



Reporting Period: 1 to 30 September 2021

# Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report

## September 2021

### Highlights

- The fourth wave of COVID-19 continued to surge in Syria. In northwest Syria, over 1,000 cases have been reported each day, with 34,184 cases reported in September alone. Health services are struggling: A 93 per cent occupancy rate was reported in intensive care units along with dwindling supplies such as COVID-19 tests. Northeast Syria also reported surging cases in September, where total cases reported increasing from 1,991 in August to 7,613 in September and deaths from 32 to 244. In response, local authorities have imposed a strict lockdown, which saw all education facilities closed from 25 September to 1 October.
- Schools opened across the country in September. An estimated 2.5 million children are out of school with 1.6 million at risk of dropping out. UNICEF and partners are supporting large-scale provision of supplies and training for the safe reopening of schools during COVID-19. A Back to School campaign is ongoing, targeting 5.5 million children.
- UNICEF requires \$330.8 million to provide lifesaving assistance to 9.1 million people (including 5.5 million children) across Syria according to the [Humanitarian Action for Children](#). \$193,517,385 is currently available, with a \$137,309,190 (42 per cent) gap.

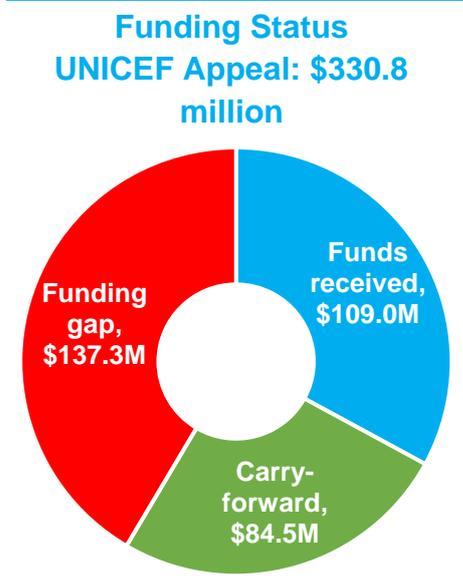
### Situation in Numbers

- 6,080,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance
- 13,400,000** people in need
- 6,700,000** internally displaced persons (IDPs)
- 2,565,766** children in difficult to access areas

(source: OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2021)

### UNICEF's Response and Funding Status

	Health	Polio vaccination	107%
		Funding status	58%
	Nutrition	SAM admissions	76%
		Funding status	57%
	Child Protection	Psychosocial support	43%
		Funding status	56%
	Education	Formal education access	15%
		Funding status	71%
	WASH	Safe water access	50%
		Funding status	64%
	Cash Transfer	Cash transfers	25%
		Funding status	30%
	ADAP	Employability skills	25%
		Funding status	68%
	C4D	Engagement activities	225%
		Funding status	22%



Note: on the C4D Indicator: Targets remain from 2020; an update of the HAC based on the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan is expected for the October sitrep at which point target will no longer be over-reached

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2021, UNICEF requires \$330,826,575 to provide lifesaving assistance to 9.1 million people (including 5.5 million children) across Syria according to the [Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\)](#). Of the total funding requirements, \$193,517,385 is currently available, with a \$137,309,190 (42 per cent) gap. The HAC is currently under revision based on the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, with updated funding requirements and gaps expected in the October situation report. Funding gaps for Social Protection (74 per cent) and Child Protection (74 per cent) remain particularly acute, with critical needs also seen in other sectors. This is expected to compromise the ability of UNICEF to help the most vulnerable children and families cope with the worsening impacts of the socio-economic crisis and high levels of food insecurity, which are expected to be exacerbated by the current drought conditions.

This year, the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States as well as ECHO, the Syria Humanitarian Fund and UNICEF national committees have generously contributed to ongoing UNICEF humanitarian response across Syria. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private partners for this critical support.

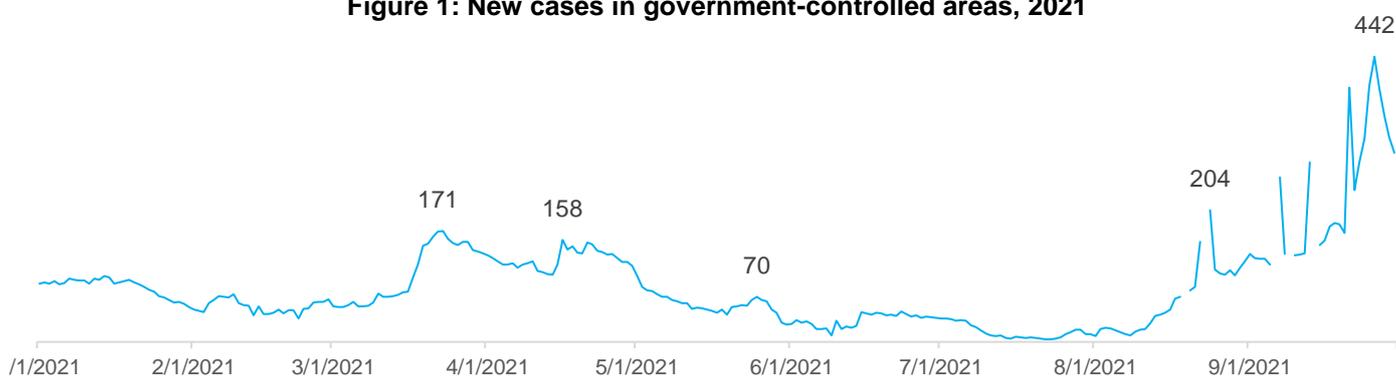
UNICEF continued to lead the Water and Sanitation, Education, Nutrition Sectors/Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Group. Further, UNICEF also co-leads, together with World Vision International, the No Lost Generation Initiative, bringing together 39 UN and NGO partners to advocate for the protection, education and development of Syrian children, adolescents and young people, within the umbrella of the Syria HRP and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP).

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

**COVID-19:** A fourth wave of COVID-19 infections is continuing across Syria. In NW Syria, over 1,000 cases have been reported each day, with 34,184 cases reported in September alone<sup>1</sup>. Health services are struggling: A 93 per cent occupancy rate was reported in intensive care units (ICUs)<sup>2</sup> along with dwindling supplies such as COVID-19 tests. Northeast Syria (NE Syria) also reported surging cases in September, where total cases reported increasing from 1,991 in August to 7,613 in September and deaths from 32 to 244 according to the Kurdish Red Crescent<sup>3</sup>. In response, local authorities have imposed a strict lockdown, which saw all education facilities closed from 25 September to 1 October. Full ICUs were also reported in Damascus in September<sup>4</sup>.

From the start of the pandemic to 18 September, there have been 115,349 COVID-19 cases reported in Syria, including NE and NW Syria. Actual cases likely far exceed the number of confirmed cases due to limited testing in the country.

**Figure 1: New cases in government-controlled areas, 2021**



**Dara'a Al-Balad:** After the ceasefire agreement signed between the government and non-state actors on 9 September, the situation in Dara'a has begun to stabilize. Seventy-seven per cent of the 36,000 people displaced from Dara'a Al-Balad and other areas have returned to their places of origin (as of 21 September).<sup>5</sup> The Humanitarian actors are returning to the area, though explosive hazards remain. The schools in Dara'a City which were in use as IDP shelters have been reopened for the new school year, however, only 8 of the 34 schools in Dara'a Al-Balad are fully functional and a further two partially functional due to damage (see the Education Sector response for more information).

<sup>1</sup> OCHA, [Developments in north-west Syria and Ras Al Ain – Tell Abiad](#), Situation Report No. 31 – September 2021.

<sup>2</sup> OCHA, [Developments in north-west Syria and Ras Al Ain – Tell Abiad](#), Situation Report No. 31 – September 2021.

<sup>3</sup> North Press Agency. Coronavirus infections in northeast Syria doubled in September: Kurdish Red Crescent, 2 October 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Reuters, [Syria sees spike in COVID-19 cases as fears grow of new wave](#), 23 September 2021.

<sup>5</sup> OCHA, Dara'a Sitrep, 7 September 2021

**Alouk Water Station:** Following a 20-day suspension, the electricity supply from Derbesiyah electricity substation resumed to Alouk water station allowing the station to restart on 10 September. By the end of September, 20 of the 30 submersible pumps and 4 of the 12 horizontal pumps were operational and pumping drinking water to Al-Hasakeh City. Alouk provides water to 460,000 people in Al-Hasakeh, including Al-Hasakeh and Tal Tamer Cities as well as 100,000 IDPs in Al-Hol Camp and 17,000 people in collective centres, benefitting indirectly up to one million people, including many of the most vulnerable displaced families living in camps and informal settlements.

As part of contingency measures, UNICEF is installing seven reverse osmosis (RO) units to improve drinking water quality in targeted neighbourhoods of Al-Hasakeh City in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC). The RO units are expected to be completed by the end of the year and three of them will be installed in non-government-controlled areas. Upon completion, it is estimated the ROs will serve 42,000 individuals, if and when Alouk station is offline. Through the Syria Humanitarian Fund, UNICEF has received additional funding to cover the installation of nine additional ROs in Al-Hasakeh City.

Separately, UNICEF in close coordination with the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator's Office, OCHA and International Committee of the Red Crescent (ICRC) continues to advocate for unhindered safe humanitarian and technical access to the water station, and also to the electricity network that supports the station.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health

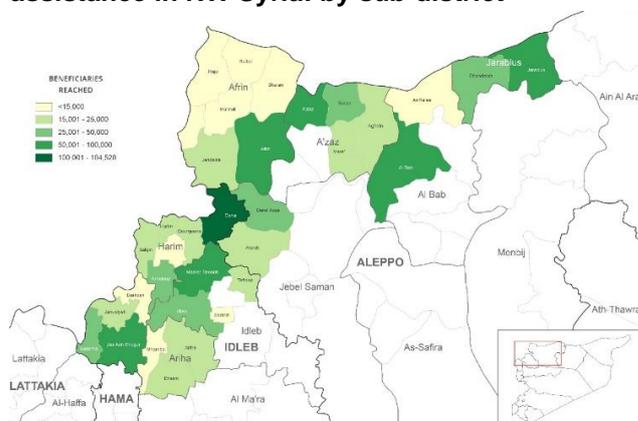
In September 2021, 146,567 free **medical consultations** (60,150 for boys, 61,715 for girls, 393<sup>6</sup> for men and 24,309 for women) were provided by UNICEF implementing partners through fixed centres and mobile teams in 14 governorates. This includes 7,143 consultations in NE Syria (4,266 in Al-Hol Camp) and 26,845 in NW Syria. In 2021, 1,365,145 primary health care outpatient consultations have been provided, 76 per cent of the annual target.

To encourage the uptake of health services, 51,820 caregivers (30,581 women) were reached with **health promotion**, including immunization messages. Of these, 2,603 were in NE Syria (405 in Al-Hol Camp) and 37,798 in NW Syria.

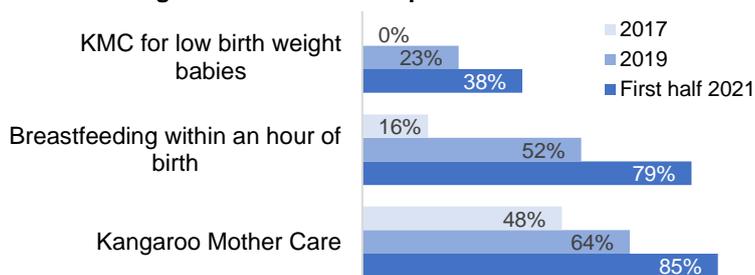
In September, 240 health workers and community volunteers (222 females) were trained on **newborn care**. This includes 100 new community volunteers who will support the neonatal care at home programme in Rural Damascus (including the newly accessible East Ghouta), Tartous, Hama and Aleppo. In September, 1,225 home visits were made to 263 pregnant women and 151 newborns (65 girls) in their villages in 12 governorates, referring two newborns for advanced medical care.

An update on the **Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) indicators** from five participating hospitals<sup>7</sup> covering 2,586 newborns was provided for the first half of 2021 (see Figure 3). UNICEF provided training to health workers in these hospitals and supported the development of this ENAP surveillance system. During the reporting period, 1.5 per cent of newborns needed advanced resuscitation. The prematurity rate was 15.5 per cent (compared to 27 per cent in 2017) while the neonatal mortality rate was 15.4 in 1,000 live births, more than half of them due to prematurity.

**Figure 2: 1,090,874 people reached with health assistance in NW Syria: by sub-district**



**Figure 3: Newborn care practices in ENAP facilities**



<sup>6</sup> Consultations target women and children.

<sup>7</sup> All are public hospitals in Damascus, Hama, Tartous and Lattakia

During September, 40,636 children under 1 (20,361 girls) received their **third dose of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT3) vaccine**, a proxy indicator for a fully vaccinated infant. This includes 9,037 children in NW Syria. UNICEF supports routine immunization through the procurement of vaccines, improvements to the cold chain and social mobilization for vaccination. So far this year 342,832 children, including 85,383 in NW Syria have received their third dose of DPT. This is 57 per cent of the annual target, however, while UNICEF overreached its target in NW Syria<sup>8</sup> only 50 per cent of the target has been reached in the rest of the country. The Ministry of Health is planning a national routine immunization campaign to improve coverage rates. The campaign will run from 24 November to 2 December covering all antigens for children under 5 and targeting 97,819 children believed to have defaulted.

The Ministry of Health, with UNICEF support, launched a **COVID-19 vaccination campaign** using AstraZeneca, Sputnik and Sinopharm vaccines from 5 to 16 September, targeting in coordination with WHO anyone over 18 years of age, reaching 183,084 people. In total, 269,638 people have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and 227,516 are fully vaccinated. In parallel, a COVAX vaccination campaign is in progress in NW Syria. As of 10 October, 138,886 individuals (47,622 females) have been vaccinated in NW Syria, including 17,648 health care workers, 57,576 social workers and 53,523 patients with co-morbidities. Of these, 33,574 individuals have received their second dose. As of 19 September, 2.0 per cent of the country has received at least one dose of the vaccine, and 1.2 per cent are fully vaccinated, against the global target of 10 per cent.

## Nutrition

Ministry of Health **nutrition surveillance** data for 2021 shows that some governorates are reaching serious global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates including 5.4 per cent in Aleppo, 7.9 per cent in Dara'a and 4.5 per cent in Deir-ez-Zor. While the rates for Aleppo and Dara'a are in line with previous years, UNICEF is further investigating the situation in Deir-ez-Zor. Additionally, UNICEF is planning a SMART survey in 2022.

UNICEF, in close coordination with the government and partnership with non-government organizations, supports the provision of lifesaving preventive and curative nutrition services, with a particular focus on areas hosting IDPs and remote, underserved rural areas. Through these efforts, 2,661 children (1,555 girls) with severe acute malnutrition (**SAM**) were admitted for treatment in September, including 1,010 children in NW Syria. This brings the total to 10,276 children admitted in 2021.

A SMART Survey undertaken in June 2021 in NW Syria showed a GAM rate of 4.7 per cent, including a SAM rate of 1.8 per cent. This is up from a GAM rate of 0.9 per cent in the 2019 SMART Survey in NW Syria. Chronic undernutrition rates were also high at 24.5 per cent, up from 19.4 per cent in 2019. One of the main drivers of increased malnutrition is the devaluation of the Syrian Pound which impacts on household's ability to purchase nutritious foods to meet the demands of pregnancy, lactation and child growth. In response, UNICEF is ensuring the available of nutrition treatment supplies to cover a potentially increased caseload.

During the reporting period, 88,832 children and pregnant and lactating women (13,637 boys, 13,583 girls and 61,612 women) received **micronutrient supplements**, for a total of 678,713 (121,911 boys, 123,968 girls and 432,834 mothers) this year. Intensive efforts are ongoing to fill the reporting and supply gaps after delays in receiving the micronutrients in country in the first half of the year. Finally, 208,839 caregivers and pregnant and lactating women received skilled counselling for optimal infant and young child feeding, including 3,928 in NE Syria and 118,293 in NW Syria.

## Nutrition Sector

From January to August 2021, the Nutrition Sector reached 1,621,481 beneficiaries (822,727 pregnant and lactating women, 47,269 men, 382,060 girls and 369,426 boys) with lifesaving nutrition services. This includes 240,150 people (82,447 women, 76 men, 83,688 girls and 73,939 boys) reached in August. Of these, 2,324 children under 5 (1,353 girls) identified with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 846 (491 girls) with SAM were admitted for treatment. Sector partners also identified and treated 959 women with MAM while 32,547 caregivers (32,471 women) received IYCF messages and counselling.

From 1 to 10 September, UNICEF and sector partners Al-Birr and the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA), along with the Directorate of Health (DOH) provided nutrition services to IDPs in the host community and collective shelters in Dara'a City. Starting on 11 September, nutrition services resumed in Dara'a Al-Balad, the area most affected by recent fighting. Throughout the month, 3,660 beneficiaries were supported with nutrition services and supplies in Dara'a. A

<sup>8</sup> Over-reach due, in part, to IDP movements and insufficiently reliable population data. However, significant and ongoing social mobilization efforts have also supported increased vaccination rates.

nine per cent MAM rate was recorded among pregnant and lactating women in Dara'a; the rate is being closely monitored through regular visits and nutrition supplies are being provided to those identified with MAM.

Half of accessible communities and camps in NW Syria were reached by 31 Nutrition Cluster partners between January and August 2021, most through rapid response teams (RRTs). There are 166 RRTs operating 81 outpatient therapeutic programmes (OTPs) and 47 targeted supplementary feeding programmes. To date, 4,384 children (2,560 girls) have been treated for SAM through Cluster partner OTPs and a further 1,155 children (612 girls) with SAM and complications through stabilization centres. Additionally, 11,969 children (7,335 girls) and 9,812 pregnant and lactating women have been treated for MAM. Micronutrient supplementation has reached 84,926 children (43,054 girls) and 223,000 pregnant and lactating women.

## Child Protection

September marked the start of the 2021 school year and UNICEF's implementing partners organized open days with entertainment activities such as theatre, dancing and games to welcome children and inform families on school enrolment procedures. This was an opportunity to reach families with psychosocial support, child protection awareness and **explosive ordnance risk education (EORE)**. In September, UNICEF in partnership with governmental and non-governmental partners provided lifesaving messages and face-to-face EORE sessions to 103,667 children (57,847 girls) and 29,880 caregivers (17,085 women), including 6,479 children and 1,606 caregivers in NW Syria. This brings the total for 2021 to 660,255 children (345,357 girls) and 139,428 caregivers (81,565 women) in 14 governorates. Partners reported 16 unexploded ordnance victims<sup>9</sup> in September, reinforcing the urgency of EORE. Due to the new explosive ordnance contamination in Dara'a Al-Balad, implementing partners provided face-to-face EORE sessions to 204 children (119 girls) and 36 caregivers.



**UNICEF/2021/Dima Al Shaar, Children participating in an EORE in Kafritza, Hama Governorate, which is highly contaminated with unexploded ordnance.**

In September, 15,698 children (7,889 girls) including 4,331 in NE Syria and 1,864 in NW Syria were reached with structured and sustained **child protection and psychosocial support services** to help children cope with stress and regain a sense of balance and normalcy, bringing the total number of children reached since the beginning of the year to 179,770 (92,121 girls). The new mental health and psychosocial support manual is still to be adopted and the training of trainers on the new manual is expected to start in October.

**Gender-based violence (GBV) awareness-raising** was provided through door-to-door campaigns in September to 18,652 children (10,027 girls) and 6,259 caregivers (4,259 women). This includes 10,731 children and 4,489 caregivers from NE Syria, as well as 1,619 affected population in NW Syria (268 boys, 609 girls, 624 women and 118 men). In NW Syria, 482 child protection frontline responders (205 women) were trained on child protection, risk education and GBV.

**Parenting programmes** were provided to 5,607 parents and primary caregivers (4,320 females), including 2,144 from NE Syria and 638 in NW Syria. These programmes enhance the skills and knowledge required to care for and protect children; 32,757 parents and caregivers (27,669 females) have participated this year. In September, UNICEF supported the development of a positive parenting manual and a parenting programme for the age group 10-18 years based on international best practices, scientific findings and the Violence against Children Framework, within the Syrian context.

**Case management** workshops for UNICEF implementing partners and service providers from Al Tal and Duma were conducted to prepare for the case management pilot project which will be launched in October 2021. The pilot aims to establish a formal case management system in the country in coordination with MOSAL. Referrals were provided to 1,699 children (791 girls) in all 14 governorates, bringing the total since the beginning of the year to 9,360 children. In NW Syria, child protection and GBV case management services were provided to 271 children (119 girls).

New lockdowns tied to the surge of COVID-19 cases in NE Syria increased the need for child protection support to help families cope with the additional stressors. In response, more children and caregivers (2,260) affected by COVID-19 were reached with child protection services compared to the previous month (425).

<sup>9</sup> Six victims including three children (two killed and one injured) were reported in rural Deir-ez-Zor and 10 victims including 7 children (4 killed and 3 injured) were reported in Palmyra in eastern rural Homs and Shriaa Subdistrict in north-eastern rural Hama.

UNICEF and partners continued to provide 24/7 caregiving services in the interim care centre (ICC) in **Al-Hol Camp** to 66 unaccompanied and separated children (23 girls). In September, partners started a series of consultative meetings between children and staff to improve the management of the ICCs, including discussion on the services provided and on staff capacity. As one outcome from the meetings, for improved security, a new ICC is being established in phase 1 of Al-Hol Camp to accommodate girls and young boys while a new location has been approved to accommodate older boys, in coordination with UNHCR and the Camp Administration.

In Deir-Ez-Zor, 16 Child Protection workers (8 women) and 3 police officers (all men) were trained on communication with adolescents and **child-friendly justice** while 38 children (three girls) in detention were reached with psychosocial support and awareness sessions on the Syrian law. In September, case managers succeeded in releasing 10 children from prison. Case managers are closely following up on these children. In Aleppo and Tartous, September marked the end of the joint ILO-UNICEF programme 'Supporting Children's Rights through Education and the Arts and the Media' (SCREAM), aimed at promoting social awareness on **child labour**. The programme benefitted 2,323 children (1,548 girls) with 119 children (19 girls) involved in child labour receiving case management (all cases closed). In Lattakia, UNICEF partners provided psychosocial support for **children with visual impairments**. To ensure proper quality services for children with disabilities and strengthening their integration to other services, UNICEF trained 28 service providers (21 female) on educational, social and personal skills for children with disabilities and their integration.

A pilot **feedback mechanism** is now well established in the nine child protection centres in Aleppo. In September partners collected 30 pieces of feedback, including requests for specific supplies such as lice shampoo and football and art equipment; support for adolescent girls' education; and the installation of water pumps. UNICEF implementing partners have addressed these requests where possible, including the provision of supplies, while a formal request was made to the Directorate of Education to establish a school for girls.

#### **Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AOR)**

In August, 120,316 individuals (53,069 girls, 47,152 boys, 16,594 women and 3,501 men) were newly reached by Child Protection AOR partners, including with psychosocial support and parenting programmes. These services were provided in 286 communities in 142 sub-districts. A two-day online training was conducted in coordination with Protection Sector and other Protection AORs for 80 Information Management Officers (IMOs) on the new reporting template and protection reporting guidance by the Global Child Protection AOR information management team.

In NW Syria, 460 staff of non-Child Protection partners were trained on Child Protection referrals in key locations. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) for Child Protection Outcomes Guidance and other preparations are ongoing by the CVA in Children Protection Task Force. The AOR coordination team with the support of the Child Protection Monitoring Working Group and extensive web of collaborators in the field has continued to monitor key Child Protection concerns in NW Syria. Outcomes of ongoing child protection monitoring can be viewed [here](#).

#### **Education**

Schools across the country reopened for the academic year 2021-2022 on 5 September 2021. In coordination with the Ministry of Education and in collaboration with WHO and UNESCO, UNICEF supported the update of the **School Reopening Framework**. In response to a key recommendation that cleaning and disinfection are integral to reducing COVID-19 transmission among teachers and students, UNICEF provided 678,713 litres of chlorine and 1,220 backpack sprayers to 11,034 schools in Syria. In addition, UNICEF is supporting the training of 1,050 School Health Supervisors on safety procedures to ensure a safe learning environment.

Supported by UNICEF, the Ministry of Education also launched a national **back to school campaign** to encourage children to return to classrooms while practicing safe behaviours to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The campaign also aims to reach those families and children whose education has been disrupted by the pandemic, encouraging them to prioritize learning despite the challenges. UNICEF anticipates that 5,517,000 children will benefit.

In September, UNICEF supported 28,411 children (14,539 girls) **with educational services and supplies in formal settings**, including 14,035 in NW Syria, for a total of 229,525 children (115,084 girls). UNICEF also supported remedial classes for 4,594 Curriculum B students (2,241 girls) in formal settings. The support included school bags, stationery, school-in-carton kits and recreational kits, as well as cleaning materials to ensure COVID-19 protocols are observed.

**In non-formal education (NFE) settings**, 46,948 (22,181 females) received educational services including 32,280 in NW Syria. Cumulatively in 2021, UNICEF has supported 599,001 children (306,415 females with NFE). Of these children, 283 (170 girls) have transitioned to formal education through the Self-Learning Programme (SLP) in 2021. In addition,

2,303 children (1,123 girls) who are at risk of dropping out were supported to stay in school through remedial classes. Of the total children reached in both formal and non-formal settings this year, 6,632 were **children with disabilities**.

From 25 September to 1 October, a complete lockdown in parts of NE Syria to limit the spread of COVID-19 saw the closure of all schools and NFE centres. NFE centres operated by UNICEF partners are attended by 8,000 students; UNICEF partners are closely monitoring the situation to find alternative modalities to reach children in case lockdown is extended. Alternative modalities include the distribution of self-learning materials, remote learning via Whatsapp groups and individual classes in family tents using mobile teachers from the camps.

During September, UNICEF conducted a series of workshops with the Directorate of Planning and National Center for Curriculum Development (NCCD) to provide technical support for the Curriculum B revision as well as the development of Curriculum B and Self-Learning Materials standards and performance indicators. The workshops provided an opportunity to compile lessons learned from the Curriculum B review to inform the Self-Learning Materials specifications and requirements for the digitization of both **Curriculum B and Self-Learning Materials**.

The **Child-Level Monitoring System (CMS)** was launched in nine governorates, covering 103 schools. Two trainees attended from each school, with a total of 206 staff trained on registration mechanisms and online/offline CMS usage. The Curriculum B-CMS tools will provide accurate enrolment, attendance and learning progress data for students.

In Ar-Raqqa, rehabilitation was completed on the **early childhood education (ECE)** centre in Mahmoudli Camp. The centre will provide NFE for 400 children in the camp. In addition, UNICEF supported a five-day training to enhance the capacity of the nine ECE teachers from the centre. The training included ECE strategies, learning by playing and effective use of UNICEF-standard ECE kits.



**©UNICEF/2021 ECE centre in Mahmoudli Camp completed in September**

In Al-Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa, UNICEF installed 28 prefabricated classrooms in school yards and public spaces benefitting 4,500 students. In addition, UNICEF provided school-in-a-carton, recreation and hygiene kits along with other essential learning materials. So far this year, UNICEF has **rehabilitated** 42 schools, 25 ECE centres and 69 prefabricated classrooms supporting 21,689 students (10,784 girls). In NW Syria, UNICEF established temporary learning spaces in non-formal settings for 6,670 children (3,230 girls) during the reporting period.

To keep schools and temporary learning spaces functioning in NW Syria, and prevent teachers leaving to find alternative employment, 1,245 teachers (404 females) were provided with incentives. Additionally, 598 teachers and education personnel (231 female) were trained on psychosocial support and referral mechanisms while 13,340 (6,460 female) children and youth (5 to 24 years) participated in life skills and citizenship education programmes in formal and non-formal settings.

### **Education Sector Response**

During August 2021, the Education Sector reached 114,761 new beneficiaries, for a total of 1,393,848 (47 per cent of the annual target) this year, including 801,059 children supported in formal settings and 592,789 through NFE. Additionally, 395,452 children have benefitted from school feeding programmes and 791 classrooms have been rehabilitated, through which 36,824 students benefitted.

**COVID-19 cases** have been rising rapidly with 661 positive cases (770 teachers, 109 students) reporting from 5 to 30 September 2021, including in Lattakia (183), Homs (160), Damascus (149) and Rural Damascus (82). The Education Sector, together with its Safe School Task Force members, has coordinated with the Ministry of Education to identify gaps to in the Health Protocol to mitigate infection risks within schools. The gaps include the production and distribution of face masks to teachers and students; training of 1,000 health leaders and 13,000 health supervisors on the revised Health Protocol; hygiene and sanitation supplies; and WASH facility rehabilitation.

Within a week of the national school reopening, all five schools which were being used as IDP shelters were evacuated and all IDPs returned to **Dara'a Al-Balad**. The schools were provided with basic maintenance by ICRC to be able to receive children. Schools in Dara'a Al-Balad are only partially operational due to damage, debris and a lack of equipment and water as well as shortage of teachers. A list of schools assessed for priority needs was shared with partners by the Sub-national Education Sector to further assess and support their respective needs. UNICEF was rehabilitating five schools in Dara'a prior to clashes; two of them are under re-assessment due to the severe damage during the fighting, while work has continued in the remaining three.

In **NW Syria**, UNICEF continues to provide technical support to the Education Cluster and facilitate the coordination of more than 100 cluster members. This year, cluster partners have rehabilitated 107 schools in camps and 211 schools outside of camps, providing safe access for 107,444 students. The new academic year started with a one week delay due to increased COVID-19 cases. After a week of in-class attendance, learning shifted to online and remote modalities (self-learning booklets/exercise sheets) for two weeks. This was a major disruption to learning: it is estimated that at least half of the children do not have tablets, phones or internet to access online learning. The Education Cluster prepared a COVID-19 tracker to allow cluster members to track COVID-19 cases in supported schools. In September, the Education Cluster released [an advocacy video](#) in collaboration with OCHA. As winter is approaching a winterization and flood response plan was prepared, with a \$14 million funding gap for winterization activities (including heating and rehabilitation).

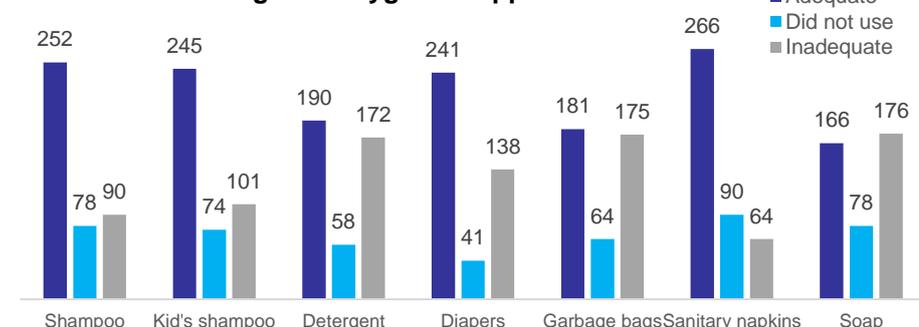
## WASH

Syria is currently witnessing its worst electricity shortages since the beginning of the crisis. Most rural areas receive only two hours of power a day. This lack of electricity is a critical bottleneck for the WASH Sector, limiting the existing water network from effectively distributing available water. Components of the water systems which use generators are constrained by a parallel shortage of diesel (and its high cost when available). UNICEF is increasingly installing **solar systems** on water infrastructure that it has previously rehabilitated to ensure its continued functioning. UNICEF completed the integration of 14 wells with solar systems project in Dara'a Governorate, benefiting 61,850 people (13,802 boys, 14,595 girls, 16,031 men and 17,422 women) with a sustainable source of water. This brings the total to 20 wells integrated with solar systems so far this year. In addition, UNICEF repaired pumps and provided spare parts in nine locations in Idleb Governorate benefiting 39,000 people (10,213 boys, 9,418 girls, 9,135 men and 10,234 women). So far this year, UNICEF supported **new access to safe water** for 1,793,517 people (467,671 boys, 452,295 girls, 425,560 men and 447,991 women) out of a target of 4,140,000.

In terms of **sanitation**, UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of a sewerage system in Deir-ez-Zor City, improving access to safe sanitation for 25,000 people (7,800 boys, 7,200 girls, 5,200 men and 4,800 women). So far this year, 1,027,583 people (283,910 boys, 273,570 girls, 224,973 men and 245,130 women) have benefitted from improved sanitation.

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided **emergency lifesaving WASH services** for 726,720 people (191,827 boys, 196,757 girls, 158,912 men and 179,224 women) including water trucking for 223,699 IDPs (51,726 boys, 49,798 girls, 57,392 men and 64,783 women) in IDP camps and collective shelters in NE Syria and rural Aleppo as well as returnees in Rural Damascus. An additional 420,634 people (277,528 female) were reached with emergency lifesaving WASH services in NW Syria.

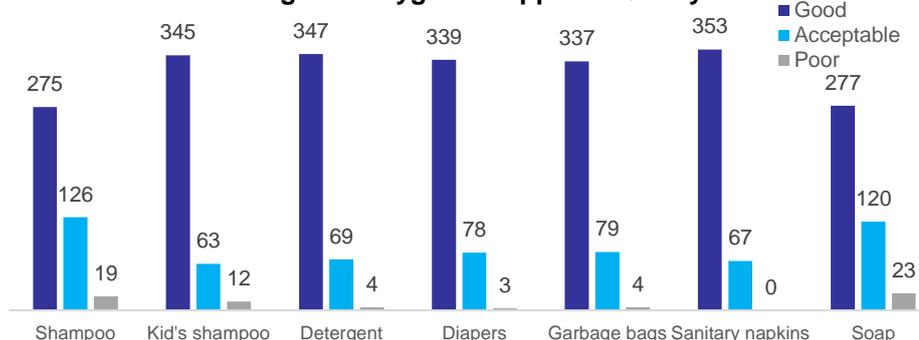
**Figure 4: Hygiene supplies: Quantities**



UNICEF conducted a **post distribution monitoring exercise** of family hygiene kits in Al-Hol Camp to ensure that their recipients are satisfied with the quantity and quality of the supplies. In total, 420 heads of household (87 per cent female, noting that Al-Hol is 81 per cent female) participated in the survey. In terms of the quality of the supplies, 94 per cent of the participants were satisfied. Fifty-seven per cent of participants requested increased quantities of supplies, especially soap, garbage bags and washing powder.

a

**Figure 5: Hygiene supplies: Quality**



As result of this survey, UNICEF is planning to increase the quantities of soap, garbage bags and washing powder provided in the next new long-term agreements with the suppliers.

In terms of **WASH in schools**, UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of WASH facilities in 16 schools in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous and Hama Governorates, improving access for 7,666 students (3,467 girls) to gender-responsive and child-friendly WASH facilities that also address the special needs of children with disabilities. With the start of the new school year, UNICEF provided 19 schools in Rural Damascus with water trucking, reaching 8,775 school children (5,163 girls) with safe drinking water. UNICEF has supported 143 schools so far this year out of a target of 253.

The lack of local production or importation of sodium hypochlorite in Syria poses major risks for the availability of safe water. UNICEF secures the majority of the local requirements for sodium hypochlorite to **disinfect** all water systems in the country, ensuring the provision of safe drinking water to around 13.6 million people across Syria. Twelve per cent of requirements are now being produced within the country through UNICEF-supported factories.

In **NW Syria**, IDPs have reported to UNICEF Third Party Monitors that the services they are receiving are critical: if UNICEF implementing partners were not providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene kits they would not be available. Eighty-four per cent of beneficiaries of the WASH CVA pilot were satisfied with the project and those who benefitted from rehabilitated water networks gave the services a score of 4.1 out of 5.

### **WASH Sector Response**

Five activities have been prioritized for the **Water Crisis in Northern and Northeast Syria** Immediate Response and Funding Requirements (September 2021). With the available funds, sector partners (including Première Urgence Internationale, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO) are progressing with priority activities. Funding is currently available for 51 of the 98 water stations targeted for retrofitting/rehabilitation; One of the five water tanker filling stations in need of maintenance; and the provision of chlorine for all 78 water tanker filling stations. No funding is available to improve the 60 affected health centres and 484 education facilities. To enable the WASH Sector to implement priority interventions for 2.3 million people, \$13,977,000 is required. Only \$2,875,000 is currently available (largely through reprogramming and re-prioritization of available funds with sector partners).

In August 2021, the WASH Sector reached 960,811 beneficiaries, including 256,353 men, 283,129 women, 189,963 girls and 231,366 boys. The Sector reached 55 out of 63 districts and 167 out of 270 sub-districts. In terms of supporting water and sanitation systems, the Sector reached 556,505 people, including 284,048 through rehabilitating water systems and 90,209 were reached with improved access sanitation services. Additionally, 102,407 people received WASH supplies and 337,549 people accessed water through services such as water trucking. In collaboration with **Accountability to Affected Population Task Force**, two rounds of training were conducted in August 2021, reaching 35 staff (10 female) from 14 partners. This training will equip participants with skills and tools for facilitation and community engagement across programme cycle (including on complaints and feedback mechanisms).

During the reporting month, in **NW Syria**, the WASH Cluster put in place mitigation measures against the expected adverse effects of the winter and flood seasons. These interventions, targeting 250,000 people, include solid waste management; fitting bathrooms with solar heating systems; disposal of blackwater; desludging of septic tanks; and identification of dumping sites for sludge, away from inhabited areas. The WASH Cluster in agreement with the Shelter Cluster and Syria Cross Border Fund will address the issues of gravelling of roads and construction of proper drainage to safeguard infrastructure and make roads passable to deliver humanitarian aid. This will benefit at least 250,000 people in 104 camps in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates. This will further enhance the health of the beneficiaries by preventing the outbreak of water borne diseases and controlling the spread of COVID-19.

### **Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP)**

UNICEF through its implementing partners and adolescent friendly spaces reached 40,728 marginalized young people (21,274 female) including 312 with disabilities (165 female) in 13 governorates. Out of the total reach for September, 11,545 young people (4,535 female), including 65 (24 females) from NE Syria, participated in **skills development** activities including in electrical device maintenance, food preparation, AutoCAD and accounting.

Fifty-eight Life Skills service providers (43 females) in NE Syria participated in a training of trainers (TOT) to develop their knowledge and understanding of the programme. The TOT is targeting 78 service providers in total who will roll out sessions to 14,400 adolescents and youth. The aim of the life skills sessions is to improve the resilience of adolescents and young people and provide them with communication, critical thinking, negotiation and employability skills. During the last week of September, a full lockdown took place on schools and transportation in NE Syria, temporarily postponing the trainings which have now been completed.

To increase **social cohesion and civic and digital engagement**, 6,360 young people (3,053 female) were supported to design, lead and implement their own initiatives. Sports for development activities also continued, with 1,429 youth

(747 female) including IDPs and young people with disabilities encouraged to participate in friendly sessions of football, chess, ping pong, Zumba and swimming along with youth clubs and cultural activities. Through these activities, adolescents develop a better understanding of teamwork and learn the importance of a healthy lifestyle.



### TEDxYouth HananoSt

A group of 25 adolescents and youth (16 females) from Tartous City organized a youth-led initiative event “TEDxYouth HananoSt” under the slogan “Spark the Change”.

The idea came from one of the participating young people, who applied for a Global TEDx Initiative “Ideas Worth Spreading” license. The licenced event included speeches by nine young speakers, who were chosen based on the ideas they wanted to share. The speakers were then trained on public speaking. The nine speeches were powerful and inspiring, covering topics such as art, digital nomads, problem solving, positivity and the inclusion of people with disabilities. The event was held on 20 September, attended by 100 people, 80 of whom were adolescents and youth.

In NE Syria, 75 young people (50 female) **volunteered to support life skills service providers** with an information campaign on life skills new sessions targeting their peers in the local community. The campaign reached 591 adolescents and young people (382 females) who are now aware of the centre locations, types of activities and schedule of services.

### Social Protection and Cash Transfers

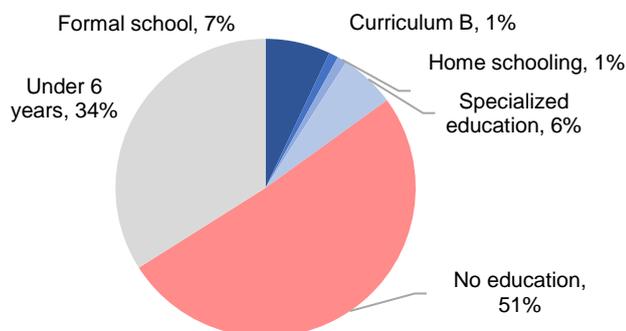
UNICEF continued to implement the **Integrated Social Protection Programme for Children with Disabilities** to address the economic and social vulnerabilities of children with disabilities and their families. It combines regular and unconditional cash transfers with case management services to facilitate the referral of children with disabilities to available social services and increase their social inclusion.

During September, 1,812 children with disabilities (767 girls) were reached with cash transfers and case management services in Aleppo, Homs, Al-Hasakeh and Rural Damascus. Among them, 1,089 (442 girls) were reached for the first time, all in Aleppo. This brings the total number of children reached since in 2021 to 10,886 (4,463 girls) in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Al-Hasakeh and Rural Damascus Governorates.

Of the newly reached children, 720 (66 per cent) are school-aged (6 years and above). Among school-aged participants, only 23 per cent are receiving some form of education: 11 per cent are attending formal school; 1.5 per cent are attending Curriculum B and 1.5 per cent receive home schooling while 9 per cent receive specialized education. Through the work of the case managers, the programme will aim to increase access to education for participating children.

UNICEF continued to activate partnerships to expand the implementation of the **Cash for Basic Needs Support** programme, with the aim to provide a one-off unconditional cash transfer to 42,000 families with children in urban and peri-urban areas in four governorates in the last quarter of the year. Similarly, UNICEF has continued to prepare for the winter response by closely following up with suppliers on the delivery of 71,164 **winter clothing kits**. UNICEF is planning to distribute 98,361<sup>10</sup> kits to children 0 to 14 years in IDP camps and collective shelters in eight governorates. All efforts are being made to ensure that the clothes reach children prior to the start of the 2021-2022 winter season. UNICEF does not expect to meet its targets for cash for basic needs or winter support in 2021, with a critical funding gap of 70 per cent for Social Protection and Cash Transfers along with volatile economic circumstances in the country.

**Figure 6: Education status of children with disabilities newly receiving integrated cash and case management**



<sup>10</sup> 27,197 kits are carried over from the previous year.

## Communication for Development (C4D), Community Engagement and Accountability for Affected Populations (AAP)

For others, there is a need to clarify how preventative behaviours can reduce their risk. UNICEF Syria continued to lead the COVID-19 RCCE Pillar together with other UN agencies and enables partners to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, playing a critical role in planning, implementing, monitoring and assessing COVID-19 prevention and response interventions with aim to reach over 13 million people in Syria.

UNICEF has **equipped 506 health educators** with the knowledge and skills to create demand for COVID-19 vaccines through interpersonal communication, while 280 volunteers (154 female) in Al-Hasakeh, 149 in Ar-Raqqa and 36 (20 female) in Homs<sup>11</sup> were empowered with community mobilization skills to educate and engage community members on COVID-19 sensitive and specific behaviours.

In September, teams of health C4D educators from CSOs and NGOs supported Directorates of Health to reach 48,784 community members (18,824 female) through **community engagement** activities, including community dialogues, edutainment and open days. A **mass media and social media campaign** was also ongoing, creating demand among 74,449 people who registered for the COVID-19 vaccine on the online platform.

So far this year, messaging on prevention and access to services has reached 10,610,597 people (2,591,778 boys, 2,590,924 girls, 2,702,745 men and 2,725,150 women) while 2,184,587 people (190,757 boys, 217,098 girls, 1,022,531 men and 820,657 women) have been engaged through RCCE actions.



*Joint coordination visit of UNICEF and WHO to a COVID-19 vaccination awareness session ©UNICEF/2021*

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

During the reporting period, UNICEF Syria highlighted its support to children's education in [Aleppo](#) through the 'Curriculum B' accelerated learning programme and [Supportive Learning](#) at UNICEF-supported learning centres and [home-based learning points](#). UNICEF also published a photo essay about its self-learning interventions in [Hama](#), and a photo album about remedial classes in [Dara'a](#), provided to children displaced by the recent escalations in violence.

With a [video](#) and [photos](#), UNICEF documented the rehabilitation of sedimentation tanks in a key water plant in Aleppo, helping provide people with access to safe drinking water. Also in Aleppo, UNICEF highlighted with photos its [mobile teams](#) interventions reaching children with various services in remote rural locations and published an album about [youth building their skills in the hospitality sector](#) with help from UNICEF.

To help combat misconceptions about the COVID-19 vaccine in Syria, SCO underlined its Risk Communication and Community Engagement Campaign with a photo album from [rural Ar-Raqqa](#). A UNICEF staff from Aleppo also wrote a [blog](#) about his personal experience with COVID-19 and why vaccines matter. UNICEF also published a story underlining its [parental care programme](#) helping families and children in rural Damascus.

<sup>11</sup> Not all gender disaggregation is available.

## Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall Needs	UNICEF and IPs response			Sector response		
		2021 target <sup>12</sup>	Total results	Change since last report	2021 target	Total results <sup>13</sup>	Change since last report
<b>Health</b>							
# of children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio	12.4M	3,200,000	3,415,489 <sup>14</sup>	0			
# of children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities		1,800,000	1,365,145	146,567			
# of health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control		1,000	793	42			
<b>Nutrition</b>							
# of children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	4.9M	13,500	10,276	2,661	17,447	9,717	1,837
# of primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling		1,450,000	976,514 <sup>15</sup>	208,839	915,063	1,195,872	170,970
# of children and pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients		960,000	678,713 <sup>16</sup>	88,832	2,563,000	627,595	72,523
<b>Child Protection, GBVIE &amp; PESA</b>							
# of children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	5.9M	415,000	179,770 <sup>17</sup>	15,698	880,000	587,489	133,987
# of women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions		120,500	124,072 <sup>18</sup>	22,879			
# of children and caregivers <sup>19</sup> accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions		2,380,000	799,683 <sup>20</sup>	133,547			
<b>Education</b>							
# of children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings	6.9M	1,750,000	264,210 <sup>21</sup>	28,411	3,300,000	1,460,313	105,082
# of children in non-formal education benefiting from education services		400,000	599,001 <sup>22</sup>	46,948	1,256,530	703,569	59,838

<sup>12</sup> Targets remain from 2020; an update of the HAC based on the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan is expected for the October sitrep.

<sup>13</sup> Sector results reflect August data.

<sup>14</sup> Over-reach due, in part, to an underestimation of the target and possible inclusion errors due to a lack of civil registration and regular population shifts.

<sup>15</sup> UNICEF has a 43 per cent funding gap for Nutrition in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved.

<sup>16</sup> UNICEF has a 43 per cent funding gap for Nutrition in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved. Additionally, stock shortages constrained the provision of micronutrients throughout the year, as reported above.

<sup>17</sup> UNICEF has a 44 per cent funding gap for Child Protection in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved.

<sup>18</sup> Over-achievement due to several factors including lockdowns increasing the stressors on families creating a greater need for a GBV response; UNICEF partners in Aleppo working with girls previously married to ISIL fighters; and the need to services among new returnees in Homs.

<sup>19</sup> Caregivers has been added to the indicator language. The target and results are based on children and caregivers.

<sup>20</sup> UNICEF has a 44 per cent funding gap for Child Protection in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved.

<sup>21</sup> UNICEF has a 29 per cent funding gap for Education in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved

<sup>22</sup> The significant over-reach is due to Self-Learning Materials that were purchased late in 2020 and distributed in mid-2021.

# of teachers and education personnel trained		44,000	14,787 <sup>23</sup>	1,556	76,524	21,054	5,729
<b>Water, Sanitation &amp; Hygiene</b>							
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	12.2M	4,140,000	2,073,517 <sup>24</sup>	380,850	8,000,000	3,294,922	157,650
# of people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes		550,000	501,297	33,965	5,500,000	1,812,581	42,517
# of people have improved access to sanitation services		1,360,000	1,027,583	25,000	4,000,000	1,687,005	119,921
<b>Social Protection &amp; Cash Transfers</b>							
# of households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors		86,000	21,174 <sup>25</sup>	0 <sup>26</sup>			
# of girls and boys protected from extreme weather through the provision of non-food items		490,000	84,525 <sup>27</sup>	0			
<b>Adolescents &amp; Youth</b>							
# of adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years promoting social cohesion and civic engagement at the community level		200,000	206,489 <sup>28</sup>	7,789			
# of affected adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills		300,000	75,052 <sup>29</sup>	11,545			
<b>C4D, Community Engagement &amp; AAP</b>							
# of people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change		1,002,500	2,259,091 <sup>30</sup>	68,381			

<sup>23</sup> Teacher training activities remain critically under-funded.

<sup>24</sup> UNICEF has a 36 per cent funding gap for WASH in 2021; as such, targets for 2021 are unlikely to be achieved.

<sup>25</sup> UNICEF does not expect to meet its targets for cash for basic needs in 2021, with a critical funding gap of 70 per cent for Social Protection and Cash Transfers along with volatile economic circumstances in the country.

<sup>26</sup> No new results recorded as partnerships and contracts are being put in place for the next rounds of cash distribution.

<sup>27</sup> UNICEF does not expect to meet its targets for winter clothing distribution in 2021, with a critical funding gap of 70 per cent for Social Protection and Cash Transfers along with volatile economic circumstances in the country.

<sup>28</sup> Target over-reached due to high levels of demand from adolescents and youth, as well as mainstreaming adolescent and youth support in social mobilization supporting other UNICEF programming. Cost per adolescent/youth is fairly low, allowing increased flexibility.

<sup>29</sup> Programming faces underfunding and delayed approvals.

<sup>30</sup> Targets remain from 2020; an update of the HAC based on the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan is expected for the October sitrep at which point target will no longer be over-reached.

## Annex B

### Funding Status

Section	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Health	\$38,819,971	\$15,952,837	\$6,684,967	\$16,182,168	42%
Nutrition	\$23,920,391	\$9,657,122	\$4,000,537	\$10,262,732	43%
Child Protection, GBViE & PSEA	\$34,221,760	\$8,833,917	\$10,252,488	\$15,135,355	44%
Education	\$74,666,581	\$28,849,778	\$24,028,514	\$21,788,291	29%
WASH	\$98,314,219	\$36,612,333	\$25,921,629	\$35,780,256	36%
Social Protection & Cash Transfers	\$48,850,736	\$5,872,596	\$8,936,998	\$34,041,142	70%
Adolescents & Youth	\$10,912,957	\$2,773,970	\$4,653,181	\$3,485,807	32%
C4D, Community Engagement & AAP	\$1,119,960	\$247,394	-	\$872,566	78%
Being allocated		\$239,125			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$330,826,575</b>	<b>\$109,039,071</b>	<b>\$84,478,314</b>	<b>\$137,548,317</b>	<b>42%</b>

\*Funding for COVAX demand generation has been made available as part of health, and C4D funds have also been integrated into relevant sector funds.

Next SitRep: 20 October 2021

UNICEF Syria Crisis: <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/syrian-crisis>

UNICEF Syria Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/>

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