

UNICEF Syria Crisis Weekly Situation Report # 2

Syria / Jordan / Lebanon / Turkey / Iraq

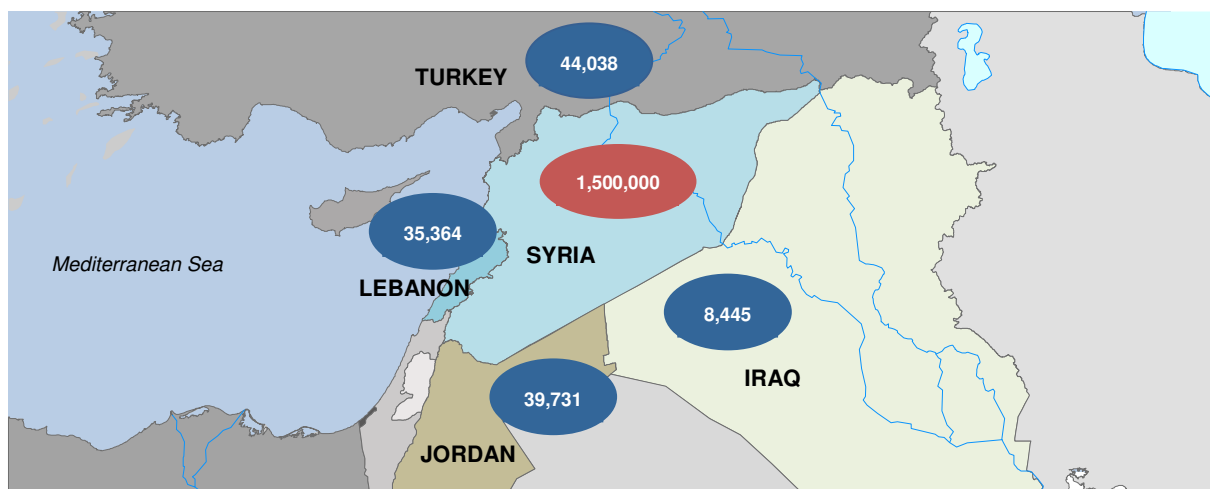
Date: 2 August 2012

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Highlights:

- Following a significant **deterioration in the security situation** in Damascus and Aleppo, **thousands of families fled their homes** taking shelter in **schools** or mosques in safer areas.
- Currently, **127,578** Syrians are receiving assistance in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq, over half of them children and adolescents. Of these, **123,595** have been registered as refugees (UNHCR, August 2012).
- Following an upsurge in violence in Aleppo, some **200,000 people have fled** the city, while over 16,000 residents are reported to have sought refuge in schools, mosques and public buildings.
- In July, assistance provided by UNICEF Syria and partners reached around **94,000 people, (90% children and adolescents)**. Of this total, **27,000** received continuous Education and Child Protection services. In addition, a total of **63,000 people** benefited from one or more critical interventions including the distribution of NFIs, water and food for children in various locations.
- UNICEF Jordan and Save the Children International began recreational, psychosocial and informal education activities at the two first Child Friendly Spaces at Za'atari camp on 31 July. UNICEF and Mercy Corps have installed a playground area at Cyber City transit site, and have begun building a playground at Za'atari camp. UNICEF is providing drinking water, hygiene and sanitation services as well as solid waste management at Za'atari camp, together with Team Connect, THW and ACTED.

The combination of escalating levels of violence, disruption of services and livelihoods threatens to put more children's lives at risk. The UN recently estimated that around **1.5 million people** in Syria are in need of assistance (OCHA, July 2012). Furthermore, **127,578** people have fled the violence to date and are receiving assistance in neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq; **123,595** are registered as refugees (UNHCR, August 2012). It is estimated that **around half of all displaced Syrians are children and adolescents**, who continue to face interruption of schooling; limited access to basic services; and psychosocial distress caused by witnessing violence and displacement.



Estimated number of people in Syria requiring assistance (Source: OCHA, 16 July 2012)
Number of assisted Syrians in the sub-region (Source: UNHCR, 2 August 2012)

SYRIA (Covering 1 – 31 July 2012)

Programme Response

UNICEF and its partners are providing assistance to Syrian children in need (both displaced children and children of host communities), in the areas of Health, Nutrition, Education, Child Protection, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and provision of Non-Food Items (NFIs).

In July, and despite deteriorating security conditions and limited access in many areas, UNICEF and its partners were able to expand their activities to reach around 94,000 people, of whom around 90% are children and adolescents. Meanwhile, 27,000 children received continuous support in Education and Child Protection. UNICEF and partners were also able to reach a total of 63,000 people with one or more critical interventions including the distribution of NFIs (Family and Baby Hygiene kits, stoves, mattresses, blankets), water and food for children in various locations (Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Daraa and Latakia).

Health and Nutrition: In July, food for children was distributed to 5,600 families benefiting more than 11,000 children. UNICEF requested 1.5 million doses of Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccine for the vaccination campaign planned for October 2012. The Ministry of Health has started vaccinations for IDP children in schools in Damascus. In addition, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health have trained 30 staff from ten local NGOs on nutrition in emergencies.

Education: UNICEF and the Ministry of Education have succeeded in expanding the school clubs project to cover another two governorates (Homs and Tartous), providing training and supplies to an additional 25 schools. The number of schools offering club activities and remedial classes grew from 77 to 102, providing education and recreation to more than 20,000 children (average 200 children per school). These 102 schools are located in Rural Damascus (28), Homs (10), Daraa (40), Tartous (15) and Latakia (29). The School clubs provide Psychosocial Support, recreational activities and remedial education to school-age children. This is a new initiative implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) to assist vulnerable Syrian children within a safe learning environment.

Child Protection: UNICEF is supporting SARC to ensure the continued operation of five Child Friendly Spaces and four multi-disciplinary clinics providing Psychosocial Support and Mental Health services to children and families. The total capacity of these services at the moment is estimated at 2,000 children per month. In addition, UNICEF has been training local NGOs, CBOs and community volunteers on recreational activities and Basic Psychosocial Support for displaced children.

In total, under different approaches (schools, community and mobile Child Friendly Spaces), the number of children benefitting from UNICEF's recreational and Psychosocial Support assistance has reached 26,000 children in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Daraa and Latakia. Of these 26,000 children, 20,000 children benefit from a combined package of child protection and the above mentioned education and recreational interventions.

WASH: OCHA ERF (Emergency Response Fund) has approved US\$ 250,000 in support of WASH for IDPs in collective shelters. UNICEF has also received US\$ 3 million from CERF for WASH activities. UNICEF supports the INGO, Premiere Urgence, to carry out emergency water trucking in schools including daily provision of 50,000 litres for about 5,000 persons. In addition UNICEF leads the WASH Working Group coordinating emergency WASH activities and working with partners to define a common approach to address the short and medium term water and sanitation challenges faced by IDPs in schools and other collective shelters.

NFIs: Through partnership with SARC and local associations, in the latter part of July, UNICEF was able to reach 5,350 displaced families in several areas of Damascus and Rif Damascus. Family Packages (hygiene kits, children's clothes and education bags) and Baby Kits were distributed. These supplies benefited some 52,000 displaced Syrians, including 40,000 children.

Pre-Positioning: Within the various sectoral projects (as well as for NFIs directly distributed to families in need), the Country Office has pre-positioned supply items to assist more than 100,000 people with NFIs, 30,000 Children with food packages and 45,000 people with First Aid kits.

Since January 2012, through its Humanitarian response, UNICEF Syria and its partners have reached a total of 250,000 people, including more than 185,000 children (this does not include the UNICEF support to the Ministry of Health for the vaccination of 284,000 children).

Syria Funding (as of 1 August 2012)

Syria Humanitarian Response Plan Funding Requirements and Status in US\$				
Sectors	Requirement	Received	% Funded	Shortfall
Child Protection	3,000,000	1,066,536	36%	1,933,464
Education	3,000,000	1,104,699	37%	1,895,301
Health and Nutrition	5,000,000	1,140,663	23%	3,859,337
WASH	2,950,000	1,501,929	51%	1,448,071
Non Food Items	4,000,000	2,680,602	67%	1,319,398
Coordination and communication	650,000	100,000	15%	550,000
Safety, Security Telecoms	240,000	138,416	58%	101,584
Total	18,840,000	7,732,845	41%	11,107,155

UNICEF Syria has also received a loan of US\$ 4.2 million in Emergency Programme Funding (EPF).

JORDAN (Covering 25 July – 1 August 2012)

Programme Response

Child Protection: UNICEF has erected three tents to be used as Child Friendly Spaces at the newly established Za'atari camp. A total of 16 Child Friendly Spaces and five Child Friendly Learning Spaces will be set up to serve 2,500 children and adolescents. UNICEF and Save the Children International began recreational, psychosocial and informal education activities for 0 to 18 year-olds at the first Child Friendly Space at Za'atari camp on 31 July. UNICEF and Mercy Corps have installed a playground area at Cyber City transit site and began constructing a playground at Za'atari camp on 1 August.

UNICEF and partners continue to monitor the situation of vulnerable Syrian children, especially in transit sites and the Za'atari camp, and maintain close collaboration with UNHCR to refer urgent child protection cases identified through field visits. To date, UNICEF partner Noor al Hussein Foundation has reached some 4,300 children and 3,000 parents and family members in transit centres in Ramtha with psychosocial and protection activities, referrals and awareness-raising. More than 1,000 vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian children and family members have been reached with psychosocial, remedial education and awareness-raising activities in Ma'an, by UNICEF partner Zenid. In addition, UNICEF and International Medical Corps have reached some 220 vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian children and family members in targeted areas of Jordan with case management, referrals and psychosocial support. UNICEF and the Jordan Red Crescent have also reached around 100 children and family members with psychosocial and protection activities since July.

Education: The Jordanian Ministry of Education and UNICEF have agreed to grant Syrian children in the Za'atari camp access to schools in urban settings, if sufficient space is available. If the schools cannot accommodate the Syrian children, then a pre-fab school will be constructed onsite and staffed with Ministry of Education teachers.

UNICEF -- in collaboration with partners and the Ministry of Education -- is running school-based summer remedial education classes, for vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian children in 15 directorates. To date, 4,200 children, including 3,750 Syrians, are attending these activities. UNICEF partner Save the Children International is providing recreational activities and psychosocial support in 39 public schools to complement these activities. Monitoring visits from UNICEF are ongoing.

Distribution of 7,000 school kits (school bag and stationary) to vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian children has begun. To date, Save the Children Jordan has reached nearly 8,800 vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian children and family members with awareness-raising on access to education services.

WASH: UNICEF is providing drinking water, hygiene and sanitation services, as well as solid waste management at Za'atari camp. Fifteen 10,000-litre bladders for drinking water, 55 showers, 80 latrines and 20 hand washing basins have been installed and are fully functional at the camp. UNICEF and ACTED also provided 20 cleaners to the Za'atari camp, with more cleaners arriving in the coming days.

UNICEF and THW have fenced the WASH facilities and water points at Za'atari camp to ensure safety for children. UNICEF has procured sanitation tools (brooms and bins) for 1,000 families at Za'atari camp; distribution has begun and continues through the camp managers. A total of 7,000 baby hygiene kits have been allocated for refugees at Za'atari camp, and distribution began on 1 August.

To support the water supply in host communities, Mercy Corps and UNICEF have begun tests to check the production capacity and water quality of two public wells in Ramtha. Equipment for water network repairs and leak detection has also been identified and the procurement process is underway. UNICEF and UNHCR have agreed to procure 12 water and sewage trucks to support Ramtha and Mafrqa's water authority and municipality. Tenders opened on 1 August.

To date, more than 27,000 displaced Syrians have benefited from safe WASH facilities provided by UNICEF and partners in transit sites in Ramtha and Za'atari camp in Mafrqa.

LEBANON (Covering 25 July – 1 August 2012)

Programme Response

Child Protection: Following the recent influx of Syrian refugees into Lebanon, UNICEF initiated assessments in North-East Bekaa Valley to determine the needs of displaced Syrian children and their families and the capacity of existing agencies to mount community-based psychosocial interventions to support them. Of the 40 families interviewed, only two had registered with UNHCR. The families reported significant difficulties in traveling away from their school shelter or NGO housing to access services. They also reported that their children had very little to do, and that they were subjected to verbal and physical abuse from locals when they tried to play on the street. Most families crossing the border into Lebanon last week did not remain in the Bekaa Valley.

Possibilities for scaling up community-based psychosocial activities were explored with four international NGOs with whom UNICEF already has Project Cooperation Agreements (PCAs); two were willing and able to expand their services, subject to the availability of funding. A local NGO was also identified in Central Bekaa to support psychosocial activities. The monitoring visit also covered two UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Spaces; one in Wadi Khalid (Save the Children) and one in Aarsal (TdH-It). The feedback from families was very positive regarding the results of activities carried out through these Spaces.

The Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) is taking a lead role in finding suitable shelter for displaced Syrians in Lebanon, acknowledging that host families are stretched to the limit and refugees renting accommodation are running out of resources and will soon require alternative housing. MoSA also reported that there were very few female-headed households identified so far.

As part of its scale-up strategy, UNICEF will support Social Development Centres (SDCs), once needs have been identified, giving priority to SDCs in areas with highest concentration of refugees. Immediate support may also include delivery of supplies including Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits for SDCs operating kindergartens, NFIs, hygiene kits etc., some of which are already in stock; training of social workers from SDCs (including through Child Friendly Spaces' partners already operational on the ground); and technical and financial assistance to conduct assessments, and strengthen coordination and referral mechanisms for child protection issues (including Sexual and GBV), as needed. MoSA is currently undertaking an assessment of SDCs to inform future interventions. UNICEF and partners are working with MoSA to undertake contingency planning, expand the current network of Child Friendly Spaces, and enhance the SDCs' capacity to undertake outreach services and absorb more beneficiaries through additional shifts.

Education: With UNICEF Support, 1,950 vulnerable Syrian and Lebanese children are receiving language skills training to better prepare them to reintegrate into formal education, through Summer Day Camps and other educational activities in 16 schools and two community centres in the north and Bekaa. 100 School teachers have been trained by UNICEF's implementing partners on a balanced literacy approach and active learning programme. Supported by local communities, 16 schools in the areas of Bekaa, Wadi Khaled/Akkar and Tripoli, with high concentration of Syrian refugees, are now more conducive and inclusive learning environments for vulnerable Syrian and Lebanese school-age children.

Supported by UNICEF, awareness-raising sessions on the importance of education benefited 900 parents, who were encouraged to engage their children in UNICEF's education activities to enhance their potential to reintegrate into the upcoming scholastic year in Lebanon, or back home in Syria.

UNICEF has disseminated the Initial Education Rapid Assessment (ERA) conducted in partnership with Save the Children, based on the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies. UNICEF has also facilitated the drafting of a first strategic response plan that is based on the findings of the ERA.

As an active member of the Education in Emergency unit within the MEHE, UNICEF is working on developing the preparedness strategy into an action plan, enhancing the readiness of MEHE focal persons and higher management to respond to different disaster scenarios, including response to the current crisis. UNICEF is co-chairing the Education working group with UNHCR at central and field levels.

WASH: UNICEF has signed a PCA with the NGO ACF to deliver WASH assistance to around 16,400 beneficiaries in Bekaa. A second PCA for WASH is also underway between UNICEF and DRC to deliver support to families with infants, which will include the distribution of 5,125 Baby Hygiene kits.

UNICEF is ready with emergency preparedness stocks to respond to an increased influx of up to 50,000 refugees into Lebanon, should the violence in Syria escalate further. This planning figure will be revised as needed.

The WASH sector is currently undertaking an Interagency Assessment of disused buildings (mostly schools) to ascertain their suitability for use as collective shelters for newly displaced Refugees in Bekaa and North Lebanon. Results should be ready in the first week of August. The WASH sector is currently providing inputs to the WASH/Shelter Coordination matrix developed by UNICEF, to highlight areas of concern and avoid duplication of efforts. NGOs working in the Shelter/WASH sectors are currently submitting proposals to donor agencies, to secure additional funding for response and slowly increasing capacity in the sector.

Health and Nutrition: Preparations for the nutritional survey are ongoing.

TURKEY (Covering 25 July – 1 August 2012)

Programme Response

Child Protection: Following visits to the Kilis camp in April 2012, UNICEF found overall investment, infrastructure and management of the camp by the Turkish authorities to be above standards. Child-related services and plans were also found to be adequately responding to basic needs. Since then, opportunities to undertake in-depth assessments using the tailored rapid assessment kit have been granted.

Education: As per information collected back in April, education was being provided by the Turkish Government in the camps and planned to be expanded, in line with the Turkish curriculum. No information has been received regarding the policy applied in the camps over the summer academic holiday, nor about current plans to handle the recent increased influx of potential students and their education needs. Through the recently procured UNICEF tents and education and recreational materials, it is expected that Syrian children of different age groups, especially adolescents and youth in the camps are currently being provided with safe child-friendly learning environments.

IRAQ (Covering 25 July – 1 August 2012)

Programme Response

Child Protection: At the Domiz Camp in Northern Iraq, a Child Friendly Space was established and is running in two shifts providing access to approximately 200 children for recreation activities, psychosocial support and Mine Risk Education (MRE). The activities are implemented in collaboration with ACTED, the Mental Health Unit of the Directorate of Health in Dohuk, Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA), Handicap International and Mine Action Group (MAG). Two Child Friendly Space kits, two recreation kits (sports equipment, first aid kits, etc.) and two psychosocial kits (art and drawing materials, notebooks) have been provided for the Child Friendly Space activities.

Currently, UNICEF is negotiating with UNHCR for the creation of a Protection Unit for children and women at the Domiz camp that will receive and respond to complaints from children and refer cases for assistance as necessary. In Al Qaim in Western Iraq, the registration process has begun with UNHCR and with the Ministry

of Displacement and Migration (MDM). UNICEF is working to obtain figures on unaccompanied and separated children.

The Child Protection sub-cluster is not yet formally set up and child protection issues are coordinated under the Protection Working Group led by UNHCR. A few meetings focusing specifically on child protection have been held as need arises. UNICEF has plans to hold regular child protection sub-cluster meetings with key players including the Governorate Emergency Cell.

Education: To ensure that girls and boys have access to a safe and secure education, a two month summer school programme started on 11 July with an initial 136 registered students. The number has since increased to 146 from grades 1 to 9. About 63 children have registered to start the school year in September in addition to any other children who will arrive at the camp before September. As part of the coordinated response, UNICEF has provided two recreation kits, nine First Aid Kits and a prefabricated classroom is being set up to ease overcrowding.

A challenge is anticipated in the provision of education. The number of children requiring access to education at the start of the new school year (September) is currently estimated at about 600. This estimate includes the new Syrian arrivals as well as the children from the old caseload in the old Domiz camp. Based on this estimate, roughly five more prefabricated classrooms will be required in addition to existing ones. Additional teachers, teaching and learning materials and other consumable items in the school will also be required. A taskforce has been formed to devise a list of requirements for discussion during the next Education Working Group meeting to be held this month.

In Western Iraq, Syrian refugees in Al-Qaim are being sheltered in 12 schools and one first aid centre, which will have implications for the Iraqi Education system; the second round of final exams and the academic year begins in September. UNICEF is working on a contingency response plan for education sector needs for Syrian children in Iraq.

UNICEF in close collaboration with the General Directorate of Education and UNHCR has set up an Education Working Group to coordinate all the education activities in the camp. The Working Group has been meeting regularly with membership from UN, Government and NGOs.

WASH: In coordination with UNICEF Health and Nutrition section and Duhok Directorate of Health, the WASH programme is planning a hygiene promotion campaign in the Domiz camp. The campaign will target all individuals registered in the camp and will address issues related to water handling and conservation, solid waste management and personal hygiene.

In a joint mission with UNHCR, UNICEF WASH and Health and Nutrition teams from the Centre Zone Office visited Al-Qaim in Western Iraq to assess the situation. Although all schools in Al-Qaim have been supplied with essential items (by the community, the Government of Iraq, and UNHCR) such as food and NFIs, electrical power generators and medical services, the unavailability of adequate latrines and bathrooms are major constraints. Chlorination of the water is also a key concern observed by UNICEF experts and thereby tested the water in various locations. Resulting from UNICEF's findings, the Al-Qaim water office is intensifying its efforts to rehabilitate all malfunctioning aspects of the chlorination mechanism within the water treatment plants.

Despite high security restrictions, on August 2nd the first international mission to the border town of Al Qaim in Western Iraq was to take place using helicopter transport. The key priorities for the mission will be to observe the overall situation as well as to finalize the implementation arrangement of WASH facilities in the camp with UNHCR and other partners. UNICEF will participate in the mission, represented by its WASH Specialist.

WASH coordination has been a part of the bigger Shelter/Watsan/Camp coordination and camp management Working Group chaired by UNHCR. With UNICEF advocacy, the WASH sub-working group held its first meeting co-chaired by UNICEF and UNHCR on 25 July. The overall situation of water and sanitation in the camp was reviewed; the water quality monitoring was emphasized especially daily chlorine test. The participants agreed on the monitoring indicators and reporting mechanism.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF is supporting the Directorate of Health in Dohuk to establish a growth monitoring unit within the health clinic in the camp. Two uni-scales and two measuring boards were provided to the health unit. A nurse has been assigned by the Directorate of Health to provide antenatal care services including growth monitoring for under-five children in the camp. The nurse will participate in a training session supported by UNICEF for the medical staff working in Summel sub-district including Domiz camp on growth

monitoring, breastfeeding promotion, mother education on feeding practices and infant and young child feeding. The growth monitoring unit will start screening under-five children in the camp from early August.

The Health sector in Al-Qaim includes a small health clinic with essential drugs in each school, however with limited capacity. In addition, the Syrian vaccination schedule is different to that in Iraq and the forms of vaccinations also vary. For example, polio is an oral vaccination in Iraq but is an injection in Syria. Another concern arising is for the treatment of chronic diseases that require special care and medication, such as hypertension, diabetes, and renal dialyses. In response to the concerns of immunization, the MoH has deployed vaccination teams, which are being monitored and support by UNICEF, such as provision of cold boxes, as requested by the MoH.

IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, TURKEY – FUNDING (as of 30 July 2012)

<i>Regional Response Plan Funding requirements in US\$ - Summary per sector per country</i>						
<i>Updated 28 June 2012</i>	Total Requirement	% of Total Requirement	Jordan	Lebanon	Turkey	Iraq
Child Protection	3,980,000	20%	1,600,000	880,000	1,500,000	
Education	5,925,000	30%	5,200,000	725,000		
Health & Nutrition	750,000	4%	400,000	100,000		250,000
Water, Hygiene & Sanitation	9,371,000	47%	7,600,000	771,000		1,000,000
Total Cost	20,026,000		14,800,000	2,476,000	1,500,000	1,250,000
Amount Funded by Country			8,724,775	1,800,574	384,788	0
% Funded by Country			59%	73%	26%	0%
% Funded of Total RRP Requirements			54%			

The next Situation Report is planned for 9 August 2012

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