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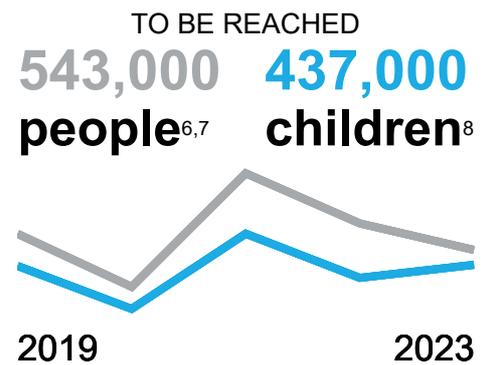
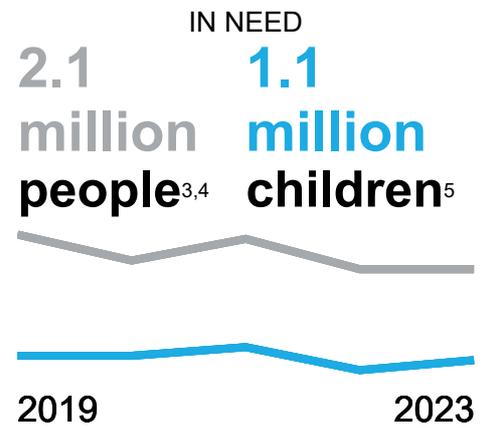
Humanitarian Action for Children

Children participate in a mental health and psychosocial support session conducted by a UNICEF partner, in their community south of Hebron in the West Bank.

State of Palestine

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- In the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, around 2.1 million people need humanitarian assistance, among them 1.1 million children.²
- In August 2022, the Gaza Strip experienced a new escalation of hostilities, leaving thousands of children traumatized and in need of support. The situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, remains tense, and violence and humanitarian needs are increasing.
- UNICEF continues to buttress preparedness throughout its programming, strengthening the humanitarian and development nexus and fulfilling its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.
- UNICEF requires US\$20.3 million to respond to the humanitarian situation in the State of Palestine. This funding will allow UNICEF to prioritize access to gender-responsive protection and mental health and psychosocial support services, including safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse. It will also help procure medical, nutrition and water treatment supplies; engage children and adolescents in catch-up learning; and strengthen shock-responsive child-centred social protection.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



143,500

children and women accessing primary healthcare



53,500

children and adolescents participating in after-school interventions and/or summer activities to support their well being



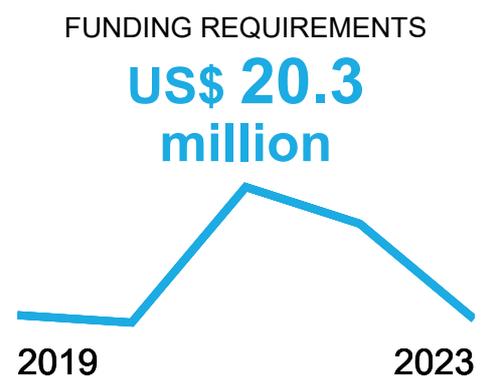
332,000

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



50,000

people sharing their concerns and asking questions through feedback mechanisms



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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The situation in the State of Palestine remains a protracted protection crisis characterized by ongoing occupation, with around 2.1 million people needing humanitarian assistance, among them 1.1 million children.⁹

The humanitarian situation is exacerbated by the closure of the Gaza Strip and recurrent escalation of hostilities there, the internal Palestinian divide, the ongoing fiscal crisis, slow economic recovery, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the consequences of the ongoing war in Ukraine. The COVID-19 outbreak further strained health care systems, increased economic degradation, and contributed to high unemployment. All these factors put pressure on the socioeconomic and cultural fabric of Palestinian society.

From January to August 2022, 37 Palestinian children were killed,¹⁰ and at least 686 children were reported injured.¹¹ During the same period, 404 children were arrested in East Jerusalem.¹²

The Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment in 2022 indicated overall deepening vulnerabilities and a 12 per cent increase in the number of vulnerable children compared with 2021,¹³ a trend likely to continue in 2023.

The August 2022 escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip left thousands of children in need of support.¹⁴ The high rate of unemployment and lack of economic opportunities is impacting many households, increasing their dependency on aid/assistance (particularly in the Gaza Strip¹⁵) and contributing to their high reliance on negative coping mechanisms.¹⁶ The situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, remains tense, with the potential for increased violence, military operations, arrests, demolitions and evictions in Area C.¹⁷

In the Gaza Strip, 40 per cent of households¹⁸ reported at least one member of their household experiencing signs of psychosocial distress or trauma last year.¹⁹ Protection concerns in the West Bank are directly linked to the safety of children at school or traveling to and from school, non-enrollment of children in school or children dropping out of school. Overall, 1.9 million people²⁰ are severely affected by protection concerns, of whom 678,000 need child protection services and 816,000 need mental health and psychosocial support.²¹

Around 5.7 per cent of school-age children in the Gaza Strip dropped out of school during the 2021-2022 academic year due to school-related expenses, children's need to work or schools not being inclusive. Dropout rates in the West Bank are estimated at 19 per cent, primarily due to protection risks and school closure.²² Thus 608,500 people (96 per cent children)²³ will need education support in 2023.²⁴

Essential health-care needs are also high, driven by the high cost of services, access problems in areas C, H2 and East Jerusalem, and lack of availability of treatment and medicine in the Gaza Strip, affecting 1.6 million people,²⁵ including 809,000 children.²⁶

Most Gaza Strip households have piped water,²⁷ yet only 3.2 per cent use it for drinking. In the West Bank, households have to revert to other strategies to overcome the lack of sufficient drinking water.²⁸ In total, 1.4 million people²⁹ are in need of humanitarian support to improve access to safe drinking water.³⁰

SECTOR NEEDS³¹



1.6 million
people need health
assistance



678,000
children in need of
protection services



608,556
people in need of
education support



1.4 million
need WASH services

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Diala, 12, shows new clothes bought for her by her parents after they received a monthly payment from UNICEF's child-sensitive social protection programme.

UNICEF and partners are working to strengthen the national social protection system to make it more shock-responsive and child-centred, including by providing child-sensitive cash transfers to families with children who were affected by the May 2021 escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip. Families with damaged homes or living in poverty are provided cash payments of between New Israeli Shekel (NIS) 370 (US\$105) and NIS 1,320 (US\$376) per month, depending on the number of children in the household.

[Read more about this story here](#)

In 2023, UNICEF will continue to address the most acute humanitarian needs in the State of Palestine while working closely with partners to foster synergies between the organization's humanitarian and development work. UNICEF will support systems strengthening across all sectors and generate evidence on the impact of violence and grave violations on children, and on education-related incidents, for high-level advocacy with all parties.

UNICEF will improve access and use of child protection services for the most vulnerable, while the education sector will support access to mental health and psychosocial support interventions and the continuity of quality learning in safe and inclusive learning environments. In the Gaza Strip, due to significant learning losses, UNICEF will provide remedial education and essential learning materials.

UNICEF will provide life-saving health and nutrition interventions, including essential newborn care and support for infant and young child feeding in emergencies. UNICEF will support the provision of quality age- and gender-responsive health, nutrition and development services and the procurement of essential medical and nutrition supplies. The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme will address critical humanitarian needs by ensuring equitable, affordable, sustainable and safely managed access to WASH services. UNICEF will provide water treatment chemicals for safe water, improve WASH services at the community level, in schools and in health facilities and provide hygiene supplies to promote personal hygiene.

UNICEF will continue the roll-out of the shock-responsive child-sensitive social protection programme, aiming at strengthening the national cash transfer programme while reducing households' vulnerabilities by providing cash transfers to meet basic needs and raising awareness of essential practices.

Social and behavioural change will be mainstreamed, addressing key gender and stigma-related barriers through community engagement and empowerment. Together with the Humanitarian Country Team and other United Nations agencies, UNICEF will roll out initiatives on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and accountability to affected populations, ensuring appropriate reporting mechanisms are in place at all levels.

With a presence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the Gaza Strip, UNICEF will ensure access to affected populations while promoting local-level partnerships and community (including adolescent and youth) participation. Preparedness will be embedded throughout the programme, seeking opportunities to enhance the humanitarian and development nexus and risk-informed programming and fulfil UNICEF Core Commitments. Risk monitoring and management will be prioritized. Minimum emergency supplies will be pre-positioned, with contingency agreements with key partners for a timely response. UNICEF will continue to lead the WASH Cluster, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and the nutrition working group, and will co-lead the Education Cluster.³⁴

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



Health and nutrition

- **143,500** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **20,000** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **52,482** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **359,422** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder
- **25,000** pregnant women and newborns receiving maternal/neonatal life-saving services in UNICEF-supported facilities



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

- **29,916** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **292,568** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **2,298** children who have received individual case management
- **10,000** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions
- **8,655** persons (women, girls, men and boys) participating in child protection awareness-raising sessions



Education

- **30,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **53,500** children and adolescents participating in after-school interventions and/or summer activities to support their well being
- **5,000** children benefiting from remedial education services and learning support



Water, sanitation and hygiene³⁵

- **332,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **112,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **57,000** people accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning and health facilities and safe spaces
- **33,000** people benefited from flooding events mitigation measures



Social protection

- **1,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers



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

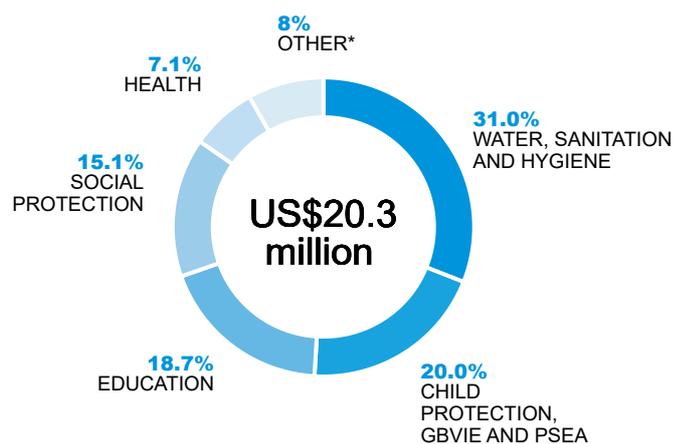
- **50,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

In 2023, UNICEF requires US\$20.3 million to respond to the most pressing humanitarian needs in the State of Palestine. This funding will allow UNICEF to prioritize access to mental health and psychosocial support and protection services, including the provision of safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse; procure health and nutrition supplies and water treatment chemicals; provide individual learning materials; and continue to engage children and adolescents in catching up on learning needs. UNICEF will also support households with children directly affected by the escalation of hostilities with multipurpose cash transfers. Ahead of the rainy season, flood preparedness will be further strengthened, as well as UNICEF and its partners' preparedness capacity.

The 2023 appeal is for approximately 49 per cent less than the 2022 appeal. This decrease is due to programmatic shifts adopted by UNICEF, including mainstreaming the COVID-19 response and the Building Back Better initiatives into regular programmes. The funding required for health and nutrition, WASH and education responses decreased by 70 per cent, 60 per cent and 26 per cent, respectively.

Without sufficient and timely funding, the needs of thousands of vulnerable children and their families in the State of Palestine will not be met.



| Sector | 2023 requirements (US\$) |
|---|--------------------------|
| Health | 1,450,000 |
| Nutrition | 520,000 |
| Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA | 4,057,240 |
| Education | 3,800,000 |
| Water, sanitation and hygiene | 6,300,000 |
| Social protection | 3,061,080 |
| Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) | 100,000 |
| Coordination | 1,040,000 |
| Total | 20,328,320 |

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Coordination (5.1%), Nutrition (2.6%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (<1%).

Who to contact for further information:

Lucia Elmi
Special Representative, State of Palestine
T +972 2 5840401
lelmi@unicef.org

Manuel Fontaine
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
T +1 212 326 7163
mfontaine@unicef.org

June Kunugi
Director, Public Partnerships Division (PPD)
T +1 212 326 7118
jkunugi@unicef.org

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.
2. Provisional figure from the draft Humanitarian Needs Overview presented by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Plus meeting on 19 September 2022.
3. Provisional figure from the draft Humanitarian Needs Overview presented by OCHA at the HCT Plus meeting on 19 September 2022.
4. 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.
5. Provisional figure from the draft Humanitarian Needs Overview presented by OCHA at the HCT Plus meeting on 19 September 2022.
6. This is calculated using the summation of targets from the following indicators: 1) the number of children aged 6-59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders (100 per cent of the target 359,422); 2) the number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs (83,066, which is 25 per cent of the set target – to avoid overlap with other indicators); 3) number of pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients (57,416, which is 100 per cent of the target); and 4) number of children and adolescents participating in after-school interventions and/or summer activities to support their well-being (43,500, which is 100 per cent of the target). Gender disaggregation is as follows: 50.9 per cent male, 49.1 per cent female and 5.8 per cent children living with disability and difficulties, as per the 2017 Palestinian Census. 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. Compared with last year, UNICEF is targeting fewer people and children this year. The decrease is due to programmatic shifts adopted by UNICEF, including mainstreaming the COVID-19 response and the Building Back Better initiatives into its regular programmes.
8. This is calculated using the summation targets from the following indicators: 1) the number of children aged 6-59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders (100 per cent of the target 359,422); 2) the number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs (36,715 children, which represents 44.2 per cent of the set target – to avoid overlap with other indicators); and 3) number of children and adolescents participating in after-school interventions and/or summer activities to support their well-being (41,760 children). Gender disaggregation is as follows: 50.9 per cent male, 49.1 per cent female, and 5.8 per cent children living with disability and difficulties, as per the 2017 Palestinian Census.
9. 2.1 million people represent 38 per cent of the total population. Of these people, 61 per cent are in the Gaza Strip and 39 per cent are in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
10. Of the 37 Palestinian children killed this year, 17 were from the Gaza Strip and 20 were from the West Bank.
11. 155 children in the Gaza Strip and 531 children in the West Bank.
12. OCHA data on casualties, demolitions and displacement as of the end of August 2022, available at <<https://ochaopt.org/data>>.
13. OCHA, 2022 Multisectoral Needs Assessment.
14. Before the August 2022 escalation, about 495,600 children in the Gaza Strip were already in need of mental health and psychosocial services.
15. In the Gaza Strip, 80.7 per cent of the assessed households rely on less preferred/less expensive food, 52.2 per cent reduce expenses on health to meet the food needs of the household and 44.1 per cent reported difficulties meeting the education needs of their children (tuition fees, books, etc.).
16. OCHA, Key Sectoral Findings Factsheet Booklet - 2022 Multisectoral Needs Assessment, available at https://www.ochaopt.org/msna/2022/Key-Sectoral-Findings_Factsheet-Booklet_MSNA-2022_Gaza.pdf and <www.ochaopt.org/msna/2022/Key_Sectoral_Findings_Factsheet_Booklet_MSNA_WB.pdf>.
17. As per OCHA data on casualties, demolitions, and displacement covering the period January-August 2022, at least 709 people, including 337 children, were displaced due to the demolition of 595 Palestinian-owned structures. Another 16,842 people, including 7,586 children, mostly in Area C, faced reduced access to basic services or saw their livelihoods impacted. OCHA data on casualties, demolitions and displacement as of the end of August 2022, available at <<https://ochaopt.org/data>>.
18. Among the 40 per cent of households, 32 per cent of the population are children.
19. Key Sectoral Findings Factsheet Booklet - MSNA 2022.
20. Of the people needing protection services, 970,000 are male and 953,000 are female. Forty-seven per cent of those in need are in the Gaza Strip and 53 per cent are in the West Bank.
21. Provisional figure from the draft Humanitarian Needs Overview presented by OCHA at the HCT Plus meeting on 19 September 2022.
22. Key Sectoral Findings Factsheet Booklet – MSNA 2022, available at <www.ochaopt.org/msna/2022/Key_Sectoral_Findings_Factsheet_Booklet_MSNA_WB.pdf>.
23. Of the people needing humanitarian education support, 309,401 are males and 299,155 are females.
24. Provisional figure from the draft Humanitarian Needs Overview presented by OCHA at the HCT Plus meeting on 19 September 2022.
25. Of the 1.6 million people in need of health services, 61 per cent are in the Gaza Strip and 39 per cent are in the West Bank; 819,000 are male and 793,000 are female.
26. Provisional figure from the draft Humanitarian Needs Overview presented by OCHA at the HCT Plus meeting on 19 September 2022.
27. As per the 2022 MSNA findings, piped water is the main water source for 94.7 per cent of Gaza Strip households.
28. In the West Bank, 96.3 per cent of the households have to revert to other strategies such as reducing water consumption, increasing spending on water and modifying hygiene practices to overcome the lack of sufficient drinking water, per the 2022 MSNA findings.
29. Provisional figure from the draft Humanitarian Needs Overview presented by OCHA at the HCT Plus meeting on 19 September 2022.
30. Of those who need support to sustain access to WASH services, 47 per cent live in the Gaza Strip and 53 per cent in the West Bank. Forty-nine per cent of them are females. Children represent 45 per cent of those in need.
31. Sector needs are provisional figures and based on the draft Humanitarian Needs Overview presented by OCHA at the HCT Plus meeting on 19 September 2022.
32. 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.
33. 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.
34. Together with Save the Children.
35. The UNICEF WASH target for 2023 is adopted in close consultation with the WASH Cluster and due consideration to the capacity of partners in the West Bank and the ongoing WASH projects in the Gaza Strip (e.g., desalination plant) and the situation before the May 2021 escalation (see Humanitarian Action for Children 2020 as a reference).

