HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

SITUATION OVERVIEW

During the first half of 2023, children and their families in West and Central Africa remained exposed to fragile and increasingly life-threatening environments, with 48.4 million children in need of humanitarian assistance. Children in the region were again affected by multi-dimensional humanitarian crises caused by sustained violent social, intercommunal and political conflicts, climate-related shocks, food insecurity and disease outbreaks such as epidemics in several countries. The compound impact of these crises has led to increased displacement and reduced access to essential services, including the closure of health facilities and schools.

As of June 2023, there were an estimated 17.2 million displaced individuals, encompassing internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. This figure included more than 8.5 million children. Prolonged food insecurity and malnutrition in the region have been worsened by worldwide disruptions, notably the rising prices due to the Ukraine crisis. These elements have also resulted in reduced expectations for economic growth in most countries.

CONTINUOUS INCREASE IN CONFLICT AND INCIDENTS

In recent years, the security conditions in the region have worsened significantly. This is marked by the proliferation of various non-state armed groups (NSAGs), intensified military operations, and an expansion of the territorial reach of these armed groups. The reported incidents of security breaches have surged by 89 per cent from 2019 to 2022. This situation is further compounded by political instability in several West and Central African countries.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (in June 2023)

- **48.4 million** children in need of humanitarian assistance
- **6.2 million** children aged 6-59 months at risk of wasting
- **17.2 million** people displaced - 85% IDP and 58% children
- **31 million** people in need of water
- **38.7 million** out-of-school children
- **28 million** children in need of protection
- **SAM estimated burden (children 6-59 months)**
- **2,770** attacks (Jan-Sep 2023)
- **78%** of IDPs
- **593.1k** refugees

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
FUNDING OVERVIEW

Over the past five years, there has been a consistent rise in the humanitarian funding needs for UNICEF’s operations in West and Central Africa. This figure has increased from US$ 949.5 million in 2017 to US$1.49 billion in 2023. This escalation can be attributed to various humanitarian crises, such as armed conflicts, displacements, natural calamities, and disease outbreaks, all of which have impacted the lives and well-being of millions of children. The augmented funding requirements mirror the amplified necessities of children and families in the region, who are in urgent need of life-saving support encompassing nutrition, healthcare, clean water, sanitation, and education, among other vital services. However, despite the surge in funding needs, as of June 2023, the proportion of funds received for West and Central Africa has not matched the escalating requirements of the region. Therefore, mobilizing resources remains a critical priority, with only 21 per cent of the funding requirements met so far in 2023. Without adequate and timely funding, UNICEF will be incapable of addressing the overwhelming needs of children, their families, and communities in West and Central Africa, potentially leaving millions without assistance. Consequently, multi-year and flexible resources will be crucial in enabling UNICEF to deliver high-quality programmes for children in the region.

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

UNICEF conveys its thanks to both public and private partners for their ongoing support on behalf of the children and women in the West and Central Africa region. The substantial contributions from various humanitarian crises, such as armed conflicts, displacements, natural calamities, and disease outbreaks, all of which have impacted the lives and well-being of millions of children. The augmented funding requirements mirror the amplified necessities of children and families in the region, who are in urgent need of life-saving support encompassing nutrition, healthcare, clean water, sanitation, and education, among other vital services. However, despite the surge in funding needs, as of June 2023, the proportion of funds received for West and Central Africa has not matched the escalating requirements of the region. Therefore, mobilizing resources remains a critical priority, with only 21 per cent of the funding requirements met so far in 2023. Without adequate and timely funding, UNICEF will be incapable of addressing the overwhelming needs of children, their families, and communities in West and Central Africa, potentially leaving millions without assistance. Consequently, multi-year and flexible resources will be crucial in enabling UNICEF to deliver high-quality programmes for children in the region.

UNICEF conveys its thanks to both public and private partners for their ongoing support on behalf of the children and women in the West and Central Africa region. The substantial contributions from individuals, organizations, corporations, and various partners, which include United States of America, European Union/ECHO, Japan, United States of America, Sweden, Nigeria, The United Kingdom, Cameroon, France and Australia, have empowered UNICEF and its collaborators to maintain vital life-saving interventions and strengthen resilience in West and Central Africa throughout 2023.

Sources: UNICEF 2023 mid-year situation report

FUNDING OVERVIEW

$1.9 billion
FUNDING REQUIRED IN 2023

$393 million
FUNDING RECEIVED

$1.5 billion
UNMET

21% FUNDED

FUNDING STATUS BY SECTOR

- **Nutrition**
  - Required: $631M
  - 19%
- **Education**
  - Required: $381M
  - 7%
- **WASH**
  - Required: $264M
  - 20%
- **Child Protection**
  - Required: $198M
  - 17%
- **Health**
  - Required: $159M
  - 40%
- **Cross-Sectoral**
  - Required: $110M
  - 25%
- **Rapid response**
  - Required: $83M
  - 62%
- **Social Protection**
  - Required: $78M
  - 21%
- **Emergency Preparedness**
  - Required: $4M
  - 53%

*Including Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) and Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)

**Cross-Sectoral: Social and Behaviour Change, Risk Communication and Community Engagement and Accountability to Affected Populations

Sector funding in 2021 vs 2022 vs 2023 (June)
Child Protection (+GBViE and PSEA), Education, Health, Nutrition and WASH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>June 2023</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA</td>
<td>$33M</td>
<td>$35M</td>
<td>$55M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$2M</td>
<td>$2M</td>
<td>$5M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>$118M</td>
<td>$112M</td>
<td>$52M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td>$22M</td>
<td>$22M</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
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</table>

FUNDING STATUS BY COUNTRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>% Funded</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>10M</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>227M</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>64M</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>75M</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>80M</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d'Ivoire</td>
<td>11M</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>862M</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>+100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>16M</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
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<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guinea Bissau</td>
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<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
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<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>7M</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>297M</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
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<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>11M</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding gap

47% countries with funding gap >75%
33% countries with funding gap 50-75%
10% countries with funding gap 25-50%
10% countries with funding gap < 25%

Sources: UNICEF 2023 mid-year situation report

"Children at a school playground in Niamey. UNICEF was able to rehabilitate 21 classrooms, wash rooms and school furniture thanks to the generous contributions received by our donors."

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**RESPONSE**

UNICEF provided timely, quality humanitarian assistance to millions of children in 2023 through support for enhanced country office preparedness, response and monitoring. Additionally, UNICEF ensured that humanitarian action was carried out within the framework of a broader humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach, which included the strengthening of social cohesion and resilience through equitable access to essential services, gaining community trust, and strengthening capacity to adapt and respond to emergencies. UNICEF also worked to promote enhanced localization in emergency responses through partnerships with civil society and other actors. UNICEF supports greater localization in country programming because local actors typically are the first to respond to humanitarian crises and development challenges, remaining in the communities they serve before, during and after a shock.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENT**

**Nutrition**
- **1.1 million** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **36%** Reached: Target: **3.2 million**
- **3.3 million** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **99%** of target
- **804,800** children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation
- **40%** of target

**Health**
- **1.7 million** children vaccinated against measles
- **30%** Reached: Target: **5.8 million**
- **1.6 million** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities
- **32%** of target
- **44,300** children 0-12 months who received Penta 3 vaccine
- **100%** of target

**WASH**
- **2.8 million** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs
- **41%** Reached: Target: **6.8 million**
- **654,200** people reached with critical WASH supplies
- **30%** of target
- **465,500** accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **8%** of target

**Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA**
- **499,500** children [and caregivers] accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **12%** Reached: Target: **4.3 million**
- **1.1 million** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **24%** of target
- **713,800** women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **31%** of target

**Education**
- **2.3 million** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **47%** Reached: Target: **4.8 million**
- **585,200** children receiving individual learning materials
- **11%** of target

**Social Protection**
- **6,450** households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and/or funding
- **50%** Reached: Target: **12,800**
- **18,800** households reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers
- **9%** of target
- **59,600** households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in kind) measures from governments with UNICEF technical assistance support
- **61%** of target

**Rapid response and cross-sectoral**
- **153,300** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers across sectors
- **21%** Reached: Target: **749,500**
- **27.5 million** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services
- **9%** of target
- **791,800** people with access to established accountability mechanisms
- **38%** of target

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**Sources:** UNICEF 2023 mid-year situation report