



# WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION

## Child Rights and Humanitarian Dashboard (January-June 2024)



for every child

### HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

In 2024, children and their families in West and Central Africa remained exposed to fragile and increasingly life-threatening environments, with 46 million children in need of humanitarian assistance. Children in the region were again affected by multi-dimensional humanitarian crises caused by sustained violent social, intercommunal and political conflicts, climate-related shocks, food insecurity and disease outbreaks such as epidemics in several countries. Severe flooding and mpox outbreaks in multiple countries have particularly put children at risk in 2024. The compound impact of these crises has led to increased displacement and reduced access to essential services, including the closure of health facilities and schools. As of mid-2024, there were an estimated 17.8 million displaced individuals, encompassing internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. This figure included more than 9.7 million children. Prolonged food insecurity and malnutrition in the region continue to be exacerbated by climate shocks and the impact of global economic pressures on food prices and inflation.

#### SITUATION IN NUMBERS (in 2024)

**46 million**  
CHILDREN IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**5.4 million**  
CHILDREN IN NEED OF SAM TREATMENT

**17.8 million**  
PEOPLE DISPLACED - 83% IDP and 54% CHILDREN

**33 million**  
PEOPLE IN NEED OF WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

**39 million**  
OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN

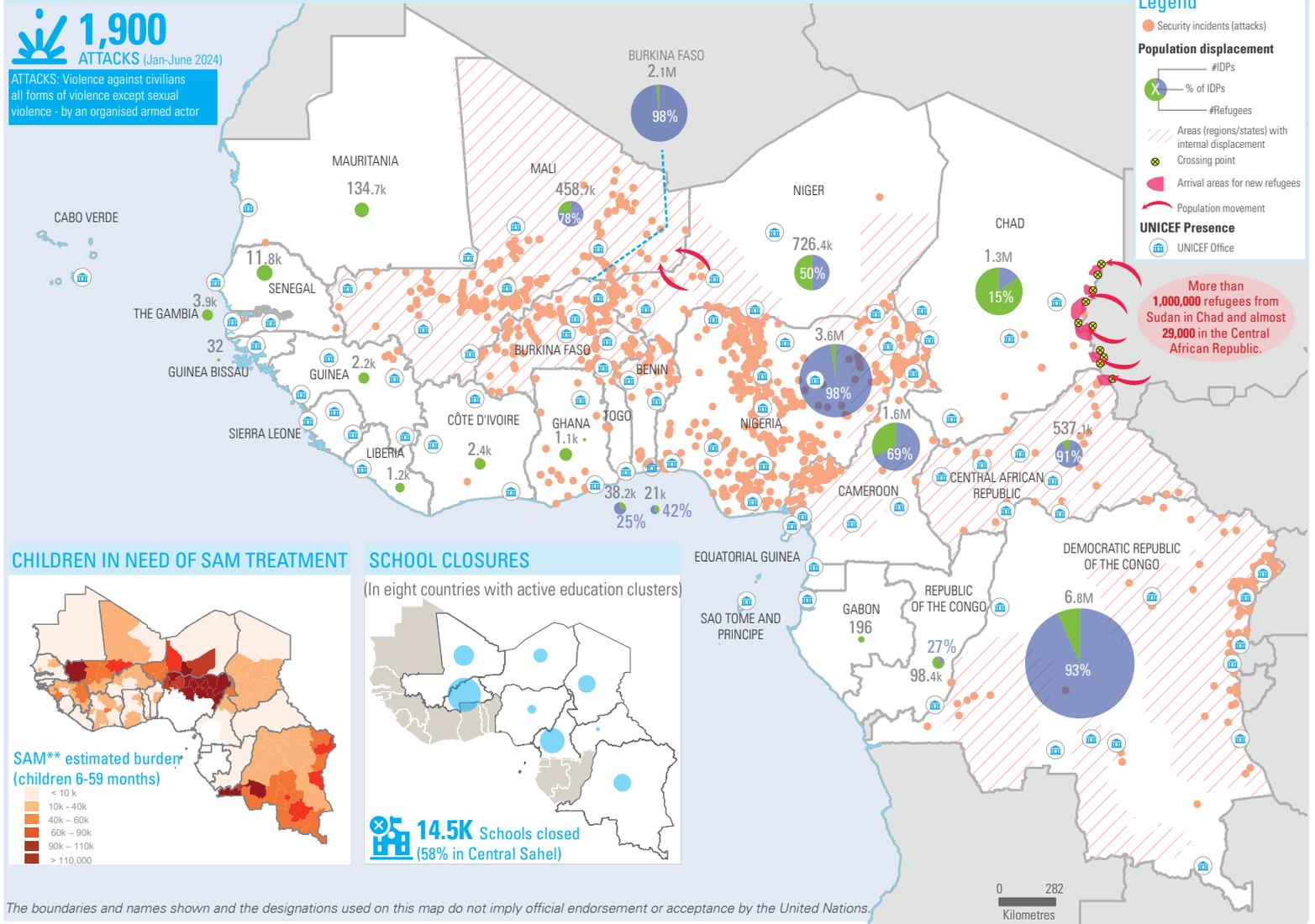
**13.9 million**  
CHILDREN IN NEED OF PROTECTION\*

\*In the countries affected by conflict (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Niger and Nigeria)  
\*\*SAM: Severe Acute Malnutrition

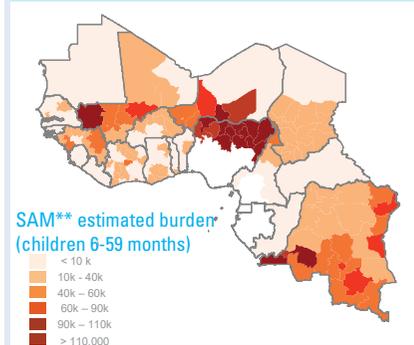
#### CONTINUOUS INCREASE IN CONFLICT AND RISKS TO CHILDREN

In recent years, security conditions in the region have worsened significantly. Several countries have observed a proliferation of non-state armed groups (NSAGs), intensified military operations, and an expansion of the territorial reach of these armed groups. The reported incidents of security breaches have surged by 59 per cent from 2019 to 2024 (in the same period - January to June). This situation is further compounded by escalations and changes in conflict dynamics in countries such as Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

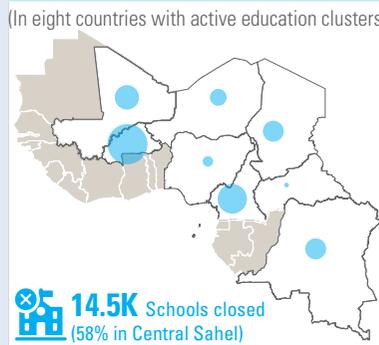
#### CONFLICT DYNAMICS



#### CHILDREN IN NEED OF SAM TREATMENT



#### SCHOOL CLOSURES



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



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### FUNDING OVERVIEW

Over the past five years, there has been a consistent rise in the humanitarian funding needs for UNICEF's operations in West and Central Africa. This figure has increased from US\$ 949.5 million in 2017 to US\$1.9 billion in 2024. This escalation can be attributed to various humanitarian crises, such as armed conflicts, displacements, natural calamities, and disease outbreaks, all of which have imperiled the lives and well-being of millions of children. The augmented funding requirements mirror the amplified necessities of children and families in the region, who are in urgent need of life-saving support encompassing nutrition, healthcare, clean water, sanitation, and education, among other vital services. However, despite the surge in funding needs, as of June 2024, the proportion of funds received for West and Central Africa has not matched the escalating requirements of the region. Therefore, mobilizing resources remains a critical priority, with only 17 per cent of the funding requirements met as of June 2024. Without adequate and timely funding, UNICEF will be incapable of addressing the overwhelming needs of children, their families, and communities in West and Central Africa, potentially leaving millions without assistance. Consequently, multi-year and flexible resources will be crucial in enabling UNICEF to deliver high-quality programmes for children in the region.

### FINANCIAL PARTNERS

UNICEF is grateful to both public and private partners for their ongoing support on behalf of the children and women in the West and Central Africa region. The substantial contributions from individuals, organizations, corporations, and various partners, which include host governments of crisis-affected states as well as the United States of America, Germany, Canada, the European Union/ECHO, Japan and others, have empowered UNICEF and its collaborators to maintain vital life-saving interventions and strengthen resilience in West and Central Africa since the beginning of 2024.



Sources: UNICEF 2024 Mid-year situation report



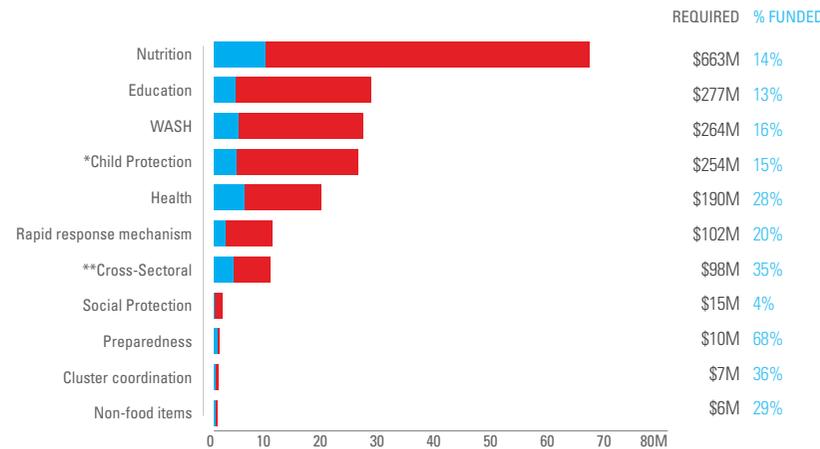
**\$1.9 billion**  
FUNDING REQUIRED IN 2023

**\$330 million**  
FUNDING RECEIVED

**\$1.6 billion**  
UNMET

17% FUNDED

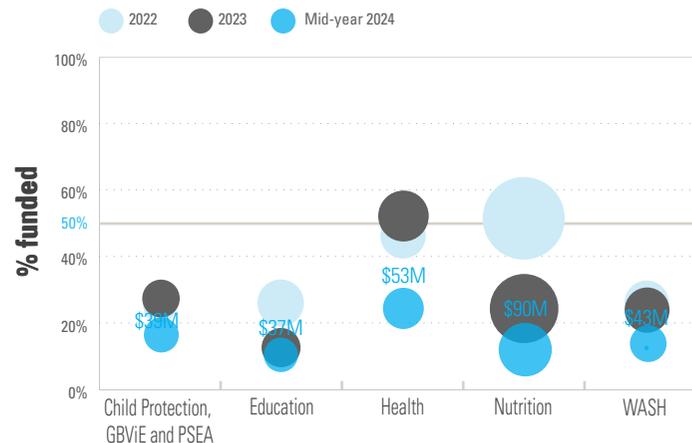
### FUNDING STATUS BY SECTOR



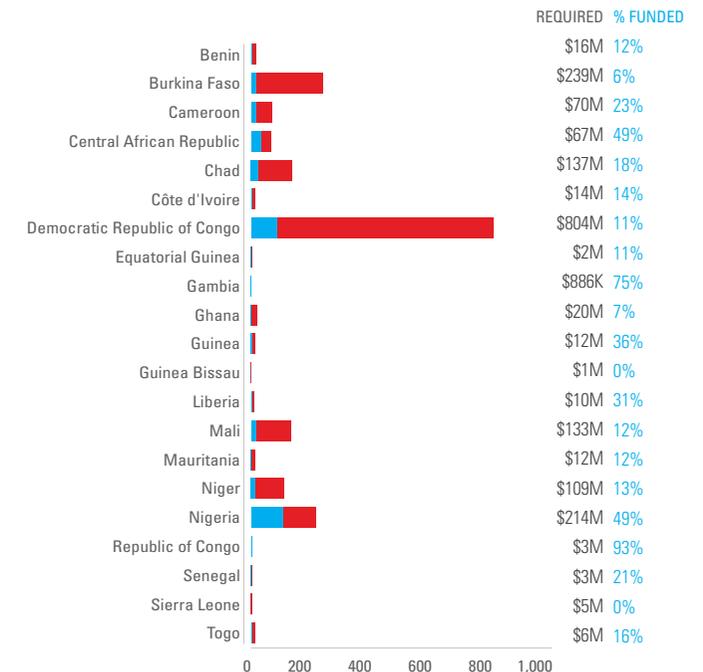
\*Including Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) and Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)  
 \*\*Cross-Sectoral: Social and Behaviour Change, Risk Communication and Community Engagement and Accountability to Affected Populations

### Sector funding in 2022 vs 2023 vs 2024

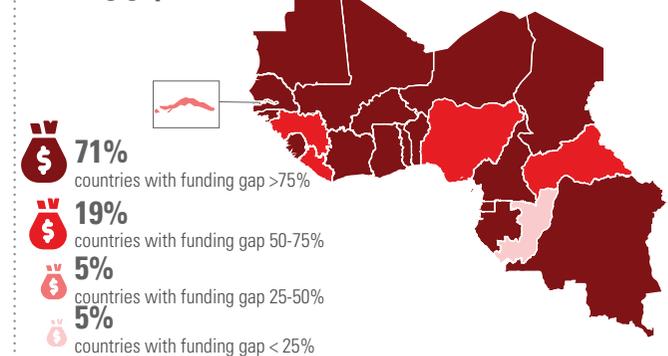
Child Protection (+GBViE and PSEA), Education, Health, Nutrition and WASH



### FUNDING STATUS BY COUNTRY



### Funding gap





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### RESPONSE

UNICEF provided timely, quality humanitarian assistance to millions of children in 2024 through support for enhanced country office preparedness, response and monitoring. Additionally, UNICEF ensured that humanitarian action was carried out within the framework of a broader humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach, which included the strengthening of social cohesion and resilience through equitable access to essential services, gaining community trust, and strengthening capacity to adapt and respond to emergencies. UNICEF also worked to promote enhanced localization in emergency responses through partnerships with civil society and other actors. UNICEF supports greater localization in country programming because local actors typically are the first to respond to humanitarian crises and development challenges, remaining in the communities they serve before, during and after a shock.



### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Nutrition

## 1.1 million

children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment\*



**2.5 million** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling  
38% of target

**19.2 million** children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation  
+100% of target

#### Health

## 4.9 million

children vaccinated against measles



**1.6 million** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities  
26% of target

**9.4 million** children vaccinated against polio  
+100% of target

#### WASH

## 932,890

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs



**444,650** people reached with critical WASH supplies  
11% of target

**371,870** people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities  
11% of target

#### Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA

## 844,400

children [and caregivers] accessing mental health and psychosocial support



**2.2 million** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations  
27% of target

**1.7 million** women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions  
44% of target

#### Education

## 947,100

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



**545,600** children receiving individual learning materials  
8% of target

**15,792** children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes  
69% of target

#### Social Protection

## 26,950

households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in-kind) measures from government-funded programmes with UNICEF technical assistance support



#### Rapid response and cross-sectoral

## 35,900

households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers across sectors



**818,750** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services  
38% of target

**4 million** people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms  
62% of target

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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