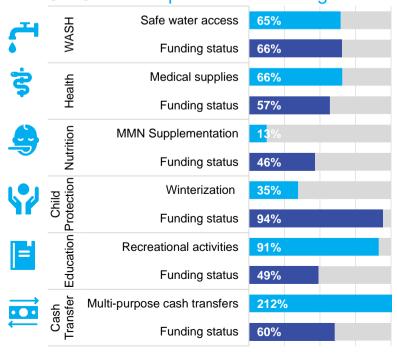


Reporting Period: 4 to 10 January 2024

Highlights

- Intensified hostilities in Gaza's Middle Area and Khan Younis have led to a
 further deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Civilian casualties have risen
 rapidly with devastating consequences for civilians many of whom had already
 fled for safety from Gaza City and the north to the Middle Area.
- Up to 90 per cent of children under two are subject to severe food poverty, and cases of diarrhea in children went up by 50 per cent in just one week.
- Limited access to clean water, coupled with increased risk of sewage overflows, increases the risk of disease outbreak.
- Continued denial of provision of fuel for water and sanitation facilities in the Gaza Strip, particularly in the Northern governorates, leaves tens of thousands of people without access to clean water and increases the risk of sewage overflows, and as a consequence, the spread of communicable diseases.
- UNICEF provided psychosocial support services for more than 54,000 people including over 44,000 children during the reporting period. Of those, 30,000 children received in-person structured psychosocial support services including 287 children with disabilities.
- UNICEF provided over 78,000 litres of fuel during the reporting period to run water wells and desalination plants, reaching over 1.3 million people with water, including over 670,000 children. Also, over 67,000 litres of bottled water were distributed, benefitting over 22,000 people, including 11,500 children.
- UNICEF has moved 308 trucks of supplies into the Gaza Strip from Egypt since 21 October. In the past week, seven trucks brought critical emergency supplies including: 10,800 Family Hygiene Kits for 1,200 families; water tanks and collapsible tanks for 2,500 people; 577,500 sanitary pads; 69,960 bottles of Ready to Use Formula for 500 infants between for a period of 1 month; as well as various medical kits and supplementary foods for 55,000 people.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

UNICEF in the State of Palestine

Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 14



for every child

Situation in Numbers

(ini)

3.1 Million

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

1 Million



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

1-)

Up to 1.9 Million

Internally displaced persons (OCHA, 10 January 2024)



372 schools

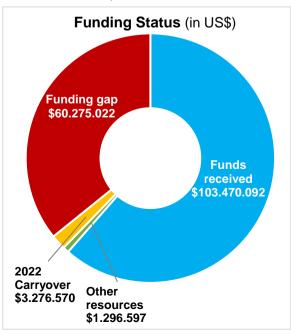
sustained damage in the Gaza Strip (Education Cluster, 3 Jan 2024)



27 hospitals

out of 39 sustained damage in the Gaza Strip (Health Cluster, 9 Jan 2024)

UNICEF Immediate Needs US\$ 168.3 million



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, 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. This appeal has been carried over to cover March 2024 inclusive. In line with increasing needs, on 5 January, the funding requirement was adjusted to US\$ 168.3 million, intended to support 2.1 million people including 1.2 million children: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine. The appeal is expected to be further revised in line with the evolving situation. To date, the revised HAC has a US\$ 60.3 million (36 per cent) funding gap.

UNICEF would like to sincerely thank partners for their contributions, including the governments of Australia, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom as well as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and the European Commission / DG ECHO. UNICEF also thanks the UNICEF National Committees of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. UNICEF would also like to thank the UNICEF private sector fundraising offices of Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Gulf Area Office, Japan, Philippines, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Thailand, Uzbekistan, and Singapore, 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 US\$ 10 million of an internal capital loan both of which will need to be replenished – these loans are not reflected in funds received.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Need

Children in the Gaza Strip face a deadly triple threat to their lives, as cases of diseases rise, their nutrition status plummets and the escalation of hostilities approaches its fourteenth week. Thousands of children have already died from the violence, while living conditions for children continue to rapidly deteriorate, with increasing cases of diarrhea and rising food poverty among children, increasing the risk of mounting child deaths.

As of 9 January, at least 23,210 Palestinians were reported killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities, including more than 5,350 children (disaggregated data as of 20 November). More than 57,035 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 10,787 children (partially disaggregated data as of 31 December). Thousands of children continue to be reported missing and are likely to be injured or killed under the rubble of destroyed buildings. Rescue efforts are hampered by ongoing airstrikes, scarcity of fuel for vehicles and equipment, and limited communication capabilities. UNRWA reports that, as of 6 January, 146 UNRWA staff had been killed, while WHO and UNDP report one staff member killed respectively. As of 6 January, there have been 220 incidents impacting 132 UNRWA installations, of which 63 installations have sustained direct hits. UNRWA reports as of 6 January, that at least 319 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have been killed in their facilities, with a further 1,135 injured due to the hostilities since 7 October.

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, OCHA reports that since 7 October, at least 330 Palestinians have been killed. At least 87 Palestinian children were reported killed in conflict-related violence in the same time period, with two-thirds of incidents in the northern West Bank, particularly Jenin, Nablus and Tulkarem governorates and nearly one quarter of incidents in the Ramallah and Jerusalem governorates. Military law enforcement operations inside Palestinian communities and camps involving high use of live ammunition, explosive weapons, and aerial strikes, as well as settler violence and movement restrictions, continue to put Palestinian children at higher risk of violence, grave violations, and displacement, and impact their access to services. According to OCHA, since 7 October, at least 2,334 Palestinians including 1,109 children have been displaced, mainly in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to settler violence and access restrictions, home demolitions, and destruction of residences during military law enforcement operations.

The State of Palestine Ministry of Education (MoE) in its weekly report stated that at least 4,296 students and 227 teachers and administrative staff have been killed in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank during the period from 7 October 2023 to 9 January 2024, with an increase of 140 students and six teachers and administrative personnel since 2 January. The number of students reported injured within the same period were 8,059 and with 761 teachers and educational personnel injured, an increase of 241 students and 33 teachers and administrative personnel since 2 January. Over 71 teachers and educational staff and 85 students are still detained after being arrested in the West Bank based on MoE reports.

Israeli sources report that approximately 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, mostly in the attacks of 7 October, and more than 7,500 people are reported injured. At least 35 children have been reported killed. Around 250 Israelis, including more than 35 children were abducted into the Gaza Strip, of whom 34 have been released, with very limited information available on any children remaining in captivity.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Lack of power supply, fuel shortages, and restricted access continue to hamper the provision of critical WASH services to the affected population in the Gaza Strip. In response to urgent WASH humanitarian needs, through the UN mechanism, UNICEF provided 78,882 litres of fuel during the reporting period, which allowed public and private water wells and desalination plants to produce clean water, reaching 1,326,000 people, including over 670,000 children with water for drinking and domestic needs in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis, Rafah areas and Middle areas. In addition to this, 67,785 litres of bottled water were distributed in Khan Younis and Rafah, benefitting over 22,595 people, including 11,500 children.

To enhance water distribution and household storage capacity for the affected population living in shelters, UNICEF with partners distributed 5,901 collapsible jerrycans of 10 litres capacity and supported minor repairs of WASH facilities benefitting over 35,406 people in non-formal shelters in Rafah. Furthermore, UNICEF distributed 3,749 hygiene kits, which include menstrual pads, benefitting 22,494 people, including women and adolescents in Jabalia, Khan Younis and Rafah.



In response to the deteriorating sanitation services for IDPs in overcrowded shelters, UNICEF with partners installed 60 mobile latrines in Khan Younis and Rafah, benefitting over 30,000 people, including over 16,000 children. Additionally, through the UN mechanism, UNICEF provided fuel to operate one wastewater treatment plant in Rafah, enabling sewage treatment and safe disposal, benefiting over 275,000 people, including 140,250 children in Rafah.

To respond to solid waste disposal needs, UNICEF supported cleaning services at 22 shelters in Khan Younis, Rafah and Deir Al Balah, benefiting over 77,000 people, including 39,000 children. In partnership with WASH actors, UNICEF is scaling up WASH service delivery in IDP hosting communities through an integrated package of WASH services including "cash for work" for sanitation services.

The WASH Cluster coordinates the response in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through subnational coordination platforms. UNICEF continues to lead and coordinate the WASH cluster, which has 68 partners.

Health

UNICEF with support of partners delivered medical supplies such as interagency emergency health (IEHK) medicine kits, obstetric kits, midwifery kits and medical consumables to one hospital and other health facilities in Gaza. These supplies will cover the needs of 120,000 people for a period of three months. In addition, UNICEF provided diarrhea kits to prevent and respond to the growing number of diarrhoea cases.

UNICEF continued to support catch up immunisation activities to reach new-born children who had defaulted on the vaccine schedule. Immunisation services are integrated in facilities in the south and north of the Gaza Strip.



Nutrition

The delivery process of key nutritional commodities is ongoing including Ready to use Infant Formula (RUIF) for 2,260 non-breastfed infants aged 0-5 months for one-month 1; therapeutic milk for 562 wasted children with medical complications; anthropometric measurements for the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM); multiple micronutrient supplement (MMS) tablets to reach 18,120 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW); Vitamin A supplementation to reach 30,336 children aged 6-11 months; and iron-folate supplementation to reach over 40,562 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW). Additional 135,000 cartons of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) for 155,858 PBW and for 202,234 children aged between 24 to 59 months will be delivered.

UNICEF continues to lead and coordinate the Nutrition Cluster with over 30 partners.

¹ 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, as some infants are not breastfed or only partially breastfed during emergencies. These infants are highly vulnerable and require urgent and targeted support given their increased risk of morbidity and mortality.

Child Protection

In the Gaza Strip since 7 October UNICEF has provided psychosocial support services for 55,265 people including 44,895 children. Of those people, 30,382 children received in-person structured psychosocial support services including 287 children with disabilities; 15,455 girls; and 5,473 caregivers. Furthermore, 3,040 people, (1,090 children and 1,950 caregivers) were reached with educational sessions on Explosive Remnants of War in shelters.

To respond to the winter weather, and with many people living in informal shelters with little protection from the cold, 95,261 children benefitted from winterization items delivered to shelters through UNICEF partners.

Efforts to scale up the identification of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were hampered by ongoing hostilities, while five identified UASC continue to receive temporary care and essential services through a partner.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF maintained the provision of essential child protection services reaching a total of 389 people including 222 children in the reporting week. Services include Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), case management, recreational activities, legal services, remedial education and awareness-raising sessions on child rights. Sessions on positive parenting were carried out in key locations across the West Bank (Aroub Camp, Biet Skaria, Masafer Yatta, Jayyous, and Bardala), reaching a total of 68 children and 42 mothers. UNICEF institutional support to MoSD enabled the provision of critical child protection services to 13 children (7 girls) directly affected by the on-going escalation of security operations in Ramallah, Qaliqya, and Nablus; while 25 child protection practitioners attended two sessions of the accredited child protection diploma by Bethlehem University.

Education

The provision of recreational activities by UNICEF with partners in support of children's well-being in the Gaza Strip continued benefiting 50,257 children and adolescents, of whom 26,268 girls; 23,989 boys; and 760 children with disabilities.

In the West Bank, UNICEF is working with partners to initiate recreational activities for students, remedial and catch-up education. UNICEF is also working closely with the Palestinian Ministry of Education on a national response plan that will respond to needs on the ground for both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Social Protection

To date, despite the extremely difficult security situation, distorted markets and communications blackouts, almost 594,173 people (74,354 households) in the Gaza Strip (21.7 per cent of the total population) have benefited from humanitarian cash assistance provided by UNICEF. Of those, 340,481 people (47,362 families, including 158,895 children, 16,195 people with disabilities, and 12,882 female-headed households) were supported with first round multipurpose cash assistance. This is 53 per cent of all Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) provided in the Gaza Strip.

Due to the continuously unstable situation and high needs, UNICEF has started to gradually provide a 2nd round of MPCA payments since mid-December to ensure the adequacy of support. To date 12,500 people (1,765 households) have been reached with a 2nd round of MPCA payments.

Since December 2023 UNICEF has been providing nutrition top up cash payments of NIS 400 (approximately US\$ 100) reaching cumulatively 28,840 pregnant and breastfeeding women, and disability top up cash payments of NIS 250 (approximately US\$ 65) to 5,079 children with disability. These top ups are estimated to benefit a total of 237,451 people, including 22,766 children under two years of age, and 60,760 children above two years. This is on top to the first MPCA round which had a value of NIS 754 per family (app. \$ 208), which amounts to 60 per cent of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) – the definition of what a household requires in order to meet their basic needs.

Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) has been regularly undertaken to obtain critical data on cash distributions and related parameters. To date, UNICEF has obtained data from 4,300 respondents (20 per cent response rate) on the situation of markets, types of expenditure, nutrition supply and further topics through four PDM rounds. UNICEF's PDM shows that informal markets have an important and growing role as a source of goods. Nearly 90 per cent of surveyed parents with children aged 6-23 months (in mid-December 2023) reported that their children received only two food types. For almost 70 per cent of the recipients, cash transfers from UNICEF covered the majority of their food needs in the previous two weeks. Thus, despite the fragility of the markets, cash transfers through mobile payments 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 maintains safe and confidential channels to report sensitive data, SEA and safeguarding issues including through interpersonal communication. In the reporting period 500,000 brochures and stickers with key information have been distributed to three partners distributing hygiene kits and a volunteer-based organization conducting safeguarding awareness. To this date, more than 22,000 children have been reached with safeguarding awareness messages in

Gaza. The PSEA program continues to refer identified cases of vulnerable individuals at risk of SEA for cash support due to their acute aid dependency, to date more than 300 cases have received cash for protection support.

UNICEF continues to ensure that communities have direct, safe and confidential contact for any complaint or feedback they may have regarding UNICEF and partners' interventions. Since 7 October, 3,811 pieces of feedback and complaints have been received through three feedback channels (Interagency Hotline, the PSEA network hotline and the UNICEF email). During the reporting period, 931 pieces of feedback and complaints were received. Communication and feedback included requests for cash assistance, information inquiries, or issues related to cash redemption. During the reporting period, requests for specific products were also received based on need.

Support from Egypt Coordination Cell

Cumulatively 308 trucks containing UNICEF supplies have crossed into the Gaza Strip from Egypt since 21 October. During the reporting period, a total of seven trucks with critical emergency supplies have crossed including:

- 10,800 Family Hygiene Kits to cover approximately 1,200 families¹, as well as water tanks and collapsible tanks that to cover 2,500 people; and 577,500 sanitary pads with and the number of beneficiaries dependent on the distribution plan.
- 69,960 bottles of Ready to Use Formula expected to cover 500 infants between 0 to 5 months for one month.
- Various medical kits, anticonvulsants, coagulation agents, and other supplementary foods to cover an estimated 55,000 people.

As of 9 January, there are two trucks in crossing at Rafah (via Karem Shalom); additional supplies are in various stages in the pipeline (an estimated 80 trucks).

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 (AAP) 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?

To respond to the situation for children in Israel and the State of Palestine, UNICEF is calling for:

- An immediate and long-lasting humanitarian ceasefire.
- Safe and unrestricted humanitarian access to and within the Gaza Strip to reach affected populations wherever
 they are, including in the north. All access crossings must be opened including to sufficient fuel, materials
 needed to run and rehabilitate essential infrastructure and commercial supplies. Safe movement for
 humanitarian workers and supplies across the Gaza Strip must be guaranteed and reliable telecommunications
 networks made available to coordinate response efforts.
- 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.
- Respect and protection for civilian infrastructure such as shelters and schools, and health, electric, water, sanitation and telecommunications 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 respect international humanitarian law.
- Urgent medical cases in Gaza to be able to safely access critical health services or be allowed to leave, and for injured or sick children evacuated to be accompanied by family members.

UNICEF continues to press world leaders on every occasion for an end to the violence and humanitarian access to the whole of the Gaza Strip.

Statements:

5.1.2024: Intensifying conflict, malnutrition and disease in the Gaza Strip creates a deadly cycle that threatens over 1.1 million children

¹ The number of individuals per family is six on average which used as the basis for the family kit coverage.

Human interest stories:

How humanitarian cash assistance is helping families in the Gaza Strip

Social Media:

- UNICEF Special Representative in the State of Palestine visit warehouses in Rafah city in the Gaza Strip
- UNICEF delivered 600,000 doses of vaccines to the Gaza Strip
- <u>UNICEF Special Representative in the State of Palestine visit clinics in Rafah to meet with parents of children being vaccinated</u>

Next SitRep: 19 January 2024

UNICEF State of Palestine Humanitarian Action for Children 2024 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)¹

	UNICEF			CLUSTER			
Sector / Indicator	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 ² # of people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services	2,050,000	1,326,000	65%	2,426,544	2,011,583	83%	
	1,350,000	402,361	30%	2,426,544	759,827	31%	
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)	1,050,000	282,286	27%				
Health							
# of people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies ³	780,000	513,300	66%				
# of high risks pregnant women who benefited from medical assistance in Gaza	50,000	4,759	9%				
Nutrition ⁴							
# of pregnant women receiving preventative iron folate or multiple micronutrients supplementation # of children 6-59 months receiving preventative lipid-based supplements, micronutrients supplementation, and high energy biscuits	166,686	21,000	13%	197,858	21,000	11%	
	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 Protection ⁵							
# of children and caregivers affected by	596,453 ⁶	52,166	9%	710,000	151,659	21%	
conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support	255,623 ⁷	16,916	7%				
# of children receiving explosive weapons- related risk education	504,925	1,0908	0.2%				
# of children reached with winterization items (including blankets)	275,000	95,261	35%				
Education							
# of affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being ⁹	55,000	50,257	91%	529,084	113,399	21%	
# of school aged children provided with essential education in emergencies learning materials	315,500	160	0.1% ¹⁰				
Social Protection							
# of households reached with UNICEF- funded humanitarian cash transfers ¹¹	35,000	74,354	212%				

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¹ The Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for October to December 2023 was revised on 5 January and has been carried over to cover March 2024 inclusive. Accordingly, also the results against the indicators were carried over into 2024. The appeal is expected to be further revised in line with the evolving situation.

² As interventions support the same population over time, UNICEF reports the maximum number of people reached each week to avoid double counting, based on the water production and trucking.

³ This result is calculated based upon the distribution of Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to health facilities and partner reports.

⁴ Nutrition supplies in the Gaza Strip are stored in warehouses and to be distributed to service delivery sites. Due to the worsening security situation, the distribution and related capacity building are severely challenged. The result for the treatment of wasting will be updated as partners' report the treatment of children, but due to communications challenges these reports are not yet received.

⁵ CP indicators and targets are linked to quality reach, and it is difficult to implement some activities (e.g. MHPSS level 2 and 3 interventions) during active hostilities. CPAoR partners reached a cumulative of 151,659 children with MHPSS as of 31 December 2023. Results are being updated.

⁶ Children

⁷ Caregivers

⁸ (887 girls, 203 boys)

⁹ The cumulative result indicates 26,268 girls, 23,989 boys and 760 CwD, and includes all results from partners' reporting in 2023.

¹⁰ As most of UNRWA and public schools are now being used as emergency shelters, no learning activities have taken place since 7 October. Also, UNICEF does not count children benefitted through recreational kits as result under emergency learning materials indicator. The kits are utilized for recreational activities and thus the service delivery is reported under the recreational activity indicator.

¹¹ 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 Status¹

Sector	Revised Requirements (USD)		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	35,696,132	93,972	629,647	16,969,098	32%
Health	30,002,940	15,919,917	930,625	234,764	12,917,633	43%
Nutrition	19,301,862	11,196,778	0	0	8,105,084	42%
Child Protection	13,988,270	12,728,186	0	462,963	797,121	6%
Education	12,469,331	3,894,344	52,000	1,142,966	7,380,021	59%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	33,862,858	19,256,768	0	727,084	13,879,006	41%
Cross-Sectoral (PSEA, AAP)	1,544,143	1,397,847	0	50,146	96,150	6%
Cluster Coordination	3,760,027	3,380,120	220,000	29,000	130,907	3%
Total	168,318,281	103,470,092	1,296,597	3,276,570	60,275,021	36%

¹ This reflects the updated HAC which was issued on 6 January 2024 with a revision to the funding requirements for Child Protection and Nutrition. A further revision to the HAC is ongoing to respond to the escalating needs. The funding gap (\$ and %) reflects only the sections which are not fully funded.