



Children attend class in one of 87 new climate-resilient classrooms built with UNICEF support. This type of infrastructure helps mitigate the impact of annual floods and cyclones.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Mozambique

HIGHLIGHTS

- The humanitarian needs in Mozambique are substantial and cumulative, with multiple crises affecting the country including conflict-related displacement, cyclones and public health emergencies. More than 1.2 million people¹ among displaced and returnee populations are in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 200,000 children under age 5 in need of life-saving treatment for wasting.²
- UNICEF prioritizes equitable and inclusive life-saving interventions for those in need and will support the resumption of basic services where critical infrastructure is damaged and service provision is limited. UNICEF adopts a cross-cutting approach to gender-based violence risk mitigation, accountability to affected populations and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse through raising awareness, building partners' capacities and fostering community engagement.
- UNICEF is requesting \$114.3 million to address the needs of 2.3 million people by providing safe water, integrated nutrition and health care, child protection, safe learning spaces and response to cholera outbreaks.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



833,649

children vaccinated against measles



371,716

children receiving vitamin A supplementation



2 million

people reached with critical WASH supplies

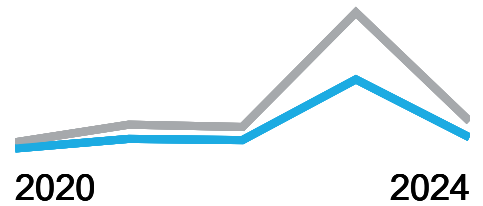


6.3 million

people reached with timely/life-saving information on access to available services

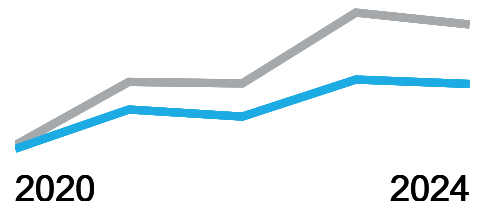
IN NEED

1.9 million people^{3,4} **988,000 children**⁵



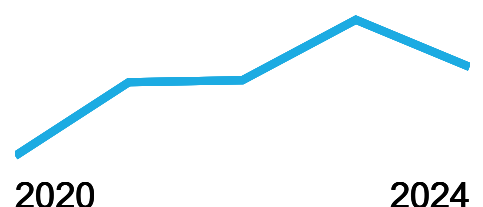
TO BE REACHED

2.3 million people^{6,7,8} **1.2 million children**⁹



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$114.3 million



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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Mozambique is facing multiple crises – conflict-related population displacement, cyclones, and public health emergencies – that are leading to increased humanitarian needs. In the north, conflict and displacement persisted (although there were fewer violent incidents in 2023), with 668,939 people internally displaced, 50 percent of them children.¹⁰ While small-scale displacement continued, in 2023 there were a number of spontaneous returns of those who had been displaced internally: by August 2023 more than 571,400 people had returned, 49 percent of them children.¹¹ The conflict in the north remains a protection crisis for children. Grave violations of children’s rights, exposure to violence and other child protection concerns can lead to long-term mental and physical challenges.

In addition to the cyclone and flood risks facing Mozambique each year, projections show a strong likelihood of the El Niño weather pattern impacting the country, bringing expected drought or extremely dry conditions to the southern parts of the country, increasing people’s vulnerability. Cyclones and floods also impact between 500,000 and 1 million people every year in Mozambique, straining coping strategies.¹² Residual damage to water and health infrastructure from previous storms negatively impacts public health emergency responses; and crop losses due to storms/flooding may result in higher rates of severe wasting. The multiple crises and stresses on public systems are deeply affecting children’s ability to thrive and participate in learning activities.

Public health emergencies are a significant challenge. In 2023, Mozambique suffered the largest cholera outbreak on record with more than 34,960 cases reported.¹³ New cases continue to be reported and the case load is expected to increase between January and March 2024. Additional risks of polio and measles/rubella outbreaks are likely given the situation in conflict- and cyclone-affected areas.

The compounding effects of conflict and storms have worsened the food security and nutrition status of children and women. UNICEF estimates that 211,938 children under 5 years of age in conflict and climate shock-prone districts need life-saving treatment for wasting, of whom 75,604 have a high mortality risk due to severe wasting.

Structural gender inequalities are widespread throughout the country. This means that women, girls and people with disabilities are systematically excluded from decision-making and access to services. Conflict and climate-related shocks can deepen such inequalities and increase exposure to multiple forms of violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse. About 40 percent¹⁴ of the child population in Mozambique are adolescents. Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable during emergencies, with greater exposure to violence and a heightened risk of child unions.

SECTOR NEEDS



1.1 million children in need of immunization services¹⁵



900,307 people in need of nutrition assistance



612,957 people in need of MHPSS services



581,596 children in need of education support¹⁶



3.6 million people lack access to safe water¹⁷

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Maninho, 8, is hugged by his mother, with family looking on, in Pemba, Mozambique. Several years ago Maninho was separated from his family during regional violence and later reunited thanks to UNICEF.

Today, Said Abujad, affectionately called Maninho, is growing and thriving at home with his mother, father and two brothers. This is thanks the dedication of those actors, including the Government and UNICEF, who worked diligently to reunite Maninho, now 8, with his family after he was separated from them during violence in Cabo Delgado several years ago.

When armed groups attacked in 2019, Maninho was not at home. Neither was his father, Amade. His mother, Matiura, fled with Maninho’s two brothers.

Matiura thought Maninho was with his father. However, three months later, when she was reunited with her husband, she discovered that was not the case. Luckily, a neighbour had found Maninho and had taken him with her. Later, when Maninho and the neighbour reached a safer community, government social workers, with UNICEF support, managed to trace the boy’s family, and he was reunited with them.

[Read more about this story here](#)

UNICEF works with the Government and with local and international actors to implement an integrated approach to meeting the humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities in Mozambique. Equitable, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive life-saving interventions are prioritized. At the same time, UNICEF supports social cohesion and resilience through linkages to development programmes. UNICEF aims to support the resumption of basic services where key infrastructure is damaged and services are limited.

Critical planned interventions cover essential health, HIV and nutrition services, which include support for pregnant and breastfeeding women, and health and nutrition interventions for children under age 5, including treatment of severe wasting. Methodologies employed include integrated mobile brigades, in-service training and support to front-line health workers. UNICEF is prioritizing the restoration of WASH services and the rehabilitation or construction of strategic and accessible water points in communities, schools and health facilities to meet needs stemming from both conflict-related and public health emergencies. Supporting behaviour change initiatives to address hygiene and sanitation issues will be critical in the current context.

UNICEF also prioritizes learning opportunities for children and adolescents by providing safe, gender-responsive, inclusive learning spaces, education and menstrual supplies and capacity building for teachers. Alternative learning pathways are promoted through accelerated learning, job training and literacy programmes for those outside the formal school system.

Ensuring children and adolescents' protection and safety through provision of inclusive mental health and psychosocial support, effective case management and accessible child-friendly spaces, along with reintegration of children associated with armed forces/groups are the key areas of UNICEF's child protection work. UNICEF monitors and addresses child rights violations and protection risks, in support of children affected by armed conflict. To tackle gender-based violence and ensure inclusivity, UNICEF focuses on risk mitigation and empowering women, girls and people with disabilities and addressing adolescent needs.

UNICEF works on strengthening core national social protection systems to enable government-led shock-responsive social protection programmes. UNICEF mobilizes communication and community engagement platforms for social and behaviour change to promote inclusive practices across health, nutrition, hygiene and protection activities. Accountability to affected populations and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse are prioritized through community engagement, increased awareness and training of government counterparts and implementing partners. UNICEF is strengthening community complaint mechanisms for safe and accessible reporting and will continue to enhance coordination, preparedness and response mechanisms at the national and subnational levels through its lead roles in the WASH, Education and Nutrition Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.

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



Health (including public health emergencies)

- **833,649** children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose
- **505,094** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **163,633** individuals receiving treatment for cholera/acute watery diarrhoea in UNICEF-supported facilities



HIV/AIDS

- **6,147** pregnant and lactating women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy²²



Nutrition²³

- **371,716** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **45,145** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **162,153** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **371,716** children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

- **232,952** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **236,473** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **2,043,022** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **37,272** children who have received individual case management



Education

- **330,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **4,100** teachers and other Education Personnel trained in Education and Emergency related topics



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **817,209** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **326,884** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **326,884** people reached with handwashing behaviour-change programmes
- **2,043,022** people reached with critical WASH supplies



Social protection

- **86,000** households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in-kind) measures from government-funded programmes with UNICEF technical assistance support²⁴



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

- **23,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)²⁵
- **6,327,871** affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services²⁶
- **46,000** people engaged in promoting protective and preventive behaviours

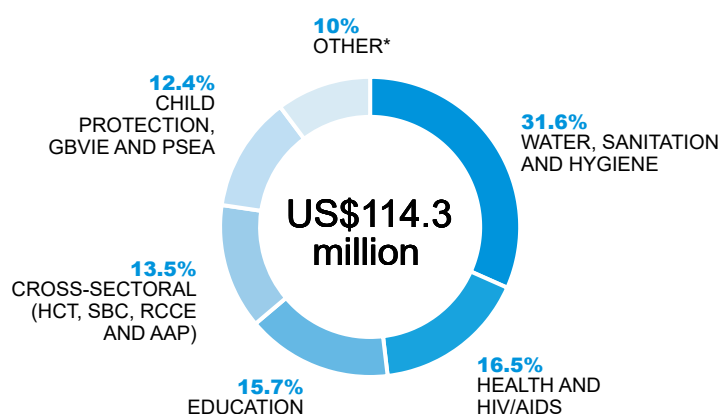
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF requires \$114.3 million in 2024 to meet the essential humanitarian needs of 2.3 million people, including 1.2 million children in the conflict-affected north and in cholera hot spots and in cyclone- and drought-prone areas of the country. UNICEF's response requires reaching into new areas and using integrated approaches to reach girls, boys, adolescents and caregivers.

In the north, UNICEF will prioritize access to safe water and sanitation, primary health care including wasting treatment as well as critical child protection and case management services. The UNICEF strategy will prioritize hard-to-reach areas and vulnerable families in displacement sites, return areas and host communities. This approach requires flexible funding due to the fluid situation, increased prices and the need to provide support in broad geographic areas.

Approximately 47 per cent of the funding required is for conflict-affected populations and 24 per cent is for the cholera response. Remaining funds are to prepare for needs linked to wasting, and for rainy/cyclone season preparedness and response. To provide support and to make up for shortfalls in the funds required in 2023, UNICEF utilized core resources and development funds to address the most critical programmes. However, many needs remain unmet.

The decrease in funding requirements for 2024 compared with 2023 reflects a slight reduction in the number of displaced people in conflict areas, and lower anticipated needs related to cyclone and flood response.



Sector	2024 requirements (US\$) ²⁷
Health and HIV/AIDS	18,850,731
Nutrition	8,496,940
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	14,205,573 ²⁸
Education	17,947,428
Water, sanitation and hygiene	36,155,544
Social protection	3,195,965 ²⁹
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	15,423,075 ³⁰
Total	114,275,256

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Nutrition (7.4%), Social protection (2.8%).

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ENDNOTES

1. International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix, Assessment of Displacement Dynamics: Mozambique – August 2023, available at <<https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-mobility-tracking-assessment-report-19-august-2023?close=true>>.
2. IPC Acute Malnutrition Situation (IPC AMN), July 2023.
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. The number people in need is from the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 (provisional). The substantial reduction compared with the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 is because cholera is not included in the calculations. For UNICEF, however, the number of people in need linked to cholera is 6 million nationwide.
5. Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 (provisional). This reflects an estimated 52 per cent of the overall population in need.
6. Estimated based on a combination of WASH, health and nutrition targets: WASH targets for critical WASH supplies except for Cabo Delgado (1,845,509 people), plus nutrition targets for screening and infant and young child feeding for Gaza province (20,231 people), plus health targets for measles for Cabo Delgado (385,747 children). Please note that the number of people and children to be reached in this appeal reflects UNICEF's provision of cholera-related assistance, which is not covered in the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024; this is why the number of people to be reached is higher than the number of people in need noted in this appeal.
7. This includes 1,170,774 women/girls (52 per cent) and 337,723 people with disabilities (15 percent). UNICEF did not estimate the total number of people to be reached based on its social and behaviour change target of 6.3 million people, because a significant portion of the total 6.3 million people will be reached through mass media communication across the country.
8. 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.
9. Estimated as 60 per cent of the total number of people to be reached with critical WASH supplies – 60 per cent X 2,043,022 people.
10. International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix, Assessment of Displacement Dynamics: Mozambique – August 2023.
11. Ibid.
12. National Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, average impact data for the period May 2017–May 2023.
13. Ministry of Health, cholera daily bulletin, 17 October 2023.
14. 2017 Mozambique census.
15. This estimate is based on the number of displaced people and returnees, and people affected by Cyclone Freddy.
16. This estimate is based on the number of displaced and returnee children in conflict-affected areas, residual needs linked to Cyclone Freddy and cholera prevention interventions in schools and temporary learning spaces.
17. This estimate is based on the number people in need (linked to conflict) defined by the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix report, and includes internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities, residual needs not addressed by the current responses and cholera needs in provinces with active cases.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
22. The reduction in the HIV/AIDS target in 2024 compared with 2023 is due to the calculation methodology. In 2023, the target was based on the total number of pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV. In 2024, the figure reflects an estimate of the number of pregnant women in vulnerable situations.
23. Targets have been reduced due to the overall decrease in the number of people in need in conflict-affected areas. The highest targets in 2023 (aside from Cabo Delgado) were in Nampula, which is now less affected by conflict and was not affected by cyclones. Regarding the target number of children to be treated for severe wasting, only the areas with IPC Acute Malnutrition classification of 3 or higher are considered.
24. This indicator shows all the households that will benefit from UNICEF technical assistance through government systems (78,000 in Cabo Delgado and 8,000 in Nampula).
25. This target has decreased compared with 2023 because UNICEF assists with humanitarian cash transfers through government systems, and some of the districts in Nampula under the child grand are not considered in humanitarian needs analyses (only two are considered for this 2024 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, Meconta and Memba).
26. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
27. The decrease in funding requirements for 2024 compared with 2023 reflects the slight reduction in the number of displaced people in conflict areas as well as lower needs linked to cyclone and flood responses.
28. Of this amount, gender-based violence interventions are \$1,779,000. The funding requirement for interventions related to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse is included in the cross-sectoral line item.
29. The humanitarian cash transfer budget of \$4,088,889, implemented through the government social protection system, is included in cross-sectoral budget line item.
30. The cross-sectoral funding requirements include: social and behaviour change: \$6,682,500; humanitarian cash transfers through the government social protection system: \$4,968,000; adolescents: \$1,215,000; disability inclusion: \$613,575; protection from sexual exploitation and abuse: \$625,725; gender-based violence interventions: \$224,775; and non-programme emergency support staff: \$1,093,500.