



Shahd, 12-years-old, stands in front of her destroyed home in Rafah city, in the southern Gaza Strip.

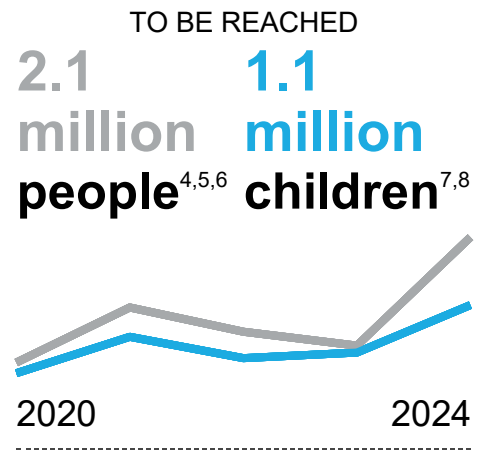
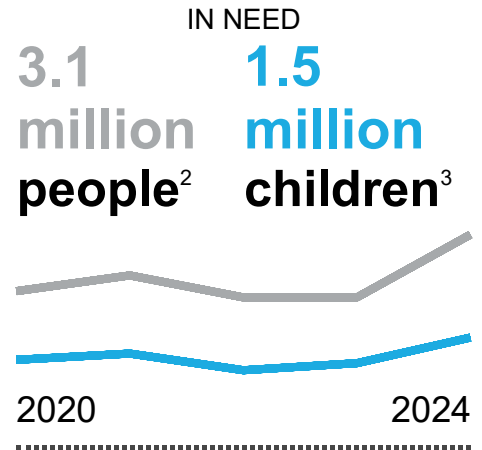
unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

State of Palestine

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- More than 1.4 million children in the State of Palestine have humanitarian needs, with over one million children in the Gaza Strip and 421,000 children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Among them, out of the 1.7 million people estimated to be internally displaced in the Gaza Strip, 850,000 are children. Between 7 October 2023 and 9 February 2024, at least 27,947 Palestinians were reported killed in the Gaza Strip, with up to 70 per cent reported to be women and children.
- UNICEF will continue to deliver gender-responsive WASH, Health, Nutrition, Child Protection, Education and humanitarian cash interventions to affected populations in the Gaza Strip, while responding to the humanitarian needs in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and building up preparedness measures for the risk of further deterioration of the humanitarian situation.
- In 2024 UNICEF requires US\$ 263.3 million in the State of Palestine for humanitarian action, including US\$ 74.4 million for cash transfers; US\$ 62.2 million for water, sanitation and hygiene; and US\$ 62.9 million for health and nutrition interventions.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



780,000

people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies



523,796

children and women supported with micro-nutrient supplementation



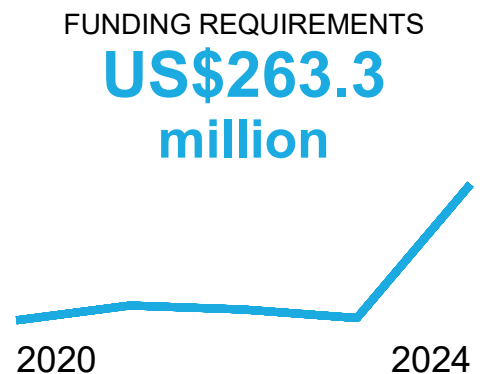
860,800

children, adolescents and caregivers affected by conflict related violence receive emergency and child protection service including MHPSS



2.1 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



Figures aligned with Inter-Agency Flash Appeal until March 2024. UNICEF will plan for the remainder of 2024 aligned to the planned inter-agency planning processes update.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

It is estimated that over three million people require humanitarian assistance in the State of Palestine (2.2 million Gaza Strip; 900,000 West Bank, including East Jerusalem). As a result of 7 October event in Israel and the escalation of the conflict, children in the Gaza Strip are facing the 'triple threat' of conflict, disease, and malnutrition. As of 9 February, at least 27,947 Palestinians were reported killed since hostilities began, with up to 70 per cent reported to be women and children. More than 67,459 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 11,482 children⁹. Israeli sources report at least 35 Israeli and foreign national children killed, with at least 36 children abducted from Israel into the Gaza Strip, of whom 34 were released. As of 23 January 2024, there were estimated to be over 1.7 million internally displaced people, 50 per cent being children in the Gaza Strip. Displaced children are enduring challenging living conditions in overcrowded shelters and informal sites with limited availability of safe water, putting them at risk of epidemics and preventable diseases. Girls in particular face additional risks including the lack of privacy and safety concerns impacting their dignity and mobility as well as mental and physical health. Thousands of children are estimated to be unaccompanied and separated from their families. As a result of the conflict, the number of children with disabilities has increased and specialized care and services are no longer available. As of 7 February, there were no fully functional hospitals in the Gaza Strip, with 36 per cent of hospitals only partially functional.¹⁰

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) concluded in December 2023 indicates that the entire population in the Gaza Strip was classified in IPC Phase 3 or above (crisis or worse). Up to 1.2 million people are experiencing emergency levels of acute food insecurity. As the risk of famine conditions continues to increase, all children under five – an estimated 335,000 children – are at high risk of severe malnutrition and preventable death.

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, at least 100 Palestinian children were reported killed in conflict-related violence between 7 October 2023 and 9 February 2024. Militarized law enforcement operations inside Palestinian communities and camps involving high use of live ammunition, explosive weapons, and aerial strikes, as well as settler violence, demolitions, and movement restrictions, have put Palestinian children at higher risk of violence, grave violations, and displacement, and impact their access to services.

SECTOR NEEDS^{11,12}



2.8 million
people in need of
health assistance



600,000
women and children in
need of nutrition
services



1.2 million
children in need of
child protection
services¹³



730,000
children in need of
education support



2.9 million
people in need of
WASH services

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Ghazal, 4-year-old, from Gaza City. She suffered a severe foot injury, and medical teams could not reach her. A doctor performed a makeshift surgery without anesthesia to stop the bleeding from her foot.

In the Gaza Strip, the life of any child could turn into a nightmare in the blink of an eye. Families try to keep their children safe, but this becomes harder and harder with the intense bombardments. More than 9,000 children have been injured in the Gaza Strip, leaving many grappling with the loss of an arm or a leg. Despite limited data currently available, estimates suggest a significant increase in disabilities among children.

This is the story about a childhood lost under the rubble, how the dreams of children turned into nightmares and an extremely difficult journey of recovery.

Despite the extremely challenging context, UNICEF is committed to continue to deliver gender-responsive humanitarian WASH, Health, Nutrition, Child Protection, Education and Cash for Basic Needs programming at scale. Strategic priorities include a multi-sectoral nutrition response to prevent, protect, early detect, and treat children with wasting. In the WASH sector, UNICEF will sustain the production and delivery of water in the southern Gaza Strip while expanding water provision in northern governorates, and for vulnerable people across the Strip and expanding the provision of sanitation and hygiene items to most vulnerable displaced households. UNICEF is scaling up Child Protection interventions through the provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and scaling up identification, documentation, tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). UNICEF is providing winter clothes and blankets for most vulnerable children. Alongside support to sustain essential healthcare provision to prevent childhood diseases, UNICEF is expanding the delivery of immunization services within the Strip. As children are missing out on education, and teachers and children have lost teaching and learning materials, UNICEF is scaling up learning activities through temporary learning opportunities. Multi-purpose cash assistance will be provided to most vulnerable households addressing their basic needs, and cash top-ups will benefit pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and children with disabilities (CWD). Incentive-based cash will support solid waste management around displacement locations. Alongside the World Bank, the EU, and UN, UNICEF will support the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment upon a ceasefire for the reconstruction of education, health and WASH infrastructure.

Across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF is scaling up preparedness measures for a potential deterioration in humanitarian conditions. Immediate response priorities include supporting vulnerable children with conflict-related injuries and MHPSS needs, online education, provision of water at community level and medical supplies to health facilities.

UNICEF is partnering with women-led and girls-centered organizations, and organizations of persons with disabilities. UNICEF is strengthening support to PBW and CWD including prioritizing supplies tailored to women, girls and CWD; gender-based violence risk mitigation; and improving access to resources, services and information for marginalized groups. UNICEF will procure assistive technology for CWD and a humanitarian package specifically for adolescent girls.

Social and Behavioral Change strategies underpin these comprehensive strategies, ensuring that delivering humanitarian assistance in WASH, Health, Nutrition, Child Protection, Education, and Cash is effective, and contributing to positive and sustainable changes within communities across the State of Palestine.

UNICEF leads the coordination of the WASH and Nutrition Clusters, while co-leads the Education Cluster and leading the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, including the Technical Working Group on UASC. UNICEF also supports the Inter-Agency Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse network.



Health (including public health emergencies)

- **780,000** people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies
- **260,000** children under two years supported with vaccines and immunization



Nutrition

- **6,813** children under five years admitted for the treatment of wasting
- **523,796** children and women supported with micro-nutrient supplementation²¹



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **848,800** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **504,925** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions
- **860,800** children, adolescents and caregivers affected by conflict related violence receive emergency and child protection service including MHPSS
- **340,000** children reached with winterization items



Education

- **325,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **155,000** affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their wellbeing



Water, sanitation and hygiene²²

- **2,050,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **1,050,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies²³
- **1,350,000** people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services



Social protection

- **88,500** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers

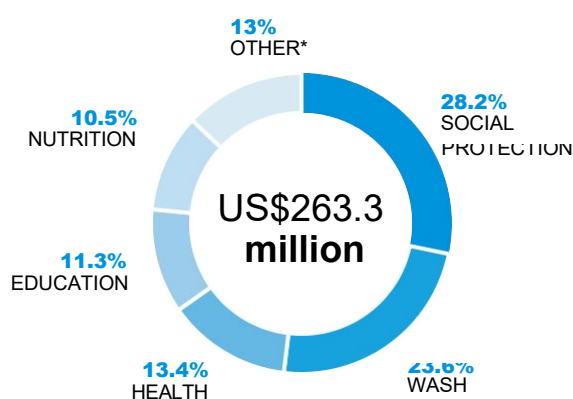
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF calls for US\$ 263.3 million to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs in the State of Palestine. This funding will allow UNICEF to deliver gender and disability-responsive immediate lifesaving and protection interventions for water, sanitation and hygiene; health; nutrition; child protection; multi-purpose cash; and education services.

The current appeal represents a 56 per cent increase from the January 2024 revision as a result of strategic shifts towards scaling up and sustaining humanitarian programming in targeted shelters and communities, as well as increased procurement of supplies required regularly and high associated freight costs.

Humanitarian funding for 2024 will allow UNICEF to procure lifesaving supplies and support essential services. The funding needs are driven by the need to maintain the scale of humanitarian programming in the Gaza Strip due to the extensive and acute needs, as well as preparedness and response for the West Bank, considering the violence, unrest and the increasingly volatile environment. Health, WASH, child protection, education and nutrition supplies will continue to be procured and delivered through various channels, including for the cross-border operation at the Rafah crossing in Egypt, and for pre-positioning within the West Bank.

Without this funding UNICEF will not be able to support the immediate needs of the 2.2 million people in the Gaza Strip, 90 per cent of whom are living with no adequate shelter, catastrophic food insecurity, minimum quantities of water, with a collapsing health system, and whose children urgently need mental health and psychosocial support. While education has not resumed yet, any opportunity to offer adaptive learning to children is essential for social connection and hope for a better future. In addition, without this funding UNICEF will not be able to maintain preparedness and response for a worsening humanitarian situation facing children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.



Appeal sector	Revised 2024 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health	35,195,054
Nutrition	27,765,177
Child protection	24,857,916
Education	29,645,946
WASH	62,225,779
Social protection	74,376,225
Cross-sectoral	4,746,532
Cluster coordination	4,495,988
Total	263,308,617

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child protection (9.4%), Cross-sectoral (1.8%), Cluster coordination (1.7%).

Appeal sector	Original 2024 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2024 HAC requirement (US\$) ²⁶	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	30,002,940	35,195,054	18,385,453	16,809,601	47.8%
Nutrition	19,301,862	27,765,177	11,307,654	16,457,523	59.3%
Child protection ²⁷	13,988,270	24,857,916	15,376,745	9,481,171	38.1%
Education	12,469,331	29,645,946	7,281,286	22,364,660	75.4%
WASH	53,388,850	62,225,779 ²⁸	37,995,901	24,229,878	38.9%
Social protection	33,862,858	74,376,225	24,011,476	50,364,749	67.7%
Cross-sectoral ²⁹	1,544,143	4,746,532	1,524,923	3,221,609	67.9%
Cluster coordination ³⁰	3,760,027	4,495,988	3,742,740	753,248	16.8%
Total	168,318,281	263,308,617	119,626,178	143,682,439	54.6%

ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF activated its Corporate Emergency Level 3 Scale-up Procedure for the State of Palestine for the following period: 21 October 2023 – 20 April 2024. 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. Inter-agency planning figures in OCHA, Flash Appeal: Occupied Palestinian Territory – October 2023 (First revision, November 2023) extended to March 2024.
3. The total number of children in need is estimated based on the demographic ratio of children, which is 46.9 per cent (1.032 million children) in the Gaza Strip and 47.6 per cent (421,000 children) in the West Bank (source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and OCHA), applied to the 2.2 million people in need in Gaza and 900,000 people in need in the West Bank, respectively. 49% are girls.
4. The total number of people to be reached is calculated based on the following programme targets: in the Gaza Strip, 1.8 million people provided with access to water; in the West Bank, 280,000 children reached with medical supplies and 42,000 pregnant and lactating women receiving iron supplementation. Gender disaggregation is 50.7 per cent male, 49.3 per cent female and 10 per cent people living with disability and difficulties, as per UNICEF estimations.
5. The number of people to be reached is provisional and is subject to revision based on the evolving situation and humanitarian needs.
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 total number of children to be reached is calculated based on the following: in the Gaza Strip, 844,200 children targeted with access to water out of the 1.8 million people targeted (using a ratio of 46.9 per cent children, per PCBS); in the West Bank, 280,000 children to be reached with medical supplies.
8. The number of children to be reached is provisional and subject to further revision based on evolving situation and humanitarian needs.
9. Number of people injured is partially disaggregated as of 31 January 2024
10. OCHA, Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - Flash Update #114
11. Inter-agency planning figures in OCHA, Flash Appeal: Occupied Palestinian Territory – October 2023 extended to March 2024 (First revision, November 2023).
12. All 2024 population in need figures are provisional and subject to further revision as the situation evolves and in accordance with the inter-agency planning process for 2024.
13. This includes 1 million children in the Gaza Strip and 200,000 children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem
14. 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.
15. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action 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.
16. UNICEF recognizes the gendered impact of the humanitarian situation for girls, adolescent girls and young women specifically, and includes critical menstrual health and hygiene supplies, strengthened safe spaces for women and girls where they can access life-saving multilayered and multi-sectoral support in coordination with community-based initiatives, with gender-based violence risk mitigation integrated throughout the response strategy.
17. 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.
18. All 2024 programme targets are provisional and subject to further revision as the situation evolves and in accordance with the inter-agency 2024 appeal process. UNICEF targets include both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank unless marked otherwise.
19. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
20. SBC and RCCE components are embedded in each programme.
21. Micronutrient supplementation includes preventative iron folate for pregnant women and breastfeeding women
22. While the WASH target, which remains at more than 80 per cent of the population in need in the Gaza Strip, has not changed, the funding requirement has increased due to the continuation and scale-up of WASH services in targeted IDPs shelters as well as the high volume of supplies and the associated high freight costs.
23. WASH supplies include dignity kits and menstrual health and hygiene supplies.
24. These are provisional funding requirements for 2024 and subject to revision as the situation evolves and in accordance with the inter-agency 2024 appeal process.
25. The funding requirement for social and behaviour change, community engagement and accountability to affected populations is integrated into the sectoral budget lines.
26. This update is to provisionally and covers the period up to 31 March 2024.
27. This amount excludes \$1,325,000 for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, which is reflected under the cross-sectoral budget line. Interventions addressing gender-based violence in emergencies are embedded under case management, and amount to \$550,000, including gender-based responses to specific protection concerns.
28. The increase in funding is driven by the increased supplies and the high associated freight costs, and the continuation and scale up of wash service in targeted Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) shelters.
29. The cross-sectoral funding requirement includes \$1,325,000 for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, \$2.6M for disability inclusion and \$810,000 for Risk Communication and Community Engagement. Social and behaviour change and accountability to affected populations funding needs are integrated into sectoral budget lines.
30. The coordination budget covers cluster coordination costs (Nutrition Cluster: \$855,000; WASH Cluster: \$1.35 million; Education Cluster: \$778,000; and Child Protection Area of Responsibility: \$1.5 million).