



Syrian children refugees arrive in northern Lebanon (March 2012)

Syria Crisis Sub-Regional Funding Needs Document

UNICEF requires US\$ 7.4 million to address the needs of around 40,000 children and adolescents displaced by the Syria crisis, in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey (including children of the host communities), over a period of six months

30 March 2012 (Updated 19 April 2012)

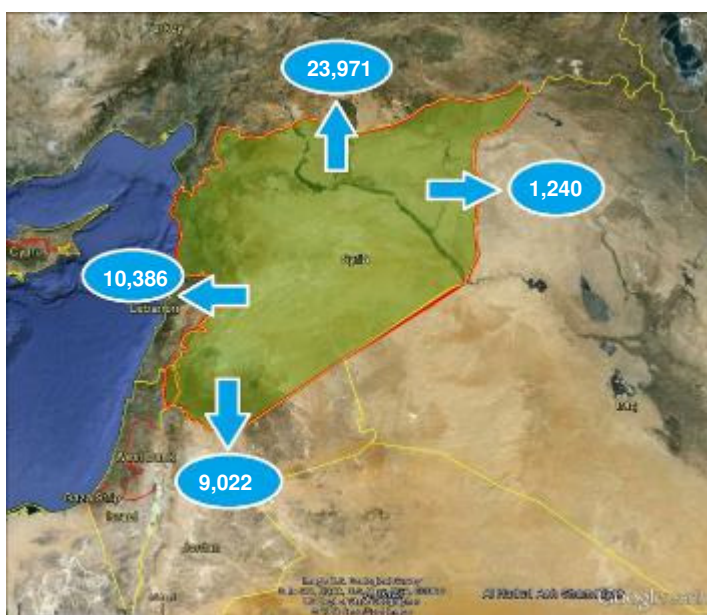
Highlights

- Ongoing violence in Syria **claimed the lives of more than 500 children and 244 women** since mid-March 2011;
- UNICEF took part in a Syrian-government led inter-agency assessment mission, which lasted nine days and covered more than half of all Syrian governorates;
- Around **40,000 registered refugees*** to date in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq**, over half of them children;
- Working alongside host governments and UN-HCR, UNICEF is providing leadership in the areas of education, child protection and WASH, in support of displaced Syrian children.

* The number of refugees registered in the sub-region, as of 19 April 2012, is around 46,500 people

** Displacement into Iraq has so far been limited. UNICEF response currently does not cover displaced Syrians in Iraq

Syria and the Sub-Region Situation Map



SITUATION OVERVIEW



A nurse vaccinates a girl at the Daraya National Hospital near Damascus

The mission gathered information from local and national government, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), local community leaders, religious figures, local NGOs and community-based organizations, as well as ordinary civilian Syrians and professionals from different backgrounds. **The multi sectoral team was able to speak with at least 250 men, women and children** through semi-structured interviews and direct observation. UNICEF hopes that the forthcoming mission report will help highlight the most immediate needs of children and women in Syria.

Situation in the Sub-Region

The combination of escalating levels of violence, disruption of services and livelihoods threatens to put more children's lives at risk. To date, **around 40,000 people* are estimated to have fled** the violence in Syria, taking refuge in neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq (UNHCR, March 2012). **It is estimated that around half of all displaced Syrians are children and adolescents.**

The movement of Syrians into Lebanon is reported to have intensified, bringing the total number of refugees in the country to **10,532**, according to UNHCR (April 2012). In Jordan, some **10,189** Syrians are now registered with UNHCR (April 2012), with **4,251** more awaiting registration. Meanwhile, according to the Turkish Government, the number of displaced Syrians currently sheltered in tent camps on the border totals **23,955** (April 2012). The number of displaced Syrians crossing into Iraq currently stands at **1,776** (UNHCR, April 2012).

On 23 March 2012, The UN and its humanitarian partners issued an appeal for US\$ 84 million to help Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. The Syria Regional Response Plan outlines the response needs for Syrian refugees who have fled the country since March 2011, as well as anticipating the needs of future arrivals. The plan is an inter-agency framework led by the UNHCR and the result of a coordinated effort between 7 UN agencies (including UNICEF), 27 national and international NGOs, and host governments.

As part of the UNHCR-led efforts to provide assistance to displaced Syrians across the sub-region, UNICEF aims to assist around 40,000 children and adolescents in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, including children of host communities.**

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Situation of Children and Women in Syria

For the past year, Syria has witnessed unprecedented levels of civil unrest, large scale public demonstrations and increasingly widespread use of violence. The result has been the **deaths of more than 9,000 Syrians** (UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, March 2012), **including more than 500 children**, with many more wounded (International Independent Commission of Inquiry's second report).

By March 2012, the violence had spread across at least half of Syria's 14 governorates, particularly affecting the south, centre and north-western parts of the country. Taking into account the geographic scope and population of affected governorates, and pending further results from the ongoing joint assessment led by the Syrian Government, the Syria UN Country Team estimates that some **1.7 million people*** have been affected by the ongoing violence. Of this number, **around 800,000 are children and adolescents** (46% of the Syrian population are under 18 - UNICEF SOWC 2011) and some **150,000 to 200,000 people have become internally displaced** (ECB and ACAPS, February 2012).

A nine-day government-led joint assessment mission was recently carried out with the support of resident UN agencies and representatives of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) between 18 and 26 March 2012.

* The UN/OIC assessment mission conducted in March 2012 estimated the number of affected people at one million, of which around 470,000 are children and adolescents

Impact on Children

The violence that has swept across Syria over the past year has not spared the country's children. In addition to more than 500 children reported killed since March 2011 (International Independent Commission of Inquiry's second report), **244 women are also reported to have been killed** (ibid.). As the situation unravels, there is little doubt that the violence will have a long-lasting impact - whether physical or psychological - on the vast majority of children in Syria.

While UNICEF does not have verifiable data on the specific impact of the unrest on schools and education in the affected areas, there is strong evidence that the academic year has been seriously disrupted in many parts of the country. President Assad himself has spoken of a **50% drop in enrolment**, while claiming that 1,000 of the country's 22,000 schools have been damaged in the unrest. School buildings have also reportedly been used as military bases.

The impact of the crisis on children's access to health services has been equally severe. Access restrictions and interruption of Primary Health Care services has led to a deterioration in service delivery, while electricity cuts implemented as part of security operations have disrupted the cold chain with consequent loss of vaccine stocks. **Neonatal and antenatal care services have also been affected.**

Kusay's story

Kusay is 12 years old. He and his family fled his hometown of Homs because of the unrest and they now live in the town of Maan, in the south of Jordan.

Even though he feels more settled now, it took a while to shake off memories of the violence he and his family left behind.

"When I first came to Maan, every time I heard the engine of a tractor I'd think it was a tank," Kusay recalls.

UNICEF MENARO, March 2012

Prevailing violence in some of Syria's most affected districts has had a devastating impact on access to health services, and particularly immunization of under-five children. Initial assessment by health authorities and local partners indicate that in some of these areas, immunization coverage of children under two years of age could be as low as 5%.

The thousands of Syrian children and adolescents who became displaced in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey continue to face interruption of schooling; limited access to basic services; and psychosocial distress caused by witnessing violence and displacement.



Syria launches national catch-up immunization drive amid continued unrest

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UNICEF RESPONSE IN THE SUB-REGION TO DATE

UNICEF Response in the Sub-Region

UNICEF Country Offices in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, and the Regional Office have been mobilized to meet the immediate needs of the thousands of Syrian refugees and displaced persons in the sub-region. As UNHCR's key partner in providing support to around **40,000 registered Syrian refugees*** in the sub-region (of whom **an estimated 50% are children**), UNICEF is focusing on areas where it has a comparative advantage. In doing so, UNICEF is supporting displaced Syrian children, as well as children of host communities with a view to provide equitable services to all those in need.

*The UNICEF Regional Office continues to provide **surge capacity, leadership and oversight** to support the response in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, in line with agreed inter-agency coordination mechanisms to meet UNICEF's commitments as **sector lead in the areas of education, child protection and WASH***

Throughout the sub-region, UNICEF has prioritized the facilitation and promotion of increased access to formal and informal education for all children within host governments' schooling systems (other than Turkey due to language constraints), as well as provision of psychosocial care through the establishment of recreation opportunities and establishment of referral systems where needed.

Response in Jordan

Education: As the lead agency for education, UNICEF has successfully advocated with the Jordanian Ministry of Education (MoE) for Syrian children's free access to the public education system resulting in the Jordanian ministerial Cabinet's approval in December 2011. UNICEF has agreed to assist the MoE with the costs of tuition, textbooks, teacher salaries, and rental of school facilities together with remedial education. UNICEF's assistance will ensure that up to 7,000 vulnerable Syrian children at primary and secondary level benefit from uninterrupted education in Jordanian public schools.

Child Protection: UNICEF continues to assist displaced Syrian children and their families with child protection services and psychosocial activities in the targeted areas. To date, UNICEF has supported 600 Syrian children and 350 family members in the Ramtha transit centre and Ma'an. An additional 700 children have been supported through referral and case management for education services.

WASH and Health: In close coordination with UNHCR, UNICEF has taken up the responsibility to meet the WASH needs in the Ramtha transit facility in view of increasing number of vulnerable Syrians into Jordan. With the majority of Syrian refugees in urban settings, UNICEF will continue to provide technical assistance to the Jordanian Government and UNHCR, as required.

Response in Lebanon

Child Protection and Education: UNICEF Lebanon has been providing displaced Syrian children with education and recreational activities and psychosocial support through five Child Friendly Spaces. A first cadre of teachers, community workers, and caregivers are currently being trained in psychosocial interventions, identification of psychosocial difficulties, and referral mechanisms. UNICEF is also supporting the training of health, social and community workers on "Facts for Life"; a UNICEF reference guide on health and well-being of mothers, children and youth.

WASH: UNICEF has distributed an initial batch of 800 hygiene kits to around 4,000 displaced Syrians in the Baalbek-Bekaa areas, as well as distributing trousers and coats donated by the private sector to displaced children in Akkar.

Response in Turkey

Child Protection: In the Turkish border town of Hatay, affected Syrian children and their families are provided with psychological counselling by the Turkish Government (as requested), through professional psychologists and psychiatrists, previously trained with UNICEF support.

Education: The Turkish Government is providing educational services to more than 2,150 Syrian children in the 4 to 18 age group. This is done through 68 tent classrooms with 133 teachers (all bilingual).

Why Child Friendly Spaces Matter

Child Friendly Spaces are safe and protective environments created by UNICEF in the aftermath of emergencies, as a first response to children's needs and an entry point for working with affected communities. Child Friendly Spaces respond to children's rights to protection, psychosocial wellbeing, and non-formal education. These spaces provide children, adolescents and mothers with a basic package of services, in a secure environment that is family-focused and community/school-based.

Spending time in Child Friendly Spaces helps children cope with their exposure to violence and displacement, and offers them structure and a sense of normalcy. Child Friendly Spaces also act as an entry point for identification of children suffering psychosocial distress and – where necessary -- institute referral to specialized care.

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PLANNED UNICEF RESPONSE IN THE SUB-REGION

Planned Response in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey

As in all such situations, UNICEF's response to the crisis in Syria is underpinned by the Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) in Humanitarian Action. The CCCs are driven by the need to fulfil the rights of children affected by humanitarian crisis, and aim to promote predictable, effective and timely collective humanitarian action through a partnership between governments, humanitarian organizations, and others.

Note: All planning figures for Turkey are set against a potential worst case scenario, and will be triggered only at the request of the Turkish government

The CCCs are UNICEF's central humanitarian policy to uphold the rights of children affected by humanitarian crisis. The CCCs are guided by international human rights law, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child and, in the case of complex emergencies, also by international humanitarian law. The CCCs reaffirm that advocacy to protect the rights of children and women is an integral part of humanitarian action.

The CCCs are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action. UNICEF's scope of action will be adapted depending on context. UNICEF's role may include promoting CCCs through advocacy, leadership, cluster roles, or within humanitarian country teams. In some contexts, and in sectors and geographic areas where UNICEF has a comparative advantage, UNICEF's humanitarian response may expand beyond the CCCs.

UNICEF's role may include promoting the CCCs through programming, advocacy, coordination and leadership within humanitarian country teams. Where it has a comparative advantage, UNICEF's humanitarian response may expand beyond the CCCs. The CCCs establish strategic results by sector, programmatic commitments and corresponding benchmarks derived from global standards in the respective programme areas.

The CCCs guide UNICEF's work with partners not only in humanitarian response, but also emphasizing reliable preparedness and early recovery. The CCCs recognize that prioritizing sustainability and ownership in humanitarian response can speed up a transition from life-saving intervention to self-initiated recovery actions by affected populations.

UNICEF's response to the Syrian Crisis focuses on areas where UNICEF has a comparative advantage: Education, Child Protection and WASH.

Education

Jordan: 7,000 children; Lebanon: 4,200 children and adolescents; Turkey: 22,500 children and adolescents

UNICEF's sub-regional response in education will focus first and foremost on advocacy and support for sustained access for all Syrian children to public school institutions in both Jordan and Lebanon, as well as support to Turkish authorities (upon request) towards ensuring schooling continuity for Syrian children, aged 0 to 18.

This will be complemented by an engagement across the sub-region around outreach activities for children and adolescents through Child Friendly Spaces that will provide educational, recreational, cultural and psychosocial interventions for displaced Syrian children within school settings so as to strengthen the sense of structure and security for children. Such facilities will particularly help provide catch up classes and specialized education opportunities where required.

Child Protection

Jordan: 10,000 children; Lebanon: 22,000 children (including host communities), 100 teachers, social workers and caregivers; Turkey: 22,500 children (through schools)

UNICEF will continue to provide Syrian children with psychosocial support through Child Friendly Spaces (including identification of required specialized support and referral options), in addition to the training of teachers, caregivers and social workers to provide psychosocial support and recreation. UNICEF will train community health workers in "Facts for Life" to promote healthy and protective behaviour among displaced families.

WASH

Lebanon: 6,000 people and 1,200 children; Turkey: 5,000 people; Jordan: 3,000 people

UNICEF will conduct assessments of WASH conditions in areas where displaced Syrians are currently present, as well as continuing to provide hygiene kits to vulnerable Syrian families. As required, UNICEF will also deploy technical expertise to support host government and UNHCR's efforts around WASH activities, inclusive of camp planning and management and WASH in schools.

UNICEF is taking the lead in emergency WASH interventions in camp-like settings in coordination with relevant actors including the Jordanian Government and UNHCR. UNICEF will provide water, latrines, and shower facilities as well as maintaining water and sanitation systems and cleaning of site/buildings combined with hygiene promotion activities in transit sites.

* Financial requirements of UNICEF Jordan's WASH component are incorporated within the budget for health

PLANNED UNICEF RESPONSE IN THE SUB-REGION

Health and Nutrition

Jordan: 6,000 caregivers and children under two

UNICEF will provide behaviour change communication interventions to improve health care and feeding practices through “better parenting” programmes conducted by local networks of partners.

In the absence of a comprehensive picture on the nutritional status of the displaced Syrian children, UNICEF continues to coordinate with, UNHCR, WHO and UNFPA to monitor the situation.

Although, UNHCR and UNFPA are providing hygiene kits to displaced Syrians in Jordan, gaps have been reported in neonatal supplies, including diapers. Therefore, UNICEF Jordan plans to procure neonatal hygiene kits for children under the age of two.

In response to alarming reports of immunization coverage rates’ significant deterioration in some districts of Syria, UNICEF will continue to monitor the situation of displaced under-five children in the sub-region.

Sub-Regional Coordination and Support

Considering the continued access constraints in Syria itself, the severity and scale of the humanitarian impact of the events both in-country and in terms of population displacements and heightened vulnerabilities in neighbouring countries, UNICEF will need to ensure strengthened staffing capacity is made available in support of the UNICEF teams in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The UNICEF Regional Office will provide complementary capacity as well as offer sub-regional leadership and technical support guidance where needed around key programmatic interventions.

Pending the resolution of access issues to the country and within Syria, UNICEF and partners’ effective access may continue to be constrained. Access permitting, UNICEF and UNCT partners will conduct regular needs assessments on the vulnerability of children and women, as well as the impact of assistance provided.

Partnerships

UNICEF continues to support UNHCR’s overall capacity towards its refugee mandate through provision of leadership to the education and child protection sectors, coordination of child-focused psychosocial support, and technical guidance around WASH issues. In the sub-region (and under the overall coordination of UNHCR in Jordan and Lebanon), UNICEF is working

with various partners through emergency working groups and task forces that involve key Ministries, UN agencies and national and international NGOs.

Operations

Human Resources

In order to complement and boost its current capacity for the emergency response, UNICEF Offices in Syria and the Sub-Region are in the process of immediately recruiting seven international posts in the areas of emergency coordination, child protection, education, WASH, supply-logistics and information and reporting, specifically in support of the Syria crisis. UNICEF will also recruit seven national posts. Additional human resources surge may follow, as needed.

Supply

In addition to the supplies that have been procured in support to immediate response to children needs over the coming weeks both in Syria and the sub-region, UNICEF is pre-positioning a range of supplies (medical equipment, children’s clothing, hygiene kits, sports and recreation kits, etc.) to enable a rapid response to the needs of up to 70,000-80,000 children in the sub-region to be able to be adequately equipped to respond to a sudden deterioration of the situation in country. UNICEF recently advanced US\$ 3.4 million of its own funding to kick-start the response across the sub-region as well as this pre-positioning effort.

Aya’s story

“There were dead people on the streets. There was shooting. Homes were destroyed, buildings collapsed. The injured were lying on the floor....”

Young Aya’s last memories of her home town of Homs are as vivid as those of the perilous journey she and her family made across the Jordanian border.

“We left Homs under fire and shelling. At first, we travelled by car and were shot at. A bullet went in between the wheels. Then we took a bus which came under fire as well. It was a very tough journey.”

One month on, Aya is adjusting to life in the southern Jordanian town of Ma’an, where she is attending the local school. Each Saturday, she goes to a UNICEF-supported centre where she learns new skills like painting, cooking, craft and sewing – her favourite activity.

UNICEF MENARO, March 2012

OPERATIONS AND FUNDING NEEDS



Funding Needs

This funding needs document details the UNICEF component of the UNHCR-led inter-agency Regional Response Plan, launched on 23 March 2012

*Funding requirements in US\$ - Summary per sector per country **

<i>Updated 21 March 2012</i>	Total	%	Jordan	Lebanon	Turkey	MENARO
Child Protection	2,350,000	32%	800,000	800,000	650,000	100,000
Education	3,710,000	50%	2,785,000	825,000		100,000
Health & Nutrition	606,000	8%	531,000	75,000		
Water, Hygiene & Sanitation	650,000	9%		550,000		100,000
Non Food Items	100,000	1%				100,000
Total Cost	7,416,000		4,116,000	2,250,000	650,000	400,000

* Total requirements include UNICEF's 7% indirect programme support costs