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## Humanitarian Action for Children

Children at the Niamakoro Early Childhood Center supported by UNICEF in Bamako are learning through an innovative technique that involves teaching good hygiene practices while playing together.

# Mali

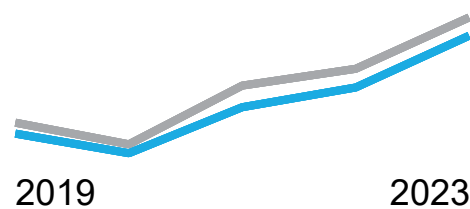
## HIGHLIGHTS<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

- Mali is experiencing a multidimensional crisis that is driven by conflict, sociopolitical instability, climate change and the impact of the war in Ukraine. The number of people in need increased from 7.5 million in January 2022 to 8.8 million in January 2023, an increase of 17%, illustrating the worsening humanitarian needs. Grave violations of children's rights continue, while displacement remains a major concern, with 375,539 people internally displaced.
- UNICEF will implement an integrated, coordinated and gender-sensitive response that contributes to building peaceful and inclusive communities while strengthening the linkages between humanitarian action, development and peace. Interventions are designed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children and communities.
- In 2023, UNICEF is requesting US\$119.04 million to reach 3.6 million people in Mali, including 3.1 million children, with critical humanitarian assistance. Sectors requiring the most funding are nutrition, child protection, education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

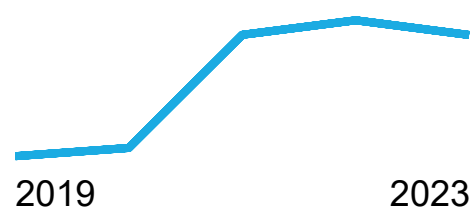
**8.8 million people**<sup>5,6</sup> **IN NEED**  
**4.7 million children**<sup>7,8</sup>



**3.6 million people**<sup>9</sup> **TO BE REACHED**  
**3.2 million children**<sup>10</sup>



**US\$ 119 million** **FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**



## KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**1.1 million**

children vaccinated against measles



**206,700**

children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



**384,783**

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



**415,000**

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The persistence of the multidimensional crisis in Mali, triggered by the armed conflict that extends to the south, intercommunal clashes; sociopolitical instability; adverse weather events linked to climate change; the protracted effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; and the impact of the war in Ukraine results in a worrying humanitarian situation with a negative impact on the civilian population and the humanitarian access. 8.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in the country, including 4.4 million women, 4.7 million children and 1.3 million people living with disabilities.<sup>11</sup> The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has reached 375,539 people<sup>12</sup>, of whom 54 per cent are women and 57 per cent are children. Conflict-related violence has led to a protection crisis with repeated human rights violations, including grave violations of children's rights; 1.6 million children are in need of protection<sup>13</sup>. Gender-based violence affects a significant number of women and girls, and many families adopt negative coping mechanisms to deal with shocks. The educational system is impacted by the insecurity with attacks on infrastructure and personnel, leading to the closure of 1,766 schools and depriving more than 500,000 students of their right to education<sup>14</sup>; 3.9 million children are in need of education support<sup>15</sup>.

Food insecurity and malnutrition are prevalent and aggravated in several areas<sup>16</sup>: the prevalence of GAM is 10.8% and SAM at 2.1% at the national level against respectively 10% and 1.8% in 2021. About 1.5 million children under five were estimated at elevated risk from wasting between June 2022 to May 2023, including 367,000 cases of severe wasting. 1.1 million people could be food insecure, including about 2,500 people experiencing famine during the lean season.<sup>17</sup>

Displacement puts pressure on existing infrastructure, and the rate of access to water in areas receiving displaced people is less than 50%.<sup>18</sup> 3.2 million<sup>19</sup> people are in need of emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance<sup>20</sup>. A measles epidemic was recorded in more than half of the health districts in 2022; two cases of vaccine-derived poliovirus were reported in two regions of northern Mali (Taoudénit and Menaka) in early 2023 and the health system is suffering from the absence of medical personnel in several localities. 5.1 million people need emergency health assistance.<sup>21</sup> Meanwhile the coverage of social protection programmes is very limited, and urgent expansion of social assistance is needed to cover the increasing proportion of the population facing multiple and significant vulnerabilities.

## SECTOR NEEDS



**5.4 million**  
people in need of  
health assistance<sup>22</sup>



**2.5 million**  
people in need of  
nutrition assistance<sup>23</sup>



**1.6 million**  
children in need of  
protection services<sup>24</sup>



**3.9 million**  
children in need of  
education support<sup>25</sup>



**3.2 million**  
people lack access to  
safe water<sup>26</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



In the regions of Mali affected by insecurity, thousands of displaced children are abandoning their schools of origin. In host areas, UNICEF is supporting emergency education programmes to provide access to inclusive, quality education and child protection services for crisis-affected children, and to promote a protective learning environment that includes the construction of temporary learning spaces and teacher training. Assetou Diakité is one of the teachers to have benefited from this training in the Segou region.

**[Read more about this story here](#)**

Teacher Assetou Diakité, proud to participate in the education of children at the Zogofina school in the Segou region receiving internally displaced children with UNICEF's support.



UNICEF will focus on strengthening the linkages between humanitarian action and development to build inclusive and resilient communities and systems. UNICEF will emphasize community engagement, risk communication and the participation of women and girls; scale up accountability to affected populations; expand gender-, youth- and disability-responsive programming; and strengthen the principle of 'do no harm'.

UNICEF will provide technical assistance to authorities to strengthen emergency preparedness and response system at the national and sub-national levels.

UNICEF will build on its comparative advantage in localization to foster linkages with national social protection systems by supporting a child-sensitive approach and strengthening of coordination and governance systems. Financial support will facilitate families' access to goods and services that meet the essential needs of children, in line with Grand Bargain commitments.

UNICEF will lead the WASH, education and nutrition clusters and the child protection area of responsibility to ensure an integrated and coordinated response while strengthening conflict-sensitive, gender-responsive and child-centered policies and local development plans.

Through an integrated package of services, UNICEF will address both acute and chronic malnutrition through early detection of wasting and provision of quality nutrition care to severely wasted children. To reduce malnutrition in the long-term, UNICEF's response aims to increase the proportion of infants aged 0-5 months who are exclusively breastfed to 46 per cent and the proportion of children aged 6-23 months who are receiving the minimum dietary diversity to 24 per cent (by 2025).

UNICEF will continue to support national immunization campaigns, outbreak response and essential maternal, neonatal and child health services. Systems strengthening will include the provision of equipment, medicines and commodities. Infection prevention and control interventions will be implemented in communities and facilities, and crisis-affected people will gain access to safe water and adequate sanitation.

UNICEF and partners will undertake activities for gender-based violence risk mitigation and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in all sectors. Children experiencing psychosocial distress, children released from armed groups, unaccompanied and separated children, and survivors of gender-based violence will be reached with services including mental health and psychosocial support, family reunification and socioeconomic reintegration. Strengthening the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations of child rights will enhance evidence-based advocacy and response.

The most vulnerable children will gain access to quality education, in protective, safe and clean learning environment, including through conflict and disaster risk reduction and alternative education activities.

## 2023 PROGRAMME TARGETS



### Health

- **1,134,000** children vaccinated against measles<sup>29</sup>
- **1,425,537** children vaccinated against polio<sup>30</sup>



### Nutrition

- **206,700** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **496,600** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **381,400** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder
- **2,045,900** children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **384,783** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **166,100** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions<sup>31</sup>
- **572,500** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations<sup>32</sup>
- **700** children who have exited an armed force and groups provided with protection or reintegration support<sup>33</sup>
- **1,600** unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified



### Education

- **200,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **1,100,000** children receiving individual learning materials<sup>34</sup>



### Water, sanitation and hygiene<sup>35</sup>

- **415,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **40,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **228,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies



### Social protection<sup>36</sup>

- **15,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers
- **70,000** 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)

- **12,000,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services<sup>37</sup>
- **800,000** people who participate in engagement actions
- **250,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

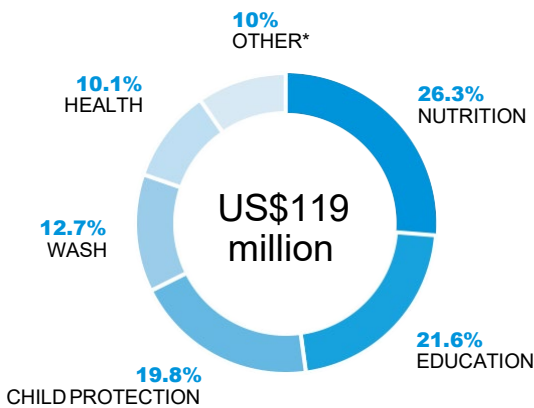
## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF has increased its appeal to US\$119.04 million in 2023 to meet the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected children in Mali and be fully aligned with the Humanitarian Response Plan. Planned work complements the 2020-2024 country programme document, which focuses on strengthening the linkages between humanitarian action and development programmes.

This 2023 appeal no longer includes COVID-related social protection activities, which have now been integrated into UNICEF's regular programming, resulting in a reduced funding requirement.

Emergency needs in Mali related to conflict, forced displacement, and reduced access to social services have continued to rise over recent years, especially in newly affected localities like Menaka, Kidal and Mopti. Compared with 2022, the budget for nutrition has increased by 13 per cent due to higher targets of interventions in this sector. The revised budgets for education and health increase respectively by 27% and 15% to cover the rising needs in these sectors. On the other hand, the budget for the WASH Sector decreased by 21%, as the overall needs of the sector diminished. UNICEF will continue to strengthen its efforts to provide a comprehensive and multisectoral humanitarian response for the most vulnerable populations and communities in a context of increasing humanitarian needs.

Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to facilitate access to quality, critical essential social services (including protection for nearly 3.2 million children affected by the crisis), respond to the needs resulting from the fragilized education system or support the national response to the continuing nutrition crisis.



\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (5.2%), Cross-sectoral(2.5%), Emergency preparedness (1.9%).

Appeal sector	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health	11,997,720
Nutrition	31,259,097
Child protection	23,532,094
Education	25,706,846
WASH	15,090,228
Social protection	6,233,882
Cross-sectoral	2,948,400
Emergency preparedness	2,270,000
Total	119,038,267

Appeal sector	Original 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	10,432,800	11,997,720	2,067,139	9,930,581	82.8%
Nutrition	31,259,097	31,259,097	6,709,697	24,549,400	78.5%
Child protection	22,884,613	23,532,094	3,771,922	19,760,172	84.0%
Education <sup>38</sup>	20,168,798	25,706,846	2,900,609	22,806,237	88.7%
WASH	19,200,598	15,090,228	2,743,338	12,346,890	81.8%
Social protection	6,233,882	6,233,882	2,700,000	3,533,882	56.7%
Cross-sectoral	2,381,400	2,948,400	891,187	2,057,213	69.8%
Emergency preparedness	2,270,000	2,270,000	1,228,285	1,041,715	45.9%
Total	114,831,188	119,038,267	23,012,177	96,026,090	80.7%

## ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF activated its Corporate Emergency Level 2 Scale-up Procedure for Mali for the following period: 18 July 2022 to 18 January 2023, which was extended until 17 July 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.
2. 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 objectives 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.
3. OCHA, Mali : 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan; and OCHA, Mali 2023 : Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2023
4. Ministère de la Santé et du Développement Social, Direction nationale du Développement Social du Mali (DNDS), Matrice de Suivi des Déplacements (DTM), décembre 2022.
5. UNICEF is committed to needs-based approach, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
6. OCHA, Mali: 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan; and OCHA, Mali: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2022.
7. OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan; and OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2023.
8. The determination of this number is based on the statistical data indicated on the HRP. In 2022, the number of children in need represented 67% of total People in Need based on the methodology used. For 2023, this ratio is 54%.
9. This figure is calculated using the highest coverage programme targets of children aged 6-59 months to be reached with vitamin A supplementation every six months (2,045,861); people to be reached with a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene (407,190, which excludes children aged 6-59 months to avoid double counting); children to be reached with individual learning materials (1,100,000); and unaccompanied and separated children to be reached with family-based care or a suitable alternative (1,600). This total includes 50 per cent women/girls and 15 per cent people/children with disabilities. UNICEF is committed to needs-based objectives, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
10. This figure is calculated using highest coverage programme targets of children aged 6-59 months to be reached with vitamin A supplementation every six months (2,045,861); 10 per cent of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs, representing children aged 15-18 years (40,719); children to be reached with individual learning materials (1,100,000); and unaccompanied and separated children to be reached with family-based care or a suitable alternative (1,600). This total includes 50 per cent girls and 15 per cent children with disabilities.
11. OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan; and OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2023
12. Ministère de la Santé et du Développement Social, Direction nationale du Développement Social du Mali (DNDS), Matrice de Suivi des Déplacements (DTM), Avril 2023
13. Child Protection Area of responsibility: 1,200 cases of these violations were verified compared to 1,036 reported in 2021
14. Education cluster Mali, 2023
15. OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan; and OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2023
16. A rapid SMART survey conducted in March 2023 revealed a significant deterioration in the nutritional situation on several IDPs sites (Gao, San, Bamako with a highest GAM of 26.9 per cent, SAM of 8.2 per cent, and MAM of 18.7 per cent on the sites of Ménaka.
17. Food security cluster Mali, Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC), March 2023
18. OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan; and OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2023.
19. Analysis of the sectoral WASH needs indicators shows a slight improvement compared with 2021. According to the REACH MSNA 2022 survey, 18.56% of households (including IDPs) do not have access to an improved water source (compared with 21.6% in 2021), while 12.30% of households do not have access to public or private latrines and practise open defecation, compared with 20% in 2021. In addition, the COVID-19 context is clearly more favourable in 2023 than in 2022, which has made it possible to refocus the basis of the estimates in Bamako on Commune 6, where the IDPs live, rather than on the whole of the District, which was the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic in previous years. Overall, this situation has resulted in a 14% drop in the number of people in need of humanitarian EHA assistance, from 3.7 million in 2022 to 3.2 million in 2023.
20. OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan; and OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2023.
21. OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan; and OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2023
22. OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan; and OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2023
23. OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan; and OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2023
24. OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan; and OCHA, Mali: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2023
25. Ibid.
26. Ibid.
27. 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.
28. 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 costs are included into sectoral programme budgets.
29. The increase in the target is linked to the fact that Mali has been recording an outbreak of measles epidemics affecting more than half of its health districts every year for the past two years. 24 health districts out of 70 are classified as being at very high risk of measles epidemics, hence the need to organise responses. 765 cases of measles were confirmed in 2022 and 177 cases from January to April 2023.
30. The increase in the caseload is associated with the detection of two cases Vaccine-derived poliovirus in the country, leading to the launch of a response plan aimed at stopping the circulation of cVDPV2 in the country by the end of 2023. This plan covers the country in two blocks, with block 1 comprising Taoudenit, Kidal, Timbuktu, Gao, Ménaka and Mopti, and block 2 comprising the regions of Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Segou and Bamako.
31. This increase reflects UNICEF's efforts to ensure that its programmes take more consistently GBV risk mitigation.
32. The previous target (124,000) covered only Child Protection area of responsibility. This new target increases as it integrates targets for all sectors.
33. Compared to 529 by UNICEF and 692 by AoR in 2022
34. The PIN for the Education cluster was increased from 2.9 million to 3.9 million. The targeting of children who are to receive school materials has consequently been revised upwards.
35. This represents 38 per cent of the cluster target. The balance is covered by other actors as agreed within the cluster.
36. Targets and budgets are reduced compared with 2022, where there was a strong focus on the response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. For 2023, UNICEF has prioritized interventions on localities newly affected by the crises (Menaka, Kidal, Mopti), and on nutrition- and food security-sensitive interventions.
37. The population that UNICEF aims to reach is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
38. The education budget includes activities to support access to education for 200,000 affected children (temporary learning spaces, community learning centres, support for reopening schools, community mobilization, etc.). In addition, 1,100,000 children are targeted to benefit from individual learning kits. The quality of education and the protective learning environment will also be supported and promoted through teachers and other educational personnel trained in pedagogy and didactic, mental health and psychosocial support, community disaster risk reduction and other areas.
39. The education budget includes activities to support access to education for 155,000 affected children (temporary learning spaces, community learning centres, support for reopening schools, community mobilization, etc.). In addition, 450,000 children are targeted to benefit from individual learning kits. The quality of education and the protective learning environment will also be supported and promoted through teachers and other educational personnel trained in pedagogy and didactic, mental health and psychosocial support, community disaster risk reduction and other areas.