The humanitarian situation in Mozambique remains concerning, particularly due to insecurity in Cabo Delgado Province, which has left more than 946,000 people displaced, including 517,986 children. In addition, significant climate shocks including drought and storms are likely to impact communities in the central and southern areas of Mozambique in 2023, if conditions similar to those in 2022 persist. This will drive persistent humanitarian needs across Mozambique, particularly among vulnerable populations including women, adolescent girls, children and people with disabilities.

UNICEF will continue to provide life-saving, integrated and gender-responsive assistance to vulnerable populations including girls, boys, adolescents, caregivers and people with disabilities. UNICEF will prioritize provision of urgent services to meet immediate needs, along with medium-term support. The latter includes systems strengthening, capacity building and support for community-based organizations and government services.

UNICEF is requesting US$113.1 million to address the needs of 1.3 million girls and boys and their caregivers and communities, and to prepare for and respond to storms, malnutrition and public health emergencies.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The humanitarian situation in Mozambique remains concerning, particularly due to insecurity in Cabo Delgado Province, which has left more than 946,000 people displaced, including 517,986 children. In addition, significant climate shocks including drought and storms are likely to impact communities in the central and southern areas of Mozambique in 2023, if conditions similar to those in 2022 persist.
- This will drive persistent humanitarian needs across Mozambique, particularly among vulnerable populations including women, adolescent girls, children and people with disabilities.
- UNICEF will continue to provide life-saving, integrated and gender-responsive assistance to vulnerable populations including girls, boys, adolescents, caregivers and people with disabilities. UNICEF will prioritize provision of urgent services to meet immediate needs, along with medium-term support. The latter includes systems strengthening, capacity building and support for community-based organizations and government services.
- UNICEF is requesting US$113.1 million to address the needs of 1.3 million girls and boys and their caregivers and communities, and to prepare for and respond to storms, malnutrition and public health emergencies.

### KEY PLANNED TARGETS

- **263,694** children and women accessing primary healthcare
- **64,950** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **225,359** children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **700,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water
- **2.2 million** people
- **1.1 million** children
- **1.3 million** people
- **1 million** children

**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

US$ 113.1 million

**Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.**
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The humanitarian situation in Mozambique remains challenging. Shocks linked to protracted conflict - and recurrent natural hazards, including cyclones, droughts and disease outbreaks - have been compounded by increased food prices and socioeconomic vulnerabilities. An estimated 46.3 percent of children experience multidimensional poverty. Women and girls face great exposure to the risks linked to poverty, exploitation and harmful practices.

The conflict in Cabo Delgado Province has left 946,000 people internally displaced, 80 percent of them women and children. Armed violence spread to the southern part of the province and into neighbouring Nampula Province in mid-2022, causing new displacements and disrupting humanitarian assistance and causing access constraints. Some hard-to-reach areas are accessible only by humanitarian air services. Basic services, including health and education, require flexibility amid the continuous population movements; and access to safe water and sanitation remains inadequate. And in the places of origin of those who are displaced - which have been inaccessible for several years - services are extremely limited, even as displaced people now return to those areas.

The conflict in Cabo Delgado Province is a protection crisis. Girls and boys are increasingly exposed to child rights violations, gender-based violence and other protection risks found in situations of children in armed conflict. Additionally, women remain largely excluded from access to income and decision-making and face limited availability of services.

Natural shocks continue to drive needs in Mozambique, highlighting its position as one of Africa’s most vulnerable countries to disasters and climate change. In 2022, storms and cyclones caused renewed destruction in central Mozambique, while southern provinces suffered from drought conditions. This compounded existing nutrition vulnerabilities, with one in every two children stunted. The severe wasting prevalence ranges nationally from 1.2 to 4 percent. Around 1.4 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity between April and September 2022, mostly in Cabo Delgado Province. Rising commodity prices have also led to inflation, with year-on-year inflation reaching 11.8 percent in July 2022, its highest value since 2017. This reduces families’ purchasing power and increases their reliance on negative coping mechanisms and humanitarian assistance.

Mozambique experienced several disease outbreaks in 2022. Cholera outbreaks occurred in Sofala, Zambezia and Niassa Provinces. Wild and vaccine-derived poliovirus was detected in Tete Province and in four additional provinces, prompting a nationwide vaccination campaign for children under 5 years of age. The prevalence of HIV among adolescents remains extremely high, at around 6.2 percent in girls and 2.5 percent among boys. Vaccination has led to a reduction in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

STORY FROM THE FIELD

Said Cheia Alfane, 30, from Macomia District, Cabo Delgado Province, fled from his village with his wife and children, walking for five days after his village was attacked. Said was a businessman. And now he is a community mobilizer, using his knowledge of four languages to provide information, communicate with residents, moderate debates, help lost children and more. “We are good here; we feel a bit normal now. My dream is to continue to do business, to create continuity for my children to study,” he says.

UNICEF assists internally displaced people in the Corrane Resettlement Camp to ensure their access to water, latrines, education and health services.

Read more about this story here
UNICEF is working with government, local and international partners to implement an integrated approach in Mozambique, one that prioritizes equitable life-saving interventions while supporting social cohesion, resilience, development and peace. UNICEF will assist conflict-affected populations, including in hard-to-reach areas, and host communities, where 70 per cent of displaced people live. Humanitarian activities align with UNICEF’s integrated life-cycle approach addressing the needs of children and their caregivers in the manner most appropriate for the security of the area. UNICEF will support the provision of basic services through a gender-sensitive and inclusive approach. For people on the move or in hard-to-reach areas, UNICEF will provide immediate assistance through survival kits. UNICEF will also prepare and pre-position supplies for natural hazards likely to impact Mozambique.

UNICEF promotes child survival by preventing and responding to diseases through health education, increasing access to maternal and neonatal health and nutrition services and building the capacity of health professionals and community workers. UNICEF will scale up malnutrition prevention and treatment. This work includes training and supply delivery to health care centres, expansion of nutrition counselling and support for providing simplified treatment using community workers. UNICEF will increase the coverage and quality of community-based integrated health and nutrition services. Access to water, latrines and hygiene promotion will enable children and caregivers, including people with disabilities and adolescent girls, to maintain dignity and reduce disease risk.

The return of children and adolescents to formal and non-formal education will be prioritized by providing safe learning spaces and supplies. For out-of-school adolescents, job training, literacy and numeracy skills will be offered. Working to ensure children access structured support, protective learning environments and psychosocial support are cornerstones of child protection work. Addressing the needs of children affected by armed conflict and by child rights violations is a priority.

Multipurpose community centres will allow UNICEF to provide integrated services for children, adolescents and caregivers. Integrated social and behavioural change approaches will enable key life-saving and protective practices and accountability mechanisms across programmes. These will utilize various communication and community engagement platforms. The participation of women and girls in preparedness and response will be strengthened; and at the same time men and boys will be engaged on gender-based violence risk mitigation and promoting gender equality. UNICEF will also support the expansion of the Government’s social protection grants for households with children under 2 years of age. Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse will be prioritized, including through community awareness and the training of government counterparts, partners and suppliers. UNICEF will strengthen feedback mechanisms and coordination with the humanitarian network and further strengthen the cluster coordination for WASH, education, nutrition and child protection.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation.

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.
UNICEF requires $113.1 million in 2023 to meet the essential humanitarian needs of more than 1.3 million people, including 1 million children. Compared with 2022, there is an increase in operational costs and requirements due to greater levels of conflict-driven displacement, measles and other disease outbreaks and climate-related natural hazards. Responding to greater levels of humanitarian need also requires scaling up integrated and cross-sectoral interventions to reach more girls, boys, adolescents and caregivers.

UNICEF aims to prioritize hard-to-reach areas and vulnerable families, a strategy that requires flexible funding due to the fluid situation, changing needs and frequent population movements. Approximately 71 per cent of the funding required for 2023 is for conflict-related displacement and needs, while 5 per cent will address health emergencies (including cholera), 3 per cent will address wasting in drought-affected areas in central and southern Mozambique and 16 percent is for responding to the impact of 2022 cyclones and preparing for the 2023 cyclone season.

Without sufficient funding, UNICEF will be unable to provide critical life-saving assistance to vulnerable children and communities in Mozambique. About 685,000 people will face inadequate access to safe water. In conflict-affected provinces, nearly 500,000 children will go without life-saving vitamin A supplementation, and 300,000 children, adolescents and caregivers will not benefit from mental health and psychosocial support.

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ENDNOTES

1. 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. All figures are provisional because the inter-agency plan has not been finalized. The figure is based on the provisional people in need from the Humanitarian Needs Overview analysis, as of October 2022.

5. 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.

6. All figures are provisional because the inter-agency plan has not been finalized.

7. The number of children in need is calculated as 53 per cent of the total people in need, as based on the 2017 census data.

8. Estimated based on the highest targets for nutrition (children under 5 years of age), health (deducting children under 5 years of age) and WASH (deducting the number of children). This includes 696,319 women/girls (52 per cent) and 133,907 people with disabilities (10 per cent). 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. Estimated based on the highest targets for nutrition (children under 5 years of age) and health (deducting children under 5 years of age). This includes 539,799 girls (52 per cent) and 103,807 children with disabilities (10 per cent).


14. UNICEF health sector needs are based on the indicator for measles vaccination, taking into account the proportion of the affected population estimated to be aged 6 months to 15 years.

15. UNICEF nutrition sector estimates are based on the numbers of children aged 0-59 months with severe acute malnutrition, children aged 6-59 months in need of vitamin A supplementation and caregivers of children aged 6-23 months in need of counselling for infant and young child feeding practices. The final value was calculated with the two latter indicators to avoid double counting.

16. UNICEF child protection sector estimates are based on the population of internally displaced people per district and a ratio of 2:1 internally displaced people to host community people. Estimates take into account a severity scale based on, among other factors, numbers of out-of-school children and unaccompanied and separated children, and coverage of social workers.

17. UNICEF education sector estimates are based on the proportion of school-age children (aged 6-17 years) among conflict-affected people (internally displaced people, the host population and returnees), along with children affected by drought and cyclones.

18. UNICEF WASH sector estimates are aligned with provisional figures from the inter-agency plan, which is based in a 1:1 ratio of host community members to internally displaced people/returnees in conflict-affected contexts.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. All cluster coordinators costs are included into sectoral programme budgets.


24. This target reflects UNICEF’s commitment to provide safe sexual abuse and exploitation reporting channels and information on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse to all beneficiaries of our Humanitarian Action for Children appeal.

25. The measles target for 2023 (799,566) is increased by 94 per cent compared with the 2022 appeal (when the target was 412,954). This target increase has implications for vaccine acquisition and distribution, as well as other costs related to implementing supplementary immunization activities. The target for children benefiting from long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets (210,716) increased by 28 per cent compared with the 2022 appeal (when the target was 165,114). The need for mosquito nets increased; the unit cost of mosquito nets increased; and the logistics costs including transport to the end user increased. All these increases have budgetary implications.

26. The effects of rising food, fertilizer and fuel prices resulting from multiple global factors, including the war in Ukraine, have driven up global humanitarian needs and increased the cost of nutrition interventions.

27. The funding requirement for gender, gender-based violence and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse is US$1.4 million of the total in this line item. Child protection costs are reduced compared with the 2022 appeal because no construction costs are required. Costs in this line item are focused on activity costs for mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence, case management, unaccompanied and separated children and children associated with armed forces and armed groups.

28. The increase in the funding ask is linked to the higher target for accelerated and alternative education (including vocational training) within the indicator on access to formal and non-formal education, plus inclusion of accelerated school readiness. This was included in the budget for teacher training and education officials on education in emergencies-related topics. There was also an increased cost of supplies, including for learners and the new temporary learning spaces (more durable). There is also a small budget added for cluster coordination and for gender-based violence-related activities.

29. The increase in funding requirements for WASH programmes in 2023 takes into account a significant increase in operational costs in Mozambique, including increases in transportation and cross-sectoral support costs.

30. The reduction in social protection funding requirements compared with the 2022 appeal is due to the non-inclusion of the more costly post-emergency cash transfers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, while the target for households benefitting from additional social assistance increased to 131,000 households, UNICEF will directly fund only 50,000 households, while the remaining households will benefit from UNICEF technical assistance.

31. In the Mozambique Country Office, cross-sectoral includes requirements for social and behavioural change, accountability to affected populations and adolescent programming.

32. The funding requirement for social and behavioural change is US$4.8 million of the total for this line item, or 4.3 per cent of total 2023 funding requirements.