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Reporting Period: 1 to 31 October 2019

Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report

October 2019



Highlights

- As a result of the escalation of the military operation led by Turkey in the *Northeast* (NES) of the country since 9 October some 139,265 people remain displaced at the end of the month. At least 80,000 children have been forced to flee their homes and critical infrastructure has been damaged, including water stations and medical facilities. The Allok water station servicing Al-Hasakeh city was directly impacted by the hostilities affecting service for 400,000 people. UNICEF prepared a response plan to meet the potential needs of 500,000 people in the NES over the next three months and delivered multi-sectoral life-saving assistance to the affected women and children. In addition, UNICEF also prepared a response plan to support the Syrian refugees who have crossed into Iraq (UNICEF is working in Iraq with the Ministry and Directorate of Education to start formal schools for new refugees).
- UNICEF prepared a response/contingency plan for the *Northwest* in anticipation for a worsening situation, and in line with the inter-agency contingency plan, which is targeting a million people for the next 3 months.
- Overall the Humanitarian Appeal for Children for the Whole of Syria response remains critically underfunded (39 per cent funding gap). Additional funding, especially flexible in nature, is needed to ensure that children through Syria continue to receive the needed life-saving humanitarian assistance, especially after the recent developments in the northeast of the country.

Situation in Numbers

5,000,000
children in need of humanitarian assistance

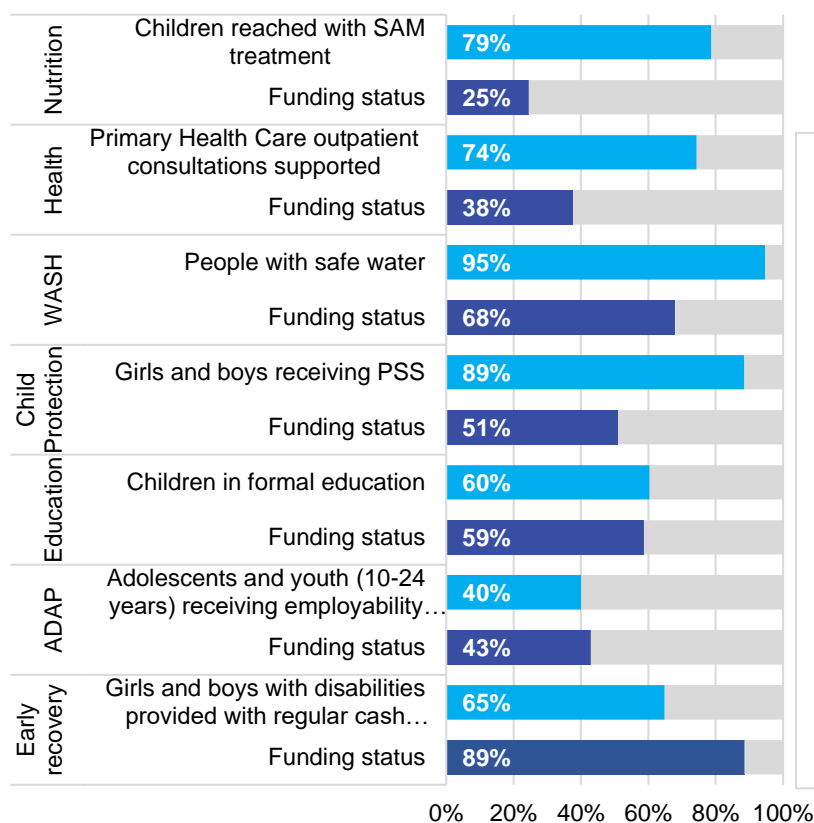
11,700,000
people in need

6,183,919
Internally displaced people (IDPs)

490,000
Children in need in hard-to-reach areas

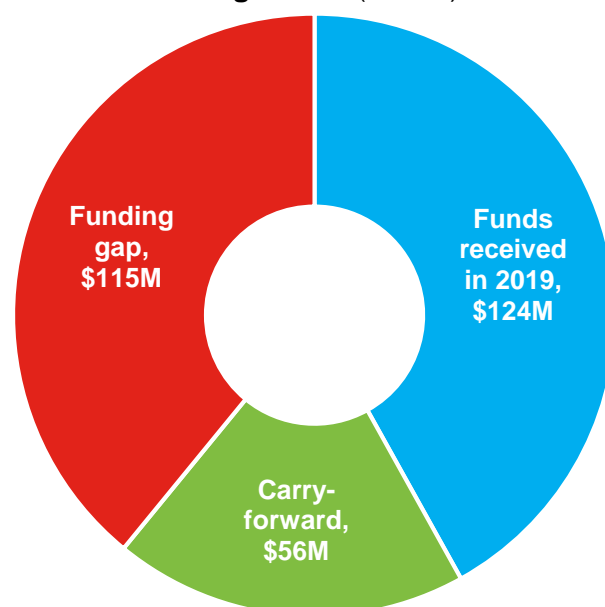
(source: OCHA, HNO, March 2019)

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2019 US\$ 294.8 million

Funding Status (in US\$)



Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appeals for US\$ 294.8M to sustain provision of life-saving services for women and children in the Whole of Syria. In 2019, Austria, Belgium, Canada, UK (DFID), Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Norway, US (OFDA), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) as well as UNICEF National Committees have generously contributed to UNICEF humanitarian response in the country. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received. However, the 2019 HAC still has a funding gap of 39%. Without sufficient funding, over 500,000 people will not have access to emergency WASH facilities and services, and over 50,000 children will not receive the psychosocial support they need; almost 200,000 children may miss life-saving immunization and almost 1 million may miss critical learning opportunities. To meet the immediate response needs in Northeast Syria (NES), UNICEF received an internal loan of US\$ 3 million from the UNICEF Emergency Programme.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As a result of the escalation of military operation led by Turkey in the *Northeast Syria* (NES) started on 9 October, over 200,000 people were displaced (UN OCHA) as of end October¹; of these, 139,265 people remain displaced from Al-Hasakeh (86,921), Ar-Raqqa (35,463) and Aleppo governorates (16,881), while 61,200 people have returned to their areas of origin in Al-Hasakeh (32,200) and Ar-Raqqa (29,000) governorates. At least 80,000² children have been forced to flee their homes and critical infrastructure has been damaged, including water stations and medical facilities. UNICEF and partners reported that hostilities directly impacted the education and water service. As a matter of fact, most of the collective shelters used were schools impeding access to education for many children. In addition, the Allok water pumping station servicing Al-Hasakeh city was impacted, affecting service for 400,000 people in Al Hasakeh city and surrounding areas. UNHCR has reported over 13,000 Syrians crossing into Iraq through informal crossing points³; 74 per cent of them being women and children. Given the recent changes in the dynamics in the North East, there has been some locations that have become accessible to UNICEF and partners from within Syria. Locations like Manbij and Ai Al Arab in Aleppo have been reached in October through partners.

UNICEF prepared a response plan to meet the potential needs of 500,000⁴ people in the NES over the next 3 months and provided multisectoral humanitarian assistance to the affected populations as highlighted in the programme response section of this report.

In October, *North West Syria* (NWS) witnessed reduced levels of hostilities. Security incidents such as improvised explosive devices however persisted, targeting populated places like markets, hospitals and residential areas. The situation in NES also impacted on NWS, as fuel and commodity prices increased, affecting the cost of programme and service delivery. Further, displacements of 20,000 were reported by partners on the ground from Raqqa and surrounding areas to Jarablus in northern Aleppo. UNICEF through its implementing partners continued to provide services to IDPs, and host communities in accessible and safe locations in northern Idlib and Aleppo. Rapid Response Mechanisms and mobile teams continued services delivery along displacement routes and insecure locations in southern Idlib. UNICEF prepared a response/contingency plan for NWS in anticipation for a worsening of the situation, and in line with the inter-agency contingency plan, which is targeting a million people for the next 3 months.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

During the month of October, UNICEF supported the provision of micronutrients and Vitamin A to 32,685 (including 4,221 in NES) U5 children and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs), reaching a total of 872,779 since the beginning of the year. In addition, 122,907 children and pregnant and lactating women (including 20,179 in NES) have been screened for acute malnutrition, a total of 1.2 million in 2019. Out of these, 574 children under five (including 75 children in NES and a total of 7,560 in 2019) were found affected by severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and received life-saving

¹ UNOCHA, Syrian Arab Republic: North East Syria Displacement (25 October 2019)

² UNOCHA, Northeast Syria – As half a million people gradually regain access to safe water – the number of displaced people nears 180,000

³ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/72127>

⁴ UNICEF North East Syria Response Situation report # 7 - 17 October 2019

treatment. In addition, UNICEF provided Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling for 75,553 caregivers (total of 377,233 in 2019), including pregnant and lactating women through the country (including over 1,200 in NES). Also, in the reporting month, some 10,037 (including 4,299 in NES) people were reached with essential nutrition supplies (628,305 since the beginning of the year). In the northwest (Idleb and Aleppo), 23 Rapid Response Teams provided life-saving integrated nutrition, health and protection services (community management of acute malnutrition, infant and young child feeding, integrated management of newborn and child illnesses) for children, pregnant and lactating women and girls.

Health

In October, 144,818 women and children benefited from free medical consultations through about 120 mobile and fixed centers in 14 governorates, including 50,869 consultations delivered in Al Hol camp. From the beginning of the year, a total of 1,636,612 women and children have so far benefited from these free. In October, 36,372 caregivers were reached with health promotion messages including immunization messages to reach a total of 2.6 million in 2019. For this month, 41,940 children under one year were vaccinated with DPT3 (combined vaccine for Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus), 388,838 children since the beginning of the year (67 per cent of the target was reached). In October UNICEF and partners have provided polio and measles vaccines for approximately 230,000⁵ children under the age of five in Al-Hasakeh governorate, in northeast Syria, including in collective shelters and camps such as Al-Hol and Areesha.

WASH

In October, UNICEF and partners responded to the emergency in Northeast Syria reaching over 75,000 IDPs in Al-Hol and Areesha camps through emergency water trucking, construction of emergency latrines, cleaning of WASH facilities and desludging of septic tanks. Furthermore, UNICEF was able to reach 225,000 IDPs in the same areas through the distribution of hygiene supplies. In addition, to facilitate the functioning of the Alok water station which supports more than 450,000 people in Al-Hasakeh city, surrounding camps, and communities, UNICEF has procured 16,000 liters of fuel to run the backup generators of the water station in addition to various electrical supplies. Simultaneously, UNICEF has continued providing safe-drinking water through emergency water trucking to reach over 288,000 people in Homs, Rural Damascus, and Aleppo. In the northwest, UNICEF provided water supply and sanitation services (repair and rehabilitation of latrines) to over 1 million people covering both Aleppo and Idleb governorates, through implementing partners. UNICEF supported the operation and maintenance of the water supply systems in Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, Aleppo and Rural Damascus governorates, ensuring the provision of sustainable safe drinking water to over 991,000 people, through the provision of spare parts and rehabilitation of pumping stations, water systems and wells. Moreover, UNICEF's provision of water disinfectants supported over 13.6 million people to access safe drinking water. Overall, UNICEF reached 74,328 children through rehabilitation of WASH facilities and hygiene awareness interventions in 105 schools (185,942 in 2019 in some 300 schools).

Education

UNICEF reached 81,716 children with educational interventions in October across fourteen governorates, supporting 77,093 children out-of-school (49 per cent girls) with non-formal education programmes and supplies (298,159 in 2019). Additionally, to increase awareness of the importance of education, UNICEF conducted campaigns reaching 150,928 people (52 per cent female). For children in formal education, UNICEF rehabilitated schools and provided safe learning spaces for 15,892 children in primary and higher school, while providing school supplies and recreational kits⁶ for 42,172 children (49 per cent girls). For young children, UNICEF provided Early Childhood Education (ECE) through distribution of supplies and rehabilitation of learning spaces to 644 children (44 per cent girls). To strengthen the quality of education, UNICEF provided training on child-focused learning to 25,459 teachers (41,779 in 2019). To support children living in the collective shelters⁷, UNICEF and partners distributed recreational kits for 4,500 children in the NES. UNICEF partners have moved learning activities from Ein Issa camp, affected by the conflict, to Mahmoudli camp, setting up

⁵ [UNICEF and partners provide vaccination against polio and measles for nearly 232,000 children in Syria and Iraq, many affected by violence in northeast Syria](#)

⁶ The kit is suitable for up to 90 children, who can participate in team sports and games under the guidance of a teacher. It includes balls for several types of games, coloured tunics for different teams and a measuring tape for marking play areas and a whistle and scoring slate.

⁷ As per latest OCHA update, out of 69 collective shelters, 63 are schools which should be providing education services for some 30,000 children.

learning spaces in tents to accommodate 400 children who were relocated from Ein Issa camp. Initial assessment indicates that learning was disrupted for 1,500 children in the camp. As part of UNICEF response plan to expand the education program in Al Hol camp where there are 26,000 school-aged children, a new UNICEF partner has obtained governmental approval to implement self-learning program for 3,000 Syrian children of ages 6-19.

Child Protection

In October, UNICEF reached 40,374 children (a total of 309,832 since the beginning of the year) with structured psychosocial support services through child-friendly spaces, mobile teams and multi service platforms, to strengthen girls and boys' coping mechanisms and resilience. Also, 33,682 people (413,164 in 2019) received awareness raising messages on child protection issues such as importance of education, dealing with peers, respecting seniors, and importance of social cohesion in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Quneitra, Rural Damascus, Tartous and Idleb). UNICEF partners were able to reach 18,527 beneficiaries with child protection services and activities in 76 hard-to-reach areas through 16 mobile teams. Specialized child protection services through case management continued to play a central role in facilitating individual child protection assessments, monitoring of cases and referral to specialized services; in October 1,362 children (13,113 in 2019) were reached. The case management beneficiaries received referral to specialized medical services, speech therapy, learning difficulties and physical therapy.

UNICEF provided lifesaving awareness messages on mine risk education to 209,643 people (over 1.4 million people in 2019) in 12 governorates (Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Quneitra, Rural Damascus and Tartous) in collaboration with Communication for Development (C4D) and by integrating risk education in national polio campaign and distributing 200,000 brochures to mitigate the risk of explosive remnants of war (ERW).

Social Policy

Since January 2019, UNICEF has reached over 7,461 children with disabilities with cash assistance and case management services in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Homs, Tartous and Rural Damascus governorates. UNICEF's Cash Transfer Programme is designed to promote an integrated social protection model with links to public services through referral mechanisms and case management, with a view to preparing the ground for a future transition from an emergency response to a nationally-owned social protection scheme.

The several-fold increase in prices of essential commodities combined with the deteriorating economic situation of households have left many Syrians unable to provide for the basic necessities of life including decent clothes for their children. As part of its response to the needs of children and their families in the conflict affected areas, UNICEF reached 11,115 children in hard-to-reach areas and newly accessible areas of the country with seasonal clothing kits and new born baby kits (411,981 in 2019). As part of recent NES response, 9,819 winter clothing kits were distributed in over 70 collective shelters in Al Hasakeh governorate. UNICEF also reached 1,177 children with summer clothing kits in in Al Hol and Mabrouka camp in Al Hasakeh governorate and in Ein Esa in Ar – Raqqa governorate. Furthermore, UNICEF reached 119 children with new born baby kits in newly accessible areas of Rural Damascus – East Ghouta.

Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP)

During October, 14,314 young girls and boys (10-24 years) including IDPs, returnees, young people living in poverty and other marginalized groups including those with disabilities have been reached through a package of services and opportunities including skills development, employability, technical vocational education and training (TVET), social and civic engagement (311,824 since the beginning of the year).

Also, 12,457 young people benefited from skills development programme since 2019, including life skills and citizenship education (LSCE), functional literacy courses and community-based vocational training (120,081 in 2019). Some 2,142 young people have participated in civic and social cohesion activities (232,172 since the beginning of the year); this includes sport for development, youth-led social initiatives, cultural activities and social art to be socially active in their community.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF continues to lead the WASH, Education and Nutrition sectors and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) and is working in close collaboration with implementing partners inside Syria also through cross-border operations.

All sectors led by UNICEF started the preparation for the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) including key

sectoral analysis findings, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection messages and the severity scale calculations for identifying the people in need, through a planning workshop held in Cairo.

UNICEF revised its contingency planning scenario to cater for 400,000 - 500,000 people who could be displaced further South to areas that may be reached by Damascus. The plan covers Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo governorates. The nutrition response targets up to 100,000 children under 5 years and 40,000 PLW in new IDPs, collective shelters and host communities where IDPs settle temporarily. The nutrition sector is suffering from shortage of funds for its emergency response especially in the North West and North East of Syria which presents a real challenge in the continued provision of life-saving nutrition programming.

The child protection AoR was engaged in the drafting of the Humanitarian Needs overview (HNO) for 2020) while coordinating the response to the NES emergency for 110,000 people. Limited access due to insecurity after the escalation of the conflict in the northeast, as well as severe shortage of funding continued to constrain the sector response capacity.

The education sector has coordinated the preparation of the data for the upcoming 2020 HNO and HRP liaising with the Education Management Information System (EEMIS). The sector engaged in a mapping of active partners in the NES to identify any existing gap; also, advocacy continued to ensure access and the continued provision of education services in all parts of the country. The funding gap in the education sector is another key challenge to an appropriate response for the children in Syria.

The WASH sector has been liaising with the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) in order to undertake WASH assessment from inside Syria and provide required information for the Humanitarian Needs Assessment and Humanitarian Response Plan. The WASH sector response focused mainly in the North East and North West of the country. The shortage of funding continued to challenge the response capacity of the WASH sector, especially in the northwest and northeast of the country.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

During the reporting period, UNICEF [highlighted](#) the [situation](#) of [children and families](#) displaced due to the escalation of violence in northeast Syria, including through [briefing notes](#), situation [updates](#) and [videos](#). UNICEF issued a statement on the [impact of hostilities on safe water supply](#), advocating for the protection of civilian infrastructure, and a another statement (joint) underlining its lifesaving interventions, [immunizing](#) children in the northeast against polio and measles. Also, UNICEF documented its [health and nutrition](#) response reaching displaced children and mothers in Al-Hasakeh. In Deir-ez-Zor, UNICEF highlighted its rehabilitation of conflict-damaged [water infrastructure](#) and [schools](#), supporting thousands of children with access to safe water and education. Meanwhile in Aleppo, UNICEF underlined its support to children to resume their learning through its [self-learning programme](#), [school rehabilitation and 'Curriculum B'](#). UNICEF documented its [mine-risk education](#) raising the awareness of children in Aleppo on explosive hazards. In rural Damascus, UNICEF highlighted its [health and nutrition](#) interventions and [children clubs](#) part of its psychosocial support programme for children.

Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall needs	Cluster/Sector Response			UNICEF and IPs		
		2019 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼	2019 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼
Nutrition							
# of children and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) received micro-nutrients	4,700,000	2,566,942	670,264 ¹	-108,537	2,400,000	872,779 ²	32,685
# of children and pregnant and lactating women		2,867,674	2,462,877	99,761	1,800,000	1,277,459	122,907

(PLWs) screened for acute malnutrition							
# of children reached with the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)		17,447	13,404	4,260	9,600	7,560	574
# of caregivers including pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) counselled or reached with awareness on appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF)		915,063	599,208	94,290	800,000	377,233 ³	75,553
Estimated # of people reached with nutrition supplies, including in HTR areas		4,371,332	n/a	n/a	1,045,000	628,305 ⁵	10,037

Health

# of children under five years vaccinated through polio campaigns					2,900,000	3,289,013 ¹	0
# of children under one year reached with routine vaccination (DTP3 containing vaccine)					577,000	388,838 ²	41,940
# of Primary Health Care outpatient consultations supported (children & CBA women)	13,200,000				2,200,000	1,636,612 ³	144,818
# of health workers and community volunteers trained on new born care packages					640	1,630 ⁴	0
# of caregivers reached with health promotion, including immunization messages					3,500,000	2,660,807	36,372

WASH

Estimated # of people with access to improved water supply		8,000,000	2,598,964	328,723	3,700,000	3,501,464 ¹	1,514,131
Estimated # of people have improved access to sanitation services		5,500,000	733,685	n/a	1,300,000	813,341 ²	67,981
# of school children benefited from improved WASH facilities and services		n/a	n/a	n/a	390,000	185,942 ³	74,328
# of people supported with access to essential WASH NFIs including in HTR areas	15,700,000	2,000,000	2,476,873	263,723	1,600,000	1,339,680	271,142
# of people reached with hygiene promotion interventions		3,000,000	829,512	70,683	525,000	390,975 ⁴	78,420
# of people benefited from access to improved lifesaving/emergency WASH facilities and services		3,000,000	2,994,932	319,633	1,500,000	967,572	121,161

Child Protection

# of girls and boys engaged in structured and sustained child protection	5,600,000	880,000	636,627	n/a	350,000	309,832	40,374
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programming, including psychosocial support							
# of women and men engaged in structured and sustained parenting programmes		93,000	103,280	n/a	51,000	55,507 ¹	2,676
# of girls, boys, women and men reached with explosive hazards risk education		4,592,604	2,141,189	n/a	2,400,000	1,412,397 ²	209,643
# of women, men, girls and boys reached by behaviour change communication interventions for child protection issues		1,650,000	837,501	n/a	630,000	413,164 ³	33,682
# of girls and boys received specialized child protection services including through case management		50,000	38,021	n/a	22,000	13,113 ⁴	1,362

Education ¹

# of children provided with education services in formal settings	5,700,000	3,300,000	3,576,994	1,431,966	2,400,000	1,419,588	40,367
# of children in non-formal education benefiting from education services		1,256,530	886,432	55,359	440,000	298,159	77,093
# of teachers and education personnel trained		76,524	76,486	8,114	42,600	41,779	25,459
# of children and youth (5-24 years) participating in life skills and citizenship education programmes in formal and non-formal settings		300,000	181,689	9,182	280,000	40,018	2,391
# of caregivers and children reached with C4D back to learning (BTL) interventions		n/a	n/a	n/a	225,000	198,813	150,928

SOCIAL POLICY ¹

# of girls and boys with disabilities provided with regular cash transfers					11,500	7,461	61
# of girls and boys protected from extreme weather through NFIs					680,000	411,981	11,115
# of girls and boys protected from extreme weather through vouchers or cash transfers					110,000	65,665	0

ADAP

# of adolescents and youth (10-24 years) promoting social cohesion and civic engagement					200,000	232,172 ¹	2,142
# of affected adolescents and youth (10-24 years) receiving employability skills including life skills, TVET and entrepreneurship					300,000	120,081 ²	12,457

Footnotes

*The revised Whole of Syria [2019 UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children](#) appeal is published with updated 2019 indicators and targets. Sector reach is as end of September 2019. All UNICEF Results are as of end October 2019.

Health 1: As the polio campaign is scheduled for the first quarter of the year, the target has already been achieved. The monthly change in reach is due to late reporting received by the Ministry of Health. The over-achievement was possible as this activity has a dedicated funding line and due to the additional displacements.

Health 2,3: Data on these indicators is received from the Ministry of Health (MoH) with delay of approximately 2 months, which is explaining the slightly low reach.

Health 4: The overachievement in the training indicator is due to the expansion of the new-born programme after the late approval of the MoH. This was a newly introduced activity and the target was set in a conservative manner.

Nutrition 1: The sector reach is lower than the previous month as a result of a data cleaning exercise conducted in October.

Nutrition 2: The micro-nutrients supplementation was initially planned to take place jointly with the measles campaign. However, the measles campaign was cancelled by the Government, therefore, the target of this indicator is under revision.

Nutrition 4: For the IYCF programme, the MoH did not adopt yet the IYCF operational strategy and therefore it is partially reporting on this indicator. Limited funding also affected this indicator.

Nutrition 5: Limited funding keep constraining the delivery of life-saving nutrition supplies to har-to-reach areas. Also, data are received late from partners.

WASH 1,2,4,5: The reach for WASH data was revised in Gaziantep hub, rectifying information previously reported, explaining the reduction of these four WASH indicators. Limited funding has also been affecting the achievements of WASH targets.

WASH 3: The planned number of schools to be reached with WASH services is on track, however, the number of children reached is lower than expected: a revision of the methodological calculation for this data is ongoing to understand the discrepancy.

Education 1: Most of the results are expected to be achieved in September/October with the 2019/2020 academic year and reported in November by Government partners.

Child Protection 1: The over-achievement is linked to the additional needs in terms of PSS as a result of the escalation of conflict and displacement in several parts of the country.

Child Protection 2: The low reach on MRE indicator is due to turnover in the Ministry of Education that delayed the Education programming, as MRE is integrated in schools. It is expected that the gap will decrease in the next half of the year.

Child Protection 3: The low reach is due to the operational constraints faced by NGO partners in obtaining the necessary permissions as well as to limited funding.

Child Protection 4: The low reach is due to funding constraints.

Social Policy 1: The results for the Programme are expected to increase in the last quarter of the year due to the winter response.

ADAP 1: The reach for this indicator is very high due to successful implementation and good level of funding.

ADAP 2: This activity is scheduled to reach more beneficiaries in the last quarter of the year.

Annex B Funding Status* (as of 15 November 2019)

Sector	Requirements	Funds available	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Health and Nutrition	74,831,708	29,849,307	44,982,400	60 %
WASH	77,492,160	58,172,376	19,319,783	25 %
Child Protection	36,133,672	20,098,633	16,035,038	44 %
Education	64,492,956	46,723,384	17,769,571	28 %
NFIs	26,660,955	12,485,058	14,175,896	53 %
Early recovery	15,188,586	6,809,455	6,809,454	45 %
Being allocated		5,452,703		
Total	294,800,037	179,590,918	115,209,119	39%

* As defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 31/05/2019 for a period of 12 months

Next SitRep: 20 December 2019

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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