



Kalim and Ahmad looking at the rubble of their destroyed home in Rafah City in the southern Gaza Strip.

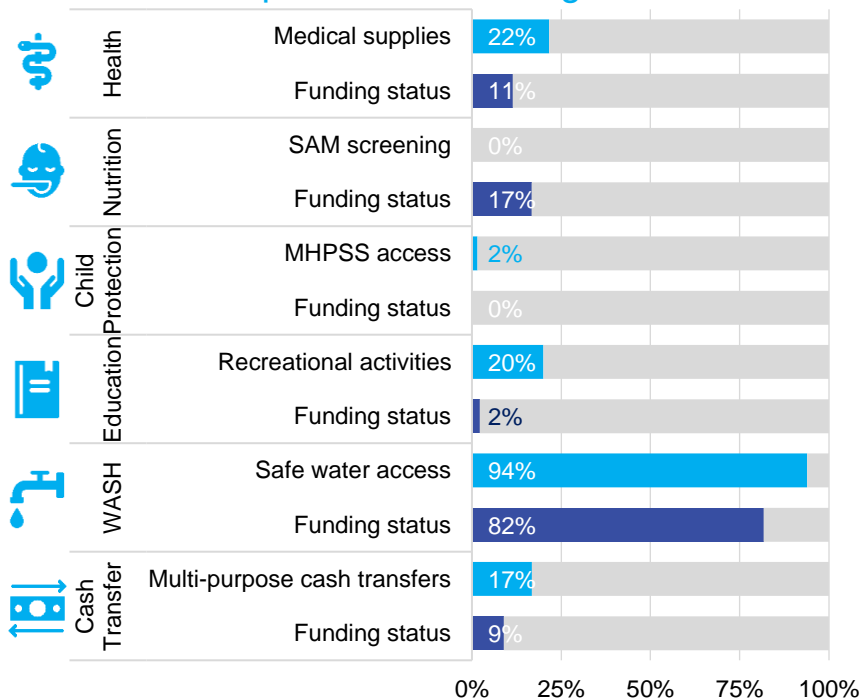
UNICEF-SoP/2023/Eyad alBaba

Reporting Period: 20 to 26 October 2023

Highlights

- There are estimated to be over 1.4 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) across the Gaza Strip, 629,000 of whom are hosted in 150 UNRWA Designated Emergency Shelters (DES).
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) as of October 26, reportedly 2,913 children were killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities, with a further 6,168 children reportedly injured. A further 35 children have reportedly been killed in the West Bank as a result of increasing violence.
- 221 schools have sustained damage in the Gaza Strip, representing over 40 per cent of all school buildings in the Gaza Strip. 625,000 children enrolled in school across the Gaza Strip have no access to education.
- UNICEF supported the temporary restoration of water to an estimated **1 million people** in the Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah areas of the Gaza Strip including over 560,000 children through provision of fuel and water treatment supplies.
- UNICEF has moved 13 trucks through the Rafah Crossing into the Gaza Strip with supplies including medicines and medical consumable kits delivered to Nasser Hospital for an estimated **165,000 people**, as well as bottled water for **55,000 people**. These supplies are in addition to the supplies already distributed through UNRWA and MoH.
- UNICEF has **reached around 3,000 IDP** children and adolescents with daily recreational and psychosocial support activities.
- UNICEF has made **cash transfers targeting over 22,000 people**, half of them children.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



for every child

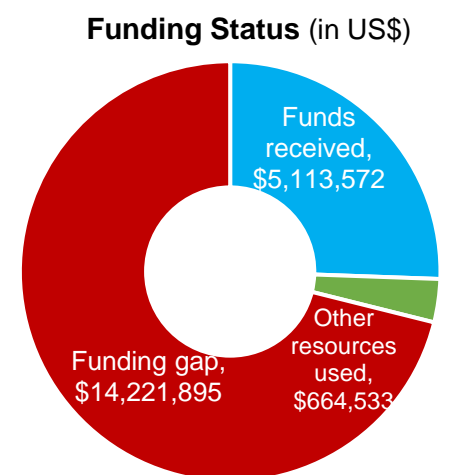
UNICEF in the State of Palestine

Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3

Situation in Numbers

- 1.4 Million** people in need (OCHA Flash appeal, Oct 2023)
- 1 Million** Children affected in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2023 population projections)
- Over 1.4 Million** Internally displaced people (OCHA, 25 Oct 2023)
- 221 Attacks on schools** (Education Cluster, 25 Oct 2023)
- 55% of Water Supply infrastructure** requires repair or rehabilitation (WASH Cluster, 22 October)

UNICEF Immediate Needs US\$ 20 million



UNICEF has an additional US\$12 million gap for the HAC 2023 and needs are expected to exponentially increase

Funding Overview and Partnerships

On 17 October UNICEF issued an Immediate Needs Document request for US\$ 20 million to cover the urgent needs for the escalation in the State of Palestine from October to December 2023. This is an initial appeal which is being revised as needs are growing rapidly. Against these immediate needs UNICEF has received US\$3,856,041 from the Australian Government; US\$265,675 from the French National Committee; \$184,800 from Thematic Humanitarian Response; US\$ 794,405 from the UNICEF Global Humanitarian Thematic resources; and has reprogrammed US\$ 664,533 from available grants with Norway, ECHO and UNICEF Regular Resources. In total 93 per cent of the appeal remains as a funding gap. UNICEF has received an emergency loan of US\$ 7.3 million from the UNICEF Emergency Programme Fund that must be reimbursed. UNICEF has an additional US\$ 12 million gap for the HAC 2023.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Gaza has continued to witness intensive bombardment. According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) as of October 26, reportedly 7,028 Palestinians including 2,913 children were killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities. A further 18,484 Palestinians were reportedly injured, including 6,168 children. An additional 1,650 people, including 940 children, are reported missing and may be under the rubble. Rescue efforts are hampered by ongoing airstrikes, a scarcity of fuel for vehicles and equipment, and limited communication capabilities.

The situation of internally displaced people in the Gaza Strip is dire, with over 1.4 million IDPs estimated, including those in UNRWA shelters, hospitals, public buildings, non-UNRWA schools, and those residing with host families. Overcrowding in shelters and a lack of food, water or privacy, is causing serious health and protection concerns particularly for women and children.

The Gaza Strip has been grappling with an almost complete electricity blackout, due to fuel shortages, forcing essential service providers to rely on backup generators or solar power where available. According to the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), the current water production capacity in the Gaza Strip has been reduced to 5 per cent of the normal daily production. All five wastewater treatment plants have been rendered dysfunctional and the piling of solid waste continues to pose an immense public health risk in the overcrowded shelters.

According to WHO there have been 76 attacks on health care in the Gaza Strip resulting in 16 fatalities and 30 injuries among healthcare workers. Many hospitals and ambulances have suffered damage. Since the start of hostilities, over one-third of hospitals in the Gaza Strip (12 of 35) and nearly two-thirds of primary health care clinics (46 of 72) have shut down due to damage from hostilities or lack of fuel, increasing the pressure on the remaining health facilities that are still operational.

Since the escalation began in the Gaza Strip 625,000 children enrolled in school across the Gaza Strip have had no access to education. At least 221 schools have sustained damage, this is over 40 per cent of all school buildings in the Gaza Strip. Of these schools one school was destroyed, 41 severely damaged, 83 sustained moderate damage, and 94 minor damage, with eight of the damaged UNRWA schools serving as shelters for IDPs. Several university buildings have also sustained damage.

The occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem is also facing increased violence, particularly in the context of Israeli forces operations and resulting confrontations. At least 110 Palestinians have been reported killed in the West Bank since October 7, including 35 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. Children in the West Bank have already lost at least four days of learning since the onset of the crisis and more days for children enrolled in schools in hot spot areas as many cannot go to school due to safety concerns on the school commute. On a daily basis, between 150-200 schools in the hot spots are not operational due to movement restrictions and insecurity.

Israeli sources report that at least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, and more than 5,431 people injured. No disaggregated data is yet available on Israeli children killed and injured. According to Israeli authorities, 224 Israelis were abducted into the Gaza Strip, including at least 20 children.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH

The water and sanitation conditions in the Gaza Strip continue to deteriorate as most water supply systems are hardly functional due to the lack of power supply, fuel shortages and damage. In response to the dire humanitarian situation and given the current restrictions, UNICEF has distributed 66,000 litres of bottled water and 4,500 emergency family kits, addressing the immediate needs of 49,000 people including 24,990 children. UNICEF has also supported efforts to temporarily restore water systems operations by providing 50,000 litres of fuel and water treatment supplies, resulting in the production of clean water for drinking and domestic needs benefiting an estimated 1 million people in the Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah areas including over 560,000 children.

Across the Gaza Strip the environmental conditions in shelters are becoming increasingly harmful to children and their families due to overcrowding. In response, UNICEF is supporting cleaning services in UNRWA DES including the Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC) benefitting over 26,000 people including over 13,000 children.

UNICEF continues to lead and coordinate the WASH cluster to support water service providers in the gradual restoration of large-scale water supply production and wastewater treatment to meet the critical lifesaving WASH needs. The WASH Cluster has 68 partners.

Health

The health crisis in the Gaza Strip has reached a critical point, marked by a significant rise in casualties, extensive damage to health infrastructure, and a severe shortage of essential services. In response UNICEF has been actively engaged in providing vital support to the Ministry of Health to respond to the emergency. UNICEF has worked with UNRWA for the delivery of medication and consumables to the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis. On October 25, 17 medical items, including medicines and medical consumable kits, were delivered to Nasser Hospital estimated to directly benefit 70,000 individuals. UNICEF is also coordinating with partners to support the delivery of health services in northern and southern regions of the Gaza Strip. UNICEF continues to collaborate with key partners, including the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, UNRWA, WHO, and other members of the health cluster, to facilitate the timely entry of additional life-saving medical supplies into the Gaza Strip.

Nutrition

The State of Palestine was facing child and maternal malnutrition even before the escalation started, with the pre-crisis prevalence of undernutrition (stunting and anaemia) among children a public health issue. Food security is an emerging concern, especially for pregnant and lactating women who face an increased risk of malnutrition and related health issues. The crisis has disrupted access to essential prevention and curative nutrition services for an estimated 337,000 children under five years and 155,000 pregnant and lactating women in Gaza Strip. Given the suspension of services in the Gaza Strip, these children and women face an increased risk of malnutrition, disease, and death.

The Nutrition Working Group remains active with partners' meetings conducted to ensure proper coordination of nutrition activities on the ground. A joint statement on infant and young children in emergencies (IYCF-E) was released by the global nutrition cluster: [Infant and Young Child Feeding Joint Statement - Gaza conflict | Global Nutrition Cluster](#).

Child Protection

Since 7 October 2023, UNICEF has scaled up the capacity of an existing helpline to respond to the psychosocial support (PSS) needs in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank including East Jerusalem. In the Gaza Strip, the helpline provided psychosocial services to over 600 people including 63 children. Meanwhile, in the West Bank UNICEF distributed 366 recreational kits catering for 1,729 children across seven different governorates, and four Child Protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) partners have reached 2,269 conflict affected children (874 girls and 1,395 boys) with child protection services including PSS, individual and group counselling, psychotherapy, as well as 21 boys in East Jerusalem who accessed legal aid services. Additionally, 1,904 caregivers (706 mothers) received psychosocial services.

UNICEF is currently putting in place and scaling up systems to ensure that unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are identified and registered and have access to tracing, reunification and reintegration services. To date, UNICEF has trained 27 members of the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CPAoR) on identification, documentation, tracing and reunification (IDTR) to start up identification and registration both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Coordination with key actors, including the ICRC, UNRWA and UN agencies is taking place to boost identification and registration, and for the Gaza Strip to identify the provision of alternative care arrangements for UASC.

UNICEF also continues to lead the Child Protection Area of Responsibility as part of the Protection Cluster, coordinating the work of 83 partners.

Education

The lack of access to schooling by children is exacerbating the learning loss that pre-existed before the crisis due to the prolonged teachers' strike and the COVID-19 pandemic. This has also significantly impacted on the children's well-being with many children in need of MHPSS.

To address children's psychosocial support needs in the Gaza Strip, UNICEF with a local partner has reached around 3,000 internally displaced children and adolescents in the 15 shelters in Deir el Balah and Rafah, in the Southern Gaza Strip, with daily recreational and PSS activities. The recreational and PSS activities aim to increase children's wellbeing through storytelling, play, movement, sports, drawing, Psychological First Aid (PFA) and expressive arts. The children are also reached with awareness raising on the risks associated with explosive remnants of war (ERWs). It is expected that the recreational activities will also contribute to providing safe spaces, routine and a sense of normalcy to the affected children.

UNICEF continues to co-lead the Education Cluster with Save the Children, coordinating the work of 89 partners.

Social Protection

UNICEF has made two payments of humanitarian cash transfers to conflict affected households in the Gaza Strip since the start of the escalation targeting 22,327 people including 11,449 children (2,967 households). As of 26 October, just two weeks after the first disbursement, 1,683 households (57 per cent) had redeemed their cash. The transfer is for NIS 754 (equivalent to US\$ 187), redeemed through mobile agents including grocery stores, to be used for households' minimum expenditure on basic items such as water, food and hygiene products. Redemption rates have remained slow but steady reflecting the households' challenges in accessing electricity, mobile phone connections, and the increasing challenges on the markets inside Gaza. UNICEF has been following up with the mobile agents and shops on a daily basis to check on cash liquidity in the shops, opening hours, and the functionality of the digital payment systems. The information collected is being communicated back to the beneficiaries in real-time through the hotline to direct them to agents closest to their locations for redemption. While the markets are increasingly fragile the mobile money modality being used by UNICEF continues to function for now and is being closely monitored to ensure that beneficiaries are able to redeem. UNICEF has coordinated with the Cash Working Group to avoid duplication of beneficiaries and harmonization of transfer values. UNICEF has also sent SMS on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support to the households targeted to pass messages and provide options for remote counselling.

Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)

UNICEF is scaling up Social Listening, which involves the systematic analysis of public online discussions from social media and forums to understand how the population of the Gaza Strip discusses and reacts to specific topics related to their needs. This approach is being established to continually inform and shape UNICEF programme interventions and provide relevant and timely information to promote safety and preventive practices and behaviours. Additionally, the Social Listening approach will be utilized to monitor rumours, misinformation and disinformation which could also affect the affected population's access to essential services.

Support from Egypt

Since October 21, UNICEF has transported 13 trucks from Egypt to the Gaza Strip through the Rafah Crossing. In the WASH sector UNICEF has transported 918 WASH dignity kits serving 27,500 people; 166,000 litres of bottled water serving 55,000 people; 4,000 water containers; 12 water tanks with various capacities; and 2,000 packs of chlorine tablets for water purification serving 25,000 people. In the health sector UNICEF has transported eight trucks with essential medical supplies including medication and consumable to sustain essential healthcare services in the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis and can serve 280,000 cases.

An additional four charter flights are expected to arrive at Al Arish in Egypt containing WASH supplies to serve 93,000 people (including hygiene kits, water tanks and water purification items); recreational, ECD and school in a carton kit that will serve almost 81,500 children; and medical supplies to serve over 80,000 people.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team and closely coordinates with other organizations and local partners. UNICEF also leads the coordination of the WASH Cluster and co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children. Within the Protection Cluster, UNICEF leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. UNICEF is part of the Inter-Cluster Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group. UNICEF co-leads the Nutrition Working Group within the Health Cluster. UNICEF also supports the Inter-Agency Network for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

Human Interest Stories, External Media and Advocacy

Statements:

24.10.2023: [Child casualties in Gaza “a growing stain on our collective conscience”](#)

21.10.2023: [First deliveries of life-saving supplies for children enter Gaza](#)

21.10.2023: [Joint statement by UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO on humanitarian supplies crossing into Gaza](#)

Social Media:

- [The first UN supplies of water, food and medicine have entered Gaza.](#)
- [First aid convoy enters the Gaza Strip.](#)
- [Time is running out for children in the Gaza Strip- WASH focused messages](#)

UNICEF spokespersons have delivered more than 170 interviews with different media outlets, including CNN, BBC, Sky News, Reuters, Washington post, France24, and Al Jazeera. Various assets can also be accessed on the UNICEF WeShare [page](#).

Next SitRep: 3 November 2023

UNICEF State of Palestine Immediate Needs Document, Oct-Dec 2023: [here](#)

UNICEF State of Palestine Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: [State of Palestine Appeal | UNICEF](#)

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Annex A - Summary of Programme Results

Sector / Indicator	Target	Cumulative Result	% Progress
WASH			
# people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	1,100,000	1,033,000	94%
Health			
# people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies to MOH and Health partners in Gaza	324,000	70,000*	22%
Nutrition			
# children 6-59 months screened for wasting	107,000	0	0%
Child Protection			
# children affected by conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support	150,000	2,332	2%
Education			
# affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being	15,000	3,000	20%
Social Protection			
# households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	10,000	1,638	17%

* This result is estimated based on supplies delivered to the Naser Hospital in the Gaza Strip. According to the latest WHO situation report¹, approximately one month's stock is used in a day in the Gaza Strip. The actual consumption is almost 30 times the regular consumption, due to the severity of cases and the high rate of demand on medical supplies.

Annex B - Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (US\$)	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received after 7 October	Other resources used for the escalation	US\$	%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	5,520,000	4,216,993	289,690	1,013,317	18%
Health	4,180,000	278,326	200,000	3,701,674	89%
Nutrition	1,200,000	0	0	1,200,000	100%
Child Protection	2,400,000	0	0	2,400,000	100%
Education	2,393,000	0	52,000	2,341,000	98%
Social Protection	3,275,000	169,473	122,843	2,982,684	91%
Cross-Sectoral (SBC, RCCE, AAP and PSEA)	150,000	88,645	0	61,355	41%
Cluster coordination	882,000	360,135	0	521,865	59%
Total	20,000,000	5,113,572	664,533	14,221,895	71%

* As defined in Immediate Needs Document of 18/10/2023 for a period of 3 months

* UNICEF has an additional US\$12 million gap for the HAC 2023.

¹ WHO Emergency Situation Report #6