

Students are learning sign language through the UNICEF-supported Undaunted programme at the Borama Deaf school in Hargeisa.

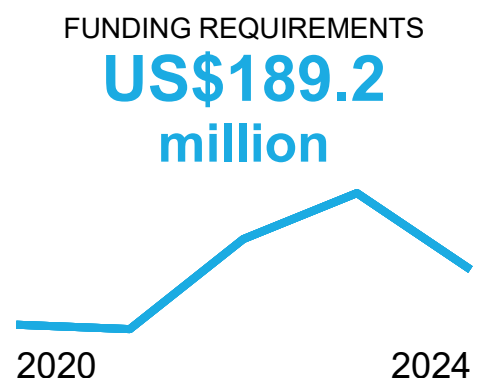
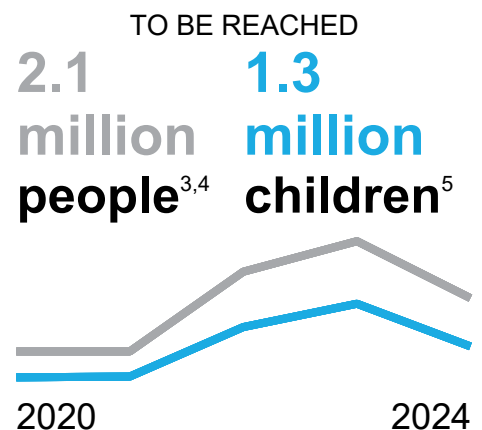
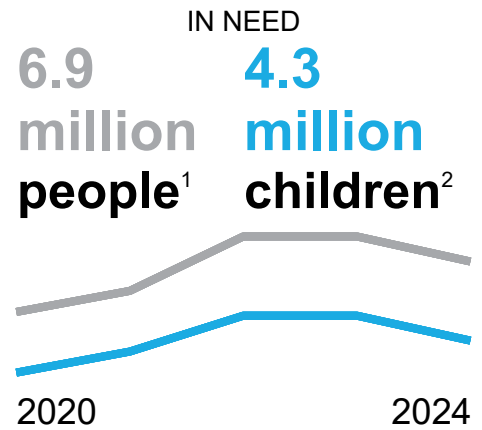
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## Humanitarian Action for Children


# 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 6.9 million people, including 4.3 million children.
- The nutritional status of 1.5 million children under the age of 5 remains concerning, with acute wasting projected until July 2024. About 6.6 million people face water shortages, causing a spike in cholera cases.
- As part of its commitment to address emerging and ongoing humanitarian needs, UNICEF will channel efforts towards emergency preparedness, foster localization, enhance programme integration and ensure accountability to the affected population.
- In 2024, UNICEF will continue to take concrete action towards aid diversion prevention and response, focusing on the inclusion of minority and marginalized groups, enhancement of equitable beneficiary selection and targeting procedures, strengthening of supply chain management, fortified community engagement, improved field presence, and multi-tiered monitoring systems.
- UNICEF is appealing for \$189.2 million to support 2.1 million people, including 1.3 million children, with integrated health, nutrition, WASH, education, and child protection interventions.




### KEY PLANNED TARGETS

 **1.2 million** children and women accessing primary health care

 **280,421** children with severe wasting admitted for treatment

 **297,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning

 **1.2 million** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water

Figures are based on the 2024 Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP).

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Ongoing conflict, instability, droughts, floods and disease outbreaks have led to about 6.9 million Somalis, including 3.5 million women and girls and 310,000 people with disabilities, needing immediate humanitarian assistance in 2024. This is a 17 per cent reduction from 2023, due to reduced food insecurity and malnutrition. Nonetheless, 4.3 million people continue to suffer from food insecurity while 1.5 million children under five are acutely wasted, a reduction from 1.8 million in early 2023. However, wasting rates remain above 15 per cent in many areas<sup>6</sup>.

Drought, the worst in forty years, and subsequent floods strained Somalia's recovery, already challenged by aid efforts. The drought resulted in about 43,000 deaths, half being children under five<sup>7</sup>. In the same year, climate shocks displaced 2.3 million people, 75 per cent of total displacements. Flooding accounted for 1.7 million displacements, while drought caused 531,000<sup>8</sup>.

Moreover, access to water and sanitation has become increasingly critical, worsening with urban migration that has stressed existing sanitation services. Existing WASH services were burdened by urban migrations, leaving 47 per cent of the population without access to safe water<sup>9</sup>. Late-2023 floods exacerbated the situation by contaminating water sources and displacing people in areas lacking sanitation. By the end of 2023, cholera had increased across 21 districts, with 2024 projections estimated to rise by 30-40 per cent<sup>10</sup>.

In Somalia, such factors as clan conflicts, political instability, military operations against Al-Shabaab, and the withdrawal of the African Union Transition Mission<sup>11</sup> 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. Out of the 2.9 million people displaced in 2023, a record high of 653,000 were displaced due to security issues<sup>12</sup>.

Children in Somalia suffer the 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. Between January and September 2023, 1,742 grave violations were officially recorded, impacting 1,369 children (1,023 boys 346 girls). According to the Education Cluster, 4.9 million children aged 5–17 are currently out of school. 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 lack of awareness, specialized teachers, supportive classroom assistance and suitable infrastructure.

## SECTOR NEEDS<sup>13</sup>



**6.6 million** people in need of health assistance<sup>14</sup>



**4.8 million** people in need of nutrition assistance<sup>15</sup>



**3.2 million** people in need of GBV prevention services<sup>16</sup>



**2.4 million** children in need of education support<sup>17</sup>



**6.6 million** people lack access to safe water<sup>18</sup>

## 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 600,000 children for severe wasting in 71 districts across Somalia, through the dedicated work of front-line health workers like Nimo.

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 provisions.<sup>22</sup>

A key partner in coordinating the humanitarian response in Somalia, UNICEF leads the Nutrition Cluster in partnership with the World Food Programme, the WASH Cluster with Polish Humanitarian Action, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, and the Education Cluster with Save the Children International. Following the inter-cluster coordination guidance, UNICEF supports cluster coordination at all levels, including area-based coordination approaches.

In 2024, UNICEF will focus on improving decentralized service provision through its three field offices and five remote hubs. In addition, UNICEF aims to expand the delivery of an integrated package of services, emphasizing high-impact, low-cost interventions.

Furthermore, UNICEF will implement a detailed eight-pillar work plan to mitigate, prevent, and respond to aid diversion, including digitalizing beneficiary registration and supply management systems. There will also be a focus on geographical prioritization and refining the process of beneficiary targeting and selection to ensure humanitarian services reach the appropriate demographics, preventing aid diversion. UNICEF will also fully utilize GeoSight, an advanced geospatial information system that has been piloted. The platform enhances data readiness for improved risk and humanitarian response monitoring.

UNICEF will continue to expand its programmatic engagement with local organizations in 2024. UNICEF will also enhance its humanitarian programming quality, mainstream protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, and prioritize vulnerable groups, including those with disabilities. A systematic gender lens will be applied to all analyses and programme design. UNICEF aims to support conflict-sensitive services in priority and inaccessible regions while emphasizing climate resilience through community-based solutions and capacity development.

UNICEF plans to continue delivering health, nutrition, and WASH interventions against strained public services. The planned interventions include nutritional support for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers; improving water and sanitation access, and providing humanitarian cash transfers.<sup>23</sup>

UNICEF plans to strengthen child protection interventions such as case management, psychosocial support, gender-based violence response, and reintegration support for children released or fleeing from 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. UNICEF adheres to its accountability to affected populations principles by involving people in decision-making, providing information and a safe avenue for complaints, and using people's feedback in programme designs. The dissemination of messages for social and behavioral change will continue in 2024.



## Health (including public health emergencies)

- **160,000** children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose
- **1,200,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities



## Nutrition

- **280,421** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **1,095,882** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



## Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **192,557** 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
- **2,120** children who have exited an armed force and groups provided with protection or reintegration support
- **14,000** unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified



## Education

- **297,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **297,000** 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

- **1,200,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **250,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **2,070,000** people reached with hygiene promotion activities and hygiene kits



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

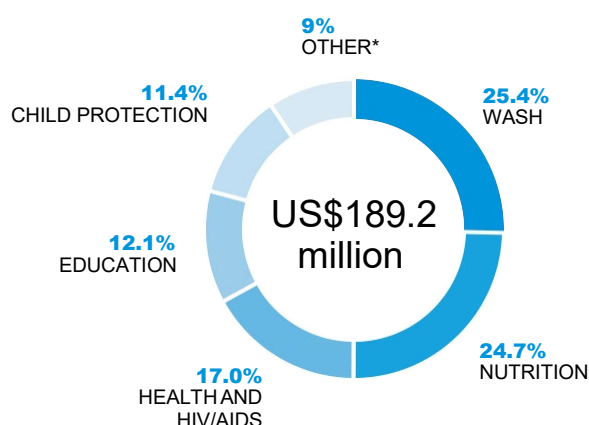
- **20,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)
- **12,928,186** affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services<sup>25</sup>
- **570,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF is appealing for \$189.2 million to address the urgent humanitarian needs of 2.1 million people, including 1.3 million children. Improvements in food security and child wasting have led to a 17 per cent drop in the number of people requiring humanitarian aid in 2024<sup>26</sup>. As a result, UNICEF's funding requirements have been reduced by 30 per cent compared to 2023 and by 15 per cent compared to the initial funding requested for 2024. The reduced 2024 funding need is also tied to UNICEF's new focus on low-cost, high-impact interventions to maximize response.

Despite the reduction in humanitarian needs, achieved progress is at risk due to various factors. These include residual impacts from the 2023 drought and El Niño induced floods; ongoing military operations against non-state actors; the changing dynamics amid the drawdown of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia; and a continuous cholera outbreak, among other health concerns.

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.



Appeal sector	Revised 2024 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health and HIV/AIDS	32,074,464
Nutrition	46,740,000
Child protection	21,660,236
Education	22,970,000
WASH	47,970,000
Cross-sectoral	14,268,000
Cluster coordination	3,497,135
<b>Total</b>	<b>189,179,835</b>

\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Cross-sectoral (7.5%), Cluster coordination (1.8%).

Appeal sector	Original 2024 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2024 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health and HIV/AIDS	34,758,227	32,074,464	7,227,768	24,846,696	77.5%
Nutrition	58,302,000	46,740,000	17,212,535	29,527,465	63.2%
Child protection	28,520,983	21,660,236	6,271,499	15,388,737	71.0%
Education	23,171,000	22,970,000	148,057	22,821,943	99.4%
WASH	58,056,000	47,970,000	19,839,208	28,130,792	58.6%
Cross-sectoral <sup>29</sup>	15,813,000	14,268,000	7,608,492	6,659,508	46.7%
Cluster coordination <sup>30</sup>	3,541,635	3,497,135	2,100,594	1,396,541	39.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,162,845</b>	<b>189,179,835</b>	<b>60,408,153</b>	<b>128,771,682</b>	<b>68.1%</b>

## ENDNOTES

1. OCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024. The estimate includes 62 per cent children, 15 per cent persons with disabilities; 50.1 per cent are women.
2. The estimate includes 62 per cent children, 15 per cent children with disabilities; 50.1 per cent are girls.
3. This figure was calculated based on the highest WASH target of people who will be reached with emergency WASH supplies (2,070,000 people including 1,283,400 children, 1,680,053 women and girls, 310,000 people with disabilities, 192,510 children with disabilities) to avoid double-counting. Disaggregation used for humanitarian planning purposes in 2024 is 50.1 per cent female, 62 per cent children and 15 per cent children living with disabilities and/or difficulties. In line with the decrease in people in need by 17 per cent and the humanitarian response target by 32 per cent in 2024 compared to 2023, UNICEF has also reduced its target by 31 per cent. 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 2 million target also includes 1.2 million people (620,000 children) to be reached with primary health care services; 192,557 children, adolescents and caregivers who will access community-based mental health and psychosocial support; and 297,000 children who will have access to formal or non-formal education, including early learning.
4. 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.
5. The estimate includes 62 per cent children (1,283,400); 50.1 per cent are girls.
6. Somalia 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) - Summary
7. WHO/UNICEF: From Insight to Action: Examining Mortality in Somalia, March 2023
8. Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, 2024
9. Ibid
10. Ibid
11. The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia is an active African Union transition and drawdown mission from peacekeeping operations in Somalia.
12. Displacements monitored by UNHCR Protection and Return Monitoring Network, January – December 2023.
13. Health Cluster estimate to inform the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024.
14. Health Cluster estimate to inform the Humanitarian Needs and Response 2024.
15. Nutrition Cluster estimate to inform the Humanitarian Needs and response Plan 2024.
16. Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024.
17. Education Cluster estimate to inform Humanitarian Needs and response Plan 2024.
18. WASH Cluster estimate to inform Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
25. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
26. 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 and reduction in target. 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.
27. The funding requirement in 2024 has lowered by 30.5 per cent compared to 2023 and 15 per cent from the original 2024 ask owing to several reasons. Progress in famine conditions has resulted in the HNRP noting a 17 per cent decrease in people in need, while the inter-agency target has been scaled down by 32 per cent. UNICEF is focusing on cost-effective, high-impact interventions to enhance response efficacy. UNICEF has lowered its emphasis on water trucking, but its dedication to sustainable water access remains strong. There's a funding decrease in the nutrition sector in response to the lowered number of people in need, indicating a fall in severe wasting caseload and a positive trend in malnutrition management. Child protection funding needs have also shown a decrease due to strategic program adjustments.
28. Out of the total funding of 189.2 million USD, 2 per cent of the funds have been earmarked for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) interventions, amounting to approximately 3.78 million USD. In addition, another 2 per cent has been allocated to Gender-based Violence in Emergencies (GBVIE) interventions, equaling the same approximate amount of 3.78 million USD. This transparent allotment further emphasizes UNICEF's commitment to these crucial areas.
29. The cross-sectoral costs encompass humanitarian cash transfers, which are budgeted at \$12 million, accountability to affected populations, social behavior change and risk communication, and community engagement, which have been allocated \$3.8 million together.
30. 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.