



Yemen, 2024. Two-year-old Bothaina from Abyan struggles to stand still while her height is being measured. Bothaina suffers from stunting, which means she is smaller than her peers from the same age.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Yemen

HIGHLIGHTS

- As Yemen enters its tenth year of conflict, the conditions affecting millions of children remain deeply challenging, their humanitarian needs immense. In 2024, the situation for children worsened due to trade disruptions, high inflation in areas controlled by the internationally recognized government, the banking crisis,¹ reduced humanitarian aid amid global economic challenges and multiple crises. These factors have deepened the struggles faced by the country's vulnerable population.
- In 2025, around 500,000² children will require treatment for severe wasting; and 17.8 million people will lack access to basic health care,³ with disease outbreaks compounded by poor WASH access for 17.4 million people.⁴ Additionally, 4.5 million children are out of school, with thousands of schools damaged or destroyed,⁵ and 7.4 million children urgently need protection services amid rising child labour, child marriage, gender-based violence and recruitment by armed groups.
- To prevent further deterioration, UNICEF is appealing for \$212 million to deliver life-saving aid to 8 million people, including 5.2 million children.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



393,830

children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



1.7 million

people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse



477,244

children receiving individual learning materials



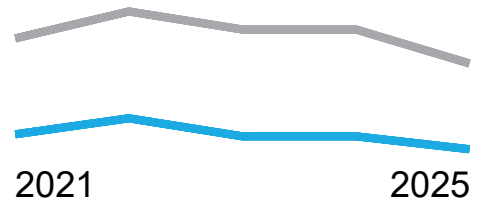
1.7 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water

IN NEED

18.2 million people⁶

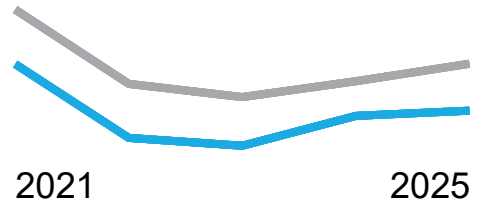
9.8 million children⁷



TO BE REACHED

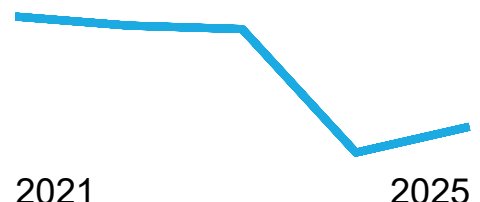
8 million people⁸

5.2 million children⁹



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$212 million



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

As the conflict in Yemen reaches its tenth year in 2025, the humanitarian needs in Yemen are not abating, with 18.2 million people, including 9.8 million children, urgently requiring assistance. Despite international efforts, the lack of a political solution to Yemen's crisis is worsening the situation for the population. With 4.5 million people displaced and millions more affected by the conflict, the toll on the population is steadily increasing.¹⁰ Meanwhile, the impacts of climate change, including flooding, droughts and recurrent outbreaks of such diseases as cholera, are adding to the difficulties of children and families.

Socioeconomic conditions in Yemen deteriorated in 2023–2024 due to declining remittances, coupled with trade disruptions, fuel shortages, high inflation, the banking sector crisis and reduced humanitarian aid. The World Bank estimates Yemen's real gross domestic product will shrink by 1 per cent in 2024, after a 2 per cent decline in 2023. The economy has contracted by a cumulative 54 per cent since 2015, leaving most Yemenis living in extreme poverty.¹¹

Currently, 17 million people are food insecure, 4.7 million of them at crisis levels.¹² Despite projection to treat 100 per cent of the planned 556,000 children with severe wasting in 2024, an additional 483,000 children are expected to require treatment in 2025.^{13,14} The survival of Yemen's children is at stake, with large-scale interventions urgently needed.

About 17.8 million people (51 per cent children) in Yemen lack adequate health care. Despite UNICEF's efforts in 2024, many health facilities remain non-functional. By October 2024, Yemen faced 19,979 cases of measles and rubella, with 183 deaths.¹⁵ Additionally, 186,000 suspected cholera cases and 680 deaths were reported across 22 governorates in 2024, with children under age 5 representing 16 per cent of cases and 18 per cent of deaths.¹⁶

Vaccination efforts are severely hampered due to misinformation, particularly in the north. Yemen is home to 580,000 zero-dose children, or 35 per cent of all zero-dose children in the Middle East and North Africa region. Furthermore, 17.4 million people in Yemen lack access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services, leaving many children vulnerable to cholera and other waterborne diseases.¹⁷

The protection crisis is alarming, with negative coping mechanisms like child marriage, child labour, gender-based violence, recruitment by armed groups and mental health issues still common. About 7.4 million children,¹⁸ including those with disabilities, need protection services. Around 6.2 million children require educational support,¹⁹ with 1 in 4 children out of school, and there a 44 per cent school drop-out rate, linked to child labour.²⁰ Since 2015, at least 2,424 schools have been destroyed, and nearly 200,000 teachers' salaries have gone unpaid since 2023, severely affecting the quality of education.²¹

SECTOR NEEDS



17.8 million people in need of health assistance²²



7.7 million people in need of nutrition assistance²³



7.4 million children in need of protection services²⁴



6.2 million children in need of education support²⁵



15.3 million people lack access to safe water²⁶

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Albara'a, 14, carries his sister, who has a disability, to their UNICEF-supported temporary school in the Al-Sowaida camp for displaced persons in Marib, Yemen.

Albara'a, 14, has been displaced in Al-Sowaida camp, Marib, Yemen, with his family since 2020. To support his family, including his disabled father and siblings, he sells water. Despite the hardships, Albara'a attends school daily, carrying his 13-year-old disabled sister, Ibtikar, on his back, so that she can study as well.

They study at one of 181 learning spaces created by UNICEF for displaced children. Albara'a dreams of becoming a pilot. He is one of 9.8 million children in Yemen needing humanitarian support. In 2023, UNICEF provided education to 23,000 displaced children like Albara'a and supported 2 million children nationwide with learning opportunities.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In 2025, UNICEF will deliver life-saving, protective and multisectoral interventions, guided by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and by international human rights law. Aligned with inter-agency planning processes, UNICEF leads the WASH, Nutrition, and Child Protection Area of Responsibility clusters and co-leads the Education Cluster, addressing the urgent needs of populations affected by conflict, climate change and disease outbreaks. Working with the government and with national and international non-governmental organizations, UNICEF will strengthen localization, promote gender-responsive programming, ensure child safeguarding and foster inter-cluster coordination for an efficient life-saving response.

UNICEF's health response aims to enhance primary health care and expand vaccination coverage, ensuring vulnerable children access essential services. UNICEF will also work to protect children and their families from public health emergencies, helping to prevent and control disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies, including cholera, other waterborne diseases and respiratory illnesses. UNICEF will treat severe wasting, provide micronutrient supplementation for children and support maternal health with iron and folic acid supplements. Preventive initiatives will promote healthy nutrition, breastfeeding and maternal awareness. Parents will receive counseling on infant feeding and child spacing, and UNICEF will support treatment for malnourished children. UNICEF's WASH interventions will integrate with those for health and nutrition, focusing on safe water, hygiene promotion and gender-sensitive facilities in camps for internally displaced persons.

UNICEF will expand access to learning, particularly for girls, by improving safe learning environments, providing learning materials and supporting accelerated learning programmes. Cash assistance will help improve school attendance. Focus will be on professionalizing and incentivizing teachers, especially rural female teachers, who are crucial for girls' education. UNICEF's child protection programme will focus on mental health and psychosocial support and collaboration with other sectors, including education and health. It will work with social workers and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to support children requiring specialized services. Child protection will also emphasize explosive ordnance risk education to reduce risks to children from unexploded devices.

UNICEF will expand its 'cash plus' social protection programme, offering financial support to vulnerable families, families with children with disabilities and those referred through case management in nutrition and education. UNICEF will also develop a national public finance for children strategy to advocate for increased public investment in children amid declining external funding.

UNICEF will enhance preparedness capacity through risk analysis, contingency planning and supply pre-positioning for emergencies, ensuring anticipatory, multisectoral action, with a focus on community engagement and accountability.

2025 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health (including public health emergencies)

- **500,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **200,000** children 0-11 months receiving pentavalent 3 vaccine



Nutrition

- **393,830** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment²⁷
- **2,839,055** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **5,179,461** children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **268,485** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **536,972** Women, girls and boys accessing genderbased violence risk mitigation and prevention interventions
- **1,712,777** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **833,935** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions
- **259,967** Children abuse/at-risks of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, including those affected by GBV who received case management (Critical services)²⁸



Education²⁸

- **143,173** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning²⁹
- **477,244** children receiving individual learning materials
- **5,000** Teachers reached by financial Incentive³⁰



Water, sanitation and hygiene³¹

- **1,728,142** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **719,177** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **438,289** Children (including CwD) using safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces
- **438,289** people reached with critical WASH supplies



Social protection³²

- **220,000** people reached by the integrated social protection programmes
- **30,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)



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

- **8,500,000** people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms



Emergency preparedness and response coordination

- **300,000** Vulnerable displaced people and returnees reached with gender-responsive multisectoral emergency assistance for 90 days including rapid response mechanism kits

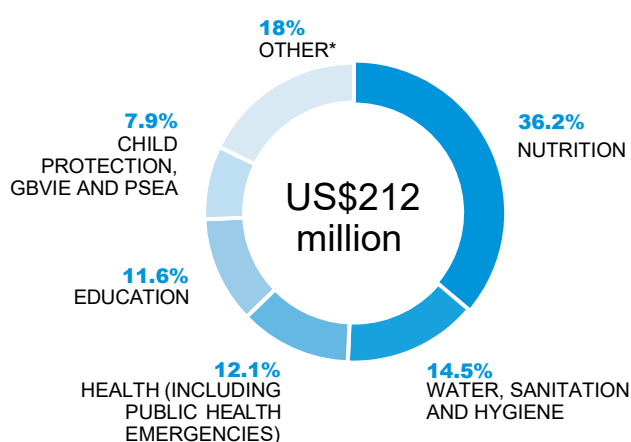
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2025

UNICEF is urgently appealing for \$212 million to provide life-saving assistance to 8 million people, including 5.2 million children, affected by Yemen's deepening humanitarian crisis. This year's appeal represents an increase compared with the 2024 appeal, reflecting a worsening situation around health and nutrition, and the continued need for urgent support in WASH, education and protection. The increase in funding requirements also reflects a recognition that the larger social systems in country are not yet at the capacity to respond to all of children's urgent humanitarian needs.

External assistance to support the primary health care system is expected to decrease in 2025, limiting the ability of health facilities to respond to disease outbreaks or increased caseloads. Disruptions to general food assistance further risk an increased number of children with severe wasting, which will require a focused effort around both preventive and curative nutrition interventions. The cholera and nutrition crises in 2024 demonstrated the need for a strong preparedness and response mechanisms for water, sanitation and hygiene. Based on lessons learned, an inter-agency approach for cholera in 2025 has been incorporated into this appeal.

The education sector across Yemen remains largely undersupported, with gaps in large-scale education programming expected for 2025 and small, piecemeal interventions. This requires increased action to reduce loss of learning and mitigate related protection risks to children.

To mitigate additional harm to children, UNICEF advocates for flexible, unearmarked funding to address urgent and immediate needs of children.



*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (6.0%), Emergency preparedness and response coordination (5.2%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (3.8%), Field Operation and Coordination (2.8%).

Sector	2025 requirements (US\$)
Health (including public health emergencies)	25,600,000
Nutrition	76,700,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	16,800,000
Education	24,500,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	30,700,000
Social protection	12,700,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	8,000,000
Emergency preparedness and response coordination	11,000,000
Field Operation and Coordination	6,000,000
Total	212,000,000

ENDNOTES

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "Banking sector crisis projected to escalate households food insecurity in Yemen", online news item, 24 July 2024, Sana'a, Yemen, available at <www.fao.org/neareast/news/details/banking-sector-crisis-projected-to-escalate-households-food-insecurity-in-yemen/en#:~:text=Yemen's%20economy%20faces%20a%20deepening,rates%2C%20and%20reducing%20household%20income>.
2. Preliminary cluster figures from 2025 humanitarian programme cycle planning.
3. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2024, January 2024.
4. Ibid.
5. Save the Children, "Yemen: Nine years into conflict and two years into truce, school dropouts soar", press release, Sana'a, 25 March 2024.
6. OCHA, Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2024. Figure to be revised when the Yemen 2025 Humanitarian Response Plan is launched.
7. Ibid.
8. UNICEF plans to target 8,018,516 individuals, focusing on indicators with the highest targets to avoid duplication. This includes 5,179,461 children (50.5 per cent girls, 49.5 per cent boys) receiving vitamin A supplementation and 2,839,055 primary caregivers (100 per cent women). Of the targeted population, 10 per cent are people living with disabilities, 64.6 per cent of whom are children. 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.
9. Ibid.
10. OCHA, Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2024.
11. World Bank, Yemen Economic Monitor: Navigating increased hardship and growing fragmentation, Spring 2024, June 2024.
12. Of those who are food insecure, 4.5 million are in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3. Source: Yemen: Acute food insecurity situation for July – September 2024 and projection for October 2024 – February 2025 (partial analysis), IPC, 16 October 2024.
13. UNICEF, Yemen Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2, reporting period 1 January to 30 June 2024, 8 September 2024.
14. Preliminary Nutrition Cluster figures based on ongoing 2025 humanitarian programme cycle activities.
15. WHO Dashboard on Yemen Measles and Rubella Cases up to week 39, 2024 (updated on 4 October 2024). Available at: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoINTgyMGJhZTYtYWZkYS00NTM0LWFiN2EtY2VhMzAyMzRhNWQ2liwidCI6ImY2MTBjMGI3LWJkMjQtNGIzOS04MTBiLTNkYzI4MG>
16. OCHA, Humanitarian update, Issue no. 6, August/September 2024, available at <www.unocha.org/publications/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-update-issue-6-augustseptember-2024>.
17. OCHA, Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2024.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Save the Children, "Yemen: Nine years into conflict and two years into truce, school dropouts soar", press release, Sana'a, 25 March 2024.
21. Ibid.
22. OCHA, Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2024.
23. Based on the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2024, to be revised when Yemen humanitarian programme cycle is completed.
24. Based on the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2024, to be revised when Yemen humanitarian programme cycle is completed.
25. Based on the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2024, to be revised when Yemen humanitarian programme cycle is completed.
26. Based on the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2024, to be revised when Yemen humanitarian programme cycle is completed.
27. The cluster caseload for this target is 483,678, and UNICEF is targeting 80 per cent of the caseload, or 393,830. This figure will be adjusted when the humanitarian programme cycle process is completed.
28. The maximum target is 477,244 children, representing 80 per cent of children in need based on the 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview. This includes children who may receive multiple services, such as school bags and non-formal classes. All 477,244 children are expected to receive individual learning materials, while 30 per cent will benefit from formal or non-formal education support. Additionally, incentives for 5,000 teachers over nine months are expected to benefit 200,000 of the targeted children, based on cluster standards.
29. The reduction in the number of children accessing formal and non-formal education in the 2025 appeal compared with 2024 is due to reprioritizing interventions. Some activities, such as support for the national examination system, have been handed over to the partner government after years of capacity building, allowing them to implement it independently.
30. Support for teachers will benefit 200,000 students from the planned target, helping them access quality education.
31. The target for safe access to water has increased compared with 2024, due to increased needs from the ongoing humanitarian programme cycle and the capacity demonstrated in reaching the targets in the 2024 appeal.
32. Humanitarian cash transfers will focus on families with children with disabilities and Muhamasheen families who are not targeted by unconditional cash transfers. For reference, Muhamasheen communities are the most marginalized in Yemen. They are considered the "untouchable" ones, also called the "Akhdam" (servants). Historically, they occupy the lowest rung of the societal ladder. Poorer than the poorest of other Yemenis, they work as street sweepers, rubbish collectors, and panhandlers. When the war began, they were among the first and hardest hit.