The protracted political crisis and past conflict in Libya have had a significant impact on public services, particularly health, social protection and education services. UNICEF estimates that nearly 526,000 people (including nearly 200,000 children) require humanitarian assistance in 2023, with children on the move being the most vulnerable.

UNICEF will work with government counterparts, civil society organizations and the private sector to realize its humanitarian, development and peacebuilding strategy, while maintaining capacity for a rapid response at the onset of emergencies.

In 2023, UNICEF and partners require US$28.6 million to undertake essential humanitarian interventions, with critical funding needs in the child protection, social protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education sectors.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

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**KEY PLANNED TARGETS**

- **172,204** children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **93,088** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **50,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water
- **3,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers

**IN NEED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>525,674 people</td>
<td>199,756 children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TO BE REACHED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2023</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>331,358 people</td>
<td>121,741 children</td>
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</table>

**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2023</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US$ 28.6 million</td>
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HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Despite the optimism generated by the success of the peace process in 2020, and the formation of the Government of Libyan National Unity in 2021, Libya continues to face a fragile security situation and uncertain political landscape, which have heightened the risk of violence in the country. The protracted and complex humanitarian crisis in Libya is marked by armed hostilities, political fragmentation, economic challenges and the effects of climate change, all of which threaten the lives and well-being of the population. The Libyan economy has suffered significantly from a decade of violent conflict, and estimated gross domestic product per capita in 2021 was about half that of 2010. The war in Ukraine, by creating shortages and increasing food prices, has the potential to worsen food security in Libya. At the same time, confrontations among armed groups, global economic challenges and human rights violations persist throughout the country.

UNICEF estimates that nearly 526,000 people, including nearly 200,000 children, require humanitarian aid. The situation is particularly dire for those who have been forcibly evicted; for families with adults or children with disabilities or chronic diseases; for female-headed households; and for those whose coping capacities have been overstretched due to prolonged displacement. Out of the total number of people in need, nearly 247,400 people lack access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services; more than 175,800 children are in need of immediate protection; and nearly 111,400 children will lose access to learning opportunities without humanitarian assistance.

Despite conflict and instability, Libya remains a both a destination and a route to Europe for asylum-seekers and migrants. Libya hosts approximately 650,000 migrants and refugees, among them 78,000 children. In addition, the country is home to approximately 160,000 internally displaced people. Benghazi, Misrata, Tripoli and Sirt host the largest migrant/refugee populations in the country. In the absence of effective border control, refugees and migrants, especially women and children coming from mixed migration flows, are exposed to various harms and protection risks created by smuggling networks and other criminal activities. Considering this situation, migrants and refugees, settled or in transit, make up one of the most vulnerable population groups in the country and face specific humanitarian and protection challenges (e.g., dire detention conditions, family separations and other hardships).

STORY FROM THE FIELD

“I love playing here, and I love my English teacher, she is super helpful, and she always smiles.”

Eight-year-old Maria fled in 2020 with her sister and separated mother from conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic to Libya. When they arrived in Misrata, her mother tried to enrol them both in public school. However, without legal documents and sufficient financial resources, this was not possible. Maria and her sister were referred to the UNICEF non-formal education programme, where Maria attends psychosocial support activities in addition to English, math and Arabic classes. Read more about this story here

A young girl from Benghazi participates in a non-formal education programme offered at a Baity Centre, one of a number of such centres supported by UNICEF.
In Libya, UNICEF’s priority is to provide immediate life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable people, including internally displaced people and refugees and migrants, settled or in transit, with a special focus on the needs of women and children. UNICEF’s humanitarian strategy is aligned with national priorities as identified in the country programme document, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and other inter-agency initiatives. Guided by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, as well as Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and Grand Bargain commitments, UNICEF supports building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities in Libya, as well as the country’s humanitarian transition. UNICEF works to ensure that all children in Libya, regardless of their nationality, legal status and place of residence, have access to life-saving assistance.

UNICEF prioritizes localization of the humanitarian response by promoting partnerships with local actors and building their capacities to provide quality, equitable and gender-informed humanitarian assistance. UNICEF collaborates with line ministries, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and private sector actors and engages communities, especially youth and adolescents, in its humanitarian operations. UNICEF participates in inter-agency coordination mechanisms by leading the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education sectors and the child protection subsector, and also supports the nutrition working group. Additionally, UNICEF works with United Nations agencies to deliver immediate life-saving supplies to families through the Rapid Response Mechanism, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. Essential emergency goods are pre-positioned to ensure a rapid response to emergency situations.

UNICEF will facilitate access to sustainable safe water services and improved wastewater and sanitation services, including in schools, health facilities and detention centres. Beyond supporting delivery of immediate humanitarian assistance by providing health and nutrition supplies and equipment, UNICEF also will build capacities of health systems and health-care workers to ensure continued delivery of essential health services, with a special focus on the needs of children, including newborns and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. As a result of UNICEF’s interventions, the national health system will be more prepared for future disease outbreaks and health emergencies. UNICEF will continue to support the operations of community centres and the provision of child protection and educational services. Cross-sectoral and integrated programming will be central to UNICEF’s humanitarian response. Integrated health and education interventions will target key vulnerable/neglected populations and host community members. Child protection interventions will focus on building risk-informed systems, through finalized inter-agency standard operating procedures, for case management systems covering Libyans and non-Libyans.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: [https://www.unicef.org/appeals/libya/situation-reports](https://www.unicef.org/appeals/libya/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 planning documents.

**HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY**

**2023 PROGRAMME TARGETS**

### Health
- **174,050** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities

### Nutrition
- **40,000** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **25,500** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder
- **13,600** pregnant women receiving preventative iron supplementation

### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA
- **172,204** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **17,550** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **4,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **22,685** children who have received individual case management
- **469,273** children and adults accessing explosive weapons-related risk education

### Education
- **93,088** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **96,241** children receiving individual learning materials

### Water, sanitation and hygiene
- **50,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **112,567** people reached with critical WASH supplies
- **30,549** people accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities, safe spaces and healthcare facilities

### Social protection
- **3,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers

### Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)
- **5,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms
In 2023, UNICEF requires US$28.6 million to provide children and families in Libya with life-saving humanitarian assistance. These funds will help UNICEF to maintain key health and nutrition programmes for 174,000 women and children and provide essential WASH supplies to 112,500 people. UNICEF aims to reach 469,000 children and caregivers with essential mental health and psychosocial support and other critical specialized child protection services, and to ensure that 96,000 children have access to learning opportunities. UNICEF will also provide support to the transition from humanitarian to development assistance.

Funding requirements for 2023 have substantially decreased due to the incorporation of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) response into the country office’s development programme. Child protection, social protection, WASH and education are UNICEF’s top priorities for 2023. Critical financing is still required for health and nutrition, social protection, emergency preparedness and accountability to affected populations. Inadequate funding will hinder UNICEF’s ability to respond to the vital needs of the most vulnerable children and their families, making violations of their rights more likely.

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*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions: Emergency preparedness (3.5%), Nutrition (3.0%), Cluster coordination (1.0%), Evaluation (<1%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (<1%).
One per cent of programme expenditure is dedicated to the evaluation of the humanitarian response. This supports the accountability function of UNICEF and will enable the organization to draw lessons that can be used for improving future programming and implementation.