Epidemics, cyclones, floods and prolonged drought in the south exacerbated by climate change further compound systematic weakness in Madagascar. This has affected the lives and well-being of children and their families in 2022. UNICEF projects 4.8 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2023. A projected 2.4 million children will require humanitarian assistance, including 479,000 children aged 6-59 months who are expected to suffer acute malnourishment through the lean season in southern Madagascar.

Increased stress and economic pressure on families expose 533,000 children to violence, abuse and exploitation, including child marriage, child labour and gender-based violence.

UNICEF will provide a multisectoral, integrated response to address the humanitarian needs of children and their families. Reinforcing the resilience of local communities and systems and aligning with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action will be the backbone of the response.

UNICEF requires US$41.1 million to address the acute needs of 1.5 million people in 2023, including 760,000 women/girls.

### Key Planned Targets

- 92,000 children with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- 759,000 children receiving Vitamin A supplementation
- 230,000 women and children accessing gender-based violence mitigation, prevention, response
- 520,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water

### Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency flash appeal.
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Throughout 2022, Madagascar continued to be confronted with multiple complex crises, including consecutive cyclones that resulted in destruction and damage in the east and southeast regions; prolonged drought affecting the south; and epidemics throughout the country. The socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and climate change-driven extreme weather events, coupled with structural issues, brought the country to a historically high poverty rate, with 81 per cent of people living below poverty line. This includes 1.3 million children. The situation has significantly increased social protection needs while putting basic services under pressure.

The slow recovery from three consecutive failed rainy seasons in the south has left more than 4.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. During the upcoming lean season (January-April 2023), an estimated 479,000 children will be malnourished, including 92,000 experiencing wasting. Around 1.9 million are already affected by very difficult access to safe water and sanitation. The water situation is expected to deteriorate further with another season of below-average rainfall during the current rainy season (October 2022 to April 2023), which could create a sixth consecutive below-average harvest.

The particularly intense cyclone season of 2022 affected 423,800 people in southeast Madagascar, causing 136 deaths and the widespread destruction of public infrastructure and crops. Consequently, five out of the six districts in these regions were classified as Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3, or crisis level.

While Madagascar is prone to such epidemics as plague, measles and malaria, weak health services struggle to ensure continuity of basic services during crises. Increased stress and economic pressure on families, exacerbated by the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, further expose 533,000 children to violence, abuse and exploitation, including child marriage, child labour and multiple forms of gender-based violence. Humanitarian crises reduced households’ resilience and potentially pushed them to resort to negative coping mechanisms, which mainly affect women and children. This situation, in turn, is exacerbated by chronic weaknesses of systems for monitoring, preventing and responding to violence, including gender-based violence.

SECTOR NEEDS

- **815,000** people in need of health assistance
- **965,000** people in need of nutrition assistance
- **533,000** people in need of GBV services, protection service
- **403,000** children in need of education support
- **1.9 million** people lack access to safe water

STORY FROM THE FIELD

Drought and lack of water continue to plague several localities in southern Madagascar. In Ambondro, in Androy Region, the land is marked by the holes that the community has dug to fetch water. In the rural commune of Maroalipoty, children walk five kilometres to go to wells to get water before going to school. In Manambovo, a little further south, the river remains dry and people continue to dig in the soil to find water. Nearly 479,000 cases of wasting are expected in the south and southeast for the period May 2022 to April 2023.

Read more about this story here.

On a misty morning, the Manambovo River in southern Madagascar is completely dry. People living nearby are gathering on its bed to dig holes, in the hope of finding water.
UNICEF, in collaboration with the Government of Madagascar and partners, will provide a targeted, equity-focused and child-based emergency response. The multi-pronged approach addresses the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach people and reinforces the resilience of the population and systems, including through behaviour change communication, gender mainstreaming and climate-sensitive actions at the local level. Building on its experience in recent crises in Madagascar, UNICEF will continue to co-lead coordination of the Nutrition and WASH Clusters as well as the education and social protection sectors.

UNICEF will prevent the deterioration of the nutrition situation by using high-impact prevention and response measures for wasting, reinforcing access to treatment and strengthening systems. This will be complemented by an integrated package of life-saving health interventions targeting newborns, children and pregnant women. The package will be adapted according to evolving the emergency situation, integrating water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to cover infection prevention and control interventions in health facilities. The WASH response will include contingency planning, capacity building for emergency and hazard management and provision of water and hygiene promotion activities and supplies (including menstrual hygiene products) through the Government and through non-governmental organizations. Humanitarian cash transfers will be put in place through the national social protection programme, in coordination with the Cash Working Group. The 2023 strategy adds a social service component to the cash transfer, hence the increased cost per beneficiary. The social protection platform at the community level will be used as a one-stop shop for accessing other services and support such as child protection, health and nutrition.

Education will prioritize facilitating the return of children in the drought- and cyclone-affected areas to school through the implementation of the new back to school strategy that includes strengthening capacities on education in emergencies, disaster risk reduction and the prevention of gender-based violence in and out of schools. UNICEF will also ensure a range of tailored interventions for adolescent girls, particularly in the areas of health, WASH, education and protection. Protection services will include prevention of violence through community-based intervention and provision of support to children and women who experienced violence. Areas of intervention include psychosocial support, reporting mechanisms and safe space. The nature of child protection needs has led to a stronger focus on systems strengthening and resilience building, and therefore an increased cost per beneficiary.

UNICEF, together with its partners, will strengthen coordination structures for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse to ensure that crisis-affected populations have access to appropriate interventions. All programmes have integrated social and behavioural change and community engagement to ensure the adoption of positive behaviours and improved knowledge and practices.

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.

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

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Government of Madagascar and partners, will provide a targeted, equity-focused and child-based emergency response. The multi-pronged approach addresses the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach people and reinforces the resilience of the population and systems, including through behaviour change communication, gender mainstreaming and climate-sensitive actions at the local level. Building on its experience in recent crises in Madagascar, UNICEF will continue to co-lead coordination of the Nutrition and WASH Clusters as well as the education and social protection sectors.

UNICEF will prevent the deterioration of the nutrition situation by using high-impact prevention and response measures for wasting, reinforcing access to treatment and strengthening systems. This will be complemented by an integrated package of life-saving health interventions targeting newborns, children and pregnant women. The package will be adapted according to evolving the emergency situation, integrating water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to cover infection prevention and control interventions in health facilities. The WASH response will include contingency planning, capacity building for emergency and hazard management and provision of water and hygiene promotion activities and supplies (including menstrual hygiene products) through the Government and through non-governmental organizations. Humanitarian cash transfers will be put in place through the national social protection programme, in coordination with the Cash Working Group. The 2023 strategy adds a social service component to the cash transfer, hence the increased cost per beneficiary. The social protection platform at the community level will be used as a one-stop shop for accessing other services and support such as child protection, health and nutrition.

Education will prioritize facilitating the return of children in the drought- and cyclone-affected areas to school through the implementation of the new back to school strategy that includes strengthening capacities on education in emergencies, disaster risk reduction and the prevention of gender-based violence in and out of schools. UNICEF will also ensure a range of tailored interventions for adolescent girls, particularly in the areas of health, WASH, education and protection. Protection services will include prevention of violence through community-based intervention and provision of support to children and women who experienced violence. Areas of intervention include psychosocial support, reporting mechanisms and safe space. The nature of child protection needs has led to a stronger focus on systems strengthening and resilience building, and therefore an increased cost per beneficiary. UNICEF, together with its partners, will strengthen coordination structures for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse to ensure that crisis-affected populations have access to appropriate interventions. All programmes have integrated social and behavioural change and community engagement to ensure the adoption of positive behaviours and improved knowledge and practices.

2023 PROGRAMME TARGETS

Health

- 200,000 children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities

Nutrition

- 92,000 children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- 759,000 children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation

Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- 7,800 children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- 230,000 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- 10,000 people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations

Education

- 300,000 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- 270,000 children receiving individual learning materials
- 200 education in emergencies and disaster risk reduction management committees trained

Water, sanitation and hygiene

- 520,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- 420,000 people reached with critical WASH supplies

Social protection

- 29,000 households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in kind) measures from governments with UNICEF-technical assistance support

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

- 3,870,000 people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services
- 484,000 people who participate in engagement actions

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/madagascar/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.

Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency flash appeal.
In 2023, UNICEF requires US$41.12 million to provide a life-saving and protective response to the needs of 1.5 million people, including 1.1 million children, who are affected by cyclones, drought, disease outbreaks and the impact of a deteriorating economy.

The increase in the funding requirement in the 2023 appeal (compared with the 2022 appeal) covers additional needs linked to social protection, child protection, social and behavioural change and gender programming that is informed by the protracted and complex nature of risks to children. Emergency preparedness and anticipatory action build on a ‘no regrets’ approach and amount to 14 per cent of the total funding requirement. UNICEF will ensure that it meets its target of 15 per cent of total expenditure on gender-responsive and disability-inclusive actions, which will be mainstreamed across child protection, gender-based violence, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, education, WASH and cross-sectoral interventions. Around US$6 million is planned for meeting gender- and inclusion-specific needs.

Funding to 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Madagascar will be critical for reaching malnourished children with life-saving treatment and providing safe drinking water to affected populations. UNICEF will also ensure continued access to key social services, including primary health care, education and child protection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2023 requirements (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>7,260,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>15,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection, GBViE and PSEA</td>
<td>2,840,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>2,519,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>6,250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection</td>
<td>3,250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)</td>
<td>3,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>41,119,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions: Child protection, GBViE and PSEA (6.9%), Education (6.1%).
ENDNOTES

1. Although the numbers of people in need and people to be reached have decreased compared with 2022, the impact of climate change, risks of malnutrition and the increase in costs of some interventions justify a similar funding requirement to 2022.

2. COVID-19 remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as declared by the World Health Organization in January 2020. On 1 July 2022, UNICEF deactivated its Level 3 Sustained Phase for the global COVID-19 pandemic response. All activities related to COVID-19 pandemic response, including programme targets and funding requirements, have been shifted into regular development programming and operations. While UNICEF’s Level 3 emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was deactivated, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, their families and their communities and on the social systems they rely on.


4. In 2023, the numbers of people and children in need and UNICEF’s coverage have both decreased because COVID-19-related needs and interventions have been integrated into regular programming. However, due to the impact of climate change, risks of malnutrition and increased prices due to the intensifying economic crisis, the humanitarian funding requirement increased by 3 per cent compared with 2022.

5. These figures were calculated using the revised Inter-agency Contingency Plan (OCHA June 2022) projecting 3.3 million people in need for drought; 730,000 for cyclone; and 815,000 for epidemics. The epidemic estimates is based on health risk mapping completed in Oct 2022.

6. 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.

7. The number of children in need was calculated based on children making up 50 per cent of the total population, according to UNICEF MICS 2018.

8. This figure was calculated considering the various interventions planned for different age groups and locations to avoid double counting. It includes 759,000 children under age 5 to be reached with vitamin A supplementation; 300,000 children accessing formal or non-formal education; and 431,600 people accessing WASH services. 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 figure was calculated considering the various interventions planned for different age groups and locations to avoid double counting. This includes 759,000 children under age 5 to be reached with vitamin A supplementation; 171,600 children reached with WASH services; and 128,400 children accessing formal and non-formal education.


17. 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.

18. 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.

19. The figure includes 94,000 girls, 91,000 boys and 15,000 pregnant women.

20. 47,000 girls and 45,000 boys.

21. 387,000 girls and 372,000 boys.

22. Evolving needs have led to a stronger focus in this appeal on systems strengthening and resilience building. Therefore the targeted population for gender-based violence prevention and protection services has increased, while the target for mental health and psychosocial support and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse has decreased.

23. This figure includes 4,000 girls and 3,800 boys.

24. This figure includes 117,000 females (including 59,000 girls) and 113,000 males (including 56,000 boys).

25. This figure includes 5,100 females (including 2,600 girls) and 4,900 males (including 2,400 boys).

26. This figure includes 153,000 girls and 147,000 boys.

27. This figure includes 138,000 girls and 132,000 boys.

28. Management committees composed of personnel in Ministry of National Education at the central level and personnel in directorates of the Ministry at a decentralized level.

29. The figure includes 102 women and 98 men.

30. The figure includes 265,000 females (including 133,000 girls) and 255,000 males (including 125,000 boys).

31. The figure includes 245,000 females (including 125,000 girls) and 235,000 males (including 118,000 boys).

32. The figure includes 29,000 households. This corresponds to 145,000 people, comprising 74,000 females (including 37,000 girls) and 71,000 males (including 36,000 boys).

33. The figure includes 1,970,000 females (including 980,000 girls) and 1,900,000 males (including 950,000 boys).

34. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.

35. The figure includes 247,000 women and 237,000 men.

36. 540,000 girls and 519,000 boys.

37. The allocation for gender is approximately US$6 million, distributed throughout the activities of each section. The relevant allocation for preparedness and anticipatory action is US$5.9 million distributed throughout the activities of each section. The allocation for gender-based violence in emergencies is US$856,000 distributed throughout the activities of each section. The allocation for accountability to affected populations is US$510,000 and includes social and behavioural change.

38. The nature of the needs on child protection has evolved, leading to a stronger focus on systems strengthening and resilience building. Consequently, the cost per beneficiary has increased.

39. The new strategy for Madagascar in 2023 includes additional elements in the social protection package, leading to an increase in the cost per recipient. The revised strategy adds a ‘care’ component (including setting up a one-stop shop for early identification and case management on children’s rights issues) to the cash transfer. Consequently, the cost per beneficiary has increased.

40. Twenty per cent of the social and behavioural change budget is for preparedness.