



Sharlyne, 14, gathers safe water at Nabulon Primary School in Turkana County, Kenya. UNICEF installed a solar-powered water system at the school to provided sustainable access to water amid drought.

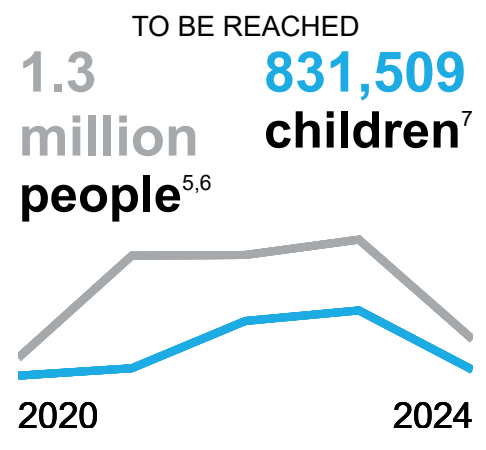
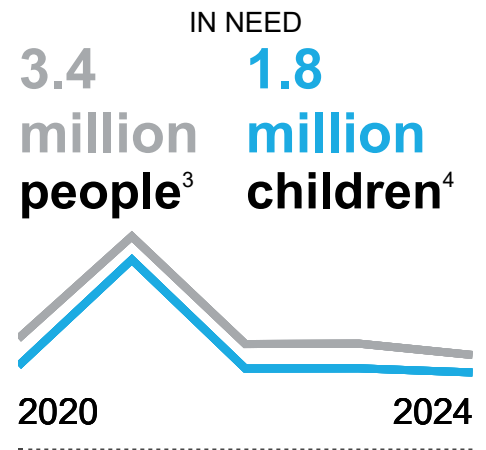
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for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of food-insecure people in Kenya was approximately 2.8 million¹ as of July 2023, down from 4.4 million people in February 2023 due to hydrological recovery from the drought. However, the number of children aged 6–59 months requiring treatment for wasting had only decreased slightly, from 970,214 in February to 945,610 in July,² because of the cumulative adverse effects of the prolonged drought on food security, on water, sanitation and hygiene capacities and on health status. Of those children requiring treatment, 216,794 are severely wasted.
- UNICEF will support community-led emergency preparedness and response efforts to provide timely life-saving humanitarian interventions, while enhancing links between humanitarian and development programmes to strengthen government systems and enhance resilience.
- In 2024, UNICEF requires \$44.7 million to respond with critical life-saving and protective interventions for the most vulnerable girls, boys, women and men in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands, in urban informal settlements and in refugee settlements that are affected by the country's slow recovery from the severe drought in the Horn of Africa. The difficult conditions are exacerbated by the high cost of living, El Niño-induced flooding, disease outbreaks and refugee influx.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



320,980

children and women accessing primary health care



162,596

children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



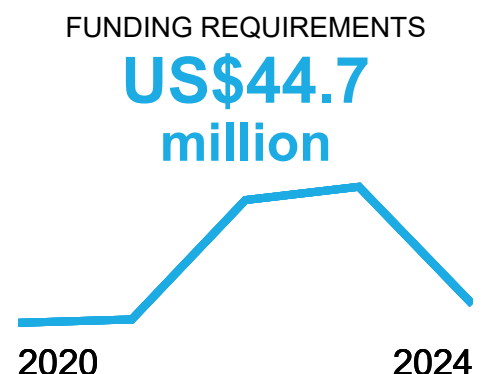
109,497

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



349,990

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The severe drought in the Horn of Africa from 2020 to 2023 has hindered access to food, income and safe water in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands.

Approximately 90 per cent of open water sources in Kenya had dried up by March 2023.⁸ The March to May (MAM) rains brought hydrological recovery, with open water sources recharging up to 70–100 per cent of their capacities.⁹ However, only 35–50 per cent of households treat drinking water; fewer than 50 per cent have handwashing facilities with soap; latrine coverage is below 50 per cent; and open defecation is at 40 per cent. This increases the risk of cholera and other waterborne diseases.

By mid-September 2023, 12,107 cholera cases had been reported in Kenya in 27 counties (1.6 per cent case fatality rate).¹⁰ Thirty-three per cent of cases were among children under 10 years of age.¹¹ Approximately 60 per cent of cases were reported during the MAM rains, attributed to contaminated water sources and poor hygiene practices. As of September 2023, eight polio cases and 1,244 measles cases had been reported.¹²

As of July 2023, approximately 2.8 million people were food-insecure,¹³ down from 4.4 million people in February 2023.¹⁴ However, below-average milk and food production are expected in 2024 due to the cumulative effects of five failed rains seasons, and high livestock mortality will significantly slow drought recovery.¹⁵ Additionally, high food and fuel prices pushed the inflation rate to 6.9 per cent in June 2023.¹⁶

The number of children aged 6–59 months requiring treatment for wasting slightly decreased from 970,214 in February 2023 to 945,610 in July 2023,¹⁷ due to the cumulative effects of the drought on food security, WASH and health status, with 216,794 children severely wasted.

There was a reported increase in child protection and gender-based violence cases in the drought-affected counties, including school dropouts (29 per cent), teen pregnancies, neglect, female genital mutilation and child marriage (66 per cent) affecting adolescent girls.¹⁸

As of the end of June 2023, Kenya was hosting 623,865 refugees and asylum-seekers (83 per cent women and children),¹⁹ up from 573,508 on 31 December 2022, an increase due to insecurity and the Horn of Africa drought. The refugee population includes 10,536 unaccompanied and separated children (4,352 girls and 6,184 boys).

The El Niño-enhanced rains expected between October 2023 and January 2024 may lead to destruction of WASH, health and education infrastructure, as well as disease outbreaks in 33 counties at risk of flooding.²⁰ Around 2 million people could be affected by floods and landslides,²¹ with up to 200,000 people potentially displaced. Use of schools as displacement centres will affect access to schooling.

SECTOR NEEDS



641,959
people in need of health assistance²²



216,794
Children in need of nutrition assistance²³



437,989
children in need of protection services²⁴



438,430
children in need of education support²⁵



699,980
people lack access to safe water²⁶

STORY FROM THE FIELD



With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UNICEF has provided ready-to-use therapeutic food to 219 health centres and 490 outreach sites in Turkana County to treat children with malnutrition. At Sopol Dispensary, UNICEF has also provided medicines and a refrigerator for storing vaccines and renovated a borehole to provide safe water to patients and health workers. The organization is also supporting the health centre to do mobile outreach to remote villages in the area.

"We partnered with UNICEF to provide critical support such as water and sanitation, as well as therapeutic food for children and pregnant women," says USAID Kenya Mission Director David Gosney.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Daniel Ereng, Nurse in Charge at the Sopol Dispensary in Turkana County, treats children suffering from malnutrition with ready-to-use therapeutic food provided by UNICEF.

Working closely with county governments and implementing partners, UNICEF will support community-led life-saving and protection interventions by employing social mobilization approaches. Implementation of integrated health and nutrition outreach to the most affected communities will improve access to basic health services to children and women.

UNICEF will work through civil society partners to deliver integrated services to the affected population, ensuring close collaboration with county governments for effective service delivery, and leveraging the expertise of local women-led and youth organizations to enhance interventions for children and women.

UNICEF's approach is child-friendly and provides holistic integrated support for children, caregivers and parents by providing complementary interventions. These will include referrals to additional direct assistance and working with other sectors through community volunteers and local organizations.

Communities will be engaged and sensitized to the effects of drought and floods and provided with information on where to access health services. Messages will promote disease prevention through sanitation and hygiene. Hygiene promotion efforts will also focus on increasing access to sanitation and hygiene facilities in households, schools and health facilities through community mobilization and awareness.

UNICEF's programming and advocacy to remove barriers to accessing services will foster meaningful participation of persons with disabilities; girls and boys; women; and their representative organizations. Data will be disaggregated by disability, age and sex in all sectors to monitor inclusion. The participation of people of varying age groups, notably children and adolescents, will be ensured through social and behaviour change and accountability to affected people approaches. UNICEF will receive community feedback and concerns and respond to these through government and implementing partner structures.

UNICEF will continue to strengthen subnational government systems throughout the humanitarian response and will link this to ongoing development programmes to build more resilient subnational government capacities. In collaboration with key United Nations partners, UNICEF will facilitate county government planning, resource mobilization and budgeting processes so they are able to provide critical services addressing future climate shocks, focusing on the scale-up of resilience programmes.

UNICEF will provide technical support to national social protection systems to strengthen the disbursement of emergency-triggered, scaled-up cash transfers, as well as financial support for emergency cash assistance for the most vulnerable beneficiaries.

The risk-informed approach and inclusion of minority and vulnerable groups (including children, women and persons with disabilities) will be supported through development of legal and policy frameworks for disaster risk management.

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

- **320,980** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities



HIV/AIDS

- **2,090** pregnant and lactating women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy



Nutrition

- **162,596** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **699,980** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **109,497** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **43,799** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **87,598** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations



Education

- **131,529** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **65,765** children receiving individual learning materials



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **349,990** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **349,990** people that participated in hygiene promotion sessions



Social protection

- **10,000** households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in-kind) measures from government-funded programmes with UNICEF technical assistance support
- **20,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)



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

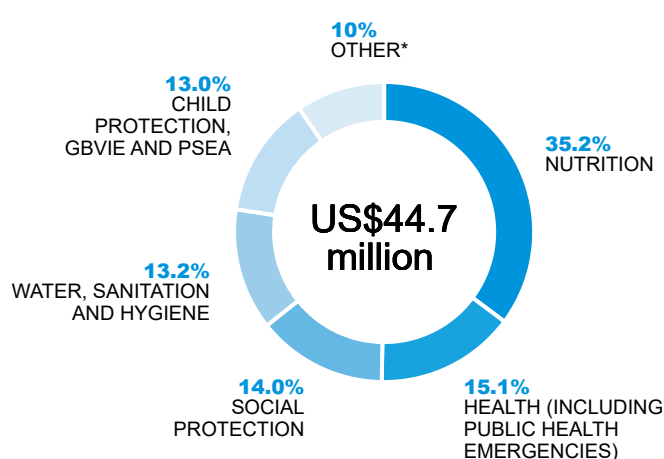
- **20,000** affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services
- **284,859** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

In 2024, UNICEF requires \$44.7 million to provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable girls, boys, women and men in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and in urban informal settlements and refugee settlements that are still recovering from the cumulative impacts of the severe Horn of Africa drought, high refugee influx, El Niño-induced flooding, the high cost of living and disease outbreaks. This is a 68 per cent reduction in funding requirements compared with 2023 because of lower food assistance and nutrition needs.

Due to persistent food insecurity, high malnutrition rates and frequent disease outbreaks – exacerbated by the El Niño flooding and the lack of government capacity to respond in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and in urban informal settlements – there is a significant need for increased funding to support urgent life-saving nutrition, WASH and health interventions, which account for 66 per cent of the overall needs. Funding will enable UNICEF to reach up to 700,000 people with life-saving humanitarian interventions. Additionally, through its work UNICEF will strengthen the resilience of communities to climatic shocks.

Without sufficient funding, close to 200,000 children under 5 years of age will be unable to access treatment for severe wasting; and approximately 700,000 girls, boys, women and men will be unable to access safe water, life-saving messages to prevent disease outbreaks and treatment for common ailments in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands. This will lead to human suffering and the loss of lives. In addition, gains in resilience brought about through the intensified drought response interventions will be lost.



Sector	2024 requirements (US\$)
Health (including public health emergencies)	6,740,570
HIV/AIDS	146,293
Nutrition	15,728,128
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	5,803,354 ³¹
Education	2,630,580
Water, sanitation and hygiene	5,879,832
Social protection	6,271,788
Social Behaviour Change	1,509,156
Total	44,709,701

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Education (5.9%), Social Behaviour Change (3.4%), HIV/AIDS (<1%).

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ENDNOTES

1. Kenya Food Security Steering Group, The 2023 Long Rains Season Assessment Report, Ministry of East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), and Regional Development, July 2023.
2. Ibid.
3. This includes: 2,786,550 food-insecure people; 623,865 refugees and asylum-seekers; and 13,367 disease outbreak cases (12,107 cholera, 8 polio and 1,252 measles). Data sources are the 2023 Long Rains Season Assessment (July 2023), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Refugee data finder (accessed 30 June 2023) and WHO/Ministry of Health Disease Outbreak Sitrep 14 September 2023.
4. The number of children in need was calculated as 48 per cent of the total number of people in need, based on official Kenyan demographic data, which is used for all calculations related to humanitarian response.
5. To avoid double-counting beneficiaries, the total number of people to be reached is based on: (1) 181,995 adults to be reached with access to safe water; (2) 131,529 children aged 3–18 years to be reached with access to education in emergencies; and 3) 999,980 children aged 0–23 months to be reached with infant and young child feeding counselling through 999,980 caregivers. This figure includes 51 per cent women/girls and 15 per cent people with disabilities (based on 2019 population statistics).
6. 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.
7. To avoid double-counting beneficiaries, the total number of children to be reached is based on: (1) 131,529 children aged 3–18 years to be reached with access to education in emergencies; and 2) 699,980 children aged 0–23 months to be reached with infant and young child feeding counselling of 699,980 caregivers. This figure includes 51 per cent girls and 15 per cent people with disabilities (based on 2019 population statistics).
8. National Drought Management Authority, Monthly Drought Bulletin, March 2023.
9. Kenya Food Security Steering Group, The 2023 Long Rains Season Assessment Report, July 2023.
10. World Health Organization cholera summary, 18 September 2023.
11. Ministry of Health cholera sitrep, 7 September 2023.
12. Ministry of Health Disease Outbreak Situation Report, 13 September 2023.
13. Kenya Food Security Steering Group, The 2023 Long Rains Season Assessment Report, July 2023.
14. 2022 Short Rains Assessment, February 2023.
15. National Drought Management Authority, Monthly Drought Bulletin, June 2023.
16. World Bank updates, June 2023.
17. Kenya Food Security Steering Group, The 2023 Long Rains Season Assessment Report, July 2023.
18. Child protection assessment in Baringo, Samburu, Tana River, West Pokot, Isiolo and Marsabit Counties, Save the Children, 6 September 2023.
19. UNHCR, Refugee data finder, accessed June 2023.
20. Kenya Meteorological Department, official statement on the forecast of the October–November–December (OND) 2023 rains season, 30 August 2023.
21. National Disaster Operations Centre, national El Niño contingency plan, September 2023.
22. Kenya Food Security Steering Group, The 2023 Long Rains Season Assessment Report, July 2023, and Ministry of Health disease outbreak sitreps, September 2023.
23. Kenya Food Security Steering Group, The 2023 Long Rains Season Assessment Report, July 2023, and nutrition SMART surveys, July 2023.
24. Kenya Food Security Steering Group, The 2023 Long Rains Season Assessment Report, July 2023, and UNHCR refugee data finder, accessed June 2023.
25. Kenya Food Security Steering Group, The 2023 Long Rains Season Assessment Report, July 2023, and UNHCR refugee data finder, accessed June 2023.
26. Kenya Food Security Steering Group, The 2023 Long Rains Season Assessment Report, July 2023, and Ministry of Health disease outbreak sitreps, September 2023.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
31. \$3,832,403 will be required for mental health and psychosocial support and \$1,532,961 will be required for gender-based violence in emergencies risk mitigation and for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse efforts.