



At the Tsiatosika health centre in southeastern Madagascar, a child with severe wasting eats ready-to-use therapeutic food, a treatment supplied by UNICEF.

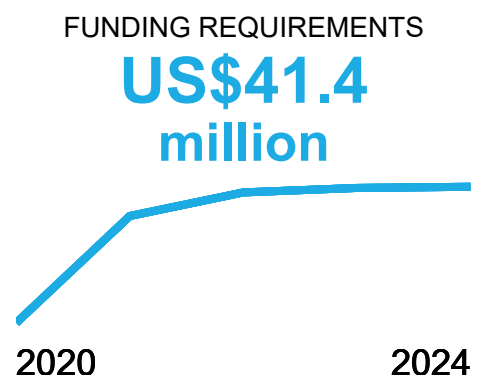
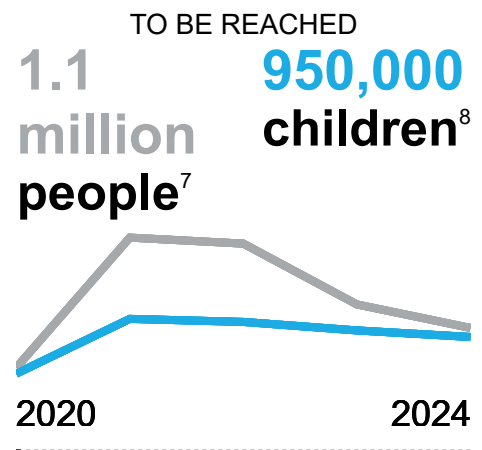
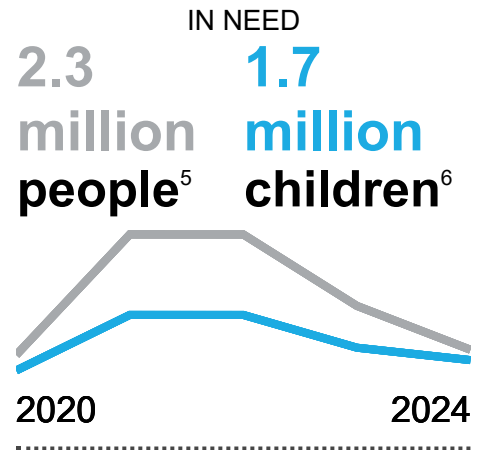
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Humanitarian Action for Children

Madagascar

HIGHLIGHTS^{1,2}

- Prolonged drought, recurrent floods, cyclones and epidemics impact the already vulnerable population living in Madagascar's south and southeast regions. Climate change has increased the frequency of disasters, and the coming El Niño weather pattern will intensify their impacts. A projected 2.3 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 2024.³
- UNICEF will provide a multisectoral, integrated and multilevel response to meet people's needs. The organization will promote a humanitarian–development nexus approach, strengthening its liaison with local authorities and communities through a stronger field presence; and enhance links with resilience programmes and development actors, especially in the south.
- UNICEF requires \$41.4 million to provide humanitarian support to 1.1 million people (51 per cent women and girls), including 950,000 children and 119,000 people with disabilities.⁴



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



114,000
children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



400,000
women and children accessing gender-based violence mitigation, prevention, response



370,000
children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



46,500
households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers

Figures are provisional, based on an updated Flash Appeal, and subject to change upon forthcoming methodological assessments of El Niño's impact.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Approximately 2.3 million people, a third of the population of the south and southeast regions of Madagascar, will need humanitarian assistance in 2024, due to devastating cyclones in 2022 and 2023 and intense drought in the south from 2019 to 2022.¹⁰ Seventeen districts in these regions are classified as crisis level (integrated food security phase classification Phase 3 and above) for the 2024 lean season, starting in January.⁹ Potential social unrest due to the electoral process taking place from November to January 2024 could further disturb access to basic social services.

In the drought-prone southern regions, the situation has slightly improved but remains fragile. Access to water is slightly better compared with 2022.¹¹ However, the number of people classified as being in emergency levels of water scarcity is above the pre-crisis average. Economic and social structures have been impacted by years of crisis, causing internal migration¹² and use of negative coping mechanisms;¹³ this has exacerbated social protection needs and increased school dropout. Wasting levels remain high: 9.2 per cent of children under age 5 wasted.¹⁴

The southeastern regions continue to experience the consequences of two consecutive years of cyclones. Communities dealing with the lasting effects of tropical cyclones in 2022 were then hit by Tropical Cyclone Freddy in the first part of 2023, impacting their recovery. Nutrition needs are increasing: it is estimated that two landlocked districts will be in phase 4 (emergency levels) for acute malnutrition beginning in January 2024.¹⁵ Twenty basic health centres destroyed by the cyclones of 2022 and 2023 still need rehabilitation. Additionally, 40 per cent of WASH infrastructure was destroyed or contaminated by these cyclones, while open defecation persists in some areas of these hard-to-reach districts.

Madagascar continues to experience polio and malaria epidemics, which has increased the burden on already weak health services. More than 1 million malaria cases were reported in these six regions between January and July 2023, 60 per cent of the country's cases, aggravating wasting levels.

As a result, about 550,000 children will experience wasting in 2024, of whom 114,000 will be severely wasted. And 1.4 million people will require WASH interventions. Rapid protection assessments have shown that the various crises have increased the risks of violence against children and their exploitation in regions already home to high rates of child marriage and child labour. Additionally, 440,000 people require gender-based violence and protection services.

The El Niño weather pattern will intensify droughts and floods in the south and southeast. El Niño may also impact other parts of the country, potentially causing drought in the northwest along with higher risks of cyclones.¹⁶

SECTOR NEEDS



940,000
people in need of health assistance¹⁷



1 million
people in need of nutrition assistance¹⁸



522,000
children in need of protection services¹⁹



1.1 million
children in need of education support²⁰



100,000
households in need for humanitarian cash transfers²¹

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Severe weather events are increasingly disrupting children's education in Madagascar.

Nearly 100,000 students could not attend school for several weeks after Tropical Cyclone Freddy battered Madagascar after making landfall there on 21 February 2023.

In the secondary school of Antaninarenina, in the city of Tulear, in southwestern Madagascar, students start streaming towards the school as seven o'clock is about to strike. It's back-to-school day: classes have been suspended for the past three weeks for the 800 students at the school due to the passage of Freddy. Two large tents provided by UNICEF have been set up as temporary classrooms.

[Read more about this story here](#)

A student at an Antaninarenina public middle school in the Atsimo-Andrefana region stands inside her school in March 2023. The building was damaged by Tropical Cyclone Freddy.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In line with the national response of the Government of Madagascar, and complementing its partners' work, UNICEF will provide an ambitious, child-focused and rights-based humanitarian response. UNICEF supports the focus on anticipatory actions agreed to by the humanitarian community²⁶ and continues to strengthen early warning systems²⁵ and engage with communities in the area of social and behaviour change to ensure preparedness.

UNICEF leads the Nutrition and WASH Clusters in Madagascar, as well as the cash working group; UNICEF co-leads the Education Cluster and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. In these forums, UNICEF focuses on coordination and scaling up interventions using a 'no-regrets' approach. UNICEF intends to support the country's humanitarian strategy by promoting coordinated, multi-risk analyses, and intersectoral, resilience-focused and locally led responses. In accordance with the new country programme document for Madagascar, UNICEF will reinforce its field presence in humanitarian areas²³ and strengthen its accountability to affected populations.

Liaising with development actors allows a more efficient humanitarian response. For example, WASH infrastructure and better availability of water has already reduced the costs of WASH interventions.²⁷

UNICEF will use the available social protection system to administer humanitarian cash transfers^{28,29} to cover up to 50 per cent of the population in need, as identified by the cash working group.³⁰

Access to free primary health care for 228,000 people will be improved by strengthening community and primary health care,²⁴ including through outreach and a mobile strategy to facilitate access.²²

Madagascar is one of the first countries to implement the new World Health Organization recommendations for prevention and treatment of wasting.³¹ This means a better continuum of care³² for 385,000 malnourished children. UNICEF also intends to expand its coverage to meet the nutritional needs of women and adolescent girls, with 31,500 women receiving multiple micronutrients supplementation, and to strengthen the links with social protection.³³

With more than 182,000 children deprived of school in 2023 due to cyclones, the priority for education will be to prepare schools in the drought- and cyclone-affected areas to build back better, and facilitate children's retention in school, by providing materials, temporary classrooms and psychosocial support services.

Child protection efforts will centre on strengthening protection monitoring systems, with a focus on gender-based violence identification and case management and on support to other sectors to integrate psychosocial supports and positive parenting.³⁴

UNICEF remains committed to zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse. The organization will strengthen its internal capacity in this regard in 2024, and also contribute to inter-agency efforts on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse,³⁵ through refresher trainings and through collaborations among sectors to better integrate protection from sexual exploitation and abuse into UNICEF programmes.³⁶

2024 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health (including public health emergencies)

- **193,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **35,000** pregnant women receiving 4 antenatal care with prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis and malaria prevention.



Nutrition

- **114,000** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **336,589** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **164,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **400,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **400,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations



Education

- **370,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **300,000** children receiving individual learning materials



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **122,700** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **303,500** people reached with critical WASH supplies



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

- **46,500** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)
- **4,800,000** affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

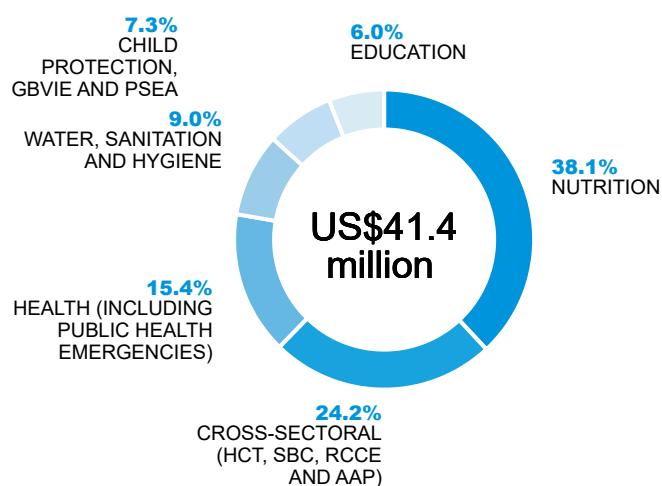
UNICEF is requesting \$41.4 million to address the needs of 1.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Madagascar, including 950,000 children. Full funding of this appeal is critical to enable UNICEF to provide life-saving goods and services to children and vulnerable populations in the context of persistent drought and frequent cyclones and floods.

Addressing the persistent nutrition crisis is the top priority, requiring 38 per cent of the total funding requirement to provide life-saving treatment for 385,000 malnourished children. Another priority area will be to cover at least 50 per cent of humanitarian cash transfer needs in support of vulnerable communities during the lean seasons and after natural disasters such as cyclones, especially in the southeast.

Funding will also enable UNICEF to provide essential primary health care to 228,000 people, bring children back to school in the drought- and cyclone-affected areas and promote child protection and gender-based violence identification and case management. UNICEF continues to invest in protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and in gender-based violence prevention and response, allocating at least \$500,000 through child protection (\$300,000) and other sectors, to reach 400,000 people. Twenty-seven per cent of all funds requested will be dedicated to gender-related priorities.

UNICEF has developed an accountability to affected populations strategy with a humanitarian–development nexus lens, and is part of the common feedback mechanism with other humanitarian partners in Madagascar. Finally, \$370,000 will be devoted to ensuring community participation.

Without timely and sufficient funding, UNICEF will be unable to provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable populations, leaving many without access to essential services and protection.



Sector	2024 requirements (US\$) ³⁷
Health (including public health emergencies)	6,380,000
Nutrition	15,760,000
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	3,020,000 ³⁸
Education	2,480,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	3,730,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	10,040,000 ^{39,40}
Total	41,410,000

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ENDNOTES

1. The numbers of people in need and children in need have decreased compared with 2023. However, UNICEF intends to provide a greater coverage of interventions, so the numbers of people and children to be reached have not decreased to the same degree. The cost of interventions, including humanitarian cash transfers through the social protection programme, justifying a funding requirement similar to that of 2023.
2. The number of people in need is aligned with the inter-agency documents, namely the October 2023 revised Flash Appeal, covering 20 districts in south and southeastern Madagascar. Additional people in need may be added if the epidemiological situation (particularly for measles) in other regions deteriorates.
3. Madagascar Flash Appeal January 2023–May 2024, revised October 2023.
4. There are no recent and valid data on disabilities available for Madagascar. Hence we used the international estimates of 10 per cent of children and 15 per cent of adults with special needs. The UNICEF Madagascar Country Office is engaged on inclusion.
5. The number of people in need is aligned with the August 2023 updated Flash Appeal covering the response until mid-2024 for 20 districts in south and southeastern Madagascar. The number of people in need has slightly decreased from the previous Flash Appeal, mainly due to a reduction in acute food insecurity in the south. However, with the potential impact of El Niño, another revision of the appeal is possible by the end of 2023 and data are subject to change.
6. The number of children in need was calculated based on children making up 50 per cent of the total population, according to UNICEF MICS 2018.
7. This figure was calculated considering the various interventions planned for different age groups and locations to avoid double counting. It includes 580,000 children under age 5 to be reached with vitamin A supplementation; 340,000 children aged 5–14 years accessing formal or non-formal education; 30,000 adolescents, including 25,000 boys and girls accessing education and 21,000 adolescent girls accessing health services; and 160,000 people accessing WASH services. Among all people to be reached, 95,000 children (10 per cent) and 24,000 adults (15 per cent) have disabilities.
8. This figure was calculated considering the various interventions planned for different age groups and locations to avoid double counting. It includes 580,000 children under age 5 to be reached with vitamin A supplementation; 340,000 children aged 5–14 years accessing formal or non-formal education; 30,000 adolescents, including 25,000 boys and girls accessing education and 21,000 adolescent girls accessing health services.
9. Seventeen districts are classified as phase 3 or greater out of the 22 districts integrated in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) acute food security analysis. In total, there are 26 districts in these six regions.
10. National Office of Disaster Risk Management (BNGRC), Humanitarian response plan January 2023–May 2024, updated September 2023. People in need and people to be reached were revised in August 2023 to reflect needs during the upcoming lean season and cyclone season, from August 2023 to May 2024.
11. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index, May 2023; underground water surveillance, August 2023.
12. International Organization for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix, 2022.
13. The protection assessment includes, but is not limited to: Gender and Protection Analysis, Action Contre La Faim, August 2022; Barrier to access to services for GBV survivors in the South of Madagascar, Médecins du Monde, February 2023.
14. SMART Survey, June 2023, data collected March–April 2023.
15. IPC acute malnutrition analysis, July 2023.
16. RIASCO, July 2023.
17. Among populations in IPC phase 3 or greater, the Health Cluster considers children under age 5, adolescents, pregnant and breastfeeding women, the elderly and particularly those with disabilities as the most vulnerable and the most exposed to problems accessing integrated health care. They represent 940,000 people, including 560,000 in the 9 districts in the south and 380,000 in the 11 districts in the southeast.
18. Including 450,000 children and women (including adolescent girls) for treatment and 550,000 people for prevention (supplementation programmes combined with IYCF-U activities). Children count for 73 per cent of the people in need (Nutrition Cluster calculation, Flash Appeal, updated October 2023).
19. Protection cCluster, Child Protection Area of responsibility, Flash Appeal, updated October 2023.
20. Education Cluster/Ministry of Education, Flash Appeal. Calculation is based on all children aged 5–18 years in primary and secondary school who do not benefit from school feeding programmes, in areas experiencing IPC phase 3 or greater.
21. Based on Food Security Cluster and cash working group estimates: 1.66 million people in need of food security assistances in the IPC3 districts, of whom 40 per cent are in need of cash (660,000) (calculation based on a average household size of 6.5 people, with 100,000 households in need of humanitarian cash transfers).
22. In a nexus approach, the country office is also in the process of developing partnerships with development funds and actors that will cover southern Madagascar. We plan to better use both kinds of funding to complement each other: humanitarian funds oriented towards access to health services in humanitarian settings, and development funds to cover system strengthening, including for national zero dose efforts.
23. UNICEF has a strong objective of decentralization and has field offices in the most impacted or at-risk areas, including a new one in the southeast. This presence will be critical for better intersectoral planning and response at the local level.
24. Using the new UNICEF-supported community health-care strategy and guidance for Madagascar.
25. UNICEF is involved in the development of multi-agency early warning system in support to the National Bureau for Risks and Disaster Management and in the Early Warnings for All initiative.
26. The Flash Appeal August 2023–May 2024 (September 2023 update, to be published), focuses on both anticipatory actions and humanitarian response. Sixteen per cent of the required funds for this Flash Appeal are for anticipatory actions.
27. Mainly by reducing the need for water trucking, which is costly.
28. Humanitarian cash transfers will be triggered based on the vulnerability indicators defined by the cash working group and in line with the national guidelines.
29. To enable rapid recovery and early recovery of affected populations, the Government, supported by its technical and financial partners, adopted a shock-responsive social protection approach. This approach aims to help vulnerable households through use of existing social protection systems and programs, providing cash and/or other support and services.
30. This Humanitarian Action for Children appeal will cover two lean seasons (January–March 2024 and November–December 2024), and one cyclonic season.
31. See UNICEF and World Food Programme, UNICEF and WFP Strategic Approach for Early Actions to Address Wasting in Children and Women in 15 Priority Countries (2024–2026): A strategic note for the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.
32. Continuum of care also includes integrating child and social protection programmes to ensure an integrated package addressing malnutrition determinants, to avoid relapse.
33. The Nutrition Cluster will work closely with the cash working group to integrate nutrition parameters for targeting (households with malnourished children, led by women/adolescent girls, etc.) and response (nutrition needs will be integrated in the calculation of the minimum expenditure basket, based on the 'fill the nutrient gap' analysis in progress).
34. Integration of mental health and psychosocial support into the programming of other sectors, i.e. health, nutrition and education, allows for a more ambitious targeting for mental health and psychosocial support, from 15,000 people in 2023 to 200,000 in 2024.
35. Through the deployment of two specialists in protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and participation in the inter-agency Task Force Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
36. The aim for 2024 is to have a UNICEF programme integrating protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and accountability to affected populations at all stages of its multisectoral programme development, in accordance with the gender transformative and inclusive approach the country office is implementing. This has been identified as a priority for the new country programme document cycle 2024–2028, including in humanitarian action.
37. The allocation for gender is about \$11.3 million, distributed throughout the activities of each section, and representing nearly 30 per cent of the total appeal amount.
38. Including \$300,000 for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and gender-based violence prevention and response activities; \$200,000 for these cross-cutting areas is integrated into other sectors' activities.
39. Including social and behaviour change support of \$3,920,000. This includes \$750,000 for accountability to affected populations and social listening and \$1 million for community engagement. The cross-sectoral budget also covers field presence engagement.
40. The humanitarian cash transfer/social protection budget is estimated at \$5,650,000.