



Ethar, 4 years old, suffers from malnutrition. She has been examined and treated in the UNICEF supported Al-maidan health center in Aden.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Yemen

HIGHLIGHTS

- The national socio-economic systems of Yemen remain on the edge of collapse as the country experiences its ninth year of conflict. More than 18.2 million people, including 9.8 million children, require humanitarian assistance and protection and 4.5 million people are internally displaced². The cholera outbreak in March 2024 caused additional threats, aggravating the health and nutrition status of vulnerable children and women throughout the country.
- UNICEF’s humanitarian strategy in Yemen is to provide direct life-saving assistance and undertake programming along with the humanitarian-development nexus to create a coherent approach to meeting critical needs.
- UNICEF will prioritize ensuring access to basic social services to reduce the risk of families resorting to negative coping strategies. UNICEF aims to address urgent humanitarian needs through existing systems, incorporating community-based approaches, resilience, gender inclusion, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- UNICEF requires \$170.75 million to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and meet needs of children and families in 2024. Lack of predictable funding to carry out urgent interventions will compromise the continuity of key services, putting children’s lives and well-being at risk.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



495,000

children and women accessing primary health care



556,511

children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



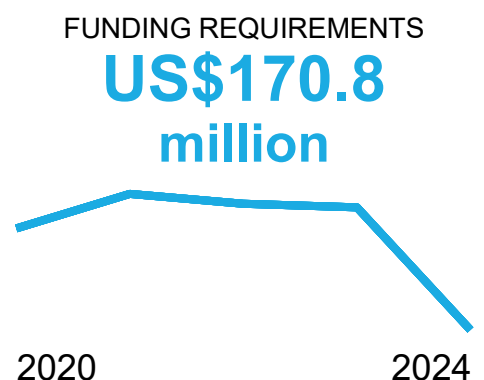
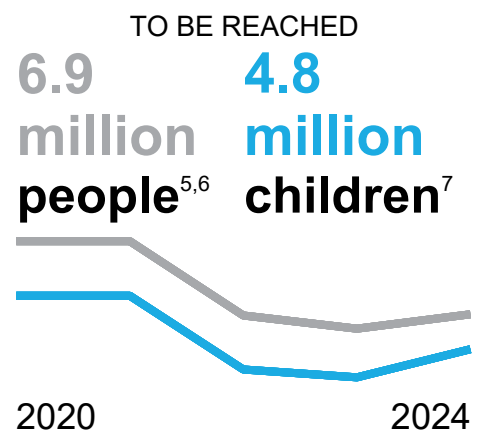
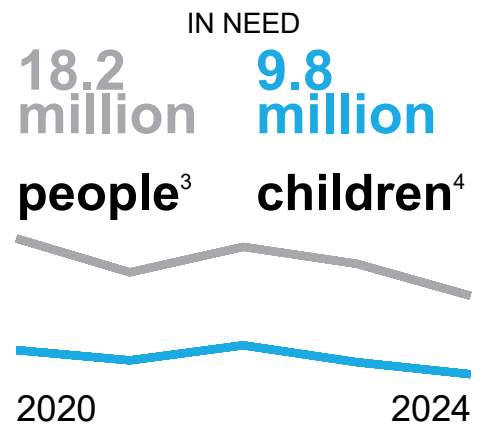
2.6 million

children provided with explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance



1.4 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



The figures are based on the 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Now in its ninth year of conflict, over 18.2 million people in Yemen, including 9.8 million children and 4.5 million people displaced, require humanitarian assistance and protection.⁸ Despite humanitarian efforts to protect millions of children, the absence of a comprehensive political solution continues to escalate needs. Intermittent fighting persists despite truce-like conditions reducing civilian casualties.

Yemen's fragile economy in 2024, marked by currency depreciation, macroeconomic instability, diminishing purchasing power, and the division of economic institutions by competing factions, heightened the vulnerability of poor families. Yemen faced climate impacts like floods, droughts and fast-spreading cholera outbreak, exacerbating malnutrition. Multiple shocks worsened Yemen's nutrition crisis. 7.7 million people are estimated to experience high levels of acute food insecurity. Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in children under five is projected to approach 600,000 cases in 2024. As of March 2024, over 78,192 children have been admitted to Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes for wasting. With only 50 percent health facilities operational, 20.3 million people lack adequate health care. 15.3 million people, including 7.8 million children, without access to water and WASH services, with shortages forcing women and girls to spend hours collecting water.

From January to September 2023, 42,452 suspected measles and rubella cases were reported, with 514 deaths. Vaccine hesitancy in the northern governorates led to increased cases. Yemen is prone to cholera and acute watery diarrhea outbreaks. In March 2024, a cholera outbreak in vulnerable governorates exacerbated the situation. Poor infant and young child feeding practices, dietary diversity, and inadequate complementary food further compound the crisis. A national cholera taskforce was activated to respond to the outbreak, with plans addressing health, WASH and social behavior change.

The ongoing conflict, fragile public services, and recent cholera outbreak have heightened vulnerabilities, particularly for women and girls, exacerbating existing challenges and limiting rights. Learning losses and unequal access to education are likely irreversible without urgent, inclusive, and gender-responsive learning opportunities for 6.2 million at-risk children⁹. The lack of teacher salaries further exacerbates the crisis, necessitating urgent teacher incentives to ensure continuity and quality of learning.

UNICEF's efforts to support service delivery through gender approaches, community interventions, emergency response, and strategic partnerships face challenges due to gender backlash and resistance, particularly in the northern governorates. 7.3 million children require child protection services. The humanitarian crisis increased vulnerability of children and women to exploitation, violence, and abuse, to negative coping mechanisms like gender-based violence, child marriage, and child labor.

SECTOR NEEDS¹⁰



17.8 million
people in need of health assistance



7.7 million
children and women in need of nutrition assistance



7.4 million
children in need of protection services



6.2 million
children in need of education support



15.3 million
people lack access to safe water

STORY FROM THE FIELD



14-year-old Albara'a from Yemen has been displaced with his family in the Marib, Al-Sowaida camp since 2020. He supports his family by selling water due to his father's and siblings' disabilities. Albara'a should have been in grade nine now but displacement and working to support his family made him drop out for a few years. Albara'a and his sister now study at a temporary learning space supported by UNICEF. Albara'a dreams of becoming a pilot. UNICEF provided education to 23,000 displaced children like Albara'a with access to education and contributed to the education of 2 million children in Yemen.¹¹

Albara'a goes to school every day, carrying his 13-year-old disabled sister, Ibtikar, on his back all the way for about half an hour to school and back home.

UNICEF's Yemen humanitarian strategy is guided by international human rights law, the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It aligns with the Humanitarian Needs Overview, Humanitarian Response Plan, and cluster priorities. As the lead for WASH, Nutrition, Education Clusters, and Child Protection Area of Responsibility, UNICEF focuses on addressing immediate needs of populations affected by conflict, floods, climate change, and disease outbreaks through lifesaving, protective, and multisectoral interventions.

UNICEF aims to strengthen primary health and nutrition at facility and community levels to ensure equitable access to essential services, focusing on preventive care, healthy nutrition practices, and engaging caregivers in integrated social and behavioural change actions, such as breastfeeding and maternal awareness. Efforts include sector, intersectoral coordination and information management at national and subnational levels to address needs of the most vulnerable children with long-term strategies. UNICEF and partners are prioritizing 34 districts to address urgent needs and avert a catastrophic malnutrition crisis, focusing on treating both SAM and moderate acute malnutrition cases. UNICEF promotes gender-responsive and transformative programming, strengthens partners' capacities, and ensures child safeguarding to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.

Rural female teachers in Yemen are vital to addressing challenges girls face in accessing education. Providing Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) supplies through "Girls Dignity Kits" aims to increase school completion rates and reduce child marriage. UNICEF targets 50% at-risk schoolgirls with conditional cash assistance, benefiting 2,100 households linked to school attendance.

UNICEF's WASH focuses on strengthening hygiene programmes, awareness, and health education. This includes MHM, gender-sensitive WASH facilities, and providing emergency gender-sensitive latrines and water distribution points to IDP camps.

Complementing all programmes, UNICEF's social protection programme provides integrated "Cash Plus" package helping families cope with social and economic vulnerabilities, particularly in nutrition and education. This assistance will be unconditional and linked to information and services through case management and referral approaches.

Despite challenges, UNICEF fostered dialogues around women's rights, contributing to the National Vision for Social Justice project, successfully reinforcing UNICEF's commitment to promoting equality and justice in Yemen, reducing gender-based violence risks. UNICEF develops partnerships with women-led organizations and engages in high-level advocacy to secure and build upon gains made for children.

UNICEF's strategy includes anticipatory action, integrated multisectoral emergency responses, and community participation to ensure programmes meet the diverse needs of vulnerable populations. Commitments to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse are sustained, holding partners accountable and enhancing community awareness. UNICEF leverages its supply and logistics expertise to deliver critical interventions to vulnerable people.



Health (including public health emergencies)

- **191,473** children 0-11 months receiving pentavalent 3 vaccine
- **495,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities



Nutrition

- **556,511** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **2,107,367** primary caregivers/pregnant women of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling and receiving preventative iron supplementation.
- **4,761,069** children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **500,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **150,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions.
- **1,900,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations.
- **2,625,000** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions



Education

- **350,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **450,000** children receiving individual learning materials



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **1,400,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **650,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services



Social protection

- **5,000** households reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers
- **80,000** people reached by the integrated social protection programmes



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)¹⁷

- **8,500,000** people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms¹⁸
- **110,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms
- **30** NGO focal points will be trained on Gender in Humanitarian Actions GIHA



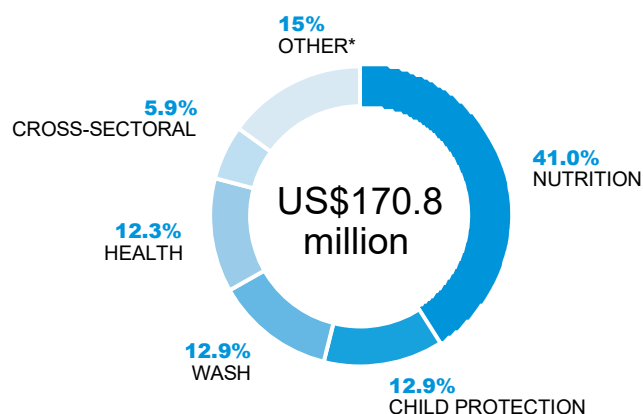
Emergency

- **250,000** vulnerable displaced people and returnees reached with gender-responsive multisectoral emergency assistance for 90 days including rapid response mechanism kits

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF is appealing for \$170.75 million to meet the current humanitarian needs of children and families and support the realization of children's rights in Yemen. The increased appeal reflects additional needs that have emerged since the end of 2023, namely the largest cholera outbreak in recent years affecting large swathes of northern Yemen and the hiatus in WFP's general food assistance programme, which has negatively impacted the nutritional status of children in dozens of acutely vulnerable districts.

The funding requested will allow UNICEF to meet the current critical gender-responsive needs in health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, education and social protection and provide timely responses to displacement through anticipatory action that includes the Rapid Response Mechanism. Without timely funding, nearly 11.9 million children, adolescent girls and Women including 4.9 million children under five will lack access to essential nutrition services; up to 1.4 million people, including 756,000 children, will go without regular access to safe drinking water; 500,000 children and adolescents will not have access to community-based mental health and psychosocial support; and 250,000 million children will have their learning disrupted, severely impacting their overall well-being. The lack of funding will extend the impact of war on the children of Yemen, an impact that goes well beyond the immediate danger of injury or death to encompass harms linked to displacement, severed family ties, hunger and lack of access to vital services.



*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Emergency Response and Preparedness (ERP) (5.9%), Education (4.7%), Field Operations/Coordination (2.8%), Social protection (1.6%).

Appeal sector	Revised 2024 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health	21,000,000
Nutrition	70,000,000
Child protection	22,025,000
Education	8,025,000
WASH	22,025,000
Social protection	2,800,000
Cross-sectoral	10,050,000
Field Operations/Coordination	4,825,000
Emergency Response and Preparedness (ERP)	10,000,000
Total	170,750,000

Appeal sector	Original 2024 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2024 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$) ²⁰	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	15,025,000	21,000,000 ²¹	19,448,828	1,551,172	7.4%
Nutrition ²²	45,025,000	70,000,000 ²³	50,869,805	19,130,195	27.3%
Child protection ²⁴	22,025,000	22,025,000	8,363,195	13,661,805	62.0%
Education	8,025,000	8,025,000	6,727,410	1,297,590	16.2%
WASH	22,025,000	22,025,000	21,002,288	1,022,712	4.6%
Social protection	5,025,000	2,800,000 ²⁵	2,183,543	616,457	22.0%
Cross-sectoral	10,025,000	10,050,000	5,387,783	4,662,217	46.4%
Field Operations/Coordination	4,825,000	4,825,000	5,334,434	-509,434	0%
Emergency Response and Preparedness (ERP) ²⁶	10,000,000	10,000,000	1,639,197	8,360,803	83.6%
Total	142,000,000	170,750,000	120,956,483	49,793,517	29.2%

ENDNOTES

1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2024, OCHA, January 2024.
2. Ibid
3. Ibid.
4. The children in need figure is calculated based on 54% of People in Need in the HRP.
5. The number of people to be reached reflects the total number of beneficiaries targeted through UNICEF's largest response areas: 4,761,069 children (50.5 percent girls, 49.5 per cent boys) receiving vitamin A supplementation; and 2,107,367 primary caregivers (100 per cent women) receiving infant and young child feeding counselling. This avoids double counting. People with disabilities account for 10 per cent of the total number of people to be reached. The remaining population in need will be reached by other partners. 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.
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 (Child Protection, Education, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation).
7. The number of children to be reached reflects the total number of beneficiaries targeted through UNICEF's largest response: 4,761,069 children (50.5 per cent girls, 49.5 per cent boys) receiving vitamin A supplementation, to avoid double counting. It is estimated that 10 per cent of children to be reached are children with disabilities.
8. OCHA Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2024, January 2024
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. UNICEF supported 2 million children in Yemen, who benefitted from formal and non-formal education opportunities, learning materials, supplies, and teacher professional development. Children in Yemen need peace to reach their full potential.
12. 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.
13. 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 UNICEF-led cluster coordination costs are included in sectoral programme budgets.
14. 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.
15. The decrease in the number of beneficiaries compared with 2023 reflects the shift in programme approach and in what can be realistically achieved through focused humanitarian funding. The remaining beneficiaries will be reached through the Yemen regular country programme.
16. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
17. Social and behavioural change and accountability to affected populations are integrated into sectoral responses and interventions.
18. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
19. The decrease in sector budgets compared with 2023 reflects the shift in programme approach. The budget realistically aligns humanitarian funding requested with projected funding pipelines in 2024.
20. Funds available as of 30 June 2024
21. The amount of funds required has been amended. This change is to reflect the funds needed in 2024, taking into consideration carryover.
22. The reduction in the nutrition line item compared with 2023 is premised on realistically analysing humanitarian funding received in previous years, realigning reach and reflecting the projected humanitarian funding pipeline for nutrition in 2024. The wider Yemen country programme will also address the nutrition-related needs of beneficiaries.
23. The increase in the nutrition line is due to the inclusion of treatment for estimated 88,664 moderately wasted children at high risk of mortality and expected additional caseload of 54,000 severely wasted children due to suspension of the general food assistance (GFA) programme.
24. Nine per cent of this line item is for gender-based violence in emergencies and 8.6 per cent is for interventions related to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
25. The targets for CASH programmes has been reduced by 250,000 households and social protection programmes have been increased by 15,000 people to be reached. Therefore the funding requirement has been decreased.
26. Includes anticipatory actions ahead of predicted hazards to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold. Based on UNICEF's experience preparing for and implementing emergency response, including Rapid Response Mechanism activities, the gender-responsive multisectoral interventions will focus on providing, for a 90-day period, life-saving and protection assistance.