



Yasmine, 12, a refugee from the Syrian Arab Republic, waits for a UNICEF-supported school bus in the informal tented settlement where she lives, in a remote area on the outskirts of Amman, Jordan.

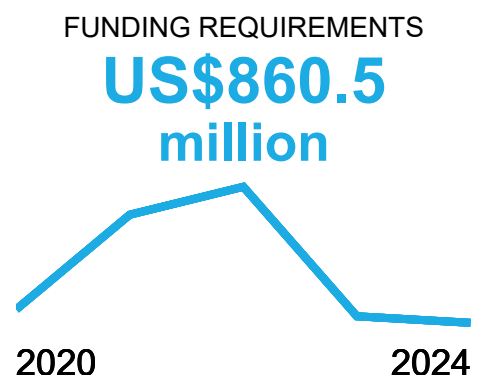
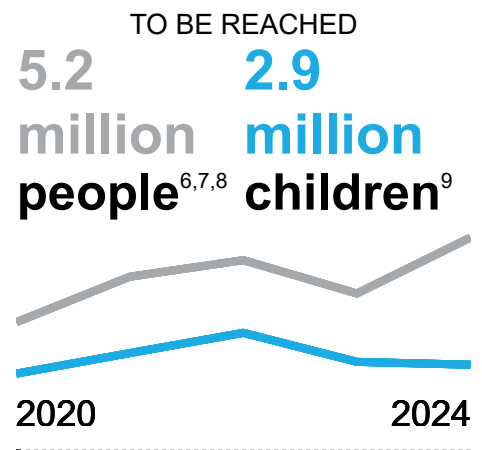
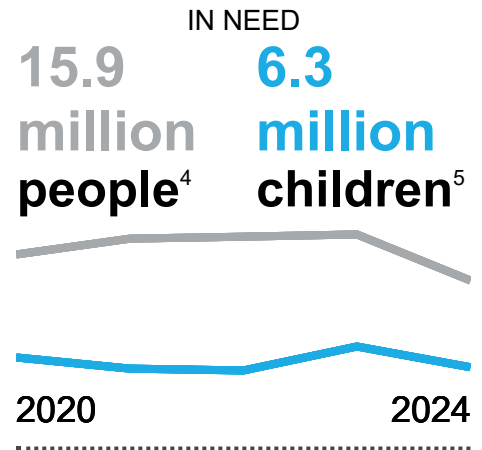
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Humanitarian Action for Children

Syrian Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations

HIGHLIGHTS

- As the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic enters its thirteenth year, 6.8 million¹ refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye remain in need of support.^{2,3} Refugees in the region rely heavily on humanitarian assistance provided by the international community, and host countries have ongoing challenges in absorbing them into their communities and national systems.
- UNICEF's humanitarian response will continue to operate in two interconnected streams: providing urgent relief while addressing longer-term needs. A strong emphasis will be on cash transfers; the inclusion of out-of-school children in education systems; access to safe WASH services; quality health care and nutrition services, including immunizations to prevent disease; strengthening service delivery for those affected by harmful practices and sexual and gender-based violence; and pathways to develop livelihood skills.
- UNICEF is appealing for \$860.5 million to respond to the urgent and ongoing needs of Syrian refugee children and other vulnerable populations. This includes \$252.8 million for education, \$169.8 million for social protection and cash transfers, \$145.4 million for WASH, and \$112.4 million for health and nutrition.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



399,000

children screened for wasting



422,700

children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



1.7 million

children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



3.3 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water

Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic account for almost one in five refugees globally¹⁹ and Syrian children born in 2011, when the conflict began, are entering their teenage years. Large-scale voluntary return to their country in safety and dignity remains unlikely. Host countries – Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye¹⁸ – have experienced ongoing challenges in absorbing displaced persons into their communities and national systems, and refugees have limited access to work opportunities and rely heavily on food and cash assistance provided by the international community. Local economic challenges coupled with global trends have resulted in skyrocketing prices for commodities, goods and services, to the point of economic collapse.¹⁷ There is also mounting stress in Türkiye on the 1.8 million refugees affected by the 2023 earthquakes there, and in Egypt, where more than 300,000 Sudanese refugees¹⁶ have fled. Anti-refugee rhetoric has surged in Lebanon and Türkiye as these countries face economic crises. Throughout the region, social policy interventions vary and require further strengthening to improve socioeconomic resilience and to address the increasing disparities, especially among the most vulnerable children, women and people with disabilities. Reductions in international funding are likely to further decrease families' access to services, putting additional children at risk.

Financial and systemic barriers prevent many refugee and vulnerable host community children from accessing quality, inclusive formal and non-formal education, and many of those who do have access are falling below grade expectations.¹⁵ The immediate need for learning and psychosocial support in a safe environment is underscored by the numbers of children who are out of school or who have suffered from gender-based violence or grave violations.

Climate change is driving deteriorating levels of groundwater and river water, causing water scarcity²⁰ and reliance on UNICEF-supported water and sanitation services. Meeting the demand for improvements in waste management, sanitation and access to safe water would greatly reduce acute watery diarrhoea and other water- or vector-borne diseases that are a persistent risk in the region. Newly arrived Sudanese refugees in Egypt's border areas are particularly vulnerable and require hygiene kits, dignity kits and baby kits.

The increasing costs of health care are a major barrier to access.¹⁴ While refugees are included in some national health care systems,²¹ they, too, face challenges in accessing secondary and tertiary health services. Disrupted electricity and limited WASH services impact the quality of health care available. Unimmunized children¹³ are at risk of vaccine-preventable diseases, highlighting the need to improve access to health services, public awareness and community engagement to increase uptake and combat vaccine misinformation.

Mounting child protection concerns in each host country¹² have deepened vulnerabilities, and an increasing number of children and youth are bearing the effects of negative coping mechanisms including child labour,¹¹ child marriage¹⁰ and school dropout. Gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and response programmes require adaptation to improve operations, and people with disabilities are in need of more inclusive services.

SECTOR NEEDS



3.7 million people in need of health and nutrition assistance²²



8 million children in need of protection services²³



10.1 million children in need of education support^{24,25}



5.9 million people lack access to safe water^{26,27}

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Qamar, 5, concentrates happily at a UNICEF-supported Makani centre in Lebanon. These centres provide vulnerable children space to learn and belong.

Qamar, 5, was forced from her hometown in the Syrian Arab Republic and sought safety with her family in Lebanon. Initially, Qamar and her two siblings did not go to school due to the high transportation cost. Then an outreach worker approached her mother and told her about a new Makani centre opening in partnership with UNICEF. Makani ('my space' in Arabic) centres provide a safe space for children and young people to access learning opportunities, child protection and other critical services.

Qamar is now enrolled in community-based early childhood education and is very happy to be there. Her entire family has benefited from the Makani education programme, its recreational and psychosocial support activities for children and youth and the health and nutrition training provided for parents and caregivers.

[**Read more about this story here**](#)

In line with its mandate, UNICEF's humanitarian response has two simultaneous approaches to supporting Syrian refugees and other vulnerable populations: providing urgent relief while addressing longer-term needs. UNICEF's interventions aim to save lives, alleviate suffering and protect the rights of affected populations, wherever there are humanitarian needs. Aligning with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan and country response plans,³¹ UNICEF supports durable solutions, enhances local and national capacities to address urgent needs and advocates for the integration of refugees and migrants into national systems.

UNICEF is global cluster lead agency for the WASH and Nutrition Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility,³² and co-lead for the Education Cluster.³³ International frameworks and contextual realities guide UNICEF to mainstream gender equality into humanitarian action with the aim of developing and promoting girls' and women's leadership and agency. Ensuring age-, ability- and gender-appropriate services for children, youth and their families is essential for every area of UNICEF's response.

Providing cash transfers and social protection is a critical strategy UNICEF employs to ensure refugees and vulnerable households can obtain essential commodities. In education, key interventions support the right to learn, including integrating refugee children into the national education system, supporting vulnerable children to access formal and non-formal learning in safe environments and strengthening leadership capacity to manage education services. Sustainable energy solutions reduce operating costs and keep school doors open. Multiple flexible pathways, including income-generation and social entrepreneurship skill-building, support the successful transition of adolescents and youth from learning to earning.

UNICEF partners and coordinates with national and local water management systems to deliver WASH services to refugee camps and informal settlements. Emergency hygiene kits are made available and communities highly exposed to climate-related risks are supported through climate-resilient WASH services and sustainable practices.³⁴ This includes uninterrupted access to basic health services, including life-saving immunizations, antenatal and postnatal care and treatment for severe wasting. UNICEF aims to engage multiple platforms and resilient systems to deliver essential nutrition interventions to prevent malnutrition and improve feeding practices.

UNICEF works to improve well-being by strengthening child protection service delivery, case management and psychosocial support for those affected by harmful practices and sexual and gender-based violence in emergencies. Building safe and accessible feedback channels bolsters risk mitigation, paves the way for responsive mechanisms and protects children and adolescents³⁵ from child labour, child marriage and other forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. Principles related to social and behaviour change and risk communication and community engagement guide the development of transformative interventions and tools that promote social cohesion and participation across sectors. Needs assessments and rapid gender analysis support strong emergency preparedness systems at the national and local levels.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/syrian-refugees/situation-reports>



Health (including public health emergencies)³⁸

- **526,200** children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose³⁹
- **344,600** children 0-59 months vaccinated against polio, supplemental dose⁴⁰
- **1,559,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities⁴¹



Nutrition

- **399,000** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **2,300** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment⁴²
- **73,400** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling⁴³
- **100,000** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **422,700** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support⁴⁴
- **214,500** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions⁴⁵
- **412,800** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations⁴⁶
- **24,000** children who have received individual case management⁴⁷



Education

- **1,727,300** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning⁴⁸
- **280,000** children receiving individual learning materials^{49,50}
- **394,000** children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes⁵¹



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **3,310,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs⁵²
- **317,600** people accessing appropriate sanitation services⁵³
- **490,300** people reached with handwashing behaviour-change programmes⁵⁴



Social protection⁵⁵

- **155,500** households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in-kind) measures from government-funded programmes with UNICEF technical assistance support⁵⁶



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- **57,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)⁵⁷
- **6,025,000** affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services^{58,59}
- **687,000** people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms⁶⁰
- **732,500** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

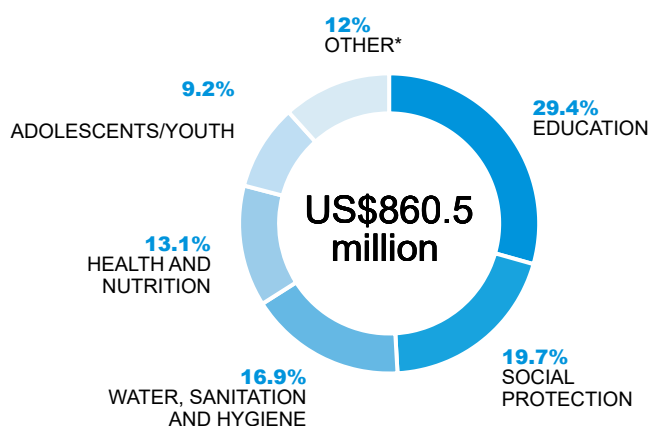
UNICEF is appealing for \$860.5 million to respond to the critical and ongoing needs of Syrian refugee children, their families and other refugees, migrants and vulnerable host communities in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye. As the Syrian conflict continues and children and women are being impacted by unprecedented inflation, economic collapse and disaster, our unwavering commitment extends to wherever they are living.

UNICEF's highest priorities for 2024 focus on children's access to education, cash transfers for vulnerable families and quality WASH, health, nutrition and protection services for children, women and vulnerable host communities.

In reality, funding has not kept pace with the demands rooted in ongoing regional crises, conflicts, climate change, disasters and public health emergencies. Funding shortfalls in each host country as of the end of the third quarter of 2023 are likely to exacerbate the needs of the most vulnerable refugees and host communities in 2024. The continued and renewed commitment of the international community to address the long-term and emerging humanitarian needs, including through flexible funding, is essential in supporting UNICEF's quick and effective response to assist Syrian refugees and the other vulnerable people covered by this appeal.

The lack of funding is likely to have far-reaching impacts. This is especially true for the most vulnerable households with children, because they would be left without basic services or vital life-saving assistance. A generous response can provide the full spectrum of essential services and ensure children, adolescents and women can realize their right to live with dignity.

This 2024 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Syrian refugees and other vulnerable populations complements separate appeals for Iraq, Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic. Join us in making sure that every refugee child affected by the Syrian crisis and the vulnerable communities supporting them receive the services they need and deserve to survive and thrive.



*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child protection, GBViE and PSEA (7.7%), Palestinian Programmes (1.9%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (1.4%), Emergency (<1%), Coordination (<1%).

Sectors	2024 total requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	112,361,102
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	66,066,937
Education	252,763,200
Water, sanitation and hygiene	145,441,423
Social protection	169,815,692
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	11,938,697
Adolescents/youth	79,593,293
Emergency	5,445,870
Palestinian Programmes	15,998,109
Coordination	1,100,000
Total	860,524,323

Sectors	Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Türkiye	Regional Office	2024 total requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	3,000,000	809,500	9,123,000	99,428,602	-	-	112,361,102
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	3,600,000	950,000	17,373,000	28,808,937	15,335,000	-	66,066,937
Education	1,320,000	3,600,000	21,717,000	164,928,960	61,197,240	-	252,763,200
Water, sanitation and hygiene	1,200,000	1,875,000	33,000,000	109,366,423	-	-	145,441,423
Social protection	1,200,000	-	54,021,000 ⁶¹	112,594,692	2,000,000	-	169,815,692
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	420,000	250,000	5,466,000	3,802,697	2,000,000	-	11,938,697
Adolescents/youth	-	-	30,000,000	48,393,293	1,200,000	-	79,593,293
Emergency	-	100,000	-	1,295,870	4,050,000	-	5,445,870
Palestinian Programmes	-	-	-	15,998,109	-	-	15,998,109
Coordination	-	200,000	-	-	40,000	860,000	1,100,000
Total	10,740,000	7,784,500	170,700,000	584,617,583	85,822,240	860,000	860,524,323

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ENDNOTES

1. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 3RP Regional Strategic Overview 2023, UNDP and UNHCR, 2 February 2023.
2. Countries of origin for other refugees and migrants in the region include Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, State of Palestine, the Sudan and Yemen.
3. In Lebanon, UNICEF is working towards supporting local, national and government capacities and strengthening systems to provide for both vulnerable Lebanese and refugees.
4. UNICEF estimates based on the latest Refugee Response and Resilience Plan (3RP) planning. This includes 1.4 million people in Egypt, 278,600 in Iraq, 2.8 million in Jordan, 3.9 million in Lebanon and 7.5 million in Türkiye. Figures include both refugees and host community members.
5. UNICEF estimates based on the latest 3RP planning. This includes 658,000 people in Egypt, 123,000 in Iraq, 1.5 million in Jordan, 1.2 million in Lebanon and 2.8 million in Türkiye. Figures include both refugees and host community members.
6. The 2024 to be reached calculation methodologies have changed slightly for some country offices compared with 2023. For Egypt, more than 300,000 Sudanese refugees recently arrived are included and for Lebanon the needs of Syrian refugees, host communities and other vulnerable people are included.
7. This includes 564,500 people in Egypt, 113,000 in Iraq, 681,000 in Jordan, 2.7 million in Lebanon and 1.14 million in Türkiye.
8. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
9. This includes 379,000 children in Egypt, 65,600 in Iraq, 442,000 in Jordan, 1 million in Lebanon and 1 million in Türkiye.
10. The latest data gathering conducted among Syrian women living in Türkiye shows that child marriage rates are much higher than those recorded in 2006 before the outbreak of the conflict. For example, 9.2 per cent of those aged 20–24 were married before the age of 15 and 44.8 per cent married before the age of 18. Source: Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies, 2018 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey Syrian Migrant Sample, Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies and TÜBİTAK, Ankara, 2019.
11. Child labour was prevalent in Syrian communities in Türkiye prior to the earthquakes. According to a recent rapid assessment analysis conducted by UNICEF and its partner TESK (Turkish Confederation of Tradesmen and Craftsmen), increased vulnerabilities and limited economic incentives and support for Syrian children and young people are correlated with an observable higher risk of child labour.
12. For example, more than 1 million children in Lebanon alone are in need of prevention and protection response services. Source: UNHCR and UNRC/HC, Escalating needs in Lebanon, 2023.
13. Including more than 50,000 unimmunized children in Jordan. Source: World Health Organization, Immunization Dashboard, 2023.
14. OCHA and United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Lebanon, Escalating needs in Lebanon: A 2023 Overview, OCHA and UNRC/HC, Lebanon, 2023.
15. Many children in Jordan are falling below grade expectations in Arabic and mathematics while a significant number of children aged 10–12 in refugee camps struggle to read a simple story. Financial and systemic barriers impact children's, especially girls' ability to access education in Egypt, Lebanon and Türkiye. Children returning to Iraq from northeast Syria have suffered grave violations and have received little education.
16. The presence of new arrivals from the Sudan is placing further strain on community networks, public services and existing programmes. With a non-return advisory for the Sudan in May 2023, cautioning against deportation and refoulement, many in this population may now be in a refugee-like situation. Figures for Sudanese fleeing into Egypt: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Operational Data Portal, 2023.
17. For example, food inflation in Egypt reached a record-high of 71.4 per cent and exponential increases in rental rates have led to risks of homelessness (source: Central Bank of Egypt, Monthly Inflation Developments: Headline and Core Inflation – August 2023). Household debt for refugees in Jordan increased by 25 per cent and high unemployment has persisted, particularly among youth and women (source: World Food Programme, Food Security in Numbers – Refugees in Jordan Q1 2023, WFP, 18 July 2023). And rising prices of basic goods in Lebanon, including a 332 per cent rise in food prices, have resulted in 94 per cent of refugee households taking on debt to cover essential and non-food needs (source: The World Bank Group, World Bank Lebanon Economic Monitor: The Normalization of Crisis is No Road for Stabilization, Spring 2023, The World Bank Group, Washington DC, 2023).
18. While Türkiye is part of the Europe and Central Asia region, it is included under this Humanitarian Action for Children appeal to facilitate a coherent approach to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, including the refugee outflow response coordinated by UNICEF's Middle East and North Africa Regional Office. The Türkiye Country Office also has a stand-alone Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for the 2024 earthquake response.
19. UNHCR, Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2022, UNHCR, Copenhagen, 2023.
20. Especially Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.
21. Particularly in Egypt and Türkiye (including vaccination and reproductive health care).
22. Based on the latest 3RP planning, UNICEF estimates include 1.1 million people in need in Egypt, 298,600 in Iraq, 1.4 million in Jordan and 1 million in Lebanon.
23. Ibid. UNICEF estimates include 80,000 people in need in Egypt, 123,000 in Iraq, 2.5 million in Jordan, 1.1 million in Lebanon and 4.1 million in Türkiye.
24. Ibid. UNICEF estimates include 180,000 people in need in Egypt, 78,000 in Iraq, 333,400 in Jordan, 750,000 in Lebanon and 8.8 million in Türkiye.
25. The increase in education needs is due to inclusion of the host communities in Türkiye.
26. Based on the latest 3RP planning, UNICEF estimates include 700,000 people in need in Egypt, 85,000 in Iraq, 2.3 million in Jordan and 2.8 million in Lebanon.
27. The increase in WASH needs is due to an update of the water and sanitation vulnerability maps in Jordan.
28. This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.
29. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. All cluster coordinator costs are included in sectoral programme budgets.
30. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.
31. Host country national plans include: 2024 Egypt Refugee Response Plan, 3RP Iraq Country Chapter 2023–2024, Jordan Priority Response Plan, Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2023 and Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2023 and 3RP Türkiye Country Chapter 2023–2025.
32. This is within the UNHCR-led Global Protection Cluster.
33. The education cluster is co-chaired with Save the Children, except in Türkiye, where education under 3RP is led by UNICEF.
34. Sustainable practices include water conservation, raising awareness on handwashing, hygiene and sanitation and community engagement and mobilization with children and adults.
35. Including minorities and children and adolescents with disabilities, those on the move and those displaced by earthquakes, conflicts and other emergencies.
36. Due to a programmatic shift on the ground, UNICEF programme targets for interventions in Lebanon have been integrated into this Syrian Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations appeal. This has increased overall programme targets for a number of sectors.
37. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
38. Lebanon has two additional country-specific indicators: 70,000 children receiving pentavalent 3 vaccine and 500 children and newborns supported to access lifesaving intensive care services.
39. This intervention targets 6,200 children in Iraq, 20,000 in Jordan and 500,000 in Lebanon.
40. This intervention targets 329,000 children in Egypt and 15,600 in Iraq.
41. This intervention targets 1.1 million children in Lebanon (20,000 under UNICEF's Palestinian Programme in Lebanon) and 439,000 in Egypt.
42. This intervention targets 100 caregivers in Egypt, 155 in Iraq and 2,000 in Lebanon.
43. This intervention targets 9,750 children in Egypt, 3,700 in Iraq and 60,000 in Lebanon.
44. This intervention targets 67,700 people in Egypt, 12,000 in Iraq, 200,000 in Jordan, 103,000 in Lebanon (30,500 under UNICEF's Palestinian Programme in Lebanon) and 40,000 in Türkiye.
45. This intervention targets 7,000 women, girls and boys in Egypt, 5,000 in Iraq, 127,500 in Jordan, 25,000 in Lebanon and 50,000 in Türkiye.
46. This intervention targets 99,000 people in Iraq, 155,000 in Jordan, 58,800 in Lebanon and 100,000 in Türkiye.
47. This intervention targets 4,000 children in Egypt, 12,500 in Jordan and 7,500 in Lebanon (700 under UNICEF's Palestinian Programme in Lebanon).
48. This intervention targets 25,800 children in Egypt, 50,000 in Iraq, 186,600 in Jordan, 430,500 in Lebanon (8,500 under UNICEF's Palestinian Programme in Lebanon) and 1 million in Türkiye.
49. This intervention targets 50,000 children in Iraq and 230,000 in Jordan.
50. The decrease in target is due to the discontinuation of this intervention in Lebanon.
51. This intervention targets 81,500 children in Jordan, 70,400 in Lebanon (5,000 under UNICEF's Palestinian Programme in Lebanon) and 242,000 in Türkiye.
52. This intervention targets 350,000 people in Egypt, 85,000 in Iraq, 175,000 in Jordan and 2.7 million in Lebanon.
53. This intervention targets 30,000 people in Iraq, 130,000 in Jordan and 157,600 in Lebanon.
54. This intervention targets 350,000 people in Egypt, 60,000 in Jordan and 80,300 in Lebanon (10,000 under UNICEF's Palestinian Programme in Lebanon).
55. Jordan has two country-specific social protection indicators: 120,000 children and young people accessing integrated, gender-responsive and inclusive complementary learning and skills development activities; and 165,000 children, young people and caregivers accessing inclusive and integrated packages of community-based activities that promote child well-being and community cohesion.
56. This intervention targets 150,000 households in Lebanon and 5,500 in Türkiye.
57. This intervention targets 4,000 households in Egypt, 3,000 in Jordan and 50,000 in Lebanon.
58. This intervention targets 100,000 people in Egypt, 85,000 in Iraq, 40,000 in Jordan, 3.5 million in Lebanon and 2.3 million in Türkiye.
59. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
60. This intervention targets 5,000 people in Iraq, 113,000 in Jordan, 65,000 in Lebanon and 504,000 in Türkiye.
61. UNICEF cash transfer requirements remain under the social protection line item (not in the cross-sectoral line item).