



Abtuğ, a refugee, learns at the Adana Youth Centre in Türkiye, in August 2025. UNICEF helps refugee children continue learning, giving them the support they need to build a brighter future.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Syrian Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fifteen years into the Syrian crisis, 7.2 million people, including 3.1 million children, in Egypt, Jordan and Türkiye remain in need of humanitarian assistance. Refugees and vulnerable host communities face growing economic, social and climate-related pressures.
- In 2026, UNICEF's humanitarian response will deliver integrated and inclusive services. It will provide urgent relief to refugees, host communities and other vulnerable populations while supporting safe, voluntary and dignified returns for Syrians choosing to return to the Syrian Arab Republic.
- UNICEF will ensure access to quality education and skills development, essential health and nutrition services, mental health and psychosocial support, protection for survivors of gender-based violence, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services and cash assistance for families in need.
- UNICEF is appealing for \$229.5 million in 2026 to reach 3.1 million people, including 1.9 million children, in Egypt, Jordan and Türkiye. The funding will support Syrian refugees and other vulnerable populations in accessing critical, life-saving services. UNICEF's coordinated approach will strengthen emergency preparedness, resilience and inclusion and enhance coordination with the UNICEF country office in the Syrian Arab Republic to ensure the continuity of services inside that country.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



656,030

children and women
accessing primary health
care



300,000

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



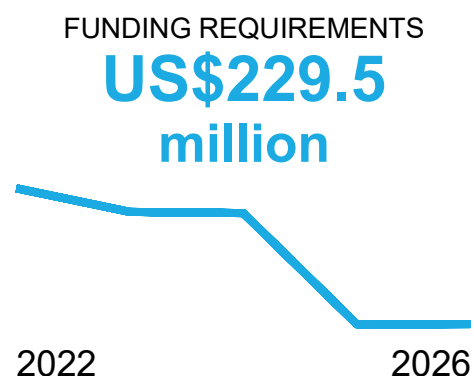
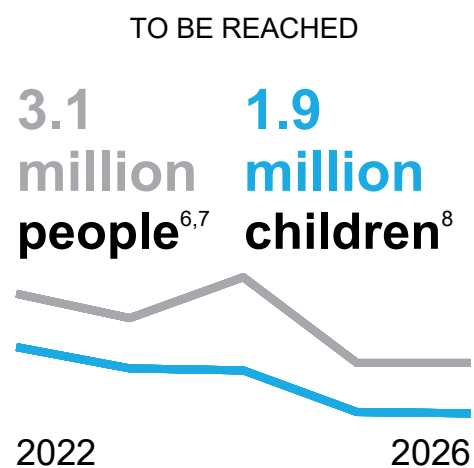
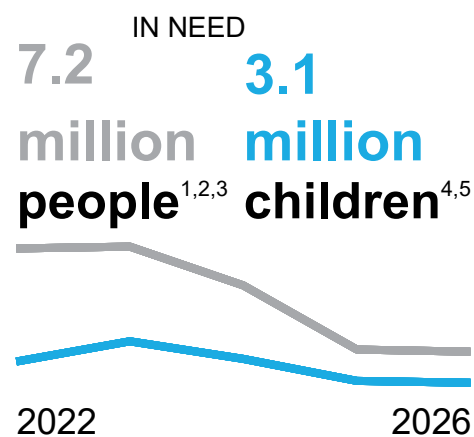
1.2 million

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



1.4 million

people accessing a
sufficient quantity and
quality of water



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Fifteen years of crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic has created one of the world's largest displacement situations, with more than 12 million people forcibly displaced and more than 5 million hosted in neighbouring countries in 2026.⁹ Türkiye currently hosts 2.5 million Syrian refugees¹⁰ alongside 178,000 other international protection applicants.¹¹ Jordan is home to more than 564,000 Syrians, while Egypt hosts more than 124,000 registered Syrians and an estimated 1.5 million Sudanese¹² who have fled conflict in the Sudan since April 2023.¹³ Although more than 1 million Syrians have returned to the Syrian Arab Republic since the political transition, most are expected to remain in host countries due to persistent barriers to safety, livelihoods and access to services.^{14,15}

The needs of children and families across the region remain substantial. In 2026, 7.2 million people, including 3.1 million children, in Egypt, Jordan and Türkiye will require humanitarian assistance. Refugees and vulnerable host communities continue to face mounting economic, social and political pressures that erode resilience and stability.¹⁶

Slow economic growth, high debt and inflation continue to strain host countries' capacity to provide essential services. Refugees, women and youth face widespread unemployment and rely heavily on informal work, leaving them with unstable income and limited protection. Legal and structural barriers also restrict their access to formal employment and financial inclusion.¹⁷

As pressures deepen, poverty and food insecurity are rising sharply. Refugee households increasingly resort to such harmful coping mechanisms as skipping meals, child labour, child marriage and school dropout. These growing hardships have also contributed to heightened social tensions between refugees and host communities.¹⁸

Host governments have demonstrated significant generosity in maintaining access to basic services, yet ongoing legal and policy constraints hinder full refugee inclusion and self-reliance. Sustained international support and investment in more inclusive, resilience-based approaches are essential to protect gains and prevent further deterioration.

Climate change further compounds these vulnerabilities. Rising temperatures, water scarcity and extreme weather events are affecting access to food, health and livelihoods. This places children at greater risk of malnutrition, heat-related illness and disease outbreaks. Continued efforts to integrate climate adaptation and child protection are essential and must be enhanced to meet the escalating impacts of the climate crisis.¹⁹

SECTOR NEEDS²⁰



8.7 million
people in need of health and nutrition assistance²¹



6.4 million
children in need of protection services²²



10.4 million
children in need of education support²³



10.5 million
people lack access to safe water²⁴



1.4 million
people in need of social protection services²⁵

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Maher, 16, attends UNICEF's Reading Recovery classes in Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan, in September 2025. "I am happy that I can finally read and I am determined to succeed," he says.

In Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan, classrooms are full of children eager to learn. For those who have dropped out, however, school can be a stark reminder of the education they have missed. Many face challenges in reading and writing due to displacement and poverty. Through the Ministry of Education's non-formal education centres, supported by UNICEF and partners, these children are getting a second chance. For more than three years, UNICEF's Reading Recovery Programme has helped children strengthen literacy skills, rebuild confidence and re-engage in learning – opening the door to a brighter future.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF's humanitarian response in Egypt, Jordan and Türkiye is guided by its mandate, the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) and country response plans. In 2026, UNICEF aims to reach 3.1 million people, including 1.9 million children, combining urgent relief with longer-term support, emphasizing durable solutions, strengthened local and national capacities and advocacy for the inclusion of refugees and migrants in national systems. UNICEF also supports safe, voluntary and dignified returns while ensuring continuity of care and services across borders and inside the Syrian Arab Republic.

As the sector lead for WASH, nutrition and child protection and co-lead for the education sector, UNICEF prioritizes gender equality by promoting the leadership and agency of girls and women. Delivering age-, disability- and gender-sensitive services for children, youth and families remains central to its response.

In education, UNICEF supports refugee integration into national systems, safe learning environments, leadership development and sustainable energy solutions to keep schools operational. Flexible pathways, including income-generation and social entrepreneurship opportunities, help adolescents transition from learning to earning.

UNICEF partners with national water authorities to provide WASH services in camps and informal settlements, including emergency hygiene kit distribution. Climate-resilient WASH infrastructure reaches the communities most vulnerable to climate change. Health services include immunization, maternal care and safe waste management. Nutrition interventions focus on preventing all forms of malnutrition; early detection and treatment of wasting; provision of appropriate micronutrient supplementation; identification of developmental delays; and ensuring safe and timely referral pathways.

To strengthen child well-being, UNICEF enhances protection services, case management and psychosocial support for children affected by harmful practices or sexual and gender-based violence. Safe feedback channels mitigate risks including child labour and child marriage. Cash transfers and social protection programmes help refugees and vulnerable households access essential goods.

For refugees choosing voluntary return to the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF provides awareness sessions on family separation, explosive ordnance and essential immunization, while coordinating with education ministries to prepare children for reintegration. At border points, UNICEF improves WASH and health facilities with attention to women, girls and persons with disabilities. Child-friendly spaces provide counselling, legal aid and protection continuity.

Social and behaviour change and risk communication and community engagement promote social cohesion and participation. Needs assessments and gender analyses strengthen emergency preparedness at national and local levels, ensuring a coordinated, inclusive and child-focused response.

In refugee-hosting countries, UNICEF is also advancing preparedness efforts to support safe, dignified, and voluntary returns and ensure the continuity of services inside the Syrian Arab Republic.

2026 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health and nutrition

- 656,030 children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities²⁶
- 391,800 children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose²⁷
- 68,080 children 6-59 months screened for wasting²⁸
- 500,000 primary caregivers of children 0-8 years receiving child health, nutrition, and early childhood development support²⁹



Child protection and GBViE

- 300,000 children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support³⁰
- 162,000 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions³¹
- 23,000 children who have received individual case management³²



Education

- 1,199,474 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning³³
- 33,000 children receiving individual learning materials³⁴
- 162,400 children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes³⁵



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- 1,397,300 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs³⁶
- 237,300 people accessing appropriate sanitation services³⁷
- 1,031,300 people reached with handwashing behaviour-change programmes³⁸
- 120,000 people reached with critical WASH supplies³⁹



Social protection

- 4,000 households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers⁴⁰



Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)

- 590,000 people reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services⁴¹
- 130,000 people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms⁴²
- 300,000 people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations⁴³
- 215,000 people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms⁴⁴
- 13,561 households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers⁴⁵

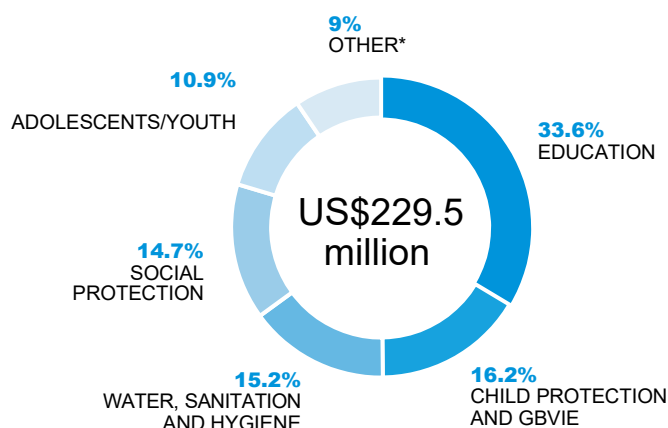
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2026

In 2026, UNICEF is appealing for \$229.5 million to meet the urgent needs of 3.1 million Syrian refugees, migrants and vulnerable host community members, including 1.9 million children, in Egypt, Jordan and Türkiye. This funding requirement is broadly aligned with the 2025 revised appeal requirement, following the strategic reprioritization under the 3RP in line with the Humanitarian Reset. Funding will also support the safe, voluntary and dignified return of Syrians who choose to return home.

Fifteen years into the Syrian crisis, the needs of children and families across the region remain critical. Despite some refugee returns since the political transition, most are expected to remain in host countries due to persistent barriers to safety, livelihoods and essential services. Refugees and vulnerable host communities face mounting economic, social and political pressures that continue to erode resilience and stability. Slow growth, high debt and inflation are straining host countries' capacity to provide basic services, while rising poverty and food insecurity are forcing families to skip meals, withdraw children from school and resort to child labour or child marriage.

UNICEF urgently requires funding to deliver life-saving services in 2026 in the areas of education, health, nutrition, WASH and child protection to ensure that families can meet their basic needs. Services will be designed to withstand climate shocks, promote social cohesion and help children prepare for safe reintegration into the Syrian Arab Republic. Without sufficient resources, these essential services – and the gains made in protecting vulnerable children – could be severely disrupted.

Sustained, flexible and predictable funding is essential to ensure a comprehensive response so that children affected by the Syrian crisis, their families and the communities that care for them can live with dignity, safety and opportunity.



*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Health and nutrition (6.2%), Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA) (2.8%), Emergency preparedness (<1%).

Sectors	2026 total requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	14,250,000
Child protection and GBVIE	37,200,000
Education	77,135,246
Water, sanitation and hygiene	34,775,000
Social protection	33,703,023
Emergency preparedness	1,000,000
Adolescents/youth	25,000,000
Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)	6,455,000
Total	229,518,269

Sectors ⁴⁶	Egypt ⁴⁷	Jordan	Türkiye	2026 total requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	3,850,000	7,600,000	2,800,000	14,250,000
Child protection and GBVIE	9,000,000	15,000,000	13,200,000	37,200,000
Education	2,000,000	19,400,000	55,735,246	77,135,246
Water, sanitation and hygiene	2,400,000	27,525,000	4,850,000	34,775,000
Social protection	1,600,000	31,803,023	300,000	33,703,023
Emergency preparedness	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Adolescents/youth	-	24,000,000	1,000,000	25,000,000
Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)	420,000	4,200,000	1,835,000	6,455,000
Total	19,270,000	129,528,023	80,720,246	229,518,269

Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of inter-agency needs and planning documents. The 2026 funding requirement is broadly aligned with the revised 2025 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal amount, following the strategic reprioritization under the 3RP in line with the Humanitarian Reset. Minor variations (approximately \$1.6 million) reflect adjustments made as part of the 2026 planning process.

ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF estimates are based on the latest Refugee Response and Resilience Plan (3RP) planning. This includes 1,791,836 people in Egypt; 2,225,330 people in Jordan; and 3,166,869 people in Türkiye. For Türkiye, this figure only includes Syrian refugees and other refugee groups. UNICEF figures include refugees, host community members and other vulnerable populations for Jordan and Egypt.
2. The overall number of people in need has decreased in 2026 as figures for both Iraq and Lebanon are no longer included under this appeal. Syrian refugees and other vulnerable populations in Iraq are now included in the regional appeal for the Middle East and North Africa, and Syrian refugees and other vulnerable populations in Lebanon are now covered under the standalone Lebanon appeal.
3. This 2026 Syrian Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations appeal covers preparedness and response for Jordan, Egypt and Türkiye. All of Egypt's response for Palestinian populations and some of Jordan's response for Palestinian populations are included under UNICEF's Middle East and North Africa Region appeal.
4. UNICEF estimates are based on the latest 3RP planning. This includes 700,000 children in Egypt; 969,131 in Jordan; and 1,440,357 in Türkiye. For Türkiye, this figure only includes Syrian refugees and other refugee groups. UNICEF figures include refugees, host community members and other vulnerable populations for Jordan and Egypt.
5. The overall number of children in need has decreased in 2026 as figures for both Iraq and Lebanon are no longer included under this appeal. Syrian refugees and other vulnerable populations in Iraq are now included in the regional appeal for the Middle East and North Africa, and Syrian refugees and other vulnerable populations in Lebanon are now covered under the standalone Lebanon appeal.
6. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, focusing on addressing the unmet needs of children. It will act as the provider of last resort where it holds cluster coordination responsibilities.
7. This includes 1,027,700 people in Egypt; 593,300 people in Jordan; and 1,488,200 people in Türkiye. The overall people to be reached figure has decreased in 2026 because figures for Iraq and Lebanon are no longer included under this appeal.
8. This includes 638,750 children in Egypt; 258,086 in Jordan; and 988,200 in Türkiye. The overall children to be reached figure has decreased in 2026 because figures for Iraq and Lebanon are no longer included under this appeal.
9. According to the latest Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP), available at www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/.
10. Government of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior, Presidency of Migration Management Temporary Protection statistics, available at www.goc.gov.tr/gecici-koruma5638.
11. Government of Türkiye, Minister of Interior, İçişleri Bakanı Ali Yerlikaya: "Türkiye, Göç Yönetiminde Dünyaya Model Ülke", announcement on international protection number as 14 April 2025, 16 April 2025, available at www.goc.gov.tr/icisleri-bakani-yerlikaya-turkiye-goc-yonetiminde-dunyaya-model-ulke.
12. Of these, 780,000 Sudanese refugees are registered.
13. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR Egypt Factsheet: <https://www.unhcr.org/media/egypt-factsheet-september-2025>.
14. UNHCR, Regional Flash Update #47: Syria situation, UNHCR, 3 October 2025, available at www.unhcr.org/media/syria-situation-crisis-regional-flash-update-47.
15. According to the latest Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP), which can be found here: www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. UNICEF, Growing Up in a Changing Climate: The Impact on Children in the Middle East and North Africa, UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, Amman, 2024. <https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/growing-up-in-a-changing-climate>
20. Sector-specific needs may exceed the total number of people in need due to differences in population coverage. The 3RP number for people in need of 13 million includes both Syrian refugees and host communities (10.74 million in Türkiye, 2.23 million in Jordan, 0.18 million in Egypt). Some country-level people in need figures (e.g., Türkiye) focus only on refugees, while sector needs reflect all populations covered by the 3RP (refugees, asylum seekers and host communities), which can result in sector-specific numbers being higher than the reported total people in need.
21. Based on 3RP planning, UNICEF estimates include 1,700,000 people in need in Egypt; 1,050,000 in Jordan; and 5,925,399 in Türkiye.
22. Based on 3RP planning, UNICEF estimates include 150,000 people in need in Egypt; 2,112,714 in Jordan; and 4,136,606 in Türkiye.
23. Based on 3RP planning, UNICEF estimates include 626,000 people in need in Egypt; 1,012,937 in Jordan; and 8,749,111 in Türkiye.
24. Based on the latest 3RP planning, UNICEF estimates include 1 million people in need in Egypt; 2,070,900 in Jordan; and 7,398,562 in Türkiye.
25. Based on the latest 3RP planning, UNICEF estimates include 1,388,261 people in Jordan.
26. This intervention targets 638,750 people in Egypt and 17,280 people in Jordan.
27. This intervention targets 12,800 children in Jordan and 379,000 children in Egypt.
28. This intervention targets 30,000 children in Egypt and 38,080 in Jordan.
29. This intervention targets 500,000 caregivers in Türkiye.
30. This intervention targets 40,000 people in Türkiye; 160,000 in Jordan; and 100,000 in Egypt.
31. This intervention targets 50,000 people in Türkiye; 109,000 in Jordan; and 3,000 in Egypt.
32. This intervention targets people in 8,000 children in Jordan and 15,000 children in Egypt.
33. This intervention targets 999,274 people in Türkiye; 172,500 in Jordan; and 27,700 in Egypt.
34. This intervention targets 33,000 children in Jordan.
35. This intervention targets 86,400 people in Türkiye and 76,000 people in Jordan.
36. This intervention targets 300,000 people in Türkiye; 97,300 people in Jordan; and 1,000,000 people in Egypt.
37. This intervention targets 150,000 people in Türkiye and 87,300 people in Jordan.
38. This intervention targets 31,300 people in Jordan and 1,000,000 people in Egypt.
39. This intervention targets 120,000 people in Türkiye.

40. This intervention targets 4,000 households in Egypt.
41. This intervention targets 350,000 people in Egypt; 200,000 people in Türkiye; and 40,000 people in Jordan.
42. This intervention targets 60,000 people in Türkiye and 70,000 people in Egypt.
43. This intervention targets 100,000 people in Türkiye and 200,000 in Jordan.
44. This intervention targets 100,000 people in Türkiye and 115,000 people in Jordan.
45. This intervention targets 13,561 people in Jordan.
46. Some funding requirements do not have corresponding programme targets in this appeal due to limited space, because this appeal prioritizes official Humanitarian Action for Children indicators. Country offices track additional country-specific indicators, which are reported in sitreps.
47. The increase in UNICEF Egypt's budget under this appeal compared with 2025 reflects the rising number of Sudanese refugees present in the country. As the largest Sudanese refugee hosting country, and with the number of refugees continuing to grow, UNICEF Egypt has increased its targets for its child protection, nutrition and education programmes to meet these needs, resulting in the corresponding budget increase.