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Reporting Period: 01 January 2020 to 31 March 2020

# Iraq 2020 Internal Displacement Crisis Humanitarian Situation Report



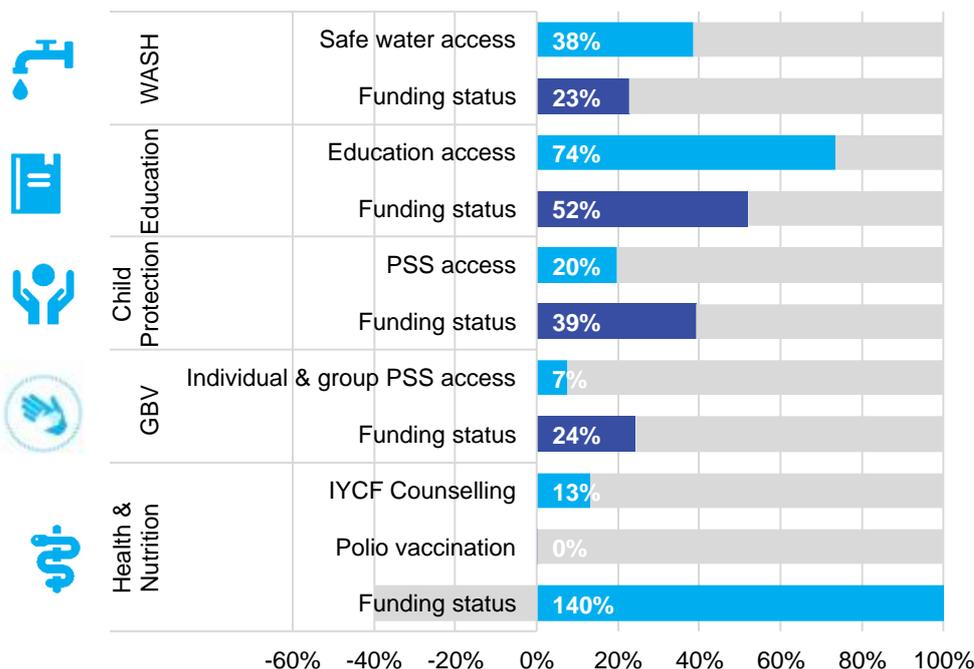
## Highlights

- Following confirmation of COVID-19 cases in Iraq, the WASH Cluster activated a response taskforce; technical guidelines and messages have been translated into Arabic and Kurdish to mitigate spread of infection. UNICEF has supported 239,808 individuals in IDP camps (110,312 children, 122,302 females) with continued access to safe water.
- Despite COVID-19 movement restrictions in March 2020, in the first quarter of 2020 UNICEF child protection partners had delivered continued psychosocial support for 20,838 children (10,087 girls), which is 67 per cent of the Child Protection Sub-Cluster response to date.
- In light of school closures, Education partners, including UNICEF, are working to strengthen opportunities for at-home and remote learning during school closures. UNICEF is working with the MoE to launch an on-line learning platform, and developing strategy for 'catch-up' education interventions.
- At least 2,163 children under five (U5) were vaccinated against polio; there is concern in Iraq, and globally, that continued movement restrictions due to COVID-19 will severely impact planned routine and campaign vaccination services, increasing rates of vaccine-preventable disease among children.

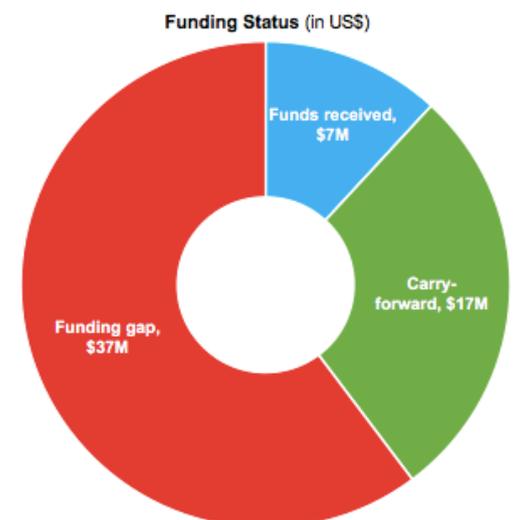
## Situation in Numbers

- 1.89 million** children in need of humanitarian assistance
- 4.1 million** people in need (UNOCHA 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview)
- 1.39 million** internally displaced people (IDPs) (IOM DTM, 31 March 2020)
- 4.6 million** returnees (IOM DTM)

## UNICEF's IDP Response and Funding Status\*



## UNICEF IDP Appeal 2020 US\$ 62.2 million



\*Funding available includes funds received in the current year and carry-over from the previous year.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2020 UNICEF is appealing for US\$62.2 million to sustain and improve provision of critical basic services for children and women in Iraq. Between January and March 2020, the Governments of Canada and Japan have generously contributed to the UNICEF response for internally displaced people (IDP). UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all donors for contributions received.<sup>1</sup>

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

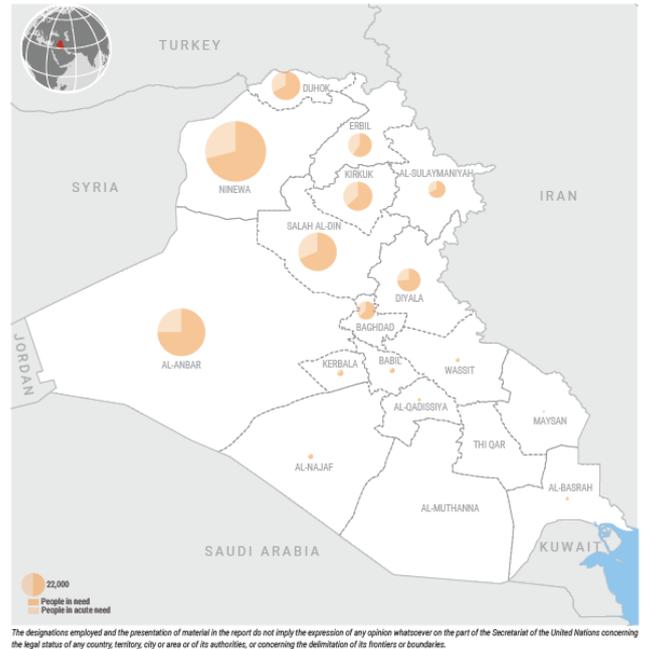
Since late February 2020 Iraq, like many countries, confirmed its first cases of people affected by novel coronavirus, COVID-19<sup>2</sup>. As of 31 March 2020, there were 697 people with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Iraq, and 477 cases were still classed as 'active'. Of these, 51 fatalities had been confirmed and 169 patients reported as cured.<sup>3</sup> Of the active cases as of 31 March, 61 were children 19 and under, and 18 children were reported as cured. There had been no child deaths of COVID-19 reported. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), patients are around 42 per cent female and 58 per cent male; positive cases have been found in all age groups with a heavier concentration in adults who are middle-aged and older. The federal and Kurdistan Regional Governments (KRG) responded to risk of transmission of the virus by declaring public holidays, shutting schools, closing borders for non-essential traffic, and banning movement outside homes other than to access to food, medicine, or due to emergencies.

Impact of movement restrictions on humanitarian response has been significant. With closure of internal and international land and air borders, humanitarian partners have been working to ensure critical items, particularly medical and health-related supplies, are exempted from restrictions. Since late February, humanitarian partners across all Clusters and Sectors worked to assess changing needs of conflict-affected, displaced, and other vulnerable populations receiving humanitarian assistance, adapted programming where possible, and updated service and operational guidance for partners to include methods of remote support for all programmatic areas.

Prior to movement restrictions, in January and February large-scale public demonstrations that began in October 2019, had continued across many areas in central and southern Iraq. Protestors called for improved anti-corruption measures, increased livelihood opportunities, and better basic services. Since 1 October, violence during these demonstrations caused at least 424 deaths and at least 8,758 injuries including members of the Iraqi security forces.<sup>4</sup> In addition to internal strain, a continuation of escalating tensions was seen between the United States and Iran most notably in the 3 January 2020 air strike that at Baghdad International Airport that killed Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) leader Qasem Soleimani and senior Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) figure, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. This has been followed in the first quarter of 2020 by continuing retaliatory air strikes by Iran on several Iraqi military bases hosting US personnel. Although tensions remain, as of March 2020 impact on civilians from these events has been minimal.

As of 31 March 2020, more than 1.39 million people (653,000 children) remained internally displaced in Iraq, mainly in the north and west of the country, while 4.6 million people (1.8 million children) had returned to places of origin.<sup>5</sup> Rates of return since the end of large-scale armed conflict in 2017 have been slower than anticipated. Of those displaced, many indicate no immediate intention to return.<sup>6</sup> Data shows that, as of March 2020, 62 formal camps remained open with a population of 277,177 individuals (138,758 children)<sup>7</sup>, compared to 67 camps with a population of 336,690 individuals as of December 2019.<sup>8</sup>

Map: People in Need and People in Acute Need, Iraq, 2020.  
Source: UNOCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan 2020



The designations employed and the presentation of material in the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

<sup>1</sup> Additional funds were received from the United Kingdom (Department of International Development); results and resources related to COVID-19 response are reported under UNICEF's [dedicated COVID-19 humanitarian situation reports](#), as part of the Middle East and North Africa Regional COVID situation report.

<sup>2</sup> For detail on UNICEF's Global Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for COVID-19 [click here](#); for dedicated situation reporting [click here](#).

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organisation (WHO), Iraq: COVID-19 Status, 31 March 2020

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), Human Rights Special Report: Demonstrations in Iraq – 2<sup>nd</sup> report 9 December 2019. The 8,758 include those injured in attacks recorded by UNAMI and do not include the thousands of demonstrators who received treatment for other injuries, particularly resulting from tear gas inhalation. These numbers are estimated to have reached 19,000.

<sup>5</sup> International Organization for Migration (IOM), Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), as of 29 February 2020, accessed 15 April 2020.

<sup>6</sup> Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, [National Level Movement Intentions of IDP Households, October 2019](#). The survey found 89 per cent of households intended to remain in their current (displacement) location for at least a further three months; and 72 per cent intended to remain in their current (displacement) location for a further 12 months.

<sup>7</sup> Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, Iraq Camp Master List and Population Flow, March 2020

<sup>8</sup> CCCM Cluster, [Camp Master List and Population Flow, December 2019](#) shows 67 formal camps hosting 56,035 families (277,451 individuals, of which an estimated 141,000 children). By contrast, one year earlier in December 2018, CCCM recorded 121 formal sites hosting more than 454,900 individuals, showing the scale of the change in 2019. Per International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data, there are 56,115 IDP households in camps as of December 2019; the IOM DTM assumes 6 people per household, for 336,690 individuals remaining displaced in camps.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

In 2020, an estimated 1.85 million people (851,000 children, 943,000 females) are in need of at least one form of humanitarian WASH support. WASH Cluster partners plan to support nearly 890,000 people in the year in the 30 districts prioritised under the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The Cluster focuses on two objectives – firstly, sustain quality and standard of WASH Services in and out of camps per Cluster minimum standards and secondly, advocate for long-term improvement of facilities in collaboration with local authorities and other stakeholders. For 2020 UNICEF anticipates it will contribute 70 per cent of Cluster response; UNICEF also aims to serve a small number of host community individuals in areas at high risk of waterborne disease. The remaining WASH Service Centres (WSC) will continue to support cost-efficient programming.

Following the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 the WASH Cluster, led by UNICEF and Mercy Corps, activated an internal taskforce to determine response priorities and develop key guidance. In collaboration with Health and Camp Management actors, a regularly-updated 4W mapping is ongoing to determine partner response capacity. The WASH Cluster also developed technical guidelines and messages (translated into Arabic and Kurdish) to mitigate further spread of infection. In March, due to COVID-19 related movement restrictions, progress of activities slowed; however, as in some locations camp residents are employed to support operations and maintenance (O&M) of WASH facilities and systems, this continued without undue negative impact. In general, for WASH interventions in camps, UNICEF encourages community participation, particularly among women and young people, in maintenance of facilities to strengthen ownership among camp residents. UNICEF supported camp-level cleaning and sterilising in the Ninewa IDP camps (Salamiya, Hammam al Alil, Jed'ah 1 and 5) in coordination with the Ministry of Health and NGO partner Pekawa; delivered critical hygiene items for 354 children and 331 women in reformatory and detention centres in Erbil, Kirkuk, and Sulaymaniyah; and worked with the Directorate of Health (DoH) Dahuk to deliver more than 7,300 brochures, 15,500 posters, and 250 banners on COVID-19 prevention measures in the 10 Dahuk IDP camps.

Overall, between January and March 2020 UNICEF supported partners had enabled continued access to safe water for 239,808 people (110,312 children, 122,302 females), which is 38 per cent of the annual target and 68 per cent of WASH Cluster response, and continued access to appropriate sanitation for 222,300 people (102,258 children, 113,373 females), which is 65 per cent of the annual target and 81 per cent of Cluster response for quarter 1, 2020. In the same period, water and sanitation facilities in 74 schools were completed, improving access for an estimated 47,578 children (24,265 girls) enrolled; and similar facilities were completed in 24 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC), with around 129,000 people living in the catchment areas. In March, it became increasingly challenging to run the social mobilization and behaviour change activities that most of UNICEF's NGO partners support, as IDPs cannot congregate to join awareness-raising or other practical sessions – however prior to movement restrictions, 72,242 people (33,231 children) had attended hygiene awareness sessions led by UNICEF partners.

UNICEF's planned WASH response in 2020 has a 77 per cent funding gap as of end-March; in March in particular, funding gaps were noted for ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) interventions for camps in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Ninewa. Further funding gaps are anticipated for the remainder of 2020. As part of managing this challenge, UNICEF has developed and is putting into action, an exit strategy that aims to hand over a range of its current support in these Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Ninewa camps to national or local partners where possible. The strategy is combined with capacity development, where needed, to ensure services can continue at the expected quality.

### Education

In 2020, more than 1.22 million school aged-children in Iraq, around half of them girls, need humanitarian education support. Interventions continue to meet the diverse challenges that face the education sector in Iraq, including limited availability of physical structures, teaching materials, and qualified personnel.<sup>9</sup> For children who have missed several years of learning, Education Cluster partners work through direct and cash programming modalities, as well as through partnership with local authorities to collaborate in a multisector response that engages Child Protection, WASH, and Livelihoods actors, as well as development partners. UNICEF anticipates in 2020, it will contribute around 50 per cent of Cluster response through partners it funds. UNICEF continues to work with federal and KRG Ministries of Education (MoE) on longer-term interventions to improve learning outcomes, including a UNESCO-UNICEF partnership on an Education Management Information System (EMIS), developing governorate Education Sector Plans with private provider Cambridge Education, and expanding the MoE-endorsed School Based Management (SBM) approach<sup>10</sup>.

From 27 February, schools in federal Iraq were ordered to be closure due to risks related to transmission of the COVID-19 virus; this leaves all school-age children, who make up around 30 per cent of the estimated population of 37 million, without access to learning. School closures have been extended each time the federal Ministry of Health (MoH) extends the general movement restrictions and curfews; at time of this report, it is not clear when these restrictions will be relaxed. Education partners, including UNICEF, are working with the federal Ministry of Education (MoE) to identify and strengthen opportunities for at-home and remote learning. A 'Safe Schools' operation guideline was shared with MoE,

<sup>9</sup> According to the Ministry of Education (MoE), there is a gap of over 7,000 schools across Iraq to meet the population of school age children. A lack of adequate schools at secondary school level, leads to poor rates of transition especially for girls in the most rural and poorest quintile. Furthermore, more than half of the schools are in need of rehabilitation and lack adequate and conducive WASH facilities.

<sup>10</sup> EMIS, Education Sector Plans, and the National Learning Assessment have been supported by humanitarian and non-humanitarian contributions.

for use when schools reopen. UNICEF is in the process of identifying a core set of messages for children and adolescents, parents, caregivers, teachers, school principals and other education stakeholders while working with the MoE to launch an on-line learning platform, as well as developing strategy for 'catch-up' education.

In overall response, between January and March 2020 (the second semester of the 2019-2020 academic year) UNICEF has supported access to formal and non-formal education (NFE) for 125,007 children (53,584 girls) (74 per cent of the annual target, and 67 per cent of the Cluster target to date), and has delivered learning materials for 147,946 children (66,416 girls) (87 per cent of the annual target and 89 per cent of the Cluster target). Progress has been supported by good funding status, with a 48 per cent gap as of end-March against the 2020 appeal. The majority of funding available in 2020 comes from 2019 carry-over from funds received in November and December 2019.

## Child Protection

In Iraq in 2020, at least 1.64 million children, at least half of them girls, are estimated to be in need of at least one type of protection service. Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC) partners continue to ensure case management, evidence-based psychosocial support and specialised protection services for children, including birth registration and civil documentation and other forms of legal assistance, as well as further piloting and expansion of the web-based case management platform. CPSC partners work in the 30 prioritised districts, to build on programming with Livelihoods, Food Security, Multi-purpose Cash, and Education actors, as well as with the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) working group. Advocacy for civil documentation, including birth certificates, will be promoted, alongside capacity development of national counterparts.

The inter-ministerial directive on school closure and group gathering significantly impacted most Child Protection group-based activities and resulted in the drastic reduction of progress in March. The CPSC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) endorsed four guidance notes<sup>11</sup> on how to adjust activities in a context of COVID-19 prevention and response. UNICEF is working with government authorities for care of children in institutions including juvenile reformatory centres and state homes, as well as supporting the Child Helpline in KRI to refer callers to needed Child Protection services. UNICEF supported awareness activities on COVID-19 using leaflets, SMS and social media, and activated remote and individual approaches to support children at-risk. In addition, UNICEF is supporting partners to make alternative care arrangements (identifying families willing to take care of separated/unaccompanied children or establishment of interim care centres in camps) in coordination with camp management and other humanitarian actors. Protection of affected children and families, and also of front-line workers remains a concern and a gap. UNICEF is also exploring availability and procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits that would be distributed to front-line workers.

Between January and March 2020, UNICEF partners provided psychosocial support (PSS) to 20,838 children (10,087 girls) representing 20 per cent of UNICEF's annual target (67 per cent of sub-cluster response), and ensured 4,028 children (1,742 girls) accessed specialized child protection, representing 25 per cent of the annual target (60 per cent of sub-cluster response). Specialised protection assistance used the case management approach to address the individual child's needs in a systematic manner through direct support or in coordination with other service providers. Child rights and child protection awareness-raising interventions supported by UNICEF partners engaged 53,240 people (27,733 females), 28 per cent of the annual target and 83 per cent of the sub-cluster response. In the same period, the Country Taskforce on Monitoring and Reporting of grave violations of children's rights recorded 25 incidents, of which 20 were verified affecting 16 children (four girls, 12 boys). This included killing of four children (one girl, three boys), and maiming of 11 children (two girls, nine boys) as a result of explosive materials or direct attacks. Other violations included abductions, rape and sexual violence, and military use of schools (accounting for one and eight incidents respectively). UNICEF's Child Protection programming has a 61 per cent funding gap as of end-March 2020; the majority of available funds come from carry-over of funds received in late 2019.

## Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response

An estimated 1.29 million people are in need of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response services in Iraq in 2020. UNICEF is one of the 32 partners responding under the GBV prevention and response Sub-Cluster (GBVSC) led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Under the GBVSC, UNICEF aims to reduce risk, promote resilience and recovery by enabling survivors and those at-risk to access specialized care and support services, and strengthening national and local capacity to address GBV. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) awareness-raising is integrated across all UNICEF's programming, supported by a technical expert on Child Safeguarding, as well as by dedicated Child Protection staff. UNICEF estimates that, through GBV partners it funds, it will contribute to around 25 per cent of GBVSC response in 2020.

Between January and March 2020, UNICEF-supported partners helped 2,076 girls and women access individual or group psychosocial support (PSS) (7 per cent of UNICEF's annual target). In addition, 282 girls and women accessed GBV-related case management services in the same period (4 per cent of UNICEF's annual target) and 132 girls and women participated in life skills, recreational or vocational training (1 per cent of the annual target). GBV prevention and response activities were restricted by COVID-19 curfews, and faced similar challenges to Child Protection partners, as reported above. However, as it is noted that domestic and gender-based violence can significantly increase during crises, every effort is being made to continue remote or individual service delivery, similarly to Child Protection partners and under the banner of the wider Protection Cluster. GBV prevention and response programming in the first quarter

<sup>11</sup> [Case Management Guidance](#) for disease outbreak; [Alternative Care Guidance Note](#) for unaccompanied children, [Awareness Raising Materials](#) and delivery modality guidance. Family based PSS kits for age under 6 and between 6-13 link forthcoming.

has been supported completely by carry-over funds received in 2019 – there has been no new funding for UNICEF's IDP GBV response in 2020 to date.

## Health and Nutrition

In Iraq, around 2.8 million people are estimated to be in need of Health-related humanitarian support in 2020, of which around 17 per cent are children under five. Per Health Cluster plans for 2020, around 1.26 million people are targeted by the 22 health partners under the HRP. Led by the World Health Organisation (WHO), Cluster partners continue provision of essential primary and secondary healthcare services and support continued provision of quality healthcare after handover to government authorities. UNICEF, as lead agency for the Nutrition Working Group (NWG) guides and supports for primary healthcare services for children under five and their mothers/caregivers, contributing through financial, technical and supply support to Directorates of Health (DoH) in targeted governorates. This will be complemented by UNICEF's ongoing system-strengthening efforts with federal and KRG Ministries of Health (MoH).

In January 2020, the UNICEF Health and Nutrition team finalised annual workplans with the agreement of the MoH and, from late February 2020 throughout March, precautionary COVID-19 measures affected implementation of programmes in camps; UNICEF also supported the MoH to develop guidance on safe burial procedures, safe pregnancy and breastfeeding, and is preparing for service resumption, particularly immunization catch up, once movement restrictions relax. These efforts account for lower than anticipated progress against the key 2020 targets as of end-March 2020.

Despite challenges, between January and March 2020, UNICEF-supported NGO and government health partners had continued home visits in IDP camps, delivered by trained healthcare workers, reaching 1,476 new-borns (753 girls) and their caregivers (7 per cent of the annual UNICEF target), and ensured routine vaccination for 2,163 children under 5 (1,103 girls) against polio (less than 1 per cent of the annual target). A total 5,146 IDP children under five living in camps (2,642 girls) had had their growth screened, and 4,231 mothers of children under 2 years old had attended counselling and information sessions on child nutrition. There are concerns in Iraq, and globally, that continued movement restrictions due to COVID-19 will severely impact planned routine and campaign vaccination services, increasing rates of incidences of vaccine-preventable disease among children. Funding requirements for UNICEF's planned 2020 response have been met as of March 2020; however, requirements may change and increase as emerging and longer-term needs caused by the pandemic are better assessed and health responses are adjusted.

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

As need for a pre-first line rapid emergency response for displaced people decreased in 2018 and 2019, in 2020 the previous Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Consortium partners intend to enhance capacity of government structures and local authorities to deliver similar rapid deployment of emergency capacity. Building on a feasibility study from late 2019 that assessed existing national capacity, a consultative session was held with national stakeholders in December 2019. In January 2020, UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA conducted two initial meetings to share information and agree specific 'capacity development' plans with 26 attendees from the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), the JCMC, Joint Consultative Committee (JCC, a Kurdistan Regional Government body for emergency coordination), and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS). As of March 2020, workshops and practical emergency simulation exercises are planned but on hold due to COVID-19 movement restrictions.

In 2020, UNICEF maintains a back-up capacity, along the lines of the RRM, to reach 50,000 people (10,000 families) including Iraqis currently in Al Hol camp, in Syria, whose return is anticipated, as well as to meet anticipated needs of children and families who may be at risk of natural disasters (floods and/or earthquake) in the year; UNICEF has 3,400 family hygiene kits and buckets on hand, and is planning to procure more. Items may be re-directed towards COVID-19 prevention and response, according to need. As of March 2020, UNICEF has a 100 per cent gap against for planned 2020 Emergency Preparedness programming.

## Winter Response 2019<sup>12</sup>

UNICEF planned to support 180,000 internally displaced children between 0-14 years with winter assistance in the 2019 winter focusing on children in high altitude areas, hard-to-reach, low-service or minority community areas, in detention centers/state houses, or in areas affected by flooding. The initial plan was integrated across programmes and included heating supplies for child and youth centres, health supplies including anti-lice shampoo and anti-scabies lotion and winter school uniforms. Due to lack of funds, UNICEF prioritized activities to focus only on pre-packed clothing kits to meet the most urgent needs. To maximize cost-efficiency with available resources UNICEF worked with local partners and government counterparts with existing UNICEF agreements and presence in targeted locations, which helped reduce costs. In a small number of cases, UNICEF provided financial support for transportation and daily labour.

In total, since the start of UNICEF's winter response in November 2019 until its closure in March 2020, 88,800 internally displaced children (44,476 girls) received winter clothing kits in most vulnerable areas; the underfunding of the planned response left 91,200 children without planned UNICEF winter assistance. A recurring challenge has been that funding

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<sup>12</sup> Final update against the 2019 winter response under the 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal. Reporting against the 2020 HAC appeal winter programming will begin later in 2020, after start of response.

is received after temperatures have begun to drop; as time is needed to procure enough quality items, this has repeatedly meant distributions have begun later than planned.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

In 2020 UNICEF continues to lead the [WASH Cluster](#), co-lead the [Education Cluster](#) with Save the Children International, lead the [Child Protection Sub-Cluster](#) (CPSC) and [Nutrition Working Group](#), (NWG) and is an active member of the Health Cluster and the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Cluster. UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Food Programme (WFP) previously (since 2014) coordinated the [Rapid Response Mechanism \(RRM\) Consortium](#) which responded to people on the move or caught between conflict front line-in 2020, RRM Consortium partners will coordinate on Emergency Preparedness and Response<sup>13</sup> interventions, working to identify appropriate national counterparts to work on strengthening this area of work in Iraq. In addition, UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) coordinate with relevant line Ministries through the Cholera Taskforce, which has been reactivated to support the MoH-led COVID-19 response. The UNICEF led and co-led Clusters, Sub-Cluster and Working Group are part of the wider Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) led by UNOCHA.

In Iraq, UNICEF COVID-19 response has been developed in alignment with the 2020 WHO Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) and the Interagency Standing Committee Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP).<sup>14</sup> Key strategic priorities are placed on immediate measures to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak focusing on: 1) Strengthening risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), 2) Provision of critical medical and WASH activities and supplies related to improving infection and prevention control (IPC), 3) Supporting continued access to essential health care services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management, 4) Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services disrupted by the pandemic, 5) Data collection and analysis of secondary impacts on children and women.

Political uncertainty, specifically the prolonged non-appointment of a new Prime Minister, has caused continued access challenges for humanitarian actors; the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Committee (JCMC) which sits in the Prime Minister's office, has been unable to get formal approval on a range of access letters for NGO partners to cross checkpoints. Humanitarian partners continue to coordinate with UNOCHA on this issue to ensure access letters are approved, received, and updated in a timely manner. UNICEF has worked with OCHA to secure access to delivery critical humanitarian services especially to camp populations. While the government has in general been supportive of continuation of humanitarian services, access challenges regularly occur, given the stringent nature of the restrictions due to the COVID-19 situation.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

Between January and March 2020, UNICEF Iraq media and external communication activities focused on raising awareness on COVID-19 prevention and response. This included combatting misinformation through UNICEF Iraq social media channels and creating a guidance webpage on [COVID-19](#) supporting vulnerable children, adolescents, parents, teachers, and others to access credible information on the pandemic. UNICEF Iraq engaged key influencers such as [Dashni Morad](#), [Ali Najim](#) and others for an online 'handwashing challenge' that reached an estimated one million people. UNICEF media efforts also supported the launch of a Health and Nutrition Rapid Assessment Survey via Facebook to assess and understand risks at community level. At time of reporting, the survey had received nearly 4,000 responses in Iraq. Finally, UNICEF spokespersons conducted 8 media interviews with leading broadcasters in the country, including [Al Mirbad](#) and Al Hurra.

## Next SitRep: July 2020

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, 2019: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals>

Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, 2019: <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/iraq>

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<sup>13</sup> Emergency Preparedness and Response is not a Cluster or Sub-Cluster for 2020; this programming is taking place outside of, but in close coordination with, humanitarian and development partners.

<sup>14</sup> For more detail on UNICEF's Global Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for COVID-19 [click here](#) and dedicated humanitarian situation reporting on the response [click here](#).

## Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall needs	UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster Response		
		2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼
<b>WASH</b>							
Emergency affected population accessing sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	1.85 million people in need	623,613	239,808 <sup>1</sup>	▲239,808	889,357	354,142 <sup>1</sup>	▲354,142
Emergency affected population accessing appropriate sanitation		341,099	222,300 <sup>2</sup>	▲222,300	889,357	274,057 <sup>2</sup>	▲274,057
<b>Education</b>							
Children accessing formal / non-formal education	1.22 million school-age children	170,000	125,007 <sup>1</sup>	▲125,007	330,000	186,416 <sup>1</sup>	▲186,416
Number of teachers receiving different education trainings		3,000	0 <sup>2</sup>	0	6,000	2,238 <sup>2</sup>	▲2,238
Number of children receiving learning materials		170,000	147,946 <sup>3</sup>	▲147,946	208,920	166,387 <sup>3</sup>	▲166,387
<b>Child Protection</b>							
Children participating in structured, sustained, resilience or psychosocial support programmes	1.64 million children under 18	106,121	20,838 <sup>1</sup>	▲20,838	190,000	30,889 <sup>1</sup>	▲30,889
Children receiving specialised child protection services*		16,094	4,028 <sup>2</sup>	▲4,028	30,000	6,739 <sup>2</sup>	▲6,739
Women, men, boys and girls participating in awareness-raising activities on child protection issues		187,960	53,240 <sup>3</sup>	▲53,240	300,000	63,981	▲63,981
<b>Gender Based Violence (GBV)</b>							
Girls, boys, women and men who receive individual and group psychosocial support	1.29 million people	27,775	2,076	▲2,076			
Girls and women who participated in life skills, recreational or vocational activities		8,982	132	▲132			
Girls, boys, women and men who receive GBV case management services		8,053	282	▲282			
<b>Health</b>							
Newborn babies in IDP camps benefitting from newborn home visits	2.8 million people	5,420	1,476 <sup>1</sup>	▲1,476			
Children under 5 vaccinated against polio in crises-affected areas through routine immunization		665,831	2,163 <sup>3</sup>	▲2,163			
<b>Nutrition</b>							
Children under 5 in IDP camps screened for malnutrition by Mid-Upper Arm Circumference or anthropometric measures	2.8 million people	45,206	5,146 <sup>1</sup>	▲5,146			
Targeted mothers of children 0-23 months with access to IYCF counselling for appropriate feeding		32,505	4,231	▲4,231			
<b>Emergency Preparedness and Response</b>							
Government staff benefitting from capacity building for emergency preparedness and response	N/A	50	0 <sup>1</sup>	0			

**Footnotes:**

**WASH 1:** UNICEF: Females: 122,302, Males: 117,506 Cluster: Females: 180,162 Males: 173,530.

**WASH 2:** UNICEF: Females: 113,373, Males: 108,927. Cluster: Females: 139,769 Males: 134,288.

**Education 1:** UNICEF: Females: 53,584, Males: 71,423 Cluster: Females: 82,142 Males: 104,274.

**Education 2:** UNICEF: Females: 0, Males: 0 Cluster: Females: 0 Males: 0. Teacher trainings are usually planned to take place in school holidays to minimise disruption to learning; any plans for Q1-2020 were further challenged by closure of schools from late February 2020.

**Education 3:** UNICEF: Females: 66,416, Males: 81,530 Cluster: Females: 76,110 Males: 90,277.

**Child Protection 1:** UNICEF: Females: 10,087, Males: 10,751. Sub-Cluster: Females: 14,806 Males: 16,083.

**Child Protection 2:** UNICEF: Females: 1,743, Males: 2,285. Sub-Cluster: Females: 2,964 Males: 3,775. This indicator and target are aggregated representing (a) # of girls and boys at risk who received case management services (Target: 13,238) plus (b) # of girls and boys at risk who received child protection legal assistance (Target:2,856)

**Child Protection 3:** UNICEF: Females: 27,773, Males: 25,507 Sub-Cluster: Females: 33,469 Males: 30,512.

**Gender Based Violence 1:** UNICEF services target girls and women; all progress reported under this indicator relates to girls and women accessing UNICEF-supported partner services. Progress against GBV prevention and response Sub-Cluster targets is reported by UNFPA as GBVSC lead agency. Boys and men are covered by other Sub-Cluster service providers.

**Gender Based Violence 2:** See footnote under GBV [1] above.

**Gender Based Violence 3:** See footnote under GBV [1] above.

**Health 1:** Females: 753, Males 723. Progress against Cluster targets is reported by WHO as Health Cluster lead agency. Progress reported here reflects children reached in IDP camp locations only.

**Health 2:** Females: 1,103 Males 1,060. Vaccination data requires verification by the Ministry of Health (MoH) prior to sharing with other partners; this can cause delay in data receipt and entry to ActivityInfo.

**Nutrition 1:** Females: 2,624, Males 2,522. Progress reported reflects children reached in IDP camps only.

**Emergency Preparedness 1:** A consultative session was held with national stakeholders in December 2019; efforts into 2020 are expected to include workshops and/or training sessions for government and local authorities on emergency concepts and practices. Workshops/trainings will start after a relevant counterpart has been identified.

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

## Annex B

### Funding Status as of 31 March 2020

Sector	2020 Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2020	Resources available from 2019 (Carry-over) *	US\$	%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	17,820,000	767,877	3,309,925	13,742,198	77%
Education	8,613,000	1,023,836	3,455,268	4,133,896	48%
Child Protection	18,748,555	511,918	6,838,087	11,398,550	61%
Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response	6,136,915	0	1,487,564	4,649,351	76%
Health and Nutrition**	4,700,000	4,747,575	1,502,246	-	0%
Emergency Preparedness and Response	1,631,124	0	51	1,631,073	100%
Non-Food Items	4,593,996	319,949	784,602	3,489,445	76%
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,243,590</b>	<b>7,371,155</b>	<b>17,377,744</b>	<b>39,044,512</b>	<b>63%</b>

**\*Note:** Carry-forward is programmable balance as of 31 December 2019 for the 2019 HAC Appeal.

\*\*As of 31 March 2020, UNICEF's Health and Nutrition received US\$1,549,821 above its 2019 appeal.