



A young girl in Molyko, Buea, receives a cholera vaccine from a community health worker. UNICEF supports the district health service of Buea in providing hygiene promotion and vaccination services.

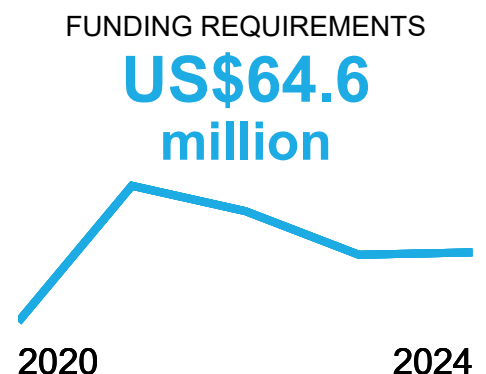
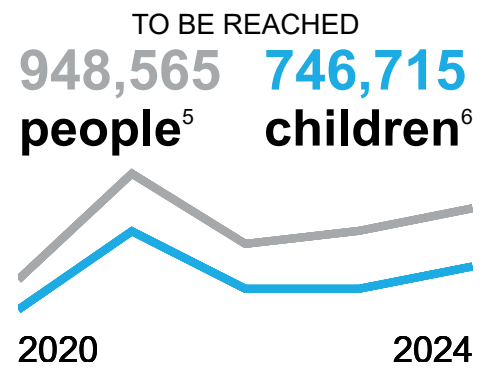
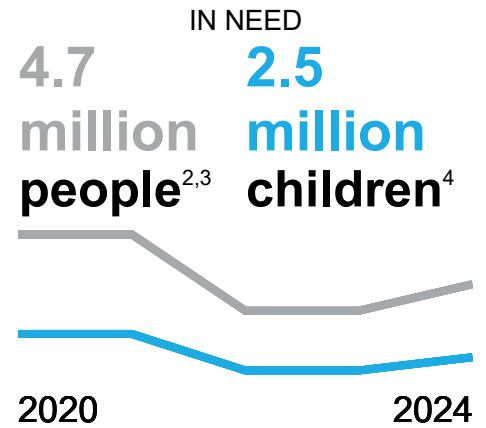
unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Cameroon

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- In Cameroon, 4.7 million people (including 2.5 million children, 2.4 million women and 705,000 people with disabilities) urgently require humanitarian assistance due complex and multifaceted crises: armed conflict causing internal and cross-border displacement, intercommunal violence, disease outbreaks (including cholera and measles) and seasonal flooding.
- UNICEF will enhance localization and accountability efforts in its humanitarian response, enhance emergency preparedness, expand its field presence and prioritize gender equality, including through scaled up response to gender-based violence and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. By adopting a targeted and multisectoral approach, UNICEF and partners will effectively address diverse needs.
- UNICEF requires \$64.6 million to reach nearly 949,000 vulnerable people, including nearly 747,000 children. UNICEF will support measles vaccination, access to education services, treatment for malnutrition, including severe wasting, and psychosocial support services. The highest levels of resources will be dedicated to interventions in child protection, nutrition and WASH.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



111,817
children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



341,000
children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



556,304
children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



140,000
people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water

Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents for 2024.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The people of Cameroon continue to grapple with difficult conditions emerging from conflict in the Lake Chad Basin, an influx of refugees from the Central African Republic and ongoing tensions in Cameroon's North-West and South-West Regions. The Far North Region continues to be affected by natural disasters and conflict, with 246 attacks reported between January and July 2023.⁸

As of June 2023, Cameroon was sheltering more than 1 million internally displaced people, 646,000⁹ returnees and 480,000¹⁰ refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria. In addition, floods in Chad forced more than 2,400¹¹ people to seek refuge in Cameroon. Flooding and landslides in Cameroon's North-West and South-West Regions also impacted thousands of families in Limbé and Buea.¹²

The health system in Cameroon faces an uphill battle against outbreaks of cholera, mpox and polio, primarily in West, Littoral, Far North, North-West and South-West Regions.⁷ Insufficient access to clean water, sanitation and health services for about 1.8 million people – including 918,000 children – has fueled the cholera outbreaks (more than 20,204¹³ reported cases and 481 fatalities as of August 2023) especially in urban and peri-urban centres with inadequate waste management and urban crowding. With nearly 99 health districts out of 189 dealing with an active measles epidemic and about 18 per cent of health facilities non-operational, mobile clinics are stepping in. These clinics, however, grapple with limited resources and threats as they seek to serve about 1.8 million people in need of health assistance.¹⁴ An assessment of the nutrition situation in four regions showed a deterioration for children aged 6–59 months compared with 2021¹⁵ (with levels of wasting at 8.0 per cent in Far North Region, 6.9 per cent in North Region, 6.6 per cent in Adamawa Region and 3.9 per cent in East Region).

Approximately 1.4 million¹⁶ school-aged children need support for education in emergency contexts. This includes 366,654 internally displaced children in Far North Region¹⁷ and 367,000 in North-West and South-West Regions.¹⁸ Around 1.2 million¹⁹ children need protection services. Overall, the crises unfolding in Cameroon have heightened risks of gender-based violence and are leading to grave violations of children's rights. In 2022 (the latest year for which complete data are available), the United Nations verified 156 grave violations against 111 children (47 boys, 58 girls, 6 sex unknown).²⁰

Humanitarian actors persist in addressing the diverse needs of crisis-affected people in Cameroon. However, security threats, inadequate infrastructure, bureaucratic impediments and significant funding gaps have created barriers to reaching children and families in need.

SECTOR NEEDS²¹



1.8 million
people in need of
health assistance



604,000
people in need of
nutrition assistance



1.2 million
children in need of
protection services



1.4 million
children in need of
education support



1.8 million
people lack access to
safe water

STORY FROM THE FIELD



A worker carries out cholera disinfection in the city of Douala, in the Littoral Region of Cameroon.

The city of Douala, in Cameroon's Littoral Region, is currently experiencing a resurgence of cholera cases. The disease is endemic and not a month goes by without cases. The causes of this resurgence are numerous, including lack of access to drinking water. The water utility Camwater cannot cover the entire Region, so people are forced to turn to wells and boreholes. In addition, there is contamination of food supplies. While water remains the main determinant of this disease, waste management capacity also plays a role.

[Read more about this story here](#)

UNICEF's strategy, aligned with the inter-agency Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan, navigates Cameroon's multifaceted humanitarian landscape. Priority areas include North-West, South-West, East and Far North Regions. UNICEF has a co-leadership role in the localization strategy in Cameroon, and is enhancing its presence in the field to accurately identify and assist those directly impacted, especially in insecure and remote locations.

This approach will promote a gender-transformative response, enhancing partners' capabilities in gender-sensitive analysis and preventing gender-based violence and sexual exploitation. UNICEF will continue to involve affected populations in determining their needs and focus on delivery mechanisms that promote dignity, such as humanitarian cash transfers.

UNICEF will enhance its disaster response capacities, prioritizing emergency preparedness and investing in resilience against shocks. Support will extend to the national social protection system, with UNICEF providing technical assistance to construct a shock-responsive system, including humanitarian cash transfers and critical links between social protection and emergency platforms.

UNICEF will actively work to mitigate malnutrition by providing quality treatment for children affected by severe wasting. Using a multisectoral approach, UNICEF will scale up interventions to increase breastfeeding rates for infants aged 0–5 months and expand dietary diversity for children aged 6–23 months. This work will harness health, food, education and social protection platforms to improve children's nutritional status and decrease the need for emergency treatment.

UNICEF will rehabilitate and reinforce water and sanitation infrastructure in Cameroon to address critical needs and enhance disaster response capacity, benefiting in particular marginalized groups, including rural women and girls.

UNICEF's education strategy will promote quality teaching in accessible areas and emphasize non-formal education where access to formal education is limited. UNICEF will promote a protective learning environment that adheres to the Safe Schools Declaration, especially for vulnerable and disabled children. Leveraging the decentralization process, UNICEF will intensify the collaboration of the WASH, health, child protection and mental health and psychosocial support sectors. This holistic response will address the comprehensive needs of students, teachers and community facilitators.

UNICEF will continue to lead the education, WASH, nutrition and child protection sectors, harmonizing standard operational procedures for the Child Protection Information Management System. UNICEF is a critical player in sectoral working groups and in piloting common approaches with UNHCR (in East Region); UNICEF also participates in the National Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus task force. While responding to current crises, UNICEF will strategically invest in preventing future crises, helping to create sustainable, resilient systems.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/cameroon/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 and HIV/AIDS

- **190,411** children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose
- **130,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **89,615** households receiving long-lasting insecticide treated bed nets (LLINs)
- **490** community health workers trained on integrated community case management



Nutrition

- **50,000** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **111,817** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment²⁷
- **75,000** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **165,413** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder
- **157,000** pregnant women receiving preventative iron supplementation



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **341,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **307,280** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **500,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **10,000** children who have received individual case management



Education

- **556,304** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **556,304** children receiving individual learning materials²⁸



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **140,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **112,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **360,000** people reached with handwashing behaviour-change programmes
- **195,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies



Social protection

- **2,000** households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in-kind) measures from government-funded programmes with UNICEF technical assistance support



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

- **3,200,000** affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services²⁹
- **640,000** people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms
- **160,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

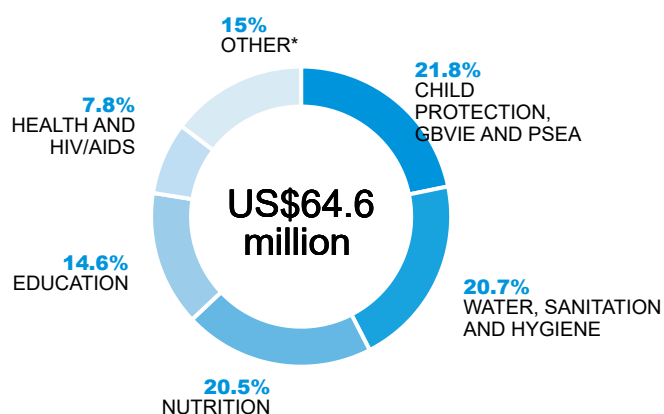
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF urgently requires \$64.6 million for 2024 to provide life-saving support to nearly 949,000 individuals, including nearly 747,000 children (among them 380,000 girls). This funding is pivotal for such key sectors as child protection, nutrition and WASH, which UNICEF has prioritized due to their profound impact on children's well-being.

In 2023, these sectors experienced critical underfunding, with the UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeal receiving only 11 per cent of its funding requirements. This shortfall resulted in a complete lack of funding for humanitarian cash transfers and left most activities unfunded in such vital areas as nutrition, education (a funding gap of 99 per cent) and child protection (a gap of 94 per cent). This underfunding significantly impacted delivery of essential services to children in dire situations.

Without adequate financial resources for 2024, an estimated 112,000 children will miss out on life-saving treatment for severe wasting; 556,000 school-age children will not be able to access education; 341,000 children will be left without mental health and psychosocial support; and more than 140,000 individuals could face shortages of clean drinking water.

Adequate funding is vital and will make a difference to children in light of escalating challenges in Cameroon posed by new and ongoing conflicts, disease outbreaks and severe flooding, all of which are intensified by climate change. Securing adequate funding for 2024 is not just about addressing immediate needs; it's about offering an effective response to a growing humanitarian crisis. It's about safeguarding the future of countless children and families.



Sector	2024 requirements (US\$) ³⁰
Health and HIV/AIDS	5,024,800
Nutrition	13,264,683
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	14,074,699 ³¹
Education	9,413,832
Water, sanitation and hygiene	13,362,106
Social protection	4,064,040
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	3,720,600
Emergency Preparedness	1,717,200
Total	64,641,960

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (6.3%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (5.8%), Emergency Preparedness (2.7%).

Who to contact for further information:

Nadine Perrault
Representative, Cameroon
T +237 656 249 385
nperrault@unicef.org

Lana Wreikat
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS), a.i.
T +1 212 326 7150
lwreikat@unicef.org

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

ENDNOTES

1. Figures are from the Humanitarian Response Plan 2023. The figures will be revised when the Humanitarian Response Plan 2024 is published.
2. Ibid.
3. 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.
4. Ibid.
5. This figure is calculated based on the following programme targets: children to be reached (746,715) plus pregnant women to be reached with folic acid (157,000) plus 23 per cent of adult men (a percentage of men targeted in the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan) to be reached with critical WASH supplies (44,850). The total includes 51 per cent women and girls and 15 per cent people with disabilities (2016 Statistical Yearbook). UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means meeting children's unmet needs, and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
6. This figure is calculated based on the following programme targets: the number of school-aged children (aged 3–17 years) to be reached through formal/non-formal education (556,304), and the number of children aged 6–59 months to be reached with measles vaccination (190,411). This total includes 51 per cent girls and 15 per cent children with disabilities.
7. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Operational update: Cholera and monkeypox Cameroon DREF.
8. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Cameroun: Extrême-Nord, Rapport de situation No. 34 Juillet 2023, OCHA, 6 September 2023.
9. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Refugees and internally displaced persons in Cameroon multi country office (May 2023), UNHCR, 8 June 2023.
10. Ibid.
11. OCHA, situation report, October 2023.
12. OCHA, Cameroon: North-West and South-West – Situation Report No. 56 (July 2023).
13. Cameroun Rapport de situation de la gestion du cholera (03/09/2023).
14. Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 and Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
15. Ministry of Health, SMART-SENS nutrition survey, December 2022.
16. Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 and Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
17. Education Cannot Wait, Right to safe and quality education still denied to millions of children in Cameroon, September 2023.
18. Ibid.
19. Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 and Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
20. United Nations, Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General, 23 June 2023.
21. These figures are provisional and will be revised after the finalization of Humanitarian Response Plan 2024.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. These figures are provisional and will be revised after the finalization of Humanitarian Response Plan 2024.
26. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
27. UNICEF as sector lead is covering 54 per cent of target, and other sector members are covering 46 per cent.
28. It is the sector strategy that all children, including those out of school, receive learning materials. Since 556,304 children need access to formal or non-formal education, these same children also need learning materials. These figures are provisional and will be updated after the finalization of the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 and the Humanitarian Response Plan 2024.
29. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
30. These figures are from the 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal and will be updated after finalization of Humanitarian Response Plan 2024. Funding requirements includes cluster coordination costs where UNICEF is cluster lead (the Nutrition, Education and WASH Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility).
31. Includes \$11,675,927 for child protection interventions; \$1,182,854 for gender-based violence in emergencies interventions; and \$1,215,917 for the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse response.