

## Middle East War Imperils Lifesaving Aid for Children, UN Warns



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Geneva, June 02 (QNA) – The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) warned on Tuesday that surging global transport costs and supply chain disruptions linked to the Middle East war are threatening the delivery of lifesaving aid to children.

It explained that nearly 100 days after the outbreak of the war in the Middle East, heightened insecurity around key Gulf shipping routes has driven up fuel prices and insurance premiums,

while congestion at alternative ports has compounded disruptions, hampering aid deliveries.

UNICEF said it was increasingly relying on air freight due to shipping delays. In the first quarter alone, the agency nearly exhausted annual contributions from logistics partners that donate charter flights, as it flew supplies into Lebanon and Gaza amid delays of up to four to six weeks.

That is unprecedented.

UNICEF is also relying on air freight to respond to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as ports in Mombasa and Dar es Salaam remain congested. It estimates that some deliveries are now delayed by up to six months.