



unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Students wash their hands on playground of the UNICEF-supported Qansaxleey Primary and Secondary School in Dolow, Somalia, in February 2022.

Somalia

HIGHLIGHTS^{1,2}

- UNICEF's Level 3 Scale-Up Activation for the Horn of Africa, in conjunction with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee System-Wide Scale-Up, aims to respond in Somalia to an estimated 7.7 million people (including 5.1 million children, 4.4 million girls and women)³ who will need humanitarian assistance in 2023. These needs stem from the impact of the ongoing drought, conflict, displacement and the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and other infectious diseases. Children in Somalia are disproportionately affected by the harsh drought: 1.8 million children under age 5 are expected to experience wasting by July 2023.⁴
- Significant water shortages affect an estimated 6.4 million people.⁵ This limited access to safe water has triggered a spike in cholera cases, with 10,440 cholera cases, including 59 deaths (a case fatality rate of 0.6 percent) reported.⁶
- UNICEF partners with the Government, civil society organizations and the private sector to implement its humanitarian, development and resilience-building programmes, which focus on the most vulnerable groups, including survivors of gender-based violence and children with disabilities.
- UNICEF is appealing for US\$272.3 million to provide humanitarian services to 3 million people in Somalia, including 2 million children.⁷ With this funding, UNICEF will expand delivery of essential multisectoral essential services, with a focus on hard-to-reach areas. UNICEF will also strengthen its leadership role in cluster coordination.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



356,923

children vaccinated against measles



464,124

children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



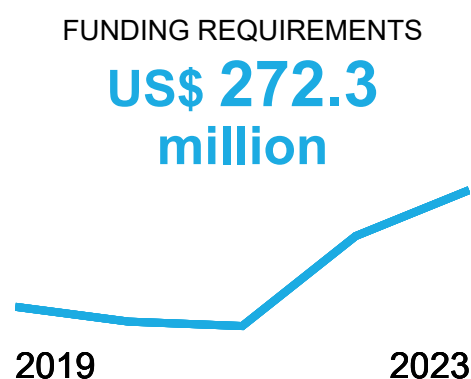
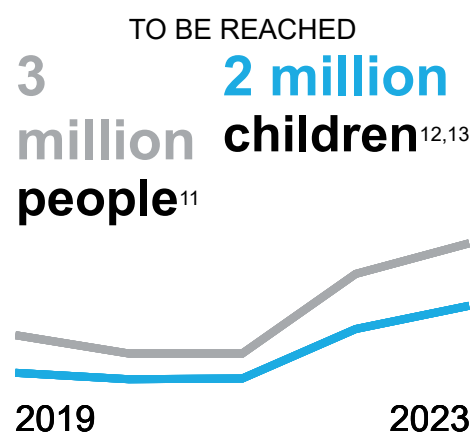
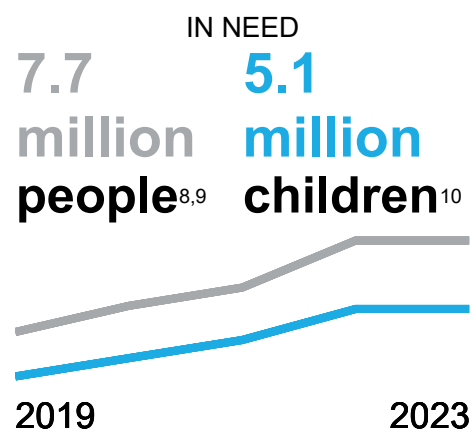
257,000

children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



300,000

children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



Somalia is currently experiencing a historic dry spell with a predicted fifth consecutive failed rainy season, a situation not witnessed in more than four decades. More than 90 per cent of the country is experiencing severe to extreme drought conditions. The severe drought has combined with increased conflict and high food prices to worsen the humanitarian situation. An estimated 6.7 million people are experiencing severe food insecurity, including 2.2 million people who are estimated to be in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 (emergency levels) and at least 300,000 people in Phase 5 (catastrophe levels).¹⁴ Between July 2022 and June 2023, an estimated 1.8 million children under the age of 5 will experience wasting, including more than 513,000 who are likely to be severely wasted.¹⁵ The total acute malnutrition burden is 54.5 per cent among the children in Somalia.¹⁶

The WASH Cluster reports that 6.4 million people face significant water shortages.¹⁷ The limited access to safe water has triggered a spike in acute watery diarrhoea/cholera cases. Since January 2022, 25 of the country's 74 drought-affected districts have recorded 10,440 cholera cases and 59 deaths, a case fatality rate of 0.6 per cent.¹⁸

The drought, insecurity and conflict have further degraded children's access to education and their protective environment. More than 1,000 grave child rights violations committed by armed forces were verified in the first half of 2022.¹⁹ More than 3.1 million children are out of school,²⁰ and 900,000 are at risk of dropping out.²¹ The drought newly displaced 1,170,842 people between January and September 2022.²² While drought and looming famine are the major causes of internal displacement in Somalia, the revival of armed conflict between the federal government, the armed group Al-Shabaab and clan militias has also led to an upsurge in displacement. In September 2022, 101,000 people were displaced due to conflict and insecurity.²³ In addition, an estimated 6.5 million people lack access to essential health services.²⁴ And, from January to May, a 200 per cent rise in cases of gender-based violence was reported compared with the same period in 2021.²⁵

With limited livelihood assets, few income-earning opportunities, rising food prices and high reliance on external humanitarian assistance, an estimated 71 per cent of Somalia's population lives below the poverty line.²⁶ The urban poor - who already spend a disproportionately large amount of their income (60-80 per cent) on food - continue to struggle to feed themselves.²⁷

The operating environment in Somalia is complex, marked by insecurity, armed clashes, poor infrastructure and movement restrictions. An estimated half a million people live within territory controlled by Al Shabaab, largely out of reach for humanitarian partners.²⁸ Communities facing the impact of the drought and conflict often live in remote and hard-to-reach areas. While unable to reach everybody, UNICEF and its partners continue to scale up their presence through a variety of modalities to rapidly deliver and sustain access to essential services.



6.5 million
people in need of
health assistance



2.4 million
people in need of
nutrition assistance



2.3 million
people in need of
GBV services



3.1 million
children in need of
education support



6.4 million
people lack access to
safe water

STORY FROM THE FIELD



"I couldn't do anything for Salat; he had become very weak on the way here," says his mother Fatuma Mohamed Omar. "He died of hunger because we didn't have enough food; I couldn't even mourn for him as I had to find food for my other children." Due to the drought, Fatuma and her five children, including Salat, 10, left their village in Malagda. They had been walking for three days when they arrived in Baidoa, Hagarka camp for internally displaced people, one of the UNICEF-supported settlement sites where they could access life-saving health, nutrition and WASH services. Salat died the day after they arrived at the camp.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Fatuma Mohamed Omar sits with four of her children in front of the family's tent in Hagarka camp for internally displaced people in Baidoa. Her fifth child, Salat, 10, died of severe wasting.

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy in Somalia responds to needs identified in the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview and cluster priorities.

To prevent famine, UNICEF is accelerating delivery of multisectoral life-saving assistance on a no-regrets basis, ensuring the inclusion of marginalized groups. UNICEF is gradually expanding its field presence through three field offices and five remote hubs and has enhanced coordination with other United Nations agencies, the Government, civil society organizations and the private sector. UNICEF has pre-positioned emergency supplies in nine supply hubs for rapid humanitarian response. UNICEF is also joining efforts with the International Organization for Migration and World Food Programme (WFP) to deliver a minimum response package in three drought-affected districts, and is also collaborating with the World Health Organization and WFP in 16 hard-to-reach districts.

UNICEF's humanitarian response contributes to building resilience in communities and systems through programmes that strengthen local systems, reinforce localization of the response, build the capacity of communities and prioritize sustainable technical solutions that save lives.

In 2023, UNICEF will focus on improving the quality of its humanitarian programming, ensuring strong links between humanitarian and development efforts, mainstreaming the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and prioritizing vulnerable population groups, including people with disabilities. A systematic gender lens will be applied to all analyses and programme design. UNICEF will scale up efforts to reduce gender-based violence gender-based violence risks in humanitarian assistance and provide specialized related response services for women and girls, including gender-based violence services. Moreover, children associated with armed groups will have access to psychosocial support and life skills to facilitate their reintegration.

With dedicated full-time support for coordination and information management at the national and subnational levels, UNICEF leads the Nutrition and WASH Clusters and co-leads the Education Cluster and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.

UNICEF will continue to provide life-saving health and nutrition interventions through community-based activities. UNICEF will support nutrition services targeting children and pregnant/lactating mothers with nutrition screening, vitamin A supplementation, promotion of safe infant and young child feeding practices and treatment for severe wasting.³²

UNICEF's water and sanitation programme will establish safe, sustainable water supply systems by drilling strategic boreholes; maintaining, upgrading and expanding water structures and sanitation facilities; and distributing hygiene kits and information.³³

Vulnerable children and youth will participate in safe and protective educational programmes that allow for the continuation of learning and development of literacy and numeracy skills, along with opportunities for structured recreation and play.

Vulnerable children and families will receive social protection services, including humanitarian cash transfers, in line with Grand Bargain³⁴ commitments. UNICEF will leverage its current support to the Government's social transfers delivery mechanisms.

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

2023 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health

- **356,923** children vaccinated against measles³⁵
- **1,622,375** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities



Nutrition

- **464,124** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **1,272,490** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **257,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **141,758** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **630,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **4,500** children who have exited an armed force and groups provided with protection or reintegration support
- **16,200** unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified



Education

- **300,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **300,000** children receiving individual learning materials



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **3,000,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **300,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **2,500,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies



Social protection

- **25,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers
- **10,000** households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in kind) measures from governments with UNICEF-technical assistance support



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- **8,000,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services³⁶
- **450,000** people who participate in engagement actions
- **50,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms³⁷

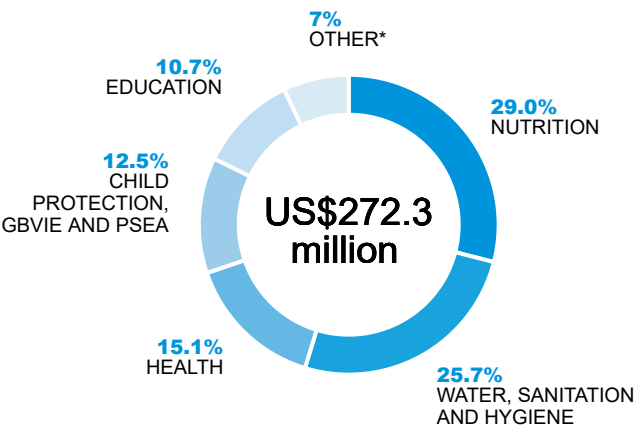
Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents (the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview and the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan).

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF is appealing for US\$272.3 million to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of 3 million people in Somalia, including 2 million children. They are experiencing the devastating impacts of worsening drought, armed conflict and large-scale population displacement. Due to the multi-layered humanitarian needs created by the country's worst drought in four decades, there is a significant need for increased funding to support key nutrition, WASH, health, education and child protection interventions.

UNICEF's humanitarian programmes will reach nationwide while targeting people in the areas with the most acute needs, including in hard-to-reach districts. This appeal contains UNICEF's ongoing humanitarian, preparedness, mitigation, response and resilience-building requirements.

Full funding of this 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal will allow UNICEF and its partners to scale up integrated multisectoral services in hard-to-reach, inaccessible areas. UNICEF will continue to strengthen activities that support accountability to affected people and enhance social protection, and will also carry out its humanitarian cluster coordination and information management responsibilities. Without this funding, UNICEF will be unable to respond to the ongoing and multifaceted crisis in Somalia and sustain the delivery of essential services, including clean water, health and nutrition services, learning opportunities, critical child protection support and responses to gender-based violence.



Sector	2023 requirements (US\$)
Health	41,000,000
Nutrition	79,000,000 ³⁸
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	34,000,000
Education	29,000,000 ³⁹
Water, sanitation and hygiene	70,000,000 ⁴⁰
Social protection	12,000,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	3,800,000
Cluster coordination	3,500,000
Total	272,300,000

**This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (4.4%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (1.4%), Cluster coordination (1.3%).*

ENDNOTES

1. COVID-19 remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as declared by the World Health Organization in January 2020. On 1 July 2022, UNICEF deactivated its Level 3 Sustained Phase for the global COVID-19 pandemic response. All activities related to COVID-19 pandemic response, including programme targets and funding requirements, have been shifted into regular development programming and operations. While UNICEF's Level 3 emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was deactivated, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, their families and their communities and on the social systems they rely on.
2. UNICEF activated its Corporate Emergency Level 3 Scale-up Procedure for Somalia for the following period: 14 September 2022 to 13 March 2023. UNICEF Emergency Procedures are activated to ensure a timely and effective response to all crises. The emergency procedures provide a tailored package of mandatory actions and simplifications required for all offices responding to Level 3, Level 2 and Level 1 humanitarian situations.
3. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Somalia: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, 2022.
4. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), "Nearly 6.7 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes", IPC, Mogadishu, 12 September 2022.
5. Somalia WASH Cluster report, September 2022.
6. Federal Government of Somalia Ministry of Health, report, October 2022.
7. This figure was calculated based on the highest WASH target of people who will be reached with emergency water services (3 million) to avoid double-counting. The gender disaggregation used for humanitarian planning purposes in 2023 is 49.5 per cent female, 64 per cent children, and 15 per cent children living with disabilities and/or difficulties. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
8. OCHA, Somalia: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview. 7.7 million people in need. The estimate includes 15 per cent people with disabilities and 49.5 per cent women. For 2023, UNICEF is projecting 66 per cent of the total people in need to be children requiring humanitarian assistance. This figure will be revised as soon as the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Somalia is released.
9. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
10. According to the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Somalia, 4.9 million children, or 64 per cent of those in need, required humanitarian aid. A 2 per cent increase in the number of children in need of humanitarian assistance is anticipated in 2023, because the status of children is worsening at an alarming rate.
11. UNICEF has increased its target for 2023 by 20 per cent compared with the 2022 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Somalia, based on internal context analyses and forecasts. The figure will be revised when the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview and the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan are available. The overall target has been set based on the highest WASH target for emergency water delivery (3 million people) to avoid double-counting. This total includes 49 per cent women/girls and 15 per cent people with disabilities.
12. The overall children's target has been set at 66 per cent of the highest WASH target for emergency water delivery (3 million people), with 49 per cent girls and 15 per cent children with disabilities.
13. UNICEF's partners will address the gap in children to be reached, and UNICEF will continue to be a provider of last resort as needed, particularly as the inter-agency process is updated.
14. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), "Nearly 6.7 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes", IPC, Mogadishu, 12 September 2022.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. WASH Cluster Somalia, Somalia drought update, as of 13 October 2022, available at <<https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-wash-cluster-drought-update-13-october-2022>>.
18. Federal Government of Somalia Ministry of Health, September 2022.
19. Global Horizontal Note, June 2022.
20. WASH Cluster estimates to inform the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Somalia.
21. Education Cluster report, August 2022.
22. Displacements monitored by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Protection and Return Monitoring Network.
23. Displacements monitored by the UNHCR Protection and Return Monitoring Network, September 2022.
24. Health Cluster estimate to inform 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Somalia.
25. Child Protection Area of Responsibility, August 2022.
26. World Bank, Somali Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment: Findings from wave 2 of the Somali high frequency survey, World Bank, Washington, DC, 2019.
27. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), "Nearly 6.7 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes", IPC, Mogadishu, 12 September 2022.
28. OCHA, Somalia: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview.
29. Ibid. The 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan set the sectoral needs and these will be revised when the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Somalia is released.
30. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. All cluster coordinators cost are included in sectoral programme budgets.
31. This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.
32. In settings of drought, flood and internal displacement, the immediate humanitarian response focuses on life-saving interventions but also includes building the resilience of affected communities through early warning systems (for risks and hazards) and risk prevention/reduction approaches. It includes functional WASH information management systems, community engagement, appropriate design and technology for drought- and flood-resilient water systems, crisis-resilient service management, nutrition-sensitive WASH interventions and considerations for conflict mitigation.
33. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations, who have committed to getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.
34. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.
35. Because the UNICEF-supported measles vaccination campaign that targeted 2.8 million children was completed in November 2022, the 2023 measles vaccination target has been reduced compared with the 2022 target. In 2023, emergency measles vaccination will target children in hard-to-reach areas who may have missed the 2022 vaccination campaign, as well as children born after the November 2022 campaign.
36. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
37. This target number was further refined based on a performance review of interventions linked to accountability to affected populations.
38. UNICEF requires around US\$50 million for the purchase of ready-to-use therapeutic food and high-energy biscuits to prevent and treat malnutrition in hotspot locations. The remaining US\$29 million will be used for operational costs to scale up the response via civil society organization partners.
39. Reaching 300,000 children with education materials has been included in this appeal, which has increased the overall funding requirement.
40. Of the total US\$70 million, 40 per cent will be utilized for climate-resilient water supply (borehole drilling, borehole repairs and water well repairs); 33 per cent for hygiene promotion and the distribution of hygiene kits; 16 per cent for emergency water trucking; and 11 per cent for emergency toilet construction.