Malnutrition continues to stalk the most vulnerable children across the region. In Djibouti, a country still reeling from the Horn of Africa drought of 2011, UNICEF continues to respond to the nutritional needs of approximately 30,000 malnourished children. Yemen, already in a state of chronic underdevelopment compounded by near-economic collapse and a spike in violence, is witnessing severe fuel and water shortages and price increases, to the detriment of children’s growth and survival. Nearly 1 million children in Yemen and a further 1.5 million children in Sudan suffer from the effects of malnutrition. Both Yemen and Sudan have global acute malnutrition exceeding the emergency threshold of 15 per cent, accompanied by aggravating factors including food insecurity, poor hygiene and a high risk of disease.

Libya also remains of concern with the country recently being rocked by an upsurge in violence and insecurity. Children throughout the region, including in Bahrain, Egypt, OPT, Sudan and Yemen, continue to be exposed directly or indirectly to violence.

The inability to reach a peaceful solution to the current unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic has led to a deterioration in security, massive internal displacement (estimated at 1.2 million people, half of whom are children) and a continuous outflow of refugees to surrounding countries, specifically Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey.

With the region experiencing a multiplicity of crises with approximately 3,750,000 children at risk, enhancing the capacity of country offices to respond to emergencies through emergency preparedness, humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction has been crucial.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE
Against this backdrop, the MENA regional office is responding directly to the crisis in Syria and the sub region. Technical experts and advisers continue to provide support to countries throughout the region. The regional office, based in Amman with a mandate to oversee and support country office operations, dispatched emergency and technical staff to Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, OPT, Syria, Sudan and Yemen. The regional office has provided technical guidance, oversight and leadership to country offices through contingency planning, simulation exercises and early warning/early action support via remote as well as direct ‘in country’ support.

This has included enhancing and strengthening disaster risk reduction actions with a range of country offices prone to disasters as well as to countries facing chronic effects of climate change. This recognizes the reality that the MENA region is one of the most water scarce regions in the world requiring strong mitigation plans. The regional cluster coordinators training package is currently under review and will be streamlined to ensure it meets the evolving needs and nature of the MENA context.

A newly-established sub-regional supply hub is now in operation, and 16 long-term agreements (LTAs) have been put in place and are currently being used to support the procurement of supplies for Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Technical leadership and surge capacity have been provided to a number of countries in the region, with the regional office providing both remote and direct assistance to Syria and the sub region.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE IN 2012
It is critical for the MENA regional office to increase support to country offices affected by crises. Ensuring they are fully equipped and trained in emergency preparedness, sector or cluster leadership and disaster risk reduction is fundamental in ensuring timely, sustainable and quality responses to crises throughout the region. Additionally actions to enhance the emergency capacities of governments will be supported through country offices in an effort to enhance national emergency response systems, expertise and to ensure that children are at the centre of life saving actions.

The regional office will continue to provide surge capacity and technical leadership to countries throughout the region, focusing on strengthening emergency preparedness, cluster coordination and enhancing disaster risk reduction programmes.
### UNICEF Funding Requirements from 31 August 2012 – 31 December 2012

The UNICEF MENA regional office’s ability to respond to the multiple and complex humanitarian and human rights crises throughout the region is contingent upon the generous and sustained funding of the donor community. Currently, the MENA regional office is critically underfunded. In order to support and respond to increasing humanitarian needs and to ensure preparedness of country offices against future emergencies across the region, the regional office is requesting US $2.7 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Intervention / County Office</th>
<th>Original 2012 HAC requirements</th>
<th>Revised HAC requirements</th>
<th>Funds received*</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disaster risk reduction</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk mitigation</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>325,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>National capacity development</td>
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<td>500,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surge, technical leadership &amp; sector management</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>1,700,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,600,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,800,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,775,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figures reflect funds received as of 31 August 2012. Pledges are not included. All income figures are provisional.

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1. Figures sourced from UNICEF country offices in Djibouti, Sudan and Yemen.
2. OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin on Syria, Issue 6 (4-17 August 2012).
3. UNICEF HAC 2012: Sudan 2,400,000; Yemen 400,000; OPT 803,000; Libya 50,000 (UNICEF Libya CO); Jordan 30,000; Lebanon 10,000 (UNHCR Portal); Syrian children in Syria and Jordan 60,000.