



A father visits a nutrition programme site with his daughter, who receives a well-child visit and nutrition monitoring, in Palma District in conflict-affected Cabo Delgado Province, in January 2024.

Humanitarian Action for Children

Mozambique

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- The poly-crisis in Mozambique—conflict, drought and public health emergencies—are stretching humanitarian resources. Approximately 4.8 million people² require humanitarian assistance (10 per cent persons with disabilities), including 3.4 million children.³
- In conflict-affected Cabo Delgado, more than 1.3 million⁴ internally displaced people, returnees and conflict-affected people require assistance. Eighty per cent of returnees and those who are internally displaced are children and women.
- Nearly 3.3 million⁵ people are projected to be in 'crisis' or higher levels of food insecurity due to the impact of the El Niño weather pattern, while La Niña weather patterns may exacerbate conditions in 2025. More than 29,000 children under age 5⁶ will likely need treatment for severe wasting.
- UNICEF prioritizes protective, gender-sensitive and inclusive action that uses an integrated approach to address basic needs while ensuring links to development programming.
- UNICEF requires \$64 million⁷ to address the humanitarian needs of 2.5 million people nationwide, including 2.1 million children. A lack of predictable and flexible funding puts children's welfare at risk.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



407,853

children and women accessing primary health care



531,619

children receiving vitamin A supplementation



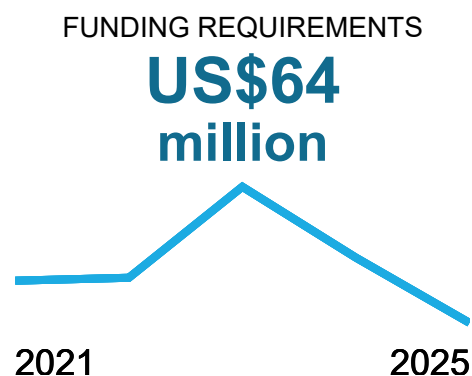
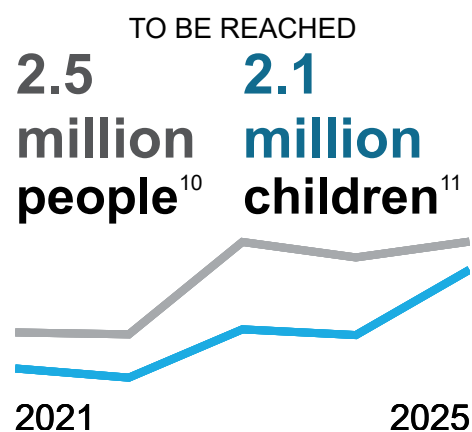
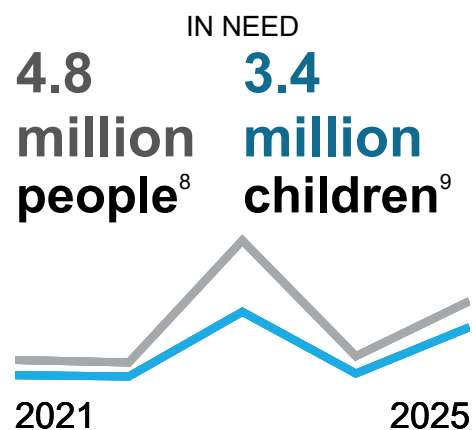
335,500

children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



881,251

people reached with critical WASH supplies



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

More than 4.8 million people, including 3.4 children, require humanitarian assistance and protection in Mozambique, due to ongoing conflict, climate shocks and disease outbreaks. The high level of humanitarian need is stretching the humanitarian community's response capacity in the country.

In a country where children make up 52 per cent of the population,¹³ conflict in Cabo Delgado Province continues to ravage communities. More than 1.3 million internally displaced persons, returnees and conflict-affected people require assistance. Insecurity and access constraints impede service provision in this extremely fragile and under-resourced province, where 16 per cent of schools¹⁴ and 21 per cent of health facilities¹⁵ are closed; 30 per cent of people lack access to safe water; and 68 per cent lack access to sanitation.¹⁶ Lack of access to these basic services violates children's rights.

The humanitarian crisis in Mozambique has increased the vulnerability of children, adolescents, persons with disabilities and women to abuse, exploitation, violence and psychosocial distress. Negative coping mechanisms¹⁷ are on the rise and more than 540,000 children in Cabo Delgado Province require child protection support.¹⁸ Grave violations of children's rights in Cabo Delgado were 400 per cent higher in the first six months of 2024 compared to all of 2023,¹⁹ and there was a 300 per cent increase in civilian fatalities in the first half of 2024 compared with the second half of 2023.²⁰

Women, adolescents and girls have limited access to gender-responsive services and experience information gaps, lack of revenue sources and a risk of heightened exposure to gender-based violence. Together with the large gap between the number of people in need and those receiving assistance, sexual exploitation and abuse risks could also heighten.

Mozambique is vulnerable to disease outbreaks. From January to September 2024, 571 cases of measles were reported in four provinces, mainly Cabo Delgado Province, and the country remains at high risk of a large-scale outbreak, with more than 3.3 million children aged nine months to 14 years requiring urgent vaccination.²¹ More than 18 million children are at risk from two circulating strains of poliovirus.¹² Risks of cholera, Mpox and other outbreaks require vigilant surveillance and contingency planning.

The 2023–2024 El Niño conditions resulted in inconsistent and sporadic rains, decimating local crop production in 2024.²² Lack of food, coupled with poor sanitation and hygiene practices, means that children are extremely vulnerable to malnutrition and disease. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification for Mozambique identifies nearly 3.3 million people in crisis or higher levels of food insecurity and 144,270 children under age five at risk of wasting.²³ The La Niña weather pattern expected in late 2024 and early 2025 may result in heavy rainfall and another year of reduced or damaged harvests.

SECTOR NEEDS



3.3 million
people in need of
health assistance²⁴



617,638
children in need of
nutrition assistance²⁵



540,107
children in need of
protection services²⁶



1.1 million
children in need of
education support²⁷



2.2 million
people in need of safe
water²⁸

STORY FROM THE FIELD



In March 2023, Cyclone Freddy ravaged Zambezia Province, Mozambique, ripping the roof from Nante Maternity Hospital, which caters to remote farming communities and where 90 babies are delivered each month. Thanks to support from the United States Agency for International Development, UNICEF was able to rebuild the roof of the hospital and refurbish its medical facilities in February 2024. This has had a major positive impact on the local community and hospital staff. "Everything has changed. Now we are free to do our job. I am feeling happy and safe, feeling comfortable to work here again," says Isabella Arminda, a nurse at the hospital.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Isabella Armindo, a nurse at Nante Maternity Hospital, stands in a waiting area in February 2024. UNICEF rebuilt the hospital's roof, which had been destroyed by Cyclone Freddy in 2023.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

Through field offices and a network of partners, UNICEF will provide inclusive and protective life-saving assistance in response to conflict, climate shocks and public health emergencies nationwide. As lead for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, UNICEF supports sector and intersectoral coordination and information management at national and subnational levels. The response in Cabo Delgado is aligned with the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025. UNICEF will link humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding programmes, increase coverage in hard-to-reach areas, and build local capacity. Accountability to affected populations, improving community participation and feedback and strengthening local capacities remain priorities. UNICEF promotes inclusive and gender-responsive approaches to ensure the needs of girls, boys, adolescents, women, men and persons with disabilities, are identified and addressed.

UNICEF advocates for children affected by armed conflict, supporting monitoring and reporting of the six grave violations against children, and engaging all parties to implement preventive measures. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and the response to gender-based violence remain priorities. Through mobile and static services, UNICEF will support specialized services, including mental health and psychosocial support; address the needs of children separated from their families; and support the reintegration of children associated with armed forces/groups. Support for formal and non-formal education, remedial learning, and educational materials are priorities. Both child protection and education aim to return children – particularly adolescents – to formal schooling or informal education and to enhance their life skills and business skills.

UNICEF's health and nutrition programme will provide life-saving antenatal, postnatal and newborn care; treatment of childhood diseases; and treatment for wasting. At the same time, UNICEF will strengthen services for children, adolescents and women through healthy infant feeding practices, primary health care, immunization, and social and behaviour change. Integrated mobile brigades enable access in hard-to-reach areas. HIV activities focus on children and adolescents, to ensure antiretroviral coverage, and prevent vertical transmission. These activities link with social protection cash transfers for drought-affected people. Broader hygiene promotion activities will include nationwide broadcasts and focused community campaigns. Strengthening humanitarian–development linkages, UNICEF will improve access to safe, resilient water and sanitation infrastructure and services and to life-saving hygiene supplies through gender-, disability- and climate-sensitive approaches.

Supply pre-positioning, capacity building and ongoing interventions to strengthen government services, including preparedness and anticipatory actions, continue to lay the foundation for a timely response when and where required in 2025.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports:
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mozambique/situation-reports>

2025 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health and HIV/AIDS

- **407,853** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **1,961,762** children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose
- **8,192** individuals receiving treatment for cholera/acute watery diarrhoea in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **13,180** pregnant and lactating women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy



Nutrition

- **531,619** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **26,577** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **172,307** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **531,619** children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **335,500** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **142,500** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **572,813** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **1,700** unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified
- **44,300** children who have received individual case management



Education

- **297,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **3,470** teachers and other Education Personnel trained in Education in Emergencies



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **572,813** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **190,938** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **190,938** people reached with handwashing behaviour-change programmes
- **881,251** people reached with critical WASH supplies



Social protection

- **35,000** households benefitting from social assistance from government funded programmes with UNICEF technical assistance



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

- **13,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)
- **4,394,058** people reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services
- **43,941** people engaged in promoting positive protective and preventive behaviours

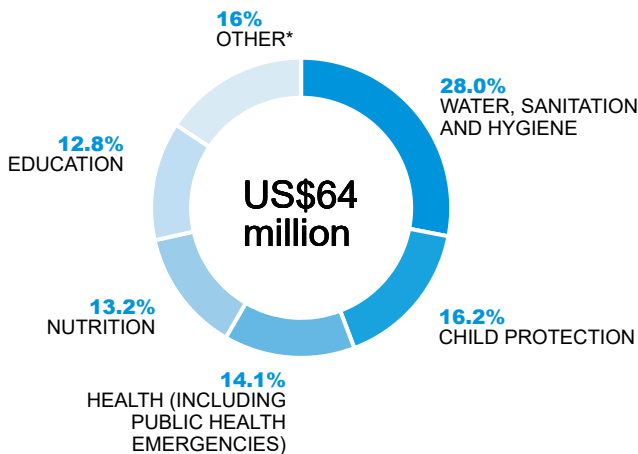
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2025

UNICEF requires \$64 million²⁹ to deliver inclusive and gender-sensitive assistance for girls, boys, women and men throughout Mozambique, including hard-to-reach areas. Funding needs cover the responses to conflict in the north, drought in the central zones and public health emergencies nationwide. UNICEF aims to expand the reach and quality of programming to create a pathway to sustainable improvements in people's lives. Given the regularity of climate shocks in Mozambique, 6 per cent of funds are for preparedness and anticipatory actions, including training and supply pre-positioning.

Due to outbreaks of measles and cholera/acute watery diarrhoea and the impact of the El Niño/La Niña weather patterns, UNICEF has scaled up its public health and nutrition responses. Programmes focus on life-saving health, nutrition, WASH and behaviour change interventions targeting hotspot areas and districts with high rates of wasting. The increase in the number of children targeted stems from the planned measles immunization campaigns; 49 per cent of children to be reached are in outbreak areas.

Funds requested for the response in Cabo Delgado have decreased by 47 per cent.³⁰ This reflects a strategic shift to prioritize the most acute needs and hard-to-reach locations, and the increased availability of development funds to address chronic deprivations. Whenever possible, UNICEF's conflict response is multisectoral. UNICEF plans to renew the Community Recovery and Resilience Plan, which lays out a humanitarian and development approach to conflict-affected locations.

UNICEF received less than \$15 million for the 2024 appeal, which, combined with carry-over resources, left a gap of 66 per cent. As a result, vulnerable children did not have access to services and were exposed to increasing protection risks, including violence and climate shocks causing additional displacements. Without continued support for humanitarian action in Mozambique, UNICEF will be unable to help children survive, thrive and achieve their potential.



**This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection (6.9%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (5.3%), Emergency Coordination (2.0%), Gender CCC and PSEA (1.5%).*

Sector	2025 requirements (US\$)
Health (including public health emergencies)	9,051,490
Nutrition	8,413,460
Child protection	10,356,053
Education	8,188,738
Water, sanitation and hygiene	17,939,767
Social protection	4,404,284 ³¹
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	3,402,000 ³²
Emergency Coordination	1,286,475 ³³
Gender CCC and PSEA	932,208 ³⁴
Total	63,974,475

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ENDNOTES

1. There is no accurate figure for the proportion of the Mozambique population with disabilities. UNICEF uses a conservative estimate of 10 per cent of people having a disability.
2. Provisional figures based on proposed number of people in need for the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025, which focuses only on conflict in Cabo Delgado Province (1.3 million, based on the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework); the number of people in need of assistance in drought-affected areas (1.8 million, based on the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Mozambique Drought Appeal August 2024 – July 2025, issued August 2024); and the estimated number of children in need of measles vaccination in areas not affected by conflict and drought (1,682,051 children).
3. Estimated based on children in need in the drought appeal (1 million children); the proposed number of children in need for the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025, which focuses only on conflict in Cabo Delgado Province (743,867 children); and the UNICEF estimate for the number of children in need of measles vaccination in areas not affected by drought or conflict (1,682,051 children).
4. This is the proposed number of people in need in Cabo Delgado Province contained in the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025. It includes 412,288 internally displaced persons; 411,730 returnees; and 481,012 non-displaced individuals.
5. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Mozambique: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for April – September 2024 and Projection for October 2024 – March 2025, available at <www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1157120/?iso3=MOZ>.
6. IPC, Mozambique: Acute Malnutrition Situation for April – September 2024 and Projection for October 2024 – March 2025, Information can be found here: <www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1157121/?iso3=MOZ>. The projection of children under age 5 estimated to require treatment for severe wasting is based on the analysis done in districts covered by the assessment, not the situation in the whole country.
7. The reduction of the 2025 financial requirements compared with 2024 is mainly due to the strategic shift by UNICEF to prioritize those with the most acute needs along with hard-to-reach locations, as well as the increased availability of development funds to address chronic deprivations in Cabo Delgado Province.
8. Provisional figures based on proposed number of people in need for the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025, which focuses only on conflict in Cabo Delgado Province: 1.3 million, based on the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework); the number of people in need of assistance in drought-affected areas: 1.8 million (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Mozambique Drought Appeal August 2024 – July 2025, issued August 2024); and the estimated number of children in need of measles vaccination in areas not affected by conflict and drought: 1,682,051 children.
9. Estimated based on children in need in the drought appeal (1 million children); the proposed number of children in need for the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 (743,867 children); and the UNICEF estimate for the number of children in need of measles vaccination in areas not affected by drought or conflict (1,682,051 children).
10. Estimate based on the combination of sector targets, namely: measles (1,961,762 children); critical WASH supplies across different provinces where no measles vaccination is planned (422,082 people); and vitamin A supplementation in one province (76,828 people).
11. Estimate based on the total target for measles (1,961,762 children) plus the target for vitamin A supplementation in areas with no measles targets (104,235 children).
12. Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) - Mozambique. The figure is based on the target population of under 15 year olds that will be included in the next polio campaign (18 million children).
13. OCHA, Mozambique Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025.
14. Provincial Department of Education, Cabo Delgado Province.
15. Provincial Department of Health, Cabo Delgado Province.
16. Water figures come from the WASH Cluster data review for the Mozambique Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025. Sanitation figures come from the Mozambique Demographic and Health Survey 2022–2023.
17. Negative coping mechanisms include (but are not limited to) child labour, child marriage and sexual exploitation.
18. Child Protection Area of Responsibility, Mozambique Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025.
19. Information provided by the Child Rights Monitoring Technical Working Group.
20. Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), online database, available at <www.cabologado.com/>. Data provided compares June–December 2023 with January–July 2024.
21. UNICEF estimate of children requiring measles vaccination.
22. IPC, Mozambique: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for April – September 2024 and Projection for October 2024 – March 2025.
23. IPC, Mozambique: Acute Malnutrition Situation for April – September 2024 and Projection for October 2024 – March 2025.
24. Provisional planning figures based on population of children under age 5 and pregnant women of reproductive age in conflict and drought-affected areas.
25. Provisional planning figures based on number of children aged 6–59 months experiencing IPC Phase 3 or greater who are living in drought- and conflict-affected districts that require humanitarian support. Source: IPC, Mozambique: Acute Malnutrition Situation for April – September 2024 and Projection for October 2024 – March 2025.
26. Provisional planning figures for the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, which considers internally displaced persons, returnees and non-displaced individuals in Cabo Delgado Province locations that are prioritized in the Mozambique Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025.
27. Provisional planning figures for the Education Cluster are aligned with the Mozambique Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025, and also include drought-affected districts classified as being in IPC Phase 3 or greater.
28. Provisional planning figures for the WASH Cluster are aligned with the Mozambique Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025, and also include drought-affected districts classified as being in IPC Phase 3 or greater.
29. The reduction in the 2025 financial requirements compared with 2024 is mainly due to the strategic shift by UNICEF to prioritize those with the most acute needs, along with hard-to-reach locations, and to the increased availability of development funds to address chronic deprivations within Cabo Delgado Province.
30. When compared with 2024 funding requirements for conflict response.
31. This includes humanitarian cash transfers provided by the Government with UNICEF support.
32. The cross-sectoral line item includes adolescent programming (\$364,500) and social and behaviour change (\$3,037,500).
33. This includes staff costs for emergency coordination and critical support functions in UNICEF's five office locations (Cabo Delgado, Maputo, Sofala, Zambezia and Nampula) and the two hubs in Cabo Delgado Province.
34. Gender related costs across sector amount to 24% of the overall HAC value, while gender CCCs related costs represent 1,7% of the total HAC cost