

JUNE 2017

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# NOWHERE TO GO

## IRAQI CHILDREN TRAPPED IN CYCLES OF VIOLENCE

#CHILDRENUNDERATTACK

unicef  | for every child



# NOWHERE TO GO

## THREE YEARS ON, IRAQI CHILDREN TRAPPED IN CYCLES OF VIOLENCE

**Children** in Iraq are caught in escalating cycles of violence, leaving girls and boys vulnerable to attacks, poverty and exploitation. In the past three years, extreme violence has overwhelmed entire cities and communities around the country, turning childhoods into nightmares of brutality, displacement and loss.

Violence in Mosul, Fallujah and Ramadi, has been fierce with use of heavy weapons and bombings in densely populated areas. Children have been killed and maimed, some shot by snipers as they attempted to escape the violence. Many children have been used as human shields while others have been forced to join the fighting.

As of early June, more than 790,000 people have been displaced from Mosul alone. Population movement and displacement is likely to continue even after the violence ends.

In the chaos of families fleeing the violence around them, more than 4,650 children from Iraq - some as young as three years old, have been separated from their families, putting them at grave risk of being exploited or abused.

Children are also struggling with the physical and psychological wounds of war. Half of those being treated in trauma centres in west Mosul with bullet and shrapnel wounds are children. Many children fleeing the violence are severely distressed and need psychosocial care.

The end of the violence in Mosul is likely to be a turning point for the war - torn country, but it will not bring the guns to silence.

Clashes and violence may spread to other communities in Ninewa, Anbar and Kirkuk, resulting in more displacement for children and families and adding to the 3.1 million Iraqis<sup>1</sup> – almost half of them children – who are already without a home.

Violence has generated patterns of displacement and destruction, and pushed more than 1 million children out of school, leaving them with fewer skills and at a higher risk of sinking into poverty. The latest figures show that one in four children in Iraq now live in a poor household.

Warring parties have actively recruited children into the fighting, depriving them of a normal childhood and the chance of a better future.<sup>2</sup> Some of these children have been held for months in detention centres. UNICEF is providing these children with legal representation, education, psychosocial assistance, vocational training, and helping to improve the conditions of the facilities where children are held.

The process of reconciliation and rehabilitation has already started and needs to be strengthened. UNICEF and partners, initiated a model of fast rehabilitation of schools to encourage families to return to their communities and rebuild their lives. That model is now being applied to Mosul.

By mid June, and despite ongoing violence in west Mosul, some 400 schools in east Mosul had reopened to nearly 400,000 children. When there are not enough classrooms or desks, schools hold multiple shifts so that all children have a chance to learn.

Families are returning to their homes. In Fallujah, Mosul and Ramadi, nearly 800,000 people were able to return to their homes.<sup>3</sup>

Providing schools, water, sanitation and health services will be crucial for all Iraqi children and their families to return home. Otherwise, the risk is not only of a lost generation, but also severely restricted opportunities to build a solid foundation for coexistence, tolerance and peace in the future.

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1 Humanitarian response Plan 2017

2 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2017

3 OCHA Humanitarian Sitrep, 2016



## I tried to escape from Mosul four times.

The last time the fighters caught me, they put a knife to my neck because they wanted to kill me. But my mother cried and begged them not to. My mother later told me I had to leave because boys my age were being recruited to fight.

One morning, my cousin and I went at dawn to a place where people met to flee. While we were waiting, someone saw us and started to shout "They're escaping!", another started shooting at us. We crossed a checkpoint, but I was uncomfortable because my family was still in Mosul.

I couldn't sleep because I was thinking about them. Three months later, my uncle called to say that my mother had escaped and was in Hasansham camp. I was in a different camp. So I called her, and a UNICEF partner brought us back together."

*Mohammed, 12 years old.*

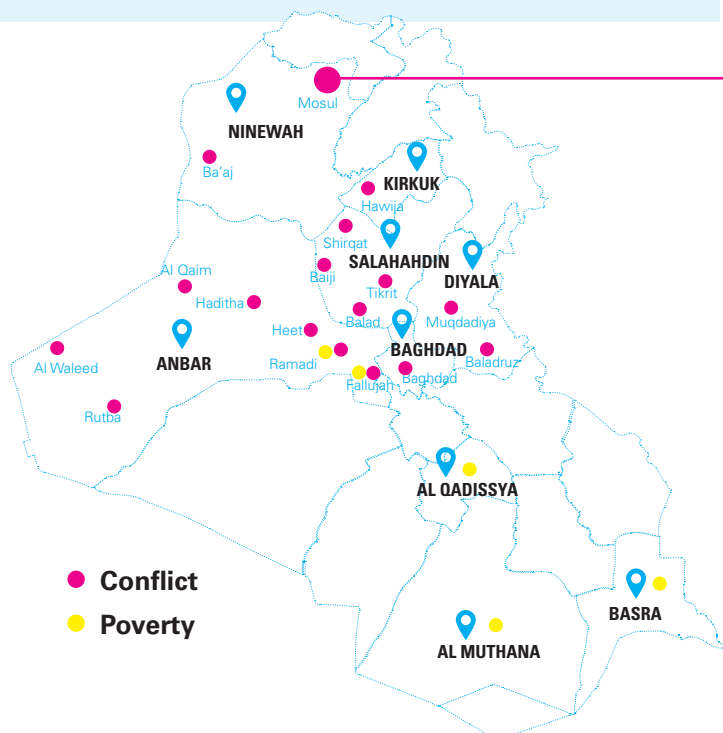
## WHERE ARE THE **CHILDREN** IN NEED?



**TOTAL CHILD POPULATION IN IRAQ  
NEARLY 20 MILLION**

**CHILDREN IN NEED OF  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE  
5 MILLION**

**INTERNALLY DISPLACED  
PEOPLE  
3 MILLION  
NEARLY 1/2 ARE  
CHILDREN**



**OVER 790,000**  
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DISPLACED BY THE FIGHTING IN MOSUL

**ALMOST 435,000**  
OF THEM ARE CHILDREN

**177,500**  
HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR COMMUNITIES





I don't really want to go back to school because I'm the only one working. So if I stop, my family won't be able to survive."

*Hussain, who fled the violence northwest of Mosul city and now helps support his family of 15 members.*

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## EDUCATION



### 3 MILLION

CHILDREN IN IRAQ DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL ON A REGULAR BASIS



### 1.2 MILLION

CHILDREN ARE OUT-OF-SCHOOL



IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS,  
MORE THAN

### 90%

CHILDREN ARE OUT-OF-SCHOOL



### HALF

OF ALL SCHOOLS IN IRAQ  
REQUIRE URGENT REPAIRS



ALMOST **1/3** OF IRAQ'S  
SCHOOLS ARE OPERATING ON A  
MULTIPLE SHIFT SYSTEM





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I wish I could go back to school but my family has no one else to support them.

I would be happy in school. My friends are there. I want to go back and learn to read and write."

*Fares, 12 years old, Baghdad*



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School is like a mother, it teaches us everything."

*Nisreen, 12 years old, in Qayyarah, south of Mosul.*





I've lost two sons:

One in the previous conflict and one in this violence. It feels like whatever happens in Iraq, I have to sacrifice a child for it,"

*Houda's voice breaks as she hides her face in the folds of her dress in Hammam al-Alil camp, outside west Mosul.*

No	Description	Weight	Expired date	تاريخ الانتهاء	الوزن
1	Canned Fava Beans	1200	11-7-2018	٢٠١٨-٧-١١	١٢٠٠
2	Canned ChickPeas	1200	13-7-2018	٢٠١٨-٧-١٣	١٢٠٠
3	Biscuits	1600	10-4-2018	٢٠١٨-٤-١٠	١٦٠٠
4	Dates	1200	1-4-2018	٢٠١٨-٤-١	١٢٠٠
5	Meat/Canned Chicken	1140	9-2018	٢٠١٨-٩	١١٤٠

Al-Sami co. Ltd. - IRAQ- ERBIL  
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العقد: ٤٤٤  
ن. الصافي: (٤٤٤)



## CHILD PROTECTION



**4,650**

CHILDREN SEPARATED AND UNACCOMPANIED<sup>4</sup>



AROUND

**800,000<sup>5</sup>**

CHILDREN IN IRAQ HAVE LOST ONE OR BOTH PARENTS



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION



**1 IN 5<sup>6</sup>**

CHILDREN ARE STUNTED



ONLY

**55%**

OF CHILDREN FLEEING MOSUL ARE IMMUNIZED AGAINST POLIO AND MEASLES



OVER

**7%**

OF IRAQI CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD SUFFER FROM WASTING<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> 95% of these children have been unified with their families or placed within community networks (Child protection partners).

<sup>5</sup> UNICEF data.

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF Health & Nutrition, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> UNICEF data.





When the fighters came to our village, they asked to speak to the police. They said it was to give them their salary. I didn't have any reason not to believe them, so I took them to the police station.

**They beheaded my father and killed the others as well.**

When my mother and I fled, I was injured by a landmine and lost parts of my fingers."

*Abdullah, 11 years old.*



## GRAVE VIOLATIONS

**GRAVE VIOLATIONS AGAINST CHILDREN, JANUARY 2014 – MAY 2017**

UNICEF has verified these numbers, but actual figures are likely to be much higher



**1,075**  
CHILDREN KILLED



**138**  
ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS



**1,300**  
CHILDREN ABDUCTED



**58**  
ATTACKS ON HOSPITALS



**1,130**  
CHILDREN MAIMED OR INJURED

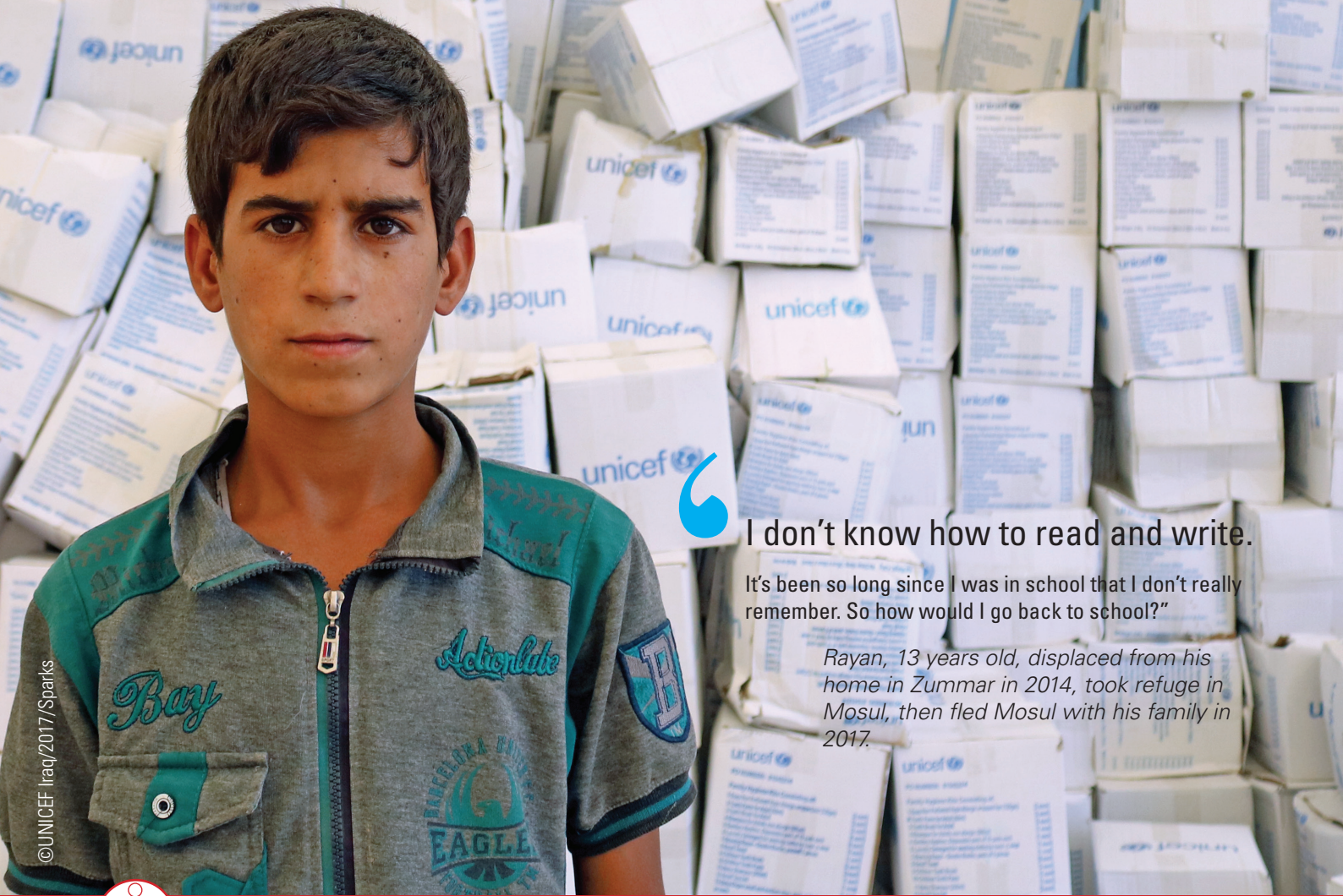


**231**  
CHILDREN RECRUITED  
INTO THE FIGHTING



Sexual violence against children is extremely difficult to document amid fears of stigmatization and rejection. Girls have been abducted, forcibly married and sexually exploited while in captivity, including by children recruited into the fighting.





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I don't know how to read and write.

It's been so long since I was in school that I don't really remember. So how would I go back to school?"

*Rayan, 13 years old, displaced from his home in Zummar in 2014, took refuge in Mosul, then fled Mosul with his family in 2017.*



## POVERTY



**1 IN 4**  
CHILDREN LIVE IN POOR  
HOUSEHOLDS



POVERTY AFFECTS ALMOST

**40%**

OF DISPLACED FAMILIES

THE PROPORTION OF CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

**34%**

RURAL AREAS

**17%**

URBAN AREAS



**500,000<sup>8</sup>**

CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES  
OF 5 -14 ARE INVOLVED IN CHILD  
LABOUR, MOSTLY IN RURAL  
AREAS



One doctor I met was wearing surgical scrubs with blood up to his elbows. He looked shaken up. I asked if I could get him anything, and he said water. I offered to get him a couple of bottles. The doctor said:

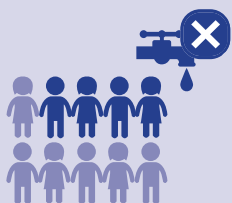
**'I need water for the hospital.'**

We mobilized our teams to send water tankers to the hospital."

Atheer, UNICEF Iraq's Emergency Coordinator for the Mosul Crisis



## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



ALMOST

**4 OUT OF 10**

CHILDREN IN RURAL AREAS HAVE NO PUBLIC WATER NETWORK CONNECTION<sup>9</sup>



**15%**

OF IRAQI CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE REGULAR ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER<sup>10</sup>



**2 IN 5**

HOUSEHOLDS DO NOT HAVE TREATED DRINKING WATER<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> UNICEF "Child Poverty Report", 2017.

<sup>10</sup> UNICEF data.

<sup>11</sup> UNICEF data.



# UNICEF'S RESPONSE WITH PARTNERS IN 2017\*

## CHILD PROTECTION



**198,150 CHILDREN**

Reached with psychosocial support



**38,212 INDIVIDUALS**

(INCLUDING **33,355 CHILDREN**)

EDUCATED ON THE RISKS OF MINES  
AND UNEXPLODED REMNANTS OF  
WAR



**13,768 CHILDREN**

REACHED WITH SPECIALIZED  
CARE SERVICES

## WATER & SANITATION



**OVER 1 MILLION PEOPLE**

(HALF OF THEM CHILDREN)

SUPPORTED WITH ACCESS TO  
SUFFICIENT SAFE WATER



**212,283 PEOPLE**

PROVIDED WITH ACCESS TO  
APPROPRIATE SANITATION

**490,519 IDPS**

RECEIVED HYGIENE KITS



**10 MILLION LITRES**

OF SAFE WATER DELIVERED DAILY  
TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE MOSUL  
CRISIS

## EDUCATION



SUPPORTED ACCESS TO TEMPORARY LEARNING SPACES FOR

**25,542 CHILDREN**

AND PROVIDED EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES FOR

**474,497 CHILDREN** IN 2016



**275,437 STUDENTS**

SUPPORTED IN MOSUL WITH EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND  
IMPROVED LEARNING SPACES SINCE THE MILITARY OPERATION



**256,423 STUDENTS**

ACCESSED FORMAL EDUCATION



**1,000 TEACHERS**

RECEIVED TRAINING FOR IMPROVED TEACHING  
APPROACHES, PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES, LIFE SKILLS,  
POSITIVE DISCIPLINE AND EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

## HEALTH & NUTRITION



**ALMOST 5.6 MILLION  
CHILDREN**

UNDER 5 YEARS OLD  
VACCINATED AGAINST  
POLIO



**6,730 CHILDREN**

UNDER 1 YEAR OLD WERE  
VACCINATED AGAINST  
MEASLES THROUGH  
ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION



**56,180 CHILDREN**

UNDER 5 YEARS OLD RECEIVED NUTRITION SERVICES  
(SCREENING, REFERRAL, TREATMENT)

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE



**1.4 MILLION PEOPLE**

NEWLY DISPLACED BY CONFLICT RECEIVED RAPID RESPONSE  
MECHANISM KITS

**6.5 KILOGRAMS OF FOOD • A HYGIENE KIT • A KIT  
FOR WOMEN'S HYGIENE • 12 LITRES OF POTABLE  
WATER • A WATER CONTAINER**

## NON-FOOD ITEMS



**264,834 CHILDREN**

RECEIVED WARM CLOTHING FOR THE 2016-17  
WINTER SEASON

\* As of end of May 2017





### I miss my grandpa'

Sana's grandfather is still trapped in west of Moul.

She is in the UNICEF - rehabilitated Almoharbeen school for boys and girls.

*Sana, 7, living in east Mosul*

## UNICEF is calling for:

- An immediate end to the conflict: all warring parties owe it to the children of Iraq to put an end to the violence,
- All children affected by the crisis, wherever they are, must have access to unimpeded and sustained humanitarian assistance and basic services,
- An end to all grave violations against children, including killing, maiming and recruitment, and an end to attacks on civilian infrastructure,
- Freedom of movement for all families who wish to flee to safety or return to their homes,
- Access to legal protection and services for all children in detention and treatment in line with international standards of juvenile detention,
- Increased investments to improve the quality of education, healthcare and protection services for all children,
- Sustained contributions for humanitarian response: UNICEF has a funding gap of US\$100 million for lifesaving emergency operations in Iraq and for support to children returning to their homes and resuming their lives.



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