



Children in a flood-affected village where UNICEF provided hygiene kits for women, children, and the elderly, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, Iran.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1

Reporting Period
1 January to 30 June
2024

Middle East and North Africa Region

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region faced significant challenges in the first half of 2024, including ongoing conflict, economic and political instability, mass displacement, and environmental disasters, all worsened by climate change.
- Humanitarian assistance is urgently needed throughout the region, particularly for shelter, healthcare, and education for displaced populations, as food insecurity has increased to over 41 million people.
- UNICEF is actively involved in several countries, implementing vaccination campaigns, improving healthcare and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities, supporting education, and providing protection services to vulnerable children and their families.
- In Algeria, UNICEF delivered essential learning materials to education authorities, addressing 70 per cent of the needs for 40,000 school children for the 2024-25 school year.
- In Djibouti, UNICEF provided emergency WASH assistance, supplying drinking water to 25,000 people in the Obock, Alisabieh, and Tadjourah regions.
- In Egypt, UNICEF procured 4,800 packs of therapeutic food and 300,000 sachets of micronutrient powder supplements to combat malnutrition among children and at-risk women, including those from host communities.
- In Iran, UNICEF supported five primary healthcare service delivery points, benefiting 16,416 individuals, including 5,592 Afghan refugees.
- In Libya, UNICEF delivered individual case management services to 1,443 children.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS



34,000,000

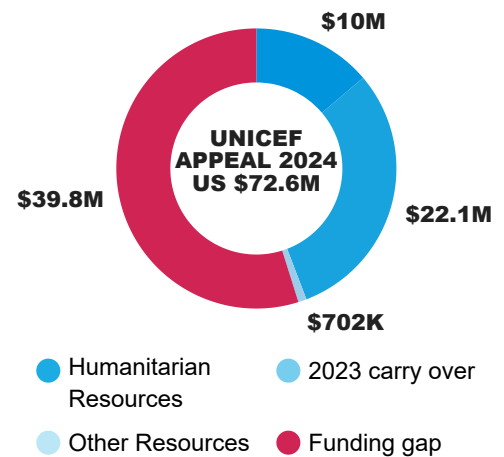
Children in need of protection services



36,900,000

Children in need of education support

FUNDING STATUS (IN US\$)**



** 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

In 2024, the UNICEF MENA Regional Office is seeking US\$ 72.6 million to meet the increasing humanitarian needs of children and their families in the region. This funding will support emergency responses in Algeria, Djibouti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Libya, while promoting a coordinated approach to preparedness and response for crises with wider regional implications. By June 30, 2024, UNICEF had received US\$ 15.2 million towards this appeal, along with a carryover of US\$ 33.9 million, resulting in a funding gap of US\$ 23.5 million.

Without timely and sufficient financial support, the most vulnerable households with children will face severe, potentially life-threatening consequences. Millions of children, their families, and communities are at risk of poor health and nutrition, loss of educational opportunities, and engagement in harmful practices.

UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to its donors for their support and remains committed to a comprehensive, multisectoral approach. UNICEF will continue to collaborate with partners to advocate for the rights of children affected by multiple crises across the region.

SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Geopolitical tensions in the MENA region continue to fuel conflicts, resulting in mass displacement, strained resources, and escalating humanitarian needs. A record number of children across the region—including

in the State of Palestine, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen—have lost family members and face critical protection concerns, such as exposure to gender-based violence (GBV). Additionally, the number of food-insecure individuals has increased by 20 per cent over the past three years, impacting more than 41 million people.

In North Africa, particularly in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, the effects of climate change are becoming more pronounced, with intensifying summers and progressively drier wet seasons.¹ Across the region, 50 million people are displaced, either within their own countries or as refugees.² Humanitarian partners in the MENA region report that over 40 million people urgently require support.

The escalating tensions in the State of Palestine present significant challenges to humanitarian efforts, leading to widespread displacement, infrastructure destruction, a lack of safe drinking water, acute food insecurity, and attacks on health workers and humanitarian personnel. The hostilities in the State of Palestine have already spilled over into Lebanon and now pose a risk to the larger region.

ALGERIA

In Algeria, Sahrawi refugees have faced harsh living conditions in five camps near Tindouf for nearly 50 years. The recent global rise in fuel and food prices has worsened severe water scarcity, food shortages, malnutrition, and inadequate housing. Most refugees rely heavily on humanitarian aid, but only 41 per cent of households meet the UNHCR standard for water. Nearly 30 per cent of the population experiences food insecurity, and malnutrition among children has worsened, with alarming rates of stunting and anemia. The camps also face a high risk of disease outbreaks, exacerbated by disruptions in vaccine supplies.

A nutrition survey conducted by UNICEF in 2022 revealed a

concerning rise in malnutrition among children aged six to 59 months. The results indicated that 54 per cent of children suffer from anemia, and nearly 29 per cent are stunted, leading to irreversible adverse effects on child development, including learning capabilities. Alarmingly, only one in three children receives the minimum diversified diet needed for healthy growth and development. Field visits conducted between March and April 2024, along with health service assessments, revealed critical gaps in exclusive breastfeeding practices and indiscriminate infant formula donations, closely linked to frequent cases of acute malnutrition in children under six months of age. In April 2024, 26 cases of measles were confirmed by International Public Health Authorities (IPA), and the risk of a diphtheria outbreak remained a concern, potentially increasing child mortality rates. Successful WHO-recommended vaccination campaigns earlier this year, along with a new vaccination schedule, highlight the urgent need for expanded vaccine stock and increased resources.

EGYPT

The current situation in the MENA region continues to have a negative socio-economic impact on Egypt. Currently, Egypt is grappling with two concurrent crises: the unfolding situations in Sudan and Gaza. These emergencies are adversely affecting the socio-economic landscape. Economically, the annual inflation rate reached 38 per cent in June 2024, according to data released by the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS). As of mid-June 2024, the exchange rate of the Egyptian pound against the US dollar stood at 47.96. This economic decline is particularly impacting vulnerable and marginalised groups and is expected to lead to an increase in negative coping mechanisms, such as child labour and early marriage, as well as a potential rise in gender-based violence. Furthermore, anti-refugee rhetoric has been on the rise in recent months, with refugees being blamed for increases in crime, rising rent costs, and job loss. Interventions focusing on enhancing social cohesion are urgently needed.

In addition, Egypt has received over 4,900 medical evacuees from the State of Palestine, along with their companions. With approximately 14,000 people waiting for medical evacuation, this situation is likely to worsen, necessitating a sustained response. Egypt also hosts 130,000 Palestinians in Egypt. While some are already receiving medical assistance and psychosocial support through existing national systems, additional support is critically needed.

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Iran is now the world's largest refugee-hosting country, with 3.8 million people in refugee or refugee-like situations. Recent months have seen multiple floods, prompting UNICEF to mobilize resources to support affected populations. Additionally, a developing outbreak of dengue fever has led to increased UNICEF involvement in capacity building and anticipatory actions.

The political landscape in Iran has shifted significantly following the crash involving the late President Ebrahim Raesi and the election of a new, less conservative government. This change may lead to more flexible policies regarding government collaboration with UN agencies, potentially impacting humanitarian operations and strategic partnerships.

The interagency Refugee Response Plan (RRP 2024-25) aims to assist 1.8 million Afghans (1.3 million of whom have refugee or refugee-like status) and one million members of host communities. UNICEF's interventions focus on protecting the most vulnerable, providing timely humanitarian assistance, supporting national

systems to facilitate access to services, and promoting solutions that strengthen inclusion, social cohesion, and self-reliance.

Widespread floods in February and March 2024 affected areas in eight provinces already struggling with protracted deprivations. UN agencies and government partners have been providing life-saving assistance across sectors, including WASH, health, child protection, and multi-purpose cash assistance.

LIBYA

In Libya, significant humanitarian challenges persist due to prolonged conflict and a complex sociopolitical landscape. Despite international efforts, including a UN-brokered ceasefire in October 2020 and the formation of the Government of National Unity in March 2021, the country remains unstable. The indefinite postponement of the December 2021 elections has deepened political deadlock and compounded security issues.

Libya is a key transit and destination country for migrants crossing the central Mediterranean to Europe, with a migrant population of 725,304, including 11 per cent children and 4 per cent unaccompanied minors. The arbitrary detention of migrants remains a major concern, with an average of 5,000 people held in detention centres, 30 per cent of whom are children. The Sudanese conflict, which began in April 2023, has displaced over 10 million people by June 2024, affecting 4.5 million children. More than 2 million people have fled to neighbouring countries, including Libya, where 96,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived. By the end of 2024, the number of people needing humanitarian assistance in Libya due to the Sudan crisis is projected to reach 195,000, including 70,000 vulnerable children. In Al-Kufra, near the Sudan border, an average of 300-400 Sudanese refugees arrive daily, exacerbating the humanitarian situation.

The INFORM Risk Index 2023 ranks Libya 22nd globally in terms of vulnerability to disasters and climate change impacts. Libya remains on the World Bank's list of fragile and conflict-affected situations for the fiscal year 2023. The climate in Libya is becoming hotter and drier, with a 1.08°C temperature increase since the 1980s, and projections suggest a rise of up to 5°C by 2100. This puts 1.5 million children at risk of extreme heat exposure by 2050. Rainfall variability and rising sea levels also threaten coastal communities. The impact of Storm Daniel, which hit northeast Libya in September 2023, caused unprecedented devastation, resulting in 5,898 confirmed deaths, including an estimated 1,700 children. The disaster displaced 44,800 individuals and continues to severely impact education infrastructure, with an economic toll of approximately US\$ 1.7 billion. Urgent support is needed to ensure basic services in flood-affected areas.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

ALGERIA

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

In response to the worsening epidemiological situation in the Sahrawi refugee camps, UNICEF collaborated with the Department of Prevention in the Algerian Ministry of Health (MoH) to conduct an assessment field mission in April 2024. This mission led to two awareness campaigns on vaccination, along with trainings for health staff, the Sahrawi Red Crescent, and the Sahrawi Women's Union in pandemic preparedness and response.

To address maternal and infant mortality, UNICEF organised a

practical training for 28 Sahrawi midwives in collaboration with the MoH and the Public Health Directorate of Setif. This training focused on enhancing skills in detecting uterine cancer, managing significant risks, and using ultrasound machines. UNICEF also provided six delivery tables, baby scales, and 100 kits for midwives in six hospitals located in the camps.

Since January 2024, UNICEF has supported the training of 120 health and nutrition workers (110 women and 10 men) on nutrition issues. This includes training 20 health workers (18 women and 2 men) to detect and monitor Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases through routine consultations and clinical visits, as well as training 60 health professionals in managing acute malnutrition in children under six months and in cases with complications. Additionally, 40 nurses, midwives, and paediatricians were trained to identify gaps and opportunities for improving breastfeeding practices and counselling in health facilities and at the household level.

CHILD PROTECTION

In partnership with Triangle Génération Humanitaire, UNICEF provided targeted support to 320 Sahrawi refugee children (176 girls and 144 boys) with specific needs across the five camps. Capacity building was offered for 45 teachers, 54 educators from centres for children with disabilities, and 20 health staff, focusing on diagnosing, monitoring, and caring for children with specific needs, thereby creating safe and adapted educational environments.

UNICEF supplied 80 per cent of the necessary materials and educational resources to nine specialised centres for children with disabilities in the five refugee camps to enhance the quality of care. Additionally, 84 professionals, including teachers, educators from specialised centres for children with disabilities, and health personnel, received trainings in using appropriate educational and psychosocial tools to reduce stress and demotivation among parents of children with disabilities.

UNICEF conducted trainings for 45 teachers on inclusive education and the integration of children with learning disabilities, language and behavioural disorders, and treatment and education of children with autism or related communication disabilities. Advocacy efforts included four awareness-raising campaigns on the rights of people with disabilities during key events.

On 8 March 2024, the wilaya of Ausserd celebrated Sahrawi women. On World Autism Day in April, a team of four psychologists conducted autism care workshops for 80 families at the Smara centre for autistic children. Inclusive festive activities were organised for Universal Children's Day (1 June) at the centres for disabled children in Smara, where educational play kits were distributed to 50 children. On 16 June 2024, the World Day of the African Child was celebrated with children from these centres participating in folkloric activities highlighting Sahrawi culture.

UNICEF enhanced the Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) mechanism by installing suggestion boxes in schools across the five camps in partnership with the Comité International pour le Développement des Peuples (CISP), following the recommendations of the inter-agency coordination committee. Members of the Sahrawi National Commission for Human Rights engaged children and parents in rights awareness activities and distributed 10 board games per school to reinforce children's understanding of their rights.

EDUCATION

For Sahrawi children, UNICEF procured and delivered essential learning materials to education authorities, covering 70 per cent of the needs for 40,000 school children for the 2024-25 school year.

These materials, which included pens, pencils, notebooks, erasers, and 200 preschool classroom kits, support early learning and alleviate the financial burden on families.

In partnership with UNHCR, UNICEF provided quarterly incentive payments to education staff, ensuring alignment with the minimum standards for Education in Emergencies. This support aims to improve teachers' wellbeing, accountability, and performance. UNICEF contributed to top-up payments for 1,193 primary and secondary teachers and other education personnel (922 women and 271 men).

In collaboration with the Autonomous University of Madrid, 55 teachers, lab technicians, and inspectors participated in a three-week training programme led by experts from the Spanish university. The training generated excitement among teachers and students by demonstrating how to use local materials for science experiments and learning projects. A 12-member team of top-performing participants were selected to serve as a school-based training team.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)/COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D)

In early 2024, UNICEF launched a vaccination campaign targeting 21,000 children under five, following the recommendations of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. This campaign includes a vaccination schedule with ten antigens to prevent diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, pneumococcus, measles, and haemophilus.

To combat vaccine hesitancy and misinformation, UNICEF trained 60 community leaders from health, women, and youth organizations, as well as the Sahrawi Red Crescent, in a comprehensive programme focused on SBC and community awareness. Additionally, UNICEF strengthened the SBC component in education by establishing hygiene clubs in 26 primary schools across the five camps for the 2023-2024 school year. Under the supervision of teachers and the education department, these clubs aimed to enhance children's involvement in promoting good hygiene practices.

Furthermore, UNICEF reinforced the communication unit of the Sahrawi Red Crescent to support community awareness campaigns and enhance the SBC and community engagement efforts.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

UNICEF, in collaboration with Algerian experts, provided training to the Saharawi community on pandemic preparedness and response, procuring equipment to strengthen the diagnosis of various COVID-19 strand viruses, papillomavirus, and tuberculosis.

UNICEF developed a contingency programme document with the Algerian Muslim Scouts to leverage their expertise in emergency preparedness and resilience, benefitting 100 young Sahrawi scouts through capacity building activities.

DJIBOUTI

HEALTH

The risk of measles remains a significant concern, with 161 suspected cases, 56 of which have been confirmed. Most cases were reported in the capital city. Additionally, low vaccination coverage in rural and hard-to-reach areas, porous borders, and frequent cross-border movement with neighbouring countries that have high numbers of measles cases pose a significant risk of

importing new cases. UNICEF is therefore preparing a vaccination campaign in low-coverage and hard-to-reach areas, as well as outreach sessions in urban and peri-urban sectors that have reported a high number of measles cases in the last quarter.

In May 2024, the surveillance team investigated a case of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) in the Dikhil district. Samples from three relatives were also tested and returned negative results. The emergency response plan outlined three main activities: (1) enhance routine immunisation (bOPV and IPV) from August to December; (2) implement and strengthen the Reach Every District (RED) approach for immunisation activities, focusing on advanced strategies (ongoing); and (3) organise cross-border meetings with Ethiopia and Somalia in September to discuss vaccination and surveillance of AFP and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

NUTRITION

A routine screening for acute malnutrition was conducted in 19 rural communities by local partners across in Tadjourah and Obock which covered 2,078 infants aged 6 to 59 months and 880 pregnant and lactating women. Results confirmed a high rate of global acute malnutrition of 46 per cent for infants and 62 per cent for pregnant and lactating women.

During the reporting period, 5,084 children received their birth certificates through the enrolment efforts of UNICEF's implementing partners in rural areas. Additionally, approximately 1,500 children per month in Djibouti City benefited from holistic protection services, including psychosocial support, family identification and reunification, food and hygiene assistance, and recreational activities. These services primarily target street children and unaccompanied and separated children.

Furthermore, UNICEF and its implementing partners conducted community awareness sessions on justice for children, GBV, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), reaching approximately 800 people.

UNICEF and its partners also carried out an intensive awareness-raising campaign in 16 villages to address the high prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM). Community-led advocacy efforts have shown promise; community members from four out of 15 villages in the northern regions of the country have committed to abandoning this harmful practice and have publicly affirmed their commitment by signing the "Towards a Future Without FGM" charter. One locality in the southern region of Dikhil has also made a public declaration of its commitment to eliminating FGM. This initiative has reached an estimated 1,000 people.

EDUCATION

UNICEF reached 693 children (295 girls and 398 boys), including 34 children with disabilities (14 girls and 20 boys), providing them with quality basic education and school supplies through a three-year accelerated learning programme in five non-formal education (NFE) centres. Among them, 129 students (57 girls and 72 boys) successfully graduated and secured the opportunity to continue their education in the formal education system, with UNICEF's support, which included referrals to the Ministry of Education authorities and the provision of starter kits for those who registered in technical and vocational training institutions.

Additionally, UNICEF and its partners provided catch-up learning classes to 171 students (121 girls and 50 boys), paid stipends to five female teachers, and assisted 242 children (98 girls and 144 boys) in obtaining supplemental birth certificates—a critical document for registering in public schools and accessing essential social services in Djibouti. Successful graduates from NFE centres who continue their education at the post-primary level become role models,

inspiring younger students. Continuity of schooling fosters longer periods of social integration, while academic diplomas and training certificates enhance job market prospects later in life.

WASH

UNICEF and its partners provided emergency WASH assistance to children and their families, reaching 25,000 people with drinking water in the Obock, Alisabieh, and Tadjourah regions. This was achieved through the rehabilitation, extension, and solarisation of the water supply network, which included the installation of stand taps, thereby operationalising the Humanitarian-Development Nexus approach in the WASH sector.

UNICEF also supported emergency water supply through water trucking, using a deployable 4x4 vehicle equipped with a water tank, in response to local authorities' requests to quickly reach remote rural areas and ensure the continuity of basic social services such as schools and health centres. This approach was also employed to assist UNHCR, ensuring continuity of water supply services to approximately 1,200 refugees living in the Markazi camp in the Obock region for two months.

An emergency water supply was provided to 10,875 displaced persons in the Tadjourah region, as well as to 15 communities in the Alisabieh and Dikhil regions, which included support for cleaning water tanks to improve water quality. Access to basic sanitation was enhanced for 600 displaced persons through the construction of 30 family latrines in the Dikhil region.

Hygiene practices were improved among vulnerable communities through the provision of 1,600 WASH kits in areas affected by drought and in the Markazi refugee camp. Hygiene promotion activities targeted families with malnourished children, reaching around 9,600 people with awareness-raising initiatives on good hygiene practices.

ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION (ADAP) AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

UNICEF conducted a study on the impact of climate change on children with disabilities. The findings revealed that these children are disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate change across all areas of their lives. For example, there have been increases in respiratory infections, malaria, food insecurity, severe malnutrition, and poor school attendance.

Additionally, 32 women who are members of disability associations and have children with disabilities were trained in GBV, gender issues, and PSEA.

Moreover, 143 adolescents (113 girls and 30 boys) participated in skills-based training and empowerment initiatives at LEC centres (Lire, Écrire et Compter: Read, Write, and Count), including sewing and embroidery classes, as well as a life skills education programme.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (SBC), AAP, AND LOCALIZATION

To strengthen social mobilization and community commitment to maternal and child health, 67 individuals, including community health workers, health professionals, members of women's associations, and communication focal points from Djibouti City and the surrounding regions, received training in social and behavioural change for the implementation of health and nutrition programmes.

Through home visits conducted by 55 community relays in Djibouti City and the regions, 70,086 people were made aware of essential

family practices such as immunisation, antenatal care, and nutrition. The relays also counted the number of children targeted for routine immunisation and identified 613 children in need of zero-dose immunisation.

With regards to accountability to affected populations, grievance committees in the northern region received 18 pieces of community feedback related to education, WASH, health, and nutrition.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, AND STRATEGY

UN agencies and governmental partners supported a multisectoral survey, which provided data for the IPC 2024. The Djibouti UN Coordinator organised a workshop to present the contributions of UN agencies to the drought response. During this workshop, the government acknowledged the significant contributions of the three agencies involved in the response: WFP, FAO, and UNICEF.

EGYPT

HEALTH

UNICEF, together with partners, is supporting the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) with lifesaving medical equipment and supplies. UNICEF, as part of North Sinai Response, procured and delivered 279 adult oxygenators, 70 syringes, 70 infusion pumps, 58 monitors, 50 baby incubators, 50 Phototherapy units, and 30 Continuous Positive Airway Pressure device CPAP to the MoHP. So far, UNICEF has delivered nine mobile health caravans to North Sinai, five of which have been installed in Sheikh Zuweid. The remaining four have been set up as field hospitals in different locations across North Sinai. Additionally, UNICEF provided ten wheelchairs to North Sinai: three were given to Ismailia, two to El-Arish airport, and five to the North Sinai Governorate. At the request of the MoHP, UNICEF has also facilitated accommodation in North Sinai for volunteers, resident health workers, and family members accompanying injured patients from Gaza. This support included the procurement of 58 tents and 50 beds.

UNICEF procured 403,000 doses of IPV, 80,000 doses of MMR and 408,000 doses of MR vaccines for routine vaccination and supplementary immunization of approximately 400,000 children. UNICEF provided the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) with a mobile storage unit and inventory management software to strengthen its capacity for responding to emergencies in Gaza. In response to a new request from the MoHP, UNICEF has begun procuring lifesaving medical equipment for hospitals and primary healthcare centres (PHCs) at a cost of US\$ 1.5 million, with the shipment currently being processed.

NUTRITION

In collaboration with the National Nutrition Institute, the MoHP, WHO, and WFP, UNICEF is raising awareness and building capacity for the nutrition response in Egypt. This includes providing technical assistance to develop clinical guidelines on the prevention and management of wasting and nutritional oedema. UNICEF worked with the MoHP to train health and nutrition workers from 40 PHCs and six Hospitals in North Sinai to detect and manage malnutrition and wasting cases. Additionally, UNICEF procured 4,800 packs of therapeutic food and 300,000 sachets of multiple micronutrient powder supplements for health authorities in North Sinai. These supplies aim to manage malnutrition among refugee children and high-risk women, including those from host communities.

Together with the MoHP, UNICEF deployed a district health management information system (DHIS-2) for North Sinai to manage

the electronic medical records and workflow of the Palestinian medical evacuees from Gaza, from admission to discharge. This system is being implemented in all hospitals receiving refugees, ensuring easy registration and follow-up, and is now fully operational.

CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF is supporting the delivery of specialized and non-specialized child protection (CP) services, as well as providing technical assistance to the government on unaccompanied and separated children crossing the border from Gaza. As of June 2024, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), has established five child friendly spaces (CFS) and operationalized family counselling bureaus in North Sinai. These CFS and family counselling bureaus have provided MHPSS services in North Sinai to 2,455 children (including 1,057 Palestinians and 1,398 Egyptians)³ and 83 caregivers from the host community.

Furthermore, in collaboration with MoSS, 6,339 children (5,095 Palestinians and 1,244 Egyptians) were provided with specialised protection services. These children were reached through five specialised service centres in North Sinai and two in Greater Cairo, who provided a comprehensive package of services to children, especially those subjected to extreme forms of violence. This support was delivered using a case management approach, which included identification, assessment, care planning, follow-up, and case closure.

EDUCATION

As of June 2024, 179 school-age children evacuated from Gaza and living in North Sinai received Learning Material Bags. The following supplies have been prepositioned with ERC: 75 Recreation Kits (supporting up to 3,000 children), 50 early childhood development kits (supporting up to 2,000 children), and 25 school-in-a-box (supporting up to 1,000 children).

Additionally, six new learning spaces will be established in North Sinai in partnership with ERC to prevent earning loss amongst school-age children. These spaces will provide foundational literacy and numeracy skills as well as life skills programmes.

WASH

UNICEF, in collaboration with the MoHP, has worked to enhance IPC and medical waste management in 20 hospitals treating Palestinian patients. This included providing IPC materials to the hospitals and PHCs where more than 4,000 patients medically evacuated from Gaza and vulnerable groups of the host population have received treatment.

Additionally, in partnership with ERC, UNICEF trained 30 volunteers from ERC's WASH teams. These training sessions, known as WASH in Emergency Training, equip volunteers with essential skills to respond to WASH needs in humanitarian crises.

UNICEF has also procured and distributed 8,000 hygiene kits to medically evacuated patients from Gaza and their companions. Approximately 5,000 kits were distributed through ERC on the border and in recovery centres in El-Arish, Bir Elabd, and El-Kawthar, as well as at the El-Sabeel accommodation centre. An additional 3,000 hygiene kits were distributed through MoHP. These kits contain essential items such as masks, hand gel, hand soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body brushes, hair combs, sanitary pads, disposal bags, and, for the first time, a pocket card that provides information on menstrual product usage, disposal, personal hygiene, and remedies for period pain. An additional 20,000 male and female hygiene kits were delivered to ERC as pre-positioned supplies.

UNICEF provided 3,000 baby kits for premature newborns. These kits include items such as baby bath body brushes, toothpaste, children's toothbrushes, baby hairbrushes or combs, baby diapers, baby oil, wipes, and baby shower gel. Additionally, 5,000 baby kits were delivered to ERC as pre-positioned supplies.

Through ERC, UNICEF delivered 14 portable toilets to North Sinai as pre-positioned supplies, 20 water tanks, 15 water pumps, and 10,000 drinking water bottles (600 ml each) to Rafah, hospitals, and accommodation centres for injured patients and their families. Cleaning materials and IPC supplies were also procured.

UNICEF and WHO conducted an assessment of WASH and healthcare waste management in 13 healthcare facilities of North Sinai and began rehabilitating WASH infrastructure in Sheikh Zuweid Hospital.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, AND STRATEGY

UNICEF is leading the Nutrition Thematic Working Group, the WASH Technical Working Group, the Education Thematic Working Group, and the CP sub-sectoral Technical Working Group. UNICEF also actively participates in and contributes to the Health and Protection thematic working groups as well as the Inter-agency Coordination Group.

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

HEALTH

The ongoing presence of Afghan refugees and the insufficient investment in health infrastructure have significantly strained Iran's health system, particularly impacting PHC services in under-resourced areas. Since January 2024, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME), has supported five PHC service delivery points in Zabol, Sistan, and Baluchestan province, benefiting 16,416 people, including 5,592 Afghan refugees. Of these beneficiaries, 3,112 are children under five (1,525 girls and 1,587 boys). Furthermore, recent floods in Chabahar have severely damaged many PHC Service Delivery Points (SDPs), compromising their operational stability. In response, UNICEF has deployed two mobile clinics to restore healthcare services in these critical areas. These mobile units now serve 5,110 individuals, including 400 children and 2,708 women, ensuring continued access to essential healthcare despite significant infrastructure challenges.

NUTRITION

UNICEF is also enhancing its nutrition services in Sistan and Baluchestan, areas with a high concentration of Afghan refugees and the country's highest malnutrition rates at 11.7 per cent. Contracts with service providers across two provinces have been finalized, incorporating treatment costs for SAM, thus facilitating access to standard care for malnourished children. While services for SAM at polyclinics and hospitals are underway, challenges persist in the referral processes within health facilities, hindering timely treatment. Despite these hurdles, UNICEF continues to prioritize SAM treatment and is actively working to improve coordination within the healthcare system to better serve malnourished children.

Procurement issues have delayed the availability of mega-dose Vitamin A supplements until November 2024 and plans to boost the health system's capacity for growth monitoring are still pending.

CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF, in partnership with Relief International (RI) and local NGOs, continued to support Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) in Khorasan Razavi and Yazd, serving Afghan refugee children and promoting inclusive services in partnership with host communities. A new partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has launched CFSs in Golshahr and Dasht-e Zahmatkeshan, targeting both Afghan residents and host populations to enhance social cohesion. These centres are also designed to accommodate children with disabilities.

During the reporting period, 1,608 children received CFS services, and 167 mothers attended trainings on parenting and life skills, with significant improvements noted in post-training assessments. Additionally, NRC staff have been trained in CFS operations, Psychological First Aid, and abuse prevention, with recruitment ongoing for local facilitators to operationalize the new centres. This work underscores UNICEF's commitment to enhancing child protection and supporting community resilience.

EDUCATION

In response to the educational challenges posed by an increasing refugee population - such as overcrowded classrooms, poor facilities, and teacher shortages - UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, has initiated several key projects in 2024 to support inclusive and quality education in Iran. Key initiatives include the rehabilitation or construction of WASH facilities in 30 schools (including one school for children with disabilities), impacting approximately 16,000 students in refugee-hosting provinces. With the assessment phase already completed, this project is estimated to be completed by March 2025. Training sessions are also planned for 100 teachers, along with follow up sessions for parents and students to promote hygiene practices, strengthened by the distribution of hygiene kits benefitting 16,000 students and their families.

Additionally, UNICEF is conducting a School Readiness Programme for 2,800 pre-primary refugee children (60 per cent girls) in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, Khorasan Razavi, Isfahan, and Fars. Student kits will be distributed, and trainings will be delivered to parents on the importance of education and positive parenting. Concurrently, in partnership with NRC, UNICEF is addressing the needs of out-of-school Afghan children in Khorasan Razavi and Kerman provinces through teacher trainings, identification, and catch-up classes, aimed at facilitating school registration and retention. This programme began in March 2024 by training teachers and social workers identifying out-of-school children. Catch-up classes will be conducted for 200 identified children between July and September, who will then be supported to register in schools.

WASH

In 2024, severe floods in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province prompted an urgent WASH response from UNICEF, focusing on the well-being and recovery of affected communities. Essential actions included the delivery of 40 water disinfection packages to Chabahar including the installation of solar-powered packages for remote areas and the distribution of 3,000 Kg of Perchlorine for water purification. UNICEF also provided 10 large water tanks as well as advanced water testing equipment and microbiological laboratory equipment to ensure safe drinking water. Additionally, 2,900 hygiene kits were distributed among 9,098 individuals, enhancing community hygiene and disease prevention. In Jangarak village, 34 prefabricated shower and latrine units were installed to meet the sanitation needs of 60 vulnerable households. UNICEF is also developing a wastewater treatment plant in Kohak village as well as conducting a significant water infrastructure project in Niatak settlement that aims to enhance long-term water quality and access for residents.

In total, these interventions benefited more than 200,000 people in flood affected areas with access to safe and clean water, while also supporting 9,098 people with critical WASH supplies and 325 people with access to safe and appropriate sanitation facilities.

ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION

UNICEF's partnership with the Ministry of Sport and Youth (MoSY) has enhanced the emergency preparedness and response capabilities for youth NGOs across Iran, focusing on adolescents and refugees. The Relief and Rescue Network (RRN) hosted a comprehensive emergency management workshop, leading to the training of 35 NGOs in MHPSS and the formation of a rapid response team equipped with emergency gear and high-quality tents for safe service delivery. This team, comprising 35 members, follows a detailed disaster protocol coordinating with the Iranian Red Crescent Society and the National Disaster Management Organization. Beyond the capacity development for the RRN and its operational team members, UNICEF's support included the provision of high-quality tents that will serve as safe spaces for delivering MHPSS services to displaced Afghan adolescents.

The RRN also facilitated earthquake preparedness sessions for 500 Afghan children and mothers. In a parallel initiative, five NGOs, supported by MoSY, enhanced their capacity to implement Adolescent and Youth Empowerment programmes, training 25 technical staff and MoSY experts, thereby enriching the lives of vulnerable adolescents with essential skills and mental health support.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

UNICEF's MHPSS program, in collaboration with Relief International (RI), provided vital services to Afghan children, adolescents, and caregivers in Golestan and Yazd provinces. In both Golestan's multi-purpose service centre and Yazd's Mohajer settlement, over 1,215 participants from both Afghan and host communities received support. Key activities included individual counselling and group workshops addressing life skills, emotional and stress management, and parenting. In total, 126 individuals participated in 237 individual counselling sessions and 674 attended 48 group sessions in Golestan, where topics ranged from self-care to effective communication. Additionally, 47 cases were referred for specialized mental health services. In Meybod, 51 women received individual counselling, and 452 adolescents engaged in life skills workshops and recreational activities. Furthermore, 185 mothers participated in parenting workshops, with 77 sessions conducted in total.

DISABILITY PROGRAMMING

During field monitoring visits for the CFS programme in Meybod and Torbate Jam settlements, UNICEF found that although the CFS infrastructure is physically accessible for children with disabilities, their participation is declining. Since then, UNICEF has worked with its partners to identify barriers to inclusion, including equipment and the capacity and attitudes of CFS staff, and plans to address these factors in the upcoming period.

In addition to specific interventions for CFS, UNICEF has begun preliminary steps for the capacity building of frontline workers engaged in humanitarian settings, based on UNICEF's newly developed disability inclusion training package for frontline workers.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, AND STRATEGY

Under its current Country Programme Document (CPD 2023-2027), UNICEF has one of the largest and most comprehensive collaborations among UN agencies with the Iranian Government, working with 14 ministries and key governmental bodies including the Ministry of Education (MOE); the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare (MCLSW); the Ministry of Energy (MOEng); the State Welfare Organization (SWO); the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS); and the Drugs Control Headquarters (DCHQ). UNICEF is currently anticipating renewing work plans with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME). Additionally, negotiations are underway for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the newly established National Organization for Migration (NOM). These agreements firmly position UNICEF as a strategic partner for Iran's development and humanitarian programmes, facilitating programme implementation across the country and empowering local agents of change.

UNICEF's extensive partnerships network, including with these government entities and international NGOs, equips it with unique insights and capabilities to address humanitarian needs across Iran. These efforts focus particularly on regions hosting Afghan refugees, ensuring that support extends to both the refugees and their host communities. In these areas, UNICEF's contributions are crucial in enhancing local service delivery and influencing inclusive policies.

UNICEF plays a leadership role in the interagency Refugee Response Plan (RRP), leading the Education, WASH, CP, and Nutrition sectors, demonstrating its comprehensive approach to humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, UNICEF chairs the Interagency Disaster Management Taskforce (DMT), demonstrating a strong commitment to support the interagency preparedness and disaster response operations throughout the country, as evidenced in the recent flood response in Sistan and Baluchestan province.

LIBYA

HEALTH

UNICEF continued supporting Libya's health system, especially in areas affected by Storm Daniel. Interventions were provided to 21 health facilities in ten flood affected municipalities in northeastern Libya, focusing on post storm recovery response to improve health system preparedness and resilience to respond to future emergencies. So far, 21 health facilities across ten municipalities have benefitted from this initiative. Interventions included the mild rehabilitation of nine facilities and the solarization of 14 to ensure sustainable energy supply. Essential supplies and equipment were distributed to all 21 facilities, enhancing healthcare delivery and quality. As part of this preparedness and recovery focused response, 826 healthcare workers (614 women and 212 men) were trained on critical child and mother health related areas like the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI), sick newborn care, emergency obstetric care, and infection control. This package of interventions improved access to and the quality of health services for approximately 250,000 people, including 75,000 children (38,250 girls, 36,750 boys, and 89,250 women).

In response to the Sudanese refugee crisis in Al-Kufra, UNICEF provided essential medical supplies which supported 10,000 people and improved access to health services for Sudanese refugees and host community.

NUTRITION

UNICEF continued to support nutrition services in Libya, particularly in areas affected by Storm Daniel in northeast Libya and hard to access locations. In collaboration with the Primary Health Care Institute, mobile health and nutrition teams helped to address health

and nutrition gaps. A nutrition survey in Derna, Albayda, Shahat, and Soussa screened 7,865 school children (aged 9-15), revealing 33.6 per cent of children screened are malnourished, 14.9 per cent overweight, eight per cent anemic, and 5.8 per cent stunted.

In hard-to-access locations like detention centres, mobile teams supported nutrition and immunization needs. In Tripoli, Al-Kufra, and Benghazi, 424 children were screened, with 52 per cent malnourished; 22 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and two with SAM. These children received Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and essential micronutrients. Additionally, 408 mothers in detention were screened and received one-on-one Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling sessions.

In Al-Kufra, in response to the influx of Sudanese refugees, a four-day training programme was delivered to 23 healthcare workers (18 women and 5 men) on nutrition screening and malnutrition management. A subsequent campaign screened 439 children and 414 pregnant and lactating women, revealing a 33 per cent global acute malnutrition rate (GAM) and 30 per cent stunting among children under the age of five, with six per cent of pregnant and lactating mothers malnourished. UNICEF Libya is mobilizing resources with local health authorities to continue screening and managing malnourished Sudanese refugee children in Al-Kufra and other locations.

CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF continued delivering child protection services in Libya, focusing on community-based MHPSS. UNICEF supported 13 Baity and Youth centres across nine municipalities, providing MHPSS services to 32,324 individuals (13,240 girls, 12,810 boys, 4,976 women, and 1,298 men). These centres offered safe spaces, structured activities, and counselling to facilitate recovery and resilience. In addition, social and behavioural change activities to end violence against children benefited 17,478 individuals (3,785 girls, 3,047 boys, 8,663 women, 3,785 men).

UNICEF also delivered individual case management services to 1,443 children (688 girls and 707 boys) and supported the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to initiate the establishment of a system to identify and register unaccompanied and separated children in flood affected areas. Focusing on recovery efforts, UNICEF continued to deploy mobile outreach teams, delivering MHPSS services to 19,982 individuals (10,648 girls and 9,334 boys) and case management in safe spaces and urban settings to 621 children (303 girls, 318 boys). These efforts have significantly improved the protection and wellbeing for vulnerable children and families in locations supported by Baity centres.

During the first half of 2024, to improve the capacity of government and local workforce in child protection service provision for all children in Libya, UNICEF contributed to the capacity development of 553 (327 women and 226 men) actors and service providers from government institutions on child rights, child protection, and mental health.

EDUCATION

UNICEF provided non-formal education services to 1,557 out-of-school children (717 girls and 840 boys) through 13 Baity centres, CFS, and Youth centres in west, east, and south Libya. UNICEF also provided critical life skills trainings for 3,952 children (1,725 girls and 1,867 boys) aged 10-18 at Baity and Youth centres, using curricula developed specifically for migrant and refugee children. An additional programme for children aged 6-9 was finalized in June 2024. For youth aged 14 and above, extension modules focused on entrepreneurship, peacebuilding, pathways to employment, wellbeing, and communication skills were completed in early

2024. UNICEF supported 126 out-of-school children (73 girls and 53 boys), mainly from Sudan and Syria, to enrol in the public school system.

Following Storm Daniel, UNICEF's education response in flood-affected areas focused on restoring safe learning environments, ensuring continuous access to education, and supporting teachers. To alleviate overcrowding in classrooms, UNICEF provided 16 prefabricated classrooms, each accommodating 24 students, to schools in Derna. Additionally, UNICEF supplied 1,580 student desks and chairs, 100 teachers' desks and chairs, and 200 whiteboards to schools in Albayda, Shahat, Alabraaq, and Wardama. The response included not only access support and improvements to the learning environment but also wellbeing trainings for teachers returning to work, which was delivered to 413 teachers in Derna.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF further expanded access to education by launching the online learning platform 'Mostakbali bi Yedi', based on UNICEF's Learning Passport,⁴ to improve education system preparedness and resilience and ensure continuous access to education including in times of crisis. Since its launch, 1,824 children have signed up for the platform.

The increase in Sudanese refugees significantly impacted the Education sector in 2024. Schools at transit and destination cities for Sudanese refugees in Libya faced overcrowding, with some classes exceeding 60 students. There is an urgent need for additional learning spaces through prefabricated classrooms. UNICEF is working closely with the Ministry of Education and the Sudanese embassy to identify urgent gaps and address needs, particularly in entry and transit cities such as Alkufra and Ajdabiya. For Sudanese children lacking the necessary paperwork to enrol in formal schools, UNICEF has increased opportunities for learning in Baity Centres in cities receiving more Sudanese refugees during the first half of 2024. Baity and Youth centres supported by UNICEF saw a 293 per cent increase in enrolment in educational services, particularly in Al Kufra, but also in Ajdabiya, Benghazi, Misurata, and Tripoli. Since January 2024, 1,908 refugee children have been enrolled in educational programmes at these centres.

WASH

UNICEF continued its humanitarian response in 2024 by supporting flood-affected areas. To provide safe water, UNICEF partnered with the General Company of Water and Wastewater (GCWW) to implement 40 water disinfection systems in Albayda, Shahat, Sousa, and Derna. These systems, installed on municipal boreholes, inject chlorine to treat groundwater contamination caused by the floods, making the municipal water supply safe. This intervention benefits an estimated 100,000 people, including 30,000 children, improving public health and reducing acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases. In Almikhily and Elezziat, south of Derna, UNICEF installed two water desalination units, each producing 30,000 litres per hour. These units provide safe water to areas lacking other sources, benefiting 10,000 people.

UNICEF, in partnership with GCWW, implemented 14 solar-powered water systems in flood-affected areas including Derna, Albayda, Shahat, and Alqoba. These systems, designed to be sustainable and climate-resilient, serve 64,000 people. Additionally, UNICEF supported the recovery of Derna's water infrastructure by providing five booster pumps, six submersible pumps, and control panels. This support enabled the activation of six boreholes and pumping stations, benefiting 35,000 people.

To support sanitation infrastructure, UNICEF rehabilitated three main sewage lines in Derna and Albayda, preventing sewage flooding and benefiting 36,000 people. Furthermore, UNICEF provided essential chemicals to the General Desalination Company for the water

distillation process in Derna and Sousa plants, sufficient for one year, benefiting 100,000 people in the Green Mountain area. In addition, 43 chlorination dosing pumps were installed, feeding into the water network in flood affected areas to ensure the safety of drinking water.

UNICEF, in collaboration with implementing partners and the Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS), distributed 2,900 hygiene kits in flood-affected areas, benefiting 17,400 people, including 5,220 children. LRCS also distributed 2,000 family hygiene kits to Sudanese refugees in Alkufra, benefiting 10,000 refugees. Migrants crossing the Libya-Tunisia borders and detained in Alassa border guards' facility, which faces significant water shortages, were supported by water trucking four times per week (500,000 litres in total), benefiting 800 migrants. UNICEF rehabilitated WASH facilities in nine schools and four healthcare facilities in Derna, Albayda, and Shahat, benefiting 15,000 people.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

UNICEF partnered with the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), MoSA, and the Social Solidarity Fund to boost the capacity of managers and frontline officers in social protection, particularly for disaster response. Through the TRANSFORM initiative, UNICEF trained 55 managers and frontline officers in areas such as shock-responsive social protection, monitoring and evaluation, information management systems, targeting and grievance redress mechanisms, and data management.

UNICEF's efforts aimed to enhance the government's response to shocks via social protection programmes, focusing on capacity building and providing Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT) to vulnerable groups affected by floods in Derna. In collaboration with its local partner ASARYA in East Libya, UNICEF provided cash transfers to 370 individuals from 51 households after assessing over 302 households impacted by the floods. Each household received three months of multipurpose cash assistance, totalling US\$ 324 per household to cover basic needs like WASH, food, and non-food items.

Additionally, UNICEF is assessing Libya's social protection readiness to support reforms, to help ensure government social protection systems are shock-responsive and adaptive.

C4D AND SBC

In collaboration with National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), UNICEF launched the Internet of Good Things (IoGT) platform⁵ to bridge the digital divide, providing free life-saving public information that is accessible even on low-end devices. This initiative targets populations affected by crises like the Sudanese refugees in Libya and Storm Daniel affected locations.

In response to the threat of waterborne diseases stemming from high groundwater levels in Zliten, UNICEF's "Safe Water: Healthy Lives" campaign reached over 392,000 people, promoting water safety and disease prevention through social dialogues, educational materials, and school sessions.

UNICEF extended NCDC Radio Al-Sahya's coverage from two million to over four million listeners by installing new broadcast towers. The radio station disseminates health information, promotes vaccination awareness, and engages communities through interactive shows.

In response to the Sudanese conflict, UNICEF trained 29 healthcare personnel and local Sudanese volunteers in risk communication and conducted community awareness sessions on IYCF, hygiene, vaccination, and access to services. Overall, UNICEF's Social and Behavioral Change (SBC) efforts reached more than four million

individuals, promoting safe water practices, disease prevention, and improved nutritional habits across Libya, thus enhancing public health and safety, particularly among vulnerable children, migrants, and refugees.

AAP AND LOCALIZATION

In 2024, UNICEF Libya continued prioritizing the implementation of the AAP strategy developed in 2022, ensuring community involvement at all stages of the humanitarian response including during the early stage of conducting assessments, community consultations, and listening to people's perceptions and feedback through the established feedback mechanisms. UNICEF utilised these feedback mechanisms to allow beneficiaries to voice concerns and receive clarification during programme implementation. In the first half of 2024, 5,534 people reached out to UNICEF through one of the feedback mechanisms established by partners in different locations, including through the interagency community feedback mechanism.

Coordination with local authorities and municipalities was maintained to adapt project designs to community needs, including those affected by the Storm Daniel in the eastern municipalities. Additionally, UNICEF focused on building the capacity of its staff and partners on AAP, ensuring it was integrated across all programmes. UNICEF trained 50 partner staff and has made AAP trainings a mandatory requirement for the onboarding process of all implementing partners.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, AND STRATEGY

UNICEF continued to be an active member in all coordination platforms in Libya including the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) advisory group; area coordination groups for the east, west and south; the Access Working Group; the Detention Centres Working Group (DCWG); and the Internal Displacement and Durable Solutions Working Group (IDDS). UNICEF supported coordination during the humanitarian response to the Storm Daniels crisis, leading WASH, Education, and Nutrition thematic working groups. UNICEF is leading coordination taskforces for the Libya Sudan Refugees Response for WASH and Education and co-leading the Health and Nutrition taskforce. UNICEF also continued to lead thematic components in collaboration with government authorities, including CP and justice for children, immunization, and SBC in collaboration with the NCDC, MoSA, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and the Ministry of Interior (MoI).

REGIONAL OFFICE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The MENA Regional Office (MENARO) is dedicated to enhancing its own capacity, as well as that of Country Offices (COs), to deliver effective preparedness activities and timely crisis response. These efforts aim to be more predictable, accountable to affected children and young people, and contribute to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. In 2024, support for emergency preparedness and response from the Regional Office (RO) to COs has thus far focused on the following:

State Of Palestine And Middle East Contingency Planning

Ensuring that robust preparedness and contingency measures are in place before a crisis escalates is essential to UNICEF's mission and mandate of delivering timely, effective, and life-saving humanitarian assistance to protect children's rights. UNICEF recognises that an

escalation of the Gaza conflict may have significant humanitarian impacts on neighbouring countries, particularly vulnerable children and young people who may require additional emergency healthcare, nutrition, education, child protection, WASH, and social protection services. MENARO has therefore invested heavily in technical resources towards strengthening UNICEF's readiness to respond.

With support from HQ, the MENARO Humanitarian Team and Preparedness Working Group members have been helping COs in planning for the country-specific impacts of the escalating conflict in Gaza and the potential challenges for UNICEF operations and response capacities in reaching already vulnerable populations with humanitarian assistance. UNICEF is positioned in all high-risk MENA countries and is already implementing preparedness measures that can be escalated and tailored to each context. The organization now has a comprehensive sub-regional "investment case" outlining its preparedness approach in the MENA region, seeking US\$ 21.6 million in flexible funding to ensure that vital preparedness measures are in place. This funding will enable rapid responses with lifesaving interventions, support existing humanitarian efforts, and contribute to the success of long-term development initiatives once the hostilities subside.

North Africa Contingency Planning

The number of people 'on the move' in North Africa has steadily increased over the past 20 years and is projected to continue to rise as populations experience greater economic hardships, political instability, conflicts, and/or climate change-related disasters and food insecurity. Creating conditions where all children on the move towards, within, and from North Africa are safe, empowered, and engaged is critical. MENARO has supported North African COs to consider the increased protection risks for children 'on the move', anticipate potential displacement crises across the region, and prepare and respond with lifesaving humanitarian assistance, if required.

Support More Robust RO And CO Risk Analysis

Strengthening the capacity to identify contextual hazards that are likely to create significant humanitarian needs affecting children and young people is essential for targeted preparedness and predictable emergency responses. MENARO is prioritizing both remote and onsite technical support for more robust country-specific risk analysis and monitoring linked to enhanced preparedness efforts in 2024. For example, as part of the Sub-regional Contingency Plan for a potential escalation of conflict in Gaza, each UNICEF CO received support to identify specific risks that could trigger a deterioration of the humanitarian situation. They also established a system to monitor these risks in real time, enabling UNICEF to make quick decisions about deploying human resources, supplies, or funding.

Humanitarian Access Framework In The MENA Region

The complex and prolonged crises in the MENA region continue to result in a shrinking humanitarian space, where access to affected populations is frequently restricted and their access to services is constrained. MENARO mobilized dedicated regional humanitarian access expertise to support MENA COs in strengthening their capacity to establish and maintain humanitarian access. Additionally, UNICEF is advancing efforts to build internal frameworks and capacities to secure unhindered and principled access to mitigate access challenges. This includes developing and operationalizing access strategies and action plans, analysing the access environment structurally, monitoring and reporting on access constraints, negotiating access in line with humanitarian principles, and navigating the complex decision-making processes involved in

engaging with armed non-state actors.

The AAP Strategy In The MENA Region

As crises in the MENA region continue to escalate and spread, the demand from affected populations for information about available services and their desire to provide feedback continues to increase. With the support of MENARO, the COs have strengthened their AAP capacity, going beyond community feedback mechanisms. They are now seeking support on how to effectively use feedback to inform and improve programmatic interventions. The MENA AAP Strategy adopts a cross-cutting approach, integrating AAP across various sectors. It aligns AAP entry points with other cross-cutting areas such as ADAP, Social Protection, SBC, and Gender.

Localization Strategy In The MENA Region

Similarly, given the specific dynamics of the context, UNICEF's collaboration with local organizations and national stakeholders is key to the needs of children in the region. Thus, UNICEF has increased its capacity at MENARO to better map out localization approaches tailored to the region, ensuring alignment with UNICEF's overall localization strategy. UNICEF's Humanitarian and WASH teams provided input into the UNICEF International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) led consultations on "Partnering for Children in the Climate Crisis," resulting in seven follow up actions to be implemented by COs. UNICEF dedicated activities to strengthen MENA staff and partners in the RO and in COs in preparedness, response, and reporting on disability inclusion in humanitarian contexts. This included conducting a mapping exercise to identify key areas for improvement. UNICEF adopted a multi-sectoral approach to disability inclusion, raising awareness on exclusion and inclusion issues within programmes, and strengthening relationships with Organization for People with Disabilities (OPDs) in the MENA region.

Looking Forward

Throughout 2023, the MENA Regional Office supported emergency responses to seven COs affected by multiple emergency crises: Syria (earthquake, L3), Sudan (conflict, L3), Libya (floods, L1), Morocco (earthquake, L1), the State of Palestine (Gaza conflict and violence in West Bank, L3), Egypt (Sudan refugee influx and Palestine medical evacuees, L1), and Lebanon (violence and conflict escalation, L1). In May 2024, MENARO undertook an internal reflection exercise to assess the support provided in 2023 for emergency preparedness and response, and to develop concrete actions for meeting RO emergency preparedness and response accountabilities and responsibilities and reinforce best practices that emerged during these crises. Based on these recommendations, MENARO will continue to prioritize the following activities in 2024:

- Strengthen UNICEF capacity across the MENA region to provide timely and effective emergency responses to sudden onset crises.
- More structured MENARO support to COs for developing, implementing, and monitoring phased, operational, and integrated humanitarian response plans.
- Strengthen MENA capacity to be 'first responders' in support of CO-led emergency responses.

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES AND EXTERNAL MEDIA

DJIBOUTI

- L'engagement communautaire au cœur de la lutte contre la malnutrition | UNICEF
<https://www.unicef.org/djibouti/recits/lengagement-communautaire-au-c%C5%93ur-de-la-lutte-contre-la-malnutrition>
- « Je suis déterminée à ne laisser aucune maladie, aucune carence nutritionnelle passer inaperçue ! »
<https://www.unicef.org/djibouti/recits/%C2%AB-je-suis-d%C3%A9termin%C3%A9e-%C3%A0-ne-laisser-aucune-maladie-aucune-carence-nutritionnelle-passer>
- « Je veux voir grandir mon petit-fils et ce sera le cas désormais ! » | UNICEF
<https://www.unicef.org/djibouti/recits/%C2%AB-je-veux-voir-grandir-mon-petit-fils-et-ce-sera-le-cas-d%C3%A9sormais-%C2%BB>
- L'impact vital de l'accès à l'eau sur l'éducation et la communauté dans une région isolée | UNICEF
<https://www.unicef.org/djibouti/recits/limpact-vital-de-lacc%C3%A8s-%C3%A0-leau-sur-l%C3%A9ducation-et-la-communaut%C3%A9-dans-une-r%C3%A9gion-isol%C3%A9e>
- La corvée de l'eau n'en est plus une ! | UNICEF
<https://www.unicef.org/djibouti/recits/la-corv%C3%A9e-de-leau-nen-est-plus-une>
- Jeune et engagée contre les Mutilations Génitales Féminines à Djibouti | UNICEF
<https://www.unicef.org/djibouti/recits/jeune-et-engag%C3%A9e-contre-les-mutilations-g%C3%A9nitales-f%C3%A9minines-%C3%A0-djibouti>

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

- UNICEF supports hygiene and water safety for children in flood-affected Sistan and Baluchestan
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8nw-u1hAj8&pp=ygULdW5pY2VmIGlyYW4%3D>
- UNICEF procures 2,900 hygiene kits for flood-affected families in Sistan and Baluchestan
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=478VIFcIbaE&pp=ygULdW5pY2VmIGlyYW4%3D>
- Afghan Children's Journey in the Land of Play
<https://www.unicef.org/iran/en/stories/afghan-childrens-journey-land-play>
- An Afghan refugee mother tells her children's story in a Child-Friendly Space
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jd4W2RkDdKk&t=52s>
- 5,354 vulnerable children benefit from Child-Friendly Spaces
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK433BIGHg>

LIBYA

- Supporting young survivors towards recovery - Libya | ReliefWeb
<https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/supporting-young-survivors-towards-recovery>

ALGERIA

- Risk management and preparedness training for health workers and the polio immunization campaign
https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:ugcPost:7158849754079121408/?updateEntityUrn=urn%3Ali%3Afs_updateV2%3A%28urn%3Ali%3AugcPost%3A7158849754079121408%2CFEED_DETAIL%2CEMPTY%2CDEFAULT%2Cfalse%29&actorCompanyId=35446112
- World Autism Awareness Day
<https://x.com/UNICEFAlgerie/status/1775169992310358420>
- World Immunization Week
<https://www.instagram.com/p/C6JIEIXtbhP/>
- Human Interest Story
<https://www.facebook.com/UnicefAlgerie/posts/pfbid028UqspZy5j8JHCFZ3Jcb7LTpMVTNB7EHZ2vKHpPwzuQeiN5txUWDqgFhGZkSg1csil>
- World Refugee Day
https://www.facebook.com/UnicefAlgerie/posts/pfbid0qnNk7JygwGzjjv82orSrTNL9SYRZKMX8PgFAoyCzXBWo4FrnHfHdUGfQ6gE9Ja8l?_rdc=2&_rdr

HAC APPEALS AND SITREPS

- Middle East and North Africa Region Appeals
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mena>
- Middle East and North Africa Region Situation Reports
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mena/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: JANUARY 2025

ANNEX B — FUNDING STATUS

Consolidated funding by sector

Sector	Requirements	Funding available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2024	Other resources used in 2024	Resources available from 2023 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Funding Status	72,565,653	10,008,338	702,037	22,050,294	39,804,984	55%
Total	72,565,653	10,008,338	702,037	22,050,294	39,804,984	55%

**repurposed other resources with agreement from donors*

Who to contact for further information:

Adele Khodr
Regional Director, Middle East and North Africa
T +962 6 5502 401
akhodr@unicef.org

Lucia Elmi
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
T +1 212 326 7448
lelmi@unicef.org

Mandeep O'Brien
Director, Public Partnerships Division (PPD)
T +1 212 326 7118
mobrien@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. <https://humanitarianaction.info/document/global-humanitarian-overview-2024/article/middle-east-and-north-africa-1>
2. Humanitarian Action – Global Humanitarian Overview 2024
3. Data is in the process of being verified and is subject to change.
4. For more information on the Learning Passport, please visit this link: <https://www.learningpassport.org/>
5. For more information, please visit this link:
<https://www.unicef.org/innovation/loGT#:~:text=The%20Internet%20of%20Good%20Things,even%20on%20low%2Dend%20devices.>