



unicef 
for every child

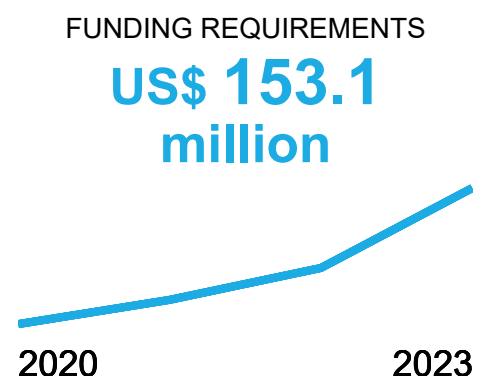
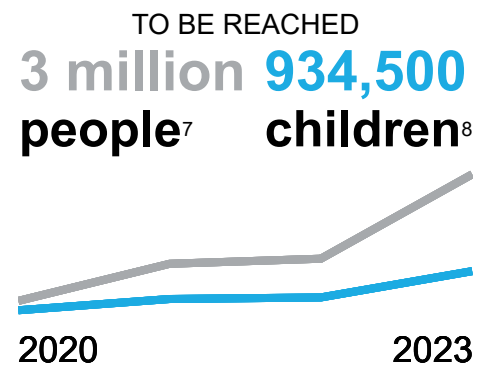
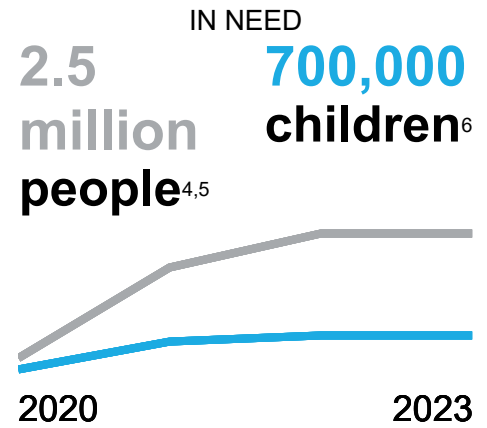
Humanitarian Action for Children

Staff inspect stocks, including oral rehydration salt kits and cholera treatment kits, at the UNICEF warehouse in Dekwaneh, Beirut.

Lebanon

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- Lebanon's unprecedented economic and financial crisis means that people can no longer afford basic commodities and services, and this has deepened the vulnerability of individuals and families. The acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera outbreak that began in October 2022 is the first in more than three decades and has added to daily risks, especially for children. Overall, 2.3 million Lebanese, 207,700 Palestinian refugees and 86,200 migrants (and altogether a total of 700,000 children) are facing multiple deprivations.²
- UNICEF will prioritize ensuring access to basic social services³ to reduce the risk of families resorting to negative coping strategies. UNICEF expects to address urgent humanitarian needs through existing inclusive systems and by incorporating, in all its interventions, community-based approaches, resilience, gender and inclusion and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- UNICEF requires US\$153.1 million to support vulnerable populations affected by the economic crisis and subsequent shocks, including those affected by the cholera outbreak. This funding will help ensure that 3 million people have access to safe water and wastewater management systems. Around 180,000 children and women will have access to resilient primary health care amid the cholera epidemic and 40,000 people in vulnerable households, particularly youth with disabilities, will be provided with emergency social assistance.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



180,000
children and women
accessing primary
healthcare



70,000
children receiving
micronutrient powder



25,200
children/caregivers
accessing community-
based mental health and
psychosocial support



3 million
people accessing a
sufficient quantity and
quality of water

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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Lebanon is grappling with an economic collapse, compounded by the impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the recent AWD/cholera outbreak. Since October 2019, the Lebanese pound has lost more than 96 per cent of its value, leading to an average inflation rate of 162 per cent in 2022.⁹

Lebanon's critical water infrastructure is reaching a breaking point, threatening more than 4 million people's access to safe water. Systems managing wastewater are also deteriorating.¹⁰ UNICEF estimates most public water provision and the safe management of wastewater will gradually cease across Lebanon if an extensive package of support is not provided. Water shortages force households to rely on unsafe and untreated alternative water sources; and poor wastewater management poses extensive risks to environmental health. Decreased hygiene practices have led to an increased risk of diarrhoeal diseases, with infants and young children especially vulnerable.

An exodus of staff and shortages of medication and fuel have severely strained primary health care centres. For example, around 40 per cent of medical doctors have permanently emigrated or are working on a part-time basis outside of the country.¹¹ Primary health care centres are rationing fuel by reducing opening hours, and more than 600 private pharmacies have temporarily closed.¹² All crises combined are impacting preventive health services and health promotion activities, with immunization coverage dropping by more than 30 per cent.¹³

The current crisis is also exacerbating gender-based violence. Data reveal a sharp increase in intimate partner violence among all nationalities in the last two years, accounting for 58 per cent of all reported cases.¹⁴

Learning losses stemming from multiple crises and inequitable access to remote learning during the last three school years will likely be irreversible without the urgent delivery of inclusive learning opportunities to recover lost learning. The economic crisis and the pandemic have disrupted education for more than 1.3 million school-aged children, with 700,000 children left out of school due to poverty and other factors.¹⁵ Children with disabilities and girls are among the most vulnerable children, are most of them are at risk of never returning to learning. Teachers' salaries have been devalued due to the currency crisis, and the urgent roll-out of teacher incentives is therefore required to ensure continuity and quality of learning.

As the situation deteriorates, families and caregivers are using negative coping mechanisms that often put children at risk. Children as young as 6 years of age are working on the streets, in agricultural fields or on construction sites, where they are exposed to risks of exploitation.

SECTOR NEEDS



460,000
people in need of
nutrition assistance¹⁶



700,000
children at risk of
rights violations¹⁷



170,000
children being left out
of school¹⁸



1 million
people lack access to
safe water¹⁹



1.7 million
people living in
extreme poverty²⁰

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Noura sits in her house in Roueiss with her daughter and three grandchildren. She is happy to save the money she was spending on water, "because these days you need the money for essential things".

In the middle of summer, not having running water to the house is a nightmare situation for families such as Noura's. Besides having four children of her own, Noura looks after her three grandchildren.

"It was a disaster without water. We couldn't wash anything, clean the house. It was horrible," Noura remembers.

"Even the children couldn't take a bath, I was helping them wash with a water pitcher, it was terrible."

Noura's home was one of more than 1,000 households in the Nahr el Mot region (just north of Lebanon's capital Beirut) which was recently affected by the pump breaking at the nearby borehole. The Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment, along with the European Union and UNICEF, worked together to get the pump repaired.

[Read more about this story here](#)

In Lebanon, UNICEF will address the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable children and young people and contribute to social cohesion through the provision of integrated programming. Where possible this will be linked to a longer-term strategy. UNICEF will ensure the neutrality of assistance and continue strengthening risk management. Programming will balance the delivery of services through public and private institutions and specialized civil society organizations, especially at the decentralized level. UNICEF will equip partners and engage communities with information and tools to promote gender-transformative programming. A fundamental strategy will be to strengthen partners' capacities to address the needs of children with disabilities and ensure child safeguarding and to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.

As part of the Humanitarian Country Team and the emergency operations cell, UNICEF is leading the WASH, education, child protection and nutrition sectors and playing a key role in the social assistance, gender-based violence and health responses.

Efforts in child protection will continue to promote the well-being and protection of women, girls and boys and their families by preventing and mitigating risks of violence, abuse and exploitation of children and women. This includes providing such vital services as mental health and psychosocial support for children and caregivers.

UNICEF health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and social and behavioural change programmes are working in a complementary way during the ongoing acute watery diarrhoea/cholera outbreak. UNICEF will work with the country's Water Establishments to ensure they have sufficient fuel, consumables and maintenance capacity to continue providing clean drinking water for nearly 3 million people. Where required, UNICEF will provide emergency support for wastewater treatment facilities.

Health and nutrition programming aims to strengthen primary health care to ensure equitable access to essential health services. The focus is on preventive care and health promotion activities, healthy nutrition practices and engaging caregivers in integrated social and behavioural change actions. For ongoing access to immunization, UNICEF will support the cold chain for 250 facilities to help 180,000 children catch up on missed vaccinations. In addition, UNICEF will support the health system with cholera treatment supplies for 180,000 people.

Social and behavioural change activities will include the use of behavioural and social science evidence to promote healthy and protective behaviours and community engagement.

The social policy programme will provide emergency social assistance to 40,000 people (particularly youth with disabilities) in vulnerable households. This complements the national child grant programme, which covers 130,000 of the most vulnerable children in the country under UNICEF's response for Syrian refugees.

The adolescent and youth programme will increase opportunities for meaningful participation, empowerment and income generation activities.

UNICEF is also working with partners across sectors on strengthening emergency preparedness and response systems.



Health

- **180,000** children vaccinated against measles
- **180,000** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **100,000** people suffering from acute watery diarrhea provided with oral rehydration solution



Nutrition

- **1,000** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **120,000** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **30,000** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **70,000** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder
- **40,000** pregnant women receiving preventative iron supplementation



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

- **25,200** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **7,800** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **18,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **1,320** children who have received individual case management



Education

- **2,092** schools benefitted from the health and hygiene supplies distributed to prevent and control cholera outbreaks



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **3,000,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs²³
- **2,200,000** people are served by functioning wastewater treatment plants



Social protection

- **40,000** people reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers



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

- **3,500,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services²⁴
- **15,000** people who participate in engagement actions
- **80,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms



Adolescents/youth

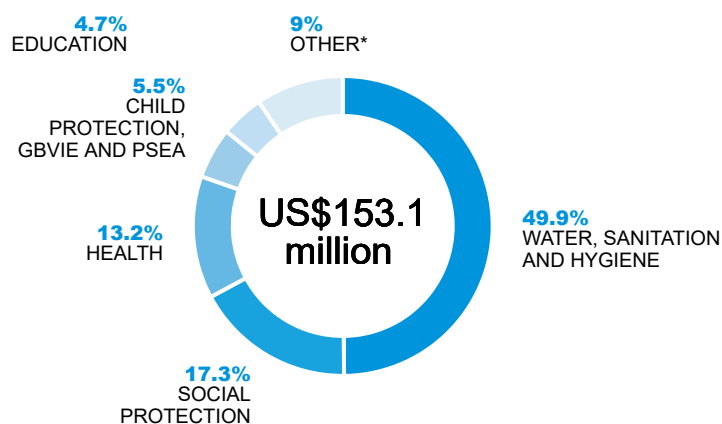
- **5,000** adolescent and youth who participated in skills development programmes for learning, personal empowerment and employability through UNICEF-supported programmes
- **1** development of a system for adolescent and youth participation (volunteer platform)²⁵
- **5,000** adolescent and young girls and boys who participate in or lead civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF-supported programmes

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF is appealing for US\$153.1 million to respond to the urgent needs of 3 million people, including 934,500 children, who are affected by Lebanon's economic crisis, the aftermath of the Port of Beirut explosion and the cholera outbreak. This appeal, which is aligned with the Emergency Response Plan, focuses on covering the needs of the vulnerable Lebanese population.²⁶ It complements activities in the 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Syrian Refugees, which supports Syrian refugees in Lebanon.²⁷

This funding will be used to meet priority needs, including access to safe drinking water, health, nutrition, education, child protection services and the multisectoral response plan for the AWD/cholera outbreak. It will mitigate the impacts of the current crises through cash transfers, livelihoods support and youth engagement. Funding will enable UNICEF to provide specialized services for disabled children, address gender inequalities and strengthen prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Funding is also required to ensure minimum levels of emergency preparedness, considering Lebanon's risk profile.

UNICEF requires urgent funding to ensure that no child is left behind. Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to Lebanon's crisis. Poor and vulnerable households with children will be left without access to basic services and social assistance.



*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Nutrition (4.4%), Palestinian Programme in Lebanon (2.6%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (1.1%), Emergency preparedness (<1%), Adolescents/youth (<1%).

Sector	2023 requirements (US\$)
Health	20,240,700
Nutrition	6,677,100
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	8,418,600
Education	7,172,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	76,332,000 ²⁸
Social protection	26,466,750 ²⁹
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	1,633,300
Adolescents/youth	1,016,500
Palestinian Programme in Lebanon	4,041,000
Emergency preparedness	1,100,000
Total	153,097,950

Who to contact for further information:

Edouard Beigbeder
Representative, Lebanon
T +9611607403
ebeigbeder@unicef.org

Manuel Fontaine
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
T +1 212 326 7163
mfontaine@unicef.org

June Kunugi
Director, Public Partnerships Division (PPD)
T +1 212 326 7118
jkunugi@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. COVID-19 remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as declared by the World Health Organization in January 2020. On 1 July 2022, UNICEF deactivated its Level 3 Sustained Phase for the global COVID-19 pandemic response. All activities related to COVID-19 pandemic response, including programme targets and funding requirements, have been shifted into regular development programming and operations. While UNICEF's Level 3 emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was deactivated, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, their families and their communities and on the social systems they rely on.
2. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Revised Emergency Response Plan Lebanon: August 2021-December 2022, 16 June 2022.
3. Including safe drinking water, education, primary health care, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence services and mental health and psychosocial support.
4. Based on OCHA, Revised Emergency Response Plan Lebanon: August 2021-December 2022.
5. 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.
6. This is 31.15 per cent of the people in need, based on estimates from the Lebanon inter-agency group for the number of people under 18 years of age.
7. To avoid double counting, this is based on the number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene (3 million people). This total includes 52 per cent women/girls and 2 per cent people with disabilities. 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. While the figures for people and children 'to be reached' reflect UNICEF's coverage in 2023, the 'in need' figures are provisional because the Emergency Response Plan has not yet been updated. Once the inter-agency needs and planning documents are finalized in 2023, the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Lebanon will be revised to align figures, including those for people and children in need, accordingly.
8. This is 31.15 per cent of the people to be reached, based on estimates from the Lebanon inter-agency group for the number of people under 18 years of age. This total includes 52 per cent girls and 2 per cent children with disabilities. The number of people to be reached is based on the WASH sector, which has the highest number of people to be targeted based on the inter-agency emergency response plan (from OCHA, Revised Emergency Response Plan Lebanon: August 2021-December 2022) and the ongoing inter-agency cholera response plan.
9. Lebanon Central Administration of Statistics, October 2022.
10. UNICEF-supported assessment based on data collected from Lebanon's four main public water utilities in May and June 2021.
11. World Health Organization, Joint statement by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General, and Dr Ahmed Al Mandhari, Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, on Lebanon, 19 September 2021, available at <www.emro.who.int/media/news/joint-statement-by-dr-tedros-adhanom-ghebreyesus-who-director-general-and-dr-ahmed-al-mandhari-regional-director-for-the-eastern-mediterranean-on-lebanon.html>.
12. Ibid.
13. Mansour et al., "Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the utilization of routine immunization services in Lebanon, Pubic Library of Science, vol. 16, no. 2, 21 February 2021, available at <<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33596271/>>.
14. From gender-based violence IMS. The data quoted here are only from reported cases and does not represent the total incidence or prevalence of gender-based violence in Lebanon.
15. OCHA, Increasing Humanitarian Needs in Lebanon, April 2022.
16. OCHA, Revised Emergency Response Plan Lebanon: August 2021-December 2022.
17. OCHA, Revised Emergency Response Plan Lebanon: August 2021-December 2022.
18. OCHA, Revised Emergency Response Plan Lebanon: August 2021-December 2022.
19. OCHA, Revised Emergency Response Plan Lebanon: August 2021-December 2022.
20. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Multi-dimensional Poverty in Lebanon (2019-2021): Painful reality and uncertain prospects, ESCWA, Beirut, September 2021.
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. 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.
23. The access to water target includes the additional cholera response. The target is higher than in the 2022 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal due to the planned emergency support to Water Establishments and wastewater treatment plants.
24. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
25. The National Youth Engagement and Volunteering Movement Platform is an innovative tool that allows youth to register and be matched to relevant engagement opportunities near them or online. Companies, non-governmental organizations and institutions (partners) can post the engagement and volunteering opportunities they have available for youth on the platform. The National Youth Engagement and Volunteering Movement aims to develop institutionalized mechanisms for youth social and civic engagement and establish a platform to connect youth to one another, as well as to a diverse range of entities, thereby facilitating youth-led action.
26. Because Lebanese, Syrian refugees, Palestinians and migrant groups live in intermingled communities, some interventions will also reach non-Lebanese beneficiaries. Programme activities have been designed to ensure no duplication between this appeal and the 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children Syrian Refugees appeal.
27. The 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children Syrian Refugees appeal is aligned with the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP).
28. The increase in the WASH funding requirement compared with 2022 is related to the intensifying economic crisis, which has resulted in an energy crisis that has had an impact on the country's water systems. The budget also reflects the increased target for access to safe water that is linked to the cholera response.
29. The social protection funding requirement increased compared with 2022 due to the impact of the economic crisis on people's capacity to meet their basic needs. In 2023, UNICEF is expanding the social protection system to support 40,000 people with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers.