



“There is no life without school” says 13-year-old Farah (left). She and her neighbour Ali, 11 years old, live in West Mosul, Ninewa. ©UNICEF/Iraq/2018/Jeelo

# Iraq Humanitarian Situation Report

## Highlights

- In advance of the new school year, learning environments were improved for 2,751 children (1,403 girls) in Anbar and Salah al Din as temporary tented learning spaces were upgraded to semi-permanent facilities and new classrooms were delivered. In addition, 17,200 new and repaired desks were delivered to schools in multiple locations in Ninewa and in Ramadi, Anbar.
- UNICEF supported activation of Education and WASH coordination structures in southern Iraq, to respond to continuing water scarcity challenges. In September, five water pumps were installed and are now operational in Basrah’s ‘R-Zero’ water project, with pumps helping to improve fresh water provision to parts of Basrah City Centre and surrounding districts. Water trucking for affected schools is being finalized to ensure no delays in opening schools for the new academic year.
- In September, 2,000 cases of diarrhoea were reported in Qadisiya Governorate; the local Directorate of Health (DOH) confirmed that no cases of cholera had been found. As immediate support, UNICEF dispatched 50,000 oral rehydration sachets (ORS) to the DoH.
- After agreements with the local authorities in Mosul City, Ninewa, UNICEF-supported water trucking continued in September on a smaller scale, with 39,700 individuals served in 10 neighbourhoods of the Old City.

## September 2018

**4 million children** in need out of **8.7 million people** affected (OCHA, [HRP 2018](#))

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

**4.07 million** people returned to newly-accessible areas (IOM, [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#), 30 September 2018)

### Target population in 2018

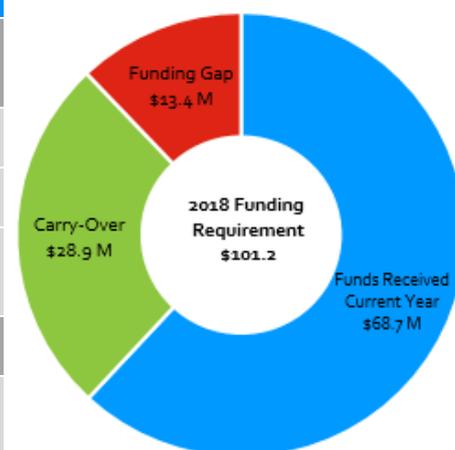
- Rapid Response: **1,030,000 IDPs**
- WASH: **1.3 million people**
- Education: **450,000 children**
- Health: **1.2 million children (polio)**
- Child Protection: **186,300 children and caregivers**

## UNICEF Appeal 2018

**US\$ 101.2 million**

**Funding Status<sup>+</sup>**

**US \$ 97.6 million**



<sup>+</sup> ‘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. The funding gap and funds available do not equal the total HAC requirements – as of September 2018, there is a surplus under WASH, Education, and Child Protection. See page 8 for more detailed information.

## UNICEF Response with partners

Key Indicators	UNICEF		Cluster	
	Target	Result*	Target	Result*
Vulnerable people newly-displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response	1,030,000	78,839**		
Emergency affected populations with access to sufficient safe water supply	1,300,000	959,887	2,309,765	1,921,674
Girls and boys receiving education supplies	450,000	194,031	528,222	246,972
Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes	186,300	138,482	203,865	246,972
Children under 1 vaccinated against measles through routine services	50,000	29,124		

\*Results are cumulative (January-September 2018). For explanation of results compared to targets see the narrative report and footnotes under the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) table starting on page 9.

\*\* Since January, progress against 2018 targets has been limited, mainly because of lower than anticipated levels of new displacements. Also, as discussion on camp consolidation/closure remains inconclusive, there have been no large-scale camp relocation movements yet.

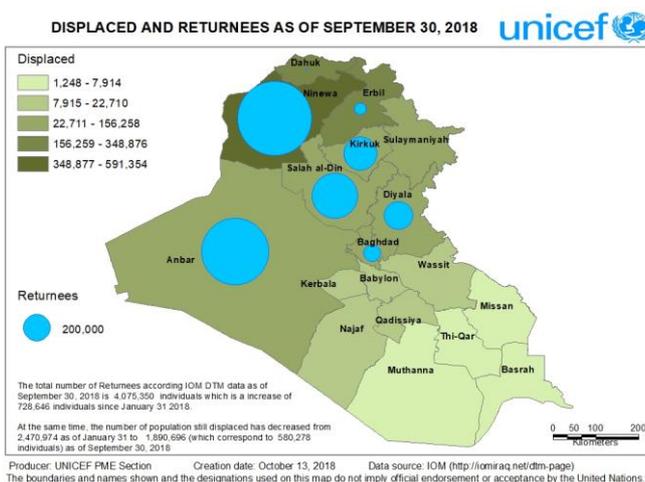
## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Water scarcity in the southern governorates of Iraq continues to be a concern. It is estimated that 25 per cent of the total population (around 1.8 million people)<sup>1</sup> in 17 districts in the four most-affected governorates are critically impacted by water shortages<sup>2</sup>. Low water levels in the main Shat Al-Arab river, and seawater incursion into the river, mean salinity has increased and water is increasingly undrinkable. This is compounded by severe environmental problems, including discharge of sewage and petro-chemicals directly into the river without adequate treatment.

These factors are making it extremely hard to secure safe drinking water. Between 12 August and 23 September, around 88,550 cases of gastrointestinal (GI) illnesses were recorded. Efforts to understand the cause of this outbreak have pointed to factors related to water quality and quantity, which has been decreasing significantly since June 2018 because of lack of snowfall in the previous winter, upstream demand, closure of feeder water sources and damming by neighbouring countries. In September, preliminary results of tests indicate presence of 'Escherichia Coli' in 50 per cent of cases. No other specific biological causes were identified as all cases show non-pathogenic organisms or normal rate of endemic pathogens. Given the scale and complexity of the situation, immediate needs include securing access to safe water, with specific need to ensure that the start of the school year is not delayed by lack of access to safe water, as well as supporting government surveillance and multi-sectoral coordination, access to health care, and awareness-raising on water safety. There is a need for short and medium-term measures to ensure safe water and preparedness for outbreak of waterborne disease as Iraq's cholera season approaches, as well as longer-term approaches to address water scarcity.

More than four million people, including over two million children, have returned to their homes, while more than 1.8 million people, including one million children, remain internally displaced across the country. Around 62 per cent of the internally displaced people (IDP) are living in private settings and non-camp locations. Due to rates of return, in September the government closed Daquq IDP camp in Kirkuk and Khaldiyyah camp in Anbar, causing movement of more than 860 families<sup>3</sup> to retaken areas, host communities and other camps. In 2018, a total of 32 camps have been closed across Iraq<sup>4</sup>, an indication of decreasing need for camp shelter, but of those remaining IDPs, nearly 29 per cent remain in camps (an estimated 522,00 individuals, 245,340 children), and nine per cent are living in critical shelter arrangements (an estimated 162,000 individuals, 76,140 children). Ninewa (51 per cent) and Dahuk (27 per cent) governorates host 78 per cent of IDPs living in camps.

The Iraq Ministry of Health (MoH) declared an outbreak of measles in September, and has requested support from UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to activate a two-phase nationwide measles vaccination campaign targeting five million children between 9-59 months. The first phase took place in 10 governorates between 2 and 13 September, and data is being finalised at time of this report's preparation. The second phase of the campaign, which will require direct UNICEF and WHO support, is scheduled to take place in January 2019.



<sup>1</sup> United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq, (UNAMI), [Briefing to the Security Council](#), 8 August 2018

<sup>2</sup> Four affected governorates are: Basrah, Missan, Qadissiyah, Thi Qar

<sup>3</sup> Reported were 360 families moving from Khaldiyyah, 294 from Hawiga and 209 from Laylan 1&2

<sup>4</sup> Statistics of the Ministry of Migration and Displacement on the IDPs, returnees and closed camps as of 12 August 2018 cited in the Return Working Group (RWG) Meeting Minutes. JCMC report available here - <http://jcmc.gov.iq/?p=6973> (only in Arabic at time of report preparation).

Between January and September 2018, the returnee population has increased by nearly 855,000 individuals<sup>5</sup>. However, returning home does not mean life resumes in all cases as normal – in recent needs assessments, 52 return locations (with an estimated 7,833 families, approximately 1.2 per cent of total returnee population) were found to have a very high 'severity of conditions' score, meaning these locations are extremely insecure and/or challenging to live in. Recent surveys indicated that 78 per cent of in-camp and 80 per cent non-camp IDPs intended to remain in their displacement locations for at least the coming three months due to security concerns including explosive hazards, land mines, and ongoing violence, as well as concerns about poor infrastructure and lack of access to basic services<sup>6</sup>. Such conditions may prevent further returns, trigger secondary displacement, or subject children and families to the health and safety risks caused by living in protractedly poor conditions<sup>7</sup>.

## Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF leads 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. UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Food Programme (WFP) coordinate the [Rapid Response Mechanism \(RRM\) Consortium](#) serving people on the move, and the Multi-Sector Emergency Package (MSEP) delivering aid in retaken areas. In addition, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) coordinate with relevant line Ministries through the Cholera Taskforce, led by the Ministry of Health (MoH).

Estimated Population in Need (OCHA 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview)			
Start of humanitarian response: June 2014			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Population in Need	8,293,047	4,187,017	4,106,030
Children (Under 18)	3,889,736	1,958,827	1,930,909
Children Under Five	1,269,587	653,405	616,182
Children 6 to 23 months	752,612	389,297	363,315

In September, a key achievement for the Education Cluster was a division of responsibilities agreed between the federal and KRG Ministries of Education, to keep IDP schools in the KRI open for the coming academic year – this is the result of prolonged advocacy since the start of 2018. September also saw the first Education coordination meeting in Basrah, which has a total of 1,871 schools; 910 of these are in areas most-affected by the water crisis (Basrah city Centre, Shat Al Arab and Abu Al Khaseeb districts). Plans were underway in September to ensure the start of the school year was not delayed by lack of water supply. Further, the WASH Cluster mapped partners responding in the south, and a coordination forum was established with support of the Joint Monitoring and Coordination Cell (JCMC), the federal Government's emergency coordination body.

Between 5 and 10 September the Iraq Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC) attended a global Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) workshop in Lebanon, which worked to harmonize definitions and calculations of 'people in need' (PIN) and categories of severity/severity analysis across countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. This helps ensure comparable and evidence-based planning categories. As part of the ongoing Child Survivor Initiative, the technical coordinator arrived in Baghdad at the end of September for a five-week deployment focusing on CP and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) workplans in Anbar and Salah al Din. The initiative focuses on capacity-building for coherent and quality responses to child survivors of violence, including sexual violence. The Protection Cluster, with engagement from the CPSC, hosted six governorate-level workshops in Anbar/Baghdad, Basrah, Kirkuk, the KRI, Ninewa, and Salah al Din, to validate findings of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), and to agree strategic direction for 2019. Consultation feedback will be considered in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) strategy.

In recent Nutrition Working Group (NWG) meetings, partners discussed shortages of supplements for treating acute malnutrition in a context of prolonged underfunding. As a sustainable solution, the Nutrition Research Institute (NRI) in Iraq has developed locally-made therapeutic formula for treatment of Severe Acute Malnourishment (SAM). Ingredients are available in Iraqi markets, and most are distributed with food rations meaning they can be made directly by caregivers, parents, or health workers. The mixture has been shown to provide similar calorie content compared to standard Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF).

## Humanitarian Strategy

The Iraq [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (HRP) targets 3.4 million people in need. The plan was jointly launched alongside the Government's 2018 [Plan for Relief, Shelter and Stabilization](#) of Displaced People. The 102 humanitarian partners engaged in the HRP will reach as many newly-displaced families as possible by securing safe access and providing sequenced emergency packages.

<sup>5</sup> Nearly all (98 per cent) have returned to their habitual residence. Of remaining returnees, two per cent are in private settings, which include rented houses, hotels/motels and with host families, and less than one per cent live in critical shelters (informal settlements, religious buildings, schools and unfinished/abandoned buildings). Data according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#), 30 September 2018.

<sup>6</sup> [Intention Surveys](#) conducted by REACH and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster.

<sup>7</sup> International Organisation for Migration (IOM) - [Return Index Report - Round 1](#).

UNICEF's strategy under its 2018 [Humanitarian Action for Children](#) (HAC) Appeal in Iraq is aligned with the HRP. The Iraq HRP is complemented by the UN's two-year Recovery and Resilience Programme which aims to fast-track social dimensions of reconstruction. The RRP builds on existing humanitarian efforts and is designed to ensure people see tangible improvements in their daily lives at the start of the reconstruction process.

In preparation for 2019, a series of humanitarian planning workshops and presentations for the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and Humanitarian Country team (HCT) members outlined the analysis that will underpin the 2019 HNO and HRP. On 17 September, an Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) workshop agreed on 2019 cluster-specific people in need (PIN) figures, which will inform the finalisation of cluster 2019 response strategies in the coming two months. The total people in need of humanitarian assistance in Iraq in 2019 is estimated to be 6.55 million individuals.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) and Multisector Emergency Response Package (MSEP)<sup>8</sup>

In 2018, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Consortium delivers lifesaving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people, including children, on the move due to crisis or camp relocation. RRM assistance will be extended to highly vulnerable returnee populations intending to return to their areas of origin and requiring support during their return.

Between January and September 2018, the Consortium reached 78,839 vulnerable people including 45,119 children on the move, with emergency response items to support access to safe water, good hygiene practices, and immediate food rations. Of the total reached, 86 per cent were supported during secondary displacements, 3 per cent during new displacements, 5 per cent during camp relocations and the remaining 6 per cent were assisted on Sinjar Mountain (flood-affected internally displaced families). Most assistance has been first-line response to new and secondary displacement, and to camp relocations. The RRM Consortium planned to support anticipated camp relocation caseloads with immediate response items; however, as discussions on camp consolidation/closure remain inconclusive, there have been no large-scale camp relocations requiring assistance so far.

In September, RRM partners distributed 636 emergency kits to reach 2,090 individuals including 980 children across four governorates<sup>9</sup>, ensuring the provision of immediate, life-saving emergency supplies to highly at-risk families. In the month, the majority of people (96 per cent) were reached in Qayyarah and Falluja camps in Ninewa and Anbar. All distributions to new camp arrivals took place in close coordination with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM) and local authorities, to ensure support is only provided to those in need. There were no Multi-Sector Emergency Package (MSEP) deliveries in September, as there was no need to reach people caught in conflict areas.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

UNICEF supports vulnerable displaced families with temporary and sustainable WASH services and facilities, including emergency water trucking, rehabilitation of water and sewage treatment plants and water supply networks, and upgrade of WASH facilities in schools and Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC). Where possible, services are being handed over to government partners as part of UNICEF's exit strategy, particularly in areas of return. In IDP camps, planning and completing this handover is a challenge due to uncertainties around camp closure and consolidation, and taking into consideration differences in government capacity in various parts of the country.

In response to the ongoing water crisis in southern Iraq, UNICEF is developing micro-plans for seven water projects in coordination with local authorities, mainly focusing on water treatment, improving distribution networks, and water quality monitoring. UNICEF technical staff are verifying the list of needs per site provided by the Department of Water (DoW), which is a time-consuming task. In September, five water pumps were installed and are now operational in Basrah's 'R-Zero' water project, with pumps helping to improve fresh water provision to parts of Basrah City Centre and surrounding districts. There remains a need for WASH interventions

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<sup>8</sup> People may be reached by RRM more than once during displacement, including at mustering points; at a screening site with an initial package; and with the full package on arrival at a camp or in host communities. RRM does not register beneficiaries; all efforts are made to reduce duplication in reporting between partners.

<sup>9</sup> Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah Al Din and Ninewa

in the two Basrah districts of Shat Al Arab and Abu Al Khaseeb. Technical assessment of potential water trucking contractors to serve the Abu Al Khaseeb schools was ongoing as of end-September, intending to start in the first week of October. Procurement of supplies, including water tanks and cleaning materials for schools, is ongoing. In south Thi Qar, there is a need for water supply support in the Marshlands area, where small-scale displacements have been reported due to water scarcity; and in response to lack of water purification materials, UNICEF is planning to transfer AquaTabs from the Directorate of Health (DoH) for use in Nufar and Bdair districts, Basrah.

UNICEF progress is at 74 per cent against its 2018 IDP water supply targets, and UNICEF-supported partner contribution has constituted 50 per cent of WASH Cluster results as of September 2018. Between January and September 2018, UNICEF has supported 959,887 IDPs (451,147 children of which 230,085 girls) in fourteen governorates<sup>10</sup> through government and non-government partners, including through WASH Service Centres (WSC). With the closure of the Daquq camp, Kirkuk, in September UNICEF's removable WASH assets were handed to the local DoW, to be used to meet needs in returnee areas. In Mosul City, Ninewa, in line with agreements with the DoW Ninewa, UNICEF-supported water trucking continued in September on a smaller scale, with 39,700 individuals served in 10 neighbourhoods of the Old City (decrease from 93,000 individuals served in 21 neighbourhoods as of August).

UNICEF and partners supported continued solid waste management in camps across the country supporting sanitary environments through cleaning campaigns, distribution of garbage bags, and garbage removal and disposal. As of September, 363,624 IDPs (170,903 children, 87,161 girls) have had continued access to adequately-maintained latrines, with UNICEF-supported partners contributing to 78 per cent of the Cluster sanitation response.

Ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) work still constitutes a sizeable portion of UNICEF's WASH expenditure. For example, in Dahuk governorate alone UNICEF, in partnership with the Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs (BRHA) is supporting WASH facilities in 10 IDP camps, for around 90,300 individuals (46,060 females); since January, more than 17,000 latrines and 1,320 showers were rehabilitated in these locations, with 1,200 water network pipelines repaired.

As part of joint programming between UNICEF's WASH, Health, Education, and Communication for Development (C4D) teams, two trainings on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), each of three days, were conducted in Dahuk and Mosul by trained Directorate of Education (DoE) staff. A total of 76 teachers from 40 schools participated.

## Education

UNICEF supports access to education through establishment of temporary learning spaces, increasing space for formal education, and delivering non-formal education (NFE) interventions through partners. Quality of learning is supported through teacher training and the provision of teaching and learning materials. UNICEF also works to strengthen the capacity of national education actors to implement services in humanitarian situations.

In advance of the new school year, 17 pre-fabricated classrooms were moved between sub-camps in the Habbaniyah Tourist City (HTC) camp complex in Anbar<sup>11</sup>, to replace the old tented classrooms in that site, and 10 new pre-fabricated classrooms were delivered to Tuz and Amerli in Salah al Din to replace damaged classrooms, improving the learning environment for 2,751 children (1,403 girls). A total of 16,000 new and repaired desks were delivered to Ninewa schools<sup>12</sup> (7,000 repaired desks in August, and 9,000 new desks in September), as well as 1,200 desks to schools in Ramadi, Anbar. Distributions of learning materials commenced at the end of September – figures will be reported in October, once materials have reached students. Teacher trainings took place in Baghdad, Kirkuk, Najaf, and Ninewa in September covering life skills, delivery of PSS in the classroom, and positive discipline methods; at time of this report, the full figures of participants are being consolidated and will be reported in October.

In southern Iraq, the area in Basrah most affected by water scarcity hosts around 600 school buildings. UNICEF identified 60 most-vulnerable schools (around 27,000 children) for priority support through provision of supplies including recreation kits, maths kits, science kits, stationery, water bottles, desks and white boards. Supplies are currently under procurement and deliveries are expected

<sup>10</sup> Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Missan, Muthanna, Ninewa, Qadissiyah, Salah al Din, and Sulaymaniyah. Source: Partner ActivityInfo reports. 174 sites are the maximum number served since January 2018.

<sup>11</sup> Moved from Al Abssar 1 to Al Abssar 2 school

<sup>12</sup> Schools in Ninewa that received desks are located in: Ba'aj, Rabea, Zumar, Telafar, Telkeif, Bashiqa, Hadar, East/West Mosul, and Sinjar.

to coincide with opening of schools in first week of October. Additionally, from existing UNICEF-supported youth groups, UNICEF is mobilizing around 60 youth volunteers to support integrated awareness-raising campaigns including 'Back to School' messaging.

The new academic year officially began on 30 September 2018, although there were a few days of delay in the KRI (schools opened on 2 October) due to KRG elections taking place on the same date. Since January 2018, UNICEF and its partners have supported 115,256 children (45,568 girls) to enroll in either formal or non-formal education programmes. Enrolment into the new school year will mainly take place in October, although there remains a 'window' for children to enroll after this, at the discretion of head teachers and local authorities. Since January 2018, UNICEF and partners have trained 693 teachers (353 females) on education in emergencies (EiE), ways to encourage development of life skills among students, and methods to deliver psychosocial support (PSS) in the classroom. Prior to the start of the new school year, in September summer school tutoring on Arabic, English, maths and science, continued in Ninewa IDP camps,<sup>13</sup> with 570 children (259 girls) enrolled.

Due to closure of IDP camps in Kirkuk and Anbar, preparations for the new academic year experienced some challenges; the movement of children from camp locations to host community or return areas resulted in increased needs for learning spaces, furniture, and additional teachers. Where possible, equipment or supplies previously used in camps will be moved, in consultation with local authorities, to host community or return areas. In Kirkuk, efforts by the Directorate of Education (DoE) to transfer the two UNICEF prefab schools from Daquq camp to serve returnee populations have been delayed, as agreement is needed on technical details of relocation and for sufficient fund allocation from the Governorate's resources. UNICEF and the Education Cluster continue to map needs and make efforts to identify partners with capacity to cover gaps, in coordination with the MoE and its Directorates.

## Child Protection

UNICEF is reaching vulnerable children and caregivers through structured, sustained psychosocial support services (PSS), with referral to specialized child protection assistance<sup>14</sup> when needed, including for children with disabilities. UNICEF is working to deliver support to children in contact with the law, including children accused of affiliation with ISIL. UNICEF integrates a focus on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention across its work. UNICEF and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC) promote integration of services in community centres, aiming to minimize stand-alone activities as part of resilience-focused interventions.

In September 2018, UNICEF partners provided psychosocial support services (PSS) to 15,366 newly registered IDP children (7,088 girls), for a total 138,482 children (66,470 girls) reached since January 2018. Specialized child protection services reached 841 IDP children in September<sup>15</sup> (349 girls), bringing the total reached this year to 7,221 IDP children (3,129 girls). Specialised services include family tracing and reunification, legal assistance and alternative care. In the month, UNICEF partners trained 25 adolescent girls on life skills and reproductive health, including violence against children, using the agreed Adolescent Girls Toolkit; and capacity-building focusing on child rights and child protection systems was delivered to 17 government social workers in Mosul, Ninewa.

In September, 2,032 individuals (1,568 women, 438 girls, and eight boys) who have experienced, or who are found to be at risk of, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) have accessed case management and PSS services through UNICEF-supported partners; and 1,229 women, 657 girls and 42 boys accessed recreational services that support resilience. Trainings on strengthening services and case management for survivors reached 86 service providers (70 women, 16 men) in the month. Awareness-raising activities aimed at encouraging safer community environments reached 13,164 community members (6,735 women, 1,704 girls, 1,848 boys, 2,877 men), including 169 individuals who were trained on identifying and referring cases of GBV.

In the same month, five reports of grave violations of child rights were received and verified, affecting six children. The incidents included killing of three children (one boy and two girls) and the injuring of three other children (two boys and one girl) in Kirkuk, Salah al Din and Thi-Qar. Incidents were caused by explosive remnants of war (ERW), indirect fire, and a suicide bomb-attack. One incident of an attack on a hospital was also verified. The monitoring of the situation of children affected by conflict continues. Access and security threats remain the biggest challenge to obtaining and verifying reports.

Since the start of the year, UNICEF has begun to consolidate child protection and GBV partnerships for geographic coverage and case management capacity. This process took time and resulted in periods of lower activity in the first half of 2018 as older partnerships concluded and new ones were negotiated. The increase in achievements in the second half of the year is supported by activation of new project agreements, as well as more children attending activities during summer holidays. There remain gaps in service provision for birth certification and registration for children who were born between 2014 and 2017 in areas formerly under control of ISIL. Absence of national guidance on birth registration steps is a challenge, as well as clarity on the policies and procedures

<sup>13</sup> Debaga, Hasansham, Jeda'ah, and Hamam ali Alil camps are covered for this activity by one partner, Terre des Hommes.

<sup>14</sup> Specialized assistance includes case management, legal services, family tracing and reunification, and emergency alternative care.

<sup>15</sup> In September, cleaning of past months' data means the UNICEF HPM table shows a lower figure.

to follow. The total number of children who need new or re-issued documentation is not known, but it is thought to be significant. UNICEF plans to engage in two new partnerships on birth registration, in coordination with the Government. One of the objectives will be to better map the scale of needs. UNICEF has engaged in advocacy with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) on this issue and has also identified suitable partners to support, with agreement of MoLSA.

## Health and Nutrition

UNICEF supports delivery of routine immunization services, monitoring of infant and young children's growth, and counselling on Infant and Young Child feeding practices (IYCF). Where a child is identified with malnutrition, UNICEF and partners ensure referral to specialised care per UNICEF and WHO guidelines. Neonatal health services are supported, including awareness sessions in IDP camps. UNICEF supports government partners through delivery of supplies and staff capacity building, and also engages NGOs to mitigate for short-term gaps in critical service provision.

There remain health concerns connected to the water crisis in southern Iraq. In September, 2,000 cases of diarrhoea were reported in Qadissiya governorate; the local Directorate of Health (DOH) confirmed that no cases of cholera had been found. As an immediate support, UNICEF dispatched 50,000 oral rehydration sachets (ORS) to the DoH Qadissiyah.

Immunization support continued, with UNICEF and partners reporting 29,124 children under one year old (14,853 girls) vaccinated against measles (58 per cent of target) through routine Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) services, and, as part of ongoing polio prevention campaigns, 453,159 children under five years old (231,111 girls) vaccinated against polio (38 per cent of target) since the beginning of the year. In September, 2,033 doses of Vitamin A supplementation were given to children in camps. Vaccination is strictly supervised by the EPI department in the MoH; UNICEF provides technical input, transportation incentives for vaccination teams, undertakes site supervision and social mobilization/awareness-raising interventions targeting parents and caregivers. Vaccination takes place through fixed health units and mobile outreach teams – for the latter, UNICEF currently supports these in Dahuk and Salah al Din. In health promotion interventions, through government and NGO partners, since January 2018, 2,062 newborns and their mothers (1,052 girls; 477 in September alone) have been visited by trained health worker teams during the critical first month of life as part of the 'home visits' programme. In cases where risk signs were identified, newborns and mothers were referred to the nearest health facility. UNICEF-supported health promotion events have reached 6,136 individuals in the reporting month with key messages on food safety, breastfeeding, newborn care, and health during pregnancy.

Funding has been secured for the two-phase national measles campaign, targeting all children aged 9 to 59 months in Iraq. The first campaign took place in 10 governorates between the 2 and 13 September, supported by the MoH; the second phase of the campaign, which will require direct UNICEF support, is scheduled to take place in January 2019. At time of report, final figures of the September campaign were under preparation and will be shared by the MoH once finalised.

In nutrition interventions, 16,687 pregnant women and new mothers attended health promotion sessions on infant and young child feeding practices (IYCF) between January and September 2018, and 133,308 children aged 6-59 months (67,987 girls) have been screened for nutritional status. Of the 6,881 children screened in September,<sup>16</sup> 386 children were identified with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 110 children were identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).<sup>17</sup> Malnourished children were provided with therapeutic feeding through the community-based management of acute malnourishment (CMAM) model, while cases with complications were referred to specialist Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRC). In September, construction of an NRC unit in Samarra, Salah al Din, was completed, improving capacity in this area to manage SAM cases from camps or host community areas.

Due to high turnover, capacity-building for MoH staff is an ongoing need, including refresher courses on child immunization and nutrition for staff working in camps and vulnerable districts. Underfunding has been a prolonged concern in 2018, with the planned Iraq health and nutrition response 45 per cent underfunded; as needed, UNICEF is prioritising interventions to ensure basic child- and mother-focused services continue. UNICEF requires at least US\$1 million to sustain most critical basic services in IDP camps until

<sup>16</sup> In the September humanitarian performance monitoring table (page 9-10) correction of underreporting in past months' data means the UNICEF HPM table shows a higher figure in the 'change since last report' column.

<sup>17</sup> Figures are combined from all partners, including camps and Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRC) encompassing outpatient therapeutic feeding and targeted supplementary feeding programs. Statistically, rates of SAM and MAM cannot be inferred.

December 2018. Reducing these services may expose vulnerable children and mothers to preventable diseases that have life-long impact.

## Cash Assistance

UNICEF is establishing links between humanitarian assistance and the Government's social protection framework to provide integrated support to vulnerable children. UNICEF's cash assistance is unconditional, but aims to support removal of barriers to children's access to education. UNICEF delivers an integrated package of support alongside government partners to identify protection-related concerns and refer cases to social workers for additional support. In the first half of 2018, UNICEF has supported 3,902 children (1,877 girls) with cash assistance of US\$30 per child per month.

At the start of the new 2018-2019 school year, UNICEF intends to support just over 3,000 children from around 1,495 families in Mosul City with cash for education support<sup>18</sup>. Targeted children will be attending schools participating in the nationwide roll-out of the MoE and UNICEF 'school-based management' (SBM) approach, enhancing complementarity between UNICEF interventions that support children's access to school.

Funding has been limited in 2018 for UNICEF cash assistance for the IDP response, with a 70 per cent funding gap as of end-September. US\$3.8 million is urgently needed to ensure support to vulnerable families can begin in the first semester of the new school year, helping parents to meet hidden costs of learning. Without these funds, UNICEF will not be able to reach its planned target of 9,000 children in 2018. These children may be at increased risk of drop-out, with longer-term consequences to their future.

## Winter Response Preparations

In Iraq, extreme summer heat turns to zero-degree temperatures fast. Winter starts in October and lasts until March, bringing with it heavy rains, snow storms and freezing temperatures. Children are especially vulnerable to wintry weather conditions that exacerbate child-related diseases such as pneumonia and other respiratory infections. In 2018-2019 winter response, UNICEF intends to reach 200,000 of the most vulnerable Iraqi children, delivering warm clothing in nine governorates. UNICEF has secured funds to initiate procurement of 70,000 kits, ensuring supplies can be delivered as soon as temperatures start to drop. To ensure all 200,000 vulnerable Iraqi children have winter clothes, UNICEF Iraq urgently requires US\$ 2.1 million. Lack of funding will leave children without warm clothing to protect them from Iraq's harsh winter weather.

## Supply and Logistics

Since the start of 2018, UNICEF Iraq dispatched relief items to government and non-government partners with a value of over US\$6 million. Up to March 2018, receipt of offshore supplies and internal logistics experienced challenges due to the internal political tension after the 2017 referendum on the KRI's independence. Between March and September 2018, some delays are still experienced on approvals relating to import exemption letters but, overall impact on supply and logistic response has been minimal.

## Media and External Communication

In September, UNICEF Iraq issued two news notes announcing humanitarian funding from the [European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations](#) (ECHO) and [USAID](#). Advocacy efforts focused on provision of water and sanitation for the most vulnerable in the southern governorate of Basrah as well as [improving girls access education](#) and [vocational training](#) for displaced women, and supported the global campaign to [end violence against children](#). UNICEF Iraq hosted a visit from UNICEF Spain with Grisart, a photography school, that provided training for adolescents from the Syrian refugee and Iraqi IDP community in northern Iraq. The photographs will be part of an exhibition in Barcelona and further support public advocacy efforts.

## Security

Civil demonstrations, triggered by demand for improved public services, employment opportunities, and more anti-corruption measures, continued in southern Iraq in September, with a reported 24 demonstrations staged in Basrah alone. An indirect fire (IDF) attack was reported, with two projectiles landing near Basrah International Airport and the US Consulate, but no damage or casualties reported. Assassinations of notable figures were reported in September including of tribal leaders ('mukhtar') and a Basrah female human rights activist. In addition, a curfew was implemented in Basrah for a brief period in the month, for security reasons.

Furthermore, armed conflict incidents, mainly attacks targeting security forces (SF) continued in Ninewa, the central north region, and in Anbar. Diyala and Anbar governorate reported the highest number of security incidents in September, compared to previous

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<sup>18</sup> Exact figures may change depending on final registration of families in the programme.

months of the year – since the start of 2018, these two governorates have been the most-affected by insecurity. In Erbil governorate, the number of Turkish airstrikes reported against alleged Kurdistan Worker Party (PKK) positions reduced, compared to August. Explosive devices attacks against security forces (SF) remained the preferred tactic employed by armed groups. Increased military operations aiming to clear ISIL hideouts/pockets continued in Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din governorates with large amount of weapons/ammunition found - attacks are asymmetric in nature have not caused any new displacements according to reports received. An increase in terrorism attacks was also noted countrywide, with mainly explosive device attacks targeting civilians.

On 30 September, KRI parliamentary elections took place. No serious security incident was reported. Asymmetric attacks against ISF as well as terrorist attacks are likely to continue, particularly in central and north-central Iraq. Continued civil unrest is expected to continue particularly in Baghdad and southern Iraq. Humanitarian access challenges persist in certain areas of Kirkuk (southern Kirkuk and Hawiga). Despite these factors, overall UNICEF Iraq programmes have not been significantly impacted by insecurity in September.

## Funding as of 30 September 2018

In September, UNICEF Iraq received US\$ 14.8 million from the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) in support of child protection and winterization programming, and an additional US\$3 million from OFDA in support of continuing WASH interventions for IDP and host community children across northern and central Iraq. In 2018, flexible [thematic humanitarian funds](#) have helped to support underfunded health and nutrition and cash assistance programmes. RRM needs have been less acute than anticipated in 2018, and resources received are so far adequate to meet needs. In most cases, carry-over funds from 2017 and 2018 funds received are earmarked to specific programmes and cannot be used to support gaps in other areas. In cases of prolonged underfunding, UNICEF will adjust programming to focus on first-line response or maintenance of existing basic services for most vulnerable groups.

Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds Available*		Funding Gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	USD	%
Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)	4,870,000	1,171,344	819,370	2,879,285	59%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**	37,000,000	28,248,948	10,002,784	-	0%
Education**	15,950,000	12,746,516	6,407,974	-	0%
Child Protection**	21,767,000	19,229,431	7,982,181	-	0%
Health and Nutrition	10,000,000	4,198,410	1,310,980	4,490,610	45%
Basic Needs (Multipurpose Cash Assistance)	5,564,160	1,049,572	621,828	3,892,760	70%
Winterization (Seasonal Response)	6,000,000	2,096,137	1,759,019	2,144,843	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,151,160</b>	<b>68,740,358</b>	<b>28,904,136</b>	<b>13,407,499</b>	<b>13%</b>

\*Note: Funds available include HQ cost recovery and cross sectoral costs. Carry-forward figure is programmable balance as of 31 December 2017, for the 2017 HAC Appeal.

\*\*2018 response: As of September 2018, UNICEF Iraq had received an additional US\$1,251,732 for WASH; an additional US\$3,204,490 for Education response; an additional US\$5,444,612 for Child Protection; above its 2018 requirements.

## Next SitRep: 19 November 2018

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, 2018: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals>

Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, 2018 : <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/iraq>

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## Annex A

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS (January-September 2018)\*

	Cluster Response			UNICEF and IPs		
	Cluster Target 2018	Cluster Results	Change since last Report	UNICEF Target 2018	UNICEF Results	Change since last Report
<b>RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM - Needs: 860,000 people</b>						
Vulnerable people newly displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response				1,030,000	78,839 <sup>1</sup>	3,370
<b>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE - Needs 5.4 million people</b>						
Emergency affected population accessing sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	2,309,765	1,921,674 <sup>1</sup>	236,938	1,300,000	959,887 <sup>1</sup>	261,336
Emergency affected population benefiting from latrines established/rehabilitated/maintained	436,901	463,333 <sup>2</sup>	70,635	300,000	363,624 <sup>2</sup>	53,842
<b>EDUCATION – Needs 3.3 million school-aged children*</b>						
Boys and girls receiving educational supplies	528,222	287,948 <sup>1</sup>	3,014	450,000	194,031 <sup>1</sup>	0
Teachers, facilitators, and education personnel trained on emergency education, life skills, and delivering PSS	5,000	9,168 <sup>2</sup>	623	4,300	639 <sup>2</sup>	0
Conflict-affected boys and girls (6-17 years) enrolled in formal and non-formal education programmes	528,222	489,904 <sup>3</sup>	23,642	300,000	115,256 <sup>3</sup>	2,114
<b>CHILD PROTECTION – Needs 2.4 million children under 18</b>						
Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes	203,865	246,972 <sup>1</sup>	26,601	186,300	138,482 <sup>1</sup>	15,366
Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services)	29,325	18,012 <sup>2</sup>	2,681	18,630	7,221 <sup>2</sup>	824
Girls, boys, and women receiving individual or group psychosocial support <sup>3</sup>				20,000	16,897 <sup>3</sup>	0
<b>HEALTH – Needs: 1.2 million children under 5**</b>						
New-born babies of conflict-affected families benefitting from new-born home services				8,000	2,062 <sup>1</sup>	477
Under 1 year old children vaccinated against measles through routine immunization				50,000	29,124 <sup>2</sup>	2,041
Children under 5 vaccinated against polio in crises-affected areas through campaigns				1,200,000	453,159 <sup>3</sup>	88
<b>NUTRITION</b>						
Children U5 accessing nutrition services				50,000	133,308 <sup>1</sup>	8,122 <sup>1</sup>
Targeted mothers of children 0-23 months with access to IYCF counselling for appropriate feeding				20,000	16,687	6,435 <sup>2</sup>
<b>SOCIAL PROTECTION – Needs: 1,080,000</b>						
Most vulnerable children receiving child-focused cash transfer				9,000	3,902 <sup>1</sup>	0

**Footnotes:**

**RRM 1:** Consortium led by UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA: Females: 40,208, Males: 38,631. Since January, progress against 2018 targets has been limited, mainly because of lower than anticipated levels of new displacements. Also, as discussion on camp consolidation/closure remains inconclusive, there have been no large-scale camp relocation movements.

**WASH 1:** Cluster: Females: 980,054, Males: 941,620. UNICEF: Females: 489,542, Males: 470,345.

**WASH 2:** Cluster: Females: 236,300, Males: 227,033. UNICEF: Females: 185,448, Males: 178,176.

**Education 1:** Cluster: Females: 125,667, Males: 162,281. UNICEF: Females: 83,271, Males: 110,760. Main distribution of learning materials for the 2018-2019 academic year initiated at the end of September and will take place in Oct/Nov 2018.

**Education 2:** Cluster: Females: 4,676, Males: 4,492. UNICEF: Females: 353, Males: 340. 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. For trainings that took place in September ('change since last report' column), participant figures are being consolidated at time of preparation of this report; full figures will be included in October's report.

**Education 3:** Cluster: Females: 219,304, Males: 270,600. UNICEF: Females: 45,568, Males: 69,688. Enrolment to formal education takes place once per year (data available after verification by MoE). UNICEF is working with the MoE to support enrolment through establishment of schools, providing pre-fabricated classrooms, and opportunities for children to access formal and non-formal learning.

**Child Protection 1:** Sub-cluster: Females: 117,892 Males: 129,080. UNICEF Females: 66,470, Males: 72,012. In relation to funding versus progress in 2018: as the acute emergency phase of the Mosul response concluded, UNICEF began to consolidate partnerships both for geographic coverage and case management capacity. This process took time and resulted in periods of lower activity in 2018 as some partnerships were concluded and new ones were negotiated. An increase in progress is anticipated in the final four months of 2018, supported by the signing of long-awaited project agreements, and more children attending activities during summer holidays.

**Child Protection 2:** Sub-cluster Females: 8,203 Males: 9,809. UNICEF Females: 3,129; Males 4,092. In September ('change since last report column'), a total of 241 children were reached with specialised protection assistance; however, cleaning of past months' data means the UNICEF HPM table shows a lower figure. In relation to funding versus progress in 2018: See CP footnote [1]

**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. In September, ('change since last report column'), a total of 2,032 individuals were reached; however, cleaning of past months' data means the UNICEF HPM table shows a lower figure. In relation to funding versus progress in 2018: In late 2017, UNICEF issued a call for partnerships in GBV service delivery in underserved and hard to reach areas. As part of partnership development, in the first quarter of 2018, UNICEF assessed capacity and coverage of organizations in multiple locations, in coordination with the GBV sub cluster. By the second quarter of 2018, partnerships for GBV were finalized. As of August 2018, new partnerships had come online, with an anticipated increase in outreach of UNICEF-supported GBV services in the remainder of 2018.

**Health 1:** Females: 1,052, Males: 1,010. In certain governorates, mobile community health worker teams (covering new-born/nutrition services among others) were paused earlier in 2018; it was instead planned to establish nutrition teams in IDP camps to do growth monitoring by anthropometric measurement. Due to restricted funds, this has been postponed.

**Health 2:** Females: 14,853 Males: 14,271. In a context of underfunding response strategies were refined to focus on work through government where possible, or on first-line response combined with high-level advocacy to ensure child-focused prioritization – for example, support to one-off vaccination campaigns reaching newly-displaced children rather than longer-term capacity-building work.

**Health 3:** Females: 231,111. Males: 222,048. UNICEF reports only for its targeted governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din, per the HAC 2018. Underreporting into ActivityInfo is being investigated for resolution in the coming month.

**Nutrition 1:** Females: 67,987, Males: 65,321. Indicator counts sessions delivered. In September, ('change since last report column'), a total of 6,881 children were screened; however, correction of underreporting in past months' data means the UNICEF HPM table shows a higher figure

**Nutrition 2:** In September ('change since last report column'), a total of 2,088 pregnant women and new mothers were reached with infant and young child feeding counselling; however, correction of under-reporting in previous months means the UNICEF HPM table shows a higher figure.

**Social Protection 1:** UNICEF: Females: 1,877, Males: 2,025. UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children target of 15,000 children is a two-year target 2018-2019. The target of 9,000 reflected is the 2018 target only. Funding has been limited in 2018 for UNICEF cash assistance for the IDP response, with a 70 per cent funding gap as of end-September. This table reflects Iraqi internally displaced/returnee households. Syrian refugee households are reflected in UNICEF Syrian refugee humanitarian reporting.

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

\*\*Population of 1.2 million children under 5 in need based on estimated population in Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din targeted for polio vaccination campaigns.