



Dalia, 7 years old, and her siblings showing their artwork during a psychosocial activity in their community supported by UNICEF in the Gaza Strip.

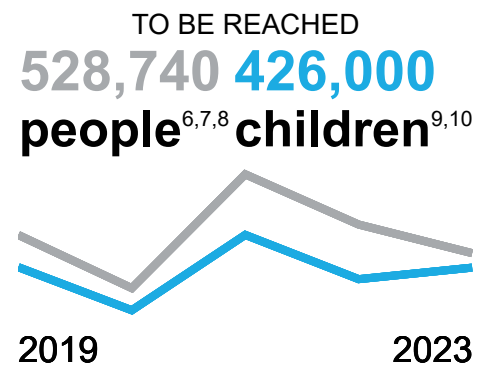
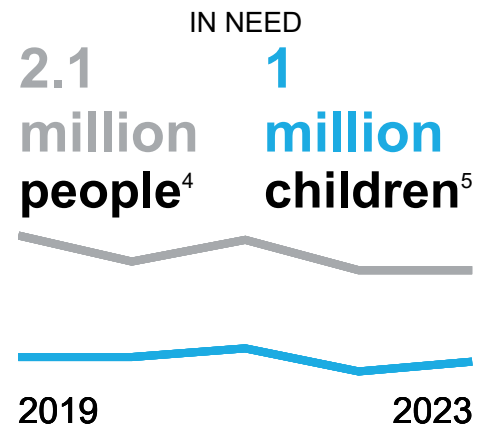
unicef   
for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

# State of Palestine

### HIGHLIGHTS<sup>1</sup>

- Over 1 million internally displaced persons across the Gaza Strip face an increasingly dire humanitarian situation with severely limited access to basic needs such as water and electricity and health services.
- Around 2.1 million people in the State of Palestine were in need of humanitarian assistance, among them 1 million children<sup>2</sup>.
- The prolonged conflict, renewed escalations, and 15 years of closure in the Gaza Strip have contributed to the dire living conditions and restriction of movements, including children and goods. The situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is caught in a downward spiral of violence, increasing children's vulnerability.
- UNICEF continues to buttress preparedness throughout its programming, strengthening the humanitarian and development nexus and fulfilling its Core Commitments for Children.
- In January 2023, UNICEF required US\$23.8 million to respond to the humanitarian situation in the State of Palestine. Following the recent escalation of conflict on 7 October, UNICEF requires an additional US\$20 million<sup>3</sup> to cover the immediate children's emergency needs.



### KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**145,432**

children and women accessing primary healthcare



**27,140**

children and adolescents participating in after-school interventions to support their well being



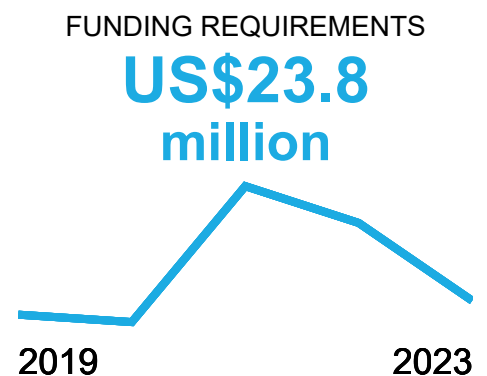
**332,000**

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



**50,000**

people sharing their concerns and asking questions through feedback mechanisms



Figures are aligned to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan and are subject to further revision based on unfolding situation and major changes of humanitarian needs therein.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Since the escalation on 7 October, large-scale grave violations against children have been reported in Israel and in the State of Palestine, including the killing and maiming of children, abductions, and attacks on civilian infrastructure and essential public services such as schools, and health facilities, including ambulances and health personnel. The hostilities have led to grave humanitarian consequences, with lives, homes, schools, medical facilities, and infrastructure damaged and destroyed<sup>11</sup>. In addition, most of the water systems in the Gaza Strip are heavily impacted and non-operational due to lack of fuel, insecurity in locations of operation and damage to production, treatment and distribution infrastructure<sup>12</sup>.

Prior to the escalation, the State of Palestine was already one of the most complex and challenging environments in which the United Nations operates. A protracted protection crisis persists due to ongoing occupation, with around 2.1 million people requiring humanitarian assistance, including 1 million children.

The situation is compounded by the Gaza Strip's closure, Palestinian internal divisions, fiscal crisis, slow economic recovery, and climate change. These factors have led to a strain on the socio-economic and cultural fabric of Palestinian society, with healthcare systems, the economy, and employment severely affected. In May 2023, children in and around the Gaza Strip witnessed another intense escalation of hostilities. In July 2023, the Israeli Forces carried out a wide-scale operation in Jenin. Both periods of violence led to casualties and extensive damage, further worsening the already dire situation for children and their families. Violence, military operations, and arrests are expected to continue, as well as demolitions and evictions.

The high rate of unemployment and lack of economic opportunities is impacting many households, increasing their dependency on aid/assistance, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and contributing to their high reliance on negative coping mechanisms.

In the Gaza Strip, 40 per cent of households reported at least one member of their household experiencing signs of psychosocial distress or trauma last year. Overall, 1.9 million people are severely affected by protection concerns, of whom 678,000 need child protection services, and 816,000 need mental health and psychosocial support. In the West Bank, protection concerns are directly linked to the safety of children at school or traveling to and from school, non-enrollment of children in school, or children dropping out of school. Dropout rates in the West Bank are estimated at 19 per cent, primarily due to protection risks and school closures. The education situation was further impacted by the extended teachers' strike, affecting more than 600,000 students in the West Bank. Additionally, two schools were demolished this year, and another 58 schools are under threat of demolition.

## SECTOR NEEDS<sup>13,14</sup>



**1.6 million**  
people need health  
assistance



**780,000**  
children in need of  
protection services



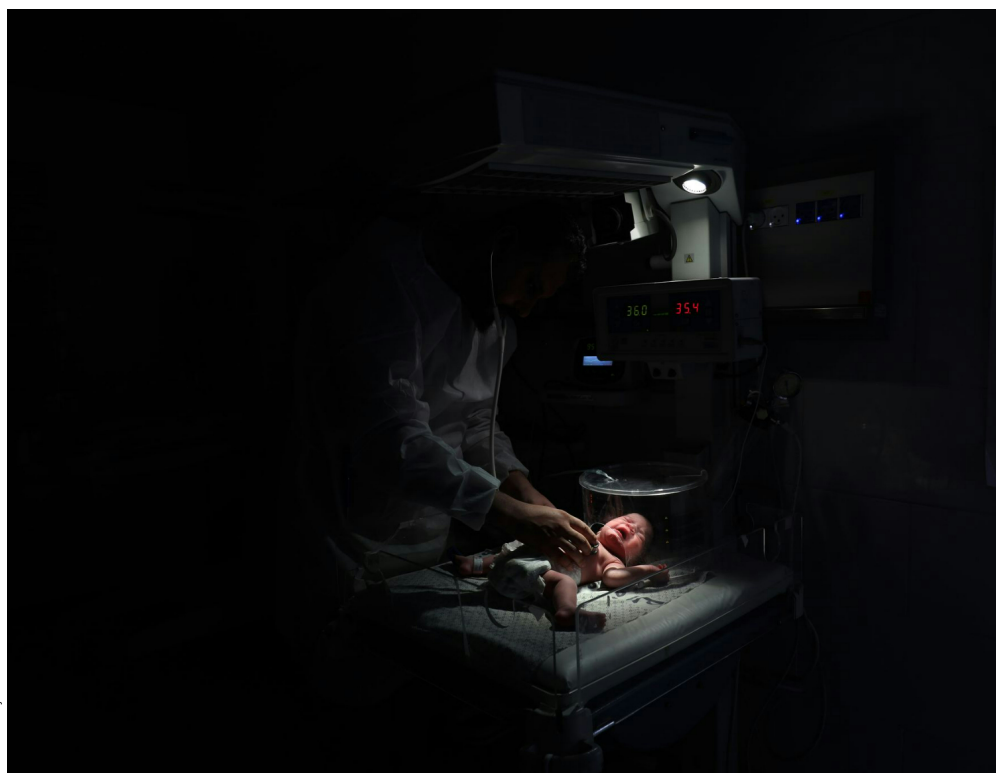
**608,556**  
people in need of  
education support



**1.4 million**  
people need WASH  
services

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## STORY FROM THE FIELD



Al-Emirati Hospital is one of the few maternity hospitals in Rafah City, south of the Gaza Strip. Around 500 babies are born in this hospital each month. Ten per cent of them require special care and admission to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The hospital faced many challenges due to the high demand and limited hospital equipment and staff capacity. UNICEF and partners' support increases newborn survival rates in Al Emirati Hospital.

**[Read more about this story here](#)**

Dr. Mohammed checks the health of a newborn baby in the UNICEF-supported Al-Emirati hospital.

UNICEF is providing immediate life-saving response to the severely affected populations and is prepositioning supplies to be able to respond to the rapidly changing situation due to the recent escalation.

UNICEF continues to address the most acute humanitarian needs in the State of Palestine while working closely with partners to foster synergies between the organization's humanitarian and development work. UNICEF will also generate evidence on the impact of violence and grave violations on children and education-related incidents for high-level advocacy with all parties.

UNICEF will improve access and use of child protection services for the most vulnerable, while the education sector will support access to mental health and psychosocial support interventions and the continuity of quality learning in safe and inclusive learning environments. Due to significant learning losses, UNICEF will provide remedial education and essential learning materials in the Gaza Strip.

UNICEF will provide life-saving health and nutrition interventions, including essential newborn care and support for infant and young child feeding in emergencies. UNICEF will support the provision of quality age- and gender-responsive health, nutrition, and development services and procuring essential medical and nutrition supplies. The WASH programme will address critical humanitarian needs by ensuring equitable, affordable, sustainable, and safely managed access to WASH services. UNICEF will provide water treatment chemicals for safe water, improve WASH services at the community level, schools, and health facilities, flood mitigation and provide hygiene supplies to promote personal hygiene.

UNICEF will continue the roll-out of the shock-responsive child-sensitive social protection programme, aiming at strengthening the national cash transfer programme while reducing households' vulnerabilities by providing cash transfers to meet basic needs and raising awareness of essential practices.

Social and behavioral change will be mainstreamed, addressing key gender and stigma-related barriers through community engagement and empowerment. With the Humanitarian Country Team and other United Nations agencies, UNICEF will roll out initiatives to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and accountability to affected populations, ensuring appropriate reporting mechanisms are in place at all levels.

With a presence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the Gaza Strip, UNICEF will ensure access to affected populations while promoting local-level partnerships and community participation.

Preparedness will be embedded throughout the programmes, seeking opportunities to enhance the humanitarian and development nexus, risk-informed programming, and fulfill UNICEF Core Commitments for Children. Risk monitoring and management will be prioritized. Minimum emergency supplies will be pre-positioned, with contingency agreements with key partners, including local non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, for a timely response.

UNICEF will continue to lead the WASH Cluster, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, and the Nutrition Working Group and co-lead the Education Cluster.

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 nutrition

- **145,432** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **20,000** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **52,482** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **359,422** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder
- **25,500** pregnant women and newborns receiving maternal/neonatal life-saving services in UNICEF-supported facilities



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **30,200** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **292,568** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **3,040** children who have received individual case management
- **10,000** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions
- **7,000** persons (women, girls, men and boys) participating in child protection awareness-raising sessions



### Education

- **30,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **27,140** children and adolescents participating in after-school interventions to support their well being
- **5,000** children benefiting from remedial education services and learning support



### Water, sanitation and hygiene<sup>18</sup>

- **332,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **112,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **57,000** people accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning and health facilities and safe spaces
- **33,000** people with improved access to flooding mitigation and prevention measures



### Social protection

- **1,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers



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

- **50,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

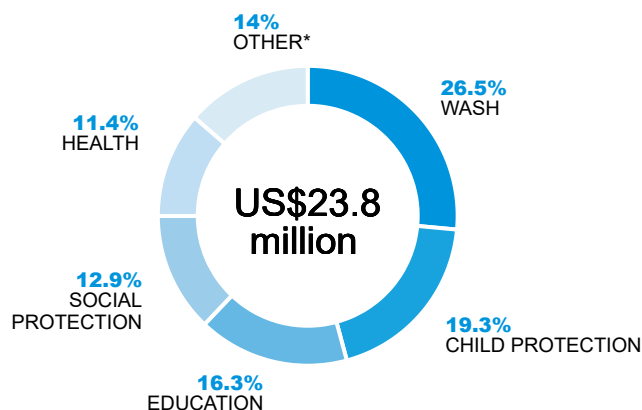
Figures are aligned to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan. All targets are subject to further revision based on unfolding situation and major changes of humanitarian needs therein.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

In 2023, UNICEF called for US\$23.8 million to respond to the most pressing humanitarian needs in the State of Palestine. This funding will allow UNICEF to prioritize access to mental health and psychosocial support and protection services, including the provision of safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse; procure health and nutrition supplies and water treatment chemicals; provide individual learning materials; and continue to engage children and adolescents in catching up on learning needs. UNICEF will also support households with children directly affected by the escalation of hostilities with multipurpose cash transfers. Ahead of the rainy season, flood preparedness will be further strengthened, as well as UNICEF and its partners' preparedness capacity.

Following the recent escalation of conflict since 7 October, UNICEF requires an additional US\$20 million to cover the immediate children's emergency needs<sup>19</sup> as per the recently launched Immediate Needs Document<sup>20</sup>. As the full impact of the ongoing crisis becomes apparent, larger needs due to destroyed health, water, education, and child protection systems are anticipated, and the HAC will be revised accordingly.

Failure to secure sufficient funding would result in thousands of children and their families being deprived of accessing essential services and meeting their most urgent basic needs.



Appeal sector	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health	2,715,000
Nutrition	2,100,000
Child protection	4,600,000
Education	3,880,000
WASH	6,300,000
Social protection	3,065,000
Cross-sectoral	100,000
Coordination	1,040,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,800,000</b>

\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Nutrition (8.8%), Coordination (4.4%), Cross-sectoral (<1%).

Appeal sector	Original 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	1,450,000	2,715,000	307,710	2,407,290	88.7%
Nutrition	520,000	2,100,000	172,053	1,927,947	91.8%
Child protection	4,057,240	4,600,000	1,854,849	2,745,151	59.7%
Education	3,800,000	3,880,000	1,142,966	2,737,034	70.5%
WASH	6,300,000	6,300,000	787,628	5,512,372	87.5%
Social protection	3,061,080	3,065,000	2,827,912	237,088	7.7%
Cross-sectoral	100,000	100,000	64,522	35,478	35.5%
Coordination	1,040,000	1,040,000	556,183	483,817	46.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,328,320</b>	<b>23,800,000</b>	<b>7,713,823</b>	<b>16,086,177</b>	<b>67.6%</b>

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## ENDNOTES

1. On 1 July 2022, UNICEF deactivated its Level 3 Sustained Phase for the global COVID-19 pandemic response. All activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic response, including programme targets and funding requirements, have been shifted into regular development programming and operations. While UNICEF's Level 3 emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was deactivated, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, their families, and their communities, and on the social systems they rely on.
2. OCHA - Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Version 1 as of 12 October 2023
3. On 17 October 2023 UNICEF issued an Immediate Needs Document<sup>1</sup> with a request for US\$ 20 million to cover the urgent needs for the escalation in the State of Palestine from October to December 2023: <https://www.unicef.org/media/146766/file/State-of-Palestine-Immediate-Needs-Documents-Oct-Dec-2023.pdf> This is an initial appeal aligned to the OCHA IA Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The appeal will be revised as needs are continuing to rise.
4. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) - oPt: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, January 2023.
5. Ibid.
6. People to be reached figures are subject to further revision based on unfolding situation and major changes of humanitarian needs therein.
7. In the revised Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) 2023 appeal, UNICEF has slightly reduced the total number of people and children to be assisted. This decrease is primarily due to a lowered target for the "number of children and adolescents participating in after-school interventions and/or summer activities to support their well-being." The decrease was in consultation with the Education Cluster and based on the gap and lessons learned from the previous year.
8. The total number of people to be reached is calculated based on the following programme targets: 1) the number of children aged 6-59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders (359,500, which is 100 per cent of the target); 2) the number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs (83,000, which is 25 per cent of the set target – to avoid overlap with other indicators); 3) the number of pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients (59,100, which is 100 per cent of the target); and 4) the number of children and adolescents participating in after-school interventions and/or summer activities to support their well-being (27,140, which is 100 per cent of the target). Gender disaggregation is 50.9 per cent male and 49.1 per cent female, and 5.8 per cent people living with disability and difficulties, as per the 2017 Palestinian Census. 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. Children to be reached figures are subject to further revision based on unfolding situation and major changes of humanitarian needs therein.
10. The total number of children to be reached is calculated based on the following programme targets: 1) the number of children aged 6-59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders (359,500, which is 100 per cent of the target); 2) the number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs (41,500 children, which represents 50 per cent of the 83,000 population cohort considered in the people to be reached calculation); and 3) the number of children and adolescents participating in after-school interventions and/or summer activities to support their well-being (25,000 children). Gender disaggregation is 50.9 per cent male and 49.1 per cent female, and 5.8 per cent children living with disability and difficulties, as per the 2017 Palestinian Census.
11. The recent escalation of violence on 7 October 2023, has led to the damage of 178 education facilities - OCHA - Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Version 1 as of 12 October 2023
12. According to the Palestinian Water Authority, water production capacity is at five per cent of the normal daily production.
13. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) - oPt: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, January 2023.
14. Figures are aligned to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan and are subject to further revision based on unfolding situation and major changes of humanitarian needs therein.
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 coordinators costs are included into sectoral programme budgets.
16. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action 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. All targets are subject to further revision based on unfolding situation and major changes of humanitarian needs therein.
18. The UNICEF WASH target for 2023 is adopted in close consultation with the WASH Cluster and due consideration to the capacity of partners in the West Bank and the ongoing WASH projects in the Gaza Strip (e.g., desalination plant) and the situation before the May 2021 escalation (see Humanitarian Action for Children 2020 as a reference).
19. These immediate requirements may be subject to further revision as per unfolding situation and major changes in humanitarian needs in the coming weeks
20. <https://www.unicef.org/documents/state-palestine-immediate-needs-document-october-december-2023>
21. Funding requirement may be subject to further revision as per unfolding situation and major changes in humanitarian needs in the coming weeks.