



A child in one of the schools turned into a shelter in the Gaza Strip

UNICEF-SoP/2023/Eyad alBaba

Reporting Period: 27 October to 2 November 2023

unicef 
for every child
UNICEF in the State of Palestine

Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 4

Situation in Numbers

1.4 Million
people in need
(OCHA Flash appeal, Oct 2023)

1 Million
Children affected in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2023 population projections)

Over 1.4 Million
Internally displaced people
(OCHA, 1 Nov 2023)

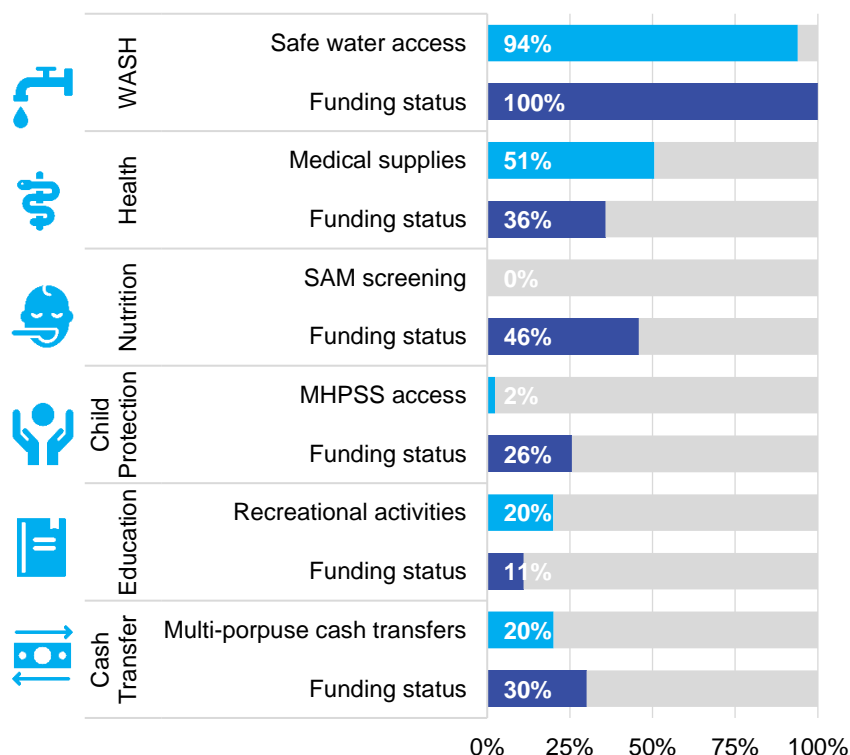
253 Attacks on schools
(Education Cluster, 1 Nov 2023)

55% of Water Supply infrastructure requires repair or rehabilitation
(WASH Cluster, 22 October)

Highlights

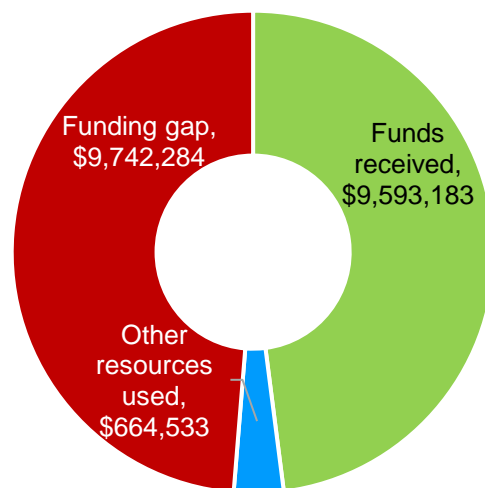
- The level of conflict related violence impacting children in the State of Palestine in 2023 is unprecedented. From 7 October to 2 November 3,760 children were reported killed in the Gaza Strip.
- Over 2.2 million people no longer have reliable access to a safe and adequate supply of water and sanitation.
- 253 schools have sustained damage in the Gaza Strip since 7 October.
- The occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continues to face increased violence, with at least 40 children reported killed since October 7.
- To restore operations of water supply systems, UNICEF supported water trucking to shelters, serving an estimated 1 million people including over 560,000 children.
- Over the last week, UNICEF delivered medicines and medical supplies amongst hospitals and health facilities to serve at least three hospitals in the Middle Area and Khan Younis of the Gaza Strip for an estimated 94,000 people for one week.
- UNICEF has supported over 3,500 children with child protection, mental health and psychosocial support services.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Immediate Needs

US\$ 20 million
Funding Status (in US\$)



UNICEF has an additional US\$12 million gap for the HAC 2023 and needs are expected to exponentially increase

Funding Overview and Partnerships

On 17 October UNICEF issued an Immediate Needs Document appealing for US\$ 20 million to cover the most urgent needs until the end of the year¹. This initial appeal is only 51 per cent funded. This initial appeal is expected to be revised upwards by nearly seven times in the coming days due to the magnitude of the crisis, and UNICEF plans to scale up the humanitarian response to address the immense and immediate needs. To kick start the UNICEF response available funds were reprogrammed, and UNICEF mobilized additional internal funds, including loans from the internal Emergency Response Fund, along with flexible Global Humanitarian Thematic funds. UNICEF would like to sincerely thank partners, including the governments of Australia, Norway and the United Kingdom, as well as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) along with the UNICEF National Committees of France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. UNICEF would also like to thank the UNICEF private sector fundraising offices of Egypt, Kazakhstan, UAE, and Uzbekistan which have supported initial relief efforts in response to the recent escalation of hostilities.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The Gaza Strip has continued to witness intensive bombardment, and following a communications blackout on 26 October, military ground operations began inside the Gaza Strip. As of 2 November, 9,061 Palestinians, including 3,760 children, were reported killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities. A further 22,961 Palestinians were reported injured, including 7,695 children. More than 2,000 people, including 1,150 children, are reported missing and may be under the rubble. Rescue efforts are hampered by ongoing airstrikes, a scarcity of fuel for vehicles and equipment, and limited communication capabilities.

According to OCHA there are an estimated 1.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Gaza Strip – half of whom are children - including over 690,000 people staying in 149 UNRWA facilities; 121,000 sheltering in hospitals, churches and public buildings; and over 96,000 IDPs in 76 non-UNRWA schools. The remaining 550,000 to 600,000 IDPs are thought to be residing with host families.

Over 2.2 million people – half of whom are children - in the Gaza Strip no longer have reliable access to a safe and adequate supply of water and sanitation. There are 155,000 pregnant and lactating women in need of primary healthcare, and 337,000 children under five years old who are at risk of wasting. The ongoing hostilities have displaced most of the medical professionals in the Gaza Strip, forcing hospitals to operate with less than one-third of their normal staffing levels, according to the MoH. The hospitals continue to suffer from a severe fuel shortage, leading to stringent rationing and limited use of generators for only the most essential functions. Maintaining and repairing backup generators, originally not intended for continuous operations, is growing increasingly challenging due to the scarcity of spare parts.

At least 625,000 children no longer have access to school. There have been additional 25 attacks on schools documented by the Education Cluster in the last week, with a total 253 schools having sustained damage in the Gaza Strip. Before the crisis, more than 543,000 children were identified in need of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) following six rounds of armed conflict since 2008 and daily protection concern. This conflict since 7 October has significantly expanded needs for such MHPSS services.

The occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continues to face increased violence, including with military operations within the Jenin and Nur Shams refugee camps. Access restrictions have been imposed throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, isolating Palestinian communities and severely limiting their access to essential services. WHO reports that in the West Bank first response capacities are overstretched by increased casualties, while movement restrictions limit access for ambulances. At least 130 Palestinians have been reported killed in the West Bank since October 7, including 40 children. The Education Cluster reported that nearly 200 schools are not operational in the West Bank and East Jerusalem due to movement restrictions and fear of safety and security risks since the escalation began in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli sources report that at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, including more than 30 children, and more than 6,500 people reported injured. No disaggregated data is yet available on Israeli children killed and injured. According to Israeli authorities, 242 Israelis were abducted into the Gaza Strip and remain in captivity, including around 30 children.

¹ This is additional to the revised UNICEF 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) of US\$ 23.8 million bringing to the total combined requirement to \$43.8 million.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH

Access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene services is significantly worsening across the Gaza Strip with a lack of power supply, fuel shortages, restricted access and infrastructure damage. These constraints have hindered provision of adequate and continuous water supply and sanitation services to affected populations. In response to urgent WASH humanitarian needs, in the last week, 133,000 litres of bottled water were distributed in UNRWA Designated Emergency Shelters (DES) benefitting over 44,000 people including 22,000 children. To restore operations of water supply systems, UNICEF supported 77,000 litres of fuel in the last week used in the two operational desalination plants and critical water wells for the production and distribution of clean water. UNICEF also supported water trucking to shelters, serving an estimated 1 million people in the Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah areas including over 560,000 children. Furthermore, an additional 918 hygiene kits, 4,000 water containers of 10 litres capacity and 12 collapsible water tanks were distributed through UNRWA shelters benefitting 1,586 families.

In addition, UNICEF continues support to cleaning services in the shelter in the UNRWA Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC) to address solid waste problems which has increasingly become harmful to children and their families due to overcrowding. This has benefited over 26,000 people including over 13,000 children. UNICEF plans to scale up this support to other shelters.

UNICEF continues to lead and coordinate the WASH cluster nationally, including to support water service providers in the gradual restoration of large-scale water supply production and wastewater treatment in the Gaza Strip to meet the critical lifesaving WASH needs. The WASH Cluster has 68 partners.

Health

Hospitals are facing an unprecedented level of devastation, driven by the overwhelming number of injuries, critical shortages of vital resources and concerns of being targeted by airstrikes. Since the start of hostilities, WHO reports that over one-third of hospitals in the Gaza Strip (12 of 35) and nearly three quarters of primary health care clinics (51 of 72) have shut down due to damage or lack of fuel, increasing the pressure on the remaining health facilities that are still operational. All ten hospitals in the North of the Gaza Strip have received evacuation orders.

UNICEF has continued to provide medical supplies to the Ministry of Health and health partners in the Gaza Strip, with sufficient health kits for 164,000 people provided to date. In addition to this UNICEF has provided medical supplies including medicines and medical consumables. Over the last week, nine trucks of medical supplies were distributed among hospitals and health facilities in the Gaza Strip. These supplies will serve at least three hospitals in the Middle Area and Khan Younis for an estimated 94,000 people for one week.

Nutrition

UNICEF secured the immediately needed quantities of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF) to be used for the treatment of over 6,800 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition as well children with high-risk moderate acute malnutrition (including 4,800 from the Gaza Strip). In addition, UNICEF is procuring ready to use infant formula (RUIF) to address the need of the non-breastfeed infants (targeting over 13,300 children from 0-6 months from Gaza). In the Gaza Strip UNICEF is working on scaling up and strengthening partnerships with NGOs to deliver quality lifesaving nutrition interventions.

UNICEF continued to lead the Nutrition Working Group, coordinating the work of nutrition partners. A specific SoP joint statement on protecting infant and young children nutrition was released in English & Arabic, [Protecting Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition during the ongoing emergency response | Global Nutrition Cluster](#). In addition to nutrition infographics [SoP_Nutrition Working Group Gaza Report GNC 20231031 \(nutritioncluster.net\)](#)

Child Protection

UNICEF is scaling up capacities to ensure the protection of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) both in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank. A rapid mapping of care facilities is being conducted through the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Efforts are being made to step up the identification and registration of UASC in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to identify safe temporary care arrangements for UASC in the Gaza Strip, while promoting coordination among key partners to ensure a more effective approach to UASC identification, documentation, tracing and reunification (IDTR).

UNICEF has provided 3,504 children with psychosocial support (PSS) services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through the child helpline and psychosocial activities conducted in targeted shelters. UNICEF Education and Child Protection programmes are collaborating so that both recreational and MHPSS support includes awareness raising on the risks associated with explosive remnants of war (ERWs) provided to targeted children in a structured manner. Of this total, in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF reached 1,160 children (751 boys and 409 girls) affected

by the escalations of violence with critical child protection services, including MHPSS, individual and group counselling, child rights awareness and referrals to specialized services. In addition, 233 parents and caregivers received psychosocial care services.

UNICEF also continues to lead the Child Protection Area of Responsibility as part of the Protection Cluster, coordinating the work of 83 partners.

Education

Education services in the Gaza Strip have collapsed since the conflict began on 7 October disrupting learning continuity for more than 625,000 learners. Lack of formal education, the death of caregivers, displacement and the trauma of war continues to affect the mental wellbeing of children and adolescents.

To address children's wellbeing, UNICEF with a local partner has reached 3,000 children with recreational activities (50 per cent girls) in 15 shelters in Deir el Balah and Rafah in the Southern Gaza Strip. Ten recreational kits and early childhood development kits each have been delivered to a partner to facilitate the interventions. In the coming weeks, UNICEF plans to provide recreational support to an additional 8,425 displaced children (50 per cent girls) in the Gaza Strip who are currently sheltering in 13 government schools. An additional 400 recreational kits, adequate for 36,000 children, have been procured and are prepositioned in the Gaza Strip to support the planned scale-up. As part of preparedness efforts, essential education in emergencies teaching and learning materials for 24,000 children have been procured and prepositioned in Al Arish, Egypt, ready to be delivered once the situation allows for learning to take place.

UNICEF as Education cluster co-lead continues to coordinate with partners on the response to the immediate needs of the affected children. UNICEF with cluster partners will plan a response strategy for the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, once the specific education in emergencies needs are identified.

UNICEF continues to co-lead the Education Cluster with Save the Children, coordinating the work of 89 partners.

Social Protection

UNICEF has made two payments of humanitarian cash transfers to conflict affected households in the Gaza Strip since the start of the escalation targeting 22,327 people including 11,449 children (2,967 households). As of 31 October, 16 days after the first disbursement, 2,004 households (68 per cent), 15,359 households, had redeemed their cash. The transfer is for NIS 754 (equivalent to US\$ 187), redeemed through mobile agents including grocery stores, to be used for households' minimum expenditure on basic items such as water, food and hygiene products. Despite the communications blackout and the increasing challenges on the markets in the Gaza Strip redemption rates have continued, albeit slowly. Despite the fragility of the markets, cash transfers through mobile payments has proven to be an effective and efficient mechanism to reach the most vulnerable families and children. UNICEF has closely coordinated cash transfer related processes including de-duplication through inter agency Cash Working Group.

Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)

UNICEF is leading the inter-agency Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) working group, coordinating with the humanitarian clusters to determine appropriate approaches and channels to communicate with affected communities with lifesaving, protection and prevention messages to promote positive behaviours and practices.

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)/ Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

The humanitarian cash transfer programme made use of the existing community feedback channels, namely the Interagency Hotline, the PSEA network hotline and the UNICEF specific email address, to ensure that beneficiaries have direct contact with UNICEF for any complaint or feedback. However, due to reduced telecommunications, there has been a decrease in the numbers of people with access to the PSEA helpline. UNICEF has received 139 pieces of feedback, complaints, requests for information or cash redemption issues from households.

The inter-agency PSEA Network weekly convenes four task forces on: risk mitigation, child safeguarding and services; promoting community led initiatives linked to supplies and cash for protection; a desk review of risk mitigation measures on SEA and child safeguarding; and coordinating the scale up of helplines operational capacities and technical competences for affected communities' access to safe and confidential channels leading to assistance and investigations. The [Sanad](#) platform was launched as the inter-agency identity for PSEA.

Support from Egypt in the Gaza Strip

Since October 21, UNICEF has moved 34 trucks from Egypt so far into the Gaza Strip² these trucks have included bottled water for an estimated cumulative 118,000 people, and WASH Dignity Kits to serve nearly 50,000 people. UNICEF has also provided health consumables and supplies which arrived into the Gaza Strip and were distributed among 3 hospitals to serve an estimated 184,000 cases. In addition, UNICEF has supplied recreational and Early Childhood Development kits for 1,400 children.

During the reporting period, the overall number of trucks crossing into the Gaza Strip with humanitarian assistance has been steadily increasing with a commitment by all parties to have between 80 to 100 trucks of humanitarian assistance from all agencies crossing by the end of the week.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team and closely coordinates with other organizations and local partners. UNICEF also leads the coordination of the WASH Cluster and co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children. Within the Protection Cluster, UNICEF leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. UNICEF is part of the Inter-Cluster Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group. UNICEF co-leads the Nutrition Working Group within the Health Cluster. UNICEF also supports the Inter-Agency Network for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

Human Interest Stories, External Media and Advocacy

Statements:

1.11.2023: [Statement by UNICEF on the deaths and injuries of children in Jabaliya camp](#)

31.10.2023: [Gaza has become a graveyard for thousands of children](#)

30.10.2023: [UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell briefs UN Security Council on humanitarian situation in Gaza](#)

Human interest stories:

[A Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip](#)

[Children in the Gaza Strip continue to pay the highest price](#)

Social Media:

[Water is running out in Gaza.](#)

[Children in Gaza have endured heart breaking trauma](#)

[UNICEF is on the ground and responding](#)

UNICEF spokespersons have delivered some 300 interviews with different media outlets, including CNN, BBC, Sky News, Reuters, Washington Post, France24, and Al Jazeera. Various assets can also be accessed on the UNICEF WeShare [page](#).

Next SitRep: 9 November 2023

UNICEF State of Palestine Immediate Needs Document, Oct-Dec 2023: [here](#)

UNICEF State of Palestine Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: [State of Palestine Appeal | UNICEF](#)

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² During 21 October there was also a joint consignment with WFP (i.e. sharing of a truck) where on that consignment, UNICEF brought in High Performance Tents, Plastic Tarpaulin, as well as Early Childhood Development kits and Recreation Kits (which can reach approximately 1,000 children). These were recently reflected in the Logistics Cluster report.

Annex A - Summary of Programme Results

Sector / Indicator	Target	Cumulative Result	% Progress
WASH			
# people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	1,100,000	1,033,000	94%
Health			
# people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies to MOH and Health partners in Gaza	324,000	164,000*	51%
Nutrition			
# children 6-59 months screened for wasting	107,000	0	0%
Child Protection			
# children affected by conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support	150,000	3,504	2%
Education			
# affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being	15,000	3,000	20%
Social Protection			
# households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	10,000	2,004	20%

* This result is estimated based on supplies delivered to the Naser Hospital in the Gaza Strip. According to WHO situation report, approximately one month's stock is used in a day in the Gaza Strip. The actual consumption is almost 30 times the regular consumption, due to the severity of cases and the high rate of demand on medical supplies.

Annex B - Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (USD)	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received after 7 October	Other resources used for the escalation	US\$	%
Health	4,180,000	1,296,373	200,000	2,683,627	64%
Nutrition	1,200,000	550,000	0	650,000	54%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	5,520,000	5,229,226	289,690	0	0%
Education	2,393,000	211,505	52,000	2,129,495	89%
Child Protection and GBVIE	2,400,000	614,397	0	1,785,603	74%
Social Protection and Cash Transfers	3,275,000	862,920	122,843	2,289,237	70%
Cross-Sectoral (SBC, RCCE, AAP and PSEA)	150,000	150,000		0	0%
Cluster Coordination	882,000	678,762	0	203,238	23%
Total	20,000,000	9,593,183	664,533	9,741,200	49%

* As defined in Immediate Needs Document of 18/10/2023 for a period of 3 months. This initial appeal is expected to be revised upwards by nearly seven times in the coming days due to the magnitude of the crisis.

* UNICEF has an additional US\$12 million gap for the HAC 2023.