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for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Amina, 5, eagerly participates in her class at the Arlaadi Camp for displaced persons, where UNICEF supports education by providing learning materials, safe water and teachers' monthly stipends.

Somalia

HIGHLIGHTS

- The impact of climate change, disease outbreaks and poverty in Somalia is staggering. Despite greater stability in some areas of the country, ongoing conflict continues to cause displacement and restricts access to services. In 2025, 6.9 million people, including 4.3 million children and 2.6 million men and women, need humanitarian assistance.¹
- Anticipated poor rainfall related to the La Niña² weather pattern is likely to push the number of people facing food crisis from 3.6 million to 4.4 million by December 2024³; and the number of children under age 5 at risk of wasting to 1.6 million July 2025,⁴ with 403,000 expected to be severely wasted.⁵ Around 6.6 million people face water shortages.⁶
- UNICEF will enhance programme integration and implementation of cross-sectoral priorities, including gender equality, disability inclusion and resilience. Prevention of aid diversion remains a priority.
- In 2025, UNICEF is appealing for \$171 million to support 1.8 million people, including 1.1 million children, with integrated health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection and social protection interventions.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



1.1 million

children and women accessing primary health care



403,000

children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



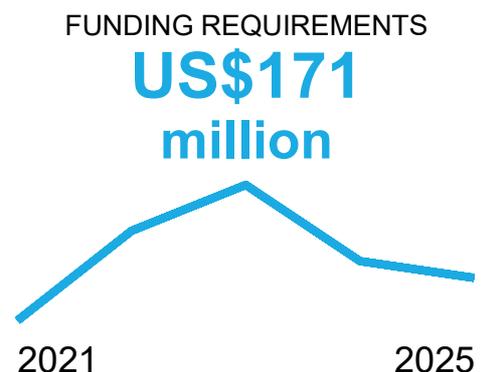
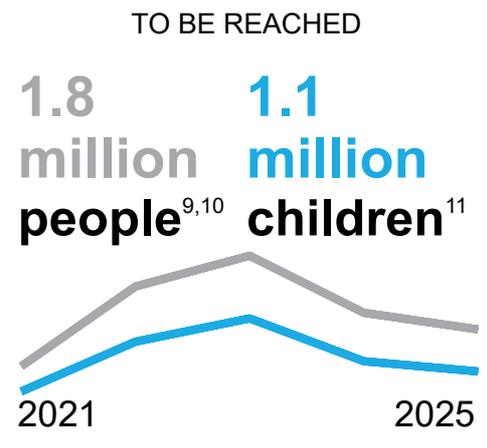
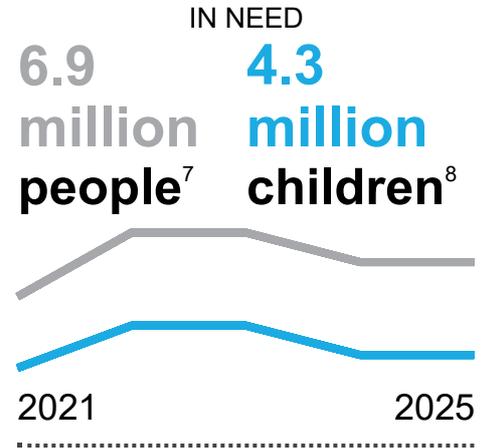
168,000

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



1.8 million

people reached with critical WASH supplies



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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Due to La Niña conditions, Somalia faces a potential drought with a high probability of below-average and late rainfall in 2024. Combined with conflict and disease outbreaks, about 6.9 million people,¹² including 4.3 million children, 1.1 million women and 310,000 people with disabilities, require urgent humanitarian aid in 2025. Expected rainfall shortages could worsen the food crisis, affecting up to 4.4 million people.¹³

Furthermore, through July 2025 around 1.6 million children under five are at risk of wasting, with 403,000 likely to experience severe wasting. These figures are a 14 per cent and 21 per cent rise in global acute malnutrition and severe wasting, respectively, compared with the same period last year.¹⁴

The escalation of Somalia's displacement crisis is evidenced by the 342,221 people newly displaced in 2024 (165,000 displaced due to insecurity),¹⁵ who have joined the existing 3.8 million people in protracted displacement. This expansion of the displaced population further complicates the implementation of durable solutions for forced migrants, particularly in urban centres.

Since January 2024, 18,440 suspected cholera cases have been reported in Somalia, with 138 deaths.¹⁶ With approximately 1.5 million children under age 5 unvaccinated or undervaccinated, the risk of outbreaks from such vaccine-preventable diseases as measles remains high.

Security operations against Al-Shabaab and the transition of the African Union Transition Mission¹⁷ in Somalia may lead to heightened insecurity and instability, complicate humanitarian access and increase the risk of grave violations against children (including killing and maiming of children; recruitment or use of children by parties to conflict; attacks on education or health services; rape or other grave sexual violence; abduction of children; and denial of humanitarian access for children). Between January and September 2024, 1,930 grave violations were officially recorded, impacting 1,478 children (1,057 boys, 421 girls) across Somalia. The various parties to the conflict may intensify targeted attacks, which could result in additional civilian displacement.

Too many children in Somalia lack access to schools, with the Education Cluster estimating 4.9 million children out of school. Inequities are also widespread. 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 a lack of awareness of their needs, lack of specialized teachers and the absence of supportive classroom assistance and appropriate infrastructure.

SECTOR NEEDS



6.6 million people in need of health assistance¹⁸



4.8 million people in need of nutrition assistance¹⁹



3 million children in need of protection services²⁰



2.4 million children in need of access to school^{21,22}



6.6 million people lack access to safe water

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Hassan, a first-time student and the oldest of four siblings, was displaced by a drought in 2021 from Bay Region, Somalia. Joining the temporary learning centre at Arlaadi camp for internally displaced persons gave him routine and optimism. Somali and math interest him most.

In Galmudug State, where the Arlaadi camp is located, UNICEF is supporting 43 schools, benefiting 4,842 students. In South Galkayo, UNICEF supports 13 such centres, 10 of which are in sites for internally displaced people. The programme at the centres features a compressed curriculum to allow children left behind by the formal education system to accelerate their progress. The temporary learning space is also an entry point for other services, including WASH, child protection, and nutrition.

At the temporary learning centre at the Arlaadi IDP camp, Hassan, 13, finds a space for learning. He says it's more than just a place to study. It is where he can dream of a brighter future.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In Somalia, UNICEF collaborates with the government, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies and the private sector, both federally and subnationally, to provide essential social services to the most vulnerable children, adolescents and women. UNICEF remains committed to playing a strong role in coordinating humanitarian responses in Somalia.

UNICEF leads the Nutrition Cluster with World Food Programme, the WASH Cluster with Polish Humanitarian Action and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and Education Cluster with Save the Children. Following inter-cluster coordination guidelines, UNICEF aids in coordinating efforts at all levels, including area-based coordination strategies. Moreover, UNICEF co-leads the country task force on monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children, with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia.

UNICEF delivers decentralized programmes via its three field offices and five hubs. To prevent aid diversion, UNICEF will prioritize vulnerable geographic areas and refine beneficiary targeting and selection processes. UNICEF also employs an eight-pillar plan to prevent aid diversion, including digitized last-mile supply monitoring and beneficiary registration.

Furthermore, UNICEF will scale up the delivery of integrated services in priority districts towards longer-term, more resilience-focused and high-impact interventions.

In 2025, UNICEF will strengthen its partnerships with local organizations to enhance the humanitarian response for children, focusing on gender-based violence protection and prioritizing vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities. Efforts on gender equality, conflict sensitivity and community resilience to climate change will be included in both analyses and programme designs. Whenever possible, UNICEF will create sustainable services through development efforts.

UNICEF began using GeoSight, an open geospatial information system, in 2024. In 2025, UNICEF aims to expand the use of such GIS-enabled evidence for more informed decision-making.

UNICEF continues delivering health, nutrition and WASH interventions amid strained public services. This includes providing nutritional support for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers; improving access to health, water and sanitation services; and providing humanitarian cash transfers linked with WASH, health and nutrition services. UNICEF also plans to strengthen child protection interventions, including case management, psychosocial support, response to gender-based violence and reintegration support for children released from or fleeing armed groups. A sustained focus will be on providing education in emergencies, creating opportunities for children with and without disabilities (including establishing safe learning spaces), providing teaching and learning materials and employing cash-based interventions.

UNICEF maintains U-Report as a platform for community engagement. Upholding the principles of accountability to affected populations, UNICEF offers clear channels for complaints and will leverage feedback to refine programme designs.

2025 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health (including public health emergencies)

- **1,100,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **250,000** children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose



Nutrition

- **403,000** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **1,100,000** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **168,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **120,400** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **600,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **2,050** 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

- **220,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **2,200,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **5,500** teachers and facilitators trained in basic pedagogy and/or mental health and psychosocial support



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **1,000,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **250,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **1,800,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies



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

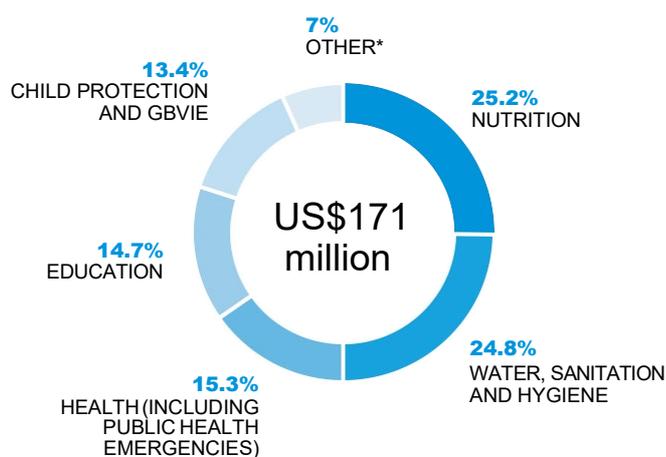
- **25,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)²³
- **11,000,000** people reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services
- **1,292,689** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2025

For 2025, UNICEF appeals for \$171 million to address the humanitarian needs of 1.8 million people in Somalia, including 1.1 million are children. This funding appeal is 10 per cent less than the 2024 appeal, due to a decrease in the target that is consistent with the downward trend in the number of people in need. This aligns with UNICEF's ongoing shift towards longer-term, more resilience-focused and high- impact interventions.

UNICEF's humanitarian initiatives are designed for nationwide coverage, prioritizing those in areas with the most urgent needs. The appeal reflects UNICEF's ongoing humanitarian, preparedness, mitigation, response and resilience-building requirements. Moreover, financial support in 2025 will enable UNICEF and its partners to carry out integrated multisectoral services and expand 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 address the pressing needs of children and their families, who are experiencing the severe effects of floods, drought, armed conflict and extensive population displacement. It is also critical to building the resilience of vulnerable communities.



Sector	2025 requirements (US\$)
Health (including public health emergencies)	26,200,000
Nutrition	43,100,000
Child protection and GBVIE	22,900,000 ²⁴
Education	25,100,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	42,400,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	8,700,000 ²⁵
Cluster coordination	2,600,000
Total	171,000,000

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (5.1%), Cluster coordination (1.5%).

ENDNOTES

1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024, OCHA, 2024. This figure will be updated as soon as the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan is out.
2. La Niña is defined as cooler than normal sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean that impact global weather patterns. La Niña conditions recur every few years and can persist for as long as two years.
3. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Somalia: IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot, July – December 2024, 23 September 2024.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. OCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024.
7. OCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024. The estimate includes 62 per cent children, 15 per cent persons with disabilities, 48 per cent females. This figure will be revised as soon as the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 is released.
8. The estimate includes 62 per cent children, 15 per cent children with disabilities; 48 per cent are girls.
9. 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. The 2025 UNICEF target is a 10 per cent reduction from the prior year. This aligns with the trend of declining Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan targets in Somalia over the last two years.
10. This figure was calculated based on the highest WASH target of people who will be reached with emergency WASH supplies (1,800,000 people, including 1,116,000 children, 901,800 women and girls, 270,000 people with disabilities, 167,000 children with disabilities) to avoid double-counting. Disaggregation used for humanitarian planning purposes in 2025 is 48 per cent female, 62 per cent children and 15 per cent children living with disabilities and/or difficulties. 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 1.8 million target also includes 1.1 million people to be reached with primary health care services; 168,000 children, adolescents and caregivers who will access community-based mental health and psychosocial support; and 220,000 children who will have access to formal or non-formal education, including early learning.
11. The estimate is based on 62 per cent children (1,116,000) among overall people to be reached; 48 per cent are girls.
12. sex, age, and disability disaggregation (SADD) includes: 31 per cent boys, 32 per cent girls, 17 per cent men, 16 per cent women, 4 per cent elderly people and 15 per cent people with disabilities.
13. IPC, Somalia: IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot, July – December 2024, 23 September 2024.
14. Ibid.
15. Displacements monitored by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Protection & Return Monitoring Network, October 2024.
16. Federal Government of Somalia Ministry of Health & Human Services, AWD/Cholera Weekly Epidemiological Report: Epi Week 34 (19 August – 25 August 2024).
17. The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia is an active African Union transition and drawdown mission from peacekeeping operations in Somalia.
18. Health Cluster estimate to inform the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024. This figure will be updated as soon as the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 is released.
19. Nutrition Cluster estimate to inform the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024. This figure will be updated as soon as the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 is released.
20. Child protection Area of Responsibility estimate to inform the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024. This figure will be updated as soon as the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 is released.
21. Education Cluster estimate to inform the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024. This figure will be updated as soon as the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 is released.
22. WASH Cluster estimate to inform the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024. This figure will be updated as soon as the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 is released.
23. The targets are defined as households that UNICEF will directly assist with humanitarian cash transfers.
24. The funding requirement includes \$4 million for prevention and response to gender-based violence in emergencies and \$600,000 for activities around protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
25. The funding requirement includes \$5 million for humanitarian cash transfers.