



Mohamed, Morei's father, holds his one-year-old son in the yard of their home in Obada village, Rural Damascus, Syria on 17 December 2024. © UNICEF/UNI707706/Sargi

Syria Country Office

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2



Reporting Period: 16 to 24 December 2024

Highlights

- As of 20 December, an estimated 728,000 people remain newly displaced in Syria due to the escalation of hostilities that began on 27 November, including over 350,000 children.
- UNICEF has extended operational support to Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) and integrated health outreach mobile teams, delivering essential lifesaving health services throughout Syria to 34,509 individuals (including 10,884 girls, 10,509 boys, and 12,164 women).
- During the reporting period, UNICEF provided nutrition life-saving services to 32,000 children, including 16,924 girls and 15,076 boys, as well as 1,800 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) including screening and early identification of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).
- Protection partners have highlighted the urgent need for psychosocial support, reintegration, and capacity building for practitioners to assist children recently released from detention. To respond to protection needs, 77,281 beneficiaries, including 13,883 adults and 63,398 children (42,548 girls and 20,848 boys), were reached with various Child Protection services, including Psychological First Aid (PFA), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) service.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF's Syria Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) yearly appeal funding requirements for 2025 stand at US\$ 488 million out of which only 16 per cent is available. This is a situation of increasing needs of newly displaced persons and additional vulnerabilities. UNICEF will revise its funding requirements as soon as more accurate data and needs assessments are available. A three-month Emergency Response Plan (ERP) is being prepared to capture the additional needs and associated funding requirements for immediate and scaled-up response to persons affected by the recent escalation and displacements in the country.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Since 27 November 2024, Syria has undergone significant military, economic, social, and political changes, culminating in the collapse of the Syrian government led by Bashar al-Assad on 8 December 2024. This collapse has brought about a mix of optimism and rebuilding efforts but has also led to instability, disorder, and an escalating humanitarian crisis.

As of 22 December, hostilities continue in various areas, including Manbij and Ain al-Arab districts in Aleppo governorate, the Tishreen Dam area, and Deir-ez-Zor, with airstrikes reported in those areas as well as in several other governorates across the country. Insecurity remains high in Quneitra governorate, with reports of destroyed civilian

Situation in Numbers

728,000



Internally displaced people (IDPs) since 27 November
OCHA Flash Update No. 8

Over 350,000 children



are displaced
UNICEF estimates based on OCHA IDP figures

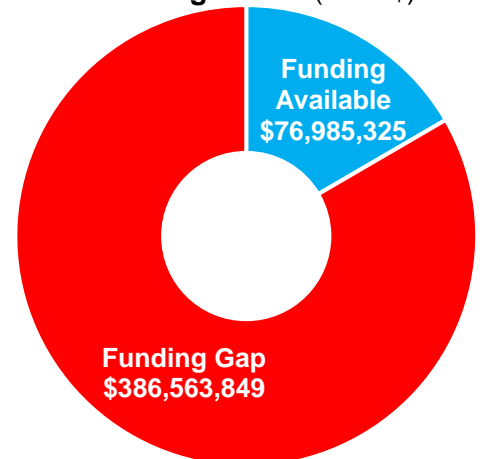
33,000 people in



Northeast Syria
are living in Emergency Collective centres
UNHCR Flash Update #6

UNICEF Appeal 2025 US\$ 488 million

Funding Status (in US\$)



properties and closed schools. Western rural areas of Hama remain unstable, particularly at night. Humanitarian operations are still on hold in Tartous and Lattakia governorates, with reports of increasing criminality.¹

Schools across Syria resumed education on 15 December 2024, as announced by the caretakers' authorities, who instructed all Ministry of Education (MoE) staff to re-engage in the educational process and support the reopening of schools to welcome students. Continuing the existing curriculum ensures that students can progress in the current academic year. In Northeast Syria (NES), around 7,000 students could not attend school, as their buildings were repurposed as shelters.

Protection partners have emphasized the critical and immediate need for comprehensive support for children who have been recently released from detention. This includes providing essential psychosocial care, facilitating their smooth reintegration into society, and enhancing the skills and knowledge of practitioners who work with these vulnerable children.

While the situation is mainly calm in **Northwest Syria (NWS)**, concerns remain due to the ongoing threat of unexploded ordnance (UXO), especially in areas once heavily affected by conflict. Despite these challenges, progress is being made in infrastructure rehabilitation by both authorities and humanitarian actors to improve access. While fuel prices in Idlib have slightly decreased, the reduced availability of improved diesel fuel continues to affect the region.

In Damascus, supply lines have resumed, allowing the movement of goods and people, with markets operating and improved food availability.² The M5 highway is still under maintenance in Homs, with alternative routes provided.³

In **Northeast Syria (NES)**, the security situation across Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates appears relatively calm but remains unpredictable, with the local population expressing fear. Ar-Raqqa Governorate has seen significant looting of former government service departments, including health and water supply centres, although some facilities have been preserved. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) maintain control of key institutions, but many service departments, including medical and educational facilities, have faced interruptions. Schools resumed on 18 December, with both Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES)-run and former government-run curricula in place, but with an attendance rate below 50 per cent.⁴ The security situation in Deir-ez-Zor remains unstable, with airstrikes, raids, and explosive incidents. Destroyed infrastructure hampers trade and aid, with mobile vaccination campaigns moving on and protection services active, but the health sector is only at 50 per cent capacity. Education is strained, with many schools closed due to security concerns. WASH services are disrupted, and humanitarian distributions are limited to urgent needs. A coordinated response is needed to address these challenges, as recovery efforts are hindered by fuel shortages and power outages.⁵ Road transportation between Damascus and Qamishli has resumed, with higher prices but shorter travel time.

Population Movement

As of 20 December, over 728,000 people remain newly displaced due to the escalation of hostilities that began on 27 November. Among the displaced, more than 43,000 persons have at least one form of disability, with the majority residing in Idlib and Hama governorates. Based on these figures, UNICEF estimates that over 350,000 children have been displaced. During the same period, 421,000 individuals who left their homes following the recent crisis have returned to their areas of origin, with 80 per cent of returnees being women and children. The majority of returnees are concentrated in Aleppo and Hama. However, camp departures have been minimal, with around 8,000 people leaving displacement camps in NWS, mostly single-headed households or male adults returning for family reunifications or home assessments.⁶ In NES, approximately 62,000 people remain displaced, primarily from Aleppo. Of this population, over 33,000 individuals are residing in 200 collective shelters, while around 29,000 people are hosted by local communities.⁷ Return movements from NES to Aleppo have been observed, with some IDPs from Mahmoudli camp in Ar-Raqqa also returning to their areas of origin. Furthermore, many families have reportedly left Syria for Lebanon, primarily through unofficial routes, as Syrian immigration departments at the Syrian Lebanese borders remain inactive.⁸

1 OCHA Situation Update # 11 – Coastal Hub Lattakia and Tartous Governorates, 22 December 2024

2 Ibid

3 OCHA Situation update # 10: Hama and Homs Governorate, 23 December 2024

4 OCHA Northeast Syria Situation Update # 9, 22 December 2024

5 OCHA Deir-ez-Zor Governorate Situation Update #6, 22 December 2024

6 OCHA WoS Flash Update No. 8 on the recent developments in Syria, 23 December 2024

7 UNHCR Regional Flash Update #6, Syria situation crisis, 24 December 2024

8 OCHA Northeast Syria Situation Update # 9, 22 December 2024

Between 15 and 19 December, approximately 270 Syrians returned to Syria from Iraq, representing a decrease compared to November. As of 23 December, media reports indicated that 12,800 Syrians have returned to Syria from Jordan since 8 December – representing increased movements, including commercial traffic, following Jordan's reopening of the border for trucks to facilitate trade. In Türkiye, six border gates operate 24/7 with a combined daily processing capacity of 19,000 individuals. Since 9 December, nearly 25,000 individuals have returned to Syria, primarily from Hatay, Gaziantep, and Istanbul, mostly heading to Aleppo, Idlib, and Latakia, including 7,000 single returnees and over 4,100 families, marking a nearly seven-fold increase in returns compared to the two weeks prior.⁹

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF Programme Response Strategy

UNICEF's Emergency Response builds on a solid ongoing program and aims to scale-up the existing response to address both immediate and medium-term needs of the affected population while also integrating planning for longer-term needs. During the first three months of its response, UNICEF is focused on providing immediate humanitarian support through the following:

Health

UNICEF continues to support the primary healthcare facilities, whether in fixed centres or through mobile teams and ensures that vaccination campaigns continue despite the challenges, such as staff, medical supplies, or energy shortages.

In NES, UNICEF mobilised mobile teams to support children and women in various collective shelters across Ar-Raqqa, Tabqa, Qamishli, and Al-Hasakeh cities. In Al-Hasakeh, 2,248 children received free medical consultations, while in Ar-Raqqa, 4,223 children benefited from medical consultations through the mobile teams. During this period, essential healthcare services were delivered to 11,622 individuals in Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous, Hama, Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh (4,536 boys, 4,852 girls, 1,309 women, 925 men) through health centres and mobile teams, ensuring continuity of care for remote and underserved populations. Additionally, vaccination efforts reached 5,520 children (2,795 boys and 2,725 girls) under one year with the first dose of the pentavalent vaccine,¹⁰ while 4,848 children (2,459 boys and 2,389 girls) completed the vaccination series with the third dose,¹¹ protecting them against life-threatening diseases. Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) corners treated 26 beneficiaries for dehydration-related illnesses, reducing the risk of severe health complications. Over 2,156 individuals participated in community-based activities, such as dialogues, awareness-raising sessions, consultations, and help desk services, which fostered health awareness and enhanced access to mobile and centre-based support.

In NWS, UNICEF supported the distribution of vaccines to 150 EPI sites, reaching 9,287 children (4,512 girls and 4,775 boys) with DTP 3 containing vaccines. UNICEF also provided operational support to over 15 PHC and 5 integrated Health outreach mobile teams for delivering critical lifesaving health services, reaching 22,887 people, including 6,032 girls, 5,970 boys, and 10,885 women. Over 82 Community Health Workers conducted community-level activities to increase information and awareness on key health and immunization programmes to raise awareness on the importance of maternal child health and immunization services for all children and women and improve the healthcare-seeking practices to these services. Additional funding is needed to prevent shortages and support continued delivery in 140 health facilities in Aleppo and Idlib governorates, including 6 general hospitals and 89 PHCs.

Nutrition

To respond to the critical nutrition situation of children and women in Syria, and despite the access and inflation challenges, UNICEF's implementing partners have resumed services, partially in some areas, while expanding in others, particularly to meet the needs of those displaced by the ongoing conflict in NES.

In NWS, UNICEF reached 20,000 children (10,720 girls and 9,280 boys) and 500 PLWs with life-saving services. Over 40 Community Health Workers supported the screening and early identification of children with SAM and linkage to immediate SAM management at the health facilities in the areas hosting newly displaced persons. They also provided information and counselling on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices for improved infant and young child feeding outcomes. At least 7,964 caregivers (7,685 women and 279 men) were reached with these interventions.

⁹ UNHCR Regional Flash Update #6, Syria situation crisis, 24 December 2024

¹⁰ Penta1

¹¹ Penta3

In the rest of the country, UNICEF screened 12,000 children aged 6-59 months (6,204 girls and 5,796 boys) for malnutrition. Of those, 40 children (19 girls and 21 boys) were admitted for treatment of severe wasting. Since 11 December, 18,519 children have been screened, with 65 children admitted for treatment. Additionally, 10,643 children received preventive nutrition items, primarily fortified spread (LNS-SQ) and multiple micronutrient powder, to support their nutritional needs. About 1,300 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) received a package of nutrition services, including screening for acute malnutrition, counselling on optimal IYCF, and iron folate.

WASH

UNICEF is working to secure safe WASH services for over 10 million people in Syria, through humanitarian and system-strengthening programmes. UNICEF continues to deliver water disinfection materials and coordinates WASH activities with all sector partners to ensure effective service delivery across all governorates.

UNICEF conducted site inspections at the Tishreen Dam in Aleppo and provided essential equipment, including four generator batteries,¹² 8,200 liters of diesel, and a satellite internet connection to support the dam technicians. Additionally, UNICEF connected two alternative 230 KV power lines from Al Forat and supplied a backup generator and two suction pumps. These efforts will help re-operate the dam, ensuring power for water facilities serving 850,000 people in Aleppo, while also preventing a collapse that could affect 300,000 people in 45 villages.

In collaboration with local authorities and partners, UNICEF is also working to secure safe drinking water in Aleppo by repairing the main pumping line¹³ at Al Khafsa water station, benefiting over 1 million people in the western parts of the city. UNICEF is also conducting initial operations for the Ein Al Baida Water Pumping Station to ensure its access to safe drinking water for 260,000 people in Al-Bab and surrounding villages.

In Ar-Raqqa, UNICEF has installed new WASH facilities at Al Tabqa Stadium. UNICEF has also distributed jerry cans to 1,000 families in Al-Hasakeh IDP shelters and is conducting cleaning and light maintenance of WASH facilities in 37 IDP shelters in Ar-Raqqa. Additionally, 800 cleaning kits will be provided to shelters in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa, and 125 water tanks have been distributed across IDP shelters in these areas.

In NWS, UNICEF provided WASH services to 154,288 individuals, including 54,795 adults (47,786 women and 37,009 men), 69,493 children (38,546 girls and 30,947 boys) and 265 people with disabilities. The services included the operation and maintenance of water systems, emergency water trucking, infrastructure repair and rehabilitation, sanitation construction, emergency dislodging services, and distribution of hygiene supplies. They benefitted 18 communities and IDP camps in Aleppo and Idlib Governorates, including areas such as Azza, Atareb, Afrin, and Jandairis. However, WASH operations, and especially water trucking and dislodging, face challenges due to rising inflation in fuel prices. As a result, UNICEF's partners have started assessments in newly accessible areas, such as Maaret An Numan, Khan Sheykhun, and Saraqab in Idlib, and Tall Refaat, Manbij, and Haritan in Aleppo, to evaluate the WASH infrastructure and adapt to the changing needs.

Child Protection

UNICEF partners have resumed their work, providing essential services to children and their caregivers at Child-Friendly Spaces (CFSs), schools, and through mobile teams across most regions. The immediate focus has been on raising awareness about the risks of explosive ordnance, considering the increasing number of incidents involving children and the widespread contamination of land. Safety concerns have also deterred children from visiting some CFSs. The CP response also included PFA, MHPSS, GBV services, case management, and referrals to specialized services.

In NES, UNICEF partners were fully operational across all subdistricts through CFS, Community Centres, Women and Girls Safe Spaces, and mobile teams. 41,428 beneficiaries, including 9,665 adults and 31,763 children (26,135 girls and 5,628 boys) were reached with various CP services, including PFA and PSS activities. 18 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) (7 girls and 11 boys) benefitted from family tracing and reunification, and 924 adults (502 women and 422 men) and 1,217 children (589 girls and 628 boys) were referred to specialized services. PSEA awareness reached 7,368 beneficiaries (1,031 men, 1,456 women, 2,467 boys, 2,414 girls), while Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions reached 2,728 adults, and 9,396 children (4,906 girls and 4,490 boys). GBV

¹² 260 Ampere Hours

¹³ 1,400 mm diameter

awareness sessions were held for 49 adults and 174 children (95 girls and 79 boys), and separation prevention awareness reached 2,386 adults (1,370 women and 1,016 men) and 4,970 children (2,494 girls and 2,476 boys).

In Tartous and Lattakia, despite security instability and caregivers' concerns about sending children to centres, UNICEF partners resumed their activities, for 6,509 children (3,299 girls and 3,208 boys) to receive PFA, 449 children (259 girls and 190 boys) to benefit from recreational activities, and 67 children (44 girls and 23 boys) to receive MHPSS support.

In NWS, since 27 November 2024, UNICEF partners have provided EORE to 13,401 individuals, including 1,739 adults (836 women and 903 men) and 11,662 children (5,882 girls and 5,780 boys), particularly in schools and community centres. In addition, 5,843 children and caregivers have received PFA and PSS services, helping to address the emotional and psychological impacts of conflict and displacement. These sessions also foster social connections and trust between children and adults, supported by recreational activities that relieve psychological stress.

In Aleppo, partners resumed activities of CP services, including structured MHPSS, in 7 CFSs. UNICEF partners reached 901 children (454 girls and 447 boys) with recreational activities, 13,464 children (7,232 girls and 6,232 boys) and 2,479 adults (1,677 women and 802 men) with PFA, 6,074 children (3,944 girls and 2,575 boys) with MHPSS, 2,246 adults (2,167 women and 79 men) with parenting support, 6,520 children and 1,592 adults with awareness on UXO risks. During the reporting period, 38 vulnerable children (23 girls and 15 boys) received case management support, while 108 (63 girls and 45 boys) were referred to additional services.

Education

While education has resumed, UNICEF is closely monitoring the situation amidst concerns over low attendance rates and increasing needs for both formal and non-formal education (NFE).

In Aleppo, UNICEF partners provided educational support through formal and NFE programmes, extending their reach to new areas in Idleb. Efforts included distributing new supplies to address shortages in over 24 schools across the governorate, providing prefabricated classrooms, and completing rehabilitation work in two schools. Coordination meetings were held with sector partners, including the newly established Department of Education (DoE), to enhance collaboration, improve coordination, and engage new partners.

In NWS, during the reporting period, 49,207 children accessed formal and NFE through UNICEF's support and partnerships with local NGOs. Of these, 19,260 children (10,538 girls and 8,722 boys) were newly engaged in inclusive and NFE programmes, such as remedial and catch-up classes, the Self-Learning Programme, and Early Childhood Education (ECE). Additionally, 438 teachers (177 women and 261 men) received incentives to improve the quality of education. Classroom rehabilitation, along with the improvement of school facilities and gender-segregated WASH facilities, began in around 60 schools and non-formal learning centres in Idleb, Northern, and Western Aleppo, benefiting 20,570 children, including 11,628 girls. To ensure a protective environment, 13 children were identified and referred for case management support, and 5 children accessed PFA services in schools. Furthermore, 572 children (271 girls and 301 boys) were reached with awareness-raising messages on PSEA.



Self-Learning Programme supported by UNICEF in Darkoush, Idleb @UNICEF Gaziantep

Additional funding is crucial to accelerate school rehabilitation, ensure the provision of safe classrooms and learning spaces, especially in areas of return (Southern Idleb and rural Aleppo), and distribute learning materials. The winter season presents significant challenges for children in learning spaces in areas where cold and rain are stark.

Social Protection

During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 98 children with disabilities (CwD) (40 girls and 58 boys) through the ongoing integrated social protection programme for CwD across Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo and Al-Hasakeh governorates.

Between 27 November and 22 December, UNICEF reached a total of 4,820 people (2,151 women and 2,669 men), including 4,019 children (1,747 girls and 2,272 boys), through its cash-plus programmes. This includes 3,130 children with disabilities (1,315 girls and 1,815 boys) across Homs, Rural Damascus, Al-Hasakeh, Hama, and Aleppo, and 1,690 individuals (836 women and 854 men), including 889 children (457 girls and 432 boys), in Aleppo and Rural Damascus.

UNICEF has faced challenges in some areas to reach families due to the fact that some lists of CwD or families unrolled in the Cash for Basic Needs Programme being inactive in some governorates, or the strict liquidity restrictions imposed by the Central Bank of Syria on Financial Service Providers (FSPs).

Despite these challenges, all implementing partners continued their work during the reporting period, re-establishing contact with beneficiary families and updating their status. UNICEF is also closely monitoring the cash programmes and preparing to adapt their design to address the dramatic changes better and improve outcomes for children. Additionally, UNICEF is coordinating closely with UNHCR and WFP to assess and manage the situation, focusing on the performance of implementing partners and FSPs, and planning accordingly to avoid any potential duplication.

Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP)

UNICEF's ADAP teams have focused on emergencies-related activities, including mobilising trained young volunteers as positive agents of change and strategic partners in emergency response efforts. These volunteers contributed to relief activities, supporting the influx of IDPs and affected communities, engaging in youth-led initiatives, digital outreach, and disseminating RCCE and SBC messages, PSEA awareness, and rapid needs assessments in collaboration with other sectors. Additionally, 10 youth digital and social media platforms disseminate SBC messages on mental health and psychosocial support, alongside RCCE messages on the risks of UXO.

In NES, in response to the arrival of IDPs, 113 young volunteers (43 young women and 70 young men) were mobilised in Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh to participate in WASH assessments, health awareness sessions, and provide relief support in collective shelters. Furthermore, 12 Adolescent Friendly Spaces in Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh remained operational, building young people's capacities to handle emergencies. During this period, 154 young people (74 young women and 80 young men) attended Life Skills sessions, while 21 (12 young women and 9 young men) benefited from vocational training. In addition, 74 young people (32 young women and 42 young men) participated in Sports for Development activities. PSEA awareness sessions were also held for 74 young people (34 young women and 40 young men). Despite these efforts, UNICEF faced challenges, including a decline in beneficiaries due to security instability, high staff turnover, and difficulties resuming activities in camps like Mahmoudli.

In Aleppo, UNICEF continued its ADAP activities through 2 operational static centres and 4 mobile teams, with renewed outreach. 159 young people (138 females and 21 males) attended Life Skills sessions, while 183 (143 young women and 40 young men) participated in vocational training. Additionally, 56 young volunteers (35 young women and 21 young men) helped facilitate initiatives such as reading clubs. PSEA awareness sessions reached 40 young women, with informational materials distributed to 36. However, security concerns persisted, including a break-in at one centre, although no assets were stolen. As a result, working hours were reduced from eight to six hours daily to ensure the safety of both staff and beneficiaries. In Tartous, ADAP partners supported youth-led initiatives, including a cleaning campaign that involved 11 young volunteers (8 young women and 3 young men), as well as a psychological support session. 10 young volunteers participated in a blood donation drive, emphasising social cohesion.

Social and Behavioural Change (SBC)

SBC field volunteers conducted over 1,300 needs assessments through quick interviews with individuals across Syria, using a structured approach to gather insights into the immediate priorities of different communities. In Aleppo, including both the city and surrounding rural areas, around 10,206 individuals (8,573 women and girls, 1,633 men and boys) participated in dialogues and outreach activities focused on routine immunisation, cholera prevention, and hygiene promotion. Additionally, a social media campaign reached approximately 70,000 individuals across multiple platforms and channels.

In Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa, 4,413 individuals (2,770 women and girls, 1,643 men and boys) engaged in community activities, including parent dialogue sessions and recreational activities for children and adolescents. These activities communicated key messages on public health, breastfeeding, and mental health.

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Between 17 and 22 December, UNICEF service line addressed 25 cases, primarily from Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Rural Damascus, out of 105 cases (9 of which were classified as critical) since 27 November 2024. Of these, 80 per cent were

information requests, while the remainder involved complaints and requests for additional needs, such as food kits. All cases were resolved, except 2 complaints currently being followed up on by the programme team. 80 per cent of cases were related to the Social Protection Programme and all were deemed low or medium priority. The cases are followed up and closed in coordination with the programme. UNICEF's, Planning and Monitoring team ensures proper action and redressal of reported cases.

An online platform is being launched to facilitate the sharing of complaints and feedback from affected communities, enabling implementing partners and the interagency AAP Working Group to collaborate. UNICEF has appointed AAP focal points from its implementing partners, who will undergo capacity-building training to enhance their role in gathering and communicating community needs and concerns.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF leads the coordination of the WASH, Nutrition, and Education sectors, and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) at both the Whole of Syria (WoS) level in Amman and the hub levels in Gaziantep and Damascus. The four WoS sectors collaborate closely, holding regular meetings with teams and partners from the NWS, NES, and Damascus hubs. This collaboration ensures a coordinated response that upholds humanitarian principles, including access, response capacity, the "Do No Harm" principle, and duty of care. By maintaining this structured approach, UNICEF and its sectoral partners can respond effectively to the evolving needs on the ground, ensuring that the most vulnerable populations receive the essential support and services they need. This coordinated effort is vital for ensuring a unified and effective humanitarian response across the region.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) continues its focus on improving the mental health and wellbeing of children and caregivers, alongside raising awareness about child protection risks. Child protection activities are ongoing in areas affected by escalation, with specific concerns reported in Aleppo, Homs, Damascus, Hama, and Latakia. AoR partners resumed work in 24 fixed centres and 11 mobile teams across Aleppo city and surrounding rural areas. These concerns include cases of child labour, detention, and poor living conditions. There was a growing need for PFA training for new NGO and INGO staff. Priorities include expanding EORE activities, especially in high-risk areas, and increasing child protection coverage, particularly across both sides of the Euphrates River in Deir-ez-Zor. Enhancing the capacity of CP AoR partners in PFA, MHPSS, and CP awareness is crucial, focusing on ensuring coordinated and effective service delivery without gaps or duplication. In Afrin, significant displacement has heightened urgent needs for services and documentation.

The Nutrition Coordination Teams held a comprehensive coordination meeting with sub-national sector coordinators to improve coordination and synergy between the two hubs. The Nutrition Cluster has resumed operations in Idleb and Aleppo, with no shortages of supplies, while community-level activities for malnutrition management continue. In NES, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, and partners are responding to the influx of IDPs from Aleppo to Tabqa Al-Hasakeh by supporting 6 health and nutrition mobile teams, which operate continuously. Between December 2-22, 4,381 children and 587 PLWs were screened, leading to the identification of 24 moderate and 15 severe wasting cases among children aged 6-59 months, who were admitted to Supplementary Feeding Programmes (SFPs) and Outpatient Therapeutic Programs (OTPs) for treatment. Additionally, 2,895 children aged 6-23 months received LNS-SQ supplementation.

The WASH Cluster partners have resumed services in 1,013 IDP camps and 130 communities, but increasing fuel prices are causing concerns about the sustainability of water trucking and emergency services. In response to critical gaps in Aleppo, WASH partners have focused their activities on solid waste management and distributed 400 hygiene kits and 3,600 water bottles.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

In line with its core commitments to children, UNICEF in Syria continues to amplify the voices of children and young people while adhering to UNICEF's safeguarding principles, ethical standards, and safety protocols in all communication and advocacy efforts. In response to recent developments, UNICEF scaled up its advocacy through the production of over 12 multimedia assets, including videos and photo albums, and published more than 50 social media posts, including awareness messages on psychosocial well-being and the need to protect children from the dangers of remnants of war. Additionally, UNICEF issued three press releases, and its spokespeople conducted over two dozen media interviews, emphasizing the urgent need for unhindered humanitarian access, the protection of children, and essential infrastructure, as well as increased investment in social services and human resources for children.



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 UNICEF MENA Regional Director engages with children at a UNICEF-supported multi-service centre, which delivers essential services to help children and their families recover and rebuild their lives, in Hama, Syria, on 16 December 2024.

Next SitRep: 07 January 2025

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

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

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Annex-A Funding Status of 2025 HAC requirements.

Consolidated Funding by Sector

Programme	Requirements (US\$)	Available funds (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health and Nutrition	111,730,183	23,091,864	88,638,319	79%
WASH	126,735,233	30,928,082	95,527,430	75%
Education	133,893,107	11,240,837	122,652,270	92%
Child Protection	45,235,385	7,481,657	37,753,728	83%
ADAP	13,672,685	2,887,982	10,784,703	79%
Social Policy	55,579,937	1,354,903	54,225,034	98%
PSEA	685,385		685,385	100%
SBC/RCCE	761,538		761,538	100%
Grand Total	488,293,452	76,985,325	411,308,127	84%