

JUNE 2017

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NOWHERE TO GO

IRAQI CHILDREN TRAPPED IN CYCLES OF VIOLENCE

#CHILDRENUNDERATTACK

unicef  | for every child

NOWHERE TO GO

THREE YEARS ON, IRAQI CHILDREN TRAPPED IN CYCLES OF VIOLENCE

Children in Iraq are caught in escalating cycles of violence, leaving girls and boys vulnerable to attacks, poverty and exploitation. In the past three years, extreme violence has overwhelmed entire cities and communities around the country, turning childhoods into nightmares of brutality, displacement and loss.

Violence in Mosul, Fallujah and Ramadi, has been fierce with use of heavy weapons and bombings in densely populated areas. Children have been killed and maimed, some shot by snipers as they attempted to escape the violence. Many children have been used as human shields while others have been forced to join the fighting.

As of early June, more than 790,000 people have been displaced from Mosul alone. Population movement and displacement is likely to continue even after the violence ends.

In the chaos of families fleeing the violence around them, more than 4,650 children from Iraq - some as young as three years old, have been separated from their families, putting them at grave risk of being exploited or abused.

Children are also struggling with the physical and psychological wounds of war. Half of those being treated in trauma centres in west Mosul with bullet and shrapnel wounds are children. Many children fleeing the violence are severely distressed and need psychosocial care.

The end of the violence in Mosul is likely to be a turning point for the war - torn country, but it will not bring the guns to silence.

Clashes and violence may spread to other communities in Ninewa, Anbar and Kirkuk, resulting in more displacement for children and families and adding to the 3.1 million Iraqis¹ – almost half of them children – who are already without a home.

Violence has generated patterns of displacement and destruction, and pushed more than 1 million children out of school, leaving them with fewer skills and at a higher risk of sinking into poverty. The latest figures show that one in four children in Iraq now live in a poor household.

Warring parties have actively recruited children into the fighting, depriving them of a normal childhood and the chance of a better future.² Some of these children have been held for months in detention centres. UNICEF is providing these children with legal representation, education, psychosocial assistance, vocational training, and helping to improve the conditions of the facilities where children are held.

The process of reconciliation and rehabilitation has already started and needs to be strengthened. UNICEF and partners, initiated a model of fast rehabilitation of schools to encourage families to return to their communities and rebuild their lives. That model is now being applied to Mosul.

By mid June, and despite ongoing violence in west Mosul, some 400 schools in east Mosul had reopened to nearly 400,000 children. When there are not enough classrooms or desks, schools hold multiple shifts so that all children have a chance to learn.

Families are returning to their homes. In Fallujah, Mosul and Ramadi, nearly 800,000 people were able to return to their homes.³

Providing schools, water, sanitation and health services will be crucial for all Iraqi children and their families to return home. Otherwise, the risk is not only of a lost generation, but also severely restricted opportunities to build a solid foundation for coexistence, tolerance and peace in the future.

1 Humanitarian response Plan 2017

2 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2017

3 OCHA Humanitarian Sitrep, 2016



I tried to escape from Mosul four times.

The last time the fighters caught me, they put a knife to my neck because they wanted to kill me. But my mother cried and begged them not to. My mother later told me I had to leave because boys my age were being recruited to fight.

One morning, my cousin and I went at dawn to a place where people met to flee. While we were waiting, someone saw us and started to shout "They're escaping!", another started shooting at us. We crossed a checkpoint, but I was upset because my family was still in Mosul.

I couldn't sleep because I was thinking about them. Three months later, my uncle called to say that my mother had escaped and was in Hasansham camp. I was in a different camp. So I called her, and a UNICEF partner brought us back together."

Mohammed, 12 years old.

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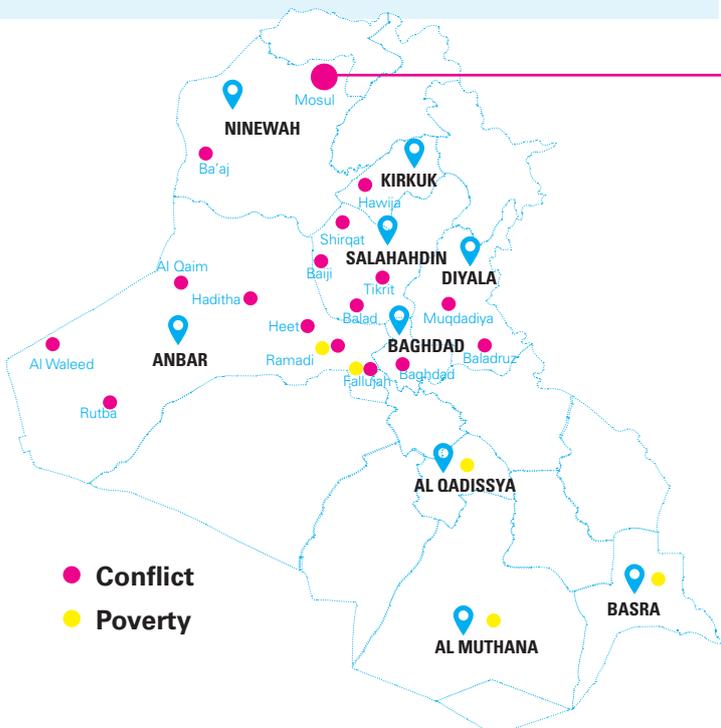
WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN IN NEED?



TOTAL CHILD POPULATION IN IRAQ
NEARLY 20 MILLION

CHILDREN IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
5 MILLION

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE
3 MILLION
NEARLY **1/2** ARE CHILDREN



OVER 790,000
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DISPLACED BY THE FIGHTING IN MOSUL

ALMOST 435,000
OF THEM ARE CHILDREN

177,500
HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR COMMUNITIES



I don't really want to go back to school because I'm the only one working. So if I stop, my family won't be able to survive."

Hussain, who fled the violence northwest of Mosul city and now helps support his family of 15 members.



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EDUCATION



3 MILLION

CHILDREN IN IRAQ DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL ON A REGULAR BASIS



1.2 MILLION

CHILDREN ARE OUT-OF-SCHOOL



IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS,
MORE THAN

90%

CHILDREN ARE OUT-OF-SCHOOL



HALF

OF ALL SCHOOLS IN IRAQ
REQUIRE URGENT REPAIRS



ALMOST **1/3** OF IRAQ'S
SCHOOLS ARE OPERATING ON A
MULTIPLE SHIFT SYSTEM



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I wish I could go back to school but my family has no one else to support them.

I would be happy in school. My friends are there. I want to go back and learn to read and write."

Fares, 12 years old, Baghdad

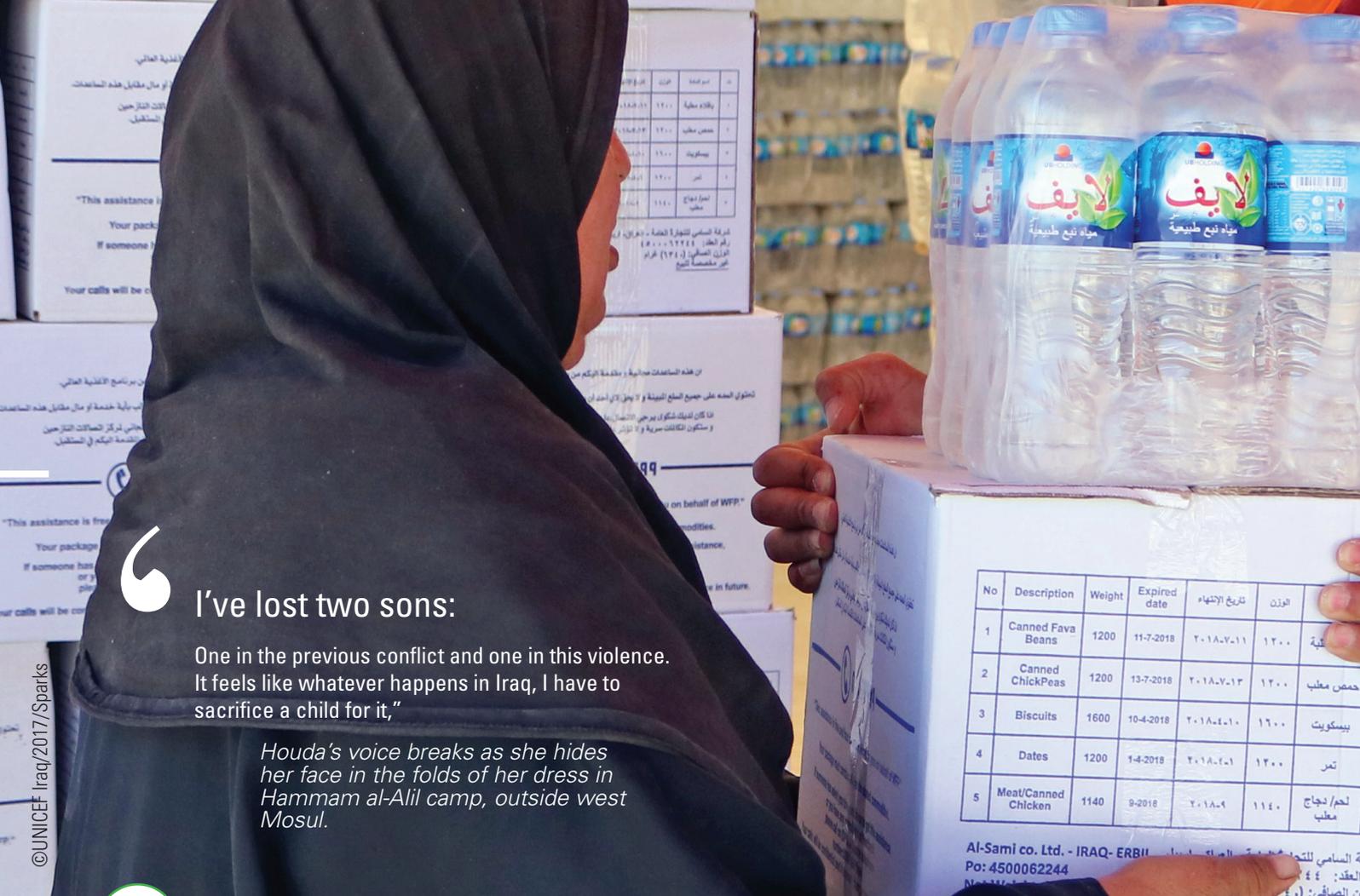


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School is like a mother, it teaches us everything."

Nisreen, 12 years old, in Qayyarah, south of Mosul.



I've lost two sons:

One in the previous conflict and one in this violence. It feels like whatever happens in Iraq, I have to sacrifice a child for it,"

Houda's voice breaks as she hides her face in the folds of her dress in Hammam al-Alil camp, outside west Mosul.

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CHILD PROTECTION



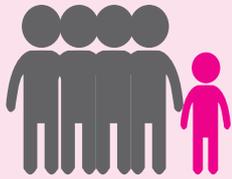
4,650
CHILDREN SEPARATED AND UNACCOMPANIED⁴



AROUND
800,000⁵
CHILDREN IN IRAQ HAVE LOST ONE OR BOTH PARENTS



HEALTH AND NUTRITION



1 IN 5⁶
CHILDREN ARE STUNTED



ONLY
55%
OF CHILDREN FLEEING MOSUL ARE IMMUNIZED AGAINST POLIO AND MEASLES



OVER
7%
OF IRAQI CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD SUFFER FROM WASTING⁷

4 95% of these children have been unified with their families or placed within community networks (Child protection partners).
5 UNICEF data.
6 UNICEF Health & Nutrition, 2017.
7 UNICEF data.



When the fighters came to our village, they asked to speak to the police. They said it was to give them their salary. I didn't have any reason not to believe them, so I took them to the police station.

They beheaded my father and killed the others as well.

When my mother and I fled, I was injured by a landmine and lost parts of my fingers."

Abdullah, 11 years old.

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GRAVE VIOLATIONS

GRAVE VIOLATIONS AGAINST CHILDREN, JANUARY 2014 – MAY 2017

UNICEF has verified these numbers, but actual figures are likely to be much higher



1,075
CHILDREN KILLED



138
ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS



1,300
CHILDREN ABDUCTED



58
ATTACKS ON HOSPITALS



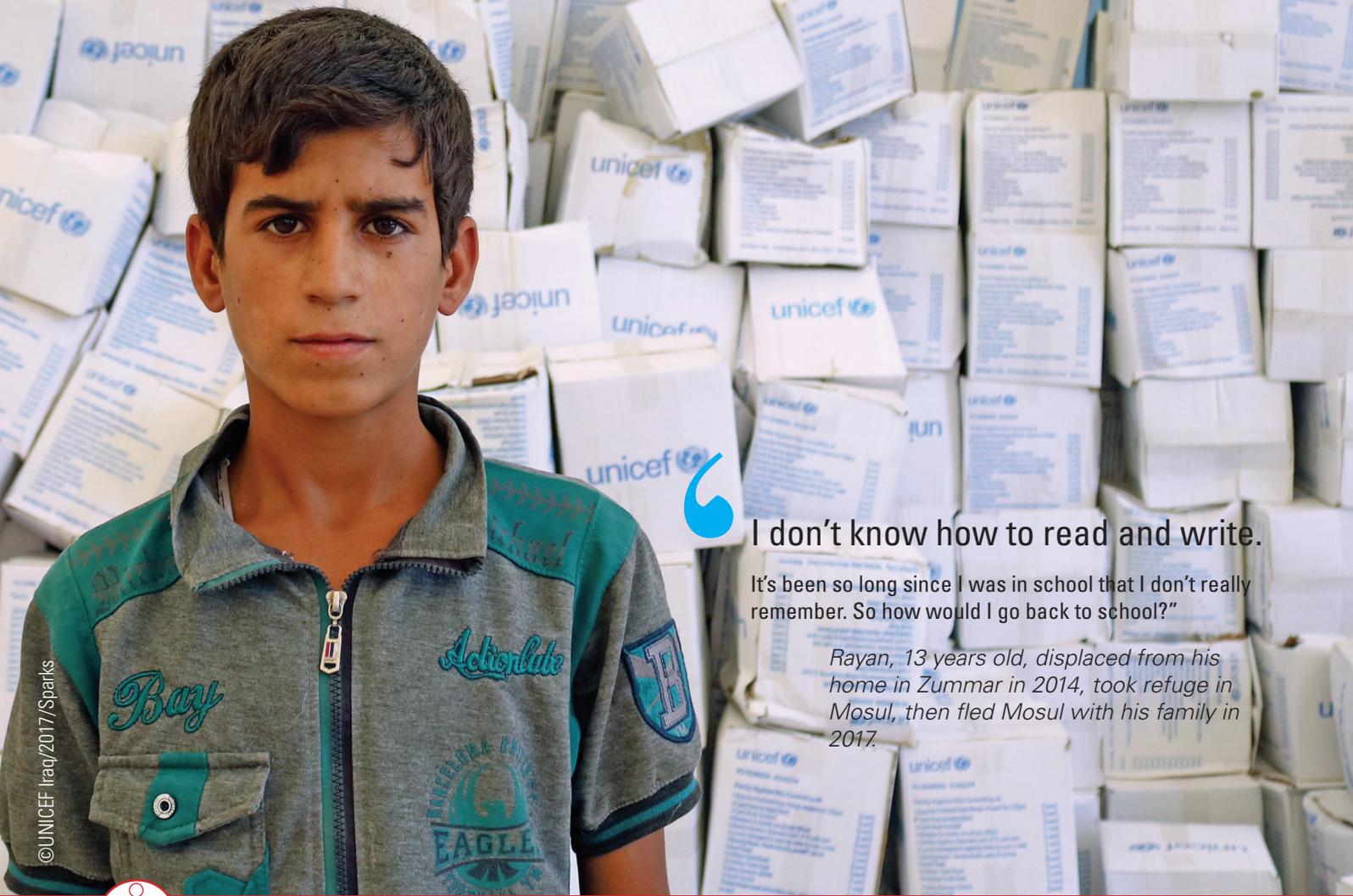
1,130
CHILDREN MAIMED OR INJURED



231
CHILDREN RECRUITED
INTO THE FIGHTING



Sexual violence against children is extremely difficult to document amid fears of stigmatization and rejection. Girls have been abducted, forcibly married and sexually exploited while in captivity, including by children recruited into the fighting.



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I don't know how to read and write.

It's been so long since I was in school that I don't really remember. So how would I go back to school?"

Rayan, 13 years old, displaced from his home in Zummar in 2014, took refuge in Mosul, then fled Mosul with his family in 2017.



POVERTY



1 IN 4
CHILDREN LIVE IN POOR
HOUSEHOLDS



POVERTY AFFECTS ALMOST

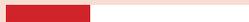
40%

OF DISPLACED FAMILIES

THE PROPORTION OF CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

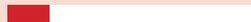
34%

RURAL AREAS



17%

URBAN AREAS



500,000⁸

CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES
OF 5 -14 ARE INVOLVED IN CHILD
LABOUR, MOSTLY IN RURAL
AREAS



One doctor I met was wearing surgical scrubs with blood up to his elbows. He looked shaken up. I asked if I could get him anything, and he said water. I offered to get him a couple of bottles. The doctor said:

'I need water for the hospital.'

We mobilized our teams to send water tankers to the hospital."

Atheer, UNICEF Iraq's Emergency Coordinator for the Mosul Crisis



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



ALMOST

4 OUT OF 10

CHILDREN IN RURAL AREAS HAVE NO PUBLIC WATER NETWORK CONNECTION⁹



15%

OF IRAQI CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE REGULAR ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER¹⁰



2 IN 5

HOUSEHOLDS DO NOT HAVE TREATED DRINKING WATER¹¹

9 UNICEF "Child Poverty Report", 2017.

10 UNICEF data.

11 UNICEF data.

UNICEF'S RESPONSE WITH PARTNERS IN 2017*

CHILD PROTECTION



198,150 CHILDREN

Reached with psychosocial support



38,212 INDIVIDUALS

(INCLUDING **33,355 CHILDREN**)

EDUCATED ON THE RISKS OF MINES AND UNEXPLODED REMNANTS OF WAR



13,768 CHILDREN

REACHED WITH SPECIALIZED CARE SERVICES

WATER & SANITATION



OVER 1 MILLION PEOPLE

(HALF OF THEM CHILDREN)

SUPPORTED WITH ACCESS TO SUFFICIENT SAFE WATER



212,283 PEOPLE

PROVIDED WITH ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE SANITATION

490,519 IDPS

RECEIVED HYGIENE KITS



10 MILLION LITRES

OF SAFE WATER DELIVERED DAILY TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE MOSUL CRISIS

EDUCATION



SUPPORTED ACCESS TO TEMPORARY LEARNING SPACES FOR

25,542 CHILDREN

AND PROVIDED EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES FOR

474,497 CHILDREN IN 2016



275,437 STUDENTS

SUPPORTED IN MOSUL WITH EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND IMPROVED LEARNING SPACES SINCE THE MILITARY OPERATION



256,423 STUDENTS

ACCESSED FORMAL EDUCATION



1,000 TEACHERS

RECEIVED TRAINING FOR IMPROVED TEACHING APPROACHES, PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES, LIFE SKILLS, POSITIVE DISCIPLINE AND EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

HEALTH & NUTRITION



ALMOST 5.6 MILLION CHILDREN

UNDER 5 YEARS OLD VACCINATED AGAINST POLIO



6,730 CHILDREN

UNDER 1 YEAR OLD WERE VACCINATED AGAINST MEASLES THROUGH ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION



56,180 CHILDREN

UNDER 5 YEARS OLD RECEIVED NUTRITION SERVICES (SCREENING, REFERRAL, TREATMENT)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



1.4 MILLION PEOPLE

NEWLY DISPLACED BY CONFLICT RECEIVED RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM KITS

6.5 KILOGRAMS OF FOOD • A HYGIENE KIT • A KIT FOR WOMEN'S HYGIENE • 12 LITRES OF POTABLE WATER • A WATER CONTAINER

NON-FOOD ITEMS



264,834 CHILDREN

RECEIVED WARM CLOTHING FOR THE 2016-17 WINTER SEASON

* As of end of May 2017



I miss my grandpa'

Sana's grandfather is still trapped in west of Moul.

She is in the UNICEF - rehabilitated Almoharbeen school for boys and girls.

Sana, 7, living in east Mosul

UNICEF is calling for:

- An immediate end to the conflict: all warring parties owe it to the children of Iraq to put an end to the violence,
- All children affected by the crisis, wherever they are, must have access to unimpeded and sustained humanitarian assistance and basic services,
- An end to all grave violations against children, including killing, maiming and recruitment, and an end to attacks on civilian infrastructure,
- Freedom of movement for all families who wish to flee to safety or return to their homes,
- Access to legal protection and services for all children in detention and treatment in line with international standards of juvenile detention,
- Increased investments to improve the quality of education, healthcare and protection services for all children,
- Sustained contributions for humanitarian response: UNICEF has a funding gap of US\$100 million for lifesaving emergency operations in Iraq and for support to children returning to their homes and resuming their lives.



For more information:

Laila Ali

Communication Specialist

UNICEF Iraq

Email: laali@unicef.org | Phone: +964 780 925 8542

Juliette Touma

Regional Chief of Communication

UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle East & North Africa

Email: jtouma@unicef.org | Phone: +962 7 9867 4628

Tamara Kummer

Communication Specialist

UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle East & North Africa

Email: tkummer@unicef.org | Phone: +962 7 9758 8550

