WASH Assessment

First time nationwide assessments by UNICEF, partners and the Government of Syria highlight the dire situation inside the country as the conflict continues into its third year. The decrease in the availability of safe water, to one-third of pre-crisis levels, and the reduction in the treatment of sewer water and solid waste management pose severe public and environmental health risks. The situation is particularly worse in overcrowded and unhygienic collective centers. Partners report frequent cases of diarrhea and an increasing number of typhoid cases in Deir- ez-Zor, as well as in Hama and Homs.

Result Highlights

- 7.4 million people have access to safe drinking water through chlorination, provision of generators, pumps and spare parts and reparation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure in schools, IDP shelters and towns;
- Emergency repair of urban and rural water systems in conflict affected areas including Al Hassakeh, Homs and Rural Damascus and Aleppo;
- 400,000 people benefiting from hygiene items.

Sector partners include UN agencies, particularly UNDP, UNHCR, WHO and UNRWA, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Local Administration, international and national NGOs, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), particularly in support of cross-line operations, and other partners such as the Ministry of Health. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) implements major WASH interventions in the country.

Priorities

Continued fighting in urban areas has significantly or completely damaged water system infrastructures in locations such as Aleppo and Deir- ez-Zor. WASH interventions need to prioritize the provision of clean water to all affected populations, in particular children and women, to enable adequate supply of water for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene. This will be achieved through the continued dispatch of water treatment chemicals, generators and spare parts for operation and maintenance of water systems across all governorates, particularly ahead of the summer season.

CHILD PROTECTION Assessment

There are serious child protection concerns for tens of thousands of children in Syria. There are reports of grave child rights violations including killing, maiming, rape, GBV, recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups and exposure to explosive remnants of war. In addition, these violations impede access to healthcare and education.

Result Highlights

- Increased capacity to establish child protection monitoring to identify the main child protection concerns and inform response and prevention strategies;
- 80,000 children benefitting from psychosocial support, and plans to provide access in all governorates.

Priorities

Mobilizing joint advocacy for all parties to the conflict to abide by international human rights and humanitarian law, and to take action to prevent grave violations against civilians, particularly children, remains the highest priority. Additional partners and capacity are crucial to scaling up activities countrywide.
EDUCATION Assessment

An education assessment carried out by UNICEF and partners found that one-fifth of the country’s schools are damaged, destroyed or used as shelters, significantly decreasing children’s access to education. Highlighting the impact of the escalation and ongoing violence on education, the Government of Syria recently reported that an additional 627 schools are out of service. Opportunities for schooling are constrained for the more than 1.9 million displaced children. In Aleppo, only 140,000 of 1.2 million school-aged children, or 6 per cent, are still going to school.

Result Highlights

- 85,000 children benefiting from remedial classes, psychosocial support and recreational activities through 330 school clubs in Dara’a, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus, Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, Homs, Quneitra;
- 130,000 children reached through the distribution of essential school supplies.
- Sector partners include UN agencies, particularly UNRWA, the Ministry of Education, international and national NGOs and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), particularly in support of cross-line operations.

Priorities

Schools are often damaged in attacks or occupied by warring parties. In areas where schools are operating, many parents often keep their children home because traveling to and from school is considered too dangerous. Ensuring access to quality education in safe and protective learning environments is a priority, along with the provision of psychosocial support and education materials. Additional efforts need to be invested in the support of remedial and quality education for affected children, and in particular, displaced children.

Source: OCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview, 26 April 2013

Prepared by UNICEF, 02 May 2013

UNICEF Syria Crisis: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/syriancrisis_68134.html
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