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for every child

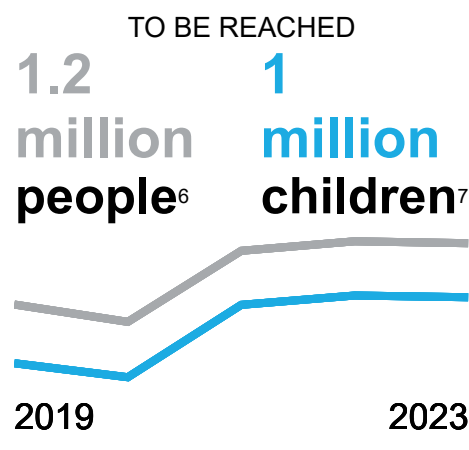
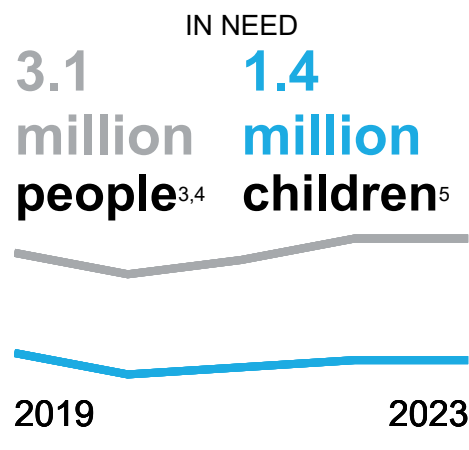
Humanitarian Action for Children

A mother and her three children register for a free medical consultation at a UNICEF-supported mobile clinic in the village of Carrière, near the town Bossangoa in the Central African Republic.

Central African Republic

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- Due to the combined effects of conflict-related violence, price increases linked to war in Ukraine and the consequences of climate change, 3.1 million people, including 1.4 million children, will be in need of humanitarian assistance in the Central African Republic in 2023.²
- UNICEF's response will prioritize child-centred, life-saving interventions supporting internally displaced people, returnees and host communities impacted by the multifaceted crises. In line with its new country programme, UNICEF will focus on community engagement, localization and humanitarian-development-peace nexus approaches.
- UNICEF will provide 60,000 children with treatment for severe wasting, support 250,000 children with learning materials and ensure access to safe water for 300,000 people. Protection needs will remain at the heart of the response, with 140,000 children accessing mental health and psychosocial support through UNICEF's programmes.
- UNICEF requires US\$75.3 million to meet the needs of children affected by the humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic, including US\$19 million to step up the nutrition response to severe wasting in children aged 6-59 months and US\$14.6 million for the Rapid Response Mechanism, the main entry point for UNICEF's multisectoral response to new humanitarian needs.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



59,400
children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



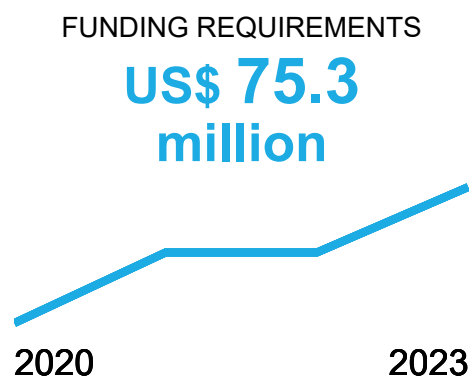
140,000
children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



500,000
women and children accessing gender-based violence mitigation, prevention, response



300,000
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 humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic remains critical and volatile, although insecurity and conflict-related violence have somewhat decreased since the peak of the 2021 post-election crisis. From January to September 2022, the UNICEF-led Rapid Response Mechanism recorded 104 alerts, compared with 112 over the same period in 2021. The share of conflict-related alerts decreased from 70 per cent to 56 per cent, while flood related alerts increased significantly, with about 85,000 people affected at the end of September.⁸ The number of internally displaced people has also decreased since the post-election crisis spike of 722,000 in September 2021, but remains at a high level, with 652,000 internally displaced people recorded at the end of August 2022.⁹

Humanitarian needs remain high. Persistent fuel shortages, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, along with sharp increases in food prices, are further worsening an already precarious situation for the 3.1 million people (including those who are displaced) in the country - 63 per cent of the population - who will need of humanitarian assistance in 2023.¹⁰ This includes 1.4 million children and 460,000 people with disabilities.¹¹

The number of children under 5 years of age who require treatment for severe wasting is expected to again rise by about 10 per cent in 2023, to 69,000.¹² Two thirds of the country's children do not attend school regularly or at all,¹³ so 1.4 million children will need help to access education in 2023.¹⁴ An estimated 944,000 children need protection from the psychosocial impact of conflict and the risk of sexual violence, among other protection risks.¹⁵ Around 58 per cent of the population will lack access to water and sanitation in 2023,¹⁶ a sharp increase due to conflict-related destruction of infrastructure. Meanwhile, epidemics, including measles, are expected to remain prevalent in 2023.

Humanitarian access will remain a major concern. Numerous attacks and the presence of explosive devices (especially in the northwest) have made the Central African Republic one of the world's most dangerous places for humanitarian workers, limiting humanitarian access even as humanitarian needs continue to grow.

SECTOR NEEDS



74,300

children under 5 in need of nutrition assistance¹⁷



944,000

children in need of protection services¹⁸



1.4 million

children in need of access to school¹⁹



2.8 million

people lack access to safe water²⁰

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Mariam, 23, receives cash assistance from UNICEF due to the high level of vulnerability of her children. Her two-year-old son also received treatment for severe wasting.

The conflict in the Central African Republic has led to multiple displacements. Mariam is one of many people who initially fled the Central African Republic for Cameroon. However, the difficult living conditions there forced her to return to Baoro, Nana-Mambéré prefecture.

"The situation there [in Cameroon] was unbearable. I didn't have the means to feed my children and that is why my son was always ill," she says.

At 23, Mariam is a divorced mother of two struggling to make ends meet. Her two-year-old was treated for severe wasting. With the money she received from the UNICEF cash plus nutrition pilot project, she now is able to get him proper food.

[Read more about this story here](#)

UNICEF's humanitarian response in 2023 will rely on close collaboration with partners and community networks, the use of pre-positioned supplies and UNICEF's network of five subnational offices in the country's most affected areas. UNICEF's response will prioritize child-centred, life-saving interventions supporting internally displaced people, returnees and host communities impacted by the protracted conflict, recurring epidemics and natural hazards.

The UNICEF-led Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) will collect alerts and assess new crisis situations and share results with the humanitarian community. The RRM will provide a mix of essential household items, critical WASH services and multipurpose humanitarian cash transfers to vulnerable children and families. While maintaining strong coordination with external actors, the RRM will also further expand its role as the entry point for complementary UNICEF responses, including child protection quick response teams, health and nutrition mobile clinics and intersectoral mobile units.

UNICEF will further support the Government in its efforts to respond to epidemics and mobilize partners to address preventable childhood illnesses, malaria and HIV.

UNICEF will provide access to quality treatment for children suffering from severe wasting. To reduce malnutrition in the long term, UNICEF's response aims to increase the proportion of infants aged 0-5 months who are exclusively breastfed to 50 per cent and the proportion of children aged 6-23 months who are receiving the minimum dietary diversity to 21 per cent (by 2025). To achieve this and to reduce the need for emergency treatment in the long term, UNICEF will apply a multisectoral approach using the health, food and social protection platforms.

UNICEF will focus on delivering comprehensive and sustainable responses to education through an integrated approach that also includes child protection and WASH. More broadly, UNICEF will invest in sustainable and resilient WASH infrastructure in underserved areas and maintain emergency WASH services in sites for internally displaced people.

The protection of children remains central to UNICEF's response. UNICEF will advocate for an end to grave violations against children and strengthen the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism; the organization will also support efforts to release children associated with armed groups, reunify separated or unaccompanied children and provide psychosocial support. Gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and survivor assistance interventions will also be prioritized alongside prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF will contribute to providing out-of-school children with access to safe learning spaces and quality education.

In line with its new country programme, UNICEF will focus on community engagement, localization²³ and humanitarian-development-peace nexus approaches. Multipurpose cash transfer responses will be integrated into programmes.

Finally, UNICEF will work with line ministries to reinforce government capacities for humanitarian coordination and response and will continue to lead the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and the Nutrition, WASH and Education Clusters, as well as inter-agency efforts on accountability to affected populations.



Health

- **247,680** children vaccinated against measles
- **395,100** children vaccinated against polio
- **189,300** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities²⁴



HIV/AIDS

- **859** pregnant and lactating women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy
- **31,200** adolescent girls and boys tested for HIV and received the result of the last test



Nutrition²⁵

- **59,400** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **262,300** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **671,760** children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

- **140,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **500,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions²⁶
- **350,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **1,700** children who have exited an armed force and groups provided with protection or reintegration support



Education²⁷

- **100,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **250,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **1,200** teachers trained in psychosocial support and basic teaching methods



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **300,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **150,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **30,000** women and girls accessing menstrual hygiene management services
- **300,000** people reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes



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

- **7,500** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers across sectors
- **3,000,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services²⁸
- **700,000** people who participate in engagement actions
- **25,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms



Rapid response mechanism

- **225,000** vulnerable people newly affected by the crisis rapidly provided with essential household items
- **165,000** vulnerable people affected by the crisis benefiting from water, hygiene and sanitation interventions

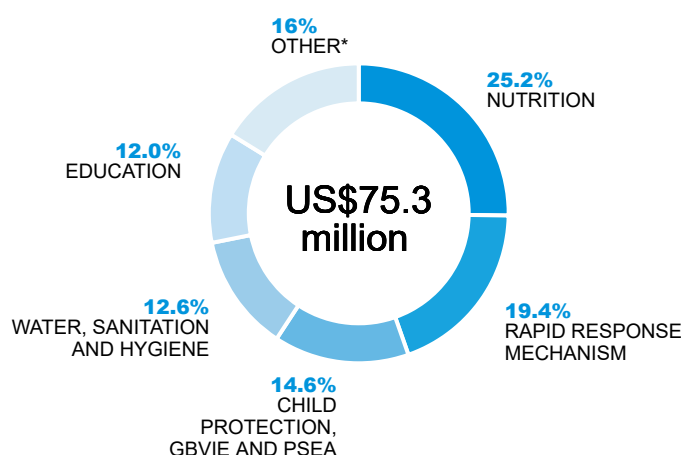
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF is requesting US\$75.3 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children in the Central African Republic in 2023. This amount is comparable to 2022 (it includes a 3 per cent increase). Humanitarian needs remain high, and operational costs are rising due to inflation and the unavailability of fuel.

With ongoing active hostilities and worrying levels of humanitarian needs, UNICEF's targets and budget requirements remain stable for most sectors. The funding ask for nutrition has increased based on preliminary expectations that rising food prices and the enduring consequences of the conflict will result in more children suffering from severe wasting. In addition, health and gender-based violence targets are higher in an effort to better complement the Rapid Response Mechanism in conflict-affected areas, which is in line with UNICEF's efforts to reinforce integrated programming.

With 63 per cent of the country's population in need of assistance, the majority of them children, the Central African Republic remains one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, making continuing donor support even more critical.

Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the country's continuing crises. This could result in 1 million children being denied access to essential services.



Sector	2023 requirements (US\$) ²⁹
Nutrition	19,000,000 ^{30,31}
Health and HIV/AIDS	6,400,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	11,000,000 ³²
Education	9,000,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	9,500,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	3,800,000 ³³
Rapid response mechanism	14,600,000 ³⁴
Cluster/sector coordination	2,000,000
Total	75,300,000

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Health and HIV/AIDS (8.5%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (5.0%), Cluster/sector coordination (2.7%).

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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. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Central African Republic: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview.
3. Ibid.
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. Ibid.
6. This figure is the sum of the following: 671,800 children aged 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation; 350,000 children accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions in crisis-affected areas; and 162,000 people expected to access safe water (which represents 54 per cent of the UNICEF target, corresponding to the estimated number of adult beneficiaries of the activity). This figure includes 51 per cent women/girls and 15 per cent people/children with disabilities. UNICEF is committed to a needs-based approach, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster lead responsibilities.
7. This figure is the rounded sum of two of the highest-coverage programme targets: 671,760 children aged 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation; and 350,000 children accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions in crisis-affected areas. Targets are not expected to overlap. This total includes 51 per cent girls and 15 per cent children with disabilities. The gender and disability breakdown is based on the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview.
8. OCHA, October 2022.
9. OCHA, September 2022.
10. General and sectoral estimates for people in need are not available. Consequently, all figures are from the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Based on UNICEF internal projections.
18. OCHA, Central African Republic: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. The target has increased compared with 2022. It is calculated as follows: the sum of children and women who are beneficiaries of the Rapid Response Mechanism who could potentially need treatment (based on the strategy to increase complementarity with RRM), plus children to be treated for measles and children treated for severe wasting.
25. All nutrition targets increased on the basis of internal assumptions, taking into account the increased needs and UNICEF's capacity to respond in 2022.
26. The target increased substantially from 12,000 to 500,000, given the mainstreaming across sectors of prevention of gender-based violence in emergencies and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Each sector will report on its respective achievement to contribute to this joint target.
27. The new approach in education as presented in the Country Programme Document for the Central African Republic aims to tackle emergency response as well as prepare communities' capacities to respond to future shocks in education. In practice, this means that during an emergency/shock a number of children will receive materials and teachers will receive emergency training in psychosocial support as a first response. However once the emergency response is addressed, a more comprehensive package of interventions will be put in place. This includes semi-permanent infrastructure development, more comprehensive training for teachers, integration of WASH and protection activities and engagement with the community. This more comprehensive package has a higher cost and therefore, while outwardly seeming to reach a lower number of children, it guarantees a more lasting impact, making communities more prepared to shocks and future emergencies. An estimated 250,000 children will benefit from the emergency response, and 100,000 from the more complete package.
28. The programme target is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
29. The increase in the budget requirement compared with 2022 is mainly related to the upward revision of all unit costs in line with the increase in operational costs, which are linked to the country's severe fuel crisis and to other cost increases related to global disruptions and the falling exchange rate.
30. The nutrition budget has increased in line with an increase in targets.
31. The effects of rising food, fertilizer and fuel prices resulting from multiple global factors, including the war in Ukraine, have driven up global humanitarian needs and increased the cost of nutrition interventions.
32. Around US\$3.5 million for gender-based violence in emergencies and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse activities.
33. This includes US\$2.5 million for social and behavioural change and US\$1.3 million for multisectoral humanitarian cash. It does not include the budget requirement for the 5,000 households receiving humanitarian cash transfers through the RRM, nor does it include the budget for cash plus (cash in nutrition and education programmes, which is expected to be financed outside of the framework of this appeal). An estimated 2,500 households will receive a one-off payment of around US\$70. Another 5,000 will receive the same amount through the RRM, which is included in the RRM budget.
34. The RRM budget covers 225,000 people receiving essential household items, 25,000 people receiving humanitarian cash transfers and 165,000 people benefiting from WASH responses.