



Reporting Period: 11 May- 30 May 2020

# UNICEF Iraq Covid-19 Situation Report No. 3



## Highlights

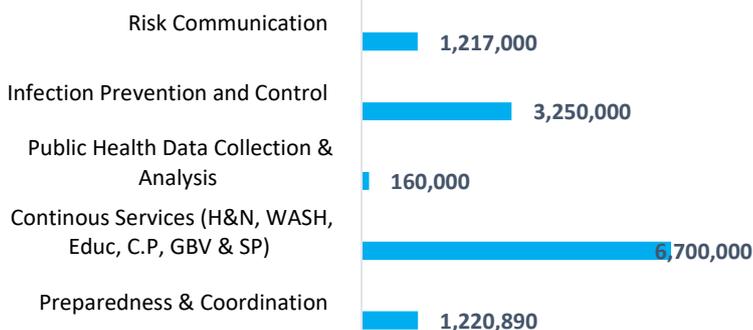
- There is significant increase in number of newly confirmed cases in Iraq. This is attributed to increase in testing capacity nationwide; active contacts tracing and to easing of curfew in many parts of the country especially in the overcrowded and poor areas and no adherence to the proper infection prevention measures and practices.
- Baghdad, Basra, Najaf, Erbil, Sulaimaniya and Kerbala remain the most affected governorates. Most of the reported cases are among the age of 20-59 year. While the recovery rate has been highest among the age groups between 20 – 60-year-old; the fatality is highest among 50+, according to the Iraq Covid-19 Dashboard.
- UNICEF is developing a learning model for 12,615 displaced children in Ninewa and Erbil Governorates, blending home-based learning with classroom education. It includes the development of adapted curriculums, catch-up sessions, community learning-facilitation, safe schools' protocols and trainings for teachers.
- UNICEF continues to use digital media and TV to spread awareness and combat misinformation—during the reporting period, an estimated 8 million people were reached via TV channels and a further 300,000 via digital media.

## Situation in Numbers

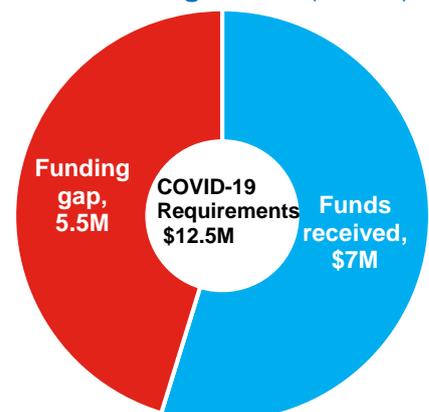
-  **18,950 Covid-19 cases**  
(WHO June 2020)
-  **549 deaths**  
(WHO June2020)
-  **8 million people reached with risk communication messages**  
UNICEF, May 2020)
-  **30,000 PPE kits distributed to health workers.**  
(UNICEF May 2020)

**UNICEF Appeal 2020**  
**US\$ 12.5 million**

### Funding Requirements (US\$)



### Funding Status (in US\$)



## Summary of analysis programme

UNICEF's response in Iraq is aligned with the 2020 WHO global Strategic Response Plan and the 2020 UNICEF COVID-2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal and Iraq's National Development Plan UNICEF is targeting up to 3 million vulnerable people (including IDPs, refugees, returnees, and conflict-affected communities) with preparedness and/or response activities in alignment with the WHO country guidance.

The key strategic priorities in the response plans are on the immediate measures that must be undertaken to ensure preparedness and response actions to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak in each country focusing on the following areas: 1) Strengthening risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), 2) Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities and supplies related to improving infection and prevention control (IPC including procurement of PPEs), 3) Supporting continued access to essential health care services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including routine immunization, MNCH and Nutrition services, 4) Supporting access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and GBV services disrupted by the pandemic, 5) Data collection and analysis of impact on children and women.

## Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF continues to use digital media and TV to spread awareness and combat misinformation—during the reporting period, an estimated 8 million people were reached via TV channels and a further 300,000 via digital media. A meeting was held with MoH, UNICEF and WHO to discuss the development of a national risk communication and community engagement strategy. UNICEF and its partners are now in the process of developing a country wide RCCE strategy that will be finalized in June and will be in effect through 2020.

To-date, 23,074 young people (786 offline and 22,288 online) have been engaged to lead peer-to-peer activities through NGO partners and Directorates of Youth in north, centre and south. This also includes young people who engaged digitally through the U-Report COVID-19 chatbot, What's App Groups, FB Messenger and Voices of Youth and face to face education on COVID-19 with support from Directorates of Youth and Health. They have delivered messages on physical and mental health and adolescent wellbeing.

With support from the Office of Innovation, UNICEF has digitized the Youth Action Toolkit on U-Report for young people to encourage simple actions that raise awareness, prevent misinformation and encourage solidarity. The Digitized Toolkit for Action on COVID-19 will now engage more young people to take additional community actions. UNICEF has also supported the development of a FAQ that addresses rumours of COVID-19 prevailing in communities which will now be pushed out through different online and offline channels. Covid19 awareness materials were also shared with Mirbad Radio (southern Iraq) and Brha Radio (Dohuk governorate) for further dissemination on the two stations.

## Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

A total 9,535 simplified hygiene kits have been procured and delivered to IDPs and refugees, of which 2,030 were delivered to Qushtapa, and 1,900 kits to Kawergosk refugee camps and benefitted 23,580 refugees, while 33,630 IDPs individuals will benefit with the distribution of 5,605 kits are due to be delivered to Jeda'ah camps. To respond to a request from UNHCR, the UNICEF Erbil office supported one temporary quarantine center in Laylan 2 camp in Kirkuk with WASH services comprising of the provision of two latrines and two showers. The quarantine centres were established to prevent covid-19 transmission among IDPs in the Laylan 1 camp.

In addition to awareness raising campaigns, dissemination of critical key messages, including public and mobile led screens in hot spot areas a total of (70) public hand washing facilities were provided and installed at health care facilities, local markets and other public places in high risk areas (Al Sadir, Al Bayaa, Zafaraniya, Al Shaab, Al Hurriya and Dora) within Baghdad and Al Iskan quarter in Hilla within Babil governorate. These places are being used by over 150,000 people including around 70,000 children In partnership with academic institutions at Kerbala university, 4,500 local produced hand sanitizers have been distributed to (34) PHC centres through 20 hygiene promoters 50% of them are females and benefitting 2,000 health workers and 35,000 clients (individuals).

## Continuity of health care services for women and children

350 health care workers were provided with PPEs in 50 IDP and refugee camps across the country. PHC services are being delivered through fixed and outreach services (tent to tent). In addition, 30,000 PPE procured to support health workers in UNICEF focused governorates to enhance their protection and ensure the continuation of primary health care services with special attention to immunization, MNH and nutrition.

19,230 children 6-59 months screened with MUAC for growth in the IDPs and Refugees' camps. A total of 116 SAM cases were identified and referred for case management; while 449 MAM cases identified and received proper

treatment. Furthermore, 9,128 mothers of children under 23 months benefited from IYCF counselling. In UNICEF focus governorates, 324,798 U1 children vaccinated with Measles, and 7,096 women received/benefited from ANC/PNC visits.

### **Supporting access to Education, Child Protection and GBV services**

UNICEF is revising its emergency education response model to better respond to the potential longer-term impacts of COVID-19, including preparedness for the potential school closure due to the second wave preparedness in camps and reopening strategies to implement physical distancing measures.

UNICEF has developed a strategy for blended learning approach to be tried out in 12 IDP schools in Ninewa starting with the summer vacation and benefits 12,615 children (3,000 who are out of school). The approach is built on a blended learning model where home-based learning and e-learning are coupled with traditional lessons, supporting pedagogies, catch-up sessions and community learning-facilitation. Additionally, catch -up classes will be offered until the start of new school year. This considers the new modalities a school may have to adopt considering safe school operations. If successful, the approach could be adapted to address several wider educational challenges in Iraq such as overcrowded classrooms, multiple-shift schools and responding to the needs of specific groups of out of school children.

UNICEF's support to MoE-KRG for the new satellite education tv channel has, according to the latest information from MoE, reached 373,761 (31 per cent of the planned target) children. Support for a second channel expanding broadcast focussing on the Badini has been initiated. UNICEF is now finalising with the MoE-federal and KRG a package of measures to enhance its capacity to deliver learning through the digital platforms. The support will include infrastructure (servers) as well as teacher training.

MoEs are continuing with exams for the grade12 only. Both MoEs have prepared guidance for schools to follow for conducting exams as part of safe school operations. The package of interventions for disinfecting schools' hygiene protocols were developed and costed as part of guidance to the field offices. UNICEF has committed to support 836 exam centres in the South (Basra, Thi Qar Qadissiya, Muthan and Missan) for 93,000 children. In addition, plans are being prepared to support exams for 115,000 children in 5 central governorates (Baghdad (5 DoEs), Najaf, Salal al Din, Babil, Kerbala).

UNICEF continues to engage the Government on the release of children from detention. As a result, 103 children (22 girls) were released from detention throughout the country. This brings to a total of 266 (30 girls) who have been released from pre and post-trial detention since the beginning of the pandemic. UNICEF will continue to work with relevant authorities to advocate for expansion of the release criteria to include those who have finished at least one year of their sentence.

UNICEF continued to work with its implementing partners to provide Psychosocial Supports and Case Management services to vulnerable children during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Due to movement restrictions, service providers used remote service delivery approach in areas where restrictions remain in place and in-person support where possible. During the reporting period 6,436 children (3,010 girls) received Psychosocial Support and case management services.

UNICEF and its partners provided Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response services to 332 beneficiaries (83 girls and 249 adult women) using GBV Sub Cluster tailored remote service delivery modalities. Out of the 332 beneficiaries, 106 received case management, including 47 new cases identified through helpline or a mobile telephone line.

### **Secondary impacts on children and women**

The Ministry of Planning completed the registration of beneficiaries for the one-off Emergency Cash Transfer. A total of 2.1 million households (13 million individuals, of which 6.3 million are children) were registered, eligibility assessments completed, and payments started on 21 May. By end of May 450,000 households received the transfer. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs with: (1) rapid assessment of poverty and vulnerability to identify the target population and the characteristics of the new-poor, and (2) the design of registration platform and modalities for registration and assessing eligibility. UNICEF continues its support to monitor the impact on poverty and children and social welfare worker force to raise awareness among beneficiaries on COVID-19 prevention, and to conduct case-management and referrals to enhance the most vulnerable access to services.

UNICEF in collaboration with Department of Labour and Social Affairs in Duhok Governorate completed awareness raising campaign on COVID prevention to 8,500 households who are beneficiaries of the Social Safety Net. The awareness campaign also included a brief questionnaire to inform UNICEF's response.

### **External Communications**

[Spread awareness, not fear— UNICEF reaches 14 million people in Iraq through SMS with critical information related to Covid-19](#) – news note

[UNICEF reaches nearly 150 million people with information on COVID-19 across the Middle East and North Africa](#) – news note

UNICEF Iraq website: <https://www.unicef.org/iraq/>

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

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