



unicef   
for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

Hanona brings her child Maher to a nutrition centre in Abushok in North Darfur for health screening. UNICEF has maintained delivery of critical services in Darfur and other conflict affected areas.

## Sudan

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Sudan is faced with a catastrophic humanitarian crisis which is projected to deteriorate further if the fighting does not immediately stop, pushing the already vulnerable into a further state of desperation, and threatening millions of children's lives.
- The political crisis in Sudan has culminated in a full-blown armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which started on 15 April 2023. Millions are caught in the crossfire, with almost no access to basic services. Some 24.7 million individuals now require humanitarian aid, including 13.6 million children.<sup>1</sup>
- The fighting has destroyed much of Khartoum and various settings in Darfur, including healthcare facilities, water infrastructure, and schools. The state function is jeopardized, and across the country, the financial system, transportation, and communication networks are disrupted, and the cost-of-living increasing. The insecurity and looting of humanitarian partners' assets and supplies have challenged humanitarian access and response capacity.
- UNICEF needs US\$837.6 million to continue providing life-saving assistance in health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, learning, and psychosocial support to people affected by the crisis, while building resilience and maintaining critical services for the most vulnerable already in need before the conflict.

### KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**3.2 million**

children and women  
accessing primary  
healthcare



**621,600**

children with severe  
wasting admitted for  
treatment



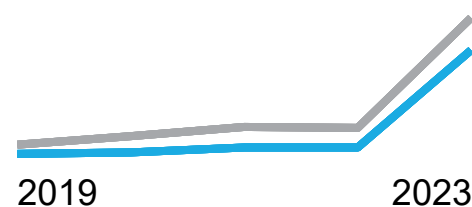
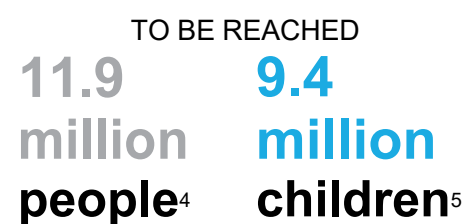
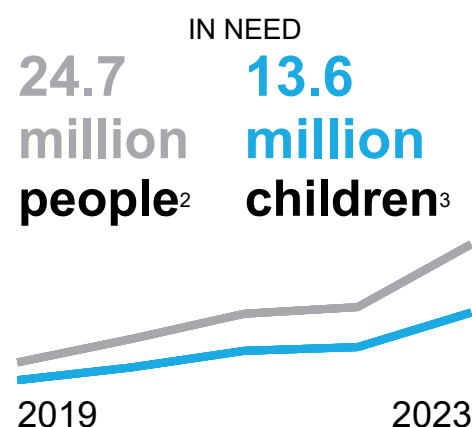
**349,200**

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



**4 million**

people accessing a  
sufficient quantity and  
quality of water



## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Heavy fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted on 15 April 2023, displacing over 1 million people within Sudan,<sup>6</sup> and an additional 319,000 people to neighbouring countries.<sup>7</sup> 196 children were killed and 1,865 children were injured between 15 April and 5 May. Furthermore, millions of the most vulnerable children and families are caught in the crossfire with no or limited access to essential services including water, food, healthcare, and safety. The situation is projected to further deteriorate, with increased humanitarian needs in health, nutrition, WASH, and protection, severely worsening the already dire humanitarian situation. Now a staggering 24.7 million people,<sup>8</sup> 13.6 million of whom are children,<sup>9</sup> need humanitarian assistance.

The consequences for children are dire. Prior to this conflict, one in every eighteen children did not reach their fifth birthday. The number of children who did not receive a single dose of life-saving vaccines doubled between 2019 and 2021. Recurrent disease outbreaks, including measles and malaria, continue to affect large numbers of children. Sudan has one of the highest prevalence rates of malnutrition among children in the world. More than 3 million children are wasted, of whom 621,600 are severely wasted and at high risk of death. 80 percent of localities face a critical level of water scarcity and are vulnerable to natural hazards, particularly flooding. Nearly 7 million school-age children are out of school, and the remaining 12 million struggle to learn.<sup>10</sup> Seven out of ten students cannot read and understand a simple sentence. With over 200 hotspot areas with recurring conflicts and violence, children are exposed to increased risks from negative coping mechanisms including child marriage, school dropout, and association with armed groups, among others.

The ongoing fighting has caused extensive damage to civilian infrastructure, resulting in water shortages, blackouts, communication outages, school closures, and the collapse of health systems in conflict areas. The conflict has had a severe psychosocial impact on children and families, including those who are being uprooted once again, including internally displaced people and refugees who had fled to safer places in Sudan. The insecurity and looting directed towards humanitarian organizations have severely compromised aid organizations' operational capacity, including health and nutrition services provision and maintenance and repairs of WASH infrastructures. An estimated 14.9 million people including 8.2 million children need urgent water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions, and face a greater risk of WASH-related diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera due to lack of safe water and adequate sanitation. 4.6 million people, including 2.5 million children, require nutrition assistance, while 11 million people are in need of health services. Also, an estimated 8.6 school-age children need learning and protection support, and 4.3 million children face protection risks.

## SECTOR NEEDS<sup>11</sup>



**11 million**  
people in need of  
health assistance<sup>12</sup>



**4.6 million**  
people in need of  
nutrition assistance<sup>13</sup>



**4.3 million**  
children in need of  
protection services<sup>14</sup>



**8.6 million**  
children in need of  
education support<sup>15</sup>



**14.9 million**  
people in need of  
WASH services<sup>16</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



The conflict in Sudan is compromising access to safe water pushing many to consuming unsafe water that threaten their survival, health, and development. UNICEF's emergency response in Sudan is ensuring displaced people and host communities have access to safe drinking water through water trucking, rehabilitating non-functional water yards, providing and installing water tanks to boost storage capacity of clean water and provision of water purification tablets to improve the quality of water as well as distribution of WASH supplies such as hygiene kits, soap and water containers to displaced communities and hospitals.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Abdurahaman, a driver with Water, Environmental Sanitation Project, UNICEF's implementing partner in North Darfur, stands next to his truck prior to delivering water to communities and hospitals.

To ensure timely and high-quality responses, UNICEF's humanitarian approach is well aligned with inter-agency, sectoral, and government priorities. UNICEF leads the Nutrition and WASH sectors, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, and the Education Sector, and also plays a key role in the Health Sector, the Gender-Based Violence Sub-sector, and the Refugee Consultation Forum. Sector coordination will be strengthened with additional staffing, especially to support sub-national level coordination.

UNICEF is responsible for the nutrition sector supply pipeline for the treatment of severe wasting, and a substantial portion of health, WASH, learning and psychosocial support, and child protection supplies for emergency response. With deteriorating security, the disruption of the transportation network, banking, customs clearance, and cash availability, UNICEF's leadership in operations, supply, and logistics is critical, and as such, UNICEF is mobilizing country, regional, and global capacity, and coordinating with other UN agencies.

Given the current and recurring and chronic emergencies such as floods and epidemics, UNICEF's priority is to scale up life-saving interventions for children and families affected by the conflict, to sustain critical services for those already in need, and to ensure disaster prevention, preparedness, and response, including building capacity and resilient systems, and stockpiling. UNICEF will enhance humanitarian-development programming linkages, incorporating peace-building and social cohesion across interventions, ensuring life-saving interventions before, during, and after a crisis.

UNICEF will scale up life-saving interventions, including integrated nutrition services for the prevention, early detection, and treatment of child wasting, and will also improve access to health care, immunizations, and WASH services. UNICEF will ensure the well-being of children affected by conflicts and crises through child-friendly protective environments and protection responses. Equally crucial is providing safe spaces for the most vulnerable children and assisting them in remaining in school or through alternate physical or digital learning programmes as appropriate.

In keeping with the Grand Bargain pledges, UNICEF continues to work with local and national entities, including line ministries and national NGOs, strengthening systems, local capacities, and community-based interventions, particularly in conflict and hard-to-reach areas, while incorporating risk-informed and conflict-sensitive programming to ensure access to essential services. UNICEF works with women and girls-led groups to respond to and prevent violence, abuse, and exploitation<sup>18</sup>. While insecurity and looting curtailed partners' capacities in some areas, partnerships with national partners, and investments in their capacities, enabled UNICEF to respond in conflict-affected areas from the onset, including in Khartoum and in Darfur, while maintaining critical services to pre-existing vulnerable children and families. Given the deepening economic crisis and collapsing essential social services, UNICEF will increase cash-based programming to meet families' survival needs, preventing them from using negative coping mechanisms, and supporting local economic recovery.



## Health and nutrition

- **1,655,308** children vaccinated against measles
- **3,163,728** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities<sup>19</sup>
- **621,600** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment<sup>20</sup>
- **5,917,508** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **1,637,337** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **1,637,337** pregnant women receiving preventative iron supplementation



## Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **349,200** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **21,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **2,346,921** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations<sup>21</sup>
- **14,000** unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified
- **352,000** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions



## Education

- **3,473,900** children accessing mental health and psychosocial support in their schools/learning programmes
- **3,473,900** children receiving individual learning materials<sup>22</sup>
- **57,915** Teachers/facilitators/PTA/Adolescent trained in one or more UNICEF supported trainings<sup>23</sup>
- **173,746** adolescents and young people who participate in or lead engagement initiatives through UNICEF-supported programmes



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **4,000,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **300,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **4,000,000** people reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes
- **200,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies
- **50** learning facilities and safe spaces reached with basic WASH services<sup>24</sup>
- **30** health facilities with basic WASH services



## Social protection

- **250,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers<sup>25</sup>



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

- **2,000,000** people who participate in engagement actions
- **1,250,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms



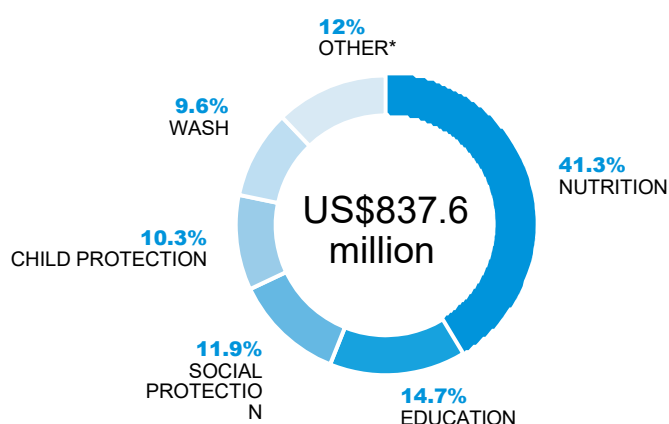
## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

Humanitarian needs in Sudan had already reached historic levels before the crisis erupted. The Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was revised due to the escalation of violence across the country that erupted on 15 April 2023. A staggering total of 24.7 million people, 13.6 million of whom are children, now require humanitarian assistance.

UNICEF will need US\$837.6 million to reach the most vulnerable children and families with life-saving child protection, education, health, nutrition, social protection, and WASH programmes. The increase in funding requirements reflects the magnitude and devastation of this new conflict, on top of the country's already dire humanitarian state. As a priority, UNICEF will ensure gender responsive humanitarian action, with disability considerations incorporated into all efforts.

The financial requirement also includes \$346 million in order to significantly expand the treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition, half of whom may die if not treated. In addition, US\$100 million is required for cash support to 250,000 families under the mother and child cash transfer plus programme. This effort uses a resilience lens to provide cash and access to various services to vulnerable children, women, and their families in order to minimise malnutrition and maternal and infant mortality.

Sudan is going through a massive humanitarian crisis. Without an immediate and extensive response, the consequences of displacements, a lack of basic social services and protection would have devastating and long-lasting ramifications for Sudanese and refugee children residing in the country. Timely and flexible funding are essential for UNICEF to immediately reach the most vulnerable, crisis-affected children and ensure cost-efficient interventions for them to access services and prevent harm, which will pay off in a longer-term.



| Appeal sector     | Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$) |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Health            | 67,612,858                          |
| Nutrition         | 346,245,840                         |
| Child protection  | 86,016,472                          |
| Education         | 123,211,757                         |
| WASH              | 80,325,302                          |
| Social protection | 100,000,000                         |
| Cross-sectoral    | 34,198,848                          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>837,611,077</b>                  |

\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Health (8.1%), Cross-sectoral (4.1%).

| Appeal sector     | Original 2023 HAC requirement (US\$) | Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$) | Funds available (US\$) | Funding gap (US\$) | Funding gap (%) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Health            | 32,800,000                           | 67,612,858                          | 3,786,000              | 63,826,858         | 94.4%           |
| Nutrition         | 284,400,000                          | 346,245,840                         | 20,172,000             | 326,073,840        | 94.2%           |
| Child protection  | 48,600,000                           | 86,016,472                          | 2,047,000              | 83,969,472         | 97.6%           |
| Education         | 79,800,000                           | 123,211,757                         | 1,969,000              | 121,242,757        | 98.4%           |
| WASH              | 33,400,000                           | 80,325,302                          | 3,283,000              | 77,042,302         | 95.9%           |
| Social protection | 100,000,000                          | 100,000,000                         | 4,789,000              | 95,211,000         | 95.2%           |
| Cross-sectoral    | 5,600,000                            | 34,198,848                          | 4,283,000              | 29,915,848         | 87.5%           |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>584,600,000</b>                   | <b>837,611,077</b>                  | <b>40,329,000</b>      | <b>797,282,077</b> | <b>95.2%</b>    |

## ENDNOTES

1. Revised Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan. 17 May 2023. <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-revised-humanitarian-response-plan-2023-revision-issued-17-may-2023>
2. The people in need figure is based on the revised 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan (May 2023), which has updated the humanitarian needs following the fierce conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces that erupted on 15 April 2023. The people in need figure includes vulnerable residents, internally displaced people, refugees and returnees, both pre-conflict and affected by the new conflict. The figure represents a 57 per cent increase from the 15.8 million people in need estimated in November 2022. 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/sector coordination responsibilities.
3. The number of children in need is calculated as 55 per cent of people in need, based on the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Sudan. It includes all of the most vulnerable children in Sudan, including refugees, IDPs, asylum seekers and others.
4. People to be reached is calculated based on the highest targeted indicator for each demographic group: 5,917,508 children under age 5 are targeted for mid-upper arm circumference screening; 3,473,900 school-age children are targeted for education/learning materials; 1,637,337 caretakers are targeted for infant and young child feeding interventions, and 882,000 men (45 per cent adults, 49 per cent male) are targeted with WASH interventions. The total number of people to be reached includes 51 per cent women/girls and 15 per cent people/children with disabilities.
5. Children to be reached is calculated based on the highest targeted indicator for each demographic group: 5,917,508 children under age 5 are targeted for mid-upper arm circumference screening; and 3,473,900 school-age children are targeted with education/learning material. The total number of children to be reached includes 51 per cent girls and 15 per cent children with disabilities.
6. Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Sudan - Situation Report 5. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/dtm-sudan-situation-report-5> An estimated 55 percent of population or 550,000 are children.
7. Ibid
8. Revised Humanitarian Response Plan, Sudan, May 2023.
9. An estimated 55 percent of the population are children.
10. Main identified reasons are inadequate learning spaces, supplies, teacher capacity and pay, and lack of other support, including for disabled children.
11. All sector needs are based on the Revised 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for the Sudan and include vulnerable residents, internally displaced people, refugees and returnees, including those affected by the conflict that erupted between the SAF and the RSF on 15 April 2023.
12. Of this total, 6,050,000 are children (an estimated 55 per cent of the population are children). Revised 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan, 17 May 2023.
13. Of this total, 2,530,000 are children (an estimated 55 per cent of the population are children). Revised 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan, 17 May 2023.
14. The total people in need for the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AOR) is 4.3 million. Furthermore, the people in need for gender-based violence is 4.2 million. The gender-based violence provision for children is included in the Child Protection AOR provisions. Revised 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan, 17 May 2023.
15. Revised 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan, 17 May 2023.
16. Of the total, 8,195,000 are children (an estimated 55 per cent of the population are children). Revised 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan, 17 May 2023.
17. 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.
18. UNICEF response is informed by gender analysis, accounting for the differentiated risks, needs, and capacities of women and girls, and men and boys.
19. The target covers the response to the people affected by conflict and preparedness efforts for any public health emergency.
20. UNICEF targets 100 percent of the severe wasting caseload.
21. The highest target for WASH programme interventions (people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic use) adjusted to the number children above age of 10 and adults.
22. 11,583 safe learning spaces will be established, each of them equipped with minimum learning/hygiene/recreational supplies, and an adolescent-led club running. Each child in the safe learning space will receive psychosocial support, and will be equipped with essential skills to cope with trauma.
23. The focus is primarily MHPSS, but will be combined with training on use of ALP manuals, life skills/life skill in Emergencies, ECD, e-learning, PSEA, Education in Emergencies (EiE), on setting up child-clubs etc.
24. On an average each learning facility has 400 children.
25. Mother and child cash transfer plus is UNICEF Sudan's flagship resilience programme. It targets vulnerable mothers with cash for health and nutrition services and aims to prevent moderate and severe wasting and reduce maternal and infant mortality.
26. The funding requirements include US\$60 million needed for vulnerable refugee children and their families who are traditionally out of camp settings.