



A UNICEF-supported mobile health team vaccinates Rusina, a 6-month-old Syrian refugee baby in Kalakn, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

unicef   
for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

# Syrian Refugees

## HIGHLIGHTS<sup>1</sup>

- After 12 years of conflict, the Syrian refugee crisis remains the largest displacement crisis in the world. Nearly 5.6 million registered refugees - including more than 2.6 million children - reside in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye.<sup>23</sup> Meanwhile, the many effects of climate change, particularly a deepening water crisis and the rise in communicable diseases such as cholera, are impacting families' health and livelihoods, further compounding their vulnerability. More than 21 million refugees and host community members, including nearly 8.6 million children, need urgent assistance.
- UNICEF continues to reach refugee children living in camps, informal settlements and urban settings - as well as vulnerable children from host communities - with essential education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection, health, nutrition and social protection services, and with adolescent and youth programmes. UNICEF is also mainstreaming gender and gender-based violence prevention and mitigation in its response.
- In 2023, UNICEF requires US\$867.3 million to respond to the immediate needs of 4.2 million Syrian refugees and vulnerable people in host communities in the five targeted countries, while at the same time mitigating the challenges related to widening inequalities, weakened social cohesion and increased health and protection risks.

IN NEED  
**21.1**  
million  
people<sup>4,5</sup>  
**8.6**  
million  
children<sup>6</sup>

2019 2023

TO BE REACHED  
**4.2**  
million  
people<sup>7</sup>  
**3**  
million  
children<sup>8</sup>

2019 2023

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$ 867.3**  
million

2019 2023

## KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**1.8 million**

children and women  
accessing primary  
healthcare



**369,100**

children/caregivers  
accessing community-  
based mental health and  
psychosocial support



**1.7 million**

children accessing formal  
or non-formal education,  
including early learning



**594,500**

people accessing a  
sufficient quantity and  
quality of water

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

After nearly 12 years of conflict, the Syrian refugee crisis remains the largest displacement crisis in the world, with no end in sight. Nearly 5.6 million registered refugees - including more than 2.6 million children<sup>9</sup> - still live in camps, informal settlements and host communities in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye. Of the 21 million people in need, 8 million people require child protection services, 4.8 million people require health and nutrition support, 4.2 million children require education services and 3.3 million people require WASH assistance.<sup>10</sup>

Although host governments continue to generously provide essential services for vulnerable refugees and affected host communities, public resources and infrastructure are increasingly stretched thin. While Syrian and host community families experience similar hardships, Syrians face additional challenges in meeting their basic needs due to their legal status. This has resulted in widening inequalities, weakened social cohesion and increased health and protection risks.

The war in Ukraine has resulted in widespread grain shortages and skyrocketing prices for essential commodities. The many effects of climate change - particularly a deepening water crisis and the rise in communicable diseases - are increasingly impacting families' health and livelihoods, further compounding their vulnerability. In late 2022, an outbreak of cholera in the northern part of the Syrian Arab Republic spread to Lebanon, while in Iraq, where the disease is endemic, the number of cases increased, putting refugee and host communities at high risk and burdening the already overstretched health systems in the region.

In Türkiye,<sup>11</sup> 400,000 school-aged Syrian refugee children are out of school. The situation for refugees has been exacerbated by the impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and inflation in the country hit 80 per cent (the highest rate in 24 years). In Lebanon, economic collapse has also led to runaway inflation: nearly the entire Syrian refugee population is unable to afford the survival minimal expenditure basket. In Egypt and Jordan, deteriorating economic conditions have impacted all sectors and rising food prices are placing a serious strain on refugee households. In Iraq, the water crisis and drought-like conditions, particularly in refugee-hosting areas, is leading to increased risks of public health emergencies and disease outbreaks.

Within this context, major challenges remain in upholding children's rights. Refugee children - particularly girls and those out of school - are highly vulnerable to numerous protection risks, including psychosocial distress, exploitation and gender-based violence. The lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to disrupt access to routine immunization and formal education, while increased food insecurity and poverty are resulting in an overall decline in children's well-being. Vulnerable families struggling to survive are increasingly resorting to such negative coping mechanisms as child labour and child marriage. Children and youth with disabilities are also acutely marginalized because access to services remain out of reach.

## SECTOR NEEDS



**4.8 million**  
people in need of health and nutrition assistance<sup>12</sup>



**8 million**  
children in need of protection services<sup>13</sup>



**4.2 million**  
children in need of education support<sup>14</sup>



**3.3 million**  
people lack access to safe water<sup>15</sup>



**2.5 million**  
people in need of social protection services<sup>16</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



The worsening crisis in Lebanon impacts society's most vulnerable disproportionately - and none more so than its children. Today, infants, adolescents and women are at particular risk of malnutrition. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Public Health and partners to ensure every child gets the proper nutrition to enable them to survive and thrive.

Nutrition programming and nutrition surveillance have been scaled up to prevent, detect and manage malnutrition. UNICEF has mobilized partners with the implementation of an outreach programme focused on detecting early signs of malnourishment among those living in vulnerable communities.

**[Read more about this story here](#)**

A UNICEF nutrition specialist checks a family in an informal settlement in Ghazze, Lebanon, for signs of malnutrition.



In 2023, UNICEF will reach 3 million Syrian children in camps, informal settlements and urban settings, as well as vulnerable children in host communities.

UNICEF will sustain efforts to strengthen the resilience of host countries and governments, with continued efforts to build capacity at national and subnational levels and increase multisectoral programming with local authorities. The response will support equitable access to essential services, ensuring continuity with longer-term systems strengthening strategies and durable solutions frameworks.

In all five countries, UNICEF will work closely with governments and non-governmental organization partners to address the refugee crisis and mitigate the secondary effects of the cholera outbreak. UNICEF response will be aligned with national priorities and coordination mechanisms.

Education programmes will enhance access to quality, inclusive formal and non-formal learning opportunities in safe, child-friendly environments, with refugee children integrated within national education systems and an emphasis on inclusion of those who are out of school or at risk of exploitation and of minorities and those with disabilities. UNICEF will also support learning continuity and provide cash assistance and supplies for the most vulnerable families.

In WASH, UNICEF will facilitate access to life-saving services, build resilience and strengthen durable solutions in light of the growing water scarcity crisis and subsequent rise in communicable diseases such as cholera.<sup>19</sup> Interventions, particularly in camps and schools, will integrate infection prevention and control and risk communication and community engagement activities.

Child protection programmes will focus on strengthening national prevention and response, while supporting case management and large-scale psychosocial and parenting activities in vulnerable communities. UNICEF will also strengthen the capacities of front-line workers and community groups to promote child rights.

In health and nutrition, UNICEF will improve access to comprehensive primary health care, including vaccination, antenatal and postnatal care and infant and young child feeding counselling. UNICEF will also strengthen community outreach and referrals to primary health care centres.

To address rising poverty levels and socioeconomic shocks, UNICEF will support the roll-out of national social protection programmes and direct cash grants for the most vulnerable.

Adolescent and youth programmes will expand access to quality technical and vocational opportunities, especially for young women, and will promote social cohesion by increasing positive relationships between host and refugee communities and the participation of adolescents and youth.

UNICEF will foster gender equity and inclusion by providing girls and children with disabilities with targeted support. Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and gender-based violence will be mainstreamed by raising awareness and increasing the accessibility of secure and safe reporting channels. UNICEF will also improve its accountability to affected populations by strengthening established feedback mechanisms; and will support community engagement and mobilization to improve demand for childhood immunization and mitigate misinformation and vaccine hesitancy.



### Health

- **392,400** children vaccinated against measles<sup>20</sup>
- **33,700** children vaccinated against polio<sup>21</sup>
- **1,840,600** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities<sup>22</sup>



### Nutrition

- **750** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment<sup>23</sup>
- **215,300** children 6-59 months screened for wasting<sup>24</sup>
- **55,500** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling<sup>25</sup>
- **74,600** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder<sup>26</sup>



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **369,100** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support<sup>27</sup>
- **227,700** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions<sup>28</sup>
- **448,500** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations<sup>29</sup>
- **21,500** children who have received individual case management<sup>30</sup>



### Education

- **1,739,700** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning<sup>31</sup>
- **695,200** children receiving individual learning materials<sup>32</sup>
- **362,600** children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes<sup>33</sup>



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **594,500** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs<sup>34</sup>
- **462,800** people accessing appropriate sanitation services<sup>35</sup>
- **245,400** people reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes<sup>36</sup>



### Social protection

- **85,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers<sup>37</sup>



### Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- **750,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services<sup>38</sup>
- **368,000** people who participate in engagement actions<sup>39</sup>
- **212,500** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms<sup>40</sup>

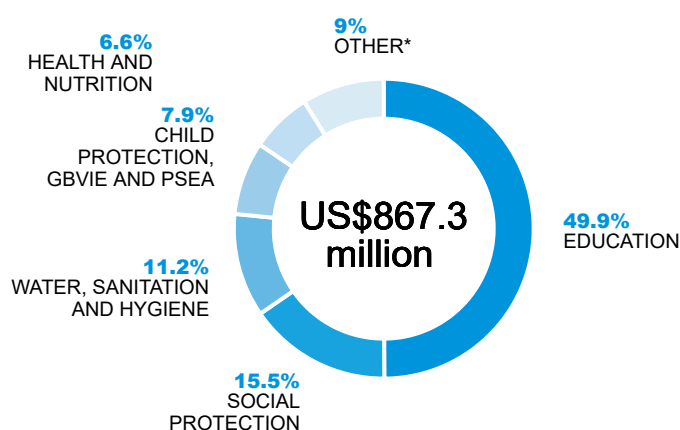
## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

Through this multi-year 2023-2024 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, UNICEF is requesting US\$867.3 million for 2023 and US\$867.3 million for 2024<sup>42</sup> to meet the needs of Syrian refugees and other vulnerable children in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye.<sup>41</sup>

The lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to heighten existing socioeconomic disparities and vulnerabilities, while the intensifying water crisis and other consequences of climate change across the region are creating new risks and needs that must be urgently addressed.

In 2022, the Syrian Refugees appeal did not receive as much funding as in 2021. The WASH, health and education sectors have been particularly underfunded and require additional funding to ensure the continuity of essential services and retention of hard-fought gains. There is a great impact to programmes and ultimately on children if full funding is not received. More funding, particularly flexible funding (especially needed in the face of the cholera outbreak, which is multiplying needs across the region), will be critical to implementing the 2023 response.

This 2023-2024 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Syrian refugees and other affected populations complements separate appeals for Iraq, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, in addition to the emergency needs for Egypt that are included in the Middle East and North Africa regional appeal.



\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Adolescents/youth (6.2%), Palestinian Programme (1.8%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (<1%).

Sectors	2023 total requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	57,344,570
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	68,630,402
Education	433,141,233
Water, sanitation and hygiene	96,918,229
Social protection	134,067,830
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	7,702,251
Adolescents/youth	53,826,758
Palestinian Programme	15,685,941
<b>Total</b>	<b>867,317,214</b>

Sectors	Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Türkiye	2023 total requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	2,000,000	4,206,522	8,410,000	40,728,048	2,000,000	57,344,570
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA <sup>43</sup>	4,324,000	2,748,217	15,500,000	25,733,185	20,325,000	68,630,402
Education	9,554,550	4,184,783	24,500,000	270,114,400	124,787,500	433,141,233
Water, sanitation and hygiene	-	2,663,043	31,800,000	62,455,186	-	96,918,229
Social protection <sup>44</sup>	-	-	49,750,000	84,317,830	-	134,067,830
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	500,000	325,739	4,900,000	1,676,512	300,000	7,702,251
Adolescents/youth <sup>45</sup>	-	543,478	26,490,000	26,793,280	-	53,826,758
Palestinian Programme <sup>46</sup>	-	-	-	15,685,941	-	15,685,941
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,378,550</b>	<b>14,671,782</b>	<b>161,350,000</b>	<b>527,504,382</b>	<b>147,412,500</b>	<b>867,317,214</b>

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# ENDNOTES

1. COVID-19 remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as declared by the World Health Organization in January 2020. On 1 July 2022, UNICEF deactivated its Level 3 Sustained Phase for the global COVID-19 pandemic response. All activities related to COVID-19 pandemic response, including programme targets and funding requirements, have been shifted into regular development programming and operations. While UNICEF's Level 3 emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was deactivated, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, their families and their communities and on the social systems they rely on.
2. Türkiye is part of the Europe and Central Asia region. It has been included under this Humanitarian Action for Children appeal to facilitate a coherent approach to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, including the refugee outflow, which is coordinated by the Middle East and North Africa Regional Office. We should note that Türkiye's funding needs and the response related to the Ukraine refugees in Europe, as well as preparedness, mitigation and response to other potential risks, are all included under the relevant Humanitarian Action for Children appeals of the Europe and Central Asia region.
3. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Operational Data Portal, Syria Regional Refugee Response, June 2022.
4. UNICEF estimates based on the latest planning for the Refugee Response and Resilience Plan (3RP). This includes 2.31 million people in Egypt, 664,100 in Iraq, 2.25 million in Jordan, 3.20 million in Lebanon and 12.63 million in Türkiye. Figures include both refugees and host community members. The Turkish host community is estimated to be around 8.5 million people. The in-need figures are subject to change after the release of the updated 3RP chapters.
5. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
6. UNICEF estimates are based on the latest planning for 3RP. This includes 1.12 million children in Egypt, 292,180 in Iraq, 1.45 million in Jordan, 997,000 in Lebanon, and 4.7 million in Türkiye. These figures include refugees and host community members. The in-need figures are subject to change after the release of the updated 3RP chapters.
7. This includes 132,480 people in Egypt, 157,100 in Iraq, 485,340 in Jordan, 1.73 million in Lebanon and 1.70 million in Türkiye. The targets include people from host communities. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
8. This includes 90,580 children in Egypt, 100,100 in Iraq, 320,640 in Jordan, 997,000 in Lebanon and 1.47 million in Türkiye. The targets include children from host communities.
9. UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Syria Regional Refugee Response.
10. Based on the latest planning for the Refugee Response and Resilience Plan (3RP).
11. Türkiye also remains a transit country for people on the move, currently hosting approximately 330,000 non-Syrian international protection applicants and status holders from other countries. Based on continuing displacement dynamics, new population movements are expected to continue in 2023.
12. Based on the latest 3RP planning, UNICEF estimates include 178,500 people in need in Egypt, 247,000 in Iraq, 1.4 million in Jordan and 3 million in Lebanon.
13. Based on the latest 3RP planning, UNICEF estimates include 178,500 in need in Egypt, 247,500 in Iraq, 2.4 million in Jordan, 3.2 million in Lebanon and 2 million in Türkiye.
14. Based on the latest 3RP planning, UNICEF estimates include 1.2 million in need in Egypt, 73,800 in Iraq, 322,800 in Jordan 1.2 million in Lebanon and 1.3 million in Türkiye.
15. Based on the latest 3RP planning, UNICEF estimates include 247,500 in need in Iraq, 400,000 in Jordan and 2.7 million in Lebanon.
16. Based on the latest 3RP planning, UNICEF estimates include 2.5 million people in Jordan.
17. This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.
18. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.
19. UNICEF is investing in preventive measures and efforts to contain the spread of cholera and reduce mortality. In Lebanon, UNICEF's strategy includes preparedness and response, with a comprehensive community-based approach to prevent the spread of the disease that includes to health, risk communication and WASH components. In Iraq, the UNICEF WASH-led response strategy aims at supporting the government leadership response by activating the national cholera taskforce and by developing and adapting the national response plan.
20. This intervention targets 2,400 children in Iraq, 20,000 in Jordan, 270,000 in Lebanon and 100,000 in Türkiye.
21. This intervention targets children in Iraq. Egypt doesn't have a target this year because the polio campaign is at the national level and it won't be possible to differentiate between Syrians, host communities and other nationalities. Jordan highlighted different targets for health and nutrition this year.
22. This intervention targets 47,000 in Egypt, 39,600 in Iraq and 1.8 million in Lebanon.
23. This intervention targets children in Lebanon.
24. This intervention targets 15,300 children in Iraq and 200,000 in Lebanon.
25. This intervention targets 22,500 primary caregivers in Iraq, 8,000 in Jordan and 25,000 in Lebanon.
26. This intervention targets 4,600 children in Iraq and 70,000 in Türkiye.
27. This intervention targets 25,000 people in Egypt, 24,300 in Iraq, 180,000 in Jordan, 102,900 in Lebanon and 37,000 in Türkiye.
28. This intervention targets 5,000 people in Egypt, 118,000 in Jordan, 36,200 in Lebanon and 68,500 in Türkiye.
29. This intervention targets 250,000 people in Jordan, 38,000 in Lebanon and 160,000 in Türkiye.
30. This intervention targets 2,500 children in Egypt, 12,500 in Jordan and 6,500 in Lebanon.
31. This intervention targets 48,600 children in Egypt, 37,600 in Iraq, 184,800 in Jordan, 551,700 in Lebanon and 917,000 in Türkiye.
32. This intervention targets 19,400 children in Egypt, 66,500 in Iraq, 79,300 in Jordan and 530,000 in Lebanon.
33. This intervention targets 2,700 children and adolescents in Iraq, 327,800 in Jordan, 165,000 in Lebanon and 162,800 in Türkiye.
34. This intervention targets 101,700 people in Iraq, 237,00 in Jordan and 255,800 in Lebanon.
35. This intervention targets 41,100 people in Iraq, 160,00 in Jordan and 261,700 in Lebanon.
36. This intervention targets 100,000 people in Jordan and 145,400 in Lebanon.
37. This intervention targets 10,000 households in Jordan and 75,000 in Lebanon.
38. This intervention targets 100,000 people in Iraq, 150,00 in Lebanon and 500,000 in Türkiye.
39. This intervention targets 18,000 people in Iraq, 125,000 in Jordan, 25,000 in Lebanon and 200,000 in Türkiye.
40. This intervention targets 2,500 people in Iraq, 100,000 in Jordan 100,000 in Lebanon and 10,000 in Türkiye.
41. This 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal complements separate appeals for Türkiye that are part of the Ukraine and Refugee Response appeal and the Europe and Central Asia Region appeal, both prepared by the Europe and Central Asia Regional Office.
42. The forecast is expected to be revised as the situation evolves.
43. In previous years, the child protection targets were only focused on Syrian refugee camps. In 2023, however, the coverage of these interventions has been expanded to support refugees living in host communities as well as vulnerable Jordanians. While child protection-related programme targets have increased, the corresponding budget has decreased. This is because, in Lebanon, the unit cost for child protection core activities has decreased due to the financial crisis and exchange rate fluctuation. In addition, the budget for the Makani programme, which is cross-sectoral by nature and includes education, child protection and social protection services, is now contained exclusively in the social protection line item. In previous years, the Makani budget was embedded into the different sectoral budget lines.
44. In addition to the target/indicator for humanitarian cash transfers reflected under programme targets and applicable to Jordan and Lebanon, Jordan will also implement context-specific social protection activities targeting more than 280,000 beneficiaries, which explains the increase in the funding requirement.
45. The targets and indicators related to interventions for adolescents/youth are embedded under the education targets by the Jordan and Türkiye country offices.
46. The Palestinian Programme in Lebanon in this appeal includes both Palestinian refugees in Lebanon since 1948 and the additional influx of Palestinian refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic, as part of the host community. Moreover, thousands of Syrian refugees live in the Palestinian camps and benefit from the services provided by UNICEF's Palestinian Programme in Lebanon. The refugee response has a significant component of geospatial targeting/service support at the community (cadaster) level. Programme targets for Palestinians are aggregated within the targets of the main indicators.
47. Ibid.