



Syria received 256,800 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, the first COVAX delivery of vaccines to reach the country © UNICEF/2021

Reporting Period: 1- 30 April 2021

Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report

April 2021



Highlights

- As part of the COVAX facility, the first batch of AstraZeneca vaccine doses were delivered to Syria, with 203,000 doses via Damascus, and 53,800 via Gaziantep to Northwest Syria. These were allocated to frontline health workers, including in the northeast and northwest.
- A fire at the sub-station which provides electricity to Alouk Water Station on 12 April disrupted access to water for two weeks, affecting one million people, including 70,000 people in Al-Hol and other camps and settlements in the area. This was the second water cut in 2021 and the twenty-third since October 2019. In response, WASH Sector partners, trucked up to 3,231m³ of water a day, though this was far lower than the 4,000m³/hour capacity of the water station.
- UNICEF marked International Mine Awareness Day on 4 April with partners through mass media, SMS messages and face-to-face interventions. Life-saving messages reached 85,287 children (45,454 girls) and 7,086 caregivers (3,390 women), including people in northwest and northeast Syria, bringing the total reached this year to 316,408 children and caregivers.
- UNICEF has received to date only 27 per cent of the funds required to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of 4.8 million children in 2021.

Situation in Numbers*



4,800,000
children in need of humanitarian assistance



11,100,000
people in need



6,183,919
Internally displaced people (IDPs)

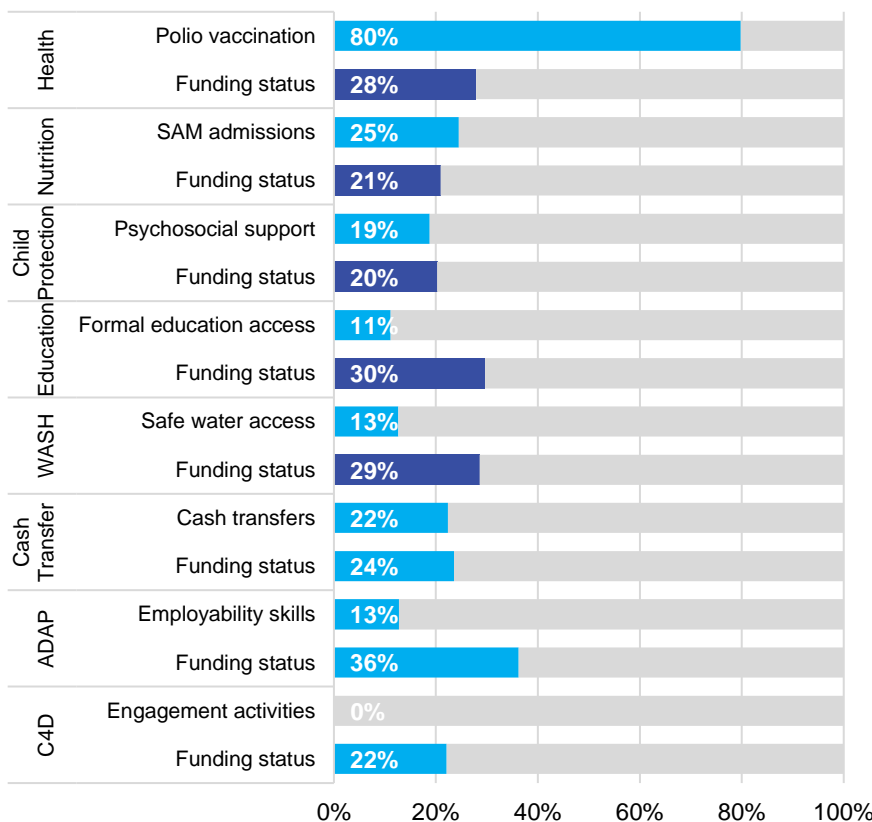


490,000
Children in need in hard-to-reach areas

(source: OCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan, 2020)

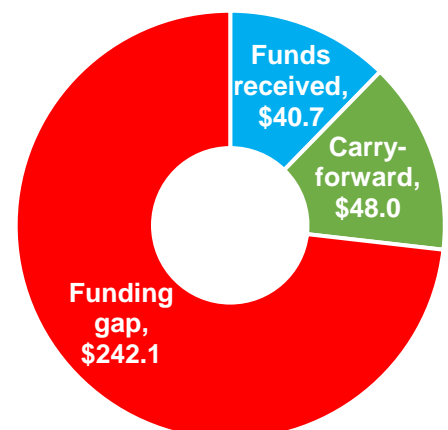
*Please note that these numbers reflect the estimates in the 2020 HAC. The latest estimates released in the 2021 Needs and Response Summary will be reflected in the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan under revision, and subsequent in the UNICEF HAC and included on the front of the sitrep.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



Funding Status

UNICEF Appeal: US\$ 330.8 million



Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2021, UNICEF requires US\$330.8 million to provide life-saving assistance to 9.1 million people (including 5.5 million children) across Syria according to the [Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\)](#). Of the total funding requirement, US\$88,458,986 is available, leaving a gap of 73 per cent. The HAC is being reviewed as part of the Humanitarian Response Planning for 2021.

As of January 2021, 13.4 million people¹ are estimated to require some form of humanitarian and protection assistance, including 6.08 million children². This is a 25 per cent increase compared to 2020 (4.8 million children in need, as included in the 2020 HAC). UNICEF and humanitarian partners in Syria require sustained support to maintain critical life-saving services, especially amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Particularly critical gaps include funds required to protect the most vulnerable children through psychosocial support, case management and explosive ordnance risk education. Funding is also urgently needed for preventative and curative nutrition services as well as social protection and cash assistance to reduce the extreme vulnerabilities facing children due to rapidly increasing food prices and the deteriorating economic situation of families.

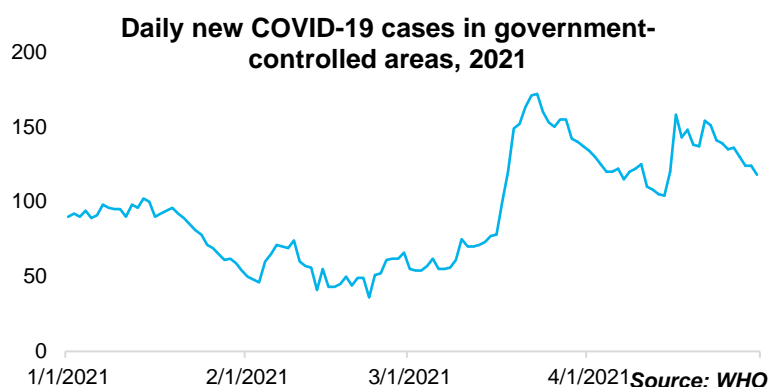
This year, the Governments of Belgium, Canada, ECHO, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United States, as well as Syria Humanitarian Fund and UNICEF national committees have generously contributed to the UNICEF humanitarian response across Syria. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private partners for the contributions received.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

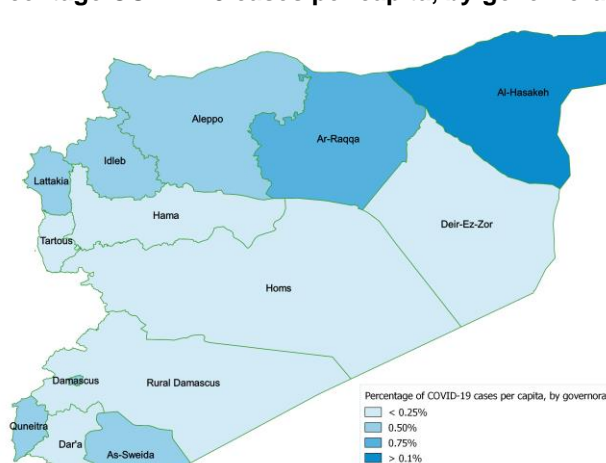
COVID-19: As of 5 May, the Ministry of Health (MOH) had confirmed 22,898 COVID-19 cases in government-controlled areas of Syria with 1,603 deaths (case fatality rate or CFR 7.0 per cent) since the start of the pandemic. From mid-March, the country is experiencing a third wave of cases. This includes 3,856 new cases reported in April (there were 3,080 new cases in March) for an average of 129 new cases each day and 60-80 deaths per week. An additional 22,033 cases have been confirmed in northwest Syria (NW Syria) including 655 deaths (CFR 3.0 per cent) and 16,184 cases in northeast Syria (NE Syria) including 615 deaths (CFR 3.8 per cent).³ Of particular concern is a rise in cases in Al-Hol Camp. As of 27 April, 39 positive cases of COVID-19 and 6 related deaths had been reported in the camp to date, of which 15 were currently active and 12 in isolation. Al-Hol houses 60,000 people including 31,000 children.⁴

As part of the COVAX facility, the first batch of 203,000 AstraZeneca vaccine doses were delivered to Damascus and to Northwest Syria on 22 April, and were allocated to frontline health workers, including in NE Syria, and for high-risk populations in NW Syria.

On 7 April, World Health Day, the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Imran Riza, called on all parties to ensure access to address COVID-19 and other health risks. Access to healthcare remains limited in the country: only 53 per cent of public health centres are functioning. From January 2018 to April 2021, WHO recorded 261



Percentage COVID-19 cases per capita, by governorate, to date



Source: WHO (case data), OCHA (population data)

¹ OCHA, [Syrian Arab Republic: 2021 Needs and Response Summary](#), February 2021. Please note that these numbers reflect the latest released in the 2021 Needs and Response Summary, which will act as the basis for the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan. Once this plan is finalized, UNICEF will update its HAC, the numbers from which will be included on the front of the sitrep.

² Ibid.

³ WHO, [COVID-19 Syria Morbidity and Mortality Summary](#), 5 May 2021.

⁴ OCHA, [Daily Noon Briefing Highlights: Syria – Yemen](#), 4 May 2021.

attacks on healthcare infrastructure, resulting in at least 179 deaths and 363 injuries among health workers, patients and civilians.⁵

In April, the second semester for Grades 1 to 8 was closed in government-controlled areas by ministerial order. Despite this closure, between 25 and 29 April, more than 1.5 million students from Grades 5 to 8 and Grades 10 to 12 sat their second semester exams for the 2020-2021 academic year. In NE Syria, multiple curfews were imposed to reduce transmission of COVID-19 by the self-administration from 13 April to 16 May, with the possibility of further extension. As a result, programme implementation has been considerably affected. All education activities supported by partners have been suspended, including in formal schools, under both self-administration and Government of Syria control.

Northeast Syria: The escalation in security incidents witnessed in March continued in Qamishli in April, focused on the neighbourhoods of Harat Tayy and Halko. According to partners, between 20 and 25 April more than 20,000 people were displaced by intense hostilities, with returns being reported after a mediated truce on 25 April. Three civilians were killed, including two children⁶. Given the tensions, the Department of Education postponed exams for all grades except 9 and 12 until further notice.

Tensions continued to escalate in the Tell Abiad to Ras al-Ain area in April, with partners reporting that the collective shelters that had emptied in 2020 had begun filling again due to new displacements. From January until the end of April, around 400 families have been newly received in these shelters, according to OCHA. Meanwhile, two Syrian aid workers were killed in an armed attack in southeast rural Deir-ez-Zor on 17 April. According to reports, unknown attackers shot and killed the workers as they were returning from a humanitarian assistance project. The victims were volunteers working for national NGOs.

Alouk Water Station: A state of emergency was announced by the Water Directorate in Al-Hasakeh following a fire at the Derbasiyah electricity sub-station on 12 April which provides electricity to Alouk Water Station. Access to water was disrupted for two weeks, affecting up to one million people, including 460,000 people in Al-Hasakeh and Tal Tamer Cities, as well as over 70,000 people in Al-Hol and other camps and settlements in the area. This was the second water cut in 2021 and the twenty-third since October 2019. In response, WASH Sector partners, including UNICEF, ICRC and Action Against Hunger (AAH) trucked up to 3,231m³ of water a day, though this was far lower than the 4,000m³/hour capacity of the water station. Meanwhile, reduced flows in the Euphrates River are affecting drinking water, agriculture, livestock and electricity generation in Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Al Hasakeh.

Northwest Syria: Hostilities continued along the frontlines in Idleb and Aleppo. Intermittent artillery and ground shelling continued to affect areas south of the M4, northern Hama, Latakia and northern Aleppo. In April, 217 direct and indirect attacks were recorded, representing a 28 per cent decrease from March. Attacks from non-state armed groups were the lowest experienced since December 2020.

Civilians across NW Syria, particularly in northern Aleppo and western Idleb, continued to be killed and injured by attacks carried out with improvised explosive devices (IEDs), including vehicle-borne IEDs as well as by explosive remnants of war. Many of the attacks appeared to be targeting or heedless of the impact on civilians and were carried out at times in populated areas. Armed clashes and inter-armed group conflict dynamics continued to impact civilians in Idleb and northern Aleppo, including a 10-year-old child reportedly killed by small arms fire on the outskirts of Al Bab City.

On 26 April, it was announced that the Bab al-Hawa border crossing between Turkey and Syria will be closed to traffic from 30 April until 16 May, due to the lockdown measures applied in Turkey. However, the movement of commercial and humanitarian trucks is continuing during the lockdown period.

Rukban: An estimated 12,000 people, mostly women and children, remain in Rukban near the border with Jordan. OCHA reported 31 spontaneous departures from Rukban in April, however, as this included no children or pregnant women, UNICEF Syria did not provide any support during the reporting period. UNICEF joins the UN in continuing to advocate for access to this extremely vulnerable population who have not been reached since September 2019.

Socioeconomic crisis: According to WFP, the price of the standard food basket rose 33 per cent from February to March, and now sits at 303 per cent higher than in March 2020⁷. The increase is being driven by currency depreciation and a lack of key imported food items. Fuel shortages and price increases are impacting basic services, with reduced

⁵ Statement by Muhannad Hadi, Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, [All parties in Syria must ensure access to health for all during the COVID-19 crisis and take clear steps to end attacks on healthcare](#). Amman, 7 April 2021.

⁶ OCHA, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria, Imran Riza, and Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, Muhannad Hadi [Joint Statement on hostilities in Qamishli, north-east Syria Damascus and Amman](#), 28 April 2021.

⁷ WFP Syria Country Office [Market Price Watch Bulletin](#), March 2021, Issue 76. A standard food basket is defined as: a group of dry goods providing 2,060 kcal a day for a family of five for a month (37 kg bread, 19 kg rice, 19 kg lentils, 5 kg sugar and 7L vegetable oil).

water pumping and trucking times; shortened clinic hours and limited reach for mobile medical clinics; decreased follow-up by child protection case managers; and fewer families able to afford transportation to learning centres.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

As noted above, the first shipment of **COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Syria through the COVAX facility**. MOH began electronic registration of those interested in receiving the vaccine, with priority to be given to health workers followed by those over 55 years of age or with chronic pre-existing health conditions. Meanwhile, some frontline health workers have received vaccines provided through other donations. The Syrian Immunization Group has begun media briefings in NW Syria, with a media campaign in the rest of the country to begin in mid-May to promote the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination. Full demand generation efforts are detailed in the Communication for Development section below. As part of the on-going COVID-19 response, 423 healthcare facility staff and community health workers (212 females) received personal protective equipment (PPE) from UNICEF in April, as did 77 community social mobilizers in NW Syria. Ninety health workers (45 females) were trained on detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases; 165 health workers have been trained since the beginning of the year.

In April, 146,655 free **medical consultations** (58,534 for boys, 58,205 for girls, 293 for men and 29,623 for women) were provided by UNICEF implementing partners in 14 governorates. This includes 28,973 in NE Syria (2,572 in Al-Hol Camp) and 30,991 in NW Syria. UNICEF partners provided around 20,000 fewer consultations in April than in March, as the nationwide fuel scarcity affected both the reach of mobile medical teams and patient access to fixed sites. Trained community volunteers conducted 1,416 home visits to 497 pregnant women and 254 newborns in their villages through the newborn care at-home programme in 12 governorates. Eighty health workers and community volunteers (50 females) were trained to improve the quality of newborn care.

In March and April, the first annual round of **oral polio vaccination (OPV) campaign** was conducted across the country with 2,552,752 children vaccinated, 80 per cent of the target of 3.2 million. This included 779,725 children under 5 years in NW Syria. Further efforts will be made to vaccinate children not reached in March-April: for example, the OPV campaign in Afrin District was put on hold due to administrative reasons and is now planned for the end of May 2021.



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(4,995 girls) their first dose of DPT; 9,064 children (4,443 girls) their third dose of DPT; 10,192 children (4,994 girls) their first dose of IPV; 8,708 children (4,267 girls) their second dose of IPV; and 10,789 children (5,287 girls) their first dose of MMR⁹.

Nutrition

During April, UNICEF continued to provide preventive and curative nutrition services for children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women through fixed sites and mobile teams together with implementing partners and health directorates. To this end, 321,802 children under 5 (130,283 girls) and 60,158 women were screened for malnutrition across the country. As a result of this screening, 921 children under 5 (512 girls) were identified with **severe acute malnutrition**

The MOH, supported by UNICEF and WHO, conducted a **National Immunization Week focused on routine immunization** from 4 to 13 April. Through the campaign, 78,810 children (39,400 females; 70,918 partial and 7,892 full defaulters) were vaccinated. An extensive mobilization campaign (also detailed in the Communication for Development section below) accompanied the Immunization Week, contributing to the reach of 102 per cent of the target. Meanwhile, 34,333 children under 1 (17,168 females) received their third dose of DPT during March⁸, the tracer vaccine for a fully immunized infant.

Ninety-three health centres provided **routine vaccination** in NW Syria. During the reporting period, 10,357 children (5,075 girls) received their BCG vaccine; 10,194 children

⁸ Administrative data from MOH has a one-month lag.

⁹ BCG: Bacillus Calmette–Guérin vaccine against tuberculosis; DPT: diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus; IPV: inactivated polio vaccine; MMR: measles, mumps, and rubella

(SAM) and enrolled in UNICEF-supported outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) centres, including 533 children with SAM in NW Syria. All UNICEF-supported OTPs meet Sphere standards performance rates.

Additionally, 41,427 children under 5 (20,711 girls) and 22,471 women were provided with **micronutrient supplementation**. While UNICEF targets all children 6 to 36 months and women screened for malnutrition with supplementation, in April, only 48 per cent and 86 per cent of those screened received micronutrients, respectively. Stock shortages due to logistical challenges were the main reason for this underachievement; it is expected that this will be back on track by June/July. Separately, 10,369 children (5,458 girls) and 30,542 pregnant and lactating women in NW Syria received micronutrients.

Finally, as part of the efforts to overcome stunting and capitalize on the “[1000-day window of opportunity](#)”, UNICEF and its partners reached 105,006 caregivers (98,767 females) with awareness raising focusing on prevention of malnutrition, breastfeeding and improving **infant and young child feeding** practices, including 28,481 caregivers in NW Syria.

Child Protection

UNICEF marked **International Mine Awareness Day** on 4 April with its partners. This included a harmonized social media and SMS campaign with UNMAS targeting all phone users in Syria; a media campaign with the Ministry of Information broadcasting interviews with survivors of explosive ordnance on TV and radio; and to provide mine awareness in 10 governorates through schools in coordination with the Ministry of Education (MOE), including 10 schools in highly contaminated areas of Deir-ez-Zor. UNICEF implementing non-governmental partners also used games, interactive theatre, storytelling and other activities to engage children. Forty adolescent volunteers (21 females) were trained and disseminated messages to 6,082 children and caregivers in Homs. Overall, in April, UNICEF and its partners provided life-saving messages to 85,279 children (45,454 girls) and 7,086 caregivers (3,390 women), inclusive of 9,071 people in NW Syria. This brings the total reached in 2021 to 316,408 children and caregivers.

In NE Syria, UNICEF and its implementing partners maintained critical **child protection services in Al-Hol Camp**. Increased violence in the camp, where UNICEF provides protection services to an average of 1,200 children each month, included an attempt to set fire to a UNICEF-supported child friendly space. A separate kerosene stove explosion in an annex of the camp severely injured two boys who were then supported by UNICEF partners. In April, the UNICEF-supported interim care centres (ICCs) in Al-Hol provided 77 unaccompanied children (26 girls) with comprehensive 24/7 care. Thirty-two unaccompanied Russian children (30 from the ICC) returned to their country of origin, while 12 unaccompanied Syrian children from the ICC were reunified: 4 children (3 girls) with their mother in the camp; 4 children (2 girls) with their grandfather in Minbij; and 4 children (3 girls) with their parents in Qamishli. No voluntary departures were registered from the camp in April, due in part to the escalating hostilities in Qamishli City (as detailed above). UNICEF operates two child-friendly spaces in the affected neighbourhoods of the city, both of which have since resumed services.

In April, 450 girls and 518 boys were newly reached with **case management services** (case assessment, development of individual plans and referral to specialized services) by UNICEF and implementing partners, which brings the total to 3,205 children (1,378 girls) this year. This includes 186 children in NW Syria in April. Capacity building on psychosocial support, gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection awareness was provided to 78 case managers (30 females) to build their capacity to better assess and refer children to specialized services. In April, UNICEF and partners also reached 25,357 children (12,932 girls) and 5,088 caregivers (4,579 women) with GBV awareness messaging. In NW Syria, 6,166 people (2,934 girls, 2,666 boys, 382 women and 184 men) participated in protection awareness sessions focused on preventing family separation and violence against children.

UNICEF and partners reached 21,104 children (10,988 girls) and 3,180 caregivers (3,053 women) with structured **psychosocial support** services in April, including 2,806 in NW Syria, bringing the total for 2021 to 77,952 children and caregivers. In April, the draft national mental health and psychosocial programme manual was finalized in collaboration with the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and Population. In June, UNICEF will launch a training of trainers on the manual for all partners. Based on feedback from this training, the manual will be finalized, approved and rolled out.

Education

There are 6.6 million children (50 per cent girls) in need of education assistance in Syria, including 2.45 million who are out of school, a 16 per cent increase from last year.¹⁰ In April, UNICEF continued efforts to address gaps in access to and quality of education. With implementing partners, 22,861 additional children (11,937 girls, 6,004 from NW Syria) were supported with **formal education** curriculum materials and other supplies, as well as light rehabilitation of classrooms, for a total of 194,636 people (99,279 girls) supported so far in 2021.

¹⁰ OCHA, [Syrian Arab Republic: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan](#), December 2020.

April also saw 156,179 children (81,094 girls, 34,804 from NW Syria) in **non-formal education** settings receiving support for the first time, increasing the total to 411,222 children (209,723 girls) reached with services and supplies so far this year. This includes 137,457 children (70,103 girls) in crossline areas of Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor who received self-learning materials as part of the UNICEF plan to provide these materials to 600,000 students from 1,400 schools operated by the self-administration.

Considering the challenges posed by COVID-19, UNICEF has provided **distance and/or home-based learning** support to 73,439 children (37,710 girls) including 3,049 (1,554 girls) reached for the first time in April. Meanwhile, 36,984 children (21,820 girls) participated in life skills and citizenship education programmes.

UNICEF has started preparations to support upcoming **national exams** (for Grades 9 and 12) from mid-May to mid-June in coordination with the Education Sector and MOE. As in previous years, UNICEF will support students from hard to reach areas to apply and sit for their national exams in Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo and Rural Damascus. UNICEF aims to reach approximately 11,000 children across Syria with exam support jointly with partners. The children will stay in accommodation centres in the selected governorates. UNICEF will ensure light rehabilitation of exam centres, remedial classes for students, training of the school principals on health protocols with a focus on COVID-19 and provide essential hygiene supplies and stationery.

A **safe educational environment in NW Syria** remains the key priority for UNICEF and the Education Sector, especially due to the impacts of multiple displacements, the security situation and COVID-19. To this end, in April, 6,140 children (3,066 girls) benefited from light classroom rehabilitation in April while 4,693 children (2,362 girls) benefited from improvements to their WASH facilities. Winterization support reached 88,071 children (44,227 girls) while 19,000 children (9,050 girls) were provided with school-based psychosocial support, of which 81 received child protection case management referrals.

To contribute to a safe and healthy school environment, as part of the national training plan, **school health personnel** were trained with a focus on COVID-19. The training reviewed COVID-19 rules and protocols for schools and helped to develop environmental and disease surveillance protocols for schools. In April, the trainings reached 161 personnel: 56 (53 female) from Hama; 25 (18 female) from Idleb; and 80 (76 females) from Homs.

WASH

Throughout 2021, UNICEF aims to provide **sustainable access to sanitation** services for 1.36 million people across the country. In April, UNICEF completed the repair and rehabilitation of critical parts of sewage networks in Abrin and Dahiet Elasad communities in Rural Damascus, where sewage network blockages were destroying the local environment and groundwater. These repairs are supporting 115,000 people (27,140 boys, 25,658 girls, 32,405 men and 29,797 women) with improved access to sanitation, increasing the total of people reached to 235,720 for the year.

UNICEF also continued to support the provision of **life-saving WASH services in IDP camps**, collective shelters and host communities in Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo and Rural Damascus. A total of 275,487 people in need (66,413 boys, 66,916 girls, 64,153 men and 78,005 women) received emergency water trucking in April. Disinfection of WASH facilities and waste collection in Al-Hol Camp ensured a clean environment for 30,720 IDPs (10,026 boys, 10,278 girls, 1,929 men and 8,487 women). This was an increase from 7,000 IDPs reached in March due to scaled-up waste collection efforts. In NW Syria, UNICEF maintained WASH services in IDP camps, collective shelters and host communities in Idleb and Aleppo where 402,866 IDPs (113,004 girls, 108,572 boys, 92,458 women and 88,832 men) received at least 25L of safe water per day, along with safe sanitation services and solid waste management. This is an increase of 5,561 IDPs being reached with this minimum life-saving package.

UNICEF also provided sodium hypochlorite to **disinfect all water systems** in the country. The sodium hypochlorite was provided to local service providers, who in turn ensured safe drinking water through the public water supply network to around 13.6 million people across Syria, preventing any major waterborne disease outbreak. Safe water was separately guaranteed for 475,802 people in IDP camps/informal settlements and host communities in NW Syria through the disinfection of water sources.

Critical WASH supplies¹¹ were provided to 140,760 IDPs (37,048 girls, 36,022 boys, 34,648 women and 33,222 men) in Rural Aleppo and Dar'a as well as in NW Syria (two-thirds of this total provided in NW Syria). IDPs are in particular need of hygiene items in light of the COVID-19 outbreak and the three-fold increase in their cost due to the devaluation of the Syrian currency.

¹¹ Family hygiene kits, diapers, baby hygiene kits, aqua tabs, and soap

In April, UNICEF also reached 22,871 people (7,208 boys, 7,871 girls, 1,921 men and 5,871 women) with **hygiene promotion** interventions in ten governorates. This included hygiene promotion clubs in schools, group discussions with mothers and pregnant women and handwashing events for children. UNICEF also continues to lead COVID-19 prevention messaging in NW Syria, with animated videos transmitted through smart phones and social media as well as 154,294 IDPs (43,279 girls, 41,582 boys, 35,410 women and 34,022 men) reached directly with hygiene promotion activities in 190 camps and informal settlements.

To improve access to, and quality of, learning in **schools and learning spaces**, UNICEF supported 8,151 students (4,093 girls) from 16 schools with gender-responsive and child-friendly water and/or sanitation facilities that also address the special needs of children with disabilities.

Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP)

In April 2021, 22,311 young people (11,207 girls) participated in **life skills and citizenship education, entrepreneurship, and vocational training**. Vocational training, which covers skills, such as air conditioning and phone maintenance, plumbing and accounting, was interrupted for over a week in April by fuel shortages, though classes are now continuing. So far this year, 38,326 (22,328 girls) have participated in these opportunities.

In terms of **social, civic and digital engagement**, 47,323 young people (23,587 girls) took part in sports for development (football, swimming, chess, Zumba and others), youth clubs and cultural activities (theatre, debate and others) in April for a year-to-date total of 56,733. Youth are also supported to lead their own initiatives, allowing them to act as positive role models in their communities. One example of this in April was the 'Green Hands in Aleppo' initiative to celebrate Earth Day. Sixty-three young people (36 girls) held for 37 of their peers (19 girls), teaching gardening. During the sessions, participants got hands-on experience planting green spaces in the ADAP centre in Eastern Aleppo. The aim of 'Green Hands Aleppo' was to raise environmental awareness and increase green spaces in the local community.



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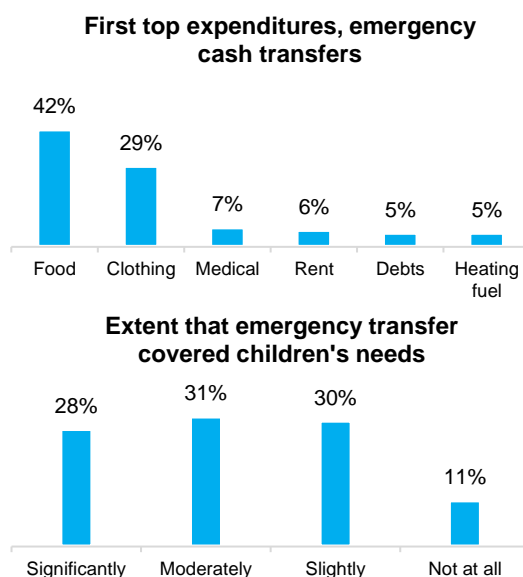
Social Protection and Cash Transfers

During the reporting period, UNICEF has continued to support the delivery of results for children through two main humanitarian social protection interventions: (i) Integrated Social Protection Programme for Children with Disabilities; and (ii) the Basic Needs Support Programme.

In April, UNICEF newly reached 311 **children with severe disabilities (109 girls) with monthly cash assistance and case management services**, for a total of 8,147 children (3,303 girls) reached this year in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Homs and Hama. Out of these children, 18 per cent are IDPs and 11 per cent are returnees, while 11 per cent are from female-headed households. The security situation, capacity of the financial service providers and precautionary measures related to COVID-19 in NE Syria delayed payments in April as planned, however, all payments were made later.

A **one-time humanitarian cash transfer to support the basic needs of children** in areas with high levels of displacement reached 5,758 households (14,099 children, 6,733 girls) mainly in Tartous and Lattakia Governorates in April. This brings the total number of households reached since the beginning of the year to 19,216 (39,550 children, including 22,278 girls and 280 children with disabilities) in Rural Damascus, Homs, Tartous and Lattakia. A post-distribution monitoring survey conducted in April in Rural Damascus found that the transfer was equivalent to the average monthly income of participating households (SYP 80,000 versus SYP 81,000) and that 73 per cent of households had not received any other external assistance in the three months prior to the survey. There was a high overall level of satisfaction among beneficiaries (98 per cent) with 59 per cent reporting that the cash either significantly or moderately covered their children's expenses.

Winter clothes were also distributed to 19,037 children (10,112 girls) in Al-Hol Camp and collective shelters in Al-Hassakeh and in Deir-ez-Zor, including eight children with disabilities, with procurement and logistical difficulties resulting in a later-than-expected



distribution. In total, 84,505 children (43,455 girls, 943 with disabilities) have received winter clothes in 2021, 45 per cent of whom are IDPs and 51 per cent returnees.

Communication for Development (C4D), Community Engagement and Accountability for Affected Populations (AAP)

UNICEF continued to lead **COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement** efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. In April, 8,320 people (4,643 females) were reached with COVID-19 messaging while 40,925 people (28,119 females) were engaged in two-way communication efforts. The latter includes 25,300 engaged in interpersonal communication in Al-Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa, while in Deir-ez-Zor 4,995 people were engaged through UNICEF-supported health and nutrition clinics.

In parallel, UNICEF is leading the **demand generation aspects of the COVID-19 vaccine** rollout in collaboration with WHO and MOH focused on: a) Advocacy with decision and policy makers; b) Capacity building of health and community workers; c) Engagement of public and private media; d) Social mobilization and community engagement; and e) Crisis communication to ensure the timely response to any adverse events that might follow the immunization. A stakeholder consultation meeting was held with the MOH and 15 UN agencies and international and local NGOs to discuss roles and responsibilities in the campaign, resulting in increased stakeholder buy-in, including for demand generation activities. Meanwhile, in NW Syria, social mobilization activities began on 26 April with 285 awareness sessions reaching 1,780 people and 2,849 people mobilized in total.

UNICEF supported the **National Immunization Week focusing on routine immunization** in April and reaching 496,325 caregivers (239,133 females). Across the 14 governorates, communication techniques ranged from door-to-door visits and awareness sessions for mothers, community influencers and religious leaders to loudspeaker announcements and the distribution of flyers as well as edutainment activities for children. This mobilization was undertaken by 90 community volunteers and 451 health workers to stress the importance of vaccines and the protective measures being followed in light of COVID-19. Special focus was placed on low coverage areas, such as Asharaa Sub-District and newly accessible neighbourhoods in Deir-ez-Zor City where 28 cars with loudspeakers disseminated key messages on both sides of the Euphrates River.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

During the reporting period, UNICEF SCO marked relevant international days, including [International Mine Awareness Day](#), [World Health Day](#), [Girls in ICT Day](#) and the [International Day of Sports for Development and Peace](#), through various communication products, highlighting its partnerships with key donors.

Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall Needs	UNICEF and IPs response			Sector response ¹		
		2021 target ²	Total results	Change since last report	2021 target ³	Total results	Change since last report
Health							
# children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio	13.2M	3,200,000	2,552,752	2,552,752			
# children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities		1,800,000	621,040	146,655			
# health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control		1,000	165 ⁴	90			
Nutrition							
# children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	4.7M	13,500	3,309	921	17,447	2,906	983
# primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling		1,450,000	316,020	78,704 ⁵	915,063	378,617	119,752
# children and pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients		960,000	291,939	80,422 ⁶	2,563,000	234,400	74,480
Child Protection, GBVIE & PESA							
# children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	5.6M	415,000	77,952	21,124 ⁷	880,000	80,927	32,920
# women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions		120,500	30,991	12,520 ⁸			
# children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions		2,380,000	316,408 ⁹	92,365			
Education							
# children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings	5.7M	1,750,000	194,636	22,861	3,300,000	974,297	273,364
# children in non-formal education benefiting from education services		400,000	411,222 ¹⁰	156,179	1,256,530	203,495	175,413
# teachers and education personnel trained		44,000	7,554	1,387	76,524	9,815	4,940
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene							
# people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	15.7M	4,140,000	523,958	80,000	8,000,000	1,959,166	605,784
# people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes		550,000	315,771	171,787	5,500,000	1,243,346	506,959
# people have improved access to sanitation services		1,360,000	498,493	115,000	4,000,000	826,904	468,352

¹ Sector results as of 31 March; as such, there are indicators where the UNICEF results are higher than the Sector results.

² 2020 targets have been retained; updated targets for 2021 will be added once the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan is finalized.

³ 2020 targets have been retained; updated targets for 2021 will be added once the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan is finalized.

⁴ Progress on track as the target is under revision for the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan.

⁵ While 105,006 beneficiaries were reached in April, only 78,704 were new beneficiaries.

⁶ While 104,809 beneficiaries were reached in April, only 80,422 were new beneficiaries.

⁷ While 24,284 beneficiaries were reached in April, only 21,124 were new beneficiaries.

⁸ While 30,445 beneficiaries were reached in April, only 12,520 were new beneficiaries.

⁹ Progress to date has been slowed by COVID-19 prevention precautions, especially those that have closed schools.

¹⁰ Over-achievement is due to UNICEF responding to the urgent needs for cross-border children who are highly disadvantaged, vulnerable and are in need for self-learning materials.

Social Protection & Cash Transfers							
# households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors		86,000	19,216	5,758			
# girls and boys protected from extreme weather through the provision of non-food items		490,000	84,505	19,037			
Adolescents & Youth							
# adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years promoting social cohesion and civic engagement at the community level		200,000	56,733	47,323			
# affected adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills		300,000	38,326	22,311			
C4D, Community Engagement & AAP							
# people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change		1,002,500	0 ¹¹	0			

Annex B: Funding Status

Section	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Health	\$38,819,971	\$4,720,487	\$6,095,740	\$28,003,743	72%
Nutrition	\$23,920,391	\$1,631,949	\$3,371,929	\$18,916,513	79%
Child Protection, GBViE & PSEA	\$34,221,760	\$1,818,534	\$5,110,860	\$27,292,366	80%
Education	\$74,666,582	\$11,406,325	\$10,729,076	\$52,531,180	70%
WASH	\$98,314,219	\$15,419,151	\$12,680,355	\$70,214,714	71%
Social Protection & Cash Transfers	\$48,850,736	\$2,765,019	\$8,754,090	\$37,331,628	76%
Adolescents & Youth	\$10,912,957	\$2,667,149	\$1,288,323	\$6,957,484	64%
C4D, Community Engagement & AAP	\$1,119,960	\$247,394	\$0*	\$872,566	78%
Total	\$330,826,575	\$40,676,008	\$48,030,372	\$242,120,195	73%

*Funding for COVAX demand generation has been made available as part of health, and C4D funds have also been integrated into relevant sector funds.

Next SitRep: 20 June 2021

UNICEF Syria Crisis: <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/syrian-crisis>

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

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¹¹ Data collection and reporting methodologies specific to report on this indicator are under revision for 2021; as such, achievements will be reported in the May sitrep.