



IRAQ CRISIS 2018

CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY REPORT



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On Cover: “I always enjoy my time here.” Maha, who lives in a camp for displaced people in Anbar, Iraq, has access to a Child-Friendly Space that gives her and her friends a place to play, and just be children.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AOG	Armed Opposition Groups
CCC	Core Commitments for Children
CFS	Child Friendly Space
CPWG	Child Protection Working Groups
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
C4D	Communication for Development
DoE	Directorate of Education
DoLSA	Directorate of Labour and Social Affairs
DoW	Directorate of Water
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
GoI	Government of Iraq
HAC	Humanitarian Action for Children
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IM	Information Management
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MIRA	Multi-sector Initial Rapid Assessment
MoE	Ministry of Education
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
MSNA	Multi-Sector Needs Assessment
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training
NIHR	National Institute for Human Rights
NLG	No Lost Generation
NPD	National Development Plan
NPID	Nationwide Polio Immunization Day
NRC	Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre
NVS	National Vaccine Store
ODK	Open Data Kit
PFA	Psychosocial First Aid
PHC	Primary Healthcare Centre
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
PME	Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation
PSS	Psychosocial Support Services
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
RRM	Rapid Response Mechanism
SBM	School Based Management
SMC	School Management Committee
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WASH	Water, Sanitation, Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
YFS	Youth-Friendly Space
3RP	Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (Syrian refugee response)

Executive Summary

In 2018, Iraq took tentative steps towards peace, and reduction in armed violence and decrease in mass population movements have been positive signs of increasing security in the past year. Despite hopeful signs, Iraq continues to face challenges, many of them exacerbated by the most recent round of conflict, that are likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Around a quarter of the population, including four million children remained in need of at least one form of humanitarian assistance in the year,¹ and as of December 2018, over 1.8 million Iraqis, over 900,000 children, remained internally displaced. Displacement and conflict have disproportionately affected people from western and central Iraq. Two-thirds (64 per cent) of the remaining 1.8 million displaced report no intention to return in the coming 12 months² and smaller-scale 'secondary' displacements and new arrivals to IDP camps continued throughout the year. After 15 years of cycles of conflict, no child in Iraq has memories of a time of uninterrupted peace.

Humanitarian protection concerns remained significant, especially for children, women, people with disabilities, and the elderly affected by conflict or displacement. High levels of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), in particular sexual violence, have been well documented during and after the recent conflict, with many individuals affected by abduction, human trafficking, sexual slavery or experiencing rape, torture, and abuse³. For both refugees and IDPs, risks of GBV against women and girls persisted, not only sexual violence, but intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual exploitation, harassment, and early and forced marriage. For children born since 2014 in areas formerly held by armed groups, birth registration rates have significantly dropped, and there is a risk that this lack of civil documentation will have long term effects on children's access to basic education, health, and social welfare services.

For UNICEF and partners, continuation of humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable children remained a central concern in 2018. In parallel, as the security context has shifted, there has been increasing need to ensure that national systems are strengthened to re-build physical and social infrastructures to hasten improvements against key development indicators, while at the same time remaining sensitive to the many tensions that still exist. In 2018, the United Nations launched its Recovery and Resilience Programme (RRP), which focuses on fast-tracking the social elements of reconstruction in 2018 and 2019. Under this programme, UNICEF has committed to support delivery of basic services in education, health, and water and sanitation sectors, and protection assistance for girls, boys, women and men affected by violence, exploitation, and abuse. Aligned with the Government of Iraq's decentralization policy, core strategies for UNICEF humanitarian programming and resilience efforts include systems strengthening, with a focus capacity development of national government and non-government partners, combined with direct support to community-level structures to build awareness of children's needs and to place their enjoyment of their rights at the heart of all interventions. Where needed, these strategies are complemented by UNICEF technical and financial support to government and non-government partners to ensure continuation of basic services, especially in humanitarian situations.

Iraq remains a complex operational context, and state systems and facilities continue to face a range of risks created by prolonged conflict and fragility. In the year UNICEF Iraq updated and strengthened its child-centred risk analysis; the main risks facing children and their caregivers in Iraq continue to be conflict, floods and water scarcity, earthquakes, and disease outbreak. Work was undertaken to strengthen institutional capacities in water conservation management, educational planning through the devolved 'School Based Management' approach, and in the juvenile justice sector, among others.

¹ Iraq 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan

² IOM DTM, Reasons to Remain, November 2018

³ UNAMI/OHCHR, 2014; OHCHR, March 2015; Amnesty International, 2018

Water scarcity concerns came to the forefront in 2018. Many parts of Iraq have suffered from drought for several years. Limited rainfall in most of the country has depleted groundwater sources, upstream damming has reduced flow in major rivers, and damaged and neglected sanitation systems contributed to increases in water contamination and risk of waterborne disease. The situation for sanitation is considerably worse, with extremely limited functioning wastewater treatment available nationally. In August 2018, an outbreak of gastroenteritis affected nearly 105,000 people in Basrah, southern Iraq, around half of them children, and is believed to have resulted from widespread water supply problems⁴.

In addition to water scarcity, Iraq's harsh environment presents a further range of related challenges - summer temperatures reach beyond 50 degrees centigrade and winter temperatures can plummet to below zero in mountainous or desert areas, exposing children to health risks such as respiratory infection, among other concerns. When rains do come, usually between November and February, after many months of summer heat, dry ground and poor drainage frequently combine to cause flooding. In 2018, heavy rains in the final quarter affected around 18 IDP camps. Deaths and injuries were reported among IDPs, as well as destruction and loss of shelter and possessions. The role of environmental concerns, including climate change, in children's future access to opportunities, and as potential drivers of future insecurity in Iraq, should not be underestimated.

More than 77 per cent of UNICEF's resources in Iraq in 2018 were raised for humanitarian response for vulnerable children and their families⁵. Of total humanitarian resources received, 69 per cent of these were for IDP response. The Iraq Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for 2018 was US\$ 101.2 million⁶. At the end of 2018, UNICEF ended at US\$ 100.4 million funded. Four UNICEF response areas, namely WASH, Education, Child Protection, and Winterization response, ended the year fully-funded against the appeal⁷. The additional funds received in 2018 will support continued humanitarian response into 2019. As in previous years, lower than expected funding was available for UNICEF's planned humanitarian health and nutrition response, meaning planned interventions had to be continually prioritised, and response strategies further refined for cost efficiency and programme effectiveness. The RRM Consortium ended the year 59 per cent underfunded against its 2018 plan – however, due to lower than anticipated levels of new displacements in the year, and the prolonged presence of IDPs in camps meaning camp closures/consolidations did not take place at the expected rate, the funds received were sufficient to meet the needs on the ground. In 2019, UNICEF will initiate steps to hand over the RRM structure to the Government.

Between 2017 and 2018 UNICEF Iraq increasingly supported programming that builds capacity of local and national partners, in line with commitments made under the Grand Bargain. Up to the November 2018, over 82 per cent⁸ of all cash transferred to implementing partners was to local and national partners, an increase of around 10 per cent proportionally from 2017.

Flexible thematic funding made up a significant portion of UNICEF humanitarian response for IDPs in Iraq, providing core support for the people who needed it most. UNICEF National Committees and public sector donors played an essential role in securing high quality thematic funding for children in Iraq. UNICEF Iraq acknowledges the critical nature of these flexible contributions which totalled US\$

⁴ WHO, 2 November 2018

⁵ As of December 2018, UNICEF was 78 per cent funded against its total planned annual budget (ORR+ORE), of which IDP (HRP) response was 90 per cent funded and Syrian refugee response (3RP) was 45 per cent funded). Actual ORE received was 88 per cent funded against planned ORE; and ORE made up 77 per cent of all resources available in 2018. See footnote 6 below for indication of four programmes who exceeded annual requirements.

⁶ UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children appeal under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for Syrian refugees in Iraq was a total of US\$25.1 million; UNICEF's HAC 3RP appeal ended 2018 as US\$11.2 million funded - a 41 per cent funding gap. Details of UNICEF's response for Syrian refugees in Iraq, and critical support from thematic funding, can be found in the separate Consolidated Emergency Report for Syrian refugee response, covering response in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq.

⁷ As of December 2018, UNICEF Iraq had received an additional US\$1,269,732 for WASH; an additional US\$3,222,490 for Education; an additional US\$4,762,236 for Child Protection; and an additional US\$140,335 for winterization above its 2018 requirements.

⁸ Refers to all national and local actors engaged in partnership with UNICEF for humanitarian action, including Iraq IDP and Syrian refugee responses. Cash value to national and local actors, US\$ 27.8 million (82.37 per cent). Cash value to international actors, US\$ 5.95 million (17.63 per cent). As of 14 November 2018.

2,346,807 in 2018 (US\$ 676,287 carried over from 2017 thematic funds; US\$ 1,670,221 received in 2018 alone). Between 2017 and 2018, UNICEF saw a 29 per cent increase in thematic funds received (US\$ 1,298,939 in 2017 versus US\$ 1,670,221 in 2018). Given that the humanitarian situation on the ground in Iraq has for a number of years been notable for its swift changes, the flexible nature of thematic funding continues to be critical, allowing UNICEF to respond immediately to emergency situations and to reach the most vulnerable populations in conflict- and displacement-affected locations, and to support areas of programming, such as Health and Nutrition, where resources received have been consistently lower than required. Given its multi-year timeframe, thematic funding has also contributed to sustain and strengthen resilience-based interventions, such as strengthening the national child protection system for better case management and provision of child protection services to internally displaced Iraq children, Syrian refugees, host communities, and other vulnerable children.

In addition to providing needed financial support for UNICEF's service delivery programmes, thematic funding was allocated in 2018 to support the generation of new evidence on the situation of children and women in Iraq, through the finalisation of Iraq's updated Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)-6, led by the Government of Iraq Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office (KRSO), with technical and financial support from UNICEF. Thematic funds were prioritised for this critical survey, which is the first of its kind since the MICS-4 in 2011⁹ and the first to take place since the outbreak of conflict and large-scale displacement in 2014. The MICS is a household-level survey that provides quantitative information on the situation of children and women in a country. Thematic funding supported the travel of UNICEF's technical expert, responsible for the in-country follow up and liaison between the CSO and the KRSO. The MICS-6 was launched in late 2018 in Baghdad and Erbil, and offers updated, reliable evidence supporting not only UNICEF, but government and UN-wide planning efforts for children and women, including for the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which is scheduled to be launched in early 2020.

Joint ventures with other UN agencies in Iraq to enhance cost savings continued. UNICEF efficiency and operational cost reduction in Iraq was supported in 2018 through the 'Delivery as One' framework of the UN Country Team as well as other internal measures. Most significant cost efficiencies in 2018 were achieved in rent and lease of premises. UNICEF shares offices and accommodation with UNCT members, which has decreased security and rental cost; and in-country logistics efforts meant that cargo costs decreased by 21 per cent compared to 2017, and US\$81,200 was saved in warehousing by more efficient inventory management. Efforts to reduce travel costs continued, with regular meetings held on online. UNICEF contracted local suppliers for maintenance of armoured vehicles and provision of spare parts, further increasing cost-efficiency and supporting the local market. In compliance, the August 2018 audit noted UNICEF Iraq had strengthened its standard operating procedures (SOP) to outline workflow processes and assign accountabilities and had enabled re-structuring of certain business processes through elimination of routine works, consolidation of duplicate tasks, and review of workload distribution.

Overall in the year, UNICEF continued to play a significant role in service delivery for conflict-affected children and families in Iraq, through a broad range of government and non-government partners. As a central part of its commitments as lead UN agency for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and Education Clusters, the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC) and Nutrition Working Group (NWG), UNICEF provided dedicated human resource capacity at national and sub-national levels including cluster coordinators and information management officers. These teams, alongside UNICEF's technical teams, worked with UNOCHA, the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), international and national non-government organisations (NGO) to conduct timely needs assessments, design plans, and ensure clear strategies that deliver results for children.

⁹ Due to largescale conflict and displacement, Iraq was not able to complete the fifth global MICS round.

Humanitarian Context

In 2018, Iraq took tentative steps towards peace. Notably, reduction in armed violence and decrease in mass population movements have been positive signs of increasing peace and security. Despite this Iraq continues to face challenges, many of them exacerbated by the most recent round of conflict, that are likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Since the end of the conflict against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in late 2017, reported violence has fallen to its lowest level since 2003, averaging around 236 deaths per month (April to September 2018). The drop in civilian casualties, down six-fold in one year, is a hopeful sign. However, the previous lull in violence between 2009 and 2013 serves as a warning against complacency¹⁰, and certain areas of Iraq continued to see violence and insecurity in 2018, including Anbar, Kirkuk, and Ninewa (centre and north). Around a quarter of the population, including four million children, remained in need of at least one form of humanitarian assistance¹¹. Further, the population of Iraq is overwhelmingly young - nearly 50 per cent are under 20 years old. In recent years, the social and economic situation in Iraq has been highly unstable, posing further challenges to an already strained economy and job market. An estimated 31 per cent of youth aged 15-30 years old are unemployed, and an even greater proportion of youth are disengaged and not in education, employment or training (NEET). Access to opportunities can be even more limited for IDPs and refugees.¹² After 15 years of cycles of conflict, no child in Iraq has memories of a time of peace, and the years since 2014 have witnessed displacement of nearly six million Iraqis, around 15 per cent of the country's population, including three million children under 18¹³.

Patterns of population movement were complex in the year. People remained in displacement, chose to return, were newly-displaced due to pockets of continued insecurity, or were re-displaced ('secondary' displacement) to IDP camps or previous displacement locations. As of December 2018, over 1.8 million Iraqis, over 900,000 children, remained internally displaced. Around 70 per cent of displaced families lived in out-of-camp settings. Displacement and conflict have disproportionately affected people from western and central Iraq. The majority of IDPs live in just five northern and central governorates - Ninewa, Dahuk, Erbil, Salah al Din, and Sulaymaniyah – and were displaced from three western and central governorates – Anbar, Kirkuk, and Salah al Din¹⁴. Key issues hindering return, as reported by displaced families, included problems with housing, earning a living, accessing basic services, social cohesion, security, and mental health. Up to two-thirds (64 per cent) of the remaining 1.8 million displaced have reported no intention to return in the coming 12 months¹⁵ and smaller-scale 'secondary' displacements and new arrivals to IDP camps continued throughout the year. Movements also continued between Iraq and Syria and Iraq remained host to more than 250,000 Syrian refugees, around half of them children¹⁶. For those who have returned, many have re-entered areas that were sites of recent armed violence. Ninewa governorate and its capital city Mosul, have been covered extensively in international media, and the scale of damage remains vast especially in the western part of the city, where large areas remain highly dangerous due to presence of explosive remnants of war

¹⁰ Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Overview of Iraq: Key Trends Shaping Children's Lives and Implications for UNICEF, Landscape Report, October 2018

¹¹ Iraq 2018, Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

¹² UNICEF Iraq, Programme Strategy Note 2018-2019, Adolescent Development and Participation

¹³ International Organization for Migration (IOM), Iraq Displacement Crisis Report 2014-2017

¹⁴ IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix [DTM] 106

¹⁵ IOM DTM, Reasons to Remain, November 2018. Data as of August 2018; the figure varies when disaggregating responses by IDP location of origin. Those originally from Diyala and Baghdad were less willing to return within the year than the average. IDPs from Salah and Din and Kirkuk were more likely to report to want to return within the year. Of note were IDPs from Sinjar district, who were the group least willing to return within the following year. The IOM report notes that gauging IDPs future plans related to resolving displacement is difficult to do with accuracy in the context of Iraq; this is further complicated by the fact that intentions and future plans are asked about and captured differently between datasets used for IOM's analysis. However, given the wide range of responses, IDPs are highly undecided regarding plans to return in the longer term, and that data collection to date may underestimate the number of those who may wish to integrate locally or eventually relocate. See IOM, "IDPs by intentions to return", page 11, *Reasons to Remain*.

¹⁶ Interagency Information Portal, UNHCR

(ERW). Across northern and central Iraq, this situation is repeated, with homes and schools, hospitals and roads, electricity services and water and sanitation networks damaged, non-functional, or in disrepair due to violence, neglect, and lack of investment.

Humanitarian protection concerns remained significant, especially for children, women, people with disabilities and the elderly affected by conflict or displacement. These included loss of critical documents, such as identity or birth registration documents, increased use of negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage or child labour to support families without access to livelihoods, and increased vulnerability to sexual or gender-based violence, especially for female-headed households, due to lack of shelter or continued insecurity.

High levels of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), in particular sexual violence, have been well documented during and after the recent conflict, with many abducted on a mass scale, held captive for months, sold into sexual slavery and subjected to rape, torture and abuse¹⁷. For both refugees and IDPs, risks of GBV against women and girls persisted, not only sexual violence, but intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual exploitation, harassment, and early and forced marriage. According to the 2018 MICS-6 nearly 28 per cent of females between 20 to 24 in Iraq are married before the age of 18.

For children born since 2014 in areas formerly held by armed groups, birth registration rates have significantly dropped. Prior to 2014, the national rate was at 99 per cent (MICS-4) however protection assessments in the reporting year, showed that up to 25 per cent of children under five in these areas have no documentation, which will have long term effects on children's access to basic education, health, and social welfare services and requires both analysis and response. In addition to protection risks, mass population movements have increased pressures on basic services in 'hosting' areas of Iraq, especially in the north and centre of the country. According to the MICS-6, 1.3 per cent of children aged 0 to 17 years were living with neither of their biological parents, while 4.3 per cent reported one or both parents to be dead. Anbar and Ninewa have the highest proportion of children reporting either one or both parents dead, at 7.1 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively, well above the national average of 4.3 per cent. The third highest is Salah al Din at 6.5 per cent. These three governorates were the most-affected by the conflict, which resulted in significant casualties and detentions, particularly of men.

For UNICEF and partners, continuation of humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable children has remained a central concern in 2018. In parallel, there has been increasing need to ensure that national systems are strengthened to re-build physical and social infrastructures to hasten improvements against key development indicators, while remaining sensitive to the many tensions that still exist. An international conference in Kuwait in February 2018 focused on the physical and human dimensions of reconstruction, and sought support for the Government's reconstruction efforts, with the value of conflict damages to infrastructure since 2014 priced as \$88 billion. At the same conference, the United Nations launched its Recovery and Resilience Programme (RRP), which focuses on fast-tracking the social elements of reconstruction under which UNICEF has committed to support delivery of basic services in education, health, and water and sanitation sectors, and of protection assistance for girls, boys, women and men affected by violence, exploitation, and abuse, as well as working to build local-level capacity to plan for and deliver basic services for children and young people.

Iraq remains a complex operational context, and state systems and facilities continue to face the challenges created by prolonged conflict and fragility. UNICEF is committed to a risk-informed and conflict-sensitive programming approach, to enhance the safety and resilience of children, women, communities, and social delivery systems. In 2018, UNICEF Iraq updated its risk profile for children in the country. Drawing on the Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) approach developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Team on Preparedness and Resilience, UNICEF Iraq has identified five main types of hazards and threats to children and their caretakers (family members,

¹⁷ UNAMI/OHCHR, 2014 and OHCHR, March 2015

etc) in Iraq: conflict, floods, earthquakes, droughts and water scarcity, and disease outbreak. Analysis of historical frequency and anticipated future trends supported determination of patterns of exposure and the particular vulnerabilities and capacities that exist in the country. By applying the INFORM Global Risk Index methodology, which assesses risk on a scale from zero to ten with scores above 6.5 considered “very high”, Iraq remains “high” or “very high” on all parameters relating to risk, hazard and exposure, vulnerability, and poor coping capacity. The main hazard/exposure in Iraq (for the whole population, but evidently also children and their caretakers) relates mostly to man-made shocks and stresses, i.e., conflict.¹⁸

While levels of armed conflict decreased in the country in 2018, there remains both lower-level conflict and a significant risk of uptick in conflict. The end of major military operations, and national and KRG elections, brought old tensions to light and triggered new ones, including internal political tensions between a range of armed actors that have led to armed clashes in certain areas, including Kirkuk, in the year. In these cases, the root drivers of conflict remain the same, and present many of the same risks to children and their caretakers – lack of social cohesion among the many communities in Iraq, insufficient and perceived or actual inequity in delivery of basic services and/or humanitarian assistance, dispute over responsibilities in the ‘retaken’ areas, persistent presence of sectarian narratives, stalled national processes including reconciliation and security sector reform, and the continued smaller-scale presence of ISIL, who demonstrated their capacity to carry out attacks in various parts of the country in 2018.¹⁹

Additionally, Iraq remains exposed to a range of natural disasters of both sudden onset and protracted natures, including floods, earthquakes, disease outbreaks, droughts and water scarcity. These natural disasters can interlink with, and compound, the man-made risks of conflict, and likewise can have highly negative consequences for children and their caretakers. In 2018, flooding presented a particular hazard in the final quarter of the year. Heavy rainfall was noted in September, October, and November. Particularly in late November, flooding caused widespread destruction. Ninewa, Thi Qar and Salah al Din were the most heavily-affected governorates, recording several casualties and widespread damage to homes, schools, bridges, roads and other public infrastructure. Data from the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster²⁰ revealed around 18 camps for internally displaced people (IDP) affected by flooding, damaging infrastructure and impacting over 130,000 IDPs including 65,000 children. In Ninewa, several IDP camps including Qayyarah Airstrip, the Jeda’ah camp complex, and Nimrud camp all sustained heavy damages. Assessments in Ninewa identified tent replacement, restoration of WASH services, and drainage/clearing operations as immediate needs.²¹

Water availability concerns came to the forefront in 2018, pushed by large-scale civil demonstrations in southern Iraq over water scarcity and an upsurge in gastrointestinal (GI) cases (caused by poor quality of water), among other issues including lack of electricity and access to livelihoods, and against corruption. In August 2018, an outbreak of gastroenteritis affected nearly 105,000 people in Basrah, southern Iraq, around half of them children, which is believed to have resulted from widespread water supply problems (WHO, 2 November 2018). Many parts of Iraq have suffered from drought for several years. Limited rainfall in most of the country has depleted groundwater sources, upstream damming has reduced flow in major rivers, and damaged and neglected sanitation systems are contributing to increases in water contamination and risk of waterborne disease. The situation for sanitation is considerably worse, with extremely limited functioning wastewater treatment available nationally. The vast majority of sewage is discharged directly into the environment (rivers, canals and fields) without treatment. Per the Ministry of Environment, only 20 per cent of household wastewater is being treated at international standards. Bacteriological contamination (18 per cent, as reported by the Iraq Ministry of Health and the Environment) highly exceeds national Drinking Water Standards and WHO guidelines

18 2019, UNICEF Iraq, Child-centered Risk Analysis for peaceful and resilience development in Iraq (final draft)

19 Ibid.

20 UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Flood Preparedness and Response, 29 November 2018 (internal briefing)

21 Ibid.

for drinking water (less than 5 per cent). With swift response from the WHO, UNICEF, the Ministry of Health and other partners, the outbreak was contained, and GI case levels had returned to almost-normal by mid-October. However, water conservation and management issues remained a central concern for children's health and safety, and for stability in the country.

In this uncertain and frequently-changing context, progress against key development indicators in recent years has been inconsistent. Significant discrepancies remain between rich and poor areas of the country, and girls and boys. In health, despite progress made in under-five mortality rates, with a decrease from 37 children to 26 children per 1,000 live births (MICS-4, 2011 and MICS-6, 2018) there has been less progress in other critical areas. Vaccination coverage stagnated, with only half of children between 12 to 23 months vaccinated against main vaccine-preventable diseases (47 per cent in 2011 to 50 per cent in 2018). However, changes to the national immunization schedule, with the addition of new vaccines, makes it difficult to assess changes in full vaccination coverage over time. It is possible to examine changes in coverage for some antigen-specific vaccines. For example, BCG coverage increased from 90 per cent in 2011 to 95 per cent in 2018, whereas measles vaccination coverage has not improved (75 per cent in 2011 and 71 per cent in 2018).

In Iraq, a measles outbreak has occurred between every two to four years since 2007. In mid-2018, an increasing number of reported measles cases was a growing concern. The most recent previous outbreak prior to 2018 started in refugee camps in the north and spread to centre and southern governorates, resulting in 2,363 confirmed cases from 2013 to 2015. Iraq saw a similar disease pattern in 2018, with a large majority of confirmed measles cases reported in northern governorates, including 254 confirmed cases (79 per cent of all confirmed cases) in Dahuk, Erbil, Ninewa, and Kirkuk. In addition, measles has also begun affecting central and southern governorates. As of mid-July 2018, a total of 648 cases had been reported, of which 323 (50 per cent) were laboratory-confirmed. Children below 5-years-old represent 75 per cent of confirmed cases, and 62 per cent of total confirmed cases have not received any dose of measles vaccine. In September 2018, the Iraq Ministry of Health (MoH) declared an outbreak of measles and requested support from UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to activate a two-phase nationwide measles vaccination campaign targeting children between 9-59 months. The first phase took place in 10 governorates between 2 and 13 September, reaching 2,095,740 children in 10 governorates (93 per cent coverage), with direct government support. The second phase of the campaign, which will require direct UNICEF and WHO support, is scheduled to take place in early 2019.

Some challenges have persisted over time, including poor completion and transition rates of children in education, especially girls. In 2018, rates of out of school children continued to be highest at secondary level – only 8 per cent of children were found as out of school at primary levels, rising up to 40 per cent by upper secondary level (MICS-6), with significant geographic disparity in completion rates between the KRI (89 per cent completion) and central and southern Iraq (73 per cent), as well as between richest and poorest wealth quintiles (93 per cent against 54 per cent respectively).

The vulnerabilities affecting children in Iraq are compounded by a serious lack of institutional coping capacity, with neither formal nor informal institutions demonstrating adequate ability to plan for, mitigate, or respond to shocks and stresses. Protracted conflict and resulting depletion of social capital undermine collective responses to shocks and stresses both at the level of individuals and communities. In the last decades, children and their caregivers in Iraq have experienced economic instability and reduced access to essentials services because of war and sanctions. Moreover, Iraq is exposed to multiple natural and manmade disasters. While slow and incremental, the Government and related institutions are making efforts to prevent, plan for, mitigate and respond to sudden onset crises.

In the year, through a strengthened risk-informed approach, UNICEF programming continued to link humanitarian and development interventions, including capacity building efforts with government authorities and non-government organisations, maintaining strong relationships with partners at federal, regional, and local levels. UNICEF worked to strengthen institutional capacities in UNICEF's areas of comparative advantage, including in water conservation management through dedicated trainings for

government water sector employees on water safety planning and water management; educational planning, budgeting, monitoring and community engagement through the devolved 'School Based Management' approach and governorate-level education sector plans; analysis and strengthening of the cold chain system through provision of key updates in technology and in health staff training; and in child protection and GBV prevention and response services, including capacity building on case management, the pilot of the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS), and on awareness of GBV risks, among others.

In lessons learned, as levels of violence in Iraq have declined and, consequently, the humanitarian situation in Iraq has increasingly stabilized since the end of 2017, UNICEF has been able to shift focus away from fast-moving service delivery at scale and towards consolidating gains made in previous years, including identifying opportunities for, and encouraging, integrated and multi-sectoral implementing partnerships. Attempts were made to identify NGO partners with relevant geographic presence and technical capacity to support delivery of interventions that meet the multi-sectoral needs of children and caregivers.

Challenges faced included identifying partners with sufficient technical capacity across UNICEF's programme areas - for example, a partner with sufficient WASH capacity may not have adequate experience in child protection programming – meaning that capacity building elements, including UNICEF direct technical support and guidance, became pre-requisite in the design of each programme document. Further, with the office's increased focus on transparent selection of partners through open calls for expressions of interest, the amount of time needed to complete initial selection, design the intervention, and move through internal quality assurance mechanisms was initially underestimated and had to be extended. However, with reduction in the scale of the emergency responses in Iraq, UNICEF has been able to initiate streamlining of partnerships and, with a reduced number of partners, to begin focus on more coordinated capacity development interventions. In 2019, UNICEF-led sectors will undertake refresher trainings on information management and reporting issues, while UNICEF intends to run a round of trainings focusing on awareness and prevention of fraud, among other topics.

Figure 1: UNICEF Iraq programme focus areas 2016-2019

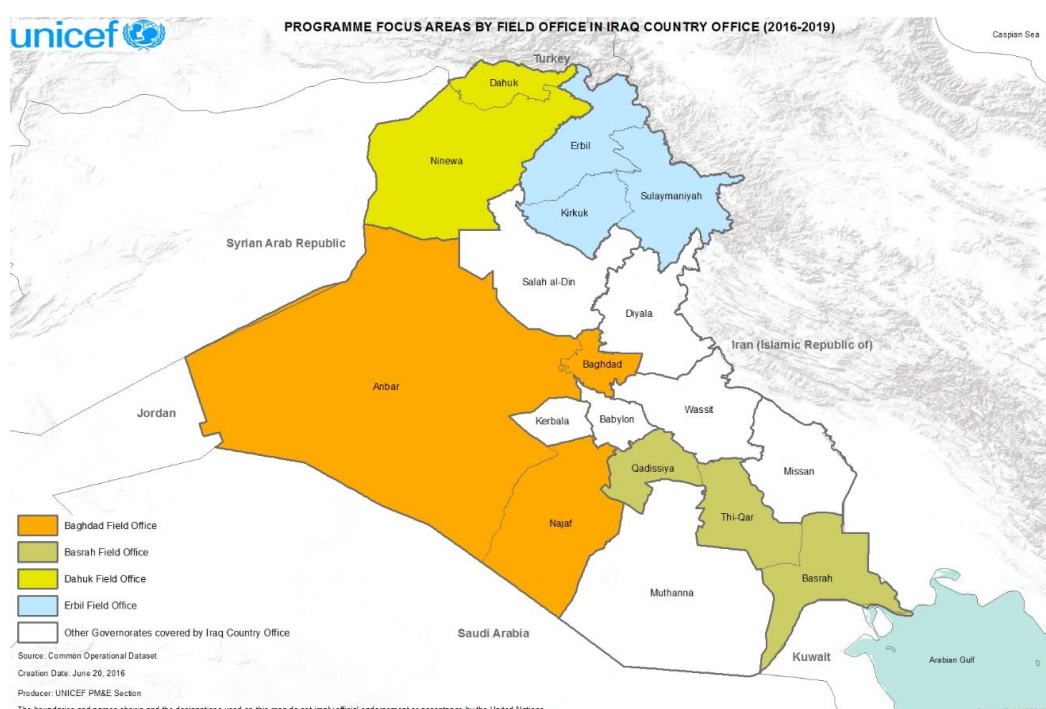
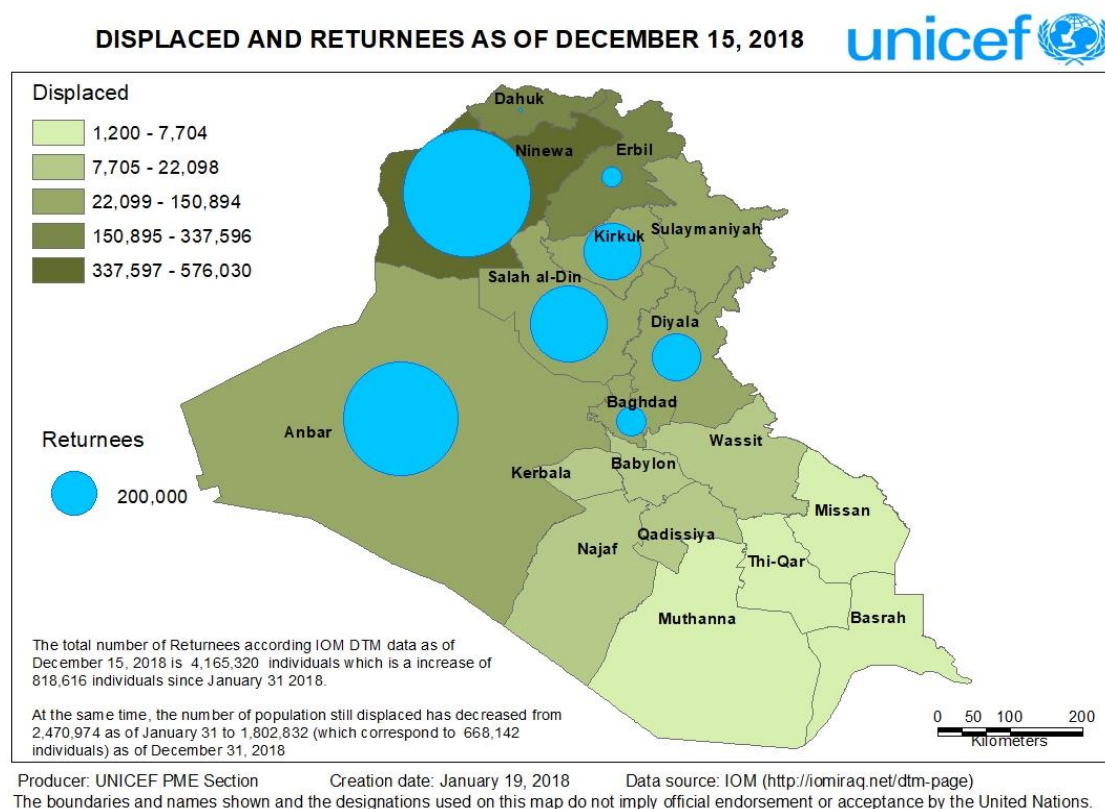


Figure 2: Population of internally displaced people (IDPs) as of December 2018



Humanitarian Results

Rapid Response Mechanism

In 2018, the [RRM Consortium](#) co-led by UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA and supported by five INGO and NGO partners,²² continued its delivery of lifesaving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people including children on the move due to crisis or camp relocation. RRM assistance was also extended to vulnerable populations displaced or affected by the floods, mainly in the last quarter of the year. The critical life-saving items that were provided in RRM and Multi Sectoral Emergency Package (MSEP) kits alleviated some of the stresses of displacement or direct experience of armed conflict. For people on the move, items helped to reduce the initial burden of a newly-displaced population on the host community and, in the short term, contributed to reduce the negative impact of loss of resources for families who experience rapid or multiple displacements.

RRM and MSEP targets were set at contingency levels for 2018, however, there were lower than anticipated levels of new displacements. In addition, discussion on camp consolidation/closure remained inconclusive, meaning none of the anticipated large-scale camp relocation movements requiring RRM assistance took place. As a result, funds available were sufficient to meet RRM requirements in the year.

²² The RRM Consortium consists of UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA with NGO partners United Iraq Medical Society (UIMS), Rebuild Iraq Recruitment Programme (RIRP), and Women Empowerment Organisation (WEO).

During the year, the Consortium delivered RRM response to 126,259 vulnerable people including 69,414 children on the move, with emergency items that supported access to safe water, good hygiene practices, and immediate food rations. Of the total reached, the majority (63 per cent) were supported during new or secondary displacements, 5 per cent during camp relocations and the remaining 32 per cent during emergency response to flooding in Sinjar, Shirqat, Hamdaniyah and Mosul (Ninewa).

MSEP distributions continued only in the first quarter of 2018, after which there was no further need for this type of response as the level of active conflict had declined, and there were no people caught in frontline locations. In the year, UNICEF and partners reached 18,824 individuals (10,165 children) in re-taken communities of west Anbar, through Multi Sectoral Emergency Package, ensuring delivery of most essential items.

Dedicated RRM information management capacity for the Consortium, provided by UNICEF, contributed to ongoing information availability and timely sharing of key response data, IDP needs and feedback, and any delivery gaps, which supported effective operational decision-making²³. The RRM remained responsive to feedback received from the affected populations, mainly gathered through Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) assessments. Overall, findings from PDM were positive, with the surveyed population reporting themselves largely satisfied with the content, quality, quantity and durability of the items provided in RRM kits, in addition to indicating satisfaction with the broader distribution organization and processes. Where specific issues were identified, the Consortium ensured adjustments in deliveries - for example, during Iraq's extreme summer heat the Consortium doubled the quantity of water provided to ensure sufficient safe drinking water for affected children and families.

With continuation of the current improvements in the humanitarian context, it is planned that in 2019, focus will shift from direct deliveries to capacity building of government partners, after which delivery of the RRM would be handed over.

Table 1: Iraq RRM Performance Monitoring 2018

	Cluster Target	Cluster Results 31.12.18	UNICEF Target	UNICEF Results 31.12.18
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM – 2017 Needs: 1 million people				
Vulnerable people newly displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response [1]			1,030,000	126,259

[1] RRM: Consortium led by UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA: Females: 64,392, Males: 61,867. 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. Funds received were sufficient to meet requirements.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In 2018, in line with the UN HRP, UNICEF continued its support to 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). As of December, UNICEF had achieved 74 per cent against its 2018 IDP water supply targets, and UNICEF-supported partner contribution had constituted 45 per cent of WASH Cluster results.

In the year, UNICEF supported 959,987 IDPs with access to safe water (489,593 females, 451,194

²³ RRM is a 'pre-first line' response that reaches internally displaced populations. Information gathered by RRM partners is passed to OCHA and the wider cluster system to inform the first line of cluster response.

children)²⁴. In all UNICEF-supported sites, water provided was routinely tested for bacterial, chemical, and physical contamination, including through Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) tests. UNICEF-supported WASH services in a maximum of 174 sites hosting IDPs since January 2018, whether formal camps, informal settlements, or temporary shelters, in fourteen governorates²⁵.

The conflict against ISIL heavily affected Ninewa governorate and caused severe damage to municipal water and sanitation networks. In Mosul's Old City. Since October 2017 UNICEF, in coordination with Government, has been supporting water trucking to vulnerable city inhabitants while larger-scale rehabilitation works have been ongoing. Through private sector partners, UNICEF trucked safe drinking water to the Old City, reaching 93,649 individuals (44,015 children, of which 22,448 girls) across 21 neighbourhoods at the peak in August. In December, the rate was 190m³ per day serving 16,800 individuals in five Old City neighbourhoods. UNICEF, the Ninewa Directorate of Water (DoW) and Cluster partners continued rehabilitations of the water network with the aim to eliminate trucking as soon as possible. Since January 2018 UNICEF has completed the upgrade of four water supply systems (of a planned 12) improving water supply for 25,000 individuals in the Old City. Water trucking has been decreasing in the second half of 2018 as networks are repaired in stages, but construction work has been challenging, with significant amounts of rubble and danger to civilians, especially children, posed by explosive remnants of war (ERW).

As of December, UNICEF-supported partners had contributed to 79 per cent of the Cluster sanitation response. In the year 384,190 individuals (195,937 females, 180,569 children) have had continued access to adequately-maintained latrines and solid waste management.²⁶ Of these, more than 332,500 IDPs were in northern Iraq (Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Sulaymaniyah), in addition to the approximately 66,000 IDPs reached in IDP camps in Anbar, Baghdad, and Salah al Din. After heavy rains and flooding from late November, UNICEF intensified hygiene promotion in particular areas of concern, especially in the Jeda'ah camp complex.

The 2018-2019 Cholera Preparedness and Response Plan was agreed in late November by the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNICEF, the World Health Organisation (WHO), WASH and Health Clusters and concerned Directorates of Water and Health. UNICEF has supported its translation to Arabic. In 2018, more than 290,100 individuals, at least half of them children, participated in UNICEF-supported hygiene promotion and social mobilization actions in camps and schools across the country, helping to improve behaviours for good health and reduce likelihood of waterborne disease outbreak. At the close of the year, UNICEF had supported WASH rehabilitation in 256 schools²⁷, with 139,700 school-aged children, and 78 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC)²⁸.

The criticality of water management and conservation in Iraq was highlighted in the year, most notably in September and October where large-scale civil demonstrations in Basrah, southern Iraq, protested lack of drinking water among other issues. After a joint needs assessment with government and UN partners, in mid-October UNICEF installed five water pumps in Basrah's central 'R-Zero' water treatment plant, conducted 'quick fix' rehabilitations in four key water treatment facilities to ensure water quantity increased, and delivered safe water and educational messages to more than 50,000 children (25,000 girls) in 70 schools buildings in Abu Khaseeb district, Basrah. UNICEF also supplied 68 water

²⁴ Actual IDPs served in December was 290,360 individuals.

²⁵ Governorates are Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Missan, Muthanna, Ninewa, Qadissiya, Salah al Din, and Sulaymaniyah; includes locations where UNICEF-supported water treatment materials have been delivered to municipal partners. Source: Partner ActivityInfo reports.

²⁶ Solid waste management across locations includes a combination of cleaning campaigns to raise awareness and involve the IDP camp communities; distribution of garbage bags; garbage removal and disposal.

²⁷ In eight governorates - 13 in Anbar, 54 in Basrah, 121 in Dahuk, 21 in Kirkuk, 24 in Ninewa, 3 in Qadissiya, 17 in Salah Al Din and 3 in Thi Qar (per RAM)

²⁸ In eight governorates - 1 in Anbar, 5 in Basrah, 26 in Dahuk, 30 in Ninewa, 6 in Salah Al Din, 3 in Qadissiya, 1 in Thi Qar, and 6 in Salah al Din (per RAM)

desalination membranes to Thi Qar's Directorate of Water (DoW), improving water quality for 40,000 individuals in most-affected communities.

Throughout the year, UNICEF sought opportunities to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus for more sustainable results delivered in a cost-effective manner. The use of low-cost, high-impact interventions supported this achievement, including supply of over 6,500 tonnes of water treatment materials to fill gaps in government stock (representing around 15 per cent of the total national requirement) and construction of 14 community water supply systems. The technology used in these networks can be maintained by trained members of local communities, reducing the frequency and level of support needed by government or international community technical partners. The networks have also supported reductions in costly water trucking and enabled delivery to a wider geographic area including IDP and host community populations.

UNICEF's role as lead UN agency for the WASH cluster continued in 2018. The Iraq WASH Cluster, consisting of 48 UN, international and national NGO partners reached 2.2 million individuals with WASH services across 9 governorates, including in 97 formal camps. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) was endorsed as the new WASH co-lead agency from 2019 replacing Action Contre la Faim (ACF) who had filled the role since 2015. A lesson learned workshop took place in April 2018, attended by WASH actors, government counterparts, and donors. The workshop documented WASH sector progress from 2014 to 2018, highlighting challenges and best practices, as well as recommendations for improvement in coordination and delivery, helping to adapt the WASH strategy for 2019 and support transitions towards sector coordination. UNICEF ensured human resource capacity at national and sub-national cluster levels, while WASH cluster information management was supported through one dedicated national Information Management Officer.

A persistent challenge is that prolonged economic downturn in Iraq has limited planned handover of services to national authorities, especially in the KRI, delaying humanitarian partners' anticipated exit strategies. However, wherever possible in the year, services were handed over to government partners to deliver as part of UNICEF's exit strategy, particularly in areas of return. However, in addition to budget allocation restrictions, the planned handover has not moved as fast as anticipated due to prolonged discussions and uncertainty around camp closure and consolidation, differences in government capacity in various parts of the country, and recurring challenges caused by limited government budget allocations.

Table 2: Iraq Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Performance Monitoring 2018

	Cluster Target	Cluster Results 31.12.18	UNICEF Target	UNICEF Results 31.12.18
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE - 2017 Needs 5.4 million people				
Emergency affected population accessing sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene [1]	2,309,765	2,110,283	1,300,000	959,987
Emergency affected population benefiting from latrines established/rehabilitated/maintained [2]	436,901	487,475	300,000	384,190
WASH 1: Cluster: Females: 1,076,244, Males: 1,034,039. UNICEF: Females: 489,593, Males: 470,394.				
WASH 2: Cluster: Females: 248,612, Males: 238,863. UNICEF: Females: 195,937, Males: 188,253.				

Education

In the year, UNICEF continued to support 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 was supported through teacher training and the

provision of teaching and learning materials. UNICEF also worked to strengthen the capacity of national education actors to implement services in humanitarian situations.

In 2018, to improve learning environments, UNICEF rehabilitated 786 schools in Anbar, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk and Ninewa, installed 640 new prefab classrooms in 222 schools, procured and distributed 44,959 two-seater student desks to schools, repaired 24,395 damaged desks for schools in host communities and return areas, and reached at least 339,312 IDP children (148,006 girls) with educational supplies. A total of 2,006 teachers (1,023 female), facilitators, and education personnel completed UNICEF-supported trainings that covered a range of topics including delivering education in emergency settings and psychosocial support in the classroom, and life skills. Rollout of the School Based Management (SBM) approach continued across the country and, by the end of the year, 119 UNICEF-supported schools had School Improvement Plans (SIP) in place. SIP are consultative and collaborative plans led by a school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or School Management Committee (SMC) which aim to improve learning environments for children. In the year, 2,306 PTA members attended training on their roles and responsibilities. It is intended that closer engagement from parents and communities will ensure consistent encouragement of children's attendance at school, and broader understanding of the benefits of formal education for children's futures. Additionally, UNICEF supported 16,552 out-of-school children (OOSC) in Hawiga district, Kirkuk, where active conflict and insecurity has continued in 2018, to access non-formal learning in preparation for reintegration into formal education.

Actual or perceived shortages of teachers is a recurrent challenge, particularly in IDP camps. Delivery of some education supplies faced challenges in November and December due to new customs checkpoints/regulations. UNICEF and UN partners continue to advocate with the relevant government ministries on this issue.

Education cluster coordination continued in 2018 under a co-lead arrangement with two dedicated coordinators – one UNICEF staff, and one Save the Children staff – and a national Information Management Officer. Collaboration with the Ministries in Baghdad and Erbil continued, including representation of MoE officials in cluster meetings. The Education Cluster undertook sustained and successful advocacy on a range of issues over the year, including against closure of IDP schools in the KRI before the start of the 2018-2019 academic year, the standardizing of payments for incentives for teachers in IDP and refugee schools, and for the registration of undocumented children in schools, which led to a specific Ministry of Education (MoE) Directive on the topic. This last advocacy effort supported 16,590 children from Ninewa, an area formerly held by ISIL, to access education despite lack of documentation required by the Ministry of Education (MoE) policy.

Table 3: Iraq Education Humanitarian Performance Monitoring 2018

	Cluster Target	Cluster Results 31.12.18	UNICEF Target	UNICEF Results 31.12.18
EDUCATION - 2017 Needs 3.3 million school-aged children				
Boys and girls receiving educational supplies	528,222	466,133 ¹	450,000	339,312 ¹
Teachers, facilitators, and education personnel trained on emergency education, life skills, and delivering PSS	5,000	11,700 ²	4,300	2,006 ²
Conflict-affected boys and girls (6-17 years) enrolled in formal and non-formal education programmes	528,222	688,722 ³	300,000	276,777 ³
Education 1: Cluster: Females: 203,178, Males: 262,955. UNICEF: Females: 148,006, Males: 191,306.				
Education 2: Cluster: Females: 5,967, Males: 5,733. UNICEF: Females: 1,023, Males: 983. 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: 308,375, Males: 380,347. UNICEF: Females: 117,007, Males: 159,770. 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

In 2018, UNICEF continued to deliver much-needed support for conflict- or displacement-affected vulnerable children and caregivers through structured, sustained psychosocial support services (PSS), with referral to specialized child protection assistance²⁹ when needed, including for children with disabilities. UNICEF worked to deliver support to children in contact with the law, including children accused of affiliation with ISIL. UNICEF integrated a focus on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention across its work. UNICEF and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC) promoted integration of services in community centres, aiming to minimize stand-alone activities as part of resilience-focused interventions. At the close of the year, UNICEF partnerships encompassed 30 government and non-government partners (of a total 51 partners under the CPSC) working on child protection, across IDP camps, non-camp communities with high concentrations of IDPs (and, where relevant, Syrian refugee children), and in areas of return.

Overall in the year, UNICEF partners delivered structured PSS to 190,207 children (90,080 girls) through community structures and outreach teams. Community-based centres and mobile teams were used as an entry point for identification of children with specific protection needs. Specialised services included family tracing and reunification, legal assistance, case management and alternative care; these services reached 10,601 IDP children (4,556 girls) in 2018. During 2018 planning, need for specialised services was anticipated to be high, but end-year achievement remained low (57 per cent of annual target). Progress was affected by transfer of facilities and case management activities to government, as part of a strategic shift as presence of humanitarian child protection reduced. UNICEF supported the KRG Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and its Directorates to take over community-based CP intervention in Garbiyan, Sulaymaniyah and some locations in Erbil, undertaking 5 to 6 months of capacity building with social workers before responsibilities were transferred. In addition, there remained limited case management capacity among non-government partners, which affected achievement.

UNICEF, with the CPSC and other protection partners, continue to ensure good coordination through information-sharing and capacity building in relation to child protection assessments and referrals. UNICEF initiated a pilot of the Child Protection Information Management System Plus (CPMIS+) in the KRI starting in Dahuk; initial features of the system have been developed and are being tested by CP case management agencies. The CPMIS+ will strengthen the overall system, and specifically improve management of case records.

In the year, 37,184 women, girls and boys who have experienced, or were found to be at risk of, Gender Based Violence (GBV) received PSS through UNICEF partners³⁰. High achievement against annual targets was enabled through expanded GBV partnerships, 12 in total, which enabled programming spanning nine governorates³¹, and resulted in increased access to specialized PSS and case management for survivors. In addition, 23,616 women and girls, including adolescents, participated in social and recreational activities, and UNICEF and partners also trained 1,439 humanitarian actors, and service providers from the NGO and government sectors which contributed to quality multi-sector care for survivors. Adolescent girls' programming was supported through use of the Adolescent Girls' Toolkit, which covers topics such as gender, menstruation, and self-esteem among others. Management of cases involving gender-based violence (GBV) remains a challenge as there are limited service providers.

Through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), UNICEF recorded a total of 175 grave violations in Iraq throughout 2018, affecting 252 children (211 boys, 32 girls and 9 gender unknown).

²⁹ Specialized assistance includes case management, legal services, family tracing and reunification, and emergency alternative care.

³⁰ In this figure are 2,523 boys; not all services delivered for these boys were specifically for GBV cases. With these cases removed, achievement against the annual target was 173 per cent.

³¹ Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Salah al Din and Sulaymaniyah

Of these, 147 violations were verified, affecting 206 children (177 boys and 29 girls). The most common violation was killing and injuring (65 per cent of cases). The baseline for MRM verification as of 2015 was 59 per cent, with a target of a 75 per cent to be reached by 2019; for 2018 the rate was 84 per cent, with improvements supported by a total of 161 UNICEF-trained MRM NGO staff and 190 volunteers working in eight governorates³² all of whom participated in capacity building in the year. Due to insecurity, sensitivity of information, and a need for still more trained partners operational in more areas, it is believed grave violations remain significantly under-reported.

In the year, CPSC had 51 partners working across 16 governorates, coordinated through eight sub-national Child Protection Working Groups (CPWG). As part of transitions towards sustainability KRI CPWGs were co-led by the government Directorate of Labour and Social Affairs (DoLSA); the Iraqi CPSC Information Management Officer participated in regional Protection Information Management Training in June; and two CPWG coordinators and one Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) member (all Iraqi nationals) participated in Child Protection coordination training in November. A CPSC Task Force for psychosocial support (PSS) was established in June 2018, to roll out and measure impact of the structured PSS module; the common inter-agency impact measurements were agreed, and the PSS Task Force started gathering baseline and end line data. Guidance for child protection partners was strengthened in the year, including the Alternative Care guide in August and the Child Survivor Case Management guide in October. The Iraq CPSC has been part of the roll out of four global initiatives, namely the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+), Case Management coaching and supervision training, the Child Survivor Initiative, and revision of the CP Minimum Standards. At least 17 inter-agency trainings were held, attended by around 250 participants from different member agencies. Throughout the year, UNICEF has contributed to the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network in Iraq, as the primary mechanism for awareness-raising, capacity building, follow up and victim support.

There remained significant protection concerns for children and adolescents in Iraq. Those suspected of association with extremist groups continued to be tried under anti-terrorism laws, not under Juvenile Care Law; many displaced children born in areas previously held by ISIL lacked documentation or proof of nationality, and risked becoming victims of arbitrary arrest and detention. UNICEF continued to support monitoring of conflict affected children and services to protect and address needs of children in contact with law, including children suspected of association with ISIL. However, the sensitivity of the issue and limited numbers of qualified staff - including in juvenile reformatory centres - posed key bottlenecks in ensuring child-friendly services and spaces for juveniles during the pre- and post-trial period.

Table 4: Iraq Child Protection Humanitarian Performance Monitoring 2018

	Cluster Target	Cluster Results 31.12.18	UNICEF Target	UNICEF Results 31.12.18
CHILD PROTECTION – 2017 Needs 2.4 million children under 18				
Children and caregivers participating in structured, sustained, resilience, or psychosocial support programmes	203,865	334,149 ¹	186,300	190,207 ¹
Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services)	29,325	26,375 ²	18,630	10,601 ²
Girls, boys, and women receiving individual or group psychosocial support ³			20,000	37,184 ³
Child Protection 1: Sub-cluster: Females: 158,714 Males: 175,435. UNICEF Females: 90,080, Males: 100,127. <u>In relation to funding versus progress in 2018:</u> 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.				

³² Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din

Child Protection 2: Sub-cluster Females: 12,008 Males: 14,357. UNICEF Females: 4,556; Males 6,045. 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. High achievement against annual targets was enabled through expanded GBV partnerships, 12 in total, which enabled programming spanning nine governorates³³, and resulted in increased access to specialized PSS and case management for survivors

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF supported 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 ensured referral to specialised care per UNICEF and WHO guidelines. Neonatal health services were supported, including awareness sessions in IDP camps. UNICEF supported government counterparts through delivery of supplies and staff capacity building and engaged NGOs to mitigate for short-term gaps in critical service provision.

An outbreak of measles was formally declared by the Ministry of Health in September 2018; the first phase of a two phase national vaccination campaign took place in September 2018, reaching 2,095,740 children under-five (93 per cent coverage). The first campaign phase took place with direct government support – UNICEF and WHO support has been requested by the MoH for the second phase of the campaign, which is scheduled to take place in early 2019. Separately to campaign efforts, UNICEF support to routine immunization, including against measles, was focused on IDP camp settings and children under one year old; as people increasingly returned to places of origin, the number of children under one year in camps likewise reduced during the year. At least 34,908 doses of Vitamin A supplementation were given to children 9 to 59 months in 2018 (4,052 doses in December).

As of December 2018, UNICEF and partners reported 37,758 children under one-year (19,257 girls) vaccinated against measles (76 per cent of target) through routine Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) services. As part of ongoing prevention campaigns, 1,283,252 children under five (657,968 girls) living in the UNICEF-targeted governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din were vaccinated against polio (107 per cent of the UNICEF target) in the year.³⁴

In additional support, UNICEF ensured social mobilization activities for one Nationwide Polio Immunization Day (NID) in 14 governorates, one Sub-National Immunization Day (SNID) and three campaigns for polio in areas of concern due to low coverage, in Anbar (Qa'im, Ana, Rawa), Kirkuk (Hawiga 1 and 2), Ninewa (Ba'aj, Hathar, Tel Afar, Sinjar), and Salah al Din, reaching more than 1.2 million children. A final nationwide polio campaign began on 23 December 2018. The December campaign achieved a 94 per cent coverage rate, with 5,598,019 children vaccinated out of the 5,979,240 target. While the main vaccination efforts ended on 27 December, mobile outreach teams continued to work into January 2019 to improve coverage in harder-to-reach areas.

In nutrition interventions, through UNICEF-supported partners, 21,319 pregnant women and new mothers attended health promotion sessions on IYCF between January and December 2018 (107 per cent of target), and 149,410 nutritional status screenings for children aged 6-59 months (76,199 girls) have taken place (299 per cent of target). The figure of nutrition screening in 2018 appears overachieved threefold; this is caused by data management challenges. UNICEF is planning to build capacity of relevant partners in 2019, including on target setting and creation of a database that will support stronger tracking of children's visit records. The IYCF achievement of 107 per cent is due to pregnant women or new mothers who have repeated visits by mobile counselors to cover all topics related to optimal feeding practices.

³³ Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Sulaymaniyah

³⁴ Routine polio services are supported by UNICEF through fixed units in IDP camps – in October 4,608 doses of polio vaccine reached children 9 to 59 months.

In 2018, two national and two international NGOs ran nutrition programs in 12 Ninewa IDP camps with UNICEF financial and technical support. Review of data showed a Global Acute Malnourishment (GAM) rate of below 5 per cent (accepted per international standards in emergency).³⁵ Cases with complications were referred to specialist Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRC). To support treatment of children identified with malnourishment, in 2018 UNICEF delivered 80 tons of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC) serving IDPs and returnees, and 11 tons of PlumpyNut to support management of Severe Acute Malnourishment (SAM) in IDP camps. Finding qualified nutrition staff was a challenge, including health workers qualified to deliver sessions on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in camps. While longer-term coordination with the national Nutrition Research Institute (NRI) is needed to build sustained capacity, UNICEF supported local-level capacity of DoH and, in some cases, NGO staff. In 2018, 100 DoH and NGO staff (at least 37 female) were trained on children's nutritional needs and ways to monitor growth through three sessions run in July (50 staff) and November (50 staff). High turnover of staff, especially nurses, and a lack of female were reported as bottleneck to service delivery.

UNICEF worked to scale up health promotion programmes in IDP camps in 2018, including a 'home visits' initiative supporting maternal and neonatal health. In the year, 2,797 new-borns (1,426 girls) and their mothers were visited by trained health worker teams during the critical first month of life (35 per cent of target). In cases where risk signs were identified, new-borns and mothers were referred to the nearest health facility. Progress against this target has been constrained by shortage of funds, as not all IDP camps originally planned for could be included in the 2018 services. 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) were prepositioned with local authorities in areas considered to be at high risk of outbreaks. In response to the water crisis, and resultant significant gastrointestinal (GI) cases in Basrah, UNICEF supported national response capacity by training 25 government staff from Basrah's Directorate of Health on water quality monitoring, and 300 staff from 13 Basrah hospitals on treating waterborne diseases, including cholera, which is endemic in Iraq. Actions contributed to reducing risk of the GI disease outbreak.

UNICEF continued to lead the Nutrition Working Group (NWG), under the umbrella of the wider Health cluster. NWG helped to coordinate provision of life-saving nutrition interventions to vulnerable women and children across the country. Due to funding constraints, members of the NWG developed exit strategies in camps where nutrition services were being provided, to ensure no gaps. In 2019 the local health authorities are expected to take over ownership, supported by local NGOs.

With lower than expected humanitarian funding available again in 2018, as in 2017 and 2016, UNICEF ended the year with a 34 per cent funding gap against its planned Health and Nutrition interventions. As in previous years, the 2019 programme will be further streamlined to the most vulnerable children, aiming to support the most cost-effective interventions, including routine vaccination.

³⁵ 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; 79,337 children in Ninewa camps checked for malnutrition by MUAC and anthropometric measurements; of these 322 SAM (0.4%) cases and 1767 MAM (2.2%) cases detected. This sample analysis is a qualitative representation (there are 67 IDP camps) but it offers an oversight of the nutritional status of IDP children in camps that is also consistent with 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster 6 (MICS-6) findings.

Table 5: Iraq Health and Nutrition Humanitarian Performance Monitoring 2018

	Cluster Target	Cluster Results 31.12.18	UNICEF Target	UNICEF Results 31.12.18
HEALTH - 2017 Needs: 1.2 million children under 5				
New-born babies of conflict-affected families benefitting from new-born home services			8,000	2,797 ¹
Under 1-year old children vaccinated against measles through routine immunization			50,000	37,758 ²
Children under 5 vaccinated against polio in crises-affected areas through campaigns			1,200,000	1,283,252 ³
NUTRITION - 2017 Needs: 1.2 million children under 5				
Children U5 accessing nutrition services			50,000	149,410 ¹
Targeted mothers of children 0-23 months with access to IYCF counselling for appropriate feeding			20,000	21,319
Health 1: Females: 1,426, Males: 1,371. 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: 19,257 Males: 18,501. 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: 657,968. Males: 625,285. UNICEF reports for the governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din, per 2018 HAC.				
Nutrition 1: Females: 76,199, Males: 73,211. Indicator counts sessions delivered rather than children reached due to national data collection systems.				
Health 1: Females: 1,426, Males: 1,371. 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.				

Cash Assistance

UNICEF worked to establish stronger links between humanitarian assistance and the Government's social protection framework to provide integrated support to vulnerable children. UNICEF delivered an integrated package of support alongside government partners to identify protection-related concerns and refer cases to social workers for additional support for the families enrolled in the cash assistance programme. In the academic year 2017-2018, UNICEF supported 3,902 children (1,877 girls) with US\$30 per child per month in Anbar, Dahuk, and Erbil governorates. In 2019, UNICEF intends to extend this support to 3,000 children from 1,495 families in Mosul City³⁶. Delays were faced in signing a contract with a new service provider for cash delivery³⁷, as legal review took longer than anticipated; the contract was signed on 31 December 2018, and registration of beneficiaries will take place in January 2019.

In addition to delays faced with the service provider contract, and despite cost efficiencies achieved in 2017 through reduction in operational costs after the introduction of one unified 'mobile money' delivery mechanism with a national mobile network provider, lack of funding in 2018 meant that UNICEF interventions remained restricted and could not reach the planned annual target of 9,000 children with cash assistance. These children may be at increased risk of drop-out, with longer-term consequences to their future.

Without receipt of new funding, the planned 2019 intervention will be supported only through funds carried over from previous years.

³⁶ Exact figures may change depending on final registration of families in the programme.

³⁷ UNICEF cash assistance is unconditional but aims to reduce the barriers to education access experienced by children from vulnerable families.

Table 6: Iraq Cash Assistance Humanitarian Performance Monitoring 2018

	Cluster Target	Cluster Results 31.12.18	UNICEF Target	UNICEF Results 31.12.18
SOCIAL PROTECTION – Needs: 1,080,000				
Most vulnerable children receiving child-focused cash transfer			9,000	3,902 ¹
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 .				

Winterization

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 winter weather that exacerbates risk of diseases such as pneumonia. For the 2018-2019 winter, UNICEF planned to reach 151,000 of the most vulnerable displaced Iraqi children, delivering warm clothing in nine governorates. The initial target was 200,000 children, but due to limited funding received, this was reduced before the start of response to 151,000 children. All distribution locations were selected in consultation with the Non-Food Items (NFI) cluster, targeting camps that recorded highest needs for winter clothes in the Multi-Cluster Need Assessment (MCNA) VI. UNICEF's winter distributions were initiated on 2 December in Debaga camp, Erbil, with the intention to conclude the response by mid-January 2019. As of 31 December, UNICEF and partners had reached 90,322 children (42,400 girls), plus 1,497 pregnant women in 15 camp locations across northern Iraq. The majority (82 per cent) of deliveries took place in IDP camps in Dahuk and Ninewa; distributions are followed by post distribution monitoring (PDM) for which responses have been largely positive. Start of winter deliveries in central and southern Iraq governorates were delayed due to access constraints and restrictions to move supplies from the KRI to Federal Iraq. Approval to move supplies is expected in the first week of January, following which UNICEF will commence winter deliveries in Anbar, Baghdad and Basrah governorates.

Table 7: Iraq Winterization Performance Monitoring 2018

	Cluster Target	Cluster Results 31.12.18	UNICEF Target	UNICEF Results 31.12.18
Winterization				
Most vulnerable children better protected from risks of winter with appropriate clothing			200,000	90,322
Winter: Girls: 42,400 Boys: 46,425. UNICEF winter distributions for the 2018/2019 began in December 2018 and will conclude in early 2019.				

Case Study: Water is the Secret of Life

“For vulnerable children and their families in Iraq, water is the secret of life”

In 2018 it was estimated that around 5 million people were in critical need of safe water in Iraq. UNICEF, with support from its donors and partners, ensured delivery of safe water for nearly 960,000 conflict-affected Iraqis in camps, villages, and towns – at least half of them were children under 18.

As of December 2018, nearly 4 million people are recorded to have returned to their areas of origins. Upon return, many families find their homes have been destroyed and access to basic services, including safe water, is limited.

The most vulnerable of these families require urgent assistance to rebuild their lives or risk falling further into a vicious cycle of poverty. Abir Ghazi lives with his brother Namir Ghazi in Bab Laksh neighbourhood in the old city of Mosul, the area hardest hit by conflict in 2017. Both brothers are married and have children in school.

Like most residents in Mosul, the Gazis were forced to leave during the violence, and returned when the war over was over. “When we returned, we saw destruction everywhere. Our home was one of the homes that were shelled.”

Along with their houses, the bakery shop which they co-owned was destroyed in the airstrikes, leaving the brothers with no means of supporting their families. When Abir and Namir began rebuilding their homes, they realized that the lack of water was one the biggest challenges they faced. The local water network had been destroyed during the war leaving nearly 50,000 people in the Old City without safe drinking water. With funding from the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and Japan, UNICEF provided safe water through trucking to vulnerable families like the Gazis.

In parallel to the emergency response, UNICEF and partners completed rehabilitation of three of a planned 22 water networks, improving more sustainable water supply for 21,000 returnees. Rehabilitation will continue into 2019 to ensure that as many children and families have access to safe water as possible.

“Without water, we would have never been able to come back because water is the secret of life,” says Abir.

Shortages of clean drinking water leaves vulnerable people with no choice but to use water that is unsafe, putting children at risk of waterborne disease. Even in places untouched by conflict such as Basrah, sustainable access to safe drinking water remains a challenge due to underinvestment and droughts. In partnership with our donors, UNICEF has supported the government of Iraq to repair and upgrade water networks in Ninewa, Hawiga and Basrah as well as maintaining camp services in schools, Child Friendly Spaces, Primary Healthcare Centres, as well as critical access to water and sanitation for people still living in displacement throughout Iraq.

In 2019, UNICEF has committed to continue water supply response, alongside sanitation support and hygiene promotion interventions, for around 970,000 conflict-affected and vulnerable Iraqis in camps, host communities, and return areas.

UNICEF remains grateful to all our donors and partners, including; Canada, the Department for International Development (DFID) and European Commission European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation (ECHO), Germany, Netherlands, Norway and Qatar.



©UNICEF/Iraq/2018. Caption: Namir makes pastry in his house, using safe water supported by UNICEF's resource partners.

Results Achieved with Humanitarian Thematic Funding

Thanks to flexible humanitarian thematic funding, received from individuals, groups, and companies via UNICEF National Committees in Germany, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United States of America, as well as via the UNICEF global and regional humanitarian thematic funds, UNICEF was able to sustain key programme interventions for vulnerable Iraqi IDP children and families in 2018, including in Education, Health and Nutrition, winter response, and in generating and updating key evidence on the situation of children and women in Iraq.

Education

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to translate exiting Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) curriculum into electronic format, as a pilot project in two reformatories in Baghdad and Erbil in partnership with the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs. The objective is for children in contact with the law to access education. The two reformatories were equipped with tablets, projectors, and other equipment. Similarly, the e-ALP curriculum was implemented in partnership with the DOE Baghdad for 600 IDP children.

UNICEF continued to support the national education cluster. Specifically, thematic funding supported the Education Cluster to convene a two-day conference in Erbil 27 and 28 February 2018 for sub-national focal points and their government counterparts. The retreat was attended by 29 participants and key issues on cluster coordination were addressed, including clarification and adjustment of roles and responsibilities of sub-national cluster focal points, funding modalities, and common challenges especially in relation to a recurring issue of teacher allocation/teacher shortages. Common advocacy was also a key issue discussed, as well as ways to meet the cluster's information management responsibilities, and responsibilities to support integrated programming with Child Protection partners.

Health and Nutrition

With support from thematic humanitarian funds, UNICEF able to provide swift support in response to the MoH declaration of an outbreak of measles in September 2018. The first phase of a two-phase national vaccination campaign took place in September 2018, reaching 2,095,740 children under-five (93 per cent coverage). UNICEF supported the social mobilization component of the national measles campaign in five of the most vulnerable governorates (those with lowest vaccination coverage), enabling the families of 775,750 children aged nine to 59 months to learn about, and to attend, the campaign's vaccination sessions in their local areas. Social mobilization support included design, production and delivery of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, as well as ensuring delivery of information by SMS.

Thematic funding also enabled UNICEF to support training sessions for 125 government health staff³⁸ on nutrition services for children and mothers, including growth monitoring, IYCF, and breastfeeding). UNICEF supported new nutrition units in 50 PHCs by providing basic supplies, equipment, and IEC material. Furthermore, UNICEF supported training of 30 master trainers (21 females) on early initiation of breast feeding - these focal points will conduct cascade training in the most vulnerable districts in 2019 that will have an estimated reach of 320,000 pregnant women and new mothers.

In six Ninewa IDP camps³⁹, and with thematic funding, UNICEF alongside the DoH Ninewa and an INGO partner, was able to ensure access to critical health and nutrition services for over 69,400 women and children. This included acute malnutrition management, sustaining safe spaces for babies and

³⁸ 75 PHC staff from Baghdad, 25 staff from Anbar and 25 staff from Kirkuk

³⁹ Khazer M1, Hasansham U3, Hasansham M2, Chamakor, Salamiyah 1 and 2

mothers to gather, breastfeed, socialise, and share information about children's issues and parenting, micronutrient supplementation and social mobilization for vaccination services.

Winter Response

Thematic funds were used to procure and deliver winter clothing kits for internally displaced children for the 2018-2019 seasonal response, benefitting 40,978 internally displaced children (48 per cent girls) under the age of 14 years, through timely distribution of age and gender appropriate winter clothes in eight governorates. Of these 17,778 internally displaced children were reached using funds received from the Government of Sweden, under the thematic funding. The majority of the children (72 per cent) were reached in Dahuk and Ninewa governorates.

UNICEF implemented its winter project in collaboration with existing government counterparts and NGO partners, many of whom undertook distributions at no cost or with significant contributions from their own financial and human resources. This strategy contributed to cost savings due to reductions in amounts required for operational support or organisational overheads, which would have been higher through separate partnership agreements. All winter distributions were followed by post distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys, which largely registered positive responses from IDPs reached with winter support.

Evidence Generation

Thematic funding was allocated in 2018 to support the finalisation of Iraq's new Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)-6, led by the Government of Iraq Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office (KRSO), with technical and financial support from UNICEF. The MICS is a household level survey that provides quantitative information on the situation of children and women in a country and is supported by UNICEF globally. In Iraq, the last MICS was completed in 2011, as part of the fourth global MICS round, and no other nationwide household level data collection had been possible - due to the largescale conflict and displacement experienced since 2014, Iraq was not able to complete the fifth global MICS round. Thematic funding supported the travel of UNICEF's technical expert, responsible for the in-country follow up and liaison between the CSO and the KRSO.

The UNICEF Iraq MICS-6 was launched in late 2018 in Baghdad and Erbil, and now offers updated, reliable evidence that is supporting not only UNICEF, but government and UN-wide planning efforts, including for the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which is scheduled to be launched in early 2020.

Social Protection Technical Expertise

In light of very restricted programme funding for social protection/humanitarian cash assistance in interventions in 2018, thematic funding was critical in ensuring adequate technical capacity remained in-office to guide the programme. Funding supported the Chief of Social Policy, and a Social Policy Specialist. The work of these staff contributed to achieving the results of the UNICEF humanitarian cash assistance programme in 2018, delivering much-needed support to vulnerable IDP, Syrian refugee and host community children at risk of dropping out of school.

Thematic Funding Case Study: Warm for Winter

“Keeping the most vulnerable children in Iraq warm for winter”

Winters in Iraq can be extremely harsh, bringing with them heavy rains, snow storms, and freezing temperatures, especially at night.

Most displaced families live below the poverty line, in dilapidated housing with poor heating, or in camps with little protection from the cold. It is impossible to afford fuel for heating and winter clothing to keep their children warm.

“Children are especially vulnerable to winter weather that exacerbates risk of diseases such as pneumonia. No child should be subjected to such risks. Every child deserves to be warm and healthy,” added Peter Hawkins, UNICEF Representative to Iraq.

Thematic funding contributed to UNICEF’s winterization campaign in 2018-2019 and enabled UNICEF to provide 40,000 displaced children under 14 years of age with winter clothes, including shoes, jackets, hats and scarves. Of these 17,778 internally displaced children were reached using funds received from the Government of Sweden, through the regional thematic allocation.

“The price for winter clothes is usually high, we do not have the money to buy them. The content of this box, the clothes in here, are very useful,” said Nisreen from Qaida camp in Dohuk, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

UNICEF initially planned to support 210,500 vulnerable children with winter assistance. Due to limited funding for the response, re-planning and prioritization led to a revised target of 162,000 children (151,500 Internally Displaced and 10,500 Syrian Refugees), aiming to better protect them from effects of extreme winter in some of Iraq’s highest altitude camp locations.

The thematic funds have helped UNICEF to close critical funding gaps in its planned winter actions and enabled a timely response. For the 2018/2019 winter response, a portion of which was supported through thematic funds, UNICEF piloted an e-voucher system for distribution of winter clothes to a small caseload in Syrian refugee camps. This approach has proved to be both feasible and effective and has paved the way for UNICEF Iraq country office to scale this up to IDP camps in the coming winter season.

As a lesson from the previous winter responses where response has been delayed due to receipt of funds too close to the start of cold weather, UNICEF has already commenced its resource mobilization efforts to support deliveries for the coming winter season.



©UNICEF/Iraq/2018 Caption: Nisreen, a displaced mother living in Qadia camp, Dahuk, receives winter clothing items to take home to her children.

Assessment, Monitoring, and Evaluation

In coordinated monitoring and information management for humanitarian response, UNICEF continued to work with UNHCR and OCHA through the sector and cluster systems to increase and improve the use of ActivityInfo for improved coherence and coordination of partner reporting across the HRP for the IDP response and the 3RP for humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis. UNICEF, UNHCR and OCHA worked to synchronize indicators, through sector and cluster leadership, to support more coherent and coordinated reporting collectively across the response. UNICEF utilized mobile data collection using the KOBO platform to gather data on RRM and winter distributions, collecting information on newly displaced populations at the same time as verification of supply distributions, as well as gathering regular feedback from affected populations through Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) assessments.

UNICEF monitoring is undertaken by programme staff, in close coordination with implementing partners and government counterparts. For areas which remain insecure, and as additional field presence, UNICEF engages technical field-based facilitators who ensure regular follow-up on progress of activities in their area of responsibility, and work to develop and strengthen feedback mechanisms between UNICEF, its implementing partners, and affected populations.

In 2018, as part of its annual quality assurance process, UNICEF conducted internal milestone reviews, at the mid-year and end-year marks, focused on programme monitoring to assess progress made (including financial utilisation) against planned targets. Through such monitoring the office assessed quality, timeliness and effective reach of services; pinpointed constraints; and identified risks in implementation and the use of resources.

A further forward-looking workshop in early December 2018 gathered key programme and operations teams together to review and pinpoint key strategic entry points for programming in Iraq from 2020 to 2024, which will be the period of UNICEF's next Iraq Country Programme, and will be in alignment with the new UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

Implementation partners continued to be regularly assessed through the UNICEF-wide Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) procedure, which monitors activity implementation and partner performance. The decentralization process of UNICEF accountability structures continued throughout 2018, ensuring accountability structures were activated with agreed roles and responsibilities to enhance the effective reach of services, and that relevant staff capacity to manage this accountability was developed.

Financial Analysis

As of December 2018, UNICEF was 78 per cent funded against its total planned annual budget (ORR+ORE), of which IDP (HRP) response was 90 per cent funded and Syrian refugee response (3RP) was 45 per cent funded⁴⁰. Actual ORE received was 88 per cent funded against planned ORE; and ORE made up 77 per cent of all resources available in 2018. See footnote below for indication of four programmes who exceeded annual requirements.

The Iraq Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for 2018 was US\$ 101.2 million⁴¹. At the end of 2018, UNICEF ended at US\$ 100.4 million funded. Four UNICEF response areas, namely WASH, Education, Child Protection, and Winterization response, ended the year fully-funded against the appeal⁴². The additional funds received in 2018 will support continued humanitarian response into 2019.

In Iraq in 2018, UNICEF met obligations under the Grand Bargain, the agreement made by more than 50 of the world's largest government donors and aid organizations that aims to get more means into the hands of people in need. Specifically, in relation to work through national and local providers, the Grand Bargain commits to providing 25 per cent of global humanitarian funding to local and national responders by 2020, in addition to commitments to provide more un-earmarked money, and to increase multi-year funding to ensure greater predictability and continuity in humanitarian response.

Between 2017 and 2018 UNICEF Iraq increasingly supported programming that builds capacity of local and national partners, in line with commitments made under the Grand Bargain. Up to the November 2018, over 82 per cent⁴³ of all cash transferred to implementing partners was to local and national partners, an increase of around 10 per cent proportionally from 2017.

UNICEF efficiency and operational cost reduction in Iraq has been supported through the 'Delivery as One' framework of the UN Country Team as well as other internal measures. Total operations costs as of December 2018 were US\$9.8 million, reduced from US\$10.4 million in 2017. Most significant cost efficiencies in 2018 were achieved in rent and lease of premises. UNICEF shares offices and accommodation with UNCT members in Baghdad, Basrah, Dahuk and Erbil, which has decreased security and rental cost. Further, supported in-country logistics efforts, cargo costs decreased by 21 per cent compared to 2017, and US\$81,200 was saved in warehousing by more efficient inventory managements (from US\$10,000 down to US\$3,600 in Dahuk and from US\$8,500 down to US\$5,500 in Erbil per month).

Efforts to reduce travel costs continued, with regular meetings held on online. Accommodation rates for hotels in Baghdad and Erbil were negotiated down, as were rates for domestic air tickets. UNICEF contracted local suppliers for maintenance of armoured vehicles and provision of spare parts, further increasing cost-efficiency and supporting the local market.

In compliance, the August 2018 audit noted UNICEF Iraq had strengthened its standard operating procedures (SOP) to outline workflow processes and assign accountabilities and had enabled restructuring of certain business processes through elimination of routine works, consolidation of duplicate tasks, fair distribution of workload and empowering staff in each post/location. Regular

⁴⁰ For more detail on UNICEF's response for Syrian refugees in Iraq, see the Consolidated Emergency Report for Syrian refugee response covering Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq.

⁴¹ UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children appeal under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for Syrian refugees in Iraq was a total of US\$25.1 million; UNICEF's HAC 3RP appeal ended 2018 as US\$11.2 million funded, meaning a 41 per cent funding gap.

⁴² As of December 2018, UNICEF Iraq had received an additional US\$1,269,732 for WASH; an additional US\$3,222,490 for Education; an additional US\$4,762,236 for Child Protection; and an additional US\$140,335 for winterization above its 2018 requirements.

⁴³ Refers to all national and local actors engaged in partnership with UNICEF for humanitarian action, including Iraq IDP and Syrian refugee responses. Cash value to national and local actors, US\$ 27.8 million (82.37 per cent). Cash value to international actors, US\$ 5.95 million (17.63 per cent). As of 14 November 2018.

monitoring and reporting of key efficiency indicators was maintained through monthly Country Management Team (CMT) meetings and weekly Chief of Section (CoS) meetings.

In relation to programme funding, the RRM Consortium ended the year 59 per cent underfunded against its 2018 plan – however, due to lower than anticipated levels of new displacements in the year, and the prolonged presence of IDPs in camps meaning camp closures/consolidations did not take place at the expected rate, the funds received were sufficient to meet the needs on the ground.

As in previous years, lower than expected funding was available for UNICEF's planned humanitarian health and nutrition response. The underfunding continued a pattern from 2015 to 2018. In this context, UNICEF streamlined activities, ensuring critical basic services, such as national immunization campaigns continued and, wherever possible, focused on technical support and systems-strengthening interventions of government counterparts, rather than larger-scale or supply-heavy interventions.

Flexible thematic funding made up a significant portion of UNICEF humanitarian response for IDPs in Iraq, providing core support for the people who needed it most. UNICEF National Committees and public sector donors played an essential role in securing high quality thematic funding for children in Iraq. UNICEF Iraq acknowledges the critical nature of these flexible contributions which totalled US\$ 2,346,807 in 2018 (US\$ 676,287 carried over from 2017 thematic funds; US\$ 1,670,221 received in 2018 alone). Between 2017 and 2018, UNICEF saw a 29 per cent increase in thematic funds received (US\$ 1,298,939 in 2017 versus US\$ 1,670,221 in 2018). Given that the humanitarian situation on the ground in Iraq has for a number of years been notable for its swift changes, the flexible nature of thematic funding continues to be critical in allowing UNICEF to respond immediately to emergency situations, reaching the most vulnerable populations in conflict- and displacement-affected locations, and to support areas of programming, such as Health and Nutrition, where resources received have been consistently lower than required.

Given its multi-year timeframe, thematic funding contributed to sustain and strengthen resilience-based interventions, such as strengthening the national child protection system for better case management and provision of child protection services to internally displaced Iraq children, Syrian refugees, host communities, and other vulnerable children.

Table 8: Funding status against the appeal by sector

Sector	Requirement (US\$)	Funds Against Appeal as of 31 December 2018*		% Gap
		Funds Rec'd 2018	Carry Over	
Rapid Response Mechanism	4,870,000	1,189,344	819,370	59%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	37,000,000	28,266,948	10,002,784	0%
Education	15,950,000	12,764,516	6,407,974	0%
Child Protection	21,767,000	18,537,054	7,982,181	0%
Health and Nutrition	10,000,000	5,294,696	1,310,980	34%
Social protection (Cash Assistance)	5,564,160	1,067,572	621,828	70%
Winterization	6,000,000	4,381,336	1,759,019	0%
Total	101,151,160	71,501,466	28,904,136	10%

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

**2018 response: As of December 2018, UNICEF Iraq had received an additional US\$1,269,732 for WASH; an additional US\$3,222,490 for Education; an additional US\$4,762,236 for Child Protection; and an additional US\$140,335 for winterization above its 2018 requirements.

Table 9: Funding Received and Available by 31 December 2018 by Donor and Funding Type (in USD)

Donor Name/ Type of Funding	Programme Budget Allotment Reference	Overall Amount
I. Humanitarian funds received in 2018		
a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
Portuguese NatCom	SM1899100086	25,205
German NatCom	SM1899100159	151,942
UNICEF EMOPS	SM189910	400,000
Swedish NatCom	SM1899100302	190,476
MENARO	SM189910	636,171
MENARO	SM1899100022	250,000
US Fund for UNICEF	SM1899100378	16,427
Total Thematic Humanitarian Funds		1,670,221
b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
Germany KfW	SM150604	4,569,424
Canada	SM160521	1,397,624
Canada	SM160522	4,192,875
DFID	SM170561	1,832,307
Kuwait	SM180039	47,619
Japan	SM180070	4,722,222
Qatar	SM180122	2,857,143
US Fund for UNICEF	SM180149	272,222
SIDA Sweden	SM180173	1,448,500
OFDA	SM180224	7,407,407
USA BPRM	SM180264	2,953,704
Norway	SM180274	1,127,391
ECHO	SM180268	3,256,374
OFDA	SM180224	8,333,333
OFDA	SM180224	2,777,778
OFDA	SM180400	13,703,704
USAID	SM180409	694,444
USA OFDA	SM180385	100,000
Italy	SM180522	1,053,386
Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		62,747,458
c) Pooled Funding		
UNOCHA -IHPF	SM180166	747,747
UNOCHA -IHPF	SM180195	255,140
UNOCHA -IHPF	SM180199	336,046
UNOCHA -IHPF	SM180478	327,103
Total Pooled Funding		1,666,036
d) Other types of Humanitarian Funds		
Total Other Types of Humanitarian Funds		0
Total Humanitarian Funds Received in 2018 (a+b+c+d)		66,083,715
II. Carry-over of humanitarian funds available in 2018		
e) Carry over Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
Thematic Humanitarian Funds	SM149910	676,586
f) Carry over of non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
Germany	SM150604	5,916,860
Canada	SM160521	26,557
Canada	SM160522	352,754
The United Kingdom	SM170561	1,522,130
USA (USAID) OFDA	SM170456	3,087,581
Germany	SM170184	275,043
Czech Republic (The)	SM170530	160,782
Republic of Korea	SM170452	123,261
USA (USAID) OFDA	SM170455	166,736
USA (USAID) OFDA	SM170506	1,254,494
Norway	SM170529	411,079
European Commission / ECHO	SM170428	3,468,864
The United Kingdom	SM170560	8,410,048
Italy	SM170404	598,480

Norway	SM170219	364,434
UNOCHA	SM160556	80,735
Japan	SM170044	162,856
UNOCHA	SM170537	194,855
OFDA	SM170666	1,650,000
Total carry-over non-thematic Humanitarian Funds		28,227,550
Total Carry-Over Humanitarian Funds (e+f)		28,904,136
III. Other Sources (RR Set Aside, diversion of RR)		
Total Other Resources		0

Table 10: Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2018 (in USD)

Donor	Grant Number	Programmable Amount	Total Contribution Amount
Portuguese NatCom	SM1899100086	25,205	26,465
German NatCom	SM1899100159	151,942	159,539
UNICEF EMOPS	SM189910	400,000	428,000
Swedish NatCom	SM1899100302	190,476	200,000
MENARO	SM189910	636,171	680,703
MENARO	SM1899100022	250,000	267,500
US Fund for UNICEF	SM1899100378	16,427	17,248
Total Amount		1,670,221	1,779,455

Future Work Plan

The [2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) (HNO) indicates 6.7 million people in Iraq, at least 3.3 million of them children under 18 years, in need of at least one form of humanitarian assistance. Under the [2019 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (HRP) UN, and national and international NGO partners 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. The [2019 UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children](#) (HAC) appeal will support just over one million people, at least 500,000 of them children. Strategic objectives of the 2019 HAC are aligned with the 2019 HRP.

As armed violence has decreased, and people have returned home throughout 2018, 2019 planning will place increasing emphasis on recovery and resilience building actions that support national capacity to plan for and deliver basic services for Iraqi children and families, as outlined by the Government of Iraq and UN partners. Humanitarian action in Iraq is complemented by the UN's two-year [Recovery and Resilience Programme](#) which aims to fast-track the social dimensions of reconstruction. Connections between humanitarian and recovery programming will continue, with recovery efforts guided by the UN Recovery and Resilience Programme (RRP), which runs from 2018 to early 2020. It is expected that from 2020 the new UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) will become the guiding framework for UN partner assistance in Iraq. Interventions will build upon existing achievements and lessons learned from the previous years.

UNICEF's 2016-2019 programme supports the Government of Iraq at national, regional and subnational levels to strengthen basic social services to reach the most vulnerable children and women, especially those affected by conflict and displacement, in support of the Iraq National Development Plan (NPD) 2018 to 2022 and the Iraq Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). Future planning in Iraq remains focused on ensuring continued humanitarian assistance to those most vulnerable populations whether in camps, host community, or areas of return. Despite increases in stability, Iraq remains an uncertain operating context, and it appears likely that need for humanitarian support will continue throughout 2019 and into 2020.

For 2019, UNICEF humanitarian response is aligned by the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). In support of the Government's national strategies, the humanitarian community will work towards achieving three key objectives. Partners will promote the safety, dignity and equitable access of people in need to principled humanitarian assistance. The strategic priorities of the HRP will be firstly, post-conflict transition to durable solutions; secondly, ensuring the centrality of protection; and finally, strengthening contingency planning and preparedness. UNICEF programming will contribute to these objectives through programming in Child Protection, Education (including components of direct cash assistance to reduce the financial barriers that may hinder children's access to school), WASH, Health and Nutrition, emergency response (RRM and seasonal/winter response). UNICEF will integrate gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response risk mitigation into all its programming.

Based on the 2019 HNO, more than 2.2 million people across Iraq remain in critical need of sustained and more equitable access to safe and appropriate WASH services; of these more than half are women, nearly half are children, and four per cent are elderly. An estimated 2.5 million internally displaced, returnee, and refugee children aged 3 to 17 years old, including 1.2 million girls, will need emergency education services in Iraq in 2019. Estimates show that close to 30 per cent of children in camps and host communities have no access to formal education; and about 20 per cent of children in return areas need assistance to go to school. Four years of violence in Iraq, after other protected cycles of conflict,

has had a drastic impact on boys and girls – many have experienced unabated insecurity and violence, and multiple displacements. Children associated with ISIL, or who lived under its control, have a high likelihood of having witnessed, survived, and been forced to participate the most extreme forms of violence. A recent survey (Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment-VI) revealed that psychosocial distress among returnee (six times) and ‘remainee’ (eight times) children was significantly higher than IDP children. Almost 50 per cent of married women have experienced some form of violence from their husband, and 46 per cent of girls aged 10 to 14 have suffered violence at least once by a family member (Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organization [CSO]). Recent MoH and UN assessments show that many health facilities including hospitals, PHC, and vaccine stores have been damaged, looted and have had staff displaced. Significant disparities have been observed in Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din which are among the worst conflict-, displacement- and return-affected areas since 2014. Neonatal deaths are 56 per cent of deaths among U5 children in Iraq. In IDP camps, host community areas and areas of return, neonatal facilities are not at adequate standards. More than 22 per cent of the population in Iraq are poor, with poverty among IDPs increasing by 15 points (from 23 per cent to 38 per cent) according to the GoI Poverty Reduction Strategy; and with poverty rates also increased in the conflict-affected governorates, reaching 41 per cent of the population.

UNICEF will continue to meet its accountabilities under the Core Commitments for Children (CCC) in humanitarian action through continued cluster coordination, information management and contingency planning to improve emergency and humanitarian programming through dedicated human resources in WASH, Education, Child Protection, and Nutrition; and will begin steps to identify and handover the Rapid Response Mechanism capacity to a national actor. For cluster coordination, a focus for 2019 is transitioning towards sector coordination, as part of exit strategies and improvements in sustainability of interventions across government and non-government actors, capacity building interventions, and focus on connection between humanitarian and development interventions along the ‘life course’ approach, placing the child at the centre.

Rationalising strategic and implementing partnerships between humanitarian actors, both the UN and NGOs, remains a priority for 2019. UNICEF will continue to identify and develop opportunities for integrated programming through national partners aiming to meet Grand Bargain commitments and encourage sustained national expertise and capacity.

Table 11: 2019 plans by programme

Sector	UNICEF Programme Targets 2019	Main Objectives of UNICEF 2019 Interventions
WASH	<p>972,808 emergency-affected people with continued and more resilient and equitable access to a sufficient safe water supply</p> <p>486,404 people with continued access to safe and gender- and disabilities-sensitive sanitation facilities and hygiene items</p>	<p>Increase access to quality WASH services/practices in areas of displacement (in camps) with a clear exit strategy.</p> <p>Increase access to quality WASH services/practices for highly vulnerable populations in areas of return and support local authorities to ensure sustainability and takeover O&M of facilities.</p> <p>Support local authorities to provide access to safe emergency WASH services for highly vulnerable populations in high risk areas for waterborne diseases and water scarcity (mainly in southern governorates).</p> <p>Introduce innovative technologies and support local authorities/communities to provide sustainable and cost-effective WASH services, including community-focused hygiene promotion in and out of camps.</p>
Education		

Sector	UNICEF Programme Targets 2019	Main Objectives of UNICEF 2019 Interventions
	200,000 school-aged children accessing quality and inclusive formal and non-formal education	<p>Increase access to basic and post-basic education opportunities for Iraqi children and adolescents with a special focus on girls</p> <p>Improve the quality of learning and life skills outcomes for Iraqi children and adolescents</p> <p>Strengthen the resilience of the education system to plan, implement and monitor education services in humanitarian situations</p>
Child Protection	<p>135,000 girls and boys participating in structured, sustained psychosocial support</p> <p>10,400 girls and boys accessing specialized protection services</p> <p>16,381 girls and women receiving individual or group psychosocial support</p>	<p>Provide structured PSS to children and families in need; support parents' and caregivers' skills and knowledge to better care for and protect children, as well as individual or group PSS for girl and women survivors</p> <p>Support boys and girls at risk, and survivors, through case management and referral to specialized services including rehabilitation and reintegration, legal services, and/or family tracing as appropriate; training male and female specialized GBV service providers on updated skills for GBV prevention and response</p> <p>Support of establish community-based child protection structures, including capacity-building of girls, boys, women and men to participate in such structures</p> <p>Strengthen the national and local capacity for sustained child protection services and services that respond to violence and abuse, including GBV, and enhancing connections with the education system</p> <p>Monitoring of, reporting on, responding to, and preventing grave violations of child rights</p>
Health and Nutrition	<p>314,985 children aged 9 to 59 months vaccinated against measles</p> <p>2,034 newborn babies in IDP camps visited by trained health workers</p>	<p>Immunization services for children in re-taken areas and IDP camps revitalized and sustained</p> <p>Improved quality nutrition services (focusing on IYCF services, management of malnutrition and nutrition supplementation) for the most vulnerable children and mothers</p> <p>Maternal and essential newborn care and continuum of care services scaled up and sustained in IDP camps</p>
Cash Transfer	15,000 most vulnerable children received child-focused cash transfers ⁴⁴	<p>Increase access to inclusive, protective and quality formal and non-formal education for conflict-affected children, adolescents, and youth (children receiving direct cash assistance to cover transportation and other education-related expenses)</p> <p>Household assessment of up to 20,000 households (education focused) to collect socioeconomic data of households in Anbar, Dahuk, and Ninewa governorates</p>

⁴⁴ 15,000 children is a two-year target 2018 to 2019; UNICEF cash transfer is unconditional but is combined with awareness-raising and information-sharing actions that emphasize the positive impact of education on children, as well as child protection-related actions. This integrated approach aims to remove barriers that affect children's enrolment in, and attendance at, school. For this reason, under the HRP 2019, it is considered as a component of the Education cluster response for IDPs.

Sector	UNICEF Programme Targets 2019	Main Objectives of UNICEF 2019 Interventions
		Supporting case identification and referrals from vulnerable families receiving cash assistance to child protection/other services as needed
Rapid Response Mechanism	50 emergency response capacity building workshops conducted for government staff	Feasibility assessment including risk analysis and capacity assessment Capacity building of relevant government and local authority counterparts through trainings and workshops Continuation of RRM assistance on an as-needed basis through government counterparts during transition (to be defined) Handover of RRM to government

(*) Based on the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal 2019

Expression of Thanks

On behalf of Iraq's children, the internally displaced inside the country and those living in host communities, UNICEF takes this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to all partner governments, UNICEF National Committees, Foundations and private individuals for their continued and sustained support. In 2018, UNICEF and partners were enabled to provide life-saving and life-sustaining interventions, thanks to the generous contributions of donors including the governments of Canada, Czech Republic, Italy, Germany, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Sweden, the United Kingdom (Department for International Development), the United States (Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration), as well as the European Union/ECHO. Additional humanitarian funding was received through the UNOCHA-administered Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) and the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP).

Special thanks go to the individuals, groups, companies, and others, who gave to UNICEF's response in Iraq via the UNICEF National Committees in Germany, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United States of America, as well as via the UNICEF global and regional humanitarian thematic funds. The availability of flexible humanitarian funding through these thematic pools is invaluable support for children and women living in some of the toughest situations in the world.

UNICEF would also like to extend thanks to its national and international implementing partners for their tireless efforts in achieving results for children and focusing on saving lives, alleviating suffering and ensuring respect for children's rights. Only through such support, joint efforts, and coordination is it possible to respond to an emergency of such a scale.