



Asma, 15 years old, carries her belongings while she walks barefoot next to rubble of destroyed houses in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

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Reporting Period: 21 March to 3 April 2024

UNICEF in the State of Palestine

Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 22

for every child

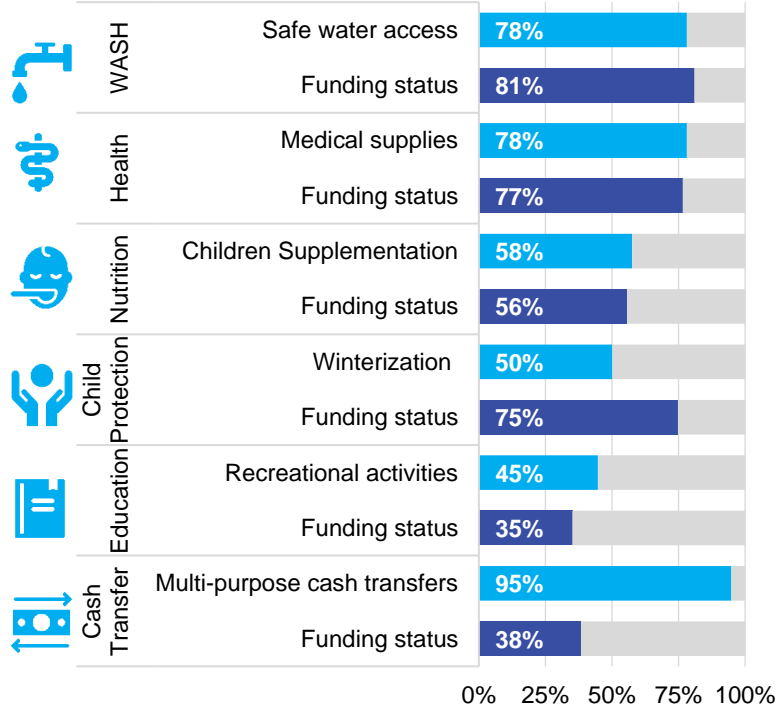
Highlights

- 84 per cent of all health facilities and 62 per cent of all homes in the Gaza Strip are either damaged or destroyed by the ongoing hostilities, as reported in the World Bank/EU/UN Gaza Interim Damage Assessment. It also found that around 57 per cent of water infrastructure has been destroyed or partially damaged. The current water production capacity is estimated at below five per cent of the usual output, and progressively decreases every day.
- 350,000 people with chronic disease have no or extremely limited access to their medications and essential medical procedures such as dialysis, according to HelpAge. Regarding diseases of epidemic potential, cases of acute respiratory infection (ARI) and acute water diarrhoea (AWD) are the top two reported diseases, according to UNRWA's weekly epidemiologic surveillance.
- UNICEF distributed 19,800 collapsible jerrycans; 15,800 buckets; 4,000 diapers; 990 hygiene kits; and 30 bladders for safe water storage benefitting 35,600 people including children, women and adolescent girls in the Gaza Strip.
- UNICEF has moved 34 trucks into the Gaza Strip in the past two weeks with critical emergency supplies such as 4,400 packs of baby diapers; 2,272 packs of hygiene kits; 15,905 sets of winter clothes; 1,250 cartons of nutritional food to fight malnutrition; 16,800 collapsible 10 litre water containers as well as two water treatment plants with tools and accessories.
- In the West Bank, UNICEF continued psychosocial first aid (PFA), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), awareness sessions and legal services to 727 people, including 459 children and 268 caregivers.

Situation in Numbers

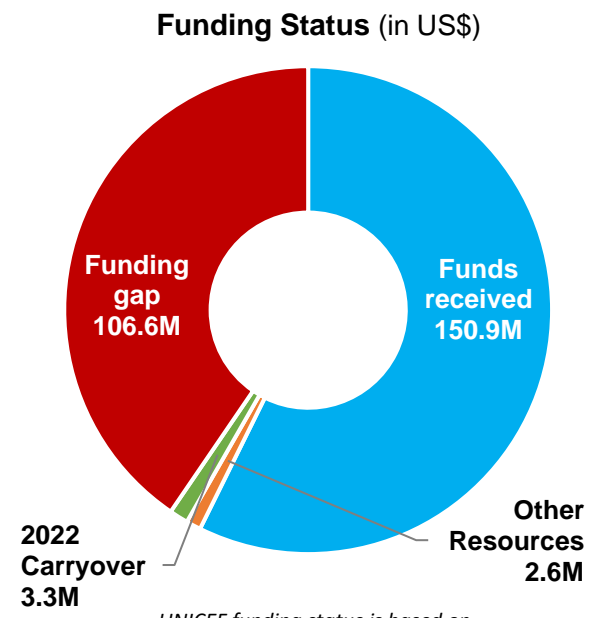
- 3.1 Million** people in need nationally (OCHA Flash Appeal, Nov 2023)
- 1 Million** Children affected in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2023 population projections)
- Estimated 1.7 Million** Internally displaced persons (UNRWA, 18 March 2024)
- 563 schools** Sustained damage in Gaza (Education Cluster, 30 March)
- 95% of population** Facing high acute food insecurity in Gaza (IPC Phase 3 or worse, March 2024)

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Immediate Needs

US\$ 263.3 million



UNICEF funding status is based on the March 2024 revision of the HAC.

Funding does not include the loans received from within UNICEF. See Annex A for additional explanations. For interventions such as water and cash the graph does not reflect the need to reach affected people through multiple rounds of intervention.

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, and was thereafter extended until the end of March 2024. The appeal identifies a financial requirement of approximately US\$ 1.2 billion to meet critical needs for 2.7 million people, 2.2 million population in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. UNICEF issued an updated Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for October 2023 until the end of March 2024 aligned with the interagency humanitarian planning processes. The UNICEF funding requirement was adjusted, as laid out in the 2024 HAC appeal, in line with increasing needs to US\$ 263.3 million. This revision reflects strategic shifts towards scaling up and sustaining humanitarian programming in targeted shelters and communities, as well as increased procurement of supplies required regularly and high associated freight costs. To date, the revised HAC has a US\$ 106.6 million (40 per cent) funding gap.

UNICEF would like to sincerely thank partners for their contributions, including the governments of Australia, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom as well as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), EU Humanitarian Aid and the World Bank. UNICEF thanks the UNICEF National Committees of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. UNICEF would also like to thank the UNICEF private sector fundraising offices of Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Gulf Area Office, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Thailand, and Uzbekistan, which have supported the response to the escalation of hostilities. Last but not least, UNICEF benefited from Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding, which enables UNICEF to respond flexibly to the acute needs of the most vulnerable children and their families in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. UNICEF has also received US\$ 8 million from the internal Emergency Programme Fund and exceptionally US\$ 10 million of an internal capital loan both of which will need to be replenished – these loans are not reflected in funds received.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since the escalation of hostilities on 7 October, a devastating impact on education in the Gaza Strip can be witnessed. A trend of school facilities being affected was recorded, exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation impacting the psychosocial wellbeing of children and teachers. An updated assessment¹ through satellite imagery by the Education Cluster evaluated that 212 school buildings were directly hit, which amounts to more than 37 per cent of all school buildings in the Gaza Strip. These 212 schools previously served around 228,000 students with over 8,550 teachers working at these schools. The assessment found that at least 67 per cent of schools in the Gaza Strip will need either full reconstruction or major rehabilitation to be functional again. Also, 320 school buildings have been used as shelters by internally displaced persons (IDPs), out of these school buildings 188 were either found to be directly hit (90 schools) or damaged (98 schools).

As of 4 April, at least 33,037 Palestinians were reported killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities. Up to 70 per cent are reported to be women (8,850) and children (13,800) reported by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. More than 75,668 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 12,019 children (partially disaggregated data as of 1 April 2024). UNRWA reports that, as of 1 April, 176 UNRWA staff had been killed, while WHO, UNDP and UNOPS each report one staff member killed. Seven World Central Kitchen staff were killed on 1 April. As of 1 April, there have been 352 incidents impacting 161 UNRWA installations, some of which have sustained direct hits. UNRWA reports as of 1 April, that at least 409 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been killed in their facilities, with at least a further 1,409 injured due to the hostilities since 7 October. Close to 1.7 million IDPs (over 75 per cent of the population) are sheltering at emergency shelters, which are UNRWA shelters or public shelters, at informal sites, or in the vicinity of UNRWA shelters and distribution sites and within host communities.

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, OCHA reports that since 7 October, at least 438 Palestinians have been killed.² At least 115 Palestinian children and one Israeli child were reported killed in conflict-related violence in the same time period, with more than half of incidents in the Jenin, Nablus, and Tulkarem governorates of the northern West Bank, and more than one quarter of incidents in the Ramallah and Jerusalem governorates. Militarized law enforcement operations inside Palestinian communities and refugee camps involving high use of live ammunition, explosive weapons, and aerial strikes, as well as settler violence and movement restrictions, continue to put Palestinian

¹ Verification of damages to schools based on proximity to damaged sites by the Education Cluster, 26 March 2024, <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/verification-damages-schools-based-proximity-damaged-sites-gaza-occupied-palestinian-territory-26-march-2024>

² Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel, Flash Update #143, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-147>

children at higher risk of violence, grave violations, and displacement, and impact their access to services. According to OCHA, since 7 October, at least 2,900 Palestinians including more than 1,300 children have been displaced, mainly in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to settler violence and access restrictions, home demolitions, and destruction of residences during military law enforcement operations.

Israeli sources report that approximately 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, mostly in the attacks of 7 October, and more than 7,500 people are reported injured. More than 35 children have been reported killed. Around 250 people, including at least 36 children were abducted from Israel into the Gaza Strip, of whom 34 have been released, with very limited information available on the children remaining in captivity.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

In response to urgent WASH humanitarian needs, through the UN mechanism³, UNICEF provided 100,850 litres of fuel during the reporting period, which allowed public and private water wells and desalination plants to produce clean water, benefitting more than 1.6 million people, including over 816,000 children with lifesaving water for drinking and domestic needs in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis, Rafah, and the Middle Area. In addition, UNICEF has delivered four mobile desalination plants (5m³ water per hour) each equipped with a 5kva generator and a solar system. The mobile desalination plants will be installed to support production of clean water for drinking and domestic needs.

UNICEF distributed 15,867 buckets; 992 hygiene kits; 4,000 diapers; 19,800 collapsible jerrycans; and 30 bladders with capacities of 5,000 and 10,000 litres benefitting 35,667 people including children, women and adolescent girls in Rafah, Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah.

In response to the dire situation of sanitation services for the internally displaced people in overcrowded shelters, 500 latrines were constructed through UNICEF support. Through the UN mechanism UNICEF provided fuel to operate one wastewater treatment plant in Rafah, enabling wastewater treatment and safe disposal of sewage, benefitting over 278,000 people, including 140,250 children in Rafah.

To address solid waste and environmental hygiene needs in the overcrowded shelters, UNICEF continued to support cleaning services through the Incentive Based Programme where 700 workers are engaged in solid waste management intervention, benefitting over 30,000 people, including 16,000 children. In coordination with the WASH Cluster partners, UNICEF is scaling up WASH service delivery in IDP settings, hosting communities, and informal shelters by providing an integrated package of WASH services. Additionally, UNICEF continues to take gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation measures during the location selection, in the design phase, and through consultations with community representatives.

The WASH Cluster coordinates the response in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through sub-national coordination platforms. UNICEF continues to lead and coordinate the WASH Cluster with 47 active partners, of which 35 are active in the Gaza Strip and 24 are active in the West Bank (some organisations are active in both areas). Through the WASH-Infection Prevention and Control Working Group⁴, the Health Cluster shares information about health care facilities regarding gaps in the infection prevention and control (IPC) and in WASH services. Thereafter it is discussed how these gaps can be addressed. This has triggered interventions like the environmental cleaning in health care facilities, and the distribution of hygiene kits at medical consultation points.

Health

UNICEF delivered two types of routine immunisation vaccines to the northern Gaza Strip: 570 ten-dose vials of Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (DTP), and 600 ten-dose vials of Hepatitis B. These quantities are enough to cater for the corresponding vaccination needs of about 4,500 children.

Nutrition

UNICEF with partners continued to conduct mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screenings, targeting children aged 6 to 59 months in shelters and healthcare facilities to detect acute malnutrition. So far, a total of 31,629 children aged

³ Through a signed agreement with UNRWA, UNICEF receives fuel to support water service providers in the operation of water and wastewater systems. UNICEF refunds UNRWA for the fuel. This is a UN wide mechanism agreed upon with all parties.

⁴ An inter-cluster working group, facilitated by the WASH Cluster and Health Cluster, to address WASH-related disease prevention and control like acute watery diarrhoea and acute jaundice syndrome.

6-59 months underwent MUAC screening. From these children 2,263 children were identified with acute malnutrition, including 1,715 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 548 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). These children are currently receiving treatment according to the simplified protocols.

UNICEF continued to lead and coordinate the Nutrition Cluster with 49 partners, of which 20 have ongoing interventions on the ground. The cluster is updating the service delivery mapping at the level of Primary Health Care (PHC) centres and shelters. Based on the received partner reports, in the Gaza Strip nutrition services are provided at 16 out of 17 functioning PHCs, at two out of 16 hospitals, and at 95 out of 138 shelters. The Gaza Nutrition Cluster supported capacity building of the cluster partners. In the last week of March 18 staff were trained in the early identification and treatment of acutely malnourished children to launch the management of the wasting program in a field hospital. This brings the total number of health workers trained on the simplified approaches of the MUAC screenings to 75.

Child Protection

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF continued to advocate for access to Child Protection related supplies into the Gaza Strip⁵. Distribution of life-saving winterization items to children continues including in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir Al-Balah. Since 7 October 2023, UNICEF with partners distributed over 165,421 clothing items tailored differently for children aged newborn to 17 years old.

UNICEF has provided psychosocial support (PSS) services to 140,962 children and caregivers, of whom 105,750 are children (including 56,625 girls) in Gaza, North Gaza, Rafah, Khan Younis and Deir Al-Balah. Structured in-person PSS services were provided to 71,687 children (including 38,936 girls and 999 children with disabilities) as well as to 21,517 caregivers (including 12,558 women). Additionally, UNICEF has organized specialized PSS sessions for 350 children who either sustained injuries or have existing disabilities. These sessions aim to assess and cater to their specific needs within the intervention framework. In addition, UNICEF with partners provide face-to-face sessions on explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) across the Gaza Strip, reaching a total of 26,570 people (16,210 children and 10,360 caregivers) in shelters and vulnerable communities.

For unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), UNICEF continued to provide alternative care and additional essential services to 13 unaccompanied children through the cooperation with a partner. A total of seven children were reunified with their families and 210 separated children in informal kinship care arrangements are regularly monitored by a UN agency, including 175 children identified by UNRWA. During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to provide essential child protection, prevention and response interventions in the West Bank. These services include psychosocial first aid (PFA), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), awareness sessions and legal services to 727 people, including 459 children (251 girls) and 268 caregivers (132 women).

In the West Bank, UNICEF continued supporting child protection services for vulnerable families in hotspot areas. Two supervision sessions took place to enhance capacities to more effectively respond to children's needs, which were attended by 13 staff members of the Minister of Social Development – child protection counsellors or family and juvenile police officers. In addition, UNICEF with partners carried out 13 positive parenting sessions for 191 children, and seven sessions for 88 mothers living in hotspot areas. UNICEF also supported the ongoing Child Protection Diploma program, attended by 23 staff from the Government and civil society organizations. With support from UNICEF, three child protection counsellors were able to reach ten child victims at risk of political violence in Ramallah, Qaliqlyya and Nablus.

Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CPAoR) partners continued to deliver specialized Child Protection services⁶, reaching more than 329,000 children and 56,000 caregivers with MHPSS; clothes and shoes distribution; and awareness raising sessions on EORE and on child rights. The CPAoR also continued to advocate on operational challenges and programmatic priorities, including on the urgent need for fuel, the entry of critical psycho-social support supplies and the care for UASC⁷.

Education

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF with partners continued to support the well-being of children through the provision of recreational activities. UNICEF has finalized guidelines on the accessibility of facilities in emergencies with these guidelines planned to support the establishment of key minimum standards to ensure inclusive access to learning spaces and any other spaces used for educational and humanitarian purposes.

⁵ During the reporting period, psychosocial kits were denied entry to Gaza for the third time in 2024.

⁶ Data on CPAoR response is available on [CPAoR Interactive Dashboard](#)

⁷ The Latest advocacy note on UASC is available on [the CPAoR Advocacy Brief](#).

In the West Bank, UNICEF continued to work with a team of the Ministry of Education to develop offline digital content. This is to support schools with gamified and interactive packages of the curriculum that can be used during emergencies and where internet is not available.

UNICEF continues to lead the Education Cluster. The cluster continues to coordinate the response in both Gaza and West Bank and provide and bring partners together in technical taskforces. More information on the Education Cluster actions can be found through the [Education Cluster 5Ws Dashboard](#), the [Gaza Strip Damaged Schools Dashboard](#) and the [West Bank Vulnerable Schools Dashboard](#).

Social Protection

Since the onset of the escalation on 7 October 2023, UNICEF has provided cash assistance to 555,311 people (83,890 families, including 295,753 children, 18,125 people with disabilities, and 43,644 female-headed households). Of those, 388,374 people (56,085 families) were assisted with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). This represents 65 per cent of all humanitarian cash transactions provided in the Gaza Strip. In recognition of a continuous need, UNICEF started to provide the second round of MPCA and already reached 180,194 people (21,278 households) – 27 per cent who were assisted two times.

Responding to the growing food insecurity, UNICEF has been providing nutrition top-up cash payments since December 2023, reaching cumulatively 28,840 pregnant and breastfeeding women, and disability top-up cash payments to 5,079 families with children with disabilities. These top-ups are estimated to benefit a total of 211,499 people. During the week of 6-9 March, an additional 10,244 individuals (comprising 2,236 households) received cash assistance. In specific, 7,246 individuals (distributed across 1,726 families) were provided with MPCA, while 2,998 individuals (across 510 families) received support as 'protection cases', and incentives for solid waste management in 12 shelters.

Cash delivery has been accompanied by recurring post-distribution monitoring (PDM) through RapidPro with over 8,000 PDM survey responses to date, shedding light on the continued usefulness of unrestricted cash transfers. According to the latest data collection round (14-21 February), a large majority of respondents – 73 per cent – responded “partially” or “yes” to the question: “Do you find the goods you need on the market?”. This is in line with previous data collection rounds, as there has been a significant increase in negative responses.

With the continued high levels of insecurity and tight restrictions for public and private actors' movement in facilitating adequate supply of goods and services, the Humanitarian Cash Transfer response is gradually more affected (since mid-March 2024) compared to the initial stages of the conflict. Particularly, the banking sector has been facing significant challenges on cash liquidity, and on the movement of cash within Gaza Strip. This is increasingly affecting the delivery of cash assistance in a smooth, effective and efficient manner to the affected population. UNICEF and Cash Working Group members are in contact with the banking sector, one bank and one financial service provider primarily, to ensure an adequate level of cash liquidity and the continuity of cash transfers in a safe and secure way by all means possible.

Reaching nearly six months since the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip, informal markets demonstrated exceptional resilience and enabled fast and effective redistribution of goods, which is critical in the environment of highly restricted access. Therefore, to contribute to the prevention of famine and to gradually restore the economy, in-kind assistance needs to be accompanied by adequate circulation of cash especially through humanitarian cash transfers to ensure an effective, timely and fair re-distribution of goods for the most vulnerable families.

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

UNICEF continued its efforts to ensure that communities have direct, safe and confidential channels for any complaint or feedback they may have regarding UNICEF and partners' interventions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, through a Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Since 7 October 2023, 27,531 pieces of feedback with complaints were received through the three UNICEF CFM channels: namely the Interagency Hotline, the PSEA network hotline, and the UNICEF e-mail. During the reporting period, 4,440 pieces of feedback and complaints were received. Communication and feedback included requests for cash assistance, issues related to cash redemption, and requests for specific products. Complaints were referred to the relevant channels to be resolved, and the feedback related to the Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programme is analysed by the corresponding team, and then followed up on, to identify and resolve challenges, as well as to inform the direction of the cash programming.

UNICEF with partners continues providing safeguarding sessions in the Gaza Strip, reaching 131,481 IDPs with safeguarding awareness services and a copy each of a brochure of the PSEA network SANAD. UNICEF also supports community-led initiatives (CLIs) during crisis, including supporting and developing a safeguarding platform that will

provide people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as any harm caused by personnel who provide humanitarian aid.

Through the PSEA network, UNICEF continues to strengthen inter-agency feedback channels, and advocates for the use of the hotline (164) which receives different requests, complaints and provides MHPSS and referrals. During the reporting period, the hotline documented 1,305 cases from 17 girls, 59 boys, 517 women, and 595 men. Of the overall cases, 816 cases were documented that received MHPSS through the PSEA network hotline, including 251 females and 564 males. Some of the children who received MHPSS mentioned symptoms of increased irritation, less appetite, constant panic and fear, and stomach-ache. Many callers described that there is not enough food in the school shelters, as well as scarcity of drinking water and infants' milk. In over 1,060 calls since 7 October 2023 from all over the Gaza Strip, either poor access to food or starvation was mentioned. The hotline receives an increased number of calls from the north of the Gaza Strip on hunger and starvation, thus referred 736 urgent cases to WFP between 1 January and 2 April 2024. The hotline also reported four cases of UASC, of which three were reportedly dead and one was missing.

Support from Egypt Coordination Cell

Cumulatively, 628 trucks containing UNICEF supplies have crossed into the Gaza Strip from Egypt since 21 October 2023. During the reporting period, a total of 34 trucks with critical emergency supplies have crossed. Key supply items that were delivered include: Dignity kits for adults; 4,400 packs of baby diapers; 2,272 packs of hygiene kits; 15,905 sets of winter clothes; 1,250 cartons of therapeutic spread (ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF)); and 16,800 collapsible 10 litre water containers.

Operations at Nitzana and Karem Abou Salem are still intermittent due to ongoing security incidents. Despite the challenges, in addition to the above delivered items, the achievements in the past two weeks include:

- Three successful missions to the North Gaza governorate delivering nutrition and medical products.
- Four water treatment plants with tools and accessories delivered into the Gaza Strip.
- Four charter flights were donated for the delivery of supplies, valued at approximately US\$ 600,000.
- The expansion of transit warehousing facilities in Jordan (1000 square meters capacity at Zarqa, 500 pallets capacity at and Aqaba) as well as in Egypt (2,500 square meters in Cairo).

During the reporting period, the Emergency Relief Coordinator⁸ reported a backlog of 1,258 trucks of the UN as well as of international non-governmental organisations, which are lined up in Al Arish, Egypt, waiting to enter the Gaza Strip.

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 as well as the Technical Working Group on UASC. 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) and participates in the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Working Group coordinated by OCHA. UNICEF also actively participates in the Regional and National Gender and Humanitarian Working Group, coordinated by the 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?

To respond to the situation for children in Israel and the State of Palestine, UNICEF is calling for:

- An immediate and long-lasting humanitarian ceasefire.
- Safe and unrestricted humanitarian access to and within the Gaza Strip to reach affected populations wherever they are, including in the north. All access crossings must be opened including to sufficient fuel, materials needed to run and rehabilitate essential infrastructure, and commercial supplies. Safe movement for humanitarian workers and supplies, including assistive devices such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, crutches and prosthetics, across the Gaza Strip must be guaranteed and reliable telecommunications networks made available to coordinate response efforts.
- The immediate, safe, and unconditional release of all abducted children, and an end to any grave violations against all children, including killing and maiming children.

⁸ The Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) is the most senior UN official dedicated to humanitarian affairs. The ERC reports directly to the United Nations Secretary-General and serves as a focal point for governments, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental organisations on humanitarian issues.

- Respect and protection for civilian infrastructure such as shelters and schools, and health, electric, water, sanitation, and telecommunications 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 respect international humanitarian law.
- Urgent medical cases in the Gaza Strip to be able to safely access critical health services or be allowed to leave, and for injured or sick children evacuated to be accompanied by family members.

UNICEF continues to press world leaders on every occasion for an end to the violence and humanitarian access to the whole of the Gaza Strip.

Statements:

- 26 March 2024: [Gaza's Children: Trapped in a cycle of suffering](#)

Human interest stories:

- [A day in Gaza: Marwa's diary](#)
- [Children face severe water shortages and a dire hygiene situation in the Gaza Strip](#)
- [Over half a million highly vulnerable people in the Gaza Strip receive humanitarian cash assistance](#)

Social Media:

- [In Gaza, there is an existing old crossing point that could be used in the north, 10 minutes from those facing famine.](#)
- [Around 1.7 million people in the Gaza Strip are estimated to have been internally displaced – half of them children. Children need a humanitarian ceasefire.](#)
- [UNICEF with AFD & Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation delivered 50 incubators to three hospitals in the Gaza Strip.](#)
- [In Gaza, UNICEF is providing cash assistance to more than 500,000 people thanks to the support of ECHO, FCDO, Norway, Canada, Croatia and Switzerland.](#)
- [Children flying makeshift kites over tents and shelters - a bittersweet scene amid the war in Gaza. We're doing everything we can to support children but the challenges are immense. They need a humanitarian ceasefire. Now.](#)
- [Water for peace is the theme of this year's World Water Day. Thanks to UNICEF & the support of Australia, a clean water line now serves the resident of the community including 2,900 children.](#)
- [On World Water Day, more than 80% of households in the Gaza Strip lack access to water. Children & their families are forced to use dirty water, increasing risks of waterborne diseases.](#)
- [Many children families displaced by the war in the Gaza Strip have access to only 1 litre of water per person per day, far below the minimum needed. When water is scarce or polluted, or when people struggle for access, tensions rise.](#)

Next SitRep: 19 April 2024

UNICEF State of Palestine Humanitarian Action for Children 2024 Appeal: www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine

Latest Situation Reports are available on: www.unicef.org/sop/research-and-reports

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Summary of Programme Results (Gaza Strip and West Bank)⁹

Sector / Indicator	UNICEF			CLUSTER		
	Total Target ¹⁰	Cumulative Result	% Progress	Total Target	Cumulative Result	% Progress
WASH						
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs ¹¹	2,050,000	1,601,178	78%	2,426,544	2,100,000	87%
# of people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services	1,350,000	495,187	37%	2,426,544	992,916	41%
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)	1,050,000	516,882	49%	2,426,544	996,480	41%
Health						
# of people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies ¹²	780,000	609,785	78%			
# of high risks pregnant women who benefited from medical assistance in Gaza	50,000	5,030	10%			
Nutrition						
# of pregnant women receiving preventative iron folate or multiple micronutrients supplementation	182,272	63,840	35%	197,858	63,840	32%
# of children 6-59 months receiving preventative lipid-based supplements, micronutrients supplementation, and high energy biscuits	341,524	196,634	58%	371,859	271,330	73%
# of Infants 0-6 months receiving RUIF ¹³	16,415	6,074	37%	23,551	6,074	26%
# of children 0-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	6,813	2,267	33%	6,813	2,267	33%
Child Protection¹⁴						
# of children and caregivers affected by conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support	596,453 children 255,623 caregivers	117,933 44,860	19% 20%	746,000	192,434	26%
# of children receiving explosive weapons-related risk education	504,925	16,210	3%			
# of children reached with winterization items (including blankets)	330,000	165,421	50%			
Education						
# of affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being ¹⁵	155,000	69,289	45%	529,084	149,135	28%
# of school aged children provided with essential education in emergency learning materials	325,500	160	0% ¹⁶	438,286	53,334	12%
Social Protection						
# of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers ¹⁷	88,500	83,890	95%			

⁹ The Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for October to December 2023 was carried over in the 2024 HAC revised on 5 January and in February to cover October 2023 to March 2024 inclusive. Accordingly, also the results against the indicators were carried over into 2024.

¹⁰ UNICEF targets have been updated aligned to the revised HAC.

¹¹ As interventions support the same population over time, UNICEF reports the maximum number of people reached each week to avoid double counting, based on the water production and trucking.

¹² This result is calculated based upon the distribution of Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to health facilities and partner reports.

¹³ UNICEF is committed to supporting mothers to exclusively breastfeed their infants up to 6 months of age and to continue breastfeeding to age 2 and beyond with appropriate complementary foods. In exceptional circumstances, UNICEF provides breastmilk substitutes, as some infants are not breastfed or only partially breastfed during emergencies.

¹⁴ CP indicators and targets are linked to quality reach, and it is difficult to implement some activities (e.g. MHPSS level 2 and 3 interventions) during active hostilities. CPAoR partners reached a cumulative of 148,367 children with MHPSS as of 29 February 2024.

¹⁵ The cumulative result indicates 36,777 girls, 32,512 boys and 1,270 children with disabilities. The number has been adjusted downward after reviewing partners' report.

¹⁶ As most of schools are being used as emergency shelters, no learning activities have taken place since 7 October 2023. UNICEF does not count children who benefitted through recreational kits as a result under emergency learning materials indicator. The kits are utilized for recreational activities and the service delivery is reported under the recreational activity indicator.

¹⁷ Reach with humanitarian cash transfers is reported based upon households which have received messages to redeem their cash. The response exceeds the target as the programme revised the initial strategy and has only delivered one round of transfers as compared to three rounds in the plan, with some households receiving second transfers in recent weeks. Furthermore, UNICEF has partially funded the response through loans which are not reflected in the Funding Status table. The actual reach of households has been adjusted from the last report.

Annex B - Funding Status¹⁸

Sector	Revised Requirements (USD)	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received after 7 Oct.	Other resources used for the escalation	Resources available from 2022 (Carry-over)	US\$	%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	62,225,779	49,637,060	93,972	629,647	11,865,100	19%
Health	35,195,054	24,495,184	2,200,000	234,764	8,265,106	23%
Nutrition	27,765,177	15,452,987	0	0	12,312,190	44%
Child Protection	24,857,916	18,123,240	0	462,963	6,271,713	25%
Education	29,645,946	9,216,946	52,000	1,142,966	19,234,034	65%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	74,376,225	27,781,524	0	727,084	45,867,617	62%
Cross-Sectoral (PSEA, AAP)	4,746,532	2,625,155	0	50,146	2,071,231	44%
Cluster Coordination	4,495,988	3,576,540	220,000	29,000	670,448	15%
Total	263,308,617	150,908,636	2,565,972	3,276,570	106,557,439	40%

**All amounts include weighted cross-sectoral costs and cost recovery.*

**Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) are integrated under each sector.*

¹⁸ The funding requirement has been revised with a 56 per cent increase from the January 2024 revision of US\$ 168.3 million, bringing the total funding requirements to US\$ 263.3 million. The funding gap by section (\$ and %) reflects only the sections which are not fully funded, while the overall gap reflects the total funding received against the total funds requirement.