



Ayan, a sixth grader, receives assistance at school through UNICEF's UNdaunted programme, which promotes schooling for girls and boys with disabilities.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Somalia

HIGHLIGHTS

- In addition to climatic shocks, people in Somalia continue to experience conflict, disease outbreaks and poverty. In 2024, humanitarian assistance is required for 8.3 million people, including 5.1 million children.¹
- The nutritional status of 1.5 million children under age 5 remains concerning, with acute wasting projected until July 2024.² About 8 million people face water shortages, which have caused a spike in cholera cases.³
- As part of its commitment to address emerging and ongoing humanitarian needs, UNICEF will channel efforts towards emergency preparedness, bolster its field presence, foster localization and ensure accountability to the affected population. UNICEF's programme will strengthen the integration of gender equality, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and prevention of and response to gender-based violence in emergencies.
- UNICEF prioritizes strengthening resilience building, providing integrated services in hard-to-reach areas, enhancing response monitoring and fortifying its leadership role in cluster coordination.
- UNICEF is appealing for \$222.2 million to support 3.2 million people, including 2 million children, with integrated health, WASH, education and child protection interventions.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



1.5 million

children and women accessing primary health care



330,630

children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



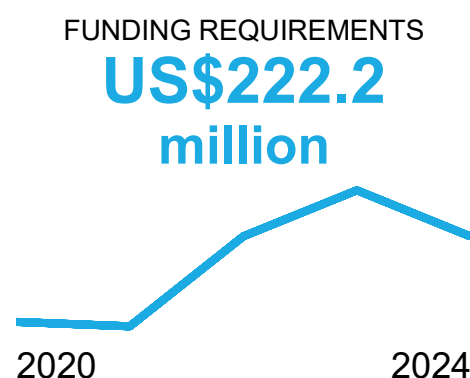
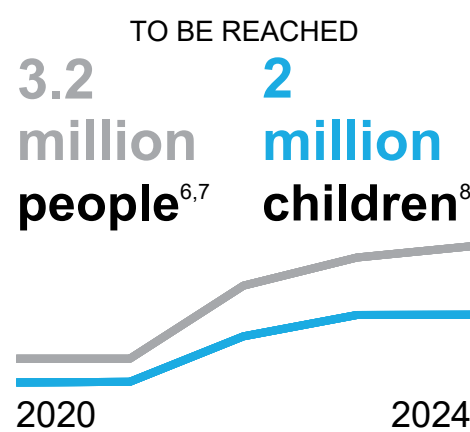
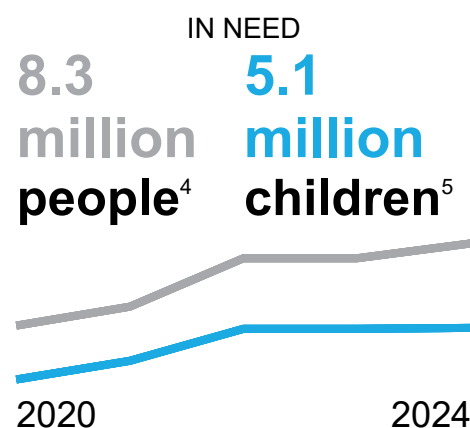
300,000

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



3.2 million

people reached with critical WASH supplies



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Due to ongoing conflict, instability, drought, floods and disease outbreaks, 8.3 million Somalis, including 4.1 million girls and women and 1.2 million people with disabilities, urgently need humanitarian assistance. The displacement of 3.8 million individuals has further intensified the existing humanitarian crisis.¹⁰

Although the 2023 Gu (April, May and June) rains and humanitarian aid have provided some relief, significant food insecurity in Somalia is projected to persist. An estimated 4.3 million people could be experiencing crisis level (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity or worse, and more than a million people might be at an emergency level (IPC Phase 4) through 2023. From August 2023 to July 2024, around 1.5 million children under age 5, roughly equivalent to 40 per cent of Somalia's under-five child population, are projected to experience acute wasting. This includes about 330,630 severe cases.¹¹

The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre predicts above-average rainfall in October, especially in the Shabelle and Juba rivers, due to a forecast El Niño and positive Indian Ocean Dipole, potentially causing floods that may affect around 1.8 million individuals.

In Somalia, such factors as clan conflicts, political instability, military operations against Al-Shabaab and the withdrawal of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia⁹ contribute to heightened insecurity and instability. The increased insecurity might amplify difficulties with humanitarian access while heightening the risk of grave violations against children. Al-Shabaab is also anticipated to intensify targeted attacks. This could result in civilian displacements and further deteriorate the humanitarian situation. Of the 1,487,000 newly displaced people in 2023, 592,000 were displaced due to violence and insecurity.¹²

Somali children suffer most from the country's ongoing drought, floods, instability and conflict. Recruitment by armed groups, physical violence, sexual abuse and abduction are the prevailing risks to children. In 2022, 2,783 grave violations were officially recorded, impacting 2,282 children (79 per cent boys). According to the Education Cluster, there are 4.8 million out-of-school children aged 5–17 years in 2023. School attendance rates for newly displaced children are as low as 21 per cent, compared with 39 per cent for children who are not displaced. Children with disabilities face additional educational barriers, including a lack of awareness, specialized teachers, supportive classroom assistance and suitable infrastructure.

Approximately half of Somalis face a shortage of sustainable and safe water for drinking and other household needs, which has increased acute watery diarrhoea/cholera cases. In 2023, 29 drought-affected districts reported 13,000 cholera cases and 31 fatalities.¹³

SECTOR NEEDS¹⁴



6.7 million
people in need of
health assistance¹⁵



4.9 million
people in need of
nutrition assistance¹⁶



3 million
people in need of
GBV prevention
services¹⁷



3.9 million
children in need of
education support¹⁸



8 million
people lack access to
safe water¹⁹

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Nasra visits the clinic with her son Mohamed, 2. Mohamed was previously diagnosed with severe wasting and provided with ready-to-use therapeutic food, a fortified peanut paste designed to treat severe wasting.

Despite still showing signs of severe wasting, Mohamed has improved since last week, giving his mother hope that he will continue to get better. Nimo Mohamed Ali, a health worker with UNICEF's partner organization Skills Active Forward International, continuously assesses children's nutritional status.

This year, UNICEF and partners have treated more than 330,000 children for severe wasting in 74 districts across Somalia, through the dedicated work of front-line health workers like Nimo.

Mothers line up to have their children assessed and treated for malnutrition at the mobile health Deegan Outpatient Therapeutic Programme in South Galkayo.

UNICEF works with the Government, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies and the private sector at the federal and subnational levels to ensure risk-informed essential social service provision.²³ A key partner in coordination of the humanitarian response in Somalia, UNICEF leads the Nutrition Cluster in partnership with the World Food Programme, the WASH Cluster with Polish Humanitarian Action and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and the Education Cluster with Save the Children International. To enhance decentralized service delivery, UNICEF has three field offices and five remote hubs.

Understanding marginalized groups' social, political and economic dynamics, and supporting them to overcome key obstacles, remains a key commitment. UNICEF will continue to expand its programmatic engagement with local organizations in 2024. In addition, UNICEF will focus on improving the quality of its humanitarian programming, mainstreaming protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and prioritizing vulnerable population groups, including people with disabilities. A systematic gender lens will be applied to all analyses and in programme design. UNICEF will continue supporting conflict-sensitive service delivery in priority hard-to-reach areas. The humanitarian response will bolster climate change resilience in communities and systems through programmes promoting local solutions and community capacity-building.

UNICEF launched its Data Readiness for Improved Preparedness initiative in 2022 to increase humanitarian risk and response monitoring. UNICEF will transition towards GeoSight, an advanced geospatial information system, in 2024. The platform enhances data readiness for improved risk and humanitarian response monitoring, including for post-distribution aid diversion. Moreover, UNICEF has put into action a mitigation work plan for such diversion, which is composed of six pillars devised to boost risk identification and facilitate the deployment of mitigation measures.

UNICEF plans to continue delivering health, nutrition and WASH interventions against a backdrop of strained public services. Programmes include nutritional support for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers; improving water and sanitation access; and providing humanitarian cash transfers.²⁴ UNICEF plans to strengthen such child protection interventions as case management, psychosocial support, gender-based violence response and reintegration support for children released from or fleeing armed groups. A sustained focus will be on providing education in emergencies, creating opportunities for children to access education (including establishing safe learning spaces), providing teaching and learning materials and employing cash-based interventions.

UNICEF aims to make U-Report a standard platform for community engagement in Somalia. UNICEF adheres to its accountability to affected populations principles by involving people in decision-making and providing information and a safe avenue for complaints and by using people's feedback in programme designs. The dissemination of key messages for social and behaviour change will continue in 2024.



Health (including public health emergencies)

- **220,000** children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose
- **1,500,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities



Nutrition

- **330,630** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **1,413,404** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **256,743** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **180,000** 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
- **4,170** children who have exited an armed force and groups provided with protection or reintegration support
- **16,000** 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
- **6,100** teachers and facilitators trained in basic pedagogy and/or mental health and psychosocial support



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **2,000,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **250,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **3,200,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies



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

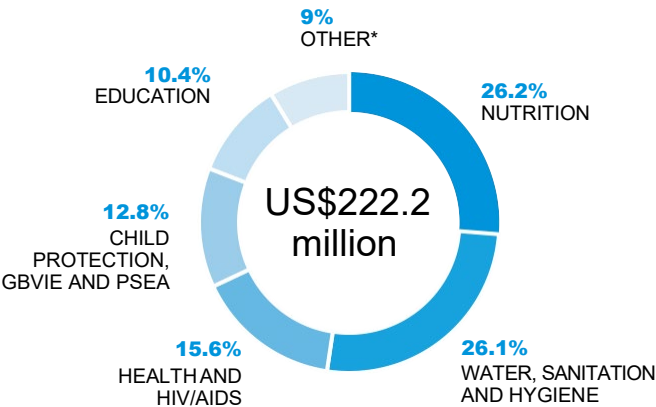
- **27,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)
- **12,928,186** affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services²⁶
- **1,288,823** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF is appealing for \$222.2 million to address the humanitarian needs of 3.2 million at-risk individuals, including 2 million children. The food security picture has improved, resulting in an 18.4 per cent decrease in funding requirements compared with 2023.²⁷ The reduced 2024 funding need is also tied to UNICEF's new focus on low-cost, high-impact interventions to maximize response impact.

However, while a famine was successfully averted, the progress achieved is under potential threat. This stems from a number of factors, including predicted flooding linked to the El Niño weather pattern; continued military actions against non-state actors; the changing dynamics in military presence with the scale-down of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia; and a persistent outbreak of cholera, among other diseases.

Financial support in 2024 will enable UNICEF and its partners to carry out integrated multisectoral services in hard-to-reach locations. UNICEF will also enhance activities supporting accountability to affected populations and its humanitarian cluster coordination and information management work. However, without the requested funding, UNICEF's capacity to support vulnerable families in accessing vital services – including clean water, health and nutrition services, learning opportunities, pivotal child protection support and responses to gender-based violence – will be restricted. Flexible humanitarian funding is crucial to addressing the pressing needs of children and their families, who are experiencing the severe effects of floods, drought, armed conflict and extensive population displacement.



Sector	2024 requirements (US\$) ²⁸
Health and HIV/AIDS	34,758,227
Nutrition	58,302,000
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	28,520,983 ²⁹
Education	23,171,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	58,056,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	15,813,000 ³⁰
Cluster coordination	3,541,635 ³¹
Total	222,162,845

²⁸This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (7.1%), Cluster coordination (1.6%).

ENDNOTES

1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023, OCHA, 2023. UNICEF's internal analysis suggests that the number of people in need could remain as high as it was in 2023. This projection is due to the anticipated El Niño weather pattern and the residual impact of the 2022/2023 drought.
2. Ibid.
3. OCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023.
4. OCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023. The estimate includes 62 per cent children, 15 per cent persons with disabilities; 50.1 per cent are women. This figure will be revised when the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 is released.
5. The estimate includes 62 per cent children, 15 per cent children with disabilities; 50.1 per cent are girls.
6. This figure was calculated based on the highest WASH target of people who will be reached with emergency WASH supplies (3.2 million people including 1,984,000 children, 1,603,200 women and girls, 495,000 people with disabilities, 240,480 children with disabilities) to avoid double-counting. Disaggregation used for humanitarian planning purposes in 2023 is 50.5 per cent female, 62 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. Thus, the 3.2 million target also includes 1.5 million people (930,000 children) to be reached with primary health care services; 256,743 children, adolescents and caregivers who will access community-based mental health and psychosocial support; and 300,000 children who will have access to formal or non-formal education, including early learning.
7. 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. The estimate includes 62 per cent children (1,984,000); 50.1 per cent are girls.
9. The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia is an active African Union transition and drawdown mission from peacekeeping operations in Somalia.
10. OCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023. The Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 and the Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 set the sectorial needs, which will be revised when Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 is released.
11. Food and Agriculture Organization, Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit, Somalia Post Gu Analysis: A briefing presentation to all stakeholders, 18 September 2023, Mogadishu.
12. Displacements monitored by UNHCR Protection and Return Monitoring Network, January – September 2023.
13. Somalia Federal Ministry of Health Weekly cholera/acute watery diarrhoea situation reports, January to September 2023.
14. Health Cluster estimate to inform the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023.
15. Health Cluster estimate to inform the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023.
16. Nutrition Cluster estimate to inform the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023.
17. Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023.
18. Education Cluster estimate to inform Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023.
19. WASH Cluster estimate to inform Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023.
20. 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.
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. 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.
23. UNICEF has carried out an intense review of its programme performance over the past two years. The findings have been instrumental in shaping the strategic priorities for 2024.
24. UNICEF is set to prioritize districts with high humanitarian needs and low humanitarian cash intervention, complementing services like health, nutrition and child protection. The humanitarian cash transfer programme aims to heighten demands for these services through social and behaviour change initiatives led by skilled social workers.
25. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
26. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
27. Such a decreased funding requirement indicates that the measures employed to date have considerably impacted the situation and improved conditions. Additionally, the reduction in required funding for 2024 is due to a shift in approach. UNICEF is now concentrating on low-cost, high-impact interventions, aiming to enhance the impact of its response. Despite less emphasis on short-term interventions, its dedication to providing sustainable access to essential social services remains unwavering.
28. The reduced funding need in 2024 (down by 8.6 per cent compared with 2023) can be attributed to several factors. The circumstance concerning the famine has improved. Furthermore, UNICEF is focusing more on low-cost, high-impact interventions to amplify the effectiveness of its response. The organization has de-emphasized water trucking. Our commitment to sustainable water access remains unshaken. Given its significant role as the main hygiene kit supplier to the WASH Cluster, UNICEF has made the strategic decision to double its targets. In the nutrition sector, funding has been reduced by 23 per cent in light of the FSNAU's recent report. This adjustment acknowledges the decline in the severe wasting caseload and reflects a positive trend in malnutrition management. Child protection also showed a reduction in funding needs due to strategic programmatic shifts.
29. The funding allocation includes \$5,103,288 designated for gender-based violence interventions and \$630,000 designated for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
30. The cross-sectoral costs encompass humanitarian cash transfers, which is budgeted at \$12 million, and accountability to affected populations and risk communication and community engagement, which have together been allocated \$3.5 million.
31. 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.