

A child leaving the shelter to find clean water for his family who are taking refuge in a school in Rafah City, south of the Gaza Strip.



UNICEF-SoP/2023/Eyad alBaba

UNICEF in the State of Palestine

Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 10



Reporting Period: 7 to 13 December 2023

Highlights

- Up to 1.9 million people, nearly 85 per cent of the population, are displaced. Entire neighbourhoods, where children used to play and go to school, are turned into stacks of rubble. Humanitarian and physical space is further severely shrinking.
- Up to 360,000 documented cases of infectious diseases are reported in shelters. WHO confirmed cases of meningitis, jaundice, impetigo, chickenpox, and upper respiratory tract infections.
- Cold and wet weather makes it difficult to stay warm and healthy. UNICEF is the only agency procuring winter clothes for children in the Gaza Strip.
- In response to the deteriorating environmental and sanitary conditions, UNICEF provided fuel to a wastewater treatment plant to support sewage treatment and safe disposal, benefiting over 275,000 people in Rafah, including 140,250 children.
- UNICEF provided psychosocial support services to 415 people in the Gaza Strip through helpline services.
- UNICEF with partners expanded recreational activities in the Gaza Strip to 18,350 children and adolescents including 11,569 girls and 265 children with disabilities.
- UNICEF with partners reached 14,994 children and 4,532 caregivers with psychosocial support services since 7 October.
- Over the past weeks 35 UNICEF trucks have entered Gaza with Jerry cans to benefit 110,000 people, pharmaceuticals medical kits for 150,000 people, medical consumables to cover 30,000 people, hygiene kits for 7,200 people, ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF) for 2,450 children to treat malnutrition, winter clothing for 2,000 children, 7,500 infants, and blankets for 5,000 people.

Situation in Numbers



3.1 Million people in need nationally (OCHA Flash Appeal, Nov 2023)



1 Million Children affected in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2023 population projections)



Up to 1.9 Million Internally displaced persons (OCHA, 12 December 2023)

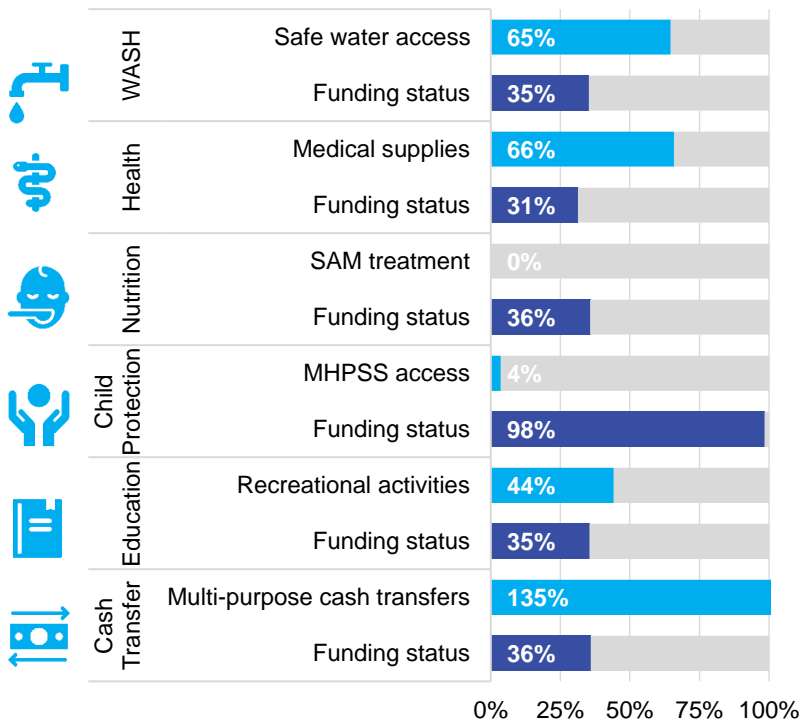


352 schools sustained damage in the Gaza Strip (Education Cluster, 8 Dec 2023)



56% of WASH municipal facilities damaged or destroyed in the Gaza Strip (Gaza Damage Assessment Report, 22 Nov 2023)

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status

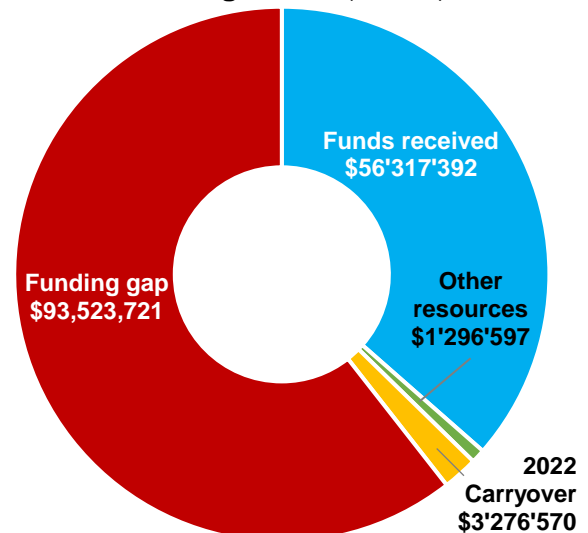


Funding does not include the loans received from within UNICEF. See Annex A for additional explanations.

UNICEF Immediate Needs

US\$ 154.4 million

Funding Status (in US\$)



UNICEF funding status is based on the 10 November revision of the 2023 HAC.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

The revised Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories was issued on 6 November covering October to December 2023. The appeal identifies a financial requirement of approximately US\$ 1.2 billion to meet critical needs for 2.7 million people, including 2.2 million population in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Aligned to the revised Flash Appeal, UNICEF issued an updated Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for October to December 2023 to support 2.1 million people including 1.2 million children with a funding requirement of US\$ 154.4 million: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine>. To date, the revised 2023 HAC has a US\$ 93.5 million (61 per cent) funding gap.

To kick start the UNICEF response, available funds were reprogrammed, and UNICEF mobilized additional internal funds including flexible Global Humanitarian Thematic funds. UNICEF would like to sincerely thank partners for their contributions, including the governments of Australia, Canada, Germany, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom as well as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), European Commission / DG ECHO along with the UNICEF National Committees of Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom, and United States. UNICEF would also like to thank the UNICEF private sector fundraising offices of Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, Gulf Area Office, Philippines, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Thailand, and Uzbekistan which have supported initial relief efforts in response to the recent escalation of hostilities. UNICEF has also received US\$ 8.75 million from the internal Emergency Response Fund and exceptionally frontloaded US\$ 10 million of an internal capital loan both of which will need to be replenished.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Need

The escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip is continuing to have a catastrophic impact on children and families. Entire neighbourhoods, where children used to play and go to school, have been turned into stacks of rubble. As of 12 December, at least 18,412 Palestinians were reported killed since the start of hostilities, including more than 5,350 children (disaggregated data as of 20 November). More than 50,100 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 8,663 children (disaggregated data as of 7 November). Thousands of children continue to be reported missing and are likely injured or killed under the rubble of destroyed buildings. UNRWA reports that, as of 11 December, 134 of their staff had been killed. As of 11 December, there have been 154 incidents impacting 103 UNRWA installations, of which 43 installations have sustained direct hits.

As of 12 December, OCHA reports about almost 1.9 million persons are estimated to be internally displaced in the Gaza Strip, nearly 85 per cent of the population – half of whom are children. Some IDPs have been displaced multiple times. UNRWA reports that, as of 11 December, 287 IDPs have been killed in their facilities, with a further 1,257 injured.

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, OCHA reports that since 7 October, at least 271 Palestinians have been killed. At least 71 children have been reported killed in conflict-related violence in the same time period, with more than half of incidents in the Jenin, Nablus and Tulkarem governorates. The high number of military operations and resulting confrontations, as well as settler violence and movement restrictions, disrupt Palestinian children's access to essential services, while putting them at higher risk of violence including grave violations, and displacement¹. Since 7 October, at least 682 Palestinians (including 170 women, 181 boys and 157 girls) have been displaced due to home demolitions mainly in Area C and East Jerusalem, and in Jenin and Tulkarem due to destruction of homes during military operations. Another 396 children have been displaced due to settler violence and access restrictions affecting herding communities in Area C.

Overcrowded living conditions and overburdened health systems increase the spread of diseases in the Gaza Strip. . On 12 December, it is reported that there are 360,000 documented cases of infectious diseases in shelters, noting the actual number is believed to be higher. WHO reported on the same day that cases of meningitis, jaundice, impetigo, chickenpox and other upper respiratory tract infections have been recorded.

Israeli sources report that 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed², mostly in the tragic attacks of 7 October, and more than 7,500 people are reported injured. At least 35 children have been reported killed. Around 240 Israelis, including around 35 children were abducted into the Gaza Strip, 34 were reported released as of 13 December, with very limited information available on any children remaining in captivity.

¹ <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-68>

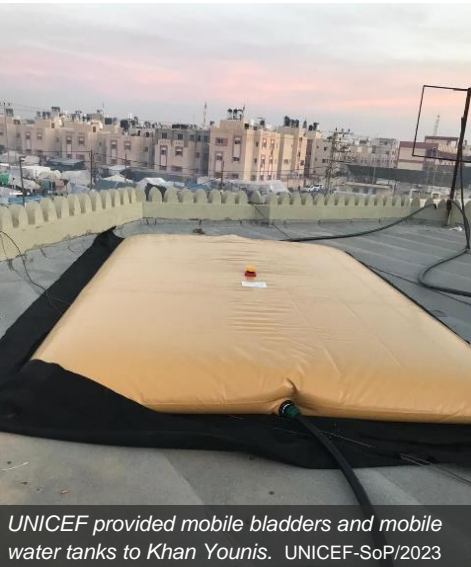
² The figure was revised. Previously, Israeli sources reported that at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Access to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services for the affected population in the Gaza Strip continues to be impeded by a lack of power supply, fuel shortages, restricted access, and infrastructure damage. In response to urgent WASH humanitarian needs, through the UN mechanism, UNICEF provided over 94,000 litres of fuel during the reporting period, which allowed public and private water wells and desalination plants to produce clean water, reaching more than one million people, including over 510,000 children with clean water for drinking and domestic needs in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah areas.

Furthermore, with UNICEF-supported pipes and fittings supplies, a partner completed a repair of a 12-inch water pipeline in the Rafah governorate that was previously damaged. As a result, the pipeline provides water to about 25,000 people in the northeast area of Rafah governorate. UNICEF also installed two mobile bladders with 5 and 10 cubic meter capacities, and one mobile water tank of 10 cubic meters at the Qatari Hospital in Rafah and Al Aqsa University in Khan Younis, benefitting more than 40,000 people, including over 20,000 children.



In response to the deteriorating environmental and sanitary conditions, UNICEF provided fuel for one wastewater treatment plant to support sewage treatment and safe disposal, benefitting over 275,000 people, including over 140,000 children in Rafah. To address solid waste problems, UNICEF also continued to support the cleaning services in the Khan Younis Training Centre, benefitting over 31,000 people, including over 14,000 children. In partnership with WASH actors, UNICEF is scaling up WASH service delivery in IDP hosting communities through an integrated package of WASH services.

The UNICEF-led WASH Cluster, including 68 partners, continues to coordinate the response in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through sub-national coordination platforms. The activities of the WASH Cluster are currently funded at 19 per cent which consists of US\$ 4,500 for the West Bank.

Health

UNICEF continued supporting the primary health care services in Gaza with partners, through provision of health care services in 20 shelters in North Gaza. While accurate reports are difficult to obtain due to the continued heavy bombardment in North Gaza, mobile teams continue to address health needs of post trauma care patients.

Furthermore, much needed additional medical supplies including 45 Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) equipment, 33 IEHK medical consumables, 20 IEHK basic kits, and five complete midwifery kits, 13 IEHK medicine kits are at Al Arish and expected to enter the Gaza Strip within the next few days.

UNICEF is jointly working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to deliver five vaccines (BCG, OPV, MMR, PENTA and Rota) under the procurement services agreement in place for the continuum of immunization services. The vaccines are expected to arrive in Al Arish still in December. In addition, UNICEF is procuring six additional vaccines (DTP, PCV, Hepatitis B, Dt, Td and IPV) to ensure a stock of at least three months is made available.



In the West Bank, UNICEF delivered four IEHK medical kits to the MoH, which were distributed to four different hospitals. Additional itemized medical consumables were locally purchased and then delivered to the MoH central warehouse in Salem-Nablus, including cannulas, syringes, and gauze to serve some 40,000 people over a period of three months. To date 120,000 people have been supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies.

Nutrition

UNICEF secured 340,896 bottles of Ready to Use Infant Formula (RUIF) to address the need of over 3,000 non-breastfed infants 0-6 months old³. The RUIF is in Egypt to cross into the Gaza Strip. To ensure a timely response to the current emergency.

UNICEF adopts simplified approaches and provides capacity building training to partners on the management of wasting where children with severe and moderate acute malnutrition will be treated with Ready to Use Therapeutic Feeding product (RUTF).

The Nutrition Cluster has developed a comprehensive questionnaire, covering infant, young children and maternal nutrition related questions. This questionnaire will be used in future joint or multisectoral assessments, in small scale assessments or during service provisions to communities, see [IYCF Questionnaire for Nutrition Cluster partners | Global Nutrition Cluster](#). UNICEF continues to lead and coordinate the Nutrition Cluster which has over 30 partners.

Child Protection

Since 7 October, child protection partners reached 14,994 children and 4,532 caregivers with psychosocial support services. Since early December, the provision of psychological first aid support for children in designated shelters and centers is facing significant obstacles, primarily stemming from intensified hostilities in central areas and more recently in Khan Yunis. These attacks prompted staff evacuations and relocations to the South, mainly to Rafah, and created additional trauma due to loss of family members. UNICEF also provided psychosocial support services to 415 people in the Gaza Strip through the helpline services in the past week. A total of three unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), two girls and one boy, were identified and are currently being provided with interim care arrangements and case management services supported by a UNICEF partner.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF continued to provide critical child protection services such as case management, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), recreational activities and awareness-raising sessions on child rights and digital safety to 583 people including 358 children. In addition, a total of 405 participants (130 women and 275 children) were reached through 27 sessions on positive parenting. Two UASCs were identified, registered and care arrangements will be coordinated with the MoSD.

Education

Partners are facing challenges to programme continuity, scale-up, expansion and reporting due to a plethora of factors including staff movement restrictions, poor and intermittent mobile and internet connectivity. Nevertheless, UNICEF and partners in the Gaza Strip have continued and expanded the provision of recreational activities to support 18,350 children and adolescents including 11,569 girls and 265 children with disabilities (CwDs). The demand for recreational activity support for children in shelters have progressively increased which UNICEF has responded to by the expansion of programmes to 61 IDP shelters, which are located across Khan Younis, Deir Al Balah, Rafah, An Nuseirat, and Bani Suhila communities, as well as in camps in the southern Gaza Strip. UNICEF and partners are unable to reach children living in private homes due to logistical challenges amidst the prevailing insecurity and high mobility of people, while access to children in central and northern Gaza Strip remains cut off.

Social Protection

UNICEF provides humanitarian cash transfers to thousands of families and children to allow them to buy essential items like food, water, and hygiene products that are still available despite shortages and the fragility of the situation. Despite the challenging security conditions, UNICEF has reached 340,481 people (47,362 families, including 158,895 children, 16,195 people with disabilities, and 12,882 female-headed households) with multi-purpose cash assistance. The redemption rate is 75 per cent. In the Gaza Strip, each transfer amounts to around US\$ 200 for one month.

To support the most vulnerable population in an environment of growing food insecurity and nutrition concerns, UNICEF has provided its first nutrition top up payment of US\$100 to 10,000 lactating women (benefiting a total of 69,240 people, including 10,000 children under 2 years old and 31,220 children above 2 years old).

While food remains the biggest expense category, for the latest payment rounds about 40 per cent of respondents stated that their biggest expenses were: medicines, water, hygiene and debt repayment. Despite fragility of the markets, cash transfers through mobile payments prove to remain an effective and efficient mechanism to reach the most vulnerable families and children.

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) / Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

UNICEF has cumulatively received 1,752 pieces of feedback and complaints since 7 October. The humanitarian cash transfer programme has made use of the existing community feedback channels for 12 batches of cash transfer. These

³ UNICEF is committed to supporting mothers to exclusively breastfeed their infants to 6 months of age and to continue breastfeeding to age 2 and beyond with appropriate complementary foods. In exceptional circumstances, UNICEF provides breastmilk substitutes, since in an emergency situation some infants are not breastfed or only partially breastfed. These infants are highly vulnerable and require urgent and targeted protection and support given their increased risk of morbidity and mortality.

feedback channels, which make up the UNICEF SoP Community Feedback Mechanism are the Interagency Hotline, the PSEA network hotline and the UNICEF-specific email address. This ensures that beneficiaries have direct, confidential and safe contact for any complaint or feedback that they have regarding UNICEF programmes. During the current reporting period, UNICEF has received and responded to 276 pieces of feedback and complaints, including requests for information or cash redemption issues from households for various reasons. Most of the feedback is from cash beneficiaries in the Gaza Strip, with some feedback from beneficiaries in the West Bank unable to return to Gaza.

Support from Egypt Coordination Cell:

Cumulatively 185 trucks containing UNICEF supplies have crossed into the Gaza Strip from Egypt since 21 October. During the reporting period, a total of 35 trucks with critical emergency life-saving supplies have crossed into Gaza including:

- Jerry cans to cover an estimated 110,000 people and hygiene kits to cover an estimated 7,200 people.
- Assorted medical pharmaceutical kits to cover an estimated 150,000 people and medical consumables (syringes, bandages and catheters) to cover an estimated 30,000 people.
- Ready to use therapeutic food to cover 2,450 children for treatment of severe and moderate malnutrition.
- Winter clothing sets to cover 2,000 children aged 3-12 years, baby overalls to cover 7,500 infants aged 3-18 months, and blankets to cover 5,000 people.
- Also 72 tents and just over 500 tarpaulins for child-friendly spaces, nutrition facilities, temporary health facility, and temporary learning spaces.

As of 12 December, 30 trucks are in scanning before entering the Gaza Strip carrying tents, health and nutrition kits, pharmaceuticals, blankets, hygiene kits, recreation kits, winter clothes and bottled water. Also, at Al Arish, there are 31 trucks that have hygiene kits, recreation kits, medical consumables, medical kits (pharmaceuticals and equipment) as well as assorted health supplies, nutrition supplies, generators, winter clothes, blankets, tents and tarpaulins.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team and closely coordinates with other organizations and local partners, including women-led organisations. UNICEF also leads the coordination of the WASH and Nutrition Clusters and co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children. Within the Protection Cluster, UNICEF leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility as well as the Technical Working Group on UASC. UNICEF is part of the Inter-Cluster Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group. UNICEF also supports the Inter-Agency Network for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and participates in the Accountability to Affected Populations Working Group coordinated by OCHA. UNICEF also actively participates in the Regional and National Gender and Humanitarian Working Group, coordinated by UN Women and OCHA, and contributes to gender equality programming as well as preparedness and response.

Human Interest Stories, External Media and Advocacy

Advocacy - What is UNICEF calling for?

- An immediate humanitarian ceasefire.
- All access crossings into the Gaza Strip to be opened and safe movement for humanitarian workers and supplies across the Gaza Strip granted to ensure sustained and unimpeded access of humanitarian aid to affected populations wherever they are. This must include water, food, medical supplies, and fuel.
- The immediate, safe and unconditional release of all abducted children, and an end to any grave violations against all children, including killing and maiming children.
- Urgent medical cases in the Gaza Strip to be able to safely access critical health services or be allowed to leave, and for injured children evacuated to be accompanied by family members.
- Respect and protection for civilian infrastructure such as shelters and schools, and health, electric, water and sanitation facilities, to prevent loss of civilian and children's lives, outbreaks of diseases, and to provide care to the sick and wounded. All parties to the conflict must adhere to international humanitarian law.

Statements:

- 07.12.2023: [Statement by UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa Adele Khodr on the continued killing and injuring of children in the Gaza Strip and the humanitarian situation](#)

Highlight of the UNICEF's Spokesperson, James Elder, mission to the Gaza Strip

- [Voice-note on the situation in shelters in the Gaza Strip](#)
- [The story of Mohammad who was injured](#)

Social Media:

- [Installment of roof mounted bladder-tanks in shelters](#)
- [Voices of children in the Gaza Strip](#)

Next SitRep: 22 December 2023

UNICEF State of Palestine Humanitarian Action for Children Rev. 2023 Appeal: www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine

Latest Situation Reports are available on: www.unicef.org/sop/research-and-reports

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Annex A - Summary of Programme Results (Gaza Strip and West Bank)

Sector / Indicator	UNICEF			CLUSTER		
	Total Target	Cumulative Result	% Progress	Total Target	Cumulative Result	% Progress
WASH						
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs ¹	2,050,000	1,326,000	65%	2,426,544	tbc	tbc
# of people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services	1,350,000	402,361	30%	2,426,544	686,707	28%
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)	1,050,000	189,886	18%			
Health						
# people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies ²	780,000	513,000	65%			
# of high risks pregnant women who benefited from medical assistance in Gaza	50,000	4,500	9%			
Nutrition³						
# of pregnant women receiving preventative iron folate or multiple micronutrients supplementation	166,686	499	0.3%	197,858	499	0.3%
# of children 6-59 months receiving preventative lipid-based supplements, micronutrients supplementation, and high energy biscuits	311,189	0	0%	371,859	0	0%
# Children 0-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	5,842	0	0%	6,813	0	0%
Child Protection⁴						
# of children and caregivers affected by conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support	596,453 Children	19,973	3%	710,000	tbc	tbc
	255,623 Caregivers	10,460	4%			
# of children receiving explosive weapons-related risk education	504,925	1,090 (887 girls, 203 boys)	0.2%			
Education⁵						
# of affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being	55,000	24,338 (12,199 girls, 12,139 boys, 304 CwD)	44%	529,084	85,041	16%
# of school aged children provided with essential education in emergencies learning materials	315,500	160	0.1%			
Social Protection						
# of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers ⁶	35,000	47,362	135%			

1 UNICEF reports the maximum number of people reached each week, as interventions support the same population over time. Therefore, the maximum number of people is reported to avoid double counting.

2 This result is calculated based upon the distribution of Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to health facilities and partner reports.

3 Prior to the escalation, nutrition was not considered as a critical issue in the State of Palestine, including the Gaza Strip. Nutrition existed as a sub-working group under Health cluster. Now as an independent cluster, progress on result is expected as more nutrition actors are mobilized. Nutrition supplies are stored in a partner's warehouse and to be distributed to service delivery sites once capacity development activities are concluded. Currently due to the worsening security situation in the Gaza Strip, the distribution to the target groups cannot be proceeded as planned.

4 CP indicators and targets are linked to quality reach, it is difficult to implement the activities (e.g. MHPSS level 2 and 3 interventions) during active hostilities. CPAoR results on the MHPSS indicator are being updated.

5 Education's result on recreational activities was adjusted downward compared to previous SitRep following a thorough review of partner reports.

6 Reach with humanitarian cash transfers is reported based upon households which have received messages to redeem their cash. The response exceeds the target as the programme revised the initial strategy and has only delivered one round of transfers as compared to three rounds in the plan. Furthermore, UNICEF has funded the response through loans which are not reflected in the Funding Status table.

Annex B - Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (USD)	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received	Other resources used for the escalation	Resources available from 2022 (Carry-over)	US\$	%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	53,388,850	18,062,402	93,972	629,647	34,602,829	65%
Health	30,002,940	8,223,705	930,625	234,764	20,613,846	69%
Nutrition	11,897,862	4,249,696	0	0	7,648,166	64%
Child Protection	7,488,270	6,907,223	0	462,963	118,084	2%
Education	12,469,331	3,222,040	52,000	1,142,966	8,052,325	65%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	33,862,858	11,438,557	0	727,084	21,697,217	64%
Cross-Sectoral (PSEA, AAP)	1,544,143	1,105,940	0	50,146	388,057	25%
Cluster Coordination	3,760,027	3,107,829	220,000	29,000	403,198	11%
Total	154,414,281	56,317,392	1,296,597	3,276,570	93,523,721	61%

*Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) are integrated under each programme.