



Nara, 8 years old, read text during a class in one of the marginalized schools supported by UNICEF in the West Bank.

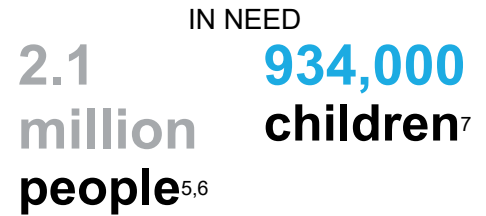
unicef   
for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

# State of Palestine

### HIGHLIGHTS<sup>1</sup>

- In the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem, around 2.1 million people need humanitarian assistance,<sup>2</sup> among them 934,000 children.<sup>3</sup> The situation in the State of Palestine remains a protracted protection crisis, exacerbated by the May 2021 escalation, closure of the Gaza Strip, the COVID-19 pandemic, a deepening financial and fiscal crisis within the Palestinian economy, and a surge in commodities prices due to the economic impact of Ukraine conflict.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2022, the continuous conflict-related violence, including grave violations, has seriously impacted Palestinian children's rights and well-being.
- UNICEF continues to address humanitarian and recovery needs resulting from the May 2021 escalation, support COVID-19 response, expand services for vulnerable groups and enhance the capacities of shock-responsive social protection mechanisms, linking humanitarian to development efforts.
- In 2022, UNICEF is requesting US\$39 million to ensure 732,000 people have access to safe water, 108,000 children and women have access to primary healthcare, 38,800 children and caregivers access mental health and psychosocial services, and 60,000 children receive learning materials.



### KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**185,000**

children and women accessing health care



**732,000**

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



**29,000**

children/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support



**60,000**

children receiving individual learning materials



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$ 39 million**



## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

More than 2.1 million people, including 934,000 children in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are increasingly vulnerable due to a protracted protection crisis in the State of Palestine. The protracted protection crisis has a significant humanitarian impact and is characterized by more than 55 years of military occupation, 15 years of closure of the Gaza Strip, internal political divide, and recurrent escalations of hostilities. COVID-19 has further exacerbated the situation.

With the impact of 2021 tension and escalation, the humanitarian situation deteriorated further. In the first half of 2022, the continues conflict-related violence, including grave violations of children's rights, has continued to impact the rights and well-being of Palestinian children. Between January and June, 15 children were killed, and at least 517 reported injured in conflict-related violence,<sup>11</sup> with nearly all violence occurring in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. At least 330 children were arrested in East Jerusalem<sup>12</sup>, 491 people, including 232 children, were displaced due to the demolition of 383 Palestinian-owned structures in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Access to basic services or livelihoods of another 15,512 people, including 6,901 children, mostly in Area C, was affected.<sup>13</sup> A further 1,144 Palestinians, including 569 children, are at imminent risk of forcible transfer in Masafer Yatta and Area C.<sup>14</sup>

Price monitoring reports indicated increase in cost of food<sup>15</sup>, agricultural inputs, WASH, and education-related items due to the economic impact of Ukraine's conflict.<sup>16</sup>

The consequences of COVID-19, the recurrent conflict-related violence, and the increased cost of living associated with the impact of Ukraine's conflict severely impact children's well-being and increase the risks of negative coping mechanisms, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Approximately 90 per cent of Palestinian children face some form of violent discipline at home,<sup>17</sup> including 20.1 per cent subjected to severe physical violence from their caregivers. Around 678,000 children (332,200 girls) require child protection and Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, as do 185,000 caregivers (137,000 in Gaza Strip).<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, 10.3 per cent of children are engaged in child labour,<sup>19</sup> including hazardous labour.<sup>20</sup>

It's estimated that 579,173 Palestinians (56 per cent women and girls),<sup>21</sup> including around 13,398 children with disabilities, will be deprived of access to learning in 2022.<sup>22</sup>

Health services were also overstretched and disrupted, leaving an estimated 1.5 million people with limited access to primary healthcare (700,000 children).<sup>23</sup>

Moreover, insufficient water supply to households, poor sanitation, limited public WASH services, and risk of flooding place 1.36 million Palestinians at risk of waterborne diseases.<sup>24</sup>

An estimated 8,000 households will fall into poverty in 2022, which calls for enhanced humanitarian and social protection response.<sup>25,26</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



## SECTOR NEEDS



**1.5 million**  
people need health  
assistance<sup>27</sup>



**1.4 million**  
people need WASH  
services<sup>28</sup>



**1.8 million**  
people need  
protection services<sup>29</sup>



**579,173**  
people (96% children)  
in need of education  
service<sup>30</sup>

Child-focused cash assistance enabled vulnerable children in the Gaza Strip to meet their basic needs and promotes behavioral change on child rights and well-being, such as COVID-19 vaccination and the elimination of violence against children. Household eligibility for this programme is based on child vulnerability. In the first year of the programme nearly 4,300 girls and boys from 1,160 poor and vulnerable households affected by the May 2021 escalation benefited from the cash assistance.

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

Families being supported are those with damaged homes or living below the poverty line and are receiving cash payments depending on the number of children in the household.



In 2022, the Education programme will help children and teachers access a safe learning environment and quality learning through rehabilitating schools, providing learning materials, after-school interventions, teachers' training, and implementing protocols to prevent further COVID-19 infections.

In collaboration with the Palestinian Water Authority and the Coastal Municipality Water Utility, UNICEF will continue restoring WASH infrastructure impacted during May 2021 escalation as well as by the recurrent evictions in the West Bank while increasing access to gender-sensitive and disability-friendly water supply and sanitation services at facilities and household levels. UNICEF will also provide hygiene supplies to vulnerable households through the e-voucher system as part of the COVID-19 infection prevention and hygiene promotion response. Flood preparedness and response and flood mitigation measures will also be supported.

In collaboration with partners, UNICEF will strengthen health and nutrition services by procuring essential medical supplies, micronutrient supplements, and medical equipment. It will also build health professionals' capacity to diagnose and treat the most vulnerable children and their caregivers.

The humanitarian cash transfer response plans to reach children in the Gaza Strip affected by the May 2021 escalation, linking them to other basic social services within the humanitarian-development nexus approach and strengthening the system for shock-responsive social protection.

Overall, UNICEF aims to deliver integrated life-saving basic services for the most vulnerable children and their families and continue promoting and protecting children's rights by generating evidence on the impact of violence and grave violations and advocating with all parties to prevent and end violence. UNICEF will also increase its emergency preparedness considering the high risk of future escalation and hostilities.

In line with the humanitarian-development nexus, UNICEF will strengthen the Government's systems to increase their level of preparedness while mainstreaming the 'building back better' approach throughout the interventions.

UNICEF will further enhance community engagement and consultation and build community-level resilience through social and behavior change approaches. Priority will be given to gender, disability, adolescent and youths' needs, and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) will be mainstreamed throughout the interventions.

In keeping with the needs identified by the child protection area of responsibility, UNICEF will address the critical protection needs of children and children with disabilities and their caregivers by supporting access to MHPSS interventions.

UNICEF will continue leading the WASH cluster, the child protection and nutrition working groups, co-lead the education cluster with Save the Children and spearhead the risk communication and community engagement efforts while coordinating and collaborating with line ministries, non-governmental organizations, and other United Nations agencies to ensure synergies and smooth response.



## Nutrition

- **1,000** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment



## Health

- **185,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **10,000** neonates accessing secondary life-saving health care services



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **732,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs
- **365,000** people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities
- **187,000** children accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning and health facilities and safe spaces
- **200,000** people benefited from flooding events mitigation measures



## Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **29,000** children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **293,000** people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers<sup>35</sup>
- **3,000** children who have received individual case management
- **500** children affected by grave violations or ill treatment who receive legal assistance



## Education

- **60,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **43,500** children and adolescents participating in after-school interventions and/or summer activities to support their well being
- **26,500** children provided with safe access to learning.
- **5,300** children benefiting from remedial education services and learning support



## Social protection

- **2,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers across sectors



## Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)

- **2,100,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services<sup>36</sup>
- **2,100,000** people engaged in risk communication and community engagement actions
- **186,000** people with access to established accountability mechanisms
- **2,100,000** children, youth, and caregivers reached with social and behaviour change programme addressing stigma and school and domestic violence against children

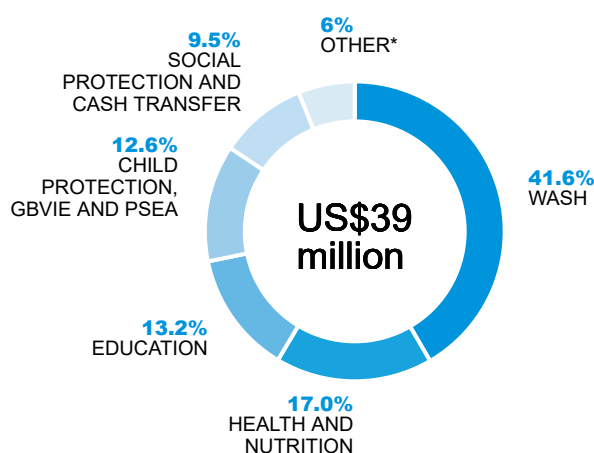
## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2022

In 2022, UNICEF requires US\$39 million to respond to the humanitarian needs of children and their families. This funding will cover newly identified gaps while further expanding ongoing interventions and strengthening partners' capacities, including the Government and communities, to increase their preparedness and build community resilience to face additional shocks. UNICEF will be able to support newly identified priorities, including WASH in institutions, as well as cover existing gaps in life-saving health and nutrition services for vulnerable children and their caregivers.

Funding needs for the child protection sector have increased compared to 2021, which, if not met, will impede an adequate response to burgeoning mental health needs and result in an increase in mental health disorders and a sense of helplessness and loss of hope among the most vulnerable children. Education remains a priority for UNICEF despite the budget decrease, and increased programmatic convergence and partnerships will be sought to achieve more significant and sustainable results. The increase in the cross-sectoral programme budget will support behavior change results and strengthen accountability to affected populations.

Furthermore, there is a drop between the original and the updated required amount in the 2022 HAC with around US\$500,000. For instance, Health required amount has increased around 0.2 per cent and Child Protection needs have increased by 16.6 per cent. Whereas, Education needs decreased around 2.8 per cent. Also, UNICEF has introduced Evaluation interventions in the revised 2022 HAC. This will allow to record lessons learned and good practices, success and identify critical priorities for the upcoming period, UNICEF requires \$194,189 to implement these interventions.

Finally, the changes in financial needs and figures between the original and the updated 2022 HAC is due to the updated needs and programme priorities. The new HAC 2022 figures are aligned to the finalized HRP and HNO 2022.



\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Cross-sectoral (2.9%), Cluster coordination (2.7%), Evaluation (<1%).

Appeal sector	Revised 2022 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	6,613,000
WASH	16,230,057
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	4,919,954 <sup>37</sup>
Education	5,152,800
Cross-sectoral	1,150,000
Cluster coordination	1,040,000
Social Protection and cash transfer	3,700,000
Evaluation	194,189
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,000,000</b>

Appeal sector	Original 2022 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2022 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	2022 funding gap (%)
Health and nutrition	6,608,880	6,613,000	725,914	5,887,086	89.0%
WASH	16,230,057	16,230,057	975,847	15,254,210	94.0%
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	4,212,000	4,919,954 <sup>37</sup>	873,982	4,045,972	82.2%
Education	5,306,348	5,152,800	2,264,461	2,888,339	56.1%
Cross-sectoral	1,404,000	1,150,000	100,000	1,050,000	91.3%
Cluster coordination	1,234,215	1,040,000	298,837	741,163	71.3%
Social Protection and cash transfer	4,504,500	3,700,000	1,036,773	2,663,227	72.0%
Evaluation	-	194,189	-	194,189	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,500,000</b>	<b>39,000,000</b>	<b>6,275,814</b>	<b>32,724,186</b>	<b>83.9%</b>

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## ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF's public health and socioeconomic COVID-19 response, including programme targets and funding requirements, is integrated into the standalone country, multi-country and regional Humanitarian Action for Children appeals. All interventions related to accelerating equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines fall under the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) global appeal.
2. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 'State of Palestine: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, December 2021.
3. Ibid.
4. Cash Working Group - Palestine, Monthly Price Monitoring, April - June 2022
5. Ibid.
6. The precise Multi-Sectoral Need estimate of needs conducted in late 2021 has resulted in a decrease in the 2022 PIN by 300,000 compared with 2021. The reduced PIN is not indicative of a reduction in needs; on the contrary, the socio-economic situation on the ground has deteriorated in 2021 due to the sustained impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, exacerbated by the escalation of hostilities and unrest across SoP in May 2021, deepening the severity of humanitarian needs.
7. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 'State of Palestine: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, December 2021.
8. This is calculated using the highest target in Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem, (in this case, WASH programme indicator of number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic use). Gender disaggregation is as follows: 50.9 per cent male, 49.1 per cent female, and 5.8 per cent people living with disability and difficulties as per the 2017 Palestinian Census.
9. 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.
10. This figure is calculated based on the percentage of children in the State of Palestine. The percentage of children in Palestine is around 49%.
11. Protection of Civilians Report: 14-27 June 2022, OCHA, July 2022; and Data on Casualties, CHA, accessed 05 July 2022.
12. Data from partners providing child protection services to detained children, up to 31 May 2022.
13. Data on Demolition and Displacement, UN-OCHA, accessed 05 July 2022.
14. Masafer Yatta Palestinians at increased risk since court ruling, Statement of Humanitarian Coordinator a.i., 23 June 2022.
15. It is to note that an estimated 95 per cent of wheat needs are imported in the State of Palestine and one-third of that proportion is from Ukraine. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/chloesorvino/2022/04/13/palestinians-could-run-out-of-wheat-reserves-in-three-weeks-in-ripple-effect-of-ukraine-war/?sh=734eeddc53e9>
16. Cash Working Group - Palestine, Monthly Price Monitoring, April - June 2022
17. Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-2020 (MICS), Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics, 2021, Chapter 9.2. The figure includes any form of physical discipline as well as psychological aggression.
18. Ibid.
19. MICS, 2021, Chapter 9.3
20. With boys twice as likely as girls to be engaged in child labour and six times as likely to be working under dangerous conditions.
21. 96 per cent school-aged children and nearly 74 per cent live in the Gaza Strip.
22. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 'State of Palestine: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, December 2021.
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid.
25. Programme targets are now aligned with the 2022 HRP (finalized in Dec 2021).
26. This includes an estimated 7,000 children in families whose homes were partially or entirely damaged.
27. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 'State of Palestine: 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, December 2021.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid.
31. UNICEF will support children and adolescents with after-school interventions including summer activities and remedial education services to support their well-being and address learning losses.
32. UNICEF's approach to Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN) places an emphasis on a number of key initiatives, which include strengthening systems, developing risk-informed programmes, engaging community participation, planning and preparing for emergencies, fostering partnerships and mobilizing vital resources. UNICEF's approach also stems from the basis that programme should be designed and delivered in a more complementary manner to respond earlier and more effectively to immediate needs while, at the same time, addressing vulnerabilities and building resilience to ensure long-term progress and impact.
33. UNICEF leads cluster coordination for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters and the child protection area of responsibility.
34. Evaluation of UNICEF's interventions will allow to record lessons learned, good practices, and identify critical priorities for the upcoming period
35. UNICEF is strengthening accountability to affected populations (AAP) and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in programmes by systematizing commitments in agreements with all implementing partners. All UNICEF partners have been assessed on their risk to SEA and given access to a capacity-building programme, which is continuous this year. UNICEF is implementing a project to strengthen the capacity building of 12 national NGOs on AAP & PSEA. The work includes the development of AAP & PSEA Context Analysis, capacity building, and AAP/ PSEA system strengthening. UNICEF SoP has also initiated a new project to digitalize AAP-PSEA mechanisms in the country office. UNICEF has expanded support to the SAWA hotline to be able to handle SEA claims at the inter-agency level, which includes referral of claims among agencies. Awareness and communication actions have started to progressively publicize the PSEA system and the right of affected populations to complain.
36. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
37. This includes US\$84,240 for PSEA activities.