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for every child

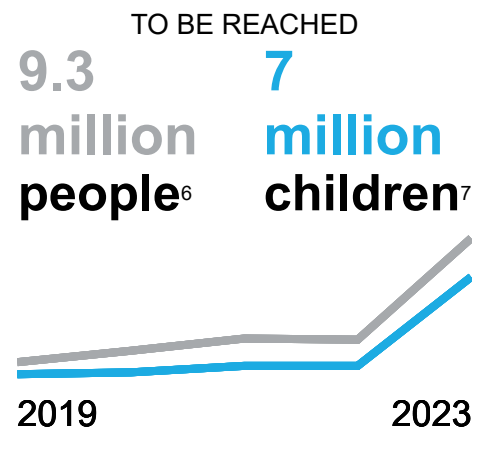
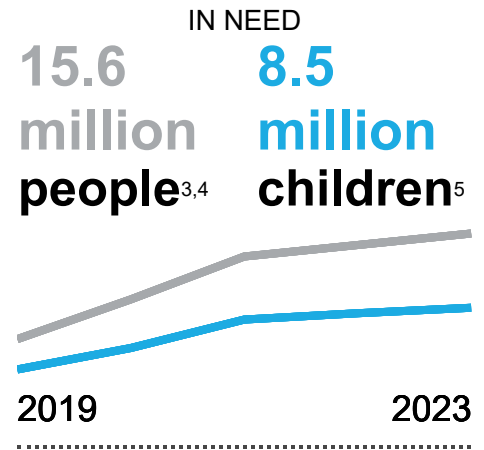
Humanitarian Action for Children

A child suffering from severe wasting with medical complications receives treatment in a UNICEF-supported stabilization centre in North Darfur, the Sudan.

Sudan

HIGHLIGHTS^{1,2}

- The Sudan continues to face extremely complex humanitarian crises, which have left 15.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 8.5 million children. A political impasse and civil unrest have persisted since a military coup in October 2021, and the economy and basic social services continue to deteriorate. A staggering 3.7 million people remain internally displaced and around 1 million refugees are living in the Sudan. Intercommunal violence, regional conflicts, wasting, climate-induced hazards and major epidemic outbreaks continue to affect children's lives and well-being.
- Heavy fighting that broke out on 15 April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), led by General Al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), is expected to significantly exacerbate the already fragile humanitarian situation in Sudan. The number of people internally displaced is predicted to increase in parallel with rising humanitarian needs (including health, nutrition, WASH and protection). The violence also coincides with the start of the lean season, which will last through August.
- UNICEF provides life-saving assistance to internally displaced people, refugees, host communities and other vulnerable groups. This work incorporates resilience, peacebuilding and multisectoral approaches, mainstreams gender considerations and strengthens systems and local capacities to enhancing resilience, sustainability and social cohesion.
- UNICEF requires US\$584.6 million to deliver life-saving child protection, education, health, nutrition, WASH and cash plus interventions designed to reduce maternal and infant mortality and malnutrition.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



550,400

children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



2.5 million

people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse



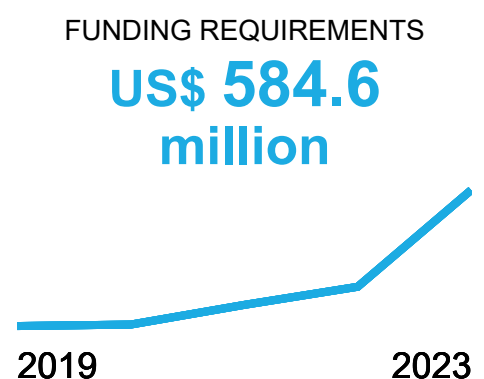
738,000

children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



2.5 million

people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The October 2021 military coup exacerbated the already complex humanitarian crisis in the Sudan. A staggering 3.7 million people remain internally displaced due to conflicts and environmental hazards in Blue Nile and all the Darfur and Kordofan States; while nearly 1 million people from neighbouring countries have sought refuge in the country. Areas including Jebel Marra and the Nuba Mountains are hard to reach due to conflicts, while other areas become routinely inaccessible due to insecurity and seasonal floods.

A political impasse and social unrest have persisted since the coup. A severe economic crisis and high inflation have triggered a wave of strikes, including among health sector staff and teachers, and this has further compromised basic social services that were already crumbling and further weakened by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Heavy fighting that broke out on 15 April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), led by General Al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), is expected to significantly exacerbate the already fragile humanitarian situation in Sudan. The number of people internally displaced is predicted to increase in parallel with rising humanitarian needs (including health, nutrition, WASH and protection). The violence also coincides with the start of the lean season, which will last through August.

The consequences for children living in this context are dire: 1 out of 18 children will not reach their fifth birthday. Recurrent disease outbreaks, including measles and malaria, continue to affect large numbers of children, while the routine immunization rate has rapidly fallen. Between 2019 and 2021 the number of children who have not received a single dose of life-saving vaccines doubled.

Sudan has one of the highest prevalence rates of malnutrition among children in the world. More than 3 million children are wasted, of whom 611,000 are severely wasted and at high risk of death. This number may further increase to 650,000 with the impact of 2022 dry spells, food ration cuts and rising food prices.

More than 200 hotspot sites in the Sudan experience recurrent conflicts and violence. Conflict and insecurity combined with economic crisis are making children more vulnerable due to negative coping mechanisms that include child marriage, school dropout, reduced food intake and increased forced recruitment and association with armed groups.

In addition, 11.5 million people (5.9 million females and 5.6 million males) are in need of urgent water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions. Out of 189 localities in the country, 151 face water scarcity that is at the crisis to critical level, and these localities are also highly susceptible to natural hazards, especially flooding. Such WASH-related diseases as diarrhoea and cholera remain a high risk due to lack of safe water and adequate sanitation.

Nearly 7 million school-age children (one in three) are out of school, and the remaining 12 million (6.2 million girls and 5.8 million boys) struggle to learn due to inadequate learning spaces and supplies, insufficient teacher capacity and pay and lack of other support, including for disabled children. Of those in school, 7 out of 10 cannot read and understand a simple sentence.

SECTOR NEEDS⁸



10.1 million
people in need of health assistance



4 million
people in need of nutrition assistance⁹



3.8 million
children in need of protection services



3.7 million
children in need of education support



11.5 million
people in need of WASH services

STORY FROM THE FIELD



About 3 million children under age 5 suffer from wasting in the Sudan. Of these, around 611,000 are suffering from severe wasting, the worst form of malnutrition. The effects of malnutrition on children last a lifetime and are irreversible. As food insecurity continues to rise, more children will be affected. UNICEF and partners are working together on prevention, early detection and treatment of malnutrition to save lives.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Israa Adam Ateem, 24 months, nibbles on ready-to-use-therapeutic food. She was admitted to the El Fasher stabilization centre in North Darfur, the Sudan, with severe wasting and medical complications.

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy is closely aligned with inter-agency, sectoral and government priorities to deliver timely, efficient and quality interventions. UNICEF leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and the education, nutrition and WASH sectors while playing a key role in the health sector, the gender-based violence subsector and the Refugee Consultation Forum. On behalf of the sectors, UNICEF procures and manages the pipeline of core supplies for management of severe wasting as well as the health and WASH contingency stocks for emergency response.

Given the recurrent crises, including climate hazards that are more and more unpredictable, and increasing vulnerabilities and weakened public sector services, UNICEF's priority remains enhancing and expanding life-saving prevention, preparedness and response interventions for natural and human-caused disasters, including epidemics. This includes preparedness and contingency planning, capacity building, stock pre-positioning and sustaining UNICEF-supported services as well as those delivered by other partners. By enhancing the linkages between humanitarian response, development programming and peacebuilding, UNICEF will ensure the delivery of timely life-saving and life-sustaining interventions to children before, during and after a crisis.

UNICEF will scale up life-saving interventions, including integrated nutrition services for prevention, early detection and treatment of child wasting, where the focus will be on children under age 2. UNICEF will also strengthen the public health system and access to health care and vaccinations. UNICEF is committed to protecting children's well-being through child-friendly spaces and protection responses for children affected by conflicts and crises. Equally important are retaining the most vulnerable children in learning in schools or through alternative physical or digital learning programmes and strengthening community and school-based emergency preparedness to enhance resilience.

Holding to the Grand Bargain commitments, UNICEF will enhance community-based interventions, especially in hard-to-reach areas, and implement risk-informed and conflict-sensitive programming to achieve equitable coverage of basic services. UNICEF will continue to work with local and national organizations, including women- and girl-led groups dedicated to responding to and preventing violence, abuse and exploitation. Given the worsening economic crisis and collapsing basic social services, UNICEF will scale up cash-based programming as a core element of humanitarian and resilience programming, responding to families' survival needs to prevent them from adopting harmful coping strategies and to contribute to the recovery of local economies.

In line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF will give particular consideration to gender and disability while enhancing accountability to affected populations. UNICEF will mainstream child-centred planning and gender-responsive preparedness into national planning while committing to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse through reporting mechanisms that include community engagement and mobilization platforms. UNICEF will also strengthen overall monitoring and evaluation for accountability and build on lessons learned.

The escalation of violence and perilous security situation across Sudan makes it very difficult to collect and verify information on the rapidly changing humanitarian situation. But while fighting continues, children will continue to be the most severely affected. With the situation worsening every day, safe access to, and provision of food, water, hygiene, and other essential supplies will be priorities. Increased protection needs will be prioritized as new displacements contribute to the already record level of those requiring humanitarian assistance.

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

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.



Health and nutrition

- **1,201,900** children vaccinated against measles¹¹
- **1,201,900** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities¹²
- **550,400** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment¹³
- **6,265,600** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **1,724,600** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

- **406,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **76,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **2,500,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations¹⁴
- **15,230** unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified



Education

- **738,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **738,000** children receiving individual learning materials



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **2,500,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **100,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **2,000,000** people reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes



Social protection

- **250,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- **803,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services
- **803,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

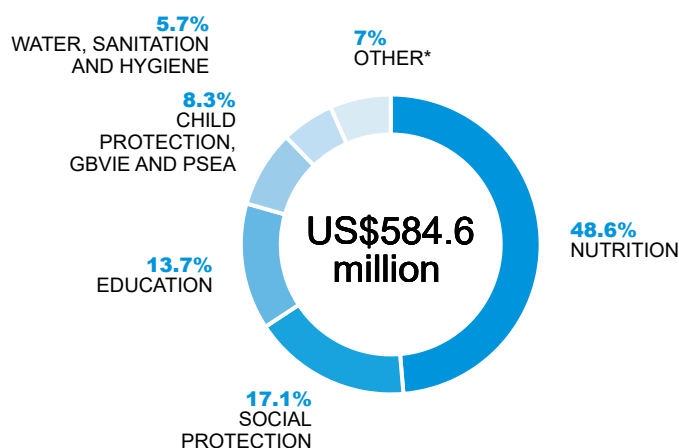
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

Before the conflict erupted, humanitarian needs across Sudan had reached record levels, with 15.8 million people—about a third of the total population—requiring humanitarian assistance, according to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO).

Donors who wish to contribute to the Sudan response can do so against this Sudan 2023 HAC requiring US\$584.6 million for 2023. The additional humanitarian needs arising from the recent conflict will be thoroughly assessed as soon as the situation allows, and the Sudan 2023 HAC will be updated accordingly. Pre-escalation of conflict, UNICEF required funding to support more than 7 million of the most vulnerable children in the Sudan - and a total of 9.3 million people altogether - with child protection, education, health, nutrition, social protection and WASH services and cash plus interventions. UNICEF will also ensure gender considerations are mainstreamed in all interventions as a priority.

The increase in requirements compared with 2022 is partly due to the need for US\$285 million to significantly scale up of the treatment of children who are severely wasted, of whom only half are currently treated. Additionally, US\$100 million is designated for 250,000 households to receive mother and child cash transfers through the mother and child cash transfer plus programme. This initiative applies a resilience lens to support vulnerable children, women and their families with cash and various services as a way to reduce malnutrition and maternal and infant mortality.

The Sudan is going through a critical period of sociopolitical transition while facing multiple humanitarian crisis. Without timely and flexible funding and interventions, the cycle of protracted humanitarian crises, recurrent conflicts, displacements, disease outbreaks and inadequate basic social services will have devastating - and lifelong - effects on Sudanese and refugee children living in the country. Support now is a cost-effective investment that will pay dividends for decades to come. More than ever, flexible resources are needed to allow interventions in all critical need areas, including in acute emergencies.



Sector	2023 requirements (US\$)
Health	32,800,000
Nutrition	284,400,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	48,600,000
Education	79,800,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	33,400,000
Social protection	100,000,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	5,600,000
Total	584,600,000

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Health (5.6%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (<1%).

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ENDNOTES

1. COVID-19 remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as declared by the World Health Organization in January 2020. On 1 July 2022, UNICEF deactivated its Level 3 Sustained Phase for the global COVID-19 pandemic response. All activities related to COVID-19 pandemic response, including programme targets and funding requirements, have been shifted into regular development programming and operations. While UNICEF's Level 3 emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was deactivated, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, their families and their communities and on the social systems they rely on.
2. Mother and child cash transfer plus is UNICEF Sudan's flagship resilience programme. It targets vulnerable mothers with cash for health and nutrition services and aims to prevent moderate and severe wasting and reduce maternal and infant mortality.
3. The people in need figure is based on the draft 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview for the Sudan and does not include additional people in need due to escalation of violence. The people in need figure includes vulnerable residents, internally displaced people, refugees and returnees. Food insecurity, dry spells and economic crisis have resulted in an increase in people in need in the food and WASH sectors, leading to an increase in the overall number of people in need compared with 2022.
4. 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.
5. The number of children in need is calculated as 55 per cent of people in need, based on the draft 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview for the Sudan.
6. People to be reached is calculated based on the highest targeted indicator for each demographic group: 6,265,600 children under age 5 are targeted for mid-upper arm circumference screening; 738,200 school-age children are targeted with education/learning material; 1,724,600 women are targeted with infant and young child feeding interventions and 550,000 men are targeted with WASH interventions. The total number of people to be reached includes 58 per cent women/girls and 15 per cent people/children with disabilities.
7. Children to be reached is calculated based on the highest targeted indicator for each demographic group: 6,265,600 children under age 5 are targeted for mid-upper arm circumference screening; and 738,200 school-age children are targeted with education/learning material. The total number of children to be reached includes 54 per cent girls and 15 per cent children with disabilities.
8. All sector needs are based on the draft 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview for the Sudan and include vulnerable residents, internally displaced people, refugees and returnees.
9. While in 2022 the Sudan witnessed many conditions that are likely to negatively affect the nutrition status of women and children, the number of people in need for the nutrition sector remained at the same level as in 2022. This is largely due to lack of comprehensive and up-to-date information. The sector has been heavily reliant on the Simple Spatial Survey method (S3M) results from 2018, with a 10 per cent adjustment to account for deteriorating conditions. For 2023, eight localities' S3M results were replaced with the results from the SMART surveys that were conducted in 2022. Four of these indicated an improved nutrition situation and four reported deterioration. The decrease in severe wasting prevalence in some of the recent SMART surveys, and not adjusting with a 10 per cent increase in the 8 localities, resulted in a slight decrease in people in need with severe wasting with or without medical complications as well as those with moderate wasting, compared with 2022 (with decreases ranging from 2-9 per cent). Three reasons might explain the resulting decrease in the number of people in need with severe wasting: First: A significant drop in wasting prevalence in three SMART surveys resulted in a drop in the people in need who experience severe wasting from 7,516 (2022) to 1,112 (2023), and in another from 9,585 to 3,014. Second: There is no 10 per cent adjustment in the localities with recent SMART surveys results. And third: The increased complementarity of outpatient therapeutic programmes and targeted supplementary feeding programme coverage, including in the assessed localities, may have contributed to the drop in severe wasting prevalence, given the dual role of targeted supplementary feeding programmes in treating moderate wasting and protecting such cases from sliding into severe wasting. These are not perfect data, and the sector is advocating for more SMART surveys to support evidence-based strategy and interventions.
10. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. All cluster coordinator costs are included in sectoral programme budgets.
11. The target is 70 per cent of children under age 5 (17 per cent of population/people in need).
12. The target is 70 per cent of children under age 5 (17 per cent of population/people in need).
13. Ninety per cent of severe wasting caseload (611,000, based on the draft 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview for the Sudan).
14. The highest target for programme interventions (people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic use).