

"I'm 14 years old and have seven siblings. Life is incredibly challenging, and the conditions are dire."

Duha, a deaf girl originally from Beit Hanon, northern Gaza Strip, now displaced in Rafah, looks out of her family's makeshift tent. Duha received the adolescent girls care and protection package from UNICEF. Persons with disabilities are impacted disproportionately by the effects of displacement, and many have lost their assistive devices and access to disability specific services such as rehabilitation.

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## UNICEF in the State of Palestine

### Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 24

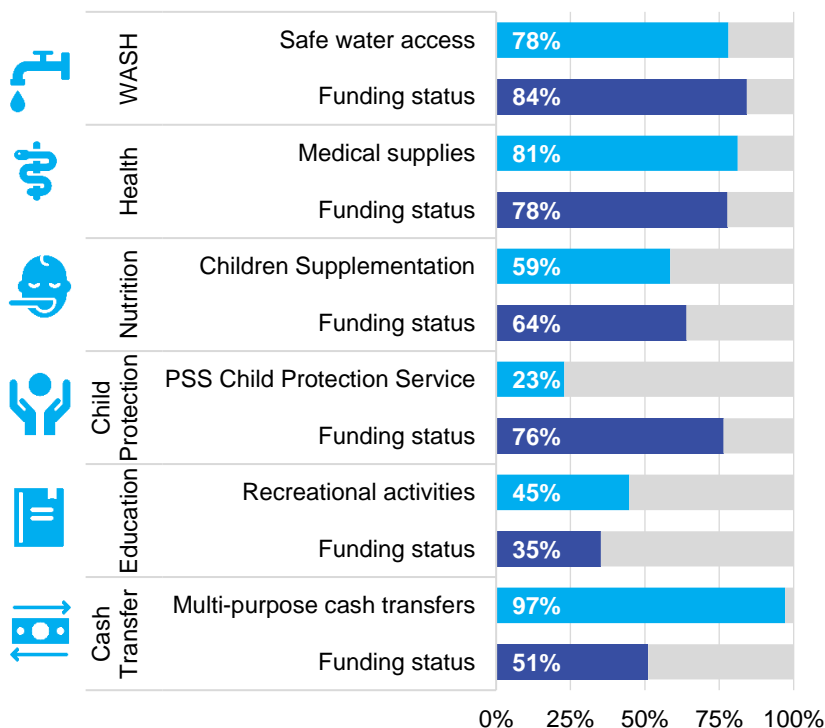


Reporting Period: 18 April to 1 May 2024

### Highlights

- The percentage of children identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in the south and middle areas of the Gaza Strip has been stable for the past weeks according to MUAC measure reports. In such fragile context, where the risk of famine is imminent, any progress could be reversed rapidly. Data for the north of the Strip is yet to be received.
- More than 72 per cent of all schools in the Gaza Strip will either need full reconstruction or major rehabilitation work to be functional again, as the Education Cluster evaluated in a satellite-based damage assessment.
- UNICEF provided 183,000 litres of fuel in the past two weeks, which allowed to produce lifesaving water for over 1.6 million people, including over 0.8 million children.
- UNICEF has moved 98 trucks into the Gaza Strip in the past two weeks with critical emergency supplies, including 6,800 cartons of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF); 305,280 packs of Ready-to-Use Infant Formula (RUIF); 10,000 cartons of high energy biscuits; 13,436 hygiene kits; 15,504 packs of sanitary pads; and 56,416 sets of children's clothes.
- In the West Bank, UNICEF provided essential child protection services, including psychosocial first aid, MHPSS, and legal services to 679 people, including 470 children (321 girls) and 209 caregivers (180 women).

### UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



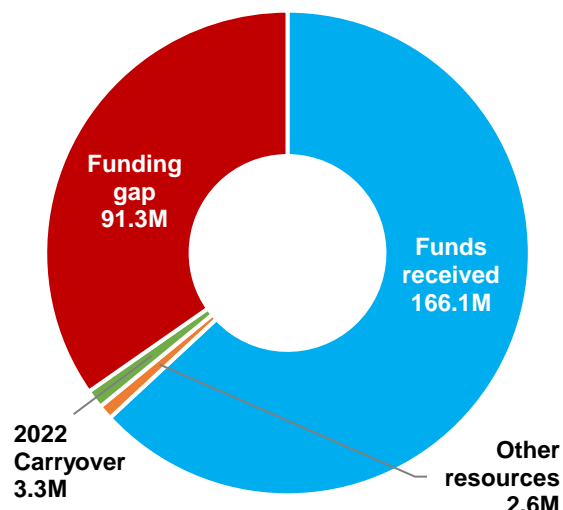
Funding does not include the loans received from within UNICEF. See Annex A for additional explanations. For interventions such as water and cash the graph does not reflect the need to reach affected people through multiple rounds of intervention.

### Situation in Numbers

- 3.3 Million** People in need nationally (OCHA Flash Appeal, April 2024)
- 1 Million** Children affected in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2023 population projections)
- Estimated 1.7 Million** Internally displaced persons (UNRWA, 18 March 2024)
- 483 schools in the Gaza Strip sustained damage** which is 86% of all schools (Education Cluster, 25 April 2024)
- 95% of population** Facing high acute food insecurity in Gaza (IPC Phase 3 or worse, March 2024)

### UNICEF Immediate Needs US\$ 263.3 million

#### Funding Status (in US\$)



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

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

The latest Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories<sup>1</sup> was issued on 17 April covering April to December 2024. The appeal identifies a financial requirement of over US\$ 2.8 billion to meet critical needs for 3.1 million people, 2.3 million population in the Gaza Strip and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. UNICEF is in the process of updating its Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) to align it with revised emergency response planning and the revised Flash Appeal. The current HAC has a US\$ 91.3 million (35 per cent) funding gap.

UNICEF would like to sincerely thank partners for their contributions, including the governments of Austria, 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 Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. UNICEF would also like to thank the UNICEF private sector fundraising offices of Bahrain, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, the Gulf Area Office, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Philippines, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Uzbekistan, which have supported the response to the escalation of hostilities. Last but not least, UNICEF benefited from the 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 received US\$ 8 million from the internal Emergency Programme Fund and exceptionally US\$ 10 million from an internal capital loan both of which will need to be replenished – these loans are not reflected in the funding received.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As per nutrition cluster estimates 50,400 children under five suffer from acute malnutrition (a dramatic increase from 7,685 children targeted in the initial Flash Appeal in November 2024). In addition to disease and lack of access to water and sanitation, affecting children's nutritional status, the overall picture of dietary diversity of children and pregnant and breastfeeding women especially in the North of the Gaza Strip remains extremely worrying, with only two per cent of children reaching the threshold for minimum dietary diversity. However, for the first time since early December 2023, a very slight improvement of the status of dietary diversity of both children under two and pregnant and breastfeeding women was detected through UNICEF's post distribution monitoring of cash transfers, with data essentially from Rafah (62 per cent) and Middle Gaza (24 per cent). In particular for children below the age of two, the number of respondents indicating 3, 4 and 5 food types<sup>2</sup> have increased slightly (from 4 to 6 per cent, 1 to 3 per cent and 0 to 2 per cent respectively). For breastfeeding women, the respondents indicating two food types or more increased by 10 percentage points from 17 per cent in February to 27 per cent in mid-April 2024. Only 1 per cent of women declared five food groups or more, the threshold for minimum diversity for women. These results correlate well with UNICEF's data on the situation of markets indicating increased availability of goods. This improvement can potentially be attributed to the increased volume of goods entering the Gaza Strip, and to a better situation of markets in the south as compared to the north of the Gaza Strip.

As of 30 April, at least 34,535 Palestinians were reported killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities. Up to 70 per cent are reported to be women (9,100) and children (14,000) as reported by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. More than 77,704 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 12,290 children (partially disaggregated data as of 28 April 2024). As of 20 April, 442 attacks on health care in Gaza were recorded, affecting 100 health facilities and 106 ambulances, according to reporting by WHO. More than 540,000 girls and women in Gaza are of reproductive age and need access to appropriate items to support hygiene, health, dignity, and well-being<sup>3</sup>. As of the end of April, there were

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<sup>1</sup> Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, April-December 2024: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/flash-appeal-occupied-palestinian-territory-2024>. The previous Inter-Agency Flash Appeal was issued on 6 November covering October to December 2023, and was thereafter extended until the end of March 2024.

<sup>2</sup> The availability of different "food types" refers to the variety of food groups that can be obtained. The diversity of types of food is an important indicator of nutritional adequacy and food security. It helps to assess whether the needs of the population are being met in terms of a balanced diet. The food types assessed in this monitoring exercise included breast milk, legumes, vitamin A rich fruits and vegs, other fruits and vegs, eggs, grains, dairy, and meats. Having to rely on a single type of food could lead to nutritional deficiencies. A higher number of food types generally indicates a more nutritionally diversity, which is crucial in crisis situations where people are at high risk of undernutrition.

<sup>3</sup> Gender Analysis of the Impact of the War in Gaza on Vital Services Essential to Women's and Girls' Health, Safety, and Dignity - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) by UN Women, April 2024, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/gender-alert-gender-analysis-of-the-impact-of-the-war-in-gaza-on-vital-services-essential-to-womens-and-girls-health-safety-en.pdf>

254 aid workers killed including 180 UNRWA staff<sup>4</sup>. Close to 1.7 million IDPs (over 75 per cent of the population) are sheltering at emergency shelters.

The latest satellite-based assessment exercise on damage to education facilities<sup>5</sup> shows that, 86.1 per cent of schools (483 out of all 563 schools) sustained some level of damage to their buildings. 72.5 per cent of schools in Gaza will either need full reconstruction or major rehabilitation work to be functional again. Almost 29 per cent of schools that were evaluated as either “directly hit” or “damaged” are UN-run schools through UNRWA, while 65.3 per cent of school buildings that have been used by IDP as shelters were assessed as either “directly hit” or “damaged”. Restrictions on the entry of education supplies, denial of fuel for education partners, and underfunding for education activities, continue to undermine aid organisations’ capacities to respond. The absence of schooling in the Gaza Strip, continues to deprive 625,000 children of opportunities for their social, emotional, and cognitive development. Without sufficient aid, these children are at risk of permanently dropping out of school, rendering them vulnerable to exploitation, child labour, early marriage, and other forms of abuse.

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, OCHA reports that since 7 October, at least 474 Palestinians have been killed.<sup>6</sup> At least 126 Palestinian children (including three girls) and two Israeli children were reported killed in conflict-related violence in the same time period, with more than 60 per cent of incidents in the northern West Bank. A militarized law enforcement operation in the Nur al-Shams refugee camp in Tulkarem between 18 and 21 April, resulted in heavy damage to residences and WASH infrastructure, as well as children killed, injured, and arrested. Initial assessments by the UN and child protection partners responding to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs highlighted psychological distress among families and children, and increased needs for psychosocial support services due to exposure of children to violence during recurrent operations. As of 20 April, 446 attacks on health care in the West Bank including East Jerusalem were recorded, affecting 52 health facilities, 18 mobile clinics and 298 ambulances, according to reporting by WHO. According to OCHA, since 7 October, some 3,000 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 authorities 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

### Nutrition

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF has supported the operationalization of the Stabilization Centre and Outpatient Care for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in Kamal Adwan Hospital in partnership with WHO and an INGO. The stabilization centre and outpatient care units are supporting the treatment of severe acute malnutrition in children under five, with a capacity of ten beds. In the hospital, UNICEF supported the training of 23 health staff members at Kamal Adwan Hospital (including seven doctors, 13 nurses, and three support staff) on inpatient management of severe acute malnutrition in coordination with WHO.

UNICEF managed to scale up the outpatient treatment of acutely malnourished children to 104 outpatients therapeutic programme (OTP) sites across Gaza, providing services in Khan Younis (two sites), Middle Area (12 sites), North Gaza (36 sites), and Rafah (53 sites) through 13 nutrition partners. UNICEF is also exploring ways to expand the mid and upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening and outpatient therapeutic feeding programme (OTP) services to some of the 169 Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) sites in collaboration with WFP and partners. A further 271 children were admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) from 17 to 30 April, for a total of 1,125 since January.

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<sup>4</sup> The number of humanitarian aid workers killed is provided by OCHA as of 1 May, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-reported-impact-day-208>, and the number of UNRWA staff killed is as of 28 April, <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-105-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>.

<sup>5</sup> Due to the challenges to access areas, particularly in Gaza and North Gaza governorates, the Education Cluster administered a Satellite-derived Damage Assessment in Gaza to verify initial school damage data, <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/verification-damages-schools-based-proximity-damaged-sites-gaza-occupied-palestinian-territory-25-april-2024>.

<sup>6</sup> Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel, Flash Update #152, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-160>.

Furthermore, UNICEF delivered more than 1,500 boxes of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) especially to the North Gaza governorate, to resume outpatient treatment of SAM. SAM treatment had stopped due to lack of supply reaching the area, despite children being detected with acute malnutrition.

UNICEF continued to lead and coordinate of the Nutrition Cluster in the Gaza Strip as well as the national Nutrition Cluster with 51 partners, of which 23 are operating in the Gaza Strip. However, most partners only operate in Rafah and the Middle Area. As per the current mapping of services for the nutrition cluster partners, the nutrition interventions are provided in the Gaza Strip at 296 sites (21 health facilities, 238 formal and informal shelters, and 37 sites in the host communities). The cluster reactivated the technical working groups on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and on early detection and treatment of acute malnutrition, to provide operational guidelines.

## Health

With the increased restoration of primary healthcare through field hospitals and existing and still functioning Primary Health Care centres, UNICEF is supporting the delivery of vaccines to health care facilities. To address vaccine shortages that exist in the Gaza Strip due to the access constraints and a damaged cold chain, UNICEF has supported the Health System through the provision of vaccines needed for the North Gaza governorate, including 6,000 doses of Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccines, primarily used against tuberculosis; 6,000 doses of Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine (IPV) vaccines; 1,000 doses of Rota vaccine; and 5,000 doses of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) vaccines. UNICEF also provided a refrigerator truck for transporting vaccines and has rented a new temporary cold chain room in Deir Al Balah to improve vaccine availability. With the increased restoration of primary healthcare through field hospitals and Primary Health Care centres, UNICEF is supporting the delivery of vaccines to functioning health care facilities.

Six high performance tents (48m<sup>2</sup> or 72m<sup>2</sup>) with the capacity to host 48 beds, and six rub halls to act as warehouses for medicines and consumables, have been installed at the Al Mawasi area. As part of lifesaving emergency healthcare, three key hospitals namely Kamal al Awda Hospital, El Emirati Maternity Hospital and Shuhada al-Aqsa Hospital, were provided with 50 midwifery kits, 20 obstetric kits, 21 newborn kits, 647 vials of heparin injection. The heparin injection decreases the clotting ability of the blood and helps prevent harmful clots from forming in blood vessels. These critical supplies contributed to improved maternal health and enabled hospital delivery for 3,026 pregnant women including 263 complicated cases. Additionally, UNICEF provided medical consumables such as 3,300 BCG syringes (1 box), 3,000 AD<sup>7</sup> syringes (1 box), alcohol swab (1 box), 5,000 Maternal Child Health handbook (4 boxes), and 6,000 child files (1 box). UNICEF provided further essential infection prevention control (IPC) materials (30 items) covering the hospital's hygiene needs for four months, to improve hospital hygiene conditions and minimize cross-infection at Kamal Adwan Hospital.

## Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

The provision of adequate critical WASH services to the affected population in the Gaza Strip continues to be hindered by the lack of power supply, restricted access, and fuel shortages. In response to urgent WASH humanitarian needs, through the UN mechanism<sup>8</sup>, UNICEF provided 183,286 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 Middle Area. For the production of clean water, four UNICEF-supported mobile desalination plants (5m<sup>3</sup>/hr) were installed in Rafah and are now operational. For the first time since the onset of the crisis in Gaza, UNICEF managed to deliver chlorine to the north for water treatment to avert waterborne and water-related disease outbreaks.

The continuous dire water and sanitation conditions in the Gaza Strip is posing critical risks that are life threatening for all of the population in the Gaza Strip, especially girls and women who face health risks related to pregnancy and birth, urinary tract infections, as well as protection-related risks linked to seeking water and sanitation resources.<sup>9</sup> UNICEF distributed 6,368 hygiene kits, 350 packs of diapers, 400 tarpaulin sheets, and 1,716 sanitary pads, benefitting 38,208 people, including children, women, and adolescent girls in Rafah, Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah.

To improve the sanitation situation, UNICEF provided fuel to operate one wastewater treatment plant in Rafah, enabling wastewater treatment and safe disposal of sewage, benefitting over 275,000 people, including 143,250 children in Rafah. Moreover, to address solid waste and environmental hygiene needs in the overcrowded shelters, UNICEF continued to

<sup>7</sup> Auto-Disable syringe, which is designed to prevent reuse, ensuring that each injection is given with a sterile, single-use syringe.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> Gender Analysis of the Impact of the War in Gaza on Vital Services Essential to Women's and Girls' Health, Safety, and Dignity - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) by UN Women, April 2024, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/gender-alert-gender-analysis-of-the-impact-of-the-war-in-gaza-on-vital-services-essential-to-womens-and-girls-health-safety-en.pdf>



support cleaning services at 12 public schools and the Al Quds University shelter, involving 700 workers through the Incentive Based Programme, benefitting over 30,000 people, including 16,000 children.

In partnership with the WASH Cluster, UNICEF is scaling up WASH service delivery in IDP hosting communities through an integrated package of WASH services. 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, which has 68 partners.

## Child Protection

Distribution of clothing items continued in various locations, including in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir Al-Balah. Since 7 October 2023, UNICEF with partners has distributed 205,281 clothing items tailored differently for children aged newborn to 17 years old. UNICEF continued to provide psychosocial support (PSS) services to 168,608 children and caregivers, of whom 122,793 are children (including 65,911 girls) in Gaza, North Gaza, Rafah, Khan Younis and the Middle Area. Structured in-person PSS services were provided to 85,865 children (including 46,735 girls, 1,394 children with disabilities and 505 injured children) as well as to 28,913 caregivers (including 17,431 women). Of those, 2,147 parents benefitted from positive parenting awareness sessions. Additionally, UNICEF has organized specialized PSS sessions for 350 children who either sustained injuries or have existing disabilities, aiming to assess and address their specific needs. In addition, UNICEF with partners provided face-to-face sessions on explosive ordinance risk education (EORE) across the Gaza Strip, reaching 37,601 people (25,501 children and 12,100 caregivers) in shelters and vulnerable communities.

A total of 21 unaccompanied children are currently receiving alternative care and additional services through a UNICEF partner. UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO, also facilitated the movement of an unaccompanied child from the North of the Gaza Strip to Rafah. 210 separated children in informal kinship-care-arrangements, including 175 children who were identified by UNRWA, are regularly monitored by a UN agency.

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to provide essential child protection, prevention and response interventions in the West Bank including East Jerusalem. These services include psychosocial first aid (PFA), MHPSS, awareness sessions, recreational activities and legal services to 1,266 people, including 807 children and 459 caregivers. From those, in response to the impact of the military operation in Nur al-Shams refugee camp in Tulkarem in the northern West Bank, a UNICEF implementing partner provided PFA to approximately 89 households, benefiting 303 children and their caregivers during either home visits or during MHPSS activities carried in the local schools, also 35 households were referred externally for specialized services.

Also in the West Bank, UNICEF continued supporting child protection services for vulnerable families in conflict-affected 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 25 positive parenting sessions for 246 children, and five sessions for 63 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.

During the reporting period, the CP Area of Responsibility (CP-AoR) has developed an interactive service mapping of child protection interventions, to facilitate the referrals of cases and response planning in the rapidly changing context. Furthermore, the CP AoR disseminated guidance on ethical reporting for media to all operational actors in Gaza, to ensure the best interest of children and do no harm principles are in place following concerning images of children circulating on social media platforms.

## Education

To support the well-being of adolescent girls, UNICEF has distributed 6,000 Adolescent Girls' Personal Care kits to women-led organizations to benefit 6,000 young girls. Of these, 1,675 girls have already received the kits and distribution of the remaining kits is in progress. UNICEF has partnered with a consortium of local women-led organizations to support the creation of safer spaces for adolescent girls where they will be reached with information and services that are specific to the needs of adolescents' girls. The distribution of the Adolescent Girls' Personal Care packages will be linked to information sharing and recreational activities, including MHPSS, adapted to adolescent girls specifically. The package provides three packs of sanitary pads, underwear, skin wipes, multipurpose cloth, feminine wash, a whistle, a headscarf, the "Laaha<sup>10</sup> MHPSS and GBV Booklet" and the "Adolescent Girls Care Kit Booklet".

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<sup>10</sup> Laaha provides information to women and girls on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence as well as where and how to access services when needed. It is the first-ever platform designed by and for women and girls in humanitarian and development settings to address gender-based violence.

The Education Cluster partners have supported over 238,000 students and teachers since 7 October 2023. They have provided them with psychosocial support, emergency learning, recreational supplies and activities, and awareness-raising sessions. Despite the extensive constraints, local partners have been doing their best to support students in need. The Education Cluster focuses on providing recreational activities and psychological support to children in shelters and designated emergency shelters. The aim is to help children cope with trauma and build resilience so they can thrive in the long term.

### **Social Protection**

Since the onset of the escalation on 7 October 2023, UNICEF has provided cash assistance to 567,116 people (85,958 families, including 282,294 children, 20,186 people with disabilities, and 43,685 female-headed households). Of those, 529,573 people (79,815 families) were assisted with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). This represents 73 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 180,322 people (21,278 households) – 27 per cent.

During the past two weeks, humanitarian cash transfers (HCT) reached 25,343 people (4,042 families) with various packages of cash transfers including for pregnant and breastfeeding women (935 families), children with disabilities (962 families) and protection referral cases (271 families). These smalls batches are part of the HCT's responsive approach and scale adjustment in line with the current cash liquidity crisis which temporarily prevents at scale transfers. In particular, the banking sector still faces significant challenges to improve cash liquidity within the Gaza Strip. UNICEF is engaging with the banking sector and a financial service provider to ensure an improvement on the level of cash liquidity and to enable the smooth continuity of cash transfers.

Having endured more than six months since the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip, informal markets keep demonstrating exceptional resilience, enabling 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.

### **Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)**

For awareness promotion through mass media, a package of 12 awareness promotion messages are being broadcast through FM radio, as a unified effort to communicate with those affected through mass media. The radio messages address various topics regarding WASH, Health and Nutrition, PSEA, Social Cohesion, Child Protection, Humanitarian Aid, MHPSS, and unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW). The content was selected and articulated by thematic experts and produced by UNICEF. The radio messages will be broadcast daily for the coming two months. UNICEF uses FM radio as a mean for communication, utilizing FM frequencies 107.2 MHz and 105.8 MHz, as a few radio stations broadcasting in Arabic still reach the population across the Gaza Strip.

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

UNICEF continued 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, 31,330 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, 1,597 pieces of feedback and complaints were received, 85 per cent through the Interagency Hotline. Communication and feedback included requests for cash assistance, issues related to cash redemption, and requests for specific products.

Through the PSEA network, UNICEF continues to strengthen inter-agency feedback channels, and advocates for the use of the hotline (164), which receives requests, complaints, and provides MHPSS and referrals. In this reporting period, the hotline documented 2,299 cases requesting services. Amongst those who reached out to the hotline are 70 girls, 100 boys, 976 women, and 869 men. Within the overall cases are 828 documented individuals that received MHPSS through the PSEA Network hotline, including 357 females and 471 males. Also, 427 cases were referred to inter-agency services and 47 were referred to WFP during this reported period. The hotline extended the referral destination within the different clusters\_ protection, nutrition, and health, while also strengthening the steady referral pathway between UNRWA and the PSEA Network focal points, especially in the Gaza Strip. Most callers continue to inquire on UNICEF's cash assistance program and on other providers. The hotline now refers to specialized assistance for people with disabilities in the Gaza Strip to an active UNICEF partner through the referral platform. At least five cases have been referred during the reporting period. Majority of the overall cases received through the hotline continue to arrive from

the Gaza Strip, specifically from Rafah and the southern governorate areas, and the calls from Gaza City and the north are increasing. The hotline receives more and more calls from the north of Gaza on hunger and starvation, thus the hotline referred 830 urgent cases to the WFP between January 2024 and this reporting period.

UNICEF partners providing PSS services in the middle and southern areas of the Gaza Strip continue to deliver safeguarding sessions that reached 167,781 IDPs with awareness services and a copy of the SANAD<sup>11</sup> brochure.

The SANAD network produced and published six new awareness materials and posts on social media accounts, including in sign language, SANAD's total reach averages around 1.4 million Meta users monthly, and the total number of followers expanded to 7,172 audience members across Facebook, Instagram and Telegram until this reporting period. Meta platforms remain to be highly restricted, with only 7 per cent of content reaching audiences organically, while 93 per cent of content is reached through paid promotion.

### Support from Egypt Coordination Cell

Cumulatively, 807 trucks containing UNICEF supplies have crossed into the Gaza Strip from Egypt since 21 October 2023. During the reporting period, a total of 98 trucks with critical emergency supplies have crossed. Key supply items delivered include: 6,160 Adolescent Girls care and protection packages; 3 generators with a power production of 5 kilovolt (KV); nutrition supplies including 6,800 cartons of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) spread; 305,280 packs of Ready-to-Use Infant Formula (RUIF)<sup>12</sup> of 200ml each; and 10,000 cartons of high energy biscuits. Further supplies brought in included six high performance tents (each 48m<sup>2</sup> in size); 13,436 hygiene kits; 15,504 packs of sanitary pads; 56,416 sets of children's clothes and 4,085 dignified family hygiene kits<sup>13</sup>, and 915 family tents.

UNICEF has a substantial logistics operation and supply pipeline for the Gaza Strip in Jordan. During the reporting period, 26 truckloads of supplies were transported to the Gaza Strip through the Jordanian corridor. Despite the challenges of transporting humanitarian aid within the Gaza Strip, therapeutic nutrition supplies could be brought into the North Gaza governorate during the reporting period.

### 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 Health Cluster, the Inter-Cluster Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group, as well as of the Rehabilitation Taskforce under the Health Cluster. Regarding Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), UNICEF co-leads the technical working group jointly with WHO and OCHA. 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

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<sup>11</sup> The SANAD Network is a shared public platform where Palestinian civil society organizations, UN agencies and INGOs unite their voices and efforts towards strengthening Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). SANAD engages especially with children, women, youth, and people with disabilities. One activity are Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) interventions to raise awareness for the prevention of violence. Community members across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip can receive mental health support or submit an official complaint of any physical or verbal abuse perpetrated by an aid worker via WhatsApp +972 59 404 021, via e-mail at optconfidential@un.org, or by calling the free hotline 164 of the partner organisation SAWA.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> A kit designed to provide immediate support to a household of five people. The kit contains reusable items such as, e.g., menstrual hygiene products two buckets, two jerry cans, female under garments, and a whistle.

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.
- 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:** [Statement by Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director, following her two-day visit to the Middle East](#)

**Human interest stories:** [Doha's Brave Journey from Loss to Healing in Gaza](#)

**Social Media:**

- ["When my house was bombed and destroyed, two of my brothers were killed, and a third one was injured. Some shrapnel hit my right eye, causing weak eyesight and constant tears." 15-year-old Abrar in #Gaza. In wars, children always pay the highest price.](#)
- ["I want the war to stop now. I don't want to be displaced over and over; I only want to feel safe," says 12-year-old Sama, standing in the rubble of her house in Rafah, Gaza. Every child has the right to safety. Children need a ceasefire.](#)
- ["It's enough that I lost my father. Stop the war, it's enough." 14-year-old Yousef, Gaza. His message is clear: Every child has a right to safety and peace. Ceasefire now.](#)
- ["With one child killed or injured every ten minutes, above anything else, we need a ceasefire." UNICEF's Tess Ingram on her recent visit to Gaza.](#)

## Next SitRep: 20 May 2024

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

Latest Situation Reports are available on: [www.unicef.org/sop/research-and-reports](http://www.unicef.org/sop/research-and-reports)

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## Summary of Programme Results (Gaza Strip and West Bank)<sup>14</sup>

The frequency of the implementation of activities depends on their nature. For example, water trucking is daily, and the provision of hygiene items is monthly, while the provision of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) is a one off.

Sector / Indicator	UNICEF			CLUSTER		
	Total Target <sup>15</sup>	Cumulative Result	Change since last report ▲▼	Total Target	Cumulative Result	Change since last report ▲▼
<b>WASH</b>						
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs <sup>16</sup>	2,050,000	1,601,178	0%	2,426,544	2,100,000	0%
# of people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services <sup>17</sup>	1,350,000	495,187	0%	2,426,544	992,916	0%
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) <sup>18</sup>	1,050,000	555,090	▲4%	2,426,544	996,480	0%
<b>Health</b>						
# of people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies <sup>19</sup>	780,000	633,335	▲3%			
# of high risks pregnant women who benefited from medical assistance in Gaza <sup>20</sup>	50,000	5,030	0%			
<b>Nutrition</b>						
# of pregnant women receiving preventative iron folate or multiple micronutrients supplementation <sup>21</sup>	182,272	64,141	0%	197,858	65,026	▲1%
# of children 6-59 months receiving preventative lipid-based supplements, micronutrients supplementation, and high energy biscuits <sup>22</sup>	341,524	199,943	▲1%	371,859	299,736	▲2%
# of Infants 0-6 months receiving RUIF <sup>23</sup>	16,415	6,074	0%	23,551	6,074	0%
# of children 0-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment <sup>24</sup>	6,813	1,125	n/a	6,813	1,125	n/a
<b>Child Protection<sup>25</sup></b>						
# of children and caregivers reached by MHPSS messages	18,590,00	40,000	New			
# of children and caregivers affected by conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support	596,453 children	136,337	▲2%	746,000	165,869	0%
	255,623 caregivers	56,238	▲3%			
# of children receiving explosive weapons-related risk education	504,925	25,501	▲1%			

<sup>14</sup> 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. From this SitRep onwards, the change of the results since the last report is stated in percentage.

<sup>15</sup> UNICEF targets have been updated aligned to the revised HAC.

<sup>16</sup> 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. The target indicates the intended number of beneficiaries per day. This is a recurring intervention that requires continuous support to reach vulnerable populations on an ongoing basis. A large proportion of the population is reached continuously through e.g., emergency fuel for the WASH facilities, procurement and installation/rehabilitation of spare parts, provision of water treatment chemicals, or temporarily through e.g., water trucking.

<sup>17</sup> The target number states the intended daily number of beneficiaries. This is a recurring intervention that requires continuous support to reach vulnerable populations on an ongoing basis. A large proportion of the population is reached continuously through the maintenance of sanitation networks (e.g., procurement and installation spare parts, provision of fuel for sanitation infrastructure), or through the provision of sanitation services (e.g., through cleaning kit/material distributed to households, cleaning services, or through temporary sanitation facilities in shelters, including mobile latrines).

<sup>18</sup> The target number shows the intended cumulative number of individuals reached with e.g., family hygiene items, emergency hygiene kits or of a correspondent cash transfer, beginning from 7 October 2023.

<sup>19</sup> This result is calculated based upon the distribution of Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to health facilities and partner reports since 7 October 2023. These kits are intended to serve a population for three months.

<sup>20</sup> The target shows the intended cumulative number of benefitting pregnant women beginning from the escalation of hostilities on 7 October 2023.

<sup>21</sup> The target number shows the intended number of women being reached cumulatively since 7 October 2023. The supplements are provided once in three months.

<sup>22</sup> The target number shows the intended number of children being reached cumulatively since 7 October 2023, with each child receiving supply monthly.

<sup>23</sup> The target number shows the intended number of infants being reached cumulatively since 7 October 2023. The number of children reached has been estimated using supplies delivered and number of children expected to have been reached. 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.

<sup>24</sup> The target number shows the intended cumulative number of children being admitted, beginning from 7 October 2023. The result for this indicator was revised and lowered to track exclusively SAM treatment cases. The MAM case treatment result that was included in the previous reporting has been removed from the indicator result reporting.

<sup>25</sup> 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 165,869 children with MHPSS as of 31 March 2024. The targets show the intended cumulative reach since 7 October 2023.

# of children reached with winterization items (including blankets)	330,000	205,281	▲0%			
<b>Education<sup>26</sup></b>						
# of affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being	155,000	69,289	0%	529,084	187,706	0%
# of school aged children provided with essential education in emergency learning materials	325,500	160	0% <sup>27</sup>	438,286	65,737	0%
<b>Social Protection</b>						
# of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers <sup>28</sup>	88,500	85,958	▲2%			

## Annex B – Funding Status<sup>29</sup>

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	51,702,854	93,972	629,647	9,799,306	16%
Health	35,195,054	24,896,747	2,200,000	234,764	7,863,543	22%
Nutrition	27,765,177	17,750,101	0	0	10,015,076	36%
Child Protection	24,857,916	18,525,346	0	462,963	5,869,607	24%
Education	29,645,946	9,216,946	52,000	1,142,966	19,234,034	65%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	74,376,225	37,245,603	0	727,084	36,403,538	49%
Cross-Sectoral (PSEA, AAP)	4,746,532	3,074,548	0	50,146	1,621,838	34%
Cluster Coordination	4,495,988	3,704,216	220,000	29,000	542,772	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>263,308,617</b>	<b>166,116,361</b>	<b>2,565,972</b>	<b>3,276,570</b>	<b>91,349,714</b>	<b>35%</b>

\*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.

<sup>26</sup> The Education targets show the intended cumulative number of school aged children being reached, beginning from 7 October 2023.

<sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> Reach with humanitarian cash transfers is reported based upon households which have received messages to redeem cash since 7 October 2023. The target is for each household to receive three rounds of multi-purpose cash transfers. UNICEF has partially funded the response through loans which are not reflected in the Funding Status table.

<sup>29</sup> 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.