



Humanitarian Action for Children



Iraq

As many as 11 million people in Iraq require humanitarian assistance and more than 3 million remain displaced, including at least 1.4 million children.³ More than 1 million people have returned to homes devastated by conflict or occupation.⁴ The conflict intensified in 2016, with one child in five at risk of death, injury, sexual violence, recruitment into armed conflict or abduction.⁵ Maintaining basic services for people displaced in camps or host communities is costly, and children who have lived under occupation for more than two years require water, schools, vaccinations and safe spaces to play and learn. The continued economic downturn has affected government financial capacity to take on the planned transfer of responsibility. Weak water and sanitation networks and overburdened public health services are struggling to serve areas hosting large numbers of displaced children and families, threatening a rise in preventable disease incidence. At least 70 per cent of displaced children have lost an entire year of school.⁶

Humanitarian strategy

The UNICEF response in Iraq is aligned with the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan. UNICEF leads the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education clusters, the child protection sub-cluster and the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) with the World Food Programme, and is an active member of the health cluster. UNICEF reaches families on the move through the RRM and assists people in newly retaken communities through a multi-sectoral response, days after conflict subsides. UNICEF supports access to safe water and gender-sensitive sanitation and hygiene awareness in communities; ensures immunization and nutrition services for children under 5; increases access to safe and quality education; and facilitates sustained psychosocial support and protection services for children in need. The shifting humanitarian context requires a flexible response strategy aimed at reaching people in need regardless of their location. In Iraq, UNICEF also emphasizes support for resilience-focused interventions.

Results from 2016

As of 31 October 2016, UNICEF had received US\$138.1 million against the US\$179 million appeal (82 per cent funded).⁷ Despite the US\$51 million received for WASH, the cost of ongoing maintenance for services remained high for existing internally displaced persons and for newly-accessible populations. Although cost-efficient outreach was strengthened through 15 WASH service centres, more support is required as people in need spread over larger areas. The health and nutrition programmes remained underfunded by 41 per cent, which limited progress. Lack of learning spaces, overcrowded classrooms and the displacement of education staff impacted progress in education. Reaching out-of-school children remained a challenge. As the conflict continued and risks to children remained significant, UNICEF strengthened psychosocial support for children by increasing mobile child protection teams. Cash transfer outreach was constrained by conflict and lack of operating partners. UNICEF reached more than 118,000 people affected by the Mosul city offensive with immediate relief items and more than 156,000 people with safe water, and vaccinated more than 13,500 children under 15 against measles.

Total people in need:

11 million¹

Total children (<18) in need:

5.1 million (47 per cent of 11 million)²

Total people to be reached in 2017:

5.8 million

Total children to be reached in 2017:

5.7 million

2017 programme targets

RRM and winterization

- 1.3 million vulnerable people newly displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response
- 200,000 children protected from the risks of winter

WASH

- 1 million emergency-affected people accessing sufficient safe water supply, with access to functional sanitation, and receiving hygiene kits

Education

- 690,000 girls and boys receiving education supplies and/or teaching/learning materials
- 50,000 children reached through temporary learning spaces (pre-fabricated)
- 100,000 out-of-school children aged 6 to 17 years accessing education

Child protection

- 161,567 children participating in structured and sustained resilience or psychosocial support programmes
- 14,065 children receiving specialized services
- 9,000 women and girls receiving gender-based violence services

Health and nutrition

- 5.7 million children under 5 vaccinated against polio (campaign)
- 50,000 children under 5 accessing nutrition services
- 50,000 children under 1 vaccinated against measles (routine)

Cash transfer

- 9,000 most-vulnerable households receiving cash assistance

	Cluster 2016 target ⁱ	Cluster total results	UNICEF 2016 target ⁱⁱ	UNICEF total results
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM				
Vulnerable people newly displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response			2,400,000	1,086,409
Most vulnerable children better protected from risks of winter with appropriate clothing ⁱⁱⁱ			750,000	0
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
Emergency-affected populations with access to a sufficient and safe water supply	2,372,430	1,304,645	1,952,139	749,447
Emergency-affected populations with access to functional latrines	910,937	325,175	686,104	254,978
Internally displaced persons receiving hygiene kits or other hygiene supplies	1,480,868	842,795	466,393	602,522
EDUCATION				
School-aged children reached through temporary pre-fabricated learning spaces	45,000	75,183	86,000	51,662
Teachers and education personnel receiving training on education-in-emergencies and/or psychosocial support and/or pedagogy	8,300	4,644	7,000	3,212
Boys and girls receiving educational supplies and/or teaching/ learning materials	615,000	342,501	650,000	359,437
CHILD PROTECTION				
Grave child rights violations verified	250	144	300	144
Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services)	30,000	25,445	38,559	7,445
Children participating in structured, sustained resilience or psychosocial support programmes	150,000	121,921	206,000	66,903
Women and girls receiving gender-based violence services at women centres/mobile teams			16,500	5,978
HEALTH				
Newborn babies of conflict-affected families benefiting from newborn home services ^v			100,800	1,328
Children under 1 year vaccinated against measles through routine immunization			283,700	9,631
Children aged 0 to 59 months vaccinated against polio in crisis-affected areas through campaigns ^v	Internally displaced persons		731,000	327,564
	Host community		5,200,000	5,296,380
NUTRITION				
Children under 5 have access to nutrition services (screening, referral and treatment services) ^{iv}	Internally displaced persons		114,000	18,962
	Host community		320,000	953
Targeted mothers of children aged 0 to 23 months with access to infant and young child feeding counselling for appropriate feeding			47,000	7,242
SOCIAL PROTECTION				
Most vulnerable households receiving cash assistance			14,655	458

Results are through 31 October 2016 unless noted

- (i) The 2016 cluster targets under the United Nations-wide Humanitarian Response Plan were not revised to include expected displacements caused by the military offensive to retake the city of Mosul and surrounding areas. UNICEF targets include anticipated Mosul beneficiaries and for this reason are, in some cases, higher than the cluster targets.
- (ii) All UNICEF targets were revised in July 2016 to include anticipated additional displacements caused by the military offensive on Mosul and surrounding areas.
- (iii) Winter response in Iraq was scheduled to start in October 2016 but was delayed due to lack of funding.
- (iv) Access and security issues did not allow implementation of some activities in conflict areas
- (v) This polio target is for a much larger population than that affected by polio; it is achieved in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization.

Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US\$161.4 million for the period of January to December 2017 to meet the humanitarian needs of children in Iraq. Without additional funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the country's continuing complex and protracted displacement crisis through first-line rapid response for populations on the move; critical WASH services; health and nutrition support in and out of camps; essential protection and education support for children affected by violence and conflict; and targeted cash transfer for the most vulnerable families.

Sector	2017 requirements (US\$)
Health and nutrition	11,000,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	74,000,000
Child protection	24,200,000
Education	32,000,000
Social protection (cash transfer)	3,600,000
Rapid Response Mechanism	5,000,000
Winterization	11,600,000
Total	161,400,000

¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, '2016 Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview' OCHA.

² Children make up an estimated 47 per cent of the affected population in Iraq.

³ International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ United Nations Children's Fund, *A Heavy Price for Children: Violence Destroys Childhoods in Iraq*, UNICEF, 2016.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Available funds include funding received against the current appeal of US\$86.1 million and US\$52 million carried forward from the previous year.

Who to contact for further information:

Peter Hawkins
Representative- Iraq
Tel: +964 780 920 8636
Email: phawkins@unicef.org

Yasmin Haque
Deputy Director, Office of
Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
Tel: +1 212 326 7150
Email: yhaque@unicef.org

Olav Kjørven
Director, Public Partnership
Division (PPD)
Tel: +1 212 326 7160
Email: okjorven@unicef.org