



Girls in a displaced community in Loikaw, Kayah State, carry hygiene kits they received through a UNICEF-supported multisectoral distribution.

unicef 
for every child

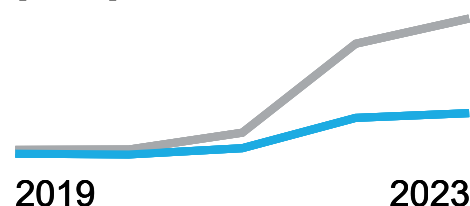
Humanitarian Action for Children

Myanmar

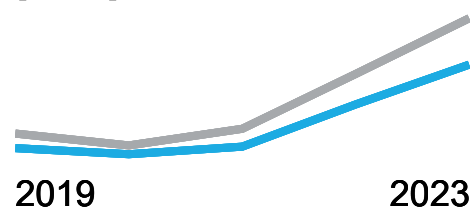
HIGHLIGHTS^{1,2}

- Myanmar continues to experience a severe - and worsening - humanitarian and human rights crisis. Conflict and violence have escalated across the country, impacting children and their families and displacing more than 1.4 million people.³ The ongoing political crisis has been coupled with economic challenges, increasing people's vulnerability. An estimated 17.6 million people, including 5.6 million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance.⁴
- Access of children and their families to such essential services as health care, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education is severely constrained. These interrelated challenges are threatening children's survival, development and well-being.
- UNICEF's humanitarian strategy focuses on working with communities, local and international partners and with all stakeholders to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance and ensure critical services reach children in need.
- UNICEF requires US\$169.6 million to respond to the multisectoral humanitarian needs of children in Myanmar.

IN NEED
17.6
million
people^{5,6} **5.6**
million
children⁷



TO BE REACHED
2.8
million
people^{8,9} **1.9**
million
children¹⁰



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



750,000

children vaccinated against measles



620,000

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



750,000

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

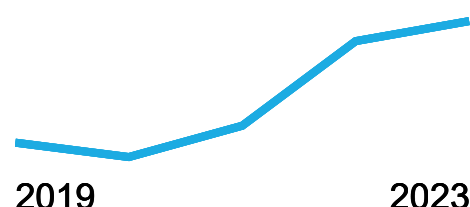


800,000

people reached with critical WASH supplies

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 169.6
million



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Children and their families continue to suffer due to widespread and deepening conflict in Myanmar. The situation further deteriorated in 2022, with increased fighting taking place nationwide between the Myanmar Armed Forces, ethnic armed organizations and more than 600 local defence groups. Around 17.6 million people - almost one third of the population - are in need of humanitarian assistance. The number of children and their families displaced by the conflict has increased by 60 per cent since December 2021 to more than 1.4 million people, including the 330,400 who had been living in protracted displacement even prior to the coup that took place in February 2021.¹² Communities in the Sagaing region are the hardest hit, with nearly 612,400 people displaced as of October 2022.¹³ The resurgence of fighting in Rakhine State between government armed forces and a large ethnic armed organization has imperilled the situation of the nearly 220,000 people living in protracted displacement there.¹¹

There are also extremely vulnerable non-displaced people, including 417,000 stateless Rohingyas, along with communities affected by conflict, insecurity and rising poverty in rural areas and cities. Cross-border movements are fluid and bidirectional. Those who fled to Thailand and then returned to Myanmar remain displaced within the country because they have not returned to places of origin.

Grave violations of child rights have increased in 2022 compared with 2021: for example, the number of children killed and maimed between January and September 2022 more than doubled compared with 2021, largely due to indiscriminate use of heavy weapons, airstrikes and explosive ordnance. There has also been an eightfold increase in the number of abductions in 2022.¹⁴ Attacks on schools and hospitals have continued at alarming levels, while recruitment and use of children by all armed actors remains of serious concern. Millions of children and adolescents are deprived of the right to education because their safe access to education has been disrupted.¹⁵

The ongoing conflict has undermined the delivery of child health services, including routine immunization and the response to severe wasting. This has led to a regression in child health outcomes in the country. The disruption in child immunization services also creates longer-term risks of increased disease prevalence.

Access of conflict-affected populations to services and delivery of humanitarian assistance has been further constrained by restrictions imposed on movement of both people and goods. Camp closures and forced return and relocation remain key protection concerns for displaced people. The safety and protection of humanitarian and front-line workers has also become a serious concern, as they are increasingly targeted by parties to the conflict and subject to arbitrary arrests and detentions.

SECTOR NEEDS



2.2 million
people in need of
nutrition assistance¹⁶



5.3 million
children in need of
protection services¹⁷



3.8 million
children in need of
education support^{18,19}



5.1 million
people are in need of
humanitarian WASH
services²⁰

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Facilitator Ji Taung, 22, leads a UNICEF-supported peer-to-peer sharing session during a life skills training programme at a camp for internally displaced people in Kachin State.

For the past 11 years, Ji Taung, 22, has lived in a camp for internally displaced people in Kachin State, Myanmar. Her family was uprooted due to protracted conflict.

Girls in Myanmar are particularly at risk of early and forced marriages, trafficking and gender-based violence, while boys are likely to be recruited into armed forces or fall into the hands of drug dealers.

UNICEF and Plan International, funded by the Government of Canada, launched a life skills training programme called Champions of Change. It provides adolescents and young people with eight weeks of curated training on reproductive health, gender equality and gender-based violence and on soft skills such as confidence building. Ji Taung is a Champions of Change graduate and now a facilitator.

[Read more about this story here](#)

UNICEF humanitarian strategy in Myanmar is aligned with the inter-agency 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan for Myanmar. Myanmar has been designated a Level 2 emergency,²⁴ and UNICEF will maintain its nationwide focus in 2023, capitalizing on its countrywide presence through seven field offices that cover all conflict-affected states and regions.²⁵ This field presence will enable UNICEF to work at the local, provincial and national levels to navigate the considerable operational complexities in the country to reach the most vulnerable communities. In its response, UNICEF will prioritize displaced children and their families as well as non-displaced crisis-affected children and communities.

UNICEF will support the expansion of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people through its leadership roles in five inter-agency clusters and areas of responsibilities.²⁶ Through these mechanisms, UNICEF will support coordination at national and subnational levels and continue to build engagement with and support to local partners.

As millions of children continue to be exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation in Myanmar, UNICEF will support children's access to mental health and psychosocial support and quality legal aid; contribute to mitigating the risks posed by landmines and other explosive ordnance remnants of war; and facilitate monitoring and reporting of grave violations of children's rights. UNICEF will provide parenting support to help caregivers better protect and care for their children. UNICEF will also protect children from falling into extreme poverty by providing unconditional cash grants, using the country's Multidimensional Disadvantage Index as a targeting model for children under age 2, including those with disabilities, in selected townships affected by crises.²⁷

UNICEF will increase children's access to safe learning environments, including through complementary learning opportunities for pre-primary, primary, secondary school-age children, as well as non-formal education for children who were out of the formal system even prior to the current crises.

UNICEF will provide life-saving emergency medical supplies and services to pregnant women, new mothers and children. With nationwide routine immunization suspended, UNICEF will work to carry out routine immunizations at the community level. WASH programming will focus on delivering such life-saving assistance as the delivery of clean water to vulnerable households. UNICEF will screen and treat children with severe wasting, as well as provide life-saving micronutrient supplements; the organization will also help to strengthen infant and young child feeding practices to prevent severe wasting and related mortality among children and women. UNICEF will integrate into its programmes initiatives to ensure protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, mitigate the risk of gender-based violence and promote accountability to affected populations. UNICEF will use evidence-based social and behaviour change strategies to reach out to communities with critical information and knowledge through multiple platforms and risk communication and community engagement efforts.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/myanmar/situation-reports>

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.



Health

- **750,000** children vaccinated against measles
- **250,000** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities



Nutrition²⁸

- **8,828** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **126,000** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **170,000** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder
- **570,000** children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA²⁹

- **620,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **340,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **8,780** children who have received individual case management
- **495,000** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions
- **400,000** people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers



Education³⁰

- **750,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **750,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **18,750** educators supported with training and/or incentives³¹



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **450,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **300,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **800,000** people reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes
- **800,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies³²



Social protection

- **90,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers
- **10,000** children and adolescents with disabilities reached with assistive technology and interventions to address disability-related need



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

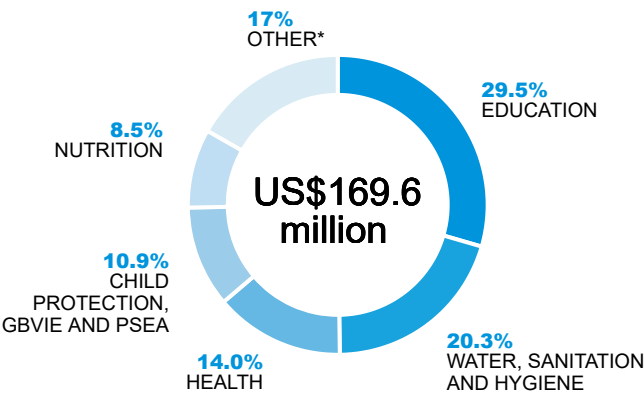
- **1,000,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services
- **60,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF is appealing for US\$169.6 million to deliver humanitarian assistance to displaced people and host communities throughout Myanmar. This funding will allow UNICEF and its partners to reach 2.8 million people, including 1.9 million children. Lack of funding will limit UNICEF's ability to reach more than 410,000 children with immunization, 800,000 people with critical WASH supplies, 620,000 children and their parents with psychosocial support and support for child victims of explosive weapons and more than 750,000 children with access to education.³³

Increased, predictable and flexible funding is urgently needed for UNICEF and its partners to respond to escalating needs in Myanmar and reach people with critical assistance. This funding will enable the most vulnerable children and families to access life-saving services.



Sector	2023 requirements (US\$)
Health	23,750,000 ³⁴
Nutrition	14,428,000 ³⁵
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	18,532,000 ^{36,37,38}
Education	50,000,000 ³⁹
Water, sanitation and hygiene	34,400,000 ⁴⁰
Social protection	13,525,000 ⁴¹
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	3,700,000 ⁴²
Cluster and field coordination	11,221,000
Total	169,556,000

**This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (8.0%), Cluster and field coordination (6.6%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (2.2%).*

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 2 Scale-up Procedure for Myanmar for the following period: 1 July 2021 to 31 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), Myanmar: Humanitarian update no. 33, OCHA, 31 October 2022.
4. OCHA, Myanmar: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (draft).
5. Estimate from the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview.
6. 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.
7. The estimated number of children in need is calculated as 35 per cent of total people in need.
8. UNICEF calculates this figure based on the highest 'to be reached' figures for direct WASH interventions and direct support through education, specifically by adding the number of children/adolescents accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning. UNICEF uses this approach to reduce the risk of double counting.
9. While overall numbers of people in need have risen to 17.6 million, UNICEF targets for 2023 are slightly lower than those in 2022. This is because of the tighter targeting criteria applied in the Humanitarian Needs Overview process, which includes vastly reduced targeting in the main urban areas of Naypyidaw, Mandalay and Yangon. UNICEF humanitarian targets are aligned with the inter-agency approach to target the most vulnerable of those in need - including people who are displaced and those affected by conflict and other crises - to meet immediate and critical needs through humanitarian response. Other vulnerable children and families will be targeted through UNICEF health, child protection, WASH, nutrition, education and social protection programmes that fall outside of the scope of this Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. These interventions will be included in the revised inter-agency socioeconomic recovery and resilience plan.
10. UNICEF calculates this based on the highest reach figures for children, the number of children/adolescents accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning. This includes 49 per cent girls and 10 per cent children with disabilities.
11. United Nations, 2022.
12. OCHA, Myanmar: Humanitarian update no. 33.
13. Ibid.
14. As of 26 October 2022 at least 600 children had been killed or maimed by armed actors since the military takeover in February 2021.
15. Based on Education Cluster data, at least 3.7 million children were not enrolled in schools in 2022. The school-age population was estimated at 12.7 million in 2019, therefore approximately 29 per cent of children currently have their access to learning disrupted.
16. OCHA, Myanmar: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, draft figures as of 21 October 2022.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. While numbers for people in need in the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview, and by extension cluster-specific figures, were informed largely by proxy indicators and a great deal of estimation, for 2023 figures are drawn from the multisector needs assessment dataset.
20. Ibid.
21. 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 coordinator costs are included in sectoral programme budgets.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. UNICEF activated its corporate Level 2 emergency for Myanmar in 2021 to ensure the crisis receives prioritized support for the scale-up of emergency response. The activation is now in the Sustain phase.
25. UNICEF has two main offices, in Yangon and Nyapitaw, as well as five field offices and two suboffices.
26. UNICEF is leading the WASH Cluster and the Nutrition Cluster, co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children and also leads the Child Protection and Mine Action Areas of Responsibility.
27. UNICEF deploys mobile-phone-based cash transfers through a financial service provider directly to programme participants by sending a one-time password to cash recipients' phones.
28. The Nutrition Cluster target has been aligned with the inter-agency approach to target the most vulnerable through its humanitarian programming. UNICEF plans to contribute 50 per cent of the Nutrition Cluster target. UNICEF will ensure other vulnerable populations are targeted through integrated resilience programming for better nutrition.
29. The child protection target is close to the cluster target because UNICEF has included crisis-affected people in contested communities in Chin State, Magwe region, Kachin State, Sagaing region, Kayah State and Bago region, places where the Child Protection Area of Responsibility excluded conflict-affected (vulnerable) population from its target.
30. For education, the number of people in need (as well as the number to be reached) is lower than in 2022 because three regions (Naypyidaw, Mandalay and Yangon) are now excluded. There is also increased school enrolment (based on the multisector needs assessment) compared with 2022, so there are fewer children requiring educational support.
31. The training will focus on orienting educators to the educational pathways offered by UNICEF and its implementing partners to children and youth in Myanmar. These pathways include non-formal programmes such as Non-formal Primary Education (NFPE) programme, life skills training through the Extended and Continuous Education and Learning (EXCEL) programme, early learning and basic education (in camps for internally displaced people and through community-based learning hubs). Training will also be provided on inclusive education, mental health and psychosocial support and the Open Learning materials (supplementary learning materials aligned to the Ministry of Education curriculum) that UNICEF has developed and is currently rolling out.
32. This target is based on those reached with hygiene supplies, not a full WASH package.
33. UNICEF humanitarian targets are aligned with the inter-agency Humanitarian Needs Overview for 2023. The estimated number of people in need has risen to 17.6 million and the inter-agency approach is to target the most vulnerable among these, including displaced people and those affected by conflict and other crises populations to meet immediate and critical needs through humanitarian response. Other vulnerable children and families will be targeted through UNICEF health, child protection, WASH, nutrition, education and social protection programmes, which fall outside of the scope of this appeal. These interventions will be included in the revised inter-agency socioeconomic recovery and resilience plan.
34. Unit costs: US\$25 per immunized child; US\$20 per person for primary health care services.
35. Unit costs: US\$10 per infant and young child feeding counselling beneficiary/supplementation; US\$190 per treatment for severe wasting; US\$17 per supplementation (children) and US\$15 for each pregnant or lactating woman.
36. The cost per beneficiary is US\$54.
37. The budget for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse programming is estimated at US\$800,000.
38. The budget for gender-based violence in emergencies programming is estimated at \$3,060,000.
39. The cost per beneficiary is US\$65.
40. The average cost per beneficiary for this sector is US\$69. The UNICEF multi-package approach has an average cost of US\$42 per beneficiary.
41. The 2023 budget for social protection is not directly comparable to the 2022 budget due to changes in the value of the humanitarian cash transfer and the exchange rate between the US dollar and local currency, along with the addition of disability-specific targets. Benefits (rounded values) are as follows: US\$9.75 per month for 90,000 recipients for one year plus US\$300 for 10,000 recipients for disability-specific services.
42. This line item includes social and behavioural change, risk communication and community engagement and accountability to affected populations programming.