



Children sitting in the back of a truck during their displacement from areas witnessing an escalation of hostilities in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip.

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UNICEF in the State of Palestine

Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 25



Reporting Period: 2 to 15 May 2024

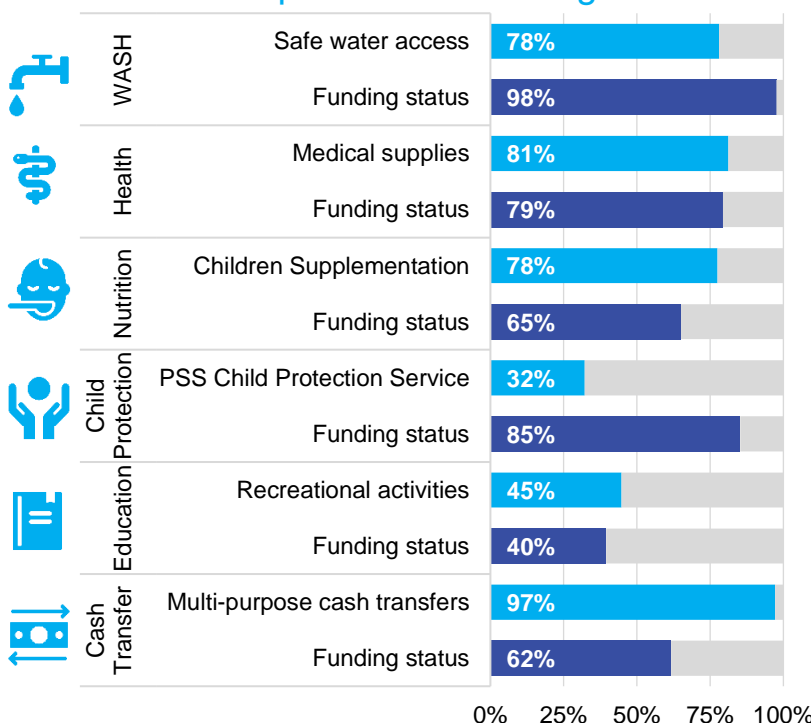
Highlights

- More than 800,000 people were recently reported as displaced from Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, and about 100,000 people were reported displaced in the north, according to UN estimates as of 22 May. Approximately 285 km² has been placed under evacuation orders (around 78 per cent of the Gaza Strip).
- Since the closure of the Rafah border crossing on 7 May 2024, UNICEF's and partner ability to deliver humanitarian aid is seriously hampered given increased challenges related to ongoing population movements, lack of access and overall security, as well as the lack of entry of assistance.
- A report by the PSEA Network counted more than 4,800 complaints about sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) since October 2023. UNICEF provided care and counselling sessions through the helpline and the PSEA Network, which served as entry points for referrals to other services.
- Given the closure of the Rafah crossing, UNICEF was able to provide only 105,000 litres of fuel in the past two weeks, which marks a 43 per cent decrease compared with the preceding two-week period. The delivered fuel helped produce lifesaving water for over 1.1 million people, including over 600,000 children. However, the provision of WASH services has deteriorated due to a lack of fuel, damages to several WASH facilities, and restricted access into and within the Gaza Strip.
- UNICEF moved 11 trucks into the Gaza Strip during the reporting period via the Rafah border crossing prior to its closure (in the previous reporting period: 98 trucks), to bring in critical emergency supplies: 1,400 Dignified Family Hygiene Kits for 19,264 individuals; and 1,200 cartons of lipid-based nutrient supplements benefiting 24,000 children; as well as 1,080 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food benefiting 1,080 children via the Erez border crossing.

Situation in Numbers

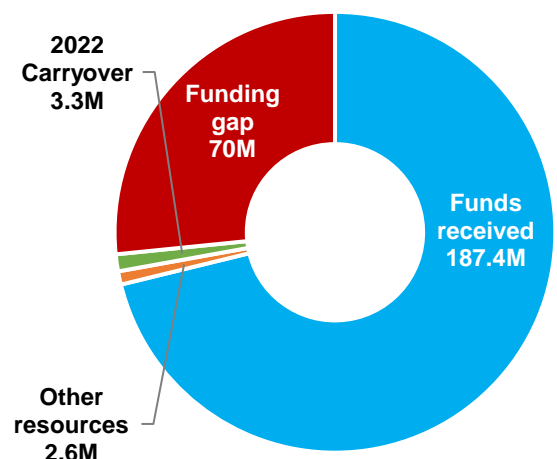
- 3.3 Million** People in need nationally (OCHA Flash Appeal, April 2024)
- 1 Million** Children affected in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2023 population projections)
- Estimated 1.7 Million** Internally displaced persons (UNRWA, 18 March 2024)
- 483 schools in the Gaza Strip sustained damage** which is 86% 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's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Immediate Needs US\$ 263.3 million

Funding Status (in US\$)



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.

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 Territories¹ 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 3.3 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\$ 70 million (27 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 Argentina, 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 Highlights & Selected Humanitarian Needs

Access to essential services has further dropped in the Gaza Strip as displacement continues to take place with additional evacuation orders issued, and military operations intensified. Since 6 May, nearly 600,000 people have been reported to have displaced from Rafah according to UN numbers as of 15 May², including about 150,000 people from 13 to 15 May alone. Another 100,000 people have been reported displaced in northern Gaza and the displacement figures continue to rise by the day. In total, 1.7 million IDPs are displaced (over 75 per cent of the population), many of whom having been displaced several times. As of 15 May, 285 km² or approximately 78 per cent of the Gaza Strip has been placed under evacuation orders by the Israeli military since the beginning of the Rafah military operations. As families continue to be displaced, many for them for the fifth time since the onset of hostilities, Israeli-designated “humanitarian zones” for the displaced remain unsafe, according to Save the Children³. Children and families in Gaza face an elevated risk of disease outbreak due to over-crowded conditions, waste and sewage accumulation and increasing temperatures.

As of 15 May, at least 35,233 Palestinians were reported killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities. Up to 70 per cent are reported to be women (9,200) and children (14,100) as reported by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. More than 79,141 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 12,320 children (partially disaggregated data as of 30 April 2024). As of mid-May, there were 262 aid workers killed including 189 UNRWA staff, as well as one staff member of the UN Department of Safety and Security (DSS) killed on 12 May when a UN vehicle was struck in Rafah⁴.

As of 7 May, 445 attacks on health centres were recorded in Gaza affecting 101 health facilities, while 129 health workers have been detained, 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-being⁵. Hostilities increased in the southern Gaza Strip, with a ground operation that began in eastern Rafah on 7 May, including the areas of Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings as well as about 31 square kilometres where residents were ordered to evacuate on 6 May. Kerem Shalom border crossing was closed on 5 May and remained closed since that time⁶. UNICEF’s ability to

¹ 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.

² Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel, Flash Update #166, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-166>.

³ Families fleeing Rafah say they are being ‘killed slowly’ as forced to move again, Save the Children International, 14 May 2024 <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/gaza-families-fleeing-rafah-say-they-are-being-killed-slowly-forced-move-again>.

⁴ The number of humanitarian aid workers killed is provided by OCHA as of 15 May, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-reported-impact-day-222>.

⁵ 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>

⁶ Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel, Flash Update #164, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-164>.

deliver humanitarian aid is hampered given increased challenges related to access and overall security, but also related to the entry of assistance, including fuel.

The ongoing fuel shortages impede the operation of facilities and organizations working on the ground, affecting their ability to provide uninterrupted care and support. The absence of cash flow and banking services pose significant challenges for UNICEF, NGO partners, and all humanitarian organizations. This breakdown of financial systems impacts the ability to effectively organize and deliver essential services to those in need. The absence of consistent electricity supply further exacerbates the situation, disrupting essential services and hindering ability to operate effectively.

The Network for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), of which UNICEF is an active partner, released a report⁷ on risk mitigation to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Since October 2023, the network's helpline has addressed 4,860 references to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) forms. Besides SGBV, over 1,060 complaints on poor access to food or starvation have been received. The report indicates high operational and protection risks in all areas of concern. Specifically, the assessment identified economic factors (food requirements and basic needs are not fulfilled, absence of formal economies); social factors (overcrowding, loss of family and social support systems, weakened conflict resolution mechanisms, hyper-masculinization of the conflict, exacerbated traditional and customary law with embedded practices of discrimination against women, mental health and collective trauma); technological factors (severe restrictions in mobility and deprivation of ICTs as tools for survival); and environmental factors (threat of endemics and pandemics, lack of livelihood, exposure to explosive remnants of war).

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, OCHA reports that since 7 October, at least 480 Palestinians have been killed.⁸ At least 126 Palestinian children (including three girls) and two Israeli children were reported killed in conflict-related violence in the same period, more than 80 per cent by live ammunition. Furthermore, nearly 400 children have been injured by live ammunition. Militarized law enforcement operations, particularly in Tulkarem and Nablus governorates, and settler violence particularly in East Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron resulted in reported grave violations and other protection risks for children since 1 May. As of 8 May, 447 attacks on health care in the West Bank including East Jerusalem were recorded, affecting 53 health facilities, 19 mobile clinics and 304 ambulances, according to reporting by WHO. According to OCHA, since 7 October, some 3,300 Palestinians including approximately 1,500 children have been displaced, mainly in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to settler violence and intimidation, home demolitions, and destruction of residences during militarized 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

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

The ongoing military activities in Rafah and North Gaza have exacerbated the dire humanitarian WASH conditions for the affected populations in the Gaza Strip. Within the reporting period, the provision of adequate critical WASH services to the affected population has deteriorated due to a lack of fuel for powering the two desalination plants and the municipal wells and restricted access into and within the Gaza Strip especially since the closure of the Rafah border crossing on 7 May. Limited supplies have been received since the Rafah border crossing was closed. Nevertheless, in response to urgent WASH humanitarian needs, through the UN mechanism, UNICEF provided 105,000 litres of fuel during the reporting period (in the same period before: 183,000 litres), which allowed public and private water wells and desalination plants to produce clean water, benefitting more than 1,101,178 people, including over 600,000 children with lifesaving water for drinking and domestic needs in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis, Rafah, and Middle areas.

There has been a reduction of 17,000 m³/day of clean water production within the reporting period, affecting access to water supply service for around 500,000 people. This reduction is attributed to damage on several WASH facilities, including treatment plants, boreholes, and pumping stations, which have been rendered inoperable due to continuous

⁷ Risk mitigation assessment report to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, PSEA Network – Occupied Palestinian Territories, April 2024, [SEA Risk Identification 18APR24.pdf](#).

⁸ Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel, Flash Update #163, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-166>.

bombardment, shortage of fuel, or inaccessibility for maintenance work. Additionally, UNICEF distributed 5,131 WASH non-food items of various types, including hygiene kits, child diapers, tarpaulin sheets, sanitary pads, buckets, and cleaning materials, benefitting 20,564 people, including children, women, and adolescent girls in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir Al Balah.

On sanitation, a UNICEF partner deployed mobile dewatering pumps to clean overflowing sewage. The sewage overflow from the Rafah Wastewater Treatment Plan (WWTP) is attributed to fuel shortages, the degrading security situation at the Rafah crossing, and missing equipment due to looting affecting its operation. UNICEF with a partner constructed 1,000 emergency family latrines in Rafah, providing access to basic sanitation services to 15,000 people living in informal shelters. Moreover, the "Incentive Based Programme" to address solid waste and environmental hygiene needs in the overcrowded shelters continued at seven non-UNRWA shelters, benefiting over 17,500 people living in shelters. However, the cleaning activity was paused for five non-UNRWA shelters due to the ongoing evacuation in Rafah. In partnership with the WASH Cluster, UNICEF is scaling up WASH service delivery in IDP hosting communities through an integrated package of WASH services. Supplies for construction of latrines for persons with mobility difficulties were denied entry into the Gaza Strip.

UNICEF continues to lead the WASH Cluster in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, collaborating with 41 partners in Gaza and 24 in the West Bank. Since April 2024, WASH Cluster partners have provided various interventions to approximately 500,000 people in Gaza. On clean water provision, the cluster delivered 39,000 m³ of water through water trucking and rehabilitated or installed 1,700 meters of water networks. On sanitation and solid waste management 4,900 family hygiene kits were distributed; 1,185 meters of sewer networks were rehabilitated or installed.

In the West Bank, WASH Cluster partners have reached approximately 26,000 people with the provision of clean water and sanitation through the installation of 4,000 meters of water networks, delivery of 19 polyethylene water storage tanks to households, distribution of 500 hygiene kits in addition to the installation of latrines and household storage units in response to settlers' violence and demolitions.

Health

The ongoing hostilities have affected healthcare delivery, with many hospitals being evacuated and the closure of the Rafah crossing on 7 May limiting the delivery of essential supplies and vaccines which were planned for the second week of May. Since 7 May, no Health-related supply could be brought into the Gaza Strip, including a vaccine shipment that had to be returned to a storage facility in Jordan. The evacuation orders issued are further expected to significantly disrupt the functioning of hospitals and the work of partners in North Gaza and in Rafah. The evacuation orders are also affecting large segments of the population and are likely to increase the demand for medical and nutritional services amidst the already challenging conditions. At many places, health services have already been halted, with a major risk that additional services cease operation. As part of its lifesaving emergency healthcare support and restoration of facilities, UNICEF supplied essential medicines and consumables to the Al Awda hospital and a field hospital to support an estimated 150,000 women and children for one month. A total of 244 assorted items were provided.

In response to the new evacuation orders which affect many areas in northern Gaza, including the vicinity of Al Awda Hospital, an increase in the number of injuries is anticipated. To support the hospital's capacity to manage these casualties and to ensure cleanliness while minimizing cross-infection, UNICEF provided 30 locally procured essential infection prevention control (IPC) materials. In response to the evacuation of healthcare facilities in Rafah and Northern Gaza, UNICEF delivered essential supplies that are yet to be distributed but already inside the Gaza Strip to support various health organizations, including 45 tents to health authorities to provide shelter for health workers without adequate housing, 30 tents to a partner to facilitate health and nutrition response activities within shelters, and 75 tents to UNRWA for use in health and nutrition activities in the North Gaza governorate. With more people being displaced to the West coast of Rafah, UNICEF has enabled health service providers to install a new field hospital through the provision of four tents (48m²) and one rub hall. The field hospital will serve an estimated 100,000 people.

Nutrition

The increasing hostilities in Rafah has led to the closure of some nutrition sites of UNICEF's partners and to the relocation of the operational base and staffs of many partners – impacting their operational capacities for several days. Also, hostilities in Jabalia, north of the Gaza Strip, delayed the operationalization of four new nutrition sites that were due to open on 10 May, and led to the closure of at least six nutrition points in partner supported shelters (check phrasing) and to the relocation of staff and nutrition activities in the Gaza Strip. The continued displacement and movement of people hinders the treatment and the follow-up on malnourished children. Operational and logistical challenges, including communication and internet access, pose additional obstacles in coordinating efforts and delivering assistance efficiently. Access to both South and North Gaza remains a major challenge, hindering the delivery

of nutrition supplies. The closure of border crossings has delayed the delivery of needed supplies and made it even more difficult to reach needy children and women. Since the closure of the Rafah border crossing, no Nutrition-related supply could be brought into the Gaza Strip.

Despite these challenges, UNICEF with its partners supports the operation of the stabilization centre and of outpatient care for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) for children under five-year-old at Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza. The detailed data of SAM cases treated in the hospitals are yet to be received, as the ongoing hostilities have disabled their ability to report. However, 426 pregnant women received preventive iron folate or multiple micronutrient supplements. Furthermore, 1,915 children 6-59 months received preventive lipid-based supplements, micronutrients supplementation, and high energy biscuits.

UNICEF supported 23 health professionals in Gaza Governorate with a targeted capacity building program on Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM). UNICEF further supported the health workers of a partner on how to assess the malnutrition status of children using the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) and treatment management. UNICEF delivered essential supplies to support various health organizations in Gaza. Thirty tents were provided to health facilities to expand health and nutrition interventions within shelters, as well as 75 tents that were supplied to UNRWA for use in health and nutrition activities at their locations.

UNICEF continues leading the Nutrition Cluster in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. A total of 22 partners, including five national NGOs and 12 international NGOs, 4 UN agencies and MoH have been able to operate at up to 313 nutrition sites – whereby at least 13 of those had to close due to ongoing hostilities and population movements.

Child Protection

Distribution of clothing items continued in various locations, including in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir Al-Balah in the Gaza Strip. UNICEF with partners has distributed 247,215 clothing items tailored for children aged newborn to 17 years old. UNICEF continued to provide psychosocial support (PSS) services in Gaza, North Gaza, Rafah, Khan Younis and the Middle Area, though some partners had to close MHPSS support activities in East Rafah and move these activities in support to population displaced to Al-Mawasi area in Rafah. Structured in-person PSS services were provided to 94,452 children (including 51,747 girls, 2,050 children with disabilities and 823 injured children) as well as to 38,071 caregivers (including 23,958 women). Of those, 3,756 parents benefitted from positive parenting awareness sessions. Furthermore, UNICEF organized specialized PSS sessions for 548 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), reaching 44,622 people (31,018 children and 13,604 caregivers). A total of 24 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASCs) are currently receiving temporary care and other services with a UNICEF partner, and a total of nine children were successfully reunified with their families. 105,500 child identity bracelets were distributed by partners in informal settlements in Rafah to help mitigate the risk of family separation. Since the closure of the Rafah border crossing on 7 May, no Child Protection-related supply could be brought into the Gaza Strip. This will further impact the implementation of Child Protection activities.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, during the reporting period, UNICEF continued to provide essential child protection, prevention and response interventions. These services include psychosocial first aid (PFA), MHPSS, awareness sessions, recreational activities, and legal services to 2,450 people, including 1,306 children and 1,144 caregivers. After the military operation in late April in Nour Shams and Tulkarem Refugee Camps, UNICEF with partners provided PFA to approximately 70 households, benefiting 260 individuals including 55 children. In the West Bank, UNICEF also continued supporting child protection services for vulnerable families in conflict-affected areas. Two supervision sessions took place to enhance the capabilities of 13 staff members of the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), alongside officers of the Family and Juvenile Protection Unit (FJPU). UNICEF also supports the ongoing Child Protection Diploma programme, attended by 23 governmental child protection frontline workers. In addition, UNICEF with partners carried out eight positive parenting sessions attended by 51 mothers, and 20 sessions attended by 182 children. With support of UNICEF, child protection counsellors were able to reach seven child victims at risk in Qalqilya and Nablus.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP-AoR), under UNICEF leadership, has reached 67,393 children and 14,912 caregivers in the Gaza Strip and West Bank during April with different child protection services, including identification, registration and alternative care provision for unaccompanied and separated children, distribution of child identity bracelets for the prevention of family separation, MHPSS, case management, clothes and shoes distribution and awareness raising on Explosive Ordinance Risk Education and Child Rights. [See here for data on the response.](#) In response to the Rafah ground offensive in the Gaza Strip, child protection actors are scaling activities to prevent and respond to family separation and enhance the identification and registration of unaccompanied and separated children. Given the lack of shelter for service providers, lack of fuel, limited cash and supplies availability, and extreme insecurity,

the implementation of activities is highly limited in the Gaza Strip. Settlers' violence and military incursions in the West Bank have now escalated to the highest levels in decades and the protection needs have escalated, whereby access constraints significantly impact the response.

Education

UNICEF continues to distribute adolescent girls personal care kits, with 6,000 kits distributed in May. Cumulatively 13,286 adolescent girls personal care kits have been distributed since the beginning of the war in Gaza to support menstrual and hygiene management.

UNICEF also continues to lead the "Continuity of Learning" taskforce, supporting partners in establishing standards for safe learning spaces, banking learning materials and supporting the identification of education personnel to provide learning support to children. Challenges remain due to security risks and scarcity of supplies and learning materials. Since the closure of the Rafah border crossing on 7 May, no new education-related supplies could be brought into the Gaza Strip. This will further decrease the implementation of education-related activities. Also, before the closure of the border crossing, education supplies were rejected at the crossing and could not be brought into the Gaza Strip. The explanation given was that the items are not considered lifesaving, putting on hold any progress to start implementing and supporting partners in delivering learning support to children. Nevertheless, UNICEF finalized and disseminated inclusive accessibility standards and an accessibility checklist for program related facilities during the reporting period.

The members of the Education Cluster, which is co-led by UNICEF and Save the Children, newly supported over 1,500 children in the reporting period, mainly through the provision of recreational and MHPSS activities. The Cluster continues to prioritise these activities to help children cope with trauma and build resilience. However, the incursion in Rafah, the continued operations in North Gaza, and the multiple displacement of people have exacerbated the impact on the psychosocial well-being of over 625,000 children and 23,000 teachers. It has also affected the capacity of the 26 active Education Cluster partners to respond to children's needs by providing recreational, PSS, and informal learning activities for the children to learn. Given the fluidity of the population displacement, it is currently challenging for the partners to identify the locations in Khan Younis where recreational MHPSS activities can be held. Partners are monitoring movements with the site management working group. Overall, lack of access to educational supplies, the lack of fuel, and the underfunding to the cluster response hamper the response.

Social Protection

Since the onset of the escalation on 7 October 2023, UNICEF has provided cash assistance to 567,360 people (85,993 families, including 282,440 children, 20,186 people with disabilities, and 43,691 female-headed households). Of those, 529,573 people (79,815 families) were assisted with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). This represents 47 per cent of all MPCA humanitarian cash transactions provided in the Gaza Strip for the first round. In recognition of a continuous need, UNICEF started to provide the second round of MPCA and already reached 243,520 people (31,427 households) – 83 per cent of all the MPCA second round humanitarian cash transactions provided in the Gaza Strip.

During the past two weeks, the second round of humanitarian cash transfers (HCT) reached 91,303 people (14,109 families) with various packages of cash transfers including for multi-purpose cash assistance (10,150 families) and children with disabilities (3,959 families). These small batches are part of the HCT responsive approach in line with the current cash liquidity crisis which temporarily prevents at scale transfers. The banking sector still faces significant challenges to improve cash liquidity within the Gaza Strip mainly due to safety and security concerns.

Having endured more than seven months since the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip, informal markets have continuously demonstrated 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)

Since the beginning of the hostilities UNICEF has been conducting Social Listening to summarize trending social media content in English and Arabic related to the current situation in the State of Palestine, with a focus on children, humanitarian issues, and perceptions of international organizations. The trends in social online discourse from 1 to 14 May particularly revolved around:

- Following the attack on Rafah, graphic images/videos and news contents depicting the displacement and suffering of the displaced population with specific focus on casualties amongst children.
- Social media content included the lack and destruction of WASH facilities ([link](#), [link](#)), deterioration of mental health of the Gazan population, especially that of children who witnessed the killing of their parents and siblings ([link](#)), reports on complete and imminent famine in North of Gaza ([link](#)), continued displacement of families fleeing Rafah ([link](#)).
- Families' resorting to negative coping mechanism like child labor to find resources to relocate to "safer" locations ([link](#)).
- Community resilience with some recreational activities of sports and dancing ([link](#), [link](#)), as well as people cleaning and rebuilding their destroyed houses in Khan Younis ([link](#), [link](#)).

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

UNICEF is committed to providing communities in the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and East Jerusalem with direct, safe, and confidential channels to voice any concerns or feedback regarding its interventions. Since 7 October 2023, 34,613 pieces of feedback have been received through three main channels: the Interagency Hotline, the PSEA network hotline, and a dedicated UNICEF email. During the reporting period, 3,303 pieces of feedback were received, with 87 per cent coming through the Interagency Hotline. Feedback primarily 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 different requests, complaints and provides MHPSS and referrals. In this reporting period, the hotline documented 3,237 cases requesting services through the hotline, including repetitive MHPSS provision. Amongst those, 116 girls, 99 boys, 1572 women, and 1141 men were identified. Within the overall cases, there are 1807 documented individual cases that received MHPSS through the PSEA Network hotline (1,009 females, 795 males). The hotline received less calls this reporting period due to the telecommunications cuts and instabilities caused by people's movement to safe areas.

The PSEA Network delivered the first in-person PSEA Training of Trainers training for humanitarian responders targeting 19 aid workers (3 male; 16 female), including a session targeting psychologists and mental health counsellors on SEA Survivor-Centred services.

A UNICEF partner providing PSS services in the middle and southern areas of the Gaza Strip continues to deliver safeguarding sessions that reached 195,681 IDPs with awareness services and a SANAD brochure. UNICEF started the implementation of the community-led initiatives project in Gaza, collaborating with an operating partner and a sub-implementing partner. The project aims to assist volunteer community groups and embedded PSEA focal points in running initiatives that address immediate humanitarian and protection needs within 75 communities in Gaza.

SANAD, the PSEA Network's media campaign, produced a series of three video interviews with a key partner, advocating the rights of SEA victims to receive rapid protection services, as well as civil society and communities role in reducing SEA. SANAD's social media platforms produced and published 10 new awareness materials and posts where SANAD's monthly average reach of 1.6 million Meta user, and the total number of followers expanded to 8,072 audience members across Facebook, Instagram and Telegram.

Support from Egypt Coordination Cell

Cumulatively, 820 trucks with UNICEF supplies have crossed into the Gaza Strip from Egypt and Jordan since 21 October 2023. During the reporting period, a total of 11 trucks with critical emergency supplies have crossed into Gaza prior to the closure of the Rafah crossing (in the previous reporting period: 98 trucks). The critical emergency supplies that could be brought in are 1,376 Dignified Family Hygiene Kits benefitting 19,264 individuals, and 1,200 cartons of lipid-based nutrient supplements (LNS) benefitting 24,000 children for one month. In addition, 1,080 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) benefitting 1,080 children for a treatment of about eight weeks crossed through a joint WFP convoy via the Erez border crossing and were directly transported to the North Gaza governorate.

The Kerem Shalom border crossing was closed from 5 May to 8 May. The Rafah border crossing remains closed for movement of goods and people since 7 May, due to the resent escalation blocking trucks from passing into Gaza, reducing average number of daily trucks from all UN/INGOs from 160 trucks to 18 trucks, dedicated to the delivery of fuel.

As of 12 May, the number of UN/INGO trucks waiting to cross into Gaza (the backlog) has increased to 1,924 in Al Arish, Egypt.

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 participates in the EORE/CPP Working Group under the Mine Action AoR. 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 humanitarian workers and supplies, including supplies for latrines for persons with mobility difficulties and 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:

- [As Rafah needs rise, humanitarian response forced to 'scrape the bottom of the barrel'](#)
- [Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell on military operations and border closures in Rafah, Gaza](#)
- [When a nightmare becomes the reality](#)
- [There is 'nowhere safe to go' for the 600,000 children of Rafah, warns UNICEF](#)

Human interest stories:

- [The Unheard Voices of Adolescents](#)

Social Media:

- ["One father told me, crying, that he only had bad options to choose from. Nowhere is safe for his children." - Hamish Young, UNICEF Senior Emergency Coordinator in the Gaza Strip.](#)
- [Gaza needs fuel for humanitarian operations to continue. "If the Kerem Shalom and Rafah crossings are not reopened to fuel and humanitarian supplies, the consequences will be felt almost immediately."](#)
- [In Rafah, hundreds of thousands of children are injured, sick, living with disabilities, malnourished and traumatized. Almost all of them need psychological support! Children in Gaza need an immediate ceasefire NOW.](#)
- [Thank you tweet to Switzerland: Thanks to Switzerland for their continuous support to #children in these challenging times. For every child, hope.](#)
- [Hundreds of thousands of children who are now cramped into Rafah are injured, sick, malnourished, traumatized, or living with disabilities. Violence must end to prevent further catastrophe.](#)

Next SitRep: 3 June 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

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 ¹⁰	Cumulative Result	Change since last report ▲▼	Total Target	Cumulative Result	Change since last report ▲▼
WASH						
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs ¹¹	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 ¹²	1,350,000	495,187	0%	2,426,544	992,916	0%
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) ¹³	1,050,000	595,526	▲4%	2,426,544	996,480	0%
Health						
# of people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies ¹⁴	780,000	633,335	0%			
# of high risks pregnant women who benefited from medical assistance in Gaza ¹⁵	50,000	5,030	0%			
Nutrition						
# of pregnant women receiving preventative iron folate or multiple micronutrients supplementation ¹⁶	182,272	66,507	▲1%	197,858	67,392	▲1%
# of children 6-59 months receiving preventative lipid-based supplements, micronutrients supplementation, and high energy biscuits ¹⁷	341,524	264,868	▲19%	371,859	514,995	▲17%
# of infants 0-6 months receiving RUIF ¹⁸	16,415	6,074	0%	23,551	6,074	0%
# of children 0-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment ¹⁹	6,813	1,310	▲2%	6,813	1,310	▲2%
Child Protection²⁰						
# of children and caregivers reached by MHPSS messages	1,859,000	190,000	▲8%			
# of children and caregivers affected by conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support	596,453 children 255,623 caregivers	191,848 69,040	▲9% ▲5%	710,000	191,848	▲5%

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 The number reported against this indicator shows our *conservative estimate* of the number of people who have *sustained* an acceptable level of access to water during the reporting period, factoring in that the efficiency of water networks is dropping which affects people's access to water. 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 water trucking.

¹² 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 of spare parts and 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).

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ The target shows the intended cumulative number of benefitting pregnant women beginning from the escalation of hostilities on 7 October 2023.

¹⁶ The target number shows the intended number of women being reached cumulatively since 7 October 2023. The supplements are provided once in three months.

¹⁷ The target number shows the intended number of children being reached cumulatively since 7 October 2023, with each child receiving supply monthly.

¹⁸ 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. This activity is continuously implemented; but because the recipients of the RUIF remain the same, there is no change in the number of unique children reached, and therefore no change compared to the previous report. 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.

¹⁹ The target number shows the intended cumulative number of children being admitted, beginning from 7 October 2023. In alignment with Nutrition Cluster, UNICEF is only reporting SAM cases.

²⁰ 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. The targets show the intended cumulative reach since 7 October 2023.

# of children receiving explosive weapons-related risk education	504,925	31,018	▲1%			
# of children reached with winterization items (including blankets)	330,000	247,215	▲13%			
Education²¹						
# of affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being	155,000	69,289	0%	529,084	195,199	▲2%
# of school aged children provided with essential education in emergency learning materials	325,500	160	0% ²²	438,286	67,935	▲1%
Social Protection						
# of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers ²³	88,500	85,993	▲0%			

Annex B – Funding Status²⁴

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	60,026,473	93,972	629,647	1,475,687	2%
Health	35,195,054	25,495,461	2,200,000	234,764	7,264,829	21%
Nutrition	27,765,177	18,066,223	0	0	9,698,954	35%
Child Protection	24,857,916	20,741,499	0	462,963	3,653,454	15%
Education	29,645,946	10,517,066	52,000	1,142,966	17,933,914	60%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	74,376,225	45,122,204	0	727,084	28,526,937	38%
Cross-Sectoral (PSEA, AAP)	4,746,532	3,299,689	0	50,146	1,396,697	29%
Cluster Coordination	4,495,988	4,162,574	220,000	29,000	84,414	2%
Total	263,308,617	187,431,189	2,565,972	3,276,570	70,034,886	27%

*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.

²¹ The Education targets show the intended cumulative number of school aged children being reached, beginning from 7 October 2023.

²² 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.

²³ 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.

²⁴ 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.