



"Don't waste water!" Children exhibit their art project with this written on its front to raise awareness of climate change, in a UNICEF-supported summer camp in Fayoum Governorate, Upper Egypt.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Middle East and North Africa Region

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- In the Middle East and North Africa, protracted conflicts, climate change and social and natural hazards continue to threaten the lives and well-being of children. Consequently, 50 million children,² including 6.4 million refugees³ and approximately 6.4 million internally displaced children,⁴ are in need of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF prioritizes meeting the immediate needs of 18.7 million of the most vulnerable children⁵ in the region.
- UNICEF will support risk-informed responses linking disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation with anticipatory action⁶ and emergency preparedness. It will build inclusive systems and support cash-based solutions, promote child-centred and conflict-sensitive approaches, mainstream gender and gender-based violence and integrate sexual exploitation and abuse prevention and mitigation in its response.
- UNICEF requires US\$51.8 million⁷ to support its humanitarian action in the region and to meet the needs of 3.7 million vulnerable people (including more than 2.7 million children) in the three countries of Algeria, Djibouti and Egypt⁸ without standalone appeals covered in this regional appeal.

IN NEED⁹



71.8 million people in need of health and nutrition assistance



29.3 million children in need of protection services



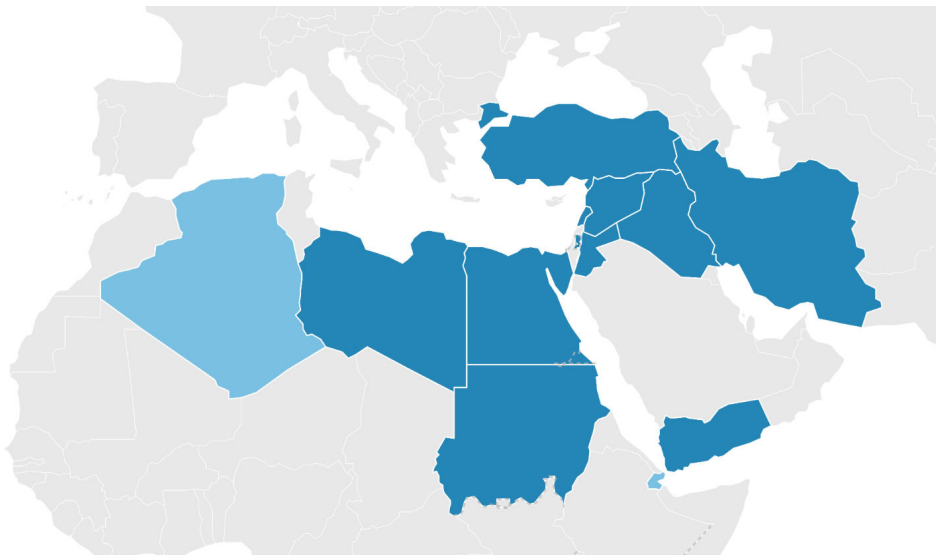
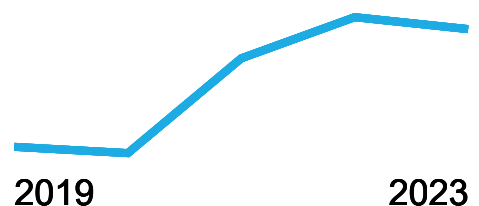
24.9 million children in need of education support



50.4 million people lack access to safe water

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 51.8 million



This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The countries in light blue are embedded in this regional appeal. The countries in dark blue have corresponding standalone appeals or are covered under crisis appeals.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

In the Middle East and North Africa, 101.2 million people,¹⁰ including 50 million children, need humanitarian assistance. The region continues to host one of the largest populations of refugees and internally displaced people globally.¹¹ The numerous humanitarian crises and situations in the region are troubling and complex. While active hostilities and protracted conflicts put the lives and well-being of civilians at risk, economic deterioration and an uncertain political landscape diminish national capacities to address people's growing vulnerabilities. The war in Ukraine has exacerbated this situation by increasing food and energy prices. This, in turn, has further aggravated poverty and increased vulnerabilities, especially food insecurity, throughout the region. This situation has particularly affected the three countries without standalone appeals, Algeria,¹² Djibouti¹³ and Egypt.¹⁴ Those three countries are included in this appeal, because the overarching humanitarian situation has negatively affected the humanitarian operations for Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf, Algeria, increased food costs in Egypt and heightened food insecurity in Djibouti.

The region is already susceptible to dry and hot weather, and the effects of climate change are worsening this fragile situation. Drought and drought-like conditions have affected children and families in several countries in the region. In addition to directly impacting the water supply, this situation has negatively affected children's access to basic nutrition and increased the risk of public health emergencies and outbreaks, including cholera.¹⁵ At the same time, floods are becoming more severe as rainy seasons become more compact, resulting in intensified damage and displacement.

This situation negatively impacts the most vulnerable children and adolescents by exposing them to various forms of violence and social harm. Due to climate change, inadequate governance and conflicts, the number of children at risk of losing access to safe drinking water and to sanitation and hygiene (WASH), essential health and nutrition services and quality learning opportunities is increasing. Children are at risk from such negative coping mechanisms as child labour, child marriage and various forms of violence. Women and girls, children with disabilities, refugees and social minorities are disproportionately affected by this.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF's priority is to address the immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations throughout the region. Driven by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus, UNICEF will strengthen national and local capacities to cope with future shocks and stresses. UNICEF is expanding partnerships to enhance coordination and create synergy among humanitarian actors as well as promoting localization¹⁶ of humanitarian action across the Middle East and North Africa region.¹⁷ UNICEF will also promote accountability to affected populations, strengthen protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, engage young people¹⁸ and work with local partners, including local women's organizations.

Improving evidence generation and information management in humanitarian situations is a priority for UNICEF in the region. This includes effective use of technology, supporting inter-agency planning processes and expanding regional partnerships. Given the volatility of the context, the unprecedented effects of climate change in the Middle East and North Africa and diseases outbreaks,¹⁹ UNICEF is escalating efforts for early detection of hazards to ensure an effective and timely response to emergencies. UNICEF aims to ensure rapid response and delivery of supplies through robust supply planning, pre-positioning, streamlined processes for customs clearance, optimal warehousing and distribution networks, skilled human resources,²⁰ strategic partnerships and local and regional sourcing initiatives. UNICEF continues building capacities for emergency response preparedness across programme sectors as both cluster lead and focal point agency, notably for WASH, nutrition, health, child protection and education. Additionally, UNICEF will work towards enhancing capacities for inclusive humanitarian cash transfer solutions in the region.

UNICEF will promote gender-responsive emergency response planning and the participation of women-led organizations in humanitarian-development-peace programming. It will further collaborate with regional partners to empower young girls and boys and promote their engagement in humanitarian planning. In addition to regional needs, this appeal includes the humanitarian response in Algeria,²¹ Djibouti²² and Egypt.²³

STORY FROM THE FIELD



"I never want to miss out on school again!" Fatima says. Six years ago, a shell hit Fatima's home in Ar-Raqqa, permanently injuring her brother and traumatizing Fatima. After being displaced to Aleppo, Fatima and her siblings were enrolled in the UNICEF-supported "Curriculum B" programme. Fatima, however, struggled to adapt and began skipping school until UNICEF-supported volunteers visited her at home last year. She felt better and returned to school after three months of psychosocial support sessions, remedial education programmes and recreational activities. Fatima is one of 3,700 children with disabilities engaging with UNICEF-supported multi-service centres in Aleppo.

[Read more about this story here](#)

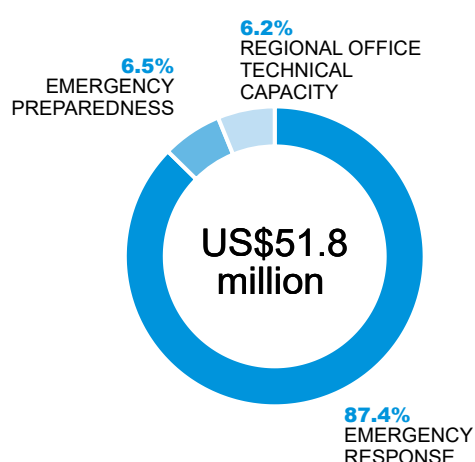
Fatima, 14, sits with her friends during recess at their school yard in the Hanano neighborhood of the city of Aleppo, northwest Syrian Arab Republic, in February 2022.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

In 2023, the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office requires US\$51.8 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children, women and young people in the region.²⁵ These funds will enable UNICEF to provide multisectoral technical support, oversight and quality assurance to the ongoing humanitarian actions across the region. The Regional Office will maintain expertise and pre-positioned capacity to enable the organization's swift action. This will include providing support to inter-agency coordination and planning and direct response to small- or medium-sized sudden-onset emergencies, such as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, civil unrest and displacements for which inter-agency appeals do not exist.

UNICEF will utilize this funding to promote emergency response preparedness and enhance the quality of humanitarian action. The organization will achieve this by strengthening cross-sectoral capacities for disability inclusion, gender mainstreaming, humanitarian cash transfers and integrating cash with other services. Critical will be preventing sexual exploitation and abuse and preventing and responding to gender-based violence,²⁴ mitigating risk and promoting accountability to affected populations in humanitarian action. These funds allow UNICEF to provide technical support and expertise to promote risk-informed programming and invest in climate adaptation and resilience.

This appeal will also address the needs for humanitarian assistance in Algeria,²⁶ Djibouti and Egypt.²⁷ UNICEF requires US\$10 million to address immediate needs of nearly 1 million Sahrawi refugee children and most vulnerable Algerian children. In Djibouti, UNICEF will utilize US\$7.4 million to support efforts assisting children with essential services. In Egypt, UNICEF requires US\$23.7 million to provide immediate health and nutrition, education and child protection services to (non-Syrian) refugees and immigrants and the most vulnerable Egyptian children at risk of violation of their rights. Lack of funding in these contexts will lead to lasting negative developmental effects in children, increased pressure on national systems and the exposure children and families to various harms, including extremism.



Sector	2023 requirements (US\$) ²⁸
Emergency Response	45,297,000 ²⁹
Emergency Preparedness	3,352,000
Regional Office Technical Capacity	3,200,000
Total	51,849,000

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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. The total number of children shows a significant increase from 35.1 million in 2022. This figure is calculated based on the sum of children in need in the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) for Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen (31 million) and the 2022 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for the Syrian Arab Republic (5.9 million children) as well as individual national estimates from Algeria, Djibouti and Egypt (12.9 million children). The number of children in need in Egypt is subject to review.
3. This figure has been calculated based on information from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). A total of 6.4 million refugee children live in the region. This population includes 2.6 million Syrian refugee children and 1.8 Palestinian refugee children.
4. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Global Report on Internal Displacement 2022, IDMC, Geneva, 2022, available at <www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2022/>. The population of internally displaced children has been calculated based on the national demographic information of individual countries.
5. This figure is the sum of children to be reached in all Humanitarian Action for Children appeals, both country and multi-country, in the Middle East and North Africa region in 2023.
6. In accordance with the organizational strategy, the UNICEF Regional Office promotes anticipatory action. In 2021, UNICEF developed the MENA Preparedness Roadmap, which comprises building preparedness capacities and incorporating essential anticipatory action elements. In 2022, UNICEF established a Level 2 Drought Emergency Situation in Djibouti to mitigate the effects of the drought on the population by adopting anticipatory measures.
7. The requested funding includes Regional Office funding requirements (US\$10.7 million) for emergency response preparedness and technical capacity; and it also includes addressing small-scale emergencies as well as emergency responses in Algeria (US\$10 million), Djibouti (US\$7.4 million) and Egypt (US\$23.7 million) in 2023.
8. This figure includes 961,730 children in Algeria, 44,174 children in Djibouti and 1,686,200 children in Egypt.
9. The figures for people in need are calculated based on the sum of sector needs in the 2022 HRP and the 2022 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for the Syrian Arab Republic. These figures reflect the needs in the entire region. However, this appeal, in addition to providing support to the humanitarian actions across the region, covers the needs in the three countries of Algeria, Djibouti and Egypt.
10. This figure is calculated based on the sum of people in need in 2022 HRPs for Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen (61.3 million) and the 2022 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for the Syrian Arab Republic (21 million) as well as individual national estimates from Algeria, Djibouti and Egypt (18.8 million). The number of people in need in Egypt is subject to review.
11. According to UNHCR and UNRWA information, 14 million registered refugees and asylum-seekers live in the Middle East and North Africa region. According to IDMC, 15.6 million internally displaced people live in the region (see endnote 4).
12. In Algeria, UNICEF estimates that 1,022,399 people, including 1,002,699 children, are in need of humanitarian assistance. This population consists of Sahrawi refugees and other vulnerable people, particularly those who affected by a large fire in summer 2021 in six provinces in the country. The refugee population, particularly children, is almost totally reliant on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic health, nutrition and education requirements. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children under 5 years of age in the community has risen from 7.6 per cent in 2019 to 10.7 per cent in 2022, a significant increase. One third of children are stunted, which has lasting detrimental consequences on a variety of developmental outcomes, including learning. The anaemia rate among women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) has risen from 45.2 per cent in 2016 to 53.5 per cent in 2022. The neonatal mortality rate has increased from 19 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018 to 24 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022. In recent years, enrollments in schools have decreased by an average of two per cent per year. Thirty per cent of children do not complete elementary school. School dropout rates are high and rising, increasing by 32 per cent between 2020 and 2021.
13. In Djibouti, existing humanitarian conditions are characterized by limited or no access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, high prevalence of malnutrition and lack of access to basic health and education services. This situation has been exacerbated by a severe drought and the rise in food prices. There are an estimated 111,832 individuals (56,699 women; 11,183 people with disabilities), including 44,174 children (22,396 girls; 4,417 children with disabilities) in need of humanitarian aid in Djibouti.
14. In Egypt, food prices have significantly increased due to the war in Ukraine. The inflation rate for food items reached 24.2 per cent in June 2022 (Egypt's Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, or CAPMAS) which is nearly double the total inflation rate. As one of the top importers of food, Egypt is especially susceptible to global market fluctuations. The country has suffered an increase in fuel costs. This circumstance has had a negative effect on the socioeconomic situation of the most vulnerable people, including migrants and refugees. UNICEF estimates that 17.7 million individuals in the country require humanitarian assistance. Note that the needs of Syrian refugees are not covered in this appeal.
15. UNICEF is currently supporting the response to cholera outbreaks in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.
16. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.
17. The UNICEF Regional Office collaborates with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Regional Office in building national societies' capacities for emergency preparedness and response. This partnership covers, among other things, emergency needs assessment, community engagement and working for and with young people in humanitarian actions.
18. In 2023, UNICEF will collaborate with regional and national partners in rolling out the IASC Standing Committee Guidelines on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises.
19. Depending on the circumstances, the Regional Office's Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)/Cholera Task Force provides assistance to countries at risk or affected by any outbreak, including AWD/cholera. The Task Force provides support for the collection and cross-analysis of critical evidence for risk analysis, preparedness and response; the development and oversight of preparedness plans and relevant integrated cross-sectoral contingency plans and timely response actions to endemic countries; and the development of guidelines, standard operating procedures, surge capacity and operational management. The Task Force also provides support for crisis-affected countries' responses. In 2023, UNICEF plans to further strengthen the effectiveness of this support, especially in the areas of mobilizing human and financial resources and timely provision of required supplies.
20. In line with global strategies, and given the number of humanitarian crises in the region, UNICEF is adopting several measures to ensure the capability for timely mobilization of required human resources for emergencies.
21. In Algeria, UNICEF aims to provide humanitarian assistance to 972,612 people, including 961,730 children. The UNICEF response to the Sahrawi refugee situation in Tindouf, which includes provision of immediate assistance (in the form of in-kind and cash assistance) and building systems' capacity, aims to improve child immunization, maternal and child health and access to quality education for children and adolescents. The response will enhance care and education for children with disabilities and promote child rights and social inclusion, as well as the participation of youth.
22. In Djibouti, UNICEF plans to reach 111,832 people, including 44,174 children (22,396 girls; 4,417 children with disabilities; 14,538 children under 5 years of age), with interventions in the areas of WASH (for 111,832 people), health (81,468 people), protection (55,706 people), education (34,780 people) and nutrition (15,433 people). Cross-sectoral interventions, such as humanitarian cash transfers, social and behavioural change interventions, risk communication and community engagement and accountability to affected populations work will also cover the targeted populations.
23. In Egypt, UNICEF interventions target 2.6 million people, including 1,686,200 children, as follows: health and nutrition (2.5 million children and women), child protection (100,000 children and adolescents and at-risk caregivers, along with service providers) and education (483,760 children, adolescents, parents and education personnel). Support will take the form of immediate humanitarian assistance as well as capacity building activities. Such cross-sectoral interventions as gender-based violence in emergencies responses and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, social and behavioural change, community engagement and accountability to affected people will inspire activities across sectors.
24. Three per cent of total appeal funding is dedicated to gender-based violence in emergencies. This figure is subject to change in light of the emergency response planning exercises to take place in first quarter of 2023.
25. UNICEF's total appeal for the region, including standalone and multi-country appeals, is US\$2.44 billion in 2023.
26. The emergency response in Algeria focuses on the Sahrawi refugee situation and six wilaya (provinces) affected by fire.
27. The humanitarian response in Egypt concentrates on refugees and the most vulnerable population groups in the host communities. Syrian refugees are covered in the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP).
28. For 2023, regional humanitarian requirements exclude COVID-19-related interventions because these have instead been integrated into longer-term development needs and regular programmes. Furthermore, country-related requirements have been integrated into emergency preparedness and response budgets, hence the increase in the funding ask of these two budgets.
29. This amount includes the funding requirements of the Regional Office (US\$4.145 million) to respond to small-scale emergencies in countries with no standalone Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, and the emergency responses in Algeria (US\$10 million), Djibouti (\$7.452 million) and Egypt (\$23.7 million).

