



UNICEF provided incubators to hospitals in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, to support life-saving medical aid.

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UNICEF in the State of Palestine

Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 20



Reporting Period: 29 February to 6 March 2024

Highlights

- The nutrition situation in the Gaza Strip continues to further deteriorate. Tragic and preventable child deaths are unfolding with a number of reports of children who died of malnutrition at the Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip and fear that many more might follow.
- Hospitals continue with severe disruptions in providing health care in the Gaza Strip. As of 4 March, 155 health facilities have been damaged, and 32 hospitals and 53 health centres have been rendered non-functional, due to hostilities or shortages of essentials. Also, 126 ambulances had been damaged and rendered unusable, as reported by the Ministry of Health.
- Through the PSEA network hotline, there have been at least 1,060 mentions of either poor access to food or starvation since 7 October 2023. Most calls are about the lack of food and water in the Gaza Strip, in which is stated that people are dying of starvation, and that children are crying from hunger.
- UNICEF delivered vaccines for 6,000 children during inter-agency hospital visits for a duration of two months, and nutrition supplies for 300 children for one month.
- UNICEF has moved 25 truck loads into the Gaza Strip in the past week including hygiene kits and sanitary pads for 15,000 people, blankets for 2,000 people, nutrition supplements for 2,000 babies, neonatal incubators, 100 tents.
- In the West Bank, UNICEF continued to provide essential child protection preventative and response services to 1,183 people including 868 children and 315 caregivers who are directly or indirectly impacted by the violence.

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)



Estimated 1.7 Million

Internally displaced persons
(UNRWA, 4 March 2024)

81% of households

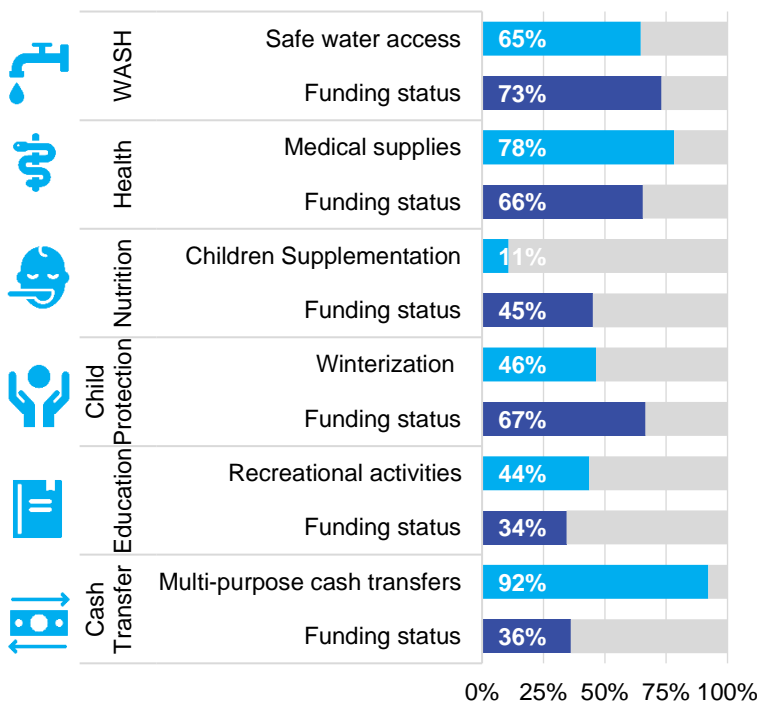
In Gaza lack access to sufficient
clean water (UNICEF, OCHA Flash
Update, March 6)



Over 90% of population

In high levels of acute food
insecurity in Gaza
(IPC Phase 3 or above, 21 Dec 2023)

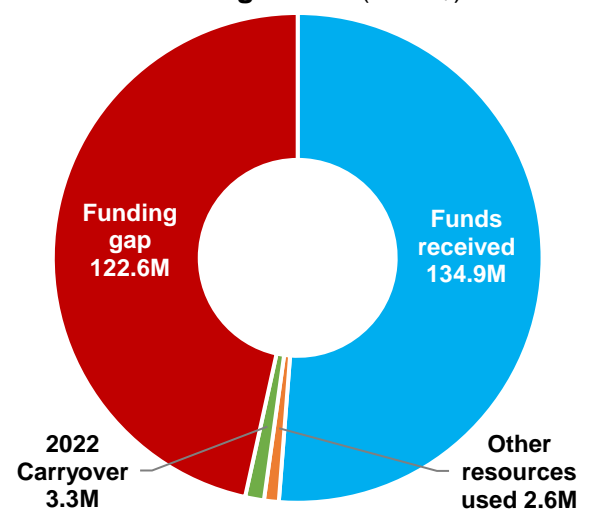
UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Immediate Needs

US\$ 263.3 million

Funding Status (in US\$)



UNICEF funding status is based on the March 2024 revision of the HAC.

Funding does not include the loans received from within UNICEF. See Annex A for additional explanations. For interventions such as water and cash the graph does not reflect the need to reach affected people through multiple rounds of intervention.

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, and was thereafter extended until the end of March 2024. 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. UNICEF issued an updated Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for October 2023 until the end of March 2024 aligned with the interagency humanitarian planning processes. The UNICEF funding requirement was adjusted, as laid out in the 2024 HAC appeal, in line with increasing needs to US\$ 263.3 million. This revision reflects strategic shifts towards scaling up and sustaining humanitarian programming in targeted shelters and communities, as well as increased procurement of supplies required regularly and high associated freight costs. To date, the revised HAC has a US\$ 122.6 million (47 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, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom as well as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), EU Humanitarian Aid and the World Bank. UNICEF thanks the UNICEF National Committees of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. UNICEF would also like to thank the UNICEF private sector fundraising offices of Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Gulf Area Office, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Thailand, and Uzbekistan, which have supported the response to the escalation of hostilities. Last but not least, UNICEF benefited from Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding, which enables UNICEF to respond flexibly to the acute needs of the most vulnerable children and their families in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. UNICEF has also received US\$ 8.75 million from the internal Emergency Programme 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 Needs

UNICEF conducted field missions to Al-Shifa, Al-Awda, and Kamal Adwan hospitals in the Gaza Strip through an Inter-Agency mission to assess and monitor the situation of children and to deliver life-saving vaccination and nutrition supplies. Findings revealed distressing critical shortages in fuel, food, and medical resources, accompanied by damaged hospital infrastructure. Distressing levels of malnutrition and child fatalities from starvation were reported. The medical teams on the ground prioritized immediate needs such as fuel, medicines, food, and safety. As part of these visits to the hospitals, UNICEF delivered vaccines for 6,000 children for a duration of two months, and nutrition supplies for 300 children for one month.

A recent assessment¹ of the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions at 41 locations in the Gaza Strip, where internally displaced persons (IDPs) reside, found that people had access to only two litres of water per person daily as a median across all sites for drinking, cooking, washing and other domestic needs. Most of these locations rely mainly on water trucking to access water, while makeshift sites had a higher reliance on water trucking and piped water, compared to collective centers where a higher availability of water from wells was found. The number of individuals who have to share sanitation facilities, is 341 persons per toilet as the median across all assessed sites. Only 24 per cent of assessed sites had latrines that offered safe and private access, and only 20 per cent of these sites had latrines accessible for persons with physical disabilities. No showers were available at all in 61 per cent of the assessed sites. Across all sites, on average 1,292 persons share one shower. Only 24 per cent of sites had separate showers for men and women, and only 12 per cent of sites had showers accessible for pregnant women, elderly and persons with physical disabilities. The majority of assessed sites did not have an availability of soap, cleaning supplies, and menstrual hygiene materials. A lack of access to these items was found at makeshift sites when compared to collective centers.

As of 5 March, at least 30,717 Palestinians were reported killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of hostilities (up to 70 per cent are reported to be women and children). More than 72,156 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 11,785 children (partially disaggregated data as of 3 March 2024). Medical professionals and the UN staff have reported that more than a thousand children have had one or more of their limbs amputated, and thousands have acquired disabilities due to injuries and trauma, including loss of hearing and speech impairment. 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 24 February, 158 UNRWA staff had been killed, while WHO, UNDP and UNOPS report each one staff member killed respectively. This amounts to 24 per cent of UN aid workers killed globally since 1997, and by far the most in this short a time period. As of 4 March, there have been 337 incidents impacting 155 UNRWA installations,

¹ Rapid WASH Assessment, carried out by the WASH Cluster between 4 to 18 February 2024 in the Gaza Strip, see “Gaza Rapid WASH Assessment-Preliminary Findings Feb. 2024” at <https://response.reliefweb.int/palestine/water-sanitation-and-hygiene>

some of which have sustained direct hits. UNRWA reports as of 4 March, that at least 404 IDPs have been killed in their facilities, with at least a further 1,385 injured due to the hostilities since 7 October. Close to 1.7 million internally displaced people (IDPs) are sheltering at emergency shelters, which are UNRWA shelters or public shelters, at informal sites, or in the vicinity of UNRWA shelters and distribution sites and within host communities.

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, OCHA reports that since 7 October, at least 415 Palestinians have been killed.² At least 112 Palestinian children and one Israeli child were reported killed in conflict-related violence in the same time period, with more than half of incidents in the Jenin, Nablus, and Tulkarem governorates of the northern West Bank, and more than one quarter of incidents in the Ramallah and Jerusalem governorates. Militarized law enforcement operations inside Palestinian communities and refugee 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 2,829 Palestinians including 1,296 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.

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. More than 35 children have been reported killed. Around 250 people, including at least 36 children were abducted from Israel into the Gaza Strip, of whom 34 have been released, with very limited information available on the children remaining in captivity.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

The ongoing military hostilities continue to hinder the provision of adequate critical WASH services to the affected population in the Gaza Strip. Improvement in WASH service delivery is facing obstacles from the continued lack of power supply, restricted access, and fuel shortages poses great challenges. In response to urgent WASH humanitarian needs, through the UN mechanism³, UNICEF provided 75,685 litres of fuel during the reporting period, which allowed public and private water wells and desalination plants to produce clean water, benefitting more than 1,326,000 people, including over 670,000 children with lifesaving water for drinking and domestic needs in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis, Rafah, and Middle Area.

In response to the dire sanitation services for the internally displaced people in overcrowded shelters, UNICEF, through the UN mechanism³, provided fuel to operate one wastewater treatment plant in Rafah, enabling wastewater treatment and safe disposal of sewage, benefitting over 275,000 people, including 140,250 children. Furthermore, UNICEF distributed 3,038 child diapers packs (each pack contains five diapers) in Rafah.

To address solid waste matters and environmental hygiene needs in the overcrowded shelters, UNICEF continued to support cleaning services at 22 non-UNRWA shelters in Rafah and Deir Al Balah, benefitting over 90,000 people, including 46,000 children. Moreover, UNICEF continued the Incentive Based Programme where 700 workers (of whom 600 were engaged during the past two weeks), from 13 temporary shelters, are engaged in solid waste management interventions, benefitting over 30,000 people, including 16,000 children. In partnership with the WASH Cluster, UNICEF is scaling up WASH service delivery in IDP hosting communities through an integrated package of WASH services.

The WASH Cluster continued to lead and coordinate the WASH Cluster with 68 partners, including 27 active WASH partners in Gaza Strip. A total of 91,203 people were reached during the reporting period through the distribution of 9,490 m³ of water through trucking, 65 m³ of bottled water, 9,241 sanitary pads and 6,616 diapers. The daily water production remains at 53,102 m³ in average in the Gaza Strip.

Health

UNICEF brought 50 incubators for newborns into the Gaza Strip to improve the Neonatal Intensive Care Units in hospitals. 23 Incubators have been installed in the Emirati Hospital, the remaining will be installed in the Al Aqsa hospital and the Gaza European Hospital.

Two missions provided vaccines to North Gaza as follows: 5,000 doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR); 12,000 doses of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV); 24,000 doses of oral polio vaccine (OPV); 9,300 doses of bacille Calmette-

² Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel, Flash Update #133, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-133>

³ Through a signed agreement with UNRWA, UNICEF receives fuel to support water service providers in the operation of water and wastewater systems. UNICEF refunds UNRWA for the fuel. This is a UN wide mechanism agreed upon with all parties.

Guérin (BCG), and syringes. It is the first time since the escalation of hostilities that UNICEF has been able to deliver vaccines to partners in the North Gaza governorate.

Additionally, UNICEF delivered 42 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to the Ministry of Health (MoH) and to health partners operating in Rafah area, and 10 clinical newborn kits (NBK) to UNRWA and NGO partners. Each complete IEHK serves around 10,000 people, and each NBK benefits 870 newborns for a period of three months. Additionally, 1,920 cartons of antibiotics were delivered to the MoH under the procurement services mechanism, expected to serve at least 48,000 patients for one month.

In the West Bank, UNICEF received the first batch of prepositioned items via Jordan and delivered the items to a partner for decentralised prepositioning at hot spots across the West Bank.

UNICEF participates in the Health Cluster including through technical working groups, mainly the Sexual Reproductive Health Working Group and the Rehabilitation Working Group.

Nutrition

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF continued support to preventive and curative nutrition services, expanding partnerships to reach to most vulnerable children. UNICEF supported the management of acute malnutrition, with 158 severely malnourished (SAM) individuals and 554 moderately malnourished (MAM) individuals admitted in the wasting management program via partners in the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, UNICEF delivered small quantities of supplementary food for SAM and MAM (ready-to-use infant formula (RUIF), ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), and lipid nutrition supplements (LNS)) to the North Gaza governorate, as part of the joint UN mission organised early in the week.

Additionally, UNICEF supported the provision of nutrition supplies, including 90 cartons of high energy biscuits (HEB) and 560 cartons of a type of LNS (LNS-SQ) which were distributed to partners. RUIF packs were distributed to 106 non-breast-fed children below the age of six months⁴.

Nutrition Cluster partners in the Gaza Strip are establishing a stabilization centre to respond to severe acute malnutrition with medical complications. One centre established by a partner will commence service in early March. Another stabilization centre is planned to commence services in mid-March. In the reporting period, 971 children were screened for acute malnutrition by using the Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurements. This increases the number of children, who were screened by seven partners so far to a total of 11,934 children. Out of this total, to date 158 children were identified and admitted for treatment with SAM, and 554 were identified with moderate acute malnutrition.

The Nutrition Cluster is working closely with the IPC⁵ data analysis team to assess the current food security status in the Gaza Strip, while comparing it with the previous IPC classification of food insecurity in the Gaza Strip. Implementing agencies are consistently screening children between the age of 6 to 59 months for malnutrition. Those identified with acute malnutrition are referred to treatment, following a simplified treatment protocol. A total of 13,963 children aged 6-59 months underwent MUAC screening, and 961 children were diagnosed with acute malnutrition. The Nutrition Cluster is furthermore in close collaboration with both the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and the Global SMART team⁶. The Cluster is sharing MUAC screening data with these partners to conduct thorough analyses, aimed at gaining a better understanding of the rapidly deteriorating nutritional status, particularly among children aged 6-59 months. The goal is to enhance the comprehension of the swiftly declining nutritional status, specifically for this age group. One of the significant challenges to scale-up the screening for malnutrition is restricted access to the north of the Gaza Strip. This also means a constraint for uninterrupted treatment for acute malnutrition cases until recovery, a process that typically takes eight to twelve weeks.

Child Protection

Amidst the adversities of winter and periods of heavy rain, UNICEF distributed lifesaving winterization items to children in the Gaza Strip (in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir Al-Balah), where Palestinians have experienced repeated displacement and face increasing vulnerabilities. Since 7 October, UNICEF has worked with 12 implementing partners to distribute over 153,117 clothing items tailored differently for children aged newborn to 17 years old.

Additionally, UNICEF has provided in-person psychosocial support services for 111,971 people including 84,526 children. Of these, 53,433 children (27,393 girls) including 723 children with disabilities, as well as 11,681 caregivers, received in-person structured psychosocial support services. In addition, UNICEF facilitated specialized psychosocial sessions

⁴ 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 situations some infants are not breastfed or are only partially breastfed. These infants are highly vulnerable and require urgent and targeted protection and support given their increased risk of morbidity and mortality.

⁵ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative for improving food security and nutrition analysis.

⁶ An initiative by the Global Nutrition Cluster, www.nutritioncluster.net.

for 350 children who were either injured or with existing disabilities, aiming to assess and address their specific needs within the intervention framework.

UNICEF with partners conducted in-person sessions on explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) for 9,620 individuals in shelters and vulnerable communities, which included 5,235 children and 4,385 caregivers.

A total of 14 unaccompanied children are in the care of a UNICEF partner in the Rafah Governorate, receiving counselling, basic services, along with family tracing support. A further two unaccompanied infant twins identified in a hospital will be temporarily placed at a safe care home operated by a UNICEF partner, upon hospital discharge. A total of 252 separated children in informal kinship care arrangements are regularly monitored by a UN agency. Activities to prevent and respond to family separation have been designed and will be included in the “Recreational Programme” run through education programmes. The implementation of the pilot programme for 100 families providing informal kinship care to unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) could not start due to increasing insecurity in the Rafah Governorate.

In the West Bank, UNICEF continued to provide essential child protection preventative and response services to 1,183 people including 868 children and 315 caregivers directly and in-directed impacted by political violence across 17 governorates. Sessions on positive parenting continued to be carried out in key location in the West Bank (Fawar Camp, Aroub, Biet Skaria, Masafer Yatta, Jayyous), reaching 158 children through 18 sessions, and 48 mothers through four sessions, while 25 government and CSO child protection staff continued attending the accredited child protection diploma at Bethlehem University.

For the West Bank a UNICEF partner conducted two sessions on the Supervision Diploma for 13 family and juvenile police officers and child protection counsellors. UNICEF’s technical and financial support to the Ministry of Social Development supported the child protection response in areas affected by security operations, including in Ramallah, Nablus, and Qalqilya, through providing direct case management services to five children.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CPAoR) has been continuing efforts to respond to UASC through an orientation session on identification and registration to over 50 child protection frontline staff. Efforts took place to mainstream the identification and referral mechanism for UASC among all active humanitarian sectors, with sessions delivered in the reporting period at the Nutrition Cluster and the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Cluster meetings. CPAoR partners have also been coordinating the response for children being released from detention in Gaza, including the provision of basic material assistance, cash and specialised Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).

Education

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF with partners continued to support the well-being of children through the provision of recreational activities. Partners are preparing to integrate informal learning into activities, but security risks and space limitations for safe learning spaces pose challenges due to the high demand for space for IDP accommodation. To this end, UNICEF is leading the Education Cluster Task Force on the continuity of education in the Gaza Strip, which collaborates with partners to model functional safe learning spaces to bring children back to a safe learning community based on different implementation phases for any learning interventions.

To support the well-being of adolescent girls, UNICEF has partnered with a consortium of local women-led organizations to support the creation of safer spaces for adolescent girls where they will be reached with information and services that are specific to the needs of adolescent girls. UNICEF continued in the delivery of 3,700 adolescent girls’ care kits. These packages are linked to information sharing and recreational activities, including MHPSS, adapted to adolescent girls. These care packages provide items that cannot currently be found on the local market which will help adolescent girls take personal care. The package provides three packs of sanitary pads, underwear, skin wipes, multipurpose cloth, feminine wash, a whistle, a headscarf, the “Laaha⁷ MHPSS and GBV Booklet” and the “Adolescent Girls Care Kit Booklet”.



Content of a personal care kit for adolescent girls. © UNICEF-SoP/2023

Since October 2023, 13 Education Cluster partners have reached more than 164,000 students and teachers – of whom 52,000 beneficiaries were reached through UNICEF and

⁷ Laaha provides information to women and girls on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence as well as where and how to access services when needed. It is the first-ever platform designed by and for women and girls in humanitarian and development settings to address gender-based violence.

partners – with psychosocial support, emergency learning, recreational supplies and activities, and awareness sessions in the Deir al Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah governorates. Most of the cluster response is delivered by local partners⁸.

Social Protection

Responding to the risk of further displacement of the population from Rafah, during the past two weeks UNICEF has assisted 30,296 families (193,784 people) with multi-purpose cash assistance to support their critical needs including those related to the relocation to a presumably safer location. Out of the number, 24,692 beneficiaries are families with pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW).

Since the onset of the escalation on 7 October 2023, UNICEF has provided cash assistance to 546,588 people (81,605 families, including 285,617 children, 16,195 people with disabilities, and 12,882 female-headed households). Of those, 536,186 people (76,598 families) were assisted with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). This represents 56 per cent of all MPCA provided in the Gaza Strip. In recognition of a continuous need, UNICEF started to provide the second round of MPCA in January and already reached 167,948 people (21,278 households). The plan includes to cover all recipients with three rounds of payments.

Responding to the growing food insecurity, UNICEF has been providing nutrition top up cash payments since December, reaching cumulatively 28,840 PBW, and disability top up cash payments to 5,079 families with children with disabilities. These top ups are estimated to benefit a total of 238,282 people.

Cash delivery has been accompanied by recurring monitoring through RapidPro with over 8,000 post-distribution monitoring survey responses to date, shedding light on the continued usefulness of unrestricted cash transfers even in a context of partially compromised market functionality, and the existence of informal markets. According to the latest data collection round (14-21 February), a large majority of respondents – 73 per cent responded “partially” or “yes” to the question: “Do you find the goods you need on the market?”. This is in line with previous data collection rounds, as there has not been a significant increase in negative responses. The biggest expense category remains food, while the share of people purchasing most of the goods in formal shops has fallen further from 34 per cent at the end of December to 17 per cent in the last data collection, with informal vendors as the biggest source of commodities.

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

UNICEF is continuing its efforts to ensure that communities have direct, safe and confidential channels for any complaint or feedback they may have regarding UNICEF and partners' interventions in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and East Jerusalem. Since 7 October, 19,052 pieces of feedback and complaints have been received through the UNICEF County Office Community Feedback Mechanism channels, namely the Interagency Hotline, the PSEA network hotline and the UNICEF e-mail. During this reporting period, 3,597 pieces of feedback and complaints were received. Of these 3,229 were received through the Interagency Hotline from 2,809 individuals. 347 pieces were received through the UNICEF e-mail, and 21 complaints were received through the PSEA network hotline. Communication and feedback included requests for cash assistance, information inquiries and issues related to cash redemption. People also reached out to request for specific products. The complaints were referred to the relevant channels to be resolved and the feedback relating to the Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programme is analysed by the team, and followed up on to identify and resolve challenges, as well as to inform the direction of cash programming.

One of UNICEF's partners in the Gaza Strip, a member of the SANAD PSEA Network, continues to deliver psychosocial support services (PSS) through safeguarding sessions that reached more than 29,722 children and adolescents since October. Through the PSEA network, UNICEF continues to strengthen inter-agency feedback channels, and advocates for the use of the hotline (164), which receives complaints and provides MHPSS and referrals. In this reporting period, the hotline documented 1,242 sessions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, benefitting 70 boys, 17 girls, 627 men and 485 women. The majority of calls are about the situation in the Gaza Strip regarding access to food, water and nutrition. Most calls are from the north of the Gaza Strip, where statements included that people are dying of starvation, and that children are crying from hunger. There have been at least 1,060 mentions of either poor access to food or starvation since 7 October 2023, from all over the Gaza Strip. Of these, a UNICEF partner has referred about 430 callers in need of urgent food assistance to the World Food Program over the course of January-February 2024. There have been at least three mentions of death by starvation, including one child, from people calling from the north of the Gaza Strip.

Since its launch in January 2024, SANAD social media platforms have reached in average an audience of 1.4 million per month, 98 per cent of whom reside in the Palestinian territories. Figures on the audience reached in the Gaza Strip are merely 200,000, according to the social media data reports.

⁸ source: Education Cluster 5W PowerBi dashboard - Gaza Response.

Support from Egypt Coordination Cell

Cumulatively, 546 trucks containing UNICEF supplies have crossed into the Gaza Strip from Egypt since 21 October. During the reporting period, a total of 25 trucks with critical emergency supplies have crossed including:

- Lipid Nutrition Supplements (LNS-MQ) to cover 2,000 babies for one month
- Ready to Use Infant Formula (RUIF)
- Hygiene kits and sanitary pads to cover the needs of 15,444 people
- Blankets (synthetic high thermal) for 2,000 people
- Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) Periphery kits for the treatment of 3,400 patients
- Neonatal Incubators
- Tents for one hundred families

During the reporting period, the number of trucks entering Gaza reduced considerably due to instability around the Kerem Shalom/ Rafah crossing.

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 the 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 the Gaza Strip 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:

- 3 March 2024: [Statement by Adele Khodr, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa on malnourished babies in Gaza slowly perishing under the world's gaze](#)

Human interest stories:

- [Bringing Warmth to Children in the midst of a crisis | UNICEF State of Palestine](#)

Social Media:

- [Layan is a senior year student. Once excited about her journey to success in life, she now dreams about resuming her education.](#)
- [11-year-old Taline was forced to leave her home in Khan Younis City and move to Rafah.](#)
- [A joint WHO, OCHA and UNICEF mission delivered lifesaving vaccines, formula milk, and other supplies to Al-Shifa hospital, north of Gaza.](#)
- [For children in #Gaza, every minute counts. They need ceasefire NOW.](#)

- ["I used to have a very nice life. Suddenly, bombing started around us, and we were told to flee our home" Aya is 16. She has lost everything.](#)
- [12-year-old Alma was forced to flee her home and leave her belongings behind. Right now, she's in Rafah.](#)
- [This escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip is a direct threat to children lives. The stories of Razan, Fares, Maha, Taline and Salem highlight the urgent need for action. We need a long-lasting humanitarian Ceasefire now.](#)

Next SitRep: 15 March 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)⁹

Sector / Indicator	UNICEF			CLUSTER		
	Total Target ¹⁰	Cumulative Result	% Progress	Total Target	Cumulative Result	% Progress
WASH						
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs ¹¹	2,050,000	1,326,000	65%	2,426,544	2,100,000	87%
# of people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services	1,350,000	495,187	37%	2,426,544	759,827	31%
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)	1,050,000	444,348	42%			
Health						
# of people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies ¹²	780,000	609,785	78%			
# of high risks pregnant women who benefited from medical assistance in Gaza	50,000	5,030	10%			
Nutrition¹³						
# of pregnant women receiving preventative iron folate or multiple micronutrients supplementation	182,272	21,000	12%	197,858	21,000	11%
# of children 6-59 months receiving preventative lipid-based supplements, micronutrients supplementation, and high energy biscuits	341,524	36,866	11%	371,859	62,623	17%
# of Infants 0-6 months receiving RUIF ¹⁴	16,415	5,962	36%	23,551	5,962	25%
# of children 0-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	6,813	273	4%	6,813	273	4%
Child Protection¹⁵						
# of children and caregivers affected by conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support	596,453 children	107,855	18%	746,000	148,367 ¹⁶	20%
# of children receiving explosive weapons-related risk education	255,623 caregivers	43,512	17%			
# of children reached with winterization items (including blankets)	504,925	5,235	1%			
# of children reached with winterization items (including blankets)	330,000	153,117	46%			
Education						
# of affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being ¹⁷	155,000	67,790	44%	529,084	136,559	26%
# of school aged children provided with essential education in emergency learning materials	325,500	160	0% ¹⁸	438,286	53,334	12%
Social Protection						
# of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers ¹⁹	88,500	81,605	92%			

⁹ The Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for October to December 2023 was carried over in the 2024 HAC revised on 5 January and in February to cover October 2023 to March 2024 inclusive. Accordingly, also the results against the indicators were carried over into 2024.

¹⁰ UNICEF targets have been updated aligned to the revised HAC.

¹¹ 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.

¹² This result is calculated based upon the distribution of Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to health facilities and partner reports.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ UNICEF is committed to supporting mothers to exclusively breastfeed their infants up 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.

¹⁵ 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 148,367 children with MHPSS as of 29 February 2024.

¹⁶ # of children reached with MHPSS by Cluster has been revised downward due to double counting in previously reported numbers.

¹⁷ The cumulative result indicates 35,943 girls, 31,847 boys and 1,263 children with disabilities.

¹⁸ 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 who benefitted through recreational kits as a 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.

¹⁹ 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, with some households receiving second transfers in recent weeks. Furthermore, UNICEF has partially funded the response through loans which are not reflected in the Funding Status table. The actual reach of households has been adjusted from the last report.

Annex B - Funding Status²⁰

Sector	Revised 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	62,225,779	44,685,855	93,972	629,647	16,816,305	27%
Health	35,195,054	20,621,091	2,200,000	234,764	12,139,199	34%
Nutrition	27,765,177	12,527,882	0	0	15,237,295	55%
Child Protection	24,857,916	16,067,558	0	462,963	8,327,395	33%
Education	29,645,946	9,024,796	52,000	1,142,966	19,426,184	66%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	74,376,225	26,129,621	0	727,084	47,519,520	64%
Cross-Sectoral (PSEA, AAP, Disability)	4,746,532	2,511,922	0	50,146	2,184,464	46%
Cluster Coordination	4,495,988	3,330,166	220,000	29,000	916,822	20%
Total	263,308,617	134,898,891	2,565,972	3,276,570	122,567,184	47%

All amounts include weighted cross-sectoral costs and cost recovery.

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

²⁰ The funding requirement has been revised with a 56 per cent increase from the January 2024 revision of US\$ 168.3 million, bringing the total funding requirements to US\$ 263.3 million. The funding gap by section (\$ and %) reflects only the sections which are not fully funded, while the overall gap reflects the total funding received against the total funds requirement.