



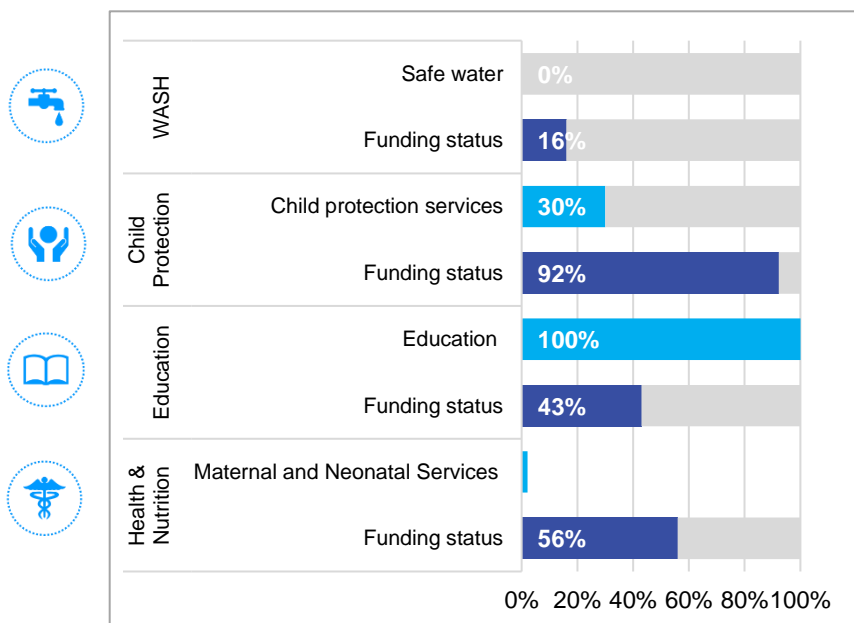
Two women waiting to receive their first vaccination at the Palestinian Medical Complex in Ramallah (PMC)

Reporting Period: 01 January to 31 March 2021

Highlights

- As of 31 March 2021, there were 270,878 confirmed cases of COVID-19, of which 50 per cent were women and 13 per cent were children under the age of 18.
- UNICEF distributed e-vouchers for accessing hygiene kits to 5,900 families in Hebron and Bethlehem Governorates benefitting 35,400 people. A further 7,683 adults (3,903 men and 3,780 women) and 510 kindergarten staff in the Gaza Strip were provided with hygiene kits.
- Through family centres in the Gaza Strip, UNICEF and its local partners reached 3,599 vulnerable children (57 per cent girls) with structured psychosocial support, including individual counselling, group counselling, life skills, child-parent interaction sessions, and other psychosocial support group activities. A further 622 children (42 per cent girls) benefited from individual case management.
- Furthermore, 3,019 children were provided with tablets to enable them to access remote learning opportunities during school closures.
- A total of 1,265 high-risk pregnant and lactating women and 6,655 children (3,372 boys and 3,283 girls) under the age of 5 benefited from essential healthcare and nutrition services.
- The 2021 UNICEF Humanitarian Appeal funding requirement is US\$ 21.58 million and US\$ 7.9 million (37 per cent) of the requirement was available.

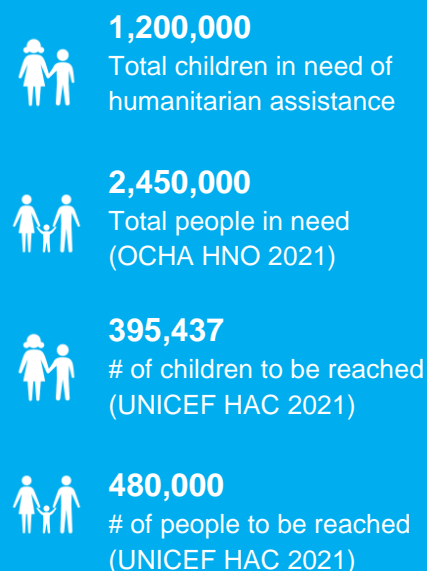
UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



State of Palestine Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1 January – March 2021

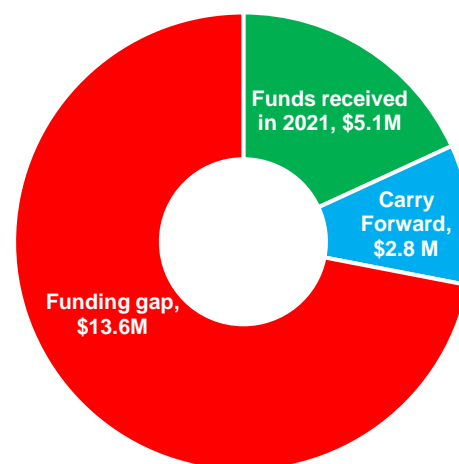


Situation in Numbers



UNICEF Appeal 2021 US\$ 21.58 million

Funding Status (in US\$)



* This is a summary table of response, with selected indicators only, with funding for the year. For full results see Annex A.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2021, UNICEF has received an important humanitarian contribution from the Government of Japan and the UNICEF Global Thematic Humanitarian Fund. The 2021 UNICEF Humanitarian Appeal funding requirement is for US\$ 21,585,576 million with only US\$ 7,973,956 million (37 per cent) of the requirement so far available.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The spread of COVID-19 has continued for a second consecutive year to aggravate existing vulnerabilities, affecting children's well-being, and limiting boys' and girls' access to essential services. As of 31 March 2021, there were 270,878 confirmed cases of COVID-19, of which 50 per cent were women and 13 per cent were children under the age of 18.¹

On 17 March, the State of Palestine received the first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines.² These vaccine doses were transferred to the Ministry of Health's ultra-cold chain and vaccine storage facilities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As of 31 March, only 78,379 people had received the first shot of COVID-19 vaccine, of whom 8,687 are now fully vaccinated.

The Education Cluster estimates that 503,927 people need humanitarian assistance in Education across the State of Palestine. These include 489,009 children (254,493 boys and 234,516 girls), of whom 9,780 are children living with a disability (CWD), who face challenges in accessing quality education in a safe child-friendly environment. The other 14,918 in need of humanitarian assistance are teachers (6,008 men 8,910 women). The COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of moving to online education have revealed the digital divide in the State of Palestine between the children who have access to digital learning opportunities and those who do not. This divide is often manifest in remote and disadvantaged areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Many students lack internet access, devices, and adequate digital literacy. Only 44 per cent of households (50 per cent in the West Bank and 36 per cent in the Gaza Strip) with children between the ages of 10-17 who are currently enrolled in schools have the required devices (desktop, laptop or tablet) to enable their children to access online learning materials.

Prior to the outbreak, around one quarter of Palestinians lived below the poverty line, including 53 per cent of the population in the Gaza Strip and 14 per cent in the West Bank. According to estimates, due to the pandemic and related lockdown measures, the proportion of poor households will increase to 64 percent in the Gaza Strip and 30 per cent in the West Bank.³

In April 2021, the United States announced that it will contribute US\$ 150 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The restoration of funds comes after UNRWA faced severe financial crisis in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic has only worsened the situation, forcing the agency to respond to a public health crisis amidst the most serious financial crisis in its history.

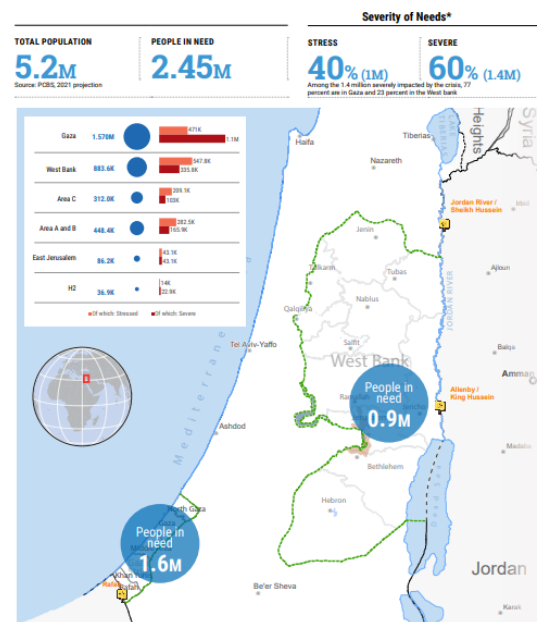


Figure 1: Humanitarian Needs Overview Map - 2021

¹ <http://www.site.moh.ps/Index/covid19/LanguageVersion/1/Language/ar>

² [Arrival of First Wave Consignment of COVAX COVID-19 Vaccine Doses to State of Palestine - UNICEF Press Release - Question of Palestine](#)

³ World Bank Group, 'Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee', World Bank Group, June 2020.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

During the first quarter of 2021, UNICEF distributed e-vouchers to 5,900 families in the West Bank and 4,300 families in the Gaza Strip. In collaboration with the WFP the e-vouchers top-ups for redeeming essential hygiene items at local shops benefited 35,400 and 25,800 people respectively and supported the families to purchase these items during the pandemic.

Previously supplied items such as spare parts for operation and maintenance and items for chlorination of water in the Gaza Strip are still benefiting around 200,000 people.

In collaboration with the Palestinian Water Authority, UNICEF started emergency preparedness measures to improve access to water for the most vulnerable communities that lack access to water or those not connected to any existing water network in Area C. The works include installing new water pipelines to improve domestic water services and safe drinking water. This response is expected to benefit around 48,000 people. UNICEF will also provide awareness sessions to the staff of municipalities and other service providers to ensure they apply their knowledge in their communities and to suggest possible solutions or initiatives to deal with challenges. The response will also support the development of a hydraulic map for Addahrieh and Al Samou' to address the limited supply of water and unfair water distribution.

Child Protection

Through family centres in the Gaza Strip, UNICEF and its local partners reached 3,599 vulnerable children (57 per cent girls) with structured psychosocial support. Activities included individual counselling, group counselling, life skills, child-parent interaction sessions, and other psychosocial support group activities. A further 622 children (42 per cent girls) benefited from individual case management.

Awareness-raising sessions on positive parenting, the protection of their children, and strengthening families' capacity to prevent violence at home reached 932 caregivers (79 per cent women). Additionally, 2,799 children and their caregivers (73 per cent children, including 57 per cent girls) were reached with educational sessions on dealing with Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, through two local partners, UNICEF reached 33 children affected by conflict and domestic violence with structured psychosocial activities, including 11 children with disabilities. Additionally, 58 mothers of children with disabilities participated in awareness-raising sessions. These sessions will support participating communities to understand the rights and the services that their children are entitled to and hence to be able address the needs of their children. A total of 135 caregivers received structured psychosocial support sessions.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group (CP AoR/MHPSS WG) chaired by UNICEF convened twice in the West Bank and once in the Gaza Strip during the reporting period. In total, child protection and MHPSS partners reached 16,055 people (4,023 girls, 3,517 boys, 6,416 women and 2,099 men) with child protection and MHPSS services.

Education and Adolescents

During the reporting period, 2,547 children (1,337 girls and 1,210 boys) and 99 school staff (73 women and 26 men) from the most vulnerable areas in the West Bank were supported with structured Psychosocial Support sessions.

A total of 5,000 children (42 per cent girls) from grades 1-4 in the Gaza Strip, who were at risk of drop out due to poor performance, were provided with remedial education to assist these students to achieve expected competencies in core academic skills such as literacy and numeracy.

In East Jerusalem, a remedial education programme for 270 vulnerable children between the ages of 12-18 years (60 per cent boys) started to reach children. Additionally, 7,683 (3,903 men and 3,780

women) and 510 Kindergarten staff in the Gaza Strip were reached with hygiene kits to ensure the safe continuity of education during the pandemic.

To address the challenge of the digital divide impacting poor and vulnerable children and to ensure continuity of learning for the most vulnerable children, 3,019 children were provided with tablets to enable them to access remote learning opportunities.

Health & Nutrition

In continuation of the response to the pandemic and to ensure the strengthening of health systems, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) and local NGO partners to maintain the provision of essential maternal, neonatal, child health and nutrition services for high-risk women and young children. The programme leveraged alternate modalities such as telephone counselling and outreach services through mobile teams and mobile clinics. A total of 1,265 high-risk pregnant and lactating women and 6,655 children under the age of five (3,372 boys and 3,283 girls) benefited from essential healthcare and nutrition services. An additional 793 pregnant and lactating women benefited from tele-counselling and 4,507 pregnant and lactating women benefited from awareness sessions on Infant and Young Child Feeding during COVID-19, mainly in the Gaza Strip.

Similarly, UNICEF is supporting the provision of nutrition services for malnourished children in the Gaza Strip. During the reporting period, 169 children (99 boys and 70 girls) with severe acute malnutrition as well as 567 children with moderate acute malnutrition (278 boys and 289 girls) benefited from treatment provided by a local NGO.

UNICEF is also supporting the provision of medical supplies to the MoH. Four essential drugs, (Metronidazole 2,000 PAC of 10, Azithromycin 55,000 PAC of 6, Oseltamivir 100 PAC of 10 and Omeprazole 30,000 PAC of 100) were provided to the MoH, benefiting some 87,100 people, including women and children in the West Bank.

UNICEF delivered five Complete Blood Count CBC Analysers (one in the Gaza Strip and four in the West Bank), five Blood Gas Analysers (one in the Gaza Strip and four in the West Bank), two Steam Sterilizers 90L (one in the Gaza Strip and one in the West Bank) five Laryngoscope sets (two in the Gaza Strip and three in the West Bank), and one Blood Chemistry Analyser. This equipment benefited 13,150 patients monthly, including women and children (3,150 in the Gaza Strip and 10,000 in the West Bank).

Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population, Localization

UNICEF supported door to door community engagement activities in the Gaza Strip. These activities focused on understanding the community's perception of COVID-19 vaccines and the adherence to the preventative measures. A total of 40 young people implemented the activity and filled a quick assessment questionnaire.

UNICEF also supported the WHO and its implementing partners in designing a training kit for health workers on vaccine promotion and countering disinformation. UNICEF continued producing and disseminating social messages around adherence to preventive measures, information on vaccines and the national deployment strategy.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is part of the UN and Humanitarian Country Teams and regularly coordinates its actions with other organisations and local stakeholders. Within this partnership, UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster and with Save the Children co-leads the Education Cluster. Within the Protection Cluster, UNICEF leads the Child Protection Working Group and the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Group. UNICEF also co-leads the Nutrition Working Group under the Health Cluster in the Gaza Strip and at the national level in close collaboration with the World Health Organization.

UNICEF and partners continued to foster synergies between humanitarian and development programmes in the State of Palestine, emphasizing emergency preparedness and sustainable recovery efforts. UNICEF supports national efforts to improve the quality of education in the State

of Palestine while providing the skills that children and young people need for the transition to employment as well as coping with life challenges. For health and nutrition, UNICEF supports neonatal emergency health care, postnatal care, and early childhood development, focusing on children with developmental delays and disabilities. With the deterioration of the water and sanitation situation and the ongoing energy crisis, UNICEF provides safe drinking water through water tank rehabilitation, water network upgrades and solar power for water infrastructure. Additionally, vulnerable households are supported with drinking water taps, latrines, sewage connections and hygiene promotion activities. UNICEF also supports flood preparedness and mitigation activities in high-risk areas and regularly delivers critical health and other supplies to the Gaza Strip in response to humanitarian needs. For Child Protection, UNICEF ensures that more children, especially the most vulnerable, are better protected from violence, exploitation, and grave violations. By eliminating these childhood violations, children will be better able to reach their educational potential, be guaranteed improved health outcomes, and assume their role as productive members of their societies, communities, and families.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

In the period covered by this report, communication and advocacy continued the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) in cooperation with the WHO, the Ministry of Health and several other public, private and community stakeholders. The RCCE team continued developing messaging to prevent the spread of COVID-19, correct misinformation, and address vaccine hesitancy among priority groups.

In January, UNICEF issued a statement calling for the protection of children and families following the injury of 15 children in the Gaza Strip by a munitions explosion.⁴

In February, UNICEF issued a joint statement with OCHA and OHCHR calling for a stop to demolitions in Area C in the West Bank and the respect of International Law. The statement came following the displacement of 60 people, including 35 children, from their homes, whose belongings were wither seized or destroyed by Israeli forces.⁵

On 17 March, the first shipment of the COVID-19 vaccines arrived in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through the COVAX facility. On 21 March, an official handover ceremony and launch of the national vaccine deployment plan was organized jointly with WHO and in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the participation of the EU and other key donors to the global COVAX facility. UNICEF and the WHO issued a joint press release on the event day and several social media posts were shared to mark the arrival of the first shipment. The following links capture the main coverage done through UNICEF-SoP's social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram)

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1374260028396425219>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1373962579186450433>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1373623504101343232>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1372115772005359617>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1372110664093798402>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1372105730275311623>

Moreover, the Education Cluster co-chaired by UNICEF and Save the Children and the Advocacy working Group launched the Save My School campaign in cooperation with UN agencies, INGOs and local NGOs. The campaign was successful and well received nationally and internationally. The following includes the main posts shared on UNICEF's social media platforms:

<https://twitter.com/ochaopt/status/1368103051542794241>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1367789493399523329>

⁴ [Fifteen children reportedly injured in the Gaza Strip following munitions explosion \(unicef.org\)](https://www.unicef.org/palestine/press-releases/2022/01/fifteen-children-reportedly-injured-in-the-gaza-strip-following-munitions-explosion)

⁵ [UN reiterates its call for demolitions to end and for international law to be respected | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](https://www.unocha.org/palestine/en/press-releases/2022/02/un-reiterates-its-call-for-demolitions-to-end-and-for-international-law-to-be-respected)

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1367469720832782338>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1367090267388526593>

<https://twitter.com/ochaopt/status/1366692673613103106>

<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1366356712526086144>

Others:

- The launch of the national intersectoral VAC strategy:
<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1357355575491837959>
- Delivery of syringe and infusion pumps and monitors and five ventilators to the Ministry of Health in the West Bank:
<https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1352552701012422657>

Next SitRep: 20 July 2021

UNICEF State of Palestine: <http://www.unicef.org/oPt>

UNICEF State of Palestine on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefstateofpalestine>

UNICEF State of Palestine on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine>

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children 2019:
https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state_of_palestine.html

Who to contact for further information:
Lucia Elmi
Special Representative
UNICEF State of Palestine
Tel: +972 (0)2 584 0400
Email: lelmi@unicef.org

Etona Ekole
Deputy Special Representative
UNICEF State of Palestine
Tel: +972 (0)2 584 0400
Email: EEKOLE@unicef.org

Iain Murray
Chief of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
UNICEF State of Palestine
Tel: +972 (0)2 584 0419
Email: imurray@unicef.org

Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs				Cluster / Sector		
	2021 Need ⁶	UNICEF Target	UNICEF Results	Change ⁷	Cluster Target	Cluster Result	Change ⁸
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE							
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.	1,280,024	94,932	0 ⁹	0	322,662	NA	0
# of people benefiting from improved access to sanitation, solid waste, & hygiene services	732,337	128,802	0	0	259,965	NA	0
# of people with improved WASH capacity during emergencies and shocks	1,618,889	16,504	0	0	80,564	NA	0
# of people protected from seasonal flooding	135,686	18,927	0 ¹⁰	0	47,761	NA	0
Child Protection							
# of children affected by conflict related violence and violence in households benefiting from structured psychosocial services and child protection interventions	237,624	12,124	3,632	3,632	29,513	7,540	7,540
# of children affected by conflict related violence and violence in households benefiting from specialized individual case management	37,726	2,200	622	622	4,571	1,013	1,013
# of beneficiaries who received ERW risk education sessions.	258,000	10,000	2,799	2,799	35,000	2,799	2,799
# of persons (women, girls, men and boys) participating in child protection awareness raising sessions	475,248	7,608	990	990	24,238	7,978	7,978
Education and Adolescents							
# of children provided with safe access to learning	8,226	5,900	0 ¹¹	0	5,900	NA	0

⁶ The overall need per cluster is aligned to the needs reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2020 published by UNOCHA. The relevant targets reflected in 2020 HAC were rounded down.

⁷ The overall need per cluster is aligned to the needs reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2020 published by UNOCHA. The relevant targets reflected in 2020 HAC were rounded down.

⁸ The overall need per cluster is aligned to the needs reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2020 published by UNOCHA. The relevant targets reflected in 2020 HAC were rounded down.

⁹ The coverage of this activity was hindered due funding constraints.

¹⁰ The result will be made available by end of second quarter

¹¹ result will be made available by end of second quarter

# of children benefiting from remedial education services and learning support	24,789	5,000	5,000	5,000	21,252	5,000	5,000
# children & school staff benefiting from the provision of hygiene kits to prevent COVID-19 infection.	307,516	350,920	8,193	8,193	350,920	8,193	8,193
Health and Nutrition							
# of neonates receiving quality healthcare services in NICUs	NA	10,500	1,506	1,506	NA	NA	NA
# of < 5 children receiving targeted health and nutrition interventions	NA	66,200	6,655	6,655	NA	NA	NA
# of women in reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women receiving quality maternal and nutrition services	NA	61,000	1,265	1,265	NA	NA	NA
# of people directly benefiting from awareness sessions and health education	NA	12,700	4,507	4,507	NA	NA	NA
Social Protection and Cash Transfers							
# households benefiting from new or additional social transfers from government with UNICEF assistance	NA	1,000	0 ¹²	0	NA	NA	NA
C4D, Community Engagement and AAP							
# of people reached with messages on access to services	NA	4,500,000	1,434,733	0	NA	NA	NA
# of people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioral change	NA	50,000	0	0	NA	NA	NA
# people who shared their concerns & asked questions/ clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	NA	100,000	0	0	NA	NA	NA

¹² The result will be made available by end of second quarter

Annex B

Funding Status*

The 2021 UNICEF Humanitarian Appeal funding requirement is for US\$ 21.5 million of which US\$ 5.1 million (24 percent) was received to date with an additional 13 percent of the funding having been carried forward from 2020 into 2021.

Appeal Sector	SoP - UNICEF 2021 Funding Requirements				
	Requirements (USD)	Funds Available *		Funding Gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	USD	%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	10,034,203	964,157	646,758	8,423,289	84%
Education	3,900,000	1,091,574	583,616	2,224,810	57%
Child protection	1,852,777	1,205,716	345,364	301,697	16%
Health and nutrition	4,295,778	1,349,040	1,103,099	1,843,639	43%
Social protection and cash transfers	250,000	0	0	250,000	100%
Cluster coordination	802,818	183,784	0	619,034	77%
C4D, community engagement and AAP	450,000	332,196	60,000	57,804	13%
Total	21,585,576	5,126,467	2,738,838	13,720,272	64%

All amounts include weighted cross-sectoral costs and cost recovery.

** As defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 2021 for a period of 12 months.*