



“Water is everything in life” says Sarah, washing her hands at her school in Abu Khasib district, Basrah governorate. ©UNICEF/Iraq/2018/Anmar

Iraq Humanitarian Situation Report

Highlights

- Between September and October 2018, 772 teachers or education personnel were trained on improved teaching techniques for Arabic, English, maths and science, delivery of PSS in the classroom, and positive discipline methods.
- In October, UNICEF-supported learning materials for the new 2018-2019 school year reached 43,287 children. A total 237,318 children received materials since January 2018.
- UNICEF continues to improve access for school-children and conflict-affected communities to safe water and sanitation services. As of October, 16 rehabilitations to WASH facilities in schools have been completed, improving access to facilities for an estimated 6,318 school-aged children (2,723 girls), and 8 rehabilitations in Primary Healthcare Centres have been completed, (eight in October), improving access for an estimated 14,885 returnees (6,996 children, 3,568 girls).
- In Ninewa, throughout October UNICEF provided safe water through trucking to 43,592 individuals in 15 Old City neighbourhoods, the area hardest hit by conflict in 2017. In parallel, UNICEF and partners completed rehabilitation of three of a planned 22 water networks, improving more sustainable water supply for 21,000 returnees.
- In October, 8,244 community members (3,359 women, 2,291 girls, 1,049 boys, 1,545 men) participated in awareness-raising activities aimed at changing social norms that underpin Gender-Based Violence.

October 2018

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

1.86 million internally displaced people (IDP)

4.11 million people returned to newly-accessible areas (IOM, [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#), January 2014 to 31 October 2018)

Target population in 2018

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

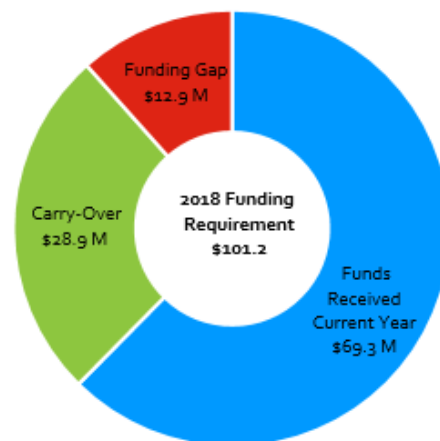
UNICEF Appeal 2018

US\$ 101.2 million
Funding Status*
US \$ 98.2 million

Key Indicators	UNICEF		Cluster	
	Target	Result*	Target	Result*
Vulnerable people newly-displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response	1,030,000	78,983**		
Emergency affected populations with access to sufficient safe water supply	1,300,000	959,929	2,309,765	1,937,363
Girls and boys receiving education supplies	450,000	237,318	528,222	344,680
Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes	186,300	148,896	203,865	268,884
Children under 1 vaccinated against measles through routine services	50,000	33,158		

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

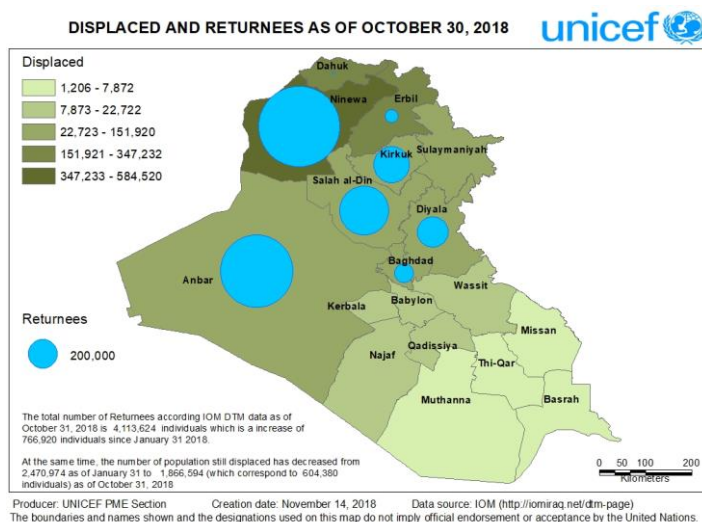
** Since January, progress against 2018 targets has been limited, mainly because of lower than anticipated levels of new displacements. Also, as discussion on camp consolidation/closure remains inconclusive, there have been no large-scale camp relocation movements yet.



*'Funding status' includes funding received for the current appeal year as well as carry-forward from the previous year. 'Funding gap' is calculated per programme. The funding gap and funds available do not equal the total HAC requirements – as of September 2018, there is a surplus under WASH, Education, and Child Protection. See page 9 for more detailed information.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The pace of return in Iraq has slowed, with average monthly rates reduced from 7.3 per cent in 2017 to 2.9 per cent in 2018¹. Remaining IDPs are at risk of protracted displacement and cannot, or choose not, to return due to safety concerns, lack of housing and livelihoods, absence of basic services and ethno-religious tensions. More than 4.1 million people, including over 2.1 million children, have now returned to their homes, while more than 1.8 million people (900,000 children) remain displaced across the country. Around 30 per cent of families are still displaced in camps, with 70 per cent in non-camp settings including nearly eight per cent in critical shelter arrangements². Of those in camps, 79 per cent are in Ninewa (51 per cent of the total displaced population) and Dahuk (27 per cent). Between January and October 2018, the returnee population has increased by more than 893,200 individuals (38,310 people in October)³, while the cumulative total of returnees is 4.1 million individuals. The highest rates of return in 2018 are recorded in Ninewa (38.7 per cent of total returnees) and Anbar (31.2 per cent).



A small number of governorates, among them Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din, continue to present a complex picture of displacement in camp and non-camp areas, diverse returnee and host community needs, and continued movement of populations. As an indication of the scale of movement still taking place, between January and September 15,630 families (approximately 94,000 individuals, around 47,000 children) were recorded entering IDP camps in Ninewa. Around 57 per cent of these arrivals were reported to be secondary displacement movements⁴. Major reasons for secondary displacement continue to be economic hardship compounded by limited or no access to adequate shelter due to damaged houses in areas of origin.⁵

In recent surveys in formal and informal sites, significant numbers of IDP households indicated no intention to return to areas of origin in the coming 12 months.⁶ Given this data, it seems likely that the current caseload of 1.86 million IDPs will remain relatively static well into 2019. Damage to property, security concerns, and lack of basic services were cited as the top reasons for not returning to places of origin.⁷ In relation to potential camp consolidation that have been under discussion for a number of months, in October humanitarian leadership in Iraq maintained there were too many variables at present to establish a single timeframe for consolidation, and proposed an approach based on balancing of security concerns, humanitarian considerations, and Iraq's legal obligations under national and international law.⁸

In October, small increases in cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) have been recorded in Basrah and Ninewa governorates, attributed to challenges caused by damaged water and sanitation infrastructure, absence of adequate health services (mainly in Ninewa) and increased water salinity/scarce (in Basrah). Conversely the outbreak curve mapping of gastrointestinal (GI) infections in Basrah indicate a decrease in October compared to September, partially due to slight improvement in water supply and quality in certain districts, increased public awareness of proper water treatment and storage, and improvements in case definition and recording by the Directorate of Health (DoH). It is hoped the onset of rainy season will reduce demand for irrigation water and increase flow downstream to southern governorates. On 26 October floods, caused by heavy rain, hit 15 villages in Raparin area

¹ International Organisation for Migration (IOM) [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#) as of 31 October 2018.

² 'Critical shelters' are informal settlements, religious buildings, schools, and unfinished or abandoned buildings.

³ IOM ([DTM](#)), 31 October 2018.

⁴ [CCCM Mosul Camps New Arrivals Monitoring](#), 12 January to 30 September 2018

⁵ *Ibid* – 54.3 per cent of respondents indicated financial/economic reasons (families had no access to livelihood opportunities, no money to pay rent or purchase food); 16 per cent indicated destroyed/damaged houses.

⁶ In formal camps only 9 per cent of households reported intentions to return, while in informal sites this was as low as 3 per cent.

⁷ Recent Intention Surveys conducted in [Formal camps](#) and [Informal sites](#) by REACH and CCCM Cluster.

⁸ UN OCHA, Humanitarian Bulletin Iraq, October 2018, issued 20 November 2018.

(Rania and Pishdar districts) in Sulaymaniyah. Five of the 15 villages are in hard-to-access areas, presenting challenges for humanitarian access. During a mission to the area, UNICEF teams found water supply network damage in several of the affected villages; as of end-October, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) is undertaking a more detailed assessment of flood-affected areas, with key findings and actions expected in November.

On 24 October, the Iraqi Parliament reviewed the new governmental programme, endorsed 14 out of 22 Cabinet Ministers, and confirmed the new Prime Minister. Of the five sovereign ministries, Finance, Foreign Affairs, and Oil were endorsed, but the ministries of Defence and Interior were not allocated by the end of the month.⁹

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF leads the [WASH Cluster](#), co-leads the [Education Cluster](#) with Save the Children International, leads the [Child Protection Sub-Cluster](#) (CPSC) and [Nutrition Working Group](#), (NWG) and is an active member of the Health cluster. UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Food Programme (WFP) coordinate the [Rapid Response Mechanism \(RRM\) Consortium](#) serving people on the move, and the Multi-Sector Emergency Package (MSEP) delivering aid in retaken areas. In addition, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) coordinate with relevant line Ministries through the Cholera Taskforce, led by the Ministry of Health (MoH). As part of ongoing capacity building actions focusing on increasing protection and resilience for children and young people, between 7 and 11 October, 26 child protection partners participated in a first Training of Trainers (ToT) focusing on youth resilience, and between 14 and 18 October, a third round of child resilience ToT was held in Erbil with 23 participants. A second standard allocation of the Iraq Humanitarian Fund has been opened, with funds of U\$40 million to be disbursed by the end of 2018, with the objectives of 1) increasing access to basic services for the most vulnerable people and 2) ensuring the centrality of protection through mitigating risks, harmonizing approaches, and advocating for adherence to protection norms and applicable legal standards. – the UNICEF-led or co-led clusters are engaging with partners to develop projects that prioritize IDPs, returnees, or host communities in high or very high severity locations, aligned with the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and proposed Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) strategies for 2019.

Humanitarian Strategy

The 2018 Iraq [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (HRP) targets 3.4 million people in need. The plan was jointly launched alongside the Government's 2018 [Plan for Relief, Shelter and Stabilization](#) of Displaced People. The 102 humanitarian partners engaged in the HRP will reach as many newly-displaced families as possible by securing safe access and providing sequenced emergency packages. UNICEF's strategy under its 2018 [Humanitarian Action for Children](#) (HAC) Appeal in Iraq is aligned with the HRP. The Iraq HRP is complemented by the UN's two-year [Recovery and Resilience Programme](#) which aims to fast-track social dimensions of reconstruction. The RRP builds on existing humanitarian efforts and is designed to ensure people see tangible improvements in their daily lives at the start of the reconstruction process.

In preparation for 2019, a series of humanitarian planning workshops and presentations for the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and Humanitarian Country team (HCT) members outlined the analysis that will underpin the 2019 HNO and HRP. On 17 September, an Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) workshop agreed on 2019 cluster-specific people in need (PIN) figures, which will inform the finalisation of cluster 2019 response strategies in the coming two months. The total people in need of humanitarian assistance in Iraq in 2019 is estimated to be 6.55 million individuals. On 22 October 2019, an Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) workshop on the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) workshop took place. The 2019 HRP will target approximately 1,750,000 people of which 500,000 will be IDPs in camps, 550,000 will be non-camp IDPs, 500,000 returnees, and 200,000 vulnerable host community individuals. The strategic objectives of the 2019 plan will focus on: Post-conflict transition towards durable solutions; strengthening the centrality of protection; and contingency planning and preparedness for any future emergency response.

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

⁹Briefing to the UN Security Council by SRSF for Iraq, New York, 13 November 2018

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) and Multisector Emergency Response Package (MSEP)¹⁰

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

Between January and October 2018, the Consortium reached 78,938 vulnerable people including 45,731 children on the move, with emergency response items to support access to safe water, good hygiene practices, and immediate food rations. Of the total reached, 86 per cent were supported during secondary displacements, 3 per cent during new displacements, 5 per cent during camp relocations and the remaining 6 per cent were assisted on Sinjar Mountain (flood-affected internally displaced families). Most assistance has been first-line response to new and secondary displacement, and to camp relocations. The RRM Consortium planned to support anticipated camp relocation caseloads with immediate response items; however, as discussions on camp consolidation/closure remain inconclusive, there have been no large-scale camp relocations requiring assistance so far.

October saw the lowest RRM deliveries since the start of the Mechanism in 2014. In October, RRM partners distributed 334 emergency kits to reach 1,144 individuals including 612 children across four governorates¹¹, ensuring the provision of immediate, life-saving emergency supplies to highly at-risk families. In the month, the majority of people (93 per cent) were reached in Qayyarah and Falluja camps in Ninewa and Anbar. All distributions to new camp arrivals took place in close coordination with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM) and local authorities, to ensure support is only provided to those in need. There were no Multi-Sector Emergency Package (MSEP) deliveries in October. As the level of active conflict in Iraq has declined in 2018, there have been no populations caught in frontline locations.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

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

UNICEF progress is at 74 per cent against its 2018 IDP water supply targets, and UNICEF-supported partner contribution has constituted 50 per cent of WASH Cluster results as of October 2018. Between January and October 2018, UNICEF has supported 959,929 IDPs (451,167 children of which 230,095 girls) in fourteen governorates¹² through government and non-government partners, including through WASH Service Centres (WSC). In Mosul City, Ninewa, throughout October UNICEF provided a daily average of 250m³ safe water to 43,592 individuals (including 20,488 children) in 15 neighbourhoods of the Old City, the area that was the hardest hit by large-scale conflict in 2017, and where damage to municipal infrastructure remains high. In the Old City, people reached and neighbourhoods served in October were slightly higher than in September as rates of return increased to this particular location at the start of the new school year. In parallel, and to enable phase out of water trucking in the Old City and surrounding areas, UNICEF and WASH Cluster partners supported improved access to safe water for 21,000 returnees (9,870 children) in October as three of a planned 22 water networks were completed. In the same areas UNICEF upgraded WASH facilities in schools and Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC) – as of October, 45 of a planned 147 rehabilitations in schools have been completed (16 completed in October alone)

¹⁰ People may be reached by RRM more than once during displacement, including at mustering points; at a screening site with an initial package; and with the full package on arrival at a camp or in host communities. RRM does not register beneficiaries; all efforts are made to reduce duplication in reporting between partners.

¹¹ Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah Al Din and Ninewa

¹² Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Missan, Muthanna, Ninewa, Qadissiyah, Salah al Din, and Sulaymaniyah. Source: Partner Activity/Info reports. 174 sites are the maximum number served since January 2018.

improving access to facilities for an estimated 6,318 children (2,723 girls), and 10 of a planned 86 rehabilitations in PHCs have completed (eight in October), improving access for an estimated 14,885 returnees (6,996 children, 3,568 girls). Exact nature of work done depends on needs per site or facility.

In Anbar, Baghdad, and Kirkuk, also affected by conflict in 2017 and 2018, 360 children¹³ in six schools (out of a planned 42) in Hawiga, Kirkuk had improved access to WASH facilities, and in Baghdad (Rashidiya) and Anbar (Fallujah) rehabilitated water projects are now delivering water to 105,000 returnee and host community individuals (49,350 children, 25,169 girls). Preparedness against waterborne disease is ongoing and integrated through all WASH actions, with water quality monitoring in all UNICEF-supported sites, provision of more than 8,200 tonnes of water treatment materials, water testing items, dosing pumps, and water filters.

UNICEF and partners continued supporting solid waste management in camps across the country contributing to sanitary environments through cleaning campaigns, distribution of garbage bags, and garbage removal and disposal. As of October, 370,516 IDPs (174,143 children, 88,813 girls) have had continued access to adequately-maintained latrines, with UNICEF-supported partners contributing to 79 per cent of the Cluster sanitation response. Global Handwashing Day celebrations on 15 October led by WASH Cluster partners, including UNICEF, engaged 3,755 children in a range of awareness raising and creative play activities including dances, songs, and quizzes. Ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) work still constitutes a sizeable portion of UNICEF's WASH programming and expenditure. For example, in Dahuk governorate¹⁴ UNICEF, in partnership with the Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs (BRHA) is supporting WASH facilities in 10 IDP camps, benefitting around 90,300 individuals (46,060 females and 42,441 children); since January, 1,882 latrines and 1,536 showers were rehabilitated in these locations, with 1,221 water network pipelines repaired¹⁵.

In further response to water scarcity in southern Iraq, water trucking started in 50 UNICEF-supported schools, reaching nearly 40,000 children with safe water and, to improve safe water storage, 47 water tanks have been installed (installation of at least a further 8 tanks to take place in the first half of November). UNICEF continued to coordinate with the Directorate of Water (DoW) Basrah on needs in its 'R-Zero' water project – an assessment in late October indicated that rehabilitation/replacement of nine compact units (400m³ p/hour) would support improvements in water treatment – and on a proposed two-phase rehabilitation of the Hamdan wastewater treatment project which, if completed, would reduce the amount of untreated sewage pumped into the Shatt al Arab river. Water availability in other parts of the country likewise remains a concern, with reports of decreases in water levels in the Mosul Dam, Ninewa affecting water supply to Khanke IDP camp and surrounding host communities in Dahuk City suburbs. In coordination with local authorities, UNICEF agreed to support relocation of a floating intake that feeds these locations, to ensure operationality even if water levels continue to decline. With the onset of the rainy season expected, it is hoped that winter rains will reduce demands on water for agricultural/irrigation purposes and facilitate an increase in fresh water flow in Iraq's rivers.

Education

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

More than 200,000 children are enrolled in UNICEF-supported schools in locations affected by the IDP crisis. Specific support is available for children who have missed years of learning – for example, in Erbil governorate UNICEF and three NGO partners¹⁶ are delivering a range of educational support including Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) and Catch Up Classes (reaching 9,168 children, 4,278 girls) and Early Childhood Education (ECE) programmes (reaching 1,769 children, 910 girls). As part of increasing access to learning, in southern Mosul camps UNICEF installed 58 prefab classrooms, while in Anbar and Salah al Din 34 schools were rehabilitated, and one school was provided with 2 additional pre-fab classrooms. These interventions facilitated access for 9,324 children (4,155 girls).

Between September and October 2018, 772 teachers or education personnel participated in trainings on improved teaching techniques for core curriculum subjects including Arabic, English, maths and science, delivery of PSS in the classroom, and positive discipline methods. A total of 1,415 people has been trained since the start of the year. As part of additional capacity building activities, in October UNICEF organised a training for 10 NGO implementing partners (20 participants, 13 females) on Results Based

¹³ Reflects enrolment rates at time of reporting – formal enrolment period is still open, and increases in returns are anticipated.

¹⁴ Around 30 per cent of families are still displaced in camps. Of those in camps, 27 per cent are in Dahuk (27 per cent of the total displaced population).

¹⁵ Correction to previous (September) report: 1,711 latrines, 1,328 showers rehabilitated and 1,200 water network pipelines repaired between January and September 2018 (288 latrines, 196 showers, and 120 networks repaired in September alone).

¹⁶ Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children International and Terre des Hommes

Management (RBM). In October, learning materials for the new school year reached 43,287 children, for a total of 237,318 children reached since January 2018.

UNICEF in coordination with local education authorities in Baghdad and Najaf launched life skills activities in 305 schools. More than 18,750 students (8,438 girls), 675 teachers, and 306 Parent Teacher Association (PTA) members participated. Life skills activities encourage children, teaching staff, parents and communities to identify and promote social cohesion and citizenship values.

Delivery of education for IDP children continues to be negatively affected by shortages of teachers; two main causes are ongoing population movements, as teachers return to their places of origin, and challenge of paying teacher incentives for volunteer teachers in IDP schools. Shortages of teachers have been reported in all IDP camps in Kirkuk, southern Mosul district, and Sulaymaniyah. For example, in 20 formal schools in southern Mosul camps, with 26,046 enrolled, there are currently only 105 teachers registered on the local authority payroll, for an average of 249 children per teacher. UNICEF continues to advocate at all levels for more sustainable solutions to this challenge, including with the federal Ministry of Education to find a sustainable solution for this challenge.

Child Protection

UNICEF is reaching vulnerable children and caregivers through structured, sustained psychosocial support services (PSS), with referral to specialized child protection assistance¹⁷ when needed, including for children with disabilities. UNICEF is working to deliver support to children in contact with the law, including children accused of affiliation with ISIL. UNICEF integrates a focus on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention across its work. UNICEF and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC) promote integration of services in community centres, aiming to minimize stand-alone activities as part of resilience-focused interventions.

In October 2018, UNICEF partners provided psychosocial support services (PSS) to 10,414 newly registered IDP children (4,902 girls), for a total 148,896 children (71,372 girls) reached since January 2018. Specialized child protection services reached 867 IDP children in October (333 girls), bringing the total reached this year to 8,088 IDP children (3,462 girls). Specialised services include family tracing and reunification, legal assistance and alternative care.

In October, 2,097 (1,431 women, 660 girls, and 6 boys) who have experienced, or who are found to be at risk of, Gender Based Violence (GBV) have accessed case management and PSS services through UNICEF GBV programming; and 1,076 women, 518 girls and 28 boys participated in social and recreational activities that build resilience. In the month, UNICEF-supported partners delivered a Training of Trainers (ToT) session for 23 local NGO and Directorate of Labour and Social Affairs (DoLSA) staff¹⁸ on the Adolescent Girls Toolkit, a life skills programme focusing on social relationships, reproductive health, child marriage and GBV, to strengthen age-appropriate services for adolescent girls. The training is part of ongoing efforts by UNICEF to strengthen and expand quality, age-appropriate services for adolescent girls. In addition, 30 civil servant staff from Anbar and Salah Al Din received training on caring for survivors of sexual assault, including children, and 97 service providers (50 women) were trained on GBV concepts. Also, 38 GBV social workers from 10 local partner organizations in Erbil, Dahuk, and Sulaymaniyah successfully completed 65 mentoring and coaching sessions in case management. Awareness-raising activities aimed at changing social norms that underpin GBV and promote safer and resilient community environment reached 8,244 community members (3,359 women, 2,291 girls, 1,049 boys, 1,545 men).

Iraq is one of the world's most landmine-affected countries, with historic contamination of unexploded ordnance (UXO) exacerbated by the most recent round of armed violence against ISIL. Explosive remnants of war remain a significant threat to children, especially in areas of return such as Anbar, Kirkuk, and Ninewa where conflict was most intense in late 2016 and in 2017, but in other locations too – in October, an unexploded device was found in Ashti IDP camp, Sulaymaniyah, drainage system by a UNICEF WASH partner. Although UNICEF has been working on mine risk education and awareness-raising in most-recently affected locations, it is currently discussing potential expansion of services into additional areas to try and increase response to this danger. Five reports of grave violations of child rights were recorded in October, affecting 10 children. Four violations were verified, affecting nine children, and included killing of three children (one boy and two girls) and injuring of other six children (five boys and one girl) in Kirkuk and Ninewa caused by explosive material and bomb attacks.

As part of wider capacity building strategy UNICEF, in partnership with a legal services agency, initiated roll-out of trainings for justice and security sector actors on child-friendly justice systems, GBV prevention, and survivor-centred approaches. The first training in October included Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) social workers, juvenile detention staff and juvenile police from Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dahuk.

¹⁷ Specialized assistance includes case management, legal services, family tracing and reunification, and emergency alternative care.

¹⁸ Staff worked in Anbar, Baghdad, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al Din, Sulaymaniyah

Health and Nutrition

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

In 2018, UNICEF has supported social mobilization activities for two Nationwide Immunization Days (NID) in 14 governorates, and three emergency campaigns in areas of concern in Anbar (Qa'im, Ana, Rawa), Kirkuk (Hawiga 1 and 2), Ninewa (Ba'aj, Hathar, Tel Afar, Sinjar), and Salah al Din. In response to increases in measles cases noted in Iraq, a first 2018 measles campaign took place in 10 governorates in September, supported by the MoH, reaching 2,095,740 children in 10 governorates (93 per cent coverage). A second phase, requiring direct UNICEF support in eight governorates, is scheduled for late 2018 or January 2019, pending confirmation from the Ministry of Health (MoH).

As of October 2018, UNICEF and partners reported 33,158 children under one year old (16,911 girls) vaccinated against measles (66 per cent of target) through routine Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) services, and, as part of ongoing polio prevention campaigns, 870,954 children under five (444,187 girls) vaccinated against polio (73 per cent of target) since January.¹⁹ In October, 1,119 doses of Vitamin A supplementation were given to children 9 to 59 months in camps, for a total of 27,495 doses given in 2018 so far. Vaccination is strictly supervised by the EPI department in the MoH; UNICEF provides technical advice, transportation incentives for vaccination teams, undertakes site supervision and social mobilization interventions targeting parents and caregivers.

In nutrition interventions, through UNICEF-supported partners, 18,815 pregnant women and new mothers attended health promotion sessions on Infant and Young Child Feeding practices (IYCF) between January and October 2018, and 141,167 children aged 6-59 months (71,995 girls) have been screened for nutritional status. Of the children screened in October, children identified with malnourishment were further checked with anthropometric measures in growth monitoring units in camps - 232 children were identified with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 80 children were identified with Severe Acute (SAM).²⁰ Malnourished children were provided with therapeutic feeding through the community-based management of acute malnourishment (CMAM) model, while cases with complications were referred to specialist Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRC). Growth monitoring data has been a challenge due to data recording practices that focus on sessions delivered, rather than children reached – since one child being treated for malnourishment may make several visits to a health facility, this causes repetition in recorded figures. In 2018 UNICEF has partnered with two national NGO partners to support nutrition services in Ninewa IDP camps, where delivery gaps were found, and data has improved from these locations. In parallel, UNICEF and Nutrition Working Group (NWG) conducted two trainings to build capacity of 50 government and national NGO staff on nutrition services.

In health promotion interventions, through government and NGO partners, since January 2018, UNICEF has been working to scale up awareness programmes in IDP camps to promote healthy practices, including a 'home visits' initiative in support of maternal and neonatal health. In October, 6,583 individuals participated in UNICEF-supported health promotion events, and 2,309 new-borns and their mothers (1,178 girls; 247 children in September) have been visited by trained health worker teams during the critical first month of life. In cases where risk signs were identified, new-borns and mothers were referred to the nearest health facility. UNICEF's 2018 progress has been affected due to lack of funds and a pause in delivery caused by concerns about quality of service. Services resumed in the second quarter of 2018, but progress remains lower than anticipated. UNICEF preparedness against outbreak of waterborne diseases are joint actions between WASH and Health teams, in coordination with WHO and the MoH. Supplies for treatment of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) have been prepositioned with local authorities in areas considered to be at high risk of outbreaks, based on past years' experience.

Due to high turnover, capacity-building for MoH staff is an ongoing need, including refresher courses on child immunization and nutrition for staff working in camps and vulnerable districts. Underfunding remains a concern, with planned Iraq health and nutrition

¹⁹ Routine polio services are supported by UNICEF through fixed units in IDP camps – in October 439 doses of polio vaccine reached children 9 to 59 months.

²⁰ Numbers of children screened are a mix of anthropometric and Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening, and figures of MAM and SAM cannot be used to infer prevalence in the population.

response 45 per cent underfunded; as needed, UNICEF is prioritising interventions to ensure basic child- and mother-focused services continue. UNICEF requires at least US\$1 million to sustain most critical services in IDP camps until December 2018. Reducing services may expose vulnerable children and mothers to preventable diseases that have life-long impact.

Cash Assistance

UNICEF is establishing links between humanitarian assistance and the Government's social protection framework to provide integrated support to vulnerable children. UNICEF's cash assistance is unconditional, but aims to support removal of barriers to children's access to education. UNICEF delivers an integrated package of support alongside government partners to identify protection-related concerns and refer cases to social workers for additional support. In the previous academic year 2017-2018, UNICEF had supported 3,902 children (1,877 girls) with cash assistance of US\$30 per child per month.

At the start of the new 2018-2019 school year, UNICEF intends to support 3,000 children from 1,495 families in Mosul City with cash for education support²¹. Targeted children will be attending schools participating in the nationwide roll-out of the MoE and UNICEF 'school-based management' (SBM) approach, enhancing complementarity between UNICEF interventions that support children's access to school. Finalisation of a new contract with the finance service provider (FSP) for cash delivery was ongoing in October and is expected to be completed in November.

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

Winter Response Preparations

In Iraq, extreme summer heat quickly turns to zero-degree temperatures, bringing with it heavy rains, snow storms, and freezing temperatures, especially at night. Children are especially vulnerable to wintry weather conditions that exacerbate child-related diseases such as pneumonia and other respiratory infections. In 2018-2019 winter response, UNICEF intends to reach 200,000 of the most vulnerable Iraqi children, delivering warm clothing in nine governorates. UNICEF has secured funds sufficient for 86,500 kits. Procurement is underway and response is scheduled to start in November. To ensure all 200,000 vulnerable Iraqi children have winter clothes, UNICEF Iraq urgently requires US\$2.1 million. Resource mobilization efforts are ongoing with various donor partners to support filling this gap. Lack of funding will leave children without warm clothing to protect them from Iraq's harsh winter weather.

Supply and Logistics

Since the start of 2018, UNICEF Iraq dispatched relief items to government and non-government partners with a value of over US\$6 million. In October, a particular challenge has been new customs checkpoints put in place between areas under control of the KRG and areas under control of the federal GoI. Some humanitarian partners report confusion about tax exemptions for supplies being imported into the KRI for onward delivery to IDP camps near Mosul and elsewhere in Ninewa, among other internal border crossing issues.²² Earlier in 2018, receipt of offshore supplies and internal logistics were likewise challenged due to the internal political tension after the September 2017 referendum on the KRI's independence. Between March and September 2018, the situation had improved, however the new requirements in October may hamper dispatch of humanitarian supplies once more. One of UNICEF's main warehouses in Iraq is in Erbil governorate, receiving and storing items intended for delivery by road to non-KRI governorates including Kirkuk and Ninewa.

Media and External Communication

In October, UNICEF Iraq launched its nationwide digital 'Back2School' campaign with a [Facebook Live](#) event from a school in Mosul featuring UNICEF's Director of Communication Paloma Escudero. Advocacy efforts focused on education, particularly for most vulnerable children including IDPs and children living in underserved areas such as [Basrah](#). The 'Back2School' campaign was covered by [Al Jazeera English](#), further amplified UNICEF message. Also in the month, UNICEF Iraq covered the [International Day of the Girl Child](#) and [Global Handwashing Day](#). A delegation from UNICEF Germany visited West Mosul and an IDP camp in Erbil, focusing on the importance of access to basic services including education. UNICEF Iraq hosted a three-day Regional UNICEF Communication Network meeting in Erbil for more than 30 communication professionals working in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

²¹ Exact figures may change depending on final registration of families in the programme.

²² UN OCHA, Humanitarian Bulletin Iraq, October 2018, issued 20 November 2018. Other reports of border crossing issues came from Dahuk and Hawiga (Kirkuk).

Security

Reports of terror-related activities continued in Ninewa Governorate during October including four Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonations against off-duty Tribal Militia Forces (TMF) in southern Mosul, Federal Police (FP) in Qayyara, civilians in Tal Afar District, an Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) vehicle in Ba'aj and an ISF patrol in Badoush. In Kirkuk, further detonations were reported against Iraqi civilians and on off-duty ISF members. In Qa'im District, north-western Anbar, along the Iraqi-Syrian border, ISIL gunmen from Syrian territory launched a ground assault against Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF); additional PMF troops were deployed to the border in response. Assassinations continued to be reported in Baghdad in October. Asymmetric attacks against ISF and other terrorism-related attacks seem likely to continue particularly in central and north-central Iraq, with risk of increase in Baghdad after the end of temporary higher security measures imposed during the religious pilgrimage event of Arba'een. Security measures put in place for the Arba'een pilgrimage were successful. Among the 15 million pilgrims, close to 2 million foreign visitors were recorded to have legally and safely entered Iraq. Despite these ongoing events, UNICEF missions and field presence continued countrywide in October without significant disruption.

Funding as of 31 October 2018

In October, UNICEF Iraq received new contributions of US\$350,000 from the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund to support a critical measles vaccination campaign, scheduled to take place in early 2019, and US\$200,000 from UNICEF Sweden in support of the Iraq 2018-2019 winterization response for vulnerable IDP and returnee children. In 2018, flexible [thematic humanitarian funds](#) have helped to support underfunded health and nutrition and cash assistance programmes. RRM needs have been less acute than anticipated in 2018, and resources received are adequate to meet needs. In most cases, 2017 carry-over funds and 2018 funds are earmarked to specific programmes and cannot be used to support gaps in other areas. In cases of prolonged underfunding, UNICEF will adjust programming to focus on first-line response or maintenance of existing basic services for most vulnerable groups.

Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds Available*		Funding Gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	USD	%
Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)	4,870,000	1,171,344	819,370	2,879,285	59%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**	37,000,000	28,248,948	10,002,784	-	0%
Education**	15,950,000	12,746,516	6,407,974	-	0%
Child Protection**	21,767,000	19,229,431	7,982,181	-	0%
Health and Nutrition	10,000,000	4,548,410	1,310,980	4,140,610	41%
Basic Needs (Multipurpose Cash Assistance)	5,564,160	1,049,572	621,828	3,892,760	70%
Winterization (Seasonal Response)	6,000,000	2,296,137	1,759,019	1,944,843	32%
Total	101,151,160	69,290,358	28,904,136	12,857,499	13%

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

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

Next SitRep: 19 December 2018

UNICEF Iraq Country Office Official Website: <http://www.unicef.org/iraq/>

UNICEF Iraq Country Office Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefiraq>

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal, 2018: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals>

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

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Annex A

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS (January-October 2018)*

	Cluster Response			UNICEF and IPs		
	Cluster Target 2018	Cluster Results	Change since last Report	UNICEF Target 2018	UNICEF Results	Change since last Report
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM - Needs: 860,000 people						
Vulnerable people newly displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response				1,030,000	78,983 ¹	1,144
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE - Needs 5.4 million people						
Emergency affected population accessing sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	2,309,765	1,937,363 ¹	15,689	1,300,000	959,929 ¹	42
Emergency affected population benefiting from latrines established/rehabilitated/maintained	436,901	468,045 ²	4,712	300,000	370,516 ²	6,892
EDUCATION – Needs 3.3 million school-aged children*						
Boys and girls receiving educational supplies	528,222	344,680 ¹	56,732	450,000	237,318 ¹	43,287
Teachers, facilitators, and education personnel trained on emergency education, life skills, and delivering PSS	5,000	10,134 ²	966	4,300	1,415 ²	722
Conflict-affected boys and girls (6-17 years) enrolled in formal and non-formal education programmes	528,222	593,371 ³	103,467	300,000	201,726 ³	86,470
CHILD PROTECTION – Needs 2.4 million children under 18						
Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes	203,865	268,884 ¹	21,912	186,300	148,896 ¹	10,414
Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services)	29,325	21,133 ²	3,121	18,630	8,088 ²	867
Girls, boys, and women receiving individual or group psychosocial support ³				20,000	16,897 ³	0
HEALTH – Needs: 1.2 million children under 5**						
New-born babies of conflict-affected families benefitting from new-born home services				8,000	2,309 ¹	247
Under 1 year old children vaccinated against measles through routine immunization				50,000	33,158 ²	4,034
Children under 5 vaccinated against polio in crises-affected areas through campaigns				1,200,000	1,265,462 ³	812,303
NUTRITION						
Children U5 accessing nutrition services				50,000	141,167 ¹	7,859 ¹
Targeted mothers of children 0-23 months with access to IYCF counselling for appropriate feeding				20,000	18,815	2,128
SOCIAL PROTECTION – Needs: 1,080,000						
Most vulnerable children receiving child-focused cash transfer				9,000	3,902 ¹	0

Footnotes:

RRM 1: Consortium led by UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA: Females: 40,796, Males: 39,197. Since January, progress against 2018 targets has been limited, mainly because of lower than anticipated levels of new displacements. Also, as discussion on camp consolidation/closure remains inconclusive, there have been no large-scale camp relocation movements.

WASH 1: Cluster: Females: 988,055, Males: 949,308. UNICEF: Females: 489,564, Males: 470,365.

WASH 2: Cluster: Females: 238,703, Males: 229,342. UNICEF: Females: 188,963, Males: 181,553.

Education 1: Cluster: Females: 151,189, Males: 193,491. UNICEF: Females: 102,395, Males: 134,923.

Education 2: Cluster: Females: 5,168, Males: 4,966. UNICEF: Females: 722, Males: 693. UNICEF-supported trainings take place in agreement with the MoE; larger-scale trainings are scheduled to take place outside the academic year to minimise disruption to children's learning.

Education 3: Cluster: Females: 268,294, Males: 325,077. UNICEF: Females: 85,858, Males: 115,868. Enrolment to formal education takes place once per year (data available after verification by MoE). UNICEF is working with the MoE to support enrolment through establishment of schools, providing pre-fabricated classrooms, and opportunities for children to access formal and non-formal learning.

Child Protection 1: Sub-cluster: Females: 128,215 Males: 140,669. UNICEF Females: 71,371, Males: 77,524. In relation to funding versus progress in 2018: as the acute emergency phase of the Mosul response concluded, UNICEF began to consolidate partnerships both for geographic coverage and case management capacity. This process took time and resulted in periods of lower activity in 2018 as some partnerships were concluded and new ones were negotiated. An increase in progress is anticipated in the final quarter of 2018.

Child Protection 2: Sub-cluster Females: 9,577 Males: 11,556. UNICEF Females: 3,462; Males 4,626. In relation to funding versus progress in 2018: See CP footnote [1]

Child Protection 3: This indicator reflects UNICEF support to individuals receiving multi-sectoral services to respond to needs of survivors or people at risk of Gender-Based Violence. In October, ('change since last report column'), a total of 2,097 individuals were reached; however, cleaning of past months' data means the UNICEF HPM table shows a lower figure.

Health 1: Females: 1,178, Males: 1,131. In certain governorates, mobile community health worker teams (covering new-born/nutrition services among others) were paused earlier in 2018; it was instead planned to establish nutrition teams in IDP camps to do growth monitoring by anthropometric measurement. Due to restricted funds, this has been postponed.

Health 2: Females: 16,911 Males: 16,247. In a context of underfunding response strategies were refined to focus on work through government where possible, or on first-line response combined with high-level advocacy to ensure child-focused prioritization – for example, support to one-off vaccination campaigns reaching newly-displaced children rather than longer-term capacity-building work.

Health 3: Females: 444,187. Males: 426,767. UNICEF reports only for its targeted governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din, per the 2018 HAC. In October the 'change since last report column' now reflects the complete MoH verified figures of children under 5 reached in these four targeted governorates through polio campaigns since the start of 2018.

Nutrition 1: Females: 71,995, Males: 69,172. Indicator counts sessions delivered rather than children reached; due to national data collection systems. This causes an increase in figures against this indicator.

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

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

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