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Zainab receives a UNICEF stationery kit at Satea Alhusari Accommodation Centre in Deir-ez-Zor.

Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report


August 2020



Situation in Numbers

 **4,700,000**
children in need of humanitarian assistance

 **11,000,000**
people in need

 **6,183,919**
Internally displaced people (IDPs)

 **490,000**
Children in need in hard-to-reach areas

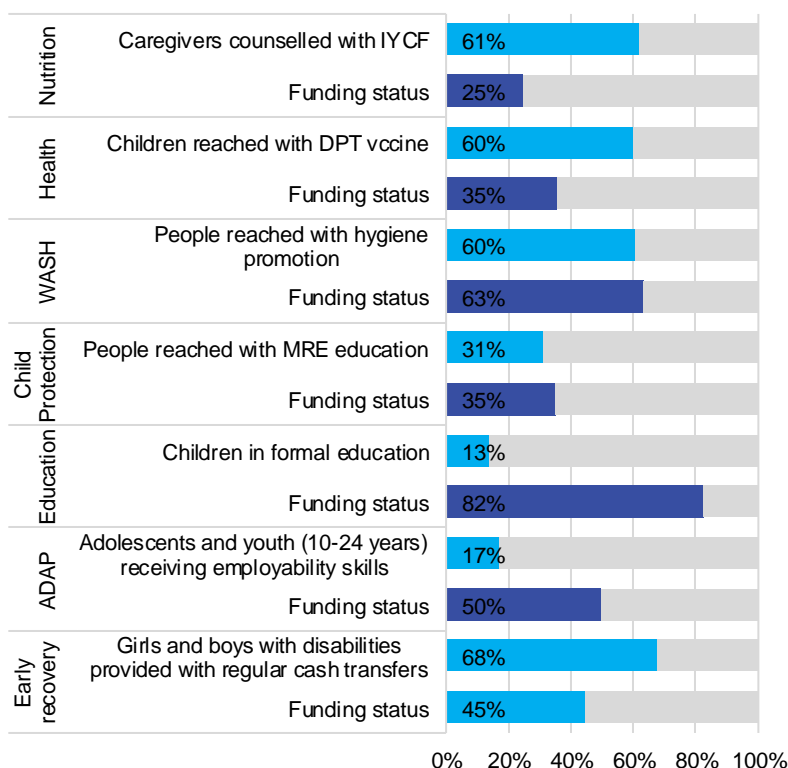
(source: OCHA, HNO, March 2019)

Reporting Period: 1-31 August

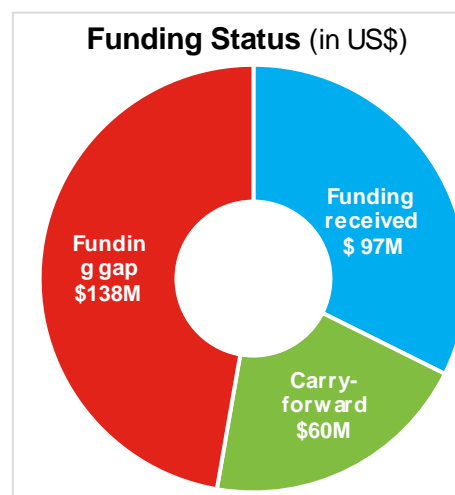
Highlights

- Hostilities were reported in northwest Syria, particularly in Idlib, northern Latakia, western Hama, western and northern Aleppo, including shelling, airstrikes and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).
- Major humanitarian needs persisted across all sectors and were exacerbated by the continued economic downturn and the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic also posed significant challenges for safe school re-opening, scheduled for September 2020.
- Despite these challenges, UNICEF continued to respond across the country, while also scaling up emergency WASH and Nutrition responses in NE Syria.
- Overall the Whole of Syria appeal faces a 47 per cent funding gap. Additional funding, especially flexible in nature, is urgently needed to ensure that children in Syria continue to receive the life-saving humanitarian assistance.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status¹



UNICEF Appeal 2020 US\$ 294.8 million



¹ Please refer to the narrative in the report for details. Please note that 'Funding status' refers to the whole sector, while the results are only referring to one specific activity

Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2020, UNICEF is appealing for US\$ 294.8 million to continue its response across Syria. UNICEF would like to express its gratitude to the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF), United Kingdom, USA, and UNICEF national committees for the generous contributions provided.

Currently, UNICEF has an overall funding gap of 47 per cent; additional funds are urgently needed to support the ongoing response for over three million people, especially in child health, nutrition and child protection among others. Without more funding, an estimated two million children and women will not be reached with nutrition interventions, one million will not receive primary health care and 300,000 will be deprived of psychosocial support and case management.

In addition, UNICEF urgently requires US\$ 22.44 million to reach 435,000 children with winter clothing kits from October 2020 to March 2021. Timely contributions are essential to enable UNICEF to procure and deliver the clothing kits before the onset of the cold winter weather.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Displaced populations and host communities in northwest Syria (NWS), particularly children and women, continued to bear the brunt of the conflict—with reported hostilities south of the M4 highway in Idlib governorate, northern Latakia, western Hama, western and northern Aleppo including shelling, airstrikes and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Civilians also continue to be killed and injured as a result of indiscriminate attacks carried out with various types of IEDs, including vehicle-borne IEDs by unidentified perpetrators in residential and market areas, as well as from explosive remnants of war, including unexploded ordnances that continue to be reported, mainly in agricultural areas.

Major humanitarian needs persisted across all sectors, exacerbated by the continued economic downturn and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Authorities confirmed more than 2,000 new cases of COVID-19 in August—compared with 532 cases in July and 157 cases in June—indicating that the epidemiological situation across Syria has rapidly evolved during the reporting month. The pandemic also presents significant challenges to the planned reopening of 13,280 schools (primary and secondary levels) for 3.7 million children across all 14 governorates. Further, the outbreak remains a challenge for the health system, particularly in IDP camps where, in some instances, the provision of essential health services was temporarily interrupted.

The Alouk water station, which remains the main water supply for at least 460,000 people in Al-Hasakeh governorate, including camp populations, temporarily stopped pumping water amid reports of a technical fault. This was the thirteenth time water supply from the station had been disrupted since January 2020.

In southwest Syria tensions remained high, particularly in Dar'a governorate, while the stranded population in the Rukban area—inaccessible since February 2019—remained in need of humanitarian assistance. In the northeast, over 89,000 people were reportedly living in formal camps and 32,000 in recognized informal settlements, including some 65,000 people (nearly 18,000 households) living in Al-Hol.¹

Despite significant challenges, UNICEF continued operating in Syria with adjusted operating modalities to minimize the disruption in the delivery of assistance within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Distribution methods have been adapted to reduce face-to-face interaction, and awareness raising efforts on COVID-19 risks and precautions were scaled up. Virtual meetings and activities remain in place, including for coordination and awareness raising, education and case management services.

UNICEF continued to support its programs through the response to COVID-19 in NWS through the trans-shipment of supplies including WASH, Health, Nutrition and Education. For the reporting period, UNICEF trans-shipped through Basic Allowance through Housing (BAH) supplies worth of more than 700,000 USD to cover the needs of some 185,000 beneficiaries in Idlib and Aleppo.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

UNICEF supported over 150,000 children under the age of five and pregnant and lactating women with screening for acute malnutrition (more than 1.5 million since the beginning of the year). Some 74,000 of them were provided with micronutrients (920,000 since the beginning of the year). As a result of screening activities, over 1,800 children were

¹ UNOCHA, Syrian Arab Republic: North East Syria: Al-Hol camp (as of 26 July 2020)

identified as affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and received lifesaving treatment (over 9,400 since the beginning of the year). UNICEF also continued to support preventative nutrition interventions, reaching some 50,000 caregivers with awareness on appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, with 490,000 reached since the beginning of the year. COVID-19 related messages were included in IYCF response plan, given that chronic malnutrition among under-five children continues to be a major concern in northwest Syria, UNICEF will continue to scale up its nutrition response in a COVID-19 informed manner.

Health

UNICEF enabled over 118,000 women and children to benefit from free medical consultations through fixed points and mobile teams in all 14 governorates (some 1.2 million since the beginning of the year). Also, more than 650,000 caregivers were reached with health promotion messages, including immunization messages (2.2 million since the beginning of the year). After a temporary reduction of new-born care related training activities due to COVID-19, 610 health workers were trained on neonatal care totalled up 850 since the beginning of the year. In addition, UNICEF reached some 40,000 children with DPT3 (combined vaccine for Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus) through routine immunization and special campaigns (over 340,000 since the beginning of the year). The continued COVID-19 outbreak remains a challenge for the provision of health services, particularly in IDP camps where, in some instances, the provision of essential services was temporarily interrupted due to health workers being affected by the coronavirus.

WASH

In August, UNICEF provided over 390,000 people with access to improved sanitation services through the rehabilitation of sewerage systems in Rural Damascus, Da'ra, and Deir-ez-Zor governorates plus rehabilitation of sewerage systems and installation of public latrines in northwest Syria (some 820,000 people since the beginning of the year). Further, UNICEF reached 105,000 people with sustained access to improved water through the rehabilitation and installation of water systems, provision of equipment as well as routine maintenance operations (more than 2.6 million people).

UNICEF also continued its humanitarian emergency response as a priority to IDPs and host communities, benefiting more than 79,000 people with access to improved lifesaving WASH facilities and services. For instance, in response to the temporary stopping of operations of the Alouk water station, which is the main water supply for at least 460,000 people in the Al-Hasakeh governorate, including camp populations, UNICEF continued to advocate for the resumption of operations of the station in addition to expanding its support to emergency water trucking, reaching some 30,000 people in the Khashman, Doulab Awesi and Hay Al-Zhoor neighborhoods of Al-Hasakeh city. Additionally, UNICEF reached some 42,000 IDPs through the provision of family hygiene kits, soap bars, baby diapers, and women sanitary napkins (860,000). UNICEF was able to benefit over 194,000 people through the restoration of WASH facilities in critical hospitals and public health centres in northwest Syria.

As part of ensuring COVID-19 prevention measures are in place during the second round of the national examinations for 9th and 12th grade students who came from hard-to-reach areas, UNICEF supported some 119,000 12th grade students across the country through the provision of chlorine bottles and gel sanitizers in 801 exam centres. In addition, UNICEF reached over 15,000 9th grade students through providing 16 student accommodation centres in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Hama, Deir-ez-Zor, and Damascus governorates with chlorine bottles, cleaning kits, as well as rehabilitating WASH facilities in some of the accommodation centers. Finally, UNICEF's provision of water disinfectants supported some 13.6 million people to access safe water in all 14 governorates of the country, resulting in the prevention of major water-borne disease outbreaks.

Child Protection

UNICEF continued to provide structured psychosocial support, case management and referral services, awareness on child protection risks, mine risk and gender-based violence for children across Syria. UNICEF and partners supported some 4,800 children with psychosocial support services (over 97,000 since the beginning of the year) throughout the country. At the same time, over 1,500 caregivers were engaged in structured and sustained parenting programmes (over 18,000 since the beginning of the year). Specialized child protection services through case management continued to play a central role in facilitating individual child protection assessments, monitoring of cases and referral to specialized services; in the reporting period about 477 children at-risk were reached with specialized services through remote case management (over 6,600 since the beginning of the year).

In addition, over 23,900 people received awareness raising messages on child protection issues such as on the importance of education, dealing with peers, respecting seniors, and social cohesion in all 14 governorates (more than 270,000). UNICEF continued to prioritize Mine Risk Education (MRE) interventions as a life-saving component to promote safe behaviours and, in partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations, provided life-

saving messages and face-to-face MRE sessions to mitigate the risk of explosive devices to over 32,000 people (about 740,000 since the beginning of the year).

Education

Given that schools in Syria have been closed since March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, preparation for the safe reopening of 13,200 primary and secondary schools for 3.7 million children at the end of August was a key priority for the Ministry of Education (MOE). UNICEF reached 20,740 children with education services in formal settings across all 14 governorates (more than 315,000 since the beginning of the year). Also, over 25,400 children who are out of school were reached with non-formal education through Curriculum B (an accelerated learning programme), self-learning activities and remedial activities (more than 260,000 in 2020). Given the impact of COVID-19 on children's learning opportunities, UNICEF partnered with MOE to enable Curriculum B students to return to in-person learning before the official school re-opening to allow them to catch-up on missed curriculum. UNICEF also supported the national 9th and 12th Grade examination for over 10,700 students.

In preparation for the upcoming school year, UNICEF supported 'back to learning' campaigns, reaching close to 22,000 girls, boys, women and children (60,500 since the beginning of the year). UNICEF further provided support to MOE to ensure that reopened schools are safe and prepared for adopting COVID-19 preventative measures. For instance, 2,000 children benefitted from UNICEF supported training of teachers on school safety protocol measures, as well as distribution of related pamphlets. Furthermore, to improve the quality of teaching, UNICEF supported teacher training for more than 900 teachers (over 6,700 since the beginning of the year). As a result of UNICEF support, more than 6,000 children and youth (5 to 24 years) participated in life skills and citizenship education programmes in formal and non-formal settings.

Social Policy

UNICEF's humanitarian social protection programme in Syria aims to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable families affected by the protracted crisis, to strengthen the continuum of humanitarian and early recovery interventions, and to preserve the social protection space in the country. Since the beginning of the year, UNICEF Syria reached over 348,000 children through the distribution of winter clothes, new-born baby kits and blankets, including over 4,000 children who were reached in August. During the reporting month, UNICEF also reached over 800 children with disabilities with cash assistance and case management services in the governorates of Hama and Al-Hassakeh, bringing the number of children with disabilities reached with cash assistance since the beginning of the year to over 8,100 in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Homs and Hama. UNICEF also reached over 100 children with emergency cash transfers for basic needs, bringing the total number of beneficiary children under this programme since the beginning of the year to more than 51,000 in Aleppo, Latakia and Rural Damascus.

Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP)

UNICEF together with its implementing partners was able to reach over 16,150 adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years across Syria with a package of services and opportunities promoting social cohesion and civic engagement (over 74,800 since the beginning of the year). In addition, more than 1,800 young people (10 to 24 years) received employability skills training, including life skills, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and entrepreneurship, through UNICEF support. Young people were also provided with opportunities for engaging and participating positively within their communities through civic and social engagement programmes focusing on the design and implementation of adolescent-led initiatives. For instance, groups of young graduates from TVET courses aged 15-22 also participated in initiatives to make fabric re-usable face masks to highlight the importance of safe practices in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The youth then distributed these masks in sterilized bags to marginalized communities with awareness-raising messages in each bag. Young people also attended a UNICEF supported capacity-building training on basic hygiene promotion and COVID-19 awareness raising messages to support peer-to-peer education and distribute those messages to students from hard-to-reach areas who were participating in the national examinations and who were based in accommodation centres.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF focused its coverage on the COVID-19 response, including through a joint [e-voucher programme](#) with WFP, through [stories](#), [photo](#) packages and [videos](#). UNICEF also highlighted its [support](#) for [Grade 12](#) students from hard to reach areas who were attending the national exams across Syria. In addition, UNICEF covered its regular response including [water](#) trucking, [education](#) support and seasonal [clothes](#) distributions.

Finally, UNICEF also marked key international dates, including [World Breastfeeding Week](#) and [International Youth Day](#), covering relevant programmes and [interventions](#), and continued to highlight partnerships with donors including [the EU](#).

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall needs	Cluster/Sector Response			UNICEF and IPs		
		2020 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲▼
Nutrition							
# of children and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) received micro-nutrients	4,700,000	2,566,942	785,780 ¹	78,326	2,400,000	926,028 ⁴	73,876 ⁵
# of children and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) screened for acute malnutrition		2,867,674	2,092,126	285,797	1,800,000	1,589,397	152,163 ⁶
# of children reached with the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)		17,447	8,144 ²	1,785	9,600	9,423	1,856 ⁷
# of caregivers including pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) counselled or reached with awareness on appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF)		915,063	657,348	75,943	800,000	491,678	46,908 ⁸
Health							
# of children under five years vaccinated through polio campaigns	13,200,000				2,900,000	2,632,608 ¹	0
# of children under one year reached with routine vaccination (DTP3 containing vaccine)					577,000	344,348 ²	39,968
# of Primary Health Care outpatient consultations supported (children & CBA women)					2,200,000	1,195,120 ⁴	118,986 ⁵
# of health workers and community volunteers trained on new-born care packages					640	850 ³	100 ⁶
# of caregivers reached with health promotion,					3,500,000	1,935,511	346,467 ⁷

including immunization messages							
WASH							
Estimated # of people with access to improved water supply	15,700,000	8,000,000	2,013,130 ¹	365,846 ³	3,700,000	2,648,735	105,337
Estimated # of people have improved access to sanitation services		5,500,000	770,849 ²	214,729	1,300,000	827,077	393,100
# of school children benefited from improved WASH facilities and services		n/a	n/a	n/a	390,000	374,849	877 ⁶
# of people supported with access to essential WASH NFIs including in HTR areas		2,000,000	3,244,227	1,015,486	1,600,000	864,316 ⁴	42,879
# of people reached with hygiene promotion interventions		3,000,000	2,195,715	331,330	525,000	297,406	24,680 ⁷
# of people benefitting from access to improved lifesaving/emergency WASH facilities and services		3,000,000	4,010,209	359,439	1,500,000	1,636,009 ⁵	79,410
Child Protection							
# of girls and boys engaged in structured and sustained child protection programming, including psychosocial support	5,600,000	880,000	274,852	0	350,000	49,456 ²	3,414
# of women and men engaged in structured and sustained parenting programmes		93,000	29,268	0	51,000	10,919 ³	1,087
# of girls, boys, women and men reached with explosive hazards risk education		4,592,604	439,710 ¹	0	2,400,000	649,591 ⁴	58,431
# of women, men, girls and boys reached by behaviour change communication interventions for child protection issues		1,650,000	419,720	0	630,000	142,288 ⁵	21,991
# of girls and boys received		50,000	21,475	0	22,000	4,223 ⁶	136

specialized child protection services including through case management								
Education								
# of children provided with education services in formal settings		3,300,000	2,506,467 ¹	1,485,590	2,400,000		315,742 ²	20,740
# of children in non-formal education benefiting from education services		1,256,530	793,835	719,583	440,000		220,559 ³	13,464 ⁷
# of teachers and education personnel trained		76,524	100,691	99,491	42,600		3,494 ⁴	904
# of children and youth (5-24 years) participating in life skills and citizenship education programmes in formal and non-formal settings	6,800,00	300,000	551,120	543,259	280,000		25,803 ⁵	6,069
# of caregivers and children reached with C4D back to learning (BTL) interventions		n/a	796,746	796,746	225,000		71,823 ⁶	21,993
SOCIAL POLICY								
# of girls and boys with - disabilities provided with regular cash transfers					11,500		8,115	812 ²
# of girls and boys protected from extreme weather through NFIs					570,000		348,564	4,024 ³
# of girls and boys protected from extreme weather through vouchers or cash transfers					110,000		51,4711	107
ADAP								
# of adolescents and youth (10-24 years) promoting social cohesion and civic engagement					200,000		33,086 ¹	1,472 ³
# of affected adolescents and youth (10-24 years) receiving employability skills including life skills, TVET and entrepreneurship					300,000		50,875 ²	1,860
Footnotes								

*The revised Whole of Syria [2020 UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children](#) appeal is published with updated indicators and targets. All UNICEF results are as of 31 August 2020.

Nutrition 1,2: The sector reach is lower than UNICEF reach as sector data are as of end July, while UNICEF data as of end August.

Nutrition 4: This activity was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 containment measures, as distribution was scheduled together with the immunization campaigns that were postponed between March and June 2020. This activity will be scaled up during the second half of the year.

Nutrition 5,6,7,8: After data verification the values for these indicators have been rectified. Change column reflects those as compared to the updated values.

Health 1: The target for Polio is almost reached as the campaign is scheduled in the first quarter of the year.

Health 2: The reach for this activity is low as routine immunization was heavily affected by the COVID-19 containment measures, as the health facilities were working at reduced operating hours and less people could access the services, also due to the movement restrictions faced by the population. It is expected that in the second half of the year this will be scaled up to achieve the full target.

Health 3: The reach under the new-born programme was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 movement restrictions and postponement of the scheduled trainings. It is expected that the target will be reached as more trainings are scheduled for the second half of the year.

Health 4: Due to COVID-19 pandemic and mitigation measure, the progress is slightly underachieved (Progress is 66.40%)

Health 5,6,7: After data verification the value for this indicator has been rectified. Change column reflects this as compared to the updated value.

WASH 1,2: WASH sector figures are as of end July 2020, while UNICEF reach is as of end August.

WASH 3: After data verification the value for this indicator has been rectified. Change column reflects this as compared to the updated value.

WASH 4: This activity is a provision of WASH supplies in emergency, and essential supplies have been distributed on a monthly basis to the same beneficiaries. As such, the results are not incremental.

WASH 5: The target for this activity has been already reached, due to the need to cover the WASH emergency needs of the newly displaced people in 2020.

WASH 6,7: After data verification the value for this indicator has been rectified. Change column reflects this as compared to the updated value.

Child Protection 1: Sector results are as of end July, while UNICEF reach is of end August.

Child Protection 2,3,4,5, 6: The reach for these child protection activities was negatively affected by the COVID-19 containment measures as no face-to-face sessions could take place and only virtual activities through phone or internet took place. As after June movement restrictions related to COVID-19 have been lifted, UNICEF will be increasing the reach in the second half of the year.

Education 1: This figure includes the school meals provided by sector partner WFP, already distributed for the entire year

Education 2,3,4,5,6: The reach for these Education indicators has been heavily affected by the COVID-19 mitigation measures, as since March all schools and education centers were closed, training activities suspended. Only distance learning activities could take place, but the reach of such activities in Syria has been very low. With the re-opening of schools in September UNICEF is planning to reach the targets.

Education 7: After data verification the value for this indicator has been rectified. Change column reflects this as compared to the updated value.

Social Policy 1: Due to COVID-19 pandemic and relevant mitigation measures, the progress is slightly underachieved.

Social Policy 2,3: After data verification the value for this indicator has been rectified. Change column reflects this as compared to the updated value.

ADAP 1,2: The reach for ADAP activities was negatively impacted by COVID-19 mitigation measures, as all youth and adolescents' trainings, empowerment and skills development activities were halted, and only virtual engagements were possible. The activities will be scaled up in the second half of the year to ensure that targets are fully reached.

ADAP 3: After data verification the value for this indicator has been rectified. Change column reflects this as compared to the updated value.

Annex B

Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	32,954,663	5,993,767	2,091,601	24,869,294	75 %
Health	41,877,045	9,932,011	4,918,158	27,026,875	65 %
WASH	77,492,160	32,944,719	15,985,680	28,561,759	37 %
Child Protection	36,133,672	6,918,571	5,767,765	23,447,336	65 %
Education	64,492,956	30,323,800	22,871,500	11,297,655	18 %
ADAP	6,232,248	1,338,282	1,753,651	3,091,933	50 %
Early recovery	35,617,293	9,225,396	6,719,374	19,672,523	55 %
Being allocated	-	-	-	-	-
Total	294,800,037	96,676,546	60,107,729	138,015,762	47 %

Next SitRep: 20 October 2020

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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