



At Buso health post in Konso Zone, South East Region, Ethiopia, mothers and children gather for health checks conducted by UNICEF-trained mobile health and nutrition teams.



Humanitarian Action for Children

Ethiopia

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- Children and women throughout Ethiopia remain at high risk for protection concerns and other harms stemming from armed conflict and violence, climate shocks and stressors, multiple disease outbreaks, new refugee influxes and large-scale population displacements. Twenty million people require humanitarian assistance,² including 15.4 million children and women³ and nearly 4.4 million displaced people.⁴
- Humanitarian assistance that addresses the risks and vulnerabilities of communities will form the basis of UNICEF's humanitarian action in Ethiopia in 2024. The aim is to prevent suffering and the loss of life and to develop the resilience of communities most at risk. UNICEF will focus on displaced, returnee, refugee and host communities.
- This 2024 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal requests \$535.3 million to ensure critical humanitarian assistance reaches the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations nationwide and helps to strengthen their resilience. UNICEF's comprehensive support will include the treatment of severely malnourished children; support for out-of-school children to return to school; water trucking and the solarization of water schemes; mental health and psychosocial support; and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and armed groups.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



2.9 million

children and women accessing primary health care



188,014

children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



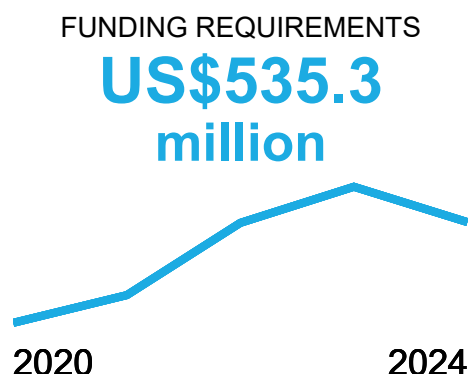
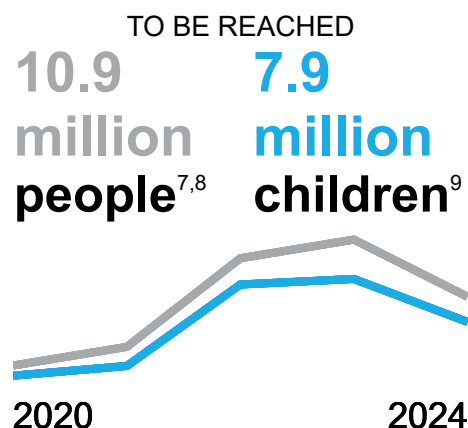
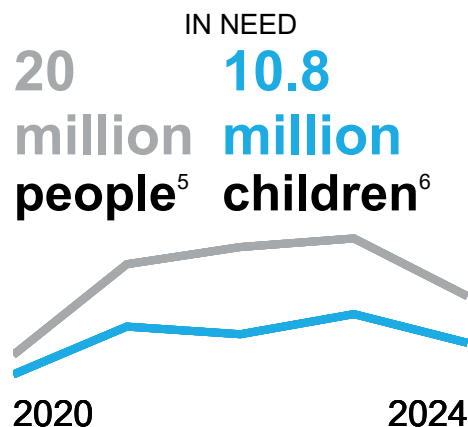
4.9 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



265,000

households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Armed conflict and intercommunal violence, climate hazards, disease outbreaks, acute food insecurity¹⁰ and high inflation¹¹ are contributing to large-scale population displacements, and continue cause a complex and protracted humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia. People's difficulties are compounded by humanitarian access constraints, the suspension of food aid¹² and significant new refugee influxes.¹³ Altogether, 20 million Ethiopians require humanitarian assistance,¹⁴ including 15.4 million women and children,¹⁵ nearly 4.4 million displaced people,¹⁶ 1.8 million children with disabilities¹⁷ and 117,000 new refugees.¹⁸

The situation in Amhara Region is volatile and complex due to armed conflict between national government forces and Fano militia. Access to affected populations, including nearly 1 million internally displaced people, has been largely limited, and protection concerns and reports of human rights violations are mounting. Basic services, markets and livelihoods have been disrupted and a key farming season missed. In Oromia Region, armed conflict is present in 11 out of 20 zones. More than 1 million people are displaced and many are inaccessible to humanitarian actors. Meanwhile, 40 per cent of the region's woredas are drought-affected. Livelihoods have been lost and negative coping mechanisms are on the rise. Altogether, 2.5 million children in the region are out of school.¹⁹

In Tigray Region, despite progress since the signing of a peace agreement in late 2022, an estimated 1 million people remain displaced; and 274,000 ex-combatants²⁰ are yet to be reintegrated into society. The rehabilitation of damaged and destroyed infrastructure and the resuscitation of essential services are key to recovering from two years of war. And in Afar Region, due to the compounding effects of conflict, drought, floods and disease outbreaks, 84 per cent of all woredas are classified as priority one hotspot woredas, while the remaining 16 per cent are classified as priority two.²¹

Children and families throughout the country must navigate multiple disease outbreaks. Since August 2022, more than 25,000 cholera cases have been reported (with a 1.37 per cent case fatality rate).²² And, in addition to 18,899 cases of measles, nearly 2.7 million malaria cases and 12,699 dengue fever cases have been reported since January 2023.²³ Control measures for waterborne and vector-borne diseases are lacking. These outbreaks will be further aggravated by the El Niño weather pattern, which will likely cause flooding in southeastern regions, while in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and Afar Regions El Niño it may worsen the drought. Either scenario will deepen displacement, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The burden of these crises falls on the most vulnerable, particularly girls and women, the elderly and those with disabilities, who are trapped in a vicious cycle of inequalities and negative coping mechanisms.

SECTOR NEEDS²⁴



22.2 million
people in need of health assistance



4.5 million
people in need of nutrition assistance



5.7 million
children in need of protection services



10.5 million
children in need of education support



19.9 million
people lack access to safe water

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Lina Nasir, 9, stands at the door of her family's make-shift shelter at the Bul'ad site for internally displaced persons near the town of Hargele, Somali Region, Ethiopia.

"I have no friends to play with," says Lina Nasir, 9. A developmental disability limits Lina's speaking ability, and she spends most of her time inside her family's shelter in Bul'ad camp, Hargele, Somali Region. Yet her free spirit remains.

After losing many of their cattle due to the drought, Lina's family struggled to meet their most basic needs, and were displaced to the Bul'ad site for internally displaced persons near the town of Hargele, in Ethiopia's Somali Region. The family is one of thousands who left home in search of food, water, pasture, treatment for sick children: they are living the opening salvo of the climate crisis.

As part of its humanitarian cash transfer programme at the Bul'ad site, UNICEF, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, provides multipurpose cash transfers to support families to buy food and other essential items. A top-up is provided to address the additional needs of families with children with disabilities.

[Read more about this story here](#)

In 2024, UNICEF will continue its timely, principled, child-centred humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia on a 'no-regrets' basis. Multiple and integrated streams of work will be carried out in close partnership with the Government and with local and international humanitarian actors. The people who are hardest to reach, those who are in the most vulnerable households, displaced persons and new refugee populations are priorities for humanitarian assistance.

The recent transition of Ethiopia from a Level 3 to a Level 2 emergency belies the ongoing urgency of needs in the country. Critical life-saving assistance will therefore be at the heart of UNICEF's response, while measures for community resilience building will be interwoven into services to help break the cycle of shocks and stressors that have eroded household capacities to cope.

Immediate life-saving assistance includes treatment of children with severe forms of malnutrition; providing access to critical health-care services for pregnant and lactating women; provision of safe spaces for children and women, including mental health and psychosocial support; water trucking during sudden-onset crises; rapid deployment of social workers for case management of survivors of violence and abuse, including gender-based violence; as well as provision of shock-responsive humanitarian cash transfers to address the urgent needs of those newly displaced and other extremely vulnerable households.

Additionally, UNICEF will promote capacity building of health workers to enhance the prevention, early detection and treatment of children who are wasted. The organization will provide support for drilling new boreholes to enable sustainable sources of safe water and to help stem water-borne diseases in places where incidence is highest. UNICEF will augment the 'Bete' programme with integrated child protection and education approaches,²⁸ and further connect humanitarian cash transfers to the government safety net programme for food-insecure households.

Disability- and gender-sensitive programming is a priority. Partnership approaches will ensure all assistance is equitable and inclusive through capacity strengthening of partners. Zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse will be central to all partnership agreements; the capacity of all staff will be strengthened to ensure the protection of children and women.

Scaling up local partnerships, particularly in hard-to-reach locations, will drive results in 2024. At the same time, UNICEF will consistently engage communities in planning and decision-making processes and through feedback mechanisms. Throughout the programme cycle, community feedback will be sought to hold UNICEF and partners accountable and to make sure that information, supplies and services reflect the needs of communities. Behavioural insights on community resilience will help to identify and design programmes on social and behavioural drivers of life-saving practices and use of services. Conflict-sensitive, 'do no harm' programming will guide all interventions, and together with local capacity building will strengthen communities' resilience to future shocks and stressors.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/ethiopia/situation-reports>

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.



Health (including public health emergencies)

- **480,000** children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose
- **2,876,553** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **66,386** live births that were delivered in health facilities in UNICEF-supported areas



Nutrition

- **2,994,757** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **965,888** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **1,053,135** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **1,339,067** pregnant women receiving preventative iron supplementation
- **5,815,199** children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **188,014** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **210,801** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **1,224,246** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **1,080** children who have exited an armed force and groups provided with protection or reintegration support³⁰
- **13,205** unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified
- **168,360** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions



Education

- **717,398** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **517,575** children receiving individual learning materials
- **190,760** children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes
- **14,820** teachers and facilitators trained in basic pedagogy and/or mental health and psychosocial support



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **4,896,984** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **1,001,160** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **854,966** women and girls accessing menstrual hygiene management services
- **2,091,440** children using safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces
- **7,247,012** people reached with handwashing behaviour-change programmes
- **3,155,124** people reached with critical WASH supplies



Social protection

- **600,000** households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in-kind) measures from government-funded programmes with UNICEF technical assistance support



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- **265,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)
- **42,713,214** affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services³¹
- **4,588,883** people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms
- **19,200** people engaged in reflective dialogue through social media and digital platforms
- **289,625** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

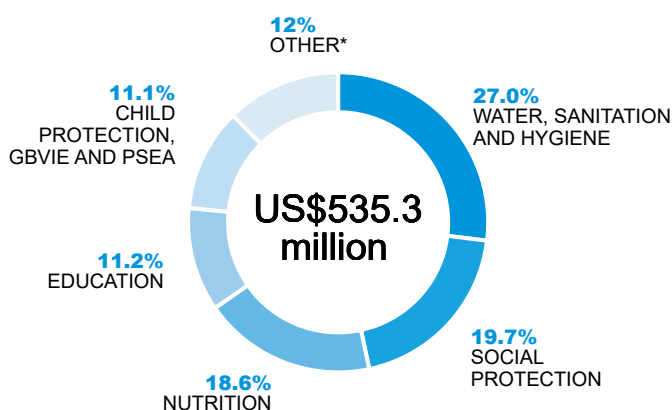
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF is appealing for \$535.3 million to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to 10.9 million children, women and men whose lives have been buffeted by multiple, repeated and overlapping shocks and stressors. The 2024 appeal amount is 21 per cent less than that of 2023, in response to the constrained global fundraising environment. UNICEF will focus its humanitarian operations on only the hardest-to-reach communities.

Children in Ethiopia face enormous challenges following years of deprivation as a result of conflict, climate instability and multidimensional poverty. Immediate assistance is required to ensure that this generation of young people is not lost.

This funding will ensure life-saving health, nutrition and WASH interventions, as well as life-sustaining inclusive WASH, education, child protection and social protection measures. UNICEF will balance provision of assistance to provide immediate relief with resilience-building and climate-smart outcomes to enhance the impact of humanitarian resources. UNICEF will prioritize female- and child-headed households, people with disabilities, those who are displaced and refugee households and communities that host them.

Without adequate funding and the immediate and robust humanitarian action that can flow from it, 10.9 million children, women and men will go without critical services. Without people's access to appropriate sanitation, infectious diseases will spread. Survivors of gender-based violence will lack access to essential services and treatment. And a generation of children will be at greater risk for violence, recruitment into armed groups, harmful practices and abuse. The costs of inaction exacted from the children in Ethiopia are therefore steep. UNICEF's capacity to deliver a principled, timely, quality humanitarian response in Ethiopia depends on the resources to do so.



Sector	2024 requirements (US\$)
Health (including public health emergencies)	45,002,047
Nutrition	99,826,913
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	59,410,937 ³²
Education	60,000,072
Water, sanitation and hygiene	144,280,947
Social protection	105,551,000 ³³
Cross-sectoral (SBC, RCCE and AAP)	21,230,202 ³⁴
Total	535,302,118

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions: Health (including public health emergencies) (8.4%), Cross-sectoral (SBC, RCCE and AAP) (4.0%).

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ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF activated its Corporate Emergency Level 2 Scale-up Procedure for Ethiopia for the following period: 5 September 2023 - 5 March 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. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Global Humanitarian Overview 2024 (draft), Ethiopia estimates, November 2023.
3. OCHA, Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan 2023, March 2023.
4. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ethiopia National Displacement Report 16 – Site assessment round 33 and village assessment survey round 16 – November 2022–June 2023, IOM, August 2023.
5. OCHA, Global Humanitarian Overview 2024 (draft), Ethiopia estimates.
6. The percentage of children (53.9 per cent) is based on the OCHA 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Ethiopia, population estimates of children in need.
7. Based on children aged 6–59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation, school-aged children benefitting from WASH in learning facilities and safe spaces, women accessing primary health care and men accessing water.
8. 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.
9. Based on children aged 6–59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation and school-aged children benefitting from WASH in learning facilities and safe spaces.
10. Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), Ethiopia Acute Food Insecurity: September 2023 projected outcomes, available at <<https://fewsn.net/east-africa/ethiopia>>.
11. Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia, reported in TradingEconomics.com, September 2023 data, available at <<https://tradingeconomics.com/ethiopia/inflation-cpi#:~:text=Inflation%20in%20Ethiopia%20reached%2037.7%25%20in%20May%20of,to%20the%20previous%20month%2C%20the%20CP>>.
12. UN News, UN suspends food assistance as Ethiopia wrestles with aid diversions, web article, 9 June 2023, available at <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1137512>>.
13. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ethiopia: Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons by Region as of 30 September 2023, UNHCR, 16 October 2023, available at <<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/104088>>.
14. OCHA, Global Humanitarian Overview 2024 (draft), Ethiopia estimates.
15. OCHA, Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 The percentage breakdown of women is 23.2 per cent and children 53.9 per cent.
16. IOM, Ethiopia National Displacement Report 16.
17. The percentage of children with disabilities is estimated using the OCHA Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan 2023: The percentage of people in need who have disabilities is 17.6 per cent and the percentage of children aged 0–17 years is 53.9 per cent.
18. UNHCR, Ethiopia: Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons by Region as of 30 September 2023.
19. Oromia Regional Education Bureau report, September 2023.
20. Mulugeta Gebrehiwot Berhe, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration in Tigray: An element in a national DDR/SSR program or a compassionate humanitarian need for returning combatants in Tigray region?, memo, World Peace Foundation and Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform (PeaceRep), August 2023, available at <<https://sites.tufts.edu/reinventingpeace/files/2023/08/DDR-in-Tigray-Memo-20230829.pdf>>.
21. Afar Region Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Program Coordination Office, regional report, August 2023.
22. Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Bacterial Disease Surveillance and Response Weekly Sitrep, 18 October 2023.
23. Ministry of Health, National Public Health Emergency Operations Center, Multi-outbreak situation response, situational report of Ethiopia, 20 October 2023.
24. The numbers of people in need in the sectors are all provisional, based on draft estimates submitted for the Ethiopia Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024.
25. 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.
26. 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. All cluster coordinator costs are included in sectoral programme budgets.
27. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments 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.
28. 'Bete' means 'My Home' in Amharic. This is an education programme designed to provide a safe space for boys and girls in humanitarian settings in Ethiopia by integrating accelerated learning, child protection and skills development.
29. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
30. The target is 60 per cent boys and 40 per cent girls aged 15–17 years.
31. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
32. The breakdown is as follows: child protection – \$41,596,978; gender-based violence in emergencies – \$14,924,738; and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse – \$2,889,221.
33. The social protection line item includes humanitarian cash transfers.
34. The cross-sectoral breakdown is as follows: social and behavioural change – \$15,120,477; risk communication and community engagement – \$5,426,210; and accountability to affected populations – \$683,515.