



At a UNICEF-supported paediatric clinic in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, a health worker screens for malnutrition using a middle-upper-arm circumference band. Children also receive high-energy biscuits.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

State of Palestine

HIGHLIGHTS

- In the State of Palestine, the conflict in the Gaza Strip and rising violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have triggered severe humanitarian consequences: fatalities, mass displacement and child separation. At least 3.3 million people require assistance.
- In the Gaza Strip, infrastructure damage and limited humanitarian access have created critical needs for WASH and health-care services, with outbreaks of waterborne diseases and polio threatening public health. Food insecurity is worsening and now exposes 322,000 children to the risk of malnutrition. Thousands of children also face mental health challenges, and 660,000 are out of school. In the West Bank, violence and economic hardship impact over 830,000 people needing health care and WASH support; 133,000 children require education support.
- UNICEF provides life-saving support in WASH, health, nutrition, education, child protection, social protection and cash transfers while supporting system restoration and strengthening.
- UNICEF is appealing for \$716.5 million in 2025 to provide children with essential services and help them thrive despite the ongoing conflict.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



893,333

children and women accessing primary health care



349,788

children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



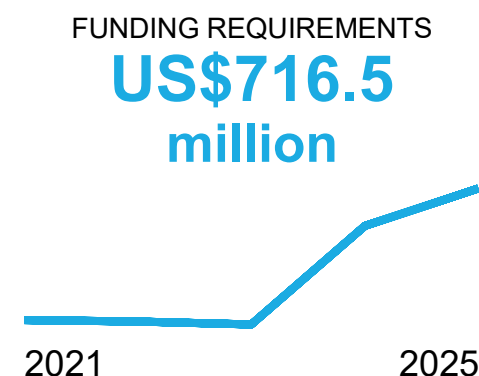
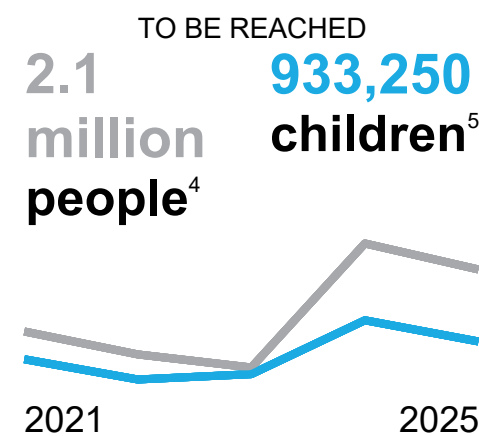
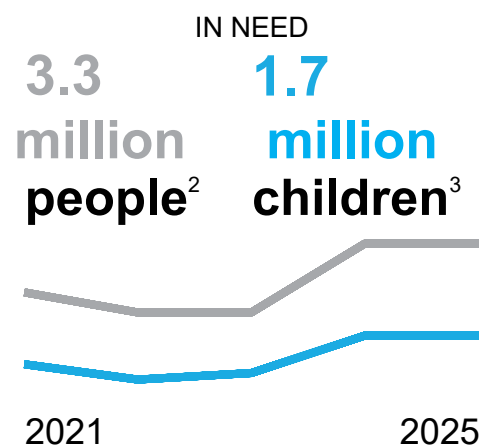
2.1 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



765,000

people reached with humanitarian cash transfers through UNICEF response



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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The conflict that escalated on 7 October 2023 has caused devastating humanitarian consequences for children across the State of Palestine and Israel.

In the Gaza Strip, more than 13,000 children had reportedly been killed as of 9 November 2024,⁶ with many more injured or trapped under rubble.^{7,8} Protection risks are at extreme levels and ever-increasing, including the risk of child separation, with 17,000 children estimated to be separated from their families or unaccompanied.⁹ More than 65 displacement orders have been issued by Israeli forces, affecting 84 per cent of the Gaza Strip and displacing more than 1.9 million people.¹⁰

The extensive damage to water, sanitation and waste management infrastructure, the lack of critical resources to operate and maintain the remaining infrastructure and the resulting poor hygiene conditions are leaving almost the entire population of the Gaza Strip prone to public health risks.¹¹

Food insecurity has worsened and, coupled with limited access to health and WASH services, exposes 322,000 children under age 5 to the risk of malnutrition, with 60,000 requiring treatment for wasting.¹²

The near collapse of Gaza's public services has triggered a severe health crisis. The destruction of health facilities, coupled with overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, has led to outbreaks of diarrhoea, hepatitis A and acute respiratory infections, and the re-emergence of poliovirus type 2 after being eradicated for 25 years, putting young children at particular risk.

Attacks on schools – many serving as shelters for internally displaced people – have severely impacted the resumption of learning, leaving nearly 660,000 children out of school and potentially setting back their education by five years.¹³

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, escalating violence, settler attacks, militarized law enforcement operations and movement restrictions have crippled essential services. Around 1 million people require water and sanitation services¹⁴ and 830,000 require health care,¹⁵ including pregnant women and newborns. Protection concerns, attacks on education and teacher salary cuts have deepened the education crisis, affecting at least 133,000 students.¹⁶ Violence and grave violations against children, displacement and economic hardship have intensified mental health and protection needs for children across the region.¹⁷

In Israel, approximately 1,200 people were killed on 7 October 2023 and in its immediate aftermath, including 37 children.¹⁸ Out of 255 people taken hostage, 154 people, including 34 children, have been released, and there is limited information about the two children remaining in captivity. The psychological impact of the conflict on Israeli children cannot be overlooked.

The conflict has led to widespread displacement, the destruction of critical infrastructure and severe shortages of food, water, health care and education. The situation continues to have a devastating impact on the physical and mental well-being of children and their communities. Without a cessation of hostilities, increased accessibility and scaled-up humanitarian interventions focusing on saving lives, the conditions of children and their families are expected to worsen.

SECTOR NEEDS¹⁹



2.9 million
people in need of
health services



1.2 million
people in need of
nutrition services



1.8 million
children and
caregivers in need of
protection²⁰



821,973
people in need for
education support²¹



3.1 million
people in need of
WASH services

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Noura receives newborn clothing and essential baby supplies from UNICEF after giving birth to her son, Majed, at Alwada Hospital in Nussirat, located in the central Gaza Strip.

"This is my first child, and I am deeply saddened to have brought him into the world during a war," Noura says. "Prices are very high. I am extremely grateful to have received these clothes. I tried to buy some, but the prices were prohibitively expensive," she explains, adding, "I hope the war ends so I don't have to feel anxious about my son's safety."

At \$20 for an item of baby clothing, these essentials are often unaffordable for the most vulnerable families in the Gaza Strip, many of whom have been displaced multiple times.

Through UNICEF's support, mothers like Noura can receive essential items to help meet their needs while displaced.

UNICEF's priorities across the State of Palestine focus on addressing urgent needs in WASH, health, nutrition, education, child protection and social protection while supporting system strengthening and preparedness. Recognizing the distinct needs of vulnerable groups, UNICEF aims to provide essential life-saving services and social and behaviour change interventions with particular attention to disability, age and gender considerations.

Across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, UNICEF focuses on repairing, operating and maintaining water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and services. This includes solid waste management, infection prevention, promoting hygiene practices and improving WASH facilities in health-care and educational settings.²⁷

Health-care responses include enhancing primary-level care through mobile clinics while improving secondary care, focusing on specialized maternal and neonatal care, immunization and rehabilitation for children with impairments, including amputees.

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF focuses on prevention, early detection and treatment of wasting, including provision of complementary food, supplements, counselling and social and behaviour change. In the West Bank, UNICEF supports community health services through capacity-building initiatives, including on nutrition and pre-positioning supplies.

For education, UNICEF engages communities in resuming learning while establishing learning centres. Teachers and students benefit from essential materials and are supported with social and emotional learning activities, and UNICEF also supports catch-up education programmes and digital learning to mitigate learning loss. Adolescent girls receive a combination protection, education and hygiene intervention.

Child protection interventions are tailored to the unique impact of conflict and grave violations against children, focusing on supporting affected families and at-risk children while improving case management and access to legal assistance. UNICEF is scaling up emergency child protection and community-based protection and mental health and psychosocial support services using creative, mobile and remote modalities.

Multipurpose cash assistance will provide vulnerable households with several rounds of payments to ensure their basic needs are met, including top-up payments for families with pregnant and breastfeeding women and female-headed households. The programme will expand to provide additional front-line workers with incentive payments to ensure continuity of services.

UNICEF focuses on preventing exploitation and sexual abuse and strengthening survivor assistance by enhancing grassroots initiatives and by expanding feedback mechanisms for people to share their concerns about UNICEF programmes. Women-led and girl-centred groups and volunteers provide inputs to ensure accountability to affected populations.

UNICEF remains active within the United Nations and Humanitarian Country Teams, leading the WASH and nutrition clusters and Child Protection Area of Responsibility while co-leading the Education Cluster.

In the event of ceasefires and increased access, UNICEF will rapidly scale up its interventions, aiming to further strengthen and build the resilience of systems while advocating for sustained humanitarian access.



Health (including public health emergencies)

- **893,333** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **190,225** children 0-11 months receiving pentavalent 3 vaccine



Nutrition

- **13,150** children 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **145,340** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder
- **382,784** pregnant women receiving preventative iron supplementation
- **694,652** children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation
- **694,652** children 6-59 months receiving High Energy Biscuits



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

- **349,788** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **765,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **10,600** children who have received individual case management
- **583,000** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention
- **858,000** children and caregivers reached by MHPSS messages and awareness activities on child protection risks



Education

- **170,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **290,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **170,000** affected school children are provided with gender-responsive recreational activities and materials for their wellbeing



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **2,050,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **1,400,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies
- **1,000,000** people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services



Social protection

- **765,000** people reached with humanitarian cash transfers through UNICEF response
- **21,000** households with children with disabilities reached by disability cash top-ups



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

- **550,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms
- **645,340** people reached through messaging on prevention of harmful practices and health related risks and access to services

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2025

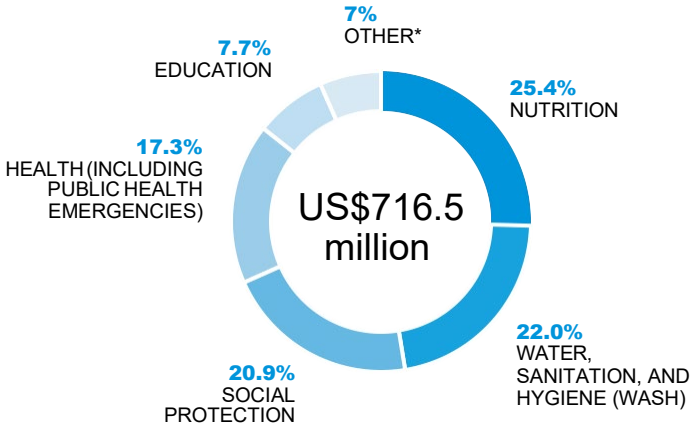
UNICEF’s 2025 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for the State of Palestine urgently seeks \$716.5 million to address the escalating needs of children and families in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This funding is essential to respond to the worsening conditions that are impacting children and their families. The conflict in the Gaza Strip has now endured more than a year and violence and grave violations against children are now intensifying in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The prolonged crisis has left communities in critical need.

Without adequate resources, children face severe risks, including malnutrition, disease outbreak, limited access to health care and WASH services, interrupted education and increased vulnerability. This situation forces many families to adopt such harmful coping strategies as child labour and child marriage. Furthermore, the absence of psychosocial support will jeopardize children’s mental health and hinder their long-term development. Without the required funding, the most vulnerable children and their communities will suffer the worst effects of deepening inequalities, poverty and prolonged instability.

Flexible funding enables UNICEF to respond swiftly and effectively to changing realities on the ground, ensuring that children access safe learning spaces, protection services and emotional support.

UNICEF thanks its partners and government and private sector donors worldwide for their invaluable contributions. We are requesting that this support be sustained and expanded to prevent irreversible harm to children, to uphold their rights to survival, development and dignity. The cost of inaction is too great.

This 2025 appeal is part of the broader inter-agency planning cycle for the year. UNICEF aims to align its targets and funding requests once the inter-agency process is finalized and the official flash appeal released.



| Sector | 2025 requirements (US\$) ²⁹ |
|--|--|
| Health (including public health emergencies) | 123,800,000 |
| Nutrition | 182,320,000 |
| Education | 55,400,000 |
| Social protection | 150,000,000 |
| Cluster coordination | 5,220,000 |
| Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) | 157,500,000 |
| Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA | 37,000,000 |
| Cross-sectoral | 5,300,000 ³⁰ |
| Total | 716,540,000 |

**This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA (5.2%), Cross-sectoral (<1%), Cluster coordination (<1%).*

ENDNOTES

1. Of the total people in need, 2.1 million are in the Gaza Strip (entire population) and 1.2 million are in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Flash Appeal: Occupied Palestinian Territory – Humanitarian programme cycle April – December 2024, OCHA, April 2024. The people in need number for 2025 is provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.
2. Of the 3.3 million people in need, 2.1 million are in the Gaza Strip (entire population) and 1.2 million are in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
3. Of the 1.7 million children in need, 0.9 million are boys and 0.8 million are girls. Source: OCHA, Flash appeal, April 2024. The children in need number for 2025 is provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.
4. The total number of people to be reached is calculated based on the programme target of the number of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, through both emergency water supply and operation, maintenance and provision of water supply infrastructures: 1,400,000 people in the Gaza Strip and 650,000 in the West Bank. Compared with 2024, some of UNICEF's 2025 targets are slightly lower. This adjustment reflects several strategic considerations: (1) alignment with the sectoral targets in the Gaza Strip; (2) the challenging operational environment within the Gaza Strip, impacting the operational ability of the humanitarian community; (3) UNICEF's commitment to enhancing and diversifying the service packages to address critical needs among the most vulnerable groups; and (4) increased number of partners operating in the Gaza Strip, leading to increased coverage and capacity, coupled with the limited ability of the private sector to restore some services (e.g. private desalination plants/units). UNICEF's focused approach ensures a more impactful and resilient response tailored to the complex humanitarian landscape. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, covering the unmet needs of children, and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities. The people to be reached number for 2025 is provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.
5. The total number of children to be reached is calculated based on the programme target of "the number of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs" in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, multiplied by the percentage of children out of the total population in each area (47.3 per cent in the Gaza Strip and 41.7 per cent in the West Bank). The percentages for the child population are from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The children to be reached number for 2025 is provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.
6. World Health Organization, Health Cluster, Occupied Palestinian Territory, online data dashboard, available at <<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiODAxNTYzMjQ3YS00OTMzLTkxMWQOTU1NWwMzE5NTMwIiwidCI6ImY2MTBjMGJlLWJkMjQ0NGZlOS04MTBjLTNkYzI4MGFmYjU5MCIslmMiO>> accessed 17 November 2024.
7. It is reported that at least 10,000 people, among them children, are missing or under the rubble.
8. While data on individuals injured in the Gaza Strip is reported regularly, since April 2024, age-specific data has not been available. For planning purposes, UNICEF estimates that at least 23,000 children – of whom 12,561 have already been identified – have sustained injuries due to the ongoing conflict. Among these, approximately 25 per cent (5,700 children) require significant rehabilitation, as their injuries are likely to result in long-term disabilities. The estimates of conflict-related injuries are current as of October 15, and the figures regarding those needing substantial rehabilitation come from the Trauma Working Group. This may not encompass children who have developed hearing or visual impairments as a result of the conflict.
9. UNICEF estimates.
10. United Nations estimate.
11. Gaza Rapid WASH Assessment, household survey for access to WASH services, WASH Cluster, September 2024.
12. Nutrition Cluster and UNICEF estimates.
13. Education Cluster estimates.
14. WASH Cluster estimates.
15. Health Cluster.
16. Education Cluster.
17. Between October 7, 2023 and October 21, 2024, 732 Palestinians (including 167 children) were killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in addition to two who died of wounds sustained prior to 7 October. These include 715 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces, 12 by Israeli settlers and 7 for whom it is unknown whether the perpetrators were Israeli forces or settlers. During the same period, 23 Israelis (including 2 children), including 16 members of Israeli forces and six settlers, were killed by Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In Israel, attacks by Palestinians from the West Bank resulted in the killing of 16 Israelis and eight Palestinian perpetrators.
18. This includes fatalities on 7 October 2023 and the immediate aftermath, including foreign nationals.
19. Sectoral needs for 2025 are based on a revised population estimate for the Gaza Strip of 2.1 million, down from an estimated population of 2.23 million in 2023 and 2024.
20. The decrease in the number of children and caregivers in need of child protection support in 2025 is due to changes in the targeting strategy and a small reduction in the overall population of the Gaza Strip. In 2024, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility assumed that everyone in the Gaza Strip needed protection support. However, in 2025, based on available data and the capacity to respond, while all children are still in need of protection support, only 30 per cent of caregivers will be targeted for assistance.
21. The overall sector need is calculated as follows: People in need in the Gaza Strip includes 658,760 school-aged children and 22,153 teachers; people in need in the West Bank includes 133,030 school-age children and 8,030 teachers.
22. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response, including through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination of the WASH, Nutrition and Education clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. This appeal is aligned with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.
26. UNICEF recognizes the heightened vulnerabilities of children with disabilities in humanitarian contexts. To address these challenges, UNICEF will implement a twin track approach: systematically including these children in all programme interventions while simultaneously addressing their specific needs through the provision of assistive devices and rehabilitation services.
27. Including accessibility work.

28. Compared with 2024, some of UNICEF's 2025 targets are slightly lower. This adjustment reflects several strategic considerations: (1) alignment with the sectoral targets in the Gaza Strip, (2) the challenging operational environment within the Gaza Strip, impacting the operational ability of the humanitarian community, (3) UNICEF's commitment to enhancing and diversifying the service packages to address critical needs among the most vulnerable groups, and (4) increased number of partners operating in the Gaza Strip leading to increased coverage, coupled with the private sector limited ability to restore some services (e.g. private desalination plants/units). This focused approach ensures a more impactful and resilient response tailored to the complex humanitarian landscape.

29. While the 2025 emergency appeal shows a decrease in the number of people to be reached, the financial ask has increased. This is due to a prioritized targeting approach adopted by the clusters and UNICEF. The 2025 response is designed to balance vertical and horizontal expansion – intensifying support for those most affected (vertical expansion) while maintaining essential services across the broader affected population (horizontal expansion). This approach allows for more sustained, comprehensive assistance over an extended period, ensuring continuity of services to better address the evolving needs of vulnerable communities.

30. The cross-sectoral budget line item covers risk communication and community engagement, accountability to affected populations, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, gender and disability. The budget for social and behaviour change, however, is mainstreamed across the various programmatic sectors, as is the budget for programme monitoring and emergency preparedness.