

GAZA-ISRAEL WAR

SIX-MONTH REPORT



A girl watches her family cook outside their tent in Al Mawasi, Gaza.

Aerial shots of a camp sheltering people who are displaced, Khan Younis, Gaza.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The six-month war on Gaza since the 7 October attacks on Israel by Palestinian armed groups has resulted in horrendous consequences for children. More than 13,800 children in Gaza have been killed, as well as 106 children in the West Bank and 33 children in Israel.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza is dire. Homes, hospitals and schools have been destroyed. More than 1.7 million people have been displaced. Now, more than one million children face the imminent threat of famine.

Amidst extremely challenging conditions, Save the Children staff and partners have been working around the clock to support the most vulnerable children and families.

Over the past six months, we've helped more than 377,400 people across the region, including more than 323,200 people in Gaza.

Together with our partners, we have:

- Distributed food, water and hygiene products
- Provided cash to families
- Supported children with disabilities and injuries
- Provided psychosocial support for children
- Supported ambulances and hospitals to care for premature and newborn babies in Egypt.

While we are doing all we can to support families, unfettered humanitarian access is needed to scale up our response. Six months on, we're calling for an immediate ceasefire, so children can get the support they need so desperately right now.

Thank you for supporting children in Gaza and across the region through this unimaginable war.

We will continue to do everything we can to help children caught up in this crisis, and are already preparing to support families in the months and years ahead – whatever the future may hold.

Over the past six months, we've supported more than 377,400 people, including:

323,200 PEOPLE,
INCLUDING 165,000
CHILDREN IN
GAZA

14,600 PEOPLE,
INCLUDING 8,900
CHILDREN IN THE
WEST BANK

39,000 PEOPLE,
INCLUDING 15,000
CHILDREN IN
LEBANON

614 PEOPLE
WITH CASH IN
EGYPT

OUR RESPONSE IN GAZA AND THE WEST BANK




Gaza

Save the Children is a rights-based organisation and is committed to our humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. We go wherever the needs are greatest.

We've been providing essential services and support to Palestinian children impacted by the ongoing conflict since 1953. Before the current war, around 80% of people in Gaza were reliant on humanitarian aid to survive. Now these needs have intensified, but access into Gaza is severely restricted, including lengthy delays in inspections at border crossings, and limitations to the quality and quantity of aid allowed in.

Despite these challenges, we have worked tirelessly alongside our local partners to deliver aid safely to families. Since October, we've doubled our number of staff and recruited 100 additional workers in Gaza. We were one of the first organisations to get aid trucks with vital supplies into Gaza.

Over the last six months, we've supported more than 323,200 people, including 165,000 children, in Gaza. With our partners, we've:

-  Provided 7,900 food baskets, helping more than 50,000 people
-  Distributed 93,000 water bottles with 600,000 litres of clean drinking water
-  Distributed 1,416 shelter kits with tarpaulin and ropes, and 3,050 bedding kits with mattresses and warm blankets
-  Distributed 60,000 hygiene and menstrual kits, and 200 baby kits with essentials like nappies
-  Distributed around 1,910 recreational kits with toys and games
-  Supported over 50,000 families with cash assistance – we are one of the largest providers of cash in Gaza
-  Provided 1,000 first aid kits and conducted hygiene awareness sessions for families
-  Delivered more than 170 assistive devices to support children with disabilities and injuries.
-  Provided psychosocial support for more than 11,000 children in 13 shelters in northern Gaza.



Save the Children and partner organisations have been distributing food parcels in Gaza.



West Bank

We've also supported more than 14,600 people, including 8,900 children, in the West Bank, where families are experiencing an increase in settler violence. We've provided more than 55 families with emergency cash. And we've run child protection and recreational activities.

SPOTLIGHT

LOCAL PARTNERS

In times of crisis, local and national partners are critical. They know their communities' needs best and can provide culturally and linguistically appropriate assistance, as well as supporting the transition to longer-term recovery.

We would not have been able to achieve our impact without our dedicated **staff and local partner organisations** who are leading our response within Gaza. Most of them have been displaced themselves with their families.

Our team in Gaza is in regular communication with our partners to ask what they need and how we can better support them. For example, we offer training, coaching and mentoring, as well as channelling funding.

As we scale up our response to this crisis, we aim to ensure at least 25% of our funding goes to local partners in 2024.



A partner organisation packing distributions in Gaza.

Children participating in activities facilitated by a partner organisation



SPOTLIGHT

MENTAL HEALTH

We know that children are always the most vulnerable in war. A [recent paper published by Save the Children](#) found that the recent war has seen a significant decline on children's mental health and ability to cope. One father told us, "Some of my children can't concentrate on basic tasks anymore. I wouldn't even say that their mental health has deteriorated - it's been obliterated."

Despite the significant challenges of operating in northern Gaza, our partners have **set up spaces for children to play** in UN shelters. They're running recreational activities and games for children, allowing them to just be children again despite the violence around them. They are also providing **psychosocial support**, such as helping children process their emotions and build resilience. So far, they've supported more than 11,000 children.

OUR RESPONSE IN THE REGION

EGYPT

Save the Children is one of the few international non-governmental organisations registered in both the occupied Palestinian territory and Egypt. This means we have been able to quickly procure essential supplies and transport them into Gaza in collaboration with our longstanding partner, the Egyptian Red Crescent.

So far, we have procured more than **684,000 litres of water, 5,000 food parcels and 3,000 baby kits, as well as shelter and hygiene kits**. We've also sent experts from our Emergency Health Unit to help manage the complexity of procuring, transporting and distributing medical supplies and equipment in Gaza.

Thanks to our partnership with Community Jameel, we're supporting **medical evacuees** arriving in Egypt from Gaza. This includes providing **medical equipment and training** first responders in ambulances to care for newborn and premature babies who have specific medical needs, as well as providing **mental health and psychosocial support** for evacuees.

Finally, we're preparing to support more Palestinian families in Egypt and have already provided **cash transfers** to more than 614 people who've managed to leave Gaza.

LEBANON

We know that this crisis could have devastating knock-on impacts, and we've already seen escalating conflict in southern Lebanon. More than 91,000 individuals, including 33,000 children, have been displaced. More than 80 schools and learning centres have also closed, affecting a total of 20,000 children.

Save the Children has been working in Lebanon since 1953, supporting children's education, protection, participation and rights. We have strong connections with local partners, as well as the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Lebanese Red Cross. We also co-lead the Education Sector.

Over the past six months, we've supported 39,000 people, including 15,000 children, who have been displaced by escalating violence and are now living in shelters and with host families. We've provided **clean water, food, learning materials, hygiene and cleaning products, mattresses, pillows and blankets**, as well as education in emergencies and child protection support, including **mental health support**, to children in collective shelters.

We also plan to **deliver cash transfers** as soon as possible.



Our staff in Egypt have helped procure, transport and distribute supplies into Gaza.

YOUR SUPPORT **IN ACTION**

TOTAL FUNDING

Thanks to our incredible supporters, partners and donors, we have raised **\$35 million** to support our response across Gaza, the West Bank, Egypt and Lebanon so far. This includes more than **\$30 million** to Gaza and the West Bank as of 2 April 2024.

These funds will ensure that our teams in Gaza and the region can continue their work for as long as children and families need our support.



A Save the Children truck loaded with water ready to cross into Gaza from Egypt.

THE CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

The Children's Emergency Fund played a critical role, quickly providing \$4 million to our teams in the occupied Palestinian territory, as well as Egypt, Lebanon and across the region. This enabled us to kick-start our response within days and start preparing emergency supplies.

To date, the Fund has provided over \$9.5 million to our teams in the occupied Palestinian territory, over \$850,000 to our teams in Egypt, and \$1.5 million to our teams in Lebanon – of this \$9.5 million (around 15%) has been committed to local partners in Gaza.

15% of funds
committed to
local partners

CAMPAIGNS AND **ADVOCACY**

We know that the only way children will be able to get the lifesaving support they need right now is through a definitive ceasefire.

Over the past six months, we've been pushing for this through our media work, advocacy, policy influencing and public campaigning.

Since 7 October, our media work has generated over **37,617 media mentions across 174 countries** and Save the Children has continued to hold second position in the global media share of voice.

Save the Children's work was also mentioned multiple times in the **International Court of Justice** (ICJ) application presented by South Africa.

Globally, Save the Children is calling for:

- A definitive **ceasefire** and unfettered **humanitarian access**
- The unconditional and immediate release of all **hostages**
- All parties to respect **International Humanitarian Law**, commit no further Grave Violations against children and ensure that there is accountability for those committed to date.
- Governments to **stop fueling** the crisis.

We will continue to do everything we can to speak out to ensure children's rights are protected.

LOOKING TO THE **FUTURE**

We've been supporting children across the Middle East region for more than 70 years. Our teams are navigating the extremely fluid and dangerous operational environment. We have a strategy which is flexible enough to allow us to adjust to the changing environment while providing a clear direction.

In the coming weeks and months, we will continue providing as much lifesaving support as possible, while preparing for longer-term recovery. This will include:



Child protection

Setting up child friendly spaces and offering mental health and psychosocial support to children, including linking them up with support services and helplines



Food security and livelihoods

Providing cash assistance and food



Health and nutrition

Treating children for malnutrition and providing health services, such as trauma care, newborn health, support for survivors of gender-based violence or paediatric blast injuries



Shelter and winter items

Distributing life-saving items, including temporary shelter kits, blankets, clothes, cooking equipment and winter items



Education

Setting up temporary learning spaces, repairing damaged schools, supporting teachers and helping children get back to learning.



Water and sanitation

Distributing clean water and providing fuel and water infrastructure for hospitals

Together with our partners, we aim to help more than **1 million people**, including more than 700,000 children, across Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Egypt. But we require **\$90 million** to achieve this. As of 2 April 2024, **the response is only 39% funded**.

As the situation continues to change and evolve, flexible humanitarian funding is critical to meet children and families' changing needs and support their longer-term recovery.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Ali*, 10-years-old, with his dad, Shady*, inside the tent where the family are sheltering in Al Mawasi, Khan Younis, southern Gaza.

TOGETHER, WE'VE HELPED THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY THIS WAR OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

We're committed to stay by children's sides and continue providing as much lifesaving support as we can, while advocating for a definitive ceasefire. Whatever the future holds, we will be there for children caught up in this crisis.



Save the Children

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All \$ in USD