



Children are regaining a sense of normalcy through structured lessons, peer support, and a protective learning environment in a UNICEF-supported Temporary Learning Space (TLS) in the Gaza Strip.

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for every child

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 47

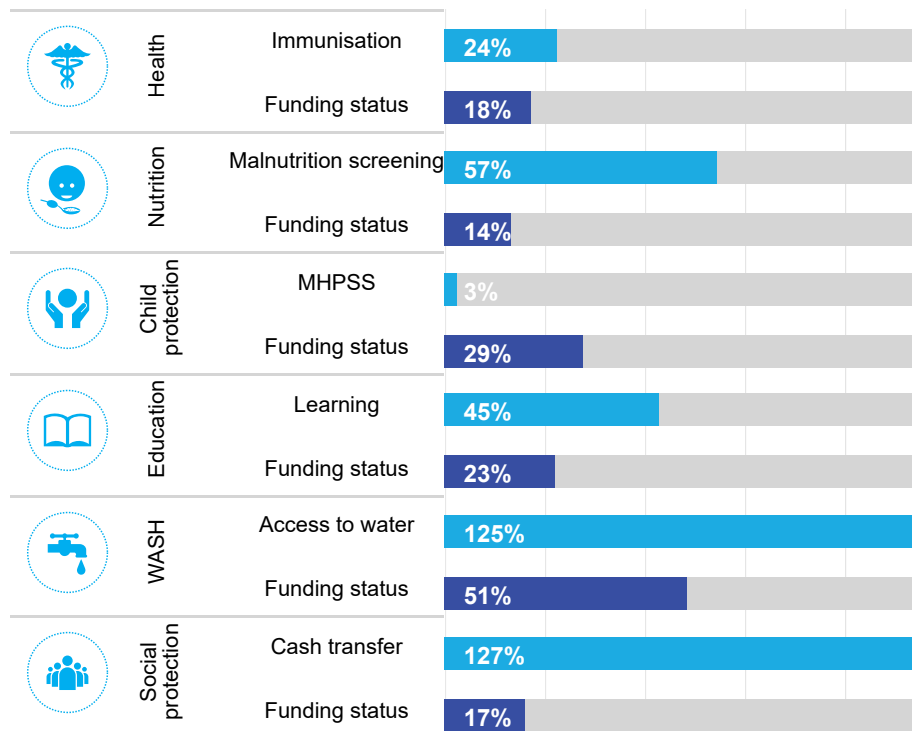
Reporting Period
1 January to 31 March
2026

State of Palestine: Gaza Strip and West Bank

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- In the Gaza Strip, approximately 800,000 children – the vast majority – remain displaced, living in unsanitary and overcrowded conditions marked by insects, pests and rodents as well as a severe lack of privacy.
- Responding to shortage of water, UNICEF reached 1 million people with safe water through water trucking, including 470,000 children, during January-March 2026.
- UNICEF’s Back to Learning response enabled 195,000 children to access safe learning and healing spaces in early 2026.
- In the West Bank, 1,700 Palestinians – including more than 750 children – were displaced by settler violence and access restrictions in the first three months of 2026 alone – already exceeding the total displacement for all of 2025. Over 530 incidents of settler violence incidents were documented – an average of approximately six per day.
- UNICEF and partners in the West Bank delivered integrated protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to 15,012 people, including 7,901 children.

UNICEF RESPONSE AND FUNDING STATUS*



SITUATION IN NUMBERS



1,700,000
Children in need of humanitarian assistance²



3,300,000
People in need of humanitarian assistance³

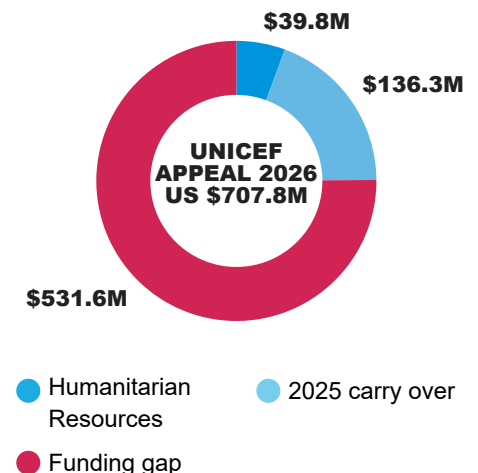


1,939,232
People displaced⁴



1,445,000
Children face setbacks in their education⁵

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

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

FUNDING OVERVIEW AND PARTNERSHIPS

The [Inter-Agency Flash Appeal](#)⁶ was issued on 16 December 2025 and outlined the need for US\$ 4.06 billion to assist 2.97 million people, 2.1 million in the Gaza Strip and 870,000 in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, through December 2026.⁷ Aligned with this appeal, UNICEF's [Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\) appeal](#) – revised in February 2026 to include the Back-to-Learning programme that UNICEF and partners launched in the Gaza Strip in January 2026 – requires US\$ 707.83 million to meet the urgent needs of children and their families. As of now, only 25 per cent of the appeal is funded. UNICEF urgently requires an additional US\$531.6 million to scale up life-saving assistance.

Flexible funding enables UNICEF to adapt to the evolving realities on the ground to respond promptly and more effectively to prioritise life-saving assistance to children and their families where it is most needed. Without adequate funding, children are at a greater risk of malnutrition, of not being reunified with their families, and of not being able to access essential services, including safe water and health care.

UNICEF benefited from Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding from Sweden, UNICEF National Committees in Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy and United States, as well as UNICEF China private sector fundraising (PSFR) efforts, which enabled UNICEF to respond with agility to the acute and fast-evolving needs of the most vulnerable children and their families.

UNICEF sincerely thanks its partners for their valuable and timely contributions, including the governments of Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Germany, Italy, Japan, Slovenia, Sweden, as well as the European Union. Through UNICEF National Committees, UNICEF is grateful for the assistance provided by the peoples of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Hong Kong, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as country offices' Public Sector Fundraising and Partnerships from Argentina, Thailand and United Arab Emirates.

SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Gaza Strip

The situation of children in the Gaza Strip remained catastrophic in the first three months of 2026: continued displacement, repeated disruption of services, damaged health facilities and shortages of water, safe sanitation, and learning spaces continued to erode children's rights to survival, development and protection. Even where humanitarian access improved slightly, the scale of need remained far beyond response capacity, leaving children exposed to illness, trauma and interrupted schooling.

Since 7 October 2023 until 31 March 2026, over 73,300 Palestinians have been reported killed, including at least 21,500 children. Additionally, more than 172,000 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 41,200 children. Humanitarian workers also continue to face deadly risks, with 589 reported fatalities, including 397 UN staff. Since the start of the ceasefire on 10 October 2025 until the end of March, more than 700 Palestinians were reported killed, including more than 200 children, and more than 1,900 Palestinians were reported injured. Children continue to be killed and injured on a daily basis during air strikes and along the so-called "Yellow line".

As of 9 February 2026, more than 931 attacks on healthcare have been recorded by WHO since October 2023 (of which 216 in 2025). Ongoing attacks and resource shortages have severely weakened the health system, damaging or destroying 95 per cent of hospitals. Health systems remain severely weakened despite some health centres now reopening. More than 18,500 patients, including some 4,000 children in the Gaza Strip, require medical evacuation for advanced care unavailable within the Strip, highlighting the catastrophic collapse of the health system.

Nearly 1.7 million people, including 800,000 children⁸ – the vast majority of Gaza's children – are still displaced in around 1,600 sites, where overcrowding is reported, as well as insect infestation, unsafe shelter conditions, limited lighting and lack of privacy, all of which exacerbate child protection risks.

The ceasefire that took effect on 10 October 2025, and the partial reopening of Gaza's borders thereafter, led to a slight improvement in food availability, resulting in a modest reduction in malnutrition levels among children and pregnant and breastfeeding women. Compared to the last quarter of 2025, the first quarter of 2026 showed a decline in acute malnutrition among these groups; however, malnutrition levels remain above January 2025 levels, and concerning when compared to pre-war conditions. Enrolment in Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes (OTP) decreased from an average of 7,000 admissions per month in Q4 2025 to approximately 4,000 per month in Q1 2026. Beyond acute malnutrition, other forms of malnutrition – including chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies – remain significant public health concerns. Ad hoc reports indicate a high prevalence of anaemia among children and pregnant and breastfeeding women, which indicates potentially critical levels of micronutrient deficiency.

The right to education for Gaza's children remained gravely undermined, although temporary learning spaces (TLSS) expanded slightly during early 2026 compared with late 2025. About 765,000 children in Gaza require education support, while 97.5 per cent of schools have been damaged or destroyed, leaving over 637,000 children out of school as of early 2026.

Nutritious foods that are available in the Gaza Strip remain costly and unaffordable for most families. Additionally, Nutrition Cluster reports show that 55 per cent of children 6-59 months in Gaza have access to only two or fewer food groups⁹ (which is an indication of very severe food poverty), the other 45 per cent of children are suffering moderate food poverty, mainly due to insufficient affordability by families to buy enough and diverse food available in the markets. Wide-spread morbidities and protection risks among children, pregnant and breast-feeding women are likely to further deteriorate the nutrition situation especially when health and social systems are not optimally functional.

The health system remained gravely weakened but continued providing critical, although limited, services for children and caregivers. Reproductive health needs remained acute, with approximately 572,000 women and girls of reproductive age requiring sexual and reproductive health services, including an estimated 50,000 pregnant women. Health partners estimated that 130 to 160 births occurred each day under extremely constrained conditions, while only a small number of hospitals and health facilities were able to provide obstetric and newborn care, most of them only partially functional. OCHA also reported that around 15 births per week occurred outside health facilities without skilled attendance, that one in three pregnancies was high-risk, and that 70 per cent of newborns were premature or underweight.¹⁰

By late March, repairs to three Mekorot water pipelines from Israel had restored drinking-water production to between 4.5 and 6 litres per person per day on average, but the per-capita access often fell

below this emergency standard in high-density displacement areas, where families relied on humanitarian trucking or expensive private vendors.¹¹

The escalation of conflict in the region that started on 28 February 2026 led to intensified access restrictions, including the closure of all Gaza entries and exits from 28 February to 7 March, reducing humanitarian and commercial inflows. This triggered price increases and shortages of essential goods, directly affecting food security, health, WASH, and fuel dependent services. The closure of Rafah crossing from 28 February to 19 March delayed medical evacuations.

West Bank, including East Jerusalem

The humanitarian needs of children in the West Bank including East Jerusalem have deepened during the first three months of 2026. Rising settler violence and resulting displacement – which peaked following regional hostilities– as well as ongoing militarized operations, movement restrictions, and administrative demolitions, have exposed children to direct violence while affecting children's access to services. Children were affected by attacks and interferences with education, killings and injuries, forced displacement, attacks on water and health infrastructure, and growing psychosocial distress in communities under sustained pressure. The escalation of violence, displacement and movement restrictions continues to exacerbate child protection and gender based violence risks, particularly for adolescents, with adolescent girls facing heightened exposure to domestic violence, as well as online forms of violence and harassment, and adolescent boys disproportionately affected by conflict related harm.

Between 7 October 2023 and 31 March 2026, more than 1,060 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank including East Jerusalem. During the same period, 248 Palestinian children and four Israeli children (including one in Israel) were killed in conflict-related violence, and more than 2,000 Palestinian children were injured (more than 40 per cent by live ammunition). During Q1 2026, most conflict-related child fatalities were in the northern West Bank (44 per cent) and the central west Bank (33 per cent), and most live ammunition injuries to children were in Nablus (23 per cent) and Hebron (20 per cent) governorates. As of 9 February 2026, 940 attacks on healthcare were reported in the West Bank including East Jerusalem since 7 October 2023.

In the northern West Bank, some 32,000 Palestinians including 12,000 children remain displaced from their homes in Jenin, Tulkarem and Nur Shams refugee camps, which have remained under military closure since January 2025, and hundreds of residences in the three camps have been demolished. In addition, since 7 October 2023, more than 8,170 Palestinians have been displaced mainly in East Jerusalem and Area C in the West Bank due to home demolitions, including 3,500 children. Another 1,700 Palestinians including over 750 children have been displaced by settler violence and access restrictions in Q1 2026 alone – already surpassing the displacement in all of 2025. In the same period, more than 530 settler violence incidents were recorded, approximately six incidents per day, with the number of Palestinians killed and injured in such incidents also on the rise.

Violence and economic hardship impact more than 800,000 people in the West Bank who require healthcare and WASH support. The right to education for children in the West Bank continued to be undermined by attacks on schools, interferences with access to education, and displacement. Around 140,000 children across the West Bank, including in refugee camps, face barriers to accessing education due to school closures, movement restrictions and insecurity. Movement restrictions and the revocation of work permits after 7 October 2023 has driven a severe economic downturn, forcing caregivers to take higher-risk work or rely on harmful coping

mechanisms that directly affect children.

Children's access to health services was increasingly constrained by attacks on healthcare and additional heavy movement restrictions introduced after 28 February.¹²

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

Health

Gaza Strip

In the first quarter of 2026, UNICEF-supported health facilities provided essential health services to 223,156 individuals (74,484 girls, 78,161 boys, 72,669 women), including 30,566 women who received antenatal care services. Additionally, UNICEF continued to operationalise 56 fixed primary healthcare facilities and 23 mobile and outreach teams throughout the Gaza Strip. To ensure these facilities are staffed adequately, UNICEF provided incentives to 317 healthcare workers. Many people in Gaza remain cut off from regular health services. To address this, UNICEF continued to support 23 Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs), which are crucial for reaching remote and hard-to-access locations. Between January and March 2026, these teams reached 15,270 individuals with vital health and nutrition services, half of whom were children under five. Currently, UNICEF supports 140 healthcare workers to operate these MHNTs effectively.

To increase access to maternal and neonatal health services, UNICEF has ensured the continuation of essential neonatal and child health services across Gaza. This was achieved by distributing medical supplies and consumables to Primary Health Care facilities. Over the past three months, these efforts have benefited more than 250,000 individuals, helping maintain lifesaving services for mothers, newborns, and children.

To enhance the quality of services in Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs), UNICEF delivered essential medical equipment, including Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machines, to five major health facilities in Gaza: Al-Quds, Al-Aqsa, Al-Amal, Al-Shifa, and a field hospital supported by an NGO partner. Additionally, one ventilator was provided to Nasser Medical Complex. Across Gaza, in the 10 NICUs supported by UNICEF, approximately 4,063 newborns received essential, lifesaving neonatal care.

UNICEF also supported the primary NICU in the Middle Area of Gaza by offering staff incentives to ensure the continuity of vital neonatal services. Furthermore, UNICEF addressed a significant gap in the treatment of premature infants and newborns with respiratory distress by supplying surfactants, a critical lifesaving neonatal medicine that had not been available in the Gaza Strip since the onset of the war. To meet the needs of newborns and young children, UNICEF distributed 100,000 Baby Kits,¹³ benefiting approximately 100,000 children under the age of three.

UNICEF has expanded routine immunisation services to support both routine and supplementary immunisation activities. The number of service delivery points increased from 19 to 37, resulting in a total of 32,357 children receiving various vaccines. This includes 13,182 children who received the BCG vaccine, 12,041 who received the third dose of the Pentavalent vaccine, and 7,134 who received the second dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Also, in the first three months of 2026, the second Immunisation Catch-Up Campaign was implemented, targeting zero-dose and defaulter children through intensified social mobilisation. A total of 15,678 children were vaccinated.

The Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) was conducted in

Gaza to assess the performance of the polio response following the July 2024 cVDPV2 outbreak. No poliovirus has been detected since March 2025 following three rounds of polio campaigns. Surveillance remains strong despite access constraints. Continued focus is needed on high-quality surveillance, mobile populations, and adaptive microplanning.

West Bank, including East Jerusalem

In the first three months of 2026, UNICEF, through its partners, supported the delivery of essential primary health care services via mobile clinics, prioritising underserved and access-restricted communities. A total of 2,884 individuals were reached, including 718 children (337 girls) and 1,566 women, among them 13 children with disabilities and 40 adults with disabilities who accessed inclusive health services.

In parallel, specialised rehabilitation services were provided for children with disabilities. A total of 153 children (70 girls) were identified, and 118 (52 girls) received comprehensive assessments. Additionally, 32 children (13 girls) benefited from rehabilitation sessions, 10 children (4 girls) received assistive devices, and 2 children were supported with prosthetics.

UNICEF also conducted a community health needs assessment across five communities, corresponding to the five PHC facilities targeted for renovation and refurbishment, to identify key gaps and priorities. Using a participatory approach that ensured representative community participation, around 340 individuals were engaged, including 185 children aged 8-18 (94 girls) and 70 women. Findings will be used to inform improvements in each corresponding PHC facility, reflecting community needs. In parallel, UNICEF in partnership with the MoH, and as part of the health system strengthening and shock-responsive support, and to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of essential health services, has completed the design phase and is bidding for the execution and implementation of the renovation for 5 PHC facilities in the West Bank. These locations will serve a total of 21,000 people, of which 41 per cent are children under 18 years old. The facilities will support expanded PHC services, including MNCH services and immunisation. The commissioning of works is expected in Q2.

UNICEF, in partnership with the MOH, supported the enhancement of the resilience and sustainability of health service delivery in the West Bank by solarising 19 Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities. The initiative supports the broader goals of climate adaptation, energy efficiency, and uninterrupted access to essential health services. The solar systems are being installed in 19 PHC facilities across 10 governorates in the West Bank. These facilities are serving over 25,000 children and their caregivers. In parallel, UNICEF delivered and installed 20 generators in an additional 20 PHC facilities, in Tulkarem and Jenin, to support the cold chain operations and ensure a reliable backup power source is available during emergencies.

Furthermore, an eSMT (Stock Management Tool) Training was held from 10–17 February in Ramallah to strengthen vaccine stock management and data-driven decision-making. The five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) targeted central-level MoH staff, main store operators, and UNRWA personnel, including 5 males (38 per cent) and 8 females (62 per cent). Roll-out to peripheral levels is planned for Q2.

Moreover, UNICEF jointly with the MoH, MoE, MOSD and local NGO partner, conducted a 3-day (Training of Trainers) on the learning through play approach, using LEGO boxes. A total of 20 participants from the health, education and social sectors joined from 8 governorates across the West Bank. This will be followed by a cascade training in Q2.

Nutrition

Gaza Strip

During January-March 2026, 233,002 children (57 per cent of target) were screened for wasting, indicating strong progress and placing screening activities on track, supported by expanded mobile teams, and increased active case finding by partners. A total of 10,314 children (5,919 girls and 4,395 boys), including 1,513 SAM and 8,801 MAM cases, were admitted for acute malnutrition, contributing to 5 per cent SAM and 12 per cent MAM target achievement. While admissions have declined from the 2026 peak season, they remain slightly higher than the same period last year. The reduced admissions are attributed to modest market improvements, cash programming to cushion households against food insecurity, and an improved blanket supplementary programme.

Preventive services showed strong performance, with 19,474 children receiving RUCF (77 per cent of target). IYCF one-to-one counselling reached 88,177 caregivers (353 per cent of target), reflecting extensive integration across platforms and high caregiver demand; nevertheless, the high performance may be partly due to very low target setting. Adequate RUTF stocks have been prepositioned, securing pipeline availability through September 2026.

West Bank, including East Jerusalem

In the first three months of 2026, the Nutrition Friendly School Initiative (NFSI) was successfully concluded. The final phase included the addition of eight new schools and featured activities such as renovating school canteens and playground areas, as well as supporting improved dietary practices and nutrition awareness in highly constrained settings, with a focus on mitigating micronutrient deficiencies, reaching a total of 2,638 school-aged children (73 per cent female, 27 per cent male).

UNICEF also supported an online refresher workshop for MOH staff on the proper use of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and Vitamin A capsules. This workshop reached 65 MOH and UNRWA healthcare providers (85 per cent female, 15 per cent male).

Due to the high prevalence of vitamin A deficiency in the West Bank, UNICEF has worked closely with the Ministry to develop educational videos, radio spot messages, and informative posters highlighting the importance of vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6–59 months, in preparation for the upcoming vitamin A campaign.

UNICEF also successfully procured and delivered multiple micronutrient supplements to the Ministry of Health, benefiting over 100,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



UNICEF provides water and sanitation services in Learning Centres and Health Care Facilities in the Gaza Strip.

Gaza Strip

In the first three months of 2026, UNICEF provided safe water to one million people,¹⁴ including 470,000 children, on a daily basis in Gaza's governorates via mainly water trucking, desalination plants, well repairs, and pipeline maintenance, meeting the humanitarian needs of 15 litres/person/day. A total of 24 private desalination plants supported by UNICEF supplied around 5,000 m³/day of potable water for trucking, benefiting 850,000 displaced people. In addition, 2,639,145 litres of fuel were supplied, through the UN coordination mechanism, to operate water production, trucking, and sewage pumps. Furthermore, work on rehabilitation and maintenance of large and small water wells to enhance water production capacity and ensure a more reliable supply across targeted areas is ongoing.

UNICEF supports service providers (including the large desalination plants and wells) and partners with chlorine and chemicals to ensure the provision of safe water and sustainable operation of the desalination plants.

UNICEF is working with three suppliers to assess urgent needs for critical WASH facilities. Furthermore, UNICEF successfully repaired the main electricity line (F11) feeding the South Gaza Desalination Plant within two days of the damage, restoring 80 per cent of SGDP production and resuming services for hundreds of thousands of people in the Gaza Strip. In addition, UNICEF has initiated several critical interventions to strengthen WASH service delivery, including the cleaning of Sheikh Ejeen Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to restore functionality and improve environmental and public health conditions, hiring of machinery and equipment to support emergency interventions for the maintenance of wastewater networks.

In the first quarter of 2026, sanitation services reached 390,000 people, including wastewater repairs, mobile latrines, and waste disposal. A total of 1,080 family latrines were built, including 425 for elderly people and persons with functional difficulties, benefiting 32,738. In addition, 150 SATO latrines¹⁵ were installed using a community engagement approach.

Solid waste collection continued in 17 municipalities in the south with 1,300 workers and 23 facilitators, serving around 1 million people. The average of primary daily collection is 950 m³ of solid waste.

Moreover, UNICEF distributed 41,200 dignity kits, 237,490 jerrycans, 81,000 hygiene kits, 1.15 Million soap bars, 9,000 water buckets, 3,000 hand washing stations, 1,000 anti-lice kits, 2,070 toilet movable chairs for persons with functional difficulties, and 3,000 packs of adult diapers, reaching more than 480,000 vulnerable

people (40 per cent children, 30 per cent women; 3-5 per cent with specific requirements).

WASH facilities have been installed in 42 Learning Centres (LCs), benefiting around 53,000 students, with works currently ongoing in an additional 35 sites, benefiting around 18,000 students. The scope of work includes the installation of seven latrines per LC – one of which is accessible for persons with functional difficulties – in addition to drinking water points, handwashing stations, and connections to water sources and sewage systems. Furthermore, WASH service provision is ongoing in 13 health and nutrition facilities. This includes the installation of mobile toilets, toilets accessible for persons with functional difficulties, handwashing points, as well as sewage and water supply connections, cesspits, and water storage tanks.

Hygiene promotion activities to enhance behaviours and prevent disease outbreaks including awareness sessions, hygiene promotion campaign and interactive activities with children and adolescents were conducted through WASH partners reached more than 100,000 person, various informational and educational materials (flyers, posters, and flipcharts) developed and distributed for hygiene awareness among the IDPs through the awareness activities and the distribution of hygiene items, awareness messages promoted against disasters and winter diseases associated with poor sanitation, scattered garbage, flash floods, insects and bugs mitigation measures and water safety chain. Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and protection principles were incorporated throughout the humanitarian project phases, including the participation of women and children. A total of 2,000 AAP posters were distributed to promote the UNICEF hotline and feedback channels.

West Bank, including East Jerusalem

UNICEF, in collaboration with its partners, provided 470 solid waste containers of 240 litre capacity across multiple communities and refugee camps in Tulkarem and Tubas, benefiting more than 5,000 people, including 2,488 children (1,237 girls), 2,541 caregivers (1,271 women), and 340 people with disabilities, contributing to improved solid waste management and public health conditions.

Additionally, phase II rehabilitation and expansion of wastewater networks in the eastern neighbourhood of Jenin city have started. This project includes the supply and installation of more than 3000 metres of UPVC pipes with all necessary accessories, and aims to support displaced populations and people affected by the militarised operation in Jenin. This intervention will serve approximately 15,000 people, including 7,050 children (3,450 girls), 7,950 caregivers (3,900 women), and 1,020 people with disabilities, through enhanced sanitation services and reduced environmental health risks.

Child Protection

Gaza Strip

In the first three months of 2026, UNICEF and its partners continued to expand their work to identify, protect and find solutions for war-affected and forcibly displaced children and caregivers across the Gaza Strip. Despite the ceasefire, UNICEF and its partners continued to document and respond to incidents of killing and maiming of children.

UNICEF reached 1,958 at-risk children (46 per cent girls) through individual case management, promoting access to critical, lifesaving social services and assistance. This includes hundreds of children at serious risk of harm or death, including those who lost one or both parents, and 388 children (38 per cent girls) with disabilities and/or life-threatening injuries and medical conditions. To promote children's right to safety and family unity, 78 children (49 per cent girls) benefited from family reunification services, and 201 children without

parental care (53 per cent girls) benefited from emergency, family and community-based alternative care arrangements.

To promote the mental health and psychosocial well-being of children and caregivers, UNICEF provided multi-layered support, including mobile family and community-based support to help children manage stress and anxiety, build social connections, and promote positive coping skills. With children returning to learning, UNICEF is scaling up evidence-based small group MHPSS activities in learning centres to promote healing and learning outcomes. UNICEF supported 35,707 children (52 per cent girls) and 7,259 caregivers (74 per cent women) with community-based activities to promote children's mental health and psychosocial well-being.

UNICEF and its partners engaged communities reaching 16,027 children (56 per cent girls) and 5,867 caregivers (77 per cent women) with MHPSS messages and awareness activities on child protection risks, and 19,054 children (52 per cent girls) and 7,259 caregivers (74 per cent women) with explosive ordnance risk education aimed at reducing the risk of child injury and death from the high levels of weapons contamination found across the Gaza Strip.

As part of its commitment to improving the capacities of frontline workers, UNICEF trained 2,545 humanitarian staff and community volunteers (73 per cent women) to identify and refer children at risk, promote specialised care for children with disabilities, and promote evidence-based MHPSS approaches in learning centres and communities.

West Bank, including East Jerusalem

In the first three months of 2026, UNICEF and its partners strengthened child protection responses across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in the context of escalating violence and access constraints. In total, 15,012 individuals were reached through integrated services, including 7,901 children (3,762 girls) and 7,111 caregivers (3,949 women).

To promote mental health and psychosocial well-being, 9,266 individuals benefited from MHPSS interventions, including 3,223 children (1,593 girls) and 6,043 caregivers (3,026 women). Services were delivered through psychological first aid, structured recreational activities, as well as group and individual counselling, and included 11 children and 19 adults with disabilities.

UNICEF also supported 61 children (29 girls) through case management services and facilitated access to legal assistance for 222 children (including one girl). In addition, 354 individuals participated in digital safety and legal awareness sessions. 1,907 individuals (1,692 children) participated in Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) awareness sessions.

Complementing these efforts, the "Tammeni Annak" (Talk to Me) self-care and peer support package reached 354 frontline workers, strengthening their capacity to manage stress and deliver responsive services, while contributing to overall community resilience.

Education

Gaza Strip

In the first three months of 2026, UNICEF was able to continue to scale up its learning and healing interventions. Improved stability following the ceasefire allowed previously unsafe or inaccessible centres - including Palestinian Authority (PA) school buildings - to be safely reactivated for children and adolescents (Kindergarten to Grade 12).

By the end of March, UNICEF had reached an additional 59,827 children to bring the total to 195,289, 52.5 per cent girls and 47.5 per cent boys and 191 students with additional needs. 153 learning

centres are active, distributed over six Ministry governorates. Two programmes of the healing component were activated. 1,765 girls and 1,631 boys in grades 2 to 5 were reached through Play to Heal, and 2,883 girls and 2,202 boys in grades 6 to 9 developed animations and drama productions over a period of 24 workshops. One parent stated, "Before the sessions, I had not heard my son speak and express his dreams and hopes".

54 teachers were trained in the SCI Readiness to Learning programme, reaching 631 girls and 609 boys in the kindergartens with more interactive approaches to teaching and social-emotional learning.

During the reporting quarter, 38 Learning Centres (LCs) were affected by heavy rains and strong winds, resulting in damage to 97 temporary learning tents and disrupting learning for approximately 22,610 learners. In response, UNICEF has undertaken urgent repair and maintenance actions to restore safe and functional learning spaces to minimise further disruption to education services.

UNICEF distributed 2,524 school-in-a-carton kits and 417 Recreational kits, benefiting 103,366 children; and delivered recreational kits, reaching 85,521 families to support learning and playing. 156 Early Childhood kits¹⁶ were distributed to support 9,740 kindergarten and Grade 1 children.

West Bank, including East Jerusalem

In the first three months of 2026, UNICEF continued to support children to remain in continuous learning and receive support to their well-being through the support extended to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and implementing partners. 10,693 children (6,308 girls and 4,385 boys, including 97 children with disabilities) benefited from education-related social-emotional learning and structured recreational activities to centre their well-being, while 1,722 children (850 girls and 872 boys, including 20 children with disabilities) received remedial learning under an extended support to their school time and during after-school programs by MoEHE and implementing partners. 139 teachers and facilitators (138 women and 1 man) were trained and coached to continue extending those services to children, while 292 parents and caregivers (288 women and 4 men) benefited from sessions on supporting their children.

Additionally, 37,680 children (17,526 girls, 20,154 boys, including 20 children with disabilities) in 206 hot spot area schools benefited from an individual stationery kit with a bag during the first quarter. To address the needs of adolescent girls in the emergency context, UNICEF supported implementing partners to deliver integrated interventions across 16 community-based organisations in the governorates of Tulkarem, Nablus, Tubas, and Jenin. A total of 880 adolescent girls, including 23 girls with disabilities, participated in awareness-raising sessions covering protection, wellbeing, menstrual health and hygiene management (MHM), and PSEA. In addition, 880 adolescent girl care-and-protection kits were distributed to the same group.

Social Protection

In the first quarter of 2026, despite continued operational challenges, UNICEF Palestine sustained and further expanded its digital cash assistance programme, reaching 304,614 individuals across 52,644 families, including 162,076 children and more than 10,000 people with disabilities, through a diversified package of humanitarian cash interventions.

Gaza Strip

Humanitarian Cash Transfers

During the first quarter of 2026, UNICEF provided digitally delivered humanitarian cash assistance to 238,053 individuals, including 127,171 children, from more than 41,191 families across the Gaza

Strip, through Humanitarian Cash Transfers and sectoral cash top-ups.

Priority assistance continued to be directed to families with malnourished children. Through referrals from nutrition partners providing screening and treatment services, UNICEF assisted 10,231 children with confirmed Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 6,525 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). A total of 7,860 pregnant and breastfeeding women, including those malnourished with MUAC <23 received cash assistance, of whom 1,365 also benefited from targeted nutrition top-up assistance to support essential dietary needs. Support was further extended to other highly vulnerable groups. UNICEF provided digital cash assistance to 655 families of hospitalised children with severe medical conditions. A total of 93,728 highly vulnerable individuals from 15,639 families, including unaccompanied children, children with injuries, and other high-risk protection cases, received Child Grants, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), and Child Protection top-ups through referrals from Child Protection professionals. In addition, 8,955 children with disabilities received disability top-ups to offset health, transport, and caregiving costs.

Across all interventions, UNICEF's digital cash assistance enabled vulnerable families to meet urgent basic needs, reduce exposure to negative coping mechanisms, and strengthen resilience amid the ongoing crisis, particularly for children affected by malnutrition, women, and persons with disabilities.

Frontline Volunteers for Essential Service Provision – Gaza Strip

During the first quarter of 2026, over 8,760 frontline volunteers received digitally channelled incentive payments across key sectors: 4,083 in Education to provide temporary learning services, 1,387 in Health, 18 in Nutrition, 418 in Social Behaviour Change, 2,646 in WASH services, including 2,517 specifically in solid waste management, 23 supporting e-wallet promotion campaigns, and 221 in PSEA. Strategy in sustaining the provision of basic social services for hundreds of thousands of vulnerable children and their families across the Gaza Strip.

West Bank, including East Jerusalem

Humanitarian Cash Transfers

During January-March 2026, UNICEF continued to respond to escalating displacement and protection risks across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) reached 12,953 individuals, including 8,242 children, across 2,482 families displaced or acutely affected by conflict and movement restrictions. Through UNICEF's Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), an additional 228 individuals, including 114 children from 39 families, received urgent support immediately following displacement or acute shocks. In addition, more than 3,400 people from 579 families benefited from WASH E-Vouchers to meet essential water and sanitation needs.

Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)

Accountability to Affected People (AAP)

In the first three months of 2026, UNICEF continues to strengthen accountability to affected populations in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem by providing accessible information, promoting community participation, and maintaining a safe and confidential Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM).

As part of its capacity building and localisation efforts, UNICEF conducted a session for West Bank implementing partners, focused on establishing safe, trusted, and effective feedback mechanisms. At the same time, UNICEF continues to operate its own CFM to ensure communities can safely share concerns, requests, and feedback.

Since the beginning of 2026, 25,012 people have engaged with UNICEF's CFM. One of the most frequently raised concerns regarding requests for winterisation assistance concerns tents, tarpaulins, and blankets. Through UNICEF's secure digital system, these cases were referred to the relevant programmes, which closed the feedback loop by providing the requested assistance. In addition, individuals identified as needing support were referred to mental health and psychosocial support services, highlighting a holistic approach.

Women accounted for 41 per cent of callers, and 15 per cent were persons with disabilities, reflecting increased engagement from both groups. The highest call volume was recorded in the Khan Younis and Gaza governorates.

Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)

SBC efforts focused on risk communication, social mobilisation, and community engagement to support routine immunisation uptake and promote hygiene, winterisation, and protection practices among affected populations in the Gaza Strip.

In January, 260 social mobilizers were deployed to support the second round of the routine immunisation (RI) campaign through tent-to-tent visits, community dialogues, and engagement with religious and community leaders. More than 40,000 brochures were distributed, alongside 300 banners and 4,000 posters, ensuring strong visibility and supporting message recall. Radio jingles were broadcast ten times daily, and public announcement vehicles helped raise community awareness and supported caregivers to access vaccination services. Mobilizers identified over 1,200 defaulter children and approximately 27 zero-dose children, all referred for vaccination. RI efforts continued beyond the campaign, reaching a total of 478,041 caregivers, including 273,936 females, in the first quarter of 2026.

Hygiene promotion activities reached 851,587 people, including 331,757 women and 178,136 girls, in the same period. Hygiene promotion efforts focused on key practices like handwashing, toilet and food hygiene, water storage, and disease prevention.

Moreover, winterisation activities were completed in March 2026, reaching 176,000 caregivers of infant children in the first quarter of the year. Community health educators provided caregivers with lifesaving information on hypothermia prevention and guidance on applying skin-to-skin contact to manage early signs of hypothermia. Through sustained community engagement, health educators helped build trust, strengthen caregivers' self-efficacy, and save the lives of families in Gaza. SBC continued to leverage social listening and evidence-based insights to guide interventions. A rapid assessment was conducted to examine barriers to access to education among vulnerable out-of-school children (Kindergarten to Grade 9) to inform a context-specific SBC response to promote enrolment, retention, and equitable access to education. UNICEF engaged adolescents through participatory co-creation workshops in Khan Younis, Deir Al-Balah, and Gaza City. Over 140 adolescent girls participated in a structured series of sessions exploring menstrual hygiene challenges, myths, coping strategies, and lived experiences. The collaboration produced seven culturally appropriate, evidence-based animated videos on key menstrual hygiene messages. The process strengthened the girls' agency in managing menstrual hygiene and in engaging with 200 of their peers to promote positive menstrual hygiene practices.

In the West Bank, RCCE system strengthening was supported through regular coordination with the Ministry of Health and partners to enable alignment of approaches, consistent messaging, and more effective, coordinated community engagement.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

In the first three months of 2026, UNICEF and the interagency PSEA Network continued to scale up interventions to address heightened risks of sexual exploitation and abuse across Gaza and the West Bank. In collaboration with the Interagency PSEA Network, where UNICEF maintained leadership, efforts focused on strengthening safe reporting mechanisms, expanding community awareness, and reinforcing survivor-centred response systems in a highly constrained humanitarian context.

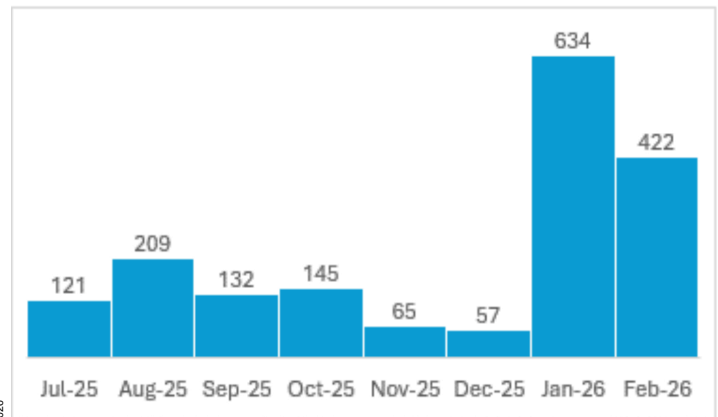
Access to safe and confidential PSEA reporting channels was strengthened during the reporting period, facilitating reporting by 710,456 people (424,276 women, 248,702 men, 21,405 girls, and 16,073 boys). This was achieved through integrated PSEA programming and community-based outreach. Of these, access was facilitated for 453,989 in Gaza and 256,467 in the West Bank.

Community feedback mechanisms and referral pathways remained operational, enabling 20,027 individuals to access protection services, including case management, MHPSS, medical and legal support, and referrals to basic assistance. Gaza accounted for 17,503 referrals, with 2,524 in the West Bank, reflecting sustained high levels of vulnerability and service demand.

Awareness-raising and community mobilisation efforts reached 121,697 individuals through direct engagement. In Gaza, 200 safeguarding volunteers played a key role in sustaining outreach (120,601 reached), while 1,096 individuals were reached in the West Bank. These efforts were complemented by SANAD digital campaigns, which reached 588,759 people in Gaza and the West Bank, with women representing approximately 70 per cent of those reached. PSEA IEC material was also developed and contextualised for the health sector, with dissemination in clinics supported by four implementing partners from the health sector. These interventions also contribute to the prevention and mitigation of gender based violence risks by strengthening safe referral pathways, community awareness, and access to survivor centred services in highly constrained environments.

Capacity strengthening remained a priority. An integrated PSEA/GBV/AAP training was delivered to 63 humanitarian actors (56 women, 9 Men) from 34 humanitarian organisations operating in the West Bank. Increased outreach and referral reflect growing trust in reporting mechanisms, despite ongoing operational challenges. Priorities for the quarter include strengthening integration, localisation, inclusive reporting, and interagency coordination.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)



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Number of newly displaced individuals in the West Bank who were reached by UNICEF through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM).

In 2025, UNICEF established a Rapid Response Mechanism in the West Bank to deliver first line assistance within 48-72 hours of displacement alerts. The initial package of essential emergency assistance is deployed within 24-48 hours, ensuring timely, lifesaving support for families at the time of peak vulnerability immediately following their displacement.

The package for each household consists of a hygiene kit, dignity (female care) kit, baby kit and recreational/learning kit,¹⁷ followed within 96 hours by cash assistance in the form of an unrestricted child grant. In the first two months of 2026, the West Bank RRM has been activated six times to respond to new displacement in the middle and northern areas of the West Bank (Ras Ein Alauja, Ad Dyok al Tahta, Rummun), reaching 204 affected households (1056 individuals, including approximately 553 children). Compared with 2025, when the RRM was activated seven times over six months, reaching 145 households, the first two months of 2026 alone have already surpassed the total number of households reached during the July-December 2025 period.

Supply and Logistics

In the first three months of 2026, UNICEF facilitated the entry of 851 trucks carrying 18,875 pallets of humanitarian supplies into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom and Zikim crossings. These deliveries included a wide range of critical items supporting multiple sectors. Shelter assistance was strengthened through the provision of tents of various sizes and tarpaulins, while non-food items such as winter clothing helped address seasonal needs.

UNICEF also ensured the continued availability of essential water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies, including hygiene and dignity kits. Nutrition interventions were reinforced through the delivery of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food, Ready-to-Use Complementary Food, and lipid-based nutrient supplements for children. Health services were supported with the provision of medical consumables, vaccines, medicines, and CPAP machines, contributing to the continuity of care. In addition, access to learning was enhanced through the entry of educational materials, including School-in-a-Box kits, recreational kits, and Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits.¹⁸

During the period from mid-January to early March, operations were carried out in a dynamic context, where a proportion (43 per cent) of trucks were returned daily. Despite these challenges, coordination efforts enabled the sustained flow of humanitarian supplies. Compared to the previous period, entry procedures for humanitarian trucks from the West Bank are currently consolidated into a weekly

schedule.

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 organisations and partners, including women-led organisations. As the Cluster Lead Agency, UNICEF leads coordination and information management for three Clusters and one Area of Responsibility in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and reports on collective Cluster achievements.

The **WASH Cluster**, led by UNICEF, is [a partnership](#) of over 100 member agencies, of which 39 members operate in both Gaza and West Bank, 55 in Gaza and six in West Bank. Over the past three months, WASH Cluster partners sustained life-saving services across Gaza despite severe operational constraints. Large-scale water trucking remained the backbone of the response, delivering approximately 20,000 m³ of drinking water and 9,000 m³ of domestic water daily to nearly 2,000 water collection points across populated areas. Partners supported repairs to critical infrastructure, including Mekorot water supply lines, groundwater wells, and water and sewage networks, helping partially restore supply in several areas and increasing drinking water availability in some locations to 4.5–6 litres per person per day. Additional water production capacity was established through the operationalisation of the Beit Lahia desalination plant and the rehabilitation of groundwater wells. WASH actors also maintained solid waste management operations, collecting up to 80 per cent of daily waste, while continuing large-scale distributions of hygiene items, including hygiene and dignity kits, jerry cans and soap. WASH Cluster partners continued to prioritise the installation of household-level latrines, with over 4,000 latrines installed in the first three months of the year; however, the insufficient supply of latrine slabs has prevented further scale-up of sanitation support to households.

However, WASH services remain heavily constrained by fuel shortages, limited entry of critical materials and spare parts, and access restrictions. Damage to key infrastructure continues to affect water production, leaving the response highly dependent on costly water trucking. Solid waste systems are under increasing strain as temporary dump sites reach capacity and vehicle fleets deteriorate. In the West Bank, WASH partners continued to support vulnerable and displaced communities through essential services such as water trucking, the provision of hygiene items, polyethene tanks, and desludging services, though movement restrictions, fuel shortages, and limited funding continue to hinder timely responses.

UNICEF leads the **Nutrition Cluster**, coordinating 64 partners, including 31 in Gaza and 11 in the West Bank, to deliver life-saving nutrition services to prevent and treat acute malnutrition. In the first three months of 2026, life-saving preventive and curative nutrition services reached over half a million children under the age of five, pregnant women, and breastfeeding women. Of the 307,252 children screened for acute malnutrition, 10,042 acutely malnourished children were treated with Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and therapeutic milks (an increase of 21 per cent compared to the same period in 2025). Additionally, 5,832 acutely pregnant and breastfeeding women were treated during the first three months of 2026 (double the number treated during the same period of 2025).

Excess risk of morbidity and mortality was averted among 580,759 children, pregnant and breastfeeding women at risk of acute malnutrition through a blanket supplementary feeding program supported by nutrition cluster partners. Scaling up prevention of acute malnutrition included reaching 43,863 children 6–59 months with vitamin A and micronutrient powders, and 15,096 pregnant and

breastfeeding women were equally reached with micronutrient tablets to prevent anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies. During the same period, 306,494 pregnant, breastfeeding women, and caregivers received counselling on optimal infant feeding and caring practices.

The **Education Cluster**, led by UNICEF and Save the Children, coordinates with 77 active partners. In the first three months of 2026, Education Cluster partners significantly expanded access to learning opportunities in Gaza, with a notable increase in enrolment. An additional 86,500 children were enrolled during the reporting period, bringing total enrolment to 357,476 learners across 584 operational Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS), up from 449 at the end of 2025. The education workforce also expanded, with 9,503 teachers deployed, up from 6,391 in December 2025. Following the entry of minimal supplies, at least 76,300 learners received essential teaching and learning materials, contributing to improvements in the quality of education delivery. Partners continued to integrate social and emotional learning (SEL), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and structured recreational activities to help address the ongoing trauma experienced by children.¹⁹

In the West Bank, in the first quarter of 2026, Education Cluster partners supported at least 6,875 students to enrol in catch-up and remedial learning programmes to address learning loss. Of these, 1,059 learners received essential learning materials, while 11,931 children participated in structured recreational activities aimed at addressing trauma and supporting mental health and psychosocial wellbeing (MHPSS).

However, escalating settler violence, intensified militarised operations, and broader regional tensions have led to increased movement restrictions, road closures, and the expansion of checkpoints across the West Bank, particularly in the north. These constraints have disrupted education by forcing school closures and shifts to online learning, while also limiting partners' ability to implement activities, monitor progress, and engage with field teams, resulting in the postponement of critical education activities and events.

UNICEF leads the **Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR)**, with achievements available on a [response dashboard](#). The CP AoR coordinates with over 92 member organisations, including 36 partners operating in Gaza and 14 partners in the West Bank. Between January and March 2026, Child Protection AoR partners reached over 549,000 individuals across the State of Palestine, including 395,082 children (53 per cent girls, 8,151 children with disabilities) and 154,085 caregivers (67 per cent women). In Gaza, partners reached over 527,000 individuals, including 382,053 children (53 per cent girls, 8,020 children with disabilities) and 145,814 caregivers (68 per cent women), delivering integrated child protection services in a highly constrained environment. MHPSS remained the core intervention, reaching over 133,000 children and 37,000 caregivers, alongside life skills programming for adolescents. Nearly 6,200 children (48 per cent girls), received individualized case management and specialized services, including children without parental care (unaccompanied and separated) and children with disabilities. Prevention activities, including Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and child protection awareness, including family separation, violence, and harmful coping mechanisms, reached over 170,000 children and caregivers.²⁰

In the West Bank, partners reached over 21,000 individuals, including 13,029 children (49 per cent girls, 131 children with disabilities) and 8,271 caregivers (59 per cent women), focusing on children exposed to violence, movement restrictions, and socio-economic hardship. Core interventions included MHPSS, case management, referrals, prevention activities, and targeted emergency assistance, including child protection cash support.

MHPSS services reached nearly 10,000 children and over 5,000 caregivers, while 269 children received case management support, including referrals and follow-up services. Prevention and community-based activities reached over 1,700 individuals, contributing to strengthened community-level protection mechanisms.

The CP AoR also strengthened coordination and quality of services through capacity building and guidance, including training 160 caseworkers and rolling out [Child Safeguarding Guidance](#) and safety mapping tools. An orientation session on the tools was conducted in Gaza, reaching 70 participants to support rollout and implementation. Additionally, the [Child Protection Needs Assessment in Gaza](#) was completed during the reporting period to inform evidence-based planning and response prioritisation.

UNICEF participates in the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR), coordinated by UNFPA, and in the Legal Task Force. The Child Protection AoR and the GBV AoR have jointly established a Prevention and Care for Child Survivors Task Force, of which UNICEF is a member. UNICEF also participates in the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education – Conflict Preparedness and Protection Technical Working Group (EORE-CPP TWG) under the Mine Action (MA) AoR.

UNICEF continues to actively participate in the **Health Cluster**, including through technical working groups, mainly the Sexual Reproductive Health Working Group, the Health Services Delivery Group, the Rehabilitation Working Group, the Mobile Clinics Working Group, and the Inter-Cluster MHPSS Technical Working Group. UNICEF also co-leads the Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) Technical Working Group, which is organised in collaboration with WHO and OCHA.

Additionally, **UNICEF supports** the Inter-Agency Network for the PSEA and participates in the AAP Working Group, which OCHA coordinates. Furthermore, UNICEF actively engages with the regional and national Gender in Humanitarian Action (GIHA) Working Group, which is coordinated by UN Women and OCHA, and contributes to gender equality, inclusive programming, and preparedness and response. UNICEF continues to participate in key recovery activities, including the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment. The release of the final Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) in April 2026 by the UN, EU and World Bank estimated recovery and reconstruction needs at US\$71.4 billion, reinforcing the critical importance of sustained humanitarian assistance alongside phased early recovery for children and families.

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES AND EXTERNAL MEDIA



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A Roadmap to Recovery, Written by Children

Through The Gaza We Want initiative, more than 11,000 children have shared their visions for recovery, dignity and hope.

In forums far away, the future of Gaza has been put up for debate. But as the world talks of recovery, children here have had more than two years to envision the home they want back.

Their perspectives are unlikely to be found in reconstruction proposals. They're readily on display though in makeshift shelters and classrooms across the Gaza Strip, coloured in pencil and pressed in ink.

"The Gaza I want," begins a poem by 13-year-old Malak in Khan Younis, "is not a tent pressed against the wind... I want it writing its school assignments, not the names of the deceased. Counting stars in the sky, not airplanes."

Since the start of this war, the threat of bombardment has followed children to bed each night. When asked what they need prioritized in recovery plans for Gaza, some 90 per cent say psychological care.

That's just one figure from a UNICEF-supported survey, part of an initiative that gives children the opportunity to share with the world their visions for their home. The Gaza We Want initiative followed child protection partners across the Strip as they documented children's accounts not only of what they've endured, but of what must come next.

Safety, shelter and support through trauma are most urgently sought. So too does Gaza's rising generation of doctors, teachers and engineers long to return to their classrooms.

"The Gaza we want is simple and human. Where children go to their schools, not tents. Carrying pens, not stones," writes 15-year-old Asma. "We want mornings that begin with hope, not amid the rubble of ruin."

More than 11,000 children across the Gaza Strip submitted artwork and writing to The Gaza We Want initiative, while 1,603 participated in a structured questionnaire. Each activity was designed to be trauma-sensitive, inclusive and voluntary. No child was asked to relive violence; they were asked to imagine dignity.

Read the full story: <https://www.unicef.org/sop/stories/roadmap-recovery-written-children>

Much more needs to be done. To respond to the situation for children in the State of Palestine, UNICEF is calling for the following:

- All parties must fully uphold their obligations as set out in the ceasefire agreement, and their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect children, particularly from grave violations.

- Displaced people must be allowed to move freely and voluntarily return to their homes as soon as possible.

- Unfettered movement of humanitarian aid into Gaza:

- Humanitarian aid and commercial trucks must enter at scale, with improved and faster clearance procedures.
- All possible supply routes must be open, including Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the West Bank.
- Supplies must have regular and unfettered access through all five entry points to the Gaza Strip (Rafah, Kerem Shalom, Netzarim, Erez East and Erez West).
- Parties and ceasefire mediators involved in implementation of the humanitarian aid delivery must allow prioritization of supplies based on the evolving needs of the population on the ground.
- The supplies previously denied or subject to restricted entry, including so-called 'dual use' items, education supplies, fuel, high power generators, water treatment chemicals etc. must be allowed in.

- Children who require specialized urgent care not available in the Gaza Strip must, with their caregivers, be evacuated swiftly and at scale, with firm guarantees that both patients and their caregivers will be allowed to return to Gaza once treated. As a first option, the medical corridor to the West Bank including East Jerusalem should be restored so children can be treated there. We also urge Member States to accept more children for medical treatment.

- National and international humanitarian staff must have regular and unfettered access through several entry points to and from the Gaza Strip. Freedom of movement for humanitarian staff within the Gaza Strip is also a critical requirement of the provision of aid in a ceasefire context.

- The specialist supplies and staff needed to carry out UXO detection and removal must be permitted entry to the Gaza Strip and must not be impeded in their operations, including coordination. Children are particularly vulnerable to explosive remnants of war (ERW) and with approximately 10 per cent of all ammunition fired potentially failed to function, the risk of death or injury to civilians now able to move freely through contaminated areas is unacceptably high.

Media links:

- [Human Interest Story: Winter brings new threats for Gaza's children.](#)
- [Human Interest Story: Gaza's Children Need Urgent Intl. Support to Get Them Back to Learning.](#)
- [Human Interest Story: The Struggle for Clean Water Continues in the Decimated Gaza Strip.](#)
- [UNICEF welcomes Cyprus MFA's support for integrated protection assistance for children at risk...](#)

- [A destroyed home, ongoing airstrikes, fear of shrapnel - despite these harsh realities, Ghazal ...](#)

- [UNICEF-supported temporary learning spaces are helping children return to learning, and reclaim ...](#)

- [In Gaza, children want to go back to school. Through UNICEF's Back To Learning programme, ...](#)

- [UNICEF Palestine's Special Rep Jonathan Veitch explains how 110 temporary learning spaces, ...](#)

- [After months of waiting, children in Deir El Balah are receiving School-in-a-Box supplies ...](#)

- [In the West Bank, UNICEF supports two mobile clinics reaching more than 10 communities...](#)

- [Listening to adolescents matters. UNICEF with UNFPA and partners, supported discussions on gender...](#)

- [Through #TheGazaWeWant initiative, children are not only sharing their dreams — they are helping ...](#)

- [When children in Gaza draw the same things about their future, it is not coincidence. It is ...](#)

- [With support from KSRelief, UNICEF has reached over 200,000 people in the Gaza Strip with water ...](#)

- [UNICEF has delivered life-saving surfactant - a lung treatment that helps premature newborns ...](#)

- [Amid ongoing challenges in Gaza this Ramadan, children need moments of normalcy and joy. UNICEF ...](#)

- [With support of Korea, UNICEF Temporary Learning Centres in Gaza provide improved hygiene ...](#)

- [Thanks to Sweden, Akelius and Postkodlott, this partnership will help reach thousands of children...](#)

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: 2026 Q2 SITUATION REPORT (COVERING 1 APRIL–30 JUNE), EXPECTED IN LATE JULY 2026

ANNEX A - PROGRAMME RESULTS

Consolidated Programme Results

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response			Cluster/Sector response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2026 targets	Total results	Progress*	2026 targets	Total results	Progress*
Health (including public health emergencies)								
Children and women accessing primary health care service in UNICEF supported facilities	Total	-	600,000	225,314	▲ 38%	-	-	-
Children 0-11 months receiving pentavalent 3 vaccine	Total	-	51,000	12,041	▲ 24%	-	-	-
Small and sick newborns with access to inpatient Level 2 special newborn care	Total	-	11,000	4,063	▲ 37%	-	-	-
Nutrition								
Children 6-59 months screened for wasting	Total	-	405,664	233,002	▲ 57%	316,847	343,354	▲ 108%
	Girls	-	-	116,074	-	-	171,012	-
	Boys	-	-	116,928	-	-	172,342	-
Children 6-59 with SAM admitted for treatment	Total	-	32,672	1,513	▲ 5%	33,170	1,742	▲ 5%
	Girls	-	-	883	-	-	1,025	-
	Boys	-	-	630	-	-	717	-
Children 6-59 months with MAM admitted for treatment	Total	-	73,393	8,801	▲ 12%	73,994	9,432	▲ 13%
	Girls	-	-	5,036	-	-	5,413	-
	Boys	-	-	3,765	-	-	4,019	-
Children 6-11 months receiving Ready-to-Use Complementary Food (RUCF)	Total	-	25,348	19,474	▲ 77%	31,685	49,893	▲ 157%
	Girls	-	-	9,818	-	-	25,188	-
	Boys	-	-	9,656	-	-	24,705	-
Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding (YCF) counselling	Total	-	25,000	88,177	▲ 353%	147,000	336,679	▲ 229%
Child protection								
Children / caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support.	Total	-	384,767	51,902	▲ 13%	1.1 million	200,296	▲ 18%
Children who have received individual case management	Total	-	11,660	2,019	▲ 17%	23,000	6,565	▲ 29%

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response			Cluster/Sector response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2026 targets	Total results	Progress*	2026 targets	Total results	Progress*
Children and caregivers provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention	Total	-	591,800	28,220	▲ 5%	316,000	179,303	▲ 57%
Children and caregivers reached by MHPSS messages and awareness activities on child protection risks	Total	-	895,840	22,776	▲ 3%	1.1 million	68,816	▲ 6%
Education								
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Total	-	436,000	197,442	▲ 45%	839,728	364,471	▲ 43%
Children receiving individual learning materials	Total	-	436,000	141,046	▲ 32%	839,728	77,387	▲ 9%
Affected school children are provided with gender-responsive recreational activities	Total	-	200,000	19,179	▲ 10%	238,167	99,660	▲ 42%
Water, sanitation and hygiene								
People accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	999,698	800,000	999,698	▲ 125%	-	1.7 million	-
People reached with critical WASH supplies (NFIs)	Total	481,478	860,000	481,478	▲ 56%	-	1.6 million	-
People accessing appropriate sanitation services	Total	390,345	250,000	395,374	▲ 158%	-	1.1 million	-
Social protection								
People reached with humanitarian cash transfers through UNICEF response	Total	-	198,000 ²¹	251,006	▲ 127%	-	-	-
Households with adults and children with disabilities reached by humanitarian cash transfers UNICEF response	Total	-	21,000	8,955	▲ 43%	-	-	-
Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)								
People sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	Total	-	93,904	25,861	▲ 28%	-	-	-
People reached through messaging and engagement actions on prevention and access to services	Total	-	950,000	1.1 million	▲ 116%	-	-	-
People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	Total	-	1 million	710,456	▲ 71%	-	-	-
	Girls	-	-	21,405	-	-	-	-
	Boys	-	-	15,968	-	-	-	-
	Women	-	-	424,276	-	-	-	-

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response			Cluster/Sector response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2026 targets	Total results	Progress*	2026 targets	Total results	Progress*
	Men	-	-	248,702	-	-	-	-

*Progress in the reporting period 1 January to 31 March 2026

ANNEX B — FUNDING STATUS

Consolidated funding by sector

Sector	Requirements	Funding available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2026	Resources available from 2025 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Nutrition	150,000,000	9,113,907	12,635,415	128,250,678	86%
Education	114,000,000 ²²	2,265,872	24,253,508	87,480,620	77%
Social protection	120,510,000	2,265,872	17,663,510	100,580,618	83%
Cluster coordination	5,220,000	576,148	874,077	3,769,775	72%
Health	123,800,000	6,266,843	16,311,513	101,221,644	82%
Child protection	70,000,000	6,837,026	13,306,658	49,856,316	71%
Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)	115,000,000	10,563,959	48,643,400	55,792,641	49%
Accountability to Affected Populations / Community Feedback Mechanism (AAP / CFM)	500,000	94,500	268,469	137,031	27%
Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)	6,000,000	1,194,807	886,693	3,918,500	65%
Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)	2,800,000	668,659	1,500,623	630,718	23%
Total	707,830,000	39,847,593	136,343,866	531,638,541	75%

Funding available - funding available in the current appeal year to respond in line with the current HAC appeal.

Humanitarian resources - humanitarian funding commitments received from donors in the current appeal year.

Resources available from 2025 (carry over) - funding received in the previous appeal year that is available to respond in line with the current HAC appeal

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ENDNOTES

1. The Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) encompasses the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. References to the State of Palestine, or to specific geographic areas of the OPT within this situation report, do not imply any alternative recognition or determination as to the status of the OPT and its integral parts.
2. The total number of children in need is based on the highest number of children in need number across the thematic areas, which is the child protection number. In the Gaza Strip, 1,081,521 children (all children in the Gaza Strip) are in need of protection services, and 608,266 children are in need of protection in the West Bank. Therefore, the total number of children in need is 1,689,787. Nearly half of them, 49 per cent, are girls.
3. Of the 3,620,000 people in need, 2,100,000 are in the Gaza Strip (the entire population) and 1,520,000 are in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Source: Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories 2026, issued on 16 December 2025, covering January-December 2026, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/flash-appeal-occupied-palestinian-territory-2026>.
4. The number of 1,539,232 people displaced in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank consists of 1,500,000 people who are displaced in the Gaza Strip (United Nations estimate), and 39,232 people who are displaced in the West Bank. The figure for the West Bank includes two components: (1) 6,624 individuals displaced due to demolitions since 7 October 2023, including 2,848 children (OCHA, as of 12 June 2025); and (2) 32,608 individuals displaced because of the Israeli "Iron Wall" operation, including 14,241 children. The latter figure is based on displacement data recorded by UNRWA among the registered refugee population from Jenin, Tulkarem, and Nur Shams camps (as of 12 June 2025).
5. The total of 1,445,000 school-aged children affected in their education refers to both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In the Gaza Strip, approximately 637,000 school-aged children currently lack access to formal education (source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/opt-education-snapshot-academic-year-2025-2026-8-september-2025>). In the West Bank, an estimated 808,000 school-aged children are affected in their learning, including both out-of-school children (OOSC) and those at risk of dropping out. This figure will be revised following the completion of the ongoing OOSC survey, anticipated in October 2025.
6. Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, issued on 16 December 2025, covering January-December 2026, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/flash-appeal-occupied-palestinian-territory-2026>. The previous Inter-Agency Flash Appeal was issued on 11 December 2024, covering January-December 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/flash-appeal-occupied-palestinian-territory-2025>.
7. The figures cited refer to the number of "people targeted" for humanitarian assistance by humanitarian organizations under the Flash Appeal 2026. "People targeted" refers to those the humanitarian organizations plan to reach, based on assessed needs, operational capacity and expected available resources. This differs from the number of "people in need", which refers to all individuals affected by the crisis who require humanitarian assistance, which is estimated at 3.62 million across the occupied Palestinian territory (Gaza Strip: 2.10 million; West Bank including East Jerusalem: 1.52 million).
8. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), children under 18 constitute approximately 47 per cent of Gaza Strip's population (1.09 million out of 2.13 million) as of end-2025. With nearly 1.7 million people - around 80 per cent of Gaza's total population - reported as displaced by OCHA as of 27 March 2026, see <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-27-march-2026>, a proportional estimate suggests that approximately 800,000 children are currently displaced, representing around 73 per cent of Gaza's child population.
9. The availability of different "food groups" refers to the variety of food types that can be obtained. The diversity of types of food is an important indicator of nutritional adequacy and food security. It helps to assess whether the needs of the population are being met for a balanced diet. The food types often assessed include breast milk, legumes, vitamin A rich fruits and vegs, other fruits and vegetables, eggs, grains, dairy, and meats. Having to rely on a single type of food could lead to nutritional deficiencies. A higher number of food types generally indicates a more nutritionally diversity, which is crucial in crisis situations where people are at high risk of undernutrition.
10. OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Report, 19 March 2026, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-19-march-2026>, and OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Report #345 on the Gaza Strip, 27 March 2026, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-27-march-2026>.
11. OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Report #345 on the Gaza Strip, 27 March 2026, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-27-march-2026>.
12. OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Report, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-6-march-2026/>.
13. Baby Kits include essential hygiene items for infants, such as baby shampoo, baby powder, wet wipes, towels, and a soft bathing sponge, supporting basic hygiene and caregiving needs for newborns and young infants in emergency settings.
14. The provided figure of one million beneficiaries of safe water reflects only those reached through water trucking, while the total number of beneficiaries reached through other activities is around 1.6 million.
15. Sato latrines, derived from "Safe Toilet," are lightweight plastic bowls designed to prevent flies and disease vectors from accessing faeces, reducing the spread of diseases. They work by allowing waste to flow towards an exit hole covered by a flap, which opens under the pressure of waste, directing it into the pit.
16. Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits contain age-appropriate learning and play materials designed to support early learning, stimulation and social interaction for young children (aged 0–6). Each kit is designed for use by up to 50 children and includes items such as children's books, puzzles, building blocks, counting and sorting games, art and drawing materials, puppets for storytelling, and guidance materials for caregivers. Kits also include basic hygiene and water items to support children's health and safe use in highly constrained settings.
17. Within the RRM, hygiene kits and dignity (female care) kits are provided as separate components addressing household hygiene needs and gender specific dignity needs respectively.
18. Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits contain age appropriate learning and play materials designed to support early learning, stimulation and school readiness for young children, and are typically delivered through Education programmes, with linkages to Child Protection and Health where relevant.
19. Despite this progress, significant challenges persist. Delays in the entry of education supplies continue to create disparities in response quality and constrain further scale-up to reach all children in need. Funding limitations are affecting both the scale and sustainability of interventions, including teacher incentives, which are critical to retaining education personnel. The continued use of repairable classrooms as shelters limits opportunities for rehabilitation and reactivation of formal learning spaces, while the shortage of available land, particularly in displacement sites, constrains the establishment of additional TLS. Furthermore, harsh winter conditions during the reporting period led to temporary closures of some learning spaces, disrupting learning continuity.
20. Further on, emergency and winterization assistance, including cash for protection, clothing, and in-kind support, helped mitigate protection risks and support vulnerable families, reaching over 22,700 children with clothing kits, 5,470 children with cash assistance, and over 30,000 individuals with in-kind support. Service delivery was supported through 264 operational child protection service points, most of which are tent-based and vulnerable to weather-related disruptions. The CPIMS+ system remained operational, with 312 active users and over 10,500 cases recorded, while more than 60 partners signed the Data Protection and Information Sharing Protocol (DPISP) to strengthen safe data sharing and coordination.
21. The target figure was decreased for 2026 compared with 2025 due to a change in the programmatic approach. UNICEF has shifted to providing more frequent and regular payments to the most vulnerable families, ensuring sustained support and improved flexibility in meeting urgent needs.
22. The \$34 million increase for the Education budget compared to the initial 2026 HAC appeal is due to the Back-to-Learning programme that UNICEF and partners launched in the Gaza Strip in January 2026 and aims to restore access to non-formal education for hundreds of thousands of children who have been deprived of schooling for nearly three consecutive years.