

9-year-old Fadi walks the street while holding a pot of food on his head in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip. Acute malnutrition among children has continued to rise rapidly and at scale, and UN agencies have been warning of the risk of a famine in the Gaza Strip since December.

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Reporting Period: 4 to 17 April 2024

# UNICEF in the State of Palestine

## Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 23

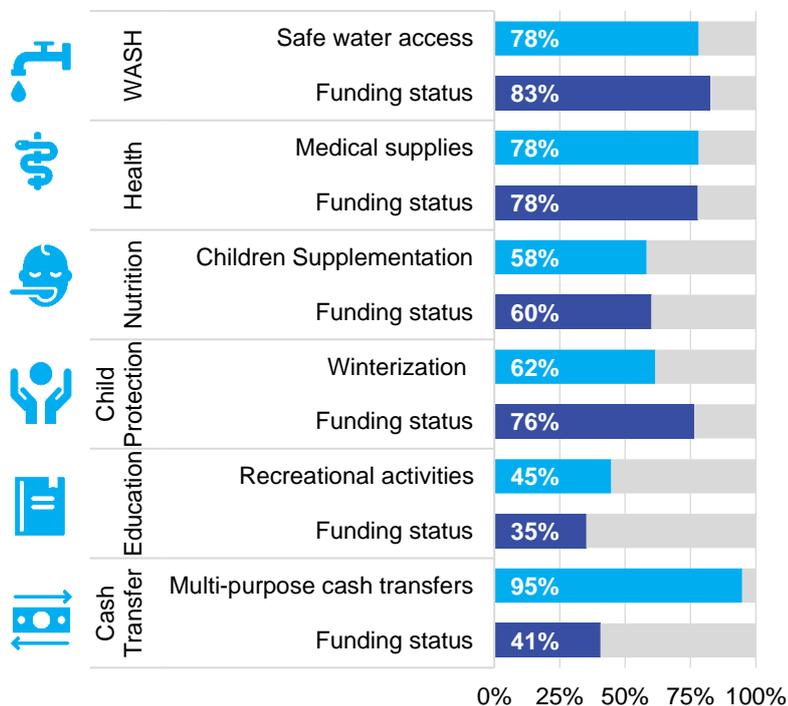
### Highlights

- Over 87 per cent of all school buildings in the Gaza Strip have been damaged or destroyed, as per Education Cluster estimates. All schools have been closed for 625,000 students for six months. Every university in Gaza has been destroyed.
- UNICEF with partners has screened 43,300 children aged 6-59 months for malnutrition. Of those, 2,900 children were identified with acute malnutrition, who now receive treatment with the support of UNICEF. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projected that 1.1 million people face catastrophic levels of hunger (IPC Phase 5) and are at risk of famine in the Gaza Strip, the highest number of people ever recorded in this category by the IPC system.
- A UNICEF convoy came under fire while on the way to northern Gaza to deliver life-saving aid, including therapeutic food for children at risk of malnutrition and preventable mortality.
- Up to 6,000 Adolescent Girls' Personal Care packages distributed by UNICEF partners, which include e.g., sanitary pads, underwear, a scarf, and a whistle.
- UNICEF has moved 81 trucks into the Gaza Strip in the past two weeks with new critical emergency supplies, including 15,000 packages of high energy biscuits, 3,700 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food, 25,400 sanitary items, 12,500 hygiene kits, 3,100 Adolescent Girls' Personal Care packages, 6,000 plastic tarpaulins, and 1,300 sets of clothing.
- In the West Bank, UNICEF provided essential child protection services, including psychosocial first aid, MHPSS, and legal services to 1,202 people, including 797 children (132 girls) and 405 caregivers (239 women).

### Situation in Numbers

- 3.3 Million** people in need nationally (OCHA Flash Appeal, April 2024)
- 1 Million** Children affected in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2023 population projections)
- Estimated 1.7 Million** Internally displaced persons (UNRWA, 18 March 2024)
- 563 schools** Sustained damage in Gaza (Education Cluster, 30 March)
- 95% of population** Facing high acute food insecurity in Gaza (IPC Phase 3 or worse, March 2024)

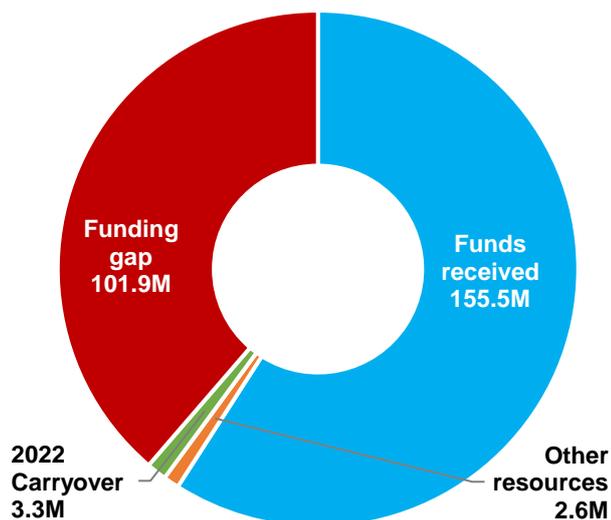
### UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



### UNICEF Immediate Needs

## US\$ 263.3 million

#### Funding Status (in US\$)



Funding does not include the loans received from within UNICEF. See Annex A for additional explanations. For interventions such as water and cash the graph does not reflect the need to reach affected people through multiple rounds of intervention.

UNICEF funding status is based on the March 2024 revision of the HAC.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

The latest Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories<sup>1</sup> was issued on 17 April covering April to December 2024. The appeal identifies a financial requirement of approximately US\$ 2.8 billion to meet critical needs for 3.1 million people, 2.3 million population in the Gaza Strip and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. UNICEF issued an updated Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for October 2023 until the end of March 2024 aligned with the previous interagency humanitarian planning processes. The UNICEF funding requirement was adjusted, as laid out in the 2024 HAC appeal, in line with increasing needs to US\$ 263.3 million. This revision reflects a strategic shifts towards scaling up and sustaining humanitarian programming in targeted shelters and communities, as well as increased procurement of supplies required regularly and high associated freight costs. To date, the revised HAC has a US\$ 101.9 million (39 per cent) funding gap. The HAC will be revised in line with the latest Flash Appeal.

UNICEF would like to sincerely thank partners for their contributions, including the governments of Austria, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom as well as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), EU Humanitarian Aid and the World Bank. UNICEF thanks the UNICEF National Committees of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. UNICEF would also like to thank the UNICEF private sector fundraising offices of Bahrain, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Gulf Area Office, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Romania, Thailand, and Uzbekistan, which have supported the response to the escalation of hostilities. Last but not least, UNICEF benefited from Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding, which enables UNICEF to respond flexibly to the acute needs of the most vulnerable children and their families in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. UNICEF has also received US\$ 8 million from the internal Emergency Programme Fund and exceptionally US\$ 10 million from an internal capital loan both of which will need to be replenished – these loans are not reflected in funds received.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

According to Education Cluster estimates, 87.7 per cent of all school buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed<sup>2</sup>, including 212 school buildings that have had a direct hit and could be severely damaged, and 282 more school buildings which have sustained moderate, minor or likely damage. Prior to the conflict 503,500 children attended and 18,900 teachers taught at these school buildings<sup>3</sup>.

Further, the destruction highlights the long-lasting impact on a generation of children's education. The conflict has already disrupted their learning, and once it ends, they will have no schools to return to. Extended periods away from school not only interrupt learning but also cause regression. This puts long-term prospects of children, including their income and mental and physical health, at risk, and they may also become more vulnerable to violence and abuse. Education in emergencies is a crucial component of the initial phase of a quality child-focused humanitarian response<sup>4</sup>. Safe spaces are established where children can play and receive psychosocial support, with referrals to specialised Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Child Protection services. However, in the Gaza Strip, no place is safe, making it nearly impossible to scale up the critical education in emergencies response without risk.

As of 15 April, at least 33,843 Palestinians were reported killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities. Up to 70 per cent are reported to be women (9,000) and children (13,900) reported by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. More than 76,575 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 12,104 children (partially disaggregated data as of 14 April 2024). As of April 17, there were 244 aid workers killed including 176 UNRWA staff. Seven World Central Kitchen staff were killed on 1 April. UNRWA reports as of 7 April, that at least 409 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been killed in their facilities, with at least a further 1,409 injured due to the hostilities since 7 October. Close to 1.7 million IDPs (over 75 per cent of the population) are sheltering at emergency shelters, which are UNRWA shelters or public shelters, at informal sites, or in the vicinity of UNRWA shelters and distribution sites and within host communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, April-December 2024: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/flash-appeal-occupied-palestinian-territory-2024>. The previous Inter-Agency Flash Appeal was issued on 6 November covering October to December 2023, and was thereafter extended until the end of March 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Schools Dashboard of the Education Cluster, <https://gis.unicef.org/portal/apps/dashboards/c6e0bfd744164b2f84276071b1a83e78>

<sup>3</sup> Due to the challenges to access areas, particularly in Gaza and North Gaza governorates, the Education Cluster administered a Satellite-derived Damage Assessment in Gaza to verify initial school damage data, <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/verification-damages-schools-based-proximity-damaged-sites-gaza-occupied-palestinian-territory-26-march-2024>.

<sup>4</sup> Education – A Priority From the First Day of Every Crisis, <https://eiehub.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Education-%E2%80%93-A-Priority-From-the-First-Day-of-Every-Crisis-1.pdf>.

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, OCHA reports that since 7 October, at least 444 Palestinians have been killed.<sup>5</sup> At least 122 Palestinian children and two Israeli children were reported killed in conflict-related violence in the same time period. Included in these numbers are the incidents that took place between 12 and 15 April, in which seven Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, including two children. As OCHA reports<sup>6</sup>, three of these individuals were killed by Israeli forces, one by an Israeli settler, and for three of them it remains unconfirmed whether they were killed by Israeli forces or settlers. Four of the fatalities were killed in incidents involving Israeli settlers in a series of attacks on Palestinian communities during and after a search for a 14-year-old Israeli boy who went missing on 12 April. He was found dead the following day in the Ramallah governorate, near Malachei Hashalom settlement and Al Mughayir village. According to OCHA, since 7 October, at least 2,900 Palestinians including more than 1,300 children have been displaced, mainly in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to settler violence and access restrictions, home demolitions, and destruction of residences during military law enforcement operations.

Northern Gaza “has largely been cut off from aid and has recorded the highest levels of catastrophic hunger in the world” in recent months, the World Food Programme states. The Global Nutrition Cluster reported in mid-March a near doubling of malnutrition rates among children under the age of two in northern Gaza from 16 per cent in January to 31 per cent in February. According to the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip, 28 children have died of malnutrition and dehydration in northern Gaza between early February to early April, of whom 20 were under 12 months of age.<sup>7</sup> Oxfam made an estimation in early April that the population in northern Gaza need to survive on an average of 245 calories per day since January, which is around 100g of beans. This represents less than 12 per cent of the recommended daily 2,100 calorie intake needed per person.<sup>8</sup> In Khan Younis, in the middle area of the Gaza Strip, an analysis found that 28 per cent of children under 2 years suffer from acute malnutrition, more than 10 per cent of whom have severe wasting.<sup>9</sup>

Israeli authorities report that approximately 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, mostly in the attacks of 7 October, and more than 7,500 people are reported injured. More than 35 children have been reported killed. Around 250 people, including at least 36 children were abducted from Israel into the Gaza Strip, of whom 34 have been released, with very limited information available on the children remaining in captivity.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

In the concerted efforts to mitigate the pressing Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) humanitarian needs, UNICEF’s pivotal role has significantly impacted water and sanitation services in the Gaza Strip. The past two weeks saw an increase in water production, with daily outputs reaching over 54,111 cubic meters. This is a notable growth of 9,909 cubic meters from previous figures, as a result of the increased fuel received through the UN mechanism<sup>10</sup>. This improvement has been helpful to supply clean water to over 1.6 million individuals, half of them children, across the Gaza Strip, such as in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis, Rafah, and the Middle Area. This improvement is attributed to continuous fuel deliveries, averaging 14,161 litters daily, which supports the operation of desalination plants and water wells. Despite this advancement, the system faces challenges, particularly with a 50 per cent water loss due to damaged infrastructure from conflicts, significantly reducing the amount of water distributed to communities.

The WASH Cluster has completed a participatory process to develop the WASH response plan in the OCHA led Flash Appeal for US\$ 305.6M covering the period April to December 2024. The WASH cluster continues to operate a National Coordination platform for 53 WASH partners. During the reporting period the Gaza cluster team focussed on critical shortages in the WASH response, notably on the fuel shortage in the WASH sector with highlights on specific gaps in allocation for north of Wadi Gaza, water trucking, sewage pumping and treatment. The cluster has led an inter-agency process for planning on solid waste management in the Gaza Strip which is a critical gap. The temporary landfills are

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<sup>5</sup> Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel, Flash Update #152, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-152>

<sup>6</sup> Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel Flash Update #154, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-154>

<sup>7</sup> Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel, Flash Update #153, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-153>

<sup>8</sup> People in northern Gaza forced to survive on 245 calories a day, less than a can of beans, <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/people-northern-gaza-forced-survive-245-calories-day-less-can-beans-oxfam>. For reference, one 400g can of fava beans contains between 250 and 340 calories.

<sup>9</sup> Acute malnutrition has doubled in one month in the north of Gaza strip, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/acute-malnutrition-has-doubled-one-month-north-gaza-strip-unicef>

<sup>10</sup> Through a signed agreement with UNRWA, UNICEF receives fuel to support water service providers in the operation of water and wastewater systems. UNICEF refunds UNRWA for the fuel. This is a UN wide mechanism agreed upon with all parties.

full and collection from community and IDP sites is overwhelmed, yet municipal equipment and personnel are not being mobilised to their full capacity. The WASH Cluster is also collaborating with OCHA in managing and coordinating the 48-hour rapid response mechanism in the West Bank.

## Health

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF provided 244 items of assorted medicines and consumables to the Ministry of Health (MoH), to Al Awda hospital in North Gaza, and to Gaza City. With the destruction of the healthcare facilities across the Gaza Strip, UNICEF undertook a rapid assessment of three hospitals in Khan Younis to assess their viability for operationalization. With the interruption of the routine immunization in many parts of Gaza, UNICEF has started the process of renting an alternative cold room in Deir Balah to ensure vaccine availability, safety and proper facilitated distribution. UNICEF participates in humanitarian coordination mechanisms to support an integrated and coordinated response for lifesaving emergency healthcare services in the Gaza Strip.

## Nutrition

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF with partners continued conducting Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screenings, targeting children aged 6 to 59 months in shelters and healthcare facilities, to detect acute malnutrition. 43,355 children aged 6-59 months have been screened for malnutrition, out of which 2,932 children were identified with acute malnutrition (2,168 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition, and 764 with Severe Acute Malnutrition). These children are currently receiving treatment based on simplified protocols with the support of UNICEF. In addition, UNICEF managed to scale up the outpatient treatment of acutely malnourished children to 85 outpatient therapeutic feeding (OTP) sites across the Gaza Strip, providing services in Khan Younis (2 sites), Middle Area (11 sites), North Gaza (26 sites), and Rafah (46 sites) through 13 nutrition partners.

UNICEF continued to lead and coordinate the Nutrition Cluster in the Gaza Strip as well as the national Nutrition Cluster with 49 partners, of which 20 have ongoing interventions in the Gaza Strip. As per the current mapping of services for the Nutrition Cluster partners, the nutrition interventions are provided at 21 health facilities, at 235 formal and informal shelters, and at 37 sites in host communities. The Gaza Nutrition Cluster supported capacity building of the cluster partners with 12 staff from UNRWA trained in early identification and treatment of acutely malnourished children, in order to launch the management of the wasting program in a field hospital. This brings the total number of health workers trained on the simplified approaches of the MUAC screenings to 87.

## Child Protection

Distribution of clothing items continued in various locations, including in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir Al-Balah. Since 7 October 2023, UNICEF with partners distributed 202,971 clothing items tailored differently for children aged newborn to 17 years old. Also, UNICEF continued to advocate for the expedited access of child protection supplies into the Gaza Strip.

UNICEF has provided psychosocial support (PSS) services to 151,381 children and caregivers, of whom 113,146 are children (including 60,784 girls) in Gaza, North Gaza, Rafah, Khan Younis and Deir Al-Balah. Structured in-person PSS services were provided to 78,987 children (including 43,063 girls and 1,126 children with disabilities) as well as to 23,017 caregivers (including 13,606 women). Of those, 127 parents benefitted from positive parenting awareness sessions. Additionally, UNICEF has organized specialized PSS sessions for 350 children who either sustained injuries or have existing disabilities. These sessions aim to assess and cater to their specific needs within the intervention framework. In addition, UNICEF with partners provide face-to-face sessions on explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) across the Gaza Strip, reaching a total of 30,265 people (18,760 children and 11,505 caregivers) in shelters and vulnerable communities.

A total of 13 unaccompanied children are currently receiving alternative care and additional services through a UNICEF partner. UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO, also facilitated the movement of an unaccompanied child from the North of the Gaza Strip to Rafah. 210 separated children in informal kinship-care-arrangements, including 175 children who were identified by UNRWA, are regularly monitored by a UN agency.

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to provide essential child protection, prevention and response interventions in the West Bank. These services include psychosocial first aid (PFA), MHPSS, awareness sessions and legal services to 1,202 people, including 797 children (132 girls) and 405 caregivers (239 women).

Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CPAoR) partners continue to deliver life-saving services to vulnerable children in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In March, a total of 69,382 children and 24,710 caregivers were reached with interventions including identification and response for unaccompanied and separated children, MHPSS, clothes and

shoes distribution and awareness raising on Explosive Ordinance Risk Education and Child Rights. [See here for data on the response](#). The lack of approval for fuel allocations for Child Protection actors remains a critical challenge.

## Education

To support the well-being of adolescent girls, UNICEF has distributed 6,000 Adolescent Girls' Personal Care packages to women-led organizations to benefit 6,000 young girls. UNICEF has partnered with a consortium of local women-led organizations to support the creation of safer spaces for adolescent girls where they will be reached with information and services that are specific to the needs of adolescents' girls. The distribution of the Adolescent Girls' Personal Care packages will be linked to information sharing and recreational activities, including MHPSS, adapted to adolescent girls specifically. The package provides three packs of sanitary pads, underwear, skin wipes, multipurpose cloth, feminine wash, a whistle, a headscarf, the "Laaha<sup>11</sup> MHPSS and GBV Booklet" and the "Adolescent Girls Care Kit Booklet".

## Social Protection

Since the onset of the escalation on 7 October 2023, UNICEF has provided cash assistance to 555,311 people (83,890 families, including 295,753 children, 18,125 people with disabilities, and 43,644 female-headed households). Of those, 388,374 people (56,085 families) were assisted with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). This represents 65 per cent of all humanitarian cash transactions provided in the Gaza Strip. In recognition of a continuous need, UNICEF started to provide the second round of MPCA and already reached 180,194 people (21,278 households) – 27 per cent of which assisted twice.

Having reached six months since the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip, informal markets keep demonstrating exceptional resilience which enabled fast and effective redistribution of goods, which is critical in the environment of highly restricted access. Therefore, to contribute to the prevention of famine and to gradually restore the economy, in-kind assistance needs to be accompanied by adequate circulation of cash especially through humanitarian cash transfers to ensure an effective, timely and fair re-distribution of goods for the most vulnerable families.

Unfortunately, during the past three weeks only limited caseloads of cash transfers were executed due to unprecedented liquidity issues in the Gaza Strip. Particularly, the banking sector has been facing significant challenges to ensure cash liquidity, and on the movement of cash within Gaza Strip. UNICEF and Cash Working Group members are in contact with the banking sector and a financial service provider to ensure an adequate level of cash liquidity and the continuity of cash transfers. The situation is yet to improve. Large quantities of cash are believed to be controlled by a few private merchants who provide cash at extremely high fees. The lack of cash flow through banking creates risks way beyond humanitarian cash operations – it has been impacting the local markets and other humanitarian interventions already.

## Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)

Since the beginning of the hostilities UNICEF has been conducting Social Listening to summarize trending social media content in English and Arabic related to the current situation in the State of Palestine, with a focus on children, humanitarian issues, and perceptions of international organizations. The trends in social online discourse in the week from 25 March to 3 April particularly revolved around the hostilities at the Al-Shifa hospital; the attack on the World Central Kitchen staff; the imminent famine in the northern part of the Gaza Strip; and airdropping of aid. These topics are in addition to the regular circulated discourses on the destruction of the local infrastructure, the lack of functioning hospitals, the scarcity of basic humanitarian supplies, and the extremely high costs of available supplies amidst this scarcity.

## Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) / Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

UNICEF continued its efforts to ensure that communities have direct, safe and confidential channels for any complaint or feedback they may have regarding UNICEF and partners' interventions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, through a Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Since 7 October 2023, 29,733 pieces of feedback with complaints were received through the three UNICEF CFM channels: namely the Interagency Hotline, the PSEA network hotline, and the UNICEF e-mail. During the reporting period, 2,202 pieces of feedback and complaints were received. 87 per cent of the feedback came in through the Interagency Hotline. Communication and feedback included requests for cash assistance, issues related to cash redemption, and requests for specific products. Complaints were referred to relevant channels to be resolved, and the feedback related to the Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programme is analysed by the corresponding team, and then followed up on, to identify and resolve challenges, as well as to inform the direction of the cash programming.

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<sup>11</sup> Laaha provides information to women and girls on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence as well as where and how to access services when needed. It is the first-ever platform designed by and for women and girls in humanitarian and development settings to address gender-based violence.

Through the PSEA network, UNICEF continues to strengthen inter-agency feedback channels, and advocates for the use of the hotline (number 164), which receives different requests, complaints and provides MHPSS and referrals. In this reporting period, the hotline documented 1,863 calls from 37 girls, 67 boys, 877 women, and 813 men, who requested services, including repetitive MHPSS provision. Out of all callers, there are 835 documented individual cases that received MHPSS through the PSEA Network hotline, including 348 females and 487 males. Some of the children who received MHPSS services continue to mention symptoms of increased irritation, less appetite, constant panic and fear, and stomach-ache. Many calls describe there are not enough food in the school shelters, scarcity of drinking water and infants' milk. Calls are still mentioning poor access to food or starvation, from all over the Gaza Strip, including at least three deaths by starvation, one is a child in the north, and at least one case of suicide ideation due to starvation was reported.

One partner providing PSS services in the Gaza Strip continues to deliver sessions that reached 143,281 IDPs with safeguarding awareness services and the SANAD<sup>12</sup> brochure. The PSEA team continues to provide PSEA risk assessments for all new partners across sections, and works on mainstreaming PSEA in projects and programmes.

### Support from Egypt Coordination Cell

Cumulatively, 709 trucks with UNICEF supplies have crossed into the Gaza Strip from Egypt since 21 October 2023. During the reporting period, a total of 81 trucks with critical emergency supplies have crossed. Key supply items delivered include: 3,180 Adolescent Girls' Personal Care packages; 3 generators with a power production of 5 kilovolt (KV); nutrition items comprising of 15,000 packages of high energy biscuits and 3,750 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF); 1,296 sets of clothing; 25,400 sanitary items; electrical installations for solar powers stations and generators; 12,596 hygiene kits; and 6,000 plastic tarpaulins.

Operations at the Nitzana and Karem Abou Salem (Kerem Shalom) border crossings have opened, and the number of trucks processed daily has increased considerably. During the reporting period, the Emergency Relief Coordinator<sup>13</sup> reported that the backlog of UN/INGO trucks in Al-Arish, Egypt, waiting to enter the Gaza Strip, had reduced from an average of 1,258 to 85 trucks. UNICEF is increasingly using the Jordanian corridor to deliver supplies into the Gaza Strip.

### 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, including women-led organisations. UNICEF also leads the coordination of the WASH and Nutrition Clusters and co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children. Within the Protection Cluster, UNICEF leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility as well as the Technical Working Group on UASC. UNICEF is part of the Inter-Cluster Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group. UNICEF also supports the Inter-Agency Network for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and participates in the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Working Group coordinated by OCHA. UNICEF also actively participates in the Regional and National Gender and Humanitarian Working Group, coordinated by the UN Women and OCHA, and contributes to gender equality programming as well as preparedness and response.

### Human Interest Stories, External Media and Advocacy

#### Advocacy – What is UNICEF calling for?

To respond to the situation for children in Israel and the State of Palestine, UNICEF is calling for:

- An immediate and long-lasting humanitarian ceasefire.
- Safe and unrestricted humanitarian access to and within the Gaza Strip to reach affected populations wherever they are, including in the north. All access crossings must be opened including to sufficient fuel, materials needed to run and rehabilitate essential infrastructure, and commercial supplies. Safe movement for humanitarian workers and supplies, including assistive devices such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, crutches and

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<sup>12</sup> The SANAD Network is a shared public platform where Palestinian civil society organizations, UN agencies and INGOs unite their voices and efforts towards strengthening Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). SANAD engages especially with children, women, youth, and people with disabilities. One activity are Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) interventions to raise awareness for the prevention of violence. Community members across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip can receive mental health support or submit an official complaint of any physical or verbal abuse perpetrated by an aid worker via WhatsApp +972 59 404 021, via e-mail at [optconfidential@un.org](mailto:optconfidential@un.org), or by calling the free hotline 164 of the partner organisation SAWA.

<sup>13</sup> The Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) is the most senior UN official dedicated to humanitarian affairs. The ERC reports directly to the United Nations Secretary-General and serves as a focal point for governments, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental organisations on humanitarian issues.

prosthetics, across the Gaza Strip must be guaranteed and reliable telecommunications networks made available to coordinate response efforts.

- The immediate, safe, and unconditional release of all abducted children, and an end to any grave violations against all children, including killing and maiming children.
- Respect and protection for civilian infrastructure such as shelters and schools, and health, electric, water, sanitation, and telecommunications facilities, to prevent loss of civilian and children's lives, outbreaks of diseases, and to provide care to the sick and wounded. All parties to the conflict must respect international humanitarian law.
- Urgent medical cases in the Gaza Strip to be able to safely access critical health services or be allowed to leave, and for injured or sick children evacuated to be accompanied by family members.

UNICEF continues to press world leaders on every occasion for an end to the violence and humanitarian access to the whole of the Gaza Strip.

#### Statements:

- 16 April 2024: [Children disproportionately wearing the scars of the war in Gaza – Geneva Palais briefing note](#)
- 16 April 2024: [France and the UN join hands to strengthen maternal and neonatal health services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank](#)
- 13 April 2024: [UNICEF and the Government of Japan partner to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank](#)

#### Human interest stories:

- [In Gaza, it's chaos and ruin everywhere](#)

#### Social Media:

- [Many thanks to France and AFD for their long lasting support to the Palestinian children.](#)
- [Today UNICEF and AFD, in the presence of H.E Palestine's PM Dr. Mohammad Mustafa, signed an agreement to support 145,000 women and children through strengthening the maternal and neonatal health services in SoP.](#)
- [Thank you tweet to Japan: Important contribution for children as UNICEF and Japan signed an agreement in support of child protection, nutrition services, WASH supplies, and MHPSS to over 1 million vulnerable children and their families in Palestine.](#)
- ["I lost everyone I love." 13-year-old Alma lost both her parents, siblings and several other relatives. We keep seeing story after story of children in Gaza experiencing profound grief.](#)
- ["Rafah, a city of children." UNICEF Spokesperson James Elder on the more than 600,000 children trapped in Rafah, with nowhere safe to go.](#)

## Next SitRep: 6 May 2024

UNICEF State of Palestine Humanitarian Action for Children 2024 Appeal: [www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine](http://www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine)

Latest Situation Reports are available on: [www.unicef.org/sop/research-and-reports](http://www.unicef.org/sop/research-and-reports)

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## Summary of Programme Results (Gaza Strip and West Bank)<sup>14</sup>

Sector / Indicator	UNICEF			CLUSTER		
	Total Target <sup>15</sup>	Cumulative Result	% Progress	Total Target	Cumulative Result	% Progress
<b>WASH</b>						
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs <sup>16</sup>	2,050,000	1,601,178	78%	2,426,544	2,100,000	87%
# of people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services	1,350,000	495,187	37%	2,426,544	992,916	41%
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)	1,050,000	516,882	49%	2,426,544	996,480	41%
<b>Health</b>						
# of people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies <sup>17</sup>	780,000	609,785	78%			
# of high risks pregnant women who benefited from medical assistance in Gaza	50,000	5,030	10%			
<b>Nutrition</b>						
# of pregnant women receiving preventative iron folate or multiple micronutrients supplementation	182,272	64,141	35%	197,858	64,141	32%
# of children 6-59 months receiving preventative lipid-based supplements, micronutrients supplementation, and high energy biscuits	341,524	199,058	58%	371,859	293,310	79%
# of Infants 0-6 months receiving RUIF <sup>18</sup>	16,415	6,074	37%	23,551	6,074	26%
# of children 0-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	6,813	2,267	33%	6,813	2,267	33%
<b>Child Protection<sup>19</sup></b>						
# of children and caregivers affected by conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support	596,453 children 255,623 caregivers	126,186 48,288	21% 19%	746,000	165,869	30%
# of children receiving explosive weapons-related risk education	504,925	18,760	4%			
# of children reached with winterization items (including blankets)	330,000	202,971	62%			
<b>Education</b>						
# of affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being	155,000	69,289	45%	529,084	187,706	35%
# of school aged children provided with essential education in emergency learning materials	325,500	160	0% <sup>20</sup>	438,286	65,737	15%
<b>Social Protection</b>						
# of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers <sup>21</sup>	88,500	83,890	95%			

<sup>14</sup> The Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for October to December 2023 was carried over in the 2024 HAC revised on 5 January and in February to cover October 2023 to March 2024 inclusive. Accordingly, also the results against the indicators were carried over into 2024.

<sup>15</sup> UNICEF targets have been updated aligned to the revised HAC.

<sup>16</sup> As interventions support the same population over time, UNICEF reports the maximum number of people reached each week to avoid double counting, based on the water production and trucking.

<sup>17</sup> This result is calculated based upon the distribution of Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to health facilities and partner reports.

<sup>18</sup> UNICEF is committed to supporting mothers to exclusively breastfeed their infants up to 6 months of age and to continue breastfeeding to age 2 and beyond with appropriate complementary foods. In exceptional circumstances, UNICEF provides breastmilk substitutes, as some infants are not breastfed or only partially breastfed during emergencies.

<sup>19</sup> CP indicators and targets are linked to quality reach, and it is difficult to implement some activities (e.g. MHPSS level 2 and 3 interventions) during active hostilities. CPAoR partners reached 165,869 children with MHPSS as of 31 March 2024.

<sup>20</sup> As most of schools are being used as emergency shelters, no learning activities have taken place since 7 October 2023. UNICEF does not count children who benefitted through recreational kits as a result under emergency learning materials indicator. The kits are utilized for recreational activities and the service delivery is reported under the recreational activity indicator.

<sup>21</sup> Reach with humanitarian cash transfers is reported based upon households which have received messages to redeem their cash. The response exceeds the target as the programme revised the initial strategy and has only delivered one round of transfers as compared to three rounds in the plan, with some households receiving second transfers in recent weeks. Furthermore, UNICEF has partially funded the response through loans which are not reflected in the Funding Status table. The actual reach of households has been adjusted from the last report.

## Annex B – Funding Status<sup>22</sup>

Sector	Revised Requirements (USD)	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received after 7 Oct.	Other resources used for the escalation	Resources available from 2022 (Carry-over)	US\$	%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	62,225,779	50,637,060	93,972	629,647	10,865,100	17%
Health	35,195,054	24,896,747	2,200,000	234,764	7,863,543	22%
Nutrition	27,765,177	16,659,283	0	0	11,105,894	40%
Child Protection	24,857,916	18,525,346	0	462,963	5,869,607	24%
Education	29,645,946	9,216,946	52,000	1,142,966	19,234,034	65%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	74,376,225	29,448,614	0	727,084	44,200,527	59%
Cross-Sectoral (PSEA, AAP)	4,746,532	2,625,155	0	50,146	2,071,231	44%
Cluster Coordination	4,495,988	3,495,548	220,000	29,000	751,440	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>263,308,617</b>	<b>155,504,698</b>	<b>2,565,972</b>	<b>3,276,570</b>	<b>101,961,377</b>	<b>39%</b>

\*All amounts include weighted cross-sectoral costs and cost recovery.

\*Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) are integrated under each sector.

<sup>22</sup> The funding requirement has been revised with a 56 per cent increase from the January 2024 revision of US\$ 168.3 million, bringing the total funding requirements to US\$ 263.3 million. The funding gap by section (\$) and (%) reflects only the sections which are not fully funded, while the overall gap reflects the total funding received against the total funds requirement.