



UNICEF State of Palestine/2020/Ahmed Izhman

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for every child

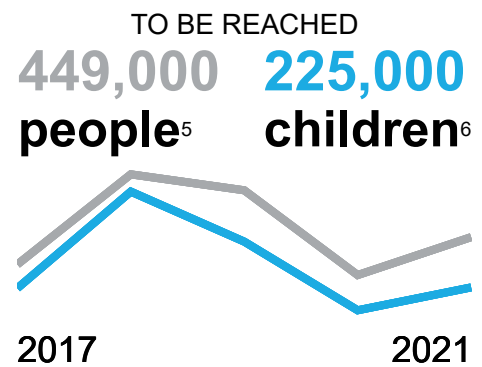
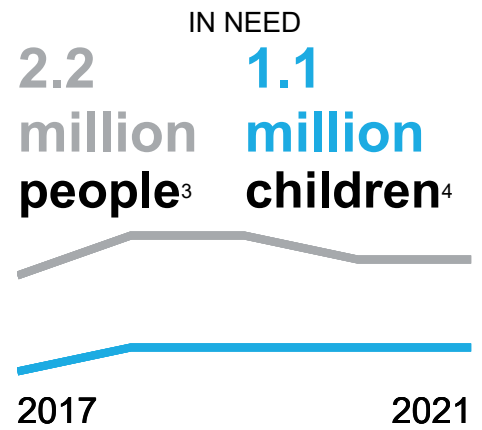
## Humanitarian Action for Children

With UNICEF support, Rayan, 2 months, receives a vaccine at the Ministry of Health clinic in Ramallah.

# State of Palestine

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The protracted protection crisis in the State of Palestine, which has been exacerbated by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, has continued to impact children. More than 2.2 million people need humanitarian aid<sup>1</sup> and over 1 million children living in the Gaza Strip have difficulty accessing essential services.<sup>2</sup>
- UNICEF will provide life-saving health and nutrition interventions and improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services through the construction of water and wastewater networks and facilities. UNICEF will also provide safe access to quality and inclusive learning, support child protection systems and facilitate easy access to psychosocial support, specialized case management referrals, legal aid and counselling.
- In 2021, UNICEF requires US\$25.2 million to respond to the humanitarian situation in the State of Palestine; enhance the capacities of shock-responsive social protection mechanisms; and continue and expand services to meet the needs of vulnerable children, adolescents and women.



## KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**449,000**

children and women accessing health care



**100,000**

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



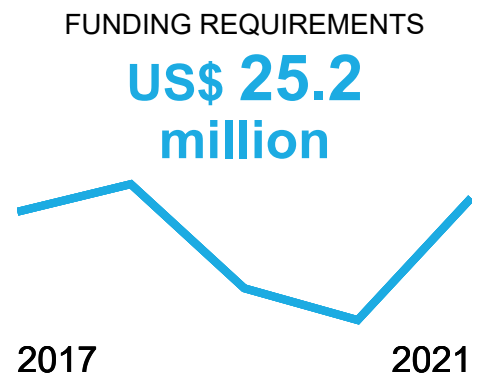
**200**

schools implementing safe school protocols



**4.5 million**

people reached through messaging on access to services



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the interagency needs and planning documents.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The State of Palestine is experiencing a protracted humanitarian crisis related to the political situation and the ongoing socio-economic and fiscal crisis, which has left 2.2 million Palestinians increasingly vulnerable to violence, hardship and lack of essential services.<sup>7</sup>

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on Palestinians, especially in vulnerable areas such as East Jerusalem, H2 in Hebron and the West Bank's Area C. More than 750,000 people are in need of humanitarian aid.<sup>8</sup>

As of September 2020, more than 47,000 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed. Fifty-three per cent of confirmed cases are among women and 23 per cent are among children.<sup>9</sup> 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 of the population of the West Bank.<sup>10</sup> According to preliminary estimates, the proportion of poor households will increase to 64 per cent in the Gaza Strip and 30 per cent in the West Bank, due to the pandemic and related control measures.<sup>11</sup>

In the Gaza Strip, 1 million children have limited access to essential services, and at least 500,000 children having restricted access to safe and clean drinking water.<sup>12</sup> Insufficient access to water has increased the burdens on women and girls as primary household caretakers, and led to heightened risks of gender-based violence.<sup>13</sup> The continuity of essential neonatal maternal health and nutrition services has been disrupted. The growing medical and psychosocial needs in the Gaza Strip are overwhelming the capacities of health and child protection service providers. Nearly 504,000 people need education assistance across the State of Palestine. This includes over 489,000 children (234,516 girls), nearly 9,800 of whom are living with a disability.<sup>14</sup>

The closure of the Gaza Strip to "dual use" items has meant that the transfer of essential goods, including fuel, is sometimes constrained. This affects the operation and maintenance of vital water and sanitation infrastructure as well as the Gaza Strip's only power plant. Consequently, frequent power outages are a major concern, especially the impact on already overburdened hospitals and quarantine centres where electricity is required to contain the spread of COVID-19 and run incubators in neonatal intensive care wards.<sup>15</sup>

## SECTOR NEEDS



### Health and nutrition

**1.3 million** people need health assistance<sup>17</sup>



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

**490,000** people need WASH services<sup>16</sup>



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

**238,000** children need child protection services<sup>18,19</sup>



### C4D, community engagement and AAP

**4.5 million** people need COVID-19 awareness messages<sup>20</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



Yara, 14, lives in the Gaza Strip, where clean, drinkable water is scarce. Ninety-seven per cent of underground water resources in Gaza are undrinkable by World Health Organization (WHO) standards.

For months, Yara needed a tooth extracted, but she found the Gaza City clinic offering urgent medical and dental care was frequently closed, unable to function without clean water. Finally, she has had her tooth removed. "I'm feeling good," Yara says.

This year, a UNICEF project funded by European Union humanitarian aid brought clean water to two clinics on the edge of a dangerous access-restricted area.

[\*\*Read more about this story here\*\*](#)

A mother and child at a health clinic on the edge of a dangerous access-restricted area that UNICEF supported with clean water.

## HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In 2021, UNICEF will collaborate closely with partners to foster synergies between humanitarian action and development programmes in the State of Palestine. This will involve working with humanitarian and development actors to identify synergies and efficiencies to better and more quickly integrate programming to reach the most vulnerable communities, households and individuals.<sup>21</sup> UNICEF has expanded its partnerships with national and local actors for humanitarian response, and is supporting these partners to build their programmatic and operational capacities, including to improve the delivery of remote programming and enhance accountability to affected populations.

The Ministry of Health and partners will be supported to provide early interventions to high-risk pregnant and lactating women and children with developmental delays and disabilities. In partnership with WHO, UNICEF will continue to support essential health care services during the COVID-19 pandemic, including protection for on-duty health workers.

UNICEF will facilitate access to sufficient and safe drinking water and ensure that no deterioration or collapse in essential services occurs during the pandemic. This will include the regular provision of operation and maintenance materials and cleaning and sanitizing tools.

The Ministry of Education and partners will be supported to reach Palestinian children and adolescents with safe access to quality and inclusive learning. This will include distance learning for girls and boys in remote areas who have limited access to the Internet through the provision of interactive self-paced offline learning materials. UNICEF will also support the safe return of students, teachers and service providers to schools during the COVID-19 crisis by facilitating the implementation of safe school protocols for infection prevention and control in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and others.

UNICEF will continue to prioritize and strengthen child protection systems, facilitate access to comprehensive gender-based violence services, and support Palestinian authorities to operationalize their COVID-19 emergency response plan. Through the National Cash Transfer Programme, UNICEF will pilot shock-responsive social protection mechanisms with the Ministry of Social Development and other partners to support vulnerable households thrown into poverty by the pandemic.

In addition, UNICEF will coordinate with stakeholders to reach and engage 4.5 million people with critical information on COVID-19, and strengthen accountability for community members through established feedback mechanisms. Working with United Nations agencies and humanitarian and development actors, UNICEF will strengthen systems for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/state-of-palestine/situation-reports>

## 2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



### Nutrition

- **1,500** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment



### Health

- **449,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **13,000** neonates accessing secondary life-saving health care services



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **100,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **44,000** children accessing appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **950** people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse
- **10,000** children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions
- **14,300** children and caregivers accessing child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support and gender-based violence risk mitigation and prevention interventions<sup>22,23</sup>



### Education

- **200** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)<sup>24</sup>
- **6,700** children provided with safe access to learning
- **30,000** children receiving individual learning materials



### Social protection and cash transfers

- **1,000** households benefiting from new or additional social transfers from governments with UNICEF technical assistance



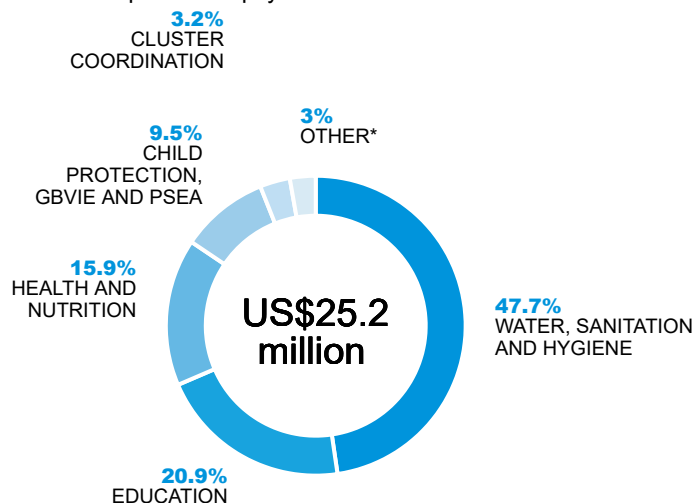
### C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **4,500,000** people reached with messages on access to services<sup>25</sup>
- **50,000** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change
- **100,000** people who shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

In 2021, UNICEF requires US\$25.2 million to respond to the humanitarian situation in the State of Palestine. This funding will be used to enhance response and preparedness capacities and continue and expand support to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children, adolescents and women. This is an increase of US\$5.5 million (around 28 per cent) compared with the 2020 appeal. Twenty-five per cent of 2021 funding will support the COVID-19 response.

The 12 per cent increase in the funding request for water and sanitation compared with 2020 is due to the additional focus on the provision of WASH facilities in schools and institutions as part of the COVID-19 response. For health and nutrition, 2021 planning has been adjusted to focus on nutrition, infant and young child feeding counselling and life-saving interventions for newborns. This is reflected in both the targets and the budget, with a 59 per cent increase in the funding request. The 2021 child protection request has declined slightly to focus on the ongoing provision of specialized psychosocial and structured services for children in the Gaza Strip.



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Health and nutrition	4,000,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	12,000,000 <sup>26</sup>
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	2,400,000 <sup>27</sup>
Education	5,254,000
Social protection and cash transfers	250,000
C4D, community engagement and AAP	450,000
Cluster coordination	817,140
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,171,140</b>

\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : C4D, community engagement and AAP (1.8%), Social protection and cash transfers (<1%).

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## ENDNOTES

1. Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs, 'State of Palestine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, December 2019.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. This was calculated using the highest coverage programme target for improving the access of children and women to primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities. This includes 323,245 women/girls and 125,755 boys. 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.
6. This was calculated using the highest coverage programme target of children to be reached with improved access to primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities. This includes 50.9 per cent boys and 49.1 per cent girls. Children with disabilities represent 2.1 per cent of the total, as per the 2017 Palestinian Census.
7. 'State of Palestine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
8. Ibid.
9. State of Palestine Ministry of Health, 'Coronavirus - COVID19 Surveillance System', <[www.site.moh.ps/Index/covid19/LanguageVersion/1/Language/ar](http://www.site.moh.ps/Index/covid19/LanguageVersion/1/Language/ar)>, accessed 4 September 2020.
10. World Bank Group, 'Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee', World Bank Group, June 2020.
11. Ibid.
12. 'State of Palestine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
19. 'State of Palestine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
20. Ibid.
21. UNICEF leads cluster coordination for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters and the child protection area of responsibility.
22. Child protection targets are low compared with the number of children in need for two reasons: (1) Child protection interventions, particularly mental health and psychosocial support, are mostly face to face. As a result, UNICEF has decreased the targets given likely COVID-19 restrictions in 2021. (2) There is a limited number of partners with sufficient capacity to respond.
23. Child protection services include gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and response. Gender-based violence response activities are reflected in the first indicator "number of children and caregivers accessing child protection services including mental health and psychosocial support."
24. As part of this intervention, some 200,000 children/students (girls and boys) will benefit from the implementation of safe school protocols.
25. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
26. WASH 2021 planning and budgeting have been adjusted with reduced WASH targets and greater focus on the provision of WASH in schools and WASH preparedness and response to mitigate the risks of flooding.
27. UNICEF has allocated an estimated budget of US\$1.85 million for gender-based violence in emergencies and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.