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for every child

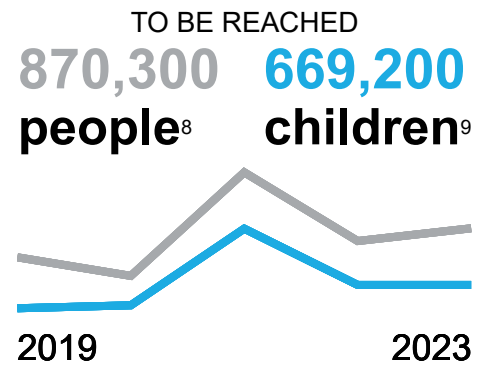
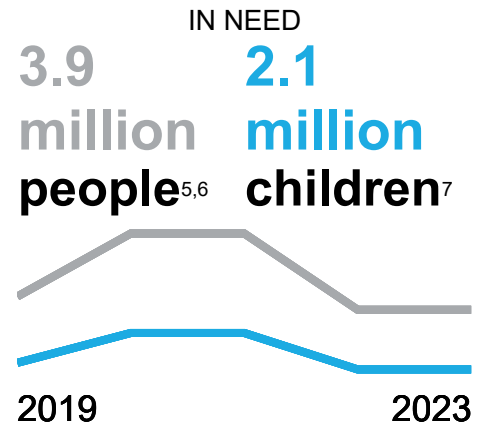
Humanitarian Action for Children

A young boy smiles at his desk at a UNICEF-supported school in Melong municipality, in Littoral Region, Cameroon. He is happy to go back to school.

Cameroon

HIGHLIGHTS^{1,2}

- In Cameroon, 3.9³ million people (including 2.1⁴ million children, 969,000 women and 587,000 people with disabilities) urgently require humanitarian assistance. Their needs are created by armed conflict, intercommunal violence, the influx of refugees from neighbouring countries, disease outbreaks including cholera and measles and seasonal flooding. Increased security incidents and violence hamper humanitarian access and the ability to reach affected populations with life-saving interventions.
- UNICEF will tackle new and protracted humanitarian needs by investing in emergency preparedness, scaling up its field presence and strengthening localization and accountability to affected populations. UNICEF’s programme will strengthen the integration of gender equality, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and prevention and response to gender-based violence in emergencies. UNICEF and partners will apply a targeted, multisectoral approach across interventions.
- UNICEF requires US\$64 million to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance within a context characterized by significant access challenges and a volatile security situation. Child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition sectors have the greatest funding needs.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



64,400
children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



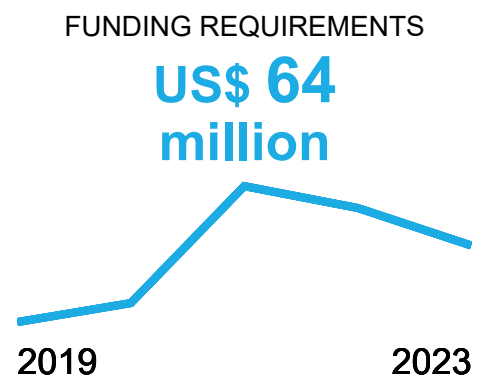
190,400
children vaccinated against measles



341,000
children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



478,800
children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview and 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Cameroon is facing concurrent, complex and protracted crises, driven by armed conflict and a refugee influx that now impacts 9 of the country's 10 regions. Cameroon remains vulnerable to disease outbreaks, especially measles and cholera. As of 29 September 2022, eight regions had been affected by cholera, with a total of 12,373 cases and 249 deaths.¹⁰

In 2022, 3.9 million people need humanitarian assistance, of whom 2.1 million are children and 53 per cent are women/girls. More than 2 million people are in extreme need. A total of 975,786 people are internally displaced and more than 1 million people are either refugees or returnees. Cameroon is currently ranked 141 out of 162 countries on gender equality.¹¹ Gender-based discrimination against women and girls is further aggravated in regions affected by crises.

Humanitarian needs play out against a backdrop of structural deficits, chronic vulnerabilities and multidimensional poverty that challenges the long-term recovery of affected people.

In the first three quarters of 2022, 1,294 security incidents were recorded in North-West and South-West Regions, including but not limited to protection and grave violations against children. These security incidents include confrontations between parties to the conflict or either party targeting civilians or such civilian facilities as schools and hospitals. Some of these incidents amounted to grave violations against children, which are reported by the United Nations in accordance with the established mechanisms.

Nearly 40 attacks on education occurred from January to September 2022. These included the abduction of 65 teachers/students, the burning of eight schools and the killing of five teachers.

The Lake Chad Basin conflict continues to create considerable humanitarian needs in Cameroon's Far North Region. Humanitarian access is hampered by the use and presence of improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance, combined with physical constraints such as poor road infrastructure and seasonal flooding. As of September 2022, 37,000 people were affected by floods in Far North Region and 2,400 houses were destroyed. This flooding has also led to the destruction of 88 schools, disrupting the education of more than 26,615 children.¹²

High levels of malnutrition endure among refugee populations. The global acute malnutrition rate as of February 2021 was 12.5 per cent in some refugee sites.¹³ Adamawa, East and North Regions host more than 329,500 refugees from the Central African Republic. Littoral, West and Centre Regions host increasing numbers of internally displaced people affected by armed conflict in North-West and South-West Regions, with the displaced population in Littoral and West Regions growing from 166 225 people in 2021 to 194 065 in 2022.¹⁴

SECTOR NEEDS^{15,16}



612,000
people in need of
nutrition assistance¹⁷



1.7 million
people in need of
health assistance¹⁸



1 million
children in need of
protection services¹⁹



1.5 million
children in need of
education support²⁰



1.7 million
people lack access to
safe water²¹

STORY FROM THE FIELD



The resurgence of cholera has killed 241 people since October 2021 in Cameroon. A report made by the Ministry of Public Health says that 12,129 cases have been identified. Littoral Region is one of the most affected by this epidemic, with 5,180 cases and 128 deaths. Health authorities and workers are mobilizing to stop the spread.

UNICEF has been working with the Ministry and other partners to fight this cholera outbreak, while promoting better access to water and sanitation for communities. Support including the supply of chlorine, soap, handwashing kits, image boxes is provided to social workers for awareness raising.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Community health workers, with UNICEF support, go door to door in Littoral Region, Cameroon, to raise awareness of cholera and disinfect houses and latrines, to reduce the transmission of cholera.

UNICEF is focused on scaling up its field presence to identify and respond to the needs of affected populations, including those in hard-to-reach, insecure areas. This is particularly important in North-West, South-West and Far North Regions, where locally tailored negotiations are key to increasing humanitarian access and the delivery of assistance.

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy is concurrently tackling new as well as chronic humanitarian needs. It is designed to be agile, risk-informed, and responsive. Through recovery and development assistance, where possible, systems are being strengthened and protracted humanitarian needs met.

UNICEF is now the lead of the Localization Working Group in Cameroon and is committed to pursuing a strong localization²⁴ strategy, in partnership with Government, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and people in need of humanitarian assistance. This is critical to navigating complex community dynamics and delivering humanitarian assistance.

To ensure a gender-sensitive response, UNICEF is working to strengthen partners' capacities in gender-sensitive analysis, the prevention of gender-based violence and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF is a member of the Accountability to Affected Populations Working Group, led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Accountability to affected populations will be assured through improved reporting mechanisms and systematic third-party monitoring in hard-to-reach areas.

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 46 per cent and the proportion of children aged 6-23 months who are receiving the minimum dietary diversity to 25 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 continue to meet sector and cluster lead responsibilities in education, WASH, nutrition and the child protection area of responsibility. In Cameroon, UNICEF is currently piloting the Blueprint for Joint Action with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in East Region. UNICEF is also a member of the task force on Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus established by the United Nations Country Team to support the implementation of inter-agency humanitarian and development initiatives.

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



Nutrition

- **64,400** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment²⁶
- **50,000** children 6-59 months screened for wasting²⁷
- **90,000** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **165,400** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder²⁸
- **157,000** pregnant women receiving preventative iron supplementation²⁹



Health and HIV/AIDS³⁰

- **190,400** children vaccinated against measles³¹
- **130,000** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities^{32,33}
- **91,300** adolescent girls and boys tested for HIV and received the result of the last test
- **89,600** households assisted with long lasting treated bed nets in humanitarian context
- **8,700** pregnant women tested for HIV and AIDS



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **341,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support³⁴
- **307,300** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions³⁵
- **731,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **8,500** unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified³⁶



Education

- **478,800** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning³⁷
- **321,300** children receiving individual learning materials³⁸
- **315,000** children accessing mental health and psychosocial support in schools³⁹



Water, sanitation and hygiene⁴⁰

- **110,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs⁴¹
- **125,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **600,000** people reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes
- **245,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies



Social protection⁴²

- **1,100** households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in kind) measures from governments with UNICEF-technical assistance support⁴³
- **2,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers through an existing government system
- **800** households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and humanitarian cash transfers



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

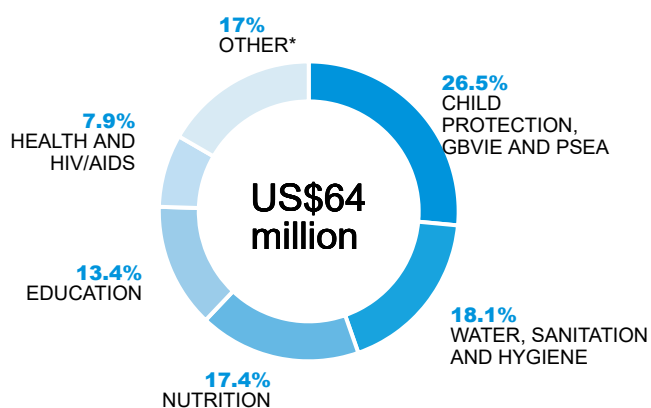
- **696,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms
- **640,000** people who participate in engagement actions for social and behavior change⁴⁴

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

In 2023, UNICEF is requesting US\$64 million to provide life-saving interventions for children and women affected by crises. This funding is critical to mitigate and respond to the impact of new and protracted conflicts, disease outbreaks and flooding exacerbated by climate change.

Child protection, WASH and nutrition will remain UNICEF's priorities in 2023. In 2022, severe underfunding of these sectors has been a significant challenge for the protection-driven emergency response in Cameroon. Funding received through this appeal will help UNICEF carry out WASH activities, meeting the needs of internally displaced people and host communities, including through partnerships with local non-governmental organizations. Programming will reduce the risk of conflict over natural resources and promote social cohesion. Through nutrition interventions, UNICEF aims to reach children at risk of severe wasting with screening and treatment, keeping the number of malnourished children below emergency threshold levels. Social protection, through humanitarian cash transfers, will support sector-specific needs.

Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to continuing crises. This could result in 699,200 children being denied access to essential services (including 64,400 children with severe wasting, 95,205 children in need of vaccination against measles and 478,800 children in need of education).



Sector	2023 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	11,159,200
Health and HIV/AIDS	5,024,800
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	16,951,500 ^{45,46}
Education	8,581,600
Water, sanitation and hygiene	11,606,000
Social protection	4,361,700
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	3,434,400
Cluster coordination	1,144,800
Emergency Preparedness	1,717,200
Total	63,981,200

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (6.8%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (5.4%), Emergency Preparedness (2.7%), Cluster coordination (1.8%).

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ENDNOTES

1. There is a drop of about 20 per cent in the funding requirement due to the 14 per cent decrease in children targeted and 6 per cent decrease in number of people targeted.
2. 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.
3. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Cameroon: 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.
4. OCHA, Cameroon: 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.
5. The people in need figure is from the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview and the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.
6. 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.
7. The children in need figure the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview and the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (57 per cent of people in need). Fifty-two per cent of children in need are girls.
8. This figure is calculated using the following approach: children to be reached (669,211) plus pregnant women reached with folic acid (157,000) plus 18 per cent of adult men (percentage of men targeted in the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan) reached with critical WASH supplies (44,100). The total includes 59 per cent women/girls and 15 per cent people with disabilities (2016 Statistical Yearbook). 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.
9. This figure is calculated using the following approach: The highest planned targets of school-aged children to be reached through formal/non-formal education (478,800); and children aged 6-59 months reached with measles vaccination (190,411). This includes 51 per cent girls and 15 per cent children with disabilities.
10. Ministry of Public Health, Cameroon.
11. UNWOMEN, 2022, UNWOMEN Cameroon: The New Strategic Notes 2022-2026, online information, available at <<https://africa.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/west-and-central-africa/cameroon, 2022>>.
12. OCHA, Cameroon: Extrême-Nord - Aperçu des inondations (Au 21 septembre 2022), available at <<https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-extreme-nord-apercu-des-inondations-au-21-septembre-2022>>.
13. Preliminary results of the 2021 SMART nutrition survey in Cameroon, available at <www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/cameroon/document/cameroon-r%C3%A9sultats-pr%C3%A9liminaires-%E2%80%93-enquete-nutritionnelle-smart-sens>.
14. Inter-Agency Multisector Needs Assessment, Inter-Sector, September 2022.
15. Figures from OCHA, Cameroon: 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.
16. Social protection will be used to support reaching sector-specific targets.
17. Figures from OCHA, Cameroon: 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.
18. Aligned to the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Cameroon.
19. Aligned to the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Cameroon. The figure for people in need is only for the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.
20. Aligned to the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Cameroon.
21. Aligned to the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Cameroon.
22. 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.
23. 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 coordinators cost are included in sectoral programme budgets.
24. 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.
25. Figures extracted from the the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview and the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan, along with the 2022 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal.
26. UNICEF covers 100 per cent of the sector target, noting that UNICEF's target include refugees.
27. This figure is for North-West and South-West Regions only.
28. UNICEF covers 68 per cent of the overall needs. Among children assisted by UNICEF, 51 per cent are girls and 15,000 are refugees.
29. The regions concerned include Far North, North, Adamawa and East Regions.
30. 2022 Humanitarian response Plan figures are maintained. Figures to be revised after finalization of 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Cameroon.
31. Among the children assisted by UNICEF, 50 per cent are girls.
32. There is a drop in the target based on the current level of implementation (based on the experience in 2022 and at the end of 2021). Due to a huge drop in financial resources mobilized for the three crises, key targets were not met.
33. The global aggregate of provision of integrated health package in facilities and the community package for routine vaccination (Penta 3) for children aged 0-12 months; infectious respiratory diseases and acute diarrhoea treatments for children under the age of 5 years; and newborn kits for mothers/caregivers.
34. UNICEF covers 60 per cent of the sector target. The sector target covers 55 per cent of total people in need of access to mental health and psychosocial support. Among those assisted, 55 per cent are women/girls.
35. Includes 176,000 women/girls/boys accessing gender-based violence services through UNICEF's child protection programme and 131,280 women/girls/boys reached with gender-based violence risk mitigation. UNICEF covers 44 per cent of the sector target, which covers 55 per cent of total people in need of access to gender-based violence services. Among those assisted by UNICEF, 88 per cent are women/girls.
36. For North-West and South-West Regions, there are many voluntary separations where parents/caregivers have sent children to major cities and towns in the two regions as well as to the neighbouring regions of West and Littoral. Since these are voluntary separations in search of education opportunities, the typical family tracing and reunification response does not apply. However, there are also unaccompanied and separated children who have lost their parents/caregivers as a result of the conflict, and for whom alternative/foster care arrangements are needed.
37. UNICEF covers 48 per cent of the sector target.
38. Among children assisted, 52 per cent are girls.
39. Among children assisted, 52 per cent are girls.
40. WASH targets are reduced because the implementation strategy for 2023 focuses on some subsectors like water provision and sanitation - rather than on others, such as hygiene promotion and distribution of WASH kits, where there are more actors responding to needs.
41. About 50 per cent are children, and 50 per cent of the children are girls.
42. UNICEF will support social and cash transfer interventions by providing technical support for a total of 1,100 households in crisis-affected areas such as Far North, West and Littoral Regions. UNICEF will also build on the Government's social safety net project, providing a top-up child grant to be planned for a period of 3-6 months for 800 households. Additionally, humanitarian cash transfer will assist 2,000 households in a programme designed and implemented with partners who have existing cash transfer activities, where UNICEF will provide multipurpose child grant top-ups for a period of 3-6 months.
43. UNICEF will support financial assistance mechanisms for education and social protection for 800 vulnerable households in six municipalities of Far North, West and Littoral Regions (2,400 children will be indirect beneficiaries). UNICEF, with the Government and the World Bank, will support the Government's social safety net project. Of 83,000 households assisted in that project, UNICEF will support 1,100 households (each to receive CFAF90,000). Target households are in Yaounde and Douala (3,300 children will be indirect beneficiaries).
44. This indicator represents targets for nutrition, WASH, education and child protection.
45. Six per cent of this child protection amount is for gender-based violence programming and another 6 per cent for programming on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
46. The funding for child protection includes funding for programming on gender-based violence and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.