

Country Office	Target	Result to Date
Syria	400,000	350,000
Iraq	223,000	200,000
Lebanon*	478,000	204,200
Jordan	126,500	100,000
Turkey	100,000	62,000
Total	1,327,500	916,200

* Details on increased Lebanon target below.



Lebanon, Bekaa Valley
UNICEF/Lebanon 2015/ Alessio

Syria Crisis

Winter humanitarian situation report



11 JANUARY 2015 – SYRIA, IRAQ, LEBANON, JORDAN, TURKEY

Highlights

Situation

This winter has brought harsh conditions including sub-zero temperatures, freezing rain and snow across Syria and countries hosting Syrian refugees, compounding the impact of the ongoing conflicts and displacement on vulnerable children and their families. There are reports of child deaths in Syria and Lebanon, as well an increase in illnesses, such as upper respiratory tract infections, associated with exposure to cold temperatures.

Overall Response

- To date UNICEF has distributed winter clothing, blankets, heating supplies, cash and vouchers, with **916,000 children in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey** of the 1.3 million target children benefitting from all or part of the winter support package. *Note: Targets and results are pending updates from Turkey.*
- UNICEF has focused the response in elevated areas of the countries and on young children.

Syria

- Winter clothing, blankets and school heaters distributed so far to benefit 315,000 children of the 400,000 children originally targeted. However, with the Non Food Item sector under-funded UNICEF now plans to target an additional 100,000 children, and urgently requires US \$5 million.
- An additional 35,000 children have received blankets in North and South Syria under the Whole of Syria approach.
- Funding gaps are US\$ 5 million to urgently procure additional winter supplies.

Iraq

- Winter clothing kits have so far been distributed to over 200,000 children in over 100 hard to reach and high altitude. Additionally UNICEF has distributed thermal blankets; is supporting school winterization with oil heaters, and insulation; and is providing emergency water and sanitation services and supplies to displaced populations.
- Sustainable water networks have been put in place in Kirkuk, Khanaqin, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil and Dahuk.
- Gaps remain significant with 200,000 children living in poor households requiring blankets and hygiene supplies.

Lebanon

- 80,000 children (0-14 years old) living in high altitude tented settlements received winter kits between November and December 2014, prior to the arrival of the winter storm, representing approximately 70% of the Syrian children residing in informal settlements across Lebanon. An additional 20,000 Palestinian children received vouchers for clothing.
- An additional 104,200 children benefited from UNICEF response measures including drainage kits, safe drinking water, plastic sheeting, and High Energy Biscuits.
- UNICEF has just received approval from Ministry of Education and Higher Education to commence delivery of fuel for classroom heating for 583 schools to benefit 155,000 children.

Jordan

- UNICEF has reached over 100,000 vulnerable Syrian refugee children and their families in camps and communities through both winter clothing kits and cash assistance.
- UNICEF requires US \$3,340,000 to reach vulnerable populations with unconditional cash assistance, thermal blankets, plastic sheeting, de-sludging and de-watering in flooded areas of refugee camps.

Turkey

- In November 2014, the first round of winter clothing was delivered to children and families in Suruc, Sanliurfa province, for refugees from Kobane. To date support has included 22,200 sets of thermal underwear for children living in the temporary shelters and in host communities. UNICEF winter clothing items for newly arrived children includes coats, sweaters, winter trousers and socks. UNICEF has also provided school heating systems for 40,000 children, and procured winter outdoor wear for infants and winter clothing which will reach an additional 32,000 children by end January.

Syria

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Temperatures in Syria have plummeted, with some areas expected to reach temperatures as low as minus 11 degrees Celsius. Children are at high risk with this harsh weather, as families remain without access to fuel or electricity due to lack of purchasing power and with fuel unavailable on the market. While low temperatures and the harsh winter has increased the demand for heating fuel, warm clothes, stoves and blankets, most families lack the purchasing power to meet the increasing cost of fuel and other basic necessities. For instance, the cost of subsidised fuel has gone up in recent weeks, with diesel up by a costing one-third more and gasoline up by 16%. This amounts to a 350% increase in fuel prices since the beginning of the crisis. More children are at risk of exposure to the effects of the harsh winter, including respiratory infections and indoor pollution as people use unconventional methods like burning plastics to warm themselves.

The snowstorm in the Middle East, has further impacted negatively on children in Syria, with reports of five people dead in Syria including four children due to the harsh winter. In Al-Ryada, Aleppo city, where displaced people live in unfinished buildings, reports indicate that three children (aged 3, 6 and 11 months) died from 7-8 January. The hospital in Atareb town, Aleppo, reports an increase in respiratory and infectious diseases. In Idleb, floods washed away 300 tents in Atmeh and Qah and Abu Al-Thakur collective shelters, affecting more than 1000 people. In Al-Hassakeh, Nerwoz Refugee camp hosting 5,300 refugees from Iraq, some tents were reported damaged and leaking. In Rural Damascus houses were reported damaged in Harasta, Western Ghouta, with an assessment of the affected population underway. UNICEF and partners are closely monitoring the situation and its impact on children.

Al Raqqa and Deir ez-Zour were hit by a sand storm and less of a snow storm. UNICEF continues to monitor the situation and provide immediate response.

UNICEF Winter Strategy

UNICEF originally planned to complement the Non-Food Item (NFI) sector 2014/15 winter response plan to provide 400,000 children with winter clothing and blankets. However needs have increased significantly, and with the lack of funding for the NFI sector, UNICEF will target 500,000 of the most vulnerable children with winter supplies.

Humanitarian Response to Date

UNICEF has procured winter clothes for 316,000 children and 95,000 blankets worth more than US\$14 million. Of these supplies UNICEF has already distributed 180,000 clothing kits, and all 95,000 blankets. In addition, UNICEF has supported the Department of Education to install 40 fuel tanks and distributed 709 heaters in 65 schools to ensure that 40,000 children and 1,418 teachers are in environments conducive to learning and teaching.

In Idleb, in response to the tents being washed away, UNICEF with UNHCR, SARC and the governor's office, has immediately responded providing the 300 tents and non-food items, including hygiene kits and other critical items to cover needs of all affected people. In Nerwoz refugee camp, Al-Hassakeh, UNICEF distributed winter clothes to all 3,000 children before the snow storm.

UNICEF has also pre-positioned stocks with SARC for 20,000 families including winter clothes for 25,000 children across the four hubs of Aleppo, Homs, Tartous and Damascus, and is locally procuring supplies for al-Raqqa and Deir ez-Zour.

Under the Whole of Syria Approach UNICEF has distributed blankets to a further 35,000 families, and 4,874 children's winter kits are being distributed all in hard to reach areas. Beneficiaries have been reached both in North and South Syria.

Gaps and Unmet Need

In UNICEF target areas, current needs for winter items have more than doubled from 2014 to 2015 with children exposed to the cold at risk of exposure to harsh winter, respiratory infections and indoor pollution as people use unconventional methods like burning plastics to warm themselves. However less than a quarter of the total US\$205 million requirement has been received against the 2014 NFI sector response plan, this funding gap has limited the inter-agency capacity to provide an immediate response to the immediate need related to the snow storm.

With an additional half a million children in need of winter support UNICEF is prioritising the urgent needs of vulnerable children and their families as follows and US\$ 5 m is urgently needed to fund this gap:

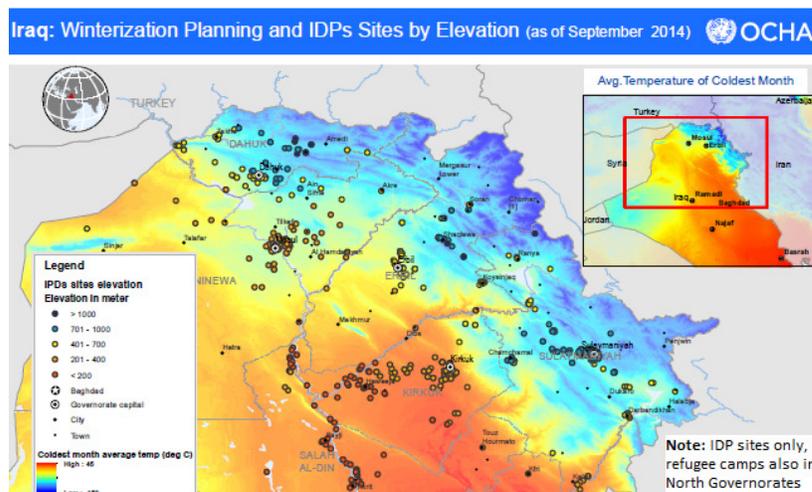
- Procurement (local suppliers) and distribution of additional 100,000 winter clothes for children;
- Procurement (local suppliers) and distribution of 100,000 blankets including baby blankets;
- Provision and installation of heaters in 100 schools.

Over the past year, UNICEF experience has demonstrated that with proper funding support, it is possible to conduct timely response by procuring quality materials locally including hard to areas such as Al Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor thereby supporting local livelihoods.

Iraq

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

The bleak winter weather has brought additional hardship to tens of thousands of displaced Iraqi families and Syrian refugees as temperatures across the region continue to drop below freezing. While much work has already been done, thousands of internally displaced people and refugees remain in urgent need of life-saving assistance, including shelter, heating and cooking fuel, warm clothing, shoes, food and health services.



As winter conditions worsen, children living in tents and other informal dwellings will be further exposed to respiratory tract infections and other illnesses associated with cold weather. Access to health services in many areas continues to remain limited, which in turn increases the vulnerability of the displaced populations, particularly children and women.

UNICEF Winter Strategy

UNICEF targets to reach 223,000 vulnerable children and their families with a package of winter clothes, blankets, support to education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in the 2014/15 winter. The target locations for support have been selected upon the following criteria:

- i) High altitude and hard to reach areas facing the sudden onset of winter;
- ii) Areas where IDPs are located in unfinished buildings and informal settlements;
- iii) Locations with a high density/ population of IDPs that have not previously received services.

Humanitarian Response to Date

UNICEF has distributed more than 200,000 sets of winter clothing to vulnerable children and their families in more than 100 hard to reach and low service locations, as well as 7,000 thermal blankets since October 2014.

To support children to go to school in an environment conducive to learning UNICEF is in the process of distributing 1,200 oil heaters, 460 fire extinguishers, and 10,900 raincoats. UNICEF is also supporting school insulation and protection from rain and flooding through installation of 10,500 Styrofoam floor boards and tarpaulins.

UNICEF continues to ensure that emergency affected populations have access to WASH services and supplies. Support has been scaled up to provide water networks in Kirkuk, Khanaqeen, Sulimaniyah, Erbil and partially Duhok, in place of water trucking as part of a more sustainable approach to water provision during the winter months. Alongside this UNICEF has distributed 10,985 adult hygiene kits and 1,980 baby hygiene kits in Khanaqeen, Sulimaniyah and Kirkuk. In these locations 60 communal hot water stations have been installed, each made up of two boilers and a water tank with tap stand and shades. In these same locations UNICEF has distributed 100 shovels, 50 wheel barrows, and 100 plastic sheets for the population to respond to local flooding/ snow. Trained teams are conducting dewatering and de-sludging in seven camps, with the teams using mobile pumps in areas affected by flooding or heavy rains.

Gaps and Unmet Need

With the multiple, complex emergencies ongoing significant gaps in winter support remain for the IDP and refugee populations. Meeting the needs of the IDP population is challenging given their multiple displacements and mounting needs with new arrivals continuing. With the limited funding support has been focussed on the IDP populations with limited funding to support the refugees' winter needs.

Immediate gaps in winter support requiring additional funding include an additional 200,000 children in need of support. Material support required include 10,000 sets of hypothermic materials; 25,000 kerosene stoves/heaters; 25,000 electric heaters; and 200,000 blankets.

Furthermore 40,000 individuals continue to require water facilities, 150,000 individuals require adequate sanitation facilities, 200,000 adults and 50,000 babies require continuing provision of hygiene kits.



© UNICEF/NYHQ2014/Khuzaei; Children of 1 and 5 years old receive winter supplies in Duhok

Lebanon

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Displaced children from Syria living in flimsy makeshift tents at high altitudes have been struggling to cope as the winter storm brought freezing winds, heavy rains, and snow to Lebanon. The number of vulnerable children in need of winter supplies has increased exponentially compared to last year. More displaced Syrians are running out of savings and coping mechanisms, and have had to move into tents in informal settlements as a last resort. There has been a 20% increase in the number of children living in informal settlements since the start of the planning process for this year's winter efforts. Currently 189,694 Syrian refugees are living in 1,435 informal settlements across Lebanon. Three deaths related to the winter conditions have been confirmed including a Syrian child and its father crossing the border from Syria in Chebaa.

Bekaa remains the most affected area with extreme temperatures. Central Bekaa has remaining accessible, while Western Bekaa was temporarily inaccessible when the storm began. Access to Arsal was not possible for some time due to snow. In the North (Akkar, Qobayat) damage assessments in 69 Informal Settlements have identified limited damage, but have identified localised flooding.

UNICEF Winter Strategy

2014/15 is the third year UNICEF is responding to the effects of winter on children across Lebanon, with a significant growth in need each year. This winter UNICEF aims to reach 478,000 vulnerable Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestine refugee children with winter kits, vouchers for clothes, and fuel for heating, with a budget of \$11.5 million through:

- Winter clothes for every child under 15 in informal settlement (approx. 120,000 Syrian refugee children);
- Winter clothes vouchers for approximately 135,000 vulnerable Syrian, Lebanese (minimum 25%) and Palestinian children at high altitudes in collaboration with UNRWA and the Ministry of Social Development;
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, fuel for classroom heating for approximately 400 schools across Lebanon targeting 102,000 children;
- Formal site improvements in up to 50 tented settlements prone to flooding serving 6,500 Syrian children, and provision of 1,100 drainage kits to families in tented settlements to support self-managed drainage;
- Emergency preparedness and contingency planning for emergency support to families living in informal settlements.

Humanitarian Response to Date

From November 2014 to January 2015 UNICEF winter interventions have reached 204,200 vulnerable Syrian and Palestinian refugee children, and poor Lebanese children. To date UNICEF and partners have achieved the following results:

- **Winter Clothing and Winter Vouchers**
 - 80,000 winter kits for children 0-14 years old distributed by end 2014 to Syrian children across all Informal Settlements. This represents approximately 72% of Syrian refugee children in informal settlements, with those in the highest altitudes having been prioritized. An additional 20,000 winter kits also provided to poor Lebanese children;
 - 20,000 Palestinian children received \$30 voucher (16,500 Palestinian Refugee from Syria and 3,500 hardship cases);
 - In conjunction with the Ministry of Social Affairs, 40,000 poor Lebanese children and 77,625 registered Syrian children residing in the same poor communities will be provided cash vouchers starting this week.
- **Sectoral Assistance Winterization Programme**
 - 6,500 Syrian children in flood-prone Informal Tented Settlements support with site improvement;
 - 44,000 Syrian children and their families in flood-prone Informal Tented Settlements provided 1,100 drainage kits;
 - 5,000 Palestinian children in 5 schools operated by UNRWA in the Bekaa supported with 14,900 litres of fuel;
 - With the Ministry of Education, fuel for heating will be provided to all 583 public schools above 500 meters serving 155,000 Lebanese and Syrian children will start this week. This is a 66% increase from the original target.
- **For the Immediate Response to the Snowstorm** UNICEF accelerated other emergency programmes:
 - 10,000 children received 5,000 blankets across 2,500 households;
 - 3,200 children provided High Energy Biscuits by the Ministry of Public Health, Beyond Association, and the 25 UNICEF funded Mobile Medical Units in 650 informal settlements. The Mobile Medical Units also attended 1,600 patients in their tents using UNICEF pre-positioned supplies. Child cases treated related to the cold temperatures including flu, fever and skin diseases;
 - Nearly 9,000 children benefitted from an additional 207 drainage kits distributed to 2,070 households;
 - 13,500 children in 4,000 households in Bekaa valley were provided access to safe drinking water;
 - 8,000 children benefitted from 2,000 jerry cans, and women in most affected areas received 1,000 dignity kits;
 - 5,000 children in informal settlement benefitted 350 plastic sheets, and nine tents were put up in the South, Bekaa and Akkar to substitute damaged tents used for non-formal education activities.

Gaps and Unmet Need

- US \$2 million for the urgent replenishment of winter items to ensure continuation of winter programme and provide support to the additional caseload of 100,000 children;
- Urgent repair or substitution of tents used for non-formal education activities.

Jordan

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of January 2015, there are over 620,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan, with children comprising over 50 per cent of this refugee population. Around 80 per cent of the refugees live in host communities, with the remaining in five refugee camps. With sub-region in the midst of a winter storm these refugees require additional support to cope with the harsh winter conditions.



UNICEF/Jordan/2015 UNICEF partner ACTED mobile teams distribute blankets, plastic sheets and clothes in northern Jordan

UNICEF Winter Strategy

UNICEF's innovative winterization programme has been in full operation since November 2014, and has reached over 100,000 vulnerable Syrian refugee children and their families in camps and communities. The package of assistance includes:

- Clothing packages for children (0-16 years) at the border, vulnerable areas and informal settlements;
- Cash assistance for winter clothes in communities and camps;
- Emergency shelters established in camps and families provided blankets, mattresses;
- Emergency support to families living in informal settlements;
- Heated and insulated Child Friendly Spaces;
- Heated and insulated Learning Spaces/schools;
- Continued clean water supply and safe sanitation services in Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps;
- Newborn health kits and Infant and Young Child Feeding services.

Humanitarian Response to Date

From November 2014 to January 2015 UNICEF has engaged in winter interventions reaching around 100,000 children. To date UNICEF has achieved the following results:

- **In-kind (winter clothing kits)**
 - **5,800** winter kits for children (0 to 16 years old) distributed in Nov-December 2014 at the border areas;
 - **6,100** winter kits for children (0 to 16 years old) distributed in December 2014 to extremely vulnerable children from female headed households, families living in informal settlements, child headed households, families providing foster care services to children, and households with children with disabilities;
 - **5,800** winter kits for children aged 0 to 16 are for contingency purposes - currently being distributed to families in need during snow storm Huda.
- **Cash assistance Winterization Programme**
 - **Host Communities:** Unconditional cash assistance launched in December 2014 which has reached 37,847 vulnerable Syrian children (0-12 years old), with UNHCR. Providing 18 Jordanian Dinars (US\$26) per child through the UNHCR IRIS scanning system at bank ATMs across the country.
 - **Azraq and Za'atari camps:** Winterization cash voucher assistance programme reaching all children aged 0 to 14 totaling 41,000, with WFP: 14 Jordanian Dinars (US\$20) per child through WFP e-cards from 7 to 9 Jan 2015 to be used in existing camp supermarkets.
- **For the Immediate Response to Snow Storm** the critical weather response plan was activated with partners
 - UNICEF and partner teams deployed to assess the situations of families in camps and host communities;
 - Camps – Water supply, de-sludging and emergency dewatering in flooded areas ongoing;
 - Repair and maintenance of damaged camp infrastructure (WASH – Schools - Services).
 - Emergency shelters established in camps: with all sheltered families provided blankets, mattresses, drinking water and snacks;
 - Child Friendly Centres/Emergency Shelters provided heaters and light;
 - In host communities providing urgent support to hundreds of severely affected families in informal settlements and vulnerable areas (420 households in 48 hours);
 - UNICEF team continuing to monitor situation on the ground for immediate interventions where required.

Gaps and Unmet Need

Current funding needs are US \$3.34 million which will cover:

- Thanks to the anticipated and planned winter response, the remaining funding gap is US \$340,000 to replenish winter items, increase capacity for de-sludging and emergency de-watering in flooded camp areas; and conduct urgent repair and maintenance of damaged WASH and Education facility infrastructure in Za'atari and Azraq camps.
- Other immediate urgent needs for the winter response include unconditional cash assistance for the most vulnerable households in host communities to cover the specific needs of 30,000 Syrian refugee children over three months. UNICEF requires US \$3,000,000 to meet the needs of these vulnerable children.

Turkey

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of mid-December 2014, the Government of Turkey reported that there are over 1.6 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, with children comprising over 50 per cent of the refugee population. More than 85 per cent of the refugees live in host communities, with the remaining residing in 22 camps for refugees. With the entire sub-region in the midst of a winter storm these refugees require additional support to cope with the harsh winter conditions.

UNICEF Winter Strategy

UNICEF targets reaching 100,000 children with winter supplies, with the package of assistance including:

- Thermal underwear for children living in the temporary shelters and in host communities;
- Heated and insulated Child Friendly Spaces;
- Heated and insulated schools;
- Winter outwear for infants aged 0-2 years;
- Winter jackets, winter trousers, and jumpers for children aged 3-18 years in Suruc, who include refugees from Kobane;
- Winter trousers, outwear for babies, and woolen socks for the children aged 3-11 years in 21 remaining camps.

Humanitarian Response to Date

UNICEF has procured US\$ 2 million worth of supplies including complete sets of winter clothes for 22,000 children. Winterization activities will continue in 21 camps to provide winter trousers, outwear for babies, and woolen socks for children aged 3-11 years. The UNICEF Turkey winterization programme has been in full operation since November 2014, and has already reached over 22,000 vulnerable Syrian refugee children in both camps and host communities in Suruc where refugees from Kobane are located. Another 32,000 to be reached by mid-January and 46,000 immediately thereafter.

In addition, UNICEF Turkey has supported the Ministry of National Education to install heaters in classrooms in camp settings to ensure that 40,000 children and their teachers are in environments conducive to learning and teaching. The Child Friendly Spaces are also receiving attention to ensure a safe and warm space for children and adolescents volunteers. UNICEF Turkey is taking steps to monitor school construction to ensure that sufficient care is taken on insulation, etc. to ensure children are comfortable in their schools.



@UNICEF/Suruc-Turkey 2014/Feyzioglu
Berevan Bozi, 23, refugee from Kobane: "It's really cold. I need baby clothes — we have just been given thermal underwear for the older children but we also need more for the babies."

Gaps and Unmet Need

UNICEF currently requires US \$1 million to cover immediate winter needs to replenish winter items to ensure continuation of the emergency winterization response.

Urgent Winter Funding Gap Summary (US\$)	
Syria	\$5,000,000
Lebanon	\$2,000,000
Jordan	\$3,340,000
Turkey	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	\$11,340,000

* Iraq winter funding requirements will be updated.

Other Sources on the UNICEF Winter Response

For more information on the Winter Response for the Children of Syria, please click on the links below:

- <http://childrenofsyria.info/winter/>
- <https://uniceflebanon.exposure.co/refugees-caught-in-heavy-snow-as-winter-storm-hits-lebanon>
- <http://childrenofsyria.info/2014/11/13/over-seven-million-syrian-and-iraqi-children-caught-up-in-conflict-face-a-harsh-winter/>

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