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UNICEF State of Palestine

Annual Report 2025

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1. Foreword

In the State of Palestine, ongoing conflict, mass displacement, economic collapse and the destruction of essential services have altered daily life beyond recognition for children and families. Loss, fear and deprivation have become defining features of childhood, demanding urgent and continued attention.

In the Gaza Strip, living conditions deteriorated to catastrophic levels in 2025. Repeated displacement, fuel shortages, destruction of homes, schools, health facilities and water systems, and severe movement restrictions eroded families' ability to meet even their most basic needs. Hunger became an acute threat to children's survival. Even after the October ceasefire, large areas remained unsafe and essential services were only partially restored. For children, this meant constant upheaval, exposure to trauma, prolonged disruption to learning and, in many cases, family separation – consequences that will shape their futures for years to come.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem,[1] the context remained deeply unstable. Intensified movement restrictions, militarised operations, settler violence and demolitions repeatedly undermined children's access to education, health care and social services. Service continuity was fragile and uneven, and children faced heightened protection risks and psychosocial distress.

Across both contexts, UNICEF prioritised continuity of essential services, bridged emergency response with early recovery, and worked closely with national counterparts to protect and strengthen core systems rather than replace them. This approach helped prevent further worsening of the situation. Even amid near systemic collapse in the Gaza Strip, UNICEF and its partners sustained lifesaving services at scale. Primary health care, nutrition treatment, provision of safe water, mental health and psychosocial support, and emergency learning opportunities were maintained through constant adaptation, strong local partnerships, and the extraordinary commitment of frontline workers. I remain deeply humbled by the courage and professionalism of national institutions, local organisations and UNICEF colleagues who continued to serve children under unprecedented pressure.

This work came at unacceptable cost. Humanitarian personnel faced constant dangers, and colleagues and partners lost their lives while delivering assistance, particularly in the Gaza Strip. UNICEF and the United Nations as a whole mourn these losses and reaffirm that the protection of humanitarian workers is both a legal obligation and a moral imperative.

None of UNICEF's work this year would have been possible without **sustained and flexible support from our partners**. In a highly unstable operating environment where needs evolved constantly, flexible financing allowed UNICEF to adjust delivery, seize brief access windows and maintain services when alternatives did not exist. We are deeply grateful for this partnership. Nevertheless, significant funding gaps remain. **As humanitarian needs remain acute, inaction will directly affect children's lives and future opportunities**.

UNICEF will continue to stand with children in the State of Palestine. Guided by the voices of children and caregivers, and supported by our partners, we remain committed to meeting immediate needs, protecting children's rights and working towards a future in which every child can heal, learn and thrive in safety and dignity.

Jonathan Veitch
Special Representative
UNICEF State of Palestine

1 In this report, references to the West Bank are intended to include East Jerusalem.

2. Situation of Children in the State of Palestine

In 2025, violence, displacement and economic collapse stripped millions of children in the State of Palestine of safety, stability and essential services.

In the Gaza Strip, conditions for children deteriorated with devastating consequences. **Since October 2023, at least 20,000 children have been reported killed and thousands more injured, many with lifechanging disabilities requiring sustained rehabilitation**. Tens of thousands lost one or both parents; many endured the destruction of their homes and communities. Despite the October 2025 ceasefire, large areas remained uninhabitable and access to health care, education, safe water and adequate nutrition was severely constrained.

Hunger became an acute threat. In August 2025, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) declared famine in northern Gaza following prolonged restrictions on the entry of humanitarian and commercial supplies. Young children faced widespread malnutrition, resulting in preventable deaths from hunger and disease, while damaged health facilities struggled to provide basic treatment.



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A Palestinian youth carries a water jerry can and a shovel amid the ruins of homes in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip.

Economic collapse further eroded people's capacity to cope. Livelihoods were largely wiped out, poverty near universal in the Gaza Strip, and families increasingly resorted to harmful coping strategies. In 2025, more children – some as young as six – engaged in hazardous work to support household survival.

Education was entirely disrupted, and school-aged children in the Gaza Strip lacked safe access to formal, in-person schooling. Students and teachers faced destroyed classrooms, no learning materials and high levels of psychosocial distress. Attacks on facilities, infrastructure damage and insecurity deprived children of structured learning, social interaction and protective environments.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, risks escalated. Since October 2023, 239 Palestinian children have been killed, and nearly 1,900 injured. Thousands of children have been displaced with their families. Intensified militarised operations, settler violence, demolitions and movement restrictions displaced families, disrupted services and undermined access to education, health care and WASH services. Systems functioned but access was uneven and unpredictable.

The Palestinian Authority's fiscal crisis further weakened services. Salary interruptions affected teachers, health workers and social service providers, reducing school days and access to care and heightening psychosocial stress.

Across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, cumulative violence, deprivation and uncertainty severely affected children's health, learning and psychosocial wellbeing, risking an entire generation's future.

Despite this, national institutions pursued recovery planning. In 2025, the Palestinian Authority advanced frameworks to transition from emergency response toward recovery, including multi-year reconstruction planning for the Gaza Strip. UNICEF provided technical leadership across child-focused sectors – health, nutrition, education, WASH and social protection – to keep children's rights central to recovery and ensure that future investments support a more stable and dignified future for Palestinian children.

3. UNICEF Response and Strategy



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The majority of families across the Gaza Strip are displaced, living in conditions that leave children and families exposed to heavy rains, the cold and disease. UNICEF distributed tents, winter clothing, and blankets to children and their families.

Amid a prolonged crisis, UNICEF sustained essential services for children and families while advancing recovery work and system strengthening. By linking humanitarian action with early recovery, UNICEF met urgent needs while helping to prevent further erosion of essential services vital to children's survival, development and dignity.

Before the October 2025 ceasefire, UNICEF prioritised critical interventions in the Gaza Strip in the face of collapsing systems: minimum safe water despite fuel shortages; continuity of primary health care and nutrition services through prepositioned supplies, mobile teams and remaining facilities; expansion of mental health and psychosocial support; and learning continuity through temporary and community-based education. UNICEF also supported interagency planning to align scarce resources with children's most urgent needs during short access windows.

After the ceasefire, UNICEF scaled up humanitarian assistance while advancing early recovery where possible: targeted repair of water and sanitation infrastructure, restoration of routine immunisation and maternal and child health services, reopening of learning centres, and stronger community-based child protection. Continued access constraints and displacement meant emergency response still dominated, even as recovery needs started to shape prioritisation in line with damage and needs assessments conducted by the Palestinian Authority.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNICEF helped keep services running amid recurrent disruption. Despite movement restrictions, militarised operations and demolitions limiting access, UNICEF worked with national institutions and local partners to adjust schedules, stabilise services and expand community-level approaches, especially for protection, education and psychosocial support.

Partnerships with line ministries, United Nations agencies, and national and local organisations enabled service delivery in hard-to-reach areas. **Leadership in sector coordination** maintained a consistent child-focused response and strategy.

Crosscutting priorities – gender, risk of gender-based violence, disability inclusion and accountability to affected populations – were integrated to improve equity and quality. Community feedback supported rapid adjustments in a volatile environment.

As sector lead for WASH, education and social protection, UNICEF embedded child rights and gender and disability inclusion across assessments, planning and prioritisation. This includes supporting the integration of child-focused priorities into national plans for recovery and development, such as the Palestinian Authority's Gaza Reconstruction and Recovery Development Plan.

UNICEF has also developed its own medium- and long-term recovery plans, aligning its Area Programme Document (as extended to 2027) with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

4. Results for Children by Sector

4.1 Health

Key achievements

- **22,134 newborns and critically ill children** in the Gaza Strip received neonatal and paediatric intensive care.
- **730,389 children and women** accessed primary health care through UNICEF supported facilities and 20 mobile teams the Gaza Strip.
- **603,000 children under 10** in the Gaza Strip were vaccinated during the third polio vaccination campaign.
- **37,387 infants under one year** received pentavalent 3 vaccination through routine services.
- **14,288 children** were reached through catch up immunisation campaigns.
- **357,088 people** in the West Bank were supported through the provision of essential medical supplies during heightened insecurity.
- **1,000 patients per month in the West Bank** gained access to oxygen therapy through two newly installed oxygen plants.

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF prioritised child survival amid system collapse – sustaining minimum lifesaving services through emergency vaccination, large scale screening and treatment for acute malnutrition, and neonatal and paediatric critical care. These actions helped prevent further loss of life and reduced outbreak risks as famine emerged in the north and malnutrition worsened across the Gaza Strip.



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A child receives the polio vaccine in Jabalia, north of the Gaza Strip in February, after poliovirus was detected in a wastewater point.

In the West Bank, efforts focused on keeping services operational under recurrent disruption: provisioning of supplies, including oxygen, therapy equipment and sustaining access to primary care during periods of heightened insecurity. These efforts prevented service breakdowns and protected routine child and maternal health outcomes.

Across the State of Palestine, mobile teams and routine immunisation helped stabilise core health functions and protect immunity gaps in crowded, high-risk settings, laying groundwork for early recovery where feasible. UNICEF also worked to strengthen the health systems, for instance working closely with the Ministry of Health on its Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Building Programme, leading to adoption of the first National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy and initiation of a digital monitoring and evaluation system for real-time data tracking.

4.2 Nutrition

Key achievements

- **An average of 90,961 children** aged 6-59 months were screened for acute malnutrition each month across the Gaza Strip.
- **69,845 children** in the Gaza Strip were treated for moderate acute malnutrition.
- **16,353 children** in the Gaza Strip were treated for severe acute malnutrition.
- **29,080 caregivers** per month received infant and young child feeding counselling in the Gaza Strip.

Widespread malnutrition was a threat to children's survival in the Gaza Strip in 2025. In August 2025, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) declared famine in northern Gaza while damaged health facilities struggled to provide basic treatment. In response, UNICEF prioritised treatment for acute malnutrition, working with partners as nutrition cluster lead to deliver life-saving nutrition services amid worsening food insecurity.

A comprehensive screening programme identified children most at risk, which was followed by treatment for moderate and severe malnutrition. UNICEF also maintained preventive services, including providing ready-to-use infant formula for children aged 0–6 months and ready-to-use complementary food for children aged 6–23 months, as well as counselling for caregivers on infant and young child feeding.



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Vulnerable children receive nutrition support at a UNICEF-supported malnutrition screening and treatment point in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip.

4.3 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Key achievements

- In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF provides **1.6 million** people access to water for drinking and domestic use each month, including **1.1 million** through emergency water trucking.
- **1.4 million people** per month accessed sanitation services, including wastewater and sewage pumping station rehabilitation.
- **4,031 family latrines** were constructed, benefiting **60,465 people**.
- **224,690 people** in northern Gaza were protected from winter flash floods through the rehabilitation of sewage pumping stations.
- **93 temporary learning centres** and **29 health facilities** received WASH services or upgrades, including disability friendly facilities.
- **553,000 people** in the West Bank accessed water and **15,000** accessed sanitation services.

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF prioritised the delivery of minimum safe levels of water and sanitation to prevent public health collapse amid widespread infrastructure destruction, fuel shortages and repeated displacement. Emergency water trucking, rapid repairs and support to key systems helped reduce disease risk in overcrowded shelters and sustain basic dignity for children and families. Following the ceasefire, increasing emphasis was placed on restoring system functionality, rehabilitating damaged infrastructure and improving sustainability in line with early recovery priorities.



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People in Deir al-Balah gather to fill jerry cans with clean, drinkable water from an operational desalination plant, before loading them onto animal-drawn carts for transport.

In the West Bank, WASH programming focused on maintaining system functionality and filling service gaps where access was disrupted. By supporting water supply and sanitation services in communities affected by settler violence and militarised operations, UNICEF helped prevent localised service breakdowns and stabilised access for children in areas facing recurrent insecurity.

Across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, UNICEF worked with national institutions, utilities and United Nations partners to sustain WASH services and coordinate the sector response. WASH investments in schools, health facilities and household sanitation improved hygiene conditions in essential service points and supported safer learning and health care environments. Work to strengthen the capacity of national institutions led to more effective water and sanitation planning, with initiatives such as the WASH Building Assessment Tool and WASH FIT training for over 400 health-care facilities. At the national level, UNICEF worked to embed climate priorities into the national agenda.

4.4 Child Protection

Key achievements

- **271,905 children** and **90,753 caregivers** in the Gaza Strip accessed community-based mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).
- **11,106 children** accessed individual case management, including **2,537 children with injuries or disabilities** in the Gaza Strip.
- **282,484 children** and **493,690 caregivers** in the Gaza Strip received explosive ordnance risk education.
- **917 children** were reunified with families and **1,327** accessed alternative or family-based care.
- **482,702 winter clothing kits** and **957,731 blankets** were provided to vulnerable children in the Gaza Strip.
- **46,757 children** and **35,526 caregivers** in the West Bank accessed MHPSS services.
- **1,012 children** received legal aid, **6,632** participated in legal empowerment sessions, and **7,369** humanitarian workers were trained in child protection and mental health and psychosocial support in the West Bank including East Jerusalem.

In the Gaza Strip, children faced extreme and widespread protection risks driven by repeated displacement, exposure to violence, family separation and prolonged deprivation. UNICEF **prioritised largescale mental health and psychosocial support and emergency child protection services** to help children cope with trauma and prevent further harm. Flexible, community-based modalities enabled continuity of support amid insecurity and movement constraints, while case management, family-based care and **tailored assistance for children with injuries and disabilities** were expanded to protect unaccompanied, separated and highly vulnerable children. Explosive ordnance risk education remained critical to reducing injury and death in areas affected by contamination following hostilities.



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Children in the Gaza Strip participate in Teaching Recovery Techniques (TRT) sessions, learning coping techniques to deal with the trauma of war.

By scaling up emergency protection services in the Gaza Strip while sustaining targeted, system-linked responses in the West Bank, UNICEF helped reduce immediate harm, strengthen coping capacities and preserve protective environments for children amid prolonged crisis. Working with partners, UNICEF also continued to lay foundations for longer-term psychosocial recovery, disability inclusion and child-sensitive justice processes.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, child protection programming focused on continuity and targeted response to recurrent shocks. Militarised operations, settler violence, and demolitions heightened protection risks, including psychosocial distress and contact with the justice system. UNICEF worked with national institutions and partners to provide case management, legal support and mental health and psychosocial support services for affected children and caregivers, while strengthening referral pathways, frontline capacity and the rollout of child-sensitive justice reforms to improve response to violations and protection concerns as they arose.

Across both contexts, UNICEF integrated prevention and response to gender-based violence and disability inclusion into child protection programming, and collaborated with education, health and WASH partners to mitigate protection risks across sectors. Community engagement and feedback mechanisms informed programme adaptation in a complex environment, helping ensure services remained accessible, appropriate and responsive to children's needs. Rolling out the Child Protection Information Management System + will provide a solid foundation for case management in child protection moving forward. In a key move to lay the foundations for a **child-sensitive justice system**, UNICEF finalized Standard Operating Procedures for juvenile and family police units, national inspection guidelines for custodial facilities and the Code of Ethics for judges and prosecutors.

4.5 Education

Key achievements

- **251,684 children in the Gaza Strip** accessed learning activities while **87 learning centres** in the Gaza Strip were operational by the end of 2025 .
- **204,286 children** participated in gender-responsive recreational activities in the Gaza Strip.
- **1,794 teachers** and **2,836 education personnel** were recruited in the Gaza Strip, including **49 special education teachers** and **104 counsellors**.
- **155 health, safety and security officers** were recruited, with mandatory evacuation training implemented across all learning centres.
- **57,695 children in the West Bank** accessed education, including **12,661** through remedial programmes and **4,224** through targeted hotspot support.
- **2,905 teachers** were mobilised for remedial education, **1,932** trained on inclusive learning, and **1,468** trained to deliver science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education for grades grades 7-11 in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- **19,500 candidates** were supported to take Tawjihi[2] exams in the Gaza Strip.
- **6,174 students in the Gaza Strip were screened** were screened for learning difficulties and development of one-stop inclusive service hub to expand rehabilitation and education services were supported.

2 Matriculation exam, known as The General Certificate of High School Examination in Palestine, or Tawjihi.

For the Gaza Strip, access to safe, formal education remained severely constrained for a third consecutive year. Widespread damage to school infrastructure, ongoing violence and repeated displacement meant education programming focused on learning continuity and child protection through education in emergencies. UNICEF prioritised temporary learning spaces, alternative modalities and integrated psychosocial support to help children retain foundational skills, restore routines and access protective environments.

Recruitment of teachers and safety personnel, combined with preparedness measures and targeted early recovery initiatives – including accelerated learning and inclusive support for children with learning difficulties – helped sustain delivery and enable key milestones such as continued access to examinations where feasible. Even after the ceasefire, education remained largely emergency-oriented due to persistent access constraints and damaged infrastructure.



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Children participate in activities at a UNICEF-supported Temporary Learning Centre at Al Nuseirat Camp in the Gaza Strip, May 2025.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, education interventions emphasised continuity, recovery and mitigation of learning disruption. Movement restrictions, militarised operations, settler violence and fiscal pressures repeatedly interrupted schooling, requiring flexible responses to reopen schools, reduce learning loss and support students and teachers affected by closures and insecurity. UNICEF worked with national institutions and partners to deliver remedial education, targeted support in high-risk areas and teacher training, while strengthening system capacity through inclusive learning approaches and STEM programming. UNICEF also worked with the Ministry of Education to finalise the draft Evaluation Policy and Monitoring Protocol, laying the foundation for improved learning outcomes for children in the long-term.

Across both contexts, UNICEF prioritised inclusion, gender equality and child protection within education programming. Targeted measures addressed barriers faced by girls, children with disabilities and marginalised learners, while integrated psychosocial support helped mitigate distress linked to prolonged disruption and violence. Teacher recruitment, training and ongoing support remained central to maintaining education quality and providing safe learning environments.

4.6 Social Policy and Social Protection

Key achievements

- **643,500 people in the Gaza Strip** received humanitarian cash assistance, including **336,000 children** and **26,500 persons with disabilities**, totalling **US$54.7 million**. This assistance was comprised of multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), nutrition, disability, child protection top-ups for vulnerable groups, and incentive payments for front-line workers.
- **MPCA alone reached 543,000 individuals from 99,400 families**, including **over 286,000 children** and **26,000 persons with disabilities**.
- **45,000 people**, including **23,000 children with severe or moderate acute malnutrition**, received nutrition top-ups.
- **65,300 people** received disability top-ups.
- **15,500 frontline workers** received incentive payments, including **5,000 solid waste cleaners** and **4,700 education personnel**, to sustain essential service delivery.
- **27,000 people** in the West Bank, including **14,500 children**, were reached with emergency cash assistance linked to displacement.
- **11 rounds** of market and recipient monitoring were completed in the Gaza Strip and **2** in the West Bank, informing evidence-based cash programming.

In the Gaza Strip, social protection interventions focused on household survival amid economic collapse and, in some areas, famine conditions. With livelihoods destroyed and markets severely constrained, UNICEF implemented a scaled-up humanitarian cash transfer programme in the Gaza Strip in 2025, delivering US$54.7 million to 643,500 people, including children and persons with disabilities. Multipurpose cash assistance (reaching 99,400 families), alongside nutrition (reaching 23,000 children), disability (reaching 65,300 people) and child protection top-ups, helped families meet basic needs, protect children from hunger and reduce reliance on harmful coping strategies.

Incentive payments for 15,500 frontline workers – including solid waste cleaners and education personnel – helped sustain essential service delivery where public salary systems were disrupted. Regular market and recipient monitoring informed programme adjustments to maintain relevance and mitigate inflation and access risks in a volatile environment.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, cash-based interventions provided shock-responsive support linked to displacement and localised disruption. Emergency cash assistance reached 27,000 people affected by raids, demolitions and movement restrictions, while hygiene e-vouchers were piloted for the first time with the WASH sector to integrate cash assistance within a rapid response mechanism. UNICEF also piloted the Shock Responsive Social Protection Protocol with the Ministry of Social Development and UNRWA, linking emergency support with national systems and strengthening institutional readiness for future crises.

Across both contexts, UNICEF combined immediate assistance with system-oriented policy engagement. Investment in evidence generation to analyse and monitor markets strengthened the quality and accountability of cash-based programming, while support

to birth registration helped protect children's legal identity and access to services. UNICEF advanced broader policy agendas by supporting revisions to the national Social Protection Strategy, strengthening child rights and disability frameworks, and contributing to public finance analysis to ensure children's needs remain visible in recovery planning and fiscal decision-making as the humanitarian response transitions toward early recovery.

4.7 Cross-cutting Results

Key achievements

- **126,031 people** took part in community consultations.
- **4,585 adolescent girls** in the Gaza Strip received a distribution of Care and Protection packages.
- **693 children with disabilities** were reached with assistive devices.
- **1.8 million people** in the Gaza Strip were reached through risk communication and community engagement.
- Community-led Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse prevention activities reached **1.7 million people across the State of Palestine**.

Communications drove advocacy and visibility through extensive media and digital outreach. Over 1,500 interviews, 40 press releases and 20 human-interest stories kept children's voices and needs visible across local and global outlets, while over 1,250 social media posts – including 300 highlighting donor contributions – reached an audience of 27 million. Targeted communication products reinforced advocacy, including the award-winning documentary "Gaza's Silent Threat," which brought international attention to the polio campaign and the work of UNICEF staff.

Accountability to Affected Populations was strengthened through community feedback mechanisms, consultations with communities involving 126,031 people, and enhanced case handling through a new service line and feedback hub.

UNICEF's expenditure on gender-transformative programming reached 34 per cent of its overall budget. Significant actions included provision of Care and Protection Packages to 4,585 adolescent girls in Gaza and distribution of 80,000 dignity kits. Cash transfers reached 9,068 households with pregnant and breastfeeding women, and 42,159 female-headed households.

In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF scaled up engagement to promote lifesaving behaviour amid famine and health risks. These efforts supported polio vaccination and routine immunisation, reaching 1.8 million people through risk communication and community engagement, mass media, and 1,388 social mobilisers.

UNICEF expanded Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) efforts, reaching 1.7 million people with community-led prevention activities. Safe reporting channels reached 935,553 people, supported by a 24/7 helpline and survivor-centred referrals. Partner capacity was strengthened using the United Nations Harmonised PSEA Common Assessment Tool, benefiting 55 implementing partners.

5. Operating in a Protracted Crisis: Access, continuity and adaptation



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Vulnerable children receive nutrition support at a UNICEF-supported malnutrition screening and treatment point in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip.

In 2025, UNICEF worked across two very different realities in the State of Palestine. In the Gaza Strip, the near total destruction of essential services meant keeping even a minimum level of support running required constant adjustment. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, services were disrupted rather than destroyed, creating an access landscape that shifted week to week.

Against this backdrop, **in the Gaza Strip UNICEF relied on prepositioned supplies, rapid delivery through local partners and service points that could open, pause or move as people were displaced**. Mobile teams expanded reach, and frontline workers received remote support to keep essential care available. Community networks helped families locate safe water, health care, learning and protection. **In the West Bank, the priority was continuity and protection in response to increased violence**: identification of predictable routes into towns and villages, quick adjustments to schedules after incidents, and support to facilities where they could operate safely.

Across sectors, the aim remained the same: sustain lifesaving and protective services and push towards recovery wherever possible. For health and nutrition, UNICEF's programmes in the Gaza Strip maintained essential services at reduced but lifesaving levels, while the work in the West Bank focused on preventing interruptions at clinics affected by security operations. For WASH, in Gaza UNICEF worked to secure minimum safe water, while in the West Bank, UNICEF concentrated on keeping community systems functioning. For child protection, in the Gaza Strip UNICEF scaled up psychosocial support, flexible safe spaces and emergency case management; in the West Bank, services centred on case management for children and support for survivors of gender-based violence. Education in the Gaza Strip relied on temporary learning spaces and alternative approaches; in the West Bank, efforts focused on reopening schools after closures, catchup support and safer access for school children and staff.



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In April 2025, UNICEF successfully installed a backup electricity generator at Kamal Edwan Hospital, Gaza Strip.

Strong coordination made this possible. In the Gaza Strip, UNICEF worked with United Nations partners to plan convoy timing, direct scarce fuel to priority services and align urgent repairs. In the West Bank, planning focused on specific localities, aligning partner movements, school reopening and psychosocial services to reduce risk and duplication. Programme, operations and security teams strengthened joint risk analysis and duty of care, recognising the dangers that humanitarian personnel faced. Community feedback channels supported rapid adjustments in both settings.

By matching delivery to each context and by drawing on community networks, prepositioned supplies, remote support and strong partnerships, UNICEF sustained essential services for children as conditions shifted. **This approach will continue to guide UNICEF's efforts to protect child rights and connect emergency response with recovery, while remaining responsive to rapidly changing conditions**.

6. Partnerships, Accountability and Efficiency

Partnerships remained central to UNICEF's ability to deliver for children in 2025. Despite conflict, access barriers and disrupted public services, **UNICEF worked closely with national counterparts** – including line ministries and public service providers – to keep essential services running and to ensure that humanitarian support remained aligned with national priorities and recovery planning. Collaboration with the Palestinian Authority deepened through joint planning, technical assistance and support to recovery and damage needs assessments, reflecting that child-focused priorities in reconstruction efforts. **Civil society and local organisations played a vital role in reaching families in hard-to-access areas and sustaining community-level services**.

UNICEF also relied on **strong partnerships with United Nations agencies and humanitarian actors** through its leadership of the Nutrition, WASH and Education Clusters, and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. These coordination platforms helped partners understand needs, agree on priorities and deliver assistance in a coherent, complementary way. As co-lead of several planning and monitoring mechanisms, UNICEF supported collective accountability and helped reduce overlap in delivery.

Accountability to affected communities remained a core commitment. Families shared feedback that informed adjustments and helped identify service gaps quickly. UNICEF strengthened safeguarding and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse by expanding community awareness, maintaining confidential reporting channels and building partners' capacity – helping ensure that children and caregivers could seek help safely.



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Operating in a high-risk environment required constant attention to security and access challenges. **UNICEF regularly reviewed operational risks with partners and adapted approaches as conditions changed**. Using multiple supply routes, positioning stocks closer to communities and keeping delivery methods flexible helped reduce interruptions caused by sudden closures or delays. Duty-of-care measures helped staff and partners access the support they needed.

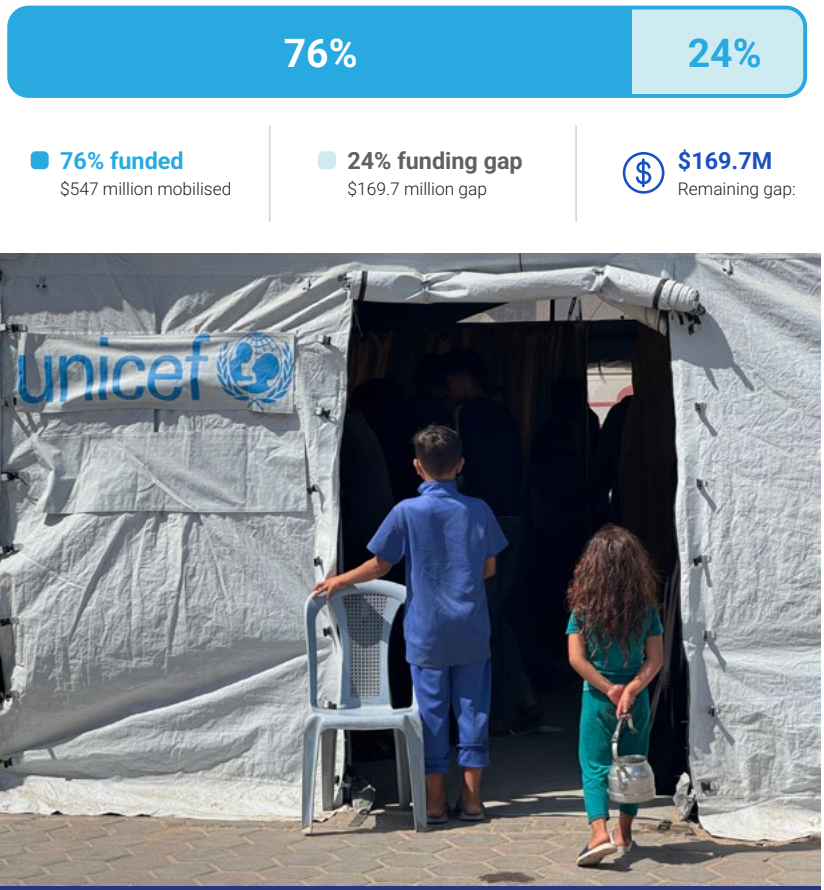
Efficiency also remained a priority. UNICEF made use of its global purchasing power to reduce costs, expand warehouse and supply chain capacity, and streamlined contracting and financial processes to speed up delivery. Cash assistance, digital payments and voucher systems improved efficiency and gave families more choice where markets were functioning. Regular monitoring supported transparency and evidence-based service delivery, helping to direct resources towards children and families in need.

7. Funding Overview

In 2025, UNICEF's response for children in the State of Palestine was financed primarily through the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal, which totalled $716.7 million. By yearend, UNICEF had mobilised $547 million (76 per cent), reflecting strong support despite an exceptionally complex operating environment. This funding enabled UNICEF to sustain lifesaving assistance at scale and to increase delivery rapidly when access windows opened, particularly after the October 2025 ceasefire.

In addition to cash contributions, UNICEF received $53 million in inkind support, including essential supplies that underpinned health services, water provision, nutrition treatment and learning continuity. Flexible financing streams, including Zakat funding, strengthened the ability to respond quickly to emerging needs, especially for the most vulnerable children. Together, these resources supported one of UNICEF's largest humanitarian operations globally and maintained uninterrupted logistics flows into the Gaza Strip and across the West Bank.

Funding was drawn from a diverse base of partners, including governments, multilateral and pooled funding mechanisms, United Nations financing instruments and private and philanthropic contributors. This broad support sustained integrated service delivery across all sectors, while also enabling early recovery efforts linked to national planning frameworks.



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Children stand outside a tent being used for medical services at Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir-al Balah in the Gaza Strip, September 2025.

Despite this progress, **significant funding gaps remained**, with direct consequences for programme scale and continuity. The **Nutrition programme faced the largest shortfall** – approximately 70 per cent – limiting the expansion of acute malnutrition treatment and preventive services at a time when famine was declared in northern Gaza. Other gaps affected education, child protection and WASH, slowing the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure, constraining learning and psychosocial support coverage, and restricting the system-strengthening investments needed for recovery. These shortfalls increased operational risk, particularly where uninterrupted inputs or surge capacity were essential for service continuity.

As humanitarian needs remain acute and recovery efforts begin to take shape, sustained and timely financing will be essential to protect hard-won results, maintain operational readiness and support the transition from emergency response to a child-centred recovery across the State of Palestine.

8. Way Forward

Children in the State of Palestine will continue to grow up amid deep uncertainty in 2026. In the Gaza Strip, fragile ceasefire dynamics, widespread displacement and severely damaged infrastructure will still constrain access to essential services. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the increased intensity and frequency of settler violence, combined with movement restrictions and fiscal pressures, will further strain social services and household coping capacities.

In this environment, UNICEF's work will be guided by two closely linked priorities.

First, UNICEF will sustain lifesaving and protective services for children and their caregivers. Health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection interventions will remain focused on the most vulnerable children, with continued flexibility and surge capacity to respond rapidly as needs evolve. Maintaining operational readiness will be essential to prevent service interruptions and respond to new escalations or displacement.



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Children and their families wait in Al Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip, for the green light to begin their journey back home to Gaza City and the northern areas, after 15 months of displacement.

Second, UNICEF will accelerate early recovery and system strengthening wherever conditions allow. Priorities include restoring and rehabilitating essential infrastructure such as water systems, schools and primary health care facilities; expanding area-based approaches through learning centres and community hubs; and reinforcing national delivery systems so assistance becomes more predictable, better targeted and more resilient to future shocks. Investments in data, monitoring and social protection will help ensure children remain visible in recovery and fiscal decision-making.

Across all sectors, UNICEF will continue to integrate disability inclusion, gender equality and safeguarding as non-negotiable standards. Community engagement and feedback mechanisms will be further strengthened to ensure programmes reflect the priorities and concerns of children, caregivers and communities, and to support timely adaptation in volatile conditions.

Operationally, UNICEF will continue to adapt delivery models to a high-risk and access-constrained environment. This includes diversifying supply routes, prepositioning critical inputs, simplifying contracting and financial processes, and strengthening risk informed decision-making that brings together security, programmatic and fiduciary considerations. Close coordination with the Palestinian Authority, municipalities and partners will anchor early recovery planning in child-centred priorities and national frameworks.

Delivering on these priorities will require sustained, flexible and front-loaded financing. Immediate funding needs include nutrition prevention and treatment in the Gaza Strip, access to safe water and sanitation, education in emergencies, and psychosocial support, alongside system investments required to convert short-term humanitarian gains into durable results. Continued engagement from government and private donors, international financial institutions and philanthropic partners will be essential to protect progress and accelerate recovery.

Even amid uncertainty and fragility, our objective remains clear: to uphold the rights of every child, and help lay the foundations for a safer, more stable future for children in the State of Palestine.

Jonathan Veitch
Special Representative
UNICEF State of Palestine
jveitch@unicef.org

Ettie Higgins
Deputy Representative
UNICEF State of Palestine
ehiggins@unicef.org

Nalinee Nippita
Partnerships Manager
UNICEF State of Palestine
nnippita@unicef.org

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