarian Situation Report January – March 2021

## Highlights

The Syrian refugee crisis remains the largest displacement crisis globally, with almost 25 million people in need, of which 32 per cent are children. In addition to the impact of COVID-19 in the refugee hosting countries Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey, Syrian families continue to face reduced access to health care, education as well as to child protection services, resulting in an overall decline in children's well-being. UNICEF continues to support refugees and the host community and as of the end of March 2021:

- In Turkey, 774,257 Syrian children (49 per cent girls) were enrolled in formal education (pre-primary to Grade 12) in Turkish Public Schools.
- Addressing the rising malnutrition numbers during the reporting period in Lebanon, more than 42,000 children under the age of 5 were screened for malnutrition at Primary Health Centres (PHC) in an effort to prevent, detect and manage malnourishment.
- More than 38,000 children and caregivers accessed mental health and psychosocial support, either in-person/school, otherwise online to continue the delivery of the child protection in Jordan.
- In Iraq, 71,660 people were provided with access to a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene.
- In Egypt, a total of 12,232 consultations were provided to refugee children and 2,541 consultations were provided to refugee women in the first quarter of 2021, advocating the continuation of essential health care services, including immunization, growth monitoring as well as antenatal care service.

## Situation in Numbers\*

**6,118,574**

children in need

(Syrian Refugees HAC 2021)

**20,573,280**

people in need

(Syrian Refugees HAC 2021)

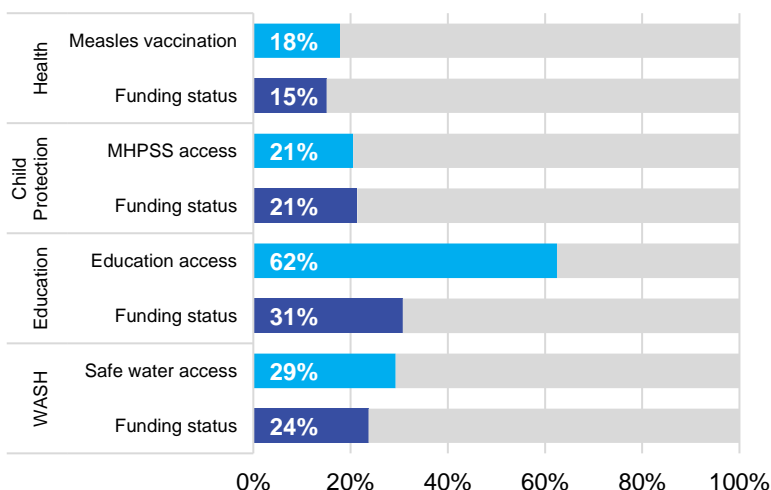
**5,536,679**

# of registered refugees

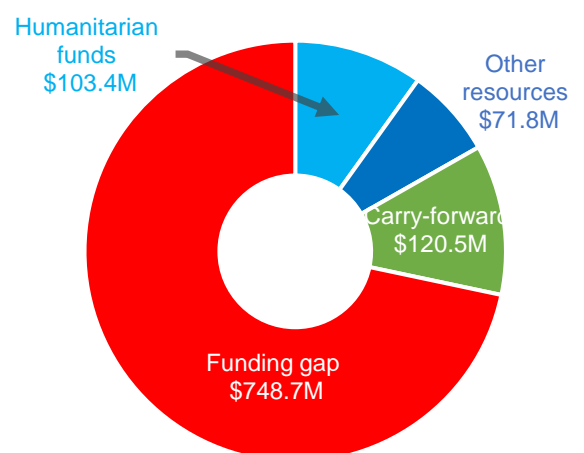
(HNO/UNCHR)

\* numbers reflect actual figures residing in countries at year end

## UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



## Funding Status<sup>1</sup> Total Appeal US\$ 1,044,446,652



<sup>1</sup> Humanitarian Funds are the received funds in 2021; Other resources refers to the Regular and/or Other Regular Resources (RR and ORR)

# TURKEY

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2021, UNICEF requires \$242.8 million to sustain the response to the needs of almost four million refugees and migrants as well as for vulnerable host community families in Turkey. To date, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), and the governments of Germany, Japan, Norway, and the United States of America have generously contributed to UNICEF Turkey's humanitarian response in 2021. UNICEF has received \$118 million in 2021, which together with funding carried forward from 2020 leaves a 41 per cent funding gap. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received. However, it should be noted that over 60 per cent of this funding is provided for the implementation of the Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (CCTE) for 2021 and 2022. Therefore, the real funding gap is significantly higher and additional funding is urgently needed to ensure the continued coverage of essential services for vulnerable children who remain at high risk of school drop-out, exploitation and abuse — particularly in light of the deteriorating COVID-19 situation, which has considerably increased the existing vulnerabilities of the more than 1.8 million refugee children in Turkey.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The situation for more than 3.6 million Syrian refugees, including 1.7 million Syrian children, as well as 320,000 refugees and asylum seekers of other nationalities, of whom at least 140,000 are children<sup>2</sup>, remains challenging and protracted.

Turkey also remains a leading transit country for registered and unregistered refugees and migrants on the move. By end of March 2021, nearly 2,000 people - primarily Afghans and Syrians - successfully crossed by sea and land from Turkey into the EU. More than 29,000 people were rescued or apprehended by Turkish authorities as of the end of March 2021, a downward trend compared to the last year, due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the overall reduced number of people on the move.

In 2020 the Government of Turkey (GoT) had to rapidly mobilize a national health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had profound and far-reaching socio-economic consequences, beyond its immediate health impacts, on already vulnerable groups including refugees. The COVID-19 pandemic had a marked effect on school enrolment, attendance and retention, making it harder for children in Turkey to continue their education - affecting the learning of 19 million children in Turkey, from pre-primary to upper secondary age, including Syrian refugee children registered in the public education system.

More than 400,000 school-aged refugee children are still out-of-school and do not have any access to education opportunities. They are one of the most vulnerable groups in Turkey, facing multiple child protection risks, including psychosocial distress, child labour, child marriage and other forms of exploitation and abuse. The socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, discontinuation of face-to-face learning, lack of interaction with peers and a reported increase in the level of domestic violence are likely to result in reversed learning gains and increased protection risks for vulnerable children, including refugees.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health

UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to ensure access to quality maternal and child health services for the most vulnerable, including supporting the MOH in its COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. UNICEF supports the MoH to tackle vaccine hesitancy through messaging and awareness-raising aimed at promoting the importance of COVID-19 vaccination as well as monitoring and advocating to ensure routine vaccination for refugee children is sustained. During the reporting period, a total of 19,756 under 1-year old refugee and migrant children were vaccinated with diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP-3) through the national 'Expanded Programme on Immunization'. This figure shows a small decrease compared to the results in 2020, indicating that refugees continue to face challenges in accessing routine vaccination services owing to the disruption of services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Child Protection

UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS), local authorities and NGO partners<sup>3</sup> to improve the coverage and quality of child protection systems and services for vulnerable refugee, migrant and Turkish children, and adolescents. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF partners continue 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 the continuity of essential child protection programmes.

## Situation in Numbers

**1,869,199**

children in need of humanitarian assistance (HAC 2021)

**12,470,496**

people in need (HAC 2021)

**3,650,396**

# of pending and registered refugees (UNHCR, February 2021)

<sup>2</sup> According to official statistics of the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) and 3RP chapter for Turkey.

<sup>3</sup> Turkish Red Crescent, (TRC), The Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM), ACEV, TKV/GAP, Youth Sports Foundations (YSF), Association for Combatting Poverty and Unemployment in Kilis ACPU/KILIS, Support to Life (STL)

The response in the first quarter of 2021 focused on the following critical areas:

**Community-based Child Protection Services:** During the reporting period a total of 77,316 individuals, including 52,784 children (50 per cent girls) benefitted from a range of protection services offered by a network of 70 UNICEF-supported child and adolescent-friendly spaces and social service centres across Turkey. 33,480 children, of the above total 77,316 individuals, were assessed for protection needs. From this number, a total of 15,488 children (50 per cent girls) were referred to specialized Government and NGO services. Despite continued confinement measures in place during the pandemic, partners' outreach teams continued with household visits to high-risk families and ensured remote follow-up and referral to services. As a result, 4,046 individuals, of whom 2,284 were children, identified with increased protection risks were provided with emergency cash assistance, along with referral to longer-term specialized support. The overall number of families requiring such assistance continues to increase, a trend that can be attributed to the exacerbation of the socio-economic situation of vulnerable refugee families due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):** A total of 22,340 children (52 per cent girls) and 2,925 caregivers (69 per cent women) benefitted from MHPSS services and messaging provided by UNICEF and its partners. Services have been provided using a blended approach of community-based, face-to-face activities and remote structured counselling (using digital and mobile phone applications for individual and group consultations). Using the same approach, a total of 3,760 caregivers (87 per cent women) received information/support on positive parenting practices and positive coping mechanisms.

**Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** A total of 1,659 government staff working in Domestic Violence Services have increased knowledge, skills and/or competencies required to support GBV survivors following completion of GBV and remote PSS training provided by UNICEF and partners in Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres and Women's Shelters. Furthermore, a total of 12,105 individuals nationwide benefitted from GBV-related risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions in community-based settings and via online platforms. Activities included awareness-raising seminars, structured life-skills activities and communication for social and behavioural change (including role model and mentorship programmes) to promote gender equality and prevent child marriage. During the reporting period, 1,497 individual GBV survivors have been assessed and 1,321 of them (705 women; 130 men, 267 girls; 219 boys) were provided with GBV-specific services through either NGO or Government channels.

**Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)** UNICEF provided technical advice and support to 17 NGO partners to ensure full compliance with Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)-related aspects of UNICEF's partnership standards. Partners have been assessed according to a set of core standards and accompanying indicators to help organizations identify the areas to strengthen their organizational policies and programmatic approaches related to PSEA.

UNICEF conducted three PSEA training for its partners: a) basic PSEA training for all staff members, b) in-depth PSEA training for partners' PSEA focal points and c) training for partners' PSEA focal points on how to raise awareness on PSEA in the communities they serve. In addition, all partners have been supported with the development of their PSEA policy, integration of PSEA into their Human Resource policies, survivors' assistance protocols, safe reporting channels and investigation mechanisms. These capacity-building efforts will contribute to ensuring children and beneficiaries are protected from SEA.

## Education

UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and other partners to expand access to all forms of education and improve the quality and inclusiveness of education services for vulnerable refugee and Turkish children. UNICEF continues to support MoNE in its COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

The response in the first quarter of 2021 focused on the following critical areas:

**Formal Education:** As of March 2021, 774,257 Syrian children (49 per cent girls) are enrolled in formal education (pre-primary to Grade 12) in Turkish Public Schools (TPSs). UNICEF continues to support the MoNE in its COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, underpinned by an inclusive and equity-focused approach that targets the most vulnerable groups, including Syrian refugees.



### **Continuity of learning through blended approaches:**

The MoNE continued to implement a blended learning approach in the new semester that started in mid-February 2021. By the end of March 2021, nearly 12.6 million learners and 974,698 teachers nationwide accessed the Education Information Network (EBA) distance learning platform<sup>4</sup>.

In line with their shared commitment to bridging the 'digital divide' inequities, on 18 March 2021, UNICEF and the MoNE conducted a nationwide launch of 170 UNICEF supported EBA Support Centers and six Mobile centres in six provinces with high refugee populations.<sup>5</sup> The EBA centres provide access to online

learning during school closures for vulnerable children, including refugees, without a computer and/or internet access at home.

UNICEF supported the design and distribution of nearly 80,000 flyers in Turkish and Arabic through 13 different education sector partners, aiming to enhance awareness amongst students and their parents and caregivers about accessing the different distance learning options. To ensure continued access to learning during the pandemic, UNICEF continued to support a national 'Back-to-School (BTS) Campaign', boosting its reach through its social media platforms and education stakeholder networks and, together with partners, widely disseminating BTS campaign videos in Turkish and Arabic.

To support the development of young learners under five years of age using alternative delivery modalities during the pandemic, UNICEF supported the procurement and distribution of 1,000 sets of "My Play Box" to vulnerable households, including Syrian refugee households with young children not enrolled in formal preschools and from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

**Alternative learning Pathways:** In close collaboration with its implementing partners, UNICEF supports the delivery of outreach activities, education assessments, and education-focused case management services to identify and enrol refugee children in age-appropriate educational opportunities. In the first quarter of 2021, a total of 4,157 children (50 per cent girls), including 2,793 out-of-school children (49 per cent girls), were enrolled in different UNICEF-supported programmes. 2,378 refugee children (48 per cent) have been enrolled in the Accelerated Learning Programme, and 1,779 refugee children (53 per cent girls) benefitted from Turkish Language Classes. 2,096 vulnerable refugee children (54 per cent girls) also benefitted from the homework support programme.

**Life skills development programmes:** All Temporary Education Centres (TECs) catering to Syrian refugee students closed in September 2020, with all refugee children now mainstreamed into Turkish public schools. To reinforce and enhance social cohesion between Turkish and non-Turkish students, UNICEF continued to support school-based social cohesion activities in Istanbul and Sanliurfa, benefitting 791 students (53 per cent girls) and 201 teachers (74 per cent female) in the first quarter of 2021. This comprehensive pilot on school-based social cohesion included activities with children, online training for counsellors, teachers, and awareness-raising for parents.

UNICEF collaborated with the MoNE to identify and encourage approximately 3,152 children<sup>6</sup> (43 per cent girls) to continue their formal education in Vocational Education Centres (VECs) and enhance their job-readiness skills. A total of 649 children (34 per cent girls) were identified as being out of school (OOS), of which 114 mainly adolescent children (eight per cent girls) have been enrolled in the VECs during February and March and transitioned back to formal education.

UNICEF and the Development Foundation of Turkey implemented digital skills activities through the 'Social Cohesion Programme' that reached 392 adolescents and young people (356 Turkish and 36 Syrian) through the *Maker* digital skills initiative. The participants learnt visual design, blockchain literacy and algorithmic thinking. Additional skills-building activities have been delivered in collaboration with the youth associations ICHILD and COHAG (The Child Rights Volunteers Association) to equip young people with different skills such as effective communication, social innovation & social entrepreneurship, empathy, and teamwork. ICHILD has reached 144 young people from 14 different provinces through 39 master trainers in Turkey. COHAG provided trainings on life skills and reached 150 young people in the reporting period.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) are preparing the initial rollout of social innovation and related skills-building program that will be implemented in 162 youth centres nationwide. The activity will see approximately

<sup>4</sup> Data from the Ministry of National Education (MoNE)

<sup>5</sup> Hatay, Urfa, Antep, Kilis, Ankara and Istanbul

<sup>6</sup> 14 – 17 years of age

35,000 young people equipped with skills related to peer to peer collaboration and design-thinking related to social inclusion and innovation initiatives.

### Social Protection

UNICEF works closely with MoFLSS, civil society and the private sector partners to strengthen existing social protection programmes to ensure vulnerable refugee and Turkish children have increased access to social protection services and benefit from COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

**Conditional Cash Transfers for Education (CCTE):** In January 2021, CCTE reached 534,233 children (48 per cent girls) of which 531,024 children (48 per cent girls) benefitted from additional top-up payments as further support to respond to particular socio-economic challenges faced by students and to encourage continued learning, which also included motivational payments for older students.

The CCTE call centre system, managed by the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), continued providing services in Turkish, English, Arabic, Farsi, and Pashto. Messaging on COVID-19 has been integrated into the call centre queues, informing callers of recommended hygiene and social distancing measures, potential symptoms, and access to health facilities.

**Child Poverty:** UNICEF has completed a study analysing the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on household and child poverty rates in Turkey and simulating the poverty-mitigation effects of potential cash transfer programmes. The key findings of the study have been presented to policymakers and stakeholders (including the MoFLSS and Presidency of Strategy and Budget) to inform policy and programmes.

### Basic Needs

A total of 16,198 people including 7,544 children in the districts of Kirikhan, Altınözü, Antakya, Reyhanli and Yayladagi in the Hatay province benefited from UNICEF's 2020/21 winter cash-assistance programme, implemented in partnership with the district Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASF), targeting vulnerable Syrian refugee and host community households.

### Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP)

UNICEF works closely with the MOYS, the MoFLSS, NGO partners and the private sector to expand opportunities for meaningful engagement and life skills education for Syrian and Turkish adolescents and youth, and also continues to support the engagement of adolescents and young people in the COVID-19 response. The MOYS participated in a regional experience and lessons sharing where the participation and engagement of young people through the Mahalle Support Mechanism was showcased.

**Youth engagement:** The 'Mahalle Support Mechanism' initiative engaged 405 youth volunteers who reached a total of 9,617 vulnerable adolescents and their families in 25 provinces in Turkey. Youth volunteers engaged their peer groups to better understand the impact of COVID-19 and related needs in their communities as well as to mobilize for local actions in response to the needs.

The activities of the Southeast Anatolia Regional (GAP) platform continued with the development of a communication campaign. During this period 90 youth, 9 Syrians and 81 Turkish, participated in the youth platform. Moreover, the development of a youth volunteer portal to promote voluntary engagement of Turkish and Non-Turkish adolescents is in progress.

UNICEF has been collaborating with ICHILD and COHAG youth associations to equip young people with civic engagement skills through volunteering, children's rights and human rights engagement, social innovation and entrepreneurship. Both associations have reached 194 young people from 14 different provinces.

**Youth-centered communications:** UNICEF continued to support the MOYS in conducting live broadcasts on COVID-19 related topics, mobilizing public figures, including health specialists, artists, and sports figures, to influence positive behaviours among young people. A total of 8,130 people have been engaged through 13 live "Eşit Ağırlık" (Equal Weight) YouTube sessions delivered by the MOYS with UNICEF support.

### Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The Government of Turkey leads the overall response to the Syrian refugee crisis as it continues to shoulder the bulk of the financial costs related to the refugee response in Turkey. The Government efforts are supported by the United Nations within the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). The leadership of the UN inter-agency response takes place via the Syria Response Group and technical coordination via the Syria Task Force.

As part of the 3RP coordination efforts in Turkey, UNICEF is leading the Education Working Group (WG), including its sub-WG in South-East Turkey, and co-leading the Child Protection WG and its South-East Turkey Sub-WG. UNICEF is also contributing to the work of 3RP Basic Needs and Health sector WGs at national and sub-regional levels. UNICEF is an active member of the interagency PSEA Network and 3RP Working Groups on Gender and Gender-based Violence, Accountability to Affected Populations and Contingency Planning.

UNICEF's work in Turkey is guided by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and implemented in partnership with the Turkish government. Under the frameworks of the 3RP and the "No Lost Generation" Initiative, UNICEF focuses on six priority areas—Education, Child Protection, Adolescents and Youth, Social Protection, Health, and Basic Needs—to reach refugee children in camps and host communities, as well as vulnerable Turkish children affected by the crisis. UNICEF also provides targeted protection and basic needs support to vulnerable children and families on the move across Turkey.

Mitigating the secondary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugee children, maintaining coverage of essential services, and strengthening the national systems remains a top priority for UNICEF in 2021. As part of this strategy, UNICEF continues to build the capacity of national actors at the national and sub-national level, aiming to increase multi-sectoral programming with municipalities and enhancing the inclusivity and gender sensitivity of coverage and care to reach the most vulnerable children.

#### [Media and Communications](#)

UNICEF in Turkey produced a range of media content to highlight humanitarian needs and response in Turkey.

These included: [Video series](#) marking the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Syria crisis, [A Day with A Star](#) video featuring UNICEF National Ambassador and an SSE Programme beneficiary, Production and dissemination of a [press release](#) announcing the third phase of the CCTE Programme, Back to school campaign ([video](#)), Creation of [Back to School landing page](#) on TCO website with material available in Arabic, English and Turkish, and an Arabic adaption of [videos](#) for [home-based activities](#) for [children during COVID-19 pandemic](#).

Annex A  
Summary of Programme Results

Turkey		UNICEF and IPs response			Sector response		
Sector	Overall Needs	2021 target	Total results	Change since last report	2021 target	Total results	Change since last report
<b>Health</b>							
# of children (0-12 mos.) receiving routine vaccinations		100,000	19,756 <sup>7</sup>	N/A	100,000	19,756	N/A
<b>Child Protection, GBVIE &amp; PSEA</b>							
# of children (and caregivers) provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support		70,000	25,265 <sup>8</sup>	N/A	76,165	29,211	N/A
# of children assessed for protection needs		75,000	33,480 <sup>9</sup>	N/A	86,519	39,752	N/A
# of people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse		200,000	76,315 <sup>10</sup>	N/A	N/A	76,315	N/A
# of individuals (men, women, children) provided with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, or response interventions		30,000	12,105 <sup>11</sup>	N/A	88,495	37,166	N/A
<b>Education</b>							
# of children enrolled in ECCE and pre-primary education		52,000	40,831 <sup>12</sup>	N/A	74,796	40,979	N/A
# of children enrolled in formal education (grade1 to grade 12)		800,000	774,257 <sup>13</sup>	N/A	800,000	774,257	N/A
# of refugee children benefiting from the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE)		660,000	685,977 <sup>14</sup>	N/A	662,500	685,977	N/A
# of children enrolled in accredited non-formal education		20,000	4,157 <sup>15</sup>	N/A	39,010	4,366	N/A
# of teachers and education personnel trained, including on remote learning		150,000	- <sup>16</sup>	N/A	152,405	-	N/A
# of Syrian teachers and other education personnel receiving incentives		12,200	12,009 <sup>17</sup>	N/A	12,200	12,009	N/A

<sup>7</sup> 19,756 (girls 9,542, boys 10, 204)

<sup>8</sup> Total 25,265 (Female: 13,703 & Male: 11,546 & Binary: 16)

<sup>9</sup> Total 33,480 (Female: 16,066 & Male: 17,410 & Binary: 4)

<sup>10</sup> Total 76,315 (Female: 41,706 & Male: 34,593 & Binary: 16)

<sup>11</sup> Total 12,105 (Female: 8,683 & Male: 3,414 & Binary: 8)

<sup>12</sup> Total 40,831 (Female: 19,869 & Male: 20,962)

<sup>13</sup> Total 774,257 (Female: 379,432 & Male: 394,825). Since this is a cumulative indicator, therefore the increase as compared to previous SitRep has been reported. Official MoNE statistics March 2021.

<sup>14</sup> Total 685,977 (Female: 340,554 & Male: 345,423). Since this is a cumulative indicator, therefore the increase as compared to previous SitRep has been reported

<sup>15</sup> Total 4,157 (Female: 2,073 & Male: 2,084)

<sup>16</sup> Teacher training programmes have started late in the Q1 of 2020, reporting on the achievements will be reflected in the next SitRep

<sup>17</sup> 12,009 (Female 6,433; & Male:7,566) is the maximum number of education personnel who received incentives during the first quarter of 2021. In March 2021, 11,973 (Female:6,414; Male:5,559) received incentives

# of children/adolescents accessing skills development programmes		72,000	13,284 <sup>18</sup>	N/A	72,530	13,284	N/A
<b>Basic Needs</b>							
# of persons benefitting from one-off, cash-based emergency assistance (including winter support)		60,000	20,244 <sup>19</sup>	N/A	780,119	20,244	N/A
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items for COVID-19 IPC)		300,000	- <sup>20</sup>	N/A	727,850	-	N/A
<b>Adolescents &amp; Youth</b>							
# of adolescents and youth benefitting from community-based social cohesion activities		64,600	39,291 <sup>21</sup>	N/A	75,106	39,291	N/A

<sup>18</sup> Total 13,284 (Female: 7,002 & Male: 6,282)

<sup>19</sup> Total 20,244 (Female: 10,625 & Male: 9,619). The number of individuals reached with cash-assistance programmes includes 16,198 individuals benefitting from the winter cash assistance programme and 4,046 individuals benefitting from emergency protection cash assistance programme

<sup>20</sup> No distribution of supplies has been planned in the first quarter of 2021.

<sup>21</sup> 11,378 Turkish (6,380 Female; 4,998 Male), 27,913 Syrian (14,608 Female; 13,305 Male)



## Lebanon

### Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appealed for \$555 million to support Syrian refugees in Lebanon and vulnerable Lebanese under the framework of the Regional Refugee and Response Plan (3RP). UNICEF Lebanon has is funded by key donors in 2021 amounting to \$109.35 million.

Despite overall generous funding, short-term and heavily earmarked funding is limiting the office's ability to implement critical initiatives to meet the diverse needs of vulnerable refugee and host populations.

### Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Ten years into the Syrian crisis, poverty levels are extremely high, and the long-term resilience of vulnerable refugee and Lebanese communities is eroding as they run out of savings and struggle to access income – worsened by the economic crisis that has engulfed Lebanon. The deepening socio-economic crisis that emerged in mid-2019 has further deteriorated. Lebanon's currency hit new lows in March 2021, it has now lost more than 90 per cent of its value on the informal market in the space of 18 months. The devaluation heralds more struggles for the millions of Lebanese who have seen the value of both their savings and salaries wiped out. This has driven up prices, with food prices increasing 395 per cent in the year to March 2021, and clothing and footwear prices increasing 547 per cent. The removal of large price subsidies on basic goods signalled in 2020 has been delayed, but once these subsidies are removed, the impact on household expenses combined with the impact of inflation will leave most families struggling to survive.

Lebanon has been facing a high community transmission of COVID-19 for several months. At the end of March 2021, there had been more than 465,000 COVID-19 cases in Lebanon, resulting in 6,184 deaths (WHO, 2021). While the economic situation and COVID-19 pandemic affect everyone, regardless of nationality; unemployment, inflation and illness are worsening the already precarious situation of Syrian and Palestinian refugees. Many of the most vulnerable people are daily-wage workers, whose income was decimated following the lengthy lockdown imposed for the first three months of 2021. The high concentration in crowded living conditions and people living in poor hygiene settings (especially informal tented settlements and urban camps populated by refugees) creates a high-risk condition for the virus to transmit.

### Summary Analysis of Programme Response

#### Health

Through ongoing community mobilization efforts for routine immunization from January to March, 8,556 children under one were vaccinated against measles of 18,000 targeted. A total of 14,899 children received the first dose of the pentavalent vaccine and 14,038 children received the third dose of pentavalent at primary health care centres. The number of children vaccinated in primary healthcare centres and dispensaries increased to 43,447 in February, compared to the 36,155 children vaccinated in January, however it is still below the average compared to an average of over 60,000 throughout 2020 due to the lockdown measures enforced in February. Children arriving at borders and UNHCR facilities also received vaccinations, with 206 children vaccinated against measles, 1,777 receiving the oral polio vaccine (OPV), 330 receiving the inactivated polio vaccine and 626 vaccinated against measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR).

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Public Health to develop an effective vaccine management improvement plan to enhance the overall process and management of vaccine at a national level as well as at Qadaa (district) level, serving all children nationwide. Syrian refugees will receive their vaccines in the primary healthcare centre network, in dispensaries and other healthcare facilities. UNICEF is supporting vaccine waste collection from all public expanded programme of immunisation points for safe management and treatment.

UNICEF is supporting the National Deployment Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 vaccination. The plan targets everyone living in Lebanon, regardless of their nationality, including citizens, refugees, migrant workers, and stateless persons. UNICEF is providing cold chain maintenance and equipment including three new ultrafilter freezers to be installed at the Ministry of Public Health central warehouse, personal protective equipment to healthcare staff at the vaccination sites and commodities for vaccinations.

A total of 5,564 beneficiaries were reached with health integrated messages, including routine immunization and reproductive health in the vulnerable areas of the North of Lebanon, of which 1,596 were Syrian caregivers and adolescents. Additionally, 42,633 caregivers were reached with health integrated messages, including messages on routine immunization. In Beirut, counselling was provided on prenatal, breastfeeding, and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices to 4,782 Syrian caregivers. Maternal, newborn child and adolescent health services reached 4,569 Syrians through outreach activities, lactation specialists, phone calls and in-person at UNICEF tents.

### Situation in Numbers

**1,349,968**

children in need  
(HAC 2021)

**3,207,700**

people in need  
(HAC 2021)

**855,000**

# of registered Syrian  
refugees  
(UNHCR, 31 March 2021)

Forty-nine Syrian children with cancer who were affected by the Beirut Port explosion received psychosocial support at the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon.

To reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in densely populated informal settlements, in the last three months UNICEF distributed fabric masks to 14,065 Syrian refugees along with an instruction leaflet on proper use, cleaning and disposal.

During the reporting period, at the border entry points, 33,091 people (including 24,091 Syrians) were screened for COVID-19 and received guidance on prevention and home isolation. Overall, 3,420 children were screened, of whom 2,495 are Syrian children. A total of 36,511 fabric masks were distributed to Syrians crossing the borders to reduce the risks of COVID-19 transmission. Some people requested more than one mask, and while young children are not guided in prevention, their caregivers are. Thus, the number of masks provided is not exactly equal to the number of people receiving messaging at the borders.

UNICEF's 'Long-Term Protocol Support Package' commenced in three primary healthcare centres in Beirut, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health. This initiative provides healthcare and nutrition care subsidies, enabling Syrian refugees to access these services. The package mainstreams mental health services, with Syrian refugees referred to specialists including psychotherapists, psychiatrists, and social workers.

### Nutrition

In the first quarter of 2021, UNICEF supported the distribution of micronutrients to 3,706 Syrian children under five years of age, increasing their resilience to infection and supporting their physical and mental development. The delivery of micronutrients is below target for the first quarter, due to COVID-19 lockdown throughout February.

UNICEF and partners have established a hotline with lactation specialists to respond to beneficiaries' reservations and inquiries regarding IYCF practices.

UNICEF and implementing partners have observed increasing IYCF concerns and challenges this quarter, with rising malnutrition numbers. The socio-economic crisis is compounding financial difficulties faced by refugee families, and caregivers are struggling to provide adequate nutrition for their children in the face of increasing poverty, rapid food price inflation and high unemployment. To address this growing issue, nutrition programming and nutrition surveillance needs to be scaled up, to prevent, detect and manage malnutrition. UNICEF and partners are supporting the protection of children's nutrition status through IYCF counselling projects to encourage best practices and increasing awareness of IYCF practices through community outreach. Partners are conducting household visits and follow up on case management and are working to limit the random distribution of formula milk that is not in line with international and local guidelines. UNICEF with the Nutrition sector is finalizing a 6-month IYCF emergency plan and planning for an IYCF behavioural change campaign to be implemented from early June for three months. The plan targets affected people in Lebanon, including Syrian refugees, in partnership and coordination with the Lebanese Parliament and the Ministry of Public Health.

### Child Protection

During the reporting period, the child protection programme reached 1,778 girls and boys with case management services, 569 children and caregivers with focused non-specialised psychosocial support<sup>22</sup>, and 7,284 girls and boys and 2,527 caregivers with community-based psychosocial support. A further 5,299 women and girls accessed safe spaces, out of which 1,459 were below 18 years of age. As part of the response to the increased risk of period poverty, especially during the current economic crisis around 5,000 LAHA kits (LAHA translates to "for her" in Arabic) were distributed to GBV partners. The kits include necessities which women and girls require to maintain their hygiene, mobility, and safety.

The onset of the economic crisis combined with the COVID-19 outbreak and general lockdown that was imposed by the Government of Lebanon, contributed to an increase in worrying trends and requests for social assistance, as well as negative behaviours affecting children. In the real-time monitoring survey conducted every month, 85 per cent of respondents reported observing an increase in the incidence of violence against children, 50 per cent observed an increase in child labour, and 46 per cent an increase in street and working children.

To address these worrying trends, the provision of focused psychosocial support and case management services was complemented and supported by caregivers' programme and general child protection community-based activities to ensure a comprehensive (prevention and response) approach. The majority of the girls and boys that benefitted from these services were victims/survivors of or at-risk of violence and many were children engaged in child labour with no or limited access to education. Sector data indicates that nearly a quarter of children receiving case management have been subjected to the worst forms of child labour. Child labour remains one of the major issues exposing children to

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<sup>22</sup> Focused, non-specialised support is provided to people who require more focused, individual, family or group interventions by trained and supervised workers (but who may not have had years of training in specialised care). It aims to provide PSS to children at medium to high risk or survivors of child protection violations

violence, exploitation, and abuse. Syrian children are the most at risk of child labour, mainly due to the multiple vulnerabilities faced by Syrians in Lebanon due to poverty, displacement, and restrictions on employment. UNICEF, with implementing partners, is strengthening local area-based planning and programming that includes mapping of services, engagement of local stakeholders and proper referral and monitoring. UNICEF is focused on decentralized, area-based planning and programming to address different vulnerabilities that are specific for certain regions by also engaging with local stakeholders that are not necessarily CP partners.

In March 2021, UNICEF Lebanon organized a six-day online training for two cohorts of local implementing partners on child safeguarding. This initiative aimed to ensure all children who took part in UNICEF's programmes are safe from all types of physical, sexual, or psychological harm. The programme builds on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA) minimum standards that UNICEF implemented with 15 local partners from all sections in 2020. The training was facilitated by two international experts on child safeguarding, who guided the partners on how child safeguarding links to and builds on PSEA work. It also outlined the difference is between low-level concerns and the serious child safeguarding violations that need to be reported to UNICEF. Serious concerns are reported to the UNICEF Representative and the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations. Following the training, partners were asked to complete organizational child safeguarding risk assessments, as well as action plans that identify and/or address the organization's gaps related to child safeguarding. In April and May 2021, follow up coaching sessions will be held for these trained partners.

### Education

After a delayed start to the 2020-21 scholastic year and the use of a blended approach of remote and face-to-face learning to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) announced the full closure of schools as of January 2021 and the implementation of remote learning exclusively.

As of the end of February 2021, 27,967 Syrian refugee children enrolled in second shift schools had received cash for transportation assistance covering December, in line with the hybrid learning modality during that month. The 'Reaching School' program is targeting a total of 88,598 children for the 2020-21 scholastic year.

Non-formal education (NFE) rounds for 2020 were delayed due to the Beirut Port explosion in August and the COVID-19 situation. Consequently, NFE Partners finalized Round 2 of 2020 between January and March 2021. Planning started for 2021 rounds in March 2021, targeting 21,000 children in NFE. The programmes will continue to be delivered remotely through partners, with targets until June 2021 of 7,500 children in Community-Based Early Childhood Education; 3,500 children in Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN); 3,500 children in the Adapted BLN; and 6,475 children in Retention Support.

Between January and March, NFE partners conducted awareness sessions on COVID-19 hygiene and preventive measures reaching 5,468 children and 4,423 caregivers across all governorates. The COVID-19 vaccine was discussed during sessions with children and caregivers, with partners providing information about the availability of the vaccine in Lebanon and how to register on the platform.

During the reporting period, UNICEF also supported the inclusion of approximately 650 children with disabilities in NFE programmes and specialized services through the capacity-building of NFE partners. Of these children, 211 were supported with assistive devices. In January, UNICEF delivered 257 tablets to nine NFE partners who distributed them to children with disabilities enrolled in their programmes to facilitate their education and remote therapy sessions. Support was also provided remotely by the special educators, and when possible, face-to-face individual sessions were scheduled as needed with adequate COVID-19 precautionary measures.

Implementing partners that specialize in working with children with disabilities continued implementation until the end of February 2021, supporting 113 children with moderate to severe disabilities. The selection for the next implementation period in 2021 was launched. As a result, five organizations with a disability focus were selected under an umbrella programme document structure. This allows for a more consolidated approach, effective knowledge transfer, and a sustainable solution to mainstream inclusion as a central core of all implementations.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

During the first quarter of 2021, UNICEF ensured the continuity of water and wastewater services to more than 150,000 Syrian refugees, including 75,000 children, living in informal settlements all over Lebanon. At the same time, UNICEF has been actively engaged in implementing alternative and innovative solutions to optimize the use of water trucking and desludging. Fourteen public water points have been installed near informal settlements in five municipalities of the Bekaa hosting a high number of informal settlements, to enable access to other sources of domestic water. Five innovative, on-site wastewater treatment systems have been installed and are being tested before a potential scaling up.

UNICEF is supporting Water Establishments directly with supplies, consumables, and quick repairs to avoid their collapse due to the impacts of the economic crisis. Nearly seven million US dollars have been spent since the beginning of the year to secure water services to four million refugees and host community members per month. Due to the

economic collapse, the Government was unable to continue with several projects and ceased them at short notice. To mitigate the impact of the economic crisis on the most vulnerable children and their families, UNICEF has completed several of these projects. including laying 16 km of wastewater pipelines to connect 34,000 vulnerable Lebanese and more than 60,000 Syrian refugees to operational wastewater treatment plants. A further 28 km of water pipelines and a pumping station have also been installed to serve 29,500 Palestinian refugees, 17,000 Syrian refugees and 120,000 vulnerable Lebanese with improved water services. These projects have contributed to providing incomes to site workers through the creation of 7,600 labour workdays.

Trust between the Water Establishments and their customers has deteriorated following the 2019 unrest and water interruptions after the 2020 explosion in Beirut, leading many customers to refuse to pay for water services. To re-establish trust between customers and Water Establishments UNICEF continues to support the Water Establishments in communicating to customers through social media, and in managing their complaints and feedback mechanisms. To reduce tensions between communities around limited water resources, UNICEF has built a reservoir in Dayieh, South Beirut, aiming at improving water services for 4,000 people living in urban slums.

To support the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoWE) to utilise data-driven decision-making on achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.1, UNICEF has finalized mapping of water quality contaminants in the Bekaa Region, North Region and South Region. This achievement will guide the ministry in identifying treatment methods and prioritizing investments.

UNICEF has also been a key partner of the MoWE in mitigating climate change impact. A mapping of saline intrusion has been finalized and delivered to the ministry to guide coastal groundwater protection. A national hydrogeological mapping update has also been completed to ensure better groundwater resource management and reduce overexploitation of aquifers exacerbated by climate change effects. UNICEF also systematically checks for opportunities to use renewable energy when implementing pumping stations, which led to the instalment of a solar panel park in the first quarter of 2021, serving more than 16,000 Lebanese and 20,000 Syrian refugees.

#### Adolescent Development and Participation

In the first quarter of 2021, the UNICEF Youth and Adolescent Programme provided services to 5,738 vulnerable adolescents and youth, who accessed an integrated package of formal and non-formal education opportunities and employment support services. This included 136 adolescents and youth (35 per cent Lebanese, 65 per cent non-Lebanese; 24 per cent male, 76 per cent female) receiving Youth Basic Literacy and Numeracy support and 972 adolescents and youth (63 per cent Lebanese, 37 per cent non-Lebanese; 45 per cent male, 55 per cent female) enrolled in technical and vocational competency-based skills training, out of which 428 youth focusing on Innovation Skills Building (Social Entrepreneurship and Digital Skills).

A total of 3,036 adolescents and youth (50 per cent Lebanese, 50 per cent non-Lebanese; 45 per cent male, 55 per cent female) benefitted from Life Skills development modules, helping to maximize physical and social well-being, empowerment, and civic engagement. 764 trained youth (71 per cent Lebanese, 29 per cent non-Lebanese; 75 per cent male, 25 per cent female) completed on-the-job training and 830 youth (71 per cent Lebanese, 29 per cent non-Lebanese; 71 per cent male, 29 per cent female) accessed income through Cash For Work opportunities across several sectors.

A career education and guidance programme was finalized in March 2021 and 45 NFE educators from three partner organizations have been trained for the national pilot. Gender-sensitive/responsive services continue to be provided through seven women and girls' safe spaces in different areas in Lebanon and within social development and community centres, reaching 117 adolescent girls and young women with age-appropriate, non-stigmatized training and gender-based violence services.

#### Social Protection and Social Policy

Economic assistance to households is increasingly important and now needed on a large scale, as Lebanon's economic and financial crisis continued to deepen in early 2021, with further loss of value of the currency and rising prices significantly worsening household vulnerability and that of children, in particular. As a result, in the first quarter of 2021, UNICEF Lebanon designed two new social assistance programmes, one to be implemented through UNICEF partnerships very rapidly and the second to be built into the national social assistance system to provide longer-term social protection of household vulnerabilities. Ongoing social assistance continued to reach more than 7,000 children (mostly Syrian) monthly through UNICEF's unique 'Integrated Child Wellbeing' Programme. An additional one-off transfer of 500,000 Lebanese Pound (LBP) per child reached 10,000 Syrian children enrolled in public schools in February 2021.

UNICEF continued to lead the common cash delivery platform (known as LOUISE) alongside UNHCR and WFP to deliver cash assistance within the country. The devaluation of the LBP against the US dollar has massively reduced the value of cash assistance provided in LBP and cash actors have extensively explored the possible related risks that would be involved if programmes switch to disbursing in US dollars instead. As a result, risk mitigation planning is now being finalized to support the switch to USD, including for UNICEF social assistance.

In addition, partnerships with key civil society and think tank actors were established in the first quarter of 2021, including with the Lebanon Centre for Policy Studies, the Institute of Finance, and Beyond Group. Such partnerships have significantly opened up policy dialogue space in Lebanon, including a continued collaboration that established an 'Experts Collective' on social protection in 2020 and a platform for organizations representing people with disabilities. This is also ongoing for this year.

#### Communications for Development (C4D)

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) strategy note was finalised during this reporting period, which includes situation analysis of ECD integration in programmes, identified the gaps and provided recommendations on how to improve the integration of ECD in development and emergencies. The cross-sectorial Social and Behavioural Change Communication toolbox has also been finalized and will be rolled out in the second and third quarter of 2021 to promote programme priorities and healthy and protective behaviour for children.

Also, UNICEF and partners have initiated community mobilization and awareness-raising activities such as door-to-door outreach visits, under the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Pillar to maximize understanding, acceptance, and demand for the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (LCRP, extended to 2021) was the predominant humanitarian architecture until late 2020. New humanitarian crises in 2020 (the socioeconomic crisis, COVID-19 and the Beirut explosion) resulted in multiple coordination frameworks. Efforts to streamline the inter-agency humanitarian coordination structure are ongoing. UNICEF leads the WASH and education sectors, and the child protection sub-sector across all the emergencies. The nutrition sector was also established under the Humanitarian Country Team/Emergency Operations Centre with UNICEF as the lead. UNICEF remains an active member in Health and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) sectors. Building on the already strong coordination with UNHCR, the collaboration was deepened during 2020 through the new global Blueprint partnership, resulting in strengthening the areas of WASH, education, and child protection.

#### Human Interest Stories and External Media

The first quarter of 2021 was marked by the production of content and multimedia packages to advocate the [universal right of adolescents to healthcare](#); the [importance of breastfeeding](#) and [routine immunization](#). A campaign on [safer internet for children](#) was launched in February including tips for parents to protect their children when connected online. Special content was also developed to mark [International Woman's Day](#), and on world water day, a [package](#) was published to shed light on the importance of providing safe and potable water to all communities.

The [Generation of Innovation Leaders' mentorship programme](#) was launched in February to provide entrepreneurs with the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals who have walked the same path. [U-Report Lebanon](#) was also launched in March for youth engagement and community participation to create a positive change. There were 654 mentions of UNICEF in national, regional and international media in the first quarter of 2021, reaching 569 million people while the Country Office's total social media (YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) reach was 29,553,743.

Annex A  
Summary of Programme Results

Lebanon		UNICEF and IPs response			Sector response		
Sector	Overall Needs	2021 target	Total results	Change since last report	2021 target	Total results	Change since last report
<b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>							
# of children vaccinated against Measles Under 1 and Under 5	343,258	116,000	17,422	N/A			
# of under five children vaccinated against Penta 1	299,603	120,446	14,899	N/A			
# of under five children vaccinated against Penta 3	299,603	138,559	14,038	N/A			
# children U5 receiving micronutrient supplements		303,652	3,706	N/A			
# of PLWs of children 0-23 months who received one on one counselling and awareness on IYCF		44,500	4,782	N/A			
# of children between the age of 0 and 5 attending the PHC who are screened for malnutrition		130,000	42,342 <sup>3</sup>	N/A			
<b>Child Protection, GBVIE &amp; PSEA</b>							
# of girls and boys receiving specialized/focused PSS	3,207,700 <sup>23</sup>	11,000	3,998	N/A	25,000	5,512	N/A
# of boys and girls assisted through child protection case management and specialized services		5,000	1,778	N/A	10,500	3,231	N/A
# women and girls accessing mobile and static-safe spaces		21,000	5,299	N/A	140,000	11,940	N/A
# of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse		35,000	341 <sup>24</sup>	N/A			
<b>Education</b>							
# of (Lebanese and non-Lebanese) girls and boys whose registration fees are covered by subsidies for enrolment into formal education (2020/2021 scholastic year <sup>25</sup>	1,185,023	448,000	- <sup>26</sup>	N/A	-	-	N/A
# of (Lebanese and non-Lebanese) girls and boys whose registration fees are covered by subsidies for		51,500	- <sup>28</sup>	N/A	80,000	36,843	N/A

<sup>23</sup> Protection Sector

<sup>24</sup> The PSEA indicator was included in Activity Info in March 2021 and partners face some challenges in the reporting on it during the first month. The indicator was included in the GBV data base and some partners still have no access to it. Technical problems were solved in collaboration with PRIME colleagues and the reporting will be enhanced in Q2 2021.

<sup>25</sup> The MEHE has not yet released official formal enrolment numbers for the 2020/21 school year.

<sup>26</sup> UNICEF has not yet made any payment relevant to 20/21 scholastic year, pending agreement on exchange rate. Therefore, UNICEF's contribution to formal education cannot be determined yet.

<sup>28</sup> Rounds of 2021 started gradually in March. During the first two months of the year partners finalized the second round of NFE 2020, which in turn was delayed due to the Beirut explosion. NFE 2021 results will be reported as of Q2.

enrolment into non-formal education (NFE <sup>27</sup>							
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### Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

# of affected men/women/girls/boys assisted with temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and water for domestic use	2,688,071	184,774	195,057 <sup>29</sup>	N/A	377,842	203,627	N/A
# of affected men/women/girls/boys assisted with improved access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic use		438,911	-. <sup>30</sup>	N/A	1,433,000	43,770	N/A
# of affected men/women/girls/boys with access to improved safe sanitation in temporary locations		164,438	197,060	N/A	220,000	203,597	N/A
# individuals who have experienced a WASH behaviour change session/activity		22,000	11,553 <sup>31</sup>	N/A	419,000	15,077	N/A
# of affected men/women/girls/boys with adequate access to improved wastewater services		100,000	-. <sup>32</sup>	N/A	378,000	42,000	N/A

### Social Policy and Social Protection

# of vulnerable non-Lebanese girls and boys that benefited from child-focused social assistance	1,800,246	10,000	7,454	N/A			
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### Adolescents & Youth

# of adolescents and youth (14+) who are supported for regulated NFE under the Youth BLN programme (RACE ii		8,900	136 <sup>33</sup>	N/A			
# of adolescents and youth (14+) supported by competency and market-based skills training programme (RACEii) (LC2/LC3		14,199	972 <sup>34</sup>	N/A			
# of youth supported with employment support services (e.g. business mentorship, internships, on the job training, or apprenticeship)"		3,520	764	N/A			
# of adolescents and youth who access employment or income generation opportunities (including 2% disability)		3,956	830	N/A			
# of youth trained on Life Skills		19,417	3,036	N/A			

### C4D, Community Engagement and AAP<sup>35</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Partners have gradually started Round 1 of 2021 in March of this year, therefore we will be reporting on this indicator in the June situation report.

<sup>29</sup> Target overachieved because of increased provision of water to temporary location during COVID-19 pandemic

<sup>30</sup> Projects are ongoing but will be reported when handed over to Water utilities

<sup>31</sup> Under-achieved due to confinement that reduces opportunities to undertake on-site sessions

<sup>32</sup> Under-achievement due to prioritization of water projects from authorities and donors to mitigate COVID-19 pandemic

<sup>33</sup> Due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 and the Beirut explosion, regular programme implementation for Youth Basic Literacy and Numeracy experienced delays and 2021 activities were launched in February.

<sup>34</sup> Due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 and the Beirut explosion, regular programme implementation for Youth Basic Literacy and Numeracy have experienced delays and 2021 activities were launched in February.

<sup>35</sup> Training and capacity building activities were focused on COVID-19 response for the first quarter of 2021. Results against this target will be realised in the coming months through implementation of the wellbeing package and capacity building with partners providing services to people with disabilities.

# of individuals (municipality, government staff, community stakeholders, UNICEF, and partners) with strengthened community engagement capacity to implement SBCC and community-based interventions including child rights, gender, and disability		840	_ <sup>36</sup>	N/A			
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<sup>36</sup> During the reporting period, CO focused on COVID-19 response. Results on targets expecting to come in the following months.



## Jordan

### Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appealed for \$207 million to sustain the provision of life-saving services for women and children in Jordan in 2021. As of the end of March 2021, UNICEF Jordan had received \$39.32 million. In 2021, UNICEF is generously supported by the following partners: Australia, Canada, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the EU, Germany (KfW), Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, Korea, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, the UAE, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the US (BRPM and USAID). UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received.

### Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In 2021, the Syria crisis continued into its tenth consecutive year, and Jordan hosts and offers protection and assistance to more than 2.7 million refugees, including 1.3 million Syrians, of whom 665,404 are registered with UNHCR, half of which are children. Currently, 128,290 Syrian refugees live in camps (79,159 refugees in Za'atari camp, 42,570 in Azraq camp, 6,561 in the Emirati Jordanian camp).<sup>37</sup> The majority of refugees have been welcomed into host communities, primarily in the northern governorates and in Amman.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionality impacted vulnerable children and their families, including refugees in the camps. Syrians are a particularly economically vulnerable group in Jordan. According to an International Labour Organization (ILO) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) rapid impact assessment<sup>38</sup> on COVID-19 impacts on workers in Jordan, 35 per cent of Syrians and more than 17 per cent of Jordanians who had been employed before the crisis has lost their jobs. Over 95 per cent of surveyed Syrian households reported a decrease in their income. UNICEF is urgently mobilizing to address their essential needs – such as health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, social protection and education.

UNICEF Jordan's COVID-19 response aims to keep families safe, while minimizing the impact of secondary shocks caused by the pandemic, such as school closures, overburdened local health systems, increased protection risks and economic pressures, by providing cash assistance to the most vulnerable, supporting children's distance learning and providing learning support services, ensuring that children are vaccinated, have access to adequate WASH services and are protected through child protection services.

Although starting from March 2019 the population in Rukban at the north-eastern Syrian border significantly decreased due to population movements into Syria, the humanitarian situation for the remaining estimated population of between 8,000 to 12,000 Syrians is still precarious. In collaboration with the UN team in Syria, UNICEF Jordan continues to support the population with the daily provision of clean drinking water. Since the closure of the border due to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the UN Clinic in Rukban remains closed.

### Summary Analysis of Programme Response

#### Health and Nutrition

In Azraq and Zaatari Syrian refugee camps, UNICEF provides life-saving health and nutrition interventions to children under five and women of childbearing age women (WCBA). During the reporting period, a total of 12,840 children (50 per cent female), and 1,293 women were screened for malnutrition - two female children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), 52 children (65 per cent female) with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), and 51 women with malnutrition were identified, all of whom were successfully treated. Additionally, 1,046 women received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling.

Across Jordan, UNICEF supports the routine immunization programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH). During the reporting period, 5,264 Syrian refugee children (48 per cent female) were vaccinated against Polio and Measles reached 25 per cent of the Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal (HAC) target. Besides, 47,540 Jordanian and Syrian refugee children (48 per cent female) were provided with Vitamin A supplementation, reaching 25 per cent of the HAC target.

As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF, in collaboration with other UN agencies and alignment with the National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, continues supporting the MOH with the procurement of vaccine syringes, medical and personal protection equipment (PPE), providing technical support, while also ensuring continuity of health and nutrition services in the camps and hard-to-reach areas, including Informal Tented Settlements (ITSs).

## Situation in Numbers

**1,585,820**

children in need  
(HAC 2021)

**2,346,184**

people in need  
(HAC 2021)

**655,404**

registered Syrian  
refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>37</sup> [UNHCR Syria Regional Refugee Response Portal](#), as of April 2021.

<sup>38</sup> ILO, FAO, May 2020, <[www.ilo.org/beirut/media-centre/news/WCMS\\_743388/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/beirut/media-centre/news/WCMS_743388/lang-en/index.htm)>.

## Child Protection

During the reporting period, a total of 2,892 women, girls and boys (48 per cent female) benefited from UNICEF-supported case management services, including child protection and gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions, primarily related to violence, child labour, emotional stress, child marriage, being separated and unaccompanied, in conflict with the law, or out of school (36 per cent of HAC target reached). The UNICEF Child Protection in Emergencies COVID-19 response plan was shared with the MOH, Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) and Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate (SRAD) to guide their support to families at risk of separation and children placed in isolation in the camp. A total of 225 volunteers (50 per cent female) in camps were trained on referrals and identification of child protection cases, and 40 volunteers (53 per cent female) were trained on a psychosocial support manual that was developed by UNICEF in response to COVID-19. In host communities, 70 life skills facilitators (89 per cent female) in Makani centres have benefited from training that covers the national child protection standard operating procedures (SOPs), referrals of child protection cases and Psychological First Aid (PFA).<sup>39</sup>

UNICEF continues running interactive community-based WhatsApp messaging groups for 30,922 children (55 per cent female) and supporting remote child protection services in Makani centres, delivering psychosocial support, child protection, recycling, painting and drawing activities. UNICEF has reached 7,785 caregivers (80 per cent female) through three parenting programmes.<sup>40</sup> Following the completion of pilot testing the new Better Parenting Programme and its corresponding training of trainers (ToT), UNICEF supported a cascade training to 133 Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilitators and volunteers (100 per cent female), who will start implementing the programme in April 2021. Further, UNICEF is piloting the Musiqati programme<sup>41</sup> in two Makani centres. During the brief period when schools were reopened, psychosocial support activities were implemented in-person for students in the schools, to support their psychosocial health, but shifted to online delivery once schools closed again in March. With schools remaining closed, the Ma'An<sup>42</sup> programme activities were shifted to online delivery in camps, implemented by educational counsellors and teachers.

## Education

Ahead of schools partially reopening in February 2021 for the second semester, UNICEF developed and supported the dissemination of key messages for the Safely Back to School Campaign. These were based on the MOE updated guidelines, aligned to UN Global Guidance, with a focus on COVID-19 safety protocols, psychosocial support and learning recovery. Amid a surge in COVID-19 cases, on 10 March, schools were closed and once again shifted to remote education. UNICEF continues to support refugee students' distance learning, as well as Non-Formal Education (NFE) students, with free data bundles.<sup>43</sup>

[Learning Bridges](#) activity videos are now available on the MOE online learning platform, Darsak, for children to access free of charge. Learning Bridges learning materials are distributed through the MOE system<sup>44</sup> and during the reporting period, an estimated 347,000 students in Grades 4-9 received the first three activities of the second semester of Learning Bridges (54 per cent target<sup>45</sup> reached). UNICEF, in coordination with the Directorates of Education, worked on developing an attendance monitoring system for camp schools to record students' attendance and enable effective COVID-19 contact tracing when schools reopen. In addition, UNICEF supported 3,188 out-of-school children (46 per cent female) to continue remote learning in the NFE dropout programme (91 per cent target reached), of whom 45 per cent are Syrian.

## Youth and Adolescent Development and Participation

UNICEF continued delivering a comprehensive package of transferable 21st-century skills<sup>46</sup> to 11,950 young people (58 per cent female); 10,216 (60 per cent female) received life and employability skills training, 1,221 (61 per cent female) received social innovation and entrepreneurship training, and 513 (57 per cent female) accessed technical or vocational training. UNICEF has continued to work on promoting the youth volunteering ecosystem; the National Youth Engagement and Volunteering Platform, [Nahno](#), has offered over 36,049 volunteering activities for 8,703 young people (70 per cent female), with over 295,908 hours of volunteering.

UNICEF continues to support home-based businesses in Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps through opportunities to showcase, market and sell their products nationally and internationally in order to grow and sustain their businesses

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<sup>39</sup> First-line psychosocial support after a crisis.

<sup>40</sup> The parenting programmes, designed to sensitize parents to the needs of children 0–8 years old, are the Better Parenting Programme, Parent and Child Education Programme and ZERO-to-THREE Programme. They are implemented in both refugee camps and host communities. UNICEF revised its parenting programmes to include parents of children of all ages (0–18 years).

<sup>41</sup> Musiqati is a structured music therapy programme implemented for children and families in refugee camps who have experienced loss and violence. The programme supports in enhancing communication skills, group work and decision making to assist the future transition of refugees back to Syria.

<sup>42</sup> The Ma'An Programme is a national programme to reduce violence against children in all schools. The Programme aimed to reduce the incidence of violence against children in all Public and UNRWA schools with the target to reach out to an estimated 1.2 million children.

<sup>43</sup> To families with school age children enrolled in formal and non-formal education.

<sup>44</sup> Figures reported are best available estimates based on reports from the field.

<sup>45</sup> UNICEF target.

<sup>46</sup> Including employability skills, life skills, social innovation training and entrepreneurship

during these difficult times. A total of 17 home-based businesses and enterprises were supported through an online winter market that ran throughout January 2021. In total, around 400 products were sold through the online market, generating a total revenue of over 3,500 JOD (USD 4,937). Furthermore, a total of 131 young people (34 per cent female) are enrolled in the technical and vocational programme as a pathway from learning to earning in Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps, and 28 youth (14 per cent females) are engaged in paid internships and employment opportunities in a production line, producing 1,820 kits<sup>47</sup> for distribution among families with new-born children in the camps during the reporting period.

## WASH

UNICEF continued the provision of critical water and sanitation interventions to over 118,000 individuals (50 per cent female) living in Za'atari, Azraq and King Abdullah Park refugee camps safely and sustainably, ensuring uninterrupted services due to the COVID-19 outbreak. During the reporting period, a total of 137,751 individuals (49 per cent female) were reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services.

UNICEF started implementing a labelled-cash transfer programme for 50 households in the ITSs to support procurement of essential hygiene supplies, reaching over 6,980 people (53 per cent female) with cash for critical hygiene items, supplemented with hygiene promotion sessions. Also, 410 beneficiaries (53 per cent female) benefitted from the UNICEF Jordan pilot programme for a cash transfer subsidy for water storage facilities and adequate latrines installation. In collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MOWI), 89,000 beneficiaries (47 per cent female) benefitted from the completion of two safely managed wastewater projects in Ma'raq and Ma'an governorates.

## Social Protection and Social Policy

Set by the government as a COVID-19 response to mitigate the financial impact on informal workers whose means of income were disrupted, the National Aid Fund (NAF) has launched the Takaful 3 (Recovery) programme aiming to cover 100,000 new informal workers households with monthly cash transfer amounts, calculated based on the Takaful programme targeting formula. With UNICEF Jordan's support, registration, verification and targeting of households have been completed – to date, over 80,000 households have received their first payment.

After the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF temporarily expanded its cash transfer programme with an emergency cash component for host communities and ITSs. Almost 19,000 children ages 0-18 years were covered by the expansion. Thus, UNICEF supported a total of 30,228 children (50 per cent girls) from 10,509 households<sup>48</sup> with cash support from April to December 2020. Due to funding constraints, the COVID-19 emergency cash assistance for host communities did not continue in 2021, with the last payment covering December 2020. As of January 2021, the number of beneficiaries supported with cash assistance was decreased to 15,938 children (51 per cent girls; 9.8 per cent children with disabilities) from 5,296 vulnerable households (90 per cent Syrian, 3 per cent Jordanian, and 7 per cent from other nationalities; 32 per cent female-headed).

## Makani Programme

The Makani programme continued providing an age-appropriate integrated package of services through 141 Makani centres nationwide, reaching over 53,000 beneficiaries, of whom over 40,000 are children (55 per cent female, two per cent are children with disabilities) during the reporting period. Following government instructions, learning support services (LSS) in-person have stopped and shifted to remote delivery in March 2021 in host community settings, while other services (ECD, parenting programmes, community-based child protection and skills building) continued to be delivered in-person at the centres. Makani centres in camps, however, have completely closed and shifted to remote delivery for all service provision. For Makani centres in ITSs, UNICEF has still been able to provide all services, including LSS in-person. At the beginning of March 2021, in line with the shift to remote service delivery, UNICEF has started to provide vulnerable children and adolescents with internet connection and devices (tablets with pre-installed applications) to enable them to access Makani remote LSS services, in addition to the MOE Darsak platform. To date, 6,663 tablets have been distributed to vulnerable Syrian households in refugee camps and host communities, reaching 14,913 children (52 per cent female). The target is to reach approximately 10,000 households with devices and internet connections.

## Communication for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

Alongside COVID-19 related messaging, UNICEF, in coordination with partners, disseminated WASH-related information on community ownership for provided services, water conservation and the importance of reuse of water at a household level, as well as critical messaging regarding the importance of handwashing. This messaging has been reaching over 32,853 people monthly (50 per cent female). On 22 March, UNICEF and partners celebrated World Water Day in the camps – UNICEF and partners spread awareness on water conservation through virtual sessions, videos, posters and WhatsApp groups.

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<sup>47</sup> The kits contain baby clothes, a baby carrier, and other equipment items new mothers need for their babies.

<sup>48</sup> 3,038 households were part of the education-labelled monthly cash beneficiaries. Cash transfers were then extended to 7,471 additional beneficiary households who were negatively affected by COVID-19.

The MOH and UNICEF, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), Royal Health Awareness Society (RHAS) and the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA), continued to lead a collaborative effort to unify messaging through the national COVID-19 campaign,<sup>49</sup> which represents the most reliable source of information, countering misinformation and rumours, and promoting proper health practices and procedures.

In 2021, the national campaign<sup>50</sup> reached an estimated ten million people per month through social media and has engaged more than 370,00 people via Instagram stories. Furthermore, daily SMS broadcasts continue being shared with 300,000 vulnerable individuals.

With support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Culture (MOC) is implementing a social media campaign, Hayatna Ahem (Our Life is More Important in English), through which key messages on COVID-19 are being shared with the general public; the campaign has reached nine million individuals and engaged more than 200,000 individuals during the reporting period. The MOC is also engaging over 80 artists and actors from various fields to create videos, sketches and media segments through various media (storytelling, theatre, drama, stand-up comedy and journalism) to raise awareness about COVID-19 prevention methods, precautionary habits, home isolation and myths. A total of 3.2 million video views were recorded on the Ministry of Culture's social media platforms.

As part of the national campaign on COVID-19, UNICEF conducted an online survey in February 2021 to better understand the opinions and perceptions of people. In total, 1,942 responded to the survey (67 per cent female) from 12 governorates. The age groups who responded to this survey were: 31-40-years old (29 per cent) followed by 15-20-years-old (23 per cent) and 41-50-years old (21 per cent).

Key findings were:

- 94 per cent of respondents understood the importance of wearing a mask to prevent COVID-19.
- 51 per cent of respondents believed that the COVID-19 vaccines will work to stop the spread of the virus and enable the return to normal life however 54 per cent of these respondents were hesitant to take the vaccine themselves and 70 per cent of these respondents had concerns about the vaccines.
- 69 per cent of respondents are concerned that COVID-19 will cause the loss of a relative or friend, and 41 per cent are concerned about losing their job if the pandemic continues for a longer period.

In Azraq and Za'atari camps, UNICEF continues to operate a 24/7 hotline for WASH-related issues, to collect feedback and develop community accountability. UNICEF continues to record complaints and to investigate and resolve issues through community mobilization and/or technical teams and typically responds within 24 hours (and up to 48 hours) of when a complaint is registered.

### Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

In 2021, sectoral coordination was achieved through working groups and the Jordan Response Plan Task Forces and Resilience Plan (3RP). UNICEF Jordan played a leading role in Education, WASH, Child Protection (sub-group), and Nutrition coordination.

**Health and Nutrition:** UNICEF Jordan coordinates its support to the Government of Jordan with UN agencies and development partners. Under the umbrella of the Jordan Health Development Partners Forum, nine specialized working groups were created, including Planning and Coordination; Risk Communication; Technical Support; and Procurement etc. to support the government in scenario predictions, planning and response to the pandemic, and to better streamline the needs on the ground with support from the different partners.

**Child Protection:** The Child Protection Sub-Working Group (CPSWG) presented the 2021 Workplan for all child protection members in March 2021, focusing on different child protection areas including response to the pandemic, updating the 4Ws<sup>51</sup> and referral pathways. Furthermore, UNICEF presented the CPIMS (Child Protection information management system) update and the increasing numbers of early marriage to the CPSWG.

**Education:** UNICEF, alongside the Norwegian Refugee Council and World Vision, co-chairs the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG), ensuring that UN, NGOs and other stakeholders leverage expertise and resources in line with the MOE Education Strategic Plan (ESP) and the Jordan Response Plan (JRP). The ESWG co-chairs, with members of the Education Development Partner Group (EDPG), took part in the second Policy and Planning Coordination Committee meeting which was led by the MOE in February. The meeting focused on progress in implementing the

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<sup>49</sup> The national COVID-19 campaign is headed by the National Risk Communication and Community Engagement Taskforce, whose members include the World Health Organization, MOH, UNICEF, the National Council for Family Affairs and the Royal Health Awareness Society.

<sup>50</sup> Each week, campaign content is also shared with 56 local and community-based organizations, and nearly 155 social media pages and groups, who then disseminating the content on through their platforms. Mobilization of social media influencers, community and religious leaders is ongoing, and trainings are now being conducted online for government staff, volunteers, university students and civil society partners. To date, 180 volunteers have been trained on COVID-19 response and community engagement through live online sessions.

<sup>51</sup> Consists of 'Who, What, Where, When' questions; the data collection method used by CPSWG actors to record COVID-19 response activities.

school reopening protocols, the revised Education During Emergency Plan (released in February 2021) and the Education Strategic Plan mid-term review, annual report and statistical yearbook.

**WASH:** UNICEF continued to lead the Humanitarian WASH Sector in 2021, coordinating the overall humanitarian WASH response, particularly during the COVID-19 response, and integrating climate and sustainability measures into WASH-related initiatives to support build climate resilience in communities and national systems. In collaboration with the MOWI, UNICEF led the finalization and timely submission of the Joint Response Plan (JRP) for 2021-2023, streamlining all sector partners' planned activities, in line with national priorities and COVID-19 national response. Challenges highlighted by the sector continue to be inadequate funding, ensuring that climate and water scarcity are sufficiently integrated across WASH Sector programming, as well as the need to improve linkages between humanitarian action and development programming.

**Social Protection:** UNICEF co-chairs the Common Cash Facility (CCF) with UNHCR. The CCF is a joint, interagency cash delivery platform with a common competitive tendering process, to ensure lower cash transfer fees through the combined scale of cash transfers of multiple agencies. During the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the CCF focused on better coordination and alignment between different agencies, in addition to ensuring members are aware of regulatory changes in financing, mobile wallets and fees and the impact on beneficiaries.

[Human Interest Stories and External Media](#)

[Jordan 'an exemplary host country' for Syrian refugees - UN official | Jordan Times](#)

[Opinion: Syria, ten years on, and Covid-19 has pushed refugees to the limits](#)

[UNICEF calls for \\$ 1.4b to ensure continued assistance to Syrian children in region | Jordan Times](#)

[No country for children; the impact of ten years of war on childhood in Syria – Syria Direct](#)

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFJordan/status/1379060259541684224>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFJordan/status/1377932828072144896>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFJordan/status/1376803933398646784>

UNICEF Jordan Twitter: [@UNICEFJordan](#)

UNICEF Jordan Facebook: [UNICEF Jordan](#)

UNICEF Jordan YouTube: [UNICEF Jordan](#)

UNICEF Jordan official website: <https://www.unicef.org/jordan/>

Annex A  
Summary of Programme Results

Jordan		UNICEF and IPs response			Sector response		
Sector	Overall Needs	2021 target	Total results	Change since last report	2021 target	Total results	Change since last report
<b>Health</b>							
# children under 5 vaccinated against measles	22,000	20,900	5,036 <sup>52</sup>	N/A			
# children under 5 vaccinated against polio	22,000	20,900	5,264 <sup>53</sup>	N/A			
<b>Nutrition</b>							
# primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving with IYCF counselling	15,000	15,000	1,046 <sup>54</sup>	N/A			
# children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation every six months	250,000	187,500	47,540 <sup>55</sup>	N/A			
<b>Child Protection, GBVIE &amp; PESA</b>							
# of children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	195,000	195,000	38,707 <sup>56</sup>	N/A			
# women, girls and boys accessing CP and GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	8,000	8,000	2,892 <sup>57</sup>	N/A			
# individuals demonstrating enhanced knowledge on child protection	N/A	3,000	1,367 <sup>58</sup>	N/A			
# people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse	195,000	195,000	53,664 <sup>59</sup>	N/A			
<b>Education</b>							
# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	291,742 <sup>60</sup>	195,000 <sup>61</sup>	175,446 <sup>62</sup>	N/A	195,000 <sup>10</sup>	175,446 <sup>11</sup>	N/A

<sup>52</sup> 48% female; Location: 71% Host, 29% Camps; Nationality: 20% Syrian, 80% Jordanian

<sup>53</sup> 48% female; Location: 71% Host, 29% Camps; Nationality: 20% Syrian, 80% Jordanian

<sup>54</sup> 100% female; Location: 0% Host, 100% Camps; Nationality: 100% Syrian, 0% Jordanian

<sup>55</sup> 48% female; Location: 98% Host, 2% Camps; Nationality: 20% Syrian, 80% Jordanian

<sup>56</sup> 16% women, 4% men, 44% girls and 36% boys; Location: Host: 69% / Zaatari: 15% / Azraq: 12% / ITS: 4%

<sup>57</sup> 7% women, 41% girls & 52% boys; Location: Host: 62% / Zaatari: 18% / Azraq: 20%

<sup>58</sup> 62% female; Location: Host: 28% / Zaatari: 32% / Azraq: 41%

<sup>59</sup> 59% female; Location: Host: 67% / Zaatari: 17% / Azraq: 13% / ITS: 3%

<sup>60</sup> Overall children in need includes 234,742 school-aged Syrian children aged 5-17 years (UNHCR 2020), 52,000 vulnerable Jordanians and 5,000 vulnerable children from other nationalities

<sup>61</sup> The breakdown for 2021 target includes 131,000 registered Syrian refugee children in formal education; 3,500 children in non-formal education (1,900 Syrians, 1,450 Jordanians, 150 other nationalities); 3,500 Syrian out-of-school children from LSS; 52,000 vulnerable Jordanians covered through Makani Learning Support Services (LSS) and 5,000 other nationalities covered through LSS

<sup>62</sup> Formal education: The figure reflects data officially released from the MOE in February 2021 for the academic year 2020/2021. Total: **143,765** (50% female); Location: Host 75% / Camp 25% (8% Azraq / 15% Za'atari / 2% EJC); Nationality: 100% Syrian. NFE Dropout (as of March 2021) Total: 3,188 (46% female); Location; Host 82% / Camp 18% (6% Azraq / 12% Za'atari); Nationality: 49% Jordanian / 45% Syrian / 5% Other nationalities. NFE (Dropout) cumulative total (from 2018): Total: 11,767 (58% female); Nationality: 44% Jordanian / 51% Syrian / 5% Other nationalities. LSS Sector Total; **28,493** (53% female); Location; Host 61% / Camp 34% (13% Azraq / 21% Za'atari) / ITS 5%; Nationality; 35% Jordanian / 61% Syrian / 4% Other Nationality. Attendance; In school 96% / out of school 4%; children with disabilities 2%

# children receiving individual learning materials	850,000	637,500	347,000 <sup>63</sup>	N/A	850,000	347,000 <sup>12</sup>	N/A
<b>Water, Sanitation &amp; Hygiene</b>							
# people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	200,600	200,600	138,630 <sup>64</sup>	N/A			
# people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	1,395,000	1,395,000	137,751 <sup>65</sup>	N/A			
# people reached with hand-washing behavior-change programmes	27,000	27,000	32,853 <sup>66</sup>	N/A			
# children accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	30,000	30,000	4,801 <sup>67</sup>	N/A			
<b>Social Protection &amp; Cash Transfer</b>							
# households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and funding	300,000	100,000	-	N/A	100,000	80,979 <sup>68</sup>	N/A
# households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors	50,000	10,000	5,296 <sup>69</sup>	N/A	50,000	-	N/A
<b>Adolescents &amp; Youth</b>							
# children/adolescents accessing skills development programmes		100,000	11,950 <sup>70</sup>	N/A			
# children/adolescents and youth involved in civic engagement initiatives		100,000	13,970 <sup>71</sup>	N/A			
# adolescents and youth engaged in certified vocational trainings		3,000	513 <sup>72</sup>	N/A			
# women and youth engaged in Home Based Business or social enterprises		2,500	267 <sup>73</sup>	N/A			
<b>C4D, Community Engagement &amp; AAP</b>							
# people reached through messaging on access to services	7,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,00 <sup>74</sup>	N/A			

<sup>63</sup> The number of children having received learning materials is still being tracked. Approximately 347,000 students in Grades 4-9 have received the first three activities of the second semester of Learning Bridges

<sup>64</sup> 49% female; Location: 6% Host, 94% Camps; Nationality: 94% Syrian, 6% Jordanian

<sup>65</sup> 49% female; Location: 6% ITSs, 94% Camps; Nationality: 100% Syrian

<sup>66</sup> 49% female; Location: 1% ITSs, 99% Camps; Nationality: 100% Syrian

<sup>67</sup> 80% female; Location: 100% Host; Nationality: 100% Jordanian

<sup>68</sup> There is no UNICEF-specific result. This is UNICEF support to Government Social Protection and Cash Transfer programmes, through the National Aid Fund. The national system result is 80,979 (10.7% female-headed households, 171,745 children, 49 per cent female)

<sup>69</sup> 5,296 households; 15,938 children (51 per cent girls; 9.8 per cent children with disabilities; 90 per cent Syrian, 3 per cent Jordanian, and 7 per cent from other nationalities; 32 per cent female-headed households)

<sup>70</sup> 58% females; Location: Host 87% /Camp 13% (5% Azraq/ 8% Za'atari). Nationality; 74% Jordanian, 25% Syrians, 1% other nationalities

<sup>71</sup> 60% female; Location: Host 98.5% /Camp 1.5% Nationality; 69% Jordanian, and 21% Syrians.

<sup>72</sup> 57% female; Location; Host 75% /Camp 25% (84% Azraq/ 16% Za'atari). Nationality; 2% Jordanian, 98% Syrians.

<sup>73</sup> 100% females; Location; Host 100% /Camp % (Azraq/ % Za'atari). Nationality; 97% Jordanian, 3% Syrians, 1% other nationalities.

<sup>74</sup> Disaggregation is not available. These are not unique figures.

# people participating in engagement action	N/A	2,000,000	370,000 <sup>75</sup>	N/A			
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<sup>75</sup> Disaggregation is not available. These are not unique figures.



## Iraq

### Funding Overview and Partnerships

During the first quarter of 2021, no funds were received against UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for the Syrian refugee response in Iraq. The available funds as of March 2021 – which were carried over from 2020 – total the amount to \$ 1,553,315 against a requirement of \$10,971,271. UNICEF's response to Syrian refugees in Iraq during the first quarter of 2021 is thus 86 per cent underfunded; the sectors with major funding gaps are Education (93 per cent), Health and Nutrition (90 per cent), and Child Protection (87 per cent).

Low resource allocation by the government to respective directorates due to public financing challenges is reducing the capacity of local authorities to provide basic services and respond to the needs of both refugees and host communities. Without support from donors and partners, key programmes benefiting vulnerable Syrian refugees will be compromised; the delivery of essential services, such as vaccination against measles, identification and management of severe and moderate acute malnutrition, counselling of pregnant women and lactating mothers, new-born care through home visits, psychosocial support as well as access to learning opportunities will be seriously impaired if the above-mentioned funding gaps are not timely addressed.

In line with the Grand Bargain commitments, UNICEF will advocate for flexible funding to respond to the needs of the Syrian refugee population in Iraq and achieve the planned targets. Since the humanitarian situation in Iraq has, for a number of years, been evolving swiftly and unpredictably, the flexible and multi-year nature of thematic funding continues to be critical to allowing UNICEF to respond immediately to emergencies, reaching the most vulnerable populations in conflict- and displacement-affected locations and to support underfunded areas of programming. Flexible and multi-year funding will be crucial to meeting protracted and complex humanitarian needs using a resilience-focused and systems building approach, especially within the framework of durable solutions.

UNICEF will also increase efforts to promote joint fundraising with UNHCR within the context of UNHCR-UNICEF Blueprint for Joint Action for Refugee Children, which aims at promoting and protecting the rights of refugee children and host communities through their inclusion in national plans, budgets and service delivery systems. UNHCR and UNICEF will also work to achieve cost savings as a result of, *inter alia*, common operational arrangements (shared premises, administration, transport and other combined support measures).

### Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As a result of a decade of conflict in Syria, compounded with the activities of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Iraq has become host to a significant population of Syrian refugees. According to data from UNHCR<sup>76</sup>, there are 243,890 Syrian refugees in Iraq (73,251 households; 48 per cent women/girls), with the vast majority living in the Kurdistan Region (KRI). Children represent around 44 per cent of the registered refugee population in Iraq. According to the same source of data<sup>77</sup>, 61 per cent of the Syrian refugees living in Iraq reside in urban settings, while 39 per cent reside in camps. Prolonged displacement and reduced livelihood opportunities continue to exert pressure on the coping ability of refugee families, with their situation being further impacted by COVID-19 and related lockdown, curfews and restrictions on movement.

According to WHO<sup>78</sup> the total Covid-19 confirmed cases in Iraq stand at 993,158, with 7,941 deaths. The south and centre are worst affected, notably Baghdad, Basra and Karbala. This combined with the reduction in oil prices has exacerbated humanitarian needs, especially for the most vulnerable. The public financing challenges that Iraq and Kurdistan are going through, related to the drop in oil prices combined with the COVID-19-related economic impact, has forced the local government to take a major role in supporting WASH activities for refugees in the camps. Low resource allocation by the government to respective directorates is reducing the capacity of local authorities to provide basic services and respond to the needs of the refugees and their host communities. The health system in Iraq remains overstretched and in need of additional support, especially in camps including those housing Syrian refugees. Health infrastructure in these locations is compromised due to the government's financial gaps, political instability and weak governance. These factors also impact host communities relying on Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs).

The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted the Iraq economy at a time when it was already fragile due to prolonged and protracted instability in the region and to a decrease in oil prices. For refugee households engaging in daily-wage work, in particular, COVID-19 and its related measures - such as lockdowns, movement restrictions, and other mitigation measures - have greatly affected livelihood and employment opportunities. A report by IMPACT

## Situation in Numbers

**107,487**

children in need of humanitarian assistance  
(HAC 2021)

**243,000**

people in need  
(HAC 2021)

**243,890**

# registered refugees  
(UNHCR, February 2021)

<sup>76</sup> UNHCR IRAQ: Syrian Refugee Statistics, February 2021.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> WHO Iraq.: <https://covid19.who.int/region/emro/country/iq>, 21 April 2021

Initiatives<sup>79</sup> – funded by UNHCR Iraq - on the impact of COVID-19 on daily-wage work, including refugees, highlighted, *inter alia*, the absence of proper work contracts, social protection norms, and defined labour regulations for refugees; as a result, an estimated 52 per cent of refugee households operate in the informal sector. This segment of the workforce is particularly vulnerable to economic and labour market shocks.

UNHCR, with support from many partners, conducted the sixth round of the Regional Perception and Intention Survey (RPIS)<sup>80</sup>. Of those surveyed in Iraq, only five per cent have indicated their intention to return to areas of origin within the next 12 months; 85 per cent have neither a plan nor intention to return in the next 12 months, and 10 per cent are undecided. When asked what factors could help them decide, improved safety and security and access to livelihood were highlighted as key considerations. Additional factors were access to the property, basic services, and improved rule of law. Even among the five per cent who have expressed their intention to return within the next 12 months, there remained concerns about the situation back in Syria. The most cited concerns related to safety and security as well as limited access to livelihoods, military service amnesty and lack of access to basic services.

By end of March 2021, UNHCR released the 2021- 2022 3RP Iraq Chapter<sup>81</sup>, which continues to aim at a gradual transition from emergency humanitarian response to a longer-term solutions-oriented approach, with a focus on inclusion of refugees and strengthen public services and national systems. This gradual transition strengthens the resilience of the refugee community and host community alike, empowers host authorities through capacity building, enhances income-generating programming and requires stronger engagement with development actors.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided immunization services and Vitamin A supplementation. A total of 2,036 (49 per cent girls) children were vaccinated against polio – against a planned target of 33,669 – as part of routine immunization activities at fixed sites. Routine immunization also included Bacille-Calmet-Guerin (BCG), measles or measles-mumps-rubella and other vaccines.

UNICEF also supported community health workers to reach 1,152 women through tent-to-tent awareness sessions in the refugee camps. These teams were able to reach a total of 645 (49 per cent girls) newborns by regularly scheduled home visits, to detect danger signs and provided referral to higher levels of care if appropriate.

UNICEF has remained the main partner on procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) and according to the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic response, the orientation of health personnel on its use from January to March 1, 350 healthcare workers (11 per cent women) were reached.

### Nutrition

In quarter one, to reduce morbidity and mortality among vulnerable children and support their mothers in five refugee camps in Duhok and all refugee camps in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, the following services were provided: home-based visiting of new-born babies and their mothers; breastfeeding and counselling of mothers on appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF); and growth monitoring of children aged below 59 months. As a result of these interventions, a total of 2,555 children (49 per cent girls) aged 0 to 59 months were assessed by fixed growth monitoring teams inside the camps' clinics. The teams identified and managed five children with severe acute malnutrition and fifty more with moderate acute malnutrition. In addition, 3,525 children aged 6 to 59 months – against a planned target of 14,107 – received multiple micronutrient powders, and IYCF counselling was provided for 1,166 pregnant and lactating women with children aged less than five years.

### Child Protection

During the reporting period, UNICEF worked with implementing partners to provide preventive and response child protection services, including psychosocial support, parenting education program, case management and legal support services for children in need of protection. UNICEF also supported the delivery of parenting education and an awareness-raising programme aimed at the prevention of violence, abuse and exploitation of children. Services were delivered either remotely using a digital platform and telephone contacts as well as through face-to-face approaches, in compliance with COVID-19 guidelines for child protection interventions.

Within the first three months of 2021, UNICEF partners provided PSS to 3,092 refugee children (48 per cent girls) – against a planned target of 12,626 – and distributed Psychosocial Support Family learning kits to an additional 3,552 children (47 per cent girls). Community-based psychosocial and awareness activities also served as an entry point for the identification and referral of children at risk. Overall, a total of 1,520 children (45 per cent girls) were reached with specialized child protection services including case management and legal support. UNICEF partners also supported awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 and child protection issues (early marriage, child labour, violence prevention,

<sup>79</sup> See: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/86031>

<sup>80</sup> See: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85739>

<sup>81</sup> See: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Iraq\\_2021\\_22.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Iraq_2021_22.pdf)

etc.) reaching 10,421 individuals (52 per cent females), while a parenting programme – focusing on the promotion of positive parenting skills – was provided to an additional 764 people (51 per cent women).

### Education

UNICEF, in partnership with education authorities in KRI, continued to provide hybrid, learning services to 17,302 children (48 per cent girls) – against a planned target of 39,000 – in eight Syrian refugee camps (four camps in Erbil, three camps in Dohuk and one camp in Sulaymaniyah). Refugee children were provided with Self-Learning Materials (SLM) on Math, Science, English and Arabic and stationery, and 104 learning facilitators (35 per cent females) were trained on how to deliver hybrid learning, to support children through home-schooling using SLM, limited face-to-face learning and distance learning platforms, and to provide parents with educational messages.

In partnership with two local NGOs and education authorities in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates, 796 out-of-school children (45 per cent girls) were identified through a Back-to-Learning campaign. The implementing partners, in coordination with education authorities, managed to support the enrolment of 621 children (44 per cent girls).

### WASH

During the reporting period, 71,660 refugees (51 per cent females) in Erbil and Dohuk –were provided with access to a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene through the provision of water trucking services via water tankers (180 cubic meters per day) -against a planned target of 78,163. This also included the operation and maintenance of water facilities. Of those refugees benefiting from these services, 2,400 (51 per cent females) were in Domiz 1, and 1,200 in Domiz 2 (51 per cent females). UNICEF, in coordination with Directorate of Water Outskirts Dohuk and General Directorate of Municipalities, provided access to improved liquid waste management and sanitation system for a total of 41,737 refugees (51 per cent females) through operation and maintenance of existing WASH facilities, construction of 100 septic tanks and 100 cesspools and rehabilitation of 150 existing holding tanks. 10,067 (50 per cent females) out of the total 41,737 refugees in Domiz 1 and 2 were reached with WASH interventions in schools and health care facilities.

As part of the COVID-19 response and to promote hygiene practices in camps, awareness-raising on COVID-19 infection preventions measures is ongoing in Domiz 1 and 2 camps. During the reporting period, 100,000 soap bars were distributed to a total of 41,737 refugees (52 per cent females), 30,924 in Domiz 1 and 10,813 in Domiz 2. UNICEF also distributed 7,010 hygiene kits in four camps in Erbil on a monthly basis, reaching benefitting 29,923 refugee children and their families (50 per cent females). Furthermore, a total of 29,923 refugees in Basirma, Darashakran, Kawergosk and Qushtapa camps in Erbil were reached through ongoing solid waste collection and disposal services.

As part of the WASH exit strategy, enabling the service provider to take the lead and carry on services by using their manpower and machineries with financing will reduce the financial burden on UNICEF and in coordination with other relevant stakeholders. As a result, the garbage collection and desludging activities in Duhok camps were handed over to the General Directorate of Municipalities in Domiz refugee camps to ensure long term sustainability of services.

### Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability, RCCE

Under Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) interventions, key messages on COVID-19 and vaccination have been developed and disseminated in the camps through radio and social media platforms, reaching an estimated 80,000 refugees. Moreover, 85 rumours were tracked and targeted messages were developed to fight misinformation. In addition, as the Co-lead to the RCCE Technical Working Group, UNICEF leveraged the resources of 10 UN agencies, Ministry of Health and Health Cluster to support community engagement interventions. In collaboration with UNOPS, UNICEF was able to send out SMSs and raise awareness on vaccination across the camps, reaching an estimated 50,000 refugees. FAQs have been developed for the Iraqi Information Centre to support the hotline operators on any queries and concerns that are being raised by the communities and provide relevant feedback. A national communication strategy on the vaccination is now being rolled out with specific interventions focussing on vulnerable people, including refugees.

UNICEF managed to reach 1,152 individuals in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah refugee camps through awareness-raising interventions on IYCF and other health and nutrition-related topics. Furthermore, 3,400 individuals in Erbil refugee camps benefited from awareness-raising on COVID-19 through Child Protection partners, including child protection community mobilizers. Additionally, UNICEF is supporting an ongoing hygiene promotion intervention through social mobilization and hygiene awareness activities in Domiz 1 and 2 camps in Dohuk, to benefit more than 41,000 individuals (49 per cent females); UNICEF also trained 24 hygiene promoters and supported the conduction of a KAP assessment through the Kobo data collection tool in refugee camps in Duhok, which will inform a set of RCCE interventions in refugee camps.

### Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF's co-leadership of WASH, Education and Child Protection Sectors/sub-Sectors continues in collaboration with Mercy Corps for WASH and Save the Children for Education and Child Protection. The planning for the 3RP 2021-2022 was finalized, including identification of priority activities, target populations, and costing, in collaboration with other implementing partners.

Evaluation is an essential component of UNICEF’s humanitarian strategy. UNICEF is currently undertaking an evaluation of the psychosocial support programme in Iraq, with data collection in a selection of camps. The purpose is to assess the contribution of structured PSS to children’s well-being in the Iraq context of 2018–2020 and its positioning concerning the linkages between the humanitarian, development and recovery contexts. The findings will be available in July 2021.

#### [Human Interest Stories and External Media](#)

UNICEF Iraq press release: <https://www.unicef.org/iraq/press-releases/ten-years-syrian-refugees-lives-iraq-are-growing-tougher-and-past-gains-might-be>

UNICEF Iraq photo essay: <https://www.unicef.org/iraq/stories/committed-learning-despite-all-odds>

## Annex A

### Summary of Programme Results

Iraq		UNICEF and IPs response			Sector response		
Sector	Overall Needs	2021 target	Total results	Change since last report	2021 target	Total results	Change since last report
<b>Health</b>							
# children 0-59 months vaccinated against polio in crisis affected areas through routine immunization	33,669	33,669	2,036 <sup>82</sup>	N/A	33,669	2,036	N/A
# children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	41,427	35,785	-.83	N/A	35,785	-.84	N/A
# healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control (IPC)	1,257	1,257	-.85	N/A	1,257	-.86	N/A
# children and women accessing correct information on primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	41,427	35,785	-.87	N/A	35,785	-.88	N/A
<b>Nutrition</b>							
# children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	141	141	5	N/A	141	5	N/A
# children aged 6 to 59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders	14,107	14,107	3,525	N/A	14,107	3,525	N/A
# U5s in camps provided with access to nutrition services (growth monitoring, screening).	14,107	14,107	2,555 <sup>89</sup>	N/A	14,107	2,555	N/A
# primary caregivers of in camps children 0-23 months receiving with IYCF counselling	5,642	5,642	1,166	N/A	5,642	1,166	N/A
<b>Child Protection, GBVIE &amp; PESA</b>							
# of children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	229,739	12,626	3,092 <sup>90</sup>	N/A	24,280	3,642	N/A
# of boys and girls who received specialized child protection services	8,065	2,470	1,520 <sup>91</sup>	N/A	4,750	2,244	N/A
# of children and caretakers reached with awareness on prevention of violence against children	30,245	12,480	10,421 <sup>92</sup>	N/A	24,959	13,467	N/A

<sup>82</sup> UNICEF and IP response: 998 females; Cluster response: 998 females

<sup>83</sup> ActivityInfo (main reporting platform) is not yet operational for Health & Nutrition

<sup>84</sup> Ibid

<sup>85</sup> Ibid

<sup>86</sup> Ibid

<sup>87</sup> Ibid

<sup>88</sup> Ibid

<sup>89</sup> UNICEF and IP response: 1,252 females; Cluster response: 1,252

<sup>90</sup> UNICEF and IP response: 1,492 females; Cluster response: 1,748 females

<sup>91</sup> UNICEF and IP response 682 females; cluster response; 991 females reached

<sup>92</sup> UNICEF and IP response: 5,482 females; Cluster response: 7260 females reached

# of children and caretakers reached with awareness on prevention of violence against children		12,480	93	N/A			
<b>Education</b>							
# of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning		39,000	17,302 <sup>94</sup>	N/A	60,300	37,103	N/A
# of children receiving individual learning materials	66,970	39,000	17,302 <sup>95</sup>	N/A	67,740	31,967	N/A
# of schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)		50	27	N/A			
<b>Water, Sanitation &amp; Hygiene</b>							
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene	102,000	78,163	71,660 <sup>96</sup>	N/A	195,590	71,660	N/A
# of people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities	102,000	48,131	41,737 <sup>97</sup>	N/A	39,304	41,737	N/A
# of camp residents with access to solid waste collection and disposal services at least 3 times per week in two camps in Duhok governorate	102,000	48,131	41,737 <sup>98</sup>	N/A	94,831	41,737	N/A
# of camp residents with access to COVID-19 kits	102,000	48,131	29,923 <sup>99</sup>	N/A	71,355	29,923	N/A
# of children accessing WASH facilities in learning environments (M/F)	66,970	25,772	10,067 <sup>100</sup>	N/A	N.A	10,067	N/A

<sup>93</sup> No funds received

<sup>94</sup> UNICEF and IP response: 8,264 females; Cluster response: 18,738 females

<sup>95</sup> UNICEF and IP response: 8,264 females; Cluster response: 15,903 females

<sup>96</sup> UNICEF and IP response: 36,627 females; Cluster response: 36,627 females

<sup>97</sup> UNICEF and IP response: 21,800 females; Cluster response: 21,800 females

<sup>98</sup> UNICEF and IP response: 21,800 females; Cluster response: 21,800 females

<sup>99</sup> UNICEF and IP response: 14,827 females; Cluster response: 14,827 females

<sup>100</sup> UNICEF and IP response: 5,131 females; Cluster response: 5,131 females

# Egypt

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

Funds available up to the end of March 2021 equal \$2.09 million. While the current funding pipeline is more promising than in recent years, UNICEF Egypt remains concerned that its Humanitarian Action for Children remains significantly underfunded and has undertaken a prioritisation process based on expected income this year. Priority interventions respond to the increased threat to livelihoods caused by the pandemic and are designed to respond to additional barriers to basic health, education, and protection services. UNICEF Egypt is also ensuring that refugee populations are targeted through non-humanitarian funding sources to the greatest extent possible, and the overall funding status does not reflect non-humanitarian funding sources which support Syrian refugees.

## Humanitarian situation and needs

Egypt is a destination country for refugees and asylum-seekers. Up to the end of March 2021, 261,701 refugees and asylum seekers were registered in Egypt (80,923 refugees and 180,778 asylum-seekers); 131,989 are Syrians (50 per cent female). Around 38 per cent of all refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt are children (98,458). Out of this figure, 31,200 boys and 29,300 girls are Syrian.<sup>101</sup>

There has been a drop in the number of separated Syrian children and increasing numbers of Syrian cases are closing their files to obtain residency from the Egyptian authorities; it is, therefore, difficult to calculate exactly how many Syrians are in the country.

The global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented. On 14 February 2020, Egypt reported its first case of COVID-19. By 31 March this year, just as a third 'wave' was announced by the Minister of Health and Population (MoHP), the number of confirmed cases had reached 202,131, with 11,995 deaths. This date also marked the arrival of the first vaccines delivered through the COVAX Facility, and vulnerable refugees and migrant who meet the WHO eligibility criteria are guaranteed vaccines if they complete their registration details with the MoHP.

The pandemic has placed the national health system under unprecedented stress and made many people hesitant or unable to use health services. This situation exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and threatens to reverse the progress Egypt has made in improving child survival over the last couple of decades.

Syrian refugees remain highly vulnerable due to their precarious situation and relative lack of access to services in Egypt.<sup>102</sup> While they share similar challenges with urban poor households from the host community, they encounter additional challenges because of their legal status, including timely access to residency permits due to centralized and lengthy administrative procedures, and limited livelihood opportunities. Access to basic services has been placed at further risk due to the pandemic, with increased costs and closure of non-critical public services the main causes. The number of visits to primary health care centres decreased by 46 per cent in the second quarter of the year, due to curfew (as one of the government measures to mitigate the outbreak) and fear of getting infected in health centres. The regional analysis revealed that because of the disruption and drop in utilization of essential health services and decreased access to food, Egypt might face a growth in the total number of child deaths in the next six months. The utilization of primary health care services had been gradually increasing until the pandemic hit, with families now facing additional barriers to accessing primary health services.

Syrian refugees live in urban areas alongside local communities across the country and are mainly concentrated in Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta areas. As per the 2012 presidential decree, Syrian refugees have access to public education and health public facilities at an equal level with Egyptian nationals. While considerable progress has been made towards improving school enrolment rates<sup>103</sup>, some barriers related to access to education remain. Poverty is the main reason for Syrian refugee children not being enrolled or attending school. The steady increase of commodity prices makes it more difficult for parents from refugee communities to cover the direct and indirect costs of education and consequently leads to an increased number of children not being enrolled in schools, at-risk of dropping out or being engaged in child labour. Overcrowded classrooms, lack of supplies, language barriers, violence and discrimination in schools remain major constraints to education, particularly in refugee-dense areas.

Even before the spread of COVID-19 in Egypt, Syrian refugees and asylum seekers endured economic hardships, especially after the economic reforms adopted by the government. After the liberalization of the Egyptian pound in November 2016, there was a significant increase in the cost of living, including all food commodities and services, which makes it more difficult for vulnerable groups to meet their basic needs. The rise in prices of gasoline and electricity in

## Situation in Numbers

**1,206,100**

children in need of humanitarian assistance (HAC 2021)

**2,305,900**

people in need (HAC 2021)

**131,989**

registered Syrian refugees (UNHCR, February 2021)

<sup>101</sup>3RP 2019/2020.

<sup>102</sup> "Leaving No One Behind in the Time of COVID-19: Preliminary mapping of potential socio-economic impacts of Covid-19 and guidance for policy responses in Egypt through a vulnerability lens", United Nations Country Team, April 2020.

<sup>103</sup> Reaching 89 per cent per latest UNHCR internal survey in 2018.

2018 resulted in the acceleration of inflation, which further worsened the situation. Amid the critical situation caused by COVID-19, the progressive removal of energy subsidies which started in July saw electricity fees spiking between 17 to 30 per cent.

Egypt is expected to face a downward trend in economic growth in the coming months<sup>104</sup>, though it is too early to determine the exact magnitude. Nevertheless, in the coming year economic performance will be weaker than expected and the speed and scale of the recovery will be based on stimulus efforts and the duration of the crisis. In a socio-economic analysis conducted by the UN Country Team in Egypt, 'Leaving No-One Behind', refugees and migrants have been identified as particularly vulnerable groups likely to suffer the deepest and most immediate impacts of the economic downturn. UNICEF conducts ongoing monitoring of the socioeconomic consequences of COVID for refugees quarterly through phone surveys, the findings of which are shared with UNHCR and other key stakeholders in the refugee response. These surveys highlight the specific vulnerabilities of refugees, the majority of whom cannot afford the associated costs of healthcare or access to the internet for online learning, and refugee children are more likely to display distress due to the repeated lockdowns. Negative coping mechanisms are therefore expected to be higher amongst this population.

The vulnerability and needs of the host community are no lesser than those of the refugees, with Egypt's economy likely to face continued challenges throughout the remainder of this year. The secondary impacts are expected to affect poor host communities and refugees considerably, given their pre-existing vulnerabilities. The first national curfew began on 19 March 2020, limited to the closure of restaurants and entertainment businesses from 7 pm until dawn. The secondary impacts therefore only began to take hold once more stringent curfew measures were in place and informal labour opportunities started to disappear.

### Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF, in line with the 2021/2022 Refugee Resilience Response Plan (3RP), has leveraged existing programme mechanisms and partnerships with relevant government and non-government partners to address access to and quality of services to refugee and migrant children in child protection, education, health and social protection. While providing humanitarian assistance to refugee and migrant children, UNICEF also supported the strengthening of national systems to ensure that these systems are increasingly inclusive of the refugee and migrant population. As co-chair of the Education Working Group (EWG) and the Child Protection sub-sector Working Group (CPWG) as well as a member of the Health Working Group (HWG) and Cash for Basic Needs Working Group, UNICEF contributed to identifying coordination mechanisms that would strengthen synergies among humanitarian actors and enhance effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian efforts for refugee and migrant children in Egypt. In that regard, UNICEF is currently working with a wide range of partners to conduct an information and training programme on the Core Commitments for Children (CCCs), which inform UNICEF's approach to coordination, amongst other topics. UNICEF provided technical support to the National Taskforce on Children on the Move/National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) to finalize and adopt annexes to the national SOPs addressing migrant children, refugee children, and victims of trafficking.

The work of UNICEF contributes both to outbreak control and mitigation of the collateral impacts of the pandemic, including the risks to the continuity of essential social services for children, women and vulnerable populations. The objectives of the organization's COVID-19 preparedness and response strategy are to reduce human-to-human transmission in affected countries and to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on children, youth and their care providers, especially for the most vulnerable. UNICEF's strategy is in line with the COVID-19 strategic preparedness and response plan of the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) humanitarian response plan led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

In close coordination with UNICEF MENARO, UNICEF Egypt has contributed to developing a cross-border coordination initiative between Egypt and Sudan to focus on strengthening cross-border cooperation among child protection authorities in both countries, aiming to provide a continuum of care, protection, support and access to services for all children on the move across key migratory routes. On the other hand, UNICEF has been coordinating with governmental partners, including the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM & TIP), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the NCCM, on the required arrangements to launch the initiative and to implement the planned activities.

### Summary Analysis of Programme Response

#### Health

In the first quarter of the year, UNICEF and the MoHP continued support to Syrian families to utilize essential maternal and child health and nutrition services at the primary health care level and making referrals to secondary health care when needed. UNICEF support was provided through training of doctors, nurses and Community Health Workers (CHWs) on updated protocols and guidance related to maternal and child health and nutrition. To respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the training expanded to cover the organization of health services, immunization during the pandemic, Infection Prevention and Control, and preventive measures against COVID-19.

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<sup>104</sup> "Leaving No One Behind in the Time of COVID-19: Preliminary mapping of potential socio-economic impacts of Covid-19 and guidance for policy responses in Egypt through a vulnerability lens", United Nations Country Team, April 2020.



Overall, it is estimated that 4,610 refugees (3,069 refugee children and 1,541 refugee women) received essential health care services (immunization, growth monitoring and promotion, care of a sick child) and antenatal care service respectively in UNICEF-supported facilities in the first quarter of 2021.

In total, 12,232 consultations were provided to refugee children (on average each child had 4.0 contacts with primary health care services) and 2,541 consultations were provided to refugee women (1.6 contacts with primary health care per woman) in the first quarter of 2021.

As wild poliovirus type II has been detected in the environmental samples in Giza, Alexandria, Quena, and Aswan in the last year, the MoHP organized the National Immunization Days against polio. Two rounds of door-to-door vaccination of under-five children with polio vaccine conducted, using the monovalent oral polio vaccine type II. The action, organized in partnership with UNICEF and WHO, was successful, as 16.6 million children were reached, including refugee children (over 100 per cent of planned children reached). UNICEF supported the campaign through procurement and delivery of oral polio vaccine, procurement of personal protective equipment for health workers, planning and coordination and social mobilization. Instrumental to the success of the campaign was proper planning, excellent coordination with developmental partners, including WHO, UNHCR and others, and technical support from global and regional UNICEF and WHO polio teams.

### Child Protection

From January to March, UNICEF continued its partnership with the MoHP in the government's effort to mainstream child protection interventions in family clubs under the PHUs. By 1 March, UNICEF had expanded family clubs to a total of 54 PHUs in seven governorates (Cairo, Giza, Qalubia, Alexandria, Behera, Monofia and Damietta).

Since mid-February, the family clubs have partially re-opened following their closure last year due to the pandemic. However, most of the face-to-face activities with children still cannot be fully implemented, For many locations, all necessary arrangements have been made in order to deliver online, remote PSS sessions targeting children and their families rather than face-to-face ones.

Since the re-opening of the family clubs, 5,187 children, adolescents and youth have participated in structured, sustained PSS, life skills and child protection programmes. Also, 2,813 women and men participated in positive parenting programmes.

UNICEF, in cooperation with partner NGOs, has delivered multi-sectoral case management services to 2,361 children and youth. Among these cases, 86 received cash-based interventions, 55 children, adolescents and youth with specific needs, including those with disabilities, benefited from specialized CP support, and three Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) survivors received multi-sectoral services.

As part of UNICEF's ongoing effort to respond to cases of detained children due to irregular migration (particularly those who are still in detention during the COVID-19 crisis), UNICEF played a significant role in addressing the needs of 75 children in detention, including those held in the southern border in Aswan and the Red Sea governorates. In addition, UNICEF Egypt communicated with the NCCM and the Prosecution Office, on the case of 75 migrant and refugee children held in Aswan and the Red Sea to call for their immediate release amidst the COVID-19 situation.

UNICEF Egypt has also been working closely with UNHCR and IOM to coordinate the efforts of the National Children on the Move Taskforce to finalize the simplified referral pathway in accordance with the COM SOPs (the Standard Operating Procedures for the Protection and Assistance of Child Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Victims of Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons). UNICEF has also coordinated with the National Coordinating Committee for Preventing and Combating Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM&TIP), to standardise approaches and practices, particularly around the alternative measures to detention, and to obtain their full understanding and support on the roll-out of the SOPs.

As a result of the coordination efforts with UNICEF Sudan under the cross-border initiative mentioned in the coordination section, the following steps were proposed to NCCPIM&TIP and the MOFA:

1. Orientation workshop: a half-day online 'Orientation Workshop' hosted by UNICEF MENARO, inviting NCCPIM&TIP and the NCCM from Egypt and National Council on Child Welfare (NCCW) from Sudan to introduce the concept of the high-level key government stakeholder Egypt-Sudan workshop and its objectives.
2. A high-level key government stakeholder Egypt-Sudan workshop: In the workshop, global and continental best practices of Thailand, Mexico and Zambia will be shared about the support to children on the mover. Also, participants will discuss arriving at a mutually agreed bi-lateral commitment.

Development of a roadmap: interventions were conducted and include:

- Coordination between key Egyptian Government Ministries and UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM); Cross-border coordination between the Governments and key ministries of Egypt and Sudan.
- Implementation of the national case management information management system in Aswan; and operationalization of the 2020 COM SOPs streamlined with the Vol. 1 Children at Risk SOPs.

### Education

UNICEF distributed education cash grants to 9,561 refugee children (46 per cent Syrians, 53 per cent Sub-Saharan Africans, and 1 per cent other nationalities) aged 3 to 6 years for the 2020/2021 academic year. The education cash grants played an essential role in supporting vulnerable refugee children to access equal early learning opportunities. Furthermore, the grants partially covered the direct and indirect costs of education (e.g. school fees, transportation, internet credits for online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, etc.). In addition to the education grant, a total of 1,299 children (10 per cent Syrians, 88 per cent Africans, two per cent other nationalities) received their top-ups as support for their additional expenses with regards to accessing online learning while schools were closed as many families were struggling and refugees' vulnerabilities had increased during the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 23,397 children (46 per cent Syrians, 49 per cent Sub-Saharan Africans and 5 per cent children from other nationalities) benefitted from the distribution of learning materials (to refugee children directly or indirectly through the distribution to the refugee community schools). UNICEF distributed 1,704 tablets to refugee children (98 per cent Sub-Saharan Africans and 2 per cent other nationalities) to access the Learning Passport platform to ensure the continuity of their learning. In addition, 110 Sub-Saharan African teachers have received tablets from the three targeted refugee community schools under the Learning Passport blended learning pilot. UNICEF distributed LEGO and DUPLO kits to 101 refugee community schools, benefitting 15,827 refugee children (34 per cent Syrians, 62 per cent Sub-Saharan Africans and 4 per cent other nationalities) as well as in-kind donations of books to 36 refugee community schools, benefitting 5,866 refugee children (92 per cent Syrians, 1 per cent Sub-Saharan Africans and 7 per cent other nationalities).

Moreover, 235 kindergarten teachers and education personnel (45 per cent Syrians, 52 per cent Sub-Saharan Africans and three per cent from other nationalities) received LEGO training to improve the quality of education in kindergartens hosting refugee children. In the training, teachers and education personnel were encouraged to increase their engagement using the LEGO and DUPLO kits in the classroom to deliver innovative teaching methods to the children and promote play-based learning. Apart from the LEGO training, the teachers were also capacitated on how to operate schools safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) in collaboration with UNICEF has completed the minor rehabilitation work of 402 public schools, benefitting 428,503 host community children and 9,825 refugee children in six governorates. These rehabilitated schools provide a more conducive learning environment for all children to learn.

### Social Protection

UNICEF has not yet received sufficient funding to initiate its planned humanitarian cash distributions for child refugees through the social protection programme in 2021, nor for regular cash grants for winterization assistance.

While refugees share similar challenges with Egyptian urban poor households, the majority of them rely heavily on informal labour which has been hardest hit by the COVID-19 outbreak and the measures taken to curb its spread. If not provided with regular cash grants, these children and their families risk not being able to satisfy their basic needs, which may, in turn, mean that households will be forced into negative coping mechanisms. This could include compromising on the nutrition and health of their children by not sending them to school or reducing expenditure on food and other essentials to get by; even more negative coping mechanisms lie in wait.

As of the end of March 2021, regular cash grants have been significantly reduced by all agencies in Egypt due to underfunding, and the COVID-19 response calls for a joint action to support all refugees but especially children refugees to be able to still meet their basic needs and get an education. Providing one-off cash support to Syrian vulnerable families with children would be key to sustain these populations during the crisis and providing for their basic needs, while jobs opportunities are scarce.

To better understand the situation of refugees and especially of child refugees UNICEF is undertaking a regular, real-time telephone-based survey across the country<sup>105</sup> to understand the impact of COVID-19 on children and vulnerable population mainly concerning access to and utilization of services relating to education, health and nutrition and protection. This will assess how COVID-19 has affected the status of people with regards to their employment,

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<sup>105</sup> In addition to the sample of about 1,500 households of Egyptian population, a sample of about 200 respondents from the refugee population are also being interviewed in each round of these surveys to collect information on all the topics mentioned above. It may however be noted that the number of refugees who participate in the surveys is small and hence results based on them are not statistically robust. The results need to be seen more as an indicative assessment of the status of refugees and asylum seekers post-lockdown. Moreover, the refugees included in the survey are sampled from a list of contacts available with the UNICEF which is not exhaustive and does not cover all refugees residing in Egypt.

consumption/expenditure. Data collection and analysis for the first three rounds are now completed and findings have been shared with relevant stakeholders.

Some key findings from these surveys are:

1. Though every second household is aware of e-learning facilities, less than one in five children/ adolescents are using them; a large proportion of the sample respondents (51 per cent) reported a loss of employment after the onset of COVID-19.
2. About nine in 10 respondents reported a decrease in household income and 80 per cent on decreasing household expenditure, specifically on food, health services and medication, and children education post the onset of the pandemic.
3. Almost every second refugee household reported difficulties in accessing medical consultation and since the lockdown started.

About one-third mentioned that household member(s) experienced increased levels of stress. Children showed increased levels of crying, screaming disrupted sleeping patterns in about 50 per cent of households. In about two-thirds of households, members had to reduce meal portions or the number of meals per day on account of the limited quantity of food available to them, while about 44 per cent of households started compromising on the quality of food intake.

### [Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy](#)

In a protracted humanitarian situation such as that of Syrian refugees in Egypt, the strategy focuses on providing specialised services and support to the most vulnerable refugees, whilst simultaneously improving access to quality services for both refugee and host communities. In 2020 that strategy was modified to ensure that refugees can respond to shocks such as loss of livelihoods and exposure to significant health risks. Providing a minimum level of services, therefore, required additional emphasis on improving access to services, to mitigate some of the additional barriers posed by the pandemic in terms of movement and increased living costs.

UNICEF continues to take the lead in providing support for primary health care services provided at MoHP Primary Health Units (PHUs) by training health care providers and encouraging Syrian families to utilize the public health services, in addition, to referring cases to secondary health care services supported by UNHCR and WHO as necessary. The package of interventions continues to adhere to the principles of the continuum of care across pre-conception, pregnancy, delivery, newborn and childhood period and the continuum of care from the household, community and health facility, with an emphasis on primary health care and community-based approaches.

In 2021, UNICEF and partners will work towards ensuring inclusive access to learning and education through the provision of cash grants for pre-primary aged school children and support to community-based kindergartens. To reduce the financial burden on parents faced as a result of the current socio-economic situation and impact of the COVID-19 crisis in Egypt-UNICEF plans to also provide education supplies (including tablets) to refugee children at the beginning of the 2021-22 academic year. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education was very challenging not only for the most vulnerable children, particularly refugee children but also for the educators and parents. To support the continuation of learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF has launched the “Learning Passport (LP)”, an online learning platform powered by Microsoft to support the three key stakeholders of education in Egypt, namely students, educators and parents. The platform helps the three key stakeholders differently: learners to access relevant instructional materials, child-friendly COVID-19 awareness-raising materials, life skills including digital skills and psychosocial support; educators to access instructional materials with a special focus on digital literacy in response to COVID-19; parents to access relevant parenting materials that will support them in their ‘new role’ to support children in their learning. UNICEF continues to provide support to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the refugee community and public schools and to create a safe learning environment. UNICEF’s provision of life skills education aimed at addressing peer to peer violence and discrimination at school and enhancing the resilience and social cohesion among refugee and host community children. Furthermore, UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) to strengthen the capacity of the education system to deliver a timely and coordinated evidence-based education response

In addition, UNICEF provides psychosocial support services, positive parenting and case management services for Syrian children also working on expanding the ‘Cash for Basic Needs’ programme through increasing the value of the grant, depending on the availability of funds, and increasing the number of beneficiaries with focus on 3,800 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). Due to the mixed migration trends in Egypt and the high number of refugees and migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa and other countries (representing 45 per cent of the total refugee population), UNICEF continues to advocate for a ‘one refugee’ approach to ensure equity for all refugees and migrants.

UNICEF is working in the following areas of strategic priority against COVID-19:

Strategic priority 1: Public health response to reduce novel coronavirus transmission and mortality.

Strategic priority 2: Continuity of health, education, and social services; assessing and responding to the immediate secondary impacts of the COVID-19 response.

### [Human Interest Stories and External Media](#) [Returning to Life After COVID](#)

Annex A  
Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall Needs	UNICEF and IPs response			Sector response		
		2021 target	Total results	Change since last report	2021 target	Total results	Change since last report
<b>Health<sup>106</sup></b>							
# children under 5 vaccinated against polio <sup>107</sup>		16,000,000	16,635,635	N/A			
# children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities		677,286	4,610 <sup>108</sup>	N/A			
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services		7,500	-	N/A			
<b>Child Protection, GBVIE &amp; PESA<sup>109</sup></b>							
# children accessing mental health and psychosocial support		70,000	5,187	N/A			
# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions		5,000	-	N/A			
# women and men participating in positive parenting programs		20,000	2,813	N/A			
# children, adolescents and youth benefitting from multi-sectoral case management		15,000	2,361	N/A			
# children, adolescents and youth with specific needs including with disabilities benefitting from specialized CP support		500	-	N/A			
<b>Education<sup>110</sup></b>							
# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning		9,000	4,365 <sup>111</sup>	N/A			
# children receiving individual learning materials		46,000	-	N/A			
# children/adolescents accessing skills development programmes		183,000	-	N/A			
# of teachers and education personnel trained		17,500	106 <sup>112</sup>	N/A			

<sup>106</sup> 101,000 Syrian refugee women and children in need

<sup>107</sup> Target is for 2 rounds of polio NIDs for Egyptians and non-Egyptians

<sup>108</sup> The figures are for Syrian refugees only. The Ministry of Health and Population will provide results for the host community in Q2

<sup>109</sup> 60,100 Syrian refugee children in need

<sup>110</sup> 60,100 Syrian refugee children in need

<sup>111</sup> A total of 9,561 refugee children (4,365 Syrians, 5,041 Sub-Saharan Africans and 155 from other nationalities) received education cash grants for the 2020-2021 academic year. UNICEF results in the table reflect the reach to Syrian refugees only

<sup>112</sup> A total of 235 teachers (106 Syrians, 123 Sub-Saharan Africans, and 6 from other nationalities) who attended the Teacher's preparedness training attended the LEGO training. UNICEF results in the table reflect the reach to Syrian refugees only

Social Protection & Cash Transfer							
# households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sector		21,370	-. <sup>113</sup>	N/A			
C4D, Community engagement & AAP							
# people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)		250,000	-	N/A			

<sup>113</sup> For all zero results, no activities were conducted since January 2021, this is due to the funding gap

