



Yamen, 7 years old, and his brother Yazan, 4 years old, carrying UNICEF-supported bottled water inside an UNRWA camp in Khan Younis, Southern Gaza Strip.

UNICEF-SoP/2023/Abed Zaqout

UNICEF in the State of Palestine

Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 7



Reporting Period: 17 to 23 November 2023

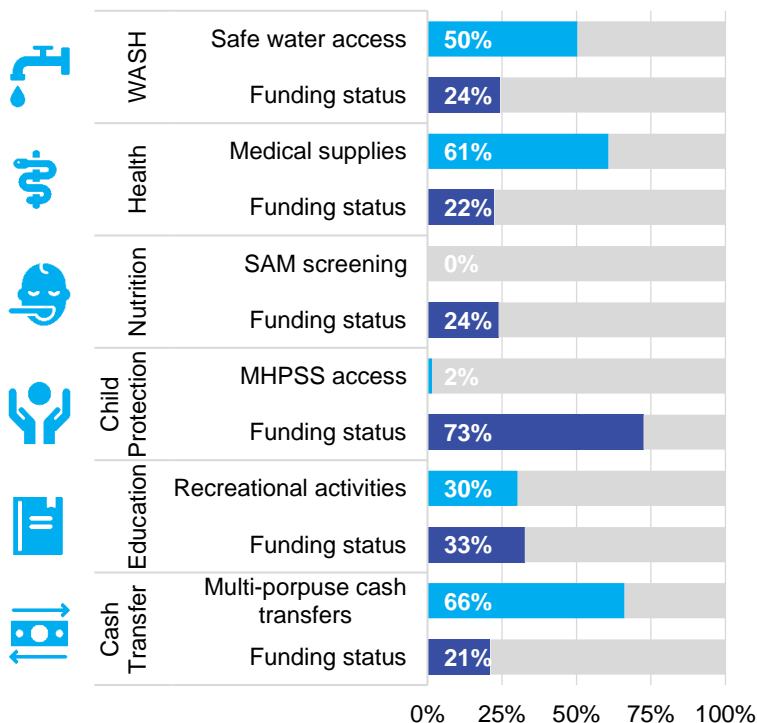
Highlights

- In the Gaza Strip, since 7 October, there have been over 115 Palestinian children reported killed each day. Children account for forty per cent of the deaths, which is unprecedented. The number of Palestinian children killed was reported to exceed 5,350.
- WHO reports 335 attacks on health care facilities between 7 October and 20 November, including 164 attacks in the Gaza Strip and 171 attacks in the West Bank. The hospital bed capacity in Gaza has gone down from 3,500 beds before 7 October to 1,400 beds, leaving critical gaps for patients with injuries and illnesses.
- UNICEF was part of the inter-agency mission to relocate 31 infants from Al Shifa hospital on Sunday, 19 November.
- UNICEF delivered medical supplies to one hospital in Khan Younis within the past week, including Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) for medicines and basic supplies, in addition to other medical consumables, benefitting at least 100,000 people for 3 months.
- In anticipation of the humanitarian pause, UNICEF has scaled up operations with additional teams on the ground and supplies ready to go into Gaza.

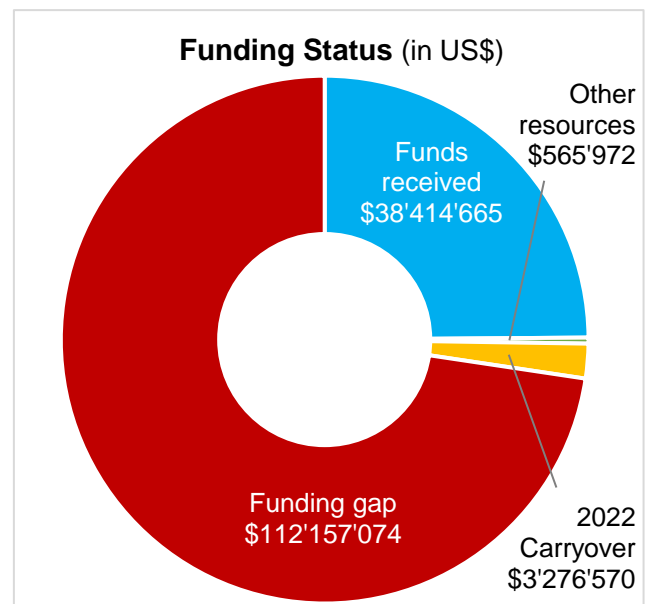
Situation in Numbers

- 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 1.7 Million** Internally displaced people (OCHA, 20 Nov 2023)
- 311 schools sustained damage** in the Gaza Strip (Education Cluster, 20 Nov 2023)
- 69% of hospitals** Not functional in the Gaza Strip (Health Cluster, 16 Nov 2023)

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Immediate Needs US\$ 154.4 million



Funding does not include the loans received from within UNICEF.

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

Funding Overview and Partnerships

The revised inter-agency Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territories was issued on 6 November covering October to December 2023. The appeal identifies a financial requirement of approximately US\$ 1.2 billion to meet critical needs for 2.7 million people, including 2.2 million population in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Aligned to the revised Flash Appeal, UNICEF issued an updated Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for October to December 2023 to support 2.1 million people including 1.2 million children with a funding requirement of US\$ 154.4 million: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine>. To date the revised 2023 HAC has a 73 per cent funding gap.

To kick start the UNICEF's response, available funds were reprogrammed, and UNICEF mobilized additional internal funds including flexible Global Humanitarian Thematic funds. UNICEF would like to sincerely thank partners for their contributions, including the governments of Australia, Germany, 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, Ireland, United Kingdom, and 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\$ 112 million.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Need

Since 7 October there have been over 115 Palestinian children reported killed each day. Children account for forty per cent of the deaths in the Gaza Strip, which is unprecedented. As of 20 November, at least 12,700 Palestinians, including more than 5,350 children, were reported killed since the start of hostilities. More than 30,000 Palestinians were reported injured, including at least 8,663 children (disaggregated data as of 7 November). More than 4,500 people, including at least 1,750 children, were reported missing as of 20 November, and are likely 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 14 November, 108 UNRWA staff had been killed, while WHO reports one staff member killed. As of 20 November, there have been 89 incidents impacting 69 UNRWA installations, of which 23 installations have sustained direct hits.

According to OCHA, as of 22 November, there were over 1.7 million persons estimated to be internally displaced (IDPs) in the Gaza Strip – half of whom are children. UNRWA reports that, as of 22 November, 191 IDPs have been killed in their facilities, with a further 798 injured. Disease outbreaks are increasingly caused by the overcrowding with reports of acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea.

There are hopes of a temporary humanitarian pause in the conflict with negotiations advancing for a release of Israeli hostages held inside the Gaza Strip, including children, in exchange for Palestinians detained in Israel, including children. In anticipation of the humanitarian pause, UNICEF has scaled up operations with additional teams on the ground and supplies ready to go into Gaza.

WHO reports that, as of 20 November, 335 attacks on health care were recorded in the occupied Palestinian territory since 7 October, including 164 attacks in the Gaza Strip and 171 attacks in the West Bank. As a result of these attacks and shortages of fuel, medicines, and safe water, and other essential resources, hospital bed capacity in Gaza has gone down from 3,500 beds before 7 October to 1,400 beds, leaving critical gaps for patients with injuries and other illnesses that require hospitalization.

In the Gaza Strip, according to satellite imagery analysis, from the 592 WASH facilities analysed, UNOSAT identified five destroyed, 47 severely damaged, 83 moderately damaged and 89 facilities which are possibly damaged.

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, OCHA reports that since 7 October, at least 209 Palestinians have been reported killed. At least 58 children have been reported killed in conflict-related violence in the past six weeks, exceeding the number of children killed in all of 2022. Increased military operations and resulting confrontations, especially in the northern West Bank, have humanitarian and human rights consequences for Palestinian children, including exposure to violence and grave violations, displacement, severe damage to residential buildings and public infrastructure, and disruption in accessing essential services, putting Palestinian children at heightened risk of child rights violations.

Israeli sources report that 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed¹, mostly in the tragic attacks of 7 October, and more than 7,500 people are reported injured. At least 35 children have been reported killed. Around 240 Israelis, including around 35 children were abducted into the Gaza Strip and remain in captivity, with very limited information available on the conditions of these children.

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

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH

In response to urgent WASH humanitarian needs, during the reporting period, UNICEF provided 330,000 litres of lifesaving bottled water distributed in five non-UNRWA Designated Emergency Shelters (DES) and in five hospitals, benefitting over 110,000 people, including over 56,000 children. Moreover, the UNICEF provision of 15,000 litres of liquid chlorine and 19,520 litres of fuel to operate more than 66 public and private water wells, desalination plants, as well as water trucking reached more than 1 million people with clean water for drinking and domestic needs in the Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah areas.

To improve sanitary conditions in the overcrowded shelters, and to reduce public health risks, UNICEF continued to support the disinfection services for 19 shelters and provided 50,000 bar soap, 100-floor mops, 70 squeegees, and 70 buckets of 10 litres capacity to affected families, reaching over 380,000 people, including over 193,000 children. In addition, UNICEF continued support for shelter cleaning services to address solid waste issues, benefitting over 26,000 people, including over 13,000 children, in the UNRWA Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC). With WASH actors, UNICEF is scaling up service delivery in IDP hosting communities through an integrated package of WASH services.

The WASH Cluster coordinates 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 scaling up support to the health system and partners in the Gaza Strip by providing medical supplies, including medicines and consumables. During the reporting period, one hospital in Khan Younis received four trucks of medical supplies including Interagency Emergency Health kits (IEHK) with medicines and basic supplies, in addition to other medical consumables, benefitting at least 100,000 people for 3 months. In addition, midwifery and obstetric kits were delivered to serve 4,000 pregnant women, including 600 caesarean sections. To date, lifesaving supplies reached the South and the Middle Area for a total of 344,000 people including women, adolescent girls and newborns in the Gaza Strip.

On 19 November, 31 babies were rescued from the Al-Shifa hospital in Northern Gaza and relocated to Al-Helal Al-Emarati Hospital in Rafah in temperature-controlled incubators under the supervision of medical staff from the Al-Shifa hospital. Their condition was stabilized before transporting 28 of the babies to Egypt to continue their treatment. As part of an interagency effort, UNICEF with WHO, UNRWA, OCHA, UNMAS, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, medical authorities and staff at the hospital conducted the operation in extremely dangerous conditions. The newborns' condition was rapidly deteriorating resulting in the tragic deaths of several newborns in advance of the movement as medical services at Al-Shifa hospital were collapsing.

Nutrition

In the reporting period UNICEF delivered various essential nutrition commodities to the Gaza Strip including anaemia treatment for over 33,300 pregnant and lactating women; High Energy Biscuits for over 15,000 children 6-59 months; and micronutrient supplementation for 9,000 children 24-59 months and 2,400 pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The Nutrition Cluster remains active and the coordination with partners is ongoing, to plan nutrition interventions for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. UNICEF continues to lead the Nutrition Cluster which has 25 partners.

Child Protection

In the Gaza Strip, 5,046 children and 631 caregivers received psychosocial support through the helpline and in-person, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services and awareness raising on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). Of this total, 869 people including 750 children were reached through education sessions on ERWs. Progress has been made in the identification of temporary safe care arrangements for children in the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF and its partners continued to provide essential child protection services to 901 people, of which 478 are children, including through MHPSS delivered through remote and in-person modalities; legal aid services; recreational activities; digital safety; child rights awareness; and case management.

Education

During the reporting period, UNICEF with education partners supported 10,800 children including 5,470 girls and 78 children with disabilities (CwDs) through recreational activities in the Gaza Strip. These children are located in 29 IDP shelters spread over Khan Younis, Deir Al Balah, Rafah, An Nuseirat, and Bani Suhila communities and camps. The significant increase in the number of children reached reflects the successful scale-up of interventions in line with the increasing caseload due to the influx of IDPs from the Northern part of the Gaza Strip. Additionally, UNICEF provided SOS Children's Village with 4 'School in a carton' kits benefitting more than 160 learners and four teachers to maintain continuity of teaching and learning.



Pictured (two photos): UNICEF-supported recreational activities for displaced children in an UNRWA school turned into a shelter in Deir Al Balah.

Social Protection

Despite the extreme security situation, UNICEF has reached almost 200,000 people with humanitarian cash transfers (23,155 families; 92,770 children; 8,170 people with disabilities, 4,920 female headed households). To date 7,896 households have redeemed their cash with a transfer value of NIS 754 (equivalent to US\$ 195). This is 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 extremely 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 need. 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.

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

UNICEF has cumulatively received 1,314 pieces of feedback and complaints since 7 October. The humanitarian cash transfer programme made use of the existing community feedback channels for seven batches of cash transfer. These channels are the Interagency Hotline, the PSEA network hotline and the UNICEF specific e-mail address, to ensure that beneficiaries have direct, confidential and safe contact for any complaint or feedback that they have regarding UNICEF programmes. During the current reporting period, UNICEF has received 274 pieces of feedback, complaints, including requests for information or cash redemption issues from households. The majority of feedback are from beneficiaries in the Gaza Strip, including some beneficiaries of the cash transfer programme who are in the West Bank.

Access to safe and confidential reporting channels for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) remains compromised. The main channel to report SEA is an MHPSS helpline, which has received an increased average daily call rate since the start of the conflict.

Support from Egypt

Cumulatively, UNICEF has moved over 100 trucks from Egypt into the Gaza Strip and remains among the top five aid organisations moving supplies from Egypt into Gaza.² These trucks have included over 2.9 million bottles of water sufficient to cover an estimated 1,470,000 people³, and different types of WASH, hygiene and dignity kits for adults and families sufficient to serve nearly 83,000 people. UNICEF has also provided health supplies, which arrived in the Gaza Strip and were distributed between two hospitals in Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah governorates. These supplies included health consumables that will serve 186,000 cases, medicines for 215,000 patients, different types of medical kits, midwifery and Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), and micro-nutrients including High Energy Biscuits. 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, 6,000 blankets were distributed to hospitals and non-UNRWA shelters, and children's diapers to cover around 6,700 children were distributed to both UNRWA and non-UNRWA shelters.

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

² Logistics Cluster and Egyptian Red Cross Update as of 22 Nov 2023 as per data shared from UNICEF Supply daily tracker.

³ This figure does not account for double counting.

Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and participates in the Accountability to Affected Populations Working Group coordinated by OCHA. UNICEF also actively participates in the Regional and National Gender and Humanitarian Working Group, coordinated by UN Women and OCHA, and contributes to gender equality programming as well as preparedness and response.

Human Interest Stories, External Media and Advocacy

Advocacy - What is UNICEF calling for?

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

Statements:

- 21.11.2023: [Gaza's children running out of time: Water shortages spark disease alarm](#)
- 19.11.2023: [31 premature babies at imminent risk of death relocated from Al-Shifa hospital](#)
- 16.11.2023: [Statement by Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, Humanitarian chiefs will not take part in unilateral proposals to create "safe zones" in Gaza](#)

Human Interest Stories:

- [Children's dreams amidst Gaza's tragedy](#)
- [Reclaiming Innocence: A plea for peace and hope in the Gaza Strip](#)

Social Media:

- Children dreams and wishes: [Mariam](#), [Ghazal](#), [Rahaf](#), [Kenan](#)
- [Gaza children dreams](#)
- [31 babies were rescued from Al-Shifa hospital](#)

Next SitRep: 1 December 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	79,866	7%
# of people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services	1,350,000	595,000	44%
Health			
# of people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies to MOH and Health partners**	780,000	474,000	61%
# of high risks pregnancy and lactating women who benefitted from medical assistance in the Gaza Strip	50,000	4,000	8%
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	13,599	2%
# of children receiving explosive weapons-related risk education	504,925	760	0%
Education			
# of affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being	55,000	16,640	30%
# 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	23,155	66%

* 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.

** This result is calculated based upon the distribution of Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to health facilities. UNICEF is reviewing this calculation methodology based upon expected supply consumption rates.

*** 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.

***** Reach with humanitarian cash transfers is reported based upon households which have received messages to redeem their cash. Of the households reported reached 34 per cent have redeemed to date. The redemption rate has been corrected from the last SitRep from 8,395 to 7,896.

Annex B - Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (USD)	Funds available		Resources available from 2022 (Carry-over)	Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received after 7 October	Other resources used for the escalation		US\$	%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	53,388,850	12,333,570	93,972	629,647	40,331,661	76%
Health	30,002,940	6,297,833	200,000	234,764	23,270,343	78%
Nutrition	11,897,862	2,839,045	0	0	9,058,817	76%
Child Protection	7,488,270	5,430,587	0	462,963	1,594,720	21%
Education	12,469,331	2,876,301	52,000	1,142,966	8,398,064	67%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	33,862,858	6,418,204	0	727,084	26,717,570	79%
Cross-Sectoral (PSEA, AAP)	1,544,143	421,280	0	50,146	1,072,717	69%
Cluster Coordination	3,760,027	1,796,845	220,000	29,000	1,714,182	46%
Total	154,414,281	38,413,665	565,972	3,276,570	112,158,073	73%

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