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Ketiwe Bokosi, 12, and White Sankhulani, 14, who lived through Tropical Cyclone Freddy, show their excitement during the back-to-school campaign UNICEF launched at Jombo Primary School.

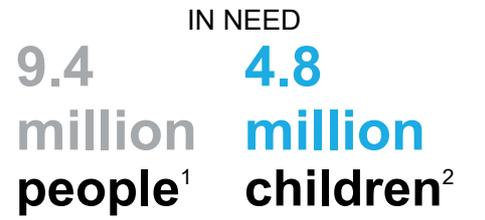
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Humanitarian Action for Children

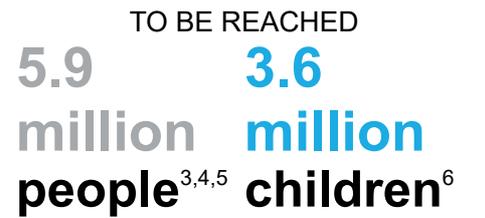
Malawi

HIGHLIGHTS

- Malawi is at high risk for climate shocks, and the El Niño weather pattern is projected to bring dry conditions that will aggravate current chronic food insecurity in 22 out of Malawi's 28 districts. In 2023, Malawi experienced its largest cholera outbreak in the past 20 years, with 59,075 cases and 1,769 deaths as of October 2023. At the same time, there are continuing outbreaks of polio and measles, along with COVID-19.
- These nutrition and health conditions are intertwined with a backdrop of increased poverty and recurring economic challenges. All told, approximately 9.4 million people, including 4.8 million children, will require humanitarian assistance in Malawi in 2024.
- In 2024, UNICEF will require \$47.4 million to expedite child-centric, disability-inclusive and gender-sensitive humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable populations, including those in hard-to-reach areas. UNICEF will continue to invest in communities and civil society organizations and support government-led resilience building, preparedness measures and humanitarian response operations.



2023 2024



2023 2024

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS
US\$47.4 million

2023 2024

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



2.7 million
children screened for wasting



868,560
children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



920,448
children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



4.7 million
people reached with critical WASH supplies

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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

According to the seasonal forecast for 2023/24, recently released by the Malawi Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services, moderate to strong El Niño conditions are predicted for a significant portion of the November 2023 to March 2024 rain season in Malawi. From 1980–2020, 56 per cent of Malawi's population suffered impacts from 39 flood events and 15 epidemics or health emergencies.⁷

Around 6.5 million people currently require support through disaster risk reduction and livelihoods protection interventions to avoid shifting to a higher acute food insecurity category. And the El Niño phenomenon will compound this, manifesting in Malawi as poor distribution of rainfall, prolonged dry conditions in most areas and localized flooding in some parts of the country. Around 4.4 million people (22 percent of the population) in the country are predicted to experience crisis (IPC Phase 3 or greater) levels of food insecurity and to require humanitarian assistance in the October 2023 to March 2024 period to sustain their livelihoods and adequate food intake.⁸ It is anticipated that beyond March 2024, the food security situation will deteriorate further.

Malawi has also been grappling with the worst cholera outbreak in its history, which since its start in March 2022 has caused 1,768 fatalities and 60,000 registered cases (as of 4 October 2023). With sporadic cases still being registered, there are concerns that the outbreak could worsen again when the rainy season commences in November. The country also faces endemic malaria and a re-emergence of such vaccine-preventable diseases as polio, contributing to the need for response programmes that are fit for this polycrisis context. With reduced access to health care, WASH and nutrition services due to damaged health-care facilities and underlying economic challenges, disease outbreaks, especially cholera, could continue into the next rainy season.

In view of the projected El Niño weather pattern and the anticipated poor food security outcomes – coupled with high poverty rates, the existing vulnerabilities especially in the southern areas affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy, and the ongoing economic downturn – UNICEF is anticipating that the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance could rise to 9.4 million in 2024. Urgent action is required to protect livelihoods, reduce the deterioration of the nutrition situation and prevent the resurgence of a widespread cholera outbreak.

SECTOR NEEDS



2.8 million
people in need of health and HIV assistance⁹



3.7 million
people in need of nutrition assistance¹⁰



6.2 million
People in need of protection services¹¹



3.1 million
children in need of education support¹²



9.4 million
People in need of WASH assistance¹³

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Hanifa Chimatiro, 18 months, eats ready-to-use therapeutic food given to her by her mother.

Hanifa Chimatiro, 18 months, eats ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), which is used to treat severe wasting in children under 5 years of age. The baby has been taking RUTF, along with amoxicillin and deworming drugs, since she was 6 months old.

Every Friday, her mother Esnat Chimatiro receives 14 RUTF sachets, locally known as chiponde, at Kawinga village clinic, which is near their home in Malawi's Mangochi District.

"This is medicine. My child receives two RUTF sachets per day," says Esnat.

Now, after taking a standard dose of RUTF for around a year, Hanifa, who weighed two kilograms when she was born prematurely at Mangochi District Hospital, looks healthier.

[Read more about this story here](#)

UNICEF will continue to address the needs of children and families in Malawi through its longstanding partnership with the Government and other partners. Programmes will reach people with an integrated package of life-saving health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection services, cash transfers and risk communication activities.

A holistic disaster risk management approach will support the Government, other partners and local communities to strengthen emergency preparedness, build local and national capacities and provide technical expertise for child-sensitive, gender-informed, innovative and disability-inclusive humanitarian action.

There will be a focus on ensuring that the Government and other partners maintain an agile technical capacity (human resources) to provide life-saving emergency support to affected children and their families within the first two weeks of the onset of a disaster. UNICEF will enhance the resilience of systems, communities and individuals by working directly with communities and young people and strengthening the capacity of community-based platforms and front-line workers to ensure uninterrupted services during unforeseen events.

UNICEF will continue to support the Government in coordinating and co-leading the WASH, Education, Child Protection and Nutrition Clusters and support the Health and Risk Communication and Community Engagement Clusters to ensure coordinated humanitarian action and alignment with government priorities.

Cross-sectoral work will address the needs of children with disabilities, adolescents and women and girls; engage with faith leaders and community leaders to provide life-saving messages; focus on the response to gender-based violence; and further accountability to affected populations and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. The case area targeted interventions approach will be used to respond to the cholera outbreak, together with community awareness activities and support to treatment centres.

UNICEF will continue to deliver life-saving supplies; rehabilitate damaged WASH infrastructure, schools and health facilities, administer oral cholera vaccines and operate mobile clinics to reach families in priority locations through a multisectoral and multi-partner approach; and invest in the prevention of stunting and treatment of severe wasting.

Emergency-affected schools will be provided with safe learning spaces and learning materials and UNICEF will aim to provide humanitarian cash assistance to the most vulnerable children.

UNICEF will support government efforts to mobilize resources for humanitarian cash transfers and provide technical assistance for their roll-out. UNICEF will also increase predictability and accountability by strengthening data preparedness, advancing knowledge sharing and promoting evidence-driven humanitarian innovations.

Malawi adopted the Disaster Risk Management Act in 2023, and UNICEF will provide technical support for developing a strategy, contingency plans and an information system for preparedness, risk reduction, response and recovery.



Health and HIV/AIDS

- **840,000** children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose
- **840,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **30,000** individuals receiving treatment for cholera/acute watery diarrhoea in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **3,500** pregnant and lactating women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy
- **5,000** healthcare workers trained on case management, infection prevention and control and WASHFIT
- **67,000** adolescents who have appropriate and life saving information on how and where to access interventions on HIV prevention, care and treatment



Nutrition

- **2,671,661** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **62,067** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **360,960** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **868,560** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support¹⁸
- **2,481,600** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **1,302,840** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **30** unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified
- **7,910** children who have received individual case management



Education

- **920,448** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning¹⁹
- **100,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **400** schools implementing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans including safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)
- **15,000** children accessing MHPSS in their schools/learning programmes



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **1,000,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **100,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **4,700,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies²⁰
- **100** learning facilities and safe spaces reached with basic WASH services



Social protection

- **260,000** 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)

- **8,444** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)
- **6,580,000** affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services²¹
- **376,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms
- **25,000** people from the affected population/targeted populations that have been consulted and/or participated in all phases of the programme cycle,

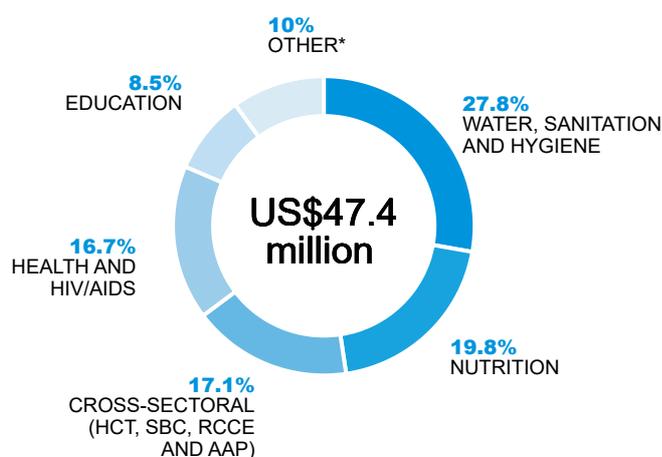
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF requires \$47.4 million in 2024 to support UNICEF's disability-inclusive, child-focused and gender-transformative humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable people in all 28 districts.

UNICEF is targeting 5.9 million people, including 3.6 million children (1.9 million girls and nearly 600,000 children with disabilities).²² The extensive cholera outbreak, increased instability and food insecurity and the impact of Cyclone Freddy on infrastructure mean that humanitarian assistance needs to be maintained in Malawi.

The requested funding will accelerate UNICEF's humanitarian response in the country and support people's access to safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene items, health, nutrition, education, child protection services and humanitarian cash assistance. It will underpin specialized services for disabled children, help address gender inequalities and strengthen the prevention of violence against children and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Funding will also help UNICEF sustain optimal levels of emergency preparedness, considering the multi-risk profile of Malawi. UNICEF requires urgent and flexible funding to ensure no child is left behind. Without such funding, UNICEF cannot support the Government of Malawi and its partners in responding to multiple crises – the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, the cholera outbreak, floods and food insecurity – affecting the country. Poor and vulnerable households with children will be left without access to basic services, essential supplies and social assistance.



Sector	2024 requirements (US\$)
Health and HIV/AIDS	7,923,960
Nutrition	9,402,062
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	3,282,800 ²³
Education	4,048,400
Water, sanitation and hygiene	13,166,000
Social protection	1,444,548 ²⁴
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	8,114,962 ²⁵
Total	47,382,732

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child protection, GBViE and PSEA (6.9%), Social protection (3.0%).

Who to contact for further information:

Shadrack Omol
Representative, Malawi
T +265-1770770
somol@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. The total population in need was calculated based on the people in need of WASH services. The estimated number of people at risk of cholera (around half of the national population of around 20 million), and 12 to 14 districts (out of 28) that are prone to drought, floods and disease outbreaks. The populations in these districts were considered, including their access to WASH services. Out of the 9.4 million people in need, 4.6 million are male, 4.8 million are female (52 per cent), 4.8 million are children under 18 (2.3 million boys and 2.5 million girls), 1.3 million are people with disabilities (14 per cent) and 752,000 PLW (8 per cent).
2. The total number of children in need is calculated as 51 per cent of the people in need. Out of 4.8 million children in need, 2.3 million are boys, 2.5 million are girls, 3 million children are under age five, 3 million are school-age children (64 per cent of children in need), 940,000 are children with a disability (10 per cent of the people in need) and 1 million are adolescents (11 per cent of the people in need).
3. The total number of people to be reached by UNICEF is the cumulative of total of children aged 0–5 years old targeted for nutrition screening (2,671,661); children aged 6–18 years old targeted for access to primary school (920,448); and 2,303,000 (49 per cent) of WASH target to represent adults. Of the 5.9 million people to be reached, 3.6 million are children, 2.9 million are male, 3 million are female, 820,315 are people with disabilities and 360,960 are PLW.
4. The prevalence of adults living with disabilities is based on global estimates (15 per cent).
5. 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.
6. The total number of children to be reached by UNICEF is the cumulative of total of children targeted for nutrition screening (2,671,661) and access to primary school (920,448). The total includes 589,511 children with disabilities (10 per cent) and 670,000 adolescents.
7. See: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/malawi/vulnerability>.
8. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, Malawi, IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, June 2023–March 2024, IPC, 18 August 2023, available at <<https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/malawi-ipc-acute-food-insecurity-analysis-june-2023-march-2024-published-18-august-2023>>.
9. The total number of people in need of health services is based on Health Cluster estimates for cholera in 2023.
10. This includes children under age 5 and pregnant and lactating women.
11. Total number of people in need of protection services was calculated by considering the 9.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and estimating that 66 per cent of Malawi experienced violence in their childhood and 51 per cent are children. Malawi Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys, report, 2015 (data collection 2013), available at <www.togetherforgirls.org/en/resources/malawi-vacs-report-2015>.
12. Total number of children in need of education services was calculated by considering 4.8 million children in need of humanitarian assistance and estimating that 64 per cent of children are school-going children ages 5–18 years, including 306,816 (10 per cent) are children with disabilities. Fifty-one per cent are girls, according to the Malawi education statistics report, 2023.
13. The total population in need of WASH service is estimated considering the number of people at risk of cholera (around half of the national population of 18 million), and the number of districts usually prone to drought, floods and disease outbreaks, which is about half the total number of districts (12–14 districts out of 28). It considers the populations in those districts and the level of access to WASH service.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
18. The total people to be reached by UNICEF is calculated as 70 per cent of the cluster target for people in need of mental health and psychosocial support services, including children and caregivers.
19. The total number of children to be reached by UNICEF-supported education services is calculated as 30 per cent of the total number of school-going children.
20. The total number of people to be reached by UNICEF is calculated as 50 per cent of overall number of people in need of WASH services.
21. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
22. The total number of people to be reached by UNICEF is the cumulative of the total people targeted for nutrition screening (2,671,661); access to primary school (920,448) and 49 per cent of the WASH target to represent overall adults. Fifty-one per cent are girls and 10 per cent are children with disabilities, based on Malawi Population and Housing Census Report 2018.
23. Of the total requirement of \$3.3 million, \$986,000 will be allocated to interventions for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and \$465,000 will be allocated to the response to gender-based violence.
24. Cash transfers are rolled out by the government Social Cash Transfer Programme, the flagship social assistance programme in Malawi. Recipients include beneficiary households enrolled in the programme who receive a top-up, and non-beneficiary households in affected communities who will temporarily receive cash transfers.
25. This includes among other things, \$1.5 million is for humanitarian cash transfers, \$3.8 million is for social and behavioural change, \$2.3 million is for accountability to affected populations and \$52,200 is for adolescent development.