



4-month-old Malika receiving her routine vaccines at the University Medical Centre.

Lebanon Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1



Situation in Numbers

700,000
Children in need of humanitarian assistance

2.5 million
People in need

1.7 million
People living in extreme poverty

1 million
People lack access to safe water

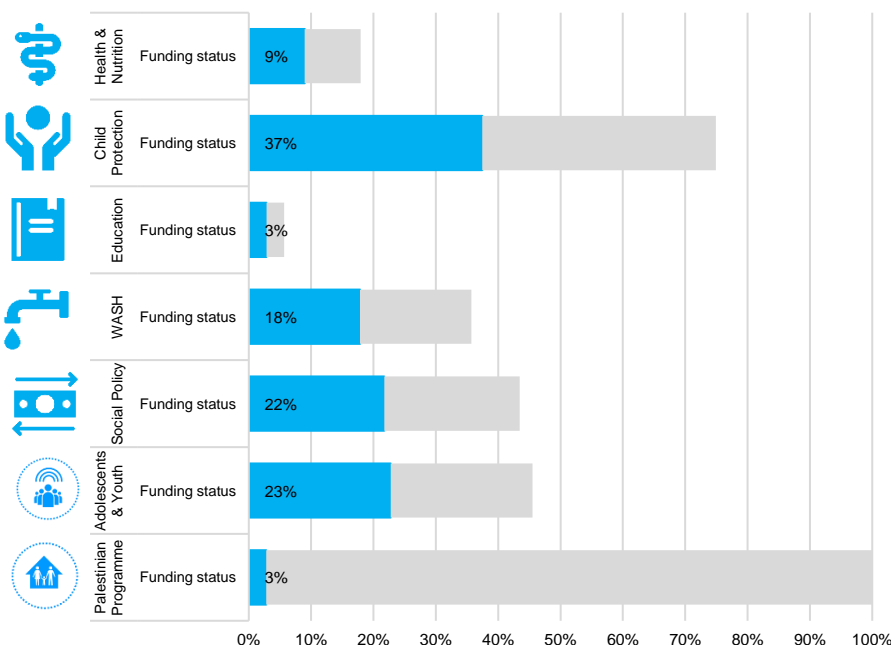
Reporting Period: 1 January to 30 June 2023

Highlights

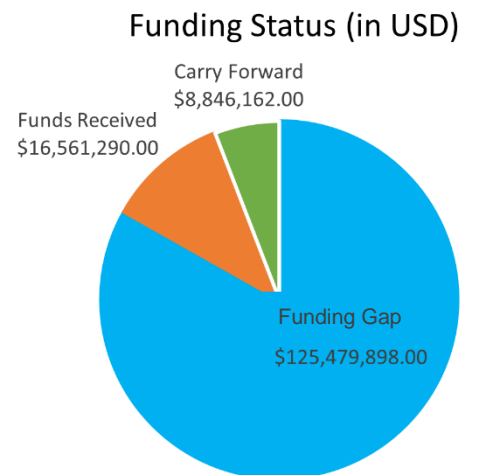
Lebanon's unprecedented economic and financial crisis has resulted in an estimated 2.5 million people in need, including 700,000 children. To address these needs, UNICEF is implementing multisectoral programming across Lebanon. Key achievements between January – June 2023 include the following:

- 2.1 million people were supported with accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs.
- 8,986 children under the age of five were provided with micronutrient supplements.
- 1,677 children between the ages of 3-5 received early childhood education in Palestinian camps and gatherings.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2023 US\$ 150,887,350



*Funding available includes: funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF is appealing for US \$150.9 million to respond to the urgent needs of over 3 million people, including 934,000 children, affected by the deepening economic and financial crises in Lebanon. This appeal is aligned with the Lebanon Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and complements the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and the Regional Refugee and Response Plan (3RP).

UNICEF has received US\$ 16.5 million towards this appeal in addition to carrying over US\$ 8.8 million, leaving a funding gap of over US\$ 125 million (approximately 83 per cent). Funding is urgently needed to provide essential, lifesaving services that vulnerable populations can access. Due to the rapidly deteriorating conditions across Lebanon, flexible and multi-year funding has become increasingly critical to enabling UNICEF to support its underfunded areas of programming and respond in a timely manner to emergency situations to reach the most vulnerable.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since 2019, Lebanon has endured a complex economic and financial crisis that has been further compounded by political deadlock and deteriorating social stability and systems. The crisis has included a near collapse of the banking sector and a severe decrease in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which has fallen from US\$ 55 billion in 2018 to US\$ 21.3 billion as projected for 2022.¹ Internal and external shocks like the Cholera outbreak, the Beirut Port Explosion, and the COVID-19 pandemic have worsened the crisis and increased the needs of people across the country.² Inflation and the depreciation of the Lebanese pound has significantly affected the income and purchasing power of people in Lebanon along with their ability to meet their basic needs due to the rising prices of basic goods. As of February 2023, the annual inflation reached 190 per cent.³ Lebanon also continues to host the largest number of refugees per capita in the world, further stretching an already drained public service system.⁴ Lebanon's capacity to cope with these simultaneous crises remains poor due to the absence of comprehensive long-term development plans and structural reforms. In July 2022, the country was downgraded to a lower middle-income country for the first time in 25 years.

These overlapping crises have severely impacted the accessibility and affordability of basic services, thereby exacerbating existing inequalities and increasing protection needs. The rise in food prices has resulted in over one million children, adolescents, and women, mainly pregnant and lactating women, suffering from malnutrition and related developmental and wellbeing deprivations.⁵ Healthcare is also becoming increasingly unaffordable, with cost listed as the main barrier to accessing health services.⁶ Additional barriers include the unavailability of services or difficulty in ensuring operational costs to run health facilities due to electricity and water disruption.⁷ WASH services have also been disrupted due to the crises, with almost 2.7 million people across Lebanon facing challenges to accessing safe and sufficient quantities of water for drinking, domestic use, and safe sanitation.⁸ The outbreak of Cholera in 2022 further demonstrated the fragility of water infrastructure in the country and how it is nearing total collapse. The crises are also impacting learning, preventing children from accessing schools due to school closures as well as due to rising costs and increasing poverty, which has deprioritized education and disrupted learning for children across Lebanon. The situation of adolescents (ages 10-19) and youth (ages 15-24) has also deteriorated, deepening levels of vulnerability and increasing the likelihood that they will engage in informal employment and be exploited. To cope, and because access to social services is limited due to the crises, families have resorted to negative

¹ Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2023

² World Bank Lebanon Economic Monitor (2022) and e KNOMAD/World Bank (2022), Migrant remittance inflows (USD million). Retrieved at: <https://www.knomad.org/data/remittances>

³ Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2023

⁴ World Bank Lebanon Economic Monitor (2022) and e KNOMAD/World Bank (2022), Migrant remittance inflows (USD million). Retrieved at: <https://www.knomad.org/data/remittances>

⁵ Escalating needs in Lebanon | A 2023 overview (<https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/escalating-needs-lebanon-2023-overview>)

⁶ Ibid and VASyR 2022 (<https://ialebanon.unhcr.org/vasyr/#/>)

⁷ Escalating needs in Lebanon | A 2023 overview (<https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/escalating-needs-lebanon-2023-overview>)

⁸ Ibid.

coping strategies like child labour, child marriage, and violent discipline which has exacerbated existing child protection concerns in communities. This has resulted in over one million children in need of prevention and protection response services across Lebanon.⁹

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

In response to the economic and financial crisis and to mitigate the risk of increased maternal and neonatal mortality, UNICEF continued its efforts towards strengthening the Lebanese health system while ensuring access to essential maternal, newborn, and child health services. This included conducting a training to build the capacity of 150 midwives on the updated antenatal and postnatal care packages and supporting them to conduct outreach and provide preventive midwifery care for high-risk pregnant women in their community. These midwives reached 7,600 high risk pregnant women through mobile midwifery care.

UNICEF also completed the construction and rehabilitation work on Karantina Hospital which was heavily damaged after the Beirut Blast in 2020. UNICEF concluded the final handover to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) with a planned opening ceremony set for August 4th, 2023. Karantina Hospital provides specialized maternal and newborn health services and is the main newborn referral hospital in the country, with 14 neonatal intensive care beds, 5 paediatric intensive care beds, and 80 additional beds.

Nutrition

Under the integrated nutrition and child development Rising Initiative,⁷ UNICEF is continuing its implementation using multiple platforms to simultaneously address immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition and early childhood developmental deprivations and impairments among the most vulnerable children to help all children reach their full growth potential. The 'Rising Initiative' relies on key essential nutrition and child development interventions that aim to enhance adequate diets, provide nurturing and responsive care practices, and provide nutrition and child development services to prevent all forms of malnutrition and developmental deprivations and delays.¹⁰

During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 86,970 young children and their caregivers (53,802 women and girls and 33,168 men and boys) with essential nutrition and child development interventions for prevention, early detection, and referrals for malnutrition and associated developmental deprivations. This included screening 60,703 children under the age of five (30,959 girls and 29,744 boys) and 6,611 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) for acute malnutrition as well as reaching 19,656 caregivers (16,232 women and 3,424 men) with Social Behavioural Change (SBC) interventions through group sessions and home visitations under the community-based Rising Initiative services to promote awareness on healthy nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), responsive caregiving, care for child development, and maternal nutrition. The programme has also reached 12,919 caregivers of children under the age of five (10,621 women and 2,298 men) with counselling on IYCF and responsive care to improve the care and development of children through one-on-one sessions.

During the first half of 2023, to address micronutrient deficiencies and acute malnutrition among children, 8,986 children under the age of five were provided with micronutrient supplements (4,466 girls and 4,520 boys) and 217 acutely malnourished children (111 girls and 106 boys) were provided with treatment through 25 public health centres with an 80% recovery rate. UNICEF supported treatment by providing nutritional supplies including therapeutic and supplementary ready-to-use food, micronutrient supplements, and

⁹ Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2023 and Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2023

¹⁰ This initiative utilizes multiple platforms to simultaneously address immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition and early childhood developmental deprivations and impairments among the most vulnerable children to prevent stunting, other forms of malnutrition, and associated cognitive deprivations to help all children reach their full growth potential. The Rising Initiative relies on key essential nutrition and developmental interventions that aim to enhance adequate diets, provide nurturing and responsive care practices, and provide nutrition and child development services to prevent all forms of malnutrition and developmental deprivations and delays.

systematic capacity building and training, and on-the-job supervision to public health centres to ensure the programme's sustainability.

Lastly, to measure the nutritional and developmental status of young children, adolescents, and women in Lebanon and to identify the drivers and associations of malnutrition and developmental vulnerabilities across nurturing care domains, UNICEF, in collaboration with Harvard University and Groundwork, has supported the MoPH to design and undertake the first-ever national integrated micronutrient, anthropometric, and child development survey. The survey design including the protocol, tools, and sampling framework has been completed and data collection was launched in July 2023. The results will inform decision-making for future multi-sectoral actions promoting children's nutrition and child development in Lebanon.

Child Protection

Between January and June 2023, UNICEF, with the support of social workers from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), supported 78 vulnerable children (37 girls and 41 boys; all Lebanese) with case management services. This included 21 children involved in child labour including the worst forms of child labour.

Education

UNICEF is conducting a solar assessment which includes collecting data and conducting technical inspections of learning facilities to determine feasible and cost-effective options to develop a minimum solar package in targeted schools. This assessment is the first step in UNICEF's solarization of public schools in Lebanon, a programme that aims to reduce schools' operating costs and as well contribute to reducing the carbon footprint and harmful air pollution for a healthier environment.

WASH

Water Establishments have suffered serious depletions in supplies, revenues, and financial and human resources, in addition to an upward spiral in costs following the rising inflation in the country. Due to a reduced water supply from Water Establishments, people have had to rely more on other costlier, unregulated, and less convenient water alternatives, such as water tankers and bottled water, whose prices have surged. The breakdown in sanitation services risks intensifying the spread of water-borne diseases, adversely impacting an already vulnerable public health situation.

UNICEF is contributing to the major operating expenditures of Water Establishments, including maintenance, supplies, and consumables. Since January 2023, UNICEF has repaired and provided maintenance for 317 water systems, including pumping stations and water networks across Lebanon. The repairs performed sustained the delivery of 267,295 m³/day, benefiting more than 2 million people. Overall, 2,100,000 people were supported with accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs.

Following the outbreak of Cholera in 2022, to respond to increased WASH needs UNICEF supplied more than 350,000 litres of fuel to four water establishments to maintain operating hours across water pumping stations and wastewater lifting and treatment stations.

Social Policy

During the first half of 2023, UNICEF worked closely with MoSA to transition Haddi— a cash-plus child grant targeting children enrolled in UNICEF's programs - into a National Child Grant. Two consultations took place in February with international and national organizations as well as donors to inform the design of the program which was finalized in May 2023. In addition, UNICEF launched the National Disability Allowance (NDA), a social grant under Lebanon's new National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS). The NDA provides \$40 per month to young people with disabilities ages 18-28 and includes both Lebanese and refugee beneficiaries. UNICEF and the ILO are providing MoSA with technical support for the launch of the NSPS as well as its costing and implementation.

Adolescents and Youth

Based on the strategic objectives of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) National Strategic Framework, and in order to expand access to TVET schools, UNICEF has been working closely with the Director General of TVET and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) since 2019 to enable access to education despite the frequent teacher strikes and protracted TVET school closures.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, 70,406 young people were enrolled in 158 TVET public schools. Following the teacher strikes that began in December 2022 and ended in March 2023, UNICEF directly supported 38 of the 158 TVET public schools along with four TVET hubs during the academic year, enabling 20,163 youth to continue their education. Following extensive advocacy from the international community including UNICEF, TVET schools reopened in April 2023.

Palestinian Programme in Lebanon

UNICEF's Palestinian Programme in Lebanon contributes to improving the lives of Palestinian refugees in camps and gatherings, as well as the lives of Lebanese people and Syrian refugees, by providing critical life-saving services.

UNICEF's Palestinian programme provided 644 children the minimum set of vaccines (294 girls and 350 boys) as well as supported 3,871 children and women (2,547 women and girls and 1,324 boys) with accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities.

UNICEF also provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to 2,703 children (1,614 girls and 1,089 boys) and to 703 caregivers (692 women and 12 men) who are engaged in activities to promote the wellbeing and protection of children. Moreover, 46 children (26 girls and 19 boys) received case management support for specialised MHPSS services. These services promote a sense of belonging, safety, stabilization, socialization, and support for cognitive and motor skills. Caregivers were also offered a range of child protection, MHPSS, gender-based violence (GBV), child rights, and non-violence information and services.

In addition, 1,676 children who are between the ages of 3-5 (823 girls and 853 boys), including 83 children with disabilities, received early childhood education (ECE). This programme offers quality, sustainable, and equitable ECE specialized services and recreational activities to improve children's wellbeing and support them to transfer to formal education at the age of six. UNICEF is the only provider of these services across all Palestinian camps.

1,650 children between the ages of 6-14 received school retention support (672 girls and 978 boys) in the Palestinian camps and gatherings. Through this programme, UNICEF, through its implementing partners, is addressing key barriers to education and tackling underlying factors that impact children's development and learning. Children are enrolled in UNRWA schools and receive remedial education sessions at partner's community centres. Partners coordinate with UNRWA on deliverables and modes of learning to help children with the school curriculum and acquire the skills they need to improve their academic performance.

Lastly, under its youth programming, UNICEF reached 299 adolescents and youth aged 14-24 years old (170 girls and 129 boys) with trainings on life skills programme packages to promote their learning, upskilling their vocational trainings, and preparing these youth for future employment opportunities.

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

UNICEF conducted several trainings and capacity building sessions dedicated to both staff and partners, including orientation sessions on the call centre and AAP system to introduce users to the system interface so they are aware of their rights and can access permissions to track, analyse, and respond to feedback in a timely manner. Furthermore, the three UNICEF-led sectors of Education, WASH, and Nutrition have received comprehensive trainings on AAP integration into the humanitarian programme cycle. This capacity building

initiative aimed to equip sector partners with information on AAP and how to implement do-no-harm principles with an emphasis on safety, dignity, and accessibility for all affected groups in Lebanon. It also introduced sector partners to the minimum requirements for effective complaints and feedback mechanisms.

In the informal tented settlements (ITS) in Lebanon, UNICEF is initiating a new community engagement approach termed community committees which are a communication and information sharing approach that UNICEF uses in which members in ITS' receive and disseminate key updates about the services provided by UNICEF. UNICEF developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) to guide UNICEF and partner staff to manage the community committee initiative. The SOP elaborates on the selection criteria of the community committee members, roles and responsibilities, mandatory trainings, protection principles, and accountability, including zero tolerance and the code of conduct.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

In response to the deepening economic and financial crisis in Lebanon, the Lebanon Emergency Response Plan (ERP) was launched to ensure continuity and coordination of the response to the emerging needs in Lebanon. UNICEF is supporting the government's continued provision of public services to address the increasing needs of vulnerable children and their families. UNICEF continues to work in coordination with the Lebanon Humanitarian Country Team, leading the WASH, Education, and Nutrition sectors as well as the Child Protection sub-sector under the ERP and across all emergencies to ensure strategies respond to the needs of children. UNICEF also remains an active member of the Health and Gender-Based Violence sectors.

UNICEF is contributing to the ongoing discussions to harmonize the different humanitarian frameworks into one Lebanon Response Plan. In recent years, several new and existing response frameworks have been operationalized in Lebanon to address some of the drivers and the effects of the multiple crises. Currently one humanitarian plan (ERP) and one humanitarian-stabilization plan (LCRP) co-exist. Against this backdrop, the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in consultation with UN Country Team (UNCT) members have articulated the need to transform the response in Lebanon to ensure coherence and address humanitarian needs while moving towards stability. The vision is to work towards one platform for the delivery of humanitarian and stabilization assistance in Lebanon, built around a transitional approach for 2024 – 2025 that seeks to bolster a shift towards progress against development objectives in the longer-term. Consultations with the government, Humanitarian Country Team, donors, NGOs, UNCT, sector coordinators, and data analysts have all expressed the need for one response plan and pledge their support. The aim is to start the joint data analysis and joint response as early as November 2023.

Communication and Advocacy

The first half of 2023 was marked by the [public school closure](#) and [the efforts to bring children back to school](#). UNICEF also launched a [child food poverty report](#) and published an [OpEd](#) to shed light on the nutrition crisis during early childhood. To protect the best interests of children and promote good practices including advocacy for children's issues and the promotion of child rights, UNICEF organized a [national discussion with media institutions](#) on child and adolescent safeguarding in the media. As Lebanon's crisis continued to escalate for the fourth consecutive year, UNICEF published the latest children rapid assessment report - [Future on Hold](#) - to provide updated information on the situation of children and families. There were 1,688 mentions of UNICEF in national, regional, and international media in the first half of 2023, reaching 269 million people while the social media impression was 51,447,245.

Next SitRep: January 2024

For more
information please
contact:

Edouard Beigbeder
Representative
UNICEF Lebanon Country
Office
Ebeigbeder@unicef.org

Ettie Higgins
Deputy Representative
UNICEF Lebanon Country
Office
ehiggins@unicef.org

Sonia Vila Hopkins
Partnerships manager
UNICEF Lebanon Country
Office
svilahopkins@unicef.org

Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response		
	2022 target	Total results	Change since the last report
Health			
children vaccinated against Measles	180,000	0	
children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities	180,000	0	
people suffering from acute watery diarrhoea provided with oral rehydration solution	100,000	0	
Nutrition			
children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	1,000	49	N/A
children 6-59 months screened for wasting	120,000	60,703	
primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	30,000	12,919	
children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder	70,000	8,986	
Child Protection, GBVIE & PSEA¹¹			
children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	25,200	0	N/A
women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	7,800	0	
people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	18,000	1,244	
children who have received individual case management	1,320	78	
Education			
schools benefitted from the health and hygiene supplies distributed to prevent and control cholera outbreaks	2,092	0	N/A
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			

¹¹ The Emergency Response Plan for Child Protection remains highly underfunded as compared to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (which responds to the Syrian refugee crisis). For example, UNICEF only received Central Emergency Response Fund support in April focusing on child protection services only. This funding shortfall is affecting the delivery of emergency child protection services and provision of support to vulnerable and marginalized Lebanese children. To date, 335,000 children are in need of protection services and the network is able to respond at larger scale the moment more funds are mobilised.

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	3,000,000	2,100,000	N/A
People are served by functioning wastewater treatment plants	2,200,000	0	
Social Protection & Cash Transfer			
people reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	40,000	0	N/A
Adolescents & Youth			
adolescent and youth who participated in skills development programmes for learning, personal empowerment and employability through UNICEF-supported programmes	5,000	0	N/A
development of a system for adolescent and youth participation (volunteer platform)	1	0	
adolescent and young girls and boys who participate in or lead civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF-supported programmes	5,000	0	
Palestinian Programme in Lebanon			
children receiving the minimum set of vaccines	5,000	644	N/A
children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	25,000	3,871	
children who have received individual case management	700	46	
children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	8,500	3,326	
Cross-Sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)			
people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	3,500,000	0	N/A
people who participate in engagement actions	15,000	0	
people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	80,000	0	

Annex B

Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2023	Resources available from 2022 (Carry-over)	\$	%
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	\$ 76,332,000	\$ 10,524,377	\$ 3,101,428	\$ 62,706,195	82%
Health & Nutrition	\$ 26,917,800	\$ 1,940,712	\$ 476,292	\$ 24,500,796	91%
Education	\$ 7,172,000	\$ 203,099	-	\$ 6,968,901	97%
CP, GBViE, and PSEA	\$ 6,208,000	\$ 2,107,972	\$ 217,400	\$ 3,882,628	63%
Social Protection	\$ 26,466,750	\$ 919,533	\$ 4,828,050	\$ 20,719,167	78%
Adolescents/Youth	\$ 1,016,500	\$ 8,370	\$ 222,992	\$ 785,138	77%
Palestinian	\$ 4,041,000	\$ 112,613	-	\$ 3,928,387	97%
SBC- (HCT, C4D, RCCE & AAP)	\$ 1,633,300	\$ 564,000	-	\$ 1,069,300	65%
Emergency preparedness	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 164,294	-	\$ 935,706	85%
Being allocated		\$ 16,321		\$ (16,321)	0%
Total	\$ 150,887,350	\$ 16,561,290	\$ 8,846,162	\$ 125,479,898	83%