

UNICEF State of Palestine

Winterization 2026 - 2027

Preparing for the Winter in Gaza

October 2026 - March 2027

For hundreds of thousands of Palestinian children, winter is not simply a seasonal hardship. It can become a life-threatening emergency.

In the Gaza Strip, nearly **84 per cent of the population, more than 1.76 million people, continue to live in overcrowded displacement sites or damaged and inadequate shelters**, with little protection from cold temperatures, heavy rain and flooding. These conditions expose children to hypothermia, respiratory infections waterborne diseases and other preventable illnesses, while repeated flooding further disrupts access to health care, safe water and essential services, heightening the risk of spread of respiratory infections and other diseases.

In the West Bank, escalating displacement, movement restrictions and the deepening fiscal crisis are further reducing the ability of vulnerable families to cope with winter conditions, leaving displaced and vulnerable children increasingly exposed to cold weather risks.

Infants, young children and children with pre-existing health conditions are particularly at risk. During the last winter in Gaza, at least 11 children, including infants, reportedly died from hypothermia. Without urgent preparation and early action, children already weakened by displacement, malnutrition and repeated illness will face another winter in extremely dangerous conditions.

CHILDREN TO
BE REACHED

540,000



FUNDING
REQUIREMENTS

US\$97.5M



FUNDING IS NEEDED NOW

Regional instability is disrupting manufacturing, shipping and transport, with lead times of up to six months for some winter supplies. UNICEF urgently needs funding to begin advance procurement at scale.

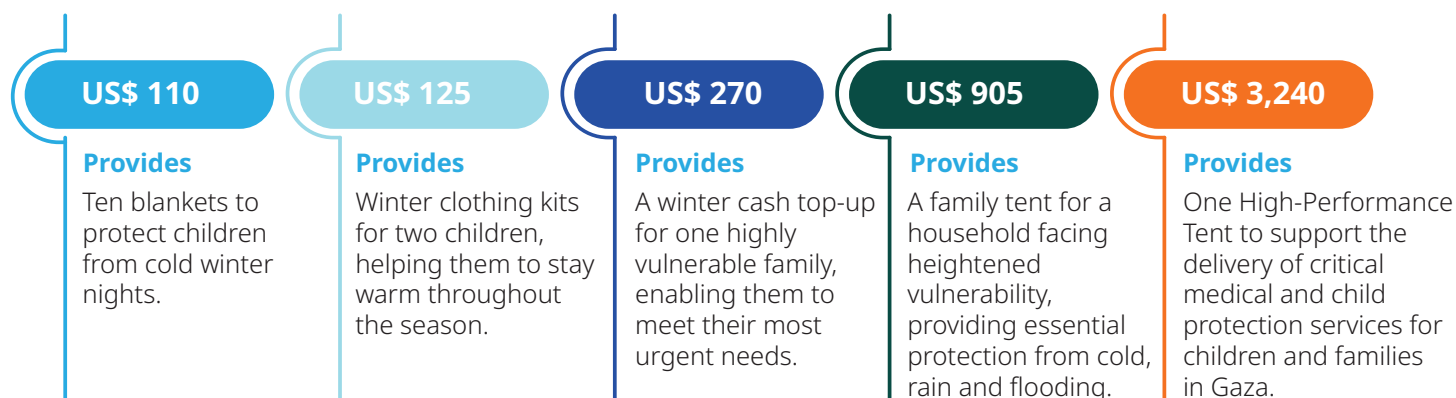
Delays in funding will directly delay support to children, with essential clothing, blankets, tents and shelter materials potentially arriving only after temperatures have fallen and flooding has begun. Early funding is therefore critical to reserve production capacity, secure transport and pre-position supplies before access conditions deteriorate further.

UNICEF's Winter Response aims to reach **540,000 children** and their families across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, prioritizing those affected by displacement, inadequate shelter, flooding, cold exposure and disruption of essential services.

UNICEF requires **US\$ 97.5 million** to deliver an integrated package of life-saving winter support, including:

- **Winter clothing for 500,000 children in Gaza**, helping them stay warm and reducing exposure to cold-related illness.
- **500,000 thermal blankets** for children and families, providing essential protection from cold temperatures, particularly at night.
- **Emergency Shelter Reinforcement:**
 - **235,000 plastic tarpaulins** to protect shelters from rain, wind and damp.
 - **3,000 High Performance Tents** to enable the continued delivery of critical services during winter; and
 - **15,000 family tents** for the most vulnerable households identified through child protection and other vulnerability-based referral mechanisms.
- **Digital cash assistance for 10,000 highly vulnerable families**, enabling them to purchase priority winter items according to their most urgent needs.
- **Flood mitigation and emergency WASH support** including the clearance of roads and drainage channels, emergency de-watering, solid waste removal and measures to reduce the risk of contaminated floodwater and disease outbreaks.
- **Winter health, hygiene and safety messaging** helping families recognize and prevent hypothermia, respiratory illness, unsafe heating practices and other winter-related risks.

Your Impact



Proven impact from last winter:

During the last winter, UNICEF delivered a large-scale response across Gaza, providing critical support to families with children:

- 1 Close to **1 million thermal blankets** were delivered across Gaza;
- 2 Approximately **330,000 children** received winter clothing.
- 3 **380,000 plastic tarpaulins** were delivered to help families reinforce shelters against rain, wind and damp.
- 4 **5,000 families** with highly vulnerable children, representing approximately **30,000 people**, received family tents to protect them from severe winter conditions.
- 5 **100,000 families**, including approximately **600,000 children under 10**, received digital cash top-ups to help meet urgent winter needs.

Building on the scale and lessons of the 2025-2026 response, UNICEF will further strengthen support for newborns, adolescents, children with disabilities and families living in the most vulnerable conditions.

UNICEF's response is guided by accountability to affected populations, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and inclusive programming to ensure that assistance is safe, dignified and accessible to those most at risk.



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Component	Children	Families	Total (USD)*
Winter clothing for children (0-18)	500,000		31,272,000
Blankets	500,000		3,341,250
Plastic tarpaulins (all families with children)	500,000	235,000	6,662,250
Mattresses	30,000		552,420
Family tents (extremely vulnerable large families with children)	90,000	15,000	13,567,500
High Performance Tents (HPT) for the provision of critical services (48sqm)			9,720,000
Digital Cash for Winterization	30,000	10,000	8,434,530
Water and sanitation equipment and supplies for drainage clearance and stormwater runoff management, and weatherproofing of temporary latrines	540,000	90,000	16,200,000
Engagement with Communities for risk prevention	350,000	125,000	500,000
Sub Total			90,249,950
UNICEF indirect programme support costs (8%)			7,219,996
Total			97,469,946

* Total Costs of each activity include 35% for transportation (no additional costs for Engagement with Communities; 5.3% handling fee for Digital Cash).

