



Nour, 5, at the early childhood education class at the UNICEF-supported non-formal education centre in Areesha camp, Al-Hassakeh governorate, Syria, on 13 August.

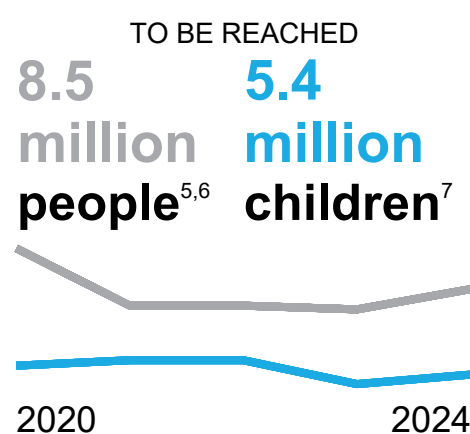
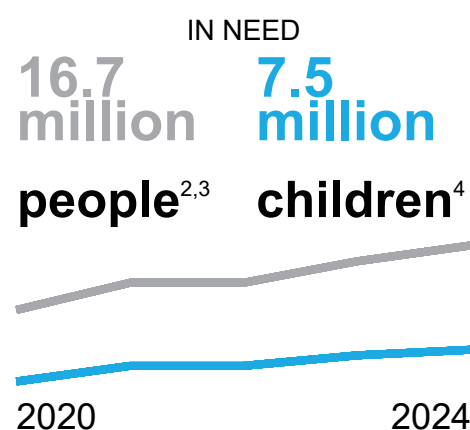
unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Syrian Arab Republic

HIGHLIGHTS

- Thirteen years of crisis have upended the lives of children and their families across the Syrian Arab Republic, leaving 16.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 7.5 million children and 7.24 million internally displaced people.
- Protracted conflict, economic decay, disease outbreaks and multiple earthquakes in early 2023, coupled with mass displacement, widespread damaged infrastructure, limited humanitarian access and climate-related shocks drive these needs.
- In 2024, UNICEF and partners will deliver life-saving assistance while integrating early recovery and resilience-building efforts into all programmes to address the immediate needs of communities to ensure a long-lasting impact on children lives. UNICEF will implement integrated multisectoral programmes that are gender-responsive and disability-inclusive. Priorities are populations and areas with high-severity needs. Cross-cutting commitments on accountability to affected populations and community engagement will be systematized across interventions to enhance programme quality and equity.
- UNICEF requires \$401.7 million to provide an essential lifeline to 8.5 million people, including 5.4 million children.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



2 million

people accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities



1.7 million

primary caregivers receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



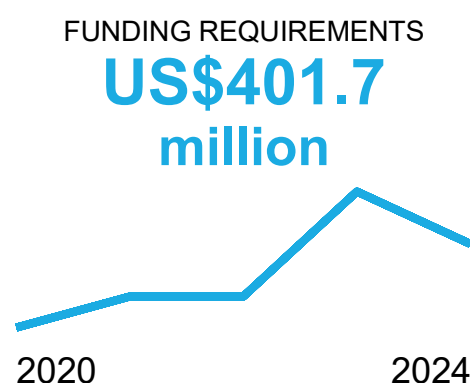
2.6 million

children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings



5.3 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Children in the Syrian Arab Republic are experiencing the worst effects of a complex emergency. Because of prolonged conflict, public health emergencies, climate-related shocks and mass protracted displacement – and the economic fallout of all of it – 16.7 million people require humanitarian assistance⁸, including 7.5 million children⁹ and 7.2 million internally displaced people¹⁰. The earthquakes that hit Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic in February 2023 aggravated people's long-standing vulnerabilities. Over 5,900 deaths, more than 12,800 injuries, more than 2,260 buildings destroyed, and nearly 97,400 household displacement at its peak were reported in Syria¹¹.

Eighty-five per cent of households struggle to make ends meet, which increases their reliance on humanitarian aid and negative coping mechanisms – such as child labor and consumption of suboptimal diets – and further limits their access to basic services¹². Notably, almost 40 per cent of hospitals and health facilities are not functioning or only partially functioning¹³, and public health emergencies, such as the country's ongoing cholera epidemic further add to the pressure on the health system. As of 21 October 2023 (epi-week 42), 217,512 suspected (AWD) Acute Water Diarrhea/cholera cases have been reported from all 14 governorates of Syria, with 106 associated deaths at a case fatality rate of 0.05 per cent¹⁴. Climate-induced shocks and power supply disruptions intensify water scarcity and food insecurity. Nearly 13.6 million people require access to WASH services and 5.7 million people, including 3.7 million children, require nutritional assistance¹⁵.

Children continue to experience a protection crisis despite a reduction of grave child rights violations recorded of almost 50 per cent from 2,483 in 2022 to 1,325 in 2023¹⁶ and 6.4 million children needing protection services¹⁷. Insecurity and economic hardship heighten human rights violations, fear and psychosocial distress, gender-based violence, child marriage and incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse¹⁸. Unexploded ordnance contamination is a major concern. Some 7.2 million children and education personnel need emergency education services, including 3.3 million girls, given poverty levels and 3,700 destroyed or damaged schools. Around 2.4 million children are out of school and over 1 million children, particularly those with disabilities, are at risk of dropping out¹⁹.

In the northwest, 4.2 million people have multi-layered humanitarian needs²⁰, including 3.5 million internally displaced people, 2 million of whom live in overcrowded camps²¹. Some 3.8 million people need health care²². 3.6 million are food insecure²³ and 2 million require urgent WASH assistance²⁴. Protection risks are paramount, and children need support to realize their right to education. In the northeast, children and women face arbitrary arrest, extensive violence and forced relocation²⁵. An estimated 87 per cent of camps lack adequate infrastructure, posing safety concerns²⁶.

SECTOR NEEDS



14.9 million
people in need of
health assistance²⁷



5.7 million
people in need of
nutrition assistance²⁸



6.4 million
children in need of
child protection
services²⁹



7.2 million
people in need of
education support³⁰



13.6 million
people require access
to WASH services³¹

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Baydaa, 16, shows a piece of beaded embroidery she crafted at home in Kallasa neighbourhood, Al-Hasakeh city, northeast Syria.

Baydaa's and her peers' education has been disrupted by the harsh realities of life in a conflict-affected country. Baydaa had to drop out of school in Grade 6. Her family lived far from the school and with a deepening economic situation in the country, they could no longer afford her transportation to the school. Born with paralysis in her lower limbs, Baydaa could not make the trip herself either. In 2023, Baydaa's journey took a transformative turn after she was introduced to UNICEF's Integrated Social Protection programme for children with disabilities.

Under the Whole of Syria approach^{35,36,37}, UNICEF will continue to deliver on its mandate, prioritizing the populations and areas with high-severity needs and its responsibility for inter-agency coordination as lead of the Nutrition, Education and WASH Clusters/Sectors and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility³⁸.

UNICEF will provide life-saving interventions while integrating early recovery and a long-term perspective into all aspects of its humanitarian action, which will include scaling up localization and preparedness to build the resilience of communities and local and national systems to endure crises. UNICEF will implement multisectoral, risk-informed, conflict- and gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive strategies to enhance programme quality and equity³⁹.

UNICEF and partners will address the threats to children's health, nutrition and well-being, ensuring the availability and quality of preventive and curative nutrition services through multisectoral collaboration and community-based service delivery mechanisms. Through fixed centres and mobile teams and by helping rebuild local health systems, UNICEF will provide safe, equitable and sustainable access to health services, focusing on preventing and responding to disease outbreaks.

UNICEF will continue shifting its primarily emergency WASH programme into a sustained, community-building response. UNICEF will advance cost-effective infrastructure rehabilitation and repairs⁴⁰ that contribute to the sustainability of operations and maintenance and explore such alternative power supply solutions as solar energy, ensuring availability of minimum WASH services⁴¹.

To tackle the education crisis, and with the goal of building back better, UNICEF will provide a holistic package of education, child protection and adolescent development opportunities. UNICEF and partners will ensure children and adolescents continue to learn through inclusive, equitable and safe access to formal and non-formal education, including early childhood development. Adolescents will play a pivotal role in community engagement through programmes that emphasize life skills and promote social cohesion.

UNICEF and partners will provide specialized child protection prevention and response services to ensure children are safe from violence, abuse and exploitation in their homes, schools and communities. The integrated programme approach will span mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence response, gender-responsive positive parenting programmes and explosive ordnance risk education. Cash assistance and social protection interventions remain critical to help families provide for their children.

UNICEF and partners will strive to protect populations from sexual exploitation and abuse by scaling up engagement with the inter-agency PSEA network and the Humanitarian Country Team to ensure functional, safe and accessible reporting mechanisms. Positive social norms and practices, risk reduction behaviours and accountability to affected populations will be promoted⁴². UNICEF will strengthen equity-focused data collection, along with monitoring and evaluation of programmes to inform evidence-based emergency response and better serve the changing needs of affected communities. UNICEF will expand partnerships to help overcome the challenges in the country and deliver multisectoral and transformative results at scale.



Health (including public health emergencies)

- **653,500** children 0-11 months receiving pentavalent 3 vaccine
- **815,000** children 0-59 months vaccinated against polio, supplemental dose
- **1,960,800** people accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities⁴⁵



Nutrition

- **1,728,000** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **30,103** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **1,734,800** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling⁴⁶
- **1,532,000** children and pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **120,550** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **1,700,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **16,920** children who have received individual case management
- **653,600** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions⁴⁷
- **234,500** children accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support⁴⁸



Education

- **2,612,570** children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings
- **532,466** children in non-formal education benefiting from education services
- **37,038** teachers and education personnel trained⁴⁹



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **5,320,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs⁵⁰
- **2,200,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services⁵¹
- **300,000** people reached with handwashing behaviour-change programmes⁵²
- **2,030,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies⁵³



Social protection and cash transfers

- **235,000** individuals reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers⁵⁴
- **25,000** children with disabilities reached with regular cash transfers and case management services⁵⁵



Cross-sectoral (SBC, RCCE and AAP)⁵⁶

- **2,500,000** affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services
- **1,250,000** people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms
- **5,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms



Adolescents/youth

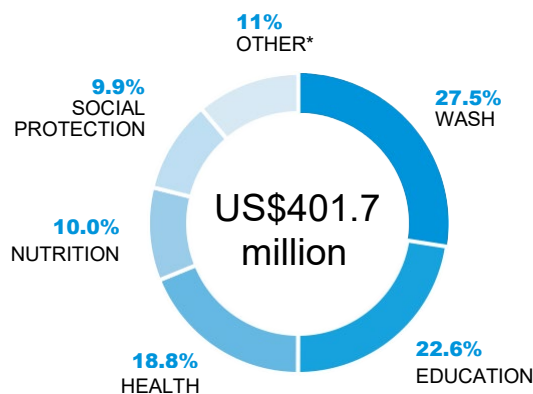
- **225,017** affected adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills
- **342,883** adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years promoting social cohesion and civic engagement at the community level

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

In 2024, UNICEF is appealing for \$401.7 million to enact its humanitarian action through a continuum of rapid, sustained and equitable responses to meet the growing multidimensional needs of children and families in the Syrian Arab Republic. The total humanitarian funding requirement has decreased by 14 per cent compared with the revised 2023 appeal due to the country office's efforts to consolidate and streamline earthquake and cholera-related responses. This includes improved programmatic targeting across humanitarian interventions for better adaptation to the evolving situation and prioritization of populations deemed most in need. These efforts will be aligned with the Humanitarian Response Plan for the clusters.

In a context marked by 13 years of crisis and where a concerning number of children know nothing but conflict, quality, flexible and predictable funding is more critical than ever for UNICEF to fulfill its mission of reaching every child. UNICEF calls on the donor community to support its mission and support its transformative programmes that alleviate suffering, ensure that children survive and unleash their potential to thrive.

Without quality resource mobilization, UNICEF will not be able to leverage its comparative advantages. This will expose children and adolescents to higher protection risks, including mental health issues, gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse and harmful coping mechanisms. The effects will be long term. A lack of funding will also impede UNICEF's capacity to provide life-saving nutrition despite the severe needs: 75,726 children under 5 years old currently suffer from severe wasting and are at risk of death, and one in four children under 5 years old in northwest and northeast Syria is stunted. Humanitarian funding will also make a life-altering difference in the lives of 2.4 million children who are currently out of school and for the nearly 13.6 million people who require access to WASH services.



Appeal sector	Revised 2024 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health	75,484,708
Nutrition	40,297,928
Child protection	30,953,318
Education	90,751,386
WASH	110,287,872
Social protection	39,962,645
Cross-sectoral	1,520,640
Adolescents/youth	12,409,826
Total	401,668,323

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child protection (7.7%), Adolescents/youth (3.1%), Cross-sectoral (<1%).

Appeal sector	Original 2024 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2024 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	75,484,708	75,484,708	23,032,414	52,452,294	69.5%
Nutrition	40,297,928	40,297,928	10,829,841	29,468,087	73.1%
Child protection	30,953,318	30,953,318	14,445,379	16,507,939	53.3%
Education	90,751,386	90,751,386	45,420,720	45,330,666	50.0%
WASH	110,287,872	110,287,872	23,851,664	86,436,208	78.4%
Social protection	39,962,645	39,962,645	14,907,989	25,054,656	62.7%
Cross-sectoral ^{59,60}	1,520,640	1,520,640	3,361,972	-1,841,332	0%
Adolescents/youth	12,409,826	12,409,826	5,798,103	6,611,723	53.3%
Total	401,668,323	401,668,323	141,648,082	260,020,241	64.7%

ENDNOTES

1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024.
2. 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 (Child Protection, Education, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation).
3. The total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance includes 8.2 million people with severe needs, 8.5 million people with extreme needs and an additional 36,360 people facing stressed conditions. Among those in need, 50.4 per cent females, 49.6 per cent men. While children represent 45 per cent of the total. Furthermore, people in need encompasses 2.8 million people/children with disabilities. OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024.
4. Children account for 45 per cent of the total number of people in need. OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024.
5. The total number of people to be reached was calculated based on several 2024 programme targets, without double counting population groups: 520,000 children under one year old to receive pentavalent 3 vaccine (target specific to the Syrian Arab Republic country office), 815,000 children to be vaccinated against polio (target specific to the Gaziantep office for northwest Syria), 660,000 children under 5 years old to receive micronutrient powder (target specific to Syrian Arab Republic country office), 3,139,036 children aged 5–17 years to access formal and non-formal education (target for Syrian Arab Republic country office and the Gaziantep office, excluding children with disabilities to be reached through the Gaziantep office, who are already considered in the WASH target), 2,068,280 people to access safe water (target for the Syrian Arab Republic country office and the Gaziantep office, excluding children with disabilities in the Syrian Arab Republic country office since they are covered in the access to education target), and 1,301,500 women to receive infant and young child feeding counselling (target specific to Syrian Arab Republic country office). This total includes 55 per cent women/girls and 10 per cent people/children with disabilities.
6. 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.
7. The total number of children to be reached was calculated based on several 2024 programme targets, without double counting population groups: 520,000 children under 1 year old to receive pentavalent 3 vaccine (target specific to the Syrian Arab Republic country office), 815,000 children to be vaccinated against polio (target specific to the Gaziantep office for northwest Syria), 660,000 children between 1–5 years old (under 5 years old) to receive micronutrient powder (target specific to the Syrian Arab Republic country office), 3,139,036 children aged 5–17 years to access formal and non-formal education (target for the Syrian Arab Republic country office and the Gaziantep office, excluding children with disabilities to be reached through the Gaziantep office, who are already considered in the WASH target), and 235,200 children with disabilities to access safe water (target specific to the Gaziantep office). This total includes 53 per cent girls and 8 per cent children with disabilities.
8. The total number of people in need includes 8.4 million women/girls and 2.8 million people/children with disability. OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024.
9. OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024.
10. OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024. Throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, access and operational constraints, damaged and non-functional infrastructure, electricity outages and limited resource mobilization compound challenges and hinder the quality and continuity of multisectoral humanitarian action.
11. Syrian Arab Republic: 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview (February 2024): <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-2024-humanitarian-needs-overview-february-2024>
12. OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024.
13. Whole of Syria Health Sector HeRAMS Quarter 2, Aug 2023.
14. WoS AWD/Cholera Sitrep 21, November 2023.
15. OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024.
16. These grave violations included recruitment, killing and maiming and attacks on schools and hospitals. United Nations, Report of the Secretary-General: Children and armed conflict, United Nations, New York, 5 June 2023.
17. OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024.
18. Based on the 2022 protection assessment, an estimated 96 per cent of children live in communities where child labour is reported, 84 per cent of children live in communities where child marriage is an issue for girls aged 15–17 years and 52 per cent of people live in communities where family separation is reported.
19. OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024. Out-of-school children are particularly affected, especially adolescents who are exposed to protection and gender-based violence threats such as child labour (mainly for boys) and child marriage (mainly for girls).
20. North-west Syria Situation Report Last updated: 29 Jul 2024 <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/syria/>
21. OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024. An estimated 79 per cent of camps in northwest Syria are critically overcrowded. Overall, 79 per cent of IDP sites in north-west and 68 per cent in north-east Syria are critically overcrowded.
22. North-west Syria Situation Report Last updated: 29 Jul 2024 <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/syria/>
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid.
25. OCHA, Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid. This figure includes 6.7 million children.
28. Ibid. This figure includes 3.7 million children.
29. Ibid. CP AoR Needs reflect only children (46% Girls)
30. Ibid. This includes 7M children and 231K education personnel in need of emergency education services.
31. Ibid. This figure includes 6 million children.
32. 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.
33. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. All UNICEF-led cluster coordination costs are included in sectoral programme budgets.

34. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action 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.
35. Under the Whole of Syria approach, UNICEF implements its humanitarian response across the 14 governorates from its hubs in Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic), Amman (Jordan) and Gaziantep (Türkiye), as well as its six field offices.
36. The deactivation of the Level 3 Emergency arrangement, which had been in place since the earthquake in early 2023, is not expected to have any major impact as all the emergency procedures activated by the Level 3 designation were mainly used during the first months after the earthquake.
37. The non-renewal of the UN Security Council cross-border resolution, after it expired on 10 July 2023, had put a temporary halt to the usual supply chain from Türkiye. However, the unilateral decision by the Government of Syria on 13 July 2023 and the extension of this decision to 13 January 2025 to allow free passage of relief and food aid from the Turkish border has provided the legal background for the United Nations operations and allowed a quick resumption of the convoys through Bab Al Hawa crossing.
38. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. All cluster coordination costs are included in sectoral programme budgets.
39. 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.
40. Capacity building of operators and technicians is an integral component of infrastructure work.
41. In parallel, UNICEF will continue to be the main provider throughout the country of chlorine for water disinfection purposes.
42. This will be achieved by supporting the participation of communities in decision-making processes, providing access to life-saving information and reinforcing community feedback mechanisms.
43. In alignment with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and the 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan being developed, the 2024 programme targets in this appeal reflect the prioritization of interventions based on the severity of needs of the targeted communities at the subdistrict level, the criticality of activities within sectors and information from implementing partners about underserved areas and response gaps, as well as partners' capacity to respond.
44. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
45. This programme target includes the number of women, men and children to be reached with primary health care outpatient consultations through fixed or mobile teams in health facilities and camps. Based on the new direction from the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISG) for implementing a common approach to targeting and prioritization for the Humanitarian Response Plan 2024–2025, the country office is reassessing priority needs and refining its targets for 2024, which explains the decrease in the access to health care target.
46. The target includes both counselling and awareness-raising sessions. The target is a percentage of people in need in high-severity areas.
47. The target has decreased compared with the revised 2023 UNICEF humanitarian appeal because explosive ordnance risk education was included in the awareness raising provided as part of the earthquake emergency response. In addition, the country office is shifting from a one-off activity approach to facilitating more in-depth and meaningful behaviour change interventions.
48. Caregivers are targeted separately through parenting programmes, in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan. The target has decreased compared to the revised 2023 UNICEF humanitarian appeal because the psychological first aid provided by the country office as part of the emergency response to the earthquake in 2023 will be discontinued in 2024.
49. The target was reduced due to funding constraints
50. The target decreased due to the below points: *Main focus shift to provision of sustainable solutions instead of lifesaving services *Funding shortfall and constraints This indicator includes the repair/rehabilitation of water systems. Chlorination and water disinfection activities are not reported under this indicator.
51. The target decreased due to the below points: *Main focus shift to provision of sustainable solutions instead of lifesaving services *Funding shortfall and constraints This indicator includes the repair/rehabilitation of sewage systems.
52. This WASH target has decreased compared with the revised 2023 appeal as the country office has streamlined its earthquake-related emergency interventions and has revised its programmatic targeting accordingly.
53. The target decreased due to the below points: *Main focus shift to provision of sustainable solutions instead of lifesaving services *Funding shortfall and constraints
54. This programme is covered under the shelter/non-food items sector. The total programme target of 235,000 individuals equals 47,000 households, using an average of five individuals per household. The target has decreased compared with the revised 2023 UNICEF humanitarian appeal due to discontinuation of the earthquake-related response under this indicator.
55. This programme is covered under the early recovery and livelihoods sector. The country office has strengthened its focus on the disabilities component and expanded its social protection programme for children with disabilities to meet more needs.
56. The decrease in the 2024 risk communication and community engagement targets compared with the revised 2023 appeal stems from a changing emergency landscape and a shift to other programmatic priorities. Social and behaviour change programmes will provide better-focused interventions but with fewer beneficiaries.
57. All UNICEF-led cluster coordination costs are embedded in sectoral programme budgets. One per cent of the total funding requirements will be dedicated to evaluation.
58. The financial ask was reduced in the revised appeal due to funding constraints, change of implementation modalities and revision of targets in some sectors.
59. This includes funding requirements for programming related to social and behaviour change, risk communication and community engagement and accountability to affected populations. In particular, funding for accountability to affected populations will support work including the operation of the service line, awareness raising for the service line (including SMS, posters, door-to-door visits and business cards), procurement and distribution of suggestion boxes, regular surveys and feedback through third-party monitors, training of partners and regular focus group discussions and consultations with communities to understand and respond to their needs.
60. Despite a decrease in the 2024 risk communication and community engagement targets, the funding requirement remains the same compared with the revised 2023 appeal to provide better-focused and more effective social and behaviour change interventions for those most need in governorates with compounded inequalities.