



# Iraq Humanitarian Situation Report

## Highlights

- In January and February 2019, UNICEF and partners ensured nearly 1.2 million individuals had access to safe water through network construction and rehabilitation.
- Across Anbar, Baghdad, Dahuk, and Ninewa, more than 66,130 school-aged children (33,726 girls) had increased or improved access to learning due to completed construction of new pre-fabricated schools and rehabilitation of damaged schools.
- UNICEF and partners supported 36,196 children (15,960 girls) to access structured sustained PSS, and specialized services (including reunification, alternative or specialized care and services) for 3,846 children (1,766 girls) A continued strategy in 2019 is the use of community-based centres and mobile teams as an entry point for identification of children with specific protection needs.
- For the 2018-2019 winter, UNICEF and partners reached 151,500 children (77,265 girls), including 2,576 pregnant women in 38 locations, including 30 IDP camps and eight informal settlements, across 11 governorates of Iraq. Distributions were followed by post distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys for which responses have been largely positive, with 88 per cent of recipients registering satisfaction with winter items received.
- In January 2019 UNICEF Iraq launched its 2019 [Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\) Appeal](#), which requires US\$72.9 million to reach at least one million vulnerable children and their families across Iraq.

### February 2019

**3.3 million children** in need out of **6.7 million people** affected (OCHA, [HRP 2019](#))

**1.74 million** internally displaced people (IDP)

**4.21 million** people returned to newly-accessible areas (IOM, [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#), January 2014 to February 2019)

### Target population in 2019

WASH: **972,808 people**

Education: **200,000 children**

Health: **314,985 children under-five**

Child Protection: **135,000 children**

### UNICEF Appeal 2018

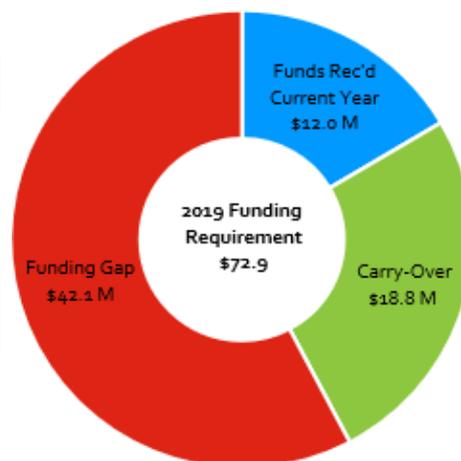
**US\$ 72.9 million**

**Funding Status\***

**US\$ 30.8 million**

Key Indicators	UNICEF		Cluster	
	Target	Result*	Target	Result*
Emergency affected populations with access to sufficient safe water supply	972,808	301,844	1,272,085	449,156
Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes	135,000	36,196	208,080	40,696
Most vulnerable children better protected from risks of winter with appropriate clothing**	200,000	151,000		

\*Results are cumulative (January-February 2019). For explanation of results compared to targets see the narrative report and footnotes under the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) table starting on page 8.  
\*\*UNICEF 2018/2019 winter response concluded in January 2019. Target and progress shown here refer to progress against the 2018/2019 winter response only.



\*'Funding status' includes funding received for the current appeal year as well as carry-forward from the previous year. 'Funding gap' is calculated per programme – see page 7 for more details..

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Although the humanitarian situation in Iraq has transitioned to a more stable environment, vulnerable children and families continue to face significant challenges. While large-scale military operations against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) ended in 2017, the effects of prolonged armed violence and destruction continue in 2019, with more than 6.7 million people (3.3 million girls or women, 3.3 million children under 18 years) estimated as in need of at least one form of humanitarian assistance. Although this has decreased from 8.7 million in 2018, it still represents around 18 per cent of Iraq's population. Most urgent needs are found in areas where past hostilities led to destruction of infrastructure, breakdown of services and erosion of social fabric, or in areas indirectly impacted due to hosting a sizeable internally displaced population (IDP).<sup>1</sup> Limited livelihood opportunities are a key factor keeping some of the most vulnerable people dependent on humanitarian providers. Anbar and Ninewa remain the governorates with the highest numbers of people in need of assistance. Together, these governorates account for 3.5 million people in need.

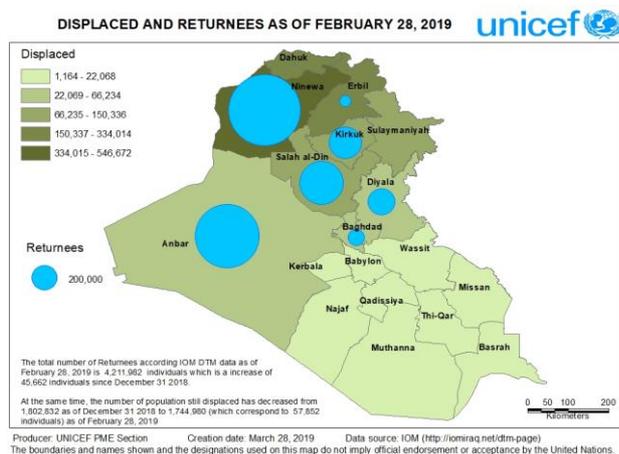
While efforts are underway to build new, or repair damaged infrastructure and restore services, it will take years. Around 60 per cent of people in need have insufficient income to meet basic needs, and 34 per cent report accumulating debt to purchase essential items. Nearly 4.5 million people (half of them children) need protection support; 2.3 million people require water and sanitation assistance; 2.6 million children lack access to education and 2.3 million people need non-food items (NFIs). Protection remains the overarching humanitarian priority in Iraq in 2019 and is at the core of response. There are multiple pressing protection concerns, including retaliation against people with perceived affiliations to extremist groups; forced, premature, uninformed and obstructed returns; a lack of civil documentation; severe movement restrictions in camps; arbitrary detention, IDPs and returnees who require specialized psychosocial support; extensive explosive hazard contamination and housing, land and property issues.<sup>2</sup>

As of 28 February, 4,211,982 people (including over 2 million children) have returned to their communities, approximately 1,744,980 people (900,000 children) remain displaced, and 54 per cent of all internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been displaced for three or more years. Around 30 per cent of families are still displaced in camps, 70 per cent remain in out-of-camp settings, including nearly eight per cent living in critical shelter arrangements. Of those in camps, 80 per cent remain in Ninewa (52 per cent) and Dahuk (27 per cent). The prolonged nature of displacement has led to increased vulnerabilities; in 11 districts, displaced persons are facing a very high severity of needs. Over 2019, 64 per cent of IDPs intend to stay in areas of displacement, 11 per cent plan to return, one per cent want to leave the country or resettle elsewhere within Iraq, and 24 per cent are undecided. Key issues hindering returns include: problems with housing, earning a living and accessing basic services, social cohesion, security, and mental health issues, with destruction of houses in areas of origin the most prevalent self-reported reason for displacement<sup>3</sup>.

Natural disasters, particularly floods, droughts and earthquakes, and communicable disease outbreaks (especially in the southern governorates) may also continue to pose risks to already vulnerable populations.

### Humanitarian leadership and coordination

In 2019 UNICEF continues to lead the [WASH Cluster](#), co-leads the [Education Cluster](#) with Save the Children International, leads the [Child Protection Sub-Cluster](#) (CPSC) and [Nutrition Working Group](#), (NWG) and is an active member of the Health cluster, and the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sub-cluster. UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Food Programme



<sup>1</sup> Iraq, 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), Severity of Need based on composite index of 12 indicators structured across four domains definitive of the current humanitarian crisis; mapping based on Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment-VI (MCNA) and IOM/DTM Returns Index. For more details see page 12-13, 2019 HRP.

<sup>2</sup> [Iraq 2019 HRP](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Reasons to Remain: Categorising Protracted Displacement in Iraq](#) – November 2018

(WFP) coordinate the [Rapid Response Mechanism \(RRM\) Consortium](#) serving people on the move. In addition, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) coordinate with relevant line Ministries through the Cholera Taskforce, led by the Ministry of Health (MoH). In 2019, the WASH Cluster targets 1.3 million vulnerable conflict-affected people in and out of camps, prioritising improvement and sustaining quality of WASH services. The WASH Cluster has established a new Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) for 2019-20. The evaluation of SAG members was based on technical experience, strategic vision, and demonstrated achievements. SAG memberships represent UN, INGOs and NNGOs respectively.<sup>4</sup> The Education Cluster, with a total of 20 partners active under the 2019 HRP, will support up to 500,000 children in 2019 to transition into recognized education pathways, adjusting its strategy to emphasize strengthened quality of formal and non-formal learning opportunities for children in areas of displacement and return. Close collaboration with local education authorities will be prioritized to re-start education wherever it is not available in the targeted eight governorates receiving returnees. The Education Cluster and Child Protection sub-cluster (CPSC) will collaborate to ensure psychosocial needs of children will be addressed through integrated interventions. For 2019, the CPSC are targeting 675,417 people under the 2019 HRP. In January, the CPSC hosted two-day workshop on Case Management Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) covering federal Iraq and the revision of KRI Case Management SOP. Roll out is planned to take place later in 2019. Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+) user acceptance testing was completed in February, and feedback will be reflected in the live version, expected to launch by May 2019. GBV mainstreaming Training of Trainers (ToT) and orientations were hosted in Erbil and Baghdad, with partner International Rescue Committee being a GBV mainstreaming focal point for the Iraq CPSC. An external evaluator for a Case Management capacity building initiative visited Iraq between the 10 and 14 February; feedback on the initiative has been positive to date, with improvements noted in performance in trained supervisors and case workers.

## Humanitarian Strategy

The [2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) (HNO) indicates that 6.7 million people in Iraq, at least 3.3 million of them children under 18 years, need of at least one form of humanitarian assistance in the coming year. The Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) targets approximately 1,750,000 people of which 500,000 are IDPs in camps, 550,000 are non-camp IDPs, 500,000 are returnees, and 200,000 are vulnerable host community individuals. The strategic objectives of the 2019 plan are: Post-conflict transition towards durable solutions; strengthening the centrality of protection; and contingency planning and preparedness for any future emergency response. The [2019 UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children](#) (HAC) appeal will support just over one million people, at least 540,000 children. Strategic objectives of the 2019 HAC are aligned with the 2019 HRP. Humanitarian action in Iraq is complemented by the UN's two-year [Recovery and Resilience Programme](#) which aims to fast-track the social dimensions of reconstruction. The RRP builds on existing humanitarian efforts and is designed to ensure people see tangible improvements in their daily lives early in the reconstruction process. As a country moving into increasing stability following a protracted large-scale humanitarian crisis which, at its peak, was among the most complex in the world, UNICEF Iraq is committed to ensuring a risk-informed and conflict-sensitive approach going forward, seeking to strengthen adaptive programming for resilient development, with consideration of the still-complex, fragile and dynamic environment in the country. To facilitate this, a four-day Guidance for Risk Informed Programming (GRIP) and Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP) workshop, was held in Iraq from 3 to 6 February. The objective was to strengthen capacity to advance risk-informed programming, including by updating the EPP's risk analysis for 2019.

Estimated Population in Need (OCHA 2019 HNO)			
Start of humanitarian response: 2014			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Population in Need	6,700,000	3,329,743	3,370,257
Children (Under 18)	3,198,636	1,609,692	1,588,945
Children Under Five	987,563	498,785	488,778
Children 6 to 23 months	588,602	298,514	290,088

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In 2019, UNICEF as part of the wider WASH Cluster, will support provision of access to safe water and sanitation services to around one million affected people in the most vulnerable communities in Iraq, including IDPs in and out of camps, returnees, and people living in areas at high risk of waterborne disease, including cholera. WASH response strategy will focus on improving and sustaining quality of WASH services to targeted people in 33 prioritized locations<sup>5</sup>. WASH support will include operations and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities and enhancing sound hygiene practices, and will work to ensure privacy, dignity, and security for women and girls, and access for people with special needs or disabilities. WASH actors will support local authorities with camp closure/consolidation, specifically with decommissioning of water and sanitation infrastructure to meet environmental health

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF, UN-Habitat, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, Acted, Danish Refugee Council, SEDO, SSDF, United Iraq Medical Society (UIMS) and Harikar

<sup>5</sup> 2019 Iraq HRP, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Operational Response Plan, p46. IDP camps in Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, Ninewa, Baghdad, Salah al Din and Anbar governorates. Four prioritized governors will be Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din.

standards, and advocate for longer-term improvements connected with capacity development of local authorities to take ownership of facilities. UNICEF plans to contribute to at least 75 per cent of the total WASH Cluster response (based on water supply targets under the 2019 HRP).

UNICEF and partners have maintained access to safe water for 301,844 people (153,940 females, 141,886 children) in IDP camp and non-camp locations across nine governorates. In the first two months of 2019, significant steps were taken in completing upgrade and rehabilitation works in water supply infrastructure. UNICEF through private sector partners completed upgrade of 17 water supply systems across Dahuk and Ninewa, supporting improved access to safe water for more than 310,300 individuals (158,253 females, 145,841 children). In Kirkuk, rehabilitation of the al Rashad district water treatment plant (WTP) was completed as part of joint efforts with the local government partner, improving access to safe water for 6,000 individuals – this figure is expected to increase to around 21,000 as people continue to return to this area over coming months. Similarly, rehabilitation of the Abu Ghraib water network was completed under a cost-sharing mechanism with the Directorate of Water (DoW) Baghdad, improving access to water for more than 83,600 individuals. In continued UNICEF WASH support to southern Iraq governorates, new water pumps were installed in the R-Zero project and Abu Khaseeb in Basrah governorate, improving local water supply infrastructure. Water quality monitoring (WQM) was undertaken regularly in all UNICEF-supported sites, testing for bacteriological, chemical and physical contamination. As part of exit strategy, in Dahuk UNICEF has handed over responsibility for WQM to the governorate emergency coordination body, whose water supply system operators have been fully trained on necessary procedures.

More than 228,500 individuals (116,400 females, 107,280 children) had continued access to safe sanitation through UNICEF-supported operations and maintenance (O&M) in IDP camps in Anbar, Baghdad, Erbil, Dahuk, Ninewa, Salah al Din, and Sulaymaniyah. As part of integrated programming, UNICEF completed upgrade of WASH facilities in 30 scattered Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC) in Ninewa, improving access to water and sanitation in health facilities for around 37,700 individuals in the catchment area, as well as completion of WASH facilities in 24 schools in Telafar District, Ninewa, improving access to water and sanitation to 8,930 children and teachers in schools.

In January 2019, a fire in Harsham IDP camp, Erbil, damaged WASH infrastructure for 16 households – UNICEF's government partner in the camp has replaced all burned facilities. Continued heavy rainfall in January and February 2019 has meant continued flooding risks in areas of poor drainage. So far, no immediate challenges were reported from IDP camps, but humanitarian actors are monitoring the situation closely. Reports of high turbidity in Ninewa IDP camp water supply were received, connected to heavy rainfall – in these cases, water users are shown how to manage storage to allow settling of particles, and low-cost household level techniques to filter water. In the south, rainwaters coming from Iran have negatively affected agricultural land in northern Basrah, with reports that up to 40,000 acres of land and crops have been damaged.

## Education

In 2019, UNICEF will support access to education for 200,000 children aged 3 to 17 years old in and out of camps (around 50 per cent of the total Education Cluster caseload). Increased access to formal and non-formal education (NFE) will be supported through construction or rehabilitation of learning spaces and provision of classroom equipment where needed, as well as through Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) or catch up classes for children who have been out of school or who have missed years of learning, as well as 'back to learning' campaigns at community level. Quality of education will be supported through Life Skills Education, teacher training, and provision of teaching and learning materials. The School Based Management (SBM) approach will remain a key intervention to encourage community engagement in, and capacity to improve, children's education Systems strengthening interventions for national counterparts and partners will continue through governorate-level education sector planning, development of a system to monitor learning achievements (MLA), and the nationwide Education Management Information System (EMIS)<sup>6</sup>.

Across Anbar, Baghdad, Dahuk, and Ninewa, more than 66,130 school-aged children (33,726 girls) have improved learning environments and increased access to education due to completed construction of new pre-fabricated schools and rehabilitation of damaged schools<sup>7</sup>. In the first two months of the year, UNICEF and partners have supported the opening of two new ALP centres in Berseve and Chamishko IDP camps, Dahuk – as of February 148 children (48 girls) were enrolled in classes. Access to NFE was support through three NGO partners working in Kirkuk (Hawija district) and Ninewa IDP camps, with 7,905 children (4,028 girls) enrolled and attending.

<sup>6</sup> Systems strengthening interventions for governorate-level planning, MLA, and EMIS are integrated into UNICEF's actions under the UN Recovery and Resilience Programme (RRP).

<sup>7</sup> Anbar: installation of four additional pre-fab classrooms; Baghdad; construction of 1 new pre-fab school and rehabilitation of eight damaged schools; Dahuk: rehabilitation of 20 schools in IDP camps; Ninewa (Sinjar district): rehabilitation of 2 schools

Shortage of teachers in IDP camp schools continues to be a challenge. UNICEF and the Education Cluster have maintained advocacy efforts for many months in relation to rationalization of existing workforce and re-deployment of teachers and education support staff across locations in need; however, in January and February, the Directorate of Education (DoE) Ninewa could not deploy the minimum required number of teachers to cover newly-constructed schools. UNICEF, on an exceptional basis, supported incentives for 345 teachers on 'volunteer' contracts to ensure school access for more than 29,000 children in IDP camps in southern and eastern Ninewa. As part of risk-informed programming, 15,000 children (7,500 girls) in schools likely to be affected in the event of earthquake attended earthquake preparedness sessions. Some of these locations were already affected by earthquakes in Iraq in recent years and, for this reason, psychosocial support through recreational play is built into preparedness sessions with the intention of allowing children to process any difficult experiences.

## Child Protection

In 2019, UNICEF will support delivery of assistance to the most vulnerable children including IDPs, returnees and host populations, including children and families with perceived affiliation to extremist groups, while continuing support to at-risk children and adolescents in need of specialized protection assistance, including children found to be unaccompanied by or separated from caregivers, children in contact with the law and girls, boys, and women affected by or at risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). UNICEF and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) will continue to gather information on grave violations of children's rights through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) to support higher-level advocacy and appropriate response for these children. Services supported will include psychosocial support (PSS), case management and referral, including rehabilitative and reintegration services, Mine Risk Education (MRE) interventions, legal and family tracing/reunification services. UNICEF will maintain its focus on strengthening community-based child protection structures as a strategic approach to broaden awareness of children's needs and rights and will target parents and caregivers with parenting programmes that offer them skills and knowledge to better care for and protect their children. Strengthening of national capacity and national child protection actors' skills, including engagement with the education system, will form a key element of the humanitarian to development connection.

In 2019, UNICEF and partners have supported 36,196 children (15,960 girls) to access structured sustained PSS, and specialized services (including reunification, alternative or specialized care and services) for 3,846 children (1,766 girls). UNICEF GBV programming included 6 governorates<sup>8</sup>. A total of 15 reports of grave violations of child rights were recorded in January and February, affecting 16 children (all boys), of which 11 incidents affecting 14 children were verified – these incidents included killing of nine boys and injuring of another four due to various types of explosives in Anbar, Kirkuk and Salah al Din. A further boy, who had been abducted, was later found killed. It is believed ISIL was responsible for the abduction and killing of the boy. Attribution remained challenging for the remaining incidents. One school previously used for military purposes was vacated in January. Monitoring of the situation of children affected by conflict continues.

Availability and access to GBV-survivor-centered clinical management of rape (CMR) services remains a gap in most parts of Iraq, particularly in the central and southern parts of the country, due to providers lacking information and survivor-centered skills. UNICEF, UNFPA, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and other partners will continue to support roll out of CMR protocol and train relevant providers to increase access to these life-saving services.

## Health and Nutrition

In 2019, UNICEF will support enhanced access to essential vaccination, nutrition and neonatal health care services for vulnerable children under 5 years old and women affected by emergencies in Iraq. continue to strengthen capacities of national actors to reach crisis-affected children, working in eight selected governorates<sup>9</sup>. Activities will include routine immunization targeting children under 5 in IDP camps and returnee areas, promoting optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, with special attention to early initiation of breastfeeding and feeding counselling for new mothers, management of malnourished children including screening, treatment and referral. Neonatal and maternal health services will be supported via a programme of home visits in IDP camps. Through the existing government health system and in partnership with NGOs, UNICEF will continue to support critical health and nutrition services to most vulnerable children and women in IDP camps and areas of return. Complementary support to systems strengthening will take the form of provision of health and nutrition supplies including cold chain equipment, nutritional supplementation and anthropometric equipment, as well as training of medical and paramedical staff on maternal, neonatal and child health and nutrition (MNHCN).

<sup>8</sup> Anbar, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din. GBV Sub-Cluster data entry incomplete at time of reporting. Data for Q1 2019 will be available in the following sitrep.

<sup>9</sup> Anbar, Baghdad, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Sulaymaniyah.

In January and February 2019, trained field workers distributed a range of health awareness messages as needed per location, and 172 new-born babies (88 girls) under one month old were checked for danger signs. Babies, or mothers, believed to be at risk were registered for follow up in nearby health centers. A total of 614 mothers with infants less than two years old attended dedicated information sessions focusing on child nutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices.

Challenges for health NGOs wishing to register with the federal Government was reported as a challenge in the first two months of 2019 – the process is detailed and time consuming, and in many cases must be renewed on a regular basis. This is discouraging international NGOs from continued work. This increases the risk of service delivery gaps, most notably in areas where government-supported health services are limited. UNICEF will continue to monitor the areas it works in and share information with the World Health Organization and wider Health Cluster as needed. A challenge is the shortage of technical expertise in existing IDP camps, as IDPs, including health workers and government staff continue to return to places of origin in retaken areas.

## Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

In 2019, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Consortium intends to enhance capacity of existing government structures and local authorities, to enable them to better cope with future emergencies, including taking over responsibility for and operation of the RRM. To facilitate this, the Consortium intends to conduct a feasibility study, including a risk analysis and capacity assessment, which will ascertain feasibility of handover, identify relevant counterpart/s and guide overall transition. The study will provide a baseline for capacity development actions, led by the Consortium, to facilitate successful handover to Government. Hiring of the consultant for the study is currently underway. In the year, handover efforts are expected to include 50 workshops and/or training sessions for government officials and local authorities on emergency concepts and practices, however workshops/trainings will start only after a relevant counterpart has been identified. There were no RRM deliveries in January and February 2019, as no alerts were received to deploy assistance. The Consortium continues to actively monitor the situation and remains on standby to support people in need of RRM assistance until handover is completed.

## Cash Assistance

UNICEF cash assistance is unconditional but aims to reduce the barriers to education access experienced by children from vulnerable families; connections are supported with government social services, including for education and child protection issues. In 2019 UNICEF intends to support up to 15,000 IDP and returnee children from vulnerable families with direct cash assistance of US\$30 per month. It is estimated that just over half (53 per cent) of children reached will be IDPs, 43 per cent will be returnees and 3 per cent will come from host communities. As of February 2019, the planned 2019 intervention will be supported only through funds carried over from previous years. Funding was limited for UNICEF cash assistance for IDP response in 2018, with a 70 per cent funding gap as of end-December; and for 2019, US\$4.9 million is urgently needed to help parents to meet hidden costs of learning. A first transfer expected to take place in April 2019. Without these resources, UNICEF will not be able to reach vulnerable children in 2019, increasing their risk of drop-out with longer-term consequences to their future.

## Winter Response

In Iraq, extreme summer heat quickly turns to zero-degree temperatures, bringing with it heavy rains, snow storms, and freezing temperatures, especially at night. Children are especially vulnerable to winter weather that exacerbates risk of diseases such as pneumonia. For the 2018-2019 winter, UNICEF and partners reached 151,500 children (77,265 girls), including 2,576 pregnant women in 38 locations, including 30 IDP camps and eight informal settlements, across 11 governorates of Iraq. Distribution locations were carefully selected in consultation with the NFI cluster, targeting camps that recorded the highest needs for winter clothes according to the Multi-Cluster Need Assessment-VI. The majority (77 per cent) of children were reached in the northern Iraqi governorates of Dahuk, Erbil, Ninewa, and Sulaymaniyah. After some delays experienced in late 2018 due to access constraints and restrictions in moving supplies from the KRI to federal governorates, UNICEF delivered its winter assistance over a period of two months, from December 2018 to January 2019. Distributions were followed by post distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys for which responses have been largely positive, with 88 per cent of recipients registering satisfaction with winter items received.

## Supply and Logistics

Between January and February 2019, UNICEF Iraq dispatched relief items to government and non-government partners with a value of over US\$1.6 million. The main items dispatched were winter clothing kits (value of US\$1.2 million), sufficient to reach an estimated 151,000 children. From the end of 2018, new customs checkpoints were established between the KRI and federal Iraq, which delayed onward delivery of humanitarian supplies by road to partners and affected communities including in Kirkuk and Ninewa. In early 2019, the customs procedure for shipments moving from the KRI to federal Iraq was lifted, and no further delays have been experienced.

## Media and External Communication

In January and February, UNICEF continued to create and share advocacy materials focusing on IDP children with a particular focus on protection issues during Iraq's harsh winter. Three news notes were produced, including one by the [Executive Director calling for](#)

[the protection of children](#) during winter and another from UNICEF Iraq's Representative calling for the [end of violence](#) against children in Iraq. UNICEF produced a range of [photo essays](#) highlighting winter response, including a [video highlighting](#) the plight of an IDP family in Fallujah. UNICEF advocacy messaging was amplified by coverage on [Al Jazeera](#) and the [Financial Times](#).

## Security

In the first two months of 2019, a spike in Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and vehicle-borne IED (VBIED) attacks was noted around Mosul; while Iraq Security Forces (ISF) operations are ongoing, security risks in these areas create delays to delivery of humanitarian response. The UN is in the process of establishing permanent presence in Ninewa which will better enable consistent humanitarian assistance to affected communities in the Mosul area. Nonetheless in Ninewa and in other parts of the country the fluid political and security situation continues to challenge UN and NGO partners. Humanitarian access to camps and project sites has been hampered by vehicle check points, with some field missions delayed due to lack of coordination between the National Operations Centre (NOC) and checkpoint commanders. In Baghdad, the ongoing process by the GoI to open the Green Zone may escalate risks to UN personnel and operations. Civil protests and demonstrations continued in Baghdad and southern governorates, but with minor direct impact on UN staff and operations.

## Funding as of February 2019

As of February 2019, UNICEF Iraq has received one new contribution from the UNOCHA-administered [Iraq Humanitarian Fund](#) (IHF), in support of health and nutrition programming. Other funds recorded as received in the first two months of 2019 are annual allocations of multi-year funding from the Governments of [Germany](#) (support running from 2015 to 2020) and [Canada](#) (support running from 2016 to 2019). Predictable multi-year funding, in addition to flexible [thematic humanitarian funds](#), are two key types of resources that enable UNICEF to build on and ensure sustained support for some of Iraq's most vulnerable children and women.

Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds Available*		Funding Gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	USD	%
Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)	890,245	234,021	238,086	418,138	47%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	24,948,000	526,547	5,045,248	19,376,205	78%
Education	9,975,707	6,492,792	1,445,224	2,037,692	20%
Child Protection	20,476,825	2,389,605	10,842,860	7,244,360	35%
Health and Nutrition	5,800,000	1,248,984	1,160,810	3,390,206	58%
Cash-based Transfers	4,897,000	1,138,694	1,902	3,756,404	77%
Non-Food Items	6,000,000	-	96,387	5,903,613	98%
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,987,777</b>	<b>12,030,643</b>	<b>18,830,517</b>	<b>42,126,617</b>	<b>58%</b>

*\*Note: Funds available includes funding received against current appeal as well as carry-forward from the previous year. Carry-forward is programmable balance as of 31 December 2018, for the 2018 HAC Appeal.*

## Next SitRep: 19 April 2019

UNICEF Iraq Country Office Official Website: <http://www.unicef.org/iraq/>

UNICEF Iraq Country Office Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefiraq>

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal, 2019: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals>

Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, 2019: <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/iraq>

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## Annex A

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS (January- February 2019) \*

	Cluster Response			UNICEF and IPs		
	Cluster Target 2019	Cluster Results	Change since last Report	UNICEF Target 2019	UNICEF Results	Change since last Report
<b>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE - Needs 2.3 million people</b>						
Emergency affected population accessing sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	1,272,085	449,156 <sup>1</sup>	0	972,808	301,844 <sup>1</sup>	0
Emergency affected population benefiting from latrines established/rehabilitated/maintained	1,272,085	266,873 <sup>2</sup>	0	486,404	228,253 <sup>2</sup>	0
<b>EDUCATION – Needs 3.3 million school-aged children*</b>						
Boys and girls receiving educational supplies	461,747	47,145 <sup>1</sup>	0	200,000	0 <sup>1</sup>	0
Teachers, facilitators, and education personnel trained on emergency education, life skills, and delivering PSS	18,395	216 <sup>2</sup>	0	5,000	15 <sup>2</sup>	0
Conflict-affected boys and girls (6-17 years) enrolled in formal and non-formal education programmes	461,747	81,250 <sup>3</sup>	0	200,000	4,645 <sup>3</sup>	0
<b>CHILD PROTECTION – Needs 1.16 million children under 18</b>						
Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes	208,080	40,696 <sup>1</sup>	0	135,000	36,196 <sup>1</sup>	0
Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services)	31,556	5,840 <sup>2</sup>	0	7,000 <sup>2</sup>	3,846 <sup>2</sup>	0
Girls, boys, and women receiving individual or group psychosocial support <sup>3</sup>				10,474 <sup>2</sup>	76 <sup>3</sup>	0
<b>HEALTH – Needs: 1.16 million children under 5**</b>						
New-born babies of conflict-affected families benefitting from new-born home services				22,038 <sup>1</sup>	172 <sup>1</sup>	0
Under 1-year old children vaccinated against measles through routine immunization				314,985	0 <sup>2</sup>	0
Children under 5 vaccinated against polio in crises-affected areas through campaigns				1,152,676	0 <sup>3</sup>	0
<b>NUTRITION</b>						
Children U5 accessing nutrition services				363,444	0 <sup>1</sup>	0
Targeted mothers of children 0-23 months with access to IYCF counselling for appropriate feeding				20,000	614	0
<b>SOCIAL PROTECTION – Needs: 2.4 million children</b>						
Most vulnerable children receiving child-focused cash transfer				15,000	0 <sup>1</sup>	0
<b>RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM</b>						
Emergency response capacity building workshops conducted for government staff				50	0 <sup>1</sup>	0
<b>WINTERIZATION</b>						
Most vulnerable children better protected from risks of winter with appropriate clothing				200,000	151,000 <sup>1</sup>	61,178

**Footnotes:**

**WASH 1:** Cluster: Females: 229,070, Males: 220,086. UNICEF: Females: 153,940, Males: 147,904.

**WASH 2:** Cluster: Females: 136,105, Males: 130,768. UNICEF: Females: 116,409, Males: 111,844.

**Education 1:** Cluster: Females: 20,733, Males: 26,412. UNICEF: Females: 0, Males: 0. Previous distributions took place in the final quarter of 2018 for the start of the new academic year 2018/2019. UNICEF's next large-scale distribution of learning materials is planned for the start of the next academic year in autumn 2019.

**Education 2:** Cluster: Females: 97, Males: 119. UNICEF: Females: 7, Males: 8. UNICEF-supported trainings take place in agreement with the MoE; larger-scale trainings are scheduled to take place outside the academic year to minimise disruption to children's learning.

**Education 3:** Cluster: Females: 34,663, Males: 46,857. UNICEF: Females: 2,634, Males: 2,011. Enrolment to formal education takes place once per year (data available after verification by MoE).

**Child Protection 1:** Sub-cluster: Females: 18,507 Males: 22,189. UNICEF Females: 15,960, Males: 20,236.

**Child Protection 2:** Sub-cluster: Females: 2,758 Males: 3,082. UNICEF Females: 1,766; Males 2,080. For following sitreps, UNICEF Iraq will revise its 2019 HAC SPA target after discussions with the CPSC in early 2019.

**Child Protection 3:** This indicator reflects UNICEF support to individuals receiving multi-sectoral services to respond to needs of survivors or people at risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). GBV Sub-Cluster data entry incomplete at time of report preparation. Data for Q1 2019 will be available in the following sitrep; and in following sitreps, UNICEF Iraq will revise its 2019 HAC GBV PSS indicator

**Health 1:** Females: 88, Males: 84. For following sitreps, UNICEF Iraq will revise its new-born home services indicator to align it with the 2019 HRP.

**Health 2:** Females: 0 Males: 0. Health Cluster data entry incomplete at time of report preparation. Data for Q1 2019 will be available in the following sitrep.

**Health 3:** Females: 0. Males: 0. See footnote under [2] above.

**Nutrition 1:** Females: 0, Males: 0. See footnote under [Health 2] above.

**Social Protection 1:** UNICEF: Females: 0, Males: 0. UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children target of 15,000 children is a two-year target 2018-2019. Funding for UNICEF cash assistance for IDP response was limited, with a 70 per cent funding gap as of end-2018. A new contract was signed with a mobile services provider supporting cash delivery and the first transfers are expected to take place by the start of Q2 2019. Syrian refugee households are reflected in UNICEF Syrian refugee [reporting](#).

**RRM 1:** Consortium led by UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA. In 2019, the Consortium intends to enhance capacity of existing government structures and local authorities, to enable them to better cope with future emergencies, including taking over responsibility for and operation of the RRM. In the year, handover efforts are expected to include 50 workshops and/or training sessions for government officials and local authorities on emergency concepts and practices, however workshops/trainings will start only after a relevant counterpart has been identified.

**Winter:** Girls: 77,265 Boys: 74,235. UNICEF winter distributions for the 2018/2019 winter ran between December 2018 and January 2019. Results reported here reflect the target of the 2018 HAC appeal and the total results against the 2018/2019 winter response.

*\*Needs per UNOCHA. Each cluster targets its own population in need based on countrywide vulnerability analysis.*