

2024 WATER FUNDING GAP REPORT

[Unsafe water and sanitation contribute to the deaths of 1,000 children each day](#), with malnourished children under five years old particularly susceptible to waterborne diseases. This tragedy could be prevented with adequate financial resources. Action Against Hunger has analyzed humanitarian appeals made by 33 countries, finding that more than half of water-related funding needs are left unfulfilled.

This report examines trends in funding for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, which are key to preventing malnutrition and promoting health. For simplicity, this report uses the term water when referring to this broader category of water-related needs.



Photos: Top: Daniel Burgu for Action Against Hunger
Right: Olivia Acland for Action Against Hunger

OUR ANALYSIS

TO DEVELOP THIS REPORT, WE:



1

IDENTIFIED THE COUNTRIES WHO REQUESTED WATER-RELATED AID IN 2023.

We analyzed 33 countries that issued water-related appeals via the [UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service](#) in 2023:

They are: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen.

2

ANALYZED THE FUNDING THOSE COUNTRIES RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO 2023 WATER-RELATED APPEALS.

We looked at how much funding those countries subsequently received from the global community in 2023, drawing on data from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). See the methodology section for details.

3

CALCULATED THE GAP BETWEEN THE NEED AND GLOBAL RESPONSE.

We determined the difference between the water funding each country needed and how much the global community provided in response. That is the water funding gap.

“THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY NEEDS TO QUADRUPLE ITS PROGRESS ON WATER TO MEET SDG 6.”

Dr. Charles Owubah, CEO, Action Against Hunger USA

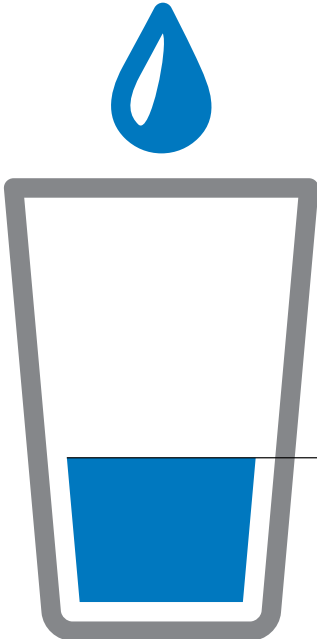


OUR FINDINGS

1.

ONLY 36% OF WATER FUNDING NEEDS ARE MET, LEAVING A 2024 WATER FUNDING GAP OF 64%

More than 2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water and 3.6 billion lack adequate sanitation, leaving them vulnerable to disease. More funding is needed to address these challenges, yet only 36% of water funding was satisfied in 2023 – leaving a water funding gap of 64%.



**ONLY
36%**
OF REQUESTS FOR
WATER-RELATED
FUNDING
PROGRAMS
WERE FILLED

2.

ONLY ONE WATER APPEAL WAS FULLY FUNDED

Across 33 countries analyzed, only one country received international support that far outstripped its appeals for water funding. Libya received more than double the water funding it requested in response to [severe floods that damaged sanitation infrastructure in the eastern part of the country in 2023](#), helping to close the water gap. However, an emergency appeal is unlikely to reflect the full need for ongoing and long-term investments in water programs. Strikingly, every other country experienced a gap in water funding.



**17 COUNTRIES
+ 674 MILLION PEOPLE**
**0 WASH PROGRAMS
FULLY FUNDED**

Photo: Sebastien Duijndam for Action Against Hunger

3.

FOR COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING CRISIS LEVELS OF HUNGER, ZERO WATER APPEALS WERE FULLY FUNDED

The world's hunger crisis is deeply intertwined with a growing water crisis. Both floods and drought make sanitation more difficult. When water sources dry up or are contaminated, crops and livestock die. That leaves entire communities without their primary sources of food and income. As a result, hunger soars.

In the [2024 Hunger Funding Gap Report](#), we examined 17 countries experiencing crisis* levels of hunger. Our new analysis shows that none (0%) of their water-related funding appeals made in 2023 were wholly met. In other words, a greater hunger burden does not result in greater funding for water programs.



WASH FUNDING GAP 2022 BY COUNTRIES

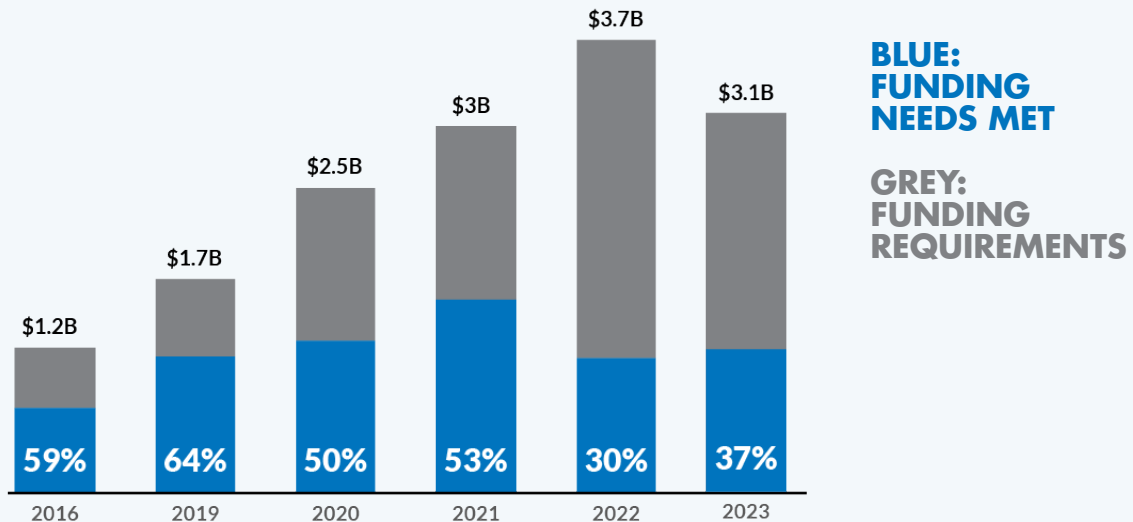
66% EXPERIENCING CRISIS LEVELS OF HUNGER

61% NOT EXPERIENCING CRISIS LEVELS OF HUNGER

4.

INCONSISTENT FUNDING FOR WATER PROGRAMS MAKES PROGRESS EVEN HARDER

The 2023 water funding requirements of the 33 countries included in this report amount to over \$3 billion. In 2023, only 36% (\$1.1 billion) of those needs were met. Though a higher percentage of water funds requested were satisfied this year than were last year, we still have a long way to go to close the gap and make progress on water issues. Yet, inconsistent funding can make it harder to plan and implement effective programs.



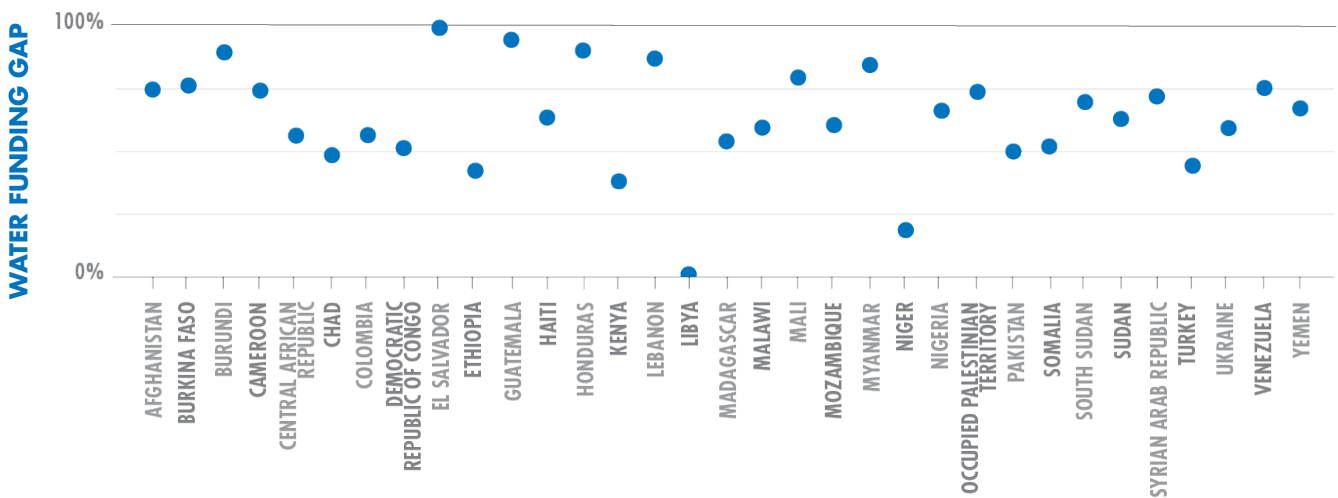
5.

THE WATER FUNDING GAP VARIES WIDELY BETWEEN COUNTRIES

Water funding needs and support differ greatly between countries. One example is El Salvador, which received 0.7% of water funding requested, and Libya, which received 212.5% of funding requests.

To address a growing global water crisis, we believe every water appeal should be fully funded.

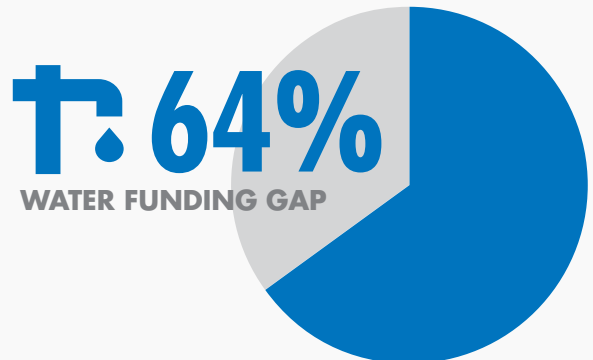
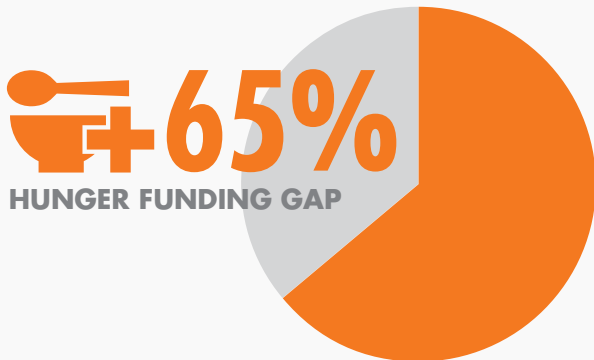
A CLOSER LOOK, BY COUNTRY



6.

IN 2024, THE WATER FUNDING GAP IS NEARLY ON PAR WITH THE HUNGER FUNDING GAP

Water funding was largely on par with hunger appeal fulfillment in 2023. This year, the Hunger Funding Gap is 65% and the Water Funding Gap is 64%.



NOTES AND METHODOLOGY

For this report, we analyzed 33 countries that issued water-related appeals via the [UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service](#) in 2023: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen.

For countries with duplicate or more than one type of appeal (Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Occupied Palestinian Territory, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Venezuela), we calculated an average for each variable.

Data for Libya, Pakistan and Turkey reflect water-related funding appeals in response to natural disasters. The data for Mozambique reflects both its Humanitarian Response Plan and water-related

elements of an appeal around Cholera, Cyclone and Floods. Data for Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, and South Sudan reflect those countries' Humanitarian Response Plans and water-related elements of their Refugee Response Plans. As water data was not reported for Ukraine's Refugee Response Plan, we used data associated with its Humanitarian Response Plan.

*"Crisis" is Phase 3 on the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#) Acute Food Insecurity classification system. Analysis of countries experiencing crisis levels of hunger was drawn from 2022 IPC reports; see [2024 Hunger Funding Gap](#) for more detail. We chose to review data from 2022 in order to show hunger levels that existed prior to funding decisions being made to address them. This approach controls for a degree of causality by ensuring that the hunger levels in the report preceded funding decisions.

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