HIGHLIGHTS\(^1\)

- Nearly 2 million Palestinians have been displaced and over 36,000 people have been killed since 7 October 2023\(^2\) including 14,100 children.\(^3\)
- There are famine-like conditions in the north of the Gaza Strip.\(^4\)
- As many as 3.3 million people, including 1.7 million children, are in need across the State of Palestine.
- Children in the Gaza Strip are displaced, often multiple times, at risk of being killed or maimed, and remain out of school. Acute threats to children include malnutrition, disease, access to safe water, sanitation, and mental health.
- UNICEF is responding at scale in the Gaza Strip with WASH, Nutrition, Health, Child Protection and Multi-Purpose Cash, while preparing for return to learning for children.
- In the West Bank, UNICEF is responding to the deteriorating situation, increased displacements and the impact of grave child rights violations including the killing and maiming of children.
- UNICEF requires US$ 526.1 million for 2024 to provide access to basic services, prevention and treatment of child malnutrition and child illnesses through nutrition, health and WASH interventions; provision of child protection services while restoring learning; and meeting families’ basic needs through humanitarian cash transfers.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IN NEED</th>
<th>TO BE REACHED</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.3 million people</td>
<td>2.5 million people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 million children</td>
<td>1.3 million children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US$526.1 million</td>
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</table>

Figures are aligned with the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal covering April to December 2024 and the population projection data from PCBS 2017 Census was used.
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

As of 29 May 2024, over 36,000 Palestinians are 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) by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. It is estimated that almost 1 million people are internally displaced in the Gaza Strip. This is over 75 per cent of the population and many people are displaced multiple times.

UNICEF estimates that almost all of Gaza's 1.2 million children need mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), with particular concerns for children who are exposed to repeated traumatic events, have been maimed, have lost parents and close family members, and children with disabilities.

In March 2024, the Famine Review Committee of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) found that famine is imminent in the North Gaza and Gaza Governorates. The nutrition cluster estimated 50,400 children under five years suffer from acute malnutrition. Disease and lack of access to safe water and sanitation is affecting children’s nutritional status. Additionally, only two per cent of children are reaching the minimum threshold for dietary diversity, which remains extremely worrying.

As of May 2024, 60 percent of WASH facilities have been destroyed or severely damaged heightening water shortages and limiting access to sanitation. This increases the risk of waterborne disease while only 31 percent of hospitals remain even partially functional. 86 percent of all schools in the Gaza Strip are damaged or destroyed and 625,000 children are out of school for more than six months in the Gaza Strip. Their schools are used as shelters, or have been damaged or destroyed.

Since 7 October 2023, at least 480 Palestinians have been killed in the occupied West Bank. At least 126 Palestinian children and two Israeli children are reported killed in conflict-related violence in the same time period. 3,300 Palestinians, including more than 1,500 children, have been displaced due to settler violence, 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 2023 and more than 7,500 people are reported injured. At least 37 children have been reported killed in Israel. Some 255 people including 36 children were abducted from Israel into the Gaza Strip, of whom 131 were released including 34 children, with very limited information available on the children remaining in captivity.

STORY FROM THE FIELD

Thousands have tragically lost their lives to the violence, countless others are now living with disabilities, and the overall living conditions for children are swiftly deteriorating.

Through the voices of Razan, Fares, Maha, Taline, and Salem, we witness the daily challenges faced by children in Gaza. Their stories reflect their dreams for a better tomorrow and their unwavering determination to overcome adversity. Their experiences highlight their hopes, aspirations, and the deep resilience that empowers them to envision a future filled with possibilities despite the difficult circumstances they endure.

UNICEF and partners continue vital work in providing WASH, health, education, and psychosocial support to vulnerable children.

Read more about this story here

Razan is an 11-year-old girl from Al Zaytoon neighborhood in Gaza City. Razan lost her mother, father and her three brothers during the ongoing escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip.
UNICEF is responding to the most critical and immediate needs of children in the Gaza Strip including malnutrition, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, maternal and child health services, and vaccination. Whenever possible UNICEF is supporting restoration of essential basic services. UNICEF is continually adapting its response to address acute needs created by new displacements, public health emergencies, and acute food insecurity.

Given high levels of psychosocial distress due to cumulative exposure to violence, UNICEF is scaling up mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and other child protection services. Services include alternative care for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and awareness raising on explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) through a child-centred approach together with education and the resumption of learning.

UNICEF also supports vulnerable people to meet their basic needs including through multi-purpose cash assistance; sectoral top-ups for pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children with disabilities; as well as incentive payments for front-line workers.

In the West Bank, UNICEF supports health services including through pre-positioning health supplies and supporting services to prevent malnutrition. Child protection services including case management, the provision of MHPSS and legal services for children are being provided to vulnerable children. UNICEF will support a package of return to learning for most vulnerable locations, including integrating child protection and WASH interventions.

Gender and disability inclusiveness are mainstreamed across all programmes, while targeted interventions focus on gender-based violence risk mitigation and addressing the special needs of children with disabilities. UNICEF will partner with Women-led Organizations and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities.

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team and closely coordinates with other organizations and local partners. UNICEF leads coordination of the WASH and Nutrition Clusters and co-leads the Education Cluster. Within the Protection Cluster, UNICEF leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility as well as the Technical Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC). UNICEF also participates in the explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) Working Group under the Mine Action AoR and the Legal Task Force under the Protection cluster. 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. UNICEF co-leads the technical working group on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) and 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. UNICEF continues to engage in key recovery activities including the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine/situation-reports

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

Programme targets are based on the UNICEF National Response Plan 2024, subject to further changes. Social and Behaviour Change is mainstreamed in all programmes.
UNICEF calls for US$ 526.1 million to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs in the State of Palestine in 2024. This appeal is aligned to the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal covering April to December issued in April 2024. This appeal will allow UNICEF to deliver gender and disability-responsive immediate lifesaving and protection interventions for water, sanitation and hygiene; health; nutrition; child protection; multi-purpose cash; and education services.

The funding needs are required to maintain the scale of humanitarian programming in the Gaza Strip due to the extensive and acute needs, while scaling up preparedness and response for the West Bank, considering the violence, unrest and the increasingly volatile environment. Humanitarian funding for 2024 will allow UNICEF to procure lifesaving supplies and support the restoration of existing essential services. Health, WASH, child protection, education and nutrition supplies will continue to be procured and delivered through various channels through cross-border operations, and for the West Bank to support local partners’ pre-positioning.

Without this funding, UNICEF cannot support the immediate needs to reach over 55,650 children at risk of acute malnutrition with prevention and treatment services. These funds are essential for UNICEF to continue providing WASH services for at least 1.5 million people in the Gaza Strip including to reduce the risk of public health emergencies such as diarrhoea. UNICEF will support 220,000 children, who have missed school since October 2023, to return to education including to meet their psychosocial needs and provide incentive payments for teachers. Without this funding, UNICEF cannot reach 480,000 children with Explosive Ordnance Risk Education to reduce their risk of death or injury due to the widespread contamination of unexploded ordnance. In the West Bank, this funding is essential for UNICEF’s humanitarian preparedness, including pre-positioning supplies, alongside providing immediate humanitarian response in conflict-affected locations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal sector</th>
<th>Original 2024 HAC requirement (US$)</th>
<th>Revised 2024 HAC requirement (US$)</th>
<th>Funds available (US$)</th>
<th>Funding gap (US$)</th>
<th>Funding gap (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>35,195,054</td>
<td>115,781,157</td>
<td>19,374,869</td>
<td>96,406,288</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>27,765,177</td>
<td>140,467,966</td>
<td>22,685,767</td>
<td>117,782,199</td>
<td>83.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>24,857,916</td>
<td>28,802,361</td>
<td>18,901,398</td>
<td>9,900,963</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>29,645,946</td>
<td>38,338,704</td>
<td>10,599,044</td>
<td>27,739,660</td>
<td>72.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>62,225,779</td>
<td>132,383,773</td>
<td>39,640,897</td>
<td>92,742,876</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection</td>
<td>74,376,225</td>
<td>58,489,439</td>
<td>40,475,668</td>
<td>18,013,771</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sectoral</td>
<td>4,746,532</td>
<td>6,650,000</td>
<td>2,893,977</td>
<td>3,756,023</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster coordination</td>
<td>4,495,988</td>
<td>5,217,233</td>
<td>2,883,233</td>
<td>2,334,000</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>263,308,617</td>
<td>526,130,633</td>
<td>157,454,853</td>
<td>368,675,780</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child protection (5.5%), Cross-sectoral (1.3%), Cluster coordination (<1%).
ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF activated its Corporate Emergency Level 3 Scale-up Procedure for the State of Palestine for the following period: 21 October 2023 – 20 April 2024, extended by three months until 14 July 2024. UNICEF Emergency Procedures are activated to ensure a timely and effective response to all crises. The emergency procedures provide a tailored package of mandatory actions and simplifications required for all offices responding to Level 3, Level 2 and Level 1 humanitarian situations.


3. As reported by the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

4. The Famine Review Committee (March 2024) projects that famine is imminent and is expected to become manifest during the projection period from mid-March 2024 to May 2024. https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/IPC_Famine_Committee_Review_Report_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Feb_July2024_Special_Brief.pdf

5. From the inter-agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, April-December 2024, issued April 2024. People in need in the Gaza Strip are 2.3M and 1M in the West Bank. People with disability in the State of Palestine are estimated to be 0.5M.

6. From the inter-agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, April-December 2024, issued April 2024; 0.9M boys and 0.8M girls.

7. The number of people and children to be reached is provisional and is subject to revision based on the evolving situation and humanitarian needs.

8. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.

9. The total number of people to be reached is calculated based on the following program targets: in the Gaza Strip, 1.85 million people provided with access to water; in the West Bank, 605,023 people to be reached with nutrition services (children) and medical supplies (adults).

10. The total number of children to be reached is calculated based as: 867,650 children to be reached with access to water in the Gaza Strip (46.9% of the total population of the Gaza Strip are children according to PCBS); 395,377 children 6-59 months to be reached with nutrition services in the West Bank.

11. OCHA (June 2024) estimates 60% of assessed WASH infrastructure is damaged or destroyed https://www.ochaopti/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-5-june-2024.

12. Inter-agency planning figures in OCHA, Flash Appeal: Occupied Palestinian Territory – October 2023 extended to March 2024 (First revision, November 2023).

13. All 2024 population in need figures are provisional and subject to further revision as the situation evolves and in accordance with the inter-agency planning process for 2024.

14. Nutrition cluster dashboard (31 May 2024) https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIiropMmlyMDIzLjMzTkOSO0YTEBLTIzZk1jYTZmMGMxNzViMDMiwicC1jZDEwMTk1LTE0ZTExNGZiOC05MDRlWFiMTg5MjAyMzY2NysImFiI

15. OCHA Flash Appeal (May 2024) https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1156/population#page-title

16. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.

17. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.

18. UNICEF recognizes the gendered impact of the humanitarian situation for girls, adolescent girls and young women specifically, and includes critical menstrual health and hygiene supplies, strengthened safe spaces for women and girls where they can access life-saving multilayered and multi-sectoral support in coordination with community-based initiatives, with gender-based violence risk mitigation integrated throughout the response strategy.

19. This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

20. All 2024 programme targets are provisional and subject to further revision as the situation evolves and in accordance with the inter-agency 2024 appeal process. UNICEF targets, to avoid double counting, reflect the largest sectoral targets, and include both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank unless marked otherwise.

21. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.

22. Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) components are embedded in each programme.

23. 50,450 children are in the Gaza Strip (over 7,600 with severe wasting) and 5,200 in the West Bank (over 2,400 with severe wasting).

24. 203,700 children are to be reached, including at least 1,000 children with disabilities.

25. This target is reduced to represent only in-person programming. See also the indicator on children and caregivers reached by MHPSS messages and awareness activities on child protection risks.

26. This target is corrected from the previous HAC appeal.

27. This target is reduced as the programmatic focus has been widened to include non-formal learning.

28. This target is reduced as the programmatic focus has been widened to include non-formal learning.

29. This includes 800,000 people in the Gaza Strip to be reached monthly and 75,000 people in the West Bank.

30. These are provisional funding requirements for 2024 and subject to revision as the situation evolves and in accordance with the inter-agency 2024 appeal process.

31. The funding requirement for SBC, community engagement and AAP is integrated into the sectoral budget lines.

32. The significant funding increase reflects the deterioration of the nutrition and food security situation, particularly in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. Both the intensity and the breadth of nutrition programming has been increased including the distribution of high energy biscuits, Lipid-Based Nutrient Supplements (LNS-SQ), Ready-to-Use Complementary Food and a cash component.

33. This amount excludes $1,325,000 for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, which is reflected under the cross-sectoral budget line. Interventions addressing gender-based violence in emergencies are embedded under case management, and amount to $550,000, including gender-based responses to specific protection concerns.

34. The cost of education has increased significantly reflecting the breadth of programming.

35. The increase in funding is driven by the increased supplies and the high associated freight costs, and the continuation and scale up of wash service in targeted Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) shelters.

36. The reduction in funding for social protection represents integration of Humanitarian Cash Transfers into sectoral programmes including WASH and nutrition.

37. The cross-sectoral funding requirement includes $1,325,000 for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, $2.6M for disability inclusion and $810,000 for Risk Communication and Community Engagement. SBC and AAP funding needs are integrated into sectoral budget lines.

38. The coordination budget covers cluster coordination costs (Nutrition Cluster: $855,000; WASH Cluster: $1.35 million; Education Cluster: $778,000; and Child Protection Area of Responsibility: $1.5 million).