



Young children drink from milk cartons that are handed out as part of a UNICEF-supported nutrition programme in Nkamira Refugee Camp in Rwanda. The milk provides animal protein to supplement their diets.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Eastern and Southern Africa Region

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2024, 12 countries will be covered under the Eastern and Southern Africa regional appeal.¹ Approximately 14.5 million people,² including 6.6 million children,³ will require humanitarian assistance due to El Niño-induced climatic shocks,⁴ public health emergencies, economic deterioration, civil/political unrest and population displacements.
- In the 12 countries, UNICEF will continue to work with partners, including Governments, to deliver life-saving interventions to reach children and women. The organization will further mainstream accountability to affected populations and disability inclusion; gender programming, the response to gender-based violence, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and humanitarian cash interventions will all continue in 2024.
- Partnerships with women-led, youth-led and community-based organizations will continue to be prioritized to strengthen and sustain local capacities for emergency preparedness and response. UNICEF will continue to build climate adaptation and shock-responsive strategies to improve child-centred resilience/systems strengthening.
- UNICEF is appealing for \$55 million to address humanitarian needs in the 12 countries covered in this regional appeal.⁵

IN NEED⁶



7.6 million
Children and women accessing primary healthcare⁷



8.4 million
people in need of nutrition assistance⁸



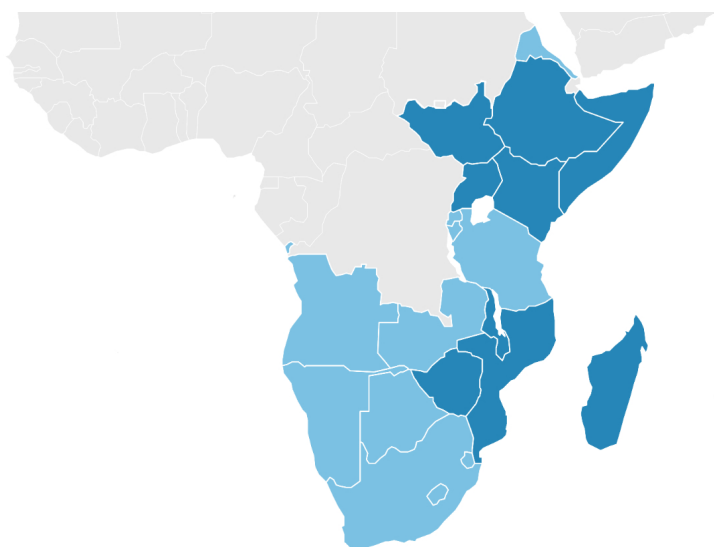
4.5 million
children in need of protection services



5.5 million
children in need of access to school⁹



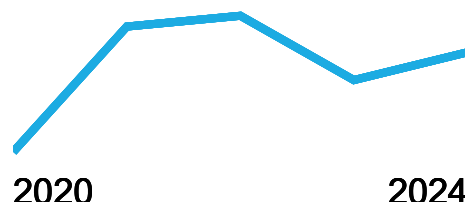
9.3 million
people lack access to safe water



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.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$55 million



2020

2024

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Approximately 14.5 million people, including 6.6 million children,¹⁰ will require humanitarian assistance in the 12 countries covered in this appeal in 2024.¹¹ El Niño climate-related shocks, malnutrition, public health emergencies (including outbreaks of cholera, measles, mumps, dengue, malaria and other diseases), civil/political unrest, conflict, economic deterioration and displacement are the major drivers of humanitarian need.¹² The 12 countries covered by the appeal are home to about 768,000 refugees, asylum-seekers and people of concern.¹³ Disruptions of routine services due to global economic downturns and conflicts continue to expose children to the risks of disease and death.

Eight million people need urgent essential health services and 9.3 million people need clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support in the 12 countries. Poverty and food insecurity have left 8.4 million people in need of nutrition support and other essential services (e.g., health, WASH, education, protection and other services).¹⁴ Disrupted learning driven by emergencies continues to affect children's education in a context where more than 5.5 million children are out of school in the countries covered by the appeal.¹⁵

The risks of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, exploitation and abuse and intimate partner violence are becoming even more acute in the region. This is due to drought, widespread food insecurity, displacement, conflict and public health emergencies. During emergencies, female-headed households, older women, adolescent girls and those with disabilities face heightened vulnerabilities to sexual violence, exploitation and abuse, and greater risk of child marriage and female genital mutilation. Extreme poverty, exacerbated by emergencies, is also driving population displacements. Humanitarian needs are further compounded by the negative impact of climate change in the region, manifested in increased frequency of climate hazards, which are also of greater severity and scale.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In line with government efforts and UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office will provide multisectoral technical, operational and advocacy support to the 12 country offices covered by this appeal. This support, leveraging ongoing regular programming, will strengthen an integrated, multisectoral response to deliver life-saving services for children and women affected by climatic shocks and disease outbreaks, including people living in displacement and refugee camps. UNICEF will promote sustainable social and behavioural change to prepare for and respond to crises, and strengthen the humanitarian development and peacebuilding nexus, including through social cohesion programming in fragile contexts.

UNICEF will support integrated approaches¹⁶ to preventing and treating wasting by offering a continuum of care for children and mothers. UNICEF will emphasize prevention, early detection and treatment (including for HIV) through health facilities and community-based platforms. WASH interventions will address waterborne diseases and contribute to preventing undernutrition, and they will include providing basic services for people affected by emergencies.¹⁷ UNICEF's education interventions will focus on preparedness and response to ensure continuity of access to safe, inclusive and quality learning during and after emergencies.¹⁸ UNICEF will continue to work with women, youth leaders and community-based organizations to address gender-based violence and promote protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF will also promote disability inclusion and accountability to affected communities. Strengthening prevention and response to mental health and psychosocial needs in the region will be a priority.¹⁹ UNICEF's response is informed by gender analysis and accounts for the differentiated needs and capacities of women and adolescent girls. UNICEF will also strengthen shock-responsive social protection systems in support of Governments in the 12 countries.

UNICEF will continue supporting risk analysis and preparedness for predictable risks – including health emergencies, climatic shocks and economic deterioration.²⁰ The Regional Office will support country offices to ensure effective and timely responses, including through missions/surge deployments.²¹

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.

STORY FROM THE FIELD



A child receive two drops of the new polio vaccine during a UNICEF-supported vaccination campaign in Burundi, in April 2023.

In collaboration with government authorities, other Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners and Burundian communities, UNICEF, with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, supported the Government of Burundi's efforts to immunize children against polio by providing expertise in logistics, coordination and social mobilization for polio campaigns.

Polio is a highly infectious viral disease. It is caused by the poliovirus, which is mostly transmitted from person to person through the fecal-oral route. The key to stopping this epidemic is good hygiene and, above all, vaccinating every child with safe and effective polio vaccines.

[Read more about this story here](#)

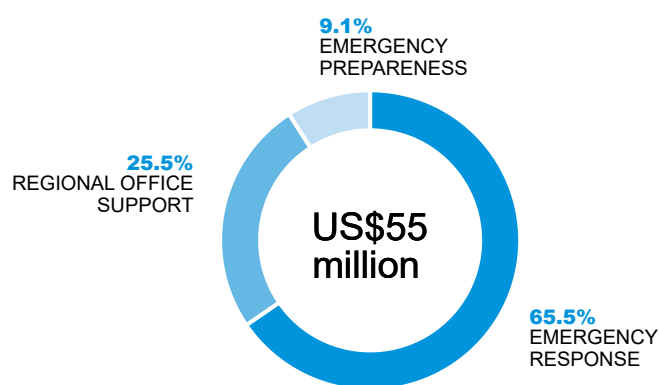
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF is appealing for \$55 million²² to meet heightened emergency preparedness and response requirements in 12 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa in 2024. Angola and Eritrea²³ were added to the 2024 regional appeal while Malawi was removed because there will be a standalone appeal for that country.

The requirements in this appeal are related to expanded preparedness and response for El Niño-induced drought and floods; the response to public health emergencies, including outbreaks of cholera, measles, mumps and other disease; and humanitarian response to uphold children's rights and meet their needs in the face of conflicts, displacements and economic deterioration.

This funding will allow UNICEF to support Governments in the 12 countries covered by the appeal to meet address the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Areas of intervention include essential health, nutrition, education, child protection and social protection services – all of which have been chronically underfunded in recent years. The funds will allow UNICEF to scale up life-saving nutrition activities, including treatment for severe wasting, vitamin A supplementation and infant and young child feeding counselling, and to meet rising health and WASH needs. Child protection and education remain the least-funded sectors and require urgent resources for multiple emergency responses in the region.

Without this funding, UNICEF will be unable to support adequate preparedness for and response to the humanitarian needs of the millions of children and women projected to be affected by humanitarian crises in Eastern and Southern Africa in 2024.



Sector	2024 requirements (US\$) ²⁴
Emergency response	36,000,000 ²⁵
Regional Office Support	14,000,000 ²⁶
Emergency preparedness	5,000,000 ²⁷
Total	55,000,000

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ENDNOTES

1. The countries covered in this appeal are Angola, Botswana, Burundi, the Comoros, Eritrea, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.
2. The number of people in need in 2024 will decrease by 62 per cent compared with 2023. This is a correction of the overestimation of the number of people in need in 2023 in South Africa and Zambia, where the needs were significantly confounded by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. This calculation is based on estimates from such country-level in-need analysis documents as government surveys, intersectoral reports, nutrition surveys and others, along with inter-agency analyses.
4. NOAA Climate.gov, Global impacts of El Niño and La Niña, web article, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 9 February 2016, available at <www.climate.gov/news-features/featured-images/global-impacts-el-ni%C3%B1o-and-la-ni%C3%B1a>.
5. Based on the estimated budgets to respond to needs in 12 countries included in this appeal. This includes \$36 million for multi-hazard emergency response, \$5 million for emergency preparedness and \$14 million for Regional Office technical support.
6. The in-need figures reflect the number of people with pressing needs in the major sectors that UNICEF supports in countries covered by this regional appeal.
7. Health services include HIV testing and treatment services.
8. Based on nutrition SMART surveys and Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) Integrated Food Security Phase Classification of 3 and above in assessments in the 12 countries covered in this appeal.
9. Based on sector analyses from the 12 countries covered in this appeal.
10. This calculation is based on estimates from such country-level in-need analysis documents as government surveys, intersectoral reports, nutrition surveys and others, along with inter-agency analyses.
11. People in need: Angola: 2.3 million; Botswana: 100,000; Burundi: 1.8 million; Comoros: 345,000; Eritrea: N/A; Eswatini: 250,000; Lesotho: 582,000; Namibia: 441,000; Rwanda: 4 million; South Africa: 3 million; United Republic of Tanzania: 320,000 and Zambia: 1.4 million.
12. Estimates are based on such country-level in-need analysis documents as government surveys (including vulnerability assessments), intersectoral reports, Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum report for 2023, and inter-agency assessments in 2023.
13. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports the following numbers as of July and August 2023: Botswana: 936; Burundi: 79,227; Comoros: 12; Eswatini: 2,767; Lesotho: 660; Angola: 56,124; Namibia: 7,176; Rwanda: 128,392; South Africa: 150,962; United Republic of Tanzania: 250,522; Zambia: 90,647 and Eritrea: 118.
14. The in-need figures reflect the number of people in need in the major sectors that UNICEF supports in the 12 countries covered in this regional appeal.
15. Based on sectoral analyses in 12 countries covered in this regional appeal.
16. Strategies outlined are for the 12 countries covered in this regional appeal.
17. Access to water in camps, menstrual hygiene and health facilities and schools will also be prioritized.
18. This will include providing an integrated platform for food, nutrition, health and WASH services, mental health and psychosocial support, and interventions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. UNICEF will also strengthen the resilience of education systems, schools and learners to future shocks.
19. This will include strengthening psychosocial training and support systems for front-line workers, parents and caregivers, children and adolescents.
20. Including cross-border impacts/dimensions of hazards, which will be addressed through subregional planning, preparedness and response coordinated by the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office.
21. UNICEF will sustain regional team technical readiness for deployment where needed, in line with Grand Bargain commitments. In addition, the Regional Office will support transitions from response scale-up to phasing out through resilience/systems strengthening approaches. Emphasis will also be placed on rolling out the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, emergency monitoring and information management and surge deployments.
22. Based on the estimated budgets to respond to needs in the 12 countries included in this appeal. This includes \$36 million for multi-hazard emergency response, \$5 million for emergency preparedness and \$14 million for Regional Office technical support.
23. Angola and Eritrea moved to inclusion in this regional appeal after discussions between the Regional Office and UNICEF Representatives in these countries; this followed multi-year analyses to determine the rate of return on investment in the appeals as a way to mobilize emergency resources.
24. Funding requirements have increased by \$20 million despite a decrease in the number of people in need and children in need, because UNICEF itself will target more people due to anticipated limited government/partner capacities. This diminished capacity is due to the scale of humanitarian hazards, particularly El Niño-induced droughts/floods and deepening economic deterioration.
25. Thirty-nine per cent of the emergency response funding will be dedicated to cross-sectoral areas as follows: cash interventions, 9 per cent; social and behavioural change and accountability to affected populations, 5 per cent; disability inclusion, 5 per cent; gender programming, 15 per cent; protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, 5 per cent.
26. Funding will be used mostly for Regional Office staff supporting emergency functions, missions and other related costs to support all 21 countries in the region. The increase results from factoring in the level of effort of all Regional Office staff with emergency functions, including advisors.
27. Funding will be allocated for preparedness actions for predictable risks, mainly El Niño-induced drought/floods in the 12 countries included in this appeal.