



Mohammed Alattar, 8-year-old from Rafah City, sits on the rubble of his family's house, which was bombed.






UNICEF-SoP/2023/Eyad al Baba

Reporting Period: 3 to 9 November 2023

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UNICEF in the State of Palestine

Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 5

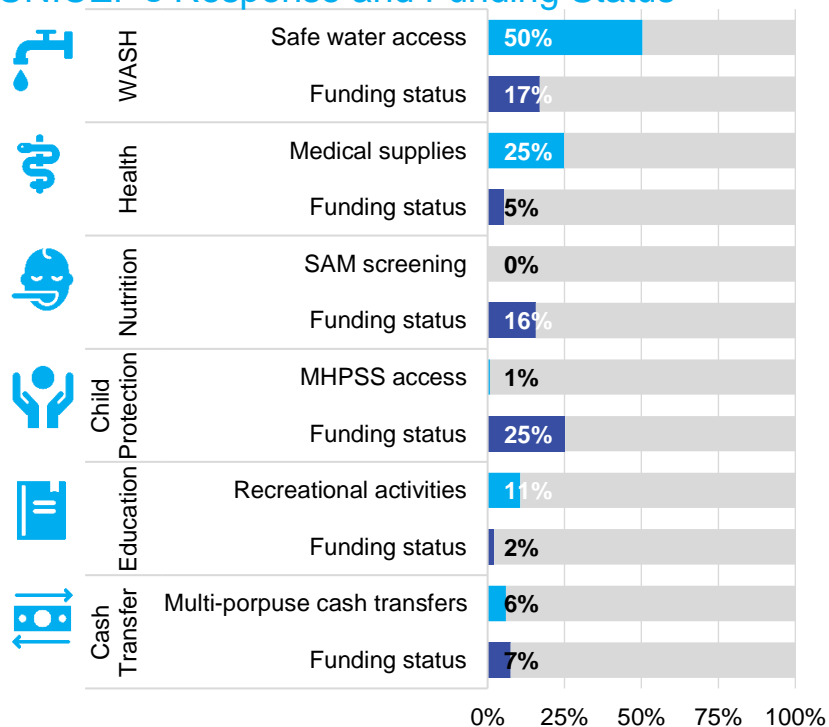
Situation in Numbers

-  **3.1 Million** people in need nationally (OCHA Flash Appeal, Nov 2023)
-  **1 Million** Children affected in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2023 population projections)
-  **Over 1.5 Million** Internally displaced people (OCHA, 8 Nov 2023)
-  **278 Attacks on schools** (Education Cluster, 6 Nov 2023)
-  **55% of Water Supply infrastructure** requires repair or rehabilitation (WASH Cluster, 22 October)

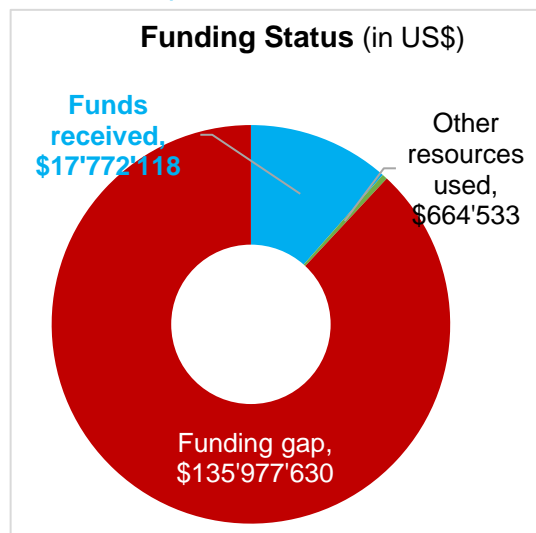
Highlights

- Every day over 400 children are reported killed or injured in the Gaza Strip, 4,324 children are reported killed since the start of hostilities.
- 1.5 million people are internally displaced in the Gaza Strip – half of whom are children.
- More than 1/3 of hospitals and 2/3 of primary health care facilities are closed in the Gaza Strip. WHO has documented 235 attacks on health care in the State of Palestine since 7 October.
- In the West Bank children continue to face conflict-related violence and insecurity, 46 children are reported killed in the West Bank since 7 October.
- UNICEF has supported water trucking and additional WASH activities to shelters, serving an estimated 1 million people in the Gaza Strip including over 560,000 children.
- UNICEF addressed sanitation issues with 30 solid waste containers and cleaning services in shelters, benefitting 26,000 people in the Gaza Strip.
- In the Gaza Strip 194,000 people including women, adolescent girls and newborns were reached with lifesaving medical supplies.
- In the Gaza Strip, over 2,900 people (2,600 children) received psychosocial support through helplines and partners.
- Humanitarian cash transfers were provided to 2,087 conflict-affected households.
- UNICEF has provided recreational activities with partners for 11,110 children.
- UNICEF is providing supplements to over 105,000 breastfeeding mothers who are struggling to feed themselves and their babies.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Immediate Needs US\$ 154.4 million



UNICEF funding status is based on the revision of 2023 HAC.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

The revised inter-agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories was issued on 6 November covering October to December 2023. The appeal identifies a financial requirement of approximately US\$ 1.2 billion to meet critical needs for 2.7 million people, the 2.2 million population of the Gaza Strip and 500,000 from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Aligned to the revised Flash Appeal, UNICEF is issuing an updated Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for October to December 2023 to support 2.1 million people including 1.2 million children with a funding requirement of US\$ 154.4 million. This updated HAC replaces the previous humanitarian funding requirements for UNICEF in the State of Palestine.

To kick start the UNICEF's response, available funds were reprogrammed, and UNICEF mobilized additional internal funds, along with flexible Global Humanitarian Thematic funds. UNICEF would like to sincerely thank partners for their contributions, including the governments of Australia, Norway and the United Kingdom, as well as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), European Commission / DG ECHO along with the UNICEF National Committees of Australia, France, Germany, Ireland, 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. UNICEF has also received US\$ 7.4 million from the internal Emergency Response Fund and exceptionally frontloaded US\$ 10 million of an internal capital loan both of which will need to be replenished. UNICEF currently has a funding gap of US\$ 135,977,630.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Every day over 400 children are reported killed or injured in the Gaza Strip. As of 8 November, 10,569 Palestinians, including 4,324 children, were reported killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities. A further 26,475 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 8,663 children. More than 2,550 people, including 1,350 children, are reported missing and may be injured or killed under rubble of destroyed buildings. Rescue efforts are hampered by ongoing airstrikes, scarcity of fuel for vehicles and equipment, and limited communication capabilities.

According to OCHA there are an estimated 1.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Gaza Strip – half of whom are children – including over 730,000 people staying in 151 UNRWA facilities; 122,000 sheltering in hospitals, churches and public buildings; and over 134,000 IDPs in 94 non-UNRWA schools. The remaining 570,000 IDPs are thought to be residing with host families. OCHA report that 45 per cent of Gaza's housing units have sustained damage or been destroyed.

The WASH Cluster reported that the people in the Gaza Strip have access to just 1 to 3 litres of water daily, raising fears of dehydration, kidney failure and other critical public health consequences. Since 25 October, the WASH Cluster has reported a slight increase in the daily amount of available water due to the transport of existing water supplies, the increase of water from the MEKOROT¹ sourced water pipelines, and the limited emergency fuel reserves for the two remaining operational seawater desalination plants, currently operating at between 5 and 40 per cent of their capacity. Women, notably those pregnant or lactating, alongside children, face heightened risks due to the lack of adequate water and sanitation. Children under five are more susceptible to waterborne diseases due to contaminated water and inadequate hygiene. Women and girls face challenges managing menstruation hygienically and with dignity, prompting many to use menstrual products for longer than intended, escalating infection dangers.

A public health catastrophe is rapidly evolving in the Gaza Strip. Over one third of hospitals and two thirds of primary health care facilities have shut down. WHO reports that there have been 108 attacks on health care in the Gaza Strip since 7 October, with 192 health staff killed of whom 16 were killed on duty. The functioning of health care facilities and ambulances is critically affected by the acute shortages of fuel, as well as a depletion of medications and medical supplies. The critical gaps in access to health services continues to have a particular effect on women and girls, specifically for maternal and new born care as well as reproductive health. With increased food insecurity, women and children, especially pregnant and lactating women, are at risk of under-or-malnutrition. There are 130 premature infants dependent on incubators and require electricity to keep them alive, of whom 61 per cent are in the North.

There are 625,000 children in the Gaza Strip who continue to miss out on education. As of 6 November, at least 278 schools have sustained damage, representing almost 60 per cent of all school buildings in the Gaza Strip (one school fully damaged, 66 severely damaged, 137 with moderate damage and 71 schools with minor damage). In addition to damage sustained by schools, schools are still being used as shelters by IDPs. An estimated 717,000 people are staying in 149 UNRWA education facilities as of 6 November, and more than 131,000 live in 94 public schools. The majority of children have been displaced, have witnessed traumatic moments and have no safe areas to play. Children with disabilities are more vulnerable as many have specialised needs including for assistive devices.

¹ Mekorot is the national water company of Israel.

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since 7 October children have continued to face increased levels of conflict-related violence and insecurity, including due to military operations, settler violence, eviction and displacement, as well as constrained access to education and health care. At least 163 Palestinians have been reported killed in the West Bank since 7 October, including 46 children. There have been 127 attacks on health care in the West Bank since 7 October.

Israeli sources report that at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, mostly in the attacks of 7 October, and more than 7,200 people reported injured. At least 30 children have been reported killed. Around 239 Israelis, including at least 30 children were abducted into the Gaza Strip and remain in captivity, with limited information available on the conditions of these children.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH

In response to urgent WASH humanitarian needs, during the reporting period, 611,000 litres of bottled water were distributed in UNRWA Designated Emergency Shelters (DES) and hospitals, benefitting over 203,000 people, including over 100,000 children. To restore operations of water supply systems and ensure predictable service provision, UNICEF supported the provision of one mobile water treatment plant (5m³/hour) to the Khan Younis Training Center that is sheltering over 25,000 people; one water pump; and fuel for the two operational desalination plants and critical water wells. UNICEF also supported water trucking to shelters, serving an estimated one million people in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah areas including over 560,000 children with all the water-related interventions. Furthermore, an additional 746 hygiene kits including menstrual health and hygiene supplies, 18,000 water purification tablets, 11,600 water containers of 10 litres capacity and six collapsible water tanks (10,000 litres capacity) were distributed through UNRWA shelters, benefitting 5,800 families.

The environmental and sanitary conditions are rapidly deteriorating in the overcrowded shelters raising public health risks to children and their families. In response, UNICEF provided 30 solid waste containers with 180-litre capacity and continued support to cleaning services in the shelters to address solid waste issues. This benefited over 26,000 people including over 13,000 children in the UNRWA Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC).

The WASH Cluster is coordinating the response in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through sub-national coordination platforms. UNICEF continues to lead and coordinate the WASH cluster which has 68 partners.

Health

UNICEF is scaling up support to the health system and partners in the Gaza Strip through provision of medical supplies, including medicines and consumables. During the reporting period, one hospital in the Middle Area received three trucks of medical consumables, benefitting 30,000 people. To date, a total of 194,000 people including women, adolescent girls and new borns were reached with lifesaving supplies.

Three hospitals were supported by three water trucks, facilitated by UNICEF's WASH team, carrying 66,000 1.5 litre bottles of water, benefitting around 22,000 people for one day. Additionally, 3,500 blankets were distributed benefitting 3,500 people, in three hospitals in Khan Younis and the Middle Area. Due to the continued bombardment, access to health facilities in the North of Gaza Strip and Gaza City remain constrained, making it challenging to provide any type of humanitarian assistance.

Nutrition

The Nutrition Cluster anticipates that the burden of malnutrition will continue to increase due to the deterioration of the underlying determinants of malnutrition. As the Nutrition cluster lead agency and the provider of the last resort, UNICEF is securing a pipeline of essential nutrition supplies to support the provision of essential lifesaving preventive and curative nutrition interventions. UNICEF is providing supplements to 105,800 breastfeeding mothers who are struggling to feed themselves and their babies. This week UNICEF also received in Al Arish, Egypt, for further distribution into Gaza, anaemia treatment for over 33,300 pregnant and lactating women, High Energy Biscuits for 23,000 children 6-23 months in the Gaza Strip and micronutrients supplementation for 16,000 children 24-59 months.

The Nutrition Cluster has been officially established within the State of Palestine. The Global Nutrition Cluster met to discuss the State of Palestine on 7 November with over 50 participants from SoP and global partners/ humanitarian actors. [SoP partner call presentation | Global Nutrition Cluster](#).

Child Protection

In the Gaza Strip, more than 2,936 people including 2,672 children received psychosocial support through the helpline and child protection partners. Moreover, 77 children and their caregivers were reached with education sessions on Explosive Remnants of War in two shelters.

UNICEF continues to provide critical child protection services to 455 children and 582 caregivers including legal aid, psychosocial services, recreational activities, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and case management. 15 children, who were arrested and detained for alleged security offences, received legal aid services, while ten families from the Gaza Strip who were stranded in the West Bank due to the escalation of the conflict, received MHPSS care and follow-up care services. Efforts to strengthen preparedness within child protection systems continued through building the case management capacity of ten governmental Child Protection Network members in all 11 West Bank governorates, and of 15 Sharia courts judges.

In coordination with partners of the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, as well as the Education, Health and Gender Based Violence Clusters and Sub-Clusters, UNICEF is accelerating the operationalization of the Identification, Documentation, Tracing and Reunification (IDTR) for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC).

Education

During the past week, UNICEF has provided recreational activities with partners to a total of 5,840 children (52 per cent girls) including ten children with disabilities (eight boys and two girls), who are located in 29 IDP shelters spread over Khan Younis, Deir Al Balah, Rafah, An Nuseirat, and Bani Suhila communities and camps. UNICEF distributed 131 recreational kits, recently transported through the Rafah crossing, to partners to facilitate their engagement with children. To scale up recreation and education-related interventions, a further 600 'School in a Carton' kits (benefitting 24,000 children and 600 teachers) and 269 recreational kits (benefitting 24,210 children) are prepositioned in an UNRWA warehouse in the Gaza Strip.

UNICEF continues to co-lead the Education Cluster with Save the children, coordinating the work of 89 partners, which enabled 34,000 children (52 per cent girls) to be reached with recreational activities in total.

Social Protection

UNICEF has made four payments of humanitarian cash transfers to conflict affected households in the Gaza Strip since the start of the escalation targeting 38,718 people, including 19,910 children. This amounts to 5,445 households, of which 22 per cent are female-headed. As of 6 November, about 20 days after the first disbursement, 2,087 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 fragility of the markets and rapidly depleting stocks of essential commodities, cash transfers through mobile payments still work and prove to be an effective and efficient mechanism to reach the most vulnerable families and children. Informal markets, that rely on local production, also still function. UNICEF has been closely coordinating cash transfer related processes including de-duplication through inter-agency Cash Working Group. UNICEF has been closely monitoring the situation of the markets including through following up with the mobile agents and shops to check the opening hours, and the functionality of the digital payment systems. So far, the liquidity is not reported as a concerning issue in Gaza.

Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)

UNICEF, in coordination with OCHA, has widely disseminated two key messages on protection: on the risks of unexploded ordnance, and on how to assist separated and unaccompanied children. These messages, produced by the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, were disseminated through SMS to approximately 400,000 subscribers of one of the two mobile phone companies in the Gaza Strip. The reach is based on the number of active users reported within the past 24 hours. The user base is much higher in general, but persistent damage to the mobile companies' infrastructure has drastically reduced the number of active users. UNICEF and partners will continue disseminating relevant messages to the Gazan population according to their needs through various communication channels.

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 for the first three batches of cash transfer. These channels are the Interagency Hotline, the PSEA network hotline and the UNICEF specific email address, to ensure that beneficiaries have direct and safe contact with UNICEF for any complaint or feedback. UNICEF has received 182 pieces of feedback, complaints, requests for information or cash redemption issues from households.

Support from Egypt

Since 21 October, UNICEF has moved 60 trucks² from Egypt into the Gaza Strip. These trucks included WASH Dignity Kits to serve nearly almost 77,000 people and WASH supplies including water tanks, containers and purification materials for water items to benefit 1.9 million people. UNICEF has also provided health supplies, which arrived inside the Gaza Strip and were distributed among three hospitals in Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah. These supplies included health consumables that will serve 122,700 cases, medicines for 45,000 cases, different types of medical kits including Acute Water Diarrhoea Kits (AWD) and Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to support 74,500 cases and micro-nutrients for 900 people.³ In addition, UNICEF has supplied recreational and Early Childhood Development kits for 36,000 children and 'School in a Carton' for 24,000 students.

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, including women-led organisations. UNICEF also leads the coordination of the WASH and Nutrition Clusters 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 also supports the Inter-Agency Network for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). UNICEF actively participates in the Regional and National Gender and Humanitarian Working Group, coordinated by UN Women and OCHA, and contributes to gender equality programming as well as preparedness and response.

Human Interest Stories, External Media and Advocacy

Advocacy - What is UNICEF calling for?

- An immediate humanitarian ceasefire.
- All access crossings into Gaza to be opened and safe movement for humanitarian workers and supplies across the Gaza Strip granted to ensure sustained and unimpeded access of humanitarian aid to affected populations wherever they are. This must include water, food, medical supplies, and fuel.
- The immediate, safe and unconditional release of all abducted children, and an end to any grave violations against children, including killing and injuring children.
- Urgent medical cases in Gaza to be able to safely access critical health services or be allowed to leave, and for injured children evacuated to be accompanied by family members.
- Respect and protection for civilian infrastructure such as shelters and schools, and health, electric, water and sanitation facilities, to prevent loss of civilian and children's lives, outbreaks of diseases, and to provide care to the sick and wounded. All parties to the conflict must adhere to international humanitarian law.

Statements:

- 05.11.2023: [Statement by Principals of Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) on Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)
- 03.11.2023: [Joint statement by UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and UNRWA on Women and newborns bearing the brunt of the conflict in Gaza](#)
- 02.11.2023: [Statement by UNICEF on the deaths and injuries of children in Jabaliya camp](#)

Social Media:

- [Some 1 million children lack access to safe water](#)
- [Children living with disabilities in the Gaza Strip are at extreme risk every second of the day.](#)
- [UNICEF is staying on the ground to deliver for children in the Gaza Strip.](#)
- [At least 180 women giving birth daily in Gaza.](#)
- [Humanitarian aid must reach people in need, wherever they are.](#)
- [UNICEF and partners are committed to staying on the ground to deliver for children.](#)

Next SitRep: 16 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](#)

² UNICEF had 5 trucks in the que to cross as of the evening on 8 November, however only 3 trucks were allowed to cross. This brings the running total to 60 (up from 57 reported on 7 November).

³ To account for beneficiaries' use of items from multiple kits, the calculation was made based upon 50 per cent of the total potential beneficiary count per kits.

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Annex A - Summary of Programme Results

Sector / Indicator	Target	Cumulative Result	% Progress
WASH			
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	2,050,000	1,033,000	50%
Health			
# of people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies to MOH and Health partners in Gaza	780,000	194,000	25%
Nutrition			
# of children 6-59 months screened for wasting admitted for treatment	5,842	0	0%*
Child Protection			
# of children affected by conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support	853,000	6,631	1%**
Education			
# of affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being	55,000	5,840	11%
Social Protection			
# of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	35,000	2,087	6%

*Prior to the escalation, nutrition was not considered as a critical issue in the State of Palestine, including the Gaza Strip. Nutrition existed as a sub-working group under Health cluster. Now as an independent cluster, progress on result is expected as more nutrition actors are mobilized.

**The indicator refers to MHPSS level 2 and 3 interventions, to have increased numbers of beneficiaries a humanitarian pause or a cease fire is required.

Annex B - Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (USD)	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received after 7 October	Other resources used for the escalation	US\$	%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	53,388,850	9,030,898	289,690	44,068,262	83%
Health	30,002,940	1,404,613	200,000	28,398,327	95%
Nutrition	11,897,862	1,996,475	0	9,901,387	83%
Child Protection	7,488,270	2,184,924	0	5,303,346	71%
Education	12,469,331	211,505	52,000	12,205,826	98%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	33,862,858	2,413,394	122,843	31,326,621	93%
Cross-Sectoral (PSEA, AAP)	1,544,143	150,000	0	1,394,143	90%
Cluster Coordination	3,760,027	380,309	0	3,379,718	90%
Total	154,414,281	17,772,118	664,533	135,977,630	88%

*SBC, RCCE components are integrated under each programme