Burkina Faso is the epicentre of a multidimensional humanitarian crisis affecting the Sahel region, driven by a combination of factors including armed violence/insecurity spreading to coastal countries; demographic pressures; climate change; and health crises. Insecurity continues to increase, resulting in the internal displacement of more than 1.7 million people and disrupting access to essential social services. An estimated 5.5 million people require humanitarian assistance in the country, including 3.2 million children, 179,252 of whom are suffering from severe wasting. More than 3 million people need access to WASH services and 2.9 million require life-saving health services. Yet the humanitarian space for providing essential support has significantly contracted: an estimated 1 million people are completely isolated and unable to access essential social services, markets or essential supplies.

UNICEF aims to reach 2.3 million children, working with the Government and other partners, with a multisectoral package of services. UNICEF will consolidate its localization strategy, including in enclaves with limited humanitarian access; strengthen government systems through a triple nexus approach; and empower young people as agents of positive change.

UNICEF requires US$226.7 million in 2023 to continue investing in innovative mechanisms and scaling up programmatic models that address short-term and long-term vulnerabilities. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education account for 54 per cent of this appeal.

**KEY PLANNED TARGETS**

- **179,300** children with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **715,200** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **600,000** children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **755,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water

**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

US$ 226.7 million

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

Burkina Faso is affected by a severe multidimensional humanitarian crisis due to insecurity, demographic pressures, climate change, political fragility and economic and health crises. Insecurity has resulted in massive internal displacements, with 1.7 million people internally displaced, 60 per cent of them children. The humanitarian space has significantly contracted, and more than 1 million people are estimated to be completely isolated and unable to access essential social services, markets or essential supplies.

In 2022, 595 out of 2,158 health facilities were affected by insecurity, depriving more than 2.1 million people of access to health services. The lack of coverage of immunization services in several areas has contributed to the resurgence of measles and polio in a context also marked by a decline in epidemiological surveillance at all levels. The nutritional status of children has worsened, with 179,252 children suffering from severe wasting. Access to water has deteriorated due to increased attacks on water points, sabotage of electricity pylons and the dramatic increase of pressure on water resources due to the massive influx of displaced people in several host communities. The deteriorating water situation brings increased risks of such waterborne diseases as cholera and hepatitis E.

In the education sector, 4,258 schools were closed (17 per cent of schools), due to insecurity and attacks on educational infrastructure and staff, depriving more than 20,000 children (nearly 340,000 girls) of access to education and affecting more than 20,000 teachers. Children continue to be exposed to protection risks, with abuse and violence negatively impacting their psychosocial well-being. Forty-seven per cent of people interviewed recently reported having difficulty concentrating, cases of isolation or unusual behaviours in affected children. Additionally, 10,384 children will be at risk of family separations.

The Children’s Climate Risk Index rating for Burkina Faso was 7.6 in 2021, placing the country in the high risk category. The impact of climate change (drought, floods) makes crises more common and harder to recover from. There has been an increase in deprivation and multidimensional poverty since 2020. In 2021, 7 out of 10 children aged 0-17 years were deprived of sanitation, health and housing services, compared with 4 out 10 in 2020. As social spending declines due to the priority given to security issues, households struggle to meet their basic needs. Moreover, the conflict in Ukraine and the global rise in prices (food, gasoline, building materials, etc.) have further eroded purchasing power/livelihoods, sharply increasing existing vulnerabilities. As a result, more households may be unable to absorb recurrent shocks.

STORY FROM THE FIELD

Balkissa’s son Adou has been hospitalized for 14 days, suffering from severe wasting. They fled Piega, a municipality in the Est Region, to find refuge in Fada. “Adou fell ill while unidentified armed men attacked the village and the nurses fled from the village health centre. I never imagined that malnutrition could affect my son so seriously,” Balkissa confides. At the regional hospital in Fada, Adou has received appropriate care. UNICEF supports the nutritional centre at this hospital, providing therapeutic milk and ready-to-use therapeutic food.

Two-year-old Adou drinks therapeutic milk at the UNICEF-supported inpatient therapeutic care unit for children affected by severe wasting, at the regional hospital in Fada, Est Region, Burkina Faso.

Read more about this story here

SECTOR NEEDS

- **2.9 million** people in need of health assistance
- **1.1 million** people in need of nutrition assistance
- **1.3 million** children in need of protection services
- **1.1 million** children in need of education support
- **1.8 million** people lack access to safe water

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UNICEF’s programmes will continue to be guided by three major strategic pillars: localization, including integrated packages of multisectoral child-centred services; the triple nexus approach, and youth empowerment.

UNICEF will support authorities to address the most urgent needs of 3.7 million vulnerable people, including nearly 2.3 million children, by investing in such localized responses as the community-based rapid response and resilience (3RC) approach. UNICEF will maintain access to vulnerable people in crisis-affected zones, especially in isolated and hard-to-reach areas (including besieged towns). Work will include innovative programmatic models that show the synergy and complementarity between emergency response and development action. UNICEF will mainstream community engagement and accountability approaches to fully integrate communities into programmes.

UNICEF will support the roll-out of the national social protection policy, while providing multisectoral cash transfers to support the most vulnerable households to cope with and recover from climate and conflict-related shocks. UNICEF will continue building the resilience of systems, communities and people by strengthening the capacity of community-based health workers to ensure the continuity of integrated community case management, including home care for newborns and immunization; epidemiological surveillance. UNICEF will also increase support to decentralized structures for the transportation of medical supplies; scale up the integrated nutrition response through a multisectoral, multi-stakeholder approach; and invest in the prevention of stunting and treatment of severe wasting in health facilities and at the community level where health facilities are closed.

UNICEF will strengthen access to quality WASH services for vulnerable populations by reinforcing support to community resilience and sustainability. UNICEF will work more closely with local partners, strengthening the capacity of water utility authorities to ensure the delivery of safe drinking water. UNICEF will also support construction and rehabilitation of sanitation facilities; hygiene awareness; and capacity building of communities and partners. Vulnerable children will be reached with non-formal, remedial, vocational, accelerated and formal education, either remotely or in person, including for early childhood development.

UNICEF will use a multisectoral approach to strengthen children’s environment and protect them from different forms of abuse, exploitation and neglect. Through the case management system, children identified based on harmonized vulnerability criteria will benefit from specific, holistic and needs-based care, including temporary care for unaccompanied or separated children, mental health and psychosocial support, birth registration and other services. UNICEF will strengthen the mobile child protection approach in hard-to-reach areas to improve access to services. Finally, UNICEF will strengthen mine education programmes and the monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children by parties to conflict, including recruitment and use, killing and maiming and sexual violence.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: https://www.unicef.org/our-approaches/burkina-faso/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.

2023 PROGRAMME TARGETS

**Health**
- 317,700 children vaccinated against measles
- 505,500 children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 61,900 households that received at least two long-lasting insecticide-treated nets in humanitarian context

**Nutrition**
- 179,300 children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- 650,000 primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling

**Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA**
- 600,000 children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- 90,000 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- 66,000 people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- 6,000 unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified

**Education**
- 715,200 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- 700,000 children receiving individual learning materials

**Water, sanitation and hygiene**
- 755,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- 800,000 people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- 950,000 people reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes

**Social protection**
- 3,000 households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers
- 4,000 households benefiting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in kind) measures from governments with UNICEF-technical assistance support

**Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)**
- 3,000,000 people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services
- 2,500,000 people who participate in engagement actions
- 700,000 people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms
UNICEF requires US$226.7 million in 2023 to accelerate the humanitarian response and maintain and expand its programmes to meet the needs of children, adolescents and women in Burkina Faso, including those in isolated and hard-to-reach areas. Funding needs for 2023 have significantly risen from the US$181 million required in 2022, an increase of around 25 per cent. This is attributable to factors including but not limited to the significant increase in vulnerabilities and the expected increase in the number of people in need; and increased operating costs for the overall humanitarian response, especially in besieged locations which have become more difficult and expensive to reach.

The WASH and education sectors alone account for 54 per cent of the appeal. There is an increase in unit costs for the priority interventions to provide access to a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs for 755,000 people. There has also been a substantial increase in the education target to ensure access to learning materials for 700,000 children in 2023, compared with 214,000 children targeted in 2022. The addition enables UNICEF to reach children both in and out of school through distance learning. Furthermore, due to additional nutrition and protection needs, funding requirements increased by 62.8 per cent and 111 per cent, respectively, for programming in these sectors.

Without adequate and timely support in 2023, UNICEF and its partners will be unable to address the critical humanitarian needs of 2.3 million children in Burkina Faso.

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1. UNICEF activated its Corporate Emergency Level 2 Scale-up Procedure for Burkina Faso for the following period: 18 Jan 2022 to 18 January 2023. UNICEF Emergency Procedures are activated to ensure a timely and effective response to all crises and to ensure that a baseline package of mandatory actions and simplifications for all offices responding to Level 3, Level 2 and Level 1 humanitarian situations.

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 Severe 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 response has ended, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, their families, their communities and on the social systems they rely on.


4. Multi-sectoral interventions will be based on the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, but adaptable to different humanitarian contexts.

5. This 25 per cent increase in funding requirements is partly attributable to the significant increase in the vulnerabilities and needs of people in need. The increased operating costs due to the war in Ukraine are also a factor, along with the global rise in prices (food, gasoline, building materials, etc.). The latter particularly affects assistance delivery in besieged towns, which have become more difficult and expensive to reach.

6. The number of people in need is based on the 4.9 million people in need in the Addendum to the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan, with an increase of 12 per cent. The number of people in need will be updated once the final 2023 figures are released.

7. 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.

8. See endnote 6.

9. Calculated based on: 1) 1,380,488 adults are able to be reached through messaging on prevention and access to service (including health, nutrition, education, WASH, child protection and social protection); 2) 650,000 children under age 2 years to be reached with messaging on infant and young child feeding counseling; and 3) 1,639,512 children aged 2-17 years are to be reached with messaging on prevention and access to service. Women/girls represent 52 per cent of the people to be reached, in line with the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan. People with disabilities represent 2.2 per cent of people to be reached and children to be reached, in line with the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan. UNICEF is committed to a needs-based approach, which means considering the particular needs of specific groups of people at each location, and targeting their response to address those needs.

10. 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.

11. Calculated based on: 850,000 children aged under 2 years to be reached with infant and young child feeding counseling; and 2) 1,639,512 children aged 2-17 years to be reached with messaging on prevention and access to service. The second group includes 42,761 children aged 2-3 years to be reached for severe wasting and 715,169 children aged 3-17 years to be reached with education (including early learning). For the girls to be reached, the calculation is 52 per cent of the children to the number of field staff to be deployed in the 2022 appeal, in line with the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.

12. Between January and July 2022, the number of security incidents increased by more than three times compared with the same period in 2021, according to UNICEF’s incident-tracking system, and insecurity is gradually spreading towards coastal countries.

13. The Children’s Climate Risk Index for Burkina Faso was 7 in 2021.

14. Following a coup d’état by the military on 24 January 2022, a 36-month transition plan was adopted (later reduced to 24 months following discussions with ECONAS) on 1 March 2022. A second coup d’état occurred on 30 September 2022 (during the preparation of this 2023 appeal), which has given way to a period of political transition.

15. Conseil National de Secours d’Urgence et de Réhabilitation (CONASUR), 30 April 2022. CONASUR underwent a data-cleaning exercise and clean data up to April 2022 were released in September 2022. The process is still ongoing and the new data is not yet in the database.


