



On May 17, 2023, Zina, 11, from Kirkuk, attends lessons inside an informal educational center in Hassansham camp supported by UNICEF.



Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1

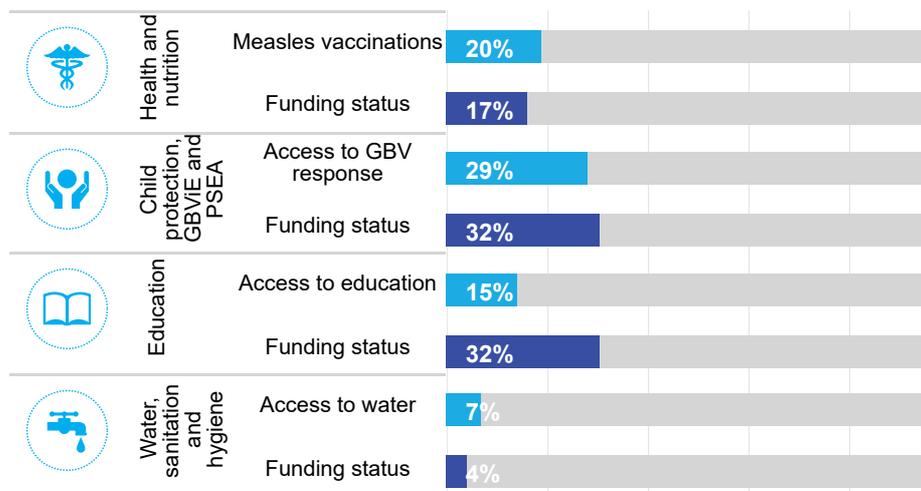
Reporting Period
1 January to 31 December 2023

Iraq

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2023, the humanitarian transition continued, with authorities taking over WASH services in camps and refugee education integration continuing; however political turmoil on government budget allocations slowing down child protection and IDP education progress.
- Completing the transition remains a priority to ensure that investments in protection systems are not lost and to ensure that IDP children do not drop out of school at the end of displacement.
- Returns from northeast Syria continued, with over 7,000 people returning; coordination mechanisms were strengthened with increased focus on reintegration issues including civil documentation.
- Iraq is very vulnerable to climate change and risks are increasing of climate displacement, where government systems are inadequately prepared to support displaced people.

UNICEF RESPONSE AND FUNDING STATUS*

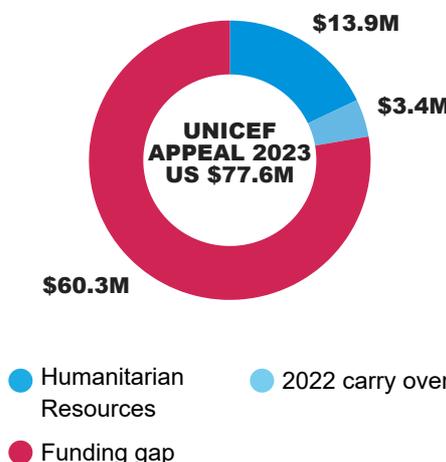


* UNICEF response % is only for the indicator, the funding status is for the entire sector.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS¹



FUNDING STATUS (IN US\$)**



** Funding available includes: funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors

FUNDING OVERVIEW AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2023, UNICEF required \$77.6 million to address the urgent humanitarian needs of vulnerable children and their families affected by protracted conflicts, political instability and climate change. Child protection initiatives represent the largest share of the country's appeal at 41%, followed by education and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). By the end-year stage, UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal was 20% per cent funded, with 18% received in 2023 and 3.38. million carried over from 2022.

UNICEF HAC appeal in Iraq in 2023 was mainly funded by Japan, the US Department of State BPRM, ECHO, and USAID BHA. The office utilised carry over funds from United State for UNICEF. Crucially, UNICEF Iraq received humanitarian funds in via UNICEF headquarters and regional office under humanitarian pooled funding, allowing the office to respond to emergency situations in a timely manner, reaching the most vulnerable populations in conflict and displacement-affected locations. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all its resource partners for contributions received.

To sustain essential services for vulnerable women and children and build national and sub national capacities for smooth handover of basic service delivery for populations affected by protracted crisis and climate change, UNICEF requires flexible multi-year funding. Especially because of the slowed transition due to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq's (KRI) budget crisis, continued funding is crucial to ensure a completion of hand over to government and integration of activities into government systems.

SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS



Ghadeer, a 45-year-old Syrian woman, fled her homeland in 2013 and is seeking refuge in Darashakran refugee camp in Erbil, Iraq.

The main humanitarian needs are for internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, returnees from northeast Syria and people being forced to move due to climate change. The United Nations system has, with the Government of Iraq, worked on a roadmap for ending displacement in Iraq, though return or local integration. UNICEF has worked to hand over both humanitarian coordination and services to authorities, following the deactivation of clusters in 2022. WASH coordination and camp services have been successfully handed over through integration into the KRG services, while child protection has been slowed down due to the budget crisis in KRI. The difficult

internal political situation has also been a constraint to charting out future education arrangements for IDP children.

Returns from NES progressed at a steady pace, in a complex political process. Key challenges include civil documentation, acceptance and accessing services for the most vulnerable children and women.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

Health and nutrition

UNICEF supported the provision of essential newborn care, integrated management of childhood conditions, nutrition screening and referral for treatment to children and women in populations affected by humanitarian emergencies. As a result of this support, 83,678 children under five and 19,400 pregnant lactating women received counselling on infant and young child feeding.

In 2023, UNICEF's support to reduce inequities in immunization outcomes and strengthen the system included identifying and vaccinating 79,476 (40,135 girls) children who missed vaccinations with most of these children in populations affected by emergencies. As a result of intensified community level communication and behavior change activities and support provision of vaccines and essential nutrition supplies, more than 520,000 children (264,279 girls) including 57,854 (28,840 girls) in humanitarian situations received measles vaccinations. While the need for essential services for populations refugee camps is there, there is limited funding for the implementation of lifesaving health interventions.

Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

In 2023, UNICEF collaborated with government and civil society partners to provide child protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services for internally displaced persons, returnees, and vulnerable host communities. The organization reached 95,772 children, with a focus on psychosocial support to enhance resilience. Parenting programs benefited 15,583 parents, emphasizing positive parenting skills and child well-being, with 61% being women. To address the surge in domestic violence and GBV risks, 29,352 individuals received risk mitigation, prevention, and response services. Furthermore, 3,213 children and adolescents, primarily girls, returning from NES, were assisted with reintegration packages, including case management, birth registration, civil documentation, and vocational and life skills training. The increased demand for child protection and GBV services prompted UNICEF to scale up its response, strategically utilizing flexible funding and successful advocacy to leverage government resources, exemplified by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs supporting child protection centres, thereby overcoming financial limitations.

Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA): In 2023, 450,000 people (112,500 girls, 108,000 boys, 103,500 men, and 126,000 women) accessed the SEA reporting mechanism. UNICEF is supporting this initiative in partnership with implementing partners, camp management, and local government, so people can safely report any SEA misconduct by the personnel that aid affected populations. By June 2023, UNICEF assessed 21 partners, out of which 18 were deemed to have high PSEA capacity and 3 with moderate capacity - they are being supported to reach the required capacity by UNICEF to fill this gap.

Education

UNICEF is dedicated to enhancing education for internally displaced and refugee children in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Dohuk, Ninawa, and Anbar. With initiatives like remedial classes, psychosocial support, life skills sessions, and catch-up classes, the organization has notably advanced the academic progress of 30,118 children (13,550 girls). UNICEF provided a conducive learning environment by distributing stationery and bags, benefiting 60,808 children (27,765 girls) in IDP and refugee schools.

UNICEF supported the construction of 43 classrooms, renovated 18 schools, and distributed desks and whiteboards, expanding educational opportunities for 35,627 children (17,250 girls).

In 2023, the Back to Learning campaign identified and enrolled 5,000 out-of-school children, with UNICEF enhancing education quality through teacher training for 375 teachers (150 female). Additionally, the Early Childhood Education programme established new centers, benefiting 1,784 children including 829 girls. Despite the significant presence of IDPs and refugees, insufficient funding may hinder humanitarian efforts, and the demand for educational interventions persists.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Despite the lack of funds, UNICEF is applying some mitigation measures to reach underserved and vulnerable communities with access to services. In 2023, WASH interventions had reached 62,172 (52% women and girls) in camps, informal settlements, host communities and returnee areas, 14,500 returnees (7,395 women/girls and 6,525 children) in 31 villages accessed quality drinking water through upgrading to 7 water systems at schools and primary healthcare centers in Baaj district in Ninawa governorate, 21,000 returnees (11,500 women/girls, 9,000 children) gained access to safe water in villages in Kirkuk by extending water transmission lines and, water networks and storage tanks in 9 villages in Hawija district. Continued WASH services reached 26,672 people (16,005 women/girls, 12,002 children) in J1 and J5 IDP camps, Rukba Sharqi village, and Dor al Qaida complex in 2023. Meanwhile, 33% of the targeted or 26,672 beneficiaries have been reached with sanitation services, solid waste collection and safe disposal and desludging.

Social protection

No funds were received or carried over for this sector; therefore, planned interventions could not be implemented. However, UNICEF actively enhances social protection's shock responsiveness, especially for vulnerable populations like IDPs in KRI. Many refugees face limited social protection access, with IDPs encountering challenges accessing the Public Distribution System (PDS) due to identity document issues. UNICEF, collaborating with WFP, ILO, and the European Union, aims to integrate social protection measures into humanitarian responses. The ongoing assessment of IDP eligibility for the Social Safety Net (SSN) and planned data sharing between UNHCR and relevant ministries signify steps toward comprehensive support. UNICEF's proactive measures seek to address immediate needs while advocating for sustainable inclusion in broader social protection programmes.

Adolescents/youth

In Ninawa, life skills training programme engaged 1,732 young individuals (47% girls) aged 10 to 24, aiming to empower their transition from learning and skills development for civic engagement. Using a UNICEF Life Skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE) tool. The initiative focused on vital skills like problem-solving and critical thinking. Practical sessions included peer activities and community

discussions on topics like girls' education and social cohesion, and climate change.

The overarching goal was to provide targeted young people profound sense of purpose and self-confidence. By doing so, the programme aimed to pave the way for their emergence as capable, confident, and positive contributors to their communities. However, despite these efforts, the intended impact fell short of the target, primarily due to a substantial funding shortfall of 93% within the sector.

Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)

Despite funding gaps in 2023, UNICEF has capitalised on the nationwide campaigns and social mobilisation interventions to access identified populations with key messages reaching 675,160 (330,828 female, 344,332 male) against a target of 700,000. SB&CE interventions supported outreach activities for IDPs, refugees, and returnee populations in camp, non-camp, and return areas focusing on education, climate change, prevention of diseases, and child protection. In total, 75,160 people were reached with face-to-face messaging while 600,000 individuals were estimated to have been reached.

Additionally, 22,868 (13,971 female, 8,897 male) individuals were engaged in community dialogue/discussion sessions on the above-mentioned topics; this is against a target of 30,000 individuals and underachievement is mainly resulted from funding gaps. Moreover, aiming at further standardisation of the process, and to support feedback mechanisms, SBC-CE worked on development and field-testing of the Accountability to Affected Population tool, designed to advance two-way communication and involvement of the communities.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION AND STRATEGY

UNICEF's humanitarian actions are aligned with the triple nexus humanitarian development and peace approach under the United Nations Durable Solution Operational Framework, that has been included in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Iraq. UNICEF supports the transition from a humanitarian assistance framework to a longer-term development approach, notably by handing over humanitarian coordination to national authorities by the end of 2022. UNICEF has supported WASH and Education sector coordination, as well as sustaining support to the establishment of child protection units, child protection laws and training of social workers in both KRI and Federal Iraq.

UNICEF engaged in reshaping UN - GoI coordination, moving from Area Based Coordination (ABCs) to the Joint Coordination Forum, which UNICEF will co-chair in Basra and Ninawa.

UNICEF and IOM co-chair the UN-GoI Technical Working Group for the Return of Iraqi Nationals from northeast Syria. Under the TWG, UN agencies together wrote the One UN Plan outlining programming priorities for the UN working on this issue. UNICEF also leads the Child Legal Task Force under the TWG. The government transition posed challenges that have been overcome, with a resumption of coordination meetings at the end of 2023, following a hiatus. However, throughout the period technical coordination was able to support the continued return of people from Syria, reaching over 7,000 by the end of the year.

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES AND EXTERNAL MEDIA



10-year-old Neveen and her family fled their home in Syria after a devastating attack by ISIS. They live in Barika refugee camp, where Neveen is enrolled at the UNICEF-supported Amuda School.

Throughout the year, UNICEF Iraq developed numerous Human Interest Stories, which were subsequently shared on the official website and extensively distributed across social media platforms such as X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and Instagram, in both English and Arabic languages.

- Human Interest Story: Despite bullying, Ashwaq pursues her dream to learn
<https://www.unicef.org/iraq/stories/despite-bullying-ashwaq-pursues-her-dream-learn>
- Human Interest Story: Adolescents want to learn!
<https://www.unicef.org/iraq/stories/adolescents-want-learn>
- Human Interest Story: From Survival to Development!
<https://www.unicef.org/iraq/stories/survival-development>
- Human Interest Story: The Girl Who Wanted to Disappear!
<https://www.unicef.org/iraq/stories/girl-who-wanted-disappear>
- Human Interest Story: Neveen's Silent Symphony: A Tale of Perseverance
<https://www.unicef.org/iraq/stories/neveens-silent-symphony-tale-perseverance>
- Human Interest Story: Dreaming Big in Darashakran Camp
<https://www.unicef.org/iraq/stories/dreaming-big-darashakran-camp-nooris-path-success>
- Human Interest story: Better Parenting Skills Transform Lives
<https://www.unicef.org/iraq/stories/better-parenting-skills-transform-lives>
- Human Interest Story: Jeelan's Journey: Empowering Adolescence in the Face of Adversity
<https://www.unicef.org/iraq/stories/jeelans-journey-empowering-adolescence-face-adversity>

HAC APPEALS AND SITREPS

- Iraq Appeals
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/iraq>
- Iraq Situation Reports
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/iraq/situation-reports>
- All Humanitarian Action for Children Appeals
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals>
- All Situation Reports
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/situation-reports>

NEXT SITREP: 31 JULY 2024

ANNEX A - PROGRAMME RESULTS

Consolidated Programme Results

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2023 targets	Total results	Progress*
Health and nutrition²					
Children vaccinated against measles	Total	-	296,060	57,854	▲ 20%
	Girls	-	-	28,840	-
	Boys	-	-	29,014	-
Children vaccinated against polio	Total	-	296,050	43,475	▲ 15%
	Girls	-	-	21,640	-
	Boys	-	-	21,835	-
Children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities	Total	-	104,578	83,678	▲ 80%
	Girls	-	-	32,138	-
	Boys	-	-	19,400	-
	Women	-	-	32,140	-
Children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	Total	-	563	352	▲ 63%
	Girls	-	-	256	-
	Boys	-	-	96	-
Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	Total	-	72,292	19,400	▲ 27%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA					
Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	Total	-	52,990	95,779	▲ 181%
	Girls	-	-	29,679	-
	Boys	-	-	28,674	-
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Total	-	100,000	29,352	▲ 29%
	Girls	-	-	8,729	-
	Boys	-	-	5,997	-
	Women	-	-	13,522	-
	Men	-	-	1,104	-
People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	Total	-	1.3 million	450,000	▲ 35%

	Girls	-	-	112,500	-
	Boys	-	-	108,000	-
	Women	-	-	126,000	-
	Men	-	-	103,500	-
Children and adolescents returning from north east Syria accessing rehabilitation and reintegration services	Total	-	7,500	3,213	▲ 43%
	Girls	-	-	1,734	-
	Boys	-	-	1,479	-
Education					
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Total	-	497,786	72,529	▲ 15%
	Girls	-	-	34,129	-
	Boys	-	-	38,400	-
Children receiving individual learning materials	Total	-	160,000	60,808	▲ 38%
	Girls	-	-	27,765	-
	Boys	-	-	33,043	-
Water, sanitation and hygiene					
People accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	-	865,000	62,172	▲ 7%
	Girls	-	-	14,921	-
	Boys	-	-	13,989	-
	Women	-	-	17,408	-
	Men	-	-	15,854	-
People accessing appropriate sanitation services	Total	-	80,000	26,672	▲ 33%
	Girls	-	-	6,401	-
	Boys	-	-	6,001	-
	Women	-	-	7,468	-
	Men	-	-	6,801	-
Children using safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	Total	-	105,000	12,500	▲ 12%
	Girls	-	-	6,350	-
	Boys	-	-	6,150	-
Social protection					
Households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	Total	-	20,000	-	0%

Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	Total	-	700,000	628,572	▲ 90%
	Girls	-	-	135,905	-
	Boys	-	-	146,953	-
	Women	-	-	166,106	-
	Men	-	-	179,609	-
People sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	Total	-	30,000	9,434	▲ 31%
	Women	-	-	4,567	-
	Men	-	-	4,867	-
Adolescents/youth					
Adolescents girls and boys in humanitarian situations who participate in life skills programmes	Total	-	73,000	1,732	▲ 2%
	Girls	-	-	744	-
	Boys	-	-	988	-

*Progress in the reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2023

ANNEX B — FUNDING STATUS

Consolidated funding by sector

Sector	Requirements	Funding available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2023	Resources available from 2022 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health and nutrition	6,170,295	927,557	117,647	5,125,091	83%
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	31,770,534 ³	7,994,541	2,015,333	21,760,660	68%
Education	15,465,764	4,269,927	669,544	10,526,293	68%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	15,805,500	130,461	548,180	15,126,859	96%
Social protection	4,320,000	-	-	4,320,000	100%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	615,000	329,884	17,141	267,975	44%
Adolescents/youth	1,954,979	127,539	12,442	1,814,998	93%
Emergency Preparedness	1,476,000	127,059	79	1,348,862	91%
Total	77,578,072	13,906,968	3,380,366	60,290,738	78%

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ENDNOTES

1. Needs identified in the HRP 2022 in addition to the caseload of returnees from Al Hol Camp
2. Focus has shifted from internally displaced people to strengthening capacity in areas of return. The goal is to enable health workers to reach people in the areas of return (Ninawa, Salahuddin and Anbar Governorates).
3. The significant budget increase for 2023 compared with 2022 is due to rising needs (related to returns from Al Hol camp and to intensifying water scarcity) and the centrality of protection to the overall response in 2023. UNICEF will adopt a holistic/multisectoral case management approach, integrating gender-based violence response and prevention. UNICEF will continue to support people's access to relevant mental health and psychosocial support services and legal assistance. UNICEF will support specialized programming for responding to and preventing gender-based violence and integrating related risk mitigation measures across programmes.