



COVID-19 awareness messaging in Al-Hol Camp © UNICEF/Souleiman/2021

Reporting Period: 1 to 31 October 2021

Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report

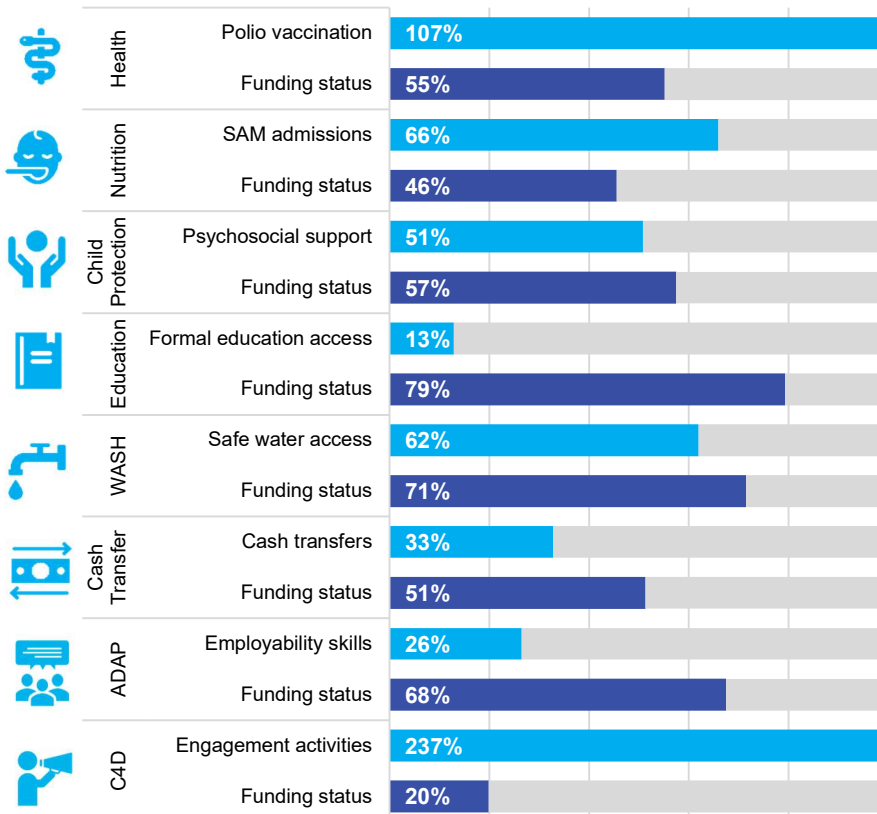
October 2021



Highlights

- From the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to 31 October 2021, 166,848 cases of COVID-19 including 5,726 deaths have been confirmed across the whole of Syria. From when schools reopened on 5 September to 28 October, 1,740 COVID-19 cases have been identified among teachers and students. A lockdown in Tabqqa District, Ar-Raqqa has closed schools for 50,000 children as well as 2,000 students supported by UNICEF with non-formal education. It is believed that the fourth wave, which began in August 2021, may be in decline as of the last week of October.
- An attack on Ariha in Idleb Governorate killed 10 civilians including four children who were on their way to school. More than 20 civilians were injured. The UNICEF Regional Director released [a statement on these deaths](#). The statement noted that the numbers of children injured and killed in Syria continue to increase.
- In 2021, UNICEF requires \$334,430,070 to provide lifesaving assistance to 9.1 million people (including 5.5 million children) across Syria according to the [Humanitarian Action for Children](#). \$216,610,938 is currently available, with a \$118,048,340 (35 per cent) gap.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



Situation in Numbers

6,080,000 children in need of humanitarian assistance

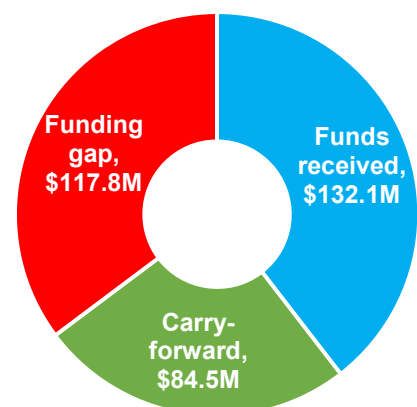
13,400,000 people in need

6,700,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs)

2,565,766 children in difficult to access areas

(source: OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2021)

UNICEF Appeal: \$334.4 million



Note: on the C4D Indicator: Results include activities funded undertaken in coordination with, and funded by, programme sections.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2021, UNICEF requires \$334,430,070 to provide lifesaving assistance to 7.9 million people (including 5.9 million children) across Syria according to the revised 2021(HAC). Of the total funding requirements, \$216,610,938 is currently available, with a \$118,048,340 (35 per cent) gap. The 2021 HAC has now been updated to bring the targets and funding requirements in line with the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan. Funding gaps for Social Protection (49 per cent) and Child Protection (44 per cent) remain particularly acute, with critical needs also seen in other sectors. This is expected to compromise the ability of UNICEF to help the most vulnerable children and families cope with the worsening impacts of the socio-economic crisis and high levels of food insecurity, which expected to be exacerbated by the current drought conditions.

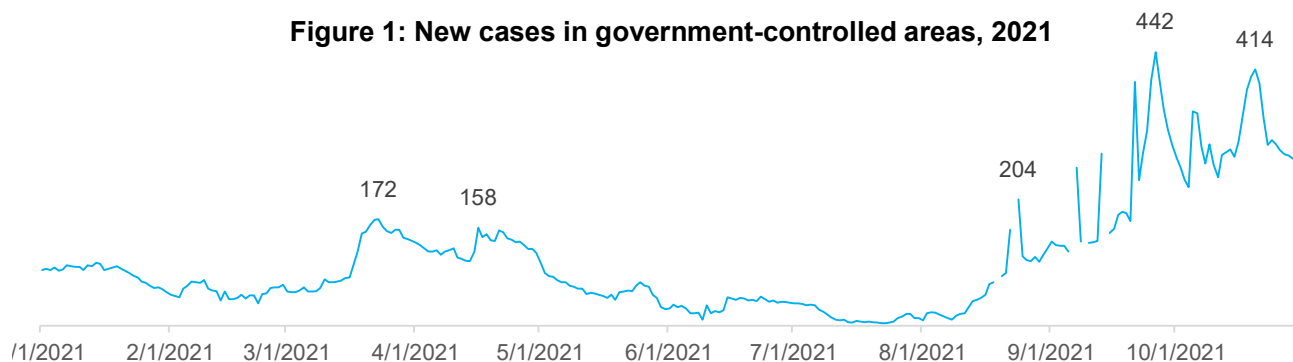
This year, the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States as well as ECHO, the Syria Humanitarian Fund and UNICEF national committees have generously contributed to ongoing UNICEF humanitarian response across Syria. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private partners for this critical support.

UNICEF continued to lead the Water and Sanitation, Education, Nutrition Sectors/Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Group. Further, UNICEF also co-leads, together with World Vision International, the No Lost Generation Initiative, bringing together 39 UN and NGO partners to advocate for the protection, education and development of Syrian children, adolescents and young people, within the umbrella of the Syria HRP and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP).

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

COVID-19: From the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to 31 October 2021, 166,848 cases of COVID-19 including 5,726 deaths have been confirmed across the whole of Syria, including 88,423 in northwest Syria (NW Syria)¹. Actual cases likely far exceed the number of confirmed cases due to limited testing in the country. It is believed that the fourth wave of COVID-19 cases, which began in August 2021, may be in decline. Cases decreased across the country in the last week of October. Despite this decline, the impact of COVID-19 continues. In NW Syria, 96 per cent of intensive care unit beds are occupied² and oxygen shortages have been reported in several hospitals. From 28 to 30 October, isolation facilities in Carelton, Kafr Takharim and Jisr-Ash-Shugur Hospitals received oxygen concentrators and oxygen cylinders³.

Figure 1: New cases in government-controlled areas, 2021



Alouk Water Station: Alouk water station was reported to be partially operational throughout October, with between 20 and 24 out of 30 submersible pumps/boreholes and 3 to 4 out of 12 horizontal pumps operational. Alouk provides water to 460,000 people in Al-Hasakeh, including Al-Hasakeh and Tal Tamer Cities as well as 100,000 IDPs in Al-Hol Camp and 17,000 people in collective centres and indirectly benefits up to one million people. UNICEF, in close coordination with the UNICEF Regional Director and Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinators continued to advocate for unhindered safe humanitarian access to ensure sustained functionality and operation of the water station, and the electricity network that feeds the station.

Dara'a Al-Balad: After the 9 September 2021 ceasefire agreement, the security situation in Dara'a's Governorate, including Dara'a Al-Balad, has remained stable⁴. Various security incidents (including improvised explosive devices and

¹ OCHA, Developments in north-west Syria and Ras Al Ain – Tell Abiad, Situation Report No. 32, October 2021

² OCHA, Developments in north-west Syria and Ras Al Ain – Tell Abiad, Situation Report No. 32, October 2021

³ Note: This was not supported by UNICEF, however, is critical to the situation in the area.

⁴ OCHA, [Syria: Humanitarian Situation in Dara'a Governorate - Situation Report No. 02](#), posted: 27 September 2021 and UNICEF monitoring.

targeted killings) have continued. UNICEF through its partners is supporting activities targeting returnees to, and the community of, Dara'a Al-Balad.

Northwest Syria: Artillery shelling and aerial strikes affected several communities in Idlib, northern Hama, Latakia and western Aleppo in October, though fewer strikes were reported than in September. The most significant strike was in Ariha, which killed 10 civilians including four children in a market, on main roads and on the way to school. More than 20 civilians were injured⁵. The UNICEF Regional Director released [a statement on these deaths](#). Demonstrations were held in Azaz, Afrin and Al Bab in solidarity with the people of Ariha, and to demand improved conditions, including salaries, for teachers. Additionally, on 1 October, artillery shelling hit an informal IDP settlement near Batenta Village in Ma'aret Tamsrin Sub-District killing a woman and a child⁶. On 27 October, shelling in Sham al-Khair Camp, in Termanin Village in northern Idlib killed one and injured four children.

Rukban: During October, UNICEF partners vaccinated the 15 children who passed from Rukban to Al-Waha transit point as part of emergency medical evacuations by WHO. In addition, the children were screened for malnutrition; eight children under 5 were identified with, and began treatment for, moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

Socioeconomic situation: WFP released its [Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping for October 2021](#), which highlighted that 52 per cent of households have poor or borderline food consumption, the highest rate since October 2020. Ninety-one per cent of households are using food-based coping mechanisms such as eating less or less-expensive food. Fourteen per cent have withdrawn their children from school in order to work. According to the [WFP Market Price Watch Bulletin](#)⁷, the national average price of the standard reference food basket⁸ reached its highest recorded level in September since monitoring began in 2013. It increased by seven per cent between August and September, reaching SYP 186,319. The informal national average price of transport diesel and one butane gas cylinder (25,000 L) increased by 22 and 48 per cent in September compared to August, reaching SYP 2,796 per litre and SYP 73,482 per refill respectively.

A [joint statement on the occasion of World Food Day](#) (16 October 2021) expressed concern over the widespread and growing hunger in Syria. It noted that 10 years of devastating crisis, the recent severe economic decay and COVID-19 have already pushed over 12 million people into food insecurity. The UN warns that without urgent action, millions of more people living in Syria today are at risk of going hungry. Among the 12.4 million people considered food insecure, 1.3 million people are severely food insecure⁹.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

In October, 155,847 **free medical consultations** (62,178 for boys, 62,397 for girls, 26,923 for women and 4,349 for men¹⁰) were provided by UNICEF implementing partners through fixed centres and mobile teams in 14 governorates. This includes 13,371 consultations in northeast Syria (NE Syria) (3,140 in Al-Hol Camp) and 36,639 in NW Syria. Overall, in 2021, 1,365,145 consultations have been provided, 76 per cent of the annual target. In October, 220 health workers and community volunteers (192 females) were trained on newborn care including 60 new community volunteers who will provide at-home visits in As-Sweida, Douma in Rural Damascus and Dara'a, the latter two areas being considered newly accessible. In October 1,833 home visits were undertaken to 723 pregnant women and 279 newborns in 70 villages in 12 governorates.

In terms of **routine immunization**, 43,443 children under 1 (21,758 girls) were vaccinated with their third dose of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT3) vaccine. This brings the DPT3 total for 2021 to 290,323 children under 1 vaccinated outside of NW Syria, or 56 per cent of the annual target for these areas. Routine immunization rates are low as deteriorating socioeconomic conditions make it difficult for families to have the time and transportation costs to bring their children for vaccination. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign is also adding a new reporting burden to the system. The Ministry of Health is planning a national routine immunization campaign from 24 November to 2 December covering all antigens for children under 5 to improve coverage rates. This will target 97,819 children believed to have defaulted.

⁵ OCHA Daily briefing for November

⁶ OCHA daily situation report, 4 October and IHSAN Weekly Security, 5 October

⁷ Posted on 21 October, includes the most recent available data.

⁸ The standard food basket is a group of essential food commodities. In Syria, the food basket is set at a group of dry goods providing 2,060 kcal a day for a family of five during a month. The basket includes 37 kg bread, 19 kg rice, 19 kg lentils, 5 kg of sugar and 7 litres of vegetable oil.

⁹ [WFP Syria Situation Report #9, September 2021](#), 29 October 2021.

¹⁰ This programme focuses on children and women.

Separately, in NW Syria, 10,569 children under 1 (5,263 girls) received DPT3 in October, for a total of 95,891 children vaccinated. This is 120 per cent of the annual target, with population shifts and a lack of civil registration leading to the over-achievement.

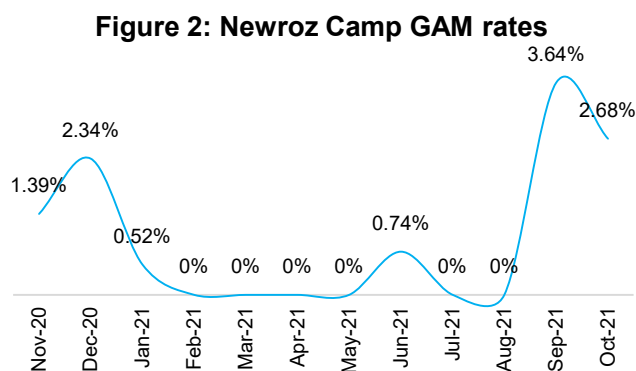
Finally, a national polio vaccination campaign round ran in October, vaccinating 2,450,255 children under 5, or 88.1 per cent of the 2,780,911 target.

As of 30 October, 642,604 people have received at least one dose of **COVID-19 vaccine**, or 4.0 per cent of the population. This includes 439,509 people who are fully vaccinated (2.7 per cent of the population). Separately, 164,645 people (3.83 per cent of the population) in NW Syria have received one dose and 63,885 have received two doses (1.49 per cent of the population). In NW Syria, this includes 18,281 health workers, 67,667 social workers and 61,100 patients with co-morbidities. In terms of age, 22,780 of those vaccinated in NW Syria are over 50, while the rest are aged 30 to 49. The very low vaccination rates across Syria are driven by the low availability of the vaccine.

Nutrition

UNICEF has screened 2,040,024 beneficiaries for acute malnutrition, including 250,458 newly screened in October: 186,706 children under 5 (92,595 girls) and 63,842 pregnant and lactating women. Of these, 83,363 children (41,637 girls) and 32,376 women are in NW Syria. Through this screening, 1,864 children (1,031 girls) with **severe acute malnutrition (SAM)** were identified and enrolled for treatment, including 932 in NW Syria. The above data shows proxy malnutrition rates below international emergency thresholds. In total, 12,140 children have been admitted for SAM treatment by UNICEF partners as of October.

Newroz Camp in Al-Hasakeh had no identified cases of acute malnutrition in July and August 2021. UNICEF had no operational partner in the camp at the time in September when a new wave of displaced mothers and children arrived to the camp. An emergency team of local nurses supported by UNICEF were deployed and equipped with paediatric kits from UNICEF to respond to the mothers and children within 48 hours of their arrival. Thirty children with acute malnutrition were referred to a stabilization centre and UNICEF advocated with the hospital to exceptionally allow mothers to accompany their malnourished children (generally not allowed by COVID-19 protocols).



This year, 783,229 women and children have received **micronutrients**, 40 per cent of the annual target. This includes 56,244 children (28,406 girls) and 48,272 women newly reached in October, of which 10,813 children (5,576 girls) and 27,687 women were in NW Syria. Stock shortages due to logistical delays early in 2021 have affected UNICEF's overall reach. While UNICEF is providing technical and financial support to accelerate and expand micronutrient supplementation, it does not expect to reach its annual target for 2021. UNICEF partners also counselled 150,286 caregivers (133,587 females) on optimal **infant and young child feeding (IYCF)** practices in October. This includes 8,179 caregivers in NE Syria and 46,793 in NW Syria.

Nutrition Sector

In September, 7 out of the 46 Nutrition Sector partners reported reaching 397,837 beneficiaries including 199,630 pregnant and lactating women, 10,858 men, 99,715 girls and 87,634 boys. These beneficiaries were reached in 58 out of 63 districts and 234 out of 270 subdistricts. Sixty-eight per cent of beneficiaries were from high severity sub-districts. This includes screening 88,376 children (44,599 girls) out of which 2,863 children (1,661 girls) were identified with MAM and treated, as were 2,197 children (1,244 girls) with uncomplicated SAM and 39 children (17 girls) with SAM and medical complications.

Partners also provided 120,627 children (66,426 girls) with lipid-based nutrients; 22,116 children (11,179 girls) with micronutrients; 31,212 pregnant and lactating women with micronutrients; and 64,417 pregnant and lactating women with cash-based or in-kind support to promote dietary diversity. Finally, 148,653 pregnant women and caregivers of children under 2 were counselled on IYCF. The Nutrition Sector also worked to improve the quality of services through training: 348 staff (306 female) were trained on IYCF in emergencies in October (1,114 trained from January to October) 118 (92 female) on surveys and surveillance (220 this year); 206 (150 female) on community management of acute malnutrition (337 this year); and 73 female community health workers trained on IYCF in emergencies (85 this year).

Child Protection

In October, UNICEF and its partners provided lifesaving messages and face-to-face **explosive ordnance risk education** (EORE) sessions to 109,908 children (57,217 girls) and 22,390 caregivers (8,648 women) in 14 governorates, including 8,080 children (3,998 girls) and 2,170 caregivers (1,250 women) in NW Syria. Forty per cent of the children and caregivers reached in government-controlled areas received messages during the national polio campaign (see Health Section below for more information on the campaign). Integration of EORE messages into vaccination campaigns allows UNICEF to reach children in less-accessible areas. This year, 770,163 children (402,564 girls) and 161,818 caregivers (90,213 women) have received EORE messages, including 49,478 in NE Syria.

Sixty-four **unaccompanied and separated children** (23 girls) were provided with 24/7 care in the interim care centre in Al-Hol Camp. These children benefited from case management, psychosocial support and family tracing while 34 were referred to health services and 55 participated in sessions on COVID-19 prevention. A psychosocial counsellor was hired, who organized sessions for 51 children (23 girls). Also in NE Syria, and as part of the COVID-19 response in IDP camps, 3,236 children and their caregivers benefited from accelerated services, including psychosocial support for 1,058 children (498 girls); case management for 372 children (160 girls); and COVID-19 prevention messaging for 1,432 individuals, including 1,058 children.

UNICEF and partners reached 15,281 children (8,316 girls) and 3,775 caregivers (2,982 women) with structured **psychosocial support** in October, bringing the total to 168,609 children as of October (85,991 girls) and 36,532 caregivers (30,687 women). Training on the new mental health and psychosocial support manual began on 31 October. Partners report that 56 per cent of participating children have shown an improvement in their psychosocial wellbeing as response to the programme, an increase from 49 per cent in mid-2021, due in part to the increasingly structured programme.

UNICEF and partners continued to provide **case management** support to vulnerable cases of child protection and gender-based violence (GBV), facilitating individual child protection assessments, developing comprehensive care plans, monitoring the most severe cases and referring cases to specialized services. In October, 617 girls and 795 boys were reached with case management services, including 254 in NW Syria. UNICEF continued to provide **awareness on GBV issues** reaching 10,989 children (6,218 girls) and 4,014 caregivers (3,139 women). In NW Syria, GBV prevention and empowerment activities reached 2,697 beneficiaries (127 boys, 1,056 girls, 1,045 women and 469 men).



Child Protection activities in Hama, © UNICEF/Syria/2021/Adroubi

UNICEF is working to strengthen the **case management system** with a focus on violence and abuse against children, including GBV. A three-month pilot began in Al Tal and Douma, Rural Damascus in October 2021 to establish a formal case management system in the country in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MOSAL). This coordination amongst UNICEF, MOSAL, the Syrian Commission for Family and Population Affairs, service providers and NGOs active in these areas includes weekly meetings to review the process of implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation. Once the pilot project is complete, the aim is to roll out the case management system across Syria.

In Deir-Ez-Zor, UNICEF implementing partners are supporting 44 children (all boys) residing in prison, including providing psychosocial support. The case managers have succeeded in releasing 15 children (3 girls) to date and are following up with their families as a part of their care plans.

Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AOR)

In September, 140,532 individuals were reached by 30 Child Protection AOR implementing partners including 57,285 girls, 52,217 boys, 21,542 women and 9,488 men. Of the total, 1,309 were persons with disabilities. Support included awareness raising sessions, community events and activity days on child protection issues; case management and referral of child protection cases to specialized services; psychosocial support; and capacity building and training of Child Protection staff and volunteers. Child Protection AOR members worked in 288 communities in 125 sub-districts.

In NW Syria, UNICEF leads the Child Protection AOR, made up of 70 partner agencies. From January until October 2021, these Child Protection AOR partners have reached 194,484 children and parents/caregivers. A Service Mapping exercise has been concluded with the aim to improve referrals and the overall response. 'Cash and Voucher Assistance

for Child Protection Outcomes' guidance and preparations are being prepared by a Task Force with the aim of supporting cash and voucher interventions in the northwest. The Child Protection AOR coordination team with the support of its Task Forces and extensive web of collaborators in the field has continued to monitor key Child Protection concerns in NW Syria; the information is [available at this link](#).

Education

In October, UNICEF supported 25,477 children (18,182 girls) with **educational services and supplies in formal settings**, including 5,274 children (2,444 girls) in NW Syria, for a total of 289,687 children (142,986 girls) supported this year. UNICEF partners have also provided remedial classes for 6,516 Curriculum B students (3,173 girls). The support included school bags, stationery, school-in-a-carton kits and recreational kits, as well as cleaning materials to allow COVID-19 protocols are observed.

In **non-formal education (NFE) settings**, 29,632 (14,002 girls) received educational services including 16,588 (7,798 girls) in NW Syria, for a total of 628,633 children (328,250 girls) reached with NFE in 2021. The UNICEF individual-level Child Monitoring System reveals that 10 to 12 per cent of children have been referred to formal education, while 70 per cent are continuing to pursue education in NFE centres with the aim to transition to formal education and 30 per cent have left the programme.

Of the total children reached in both formal and non-formal settings in October 2,837 were **children with disabilities** (1,412 girls). Enrolling children with disabilities is challenging due to the structural barriers to education that these children face. These barriers include prevailing harmful social norms and attitudes towards disability inclusion, a lack of budgetary allocations for inclusive education, limited specialized teacher capacity, a lack of effective teaching strategies to provide appropriate instruction and limited access to schools and centres with adequate facilities.

To ensure children have a safe place to learn, considering a third of schools in Syria have been damaged or destroyed¹¹, UNICEF **rehabilitated** five schools made up of 74 classrooms and 3 early childhood education spaces in October. These schools host 1,441 children (715 girls). UNICEF has rehabilitated 47 schools, comprising of 637 classrooms and reaching 23,130 children (11,499 girls).

UNICEF is conducting a national **Back to Learning (BTL) campaign** for parents, caregivers and community on importance of education, including early childhood education, and to highlight the educational opportunities available. In October, 2,168 caregivers and children (1,044 female) were reached with BTL interventions, for a total of 126,699 (74,411 female) in 2021. In NW Syria, awareness sessions were conducted for 628 children (331 girls) on the importance of education as well as COVID-19 prevention. Additionally, 339 parents (235 women) participated in sessions on the benefits of education and encouraging parents to allocate enough time for students to study at home, to help with their school performance.

In NE Syria, a complete lockdown has been imposed in Tabqqa District, Ar-Raqqa Governorate to limit the spread of COVID-19 as new cases continue to rise. This was the only major closure on-going by the end of October. The lockdown is expected to last until 11 November, however the situation is fluid. All schools and kindergartens in the area are closed, affecting an estimated 50,000 students. In addition, nine learning centres run by UNICEF partners have been impacted by the lockdown; these centres support 2,000 students with NFE in Mahmoudli Camp and urban settings. UNICEF partners are closely monitoring the situation to find alternative modalities to reach children in case the lockdown is extended. In Idlib, schools were also closed for two weeks between 25 September and 6 October to prevent the spread of COVID-19; UNICEF and partners supported students and their families with remote learning through **remote learning** mechanisms such as WhatsApp and YouTube. However, a lack of access to internet-connected devices is hampering these efforts.



Awareness sessions for parents in NW Syria, © UNICEF/Syria/2021/Amer

Children in NW Syria suffer from considerable distress due to displacement, the ongoing threat of violence, and conflict-related trauma. This distress makes it difficult for children to engage in the classroom. UNICEF implementing partners have provided 29,172 children (13,666 girls) with **school-based psychosocial support**. Child Protection case management referrals have also been provided for 46 children (13 girls) identified in schools with particularly acute

¹¹ OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2021.

protection concerns. To lessen the impact of conflict, decrease negative coping mechanisms and build resilience, UNICEF partners have provided **life skills** and citizenship education in formal and non-formal settings for 11,435 children and youth aged 5- 24 years (5,598 girls). UNICEF has also provided incentives to 1,527 teachers (599 females) to reduce high levels of turnover.

As part of a Cash for Education programme in NW Syria, children were provided with \$25 per child to cover the child's basic needs for three months. This increased enrolment from 1,527 to 1,943 students in participating areas. Surveyed parents were more comfortable and satisfied regarding their ability to meet their children's educational expenses. The programme also allowed improved family choice and was more efficient than supply distribution.

Education Sector Response

During September 2021, 31 out of the 95 Education Sector partners reached an additional 231,183 beneficiaries (140,732 females) for a cumulative reach from January to September of 1,687,477. This includes 1,054,635 children (547,542 girls) supported through formal education and 632,842 children (416,488 girls) through NFE. Additionally, 426,482 children (204,139 girls) have benefitted from school feeding programmes and 1,000 classrooms have been rehabilitated, benefitting 47,916 students.

From the school reopening on 5 September to 28 October, 1,740 COVID-19 cases have been identified among teachers and students, with the highest numbers in Homs (383 cases), followed by Damascus (276) and Lattakia (272). Efforts are underway to address the risk of transmission in schools. This includes identifying gaps in personal protective equipment (PPE) for teachers and students. In a meeting with the Technical, Industrial and Vocational Education and Training (TIVET) Institution, the Education Sector clarified the materials required to produce both fabric and medical masks through TIVET. As for the WASH facility rehabilitation and supply needs, in collaboration with WASH Sector, a resource mobilization process has been initiated for 11 governorates to date.

To mitigate the financial challenges that families face to send their children to schools, the Education Sector Cash Voucher Assistance Task Force, with technical support of the Cash Working Group, developed a brief recommending the cash transfer values for Education Sector partners, including for transportation support. These documents were shared with sector partners prior to their submission of project proposals under the 2nd Reserve Allocation 2021 Syrian Humanitarian Fund. Finally, in collaboration with the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) an INEE Minimum Standards for Education Training Workshop was conducted from 13-14 October for 13 partners (7 females). Discussions are underway to widen this training opportunity to more sector partners.

As the cluster co-lead agency in NW Syria, UNICEF provides leadership and technical support to the Education Cluster and facilitates the coordination of 97 cluster members. Schools fully reopened on 9 October in Idleb and Aleppo. Considering the low learning outcomes associated with remote learning, authorities are keen to continue in-person education. Cluster members on the ground observed that more children were wearing masks in the classroom, and parents and caregivers seem to be more aware of the COVID-19 measures. The Education Cluster conducted a school readiness survey prior to school reopening. Fourteen partners responded covering 711 schools both in and outside camps. The survey identified the need to rehabilitate school buildings to keep them open despite the threat of COVID-19, including WASH facilities, ventilation and increased space for social distancing. Out of 10,818 teachers supported by the 14 responding partners, half have already been vaccinated against COVID-19. Education authorities are interested in having school staff vaccinated, and the Education Cluster is coordinating with Health Cluster as well as RCCE colleagues to respond to this need. Meanwhile, 107,444 students were supported through the rehabilitation of 107 schools in camps and 211 schools out of camps in the last five months, providing children with safe and conducive learning environment.

Eleven Education Cluster members are currently supporting children with disabilities, with 1,721 children supported to date against the 2021 HRP target of 51,000 children. This includes the provision of dedicated transportation and disability-friendly WASH facilities as well as awareness raising session for relevant stakeholders. These numbers are relatively modest due in part to weak data collection. Children with disabilities tend to be out of school due to structural barriers, as mentioned above. Cluster members also support awareness raising sessions with community members to realize the right to education for all children with disabilities.

WASH

In October, UNICEF supported **new access to safe water** for more than 450,645 people (128,472 boys, 118,985 girls, 97,250 men, 105,938 women), increasing the total reach to 2,232,936 people out of a target of 3.6 million. The repair of pumps and provision of fuel and spare parts in Idleb and Al-Hasakeh benefited 23,999 people while the rehabilitation of three water tanks in three communities in rural Aleppo benefited 325,040 people. Additionally, 30,000 people benefited

from the rehabilitation of the water system network in Al-Hasakeh City. Moreover, UNICEF reached 9,106 people in need in Idleb through the implementation of routine operations and maintenance plans for water stations. Also, 62,500 people were reached through the rehabilitation of four water systems in Idleb.

In terms of **safe sanitation**, UNICEF finished the replacement of sewerage networks in three neighbourhoods in Al-Hasakeh City. Old, cracked and leaking sewerage networks were replaced to reduce community-level health risks. As a result of this project, 127,959 people (27,521 boys, 28,375 girls, 34,259 men and 37,804 women) are now accessing sanitation services including 17,204 children and 10,755 adults in NW Syria. So far this year, 1,155,542 people (311,431 boys, 301,945 girls, 259,232 men and 282,934 women) out of 1.3 million have benefitted from improved sanitation.

UNICEF sustained **emergency lifesaving WASH services** including the provision of safe drinking water through water trucking for the residents in IDP camps and collective shelters in NE Syria and Rural Aleppo as well as for returnees in Rural Damascus, benefiting 198,942 people (46,999 boys, 45,013 girls, 50,209 men and 56,721 women). UNICEF provided 6,890 people in need (1,533 boys, 1,488 girls, 1,131 men and 2,738 women) in rural Aleppo and Homs with hygiene supplies.

In NW Syria, UNICEF has provided emergency lifesaving WASH services to 1,469,130 people. Feedback from beneficiaries of one water trucking project showed they were highly satisfied with the quality of the water (4.5 to 4.85 per quality criteria); received more water (from 20 to 25 litres per person per day); and no longer have to pay for water. Fewer beneficiaries were satisfied with the amount of water received. This challenge has been reported by multiple WASH implementing partners, related in part to expanded water needs for COVID-19 prevention. UNICEF is working with the Health Cluster to increase hygiene and COVID-19 prevention promotional activities in response.

In terms of **WASH in schools**, UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of WASH facilities in three schools in Hama and Rural Damascus, improving access for 1,441 students (715 girls) to gender-responsive and child-friendly WASH facilities that also address the special needs of children with disabilities. With the start of the new school year, UNICEF provided 40 schools in Rural Damascus with water trucking, reaching 15,440 school children (8,553 girls) with safe drinking water. UNICEF has rehabilitated WASH facilities in 148 schools so far this year out of a target of 253.

The lack of local production or importation of sodium hypochlorite in Syria poses major risks for the availability of safe water. UNICEF secures the majority of the local requirements for sodium hypochlorite to **disinfect** all water systems in the country, ensuring the provision of safe drinking water to 11.8 million people across Syria. A further 1.8 million people are reached by locally manufactured chlorine from factories supported by UNICEF. Also, UNICEF provided aqua tabs to 11,300 people (2,522 boys, 2,667 girls, 2,928 men and 3,183 women) in Dara'a Governorate to sterilize the water they are using from the local wells on which they are depending.

WASH Sector Response

Based on data received from 21 out of 35 sector partners, in September 2021, the WASH Sector reached 1,055,747 beneficiaries, including 249,683 boys, 217,207 girls, 265,637 men and 323,220 women. The sector reached 58 out of 63 districts and 180 out of 270 sub-districts. This includes 730,052 people supported through water and sanitation systems, for example 504,842 with rehabilitating water systems and 67,652 with improved access sanitation services. Humanitarian WASH supplies and services were provided to 378,074 people, including 42,684 people provided with supplies, 23,895 with hygiene promotion and 320,876 with water trucking., 26,652 students benefitted from completed rehabilitation of WASH facilities in 30 schools.

In NW Syria, the WASH Cluster has reached 3.1 million people with emergency WASH interventions across the provision of safe water, latrines and solid waste management; emptying of septic tanks and cleaning of sewer drains; and hygiene promotion and provision of hygiene kits. WASH interventions were provided in health centres, hospitals and schools with 102 health centres served with hygiene promotion and kits benefiting 162,000 people. In 517 schools, 217,000 were reached with the provision of water, management of sewage, hygiene promotion and provision of hygiene kits.

Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP)

In October, UNICEF through its implementing partners, adolescent friendly spaces (AFSs) and mobile teams reached 6,409 marginalized young people (3,456 female) including 10 with disabilities (3 female) in 8 governorates. Overall this year, 287,540 adolescents and youth have been engaged, including 208,077 participating in social cohesion and civic engagement and 79,463 receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills. UNICEF is working to expand its ADAP programming in areas of severe need, such as Al-Hol Camp expected to be done by the end of the year.

Out of the total reach for October, 1,588 young people (609 female), participated in activities that promote social cohesion and civic engagement at community level such as supporting sports for development activities (football, chess, ping pong, gymnastics and swimming), youth clubs and cultural activities (English for Fun Club, Psychosocial Support through Drawing, Environmental Club, and Nonviolent Communication Club).

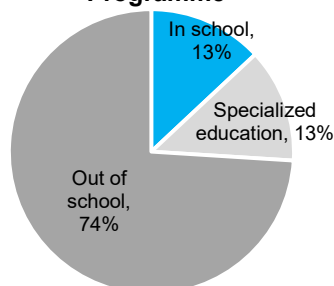
An additional 4,411 young people (2,847 female) received **life-skills, citizenship education and employability skills**. The employability skills were in areas such as mobile phone maintenance, hospitality, computer programming such as C++ and Python and accounting. New workshops have been offered to bridge the gap between the vocational training curricula and the labour market. These workshops engaged 300 female and 76 male adolescents and youth and looked at: presentation skills; active learning strategies; research methods; clinical language; and freelancing skills.

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

UNICEF continued to implement the **Integrated Social Protection Programme for Children with Disabilities**. The programme aims to address the economic and social vulnerabilities of children with disabilities and their families. It combines the provision of regular and unconditional cash transfers with case management services to facilitate the referral of children with disabilities to available social services and increase their social inclusion.

During October 2021, 2,670 children with disabilities (1,041 girls) were reached with **cash transfers and case management services** in Al-Hasakeh and Rural Damascus Governorates. Among them, 708 were reached for the first time, all in Rural Damascus (271 girls). This brings the total number of children reached in 2021 to 11,594 (4,734 girls) in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Al-Hasakeh and Rural Damascus (83 per cent of the annual target).

Figure 3: Educational status of children newly enrolled in the Integrated Social Protection Programme



which show an increase in the family spending of 67 per cent and 83 per cent respectively on the education and healthcare of the children with disabilities after receipt of the cash transfers. The survey also shows a high level of satisfaction about the programme among beneficiaries.

In October, UNICEF launched its winter response through the **Basic Needs Support Programme**, including cash and in-kind assistance. UNICEF distributed one-off unconditional **cash transfers** to 7,113 families with 18,125 children living in urban and peri-urban areas in Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Hama. Half of the beneficiary children were girls, and 1.7 per cent were children with disabilities. UNICEF does not expect to meet its target of 86,000 households, considering that only 32 per cent of the necessary funds have been mobilized.

UNICEF also distributed 9,229 **winter clothing kits** to displaced children (5,168 girls) in Aleppo, Deir- ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa. As part of its 2021-2022 winter response.



Ada Lovelace 2021 Hackathon

A group of five youth (two males, and three females) led two “Ada Lovelace Hackathon” events as part of the global “GirlsInAI2021 Hackathons” in [Lattakia](#) and [Tartous](#) from 13 to 17 October. The two events were organized by 29 youth (12 female) who engaged 178 adolescents and youth (67 per cent female) in the event. Those youth were support by 64 adolescent and youth mentors (41 female) in different specialities including technology, Design Thinking, Artificial Intelligence Ethics, Graphic Design and Business.

Of the total newly reached children with disabilities in Rural Damascus, 86 per cent had a disability card as a proof of disability, while the others were enrolled based on medical certificates. The majority (74 per cent) of new enrolees of school age are out of school while 13 per cent are attending formal school and 13 per cent are receiving specialized education. Through the work of the case managers, the programme will aim to increase access to education for those children who are out of school. Key operational challenges to implement the programme in a timely manner persist, in particular the limited financial capacity available of financial service providers.

UNICEF is finalizing the results of a post-distribution monitoring survey conducted in NE Syria in September. Preliminary findings

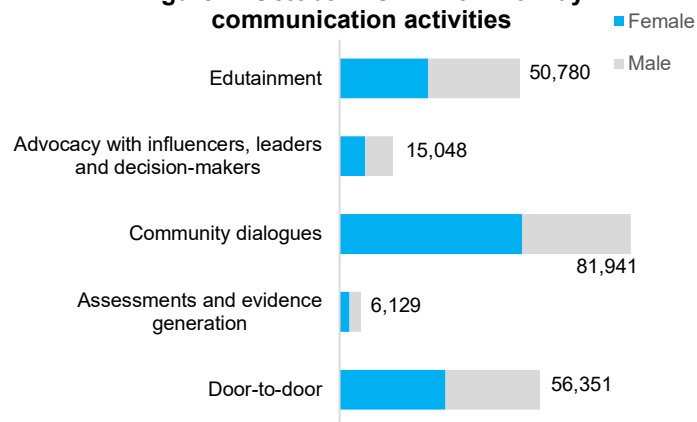
Communication for Development (C4D), Community Engagement and Accountability for Affected Populations (AAP)

UNICEF Syria leads the COVID-19 RCCE Pillar, helping partners respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and play a critical role in the planning and implementation, monitoring and assessment of COVID-19 prevention and response interventions.

In coordination with Ministry of Health, UNICEF completed the second round of **community engagement and demand generation monitoring** on COVID-19 vaccination among 10,346 respondents in 88 health facilities in 14 governorates. The assessment revealed that 98 percent of respondents have heard of the COVID-19 vaccine, up from 72 per cent in the first round. They heard about the vaccine from TV (28 per cent), health care workers (25 per cent), social media (16 per cent) and friends (14 per cent). Respondents were interested to learn more about vaccine side effects (31 per cent), effectiveness (16 per cent) and lifetime protection (13 per cent). Seventy-four per cent expressed trust in the new vaccine, up from 56 per cent in the first round. They also showed trust in the health care providers who give the vaccine (87 per cent). While 78 per cent think that getting the vaccine will protect others in their community, 79 per cent expressed their will to get the vaccine, especially people between the age of 18-55, health workers, and working people. Fifty-one per cent had already received the vaccine, including 58 per cent of health workers and 50 per cent of the general population. The low vaccination rates due to the limited information on registration and access to the vaccine.

In line with its **RCCE COVID-19 Prevention Strategy**, UNICEF used various interventions to reinforce the health seeking practices (See Figure 4). In October, 76,791 people (43,814 females) were reached with COVID-19 messaging on prevention and access to services through media, while 210,249 (116,215 females) were engaged in two-way communication.

Figure 4: October COVID-19 Two-way communication activities



Human Interest Stories and External Media

During the reporting period, UNICEF Syria highlighted its support to children's education in Homs with its Curriculum B accelerated learning programme through a [photo essay](#). With photo albums, UNICEF underlined its support to families in Al-Hol through the [distribution of family hygiene kits](#), and to children's learning through the ['self-learning' programme in Tal Hameis](#), Al-Hasakeh.

Marking the Day of the Girl Child, UNICEF Syria published a [human-interest story](#) about Lamees, from Aleppo. The office also highlighted its support to children's immunization through photo albums covering the national immunization campaign against polio in [Homs](#), [Hama](#) and [Aleppo](#). Finally, to acknowledge its renewed cooperation with the Government of Finland, UNICEF issued a [press release](#) following the signing of an agreement for funding by Finland towards 'No Lost Generation' initiative.

Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall Needs	UNICEF and IPs response			Sector response		
		2021 target ¹²	Total results	Change since last report	2021 target	Total results ¹³	Change since last report
Health							
# of children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio	12.4M	3,200,000	3,415,489 ¹⁴	0			
# of children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities		1,820,000	1,520,992	155,847			
# of health care facility staff trained on infection prevention and control		550	835 ¹⁵	42			
Nutrition							
# of children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	4.9M	18,400	12,140	1,864	17,447	12,279	2,562
# of primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling		1,245,000	1,126,782 ¹⁶	150,268	915,063	1,378,286 ¹⁷	182,414
# of children and pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients		1,970,000	783,229 ¹⁸	104,516	2,563,000	696,110	68,515
Child Protection, GBVIE & PESA							
# of children accessing mental health and psychosocial support	5.9M	384,000	195,051 ¹⁹	15,281	880,000	686,360	98,871
# of women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions		120,000	139,075 ²⁰	15,003			
# of children and caregivers ²¹ accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions		1,950,000	931,981 ²²	132,298			
Education							
# of children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings	6.9M	2,250,000	289,687 ²³	25,477	3,300,000	1,580,362	120,049
# of children in non-formal education benefiting from education services		430,000	628,633 ²⁴	29,632	1,256,530	824,442	120,873
# of teachers and education personnel trained		44,000	15,044 ²⁵	257	76,524	21,185	131
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene							
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	12.2M	3,600,000	2,232,936 ²⁶	159,419	8,000,000	3,587,580	292,658
# of people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes		600,000	526,019	24,722	5,500,000	1,878,062	65,481
# of people have improved access to sanitation services		1,950,000	1,155,542 ²⁷	127,959	4,000,000	1,765,426	78,421

¹² Based on the 2021 HAC revision, targets now reflect the 2021 HRP.

¹³ Sector results reflect September data.

¹⁴ Over-reach due, in part, to an underestimation of the target and possible inclusion errors due to a lack of civil registration and population shifts.

¹⁵ Over-reach due to the multiple waves of COVID-19 requiring extensive training efforts.

¹⁶ UNICEF has a 33 per cent funding gap for Nutrition in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved.

¹⁷ Overachievement is focused largely on NW Syria, with reasons including under-targeting, expanded geographic reach and combining IYCF counselling with other interventions such as COVID-19 RCCE.

¹⁸ UNICEF has a 33 per cent funding gap for Nutrition in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved.

¹⁹ UNICEF has a 44 per cent funding gap for Child Protection in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved.

²⁰ Over-achievement is focused largely on NW Syria, with reasons including under-targeting, expanded geographic reach and combining IYCF counselling with other interventions such as COVID-19 RCCE.

²¹ UNICEF has a 44 per cent funding gap for Child Protection in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved.

²² UNICEF has a 44 per cent funding gap for Child Protection in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved.

²³ UNICEF has a 11 per cent funding gap for Education in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved.

²⁴ The significant over-reach is due to Self-Learning Materials that were purchased late in 2020 and distributed in mid-2021.

²⁵ Teacher training activities remain critically under-funded.

²⁶ UNICEF has a 35 per cent funding gap for WASH in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved.

²⁷ UNICEF has a 35 per cent funding gap for WASH in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved.

Social Protection & Cash Transfers							
# of households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors		86,000	28,287 ²⁸	7,113			
# of girls and boys protected from extreme weather through the provision of non-food items		250,000	93,754 ²⁹	9,229			
Adolescents & Youth							
# of adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years promoting social cohesion and civic engagement at the community level		200,000	208,077 ³⁰	1,588			
# of affected adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills		300,000	79,463 ³¹	4,411			
C4D, Community Engagement & AAP							
# of people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change		1,002,500	2,373,494 ³²	114,403			

Annex B

Funding Status

Section	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received in 2021	Carry-Over	\$	%
Health	\$44,030,777	\$17,602,866	\$6,684,967	\$19,742,944	45%
Nutrition	\$35,322,929	\$12,083,306	\$4,000,537	\$19,239,086	54%
Child Protection, GBViE & PSEA	\$33,409,390	\$8,953,581	\$10,252,488	\$14,203,321	43%
Education	\$83,728,121	\$42,355,981	\$24,028,514	\$17,343,626	21%
WASH	\$89,862,782	\$38,322,382	\$25,921,629	\$25,618,771	29%
Social Protection & Cash Transfers	\$35,100,698	\$9,071,891	\$8,936,998	\$17,091,809	49%
Adolescents & Youth	\$11,729,219	\$3,266,015	\$4,653,181	\$3,810,023	32%
C4D, Community Engagement & AAP	\$1,246,154	\$247,394	-	\$998,760	80%
Being allocated		\$229,208			
Total	\$334,430,070	\$132,132,624	\$84,478,314	\$118,048,340	35%

* Funding requirements have been updated in line with the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan

** Funding for COVAX demand generation has been made available as part of health, and C4D funds have also been integrated into relevant sector funds.

Next SitRep: 20 December 2021

UNICEF Syria Crisis: <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/syrian-crisis>

UNICEF Syria Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/>

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²⁸ UNICEF does not expect to meet its targets for cash for basic needs in 2021, with a critical funding gap of 63 per cent for Social Protection and Cash Transfers along with volatile economic circumstances in the country.

²⁹ UNICEF does not expect to meet its targets for cash for basic needs in 2021, with a critical funding gap of 63 per cent for Social Protection and Cash Transfers along with volatile economic circumstances in the country.

³⁰ Target over-reached due to high levels of demand from adolescents and youth, as well as mainstreaming adolescent and youth support in social mobilization supporting other UNICEF programming. Cost per adolescent/youth is fairly low, allowing increased flexibility.

³¹ Programming faces underfunding and delayed approvals.

³² Over-reach due to increased coordination and support of programme-based C4D activities as well as increased needs in response to the multiple waves of COVID-19.