



UNICEF Humanitarian Action Global Annual Results

2023 mid-year snapshot

Briefing Note

Global humanitarian needs are at record levels with 362 million people in need. The first half of 2023 has seen humanitarian crises driven by conflict, climate shocks and food insecurity. Three global headwinds – geopolitical, economic and environmental – are expected to continue to shape the coming years and, in fact, the remainder of the 2020s, with a profound impact on the lives of children, especially those already living in, or vulnerable to, humanitarian crises.

Today's overstretched humanitarian system is struggling to respond to the sheer scale of growing number of crises. Funding and action too often come too late, after lives, livelihoods and safety nets have already been destroyed and without the flexibility to adapt responses to meet rapidly changing needs at the local level. Often time funding is concentrated in some emergencies over others, or, without the predictability to respond to increasingly protracted and complex crises.

In the current environment, quality funding is even more critical, and should become the norm rather than exception. A critical mass of quality funding for efficient, swift, and agile response on the ground is needed.

Funding needs

Despite needs growing exponentially, funding is struggling to keep pace. Unequal funding across emergencies and sectors is once again challenging humanitarian actors' ability to respond to the growing needs in the first half of 2023.

[The UNICEF 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\) appeal](#) was launched in December 2022 with a total financial requirement of \$10.26 billion and by the end of June 2023, the total humanitarian requirements had risen to \$10.94 billion (7% increase).

Although donors have been generous, the funding gap remains substantial. As of the end of June 2023, new commitments from donors for all UNICEF appeals had reached \$1.84 billion. With provisional funding carried forward from the previous years, the UNICEF HAC is 30 per cent funded (US\$3.24 billion)- leaving an **estimated funding gap of 70%**.

Compared to the same period in 2022, commitments by donors represent a **26 per cent decrease** in absolute terms at the end of June 2023 (US\$2.49 billion as of the end of June 2022).

Moreover, the disparities in which crises receive funding are significant and growing. In 2022, sixty-four per cent of the \$4.25 billion in humanitarian funding received by UNICEF was earmarked for appeals for four crises: Ukraine and Refugee Outflow, Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), Afghanistan, and Syrian Refugee hosting countries. In fact, the Ukraine and Refugee Outflow appeal accounted for 25 per cent of all humanitarian funds the organization received in 2022.

As of early July 2023, the top five humanitarian donors to UNICEF's HAC appeals are the **United States, Japan, European Commission, Sweden and CERF**. They represent 57% of the contributions received so far in 2023.

Critically underfunded emergencies:

- **Sudan** has a funding requirement of \$837.6m, with a 93% funding gap. Sudan is faced with a catastrophic humanitarian crisis driven by brutal fighting. Humanitarian needs are at an all-time high with 13.6 million children in need. Nearly 700,000 people have crossed to neighbouring countries, in particular to Egypt, Chad, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Many communities receiving them are already affected by multiple emergencies and extremely vulnerable.
- **Burkina Faso** has a funding requirement of \$226.7m, with a 91% funding gap. Burkina Faso is affected by a multidimensional humanitarian crisis, driven by armed violence/insecurity, demographic pressures, climate change, and health crises. 3.2 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** has a funding requirement of \$862.4m, with a 90% funding gap. An escalation in armed conflict and recurrent diseases outbreaks are taking a heavy toll on millions of children. The country hosts the second-highest number of internally displaced people in the world and had the highest number of verified grave violations of children's rights in 2022 as per the Secretary General's Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict.
- **Myanmar** has a funding requirement of \$217.9m, with an 88% funding gap. Deepening civil conflict and the devastation of Cyclone Mocha continues to impact children and their families, with some 5.6 million children in need of humanitarian assistance. Attacks on schools and hospitals continue at alarming levels, while other grave violations of child rights in armed conflict have been reported.
- **Haiti** has a funding requirement of \$245.9m, with an 84% funding gap. More than half of Haiti's children are likely to depend on humanitarian aid to survive 2023 as political turmoil, an upsurge in armed violence, a resurgence of cholera, malnutrition and skyrocketing inflation create a devastating combination of threats.
- **Ethiopia** has a funding requirement of \$674.3m, with an 83% funding gap. The consequences of conflict in northern Ethiopia (in the Tigray, Afar and Amhara Regions) and the severe drought in the Afar, Oromia, Somali, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regions have resulted in 31.4 million people in need, including 16.5 million children.
- **Yemen** has a funding requirement of \$484.4m, with a funding gap of 78%. Yemen remains one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world with 21.6 million people – three quarters of the population – in need of humanitarian assistance due to armed conflict, ongoing economic crisis, recurrent natural hazards and disrupted public services.
- **Somalia** has a funding requirement of \$272.3m, with a 75% funding gap. Somalia experienced a historic dry spell and the consequences of decades of conflict. While recent rains brought some respite, flash

floods have displaced families and much more rainfall will be required to substantially reduce the extended effects of the drought.

- **South Sudan** has a funding requirement of \$217.2m, with a 74% funding gap. The country has experienced an influx of refugees and returnees since the start of the conflict in Sudan in April 2023, which is also affecting its struggling economy. South Sudan remains extremely vulnerable to climate change and is affected by multiple diseases outbreaks. 5 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance.
- **Bangladesh** has a funding requirement of \$173.8m, with a 71% funding gap. Five years into the Rohingya crisis, Bangladesh hosts 943,529 Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar District, including 490,635 children. Millions of people across the country are also affected every year by devastating floods and cyclones. 3 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance.
- **Afghanistan** has a funding requirement of \$1.65bn, with a 58% funding gap. Afghanistan is experiencing unprecedented and rising humanitarian needs, with 64 per cent of households unable to meet their basic needs. Afghan women and girls are facing a systematic rights crisis. 15.3 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance.
- **Syrian Arab Republic** has a funding requirement of \$328.5m, with a 41% funding gap. Two thirds of the population require assistance due to a worsening economic crisis, localized hostilities, mass displacement and destroyed public infrastructure, a situation compounded by the earthquakes that devastated the north-east of the country.

Challenges

- We continue to witness flagrant disregard for child rights in conflict and a yawning accountability gap for those responsible for grave violations.
- Needs are only growing as climate change impacts the frequency, intensity and duration of emergencies.
- Humanitarian appeals remain dangerously underfunded.

Despite the extremely insecure and volatile environment, UNICEF has been working with partners to protect families and children and provide the life-saving support they desperately require, including: supporting nutrition and health services; providing access to adequate water and sanitation; and promoting safe learning environments.

Key asks

- **Timely, predictable and flexible funding to save children's lives, preserve their dignity and protect their futures.** Quality and flexible funding is a key enabler of effective and efficient humanitarian action and is urgently required to save children's lives and protect their future.
- **The humanitarian and donor community must sharpen the focus on preventing and preparing for the next disaster.** We need a global effort to mobilize resources well before devastating and irreversible damage to children occur and pre-arranged finance should be the primary method for funding disasters by 2030.
- **Ensure the meaningful participation of children and their communities.** It is their future most at stake – so from peace efforts to climate negotiations, or decisions about where humanitarian funding goes, children must be at the table.
- **All warring parties must fulfil their obligations to protect children, and end and prevent grave violations against children affected by armed conflict.** And states, including UN Security Council Members and all with influence, must act to hold the perpetrators of crimes against children to account.