



Abdul Rahman, 8 years old, hopes to receive food from a community-based initiative in the city of Rafah, Gaza Strip.

Reporting Period: 24 to 29 November 2023

UNICEF in the State of Palestine

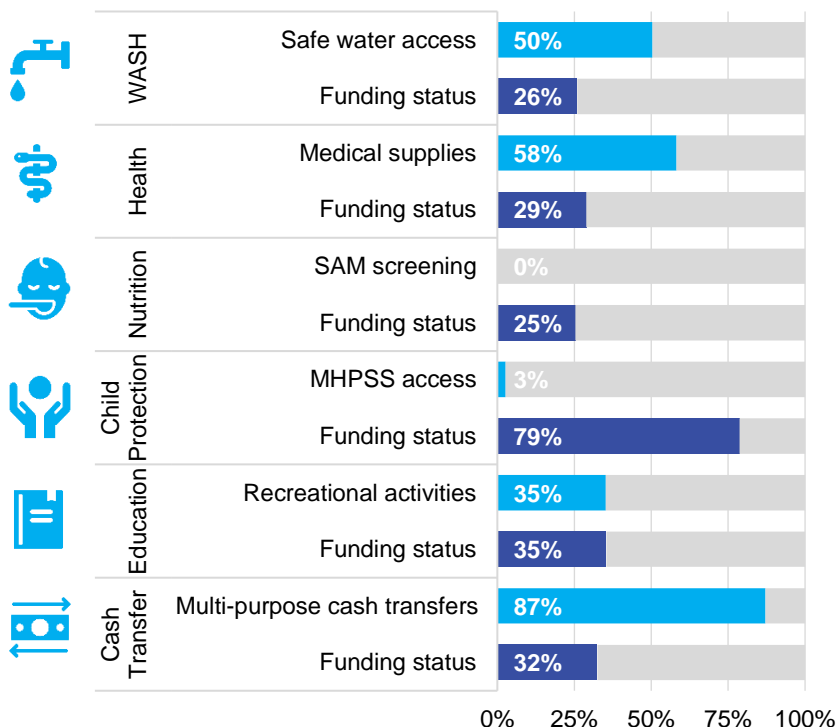
Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No. 8



Highlights

- As of 20 November, at least 12,700 Palestinians, including more than 5,350 children, were reported killed since the start of hostilities.
- The “humanitarian pause” of the hostilities in the Gaza Strip that began on 24 November sustained for the fourth day and was extended in the evening of 27 November for two more days. While this pause allows more aid to be safely delivered, it is far from being enough to provide the needed support to the up to 1.8 million displaced people, half of whom are children.
- To leverage the window of the “humanitarian pause”, UNICEF has significantly scaled up operations and programmes and has undertaken three missions to the North Gaza governorate.
- UNICEF distributed 10,000 locally procured family hygiene kits in North Gaza, benefitting more than 50,000 people.
- UNICEF has reached 13,500 children, including 6,884 girls and 107 children with disabilities, through continuation and expansion of the recreational activities in 31 IDP shelters across Khan Younis, Deir Al Balah, Rafah, An Nuseirat, and Bani Suhila communities and camps in South Gaza.
- Vaccination activities resumed as three essential vaccines were extracted from the central warehouses in Gaza City and transported to the South of Gaza through a mission led by UNICEF and WHO.
- UNICEF has reached almost 250,000 people (30,500 families, including 115,000 children) with multi-purpose cash assistance.
- A total of ten unaccompanied and separated children (three in the Gaza Strip and seven in the West Bank) were identified by UNICEF and were registered. Case management provisions are coordinated with UNRWA.

UNICEF’s Response and Funding Status

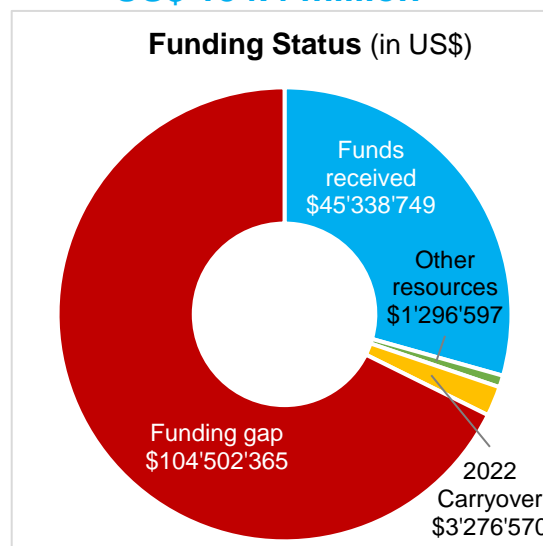


Funding does not include the loans received from within UNICEF. See Annex A for additional explanations.

Situation in Numbers

- 3.1 Million** people in need nationally (OCHA Flash Appeal, Nov 2023)
- 1 Million** Children affected in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2023 population projections)
- Up to 1.8 Million** Internally displaced people (OCHA, 27 Nov 2023)
- 322 schools** sustained damage in the Gaza Strip (Education Cluster, 20 Nov 2023)
- 81% of hospitals** Not functional or minimally functional in the Gaza Strip (Health Cluster, 27 Nov 2023)

UNICEF Immediate Needs US\$ 154.4 million



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 US\$ 112 million (68 per cent) funding gap.

To kick start the UNICEF response, available funds were reprogrammed, and UNICEF mobilized additional internal funds including flexible Global Humanitarian Thematic funds. UNICEF would like to sincerely thank partners for their contributions, including the governments of Australia, 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.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Need

The “humanitarian pause” of the hostilities in the Gaza Strip offers a small respite for the civilians and children who have been exposed to intense violence and grave violations during the past six weeks. While this pause allows more aid to be safely delivered, it is far from being enough to provide the needed support to the up to 1.8 million displaced people, or nearly 80 per cent of the population, half of them being children. 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.

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, OCHA reports that since 7 October, at least 232 Palestinians have been reported killed. At least 64 children have been reported killed in conflict-related violence in the past seven 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. In the West Bank, sporadic attacks on WASH facilities, including settler violence, have been reported.

The Palestinian Ministry of Education reports that as of 28 November, over 3,318 students and 195 teachers and administrative staff had been killed and 5,567 children and 493 teachers and administrative staff were injured during the conflict. More than 322 schools (265 public schools; 57 UNRWA schools) have been damaged of which 94 schools in Gaza were severely damaged and five schools were totally destroyed.

UNRWA reports that, as of 27 November, 109 UNRWA staff had been killed, while WHO reported one staff member killed since 7 October. As of 27 November, there have been 104 incidents impacting 82 UNRWA installations, of which 30 installations have sustained direct hits.

The humanitarian pause that began in the morning of 24 November was maintained for four consecutive days until 27 November. In the evening of 27 November, the pause was extended for two additional days. UNICEF has scaled up operations on the ground and continues to do so, also in preparation of needed blankets, tents and warm clothes, in light of the onset of winter weather. With the humanitarian pause, movement of people has increased and so has their exposure to unexploded ordnance. This increases the need for children as well as adults to be aware of appropriate behavior and preventive measures.

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, 29 have been released between 24-28 November and the remaining children still 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

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

In leveraging the four days of humanitarian pause of the hostilities in the Gaza Strip, UNICEF has scaled up WASH interventions to address the dire condition of WASH services, exacerbated by a lack of power supply, fuel shortages, and restricted access. In response to urgent WASH humanitarian needs, during the reporting period, UNICEF provided 132,000 litres of lifesaving bottled water distributed in the UNRWA Designated Emergency Shelters (DES), benefitting over 44,000 people, including over 22,000 children in Rafah. Moreover, UNICEF provided 77,080 litres of fuel, which operated more than 66 public and private water wells, desalination plants, and water trucking reaching more than one million people, including over 510,000 children with clean water for drinking and domestic needs in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah areas.

Furthermore, UNICEF procured and distributed 10,000 family hygiene kits and 10,000 litres of liquid soap with 520 soap dispensers, benefitting more than 60,000 people, including 30,000 children in the UNRWA Designated Emergency Shelters (DES) in North Gaza.

The environmental and sanitary conditions are rapidly deteriorating as sewage is flowing in the streets has been reported in several areas across Rafah, raising public health risks to children and their families in the overcrowded shelters. In response, UNICEF provided fuel to one wastewater treatment plant to support sewage treatment and safe disposal, benefitting over 275,000 people, including over 140,000 children in Rafah. In addition, UNICEF continued to support the disinfection services for 19 shelters, cleaning services to address solid waste issues and provided 1,300 mops, 650 brooms, and 130 waste containers of 240 litre capacity to affected families, benefitting over 127,361 people², including 65,000 children in Khan Younis.

The WASH Cluster is operating two coordination working groups in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In the Gaza Strip, 17 partners are active with a mixed level of operational capacity, mainly concentrated in Rafah, Khan Younis and Deir el Balah. The main activities include distribution of hygiene kits, bottled water and water trucking. Access and achievements in the North of Wadi Gaza remains severely restricted. The WASH cluster has initiated a Gaza Operation Cell to coordinate fuel and water production/distribution issues. The WASH sector is receiving only 19,520 litre of fuel per day which is not sufficient to ensure the public health of the population across Gaza, with risks related to insufficient safe drinking water per person and the non-treatment of sewage.



Pictured (two photos): 10,000 hygiene kits procured locally by UNICEF are being delivered in North Gaza for distribution in 13 shelters in Jabalia.

Health

UNICEF continues scaling up the support to the health systems and health partners in the Gaza Strip by providing medical supplies, including medicines and consumables. During the reporting period, three truckloads of medical supplies were distributed to one hospital among the remaining operational hospitals in Gaza City, in Gaza governorate, and one active NGO in North Gaza governorate. These supplies included Inter-Agency Emergency Health kits (IEHK) with medicines and basic supplies and Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) kits, in addition to other medical consumables, benefitting at least 30,000 people. To date, lifesaving supplies reached the South and the Middle Area, and North Gaza, benefitting a total of 374,000 people, including women, adolescent girls and new-borns in the Gaza Strip, and 80,000³ in the West Bank.

On 25 November, three essential vaccines: Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG), oral polio vaccine (OPV) and measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), were extracted from the central warehouses in Gaza City and transported to the South of Gaza through a mission led by UNICEF and WHO. A similar joint mission is planned during the coming days to extract the remaining quantities. These supplies are expected to cover one to two weeks of the vaccine supply requirement in the South of the Gaza Strip. In parallel, UNICEF is planning to support the delivery of additional vaccines via Egypt.

² Source: IDP shelters database, UNRWA, 28 November 2023

³ Population covered in the West Bank has been adjusted downward compared to [SitRep#6](#) due to a revision in the calculation methodology

Five antigens are ordered, and work is in progress on securing the necessary cold chain capacity at Al Arish and within the Gaza Strip.

Nutrition

To prevent malnutrition, UNICEF has delivered multiple micronutrients supplementation for 7,000 children (24-59 months) to the Gaza Strip during the reporting period. Furthermore, UNICEF secured the following nutrition commodities in Egypt to be transported to the Gaza Strip: multiple micronutrients supplementation for 1,000 children (24-59 months), anaemia treatment for over 16,660 pregnant-breastfeeding women, zinc supplements for 33,300 children under 5, lipid-based supplements for 72,800 children 6-24 months, High Energy Biscuits for around 10,000 children (6-59 months).

UNICEF continues to lead and coordinate the Nutrition Cluster, including supporting capacity strengthening plans for partners on nutrition in emergency interventions. Two technical working groups were established, one to support infant and young children feeding (micronutrients supplementation), and one on the management of wasting.

Child Protection

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF reached 2,010 children including 68 children with disabilities, and 584 caregivers through remote and in-person psychosocial support and structured recreational activities implemented in the shelters in Rafah, Deir Al-Balah, and the Middle Area.

In the West Bank, including in areas heavily impacted by security operations (such as in Nablus, Balata Refugee Camp in Tulkarm, Tulkarm Refugee Camp, and Jenin) and in East Jerusalem, UNICEF and partners continued to provide essential child protection services including case management, remote and in-person mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), legal aid services, digital safety and child rights awareness, as well as recreational activities to 1,765 people, of which 515 children.

A total of ten unaccompanied and separated children (three in the Gaza Strip and seven in the West Bank) were identified and registered. Case management provisions are currently being coordinated with UNRWA.

Education

During the reporting period, UNICEF and its implementing partners meaningfully engaged with more than 13,500 children, including 6,884 girls and 107 children with disabilities (CwDs), through the continuation and expansion of the recreational activities across 31 IDP shelters. These are located across Khan Younis, Deir Al Balah, Rafah, An Nuseirat, and Bani Suhila communities and in camps in Southern Gaza Strip. In the total amount of children reached by UNICEF, included are also 2,740 children in three shelters, of whom are 1,414 girls and 29 children with disabilities. Recreational activities have become a popular attraction especially for trauma affected children amidst the prevailing insecurity and challenging context in the Gaza Strip. The recreational activities aim to increase children's wellbeing through storytelling, play, movement, sports, drawing, and expressive arts. The recreational activities also contribute to providing safe spaces, routine and a sense of normalcy to the affected children. To support these activities 121 recreational kits have been distributed. The unpredictable nature of the conflict is triggering movement of people including staff members of the partner agencies to safer places affecting the programme continuity. For example, the provision of recreational support was discontinued due to the movement of the facilitator in one of the IDP shelters depriving 132 children (76 girls).

UNICEF as the Education Cluster co-lead, with Save the Children, has conducted a rapid observation needs assessment in the Gaza Strip to collect information about the state of school damage and to identify available locations for MHPSS as well as learning activities with children in and around shelters.

Social Protection

Despite the very difficult security situation, UNICEF has reached almost 250,000 people (30,500 families, including 115,000 children) with multi-purpose cash assistance. UNICEF is monitoring the market situation on a daily basis in partnership with other Cash Working Group actors. The market is distorted, and shortages are being reported. However, both formal and informal markets continue to function based on data from UNICEF's rapid post distribution monitoring. The beneficiaries have received the cash through 50 active money agents across the Gaza Strip, including supermarkets. Families used the received cash on food, water, hygiene products, hospital expenses, transportation, and debt payment. Over 80 per cent of beneficiaries surveyed indicated that commodities are available. While food is still the biggest expense category, for the latest payment rounds about 40 per cent of respondents stated that their biggest expenses were: medicines, water, hygiene and debt repayment. So far, liquidity has not been reported as a concerning issue in the Gaza Strip. Despite fragility of the markets, cash transfers through mobile payments prove to be an effective and efficient mechanism to reach the most vulnerable families and children.

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

UNICEF has cumulatively received 1,476 pieces of feedback and complaints since 7 October. The humanitarian cash transfer programme has made use of the existing community feedback channels during eight batches of cash transfers. These available feedback 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 162 pieces of

feedback and complaints, including requests for information or cash redemption issues from households. The majority of feedback are from beneficiaries in the Gaza Strip.

Access to the MHPSS helpline, also promoted to report Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) incidents, continues to be compromised in Gaza. Lack of access to private space, lack of access to mobile devices and the rupture in the interpersonal communications, in a conflict environment, leaves little opportunity for affected communities to seek assistance linked to recovery activities or report incidents. The helpline has also received intensive use via mobile messaging from the West Bank, though the number of calls is below average. In the West Bank, a first consultation with 30 community-based organisations (CBOs) took place to discuss emergency responses that include safeguarding and PSEA awareness. The consultation pointed at secondary trauma as the root cause of the decrease in the number of calls from the West Bank. UNICEF has partnered with a volunteer-based organization in Gaza to mainstream safeguarding activities within their ongoing volunteer interventions which will target 500,000 people within the next year. These activities are complemented by the community engagement campaign of SANAD, the new visual identity of the PSEA Network that aims at bringing together the safeguarding community and produce awareness messages as well as educational materials.

Support from Egypt Coordination Cell – Scale up Supply Operations

During the reporting period, the UNICEF Coordination Cell has been supporting UNICEF's response during the humanitarian pause. This response has included additional orders worth US\$ 10 million raised for supplies from within Egypt, the region, and globally to support the response in the Gaza Strip. An additional 11 charter flights landed between 24-28 November with tents, WASH supplies, medical kits, nutrition supplies, blankets and children's winter clothes. Additionally, there was local procurement of hygiene kits, water, blankets, and critical WASH supplies such as generators and pipes.

For the humanitarian pause, UNICEF has been scaling up to have additional supplies cross into the Gaza Strip carrying a mix of lifesaving and critical emergency supplies.

- For WASH, this includes 2.9 million litres of water available to cover an estimated 142,000 people for seven days, as well as 20,000 hygiene kits to cover an estimated 120,000 beneficiaries, and water tanks, generators, pipes and fittings are being procured.
- For health, this would include delivery of medical kits including interagency emergency kits, midwifery, and health kits for primary health care to cover an estimated 50,000 people as well as 500 regular births of infants and 500 surgical deliveries of infants.
- For nutrition, the supplies mobilized include Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to cover an estimated 2,000 children for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition.
- For winterization, as temperatures drop and winter starts to set in, protecting children from cold and illness is critical. For the humanitarian pause, UNICEF is preparing 70,000 blankets and winter clothing items to be delivered to the Gaza Strip to cover 124,000 children (from newborn babies to children 16 years of age).
- Also, as the weather becomes colder, having safe spaces for children for the provision of MHPSS is essential to their physical and mental health; 92 tents have been procured to be used as child friendly spaces or temporary primary health care centres, along with appropriate play and learning materials to cover an estimated 76,000 children.

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) 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:

- 22.11.2023: [UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell's remarks at the UN Security Council briefing on the protection of children in Gaza](#)

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

- [Situation in hospitals in Southern the Gaza Strip.](#)
- [UNICEF and other UN agencies are delivering emergency medical supplies, food and water to communities in the Gaza Strip.](#)
- [Situation of injured children in hospitals in the Gaza Strip.](#)
- [Journey from Egypt to the Gaza Strip.](#)

Social Media:

- [Delivery of supplies to Al Ahli Hospital, Northern the Gaza Strip](#)
- [Delivery of vaccines to Muscat clinic Southern the Gaza Strip](#)
- [Unsafe sources of water are drastically increasing the risk for water borne disease among children](#)

Next SitRep: 8 December 2023

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

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

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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 ¹	2,050,000	1,033,000	50%
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)	1,050,000	139,866	13%
# of people benefitting from improved access to sanitation and hygiene services	1,350,000	402,361	30%
Health			
# of people supported through UNICEF delivered medical supplies to MOH and Health partners ²	780,000	454,000	58%
# of high risks pregnancy and lactating women who benefitted from medical assistance in the Gaza Strip	50,000	4,000	8%
Nutrition³			
# of children 6-59 months screened for wasting admitted for treatment	5,842	0	0%
Child Protection			
# of children and caregivers affected by conflict related violence received emergency and child protection service including PSS support ⁴	853,000	23,322	3%
# of children receiving explosive weapons-related risk education ⁵	504,925	760	0%
Education			
# of affected school aged children provided with recreational activities to support their well being	55,000	19,380	35%
# of school aged children provided with essential education in emergencies learning materials ⁶	315,000	160	0%
Social Protection			
# of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers ⁷	35,000	30,500	87%

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ Prior to the escalation, nutrition was not considered as a critical issue in the State of Palestine, including the Gaza Strip. Nutrition existed as a sub-working group under Health cluster. Now as an independent cluster, progress on result is expected as more nutrition actors are mobilized.

⁴ The indicator refers to MHPSS level 1 and 2 interventions.

⁵ Limited education supplies have entered the Gaza Strip from Egypt with the focus of supplies being lifesaving to date.

⁶ 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 response is high compared to the target as this is only for one round of transfers compared to three in the plan, and as UNICEF has funded the response through the loans which are not reflected in the Funding Status table.

Annex B - Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (USD)	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received after 7 October	Other resources used for the escalation	Resources available from 2022 (Carry-over)	US\$	%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	53,388,850	13,152,982	93,972	629,647	39,512,249	74%
Health	30,002,940	7,515,983	930,625	234,764	21,321,567	71%
Nutrition	11,897,862	3,023,249	0	0	8,874,613	75%
Child Protection	7,488,270	5,430,587	0	462,963	1,594,720	21%
Education	12,469,331	3,220,925	52,000	1,142,966	8,053,440	65%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	33,862,858	10,274,379	0	727,084	22,861,395	68%
Cross-Sectoral (PSEA, AAP)	1,544,143	447,931	0	50,146	1,046,066	68%
Cluster Coordination	3,760,027	2,272,713	220,000	29,000	1,238,314	33%
Total	154,414,281	45,338,749	1,296,597	3,276,570	104,502,364	68%

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