



Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report

September 2020



Reporting Period: 1-30 September 2020

Situation in Numbers



4,700,000
children in need of
humanitarian assistance



11,000,000
people in need



6,183,919
Internally displaced people
(IDPs)



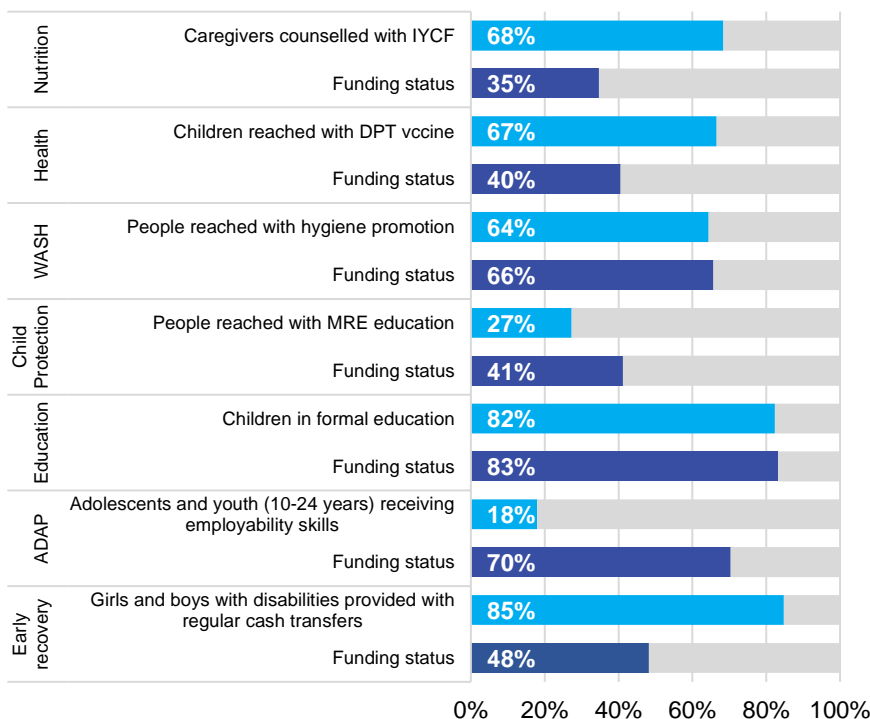
490,000
Children in need in hard-to-
reach areas

(source: OCHA, HNO, March 2019)

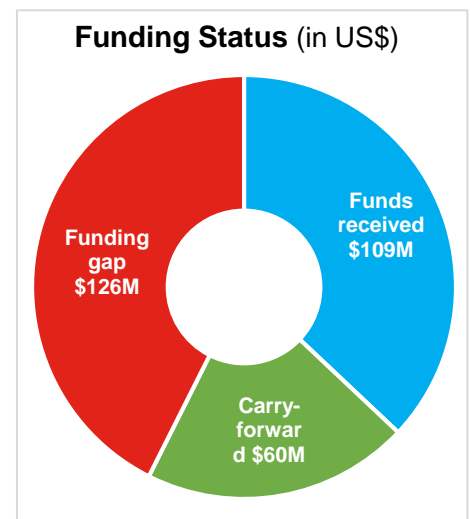
Highlights

- Hostilities were reported in northwest Syria, including shelling and airstrikes, killing three children. Explosions caused by improvised explosive devices, as well as fire incidents, killed ten people (including one child) and injured 40 others. Two humanitarian workers, one of whom was a UNICEF implementing partner, were among those killed.
- Major humanitarian needs persisted across all sectors and were exacerbated by the continued economic downturn and COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has also affected children and teachers after re-opening of schools in September. Despite these challenges, UNICEF continued to respond across the country, while also scaling up emergency WASH and Nutrition responses in northeast Syria.
- The Whole of Syria response faces a 43 per cent funding gap. Additional flexible funding is urgently needed to ensure children in Syria continue to receive life-saving assistance. In particular, UNICEF urgently requires US\$ 22.44 million to reach 435,000 children with winter clothing kits.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status¹



UNICEF Appeal 2020 US\$ 294.8 million



¹ Please refer to the narrative in the report for details. Please note that 'Funding status' refers to the whole sector, while the results are only referring to one specific activity

Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2020, UNICEF is appealing for US\$ 294.8 million to continue its response across Syria. UNICEF would like to express its gratitude to the Governments of Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF), United Kingdom, United States of America, and UNICEF national committees for the generous contributions provided.

Currently, UNICEF has an overall funding gap of 43 per cent; additional flexible funding is urgently needed to support the ongoing response for over three million people, especially in health, nutrition and child protection. Without more funding, an estimated two million children and women will not be reached with nutrition interventions, one million will not receive primary health care and about 300,000 will be deprived of psychosocial support and case management.

In addition, UNICEF urgently requires US\$ 22.44 million to reach 435,000 children with winter clothing kits from October 2020 to March 2021. Timely contributions are essential to enable UNICEF to procure and deliver the clothing kits before the onset of the cold winter weather.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Displaced populations and host communities in northwest Syria (NWS), particularly children and women, continued to bear the brunt of the conflict, facing challenges to secure their daily basic needs. Artillery shelling continued almost daily, and fire incidents were reported in many locations, resulting in severe destruction and the killing of children (three children died as a result, during the reporting period). Moreover, explosions caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Afrin killed seven civilians, including one child, and injured 40 civilians, including two children and two women. Among the civilian casualties, two humanitarian workers were killed, including one NGO worker/ UNICEF Implementing Partner. The month of September continued to register depreciation of the Syrian Pound, however, the prices of some items have increased during this period due to the oil shortage, as it led to increasing transportation costs.

Restrictions of movement have been reported through the closure of Al-Tayha Humanitarian Corridor in Manbij district. Additionally, as part of COVID mitigation measures, Ghazawiyet Afrin and Deir Ballut crossing points, which connect Afrin district of Aleppo with Idlib governorate, closed on 25 September until further notice.

Major humanitarian needs persisted across all sectors, exacerbated by the continued economic downturn and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has to date spread to at least 3,800 people and killed 172. As schools re-opened in September, the Ministry of Education (MoE) announced approximately 40 registered cases among students and teachers across the country. Despite significant challenges, UNICEF continued to ensure the continuity of essential services; distribution methods have been adapted to reduce face-to-face interaction, and awareness raising efforts on COVID-19 risks and precautions were scaled up.

New movement of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) has been reported during September, including a self-organized group of 286 people from Rukban arriving in Homs (95 men, 73 women, 81 children and 37 infants). This brings the total number of people who left Rukban transiting through Homs shelters to 19,769 people since March 2019, while 329 people among them left Rukban supported by United Nations and Syrian Arab Red Crescent in September 2019.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

During the reporting period, UNICEF implementing partners screened 256,000 people, including children under the age of five and pregnant and lactating women for acute malnutrition (approximately 1.8 million since the beginning of the year). More than 122,400 of these were provided with micronutrient supplements (over 1 million since the beginning of the year). As a result of screening activities, over 1,800 children were identified as severely malnourished and received lifesaving treatment (over 11,100 since the beginning of the year). Chronic malnutrition continues to be a major public health problem in NWS where September nutrition surveillance reported a similar trend of chronic malnutrition as in the month of August among children of age 6-59 months, with estimated prevalence of 33 per cent. This means that one out of three children in NWS is losing her/his future potential, with developmental and cognitive growth hampered because of stunting.

UNICEF also continued to support preventative nutrition interventions, reaching over 64,000 caregivers with awareness on appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, with almost 550,000 reached since the beginning of the year. COVID-19 related messages were included in IYCF response plan, given that chronic malnutrition among under-five children continues to be a major concern. UNICEF will continue to scale up its nutrition response in a COVID-19 informed manner.

Health

Over 140,000 women and children benefitted from free medical consultations through fixed points and mobile teams in all 14 governorates (some 1.3 million since the beginning of the year, reaching 61 per cent of the annual target). This includes a total of 18,152 outpatient consultations (both at fixed health facilities and mobile clinics) provided to 7,932 children (3,912 boys and 4,020 girls) and 10,220 pregnant and lactating women in northwest Syria. More than 135,000 caregivers were reached with health promotion messages, including immunization messages (some 2.1 million since the beginning of the year, reaching 59 per cent of the annual target).

After a temporary reduction of new-born care training activities due to COVID-19, 385 health workers were trained on neonatal care, now totalling 1,235 since the beginning of the year (exceeding the annual target by 93 per cent). This included 180 community volunteers, who were trained on the 'new-born care at home' programme in eight governorates. Additionally, 758 home visits were conducted by community volunteers to 303 pregnant women and 128 new-borns. In addition, UNICEF reached nearly 40,000 children under one year with DPT3 (combined vaccine for Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus) through routine immunization and special campaigns (over 384,000 since the beginning of the year).

WASH

In September, UNICEF provided access to improved sanitation services through the rehabilitation of sewerage systems to 441,000 people in NWS, as well as a further 85,000 in Tartous, Lattakia, and As-Suwayda governorates. Further, some 1.1 million people in NWS, including over 87,000 people in Idleb and Al-Hasakeh, benefitted from the rehabilitation and installation of water systems and provision of equipment. UNICEF also continued its humanitarian response as a priority to reach more than 362,000 people in need in Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Homs, and rural Damascus governorates and 388,000 people in NWS through emergency water trucking, and the maintenance and cleaning of water tanks.

Additionally, UNICEF reached some 373,000 IDPs through the provision of family hygiene kits, soap bars, baby diapers, and women sanitary napkins, benefitting more than 1 million people since the beginning of the year. UNICEF supported over 491,200 school children in Tartous, Lattakia, Idleb, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, and Dar'a governorates and an additional 20,000 children in NWS through rehabilitating WASH facilities inside schools, emergency water trucking, and provision of hygiene supplies.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF was able to reach 115,000 people in Deir-ez-Zor through the distribution of Infection Prevention and Control kits and cleaning materials to four health centres, one hospital, and one isolation centre. Also, UNICEF partners conducted hygiene awareness sessions for over 22,400 people in Aleppo and Al-Hasakeh governorates to address the importance of handwashing practices to address prevention against infectious disease, especially COVID-19. Finally, UNICEF's sodium hypochlorite provision contributed to supporting over 14.7 million people across the country to access safe water, resulting in no major disease outbreaks or water-borne diseases.

Child Protection

UNICEF continued to provide structured psychosocial support (PSS), case management and referral services and awareness on child protection risks, mine risk and gender-based violence (GBV) for children across Syria. During the reporting period, 20,749 children and 3,213 caregivers received PSS¹ and 27,178 children and caregivers² received awareness raising messages on child protection issues such as importance of education, dealing with peers, respecting seniors, and importance of social cohesion in 14 governorates.

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; during the reporting period 262 at-risk children benefitted from remote case management (over 4,200 since the beginning of the year).

UNICEF and partners continued to prioritize Mine Risk Education (MRE) interventions as a life-saving component to promote safe behaviours, provided life-saving messages and face-to-face MRE sessions to mitigate the risk of explosive devices to over 10,152 children and caregivers. During this year, some 20,464 children and caregivers were reached with GBV awareness sessions and campaigns. Since the beginning of the year, over 653,000 people³ received lifesaving messages and face to face MRE sessions in all 14 governorates. In September, 129 NGO staff received training on Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

Education

As many schools re-opened on 13 September, UNICEF reached over 1.7 million children, women, men, and teachers with educational interventions, including over 1,650,000 children (808,484 girls) with school textbooks, stationery kits and school bags. To improve access to education, during the reporting period UNICEF and partners supported 23,170

¹ 10,463 boys, 10,286 girls, 1,341 men, 1,872 women.

² 9024 boys, 9420 girls, 2,737 men, 5,997 women.

³ 468,739 children, 184,258 caregivers.

children (10,184 girls) with improved learning spaces through rehabilitation and provision of temporary learning spaces. In non-formal education, which shifted to an online modality during the pandemic, UNICEF supported some 53,800 children (27,103 girls) with self-learning programmes (SLP) and supplies; 3,957 children (1,992 girls) were referred from SLP to formal education.

Additionally, UNICEF reached 77,705 children (37,316 girls) with support to Curriculum B, a programme that enables children who have missed out on years of schooling to catch up and re-integrate into the formal education system. UNICEF provided technical support to activate child level monitoring systems to track attendance and child's performance. Moreover, UNICEF provided incentives to school health staff to support children in case of infection and to ensure implementation of precaution measures.

UNICEF has also been working closely with the MOE to boost early childhood education (ECE), particularly through kindergartens, benefitting 2,330 children (1,142 girls). UNICEF has provided teachers with various types of training, including training to ensure COVID-19 school health protocols are duly implemented, and on Curriculum B and remedial capacity development to bring either children back to school and keeping vulnerable children in school or temporary learning centres resulting in 15,357 (9,119 girls) benefitting from improved knowledge.

Social Policy

UNICEF's social protection programme in Syria aims to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable families affected by the protracted crisis, strengthen the continuum of humanitarian and early recovery interventions, and preserve social protection space in the country. Since the beginning of the year, UNICEF reached 204,096 children through the distribution of winter clothes, new-born baby kits and blankets. In addition, 1,490 summer kits and 1,000 baby kits were distributed in Aleppo; 10,554 summer clothing kits were distributed to children in Idlib; 36,681 summer kits were distributed in Al-Hol Camp; 1,128 in Al-Roj Camp and 61 summer clothing kits for emergency response in Areesha Camp in northeast Syria. The distribution of summer kits has been finalized reaching a total of 50,914 children with summer clothing kits and new-born baby kits.

UNICEF also reached over 3,140 households (8,860 children) with emergency cash transfers in response to COVID-19 in the governorates of Homs and Aleppo, bringing the total number of children reached under this programme since the beginning of the year to more than 60,334 children in Aleppo, Latakia Rural Damascus and Homs.

Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP)

During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners reached over 7,200 adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years (51 per cent girls) across Syria with a package of services and opportunities promoting social cohesion and civic engagement (over 82,000 since the beginning of the year, 51 per cent girl). Special focus was placed to reach the most vulnerable youth groups such as IDPs, returnees, young people living in poverty and other marginalized groups including those with disabilities (over 144,200 since the beginning of the year).

Over 53,800 young people benefited from skills development programme since January 2020 including life skills and citizenship education and vocational training. In addition, some 5,400 young girls and boys received entrepreneurship training that would support them to design their social and business project and apply for seed funding to start their projects. Following participation in the skills-building programme, since the beginning of the year, some 104,200 young people were provided with opportunities for engaging and participating positively within their communities.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

In September, UNICEF Syria Country Office focused its coverage on its [support](#) to Grade 12 [students](#) who crossed conflict lines to sit for [national exams](#) across Syria, through human interest [stories](#), [photo](#) essays and [videos](#). UNICEF also highlighted the continuation of [essential services](#) despite COVID-19 challenges, including [health](#) and [nutrition, child protection, adolescent participation and development](#) support as well as [WASH and education](#) interventions.

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall needs	Cluster/Sector Response			UNICEF and IPs		
		2020 target	Total ⁴ results	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 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	877,346	91,566	2,400,000	1,041,450 ⁴	115,422
# of children and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) screened for acute malnutrition		2,867,674	2,375,256	283,130	1,800,000	1,820,454	231,057
# of children reached with the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)		17,447	9,881	1,737	9,600	11,131	1,708
# of caregivers including pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) counselled or reached with awareness on appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF)		915,063	770,682	113,334	800,000	546,818	55,140
Health							
# of children under five years vaccinated through polio campaigns	13,200,000				2,900,000	2,632,608 ¹	0
# of children under one year reached with routine vaccination (DTP3 containing vaccine)					577,000	384,255 ²	39,907
# of Primary Health Care outpatient consultations supported (children & CBA women)					2,200,000	1,335,693	140,573
# of health workers and community volunteers trained on new- born care packages					640	1,235	385
# of caregivers reached with health promotion, including immunization messages					3,500,000	2,071,370	135,859
WASH ¹							
Estimated # of people with access to improved water supply	15,700,000	8,000,000	1,735,960	162,066 ⁵	3,700,000	2,678,735	30,000
Estimated # of people have improved access to sanitation services		5,500,000	855,250	265,030 ³	1,300,000	855,890	28,813
# of school children benefited from improved WASH facilities and services		n/a	n/a	n/a	390,000	885,398 ⁸	510,549

# of people supported with access to essential WASH NFIs including in HTR areas		2,000,000	2,959,284	195,747 ⁴	1,600,000	1,022,882	158,566
# of people reached with hygiene promotion interventions		3,000,000	2,235,380	368,399 ⁵	525,000	338,244	40,838
# of people benefitting from access to improved lifesaving/emergency WASH facilities and services		3,000,000	3,773,644	197,031 ⁶	1,500,000	1,663,858 ₇	27,849

Child Protection ¹

# of girls and boys engaged in structured and sustained child protection programming, including psychosocial support		880,000	388,760	113,908	350,000	55,511 ₂	6,055
# of women and men engaged in structured and sustained parenting programmes		93,000	44,725	15,457	51,000	14,029 ₃	3,110
# of girls, boys, women and men reached with explosive hazards risk education	5,600,000	4,592,604	570,566	130,856	2,400,000	655,859 ₄	6,268
# of women, men, girls and boys reached by behaviour change communication interventions for child protection issues		1,650,000	568,054	148,334	630,000	166,538 ₅	24,250
# of girls and boys received specialized child protection services including through case management		50,000	27,688	6,213	22,000	4,485 ₆	262

Education

# of children provided with education services in formal settings		3,300,000	2,143,549 ¹	58,091	2,400,000	1,976,087 ₆	1,660,345
# of children in non-formal education benefiting from education services		1,256,530	466,570 ²	21,181	440,000	287,066 ⁷	66,507
# of teachers and education personnel trained		76,524	19,232 ³	959	42,600	18,582 ₈	15,088
# of children and youth (5-24 years) participating in life skills and citizenship education programmes in formal and non-formal settings	5,700,000	300,000	65,813 ⁴	1,808	280,000	32,237 ⁹	6,434
# of caregivers and children reached with C4D back to learning (BTL) interventions		n/a	100,049 ⁵	14,600	225,000	73,540 ₁₀	1,717

SOCIAL POLICY

# of girls and boys with - disabilities provided with regular cash transfers					11,500	9,752	1,637
# of girls and boys protected from extreme weather through NFIs					570,000	358,292	9,728

# of girls and boys protected from extreme weather through vouchers or cash transfers					110,000	51,471	0
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ADAP

# of adolescents and youth (10-24 years) promoting social cohesion and civic engagement					200,000	104,263 ₁	71,177
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# of affected adolescents and youth (10-24 years) receiving employability skills including life skills, TVET and entrepreneurship					300,000	53,829 ₂	2,954
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Footnotes

*The revised Whole of Syria [2020 UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children](#) appeal is published with updated indicators and targets. All UNICEF results are as of 30 September 2020.

Nutrition 1: The sector reach is lower than UNICEF reach as sector data are as of end July, while UNICEF data as of end August

Nutrition 4: This activity was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 containment measures, as distribution was scheduled together with the immunization campaigns that were postponed between March and June 2020. This activity will be scaled up during the second half of the year.

Health 1: The target for Polio is almost reached as the campaign is scheduled in the first quarter of the year.

Health 2: The reach for this activity is low as routine immunization was heavily affected by the COVID-19 containment measures, as the health facilities were working at reduced operating hours and less people could access the services, also due to the movement restrictions faced by the population. It is expected that in the second half of the year this will be scaled up to achieve the full target.

WASH 1: WASH sector figures are as of end July 2020, while UNICEF reach is as of end August.

WASH 2,3,4,5,6 - Sector data of the previous months was revised

WASH 7: The target for this activity has been already reached, due to the need to cover the WASH emergency needs of the newly displaced people in 2020.

WASH 8: The high achievement for this activity is due to the distributed WASH supplies in schools including the sanitizers during the national exam period

WASH 9: The low achievement is because only UNICEF is contributing to this indicator with no other partners contributing so far

Child Protection 1: Sector results are as of end July, while UNICEF reach is of end August.

Child Protection 2,3,4,5, 6: The reach for these child protection activities was negatively affected by the COVID-19 containment measures as no face-to-face sessions could take place and only virtual activities through phone or internet took place. As after June movement restrictions related to COVID-19 have been lifted, UNICEF will be increasing the reach in the second half of the year.

Education 1: This figure includes the school meals provided by sector partner WFP, already distributed for the entire year

Education 1, 2,3,4,5: The sector figures have been corrected.

Education 6: Good progress has been achieved in the reporting period due to receiving late reports from partners about supplies supporting formal education. Moreover, the target will be reached further in later months.

Education 6,7,8,9,10: The reach for these Education indicators has been heavily affected by the COVID-19 mitigation measures, as since March all schools and education centers were closed, training activities suspended. Only distance learning activities could take place, but the reach of such activities in Syria has been very low. With the re-opening of schools in September UNICEF is planning to reach most of the targets.

ADAP 1,2: The reach for ADAP activities was negatively impacted by COVID-19 mitigation measures, as all youth and adolescents' trainings, empowerment and skills development activities were halted, and only virtual engagements were possible. The activities will be scaled up in the second half of the year to ensure that targets are fully reached.

Annex B

Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	32,954,663	9,323,852	2,091,601	21,539,210	65%
Health	41,877,045	12,036,298	4,918,158	24,922,589	60%
WASH	77,492,160	34,868,901	15,985,680	26,637,579	34%
Child Protection	36,133,672	9,118,539	5,767,765	21,247,368	59%
Education	64,492,956	31,435,430	22,871,500	10,186,026	16%
ADAP	6,232,24	1,338,283	1,753,651	3,140,314	50 %
Early Recovery	35,617,293	10,453,925	6,719,374	18,443,994	52%
Being allocated	-	589,679	-	-	-
Total	294,800,037	109,164,907	60,107,729	126,177,080	43 %

Next SitRep: 20 October 2020

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

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

Who to contact for further information: **Bo Viktor Nylund**
Representative
UNICEF Syria Country Office
Tel: +963 (0) 993369456
Email: bvnylund@unicef.org

Ghada Kachachi
Deputy Representative
UNICEF Syria Country Office
Tel: +963 (0)11 6191300
Email: gkachachi@unicef.org

Melinda Young
Senior Emergency Advisor
UNICEF MENA Regional Office
Tel: +962 7 9513 5290
Email: meyoung@unicef.org