



Ayuen Panchol, 13, revising for her primary school examinations in Bor. UNICEF provided financial support to transport students to take part in these critical, transition exams.

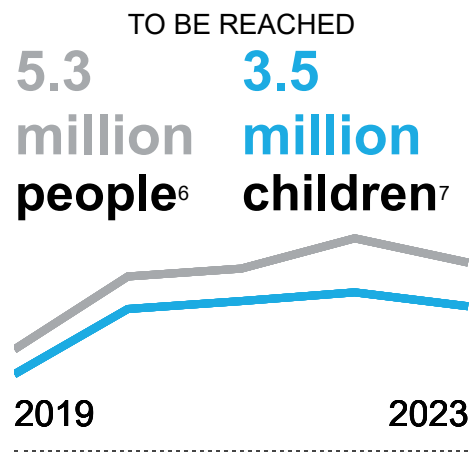
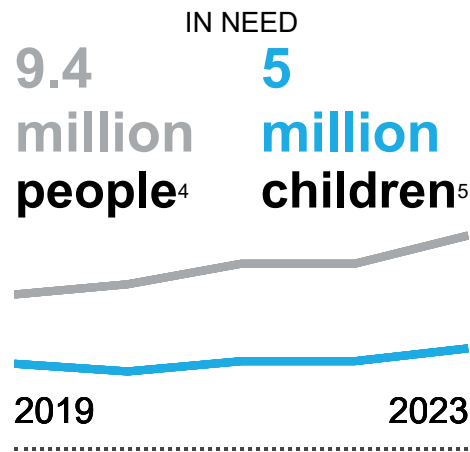


Humanitarian Action for Children

South Sudan

HIGHLIGHTS^{1,2}

- South Sudan is going through the worst humanitarian crisis since independence in 2011, and children are the most affected. In late 2022 toward the new year, conflict persistent and unprecedented flooding, disease outbreaks, and food and nutrition insecurity continued to compound the complex, chronic needs of the most vulnerable, especially children, leaving 9.4 million people, including 5 million children, 2.3 million women and 1.4 million people with disabilities in need³ of assistance in 2023.
- UNICEF's strategy is to work through implementing partners to ensure field presence, strengthen community engagement, localization, feedback, and accountability mechanisms, and the protection of children and women from sexual exploitation. This includes promoting innovations to meet the needs of children and families in an extremely complex humanitarian environment. Preparedness actions will adopt a risk-informed and conflict-sensitive approach and a focus on climate resilience. The humanitarian strategy is aligned with the inter-agency 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan and Cluster priorities and complements development assistance that addresses the structural causes of fragility and vulnerability in the country.
- The latest Humanitarian Action for Children appeals for South Sudan have been significantly underfunded. However, children's humanitarian needs have continued to increase in recent years. UNICEF requires US\$217.2 million for nutrition, health, WASH, education, and protection interventions to meet children's needs in 2023.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



2.7 million children vaccinated against measles



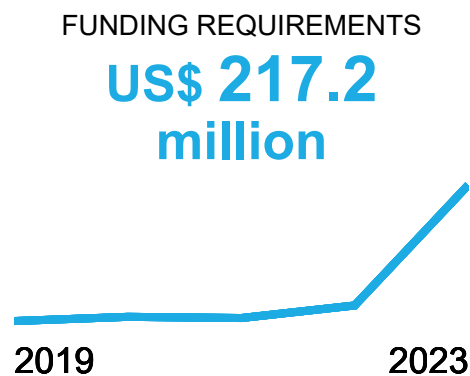
290,000 children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



75,000 children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



1.4 million children using safe and appropriate WASH services in learning facilities



The figures aligned with the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan and the Humanitarian Needs Overview documents.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

In 2023, the humanitarian needs in South Sudan continue to deteriorate, leaving 9.4 million people, including 5 million children⁸ in need of humanitarian assistance. Fifteen per cent of people in need are estimated to have a disability. An estimated 5.8 million who are not displaced will continue to require immediate humanitarian assistance. Almost 95 per cent of the population depends on climate-sensitive resources for their livelihoods⁹.

Since independence, many South Sudanese fled the country seeking refuge in neighboring countries. Conflict, persistent and unprecedented flooding, disease outbreaks, and food insecurity continue to compound the complex, chronic needs of the most vulnerable, especially children. The increasing costs of fuel and staple foods - driven by the depreciation of the South Sudanese pound and global supply chain disruptions, continue to exacerbate vulnerabilities.

Considerable internal and cross-border displacement has further strained scarce resources, livelihoods, and basic services and has increased protection risks and intercommunal tensions. The Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan has been extended for two additional years, postponing elections until early 2024. The slow implementation of the agreement remains a trigger for violence across many parts of the country. There are 1.9 million displaced people, many of whom need durable, longer-term solutions that build social cohesion and contribute to peace. Furthermore, climate resilience programming is critical as extreme weather events directly affect peace and security.

Humanitarian operations and service delivery to children and women are challenged by access to affected populations, constrained by violence, bureaucratic impediments, threats against humanitarian personnel and assets, as well as physical constraints. Floods and heavy rains have significantly impacted already poor road infrastructure, with many roads impassable, some since 2021. Boats, helicopters, and planes are the only options to reach many remote areas, which have a significant cost.

The country is vulnerable to multiple shocks and unaddressed root causes of need. Children are disproportionately affected and at risk of violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect, recruitment by armed groups, psychosocial distress, and family separation. Women and girls remain at significant risk of gender-based violence. Children and adolescents continue to face inequitable access to education, with 2.8 million children (52 per cent girls) out of school due to socio-cultural norms.¹⁰ Malnutrition is adversely affecting the well-being of women and children, with rates 25 per cent higher in 2022 compared with 2021, and access to life-saving essential healthcare services, especially child and adolescent health services, remains inequitable. Access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) is a challenge, with only 40 per cent of the population having access to safe water. Significant WASH needs continue to underpin nutrition and health outcomes.

SECTOR NEEDS



6.1 million people in need of health assistance¹¹



2.2 million people in need of nutrition assistance¹²



3.7 million children in need of protection services¹³

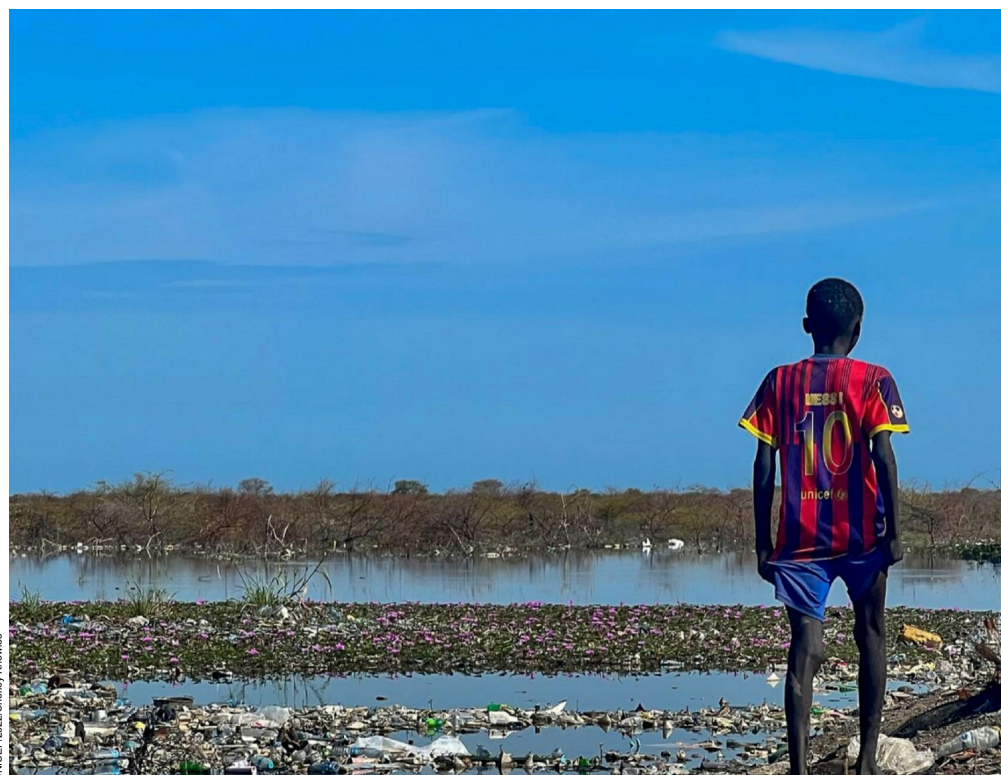


3.4 million children in need of access to education¹⁴



6.1 million people lack access to safe water¹⁵

STORY FROM THE FIELD



"My brother and I collect things from the dump and sell them at the camp. We don't have anything to eat. Today we only found these small bottles, and we are hungry." Kai is a 12-year-old boy. Kai continues to turn over the rubble, searching for anything to feed his hunger.

UNICEF and its partners are providing health, WASH, nutrition, child protection, education, and social and behavior change services to internally displaced persons in the protection of civilian sites in Bentiu, in Unity state.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Hope has faded from 12-year-old Kai's eyes. Standing barefoot on the dumpsite that serves her IDP camp; Kai and many children have been displaced from their homes due to unprecedented flooding.

UNICEF is targeting the most vulnerable children, women, and their families in the hardest-to-reach areas. The humanitarian strategy is aligned with the inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan and Cluster priorities. UNICEF will continue to promote community engagement and localization¹⁹ that prioritizes children and women and strengthens feedback and accountability mechanisms; foster social and behavioral change; and protect beneficiaries from sexual exploitation. UNICEF's strategy will strengthen existing systems to mitigate the impact of emergencies and complement development assistance to address the structural causes of fragility and vulnerability.¹⁸ UNICEF will promote innovation to meet the needs of children and families in this extremely complex humanitarian environment.

Preparedness actions will adopt a risk-informed approach, with a focus on climate resilience and conflict to strengthen communities' resilience to shocks. The humanitarian response is informed by contextual analysis that promotes a conflict-sensitive approach, with a strong focus on social cohesion, contributing to peacebuilding and the linkages between humanitarian and development programmes.

UNICEF will continue to meet needs, prioritizing children and women through an integrated package of life-saving services. A multi-sectoral and systems-based approach will be taken to address nutritional needs. This includes alignment with food security, health, WASH, and social and behavior change. Health efforts will focus on addressing preventable disease outbreaks and maternal and newborn care. WASH will provide an integrated package of services to improve access to safe drinking water, and sanitation, including menstrual hygiene, and key behavior change messages to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Community-based learning options will be established to improve access and continuity of education, with a focus on girls. Children who are vulnerable to violence, exploitation, abuse, and recruitment into armed forces and groups will be identified and referred to services to address their needs. UNICEF will pursue social and behavioral research and ensure a supply chain approach that moves critical supplies to hard-to-reach areas.

Humanitarian action will support the community and national and state-level Government to respond and strengthen local capacities through established and new partnerships with civil society organizations. UNICEF will support complementary approaches including fixed, outreach, and rapid response programming. UNICEF's field presence will support the localization strategy and enable close monitoring of the quality of interventions. This field presence will also enable tailored negotiations that are key to humanitarian access and the delivery of assistance. UNICEF commits to strengthened coordination as leader of the WASH and Nutrition Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, and co-lead of the Education Cluster. UNICEF also supports national and subnational clusters.

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



Health

- **2,720,565** children vaccinated against measles²⁰
- **605,028** pregnant women and children provided with insecticide-treated nets in malaria-endemic areas²¹



Nutrition

- **290,000** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment²²
- **1,761,338** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling²³
- **2,788,786** children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation²⁴



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **75,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **80,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **78,910** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations²⁵
- **4,500** children who have received individual case management



Education

- **750,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning²⁶
- **750,000** children receiving individual learning materials²⁷
- **4,000** teachers received training on education in emergencies and child-centered teaching²⁸



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **700,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **223,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services²⁹
- **1,400,000** children using safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces
- **1,400,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies³⁰



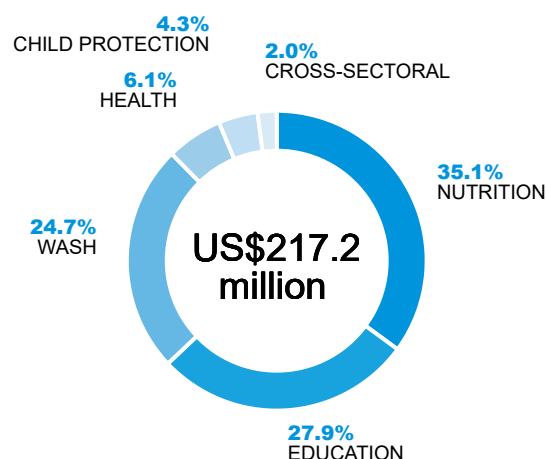
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- **3,544,790** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services³¹
- **78,910** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms³²

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

In 2023, UNICEF requires US\$217.2 million to meet the critical needs of girls, boys, and women affected by concurrent shocks, such as conflict, flooding, disease outbreaks, and protracted humanitarian needs. The funding will enable UNICEF to deliver on its mandate to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance. The largest financial requirements in 2023 are for nutrition, education, and WASH. The increased funding requirement is driven by the number of children requiring treatment for severe wasting, and children requiring urgent vaccination against measles. The total ask also includes a 15 per cent commitment to support gender-based violence programmes, and the prevention of sexual exploitation across sectors. Supplies are generally more costly due to global demand, coupled with the cost of delivering supplies to those people who are hardest to reach. The cost of full-time Cluster Coordinators for child protection, education, and WASH is now included in the appeal.

The Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for South Sudan is significantly underfunded. For example, in 2022, 40,000 children did not receive life-saving mental health and psychosocial support, further compounding vulnerabilities. Without adequate resources and full funding of the appeal, UNICEF will not be able to maintain the gains achieved on behalf of children and ensure the implementation of programmes designed to help children survive and thrive.



Appeal sector	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health	13,160,710
Nutrition ³³	76,167,990
Child protection ³⁴	9,235,500
Education	60,538,200
WASH ³⁵	53,616,420
Cross-sectoral ³⁶	4,451,541
Total	217,170,361

Appeal sector	Original 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	13,160,710	13,160,710	1,480,114	11,680,596	88.8%
Nutrition ³³	76,167,990	76,167,990	48,997,717	27,170,273	35.7%
Child protection ³⁴	9,235,500	9,235,500	1,064,062	8,171,438	88.5%
Education	60,572,400	60,538,200	1,290,120	59,248,080	97.9%
WASH ³⁵	53,616,420	53,616,420	3,816,214	49,800,206	92.9%
Cross-sectoral ³⁶	4,451,541	4,451,541	1,124,803	3,326,738	74.7%
Total	217,204,561	217,170,361	57,773,030	159,397,331	73.4%

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ENDNOTES

1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), South Sudan: Humanitarian Response Plan, 2023.
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.
3. This represents an increase of 24 per cent of people and 12 per cent children respectively in need of humanitarian assistance compared to 2019.
4. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), South Sudan: Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2023. The total people in need figure includes 337,000 refugees, and excludes 212,000 people in need in Abyei Administrative Area. A total of 15 per cent of all people in need are estimated to have a disability, and 24 per cent of the people in need are women. 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. An estimated 9.4 million people in South Sudan are projected to be in need of humanitarian assistance and protection services in 2023 based on the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan and the Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2023.
5. A total of 5 million children (including 4.9 million children as per the Humanitarian Response Plan 2023, and 180,000 children refugees) are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. This figure includes 2.4 million girls and 2.6 million boys.
6. This target is calculated based on the highest programmatic targets of 2.8 million children aged 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation; 750,000 children aged 5-18 years accessing formal or non-formal education; and 1.8 million primary caregivers receiving infant and young child feeding counselling. The total number of people to be reached includes 50 per cent women/girls, 50 per cent men/boys and 15 per cent people/children with disabilities. For 2023, the appeal excludes interventions related to COVID-19 because these have been integrated into longer-term development needs and regular programmes. Thus, the total coverage of needs has decreased due to excluding COVID-19-related social and behavioural change targets from the calculation.
7. This target is calculated using the highest programmatic targets of 2.8 million children aged 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation and 750,000 children aged 5-18 accessing formal or non-formal education. Of the target, 49 per cent are girls and 51 per cent are boys. Fifteen per cent are estimated to have a disability. It should be noted that in 2023, the calculation of people/children to be reached considers the access to education target, rather than access to remote learning, which was part of the COVID-19 pandemic response strategy. This explains the lower targeting in education and overall children in to be reached figures.
8. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), South Sudan: Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2023.
9. An estimated 5.2 million people will suffer from acute food insecurity in 2023.
10. For girls, this is largely due to socio-cultural context, including early marriage and the belief that investment into girls education is not valuable.
11. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), South Sudan: Humanitarian Response Plan, 2023. Of the 6.1 million people in need of health services, an estimated 1.8 million are children and 835,000 women, while 15 per cent are estimated to have a disability.
12. Ibid. Of the total number of people in need of nutrition assistance, 53 per cent (1.2 million) are children, 24 per cent (528,000) are women, and 15 per cent are estimated to have a disability.
13. Ibid. An estimated 15 per cent of the children in need of protection services have a disability.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid. Of the 6.1 million people who lack access to safe water, 53 per cent (3.2 million) are children, 24 per cent (1.5 million) are women, and 15 per cent are estimated to have a disability.
16. 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 coordinator costs are included into sectoral programme budgets.
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. The beneficiaries of children 0-23 months and pregnant women of all 80 counties are our population group. We target to reach at least 70 per cent of them. Primary caregivers cover not only mothers but also fathers and any other adult in family who provide feeding care to children. This takes into consideration vulnerability due to disability, age and gender, especially the vulnerabilities of adolescent girls to gender based violence.
19. The humanitarian strategy will support partnerships with local non governmental organizations, especially women-led organizations in communities.
20. There are ongoing measles outbreaks in the country. In 2023, there is plan for a follow-up nationwide measles immunization campaign targeting 2.7 million children aged 6-59 months.
21. The target is 4 per cent of pregnant women and children under one year of age. Ten per cent of households targeted for long-lasting insecticide treated nets are impacted by an emergency.
22. The estimate of the burden of severe wasting among children aged 6-59 months is based on the recent SMART surveys conducted at the county level, the first round of the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) survey carried out in June 2022, previous global acute malnutrition trends as well as the average achievement of 2021. The burden estimate was run using 19 per cent of children, a 3.6 incidence factor and proportion of children identified as severe wasting through mid upper arm circumference measures, weight-for-height and oedema. The target for each county was based on the assumption that 85 per cent of children in need will be reached with treatment for severe wasting. The estimated target for severe wasting is a provisional figure subject to modification when the FSNMS, and the Integrated Food Security Phase Calculation (IPC) analysis are concluded.
23. The burden of pregnant and lactating women is calculated from the total population in the 80 target counties by assuming 12 per cent of the female population is pregnant or a lactating mother of a child aged 0-23 months. A 75 per cent target achievement was envisaged.
24. Twenty-seven per cent of the population aged 6-59 months is assumed to be eligible for vitamin A supplementation. Ninety per cent of this population is targeted for vitamin A supplementation. UNICEF proposed to reach 2.7 million children twice in a year.
25. This figure represents the targets for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse across all sectors, including health, nutrition, education, child protection and WASH. These are figures that can be verified through partner implementation reports.
26. Out of the total target, 25 per cent aged 3-5 years at pre-primary/ECE, 65 per cent aged 6-14 years at the primary level and 10 per cent aged over 18 years at secondary level. A total of 15 per cent are children with a disability.
27. Ibid.
28. The indicator target has been revised from 10,500 to 4,000 to ensure alignment with the cluster target and alignment with the interagency planning/HRP 2023.
29. The Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 target is 1.5 million. However, UNICEF will target 223,000 people. The gap will be addressed by other partners in the WASH Cluster, including IOM.
30. Cash-based assistance may be used as a modality to implement this intervention and reach the set target. The target includes 15 per cent people with disabilities.
31. This target includes social and behaviour change and risk communication and community engagement activities, but does not include accountability to affected populations targets, which are a separate target.
32. This total is cumulative of sectoral interventions and was calculated at 1 per cent of the highest target per sector.
33. 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.
34. The budget represents a cost-effective focus on strengthening quality programming in the nexus between development and humanitarian action, through building capacity of local actors to respond to emergencies, while simultaneously strengthening child protection systems through multi-year funding commitments outside the humanitarian appeal.
35. This includes the estimated US\$21 million for procuring WASH supplies for 1.4 million people in need of WASH supplies, as per the cluster target.
36. This figure includes \$3,544,790 for RCCE and SBC and \$906,751 for AAP activities.
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