



Children standing in front of the rubble of their home in Al Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

State of Palestine

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- Since 7 October, the conflict escalation has led to grave humanitarian consequences including the reported loss of thousands of children and women, along with soaring humanitarian needs and an estimated 160 children being born every day under precarious circumstances.²
- 1.5 million internally displaced persons, over 60 per cent of the Gazan population, face an increasingly dire humanitarian situation with limited access to basic needs such as water, electricity and health services.³
- UNICEF is delivering immediate life-saving humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip to support conflict-affected and displaced people. Services are being supported through supply delivery, partners and remote service provision. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF is scaling up humanitarian preparedness and is responding to immediate needs.
- UNICEF requires US\$154.4 million to respond to the humanitarian situation in the State of Palestine, this funding will support the continuation of gender-responsive WASH, health, child protection and education services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank as well as the provision of multi-purpose cash assistance.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



853,000

children, adolescents and caregivers affected by conflict related violence receive emergency and child protection service



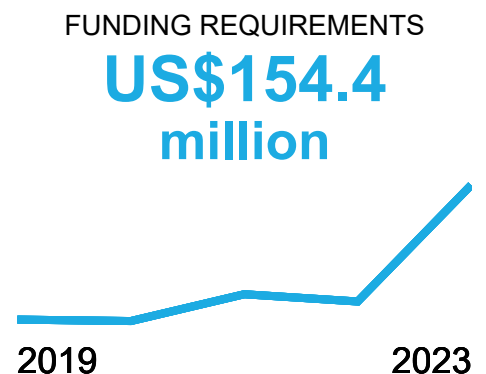
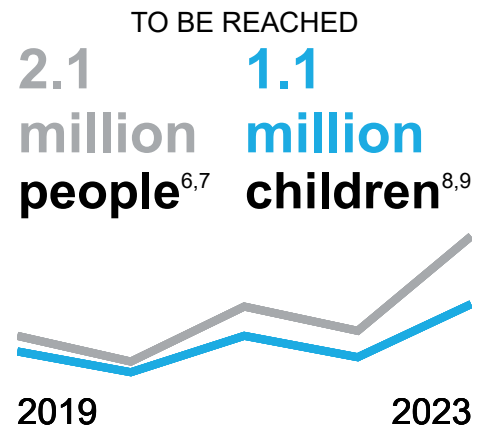
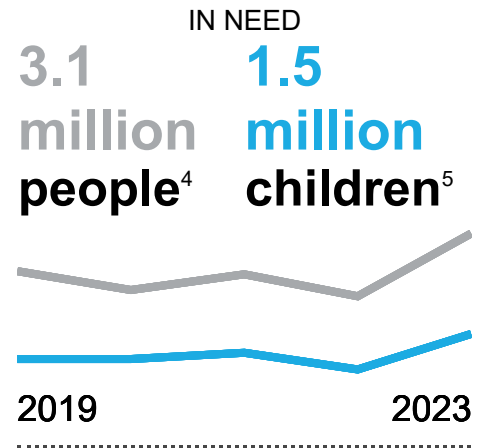
2.1 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



315,500

children receiving individual learning materials



Figures are aligned with UNICEF Emergency Response Plan and the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal which covers October to December 2023. Figures are subject to revision based on increasing humanitarian needs and the evolving situation.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

There are an estimated 3.1 million people requiring humanitarian assistance in the State of Palestine, with 2.2 million in the Gaza Strip and 900,000 in the West Bank.¹⁰ The Gaza Strip has tragically witnessed the loss of thousands of children and women, and the escalation which began on 7 October compounds the protracted protection crisis.

Following intensive bombardments, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has reported that as of 1 November 8,805 Palestinians, including 3,650 children, have been killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities which has resulted in an estimated increase of more than 1,862 new female-headed households. A further 22,240 Palestinians are reportedly injured, including 7,468 children.^{11,12} The situation of internally displaced people is dire, with an estimated 1.5 million IDPs residing in UNRWA shelters, hospitals, public buildings, non-UNRWA schools, and with host families.¹³

The Gaza Strip has been grappling with an almost complete electricity blackout. According to the Palestinian Water Authority, the current water production capacity has been reduced to 5 per cent of the normal daily production, limiting access to WASH services specifically for children and adolescent girls. Insufficient access to water compels the population to use unsafe water, potentially leading to additional health issues. According to WHO, there have been 93 attacks on health care in the Gaza Strip since October 7, with a further 123 attacks in the West Bank.¹⁴ Critical gaps in access to health services particularly affect adolescent girls and women, including emergency obstetric care, newborn care, and sexual and reproductive health services. Pre-conflict the State of Palestine had a high burden of mental health issues, and WHO report that there are over 485,000 people, including children, with severe or moderate mental health disorders in the Gaza Strip. Since the escalation 625,000 children enrolled in school across the Gaza Strip have had no access to education, with 246 attacks on school buildings since 7 October.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is also facing increased violence, particularly in the context of Israeli forces operations and resulting confrontations. As of 1 November, at least 130 Palestinians have been reported killed since October 7, including 40 children. Access restrictions have been imposed throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, isolating Palestinian communities and severely limiting their access to essential services. In the West Bank schools have also been heavily affected by movement restrictions, military operations and settler violence.

Israeli authorities' sources report that at least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, and according to Israeli authorities, 240 Israelis were abducted into the Gaza Strip, including around 30 children.

SECTOR NEEDS¹⁵



2.8 million
people need health
assistance



2.5 million
children in need of
protection services



700,000
people in need of
education support



2.9 million
people need WASH
services

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Due to the escalation water scarcity is a grave concern in the Gaza Strip where it is estimated that people have had access to less than three litres of water per person per day, far below the minimum emergency threshold of 15 litres. This poses a health risk in a densely populated area, with adolescent girls and pregnant women being specifically affected. A resident in a shelter for displaced people said: "We do not have anything here, we suffer from insufficient water, clothes and food, we are trying to cook anything for our children, the situation here is really devastating."

[Read more about this story here](#)

Haleema, 42, serves food for her children in the UNRWA Al-Shati School in the Gaza Strip.

Following the activation of the Inter-Agency Contingency Plans both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, UNICEF with partners is delivering immediate lifesaving responses in the Gaza Strip, and scaling up humanitarian preparedness and response in the West Bank including East Jerusalem.

In the Gaza Strip, the priority areas are WASH, Health and Child Protection services. UNICEF is also scaling up the provision of nutritional screening and treatment and recreational and learning activities for conflict affected children. UNICEF is coordinating closely with a wide range of partners to scale up gender responsive humanitarian responses to meet immediate life-saving needs, and other basic needs, and to preserve human dignity for conflict-affected children, their families and communities. Given access constraints and insecurity UNICEF is utilizing a range of programme delivery strategies including supporting the existing health, water and sanitation systems; cross-border emergency supply delivery from Egypt to implementation sites; humanitarian cash transfers; social and behaviour change; and remote service provision. Partners including NGOs and women-led organizations within the Gaza Strip, are also mobilized to support emergency programme delivery.

For the West Bank, UNICEF is scaling up humanitarian preparedness and response through existing and expanded partnerships and supplies pre-positioned in the West Bank. Further resources are being mobilized to be ready to respond to increasing humanitarian needs in the West Bank due to the escalation in the Gaza Strip.

Gender and disability considerations are prudently integrated across UNICEF humanitarian interventions including through integrating Gender Based Violence into child protection case management and through partnership with women-led and girls-centered organisations. A tailored Adolescent Girl Humanitarian Package is also being rolled out and UNICEF supports the Inter-Agency Network for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team and closely coordinates with other organizations including local partners. UNICEF also leads the coordination of the WASH Cluster and co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children. Within the Protection Cluster, UNICEF leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and participates in the GBV Area of Responsibility. UNICEF is part of the Inter-Cluster Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group. UNICEF co-leads the Nutrition Working Group within the Health Cluster. Towards Accountability to Affected Populations and PSEA UNICEF works closely with WFP and a national NGO to manage community feedback.

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



Health and nutrition

- **780,000** women, children and adolescents supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies
- **5,842** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

- **853,000** children, adolescents and caregivers affected by conflict related violence receive emergency and child protection service including MHPSS
- **504,900** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions
- **300,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations



Education

- **55,000** affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their wellbeing
- **315,500** children receiving individual learning materials



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **2,050,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **1,350,000** people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services
- **1,100,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies²⁰



Social protection

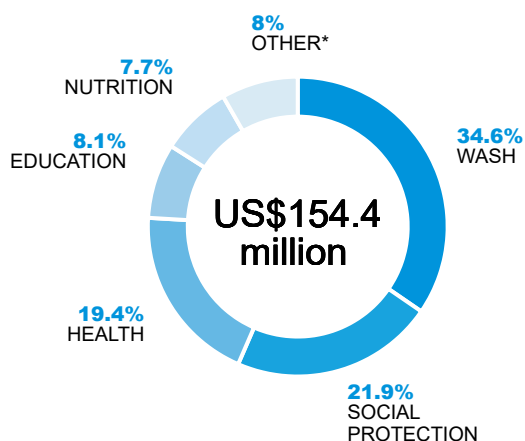
- **35,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF has significantly increased the funding requirement to US\$154.4 million to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs in the State of Palestine. This funding will allow UNICEF to deliver gender-responsive immediate lifesaving and protection interventions for water, sanitation and hygiene; health; nutrition; child protection; multi-purpose cash; and education services.²¹

Humanitarian funding for 2024 will allow UNICEF to procure lifesaving supplies and support essential services. The funding needs are driven by the need to scale up humanitarian programming in the Gaza Strip due to the extensive and acute needs, as well as preparedness and response for the West Bank, considering the violence, unrest and increasingly volatile environment. Health, WASH, child protection, education and nutrition supplies will be procured and delivered through various channels including for the cross-border operation at the Rafah crossing in Egypt, and for pre-positioning within the West Bank.

Without this funding, UNICEF will not be able to support the immediate needs of the 2.1 million people (1.1 million children) nationally, including in the Gaza Strip where people are living with minimum quantities of water, with a health system on the verge of collapse, and whose children urgently need mental health and psychosocial support. In addition, without this funding, UNICEF will not be able to establish preparedness and response for a worsening humanitarian situation facing children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.



Appeal sector	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health	30,002,940
Nutrition	11,897,862
Child protection	7,488,270
Education	12,469,331
WASH	53,388,850
Social protection	33,862,858
Cross-sectoral	1,544,143
Coordination	3,760,027
Total	154,414,281

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child protection (4.8%), Coordination (2.4%), Cross-sectoral (1.0%).

Appeal sector	Original 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	1,450,000	30,002,940	307,710	29,695,230	99.0%
Nutrition	520,000	11,897,862	172,053	11,725,809	98.6%
Child protection	4,057,240	7,488,270	1,854,849	5,633,421	75.2%
Education	3,800,000	12,469,331	1,142,966	11,326,365	90.8%
WASH	6,300,000	53,388,850	787,628	52,601,222	98.5%
Social protection	3,061,080	33,862,858	2,827,912	31,034,946	91.6%
Cross-sectoral	100,000	1,544,143	64,522	1,479,621	95.8%
Coordination	1,040,000	3,760,027	556,183	3,203,844	85.2%
Total	20,328,320	154,414,281	7,713,823	146,700,458	95.0%

Who to contact for further information:

Lucia Elmi
Special Representative, State of Palestine
T +972 2 5840401
lelmi@unicef.org

Lana Wreikat
Director a.i, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
T +1 212 326 7163
lwreikat@unicef.org

June Kunugi
Director, Public Partnerships Division (PPD)
T +1 212 326 7118
jkunugi@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. On 21 October 2023, UNICEF activated its Level 3 emergency for the State of Palestine and related cross-border humanitarian operations.
2. UNFPA, Crisis in Gaza, updated on 3 November 2023
3. OCHA, Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #30, 5 November 2023
4. Inter-agency planning figures for the flash appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, October-December 2023, as revised in November 2023
5. The total number of children in need is estimated based on the demographic ratio of children, which is 46.9% in the Gaza Strip and 47.6% in the West Bank (source: PCBS), respectively applied to the 2.2 million people in need in Gaza and 900,000 people in need in the West Bank
6. The total number of people to be reached is calculated based on the following program targets: in the Gaza Strip, 1.8 million people provided with access to water; in the West Bank, 280,000 children to be reached through medical supplies and 42,000 pregnant and lactating women receiving iron supplementation. Gender disaggregation is 50.7% male, 49.3% female, and 2.1% people living with disability and difficulties, as per the 2017 Palestinian Census.
7. People to be reached figures are subject to further revision based on the evolving situation and humanitarian needs.
8. The total number of children to be reached is calculated based on the following: in the Gaza Strip, the estimated number of children provided with access to water out of the 1.8 million people targeted (a ratio of 46.9% children, per PCBS); in the West Bank, 280,000 children to be reached through medical supplies.
9. Children to be reached figures are subject to further revision based on evolving situation and humanitarian needs.
10. Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, October-December 2023, First revision November 2023
11. WHO, Emergency Situation Report, issue 10, 01 November 2023, 13:00
12. UN WOMEN, Facts and figures: Women and girls during the war in Gaza, Updated as of 5 November 2023
13. OCHA, Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #30
14. WHO, Emergency Situation Report, issue 10, 01 November 2023, 13:00
15. Inter-agency planning figures for the flash appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, October-December 2023, as revised in November 2023
16. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.
17. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.
18. UNICEF recognizes the gendered impact of the humanitarian situation for girls, adolescent girls and young women specifically, and includes critical menstrual health and hygiene supplies, strengthen safe spaces for women and girls where they can access lifesaving multi-layered and multi-sectoral support in coordination with community-based initiatives, with GBV risk mitigation integrated throughout the response strategy
19. Programme targets are based on the UNICEF Emergency Response Plan Oct-Dec, 2023. Targets include both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank unless marked otherwise. SBC and RCCE components are embedded in each programme.
20. WASH supplies including dignity kits and menstrual health and hygiene supply
21. UNICEF is committed to allocate 15 per cent of the total funding appeal to gender priorities including gender-based violence risk-mitigation, targeted programming for women and girls and engagement of women and girl-led organizations in the response.
22. Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the updated interagency Flash Appeal.