



Palestinian girls from the Gaza Strip wearing masks during a UNICEF- supported COVID-19 awareness event at their school.

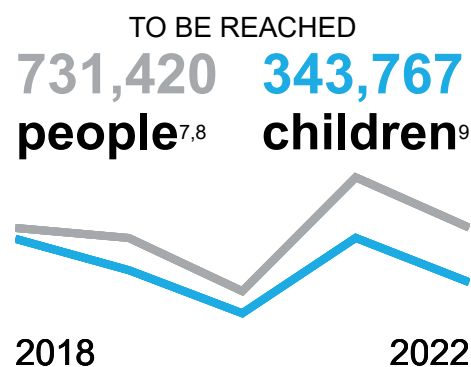
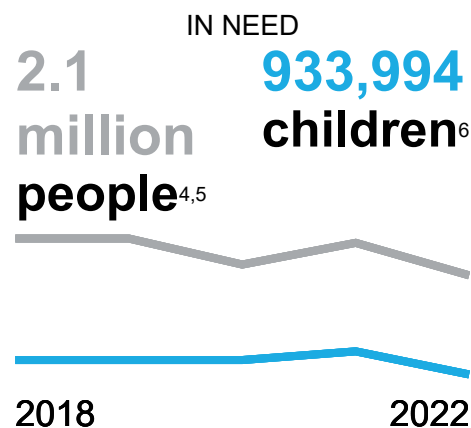
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Humanitarian Action for Children

State of Palestine

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- In the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem, around 2.1 million people need humanitarian assistance,² among them 933,994 children.³ The situation in the State of Palestine remains a protracted protection crisis, exacerbated by the May 2021 escalation, the closure of the Gaza Strip, the COVID-19 pandemic and a deepening financial and fiscal crisis within the Palestinian economy.
- UNICEF will address humanitarian and recovery needs resulting from the May 2021 escalation, support national COVID-19 response, expand services for vulnerable children, adolescents and women, and enhance the capacities of shock-responsive social protection mechanisms.
- In 2022, UNICEF is requesting US\$39.5 million to ensure 731,420 people have access to safe water for drinking and domestic needs and 108,000 children and women have access to primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities. UNICEF will support 38,800 children and caregivers to access mental health and psychosocial services, while 60,000 children will receive individual learning materials.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



108,000
children and women
accessing health care



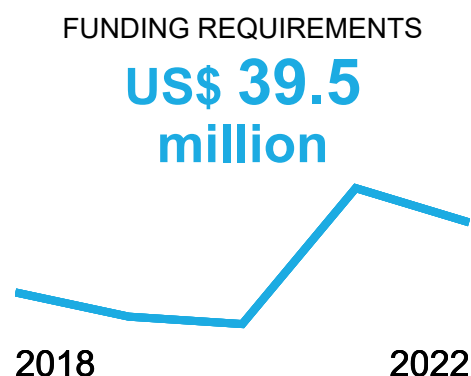
731,420
people accessing a
sufficient quantity of safe
water



38,800
children/caregivers
accessing mental health
and psychosocial support



60,000
children receiving individual
learning materials



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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The State of Palestine is beset by a protracted protection crisis and suffers from a chronic humanitarian situation. Around 2.1 million people, including 933,994 children in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continue to be impacted. This crisis is exacerbated by Israel's occupation of the State of Palestine, with the closure of the Gaza Strip and the escalation in May 2021 contributing to fueling tensions leading to conflicts,¹⁰ but also the COVID-19 pandemic, the internal Palestinian political divide, and a deepening fiscal and financial crisis within the Palestinian economy.

This humanitarian situation compounds multi-sectoral and household vulnerabilities increasing child protection risks, as some actors scaled down due to financial cuts. This hampers reaching the most vulnerable, particularly girls, and generates additional needs for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).¹¹ The protection cluster estimates that 678,000 children (345,800 boys and 332,200 girls) require child protection and MHPSS services, as do 185,000 caregivers (137,000 in the Gaza Strip).¹²

Domestic violence is widespread; approximately 90 per cent of Palestinian children face some form of violent discipline at home,¹³ including 20.1 per cent subjected to severe physical violence from their caregivers. Furthermore, 10.3 per cent of children are engaged in child labour,¹⁴ including hazardous labour.¹⁵ The consequences of COVID-19 and the recurrent conflict-related violence are severely impacting children's well-being and increasing the risks of negative coping mechanisms, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Insufficient water supply to households, poor sanitation and solid waste services, limited public WASH services and risk of flooding are further putting 1.36 million Palestinians at risk of waterborne diseases.¹⁶

The COVID-19 pandemic and the escalation of May 2021 led to extended school closures, impacting children's access to education as well as learning outcomes. The education cluster estimates that 579,173 Palestinians (56 per cent women and girls),¹⁷ including around 13,398 children with disabilities, will miss access to learning in 2022.¹⁸

Health services were also overstretched and disrupted during and following the May 2021 escalation in Gaza, leaving an estimated 1.5 million people with limited access to primary healthcare,¹⁹ among them 700,000 children.

The rapid damage needs assessment conducted after the escalation indicated that approximately 8,000 households will fall into poverty in the coming months, which calls for an enhanced humanitarian social protection response. This includes an estimated 7,000 children in families whose homes were partially or completely damaged.

SECTOR NEEDS



1.5 million people need health assistance²⁰



1.4 million people need WASH services²¹



1.8 million children need child protection services²²



579,173 people (96% children) in need of education service²³

STORY FROM THE FIELD



As part of a global initiative, the State of Palestine implemented the Nutrition School Friendly Initiative (NSFI) to address concerning prevalence of anaemia among children and adolescents (31 per cent in Gaza, 22 per cent in the West Bank), in particular among adolescent girls. In total, 34 schools (20 in the West Bank and 14 in the Gaza Strip) with 29,567 children (around 78 per cent girls) benefited from this intervention.

[Read more about this story here](#)

UNICEF and local partners are improving the nutritional status of school-aged children by implementing the Nutrition Friendly Schools Initiative (NFSI) in the State of Palestine.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In 2022, UNICEF aims to deliver integrated life-saving basic services for the most vulnerable children and their families, and continue promoting and protecting children's rights by generating evidence on the impact of violence and grave violations and advocating with all parties.

In line with the humanitarian-development nexus, UNICEF will strengthen the Government's systems to increase their level of preparedness while mainstreaming the "building back better" approach throughout the interventions. UNICEF will further enhance community engagement and consultation and build community-level resilience through social and behavior change approaches. Priority will be given to gender, disability, adolescents and youths' needs, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and accountability to affected populations (AAP) will be mainstreamed throughout the interventions.

In keeping with the needs identified by the child protection area of responsibility, UNICEF will address the critical protection needs of children and their caregivers by supporting access to MHPSS interventions.

In collaboration with the Palestinian Water Authority and the Coastal Municipality Water Utility, UNICEF will continue restoring WASH infrastructure impacted during the May 2021 escalation as well as by the recurrent evictions in the West Bank, while increasing access to gender-sensitive and disability-friendly water supply and sanitation services in basic services, facilities and at household levels. UNICEF will also provide hygiene supplies to vulnerable households through the e-voucher system as part of the COVID-19 infection prevention and hygiene promotion response. Flood preparedness and response, as well as flood mitigation measures, will be supported in coordination with the WASH cluster.

With partners, UNICEF will strengthen health and nutrition services by procuring essential medical supplies, micronutrient supplements and medical equipment, and building health professionals' capacity to diagnose and treat the most vulnerable children and their caregivers.

The education programme will help children and teachers access a safe learning environment and quality learning through rehabilitating schools, providing learning materials, after-school interventions and teachers' training, and implementing protocols to prevent further COVID-19 infections.

The humanitarian cash transfer response plans to reach children in the Gaza Strip affected by the May 2021 escalation, linking them to other basic social services, within the humanitarian-development nexus approach.

UNICEF will continue to lead the WASH cluster, the child protection and nutrition working groups, co-lead the education cluster together with Save the Children, and spearhead the risk communication and community engagement efforts while collaborating with line ministries, non-governmental organizations and other United Nations agencies.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine/situation-reports>

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.

2022 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **1,000** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment



Health

- **108,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **10,000** neonates accessing secondary life-saving health care services



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **731,420** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs
- **240,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies
- **469,000** children accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning and health facilities and safe spaces



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

- **38,800** children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **10,000** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions
- **292,568** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers²⁷



Education

- **60,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **300** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)
- **43,500** children and adolescents participating in after-school interventions and/or summer activities to support their well being



Social protection

- **2,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers across sectors



Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)

- **4,500,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services²⁸
- **50,000** people with access to established accountability mechanisms
- **2,000,000** children, youth, and caregivers reached with social and behaviour change programme addressing stigma and school and domestic violence against children

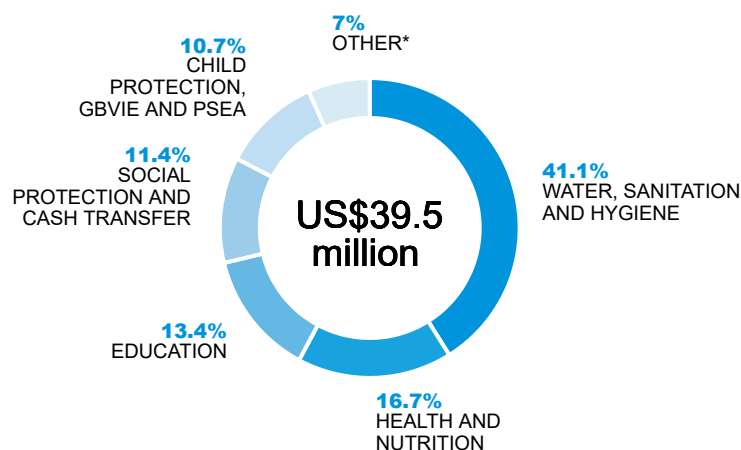
Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2022

In 2022, UNICEF requires US\$39.5 million to respond to the humanitarian needs of Palestinian children and their families. This funding will allow covering newly identified gaps, while further expanding ongoing interventions and strengthening partners' capacities, including the Government and communities, to increase their preparedness and build community resilience to face additional shocks. UNICEF will be able to support newly identified priorities, including WASH in institutions, as well as cover existing gaps in life-saving health and nutrition services for vulnerable children and their caregivers.

Funding needs for the child protection sector have increased in comparison to 2021, which if not met, will impede an adequate response to burgeoning mental health needs and result in an increase of mental health disorders, and a sense of helplessness and loss of hope among the most vulnerable children. Education remains a priority for UNICEF despite the budget decrease, and increased programmatic convergence and partnerships will be sought in order to achieve larger and more sustainable results.

The increase in the cross-sectoral programme budget will support and sustain behavior change results and strengthen accountability to affected populations.



Sector	2022 requirements (US\$)
Health and nutrition	6,608,880
Water, sanitation and hygiene	16,230,057
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	4,212,000 ²⁹
Education	5,306,348
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	1,404,000
Cluster coordination	1,234,215
Social Protection and cash transfer	4,504,500
Total	39,500,000

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP) (3.6%), Cluster coordination (3.1%).

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ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF's public health and socioeconomic COVID-19 response, including programme targets and funding requirements, is integrated into the standalone country, multi-country and regional Humanitarian Action for Children appeals. All interventions related to accelerating equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines fall under the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) global appeal.
2. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'State of Palestine: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft), OCHA, 2021.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. In absolute terms, the number of people in need (PIN) has decreased by 300,000 compared with 2021. This does not mean that the general humanitarian situation has improved. The 2021 State of Palestine PIN was calculated based on a harmonized dataset generated from individual clusters' needs assessments. Even though a conservative counting approach was adopted, some double counting among people in need across clusters was unavoidable. Conversely, the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) applied into the household-level Multi-sectoral Need Assessment (MSNA) in 2022 circumvented this challenge. For example, a family member affected by demolition in the West Bank that generated a need for health, shelter, and protection is counted as one family in the MSNA, which would not necessarily have been the case in the 2021 needs analysis.
6. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'State of Palestine: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft), OCHA, 2021.
7. This is calculated using the highest target in Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem, (in this case, WASH programme indicator of number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene). Gender disaggregation is as follows: 50.9 per cent male, 49.1 per cent female, and 5.8 per cent people living with disability and difficulties as per the 2017 Palestinian Census.
8. 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. This is calculated using the highest WASH programme target in Gaza and West Bank, including East Jerusalem (number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene). Gender disaggregation is as follows; 50.9 per cent boys, 49.1 per cent girls and 5.8 per cent children living with disability as per the 2017 Palestinian Census.
10. Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs, State of Palestine: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, December 2020.
11. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, State of Palestine: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (draft), OCHA, 2021.
12. Ibid.
13. Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-2020 (MICS), Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics, 2021, Chapter 9.2. The figure includes any form of physical discipline as well as psychological aggression.
14. MICS, 2021, Chapter 9.3
15. With boys twice as likely as girls to be engaged in child labour and six times as likely to be working under dangerous conditions.
16. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, State of Palestine: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (draft), OCHA, 2021.
17. 96 per cent school-aged children and nearly 74 per cent live in the Gaza Strip.
18. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, State of Palestine: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (draft), OCHA, 2021.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. UNICEF will support children and adolescents with after-school interventions including summer activities and remedial education services to support their well-being and address learning losses.
25. UNICEF's approach to Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN) places an emphasis on a number of key initiatives, which include strengthening systems, developing risk-informed programmes, engaging community participation, planning and preparing for emergencies, fostering partnerships and mobilizing vital resources. UNICEF's approach also stems from the basis that programme should be designed and delivered in a more complementary manner to respond earlier and more effectively to immediate needs while, at the same time, addressing vulnerabilities and building resilience to ensure long-term progress and impact.
26. UNICEF leads cluster coordination for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters and the child protection area of responsibility.
27. UNICEF is strengthening accountability to affected populations (AAP) and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in programmes by systematizing commitments in agreements with all implementing partners. All UNICEF partners have been assessed on their risk to SEA and given access to a capacity-building programme, which is continuous this year. UNICEF is implementing a project to strengthen the capacity building of 12 national NGOs on AAP & PSEA. The work includes the development of AAP & PSEA Context Analysis, capacity building, and AAP/ PSEA system strengthening. UNICEF SoP has also initiated a new project to digitalize AAP-PSEA mechanisms in the country office. UNICEF has expanded support to the SAWA hotline to be able to handle SEA claims at the inter-agency level, which includes referral of claims among agencies. Awareness and communication actions have started to progressively publicize the PSEA system and the right of affected populations to complain.
28. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
29. This includes US\$84,240 for PSEA activities