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Batool, 9 years old, is receiving a UNICEF-supported Psychosocial Support Kit (PSS Kit), in the northern Gaza Strip.

unicef for every child

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 29

Reporting Period
1 to 31 July 2024

State of Palestine

HIGHLIGHTS

- Approximately 303 km² (83 per cent) of the Gaza Strip are under evacuation orders.
- Out of the 1.9 million people displaced in Gaza, 1.7 million are directed to an area of 48 km² (population density: 35,416/km²).
- The closure of Rafah Crossing, the security situation around Karem Shalom, and the break in law and order inside Gaza Strip have led to an estimated decrease of 56 per cent in humanitarian aid cargo compared to April 2024.
- Vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) was detected in environmental samples in Gaza.
- UNICEF administered more than 28,000 children with an oral polio vaccine.
- UNICEF continued to provide more than 1.6 million people, including over 800,000 children, with a minimum of 15 l/p/d of water for drinking and domestic needs.
- Humanitarian cash transfers through digital e-wallets reached more than 141,000 people, enabling them to access basic goods.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

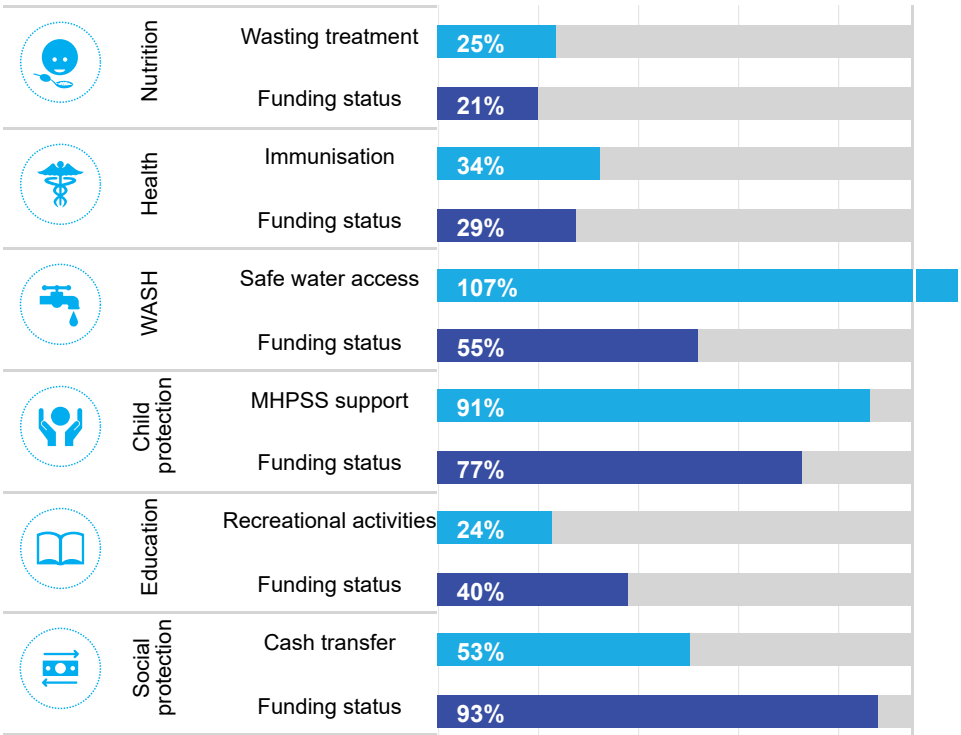
1,554,700
Children in need of humanitarian assistance[1]

3,300,000
People in need of humanitarian assistance[2]

1,900,000
Internally displaced persons estimated[3]

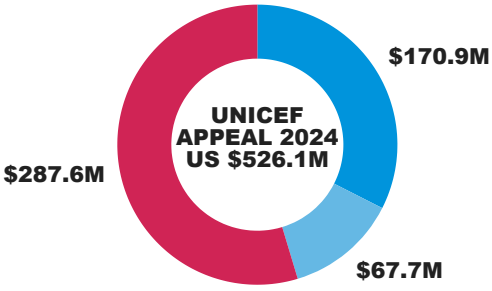
524
schools in the Gaza Strip sustained damage (92.9%)[4]

UNICEF RESPONSE AND FUNDING STATUS*



* UNICEF response % is only for the indicator, the funding status is for the entire sector.

FUNDING STATUS (IN US$)**



Humanitarian Resources
2023 carry over
Funding gap

** Funding available includes: funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors

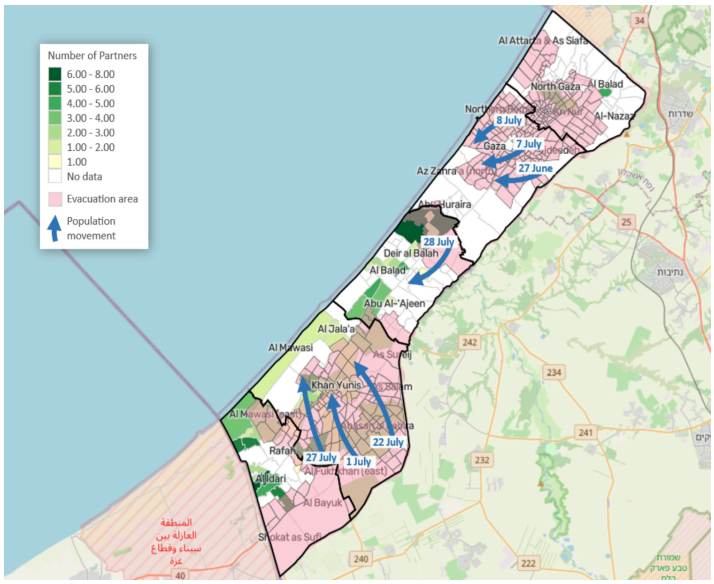
FUNDING OVERVIEW AND PARTNERSHIPS

An Inter-Agency Flash Appeal[5] was issued on 17 April, covering the period until December 2024. An estimated US$2.8 billion is required to address critical needs of 3.1 million people, including 2.3 million in the Gaza Strip and 0.8 million in the West Bank[6] . The UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, revised and aligned with the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal, is seeking $526.1 million to cover urgent and critical needs of children and their families across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Against this updated appeal of $526.1 million, UNICEF is facing a funding gap of US$287.6 million (55 per cent).

Flexible, quality funding enables UNICEF to respond promptly and more effectively, prioritizing funding where it is most needed and enabling us to adapt to the changing reality on the ground. Without adequate funding, malnutrition cannot be prevented, children cannot be reunified with their families, and water and health services cannot be provided.

UNICEF would like to sincerely thank partners for their valuable and timely contributions, including governments of Austria, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Poland, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), OCHA Country-based Pooled Fund, EU Humanitarian Aid and the World Bank. UNICEF thanks the UNICEF National Committees of Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States. UNICEF would also like to thank the UNICEF private sector fundraising offices of Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan. 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[7] .

SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS[8]



Areas in red indicate evacuation orders from 27 October 2023 to 28 July 2024. Blue arrows show population movements following evacuation orders between 27 June and 27 July 2024. See endnote 8.

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During the reporting period, the population in the Gaza Strip has faced seven evacuation orders[9] , each with significant repercussions for the affected areas. These orders have led to a significant displacement from Rafah and Khan Younis toward the middle area of the Strip and from northern Gaza and the eastern parts of Gaza City towards the western areas of Gaza City, along with a noticeable increase in movement from the northern to the southern parts of the Strip. Of Gaza's estimated total population of 2.3 million, approximately 1.9 million are now displaced. Among them, 1.7 million individuals have been directed to a confined area spanning just 48 km², with a population density of 35,416 people per km². Overall, the evacuation orders cover approximately 303 km², or 83 per cent of the Gaza Strip.

The evacuation orders have disrupted access to essential humanitarian services, exacerbating the ongoing crisis. Several UNICEF-supported activities and UNICEF's implementing partners have had to relocate multiple times along with the displaced populations, leading to a repeated circle of replanning, realignment, and readjusting to ensure an effective and efficient response.

The Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip has declared the Strip a polio outbreak zone following the detection of Vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in six out of seven environmental samples collected and tested in late June. The samples were collected from sewage collection points in Khan Younis and Deir Al-Balah as part of a routine environmental surveillance supported by UNICEF. Through immediate action, a joint WHO-UNICEF-UNRWA initiative was launched and led, in collaboration with the relevant partners in Gaza, to a Field and Risk Assessment[10] . Thereafter, an action plan for preventing and combating the spread of the virus has been finalized and plans the administration of a polio vaccination campaign, as well as risk communication and community engagement interventions. UNICEF has coordinated with the MoH, WHO and additional partners, to have in place adequate measures on vaccine supply, cold chain management, and the deployment of vaccination teams and social mobilizers. The preparations include special attention to reaching those who are displaced, at remote places, and hard-to-reach populations.

The already fragile health system in the Gaza Strip has further crumpled. As of 30 July, 498 attacks on health were recorded in the Gaza Strip[11] , with 110 health facilities affected, including 32 hospitals damaged. More than 540,000 girls and women are of reproductive age and therefore need access to appropriate items to support their hygiene, health, dignity, and well-being[12] . Ongoing fuel shortages and long delays in received supplies impede programme delivery on the ground. The absence of banking services and cash shortages pose significant additional challenges. Frequent interruptions to power supply due to fuel shortage and to telecommunications disrupt essential services.

As of 31 July, at least 39,445 Palestinians were reported killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities. Up to 60.6 per cent (out of 28,185 identified fatalities) are reported to be women, children, and elderly[13] . More than 91,071 Palestinians are reported injured, including at least 12,320 children[14] . As of 31 July, 283 aid workers have been killed[15] . Israeli authorities report that approximately 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed in the attacks of 7 October 2023 and more than 7,500 people reported injured. At least 37 children were reported killed in Israel. Some 255 people including 36 children were abducted from Israel into the Gaza Strip, of whom 135 were released or returned – some were deceased, others were rescued alive – including 34 children, with very limited information available on the children remaining in captivity.

In July, six children were killed across the West Bank, with the most significant military operations occurring in the northern governorates of the West Bank (two children were killed in Jenin, one in Tulkarem,

one in Ramallah, one in Nablus, one in Hebron). Since 7 October, at least 569 Palestinians have been killed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem[16] . In the same period, 146 Palestinian children and two Israeli children were killed in conflict-related violence. More than 898 children are reported injured in same period, nearly half with live ammunition. Nearly 3,600 Palestinians including more than 1,600 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. As of 29 July, 520 attacks on health care affecting at least 54 health facilities, including 20 mobile clinics, and 358 ambulances[17] , with 59 per cent of incidents in Jenin, Tulkarem and Nablus governorates[18] .

Due to extreme insecurity, as well as limited access to fuel, supplies and cash, the programme implementation continues to be hampered in the Gaza Strip. In addition, an increasing breakdown of law and order further complicates the supply and logistics operation. Multiple displacements of the population also significantly impact the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, especially in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), for example latrine construction efforts. To address those challenges, UNICEF continuously reassesses the situation on the ground to readjust, redefine, and recalibrate its interventions to address the immediate needs of the affected population. UNICEF continues to deliver to the fullest extent possible and when conditions allow expanded programming. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has stated that a cease-fire is necessary to guarantee “that there is a minimum of law and order that allows for that (aid) distribution to take place”[19] .

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

Health

For routine immunisation in the Gaza Strip, 27,933 children under one year were vaccinated with Penta[20] and 28,223 children under one with oral polio vaccine by the end of July. Additionally, to sustain routine immunisation, 3,000 diphtheria tetanus vaccine (300 vials of 10 doses each) were received and offloaded at the UNICEF rented cold room in Deir Al Balah and 10,000 doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) were provided to partners in the North to serve 5,000 children. To scale up the expanded programme on immunisation, UNICEF is providing support to rebuild the cold chain system to serve 337,000 children under five. The Gaza Strip is currently in a state of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) following the confirmed presence of circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV-2). This is evidenced by positively tested sewage samples collected from two governorates in late June 2024. The situation demands immediate and coordinated response. Based on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) guidelines, an action plan to vaccinate all children under ten in the Gaza Strip (640,000 children) has been put in place. The vaccination campaign is planned in two rounds using the “novel oral polio vaccine type 2” (nOPV2). The first round is pending the delivery of the required vaccines and cold chain equipment in the Gaza Strip. The second round will start within four weeks from the date of the first round.

During the reporting period, UNICEF with partners provided primary healthcare consultations through UNICEF-delivered medical supplies, to 79,340 people (17,300 boys, 17,660 girls, 25,240 men and 19,140 women). As part of its efforts to address increased maternal needs, 675 high risk pregnant mothers were supported with skilled birth attendants. Additionally, an assessment of neonatal health services identified the need for lifesaving equipment, drugs, and consumables. With the collapse of the storage capacity for medical supplies in Gaza, UNICEF has rented a warehouse in Khan Younis to support the health response in the middle area, Khan Younis, and Deir Al-Balah. To increase bed capacity at the Khan Younis Medical Compound within the Nasser Hospital, UNICEF provided tents for temporary health facility and a space for an additional 12 beds to cope with the increasing number of patients.

In the West Bank, UNICEF continued to deliver medical disposables to the government hospitals and primary health care centres, including medical gloves, medical waste bags, and needles among other supplies. These supplies will serve at least 15 health facilities mainly hospitals. Furthermore, UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Health (MoH), under the procurement service modality, by delivering 270,000 doses of bOPV, which will serve estimated 54,000 children under the age of 6 years old.[21]

UNICEF continued to support the emergency preparedness through a capacity building programme. Between 27 June to 31 July, several courses were delivered: Eight Basic Life Support (BLS), two Helping Babies Breathe (HBB), one Infection Prevention & Control (IPC), four on First Aid and four Paediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) trainings were conducted and benefitted 291 frontline service providers across the West Bank, including in Nablus, Jenin, Ramallah, Toubas, Salfeet, Jericho, Qalqilia, Hebron, Biet Jala and Jerusalem.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The current water production capacity in the Gaza Strip has significantly plummeted, leaving only between 2-9 litres available per person per day. It was reduced from 83 litres per capita per day before the escalation in October 2023, and is expected to dwindle further. Most of the water wells have been damaged or are non-operational, and the capacity of desalination plants to provide potable water has drastically declined due to the lack of electricity and unstable supply of fuel, generators, and spare parts. This situation has forced people to resort to unsafe water sources, significantly increasing the risk of waterborne diseases.

To address the situation, through the UN mechanism[22] , UNICEF continued to support more than 1.6 million people, including over 800,000 children with lifesaving water for drinking and domestic needs across the Gaza Strip through the provision of 450,000 litres of fuel within the reporting period, which allowed desalination plants, public and private water wells to produce clean water. To improve water supply service, UNICEF supported repairing the electric feeder line (F-11) that connects the Southern Gaza Desalination Plant from inside the Gaza Strip across the border. At the time of this report, the repair of the power feeder line had been completed and awaited activation. In addition, UNICEF delivered durable and resistant pipes to Jabalia to maintain the water supply and sewage systems.

Sanitation and hygiene have been severely affected, with sewage pumping stations and wastewater treatment plants being out of service due to fuel shortages and damages. Overcrowded shelters, hosting over 755,000 people, face a high public health risk. The water scarcity, limited hygiene supplies and access to sanitation facilities such as toilets and showers particularly expose women and adolescent girls to diseases, infections, and mental stress, especially during menstruation. Similarly, the operation of sewage pumping stations, crucial for managing waste and preventing environmental contamination, has been compromised.

UNICEF continued to support an estimated 645,000 people through various types of services including providing fuel to operate the wastewater treatment plant in Rafah, construction of 520 latrines in Rafah, Khan Younis and Deir Al Blah, four septic tanks at Nasser hospital and restoration of six sewage pumping stations in Khan Younis. Incentive-Based Programme and cleaning services to address solid waste and environmental hygiene needs has continued in 26 shelters, benefiting over 65,000 people in the middle

area. To enhance community involvement in the environment and hygiene upkeep, Local Hygiene Committees (LHC) were established at ten sites in Khan Younis and the middle area.

Additionally, UNICEF has reached over 155,349 people, including children, women, and adolescent girls in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir Balah by distributing more than 80,299 WASH Non-food items (NFI) of various types, including packs of sanitary pads, hygiene kits, collapsible 10-litre water containers, rigid 20-litre-jerrycans and adult diapers.

The delivery of WASH items for the emergency response in the West Bank, including at refugee camps, is ongoing. More than 100 items, including water pipes, wastewater pipes, fittings and electromechanical spare parts, have been delivered to the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) in different quantities.

Nutrition

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF with partners screened a total of 194,190 children 6-59 months, using the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement, a rapid indicator to detect acute malnutrition or wasting. More children were screened in July compared to previous months due to the ongoing Find-and-Treat campaign, leading to higher admission rates. During the reporting period, partners have admitted and treated 2,871 children (1,755 girls; 1,116 boys) for acute malnutrition, out of which 2,267 were with moderate acute malnutrition (1,385 girls; 882 boys), while 604 children with severe acute malnutrition (370 girls; 234 boys). Since January 2024, partners have admitted and treated 13,837 children (7,987 girls; 5,869 boys) for acute malnutrition, out of which 10,798 were with moderate acute malnutrition (6,227 girls; 4,571 boys), while 3,039 children with severe acute malnutrition (1,741 girls; 1,298 boys). Cumulatively 70,771 children (35,341 girls; 35,370 boys) received micronutrient powder supplements, while 9,976 children (5,032 girls; 4,994 boys) received vitamin A supplementation. Evacuation orders throughout July affected four sites where UNICEF partners provide nutrition services, meaning that at least 2,280 children under five and at least 580 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW) no longer have access to preventive nutrition services.

Child Protection

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF continued to provide critical child protection and psychosocial support (PSS) services for the displaced population in Rafah, North Gaza, Gaza City, Deir Balah and Khan Younis. In-person PSS services were provided to 12,993 children (including 7,425 girls) as well as to 5,995 caregivers (including 4,364 women) during the reporting period . Of those, more than 1,955 parents benefitted from positive parenting awareness sessions. Additionally, individual case management services were provided to 1,194 children (554 girls) with protection needs, including neglect, violence, and injuries. Furthermore, UNICEF continued to provide rehabilitation services to 548 children who either sustained injuries or have existing disabilities, aiming to assess and address their specific needs.

In addition, UNICEF partners provided face-to-face awareness-raising sessions on explosive ordinance risk education (EORE), reaching 13,730 people (10,162 children and 3,568 caregivers). Moreover, UNICEF reached more than 500,000 people with child protection radio messages and SMS. These messages covered critical topics such as mental health and psychosocial well-being, support for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), and EORE.

UNICEF with partners has successfully delivered 3,000 locally procured family psychosocial kits to children in Gaza City and North Gaza governorates. These are the first and only child protection PSS kits that could be distributed in Gaza since October 2023. The kits include a guidance note for caregivers to assist them in engaging with their children and expressing themselves and releasing stress using toys, group games, and stationery.

UNICEF continued to provide alternative care, family tracing, reunification and other essential services to 36 unaccompanied children through a partner organization. As a sole provider of the last resort, UNICEF facilitated a total of nine family reunifications of children (five males and four females of ages comprised between 8 months to 12 years) and continues to remain the only provider of family reunification services in the Gaza Strip. UNICEF partners and the Ministry of Social Development initiated the selection of 250 families caring for UASC for integrated cash assistance services. UNICEF, in close collaboration with WHO, is following up with relevant UNICEF Country Offices on children who were medically evacuated to third countries and advocating for the full realisation of their rights.

UNICEF continued to support adolescent girls on raising gender-based violence awareness amongst adolescent girls through the Laaha[23] platform which was launched in January 2024. The platform is a virtual safe space for women and girls to discuss health, safety, violence, relationships, and access to services. UNICEF promoted Laaha through an SMS campaign in Arabic and a QR code included in the Laaha booklet in the adolescent girls' care and protection package. As an immediate outcome of the SMS campaign, 8,548 new users visited the Laaha platform during the period from 13 June to 13 July.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF continued to provide essential child protection, prevention, and response interventions, focusing on most vulnerable children in areas most affected by conflict-related incidents. These services include psychosocial first aid (PFA), structured Psychosocial and Mental Health Support services awareness raising sessions, recreational activities, and legal services for 2,175 people, including 1,167 children and 1,008 caregivers.

Education

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF continued to support the provision of recreational activities and the restoration of learning in safe learning spaces. In July, 613 children (328 girls and 285 boys) were provided with informal fun learning and recreational activities implemented in four safe learning spaces established through UNICEF partners. Additionally, UNICEF provided 59,032 children and adolescents with high-energy biscuits to support their well-being and to promote their participation in learning activities.

In the West Bank, 643 children (371 girls and 272 boys) whose education is disrupted by the hostilities were reached with recreational and learning activities to support their wellbeing and mitigate the learning loss. These children were from six communities in the hotspot areas of Tammoun, Iskaka, Tubas, Jenin and Nablus. The recreational activities included expressive art, sports, and remedial education in core subjects such as mathematics, Arabic and English. Additionally, 19,825 children (8,270 girls and 11,555 boys) were provided with stationery kits to support their learning.

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

UNICEF continues to ensure that communities have direct, safe and confidential channels for feedback on interventions in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and East Jerusalem, through a Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) including two hotlines and an email channel. AAP efforts continue to include responding to feedback, informing

communities about their rights, and involving them in decision-making and programme design. During the reporting period, 17,768 people reached across all CFM channels. This feedback included requests for cash assistance and issues related to cash redemption. The highest number of calls during this reporting period was from Khan Yunis, at 35 per cent, followed by Deir Al Balah and Gaza governorates, at 29 per cent and 23 per cent respectively. The number of calls from Rafah governorate has dramatically decreased to 0.7 per cent compared to the previous months.

UNICEF, through the PSEA network, strengthened inter-agency feedback channels and advocated the hotline (phone number 164) that handles different requests, complaints and provides MHPSS and referrals. The hotline documented 9,443 cases in July. Amongst those were 411 girls, 389 boys, 3,927 women and 4,035 men[24] . Out of the total, 4,960 individuals received dedicated MHPSS sessions through the hotline, including 1,647 females and 3,306 males. The cases included 42 cases related to suicide, 7 cases related to addiction. The hotline referred 4,650 callers to various inter-agency services.

UNICEF with a partner has provided awareness and safeguarding messages and safe reporting channels to 355,011 IDPs during the reporting period. UNICEF with the partner is also implementing Community-Led Initiatives (CLIs), whereby 20 ideas were finalized and 20 new CLIs have been identified. Most CLIs to be implemented in the central and southern parts of the Gaza Strip. Reaching community groups in the north is limited due to difficult access.

UNICEF, with the PSEA Network, delivered Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions for 31 staff (21 females and 10 males) working on the Gaza response but currently stationed in Egypt, and a risk mitigation workshop for 14 representatives of key humanitarian actors and Clusters.

Social Protection

In July, humanitarian cash transfers (HCT) through digital e-wallets reached 141,526 people (including 25,376 families; 4,495 with PBW). The flow of commercial trucks, including from the West Bank enables markets to function in Gaza, especially informal ones. Therefore, digital e-wallets continue to function as a means to alleviate severe cash liquidity challenges and as a key modality to reach at-scale families with children and address their food insecurity and other basic needs.

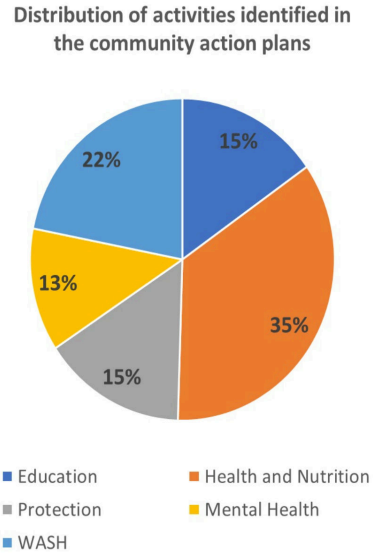
Since the onset of the escalation in October 2023, UNICEF has provided cash assistance to 711,034 people (111,705 families, including 347,927 children, 24,888 people with disabilities, 50,030 female-headed households, and 34,466 PBW). Of those, 677,786 people (106,317 families) were assisted with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). By the end of July, UNICEF reached a total of 281,769 people including 50,287 unique households. To address the continuous needs, UNICEF started to provide the second round of MPCA and reached 376,682 people (54,769 households). UNICEF is a leading actor in HCT, covering 60 per cent of all HCT in Gaza.

Since 14 May, more than 470,000 individuals (80,000 families) have been reached with the e-wallet modality. It allows them to cash out their assistance, and to process digital transfers to other individuals, including merchants. The average redemption rate for the closed batches is over 85 per cent.

The latest round of Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) in July[25] shows that more than 40 per cent of respondents have activated their e-wallets without going through a Financial Service Provider (FSP) vendor. According to the previous data collection round in June[26] , one out of three respondents consistently use digital transfers to other e-wallets.

As for the availability of goods on the market, after a drastic worsening in the data collection in June, a slight improvement was seen in July; more than 70 per cent of the respondents state that goods are at least partially available, which can be related to continued entry of commercial trucks. The PDM results also show that the dietary diversity indicators in July have improved for both PBW and children 6 to 23 months old.

Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)



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Thematic distribution of 105 challenges that were identified at 20 IDP makeshift sites. At each site, a localized community action plan was developed with specific actions to address these challenges.

In July, UNICEF continued reaching out to local communities in the Gaza Strip with awareness-raising messaging and risk communication on all thematic areas related to children: primarily on WASH, Child Protection, Health and Nutrition. Approximately 500,000 people are reached through media publications. In addition, interpersonal and group interventions continued, especially through field engagement activities with hygiene and health promoters and community mobilizers, complementing the distribution of items with engagement to ensure better understanding, commitment, and utilization of services and distributed supplies.

UNICEF has concluded the preparation and co-creation phases of the community engagement programmes that involve co-creative participation. As a result, 20 localized community action plans were developed for 20 makeshift sites. 400 volunteers (20 per location) have worked closely with their communities to develop those action plans, with an average participation rate of 15 per cent of all 50,000 IDPs displaced at those sites. Within these action plans, the communities have identified 105 challenges and solutions and formed 95 committees that will be responsible for implementing the action plans, to improve the conditions of the sites.

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 continues to lead the WASH Cluster with 33 operational partners in the Gaza Strip and 20 partners in the West Bank. For targeted WASH activities, the Cluster managed to deliver 755,459 litres of fuel, a 29 per cent increase on the previous month but still 65 per cent below the critical fuel requirement to meet sectoral targets. In addition, the Cluster developed a comprehensive WASH assessment framework and completed the report on WASH supply chain challenges and contributed to the early recovery strategies for the water sector, led by the PWA and the World Bank, as well as to

the Environment Strategy led by UNEP. In the Gaza Strip, the Solid Waste Task Force finalized the assessment confirming that the solid waste mechanism in Gaza has collapsed. In the West Bank, the Cluster led inter-agency assessments following settler violence and related damages in Tulkarem, Nour Shams camps and in the Jenin Hospital, including planning appropriate responses.

UNICEF continues to lead the Nutrition Cluster in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, coordinating 20 operational partners in Gaza and four technical working groups. Over the past month, the Cluster adopted the new MUAC measurement[27] , while the guidelines for identification and management of children 0-6 months with malnutrition were finalised and are currently being piloted in Gaza. A recent short survey on breastfeeding and the distribution of breastmilk substitutes revealed that two in five children aged 0-5 months are not exclusively breastfed. Additionally, caregivers feed their children formula milk, purchased or received as donations. These infant feeding practices pose a risk of diarrheal diseases due to limited access to clean water[28] . The critical shortage of supplies on the blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) for PBW continues to hinder the response. Only one in six PBW received a supplement from BSFP in July. While BSFP is in place, the Cluster is advising partners to prioritize PBW with acute malnutrition for supplementation.

In July, the Education Cluster supported around 15,000 new learners (43 per cent boys and 57 per cent girls) through a variety of support activities, including psychosocial support, recreational activities, awareness sessions, and informal learning activities in Khan Younis, the Middle Area, Gaza City and North Gaza. Cluster members also established more than ten new Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS). Currently, there are 48 TLSs (28 in Deir Al Balah, 19 in Khan Yunis, and one in North Gaza), to improve access to learning for approximately 8,750 students. The Cluster has supported 365,000 students and teachers since the onset of the war, accounting for 58 per cent of the Cluster target. Despite efforts, challenges with lack of supplies persist as they are still labelled non-humanitarian and repeatedly denied entry into the Gaza Strip. Three trucks with UNICEF education supplies, approved for entry, were forced to return to Al Arish recently. Due to attacks on education facilities, the recent assessment by the Education Cluster at the end of July revealed an increase of 6.5 per cent in damages. An alarming 85 per cent of the education infrastructure requires significant reconstruction before it can be used for education purposes. Advocating for learning spaces' safety is crucial to navigating the return to learning.

Within the Protection Cluster, UNICEF continues to lead the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CPAoR) in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, as well as the Technical Working Group on UASC. A Case Management Task Force has been re-established and carried out a trend analysis which showed that between January and June 2024, Child Protection partners in Palestine provided critical case management services to highly vulnerable children, with over 12,000 child protection risks recorded in the Gaza Strip and 700 in the West Bank. Most cases are children with disabilities; many of whom with pre-existing disabilities who have been injured and lost their support network and/or assistive devices (e.g. wheelchairs and hearing aids). Cases of neglect and post-traumatic stress disorder or psychological distress are the next most critical concerns affecting children in the Gaza Strip, highlighting the deprivation of resources and the need to scale-up mental health and trauma support. In the West Bank, neglect, different forms of abuse (physical/emotional/psychological) and children in contact with the law are the main concerns.

The lack of supplies continues to challenge the implementation of child protection interventions for all AoR partners in the Gaza Strip. During a recent joint inter-cluster assessment, an adolescent girl stated, "There is no safe space for girls here, so our families ask us to stay inside our tents all day. It is hot, crowded, and there isn't anything to do inside. I'm tired and hope to have a space to spend some time with the girls."

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.

UNICEF co-leads the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) 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 UN Women and OCHA, and contributes to gender equality programming as well as preparedness and response. UNICEF continues to engage in key recovery activities including the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment.

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES AND EXTERNAL MEDIA

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.

- Human Interest Story: The resilience of Gaza mothers. https://www.unicef.org/sop/stories/resilience-gaza-mothers

- Statement: UNICEF ED Catherine Russel on the situation in the Gaza Strip. https://www.unicef.org/sop/press-releases/statement-unicef-executive-director-catherine-russell-situation-gaza-strip

- Press release: Child casualties in the West Bank skyrocket in the past nine months. https://www.unicef.org/sop/press-releases/child-casualties-west-bank-skyrocket-past-nine-months-unicef

- Children in the Gaza Strip are losing their childhood to the devastation & violence of ongoing war. https://x.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1808499845633597875

- Children in the Gaza Strip suffer from acute malnutrition. https://x.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1808782032886960409

- In the Gaza Strip, distributing baby clothes & essential supplies is providing crucial relief... https://x.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1811310938290593868

- Children and families are exposed to sewage and waste, causing widespread skin diseases and rashes. https://x.com/UNICEFmena/status/1813918106617823320

- "When I hear the sound of warplanes, I get very afraid and run to my mother." Wahid, 7-year-old. https://x.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1816108186895560918

- UNICEF and partners are working to support the delivery of life-saving interventions. https://x.com/UNICEF/status/1816896528457285810

HAC APPEALS AND SITREPS

- State of Palestine Appeals https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine

- State of Palestine Situation Reports https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine/situation-reports

- All Humanitarian Action for Children Appeals https://www.unicef.org/appeals

- All Situation Reports https://www.unicef.org/appeals/situation-reports

NEXT SITREP: 10 SEPTEMBER 2024

ANNEX A - PROGRAMME RESULTS

Consolidated Programme Results

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response			Cluster/Sector response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2024 targets	Total results	Progress*	2024 targets	Total results	Progress*
Nutrition								
Children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder	Total	310,922	155,460	70,711[29]	▲ 1%	155,460	70,711	▲ 1%
	Girls	-	-	35,341	-	-	35,341	-
	Boys	-	-	35,370	-	-	35,370	-
Children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation	Total	706,270	395,377	9,976	▲ 1%	706,270	9,976	0%
	Girls	-	-	5,032	-	-	5,032	-
	Boys	-	-	4,944	-	-	4,944	-
Pregnant women receiving preventative iron folate or multiple micronutrients supplementation and related services	Total	160,279	160,279	45,507	0%	160,279	45,507	0%
Children 6-59 months with wasting admitted for treatment[30]	Total	67,947	55,650[31]	13,837	▲ 9%	55,650	13,837	▲ 9%
	Girls	-	26,106	7,968	▲ 11%	26,106	7,968	▲ 11%
	Boys	-	29,544	5,869	▲ 7%	29,544	5,869	▲ 7%
Children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	Total	-	12,487	3,039	▲ 8%	12,487	3,039	▲ 8%
	Girls	-	5,542	1,741	▲ 11%	5,542	1,741	▲ 11%
	Boys	-	6,945	1,298	▲ 6%	6,945	1,298	▲ 6%
Children 6-59 months with moderate wasting admitted for treatment	Total	-	43,163	10,798	▲ 9%	43,163	10,798	▲ 9%
	Girls	-	20,564	6,227	▲ 13%	20,564	6,227	▲ 13%
	Boys	-	22,599	4,571	▲ 8%	22,599	4,571	▲ 8%
Health (including public health emergencies)								
Children 0-11 months receiving pentavalent 3 vaccine	Total	82,637	82,637	27,933	▲ 6%	-	-	-
Children 0-11 months receiving OPV	Total	82,637	82,637	28,223[32]	▲ 6%	-	-	-
People are supported through UNICEF-delivered medical supplies	Total	3 million	1.5 million	246,372	▲ 5%	-	-	-
	Girls	-	-	54,839	-	-	-	-
	Boys	-	-	53,721	-	-	-	-

	Women	-	-	59,435	-	-	-	-
	Men	-	-	78,377	-	-	-	-
Water, sanitation and hygiene								
People accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	3.3 million	2.1 million	2.2 million	0%	3 million	2.3 million	0%
People reached with critical WASH supplies	Total	-	875,000[33]	638,390	▲ 18%	2.6 million	1.1 million	0%
People benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services	Total	-	1.2 million	666,015	▲ 2%	3 million	1 million	0%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA								
Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	Total	1.4 million	291,000[34]	265,806	▲ 14%	980,000	387,203	▲ 9%
	Girls	-	-	98,635	-	-	135,460	-
	Boys	-	-	85,114	-	-	128,358	-
	Women	-	-	47,815	-	-	75,864	-
	Men	-	-	34,242	-	-	47,521	-
People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	Total	2.3 million	280,419	36,654	▲ 3%	-	-	-
	Girls	-	-	1,235	-	-	-	-
	Boys	-	-	1,569	-	-	-	-
	Women	-	-	16,563	-	-	-	-
	Men	-	-	17,287	-	-	-	-
Children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions	Total	2 million	480,000	58,483	▲ 3%	-	-	-
	Girls	-	-	32,131	-	-	-	-
	Boys	-	-	26,352	-	-	-	-
Children and caregivers reached by MHPSS messages and awareness activities on child protection risks	Total	1.5 million	1.1 million	340,000	0%	-	-	-
Education								
Children receiving individual learning materials[35]	Total	770,525	220,000[36]	19,825	▲ 9%	275,000	19,825	▲ 7%
	Girls	383,816	109,604	8,270	▲ 8%	137,005	8,270	▲ 6%
	Boys	386,649	110,396	11,555	▲ 10%	137,995	11,555	▲ 8%

Affected school children are provided with gender responsive recreational activities and materials for their wellbeing	Total	770,525	85,000[37]	20,288	▲ 1%	770,525	92,232	0%
	Girls	383,816	42,347	11,208	▲ 2%	383,816	-	0%
	Boys	386,649	42,653	9,080	▲ 1%	386,649	-	0%
Children accessing formal or non-formal educaion, including early learning	Total	770,525	60,000	1,256	▲ 2%	-	-	-
	Girls	383,816	29,892	699	▲ 2%	-	-	-
	Boys	386,649	30,108	557	▲ 2%	-	-	-
Social protection								
People reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	Total	1.8 million	530,000	281,769	▲ 10%	-	-	-
Households with children with disabilities reached by disability cash top-ups	Total	-	10,500	6,041	0%	-	-	-
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)								
People sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	Total	2.3 million	502,800	57,995	▲ 4%	-	-	-
People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	Total	2 million	1 million	500,000	0%	-	-	-

**Progress in the reporting period 1 to 31 July 2024*

ANNEX B — FUNDING STATUS

Consolidated funding by sector

		Funding available		Funding gap	
Sector	Requirements	Humanitarian resources received in 2024	Resources available from 2023 (carry over)	Funding gap (US$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	115,781,157	23,613,382	10,262,506	81,905,269	71%
Nutrition[38]	140,467,966	15,946,592	13,881,882	110,639,492	79%
Child protection[39]	28,802,361	13,118,256	9,087,853	6,596,252	23%
Education[40]	38,338,704	11,551,968	3,803,150	22,983,586	60%
WASH[41]	132,383,773	56,681,233	16,438,360	59,264,180	45%
Social protection[42]	58,489,439	42,404,743	11,802,611	4,282,085	7%
Cross-sectoral[43]	6,650,000	3,711,816	1,147,139	1,791,045	27%
Cluster coordination[44]	5,217,233	3,843,551	1,272,769	100,913	2%
Total	**526,130,633**	**170,871,541**	**67,696,270**	**287,562,822**	**55%**

Who to contact for further information:

Jean Gough
Special Representative
T +972 (0)2 584 0400
jgough@unicef.org

Laura Bill
Deputy Representative
T +971 (0)2 584 0400
lbill@unicef.org

Jonathan Crickx
Chief of Communication
T +972 (0) 2 584 0419
jcrickx@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. The total number of children in need is estimated based on the demographic ratio of children, which is 46.9 per cent (1,078,700 children) in the Gaza Strip and 47.6 per cent (476,000 children) in the West Bank (source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and OCHA), applied to the 2.3 million people in need in Gaza and 1 million people in need in the West Bank, respectively. 49 per cent are girls.

2. Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, April-December 2024: https://www.ochaopt.org/content/flash-appeal-occupied-palestinian-territory-2024.

3. UNRWA, 31 July 2024.

4. The number of 524 school buildings amounts to 92.9 per cent of all school buildings in the Gaza Strip. Their level of damage varies between the damage classifications “Direct hit”, ”Damaged” and “Likely damaged”. Not included in this figure is the classification “Possible damage” (18 school buildings). The status of the remaining 22 school buildings in the Gaza Strip is currently not known. Education Cluster, 6 July 2024.

5. 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.

6. The numbers stated here refer to the people who are targeted to receive humanitarian aid. These numbers differ from the numbers of people in need, which amount to 3.3 million across the occupied Palestinian territories (Gaza Strip: the entire population of 2.3 million, West Bank: 1 million). “People in need” refers to those who are affected by the crisis and require humanitarian assistance. “People targeted” refers to the specific number of people that is planned to realistically be reached with the given capacity and expected resources.

7. 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.

8. The boundaries and names shown on the map, and the designation used thereon, do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

9. Since the beginning of the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip Israeli ground operations began in the Gaza Strip in October 2023, Israeli forces have issued various instructions to civilians to evacuate certain areas ahead of planned military operations and active combat. The following paper outlines the impact of recent evacuation orders on families and children and their impact in more detail: https://www.unicef.org/sop/reports/new-evacuation-orders-lead-further-humanitarian-consequences-children-and-their-families.

10. Variant type 2 poliovirus isolated from sewage samples in Gaza, WHO EMRO, https://www.emro.who.int/opt/news/variant-type-2-poliovirus-isolated-from-sewage-samples-in-gaza.html.

11. WHO EMRO, oPt Emergency Situation Update, Issue 38, 29 July 2024, https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep_-_issue_38.pdf.

12. 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.

13. As reported by the Palestinian Ministry of Health covering the period between 7 October 2023 and 31 July 2024.

14. Partially disaggregated data as of 30 April 2024.

15. The number of humanitarian aid workers killed is provided by OCHA as of 31 July, https://www.ochaopt.org/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-31-july-2024.

16. Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel, Flash Update #198, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-198-west-bank.

17. WHO EMRO, oPt Emergency Situation Update, Issue 38, 29 July 2024, https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep_-_issue_38.pdf.

18. WHO EMRO, Impact of health attacks - Gaza Strip and West Bank, 7 Oct 2023 – 28 June 2024, https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Impact_of_Health_Attachs_WB.pdf.

19. Secretary-General's Press Encounter on the Middle East, 21 June 2024, https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/press-encounter/2024-06-21/secretary-generals-press-encounter-the-middle-east.

20. The pentavalent (penta) vaccine combines five vaccines in dose, providing protection against multiple diseases. It includes diphtheria, haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib), pertussis (whooping cough), polio, tetanus. This innovative vaccine streamlines immunization efforts and reduces the need for separate shots.

21. In the West Bank, UNICEF provides only the procurement service for vaccines; the quantity and coverage of vaccines are not reported as result in the Annex A of the Situation Reports.

22. 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 with all parties.

23. 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.

24. Identification of age and gender requires the consent of the caller for the documentation of individual cases. The remaining figure out of the total cases did not give their consent.

25. Between 23-28 July, 2,445 completed responses were collected from recipients of UNICEF’s Humanitarian Cash Assistance. The geographical distribution by governorates was as follows: The vast majority of respondents were based in Khan Yunis (47 per cent), respectively in the Middle Area of the Gaza Strip (44 per cent). The remaining participants were located in Gaza City, and North Gaza (7 per cent combined), and a minority was located minority in Rafah (2 per cent).

26. Between 13-24 June, 1,274 completed responses were collected from recipients of Humanitarian cash Assistance. The geographical distribution by governorates was as follows: The vast majority of respondents were based in Khan Yunis (39 per cent), respectively the Middle Area of the Gaza Strip (39 per cent). The remaining participants were located in Gaza City and North Gaza (18 per cent combined), and a minority was located in Rafah (3 per cent).

27. The measurement is used to assess the growth status of infants six weeks up to six months. The tool is tool is also used to assess the nutritional status of pregnant and breastfeeding women with the aim of assessing the mother together with the growth of the infant.

28. 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.

29. Aligned with the UNICEF Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC) Revision 3, starting from SitRep #27, the cumulative results since January 2024 are reported. For 2023 results, please refer to 2023 End-year SitRep: https://www.unicef.org/sop/reports/unicef-state-palestine-escalation-humanitarian-situation-report-year-end.

30. The result indicates the number of children treated for both Moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and Severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The following SAM and MAM indicators are sub-indicators of the total wasting result.

31. 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).

32. Although OPV and Penta are given at the same time as per the National Expanded Programme on Immunisation, there is a difference between the number of children vaccinated with OPV and the ones vaccinated with Penta as July result reporting from one partner is pending.

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

34. 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. The target includes at least 1,000 children with disabilities.

35. Due to the misalignment between UNICEF and the Cluster's indicator description, previously the cluster result on # of children benefitted from recreational kits had been reported while UNICEF strictly reported the result of learning materials only (e.g. EiE learning kits, stationary kits) under this indicator. As the Cluster now has a separate learning material indicator fully aligned with UNICEF's, previously reported cluster recreational kits result is removed from UNICEF SitReps and be retained in OCHA SitReps and Education Cluster dashboard.

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

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

38. 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.

39. 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.

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

41. 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.

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

43. 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.

44. 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).