



unicef 
for every child

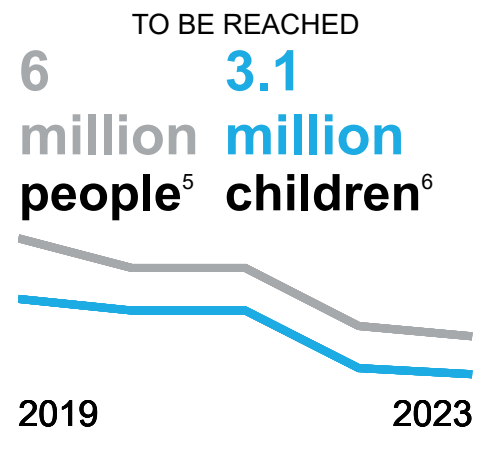
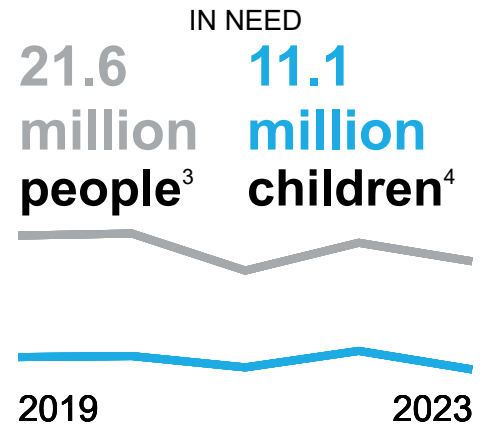
Humanitarian Action for Children

UNICEF rehabilitated WASH facilities in Fatima Al Zahra school in Khanfir District, Abyan Governorate, Yemen, where Zainab, a 9-year-old third grader, attends her class.

Yemen

HIGHLIGHTS

- Yemen remains one of the largest internal displacement crises globally. More than 21.6 million people (including 11 million children) need humanitarian assistance and protection¹ and more than 3.1 million people have been internally displaced since 2015.²
- The six-month United Nations-brokered truce saw decreased civilian casualties related to active fighting. Displacement decreased by 76 per cent during the months of the truce. The greater freedom of movement and increased flow of fuel imports, as well as enhanced humanitarian access in some areas, led to an improvement in the humanitarian situation. However, low-level clashes continued in frontline areas throughout the truce, and explosive remnants of war, including landmines, have devastated civilians as movement increased. The truce has since expired and a peace agreement remains elusive, but major military offensives have not resumed after the expiry of the formal truce agreement.
- UNICEF’s humanitarian strategy in Yemen focuses on providing direct life-saving assistance and building systems to strengthen the link between humanitarian action and development/resilience programming.
- UNICEF requires US\$475.2 million to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and meet critical needs in health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, education, and social protection in 2023. Lack of predictable funding for urgent interventions challenges the continuity of key services, putting children’s lives and well-being at risk.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



2.5 million
children and women
accessing primary
healthcare



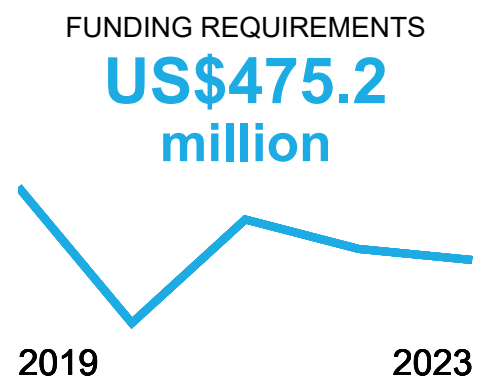
504,116
children with severe
wasting admitted for
treatment



6 million
women and children
accessing gender-based
violence mitigation,
prevention, response



3.7 million
people accessing a
sufficient quantity and
quality of water



Figures are based on the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen (January 2023) and are subject to change upon review of the inter-agency planning documents.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

After eight years of conflict, the national socioeconomic systems of Yemen remain on the edge of total collapse, driving major increases in needs across all sectors. More than 21.6 million people,⁹ including 11 million children,¹⁰ need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2023. This is almost three-quarters of the entire population (62 per cent). And, with more than 3.1 million internally displaced people since 2015,¹¹ Yemen remains one of the largest internal displacement crises globally.

Negotiations continue for the extension of the United Nations-mediated truce that came into effect in April 2022 and ended in October 2022. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, cited important progress that was made during the truce, such as the increased availability of fuel, the resumption of commercial flights from the Sana'a airport, and the reduction in civilian casualties.⁸ As a result, the country continues to experience regular outbreaks of cholera, measles, diphtheria, and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Conflict, large-scale displacement, and recurring climate shocks are creating an environment conducive to communicable disease outbreaks. More than 15.3 million people,¹² including 7.8 million children,¹³ lack access to safe WASH services. Yemen's health system is extremely fragile: only 50 per cent of health facilities are functional, leaving 21.3 million people without adequate access to healthcare.¹⁴ Immunization coverage has stagnated nationally, with an estimated 28 per cent of children under one year of age missing routine vaccinations.¹⁵

Food insecurity and malnutrition continue to be principal challenges, with pockets of the country experiencing extreme hunger. More than 17.3 million people in Yemen are expected to experience high levels of acute food insecurity between January and December 2023.⁷ This includes 161,000 people in a state of extreme food insecurity.¹⁶ In addition, 2.2 million children under five years of age suffer from wasting, including more than 500,000 children (50 per cent girls) who are suffering from severe wasting.¹⁷

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen has increased the vulnerability of children and women to exploitation, violence, and abuse. Children are at a higher risk of child labour, killing and maiming, recruitment and use of children by parties to the conflict as combatants and in various support roles, domestic and gender-based violence, child marriage, and psychosocial distress. More than 9.03 million children are in need of child protection services, and nearly 8.6 million children require educational support.¹⁸

SECTOR NEEDS



20.3 million people in need of health assistance¹⁹



11.9 million children and women in need of nutrition assistance²⁰



9 million children in need of protection services²¹



8.6 million children in need of education support²²



15.3 million people lack access to safe water²³

STORY FROM THE FIELD



UNICEF seeks to achieve the greatest impact possible for newborns and children suffering from health complications to improve the quality of basic and life-saving healthcare, especially within the first hours of birth. With the conflict in Yemen weighing heavily on the healthcare system, UNICEF works on strengthening service delivery in hospitals. Al-Sadaqa Hospital in Aden is one of the health facilities that UNICEF supported through its humanitarian response. For instance, the infant nursery department of the hospital was rehabilitated to provide healthcare for children and mothers during pregnancy and after childbirth.

[Read more about this story here](#)

A nurse holds one of the newborn babies at the Newborn Department in Al-Sadaqa hospital in Aden, Yemen.

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy in Yemen is aligned with the Humanitarian Needs Overview, Humanitarian Response Plan, and cluster priorities. As the lead for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters, and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, UNICEF supports sector and inter-sectoral coordination and information management at national and subnational levels. UNICEF also supports inter-agency coordination for community engagement and accountability to affected populations through the related Working Group and provides technical leadership to Yemen's efforts to harmonize system-wide complaints and feedback mechanisms.

UNICEF will pursue a balanced approach between providing life-saving interventions in some of the hardest-to-reach areas, via its robust field presence and network of five field offices, and investing in systems strengthening. Addressing the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus, including strengthening multisectoral approaches, will require a nuanced strategy and dedicated donor support.

Life-saving health and nutrition interventions for affected populations, including internally displaced people, will be provided through community-based activities. At the same time, UNICEF will sustain and strengthen access to high-impact preventive and curative services at the community and facility levels. Following the scale-up of nutrition services in 2022, in 2023 UNICEF will focus on strengthening the quality of service delivery and enhancing the multisectoral response (health, WASH, social protection, and education) to address child wasting.

The WASH programme will focus on rehabilitating and supporting water and sanitation infrastructure to provide a minimum level of service. Given the negative impact that climate change can have on the sustainability of WASH services and behaviours, UNICEF will promote climate-resilient development through the use of expanded solarization and optimization of water systems and other cost-effective solutions. UNICEF will continue to improve access to and enrollment in safe learning environments through the implementation of non-formal education, rehabilitating damaged schools, and establishing temporary safe learning spaces. UNICEF will help to build resilience among affected children by supporting life skills education and psychosocial support in community spaces, schools, and hospitals, while also mitigating the risk of injuries from exposure to landmines and explosive remnants of war through targeted campaigns. UNICEF will provide services to children with acute protection needs and support vulnerable children and their caregivers with specialized services and mental health and psychosocial support. As co-lead of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, UNICEF will engage with parties to the conflict to establish concrete measures to prevent and halt grave violations of child rights.

Vulnerable children and families will continue receiving integrated social protection services and humanitarian cash transfers via UNICEF's cash transfer programme. The programme will be sustainably handed over to national partners towards the end of 2023. The cash transfers will target the most marginalized people to ease the economic barriers they face to accessing services and treatment.

UNICEF will integrate gender-responsive initiatives to ensure protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and strengthen interventions to prevent, respond to, and mitigate gender-based violence.

2023 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health

- **972,142** children vaccinated against measles²⁷
- **1,250,000** children vaccinated against polio²⁸
- **2,500,000** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **15,000** healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with personal protective equipment



Nutrition

- **504,116** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment²⁹
- **4,869,318** children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation³⁰



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA³¹

- **500,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **6,000,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **1,900,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **2,650,000** children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions



Education

- **500,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **800,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **15,000** teachers receiving teacher incentives each month



Water, sanitation and hygiene³²

- **3,700,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **2,000,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **1,500,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies³³



Social protection

- **50,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers
- **160,000** people benefiting from emergency and longer-term social and economic assistance³⁴



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)³⁵

- **10,250,000** people who participate in engagement actions
- **560,296** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms³⁶

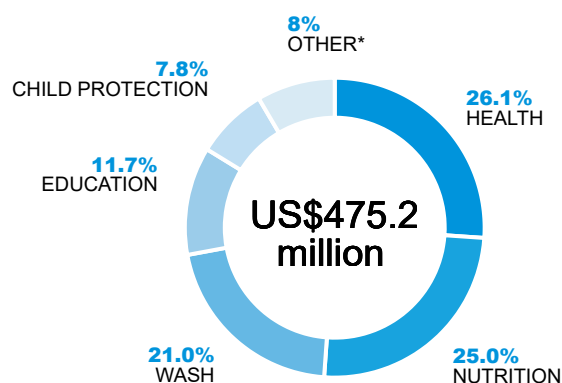


Rapid response mechanism

- **378,000** vulnerable displaced people who received rapid response mechanism kits

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF is appealing for US\$475.2 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children and families and fulfill children's rights in Yemen. The appeal has been revised to align it with the 2023 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan. Humanitarian programmes will reach nationwide, targeting populations in the areas with the most acute needs. Funding will allow UNICEF to meet critical needs in health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, education, and social protection and provide timely responses to displacement through the Rapid Response Mechanism. Without timely funding, more than 1 million children under the age of 1 will miss out on routine vaccinations, and more than 4.8 million children will not have access to essential nutrition services. Up to 3.7 million people, including 1.8 million children, will not have regular access to safe drinking water and 500,000 children will not be able to access formal or non-formal education. This will deepen the country's learning crisis and existing inequalities in educational participation, and potentially expose children to negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage and child labour.



*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (4.8%), Cross-sectoral (2.6%), Evaluation (<1%), Rapid response mechanism (<1%), Cluster and field coordination (0.0%).

Appeal sector	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health	124,000,000
Nutrition	119,000,000
Child protection	37,000,000
Education	55,450,000
WASH	99,600,000
Social protection	23,000,000
Cross-sectoral	12,500,000
Rapid response mechanism	2,291,000
Evaluation	2,400,000
Cluster and field coordination	-
Total	475,241,000

Appeal sector	Original 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	124,000,000	124,000,000	9,253,794	114,746,206	92.5%
Nutrition	119,000,000	119,000,000	30,277,718	88,722,282	74.6%
Child protection ³⁷	37,000,000	37,000,000 ³⁸	20,137,124	16,862,876	45.6%
Education	55,450,000	55,450,000	7,730,817	47,719,183	86.1%
WASH	99,600,000	99,600,000 ³⁹	15,455,000	84,145,000	84.5%
Social protection	23,000,000	23,000,000	3,335,336	19,664,664	85.5%
Cross-sectoral	12,500,000	12,500,000	6,217,308	6,282,692	50.3%
Rapid response mechanism	5,950,000	2,291,000	2,118,569	172,431	7.5%
Evaluation ⁴⁰	2,400,000	2,400,000	-	2,400,000	100.0%
Cluster and field coordination	5,500,000	- ⁴¹	428,997	-428,997	0%
Total	484,400,000	475,241,000	94,954,663	380,286,337	80.0%

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ENDNOTES

1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Yemen: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, OCHA, January 2023. In 2023, an estimated 21.6 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection services, a slight decrease from the 23.4 million people in need in 2022. This is largely due to technical changes in cluster-level needs assessments, as well as revised food security projections released in late 2022, rather than an overall improvement in the humanitarian outlook.
2. OCHA, Yemen: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.
3. OCHA, Yemen: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children. UNICEF will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
4. Ibid.
5. The number of people to be reached reflects the total number of beneficiaries targeted through UNICEF largest response (mainstreaming protection for children and caregivers) to avoid double counting. It is estimated that the total population under age 18 is 51 per cent (with 25 per cent of the total population girls and 26 per cent boys). The adult population is estimated at 49 per cent (with 25 per cent of the total population men and 24 per cent women). People with disabilities account for 15 per cent of the total people to be reached, based on the estimates of the World Health Organization. The remaining population in need will be reached by other partners.
6. The total of children to be reached has been estimated as 51 per cent of the total people to be reached (25 per cent girls and 26 per cent boys). It is estimated that 15 per cent of children to be reached are children with disabilities.
7. This figure includes 3.6 million women, 7.6 million children including 2.2 million people with disability, based on OCHA, Yemen: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.
8. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, "Press release on the implementation and prospects of renewal of the truce in Yemen", Amman, 25 May 2022.
9. OCHA, Yemen: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.
10. Ibid.
11. This figure includes 750,000 women, 770,000 men, 790,000 girls and 820,000 boys. OCHA, Yemen: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.
12. OCHA, Yemen: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.
13. This figure includes 3.98 million boys and 3.83 million girls, based on children accounting for 51 per cent of the population.
14. OCHA, Yemen: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.
15. WHO and UNICEF estimates of immunization coverage, 2021.
16. OCHA, Yemen: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. This figure includes 541,964 children under 5 years of age with severe wasting, based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, Yemen: Food Security & Nutrition Snapshot, March 2022, available at <<https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-food-security-nutrition-snapshot-march-2022-enar>>.
21. OCHA, Yemen: 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. 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 coordination costs are included in sectoral programme budgets.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. The target is children aged 0-11 months.
28. The target is children aged 0-59 months.
29. The target is 90 per cent of the children in need.
30. The target is 95 per cent of the children in need.
31. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear here: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
32. The number of people to be reached through fuel subsidies has been removed from the programme target, as UNICEF is no longer providing fuel subsidies for the water and sanitation systems.
33. The population to be reached with WASH supplies will also be provided with hygiene education.
34. 'Cash plus' also includes referrals to services, social and behavioural change and life skills activities.
35. Social and behavioural change and accountability to affected populations are integrated into sectoral responses and interventions.
36. This target is estimated based on the complaints and feedback mechanism 2022 baseline of unconditional cash transfers and other complaints and inquiries (i.e., 460,296), with an assumption that 100,000 complaints and inquiries will be received for other programmes.
37. This includes US\$3 million for gender-based violence interventions and US\$450,000 for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.
38. The increased target will be covered through remote programme for mental health and psychosocial support and explosive ordnance risk education.
39. The funding requirement for WASH interventions reflects the cost increase for infrastructure interventions.
40. Evaluations will be conducted to demonstrate accountability to affected populations and donors, and for UNICEF and partner learning. Evaluations will be prioritized based on several factors, including potential for programme replication and adaptation in other humanitarian settings globally, the size of the programme budget and programmatic and donor priorities.
41. Cluster and field coordination costs are embedded within the respective programmatic sectors.
42. This includes US\$3 million for gender-based violence interventions and US\$450,000 for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.
43. Evaluations will be conducted to demonstrate accountability to affected populations and donors, and for UNICEF and partner learning. Evaluations will be prioritized based on several factors, including potential for programme replication and adaptation in other humanitarian settings globally, the size of the programme budget and programmatic and donor priorities.