

7-year-old Ahmed, who was displaced from the north of the Gaza Strip to Rafah city in the south, helps his family to collect scattered papers from the street to heat food due to the lack of cooking gas.

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UNICEF in the State of Palestine

Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 18



Reporting Period: 8 to 14 February 2024

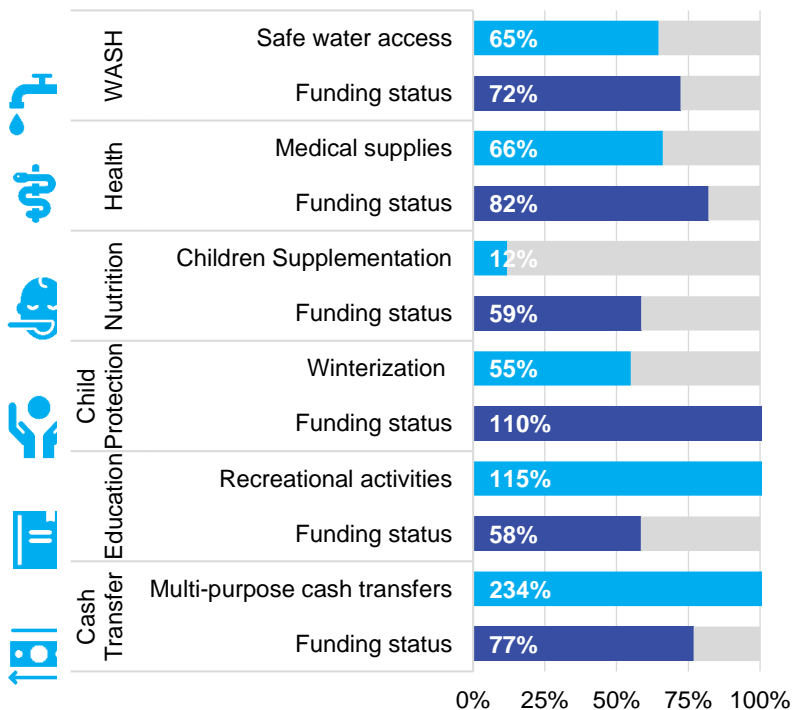
Situation in Numbers

-  **3.1 Million** people in need nationally (OCHA Flash Appeal, Nov 2023)
-  **1 Million** Children affected in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2023 population projections)
-  **Estimated 1.7 Million** Internally displaced persons (UNRWA, 7 February 2024)
-  **386 schools (78%)** sustained damage in the Gaza Strip (Education Cluster, 30 Jan 2024)
-  **Over 90% of population** face high levels of acute food insecurity in the Gaza Strip (IPC Phase 3 or above, 21 Dec 2023)

Highlights

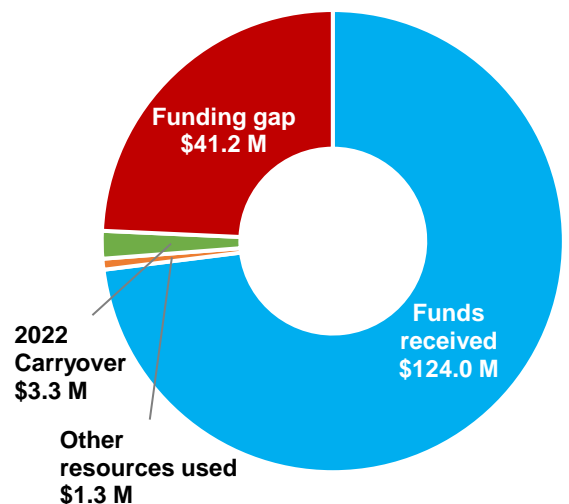
- Throughout the Gaza Strip, internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to face challenging humanitarian conditions while having acute shortages of safe areas, shelters, clean water, food and medicine. Up to 75 per cent of the total population (1.7 million out of 2.3 million people) are estimated to be displaced, some multiple times. Most are located in the Rafah governorate in the south of the Gaza Strip.
- Observations show people move out of Rafah in anticipation of hostilities.
- The health system in the Gaza Strip continues to be under attack due to the hostilities, reducing the access for patients and health workers to critical services.
- UNICEF provided fuel for water wells and desalination plants to produce clean water, benefitting more than 1,326,000 people, including over 670,000 children with lifesaving water for drinking and domestic needs.
- UNICEF with partners continued to support the well-being of children in the Gaza Strip through the provision of recreational activities. Since the beginning of the year, partners, who were able to report, reached more than 13,000 children, including more than 490 children with disabilities.
- UNICEF supported girls' well-being by distributing Adolescent Girls Personal Care kits to 3,700 adolescents through women's led organizations.
- UNICEF has moved 50 truck loads into the Gaza Strip in the past week, bringing in critical emergency supplies including: Ready to Use Infant Formula (RUIF) to cover 4,000 babies for two months, family hygiene kits to cover 5,000 families (25,000 people), sanitary pads for 8,640 adolescents, sets of winter clothing for 11,600 children, hygiene kits for 1,120 families.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Immediate Needs US\$ 168.3 million

Funding Status (in US\$)



The HAC has been revised for Child Protection and Nutrition. Funding does not include the loans received from within UNICEF. See Annex A for additional explanations.

UNICEF funding status is based on the January 2024 revision of the HAC.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

The revised Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories was issued on 6 November covering October to December 2023. The appeal identifies a financial requirement of approximately US\$ 1.2 billion to meet critical needs for 2.7 million people, 2.2 million population in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. UNICEF issued an updated Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for October to December 2023. This appeal has been carried over to cover March 2024 inclusive. The UNICEF funding requirement was adjusted, as laid out in the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal, in line with increasing needs to US\$ 168.3 million in January 2024, intended to support 2.1 million people including 1.2 million children: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine>. The appeal is expected to be further revised in line with the evolving situation. To date, the revised HAC has a US\$ 41.2 million (24 per cent) funding gap.

UNICEF would like to sincerely thank partners for their contributions, including the governments of Australia, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom as well as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), EU Humanitarian Aid and the World Bank. UNICEF thanks the UNICEF National Committees of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. UNICEF would also like to thank the UNICEF private sector fundraising offices of Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Gulf Area Office, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Thailand and Uzbekistan, which have supported the response to the escalation of hostilities. Last but not least, UNICEF benefited from Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding, which provided flexibility to respond, enabling UNICEF to effectively anticipate and meet the needs of the most vulnerable children and their families in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. UNICEF has also received US\$ 8.75 million from the internal Emergency Programme Fund and exceptionally US\$ 10 million of an internal capital loan both of which will need to be replenished – these loans are not reflected in funds received.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Months of escalating conflict have turned the Gaza Strip into the most dangerous place in the world to be a child. Every child across the Gaza Strip has been exposed to deeply distressing events, witnessing horrors that no child should. Around 1.7 million people are estimated to be internally displaced persons (IDP) by the violence, half of them children. Families desperately searching for shelter are being pushed into tiny, overcrowded areas without protection. Further displacement is expected, at this time especially from Rafah. It has been observed that some people have started to move away from Rafah in fear of increased level of hostilities, reportedly to Deir Al-Balah and other accessible locations in the middle of the Gaza Strip, where some of the people previously left from. Wet winter weather has flooded tents and other shelters, creating rivers of waste in some areas. The little food that is available is not enough to meet children's nutritional needs. As a result, thousands of children are malnourished and sick.

UNICEF estimates that at least 17,000 children in the Gaza Strip are unaccompanied or separated. Each one, a heartbreaking story of loss and grief. This corresponds to one per cent of the overall displaced population of 1.7 million people. Before this war, UNICEF was considering that more than 500,000 children were already in need of Mental Health and Psychosocial support in the Gaza Strip. Today, UNICEF estimates that almost all children are in need of MHPSS, more than 1 million children.

The ongoing hostilities in Gaza have further caused significant food shortages, inflation, poor access to clean water and sanitation facilities, and disruptions to healthcare services. This situation is putting children under five and pregnant or lactating women (PLW) at a higher risk of malnutrition and disease. Without any private area/space for breastfeeding women, it is challenging to encourage women to sustain breastfeeding practices. This constraint could have lasting negative effects, particularly on children under two years old and those born during this conflict. The findings of a nutrition analysis carried out in the Gaza Strip between December 2023 - January 2024 by the Nutrition Cluster partners indicate a dire nutrition situation for the entire population of the Gaza Strip, both in the short and long term. It is expected that all areas of the Gaza Strip will be affected by malnutrition. Results from the analysis suggest that the nutrition situation of women and children in the Gaza Strip is worsening, everywhere, but especially in Northern Gaza and Rafah. In Northern Gaza, 1 in 6 children are acutely malnourished, with an estimated 3 per cent facing the most severe form of wasting and requiring immediate treatment¹. The findings from the analysis show a sharp escalation in the drivers of malnutrition: food insecurity; lack of diet diversity; deteriorating infant and young child feeding practices; lack of access to safe water and sanitation; widespread disease; and a collapsed health system. This has severe consequences for those most vulnerable to malnutrition, including young children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Over 625,000 students in the Gaza Strip have had no access to education since 7 October 2023. The Ministry of Education (MoE) reports that as of 13 February, over 351 schools (65 UNRWA schools) have sustained damage and

¹ Nutrition Vulnerability and Situation Analysis, Gaza, Global Nutrition Cluster, <https://www.nutritioncluster.net/resources/nutrition-vulnerability-and-situation-analysis-gaza>

133 public schools are being used as shelters for IDPs. Over 5,055 children and 246 teachers and administrative staff have been killed while 8,497 students and 836 teachers and administrative staff have been injured. The Education Cluster has conducted a satellite damage assessment of schools across the Gaza Strip to verify the extent of damage since 7 October 2023. The assessment found that 162 school buildings have been directly hit, nearly 30 per cent of the total 563 school buildings in the Gaza Strip. At least 26 of these buildings have been totally destroyed. Another 151 schools have suffered confirmed damage; 95 probable damage; and 41 possible damage. Some 25 per cent of the schools directly hit or damaged are UNRWA-run schools and 45 per cent of the schools in the directly hit and damaged category have been used as IDP shelters. At least 55 per cent of schools in the Gaza Strip will either need full reconstruction or major rehabilitation work to become functional again.

As of 14 February, at least 28,663 Palestinians were reported killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities (up to 70 per cent are reported to be women and children). More than 68,395 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 11,682 children (partially disaggregated data as of 13 February 2024). Medical professionals and UN staff have reported that more than a thousand children have had one or more of their limbs amputated, and thousands have acquired disabilities due to injuries and trauma, including loss of hearing and speech impairment. Thousands of children continue to be reported missing and are likely to be injured or killed under the rubble of destroyed buildings. Rescue efforts are hampered by ongoing airstrikes, scarcity of fuel for vehicles and equipment, and limited communication capabilities. UNRWA reports that, as of 12 February, 156 UNRWA staff had been killed, while WHO and UNDP report one staff member killed respectively. This amounts to 23 per cent of UN aid workers killed globally since 1997, and by far the most in this short a time period. As of 12 February, there have been 318 incidents impacting 153 UNRWA installations, some of which have sustained direct hits. UNRWA reports as of 12 February, that at least 396 IDPs have been killed in their facilities, with at least a further 1,381 injured due to the hostilities since 7 October.

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, OCHA reports that since 7 October, at least 389 Palestinians have been killed¹. At least 104 Palestinian children were reported killed in conflict-related violence in the same time period, with more than sixty per cent of incidents in the northern West Bank, particularly Jenin, Nablus, and Tulkarem governorates, and more than one quarter of incidents in the Ramallah and Jerusalem governorates. Military law enforcement operations inside Palestinian communities and refugee camps involving high use of live ammunition, explosive weapons, and aerial strikes, as well as settler violence and movement restrictions, continue to put Palestinian children at higher risk of violence, grave violations, and displacement, and impact their access to services. According to OCHA, since 7 October, at least 2,658 Palestinians including 1,221 children have been displaced, mainly in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to settler violence and access restrictions, home demolitions, and destruction of residences during military law enforcement operations.

Israeli sources report that approximately 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, mostly in the attacks of 7 October, and more than 7,500 people are reported injured. More than 35 children have been reported killed. Around 250 people, including at least 36 children were abducted from Israel into the Gaza Strip, of whom 34 have been released, with very limited information available on the children remaining in captivity.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Challenges remain in providing adequate critical WASH services to the affected population in the Gaza Strip with the continued lack of power supply, restricted access, and fuel shortages. In response to urgent WASH humanitarian needs, through the UN mechanism, UNICEF provided 57,667 litres of fuel during the reporting period, which allowed the public and private water wells and desalination plants to produce clean water, benefitting more than 1,326,000 people, including over 670,000 children with lifesaving water for drinking and domestic needs in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis, Rafah, and Middle Area.

Furthermore, UNICEF distributed 7,100 packs of sanitary pads (24 pads each) and 779 hygiene and dignity kits to affected families, benefitting more than 11,700 people, including women and adolescent girls in Rafah.

In response to the dire sanitation services for IDPs in overcrowded shelters, UNICEF, through the UN mechanism², provided fuel to operate one wastewater treatment plant in Rafah, enabling wastewater treatment and safe disposal of sewage, benefitting over 275,000 people, including 140,250 children in Rafah. In addition, 70 mobile latrines were constructed, benefitting more than 2,100 people, including persons with disabilities through installation of emergency latrine add-ons to enhance accessibility.

¹ Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel, Flash Update #119, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-119>

² Through a signed agreement with UNRWA, UNICEF receives fuel to support water service providers in the operation of water and wastewater systems. UNICEF refunds UNRWA for the fuel. This is a UN wide mechanism agreed upon with all parties.

To address solid waste and environmental hygiene needs in the overcrowded shelters, UNICEF continued to support cleaning services at 20 shelters in Rafah and Deir Al Balah, benefiting over 90,000 people, including 46,000 children. Moreover, UNICEF continued to pilot an incentive-based programme at the Al Quds University, where 100 workers are engaged in solid waste management benefitting over 30,000 people, including 16,000 children. In partnership with the WASH Cluster, UNICEF is scaling up WASH service delivery in IDP hosting communities through an integrated package of WASH services.

The WASH Cluster coordinates the response in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through sub-national coordination platforms. UNICEF continues to lead and coordinate the WASH cluster, which has 68 partners. In the Gaza Strip, there are 27 active WASH partners who delivered 7,299m³ of water and constructed 680 latrine units during the week. The WASH cluster has 68 partners.

Health

Attempts to deliver vaccines to the North of the Gaza Strip have not yet been successful due to the ongoing escalation and rejection of the requests for convoys. However, following distribution of vaccines in the South of the Gaza Strip, routine vaccination activities are ongoing at UNRWA-supported health facilities.

Medical supplies such as Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) for children and adolescent health, were delivered to the Ministry of Health (MoH) and partners, with enough supplies for a population of 10,000 people for a period three months delivered to 20 health facilities/locations.

UNICEF participates in the Health Cluster including through technical working groups. Support to frontline health workers and mapping of existing functional facilities have been identified as a priority, to decongest overwhelmed hospitals and to expand the service package.

Nutrition

The Nutrition Cluster continued prepositioning essential nutrition supplies for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, to ensure timely access to life-saving supplies. Partner capacity building was conducted for 36 partner staff members (17 female, 19 male) to enhance capacity mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening for nutrition concerns in the Gaza Strip. Nutrition partners use MUAC screening to identify cases of severe (SAM) and moderate (MAM) acute malnutrition. In recent weeks, six implementing agencies conducted screenings on malnutrition for 4,466 children aged 6 to 59 months using MUAC measurement. Children who were detected with acute malnutrition were referred for treatment using the simplified treatment protocol. According to the analysis published by the Global Nutrition Cluster, which was informed by the data generated by UNICEF through post-distribution monitoring of cash assistance conducted on the 1 February 2024, over 90 per cent of children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women face severe food poverty, eating two or fewer food groups each day. The food they have access to is of the lowest nutritional value.

The nutrition vulnerability analysis plan was presented by the Global Task Force on Nutrition Information Systems in Emergencies (NIS-E) to the Nutrition Cluster partners for endorsement before its publication. The Nutrition Cluster participated in the preparatory meeting for the upcoming Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis and provided inputs on nutrition vulnerability indicators including analysis of the information on malnutrition and mortality.

The Nutrition Cluster in the West Bank initiated discussions with the nutrition department of the Ministry of Health (MoH) on the activation of the Nutrition Cluster in the West Bank.

Child Protection

Amidst the adversities of winter and periods of heavy rain, UNICEF distributed lifesaving winterization items to children in the Gaza Strip (in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir Al-Balah), where Palestinians have experienced repeated displacement and worsening vulnerabilities. Despite the multiple challenges associated with access and logistics, UNICEF remains committed to deliver clothing for children in these critical times. Since 7 October, UNICEF has worked with twelve implementing partners to distribute over 151,000 clothing items tailored differently for children aged newborn to 17 years old.

In the Gaza Strip, since 7 October, UNICEF has advanced with the delivery of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) campaigns. An SMS campaign, aligned with MHPSS objectives, reached over 60,000 individuals in its initial wave. Additionally, UNICEF has provided in-person psychosocial support services for 70,502 people including 57,523 children. Of these, 30,382 children (15,455 girls) including 287 children with disabilities, as well as 5,473 caregivers, received in-person structured psychosocial support services. In addition, UNICEF facilitated specialized psychosocial sessions for 350 children who were either injured or with existing disabilities, aiming to assess and address their specific

needs within the intervention framework. These sessions were tailored to provide targeted support, considering the unique challenges faced by children with injuries or disabilities.

UNICEF's efforts on risk education regarding Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) items involved collaboration with UNMAS to adapt leaflets, resulting in the production of 100,000 copies. Out of these, 20,000 copies have already been distributed in shelters and vulnerable communities. Additionally, a card game designed for shelters and 40,000 copies were reprinted. Furthermore, UNICEF with partners conducted in-person sessions on explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) for 8,642 individuals in shelters and vulnerable communities, which included 4,658 children and 3,984 caregivers.

To date, UNICEF with partners identified 21 unaccompanied children, of which 14 were provided with temporary care options by a UNICEF partner; one child was reunified with family; and the remainder are being assessed for possible placement. A total of 90 separated children identified by UN agencies in shelters are regularly monitored by case/social workers. An orientation on identification, documentation, tracing and reunification (IDTR) for UASC was provided to three national Gaza-based organizations which will be conducting assessments to identify and refer UASC.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF continued to provide primary, secondary and tertiary child protection services to 670 people, including 515 children and adolescents directly and indirectly affected by political and family violence. Services include MHPSS, case management, recreational activities, legal awareness, legal counselling and legal representation, remedial education, and awareness-raising sessions on child rights. Sessions on positive parenting continued to be carried out in key location of the West Bank (in Fawar Camp, Aroub, Biet Skaria, Masafer Yatta, Jayyous), reaching 210 children through 17 sessions and 66 mothers through seven sessions. There were 25 government and CSO child protection staff who continued attending the accredited child protection diploma at Bethlehem University.

UNICEF continues to coordinate the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CPAoR). CPAoR partners have so far reached 228,868 people (206,287 children and 22,581 caregivers) in the Gaza Strip, while 27,523 people (16,523 children and 11,009 caregivers) were reached in the West Bank with specialized child protection services, including MHPSS, winter clothes distribution, case management, awareness raising on EORE and child rights. The UASC Technical Working Group (TWG) delivered sessions on identification and registration to the MHPSS sub-cluster, the Recreational Activities Task Force (under the Education Cluster) and the PSEA Network.

Education

UNICEF with partners continued to support the well-being of children in the Gaza Strip through the provision of recreational activities. Those partners that were able to report, reached 13,186 children since the start of 2024, of whom 7,289 are girls, 5,897 are boys and 492 are children with disabilities. Partners are pre-positioning to integrate informal learning into activities, but security risks and space limitations for safe learning spaces poses a challenge due to the high demand for space for IDP accommodation.

To support the well-being of adolescent girls, UNICEF has distributed Adolescent Girls' Personal Care packages to 3,700 adolescents through women-led organizations. UNICEF has partnered with a consortium of local women-led organizations to support the creation of safer spaces for adolescent girls where they will be reached with information and services that are specific to the needs of adolescents' girls. The distribution of the Adolescent Girls' Personal Care packages is linked to information sharing and recreational activities, including MHPSS adapted to adolescent girls specifically. These care packages not only provide recreational activities to adolescent girls, but also provide items that cannot currently be found on the local market which will help adolescent girls take personal care. The package provides three packs of sanitary pads, underwear, skin wipes, multipurpose cloth, feminine wash, a whistle, a headscarf, the "Laaha¹ MHPSS and GBV Booklet" and the "Adolescent Girls Care Kit Booklet".

In the West Bank, UNICEF continued to support the national education system on the adoption of the Learning Passport platform for children living in hot spot areas who are not able to reach their schools due to security issues, including the adaptation of content for children with disabilities. Moreover, UNICEF continues to finalize potential partnerships to introduce recreational activities and mitigation to the compounded learning loss in the identified areas. UNICEF is also working with the MoE on a national humanitarian response plan for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

¹ Laaha provides information to women and girls on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence as well as where and how to access services when needed. It is the first-ever platform designed by and for women and girls in humanitarian and development settings to address gender-based violence.

Since October 2023, eleven cluster partners have reached more than 135,126 students and teachers¹ with psychosocial support, emergency learning, recreational supplies and activities, and awareness sessions in the Deir al Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah governorates. Most of the cluster response is delivered by local partners.

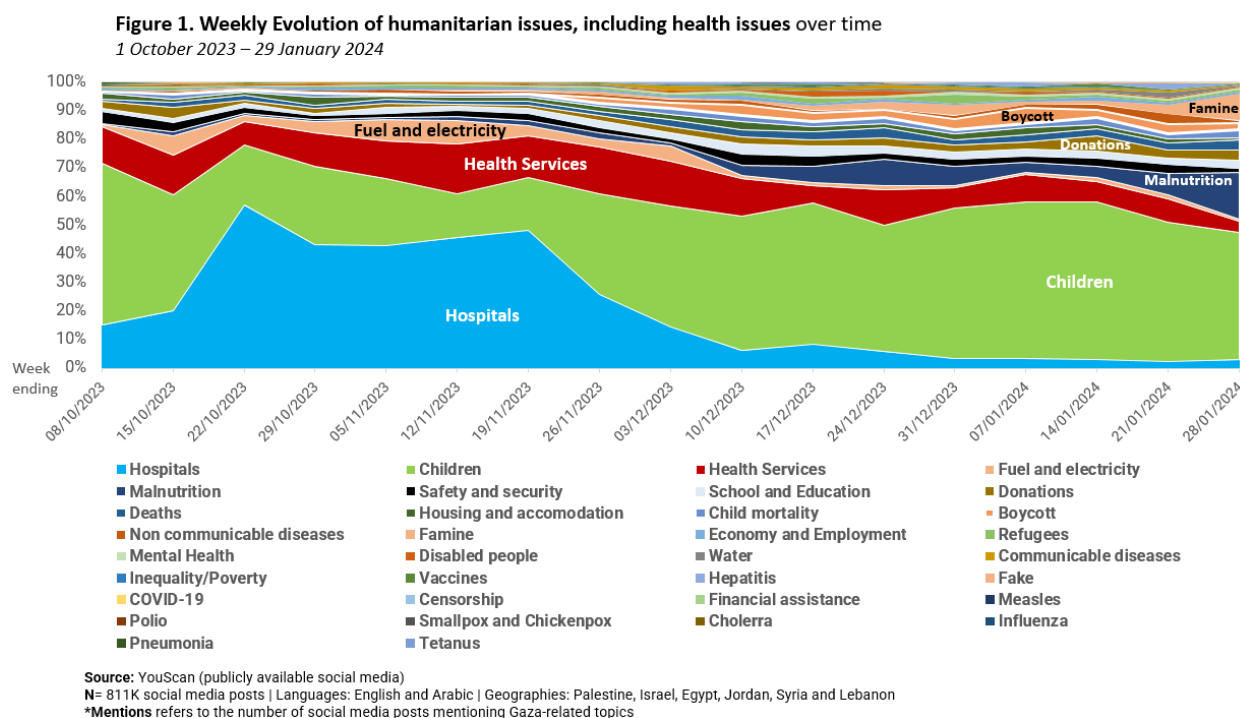
Social Protection

The telecommunications connectivity and network in general continue to be unstable and weak which has created serious challenges for the delivery of cash transfers and conducting of post-distribution monitoring. UNICEF has transferred humanitarian cash assistance to 575,857 people (81,779 households) in the Gaza Strip (almost a quarter of the total population). Of those, 366,509 people (51,700 families, including 174,078 children, 16,195 people with disabilities, and 12,882 female-headed households) were supported with first round multipurpose cash assistance. This represents 53 per cent of all Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) provided in the Gaza Strip. The second round of multi-purpose cash assistance was transferred to 122,316 people (15,574 households). Responding to the growing food insecurity, UNICEF has been providing nutrition top up cash payments since December reaching cumulatively 28,840 pregnant and breastfeeding women, and disability top up cash payments to 5,079 children. These top ups are estimated to benefit a total of 238,282 people. UNICEF also transferred a second round of cash payments to 100 community workers for solid waste management and disposal at Al Quds University.

Social Behaviour Change (SBC)

During the last week of January 2024, the social online discourse surrounding the situation in the Gaza Strip reflected various concerns and narratives. The rise in hepatitis cases amidst the lack of clean water, and the ongoing extremely acute food insecurity in Northern Gaza are the main concerns. As in previous weeks, the lack of functioning hospitals is still a major source of concern and grievance for the public. Palestinian women using tent scraps as sanitary pads is also something that was circulated on the virtual sphere.

The below graphs provide an overview of the discussed and circulated topics on social media regarding the crisis in the Gaza Strip:



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

UNICEF continues efforts to ensure that communities have direct, safe and confidential channels for any complaint or feedback they may have regarding UNICEF and partners' interventions in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and East Jerusalem. Since 7 October, 8,250 pieces of feedback and complaints have been received through feedback channels (the Interagency Hotline, the PSEA network hotline and the UNICEF e-mail). During this reporting period, 2,530 pieces of feedback and complaints were received. Communication and feedback included requests for cash assistance, information inquiries, or issues related to cash redemption, as well as requests for specific products. This feedback is

¹ source: Education Cluster 5W dashboard

analysed including by the UNICEF Humanitarian Cash Transfer team to identify and resolve challenges, as well as to inform the direction of cash programming.

Support from Egypt Coordination Cell

Cumulatively 489 trucks containing UNICEF supplies have crossed into the Gaza Strip from Egypt since 21 October. During the reporting period, a total of 23 trucks with critical emergency supplies have crossed including:

- Ready to Use Infant Formula (RUIF) to cover 4,000 babies for two months¹
- Family hygiene kits to cover 5,000 families (25,000 people)
- Shelter tents and tarpaulins for 500 families
- Sanitary pads for 8,640 adolescents
- Sets of winter clothing for 11,600 children
- Hygiene kits for 1,120 families

Security continues to be a problem at the Rafah and Karem Shalom border crossings, with ongoing hostilities, thereby reducing the quantity of humanitarian aid going into the Gaza Strip.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team and closely coordinates with other organizations and local partners, including women-led organisations. UNICEF also leads the coordination of the WASH and Nutrition Clusters and co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children. Within the Protection Cluster, UNICEF leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility as well as the Technical Working Group on UASC. UNICEF is part of the Inter-Cluster Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group. UNICEF also supports the Inter-Agency Network for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and participates in the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Working Group coordinated by OCHA. UNICEF also actively participates in the Regional and National Gender and Humanitarian Working Group, coordinated by UN Women and OCHA, and contributes to gender equality programming as well as preparedness and response.

Human Interest Stories, External Media and Advocacy

Advocacy - What is UNICEF calling for?

To respond to the situation for children in Israel and the State of Palestine, UNICEF is calling for:

- An immediate and long-lasting humanitarian ceasefire.
- Safe and unrestricted humanitarian access to and within the Gaza Strip to reach affected populations wherever they are, including in the north. All access crossings must be opened including to sufficient fuel, materials needed to run and rehabilitate essential infrastructure, and commercial supplies. Safe movement for humanitarian workers and supplies across the Gaza Strip must be guaranteed and reliable telecommunications networks made available to coordinate response efforts.
- The immediate, safe and unconditional release of all abducted children, and an end to any grave violations against all children, including killing and maiming children.
- Respect and protection for civilian infrastructure such as shelters and schools, and health, electric, water, sanitation and telecommunications facilities, to prevent loss of civilian and children's lives, outbreaks of diseases, and to provide care to the sick and wounded. All parties to the conflict must respect international humanitarian law.
- Urgent medical cases in the Gaza Strip to be able to safely access critical health services or be allowed to leave, and for injured or sick children evacuated to be accompanied by family members.

UNICEF continues to press world leaders on every occasion for an end to the violence and humanitarian access to the whole of the Gaza Strip.

Statements:

- 09.02.2024: [Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell on Rafah, Gaza](#)

Human interest stories:

- [Journey through hell: A family's story of resilience in war-torn Gaza Strip | UNICEF State of Palestine](#)
- [Childhood displaced in Gaza | UNICEF State of Palestine](#)

¹ UNICEF is committed to supporting mothers to exclusively breastfeed their infants to 6 months of age and to continue breastfeeding to age 2 and beyond with appropriate complementary foods. In exceptional circumstances, UNICEF provides breastmilk substitutes, since in an emergency situation some infants are not breastfed or only partially breastfed. These infants are highly vulnerable and require urgent and targeted protection and support given their increased risk of morbidity and mortality.

Social Media:

- [Testimony of Razan, a 11-year-old girl who lost her mother, father, brother and two sisters in a bombardment in Gaza. Razan was injured and had her leg amputated.](#)
- [Grateful for ECHO support to children during these challenging times](#)
- [Rafah, one of the most densely populated areas on earth, teeming with children and families, many displaced by war in Gaza. They have nowhere safe to go](#)
- [Thanks to ECHO for its support to bring warm clothes to displaced children in the Gaza Strip](#)
- [How many more children will suffer and die before this nightmare ends? UNICEF ED Catherine Russell send a message on the situation of children in the Gaza Strip](#)
- [7 days 7 stories. UNICEF's Tess Ingram tells seven stories of people she met in the Gaza Strip. One for each day she was there.](#)
- [Winter temperatures are another threat to children in Gaza](#)
- [More than 1,000 children are reported to have suffered a limb loss because of the bombing, profoundly changing their lives](#)

Next SitRep: 1 March 2024

UNICEF State of Palestine Humanitarian Action for Children 2024 Appeal: www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine

Latest Situation Reports are available on: www.unicef.org/sop/research-and-reports

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Annex A - Summary of Programme Results (Gaza Strip and West Bank)¹

Sector / Indicator	UNICEF			CLUSTER		
	Total Target	Cumulative Result	% Progress	Total Target	Cumulative Result	% Progress
WASH						
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs ²	2,050,000	1,326,000	65%	2,426,544	2,100,000	87%
# of people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services	1,350,000	495,187	37%	2,426,544	759,827	31%
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)	1,050,000	438,688	42%			
Health						
# of people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies ³	780,000	515,785	66%			
# of high risks pregnant women who benefited from medical assistance in Gaza	50,000	5,030	10%			
Nutrition⁴						
# of pregnant women receiving preventative iron folate or multiple micronutrients supplementation	166,686	21,000	13%	197,858	21,000	11%
# of children 6-59 months receiving preventative lipid-based supplements, micronutrients supplementation, and high energy biscuits	311,189	36,866	12%	371,859	62,623	17%
# of Infants 0-6 months receiving RUIF ⁵	16,415	5,856	36%	23,551	5,856	24%
# of children 0-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	6,813	0	0%	6,813	0	0%
Child Protection⁶						
# of children and caregivers affected by conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support	596,453 children 255,623 caregivers	66,764 21,017	11% 8%	710,000	72,085*	10%
# of children receiving explosive weapons-related risk education	504,925	4,658 ⁷	1%			
# of children reached with winterization items (including blankets)	275,000	151,209	55%			
Education						
# of affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being ⁸	55,000	63,443	115%	529,084	125,908	24%
# of school aged children provided with essential education in emergency learning materials	315,500	160	0.1% ⁹	438,286	53,334	12%
Social Protection						
# of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers ¹⁰	35,000	81,779	234%			

Note: # of children reached with MHPSS by Cluster has been revised downward due to double counting in previously reported numbers.

¹ The Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for October to December 2023 was revised on 5 January and has been carried over to cover March 2024 inclusive. Accordingly, also the results against the indicators were carried over into 2024.

² As interventions support the same population over time, UNICEF reports the maximum number of people reached each week to avoid double counting, based on the water production and trucking.

³ This result is calculated based upon the distribution of Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to health facilities and partner reports.

⁴ The result for the treatment of wasting will be updated as partners' report the treatment of children, but due to communications challenges these reports are not yet received.

⁵ UNICEF is committed to supporting mothers to exclusively breastfeed their infants up to 6 months of age and to continue breastfeeding to age 2 and beyond with appropriate complementary foods. In exceptional circumstances, UNICEF provides breastmilk substitutes, as some infants are not breastfed or only partially breastfed during emergencies. These infants are highly vulnerable and require urgent and targeted support given their increased risk of morbidity and mortality.

⁶ CP indicators and targets are linked to quality reach, and it is difficult to implement some activities (e.g. MHPSS level 2 and 3 interventions) during active hostilities. CPAoR partners reached a cumulative of 220,132 children with MHPSS as of 15 January 2024. Results are being updated.

⁷ 2,926 girls, 1,732 boys

⁸ The cumulative result indicates 33,557 girls, 29,886 boys and 1,252 children with disabilities.

⁹ As most of UNRWA and public schools are now being used as emergency shelters, no learning activities have taken place since 7 October. Also, UNICEF does not count children who benefited through recreational kits as a result under emergency learning materials indicator. The kits are utilized for recreational activities and thus the service delivery is reported under the recreational activity indicator.

¹⁰ Reach with humanitarian cash transfers is reported based upon households which have received messages to redeem their cash. The response exceeds the target as the programme revised the initial strategy and has only delivered one round of transfers as compared to three rounds in the plan, with some households receiving second transfers in recent weeks. Furthermore, UNICEF has partially funded the response through loans which are not reflected in the Funding Status table.

Annex B - Funding Status¹

Sector	Revised Requirements (USD)	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received	Other resources used for the escalation	Resources available from 2022 (Carry-over)	US\$	%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	53,388,850	37,879,991	93,972	629,647	14,785,240	28%
Health	30,002,940	23,426,114	930,625	234,764	5,411,437	18%
Nutrition	19,301,862	11,307,654	0	0	7,994,208	41%
Child Protection	13,988,270	14,913,782	0	462,963	0	0%
Education	12,469,331	6,086,320	52,000	1,142,966	5,188,045	42%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	33,862,858	25,284,392	0	727,084	7,851,382	23%
Cross-Sectoral (PSEA, AAP)	1,544,143	1,554,777	0	50,146	0	0%
Cluster Coordination	3,760,027	3,510,328	220,000	29,000	699	0%
Total	168,318,281	123,963,358	1,296,597	3,276,570	41,231,012	24%

**All amounts include weighted cross-sectoral costs and cost recovery.*

**Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) are integrated under each programme.*

**Child protection has received more funding than requested in the HAC, and therefore has a 0-funding gap. This over-funding for CP is largely due to the increased winterisation response, which will be reflected in an update to the HAC.*

¹ This reflects the updated HAC which was issued on 6 January 2024 with a revision to the funding requirements for Child Protection and Nutrition. A further revision to the HAC is ongoing to respond to the escalating needs. The funding gap by section (\$ and %) reflects only the sections which are not fully funded, while the overall gap reflects the total funding received against the total funds requirement.