



Ahmad, 10, sits at a school desk in a school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. The school, in Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip, was turned into a shelter.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

State of Palestine

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- Between 7 October and 20 November 2023, the conflict escalation in the Gaza Strip caused severe humanitarian consequences, and at least 12,700 Palestinians, including more than 5,350 children, have been reported killed since the start of hostilities.²
- More than 80 per cent of the population of the Gaza Strip – 1.8 million people – is internally displaced³ and faces a calamitous humanitarian situation. The population's access to basic necessities such as water, electricity and health services is severely limited.
- UNICEF is providing immediate life-saving assistance in the Gaza Strip, supporting conflict-affected and displaced people through supply delivery, partners and remote service provision. Since 21 October, UNICEF has rapidly procured and distributed life-saving supplies cross-border through Egypt, and is among the top five aid organizations moving supplies from Egypt into Gaza. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF is scaling up humanitarian preparedness and addressing immediate needs.
- UNICEF requires \$154.4 million for its response in the State of Palestine to sustain gender-responsive WASH, health, child protection and education services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and fund multipurpose cash assistance.⁴

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



780,000

people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies and services



504,900

children provided with explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance



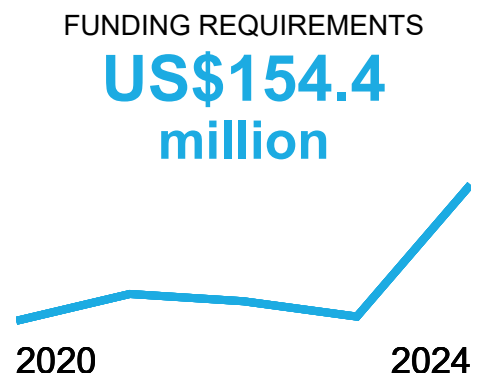
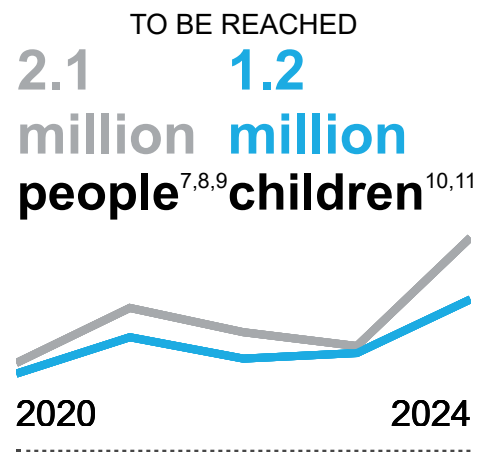
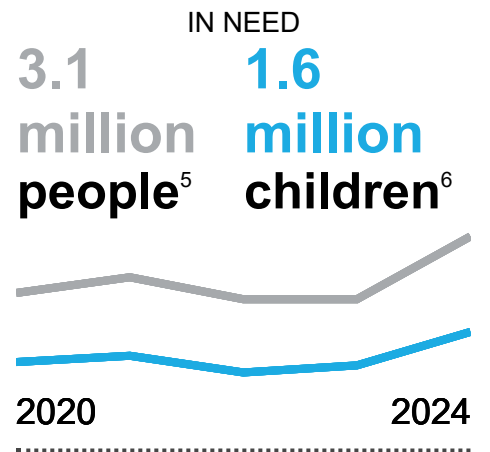
2.1 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



35,000

households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers



Figures are provisional and subject to further revision as the situation evolves and in accordance with the inter-agency planning process for 2024.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

An estimated 3.1 million people require humanitarian assistance in the State of Palestine, 2.2 million in the Gaza Strip and 900,000 in the West Bank.¹² The Gaza Strip has tragically witnessed the loss of thousands of children and women, and the escalation of conflict which began on 7 October compounds the protracted protection crisis there.

Following intensive bombardments, according to the Ministry of Health, as of 20 November, 12,700 Palestinians, including 5,350 children, had been killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities. Among other impacts, this has resulted in an estimated additional 2,056 female-headed households. An additional 30,000 Palestinians are reportedly injured, including more than 8,663 children. The situation of internally displaced people is catastrophic: an estimated 1.8 million internally displaced people are residing in shelters run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and in hospitals, public buildings, non-UNRWA schools and with host families.^{13,14}

The Gaza Strip faces an almost complete electricity blackout. According to the Palestinian Water Authority, the current water production capacity has been reduced to between 4 and 40 per cent of the normal daily production, leading people to consume unsafe water and limiting access to WASH services, especially concerning for children and adolescent girls.

From 7 October to 28 November, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 203 health attacks in the Gaza Strip and 224 in the West Bank.¹⁵ Access to essential health services, including emergency obstetric care and newborn care, is severely limited, particularly for women and girls. Before the conflict, the State of Palestine faced a high burden of mental health issues: according to WHO, more than 485,000 people (including children) with severe or moderate mental health disorders were reported in the Gaza Strip. Since the escalation, 625,000 children have been unable to access education, with 246 attacks on schools.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is also experiencing increased violence, particularly in the context of the operations of Israeli forces and resulting confrontations. As of 29 November, at least 232 Palestinians had been reported killed since October 7, including 64 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 sources report that at least 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, and according to Israeli authorities, 240 Israelis were abducted into the Gaza Strip, including around 35 children.

SECTOR NEEDS^{16,17}



2.8 million
people in need of
health assistance



600,000
women and children in
need of nutrition
services



1.2 million
children in need of
child protection
services



700,000
children in need of
education support



2.9 million
people lack access to
safe water

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Children and families have practically no access to water, food and medicines. The whole Gaza Strip is living with very little or no electricity. With no alternative, families are sleeping in corridors and classrooms of schools and other facilities provided for people seeking refuge. People have left their homes, even though they know there is no safe place in the Gaza Strip.

Sileen, a young girl, summed up the feelings of many as she sat in front of a classroom at Al-Shati school, which was turned into a shelter: "I do not like it here, it is crowded, I just want to go home."

[Read more about this story here](#)

Palestinian families collect mattresses, covers and pillows to spend another night in one of the UNRWA schools used as shelter during the escalation in the Gaza Strip.

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

In the Gaza Strip, given conflict injuries, the precarious water situation, overcrowding and the risk of disease outbreaks, the priority areas are WASH, health and child protection services. UNICEF is also scaling up 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 as well as basic needs, and to bring a sense of normalcy for conflict-affected children, their families and communities.

Given access constraints and insecurity, UNICEF is utilizing a range of programme delivery strategies, including support to existing health, water and sanitation systems. Strategies include cross-border emergency supply delivery: since 21 October, UNICEF has acted swiftly to procure and distribute life-saving supplies through Egypt, and is among the top five aid organizations moving supplies from Egypt into Gaza. In addition to these cross-border efforts, UNICEF is utilizing humanitarian cash transfers; social and behaviour change; and remote service provision. UNICEF has also mobilized partners – including non-governmental organizations and women-led organizations within the Gaza Strip – to support emergency programme delivery.

In 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 throughout UNICEF humanitarian interventions, including the integration of gender-based violence considerations into child protection case management and through partnership with women-led and girl-centred organizations. 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.

UNICEF is an active member of the United Nations Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team and closely coordinates with other organizations, including local partners. 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 and participates in the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility. UNICEF is part of the Inter-Cluster Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group. For accountability to affected populations and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, UNICEF works closely with World Food Programme and a national non-governmental organization 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

- **5,842** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **155,134** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **780,000** people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies and services



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

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



Education

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



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **2,050,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **1,100,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies²⁴
- **1,350,000** people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services



Social protection

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

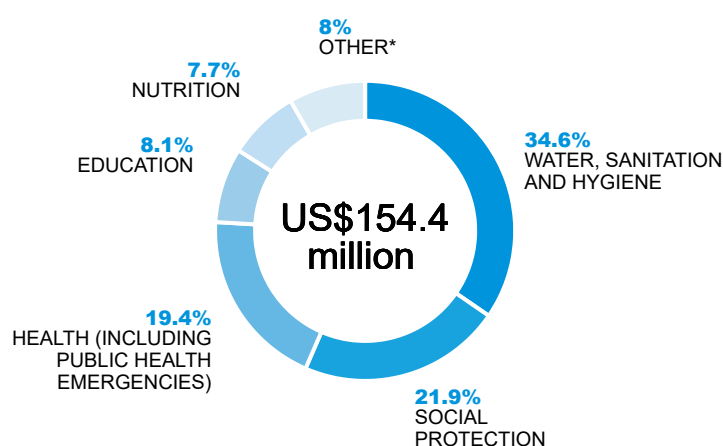
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF requires \$154.4 million²⁵ to respond to urgent humanitarian needs in the State of Palestine. This funding will allow UNICEF to deliver immediate gender-responsive life-saving and protection interventions in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene; health; nutrition; child protection; multipurpose cash; and education services.

In the immediate aftermath of the October escalation, UNICEF reprogrammed available funds and mobilized additional internal funds, including flexible global humanitarian thematic funding. UNICEF has also received funding from the internal Emergency Response Fund and exceptionally frontloaded resources from an internal capital loan. This upfront commitment of resources made a difference for children, and we are asking donors to join us as we continue delivering agile, results-oriented – and above all life-saving – assistance for children and families.

Humanitarian funding in 2024 will allow UNICEF to procure life-saving supplies and support essential services. The funding requirements 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 via the cross-border operation at the Rafah border crossing in Egypt, and for pre-positioning within the West Bank.

Without this funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the immediate needs of 2.1 million people (1.2 million children), including in the Gaza Strip, where people are living with minimum quantities of water with a health system on the verge of collapse, and where children urgently need mental health and psychosocial support. In addition, without this funding, UNICEF will not be able to strengthen preparedness and response for a worsening humanitarian situation facing children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.



Sector	2024 requirements (US\$) ^{26,27}
Health (including public health emergencies)	30,002,940
Nutrition	11,897,862
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	7,488,270 ²⁸
Education	12,469,331
Water, sanitation and hygiene	53,388,850
Social protection	33,862,858
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	1,544,143 ²⁹
Cluster coordination	3,760,027 ³⁰
Total	154,414,281

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child protection, GBViE and PSEA (4.8%), Cluster coordination (2.4%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (1.0%).

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ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF activated its Corporate Emergency Level 3 Scale-up Procedure for the State of Palestine for the following period: 21 October 2023 – 20 April 2024. UNICEF Emergency Procedures are activated to ensure a timely and effective response to all crises. The emergency procedures provide a tailored package of mandatory actions and simplifications required for all offices responding to Level 3, Level 2 and Level 1 humanitarian situations.
2. UNICEF, State of Palestine Humanitarian Situation Report no. 8 (Escalation), 29 November 2023.
3. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel – Flash update no. 58, 3 December 2023.
4. All figures are provisional for 2024 and will be subject to further revision as the situation warrants, and in line with the 2024 inter-agency appeal process for State of Palestine.
5. Inter-agency planning figures in OCHA, Flash Appeal: Occupied Palestinian Territory – October – December 2023 (First revision, November 2023).
6. The total number of children in need is estimated based on the demographic ratio of children, which is 46.9 per cent in the Gaza Strip and 47.6 per cent in the West Bank (source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and OCHA), applied to the 2.2 million people in need in Gaza and 900,000 people in need in the West Bank, respectively.
7. The total number of people to be reached is calculated based on the following programme targets: in the Gaza Strip, 1.8 million people provided with access to water; in the West Bank, 280,000 children reached with medical supplies and 42,000 pregnant and lactating women receiving iron supplementation. Gender disaggregation is 50.7 per cent male, 49.3 per cent female and 2.1 per cent people living with disability and difficulties, as per the 2017 Palestinian Census.
8. The number of people to be reached is provisional and is subject to revision based on the evolving situation and humanitarian needs.
9. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
10. 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 (using a ratio of 51.9 per cent children, per PCBS and OCHA); in the West Bank, 280,000 children to be reached with medical supplies.
11. The number of children to be reached is provisional and subject to further revision based on evolving situation and humanitarian needs.
12. These numbers are provisional inter-agency planning figures and subject to revision based on updates to the OCHA Flash Appeal: Occupied Palestinian Territory – October – December 2023.
13. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Facts and figures: Women and girls during the war in Gaza, Updated as of 23 November 2023.
14. OCHA, Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel – Flash update no. 58, 3 December 2023.
15. World Health Organization (WHO), Emergency Situation Report, issue no. 15, as of 29 November 2023, 18:00, WHO, 3 December 2023.
16. Inter-agency planning figures in OCHA, Flash Appeal: Occupied Palestinian Territory – October – December 2023 (First revision, November 2023).
17. All 2024 population in need figures are provisional and subject to further revision as the situation evolves and in accordance with the inter-agency planning process for 2024.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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, strengthened safe spaces for women and girls where they can access life-saving multilayered and multi-sectoral support in coordination with community-based initiatives, with gender-based violence risk mitigation integrated throughout the response strategy.
21. This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.
22. All 2024 programme targets are provisional and subject to further revision as the situation evolves and in accordance with the inter-agency 2024 appeal process. UNICEF targets include both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank unless marked otherwise. The social and behaviour change and risk communication and community engagement components are embedded in each programme. And beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
23. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
24. WASH supplies include dignity kits and menstrual health and hygiene supplies.
25. Funding requirements for 2024 are provisional and will be subject to revision as the situation evolves and in accordance with the inter-agency 2024 appeal process.
26. These are provisional funding requirements for 2024 and subject to revision as the situation evolves and in accordance with the inter-agency 2024 appeal process.
27. The funding requirement for social and behaviour change, community engagement and accountability to affected populations is integrated into the sectoral budget lines.
28. This amount excludes \$1,325,000 for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, which is reflected under the cross-sectoral budget line. Interventions addressing gender-based violence in emergencies are embedded under case management, and amount to \$550,000, including gender-based responses to specific protection concerns.
29. The cross-sectoral funding requirement includes \$1,325,000 for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and \$200,000 for accountability to affected populations. Social and behaviour change funding needs are integrated into sectoral budget lines.
30. The coordination budget covers cluster coordination costs (Nutrition Cluster: \$700,000; WASH Cluster: \$1.1 million; Education Cluster: \$800,000; and Child Protection Area of Responsibility: \$1.1 million).