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for every child

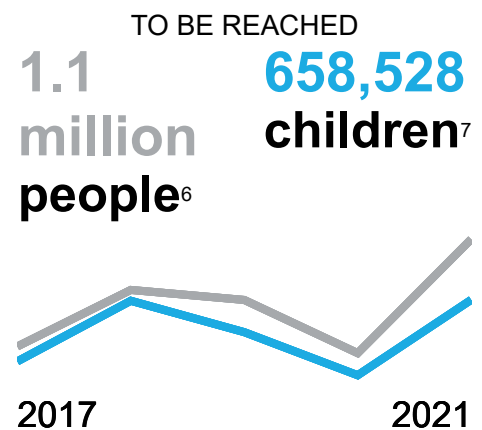
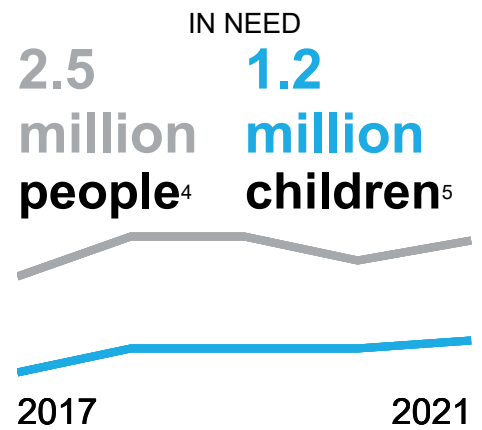
Humanitarian Action for Children

Six-year-old Amira standing in front of a classroom used by her family as a shelter in the Gaza Strip in May 2021 as conflict escalated between the State of Palestine and Israel.

State of Palestine

HIGHLIGHTS

- Currently, 2.5 million people, including 1.2 million children¹, living in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), need humanitarian aid.
- Accessing essential services is increasingly becoming more difficult due to the impact of protracted conflict, frequent escalations of violence, the COVID-19 pandemic, a deepening financial crisis, and ongoing political divisions.
- As a direct result of the May 2021 escalation in hostilities between the State of Palestine and Israel, 1.3² million people, including nearly 611,000³ children, were left facing new challenges in accessing basic services.
- UNICEF requires US \$46.2 million until the end of 2021 to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs of 1 million people, including 658,000 children, through the provision of life-saving services and supplies in the sectors of health, nutrition, WASH, education, and child protection.
- UNICEF aims to reach over 658,000 children with life-saving services in health, nutrition, and WASH. UNICEF also aims to provide 55,000 children with safe access to quality and inclusive learning during the summer months. In child protection, UNICEF aims to support 32,552 children with psychosocial support, specialized case management, legal aid, counseling, and child cash grants in the Gaza Strip.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



811,731
people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



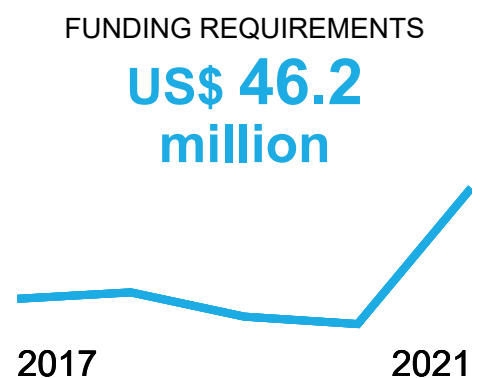
32,550
children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education/survivor interventions



60,000
children receiving individual learning materials



4.5 million
people reached through messaging on access to services



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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Currently, 2.5 million people, including 1.2 million children, living in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), need humanitarian assistance. The humanitarian situation deteriorated recently with the rise of tensions and escalation of hostilities in Gaza in May 2021 and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Compounding the situation is the deepening financial crisis, ongoing political divisions, and protracted political conflict that has left Palestinians vulnerable to violence and lacking access to essential basic services.

During the recent escalation of hostilities in May, more than 290 WASH⁸ facilities were damaged, reducing water access for the population by at least 50 percent⁹. In the Gaza Strip, 1.3¹⁰ million people currently have limited access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene items. Health services were also highly impacted, with 33 health facilities damaged during the conflict. This, combined with an increase in COVID-19 cases, has overwhelmed the capacity of functioning health facilities, leaving an estimated 1.2 million people¹¹ in Gaza in need of emergency health care services.

In May, an estimated 2,000 housing units¹² were destroyed or damaged beyond repair, rendering thousands of families displaced. Contamination of explosive remnants of war exacerbated the security situation for people already living in affected areas in Gaza. Prolonged exposure to violence has traumatized additional children who require mental health and psychosocial support. An estimated 692,660¹³ children are currently in need of protection services.

Children's education has been highly affected extended closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the shortage of adequate infrastructure resulting in reduced hours of learning, double shifts, and extended power cuts. As a result of the May escalation in hostilities, 154 public and private schools and 80 kindergartens were damaged¹⁴. The new school year begins in August, and 612,985¹⁵ children urgently require support to enable them to safely return to learning.

The closure of Gaza to "dual-use" items has meant that the transfer of essential goods, including fuel, chemicals, and construction material, is severely constrained, affecting rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of vital civilian infrastructure, including schools, houses, and health facilities.

SECTOR NEEDS



Water, sanitation and hygiene

1.6 million people need WASH services¹⁶



Health and nutrition

1.5 million people need health assistance¹⁷



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

2.1 million children need child protection services¹⁸



Education

612,985 children in need of education services¹⁹

STORY FROM THE FIELD



UNICEF operates an increasing number of community-based Family Centers in the Gaza Strip. The centers offer integrated psychosocial support, life skills, and other child protection services to boys, girls, and their families affected by conflict, displacement, violence, insecurity, and social issues. The Family Centers are essential help to build resilience in children.

"I hated night-time so much because the bombing happens at night. Bombs fall on the heads of people in their homes. The airplane bombard randomly because they don't see in the dark." says 10-year-old Ahmad, one of the children attending a Family Centre in the Gaza Strip.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Ten-year-old Ahmad during a session for children in a UNICEF-supported family center in the Gaza Strip.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy in the State of Palestine focuses on making sure that no child is left behind. As part of efforts to link humanitarian and development programmes, UNICEF aims to strengthen the capacities of national actors to support essential service delivery, including in emergencies. UNICEF's programmes prioritize gender, disability and the needs of adolescents and youth while mainstreaming Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP). In addition, UNICEF works to preposition essential emergency supplies in preparedness efforts for rapid response to future emergency humanitarian situations.

UNICEF leads the WASH cluster, co-lead the education cluster together with Save the Children, and leads the child protection and nutrition working groups. Furthermore, UNICEF delivers humanitarian assistance in partnership with line ministries, civil society organizations, the private sector, and in close collaboration with sister UN agencies. For example, UNICEF has contributed to developing the Gaza post-conflict Rapid Damage Needs Assessment in partnership with the UN, the World Bank, and the European Union.

In health and Nutrition, UNICEF will reach more than 60,000 children under five, with health and nutrition interventions. UNICEF will also support the Ministry of Health and partners to ensure the continuation of health care services focusing on systems strengthening and early interventions for children and high-risk pregnant and lactating women. In partnership with WHO, national authorities and others, UNICEF continues to provide logistics and procurement services for the COVAX facility delivering COVID-19 vaccines to the country and working to ensure the country is ready to receive and administer the vaccines. UNICEF, together with authorities, leads the national Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) response which aims to promote vaccination, use of protective equipment such as masks, and other activities.. UNICEF's WASH response aims to provide access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene by undertaking repairs and restoration, providing supplies, equipment, and training.

Within the education response, UNICEF supports the safe return of students and teachers to schools by facilitating the implementation of COVID-19 safe school protocols for infection prevention and control. In addition, UNICEF continues to prioritize and strengthen child protection systems, promote access to comprehensive gender-based violence services, and support Palestinian authorities to operationalize their COVID-19 mitigation and emergency response plans.

Through the National Cash Transfer Programme, UNICEF is scaling up shock-responsive social protection mechanisms with the Ministry of Social Development and other partners to support vulnerable households that have been highly impacted by the pandemic and conflict.

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

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition²⁰

- **67,200** children under 5 receiving targeted health and nutrition interventions



Health²¹

- **259,280** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **10,500** neonates receiving quality healthcare services in Neonatal Intensive Care Units



Water, sanitation and hygiene²²

- **811,731** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **514,000** people accessing improved emergency sanitation, solid waste or hygiene services
- **50,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items), cash assistance and services



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA^{23,24}

- **32,550** children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions
- **3,557** people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse²⁵
- **32,550** children accessing child protection services, including mental health, psychosocial support, and gender-based violence risk mitigation and prevention interventions.



Social protection and cash transfers

- **1,000** households benefitting from new or additional emergency social assistance measures to respond to COVID-19
- **9,000** conflict affected children reached with emergency cash transfer and complementary MHPSS interventions



Education

- **60,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **51,900** children provided with safe access to learning
- **307,516** children and school staff benefiting from the provision of hygiene kits to prevent spread of COVID-19 infection.



C4D, community engagement and AAP

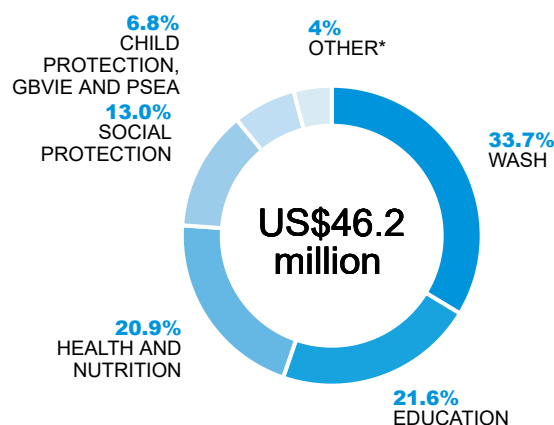
- **4,500,000** people reached with messages on access to services²⁶
- **50,000** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change
- **100,000** people who shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

In 2021, UNICEF requires US\$46.2 million to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to 1.1 million people, including 658,000 children in the State of Palestine.

This revised appeal includes UNICEF's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and response to the impact of the May 2021 escalation of hostilities between the State of Palestine and Israel.

Without these flexible funds, UNICEF would be unable to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs, support the country's nationwide response to ongoing crises and contribute to building the resilience of communities and strengthening the national systems. For example, 9,000 conflict-affected children will not receive emergency cash transfers, 33 thousand children will not benefit from mental health and psychosocial support interventions. Furthermore, UNICEF and partners will not be able to continue providing life-saving, sustainable water, sanitation services for over 811 thousand people, support a safe return to schools for over 307 thousand children, and undertake emergency repairs of the 13 health facilities and 46 schools.



Appeal sector	Revised 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	9,634,392
WASH	15,562,954
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	3,153,551
Education	9,965,396
Social Protection	5,992,311
C4D	755,787 ²⁷
Cluster coordination	1,138,310
Total	46,202,701

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Cluster coordination (2.5%), C4D (1.6%).

Appeal sector	Original 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2021 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	2021 funding gap (%)
Health and nutrition	4,295,778	9,634,392	3,985,778	5,648,614	58.6%
WASH	10,034,203	15,562,954	1,610,914	13,952,040	89.6%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	1,852,777	3,153,551	1,551,080	1,602,471	50.8%
Education	3,900,000	9,965,396	2,049,646	7,915,750	79.4%
Social Protection	250,000	5,992,311	-	5,992,311	100.0%
C4D	450,000	755,787 ²⁷	450,000	305,787	40.5%
Cluster coordination	802,818	1,138,310	442,531	695,779	61.1%
Total	21,585,576	46,202,701	10,089,949	36,112,752	78.2%

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ENDNOTES

1. Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs, State of Palestine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, December 2020
2. Escalation of Hostilities and Unrest in the oPt, Flash Appeal May 2021.
3. 2017 Results of the Population, Housing and Establishments Census by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistic indicate that 47% of the population are children under the age of 18.
4. Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs, State of Palestine: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, December 2020.
5. Ibid.
6. This is calculated using the highest coverage of WASH programme (811,731) , the child protection target in the West Bank based on indicator "children accessing child protection services, including mental health, psychosocial support, and gender-based violence risk mitigation and prevention interventions" (250 children) and education target in the West Bank based on the indicator "number of children and school staff benefiting from the provision of hygiene kits to prevent spread of COVID-19 infection". Gender disaggregation is as follows: 50.9 % male, 49.1% female and 5.8% children leaving with disability and difficulties as per 2017 Palestinian Census.
7. This is calculated using the highest coverage programme target of children to be reached within WASH programme indicator # of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene (47% of 811,731 people = 381,396 children); highest education target which is children and school staff benefiting from the provision of hygiene kits to prevent spread of COVID-19 infection (90% of 307,516 are children = 276,764), and children accessing child protection services, including mental health, psychosocial support, and gender-based violence risk mitigation and prevention interventions (250 children). Gender disaggregation is as follows; 50.9 % boys, 49.1% girls and 5.8% children leaving with disability as per 2017 Palestinian Census.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. WASH Sector Assessment, May-June 2021 available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Gaza%20WASH%20sector%20damage%20assessment.pdf>
11. Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs, State of Palestine: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, December 2020.
12. Escalation of Hostilities and Unrest in the oPt, Flash Appeal, May 2021.
13. Child protection sector estimate June 2021.
14. Education Sector Assessment May, June 2021.
15. Escalation of Hostilities and Unrest in the oPt, Flash Appeal, May 2021.
16. State of Palestine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview.
17. Escalation of Hostilities and Unrest in the oPt, Flash Appeal, May 2021.
18. State of Palestine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview.
19. Escalation of Hostilities and Unrest in the oPt, Flash Appeal, May 2021.
20. The Nutrition Working group has only just recently been established under the Health cluster, co led by UNICEF. During 2021, UNICEF will be working on expanding this group and its members.
21. Health interventions have shifted towards more specialized services and damaged infrastructure rehabilitation which results in a higher cost per beneficiary and thus reduced targets. In addition, funding for some of the health projects is coming through development channels (e.g. for health systems strengthening).
22. The HAC is in alignment with the HRP 2021 and the Escalation of Hostilities and Unrest in the oPt 2021 which has moved towards more infrastructure-based interventions and rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructure, hence higher cost per beneficiary and lower results.
23. The HAC is in alignment with the 2021 HRP and the Escalation of Hostilities and Unrest in the oPt 2021. The targets for very much needed psychosocial activities are low given the limited capacities of child protection partners. Therefore, UNICEF and Child Protection Working Group partners are focusing on reaching those with acute humanitarian needs during 2021 while some of the gap will be covered by the education sector through psychosocial activities in the schools and summer programmes. In 2021 UNICEF will continue to build and expand the essential capacities of partners.
24. Child protection services include gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and response. Gender-based violence activities are reflected in the following indicators: children accessing child protection services including mental health and psychosocial support, children affected by conflict related violence and violence in households benefiting from specialized individual case management and persons (women, girls, men and boys) participating in child protection, GBV awareness raising sessions.
25. While the results to be achieved within the PSEA are reflected in the Child Protection section, this essential requirement is mainstreamed across all programmes. An estimated US\$400,000 is budgeted under the Child Protection sector for PSEA.
26. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
27. The increase in budget while the target remains the same is due to the increased scope of C4D interventions with specific focus on personal prevention activities and the promotion of vaccination.