



Nada 6-year-old, sitting in front of her tent at an UNRWA school turned into a shelter camp in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip.

UNICEF-SoP/2023/Abed Zaqout

UNICEF in the State of Palestine

Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 6



Reporting Period: 10 to 16 November 2023

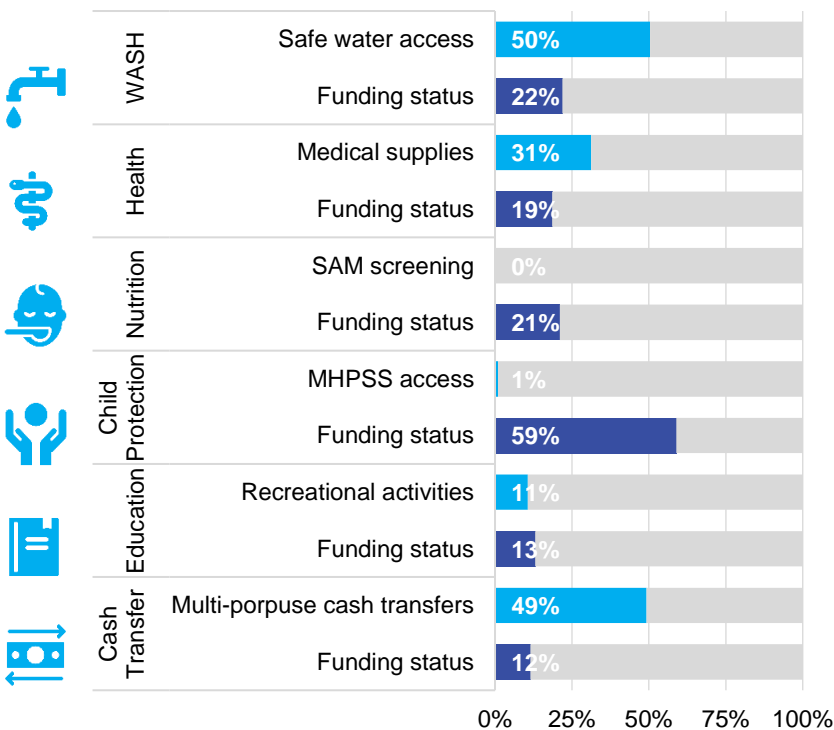
Highlights

- The conflict in the Gaza strip continues to have a devastating impact on children, with 4,630 children reported killed and 8,663 children reported injured as of 13 November.
- Due to the lack of fuel in the Gaza Strip as of 16 November, there is no water pumping, no wastewater treatment and no solid waste management.
- More than 2,350 people, including 1,700 children, are reported missing and may be injured or killed under rubble of buildings.
- At least 196 Palestinians, including 51 children, have been reported killed in the West Bank since 7 October. The number of children killed in the West Bank in the past six weeks exceeds the number killed in all of 2022.
- UNICEF distributed 330,000 liters of bottled water in UNRWA Designated Emergency Shelters (DES) and five hospitals in the past week, benefitting over 110,000 people, including over 56,000 children.
- Hospitals in Southern Gaza received medical supplies to benefit 50,000 individuals.
- In the Gaza Strip, more than 1,710 children were reached through Psychosocial First Aid, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services and recreational activities.
- UNICEF moved 78 trucks from Egypt into the Gaza Strip since 21 October.
- Three international UNICEF staff members entered the Gaza Strip to support with: Operations, Emergency Coordination / WASH, Supply and Logistics.
- Security Council resolution 2712 (2023) calls for urgent and extended humanitarian pauses in Gaza and an immediate release of all hostages
- UNICEF's Executive Director visited the Gaza Strip together with the Deputy Executive Director.

Situation in Numbers

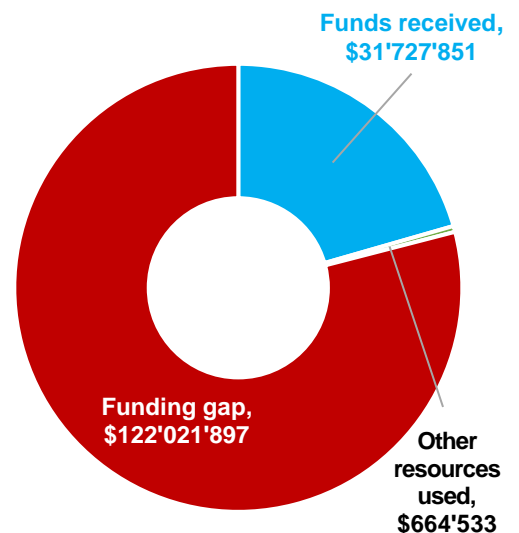
- 3.1 Million** people in need nationally (OCHA Flash Appeal, Nov 2023)
- 1 Million** Children affected in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2023 population projections)
- Over 1.6 Million** Internally displaced people (OCHA, 16 Nov 2023)
- 61% of schools in Gaza Strip sustained damage** (Education Cluster, 13 Nov 2023)
- Over 50% of hospitals** Shut down in the Gaza Strip (OCHA, 12 Nov 2023)

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



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, the 2.2 million population of the Gaza Strip and 500,000 from 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>. This updated HAC replaces the previous humanitarian funding requirements for UNICEF in the State of Palestine.

To kick start the UNICEF's response, available funds were reprogrammed, and UNICEF mobilized additional internal funds, along with flexible Global Humanitarian Thematic funds. UNICEF would like to sincerely thank partners for their contributions, including the governments of Australia, Norway 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, UNICEF Ireland, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. UNICEF would also like to thank the UNICEF private sector fundraising offices of Chile, Egypt, Gulf Area Office, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, and Uzbekistan which have supported initial relief efforts in response to the recent escalation of hostilities. UNICEF has also received US\$ 8.1 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. UNICEF currently has a funding gap of US\$ 122 million.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Need

The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip remains dire. As of 13 November, 11,255 Palestinians, including 4,630 children, were reported killed since the start of hostilities. More than 29,000 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 8,663 children (disaggregated data as of 7 November). More than 3,250 people, including 1,700 children, are reported missing and may be injured or killed under 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 14 November 102 UNRWA staff had been killed, and that 64 UNRWA installations were damaged, 70 per cent of which are South of Wadi Gaza.

According to OCHA there are an estimated 1.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Gaza Strip – half of whom are children. There are 1,082,000 IDPs living in shelters, with 787,000 people staying in 154 UNRWA facilities, 158,000 sheltering in 104 government shelter, and 137,000 are taking shelter at various public shelters (hospitals, clinics, Orthodox Center and churches). The remaining 570,000 IDPs are thought to be residing with host families. The UNOSAT Damage Assessment has found that 25,050 buildings have been damaged in the Gaza Strip, over 75 per cent of which are in North Gaza and Gaza governorates¹.

WHO reports, as of 14 November, that more than half of the hospitals in the Gaza Strip (22 out of 36) were non-functional due to lack of fuel, damage, attacks and insecurity. Health systems in Gaza City and Northern Gaza are on the verge of breaking down entirely. OCHA reports that as of 14 November only one of the hospitals, Al Ahli, is still operational at a minimum level. All other hospitals have ceased operations due to the lack of power, medical consumables, oxygen, food and water, compounded by bombardments and fighting in their vicinities.

Due to the lack of fuel in the Gaza Strip there is now no water pumping, no wastewater treatment and no solid waste management. OCHA report that due to the absence of fuel, on 14 November, UNRWA's solid waste removal services began shutting down, posing an environmental hazard, with about 400 tons of rubbish per day accumulating in overcrowded camps and IDP shelters.

The Education Cluster reports that as of 11 November more than 3,117 students and 183 education staff were killed in the Gaza Strip, as well as 4,613 students and 403 teachers injured. The Education Cluster reports have been 300 schools in the Gaza Strip which have sustained damage, 61 of all school buildings in the Gaza Strip (one school fully destroyed, 82 severely damaged, 141 with moderately damaged, and 76 with minor damage). Of the 49 damaged UNRWA schools, at least 31 serve as shelters for IDPs.

On 14 November, UNRWA reported that telecommunication companies are expected to run out of fuel to operate data centres and connection sites, and that in some areas operations have already reportedly shut down. On 16 November, a blackout across the entire Gaza Strip was reported. The companies have had to depend on fuel-run generators since Gaza's black out began on 11 October.

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, OCHA reports that since 7 October, at least 196 Palestinians have been reported killed in the West Bank since 7 October, including 51 children. The number of children killed in the West Bank in the past six weeks exceeds the number killed in all of 2022. Children are at increased risk from use of live ammunition and aerial strikes during military operations and resulting confrontations, particularly in Jenin and Tukarem.

¹ UNOSAT Damage Assessment Overview Map published on 13 November 2023, https://unosat.org/static/unosat_filesystem/3734/UNOSAT_A3_Gaza_Strip_OPT_CDA_20231107.pdf

At least 121 Palestinian households comprising 1,149 people, including 452 children in 15 herding/Bedouin communities have been displaced due to settler violence and access restrictions. Another 183 Palestinians including 90 children have been displaced due to demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, and punitive demolitions. There have been 136 attacks on health care in the West Bank since 7 October. The Education Cluster report that as of 14 November, at least 172 government schools (of 1,918), hosting more than 40,000 students, have not reopened due to the movement restrictions, settler violence, and fear of harassment on the way to school.

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 30 children have been reported killed. Around 240 Israelis, including at least 30 children were abducted into the Gaza Strip and remain in captivity, with very limited information available on the conditions of these children.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH

In response to urgent WASH humanitarian needs, during the reporting period, 330,000 litres of bottled water were distributed in UNRWA Designated Emergency Shelters (DES) and five hospitals, benefitting over 110,000 people, including over 56,000 children. Moreover, UNICEF provided 5,000 family hygiene kits and 1,000 litres of liquid soap with soap dispensers benefitting over 39,000 people (over 19,890 children). The desalination plants and water wells, continued to operate at a limited capacity with the fuel provided last week. UNICEF also supported water trucking to shelters reaching 1 million people including 560,000 children in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah areas with clean water for drinking and domestic needs. Furthermore, UNICEF provided building materials for rehabilitating sanitation and shower facilities for 33 shelters, planned to benefit 150,000 people including 76,500 children.

The environmental and sanitary conditions are rapidly deteriorating in the overcrowded shelters raising public health risks to children and their families, particularly adolescent girls. In response, UNICEF supported disinfection services for a three week period for 19 shelters benefitting over 380,000 people including 193,800 children. In addition, UNICEF continued support cleaning services in the shelters to address solid waste issues, benefitting over 26,000 people including over 13,000 children in the UNRWA Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC).

The WASH Cluster is coordinating the response in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through sub-national coordination platforms. UNICEF continues to lead and coordinate the WASH cluster which has 68 partners.

Health

UNICEF continues expanding its support to the health system and partners in the Gaza Strip, by providing lifesaving supplies including medicines and consumables. During the reporting period, three hospitals in Khan Younis, Rafah and the Middle Area received one truck each with medical supplies, including Emergency Health Kits, Acute Watery Diarrheal Kits and other lifesaving medicines benefitting 50,000 individuals. To date, lifesaving medical supplies to cover approximately 244,000 people including women, adolescent girls, and new-borns were provided to hospitals and health facilities. Moreover, five hospitals were supported by five water trucks, which has benefited some 55,000 people at an average of 3 liters per person.

In the West Bank, 58 medical kits (8 kits of essential lifesaving medicine and 50 kits of medical consumables) were delivered to 15 public hospitals across the West Bank, benefitting some 130,000 people.

Nutrition

To prevent malnutrition, UNICEF procured nutrition supplies in Egypt to be shipped into the Gaza Strip, including lipid-based supplements for 33,700 children 6-23 months; iron foliate supplementation and multiple micronutrient tabs for over 124,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and adolescent girls; and Vitamin A supplementation for over 26,000 infants 6-11 months. In addition, Vitamin A and Zinc supplementation to cover over 250,000 children are already in the Gaza Strip for distribution.

UNICEF continues to lead and coordinate the Nutrition Cluster, including work on capacity mapping and capacity strengthening plans for partners on nutrition in emergency to support service provision. The Cluster also published the [SoP Nutrition Cluster call for action | Global Nutrition Cluster](#).

Child Protection

In the Gaza Strip, more than 1,710 children, including 79 children with disabilities and 449 caregivers, were reached through Psychosocial First Aid (PFA), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services and recreational activities in the shelters in Rafah, Khan Younis and the Middle Area. Additionally, 4,000 blankets were distributed to hospitals and 20,000 diapers are in the UNRWA warehouse in the Gaza Strip for distribution.

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

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF provided psychosocial support, MHPSS, case management, and recreational activities through implementing partners for 870 beneficiaries, including 484 children. Of the children 66 received individual and family counselling sessions. In addition, 94 arrested children received legal support services.

The Technical Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC), under the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP-AoR), was established and is led by UNICEF to accelerate identification, documentation, tracing and reunification (IDTR) of UASC and is constituted by approximately 10 agencies. The formulation of partnerships to start IDTR efforts in the Gaza Strip is underway although implementation of key interventions including identification, registration and provision of interim care arrangements continues to be hampered by the ongoing hostilities.

Education

During the reporting period, UNICEF with partners continued to engage with over 5,800 children and adolescents through recreational activities in 29 IDP shelters spread over Khan Younis, Deir Al Balah, Rafah, An Nuseirat, and Bani Suhila communities and camps, for whom UNICEF provided 378 recreation kits to facilitate these interventions. With Child Protection partners UNICEF is coordinating the provision of MHPSS to children alongside recreational activities.

For programme scale-up UNICEF has further prepositioned 289 recreation kits; 1,000 'School in a Carton' kits for 40,000 children and their teachers; 5 high performance tents; and 900 tarpaulins to remain prepared for the resumption of teaching and learning when situation becomes conducive.

Social Protection

Despite the extreme security situation, UNICEF started delivering cash assistance to the affected population within six days of the escalation. Since then, UNICEF has reached almost 153,000 people (17,245 families; 71,000 children). So far 8,395 households have redeemed their cash with a transfer value of NIS 754 (equivalent to US\$ 187), redeemed through mobile agents including grocery stores, to be used for households' minimum expenditure on basic items such as water, food and hygiene products.

UNICEF is monitoring the market situation on a daily basis with the Cash Working Group. The market is distorted, and shortages are being reported, however both formal and informal markets continue to function. Data from UNICEF's rapid post distribution monitoring shows that over 70 per cent of beneficiaries reported having access to commodities which they needed. Beneficiaries have received the cash through 77 money agents across the Gaza Strip, including supermarkets. Families used the cash on food, water, hygiene products, hospital expenses, transportation, and debt payment. So far, liquidity is not reported as a concern in the Gaza Strip.

Support from Egypt

Cumulatively, UNICEF has moved 78 trucks from Egypt into the Gaza Strip. These trucks have included bottled water to cover an estimated 270,000 people, and WASH Dignity Kits to serve nearly 50,000 people. UNICEF has also provided health supplies, which arrived in the Gaza Strip and were distributed among three hospitals in Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah. These supplies included health consumables that will serve 137,000 cases, medicines for 45,000 cases, different types of medical kits, midwifery and Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to support 250,000 cases and micro-nutrients for 280,000 people. In addition, UNICEF has supplied recreational and Early Childhood Development kits for 36,000 children and 'School in a Carton' for 24,000 students. Also, 4,000 blankets were distributed to hospitals, non-UNRWA Shelters and children's diapers to cover around 6,700 children were distributed to both UNRWA and non-UNRWA shelters.

In addition, UNICEF has 37 trucks in the pipeline with high energy biscuits, diapers, menstrual pads and medical supplies in the queue for pre-crossing screening areas.

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 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (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). UNICEF 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 Gaza 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 children, including killing and injuring children.
- Urgent medical cases in Gaza 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:

- 14.11.2023: [Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell on her visit to Gaza](#)
- 12.11.2023: [UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO Regional Directors call for immediate action to halt attacks on health care in Gaza](#)
- 10.11.2023: [Lives of one million children 'hanging by a thread,' as child health services almost collapse across the Gaza Strip](#)

Social Media:

- [Testimony from the field; Challenges of being a father in the Gaza Strip](#)
- [Voices of children](#)
- [As humanitarian needs grow in the Gaza Strip, we are doing what we can](#)
- [EU-UNICEF desalination plant is the largest operating in the Gaza Strip but at very minimal capacity](#)

Next SitRep: 23 November 2023

UNICEF State of Palestine Humanitarian Action for Children Revised 2023 Appeal:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine>

Who to contact for further information:

Lucia Elmi
Special Representative
+972 (0)2 584 0400
lelmi@unicef.org

Laura Bill
Deputy Representative
+972 (0)2 584 0400
lbill@unicef.org

Jonathan Crickx
Chief of Communication
+972 (0)2 584 0419
jcrickx@unicef.org

Annex A - Summary of Programme Results

Sector / Indicator	Target	Cumulative Result	% Progress
WASH			
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs*	2,050,000	1,033,000*	50%
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	1,050,000	79,886	8%
# of people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services	1,350,000	189,000	14%
Health			
# of people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies to MOH and Health partners in Gaza	780,000	244,000	31%
Nutrition**			
# of children 6-59 months screened for wasting admitted for treatment	5,842	0**	0%
Child Protection			
# of children affected by conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support***	853,000	8,825	1%
# of children receiving explosive weapons-related risk education	504,925	77	0%
Education			
# of affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being	55,000	5,840	11%
# of school aged children provided with essential education in emergencies learning materials	315,000	0	0%
Social Protection			
# of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	35,000	17,245	49%

* UNICEF reports the maximum number of people reached each week, not the cumulative sum, as interventions support the same population over time. Therefore, the maximum number of people is reported to avoid double counting.

** 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.

*** The indicator refers to MHPSS level 1 and 2 interventions.

Annex B - Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (US\$)	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received after 7 October	Other resources used for the escalation	US\$	%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	53,388,850	11,750,139	289,690	41,349,021	77%
Health	30,002,940	5,422,352	200,000	24,380,588	81%
Nutrition	11,897,862	2,688,242	0	9,209,620	77%
Child Protection	7,488,270	5,106,500	0	2,381,770	32%
Education	12,469,331	1,574,755	52,000	10,842,576	87%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	33,862,858	3,825,489	122,843	29,914,526	88%
Cross-Sectoral (PSEA, AAP)	1,544,143	406,904	0	1,137,239	74%
Cluster Coordination	3,760,027	953,469	0	2,806,558	75%
Total	154,414,281	31,727,851	664,533	122,021,897	79%

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