SITUATION ANALYSIS

More than 4.2 million people, including over 2 million children, have returned to their places of origin, while over 1.7 million people, including over 900,000 children, remain displaced. More than half (54 per cent) of all internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been displaced for three or more years. Around 30 per cent of families remain displaced in camps, 70 per cent remain in out-of-camp settings, of which nearly eight per cent are 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 among IDPs, in 11 districts, displaced persons are facing very high needs (as defined in the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview). Approximately 11 per cent of all returnees are in locations where living conditions are not considered to be adequate, dignified, and safe.

In the last week of March, heavy storms caused flooding that damaged bridges, roads, and other infrastructure throughout Iraq. Although no fatalities were recorded, negative consequences were seen in at least eleven out of Iraq’s 18 governorates, with Kirkuk, Salah al Din and Sulaymaniyah noted as the most acutely impacted areas. Humanitarian partners, including UNICEF, conducted assessments conducted assessment visits to affected areas and delivered life-saving supplies to affected families in Tikrit, sometimes making delivery by boat. There remain concerns about availability of adequate drinking water, as some water treatment plants in the governorate are non-functional either due to floods or due to lack of water treatment materials.

RESULTS

**INDICATORS**

- Emergency affected populations with access to sufficient safe water supply
- Girls and boys receiving education supplies
- Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes
- Children under 1 year old vaccinated against measles (routine)
- Most vulnerable children receiving child-focused cash transfer

**RESULT**

- Individuals reached by UNICEF interventions (Jan - March 2019)
- Individuals targeted (2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATOR</th>
<th>RESULT</th>
<th>% REACHED</th>
<th>TARGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency affected populations with access to sufficient safe water supply</td>
<td>345,117</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>972,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls and boys receiving education supplies</td>
<td>25,913</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes</td>
<td>59,856</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>135,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 1 year old vaccinated against measles (routine)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>314,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most vulnerable children receiving child-focused cash transfer</td>
<td>3,039</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

**WASH:** In March, authorities in flood-affected areas requested support from WASH Cluster partners to repair damaged water projects and provide water treatment materials. UNICEF delivered 90 meters of pipes to Thi Qar, to be installed in Al Nasir sub-district, which will support by-pass of flood water from the Gharaf river to Massab al’Am drainage system, helping reduce risk of flooding for 250,000 individuals (117,500 children). As IDP camp closure continues, in March, UNICEF and partners dismantled movable WASH assets from Nazrawa and Debaga-2 IDP camps in Kirkuk. Assets are stored with the intention of re-locating them to other open camps as need arises. Rehabilitation works on water networks in Nineawa continued, including extension of feeding pipelines into returnee areas.

**Education:** Shortage of teachers in IDP camp schools continues to be a challenge. UNICEF, on an exceptional basis, is supporting incentives for 345 teachers on ‘volunteer’ contracts to ensure school access for more than 29,000 children in IDP camps in southern and eastern Nineava.

**Child Protection:** Awareness-raising activities and trainings promoting safer environments for women and girls have reached 10,203 community members (3,775 women, 2,482 girls), of which 3,328 were reached in March. 21 reports of grave violations of child rights were recorded, affecting 29 children (24 boys and five children of unknown sex), of which 16 incidents affecting 25 children were verified. Verified incidents included killing of 16 children and injuring of another five (all boys) due to various types of explosives. The pilot of the Child Protection Information Management System Plus (CPMIS+), which aims to improve case management, continued with 25 case workers and supervisors completed CPMIS+ training in March.

**Health and Nutrition:** On 10 March 2019, a ten-day Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) campaign began across nine of Iraq’s 18 governorates, reaching more than 2.6 million children aged 9 to 59 months. UNICEF supported social mobilization actions. Reporting against routine immunization faced delays in the first quarter of 2019 as data entry verification by the Ministry of Health MoH) – updates on routine services are expected by April reporting. In 2019, 88 cases of children suffering from Severe Acute Malnourishment (SAM) were identified and treated in UNICEF-supported IDP camps across Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Nineawa and Sulaymaniyah.

**Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM):** In case of return of Iraqis from Syria, the Consortium will deliver critical assistance at the border-crossing. RRM supplies have been prepositioned in Dahuk, with more supplies available in Erbil warehouses.

**Cash-based transfer:** As of March, 3,041 children from Mosul and Zummer, Nineawa have received cash for education support. The project includes awareness-raising sessions for parents and caregivers which cover importance of education, children’s rights and child protection issues, and available services.
Funding Status and Donor Recognition: As of March 2019, UNICEF Iraq’s overall funding gap is 28 per cent. In the month, UNICEF received new contributions towards its 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal for IDPs from the Government of Japan SIDA Sweden, and from the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). UNICEF takes this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to all partner governments, UNICEF National Committees, Foundations and private individuals for their continued and sustained support. In 2019, UNICEF and partners were enabled to provide life-saving and life-sustaining interventions, thanks to the generous contributions of donors including the European Union (ECHO), the governments of Germany, the United States (Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration), Canada, Denmark, Japan, Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Kuwait. Humanitarian funding was received through the UNOCHA-administered Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF). Special thanks go to donors who support with multi-year thematic/flexible contributions.

Conflict may be over, but lack of water threatens returning families in Iraq.

Ronak, 12, lives with her family in Bartella, to the east of Mosul City in Ninewa. In 2014, she and her family were forced to leave their home after they heard ISIL was getting close to their town. “I was very sad to leave our house, but I was afraid of the war. Every day I prayed that one day, we would come back home.” The family lived in the mountains overlooking Bartella for one year as they waited for conflict to end. When they returned home, their house had no water, and the walls were destroyed by gunfire. Thanks to support from the Qatar Foundation from Development and other donors, Ronak now has access to safe water at home and at school.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

More than 6.7 million people in Iraq, at least 3.3 million of them children under 18 years old, are in need of at least one form of humanitarian assistance in 2019 (Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2019). The strategic objectives of the 2019 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 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 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 2019-2020 Recovery and Resilience Programme (RRP) 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. 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.

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 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Cluster. UNICEF and the World Health Organization coordinate with line Ministries through the Cholera Task Force, led by the Ministry of Health. In March, the WASH Cluster participated in an inter-cluster mission to Ninewa to identify space in existing camps to accommodate expected return of Iraqis from Syria. A new WASH coordination platform established in March in Basrah will focus on water scarcity challenges in the south.