



A girl in Dar-Ghaitha village, Hajjah Governorate, pours clean water into a jerry can. UNICEF-implemented WASH projects support the provision of water.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Yemen

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- The national socioeconomic systems of Yemen remain on the edge of collapse as the country experiences its ninth year of conflict. More than 21.6 million people, including 11.1 million children, require humanitarian assistance and protection² and 4.5 million people are internally displaced.³ Despite truce-like conditions, which have reduced civilian casualty numbers significantly, intermittent fighting and exchanges of fire continue in many areas. While the high levels of humanitarian response to date have been extremely effective in protecting millions of children, the lack of a comprehensive political resolution to the country's conflict means that the needs of children and their families continue to increase.
- UNICEF's humanitarian strategy in Yemen is to provide direct life-saving assistance – and at the same time undertake programming along the humanitarian–development nexus to create a coherent approach to meeting critical needs.
- UNICEF requires \$142 million to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and meet needs of children and families in 2024. Lack of predictable funding to carry out urgent interventions will compromise the continuity of key services, putting children's lives and well-being at risk.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



495,000

children and women accessing primary health care



504,000

children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



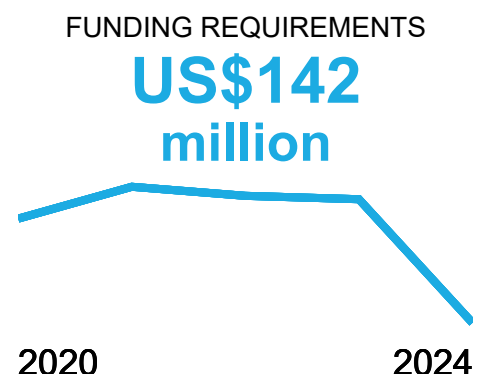
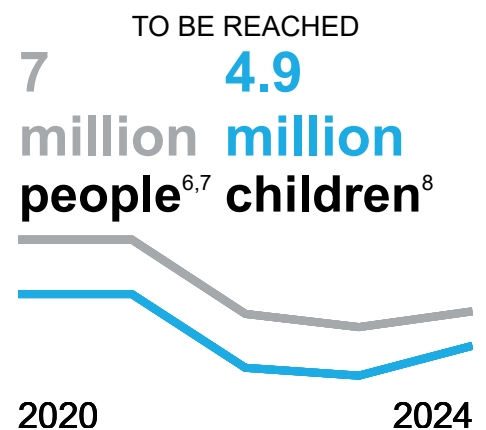
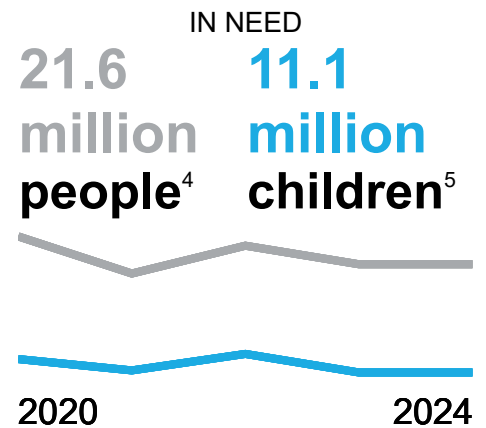
2.6 million

children provided with explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance



1.4 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



The figures are based on the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen and are subject to change upon finalization of the 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Now in its ninth year of conflict, Yemen's national socioeconomic systems remain on the edge of total collapse. More than 21.6 million people, including 11.1 million children, require humanitarian assistance and protection,⁹ and 4.5 million people are displaced inside the country.¹⁰ While unprecedented levels of humanitarian response have helped to protect millions of children, the lack of a comprehensive political solution to the country's conflict continues driving major increases in needs. Despite truce-like conditions that have reduced civilian casualties significantly, intermittent fighting continues in many areas.

The ongoing fragility of Yemen's economy in 2023 – manifesting in the depreciation of its currency, macroeconomic instability, diminishing purchasing power and the de facto bifurcation of economic institutions by competing factions – heightened the vulnerability of poor families and communities. At the same time, the people of Yemen are no strangers to the impacts of the changing climate: floods and drought cause additional threats that have the potential to aggravate the malnutrition status of the population. Around 17.3 million people experience high levels of acute food insecurity¹¹ and, as of July 2023, more than 227,228 children had been admitted to therapeutic feeding centres suffering from wasting.

Only 50 per cent of health facilities are functional, leaving 20.3 million people without access to adequate health care.¹² Yemen remains vulnerable to disease outbreaks. From January to September 2023, 42,452 suspected cases of measles and rubella and 514 associated deaths were reported, with 1,772 laboratory-confirmed cases.¹³ In the northern governorates, vaccinations administered outside health facilities continue to be banned and the emergence and rise of misinformation, including anti-vaccination messages, has led to an increase in vaccine hesitancy among the population.

Access to water and safe WASH services is lacking for 15.3 million people, including 7.8 million children.¹⁴ Yemen is highly prone to cholera and acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreaks, with 5,674 cases of AWD/suspected cholera (including seven associated deaths) reported between January and September 2023.¹⁵

The vast humanitarian crisis in Yemen has increased the vulnerability of children and women to exploitation, violence and abuse. Negative coping mechanisms are on the rise, including increased gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, child marriage, child labour, military recruitment of children and interruption of education. All told, 9 million children require child protection services.^{16,17} And 8.6 million children, including 2.7 million out-of-school children, require educational assistance (e.g., reintegration into formal education), due to conflict-related damage and disruption to education facilities and services.¹⁸

SECTOR NEEDS¹⁹



20.3 million
people in need of
health assistance



11.9 million
children and women in
need of nutrition
assistance



9 million
children in need of
protection services



8.6 million
children in need of
education support



15.3 million
people lack access to
safe water

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Residents of Al Dhale'a Governorate are experiencing multiple humanitarian challenges, including malnutrition, disease and lack of health care and clean water, as a result of the ongoing war in the country. In the midst of these conditions, the Community Healthy Nutrition Volunteers project implemented by UNICEF is working to improve the health status of children in the area by supporting active case finding and referral to treatment of malnourished children.

A total of 612 Community Health Nutrition Volunteers provide support in Al Dhale'a Governorate, and around 13,000 severely wasted children were admitted for treatment between January and September 2023.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Dr. Maha Mohammad Ali Nasser, Head of the Clinical Nutrition Department at Al Sallam Hospital, Qatabah district, examines an acutely malnourished child and briefs the baby's mother.

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy in Yemen is guided by international human rights law, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and it aligns with the inter-agency Humanitarian Needs Overview, Humanitarian Response Plan and cluster priorities. As lead for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, UNICEF supports sector and intersectoral coordination and information management at the national and subnational levels.

The immediate needs of populations at risk – people affected by conflict, floods, climate change and disease outbreaks, including those who are currently or may be displaced – will be addressed through life-saving, protective and multisectoral interventions, including early childhood development. UNICEF also seeks to provide humanitarian assistance to immigrant communities, who are some of the most marginalized in the country.

UNICEF developed and will maintain a network of partnerships to provide critical nutrition, WASH, education, health, social protection and child protection services while engaging in strategic high-level advocacy and influence campaigns for more sustained outcomes.²³ As the co-lead of the country task force on monitoring and reporting in Yemen, UNICEF will engage with parties to the conflict to establish concrete measures to prevent and halt grave violations of child rights. Some efforts will foster greater coherence and complementarity between humanitarian and development programming to secure and build upon gains made for children. Through its extensive field office presence, UNICEF will continue to identify and respond to people's needs, with a focus on the most vulnerable. Protecting existing humanitarian access – and expanding it wherever possible through specific access strategies – will be critical.

Use of anticipatory action (including rapid response mechanisms) will underpin effective preparedness to ensure gender-responsive multisectoral actions ahead of predicted hazards.²⁴ Implementation of integrated approaches (including a package of gender- and disability-sensitive services) to multisectoral emergency responses will enhance humanitarian effectiveness. UNICEF will mobilize community volunteers to support social and behaviour change and will strengthen community participation to ensure programmes respond holistically to vulnerable people's diverse needs, priorities and feedback on quality of assistance, part of UNICEF's commitment to accountability to affected populations. Commitments to protecting the assisted population from sexual exploitation and abuse will be sustained and UNICEF will hold partners accountable for preventing and reporting sexual exploitation and abuse and enhancing community awareness of the organization's zero tolerance policy. UNICEF will use its comparative advantage in supply and logistics to procure life-saving commodities, using economies of scale to deliver critical interventions to the most vulnerable people.

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



Health (including public health emergencies)

- **191,473** children 0-11 months receiving pentavalent 3 vaccine
- **495,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities



Nutrition

- **504,000** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **2,088,138** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **4,869,318** children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **500,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **150,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **1,900,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **2,625,000** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions



Education

- **250,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **250,000** children receiving individual learning materials



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **1,400,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **650,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services



Social protection

- **25,000** households reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers
- **62,500** people reached by the integrated social protection programmes



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)²⁷

- **8,500,000** people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms²⁸
- **110,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms



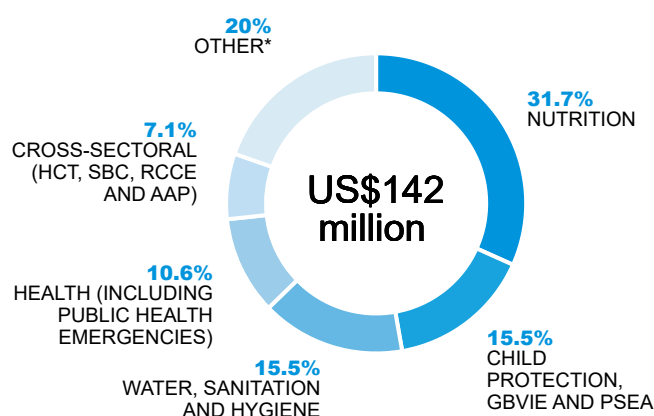
Emergency

- **250,000** vulnerable displaced people and returnees reached with gender-responsive multisectoral emergency assistance for 90 days including rapid response mechanism kits

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF is appealing for \$142 million to meet the current humanitarian needs of children and families and support the realization of children's rights in Yemen. The decrease in the appeal amount compared with previous years reflects a strategic shift in programme approach to more intentionally foster coherence and complimentary between humanitarian and development programming to secure and build upon gains made for children. A number of interventions will be included in the wider Yemen country programme of cooperation to build national and subnational capacity, and reduce needs, through a longer-term systems strengthening approach. This shift in approach will be accompanied by prioritizing within the humanitarian programme populations with the most acute needs, especially those in hard-to-reach locations.

The funding requested will allow UNICEF to meet the current critical needs in health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, education and social protection and provide timely responses to displacement through anticipatory action that includes the Rapid Response Mechanism. Without timely funding, nearly 4.9 million children will lack access to essential nutrition services; up to 1.4 million people, including 756,000 children, will go without regular access to safe drinking water; 500,000 children and adolescents will not have access to community-based mental health and psychosocial support; and 250,000 million children will have their learning disrupted, severely impacting their overall well-being. The lack of funding will extend the impact of war on the children of Yemen, an impact that goes well beyond the immediate danger of injury or death to encompass harms linked to displacement, severed family ties, hunger and lack of access to vital services.



*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Emergency Response and Preparedness (ERP) (7.0%), Education (5.7%), Social protection (3.5%), Field Operations/Coordination (3.4%).

Sector	2024 requirements (US\$) ²⁹
Health (including public health emergencies)	15,025,000
Nutrition	45,025,000 ³⁰
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	22,025,000 ³¹
Education	8,025,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	22,025,000
Social protection	5,025,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	10,025,000
Field Operations/Coordination	4,825,000
Emergency Response and Preparedness (ERP)	10,000,000 ³²
Total	142,000,000

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ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF activated its Corporate Emergency Level 2 Scale-up Procedure for Ethiopia for the following period: 5 September 2023 - 31 December 2023. The status will be reviewed on that date. UNICEF Emergency Procedures are activated to ensure a timely and effective response to all crises. The emergency procedures provide a tailored package of mandatory actions and simplifications required for all offices responding to Level 3, Level 2 and Level 1 humanitarian situations.
2. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2023, OCHA, January 2023.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. The number of people to be reached reflects the total number of beneficiaries targeted through UNICEF's largest response areas: 4,869,318 children (50.5 percent girls, 49.5 per cent boys) receiving vitamin A supplementation; and 2,088,138 primary caregivers (100 per cent women) receiving infant and young child feeding counselling. This avoids double counting. People with disabilities account for 10 per cent of the total number of people to be reached. The remaining population in need will be reached by other partners.
7. 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.
8. The number of children to be reached reflects the total number of beneficiaries targeted through UNICEF's largest response: 4,869,318 children (50.5 per cent girls, 49.5 per cent boys) receiving vitamin A supplementation, to avoid double counting. It is estimated that 10 per cent of children to be reached are children with disabilities.
9. OCHA, Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Ministry of Public Health and Population, Measles surveillance report, 3 October 2023.
14. OCHA, Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
15. World Health Organization, External Sitrep #7, 5 October 2023.
16. Includes family tracing and reunification, case management and victim assistance.
17. OCHA, Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. 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.
21. 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.
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. Disability inclusion and gender considerations will be mainstreamed in UNICEF programming, e.g., in beneficiary selection criteria and indicators, training programmes, WASH facility design, etc.
24. During emergency responses, it is crucial to identify at the earliest opportunity people with specific needs and vulnerabilities, including unaccompanied children, women at risk, unaccompanied older persons, persons with disabilities or other those with protection concerns. UNICEF will also provide initial information and/or referrals for follow-up services.
25. The decrease in the number of beneficiaries compared with 2023 reflects the shift in programme approach and in what can be realistically achieved through focused humanitarian funding. The remaining beneficiaries will be reached through the Yemen regular country programme.
26. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
27. Social and behavioural change and accountability to affected populations are integrated into sectoral responses and interventions.
28. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
29. The decrease in sector budgets compared with 2023 reflects the shift in programme approach. The budget realistically aligns humanitarian funding requested with projected funding pipelines in 2024.
30. The reduction in the nutrition line item compared with 2023 is premised on realistically analysing humanitarian funding received in previous years, realigning reach and reflecting the projected humanitarian funding pipeline for nutrition in 2024. The wider Yemen country programme will also address the nutrition-related needs of beneficiaries.
31. Nine per cent of this line item is for gender-based violence in emergencies and 8.6 per cent is for interventions related to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
32. Includes anticipatory actions ahead of predicted hazards to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold. Based on UNICEF's experience preparing for and implementing emergency response, including Rapid Response Mechanism activities, the gender-responsive multisectoral interventions will focus on providing, for a 90-day period, life-saving and protection assistance.