



A Grade 6 student stands by the remains of a destroyed school in the West Bank, where attacks on education disrupt children's right to learn. © UNICEF-SoP/2026

West Bank

Situation Update and Humanitarian Response

UNICEF State of Palestine

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NO SAFE ROUTE TO CHILDHOOD: HOMES, SCHOOLS AND WATER ARE NO LONGER SAFE FOR CHILDREN IN THE WEST BANK, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM

West Bank Situation Update

- Across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, demolitions, settler violence and related access restrictions have displaced an average of **17 people, including eight children, per day in 2026** so far, double the daily average recorded over the preceding three years.¹
- From 1 January to 30 September 2026, **91 Palestinians, including 24 children**, were reported killed by Israeli forces or settlers, and more than **2,100 Palestinians, including 275 children**, were injured by Israeli forces or settlers across the West Bank. From 7 October 2023 to 9 September 2026, at least **1,216 Palestinians, including 263 children**, were killed, while at least **13,300 Palestinians, including 2,186 children**, were injured.
- Settler attacks have become a leading cause of injuries to Palestinians in the West Bank, accounting for **55 per cent of all recorded injuries to Palestinians in 2026**.²
- **Education is increasingly at risk: 84 schools in Area C and East Jerusalem** remain under pending demolition or stop-work orders, threatening continued access to education for thousands of children.²
- Violence and economic hardship in the West Bank affect **more than 800,000 people** who require healthcare, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support.
- Around **140,000 children** across the West Bank, including in refugee camps, face barriers to accessing education.³

Impact on Children and Families

Children across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are growing up amid an increasingly coercive environment in which violence, demolitions, displacement, settlement expansion and movement restrictions are affecting the places and services that should protect them.

Homes, schools, water systems and routes to essential services are increasingly exposed to damage, disruption or restricted access. These pressures shape whether a family can remain in their home, whether a child can reach school safely, whether an ambulance can pass, and whether a community can continue to access safe water.

Repeated displacement is weakening family resilience and deepening children's exposure to protection risks. Between 1 January and 30 September 2026, more than **2,600 Palestinians, including over 1,200 children**, were displaced in the context of settler attacks and related access restrictions.⁴ In northern West Bank refugee camps, more than **34,000 Palestine refugees**, including **12,000 children**, displaced from Jenin, Tulkarm and Nur Shams refugee camps since early 2025 continue to face significant shelter needs, while funding shortfalls limit the ability of partners to scale up assistance.

Access barriers are also affecting children's health, learning and daily routines. On 5 July, a four-month-old Palestinian infant requiring emergency medical care died while his family waited at an iron gate at one of the entrances to Deir 'Ammar village, west of Ramallah, which had been closed by Israeli forces. An ambulance called to transfer the infant to hospital was prevented from entering the village, and the family's private vehicle was not permitted to pass through the gate. The father was also not allowed to carry his infant son through the gate on foot. The infant was later transferred to hospital, where his death was declared.

Access to medical treatment is constrained by attacks on health care. According to WHO, **125 attacks on health care** were recorded in the West Bank between **1 January and 9 September 2026**, affecting health facilities, transport, personnel, patients and supplies.⁵

Education is similarly under pressure: six UNRWA schools in Jenin and Nur Shams refugee camps remain inaccessible, six UNRWA schools in East Jerusalem remain closed, and 84 schools remain under threat of demolition or subject to stop-work orders, placing about **13,000 students** at risk of losing access to education.⁶

Between 1 January and 30 September 2026, 232 incidents involving settler attacks and demolitions affected WASH structures across the West Bank. These comprised 146 settler-related incidents affecting 216 WASH structures and 86 demolition incidents affecting 148 WASH structures. Damage to WASH infrastructure is also increasing **pressure on families**, particularly in Bedouin and herding communities where the loss of water tanks, networks, cisterns and household connections to water-supply systems increases reliance on emergency water trucking and limits water for domestic use and livestock. Increasing **damage to water infrastructure** and **restrictions on access** are undermining water security in vulnerable communities, forcing families to rely on costly and unsustainable coping mechanisms while increasing risks to children's health and well-being. Reduced access to safe water and sanitation can affect children's health, dignity, nutrition and school attendance, while damage to water assets and limited access to water services can undermine livelihoods, increase pressure on vulnerable households and contribute to conditions that may force families to leave their communities. Repeated displacement and service disruption place additional burdens on caregivers, contribute to protection concerns and weaken family and community resilience.

UNICEF'S RESPONSE IN THE WEST BANK, 1 JANUARY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

As violence, displacement and access restrictions continue to disrupt children's lives across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF has maintained a **continuous, adaptive response** in high-risk and hard-to-access areas. Working with national authorities and local partners, UNICEF focuses on **protecting children affected by violence and grave violations, sustaining essential services, and strengthening family and community resilience**.



Child Protection in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- UNICEF scaled up **integrated child protection services** in high-risk communities affected by militarised operations, grave violations, detention, settler violence, demolitions and displacement, reaching **54,898 children** and **27,009 adults** with protection support.
- **MHPSS services** reached **19,133 children** and **18,859 caregivers**, including **165 children with disabilities**; **459 counsellors** completed Training of Trainers on Tamenni Annak to extend mental health support to frontline workers assisting children.
- **Structured individual and group activities for psychosocial wellbeing** engaged **2,388 children** and **1,309 caregivers**, providing safe spaces for emotional expression, peer connection and positive coping skills.
- **Child protection awareness sessions** reached **20,567 children** and **4,920 caregivers** with protection messages, while **4,548 children** and **494 caregivers** participated in EORE activities.
- Interventions strengthened **family- and community-based protective mechanisms** and timely, coordinated support for children exposed to repeated violence and displacement in hotspot areas.



WASH Response in the West Bank including East Jerusalem

- UNICEF sustained access to safe water for communities affected by displacement, infrastructure damage and movement restrictions, providing **15,858 m³ of trucked water to 9,029 people, including 3,738 children**. Pipes, household tanks and pre-positioned WASH materials also improved water access for **32,345 people, including 15,100 children**.
- UNICEF provided **112 family and disability-sensitive latrines** for displaced and vulnerable families affected by demolitions and settler violence, benefiting **551 people, including 235 children**.
- UNICEF completed rehabilitation of a critical wastewater network in Jenin, helping restore essential sanitation services for approximately **15,000 people** and reducing public health and environmental risks associated with prolonged service disruption.
- **Solid waste and hygiene support** included **470 waste containers** benefiting more than **5,000 people**, including **2,488 children**, and **3,053 hygiene kits** for approximately **14,010 recently displaced people, including 6,620 children**.
- UNICEF combined **life-saving WASH assistance** with infrastructure rehabilitation, preparedness and service restoration to strengthen local WASH systems and reduce reliance on emergency support.



Education Response in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- UNICEF supported **remedial learning programmes** for **80,549 children** in hotspot areas, helping mitigate learning loss caused by school disruptions, insecurity and access barriers.

- **Structured recreational and learning-through-play activities** reached **52,766 children**, supporting well-being and continued engagement in contexts of prolonged stress.
- **85,933 individual stationery kits** were distributed to children in vulnerable communities, enabling continued learning where access to basic materials remains constrained.
- UNICEF piloted **interactive digital learning content** through the *Learning Passport* and supported **MoEHE contingency planning** to strengthen preparedness, emergency response and early recovery.
- **Emergency education responses** were activated through the **Education Cluster** in hotspot areas, including **Shallal al-Ouja, southern Hebron and the Jordan Valley**.
- **Disability-inclusive education and school furniture** support included assistive devices, shadow teachers and furniture benefiting **1,261 children in 32 schools** across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.



Health Response in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- UNICEF reached **1,828 children with disabilities**. Within this overall group, **542 children** received rehabilitation assessments to identify their individual needs, **191 children** received rehabilitation sessions, and **63 children** were provided with prosthetic or orthotic devices based on assessed needs. As some children received more than one type of support, these service figures are not additive.
- UNICEF procured and delivered **health supplies** to the Ministry of Health, benefiting more than **20,000 patients**.
- **Cold chain support** included **27 solar-driven vaccine freezers** and **60 solar-powered vaccine refrigerators**, alongside a **Cold Chain Gap Analysis** to assess capacity, infrastructure, temperature monitoring, stock management, logistics and workforce needs.
- UNICEF delivered and installed **20 generators** in **20 PHC facilities** in **Jenin and Tulkarem**, safeguarding vaccine cold chains and emergency services for **200,000 people**, including **41 per cent children**.
- **Solarisation of 16 PHC facilities** across ten governorates ensured uninterrupted services for more than **15,000 children and caregivers**, with three additional facilities planned to extend coverage to **30,000 more people**.
- **Mobile health clinics** provided integrated health and nutrition services, including maternal, newborn and child health and integrated management of childhood illness, to **ten marginalised communities** in Nablus and Jenin, reaching **12,162 people**, including **2,632 children**, with expansion planned to **five additional communities** in the Jordan Valley.
- Through the rapid response mechanism, UNICEF delivered **174 baby kits** to **174 households** with children under two years old and pregnant or breastfeeding women.



Social Protection Response in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- Between **1 January and 30 September 2026**, UNICEF expanded **cash-based interventions** to address displacement, protection, WASH and education needs, reaching more than **52,000 people**, including **27,700 children**, across **9,000 households**.
- **Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance** supported **19,000 individuals** from **3,500 families**, including **11,300 children**, helping families meet urgent needs amid movement restrictions and lost livelihoods.
- Through the **Rapid Response Mechanism**, **430 individuals** from **70 families**, including **218 children**, received child-focused emergency grants within **72 hours** of displacement linked to settler violence or militarised operations.
- More than **4,900 frontline workers** received support, helping sustain essential education services and continued access to learning.
- UNICEF's cash programme operates within a **shock-responsive social protection framework** with **UNRWA**, the **Ministry of Social Development** and the **Cash Working Group**, reinforcing humanitarian-development linkages.
- UNICEF provided **technical support to national authorities**, finalising an **intersectoral budget analysis** and a **qualitative study** on the impact of escalation on children to inform evidence-based policy and response.
- **AAP hotline support** processed **182 West Bank cases** related to UNICEF's cash transfer programme.



UNICEF's Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- **UNICEF's Rapid Response Mechanism** continued to provide first-line emergency assistance within **24–72 hours** of displacement alerts, helping newly displaced families meet urgent needs.
- The RRM package included **hygiene kits, dignity kits, baby kits and recreational/learning kits**, followed by unrestricted cash assistance through a child grant.
- In the first nine months of 2026, the RRM was activated **15 times** across **seven governorates**, reaching **375 households** and **2,061 people**, including **1,034 children**.

STORY: CHILDREN SEEKING SAFETY AMID ESCALATING VIOLENCE

For children in the West Bank, the places that should feel safest – home, school and the walk between them – are increasingly marked by fear. In Qaryut, nine-year-old Lina says she no longer feels safe anywhere in her village after the killing of her father and repeated violence. UNICEF-supported psychosocial and education programmes are helping children like Lina and Malak find moments of stability, learning and play amid escalating settler violence, displacement and access restrictions.



Malak, 8, shares a moment of laughter with friends during a UNICEF-supported psychosocial and learning programme in her village, where children affected by violence can play, learn and feel safe. © UNICEF-SoP/2026/Ahmad Talat

Across 90 marginalised communities, UNICEF and partners provide safe learning spaces where children can continue their education, express distress, reconnect with peers and rebuild routines disrupted by violence. These spaces cannot remove the insecurity children face, but they offer something urgently needed: a protected doorway back to childhood – a place where children can learn, laugh and recover, even when the route to safety has become dangerously uncertain. *More details [here](#).*

WHAT UNICEF IS CALLING FOR

UNICEF calls on authorities to fulfil their obligations to:

- **Protect Palestinian children** and uphold their right to life in line with international law, including by ensuring transparent and robust accountability when children are killed or maimed, taking effective action to deter further violence, and ensuring humanitarian access and medical attention to the wounded.
- **Minimise the detention of children** and uphold the rights of every child deprived of liberty in line with international juvenile justice standards and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including by ending the administrative detention of children and preventing violence, ill-treatment and violations of due process.
- **Uphold children's right to education** by ensuring safe access for students and teachers, protecting schools and education personnel from attacks, ending demolitions of schools, and adopting the Safe Schools Declaration across all areas.
- **Sustain essential frontline services for children** by enabling predictable, multi-year financing for public authorities, cluster partners and community-led initiatives to support teachers and other essential frontline workers, including child protection, MHPSS, social service and health care staff, particularly where payrolls are disrupted.
- **Protect water and sanitation infrastructure** by preventing damage or interference, enabling timely approvals for essential WASH rehabilitation works, and facilitating safe access to water and sanitation services for displaced and at-risk communities, particularly in Area C and the Jordan Valley.

FUNDING NEEDS

UNICEF's [Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\) appeal for 2026](#) requires USD 746.8 million to meet the urgent needs of children and their families in 2026. As of end-September, 46 per cent of the appeal is funded. UNICEF urgently requires an additional USD 400.9 million in 2026 to scale up life-saving assistance.

	Funding Needs	Funding Received*	Funding Gap
All sectors	USD 746.8 million (100%)	USD 345.9 million (46%)	USD 400.9 million (54%)

*Funding received includes funds received in 2026 and carry forward from 2025. New funding received in 2026 amounts to USD 209.6 million for all sectors.

For additional information, please refer to UNICEF's reports [here](#). For further inquiries, please contact:

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¹ OCHA Humanitarian Situation Report, 31 July 2026, <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/opt-humanitarian-situation-report-31-july-2026>.

² OCHA Humanitarian Situation Report, 16 July 2026, <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/opt-humanitarian-situation-report-16-july-2026>.

³ UNICEF Humanitarian Action Appeal for Children 2026, Revision 1, 2 February 2026, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/unicef-humanitarian-action-appeal-for-children-2026-state-of-palestine-revision-1-february-2026/>.

⁴ OCHA Humanitarian Situation Report, 4 September 2026, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-4-september-2026>.

⁵ Health Cluster Dashboard, "Health Attacks" tab, reported as of 1 August 2026, available through the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) dashboards portal, <https://www.emro.who.int/opt/information-resources/dashboards.html>.

⁶ OCHA Humanitarian Situation Report, 11 July 2026, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-10-july-2026>.