



"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

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

- 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, including 6.4 million refugees and approximately 6.4 million internally displaced children, are in need of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF prioritizes meeting the immediate needs of 18.8 million of the most vulnerable children in the region.
- UNICEF will support risk-informed responses linking disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation with anticipatory action and emergency preparedness. It will build inclusive systems and support cash-based solutions, promote child-centered and conflict-sensitive approaches, mainstream gender and gender-based violence and integrate sexual exploitation and abuse prevention and mitigation in its response.
- UNICEF is requesting US\$61.3 million to support its humanitarian action in the region, including enhancing its technical capacity to prepare for, coordinate and respond to emergencies. With this funding UNICEF aims to meet the needs of 4 million vulnerable people (including more than 2.8 million children) in Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt and Morocco, while also focusing on a coordinated preparedness and response approach to those crises with broader, regional impacts.

### IN NEED<sup>2</sup>



**83.9 million**

people in need of health and nutrition assistance



**34 million**

children in need of protection services



**36.9 million**

children in need of education support

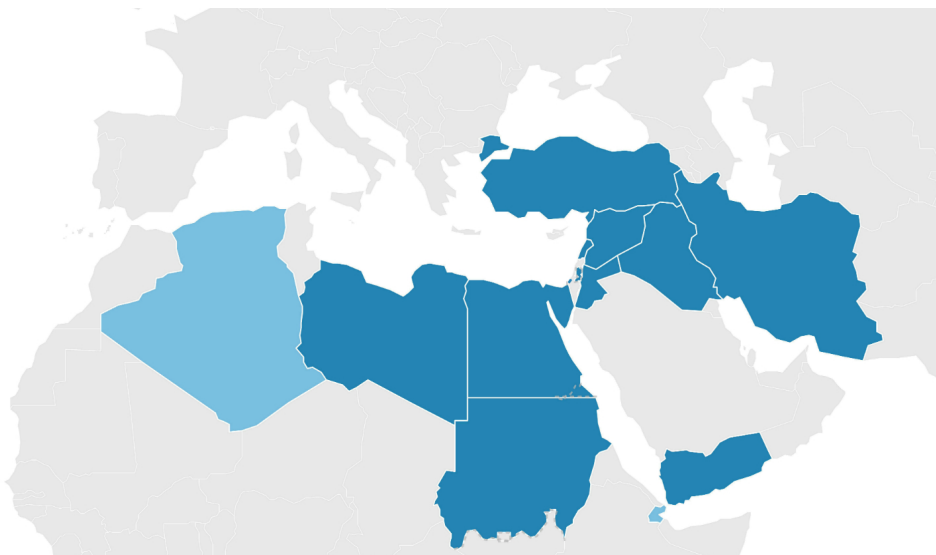
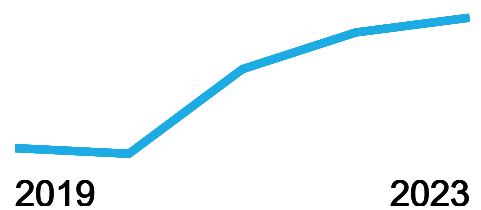


**59 million**

people lack access to safe water

### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$61.3 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, over 90.6 million people, including 40 million children, need humanitarian assistance. The region continues to host one of the largest populations of refugees and internally displaced people globally. 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 negatively affected humanitarian operations for Sahrawi refugees in Algeria, increased food costs in Egypt and heightened food insecurity in Djibouti.

On 8 September, in Morocco an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale with epicenter in Atlas mountainous areas 70 km from Marrakesh hit several regions of the country. As of 13 September, official statistics count 2,946 dead and 5,674 injured.

The magnitude of hostilities in the State of Palestine has resulted in grave humanitarian consequences, placing children and their families at risk and restricting their access to essential services. Ensuring sustained humanitarian aid in the State of Palestine is imperative, along with strengthening the readiness of UNICEF and its partners to respond in neighbouring countries.

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. At the same time, floods are becoming more severe as rainy seasons become more compact, resulting in intensified damage and displacement, such as in Libya in September.

This situation negatively impacts the most vulnerable children and adolescents by exposing them to various forms of violence. 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 localization of humanitarian action across the Middle East and North Africa region. UNICEF will also promote accountability to affected populations, strengthen protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, engage young people 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 region and diseases outbreaks, UNICEF is strengthening 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, strategic partnerships and local and regional sourcing initiatives. UNICEF will strengthen its technical capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies 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 preparedness needs and responses, this appeal also includes humanitarian assistance provided in Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt and Morocco.

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.

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## 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.

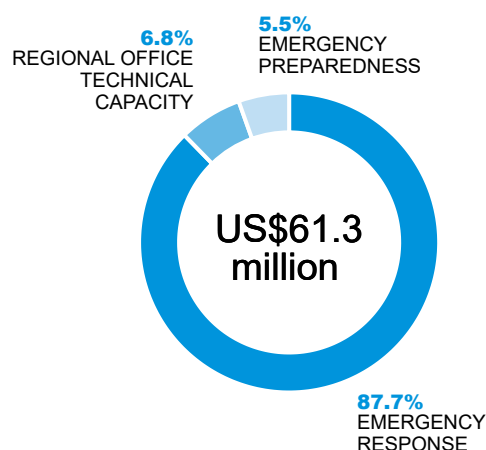
## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

In 2023, the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office requires US\$61.3 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children, women and young people in the region. This appeal has been revised upwards from US\$51.8 million since its launch in December 2022, to reflect an increase in needs in Morocco, as well as regional technical assistance to prepare and respond to multiple crises with broader regional humanitarian consequences.

UNICEF will provide multisectoral technical support, coordination, oversight and quality assurance to ongoing humanitarian action across the region. The Regional Office will maintain expertise and pre-positioned capacity to enable the organization's swift action. This will include support to inter-agency coordination and planning and direct response to large-scale emergencies with regional consequences, as well as 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. UNICEF 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, mitigating risk and promoting accountability to affected populations in humanitarian action. UNICEF will also provide technical support to promote risk-informed programming and invest in climate adaptation and resilience.

This appeal will address humanitarian needs in Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt and Morocco. UNICEF will address immediate needs of nearly 1 million Sahrawi refugee children and most vulnerable Algerian children. In Djibouti, UNICEF will support efforts assisting children with essential services. In Egypt, UNICEF will continue providing immediate health, nutrition, education and child protection services to refugees and immigrants and the most vulnerable Egyptian children in need of protection. In Morocco, UNICEF will provide child protection, education, WASH, health and nutrition support that contributes to the nationally-led response to the earthquake.



Appeal sector	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)
Emergency Response	53,797,000
Emergency Preparedness	3,352,000
Regional Office Technical Capacity	4,200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,349,000</b>

Appeal sector	Original 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Emergency Response <sup>4</sup>	45,297,000	53,797,000	9,487,908	44,309,092	82.4%
Emergency Preparedness	3,352,000	3,352,000	126,484	3,225,516	96.2%
Regional Office Technical Capacity	3,200,000	4,200,000	2,661,846	1,538,154	36.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,849,000</b>	<b>61,349,000</b>	<b>12,276,238</b>	<b>49,072,762</b>	<b>80.0%</b>

### Who to contact for further information:

**Adele Khodr**  
Regional Director, Middle East and North Africa  
T +962 6 5502 401  
akhodr@unicef.org

**Lana Wreikat**  
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS) a.i  
T +1 212 326 7163  
lwreikat@unicef.org

**June Kunugi**  
Director, Public Partnerships Division (PPD)  
T +1 212 326 7118  
jkunugi@unicef.org

## 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 figures for people in need were updated with this revision based on the sum of sector needs in the 2023 HRPs and the 2023 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 specific humanitarian needs in Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt and Morocco.
3. 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.
4. This amount includes the funding requirements of the Regional Office to enhance coordination and preparedness efforts for ongoing emergency across the region and the emergency responses in Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt and Morocco. As hostilities and humanitarian consequences in the State of Palestine unfold, requiring a coordinated preparedness and response approach for broader, regional impacts, the people in need and funding amounts required will be continually revised.