



UNICEF Sudan/2020/Respect Media

A child washes their hands at a UNICEF-supported school in Zalengei, Central Darfur, where handwashing facilities were rehabilitated and supplied with soap.

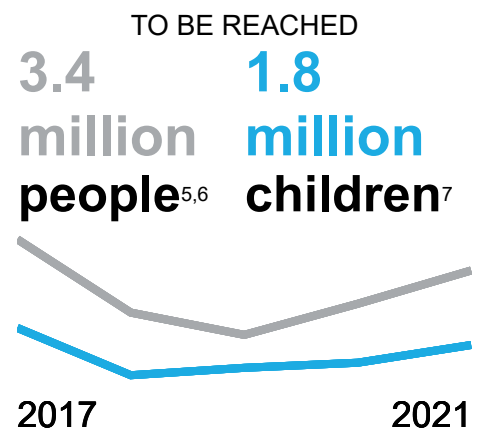
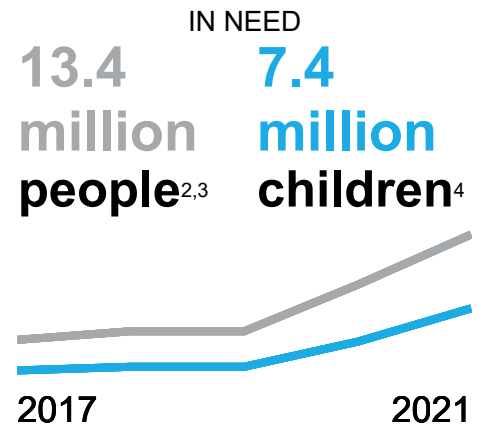
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Humanitarian Action for Children


Sudan


HIGHLIGHTS

- There are over 13.4 million people enduring complex, interconnecting challenges in Sudan.¹ The economic crisis is causing widespread malnutrition; lapses in the rule of law are allowing ethnic tensions to erupt into violence; flooding remains life-threatening; and diseases, including coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), cholera, polio and chikungunya, remain prevalent.
- UNICEF will use a rights-based approach to protect and empower vulnerable children, adolescents, women and people with disabilities. Critical, life-saving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, nutrition, health and child protection services will be integrated, coordinated and COVID-19-safe to ensure their comprehensive delivery to communities across the country.
- UNICEF urgently requires US\$211.1 million to address the needs of vulnerable populations and help shape the futures of 7.4 million children in Sudan. Lack of resources for these interventions will mean the further erosion of already fragile health, education, child protection and WASH systems and community structures in Sudan.



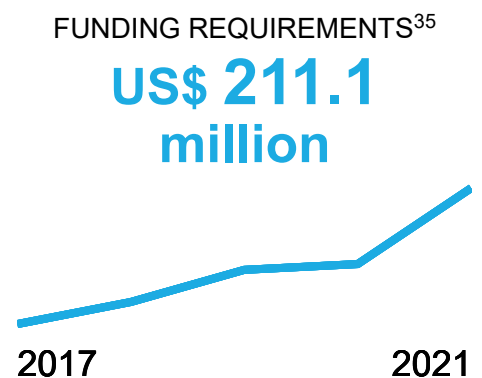
KEY PLANNED TARGETS

 **330,000** children admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition

 **2.8 million** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water

 **203,200** women and children accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation/prevention/response

 **2,434** schools implementing safe school protocols



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

People in Sudan remain extremely vulnerable to emergencies.⁸ Deepening poverty is causing widespread malnutrition; lapses in the rule of law are allowing ethnic tensions to erupt into violence; flooding and disease outbreaks are destroying lives and livelihoods; and education interruptions in 2019 and 2020 left 13 million children out of school.⁹ COVID-19 and related mitigation measures are further complicating these existing challenges.

These hardships are threatening people's lives, denying children – particularly girls – access to an education, creating serious protection risks and giving rise to violations and abuse, including gender-based violence.¹⁰ Past conflicts in Sudan and neighbouring countries have left thousands of people internally displaced or living as refugees and without basic support, in and outside of camps.

While the recent steps taken towards securing peace have opened the possibility of humanitarian assistance in previously inaccessible areas in Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile, humanitarian needs remain high: 13.4 million people, including 7.4 million children, will require humanitarian assistance in 2021.¹¹ In addition to the violence, flooding and disease outbreaks, populations are affected by the economic turmoil that has undermined livelihoods and increased vulnerabilities across the country. Annual inflation reached 330 per cent in February 2021¹² and the middle class is shrinking. Sudan's food and nutritional security are eroding, deepening a crisis already affecting 14 per cent of the population.¹³ Over 570,000 children require treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM)¹⁴ and the operational costs of reaching these children are rising.

Sudanese communities are affected by regular outbreaks of diseases such as malaria, dengue, chikungunya, measles, polio, cholera and, since March 2020, COVID-19. Poor infrastructure, meager resourcing and humble capacities have stretched the fragile health system. Rural people are particularly affected due to heightened economic vulnerability and food and nutrition insecurity. The arrival of COVID-19 has exposed these vulnerabilities, with nearly 29,000 reported cases, over 1,959 deaths, and a disproportionately high case fatality rate outside of Khartoum.¹⁵

Around 2.5 million people, including 1.4 million children, are displaced due to conflict and ethnic violence in Darfur, Kordofan and Eastern states,¹⁶ with 116,000 newly displaced in and around Geneina, West Darfur since January 2021.¹⁷ While peace agreements mark political progress, deep communal tensions can quickly ignite into deadly violence. Sudan also hosts 1.1 million refugees¹⁸ fleeing strife from surrounding countries. Over 762,000 of these refugees are from South Sudan, including 518,000 living outside of camps in host communities¹⁹ and 62,000 Ethiopian refugees are now in Gedaref State fleeing the Tigray

SECTOR NEEDS



Nutrition

3.7 million people need nutrition assistance²¹



Water, sanitation and hygiene

9 million people lack access to safe water²²



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

2.6 million children need protection services^{23,24}



Education

2.9 million children need education support²⁵

STORY FROM THE FIELD



On the first day of treatment in Fur Baranga village, West Darfur, Farha received therapeutic nutritional milk to treat SAM.

"Gradually, Farha started to recover and play with her brothers again. I followed all instructions, gave the care she needed and fed her until her health improved" says Kulthum, Farha's mother.

Last year, Kulthum's children also received school supplies and she is washing hands, keeping physical distance and avoiding gatherings to protect herself and her family from COVID-19. UNICEF is supporting treatment, care and opportunities to survive and thrive in Sudan.

[**Read more about this story here**](#)

Kulthum and Farha play after receiving nutritional support provided by UNICEF.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF emphasizes protecting and empowering vulnerable children, adolescents, women and people with disabilities in Sudan. In line with the Grand Bargain commitments,²⁶ UNICEF will work with humanitarian and development actors, including United Nations agencies, government counterparts, non-government partners and communities in 15 states across the country to deliver a coordinated humanitarian response.²⁷

UNICEF leads the WASH, education and nutrition sectors and the child protection area of responsibility and is an active member of the health cluster and the gender-based violence sub-sector. UNICEF also leads two pillars in the inter-agency COVID-19 response: risk communication and community engagement and infection prevention and control.

In 2021, UNICEF will mainstream child-centred planning and gender-responsive emergency preparedness into national planning. Partners will be supported to reach crisis-affected children and integrate gender-based violence risk mitigation, and youth engagement across all programmes. UNICEF will continue to provide specialized protection services and critical psychosocial support for at-risk children and caregivers and ensure measures are in place to prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of those at risk.

UNICEF will advocate for accelerated and flexible access to quality learning for 2.9 million out-of-school and crisis-affected children, and support families and parent-teacher associations with financial assistance, learning supplies and recreational materials. UNICEF will also prioritize COVID-19-related improvements to WASH infrastructure, water availability in schools and the implementation of the Safe Schools Protocols.

In health, UNICEF will continue to strengthen and maintain health systems, provide essential maternal, newborn and child health services in emergencies, respond to epidemics and deliver critical vaccinations to prevent outbreaks of measles and polio.

In collaboration with nutrition sector partners, UNICEF will scale up life-saving interventions by expanding outpatient treatment centres and infant and young child feeding counselling services in compliance with COVID-19 guidance. High-impact health and WASH interventions will be integrated to address the underlying causes of malnutrition.

Schools and health facilities will be supported with safe water and healthy sanitation. Positive hygiene practices will be promoted through community mobilization and awareness-raising activities. Integrated WASH interventions will strengthen communities and children's environments, building resilience against COVID-19, water- and mosquito-borne diseases and associated protection risks.

Community engagement and positive behaviour change ensure UNICEF's humanitarian efficacy, relevance and accountability. Cash transfer programmes, peacebuilding and development initiatives will confront chronic causes of humanitarian need, particularly among internally displaced persons and refugees living outside of camps. All activities will emphasize accountability to affected populations, protection and gender and environmental considerations.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/sudan/situation-reports>

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **330,000** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **990,000** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



Health

- **7,020** health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control
- **961,200** children aged 0 to 12 months vaccinated against measles
- **1,095,000** children under 5 years accessing integrated management of childhood illness services



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **2,800,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **600,000** people accessing and using adequate sanitation facilities
- **2,200,000** people reached with messages on appropriate hygiene practices



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **349,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **203,200** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- **2,282,140** people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse²⁸
- **13,400** unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services



Education

- **170,940** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **2,434** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)²⁹
- **687,140** children who received subsidies, scholarships, grants, social assistance and/or teaching, learning and recreation materials to attend school



Social protection and cash transfers

- **100,000** households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors³⁰



C4D, community engagement and AAP

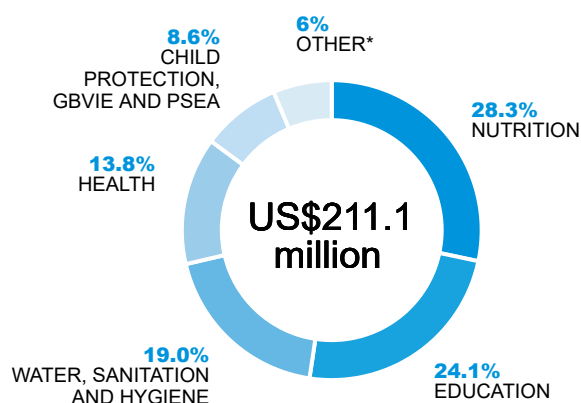
- **423,000** people reached with messages on access to services

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

In 2021, UNICEF requires US\$211.1 million to reach the 1.78 million most vulnerable children in Sudan and their communities with humanitarian assistance while triple this amount is required to reach all of the 7.4 million Children in Need identified in the Sudan HNO.

With timely and flexible funding, UNICEF and its partners can effectively address the growing needs of children and families affected by the deteriorating economy, growing food insecurity, fragile government transition and the COVID-19 pandemic. Without additional funding now, future generations will be forced to contend with the same threats. There is an imminent risk of public health system collapse due to chronic underfunding during multiple epidemics. The education system is also struggling to prepare children for responsible citizenry and UNICEF desperately needs sufficient donor support to intervene. Additional support is required for WASH needs of refugees and IDPs, and to develop sustainable, shock responsive Social Protection measures.

Funding UNICEF to fulfil its key mandates will also help relieve additional vulnerabilities such as early marriage, exploitation, child labour, gender-based violence, conflict association, radicalization and illegal migration. Delivering life-saving services to children and their communities remains the most cost-effective investment in the future of Sudan.



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	59,793,941 ³³
Health	29,035,529
Water, sanitation and hygiene	40,073,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	18,065,397 ³¹
Education	50,782,851 ³²
Social protection and cash transfers	7,938,000
C4D, community engagement and AAP	5,435,583 ³⁴
Total	211,124,301

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection and cash transfers (3.8%), C4D, community engagement and AAP (2.6%).

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ENDNOTES

1. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2020.
2. Ibid.
3. 9.8 million vulnerable residents, 2.5 million IDPs, 1.1 refugees, 0.17 returnees. 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
4. Ibid.
5. This was calculated using the highest coverage programme targets for children under 5 years to be reached with integrated management of childhood illness services (1,094,800); school-aged children to be reached with education and recreation materials (687,140); women/caregivers to be reached with infant and young child feeding counselling (990,000); and men to be reached with access to safe water disinfection activities (616,000). The total includes 51 per cent women/girls and 49 per cent men/boys. This includes 15 per cent children with a disability, according to 'Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
6. Cluster/sector people in need calculations include the 190 localities that fall into the highest three of five severity rankings (based on a multi-sectoral need convergence). Those that fall into the third "high" category (17) are predominantly reached with development programming with an awareness that any additional vulnerabilities shift them into the "severe" category. Those in the lowest two are reached through advocacy and strategic engagement due to resource limitations. Cluster humanitarian responses, including the UNICEF response target only those localities in the top two categories (128 in "very high" and 45 in "severe"). Humanitarian needs are greater for the most vulnerable 45 localities and in some cases UNICEF is the sole service provider. Development interventions also occur in these localities but do not contribute to humanitarian targets. These factors sometimes cause UNICEF's targets to seem disproportionate to the established sector needs, but they do align with sector targeting.
7. This was calculated using the highest coverage programme targets for children under 5 years to be reached with integrated management of childhood illness services (558,348 girls and 536,452 boys); and school-aged children to be reached with education and recreation materials (343,570 girls and 343,570 boys). This includes 15 per cent children with a disability, according to 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
8. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
9. In 2019, this was due to political disruption. In 2020, this was due to COVID-19 closures and the decision to realign school terms. 'Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
10. A 2020 child protection assessment conducted by UNICEF in 16 states found a rise in child protection risks in the first half of 2020 compared with the same period in 2019, including a 24 per cent increase in child marriage (girls are more affected than boys) and a 35 per cent increase in child labour (boys are more affected than girls). According to the Family and Child protection Unit of the police, over 12,000 children reported having witnessed or experienced physical or disciplinary violence (30 per cent girls).
11. 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
12. Sudan Central Bureau of Statistics, February 2021. Devaluation of the Sudanese pound and the institution of a flexible managed float occurred 21 February 2021.
13. Sudan Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, July 2020.
14. 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
15. Sudan Federal Ministry of Health, 14/03/21.
16. 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
17. IOM; Displacement tracking matrix Ag Geneina, West Darfur 10/03/21.
18. UNHCR Sudan: Population Dashboard - Overview of Refugees and Asylum-seekers in Sudan (as of 31 March 2021).
19. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Population Dashboard and South Sudanese Refugees in Sudan Dashboard, both current to 28 February 2021.
20. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Ethiopia Emergency Situation Arrivals update, 9 March 2021.
21. 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
22. Ibid.
23. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
24. 'Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
25. Ibid.
26. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations, who have committed to getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.
27. UNICEF Sudan's direct areas of responsibility are: Khartoum, Red Sea, Kassala, Gedaref, Sennar, White Nile, Blue Nile, South, North and West Kordofan, North, South, East, West and Central Darfur.
28. This targets the total number of people to be reached provided on page 1, less those children under 5 years reached by integrated management of childhood illness as they are too young to be targeted by prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse activities.
29. This target has increased to accommodate for a change in measurement criteria, a previous target of 288 required all of the following criteria met to register results, whereas 2,434 requires only one criterion to be met. 1) have received COVID-19 kits; 2) trained teachers on Teacher Preparedness Training Programme (TPTP); 3) have functional WASH facilities; 4) have hygiene clubs; 5) apply physical distance; and 6) use masks.
30. This will assist the families of vulnerable children under 2 years targeted in the Mother and Child Transfer initiative in Red Sea and Kassala states. This is the first appearance of cash-based interventions in Sudan appeal and will likely be expanded in subsequent appeals as partner capacity is established.
31. This includes US\$1,747,451 for gender-based violence interventions.
32. The education budget has increased compared with 2020 because education targets have increased by 30 per cent. In addition to the regular activities normally planned by the education sector, in 2021, specific activities will be implemented to ensure back-to-learning and safe school operations amid the COVID-19 crisis. This includes more than US\$5 million for WASH in schools, teacher training and hygiene promotion activities in schools. Moreover, it's worth noting that the deteriorating economic situation and devaluation of the local currency in Sudan have led to higher costs.
33. The targets for SAM management and infant and young child feeding counselling are higher than in previous years (10 per cent increase compared with the 2020 targets). The 2021 budget has therefore also increased, taking into consideration that UNICEF Sudan is using the unit cost agreed with the nutrition cluster.
34. This figure was revised to align with the new HRP.
35. A 12 per cent increase in cost of intervention per child is primarily due to the inclusion of COVID-19 activities which were separated in the 2020 appeal and the addition of an Humanitarian Cash Transfers as part of the response in 2021.