

## EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

# WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2022

6 CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



13 CLIMATE  
ACTION



A young boy with dark hair, wearing a white school uniform with a red and blue collar, is smiling broadly. He is holding a clear glass cup filled with water. The background is a blurred blue and white setting, possibly a school hallway.

## EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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## Expression of thanks

UNICEF's work to ensure that every child in the East Asia and Pacific region lives in a safe and clean environment would not be possible without the generous support of resource partners from government, civil society and the private sector, and the voluntary contributions of millions of people around the world. This critical support enables UNICEF to deliver on our mandate to protect children's rights and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan, which has provided the largest contribution to the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), climate, environment, energy and disaster risk reduction programme in East Asia and the Pacific in 2022. UNICEF further thanks the European Commission and the governments of the United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and all our resource partners. UNICEF would like to convey a special thanks to partners that provided thematic funding, which offers greater flexibility, enables UNICEF to continuously improve the quality of interventions, allows for longer-term planning and makes programmes more sustainable.

The growing support from UNICEF partners from the private sector and foundations are important for the growth of the programme. Without our partners, UNICEF would not be able to continue its efforts for children, and we would like to express our gratitude for their continuing commitment and trust.



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# Abbreviations

<b>CHIP</b>	cooking, heating, and insulation products
<b>COP</b>	UNFCCC Conference of Parties
<b>DRR</b>	disaster risk reduction
<b>EAP</b>	East Asia and Pacific
<b>EAPRO</b>	UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NGO</b>	non-governmental organization
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contribution
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>UTS-ISF</b>	Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney
<b>WASH</b>	water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

**All \$ references are United States dollars.**



# Executive summary

**The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) works to protect the rights of millions of children throughout the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region. Goal Area 4 of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, is aimed at ensuring that every child, including adolescents, has access to and uses safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, lives in a resilient community and in a safe climate and environment. Under Goal Area 4, UNICEF pursues outcomes within three results areas: (1) provide WASH services through direct support, (2) support government partners to strengthen national WASH systems and (3) address climate change, disaster risks and environmental degradation, with a focus on the most vulnerable children.**

This report presents the 2022 results of the WASH, climate and environment programmes that UNICEF supports across its EAP region, which encompasses 27 programme countries and territories<sup>1</sup>. In 2022, good progress was made in all three Goal Area 4 results areas. As a result of UNICEF’s direct support, over 487,000 people gained access to safe and available drinking water services, and over 287,000 people gained access to at least basic sanitation services, with additional results achieved in schools and healthcare facilities. UNICEF country programmes throughout the region have integrated climate resilience into their work; nearly one-third of basic drinking water services and half of the sanitation facilities supported by UNICEF during 2022 were climate resilient. UNICEF country offices provided critical support to strengthen WASH policies, strategies and plans, and assess sector funding and financing flows to ensure adequate resource allocation. In addition, UNICEF country and regional offices focused on building national capacities for safely managed, climate-resilient and socially-inclusive WASH services, reaching thousands of sector professionals throughout the region.

In 2022, UNICEF continued to scale up its climate, energy, and environment work to address the increasing impacts on children and young people from climate change, environmental degradation, pollution, and from all types of disasters. The myriad climate and environment-related activities undertaken in the education, health, nutrition, child protection and WASH sectors is a testimony to how UNICEF in the EAP region is leading on ensuring that the social services that children depend on are climate resilient. The engagement of children and young people on climate action is also a key area of UNICEF’s work. UNICEF has provided platforms for youth action and advocacy, leading governments to respect to the rights of children for environment and acknowledge the values of educating, engaging, and empowering adolescents and youth on climate change and environmental sustainability issues.

In the East Asia and Pacific region, UNICEF achieved these results with 75 WASH, climate and environment professionals across 14 country offices. UNICEF programmes in WASH, climate, environment, energy and disaster risk reduction East Asia and the Pacific spent \$59 million in 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> Cambodia, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pacific Islands (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam.



# Introduction

**This report presents the 2022 results of the WASH, climate and environment programmes that UNICEF supports across its EAP region. The UNICEF EAP region encompasses 27 programme countries served by 14 country offices.**

Under Goal Area 4 of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022–2025, UNICEF works to ensure that every child lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment, including fulfilling their right to water and sanitation. To fulfil these critical rights, UNICEF works in three result areas:

- 4.1 Safe and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services and practices
- 4.2 Water, sanitation and hygiene systems and empowerment of communities
- 4.3 Climate change, disaster risks and environmental degradation

The EAP region is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events caused by climate change. UNICEF analysis shows that over 140 million children are highly exposed to water scarcity; 120 million children are highly exposed to coastal flooding; 210 million children are highly exposed to cyclones; and 460 million children are highly exposed to air pollution<sup>2</sup>. Compared to their grandparents, today's children in EAP face six times more climate-related shocks, stresses and hazards. This includes an eleven-fold increase in floods; four-fold increase in storms; two-and-a-half-fold increase in droughts; five-fold increase in landslides. All countries in the EAP are at either a 'high' or 'extremely high' risk, according to the Children's Climate Risk Index<sup>3</sup>.

The impacts of climate change and disasters are often first felt through water. Increasing frequency and severity of floods and droughts not only reduce the quality and quantity of water available for families, but also disrupt water and sanitation services where service providers have not anticipated the impacts of extreme events. Climate change is driving water scarcity in certain parts of the EAP region, reducing water available for drinking, cooking, bathing and cleaning. Rising sea levels can lead to saltwater infiltration of freshwater sources. Peaks in diarrhoeal mortality and morbidity are commonly associated with seasonal rains, flooding and extreme weather; the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II report concluded that heavy rainfall events (high confidence) and flooding (medium confidence) are associated with increased water-borne diseases, particularly diarrhoeal illnesses, including cholera (very high confidence) and other gastrointestinal infections (high confidence) in high, middle and low-income countries. Water insecurity and inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene increase disease risk (high confidence)<sup>4</sup>.

For these reasons, the UNICEF Strategic Plan for 2022–2025 draws stronger links between WASH services and holistic responses to climate change and disaster risk reduction. Solutions are needed for children that both promote climate-smart development for the long-term and address the sudden-onset impacts of disasters that are exacerbated by climate change, such as typhoons and floods.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, 'Over the Tipping Point', 2023.

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF, 'Children's Climate Risk Index', 2021.

<sup>4</sup> IPCC, 'Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptations and Vulnerability', [www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/](http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/).



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1

10mL

2

30mL

3

56mL

4

3mL

5

1mL

# Strategic context



**The year 2022 was the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic and gradually marked a return to normalcy throughout the region. National and international travel restrictions were mostly removed, in-person meetings were held again, and development programming resumed its pre-pandemic pace.**

In 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) released new country and regional estimates for WASH in schools and WASH in health-care facilities for the reference year 2021. Some gains were made in data availability; however, the reports show that the lack of data on access to basic WASH services in both schools and health-care facilities throughout the EAP region is of great concern. UNICEF works closely with governments to incorporate the standard Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators into national education and health management information systems.

The estimates showed that, despite progress, the EAP region is not on track to achieve the SDG target of universal access to WASH in schools by 2030. One-third of the schools in EAP lacked access to basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services. In the Pacific Islands subregion, about half the schools lacked these basic services. Basic drinking water coverage at schools has stagnated over the past decade. A four-time acceleration is needed in the pace of provision of basic sanitation services to schools to meet the SDG; in the Pacific Islands, a more than 10-times acceleration is required. Access to WASH in health-care facilities is mixed. Drinking water coverage increased from 87 per cent in 2015 to 90 per cent in 2021, but access to basic hygiene services<sup>5</sup> has remained stagnant at 38 per cent since 2015. There is insufficient data to estimate access to basic sanitation services at health-care facilities.

As 2022 was the first year of implementation of the UNICEF Strategic Plan for 2022–2025, UNICEF focused on drawing closer links between WASH, climate, environment and energy work at regional and country levels. This included using high-level regional and global meetings to advocate for commitment and resources for climate-resilient social services for children, particularly climate-resilient WASH services.

The Sanitation and Water for All Sector Ministers' Meeting, a high-level global event, was hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Jakarta and co-convened by Sanitation and Water for All and UNICEF in May 2022. Under the theme 'Building forward better for recovery and resilience', the two-day event convened ministers responsible for water, sanitation, and hygiene, together with their counterparts responsible for climate, environment, health, and the economy. The meeting provided a space for global leaders to meet and identify innovative ways to increase the political prioritization of water, sanitation, and hygiene, and exploring how to integrate these vital services into national climate, health, and economic policies and strategies. Sanitation and Water for All partners from all constituencies – governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, external support agencies, research and learning, and utilities and regulators – were represented in the discussions.

The COP27 meeting in Sharm-el-Sheikh prompted governments in the EAP to critically assess their national policy frameworks on climate change, risk assessment, adaptation and mitigation measures, and increase climate resilience of public services including water supply and sanitation services. UNICEF supported almost all countries in the region with their preparation for COP27 and funded the participation of several delegations, including youth delegates. The climate finance flows required are still short of the \$100 billion pledged, while it has been estimated that the annual adaptation needs far exceed \$100 billion and may be in the trillions by 2050. The establishment of a loss and damage fund announced at COP27 marked a major milestone for many countries in the EAP region, particularly small island developing states.

<sup>5</sup> Defined as the proportion of health-care facilities with functional hand-hygiene facilities, available at one or more points of care, and within five metres of toilets.

## Regional Office WASH, climate and environment results

UNICEF's East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO), based in Bangkok, is a hub for technical expertise, capacity development and coordination for UNICEF country offices. The WASH, Climate and Environment team is comprised of technical specialists who advise on programme design and implementation and establish regional partnerships. Specialist staff also provide technical oversight and support for financial management, communications, planning and programme monitoring and evaluation. EAPRO liaises with major intergovernmental bodies, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), other United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, and donors.

### Advocacy and political will

The regional WASH team led engagement in the Sanitation and Water for All Sector Ministers' Meeting hosted by the Government of Indonesia and co-convened by UNICEF in May 2022. The governments of Cambodia, Laos, Fiji, Mongolia, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste had ministerial or director-level representation, and the meeting resulted in new commitments and political will for climate-resilient WASH. This is followed up through EAPRO's partnership with ASEAN to prepare a joint ASEAN-wide WASH policy review ahead of the 2024 World Water Forum in Indonesia.

### Capacity and leadership development

Training and events supported by the WASH, climate and environment team at the regional office reached over 1,000 professionals from over 25 countries. As part of the Singapore-UNICEF Joint Training Programme, 35 senior government staff from 27 countries completed courses titled, 'Leaving No One Behind: Sustainable WASH Services in a Rapidly Changing Context' and 'Sustainable Integrated Water Resources and Stormwater Management'. EAPRO worked with UNICEF's Regional Office for South Asia, GIZ and WaterAid to organize the 9th Asia-Pacific WASH in Schools International Learning Exchange online, which convened 350 participants from national delegations to exchange experiences on climate resilient

WASH in schools, lessons from the pandemic, financing models and more. At the WASH and Climate Virtual Symposium, hosted by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the International WaterCentre, UNICEF and the Asian Development Bank co-convened a thematic session, 'Managing climate-related risks to wash and water management approaches', with over 200 attendees. EAPRO also participated in other conferences and events to advocate for WASH.

Under the East Asia and Pacific Women in WASH Initiative, EAPRO focused on women's leadership development. This initiative looks inward at the gender balance within UNICEF's own professional staff, as well as outward at UNICEF's potential to increase women's participation in the sector. Despite efforts to improve the gender balance of the UNICEF professional WASH cadre, a significant gender gap remains. This workforce gap is compounded by a leadership gap, with women (particularly those from lower-middle-income countries) even less likely to be in managerial or senior professional roles. In 2022, EAPRO arranged mentoring, peer networking, support for women's learning and training and support to women's supervisors. Twelve women from across the region completed an eight-week leadership course, with one-on-one coaching focused on personal development for leadership. EAPRO's Women in WASH Initiative also worked with the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS-ISF), the Asian Development Bank and World Bank to organize an exchange with over 100 attendees on how to bring more women into the WASH workforce, and support women's leadership in WASH.

### Inter-sectoral collaboration

UNICEF's multi-sectoral presence and expertise in children's health, well-being, and development has the potential to shift the social sectors towards climate resilience. To ensure that all UNICEF-supported work across the region contributes to climate resilience, EAPRO developed guidance for country offices to develop their own climate and environment strategies. The guidance includes options for making WASH, health, education, nutrition, early childhood development, child protection, and social policy climate resilient as a basis for scaling up action across the social sectors.

The regional WASH team engaged with other sectors to seek opportunities to strengthen equity and inclusion in WASH. With the EAPRO gender team, WASH scaled the period tracker





app Oky in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and the Philippines. With child protection colleagues, WASH developed a briefing note on mitigating risks of gender-based violence in emergencies through WASH. With disability specialists, the WASH team supported a joint mission to the Philippines to provide training and document experiences with disability-specific WASH programming in Timor-Leste and Fiji. With the adolescent development and participation team, WASH launched the third cohort of the WASH Young Changemakers Programme in a new collaboration with Duke University, which brought high quality expertise and \$150,000 in funding for the young innovators' initiatives.

### Technical support to country teams

The regional team supported the Mongolia, Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Cambodia country offices with the development of their new five-year Country Programme Documents, ensuring that the WASH and environment

ambitions of the new Strategic Plan are well reflected. Governments of Vanuatu and Cambodia were supported to successfully access climate finance for WASH, and various country offices were supported to strengthen their climate-resilient WASH programming approaches and undertake climate risk assessments (Viet Nam, Laos, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Pacific); initiate market assessments for sanitation and hygiene (Viet Nam, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Pacific, Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar); and develop plans for menstrual health and hygiene and scale up the period tracker app Oky (Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam). The EAP regional team, together with Vital Strategies, a public health NGO, organized a webinar for its country offices to identify barriers and opportunities for scaling up children's environmental health indicators and promoting policies to advance children's environmental health.

## Strengthened emergency preparedness for WASH



The pandemic highlighted the importance of strong national emergency response and preparedness capacities, including for public health emergencies. The EAP regional office team delivered WASH in Emergencies training to Viet Nam, Timor-Leste and the Philippines Country Offices, NGO, and provincial and national government staff. The EAP team also assisted the country offices in Myanmar and Papua New Guinea with the implementation of

the 'water as a catalyst of peace' programme that links WASH and youth and conflict prevention. This demonstrated a new and promising approach in the region to engage youth in WASH-related activities to increase social cohesion in conflict affected areas. The regional office team also led an online 'Wash'Em' hand hygiene training-of-trainers course on evidence-based and context-adapted handwashing behavioural change in emergencies for 12 colleagues from six country offices in the EAP region.









### Box 1: Selected publications in the EAP region in 2022

UNICEF country and regional offices contributed to many studies, evaluations, field notes and other learning resources throughout 2022. Some examples of the knowledge products are below.

#### Regional resources

-  Briefing note: Mitigating risks of gender-based violence in emergencies through WASH
-  Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools East Asia and the Pacific – 2021 update


#### Field notes, reports and technical papers

-  RapidPro surveys support accountability to affected populations during the COVID-19 pandemic in Fiji
-  Myanmar: Strengthening gender in ASWA programming
-  Learning note: Improving water, sanitation, and hygiene in primary care health facilities
-  Climate resilient urban sanitation in Indonesia: Hazards, impacts and responses in four cities
-  Policy brief on self-supply for safely managed water: To promote or to deter?
-  A Systematic assessment of the WASH in emergencies sector in Indonesia
-  Review of water safety planning processes and options for improved climate resilient infrastructure in Vanuatu
-  Qualitative analysis of cash-based interventions for water, sanitation, and hygiene operations and maintenance in internally displaced persons sites in Kachin, Myanmar









# **UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 WASH, climate, environment and energy results in EAP**

**Goal Area 4: Every child, including adolescents, has access to safe and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies, and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment.**



## Output 1

# Safe and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services and practices

**Result area 1: Sustained access to and use of safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices for all children and adolescents, particularly the most disadvantaged and those living in humanitarian and fragile contexts.**

In 2022, UNICEF delivered direct results to ensure that children and their families have access to safe water supply, sanitation, hand hygiene and menstrual hygiene, WASH in schools and health-care facilities. As the leading agency for humanitarian WASH, UNICEF country teams responded to natural disasters and protracted conflicts throughout the region, reaching people during times of crisis.

### Water supply

In **2022** through direct support by UNICEF, 

  
**487,104** people gained access to safe and available drinking water services throughout EAP

  
**35** per cent of these services were climate resilient

Throughout the region, the threat of water scarcity is increasing due to climate change, intense competition for freshwater resources, over-use of water resources, poor water

management and the pressures of urbanization. At the same time, millions of people throughout the region lack safe water that is available when needed and on premises.



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In **Cambodia**, UNICEF strengthened water supply markets by supporting business development for local private sector water service providers and bottled water entrepreneurs, enabling them to access finance for start-up or expansion of their water systems and climate-proof their water supply infrastructure. As a result, 23,181 people gained access to safe and available water services, of which almost half (48 per cent) gained access to safely managed drinking water services. Eight out of ten gained access to services that met criteria for climate resilience. To meet these criteria, the selection of districts and communes supported by UNICEF was based on a comprehensive analysis of downscaled climate projections. Data from two climate parameters – the prevalence of dry spell and rainfall – were used to identify areas at risk of extreme climate events. UNICEF supported climate resilient water safety planning for piped water supply systems to strengthen the management of climate risks and provide a framework to ensure sustainable water supply in the future.

In **Mongolia**, with UNICEF and local government funding, a total of nine existing and new water kiosks in three provinces were converted into automated, 24-hour operational water kiosks. This allowed community members to access water 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for the first time.

In **Myanmar**, since the start of the political and humanitarian crisis in 2021, UNICEF's assistance to eight peri-urban townships in Yangon that were placed under martial law has evolved from an initial humanitarian response to the provision of drinking water treatment units, to water kiosks that now serve over 100,000 people. This resulted in an 80 per cent cost saving compared to the commercial bottled water that residents previously relied on.

Though access to many rural communities is still restricted due to active armed conflict, UNICEF, where it still has access, works directly with communities. Under its development programme, UNICEF reached 70,005 people with safe and climate-resilient basic drinking water services. This included the construction of 33 solar powered community water supply schemes and various gravity-fed systems, all with metered water connections. An additional 29 schools and 13 health-care facilities were

connected to a drinking water supply with UNICEF's direct support. Communities generally contributed in-kind, assisting with transportation of supplies, and the digging of trenches to lay piping. Water management committees were trained on the financial management of the systems, which included meter reading, tariff setting, fee collection, and basic accounting to ensure operation and maintenance and basic repairs to the water systems.

Also in Myanmar, UNICEF engaged with the Treasure Land Development Association to implement climate-resilient water safety planning, water quality testing and basic operation and maintenance of solar-powered drinking water systems in 30 communities.

In **Vanuatu**, UNICEF provided technical support to the Department of Water Resources for the construction of 32 community water systems, providing 9,121 people with access to basic water services. Together with Engineers Without Borders, UNICEF supported the Department of Water Resources with the revision of community management training materials for plumbers and water committees to ensure the upkeep, maintenance and sustainability of water supply systems.

### **Box 2: Ensuring climate resilient water supply in Myanmar's Central Dry Zone**

In the Central Dry Zone of Myanmar, the 971 residents of Pon Tat village have faced persistent water scarcity due to brackish water in shallow wells, necessitating arduous trips to a hand-dug well for drinking water. UNICEF and local stakeholders supported construction of a climate-resilient water supply system, using an infiltration gallery well, solar-powered water systems, and household metered piped water connections. This transformative initiative ensures that every household now has access to a reliable and sustainable water source, representing a significant adaptation measure that effectively addresses water scarcity in the village, while strengthening resilience to climate-related challenges.





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In the **Federated States of Micronesia**, UNICEF engaged young people in the testing of drinking water, thereby changing their perspectives and behaviours towards water conservation.

**Timor-Leste** is facing increasing water insecurity due to climate change. UNICEF supported 15 communities to rehabilitate their water

catchments, improving water retention and groundwater recharge, and improving the yields of community water sources. A total of 261 community members constructed 13 ponds, 39 artificial reservoirs, 30 earth dams and 33 terraces. Children were also oriented on the importance of water catchment management.

### Box 3: Nature-based solutions for water management in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste faces water stress due to reduced rainfall and a prolonged dry season, particularly in rural areas heavily reliant on agriculture. The absence of major reservoirs exacerbates the challenge of water availability for consumption, sanitation, and hygiene.

To address this issue, civil society organizations have mobilized communities to implement nature-based solutions. These solutions focus on improving natural catchments to retain more water, enhancing the yield of springs and streams. The approach includes empowering communities through knowledge-sharing, skills development, and field-based camps, with special attention given to engaging youth. Science-based tree plantation is also introduced to reduce groundwater consumption and minimize soil moisture evaporation.

Field testing of this community-based catchment management model has yielded noteworthy results. The approach aligns with Timor-Leste's updated Nationally Determined Contributions for the WASH sector, and shows potential for inclusion in the national strategy for water improvement.

UNICEF has supported the National Authority for Water and Sanitation (ANAS) in linking this approach to a larger water shed management pilot programme, aligned with the National Water Resource Management Policy. The civil society organization PERMATIL, which pioneered this model, has been assisted in implementing a community-based catchment management programme monitored by the government. This initiative has paved the way for integrating the community-based model as a national standard, contributing to water shed management and climate-resilient water supply in Timor-Leste. Monitoring by ANAS has helped to identify areas of improvements of this model, so that it can become a national model in the future.

## Sanitation

In **2022**  
through direct support  
by UNICEF



**287,165** people  
gained access to **basic sanitation services** throughout EAP. Nearly half of these services were climate resilient



Over **27,000**  
people gained access to **safely managed sanitation services**

The SDG target 6.2 of safe sanitation and hygiene for all is far off track in the region, particularly in the Pacific islands sub-region. UNICEF has responded by shifting its focus to programming that supports government partners to achieve the higher levels of sanitation service necessary to protect health and the environment, while still prioritizing those who are without access to even basic sanitation services.

In **Cambodia**, UNICEF with other development partners continued their support of the government's ambition to achieving nationwide open defecation free (ODF) status by the end of 2025. At that time, three of Cambodia's 25 provinces had been declared ODF. UNICEF successfully advocated for the inclusion of hand hygiene in Cambodia's ODF criteria and improved the efficiency of the ODF verification and certification process. In line with the government's decentralization and deconcentration agenda, the national ODF verification guidelines now allow provinces and districts to conduct ODF verification and certification protocols. This addresses an important bottleneck in giving timely recognition to community efforts to reach ODF status.

UNICEF continued its programming to further promote and introduce climate resilient sanitation services in flood prone districts in Cambodia, in combination with market-based interventions and the sanitation subsidy scheme for ID-Poor families (the government programme to identify poor families). The climate resilient designs for raised pour-flush latrines prevent collapse and overflow during the wet monsoon season. UNICEF also worked with government partners to facilitate the adoption of alternating twin-pit latrines as a means of safer on-site faecal sludge management.

In the **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, Vientiane was declared the first ODF capital in South-East Asia. Much of the progress made in sanitation since 2019 was the result of leveraging political support by UNICEF and NGO partners active in sanitation. The resulting provincial governor's commitments for sanitation were subsequently reflected in district governor's commitments and budgets across many of the provinces. As the national sanitation programme is largely funded with domestic resources, the recent economic downturn and devaluation of the national currency make it increasingly difficult to fund the programme, and particularly to reach the poorest in remote, marginalized, and difficult to access areas.

In **Myanmar**, UNICEF worked with local sanitation entrepreneurs on the introduction of climate resilient sanitation products to the local markets with a focus on flood prone areas in Magway region. UNICEF promoted flood resilient toilets with a raised plinth level and a robust sub-structure made of concrete rings and concrete floor with attached porcelain squat plate. Targeted subsidies and microfinancing



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supported socially disadvantaged households to upgrade their sanitation facilities to be climate resilient, user friendly, safe, and hygienic. Additionally, technical training was provided to local sanitation entrepreneurs, empowering them to implement and effectively maintain the climate-resilient sanitation facilities. A total of 32,644 people gained access to basic sanitation services because of UNICEF's assistance, and 147 communities were verified as ODF.

In **Papua New Guinea**, UNICEF support resulted in ODF certification of 184 communities, benefitting 34,978 people. Eighty-five percent of these abandoned the practice of open defecation and newly gained access to basic sanitation services.

UNICEF's support to hygiene includes both hand hygiene and menstrual health and hygiene. Hand hygiene to prevent the spread of disease received tremendous attention and support during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing a unique opportunity to change behaviours, strengthen supply chains, and build alliances and political will for hand hygiene. In 2022, UNICEF strengthened capacity, national programmes, and partnerships for hand hygiene throughout the region, while scaling innovative delivery platforms to reach adolescent girls with menstrual health and hygiene knowledge and skills.

## Hygiene

In **2022**  
through direct support  
by UNICEF



**514,439** people  
throughout EAP gained access to  
basic hygiene services at home



**229,841**  
women and girls throughout  
EAP received support  
on menstrual health  
and hygiene



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In **Indonesia**, UNICEF made great progress expanding the use of Oky, a girl-friendly period tracker app that provides age appropriate and scientifically accurate information about menstrual health. Oky is used primarily by girls but also includes information for boys, parents, and teachers. Launched in 2020, Oky has undergone significant upgrades, based on user feedback, and had over 122,000 online users and an unknown number of off-line users at the end of 2022. Oky was integrated into multiple education platforms, including teacher training tools and health guidance. Partners integrated Oky into sexual and reproductive health education. The Red Cross embedded Oky in their national sexual and reproductive health programme, starting in East Nusa Tenggara. The Indonesia Family Planning Association promoted Oky in their youth clinics across the country.

In **Mongolia**, as part of its COVID-19 response, UNICEF supported a national hygiene campaign. Hygiene supplies to prevent the

spread of COVID-19 were distributed to 1,461 public schools, dormitories and kindergartens benefitting an estimated 876,600 students. UNICEF worked in close partnership on this with the Mongolian Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Education and Science.

In **Myanmar**, UNICEF used the Wash'Em approach to design and implement their hygiene behavioural change programme through which over 50,000 people affected by conflict were reached. Wash'Em is a process for rapidly designing evidence-driven and context-adapted hygiene programmes in humanitarian crises. It involves a set of five rapid assessments that explore the determinants of behaviour, and a decision-making software that recommends programmatic activities that bring about effective hygiene behavioural change.

In **Pacific** Island countries, UNICEF supported handwashing campaigns as part of the COVID-19 response and during global events, such as Global Handwashing Day, World Toilet Day, and World Water Day. In **Fiji**, UNICEF supported the dissemination of key hygiene messages, with emphasis on hand hygiene, through the country's main radio and television networks as part of COVID-19 risk communication messages. In the **Federated States of Micronesia**, UNICEF, in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Affairs and the College of Micronesia, carried out a public awareness campaign on the importance of menstrual health and hygiene for women and girls in schools. Additionally, 1,000 girls benefitted from the 1,000 kits of reusable sanitary pads distributed to support menstrual hygiene in schools. In **Kiribati**, UNICEF supported the dissemination of key messages around drought, water conservation and hygiene, including COVID-19 preventative

messages, through the Broadcasting and Publications Authority. In **Tonga**, the promotion of good hygiene practices continued as part of the WASH supplies distribution to families. In **Vanuatu**, UNICEF and the government encouraged everyone to practice handwashing as a key part of the WASH in schools programme in Penama province. UNICEF's efforts also involved continued awareness-raising for improved menstrual health and hygiene, including ensuring that schools have menstrual hygiene supplies available for adolescent girls and female teachers.

In the **Philippines**, UNICEF supported the successful national 'WASH O'Clock' campaign that drew renewed attention to washing hands in schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of this campaign, five corporate foundations came together to establish the Hand Hygiene Alliance Philippines. It launched a costed hand hygiene roadmap to support the government's priority schools and communities in need of hand-washing facilities and supplies and, sustain government efforts in promoting good handwashing practices. The communication materials and monitoring tools developed for the 'WASH O'Clock' campaign have been integrated into the Department of Health's Playbook on Hand Hygiene. An online teaching module on the hand hygiene campaign has also been uploaded on the Department of Health's Learning Academy platform, opening-up access to all local health promotion officers nationwide.

In **Timor-Leste**, as part of its COVID-19 response, UNICEF supported the construction of 17 permanent public handwashing stations in crowded areas of the capital Dili. All handwashing stations are designed for children and people with disabilities, allowing access to all.





## WASH in schools

In **2022**   
UNICEF, throughout EAP



supported

**1,483** schools  
with access to a full suite  
of **basic WASH services**

WASH services are a critical part of a safe and healthy learning environment for children. At country level, UNICEF continues to help government partners strengthen national systems for WASH in schools, while also delivering results through constructing or rehabilitating WASH services.

Collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, UNICEF **China** piloted gender-sensitive, disability-inclusive, and climate smart sanitation facilities for schools and health facilities in high-altitude regions of Qinghai province. With adaptations aimed at conservation and re-use of water, the safe treatment and reuse of human waste, and protection against extreme colds, the model holds potential for replication in similar geographic areas in the region.

In the **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, UNICEF supported schools in high-risk COVID-19 areas with water supply, group handwashing facilities and hygiene education. Water supplies were installed in 201 schools and group handwashing facilities in 1,573 schools. In 750 schools, hygiene education programmes were conducted. Collectively, over 125,000 schoolchildren benefitted from safer school environments.

In **Mongolia**, UNICEF continued its support for the Ministry of Education and Science to upgrade the building standards of schools, dormitories, and kindergartens. In addition, solar systems for WASH facilities were piloted for school WASH facilities in *IDER SOUM* (village). The system enabled the school to save electricity costs for managing the facilities since this system generates extra electricity during the daytime and supplies power to the central grid, which reduces



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electricity bills. In 2022, the Ministry of Education and Science approved the national building codes for better ventilation system standards and improved indoor air quality of kindergartens and schools. UNICEF's advocacy and demonstration of innovative and climate resilient WASH facilities for schools and kindergartens over the past years has been instrumental in the Ministry of Education and Science's commitment to replace all outdoor school toilets in Mongolia with indoor units. The Ministry of Education and Science allocated the equivalent of \$28.9 million to this and aims to complete the replacements by the end of 2025. These efforts are supported by a UNICEF-brokered partnership on WASH in schools for networking and coordination, which involves civil society organizations and the private sector.

In **Myanmar**, UNICEF supported 1,445 learning centres and community-managed schools with handwashing facilities and hygiene supplies benefitting 142,874 students. Since the military takeover, UNICEF relied on partnerships with civil society organizations to deliver its WASH in schools programme, and much needed supplies like water filters, multifunctional repair tools kits, waste bins, hand sanitizers, hygiene and menstrual hygiene kits.

Throughout the **Pacific**, UNICEF provided supplies, improved hand hygiene facilities, and in some instances rehabilitated WASH facilities for a total of 178 schools of which 103 were in Solomon Islands, 31 in Fiji, 21 in Vanuatu, 13 in Kiribati and 10 in Marshall Islands. In Solomon Islands, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development



with the development of a plan and budget to rollout the recently developed national standards for WASH facilities in schools, including the WASH in Schools technical manual tool kit, and the country's Three Star Approach for WASH in schools. In Kiribati, UNICEF supported the review and updating of the WASH in Schools Policy with the Ministry of Education.

In **Papua New Guinea**, through a broad stakeholder consultation, UNICEF supported the Department of Education with the development of the new WASH in Schools Policy 2024–2028. This policy includes implementation guidelines and a WinS infrastructures design manual with building standards for gender and disability-inclusive school WASH designs. The new standards also include climate resilient WASH facility designs. UNICEF's supported WASH in Schools programmes provided basic drinking water and hygiene services to 353 schools, benefitting 150,562 students. Gender-segregated toilets were constructed in 28 of those schools.

## WASH in health-care facilities

In **2022**  
UNICEF, throughout EAP



**supported**  
**189** health-care facilities with access to all basic WASH services



WASH sector expertise by strengthen national systems for WASH in healthcare facilities, and through direct support for improved WASH services in healthcare facilities.

In **Mongolia**, as part of its COVID-19 response, UNICEF provided the Ministry of Health with six mobile health clinics made from shipping containers for easy mobility. UNICEF also provided technical support for the design and demonstration of climate-resilient WASH facilities in eight hospitals, benefitting over 22,800 people. Shipping containers were used for the



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construction of some sanitation facilities where the existing building was outdated. For example, in Zavkhan province, due to its extremely cold weather, WASH facilities inside a fully insulated shipping container were piloted and connected to the main building to prevent heat loss at hospitals in Urgamal and Numrug *soums* (villages), which previously only had outdoor pit latrines.

In **Vanuatu**, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health with a hand hygiene audit, which assessed compliance of health workers in health-care facilities with hand hygiene protocols. The audit found a mere 23 per cent compliance, which prompted the Ministry of Health to improve hospital management, increase infection prevention and control monitoring and compliance checks, upgrade WASH facilities, and increase behavioural change communication on hand hygiene among health-care workers.

In **Solomon Islands**, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to complete a national baseline survey to assess the status of WASH services in health-care facilities. This survey filled an important data gap. In **Kiribati**, UNICEF supported the review and updating of the WASH in Health Care Facility Policy.

In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF supported seven community health centres with the provision of gender-segregated toilets that are accessible to people with disabilities. Another 15 community health centres were provided with supplies for infection prevention and control, and for maintaining WASH facilities.

## Humanitarian response

The lasting impact of COVID-19, economic disruption, conflict, and the increasing frequency and intensity of emergencies due to climate change impacted millions of people in East Asia and the Pacific. When a disaster strikes, WASH saves lives. UNICEF provided WASH services to people across the region during emergencies and protracted crises in 2022. UNICEF also strengthened coordination during emergencies

as the sector lead agency or co-lead to government in the WASH sector in many countries. Because of its mandate, UNICEF worked with partners on the humanitarian–development–peace nexus to increase the resilience of countries, communities, and WASH systems to better withstand acute and complex emergencies through efforts by strengthening capacity and systems and use WASH programming as a catalyst for peacebuilding efforts.

**Table 1: Results of UNICEF’s humanitarian WASH support in the EAP region, 2022**

Humanitarian WASH indicator	Achievement in 2022
Number of people reached with appropriate sanitation services	<b>285,824</b>
Number of people reached with appropriate drinking water services	<b>675,831</b>
Number of people reached with appropriate hygiene services	<b>322,665</b>
Number of women and girls reached with menstrual health and hygiene materials	<b>208,099</b>
Total number of unique people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	<b>976,051</b>
Number of schools reached with safe and appropriate WASH services in schools	<b>975</b>
Number of children using safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	<b>1,170,816</b>
Number of health-care facilities reached with emergency WASH services	<b>72</b>

In **Cambodia**, UNICEF provided key hygiene items in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that were distributed among ID-Poor households in Takeo, Kampong Speu, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng and Kratie provinces, benefitting 466,470 people, including 840 people living with disabilities. Almost 56,000 factory workers (including 43,928 girls and women) also received hygiene supplies. UNICEF also provided cleaning and disinfection materials and hygiene kits supplies to 252 health centres and 17 referral hospitals.

In the **Lao People’s Democratic Republic**, UNICEF prepositioned emergency WASH supplies for 25,000 people, and released supplies for 2,250 people during seasonal

floods. Work to strengthen national emergency preparedness and response included addressing critical gaps in managing emergency WASH supplies through improvements to the four national warehouses, and training of the warehouse staff in emergency supply management. Without an activated WASH Cluster, UNICEF took the initiative to establish a sub-sector working group on emergency WASH response planning under the regular WASH Sector Coordination mechanism, in which all WASH development partners participate. One of the first activities of the sub-group was a partner mapping to strengthen coordination of humanitarian WASH responses and COVID-19 related activities.



In **Myanmar**, UNICEF and other development partners are increasingly adopted local procurement and cash or voucher-based responses under their humanitarian WASH programming. Restricted access and limited cash availability were the main barriers to provide an effective response. Still, UNICEF's humanitarian WASH assistance reached 594,699 affected people with WASH services and supplies. Almost 428,000 people were reached through water boating, water-treatment, and water distribution through water kiosks. Gender-segregated sanitation services including emergency latrines and bathing shelters reached 236,864 people. A total of 44,932 children were reached with WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning centres and safe spaces. Over 50,000 internally displaced people in conflict affected areas of Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan received regular WASH services, including water supply, improved sanitation, and critical WASH supplies.

In the **Pacific**, UNICEF supported a wide range of activities aimed at ensuring effective coordination and information management during emergencies, and direct emergency assistance on the ground. UNICEF also provided support for the national COVID-19 responses across all Pacific Island countries. UNICEF chaired the Pacific WASH Cluster at the subregional level and supported the government to convene regular WASH cluster coordination meetings in **Fiji**. This coordination resulted in a coherent approach to the preparedness and response to the cyclones and COVID-19. In **Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga** and **Tuvalu**, UNICEF mobilized additional technical capacity in information management to support emergency responses with tools to improve understanding of official WASH data, monitor the response, and visualize needs and vulnerabilities.

In **Kiribati** and **Tuvalu**, UNICEF worked closely with the disaster management offices in response to the recurrent droughts. Communication strategies and messages are being developed to ensure people have increased knowledge on ways to respond to droughts. For **Kiribati**, UNICEF secured funds to support groundwater assessments, community engagement activities around drought preparedness and drinking water quality monitoring.

During emergencies, UNICEF responded on the ground. UNICEF installed rainwater harvesting tanks after emergencies, 25 for 200 households in **Fiji**, 60 for schools and 41 for health-care

facilities both in the **Solomons Islands**. In **Fiji**, 330 emergency latrines, 300 bucket water filters and 2,500 WASH kits were distributed under Operation Tarova in the aftermath of a tropical cyclone. A total of 45 health-care facilities were provided with environmental cleaning and waste management items as part of COVID-19 risk mitigation at health-care facilities (29 in **Solomon Islands**, seven in **Samoa**, seven in **Tonga** and one in **Palau**). UNICEF also provided water filters in response to an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in **Palau** and two water desalination plants in **Tonga** in the aftermath of a volcanic eruption. Another 1,100 families in **Solomon Islands** benefitted from hygiene and dignity kits, and various COVID-19 testing centres were provided with water and handwashing facilities.

In the **Philippines**, UNICEF continues to co-lead the WASH Cluster with the Department of Health. The lack of current information about the technical capacity of the multitude of potential cluster partners hindered an effective implementation of national level cluster activities. A good assessment of the technical capacity of cluster partners will increase the cluster's coordination capacity and ability to respond and coordinate multiple emergencies in the context of climate change. At the sub-national level, UNICEF also supported the management of WASH clusters with the development of WASH recovery and rehabilitation plans. Under the Typhoon Odette emergency response, UNICEF supported 286,448 people with access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation facilities, hygiene supplies, and health and hygiene promotion in community, schools, and health facility settings.

In **Thailand**, UNICEF responded to WASH needs for people crossing into Thailand from conflict-affected areas in Myanmar. UNICEF played a critical role in strengthening the capacity and coordination among WASH actors. Through partnerships with civil society organizations providing support in the areas of child protection, education, and WASH, almost 6,000 people benefited from receiving hygiene kits. UNICEF further continued its support to the national COVID-19 response plan under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Health.

In **Viet Nam**, in response to Typhoon Noru, which made landfall in September 2022 and caused extreme rainfall and devastating floods, UNICEF distributed water filters to provide clean drinking water for 129,446 people in Nghe An province.

## Output 2

# Water, sanitation and hygiene systems and empowerment of communities

**Result area 2: Strengthened and resourced water, sanitation and hygiene systems and empowered communities for gender-equal, inclusive, affordable, and sustainable services to meet the rights of all children and adolescents, particularly the most disadvantaged and those living in humanitarian and fragile contexts.**

Service delivery by UNICEF and other development partners remains important in situations of crisis and fragility, and to address inequities, but sustainable results at scale will only be achieved by strengthening governance at the national, subnational and community levels, working with government, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and private sector actors. UNICEF systems strengthening work is focused on the five enabling environment 'building blocks' that are widely used in the WASH sector: (1) policy and strategy; (2) institutional arrangements; (3) sector financing; (4) planning, monitoring and review; and (5) capacity development.

## System strengthening

Following the Climate Resilient WASH Evaluation in **Cambodia**, UNICEF worked with several sector partners to develop a benchmarking paper for climate-resilient WASH services that defined minimum requirements and quality standards. The paper also provides guidance for integrating climate resilience in WASH programming and on how best to measure climate resilient interventions. UNICEF then collaborated with the Stockholm International Water Institute, to develop a climate-resilient WASH training package to support climate risk-informed planning for water and sanitation interventions at the national and provincial level.

For the second year in a row in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, construction of

WASH facilities was halted for a lack of supplies because of border closures. UNICEF and the Ministry of Urban Management have established a remote-monitoring mechanism engaging engineers from the ministry. The engineers regularly conduct monitoring missions for ongoing and past water supply projects, during which they make repairs where needed, train local officials and take other corrective actions. UNICEF staff receive detailed monitoring reports to remotely follow progress.

In **Indonesia**, UNICEF supported the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas) and the Ministry of Public Works to host the Sanitation and Water for All Sector Ministers' Meeting in Jakarta. The meeting had a record participation of 54 ministers and two vice presidents from 53 countries representing WASH, health, climate, and finance. Indonesia's commitments at the Sector Ministers' Meeting resonated around the central SDG-6 theme of 'leave no one behind' and highlighted the importance of enhanced political will and investment, equity driven monitoring and community engagement, a climate resilient WASH sector, and expanded partnerships and alternative financing. Indonesia's strong representation ensured multisectoral engagement to achieve SDG-6 and established WASH as a key long-term development priority



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to advance child rights in the country. UNICEF engaged with ministries (Bappenas, public works, health, environment, and finance) to support the preparation of SDG roadmaps and plans before and after the Sector Ministers' Meeting.

Bappenas and the Ministry of Environment, with UNICEF's support, formulated a WASH climate resilience framework for Indonesia, with clear definitions and guidance on how to assess and improve WASH system resilience. The framework covers the capacity of WASH systems to (a) adapt to climate change, (b) rebound from shocks and provide emergency service as part of disaster risk management and (c) result in lower or zero greenhouse gas emissions through low carbon investments. The framework provides clear definitions, indicators, and stages to increase the resiliency of the WASH system, including how to conduct climate resilience capacity evaluations and climate risk assessments.

In **Myanmar**, UNICEF, in partnership with WaterAid, conducted a gender equality and social inclusion assessment in 17 communities. Women's participation in water users' committees was usually below the recommended 50 per cent threshold, and women on the committees were found to have a limited role in decision making. Women were mostly tasked with meter reading, fee collection and administration of user fees as they are deemed more trustworthy. Women also make up a much larger proportion of community mobilizers for community-led total sanitation campaigns and hygiene promotion

activities. Both these roles have empowered women but have not led to a larger role in actual decision making, which is still male dominated. Participation of people with disabilities in user committees and even community meetings concerning WASH was found to be limited due to inaccessibility. Various communities waive user fees or have other regulations in place to accommodate fee paying for marginalized families, widows, or households headed by a person with a disability. Based on the assessment findings, a gender equality and social inclusion responsive monitoring, evaluation, and reporting framework was drawn to address inclusion gaps identified and promote sustained scrutiny of project implementation to advance gender equality and social inclusion.

In **Kiribati**, UNICEF supported the recruitment of a national WASH Sector Coordinator within the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy. The coordinator supports the finalization of national water and sanitation policies and explores the development of a sector workplan and strategy. At the local level, UNICEF, through the Kiribati Local Government Association, conducted training on WASH governance with nine island councils. Active engagement and support from these councils were key to ensuring that schools, health-care facilities and communities have the support needed to manage and enforce regulations concerning their WASH systems.

In the **Philippines**, UNICEF supported the strengthening of the provincial and municipal WASH councils to implement the Philippine

Approach to Sustainable Sanitation. It found that efforts to roll out national sanitation policies down to the municipal and barangay level are constrained by the lack of qualified staff with formal training, and/or hands-on experience in sanitation programming. This capacity gap impacts on the absorption capacity for sanitation programming at lower administrative levels. UNICEF is working with relevant authorities on how best to address this.

A new partnership between UNICEF and a local advocacy group, Social Watch Philippines, is leading the development of a national budget advocacy strategy for WASH. The partnership aims to build a movement of local civil society organizations and people's organizations to open the space for citizen participation on climate-resilient and sustainable water and sanitation services. UNICEF also initiated a partnership with the country's leading academic institution, the Philippine Science High School System, to collaborate on a two-year research programme to develop sustainable cost-effective, climate-resilient pre-fabricated toilets and rainwater collection kiosks.

In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF strengthened the water quality monitoring capacity of eight municipalities with mini laboratories.

Three UNICEF country offices initiated work to strengthen women's leadership within the WASH sector, as part of UNICEF's East Asia and Pacific Women in WASH Initiative. In **Viet Nam**, UNICEF's all female WASH team established the Viet Nam Network for Women's Empowerment in WASH. The aim of the network is to promote women's leadership and solidarity in what up to now has been a male-dominated sector, thus contributing towards a more gender-balanced cadre in the sector. Increasing gender diversity in the WASH sector workforce will expand the talent pool and strengthen water and sanitation utilities' financial performance, innovative capacity, operating efficiency, and customer relations. The network provides a platform for women to come together and share their initiatives, good practice, personal-skill development, and motivation to enhance their career development, and that of other female professionals in the WASH sector. In **Papua New Guinea** and **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF country offices carried out studies on women's workforce participation in WASH and planned next steps with partners, such as women in engineering networks and other United Nations agencies.

## Leveraging funding and financing for WASH sectors

Across the region, UNICEF worked with partners to explore ways to increase financing for the WASH sector and better leverage existing funding sources to meet the SDG targets for WASH.



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In **Cambodia**, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were awarded a conditional grant by the UN-SDG fund for their joint proposal, the Cambodia Innovative Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Financing Mechanism. The project is designed to remove financing and viability blockages in the water and solid waste sectors. It is a blended financing proposal that will link investors through UNICEF and UNDP in Cambodia with utility companies, local government bodies and local entrepreneurs to support them with soft loans and grant funding.

UNICEF supported WASH sector financing analyses across several **Pacific Islands**, countries and territories that will contribute to evidence-based advocacy to leverage WASH financing and help build climate-resilient WASH services.

In early 2022, the Department of Water Resources in **Vanuatu** was approved for a grant of \$23 million by the Green Climate Fund for the scaling-up of the successful model for climate resilient water safety and security



planning. UNICEF worked extensively with the Department of Water Resources on the proposal formulation, submitted through the Pacific Community, which served as the Green Climate Fund accredited agency. In the decade leading up to this, UNICEF invested significantly in developing the capacity of the Department of Water Resources and strengthening its systems to provide, oversee and regulate drinking water services. UNICEF support was instrumental to the formulation of the National Investment Plan for Water Safety and Security, which the Green Climate Fund will now fund.

## WASH for peace

WASH services are frequently interrupted in conflict situations, resulting in the extreme vulnerability of people caught in conflict zones, children most of all. However, WASH services can also be leveraged to promote peace both within and between communities. UNICEF is using peacebuilding approaches to reduce conflict and promote social cohesion around shared water resources and WASH services in Papua New Guinea (see Box 4) and Myanmar.

In **Myanmar**, UNICEF carried out a conflict analysis with its NGO partner ADRA for two water supplies that together serve five communities in Kayin State. Kayin State has

been affected by civil war since 1949, with the ethnic armed organization known as the Karen National Union fighting for an independent state. The conflict analysis was conducted using participatory action research with young women and men and uncovered tensions between domestic and agricultural water users over the use and distribution of the scarce water resources among the five communities. This tension usually increases during the dry season and is exacerbated by poor water system design and lack of maintenance, which results in water loss through leakage and unavailability of water to some stakeholders. Influential community members, including religious leaders, village elders and youth were trained to facilitate inter-communal dialogue aimed at conflict resolution and peaceful co-existence. This resulted in the establishment of two water committees with representation from all five communities, who were trained in construction monitoring and operation and maintenance of the two water supply schemes. UNICEF provided support to upgrade both drinking water systems. Led by young people, the water committees established a revolving fund to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the two systems. An end-line survey will determine if the previous conflicts have been peacefully resolved, through increased social cohesion among the five communities relying on the two drinking water systems.



#### **Box 4: Strengthening social cohesion through WASH in Papua New Guinea**

In the Goroka district of Papua New Guinea, the Zogizoe River is the source for the district town's drinking water plant which is supplied through a channel that diverts part of the water from the river to the town. Upstream along the Zogizoe are eight communities that take their drinking water directly from the river. The landowners along the river, including the eight communities, by law, have the right to receive royalty payments from those using the river's water. As the local authorities of the district town and town water supply do not always pay their royalties, the communities and landowners have expressed their dissatisfaction and frustration by sabotaging the town's water supply. When the river runs low, they sometimes resort to closing the inlet to the water channel, thereby depriving the town of its drinking water supply. At other times, out of spite that they rely directly on the river's untreated surface water while the people in the district town receive treated water from the river, some community members use the water channel to defecate or contaminate it with left-over chemicals.

UNICEF and its partners (the National Research Institute and the NGO Touching the Untouchables) started a Water for Peace project in Goroka district, which brought all parties together for a joined conflict analysis and discussions on how the conflicts could be amicably resolved. Members of all communities, landowner associations, local government and the town's drinking water suppliers were trained on conflict resolution and made to understand the perspectives of other stakeholders. Technical and management solutions were quickly identified, but gaining the trust of the wider community in the eight villages upstream was more challenging. To do so, the programme engaged the many youths who participated in the conflict analysis training and trained them on community-led total sanitation and community-based water safety planning. Over the course of a year they implemented these proven approaches in the eight communities. Not only did this result in eight open defecation-free communities and increased awareness and attention to drinking water safety, it also brought people together around finding and agreeing to a peaceful solution to the conflict.

With UNICEF's support, all communities were provided with 9,000 litre storage tanks and a small treatment plant, to ensure a safe and sustainable drinking water supply. Memoranda of understanding were signed between the landowners and communities on the one side and the town's water suppliers on the other, outlining a reasonable level of royalty payments by the latter party for using the river's water. A community clean-up of the water channel by the eight communities was organized as a token of goodwill to the town's residents and promises were made to no longer deliberately pollute the channel or the river. Where there were ten separate groups claiming royalty payments before the project started, these groups together formed one association after the project ended.

The main lessons learned included that the power of dialogue and community-wide action can lead to conflict resolution of water related conflicts; that the intergeneration involvement of young and old provides different perspectives and levels of energy to resolving local conflicts; and that key principles like reciprocity, equity, mutual benefit, communication and transparency should inform the engagement between all stakeholders to resolve a water-related conflict.



## Output 3

### Climate change, disaster risks and environmental degradation

**Result area 3: Increased and enhanced child-sensitive programmes to address climate change, disaster risks and environmental degradation that meet the rights of all children and adolescents, particularly the most disadvantaged and those in humanitarian and fragile contexts.**

#### Climate-smart water, sanitation and hygiene

UNICEF continues to shift its WASH programming towards full climate resilience guided by the UNICEF and Global Water Partnership Strategic Framework for WASH Climate Resilient Development, which was updated in 2022. The update aligns the framework with changes in the global climate and WASH sectors, makes the link between climate-resilient WASH and health, highlights the potential of the WASH sector for climate mitigation and emphasizes the shift towards climate resilience within sanitation, urban WASH programming and humanitarian interventions.

UNICEF works to ensure that the WASH systems it constructs through direct support are climate-resilient, meeting criteria that

include climate risk-informed design and siting, year-round reliability, including during extreme weather events, with operation and management systems that ensure sustainability and eliminate or minimize greenhouse gas emissions where possible. UNICEF's direct results in climate resilient WASH is summarized throughout the sections above on Output 1 and Output 2 and is not repeated in these sections, but the results are summarized in Table 2 below.

UNICEF worked with government partners and other stakeholders to improve the climate resilience of the sector as whole and to highlight the importance of climate-resilient WASH services for children and their communities. In addition to delivering results on the ground, UNICEF supported WASH sector climate risk assessments, capacity building, and developing of sector climate resilience frameworks in Cambodia, Indonesia and Myanmar. This work helps to ensure that climate-resilient WASH services are articulated as a national priority in key national climate documents including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), climate strategies and national WASH policies. UNICEF is also supporting national governments and other sector actors to access climate funds; for example, in 2022, a proposal that was prepared with UNICEF support to the Green Climate Fund for the Department of Water Resources and Pacific Community was approved, resulting in \$23.3 million mobilized for climate resilient drinking water.

**Table 2: Number of people provided with climate resilient WASH services in EAP, 2022**

Indicator	Climate resilient results, 2022	Proportion of total results
Number of people provided with at least basic sanitation services that are climate resilient	<b>134,858</b>	<b>47% of total results</b>
Number of people with at least safe and sustainable drinking water services that are climate resilient	<b>172,073</b>	<b>35% of total results</b>
Number of schools provided with basic WASH services that are climate resilient	<b>461</b>	<b>31% of total results</b>
Number of health-care facilities provided with basic WASH services that are climate resilient	<b>16</b>	<b>8% of total results</b>



Climate Partnership (APCP) on the integration of climate change adaptations in the disaster risk management training manual for schools. The APCP is an Australian Aid initiative to support governments and partnerships on building climate resilience throughout the Pacific region.

In **Viet Nam**, UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Training and the Global Green Growth Institute, prepared an analysis report titled 'Rooftop solar power: A potential solution in clean energy for climate-smart schools in Viet Nam'. The study explores potential benefits, challenges, and recommendations for installing rooftop solar power in public schools, including potential for strengthening public-private partnership. The report aims to help stakeholders – schools, government and private investors – to explore feasible strategies for adopting rooftop solar power in schools.

## Climate-smart education

UNICEF supported the **Cambodian** Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport with the development of a new module focused on climate change for its 21st century skill development programme for adolescents, a project-based, inquiry-centred life skill education programme. The lesson plans and associated materials will be introduced in the curriculum in 2023.

UNICEF in **Indonesia** supported the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology with the integration of a climate adaptations in the National Safe School guidance and incorporation of an environment and climate change module in the Ministry's Life Skills Education curriculum. The module was completed by 2,582 teachers. UNICEF also supported the Indonesia Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration with the development of guidelines for facilitating climate action at community level.

In **Malaysia** partnered with the Environment Protection Department of Sabah to install an air quality monitoring system in five schools. The system collects evidence to raise awareness on poor of air quality in schools.

UNICEF supported the **Pacific** Regional Council for Early Childhood Development with the launch of a climate action toolkit on their Pacific Child Website, which is an important platform for Pacific countries to exchange information, learnings and resources. UNICEF also collaborated with the Australia-Pacific

Together with the Ministry of Education and Technology in **Viet Nam** and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), UNICEF developed the Vietnamese adapted version of the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership. The module was made available for teachers and students, contributing to achieving climate change action both through general climate literacy and applied skills. UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Education and Technology on the development and roll-out of guidelines and training materials for preschool teachers nationwide to enable them to integrate climate change into educational activities for preschool children, and on the integration of green skills into the curriculum to promote the engagement of children and adolescents in green habits and initiatives.





## Climate-smart health



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In collaboration with the **Chinese** Center for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF published 'Prioritizing children: Environmental health indicators for China', a report that presents 22 core indicators for monitoring children's environmental health with recommended actions. This report will be followed by a series of children's environmental health profiles that will provide a snapshot of environmental hazards, exposure, and morbidity among children in China. With the China Ministry of Ecology and Environment, UNICEF worked on the implementation of the Environmental Health Index for Child Friendly Cities and the Environmental Health Awareness Assessment Questionnaires for Children.

In **Indonesia**, through a multisectoral consultative process, UNICEF published a policy brief on reducing childhood lead poisoning with recommendations for multisectoral actions at the national and local levels, including environmental protection and health sector strengthening. Peer knowledge sharing events were held on lead poisoning prevention and waste management at the local level. UNICEF also supported an assessment of the data readiness on climate change impact in the Indonesian health sector. The assessment identified gaps, strategies, and recommendations to strengthen the climate health data information system that can serve as a base for climate change adaptation in the health sector.

In **Mongolia**, in collaboration with the Standing Committee of Social Policy, sub-standing committees of air pollution reduction and SDGs of parliament, UNICEF organized high-level policy dialogues and public hearings on air pollution reduction measures, children's environmental rights during the pandemic, and indoor air quality in schools and kindergartens. These resulted in 18 recommendations for the Government of Mongolia to reduce air pollution and its impact on children.

UNICEF also supported an update to Mongolia's national building codes for kindergartens and schools for better ventilation system standards and improved indoor air quality. UNICEF provided technical assistance to the National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring to operate 20 low-cost sensors for real time monitoring of air quality in schools. This study should result in a forecasting model for air pollution in schools nationwide.

## Climate-smart social policy

In the **Cook Islands** and **Niue**, UNICEF supported a feasibility design, development and deployment of social protection management information systems. This system will help strengthen the shock responsiveness of the existing social protection system for children and women. The social protection management information systems will also provide reliable and relevant data to policymakers to inform social protection policies and programmes, especially during future climate-induced disasters.



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To scale up disaster risk-informed programming, climate adaptation and mitigation interventions in **Viet Nam**, UNICEF established a partnership with Soc Trang province (located in the Mekong Region) and reviewed the provincial 2021–2025 socioeconomic development plans and indicators to identify ways to better integrate children’s indicators to inform child-friendly and shock-responsive planning and budgeting.

social enterprises in support of healthy eating, climate literacy, and hazard mapping. Ten social enterprises have been shortlisted to refine their solutions during an incubation phase, of which three or four solutions will be chosen for further scale-up in 2023.

## Climate-smart nutrition

In **Indonesia**, UNICEF raised awareness on the links between nutrition, climate change and the environment with the launch of a U-Report poll and of youth-led social media products on sustainable healthy diets to mark World Food Day. UNICEF also supported a review of the impact of climate change on food security and nutrition in Indonesia.

In **Malaysia**, the second phase of the MyUNICEF Impact Challenge was launched in partnership with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation to solicit pioneering solutions from



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### Box 5: MyUNICEF Impact Challenge

The first edition of the MyUNICEF Impact Challenge in Malaysia was launched in 2021. Five social enterprises were selected as winners with meaningful, out-of-the-box, unconventional yet practical ideas to use innovation and technology to create a healthy living environment in key thematic areas of mental health, and a safe and clean environment for all children in Malaysia. During the 2022 Impact Challenge, UNICEF partnered with the Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation (MRANTI) as problem statement sponsors. MRANTI is Malaysia’s central research and innovation commercialization agency that accelerates ideas to market. The MRANTI Impact Challenge Accelerator 2022, aims to make impact innovation a key lever for sustainable and equitable socio-economic development in Malaysia, scale innovative technological solutions that tackle the nation’s biggest social and environmental challenges, and build a pipeline of talent in creating resilient and purpose-driven businesses. The main questions for the 2022 challenge were:

- ✓ How can we leverage innovative solutions to strengthen climate literacy education to empower youths and drive change?
- ✓ How can we leverage on innovative solutions to strengthen disaster preparedness for vulnerable communities towards building more resilient communities?
- ✓ How do we educate on nutrition for better access to high quality yet affordable food sources to address malnutrition, specifically for children, pregnant and breastfeeding women?



## Youth engagement in climate action

In **China**, UNICEF conducted the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' competition for school-based children with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, which received around 4,500 submissions from children across the country and attracted 330,000 views online.

Through Mitra Muda, UNICEF's inclusive youth engagement network in **Indonesia**, UNICEF raised awareness and inspired action on addressing the climate crisis. Mitra Muda members, with UNICEF and civil society organizations, co-developed a comic series on the climate crisis that were featured in climate advocacy videos. Members also provided inputs to Indonesia's climate landscape analysis and spoke at COP27 events. UNICEF in Indonesia also engaged young people through an innovation challenge programme to address climate change impact on health (409 participants), a U-Report survey (8,455 respondents), and U-Creator social media campaign competition on oceans and pollution.

Under the Youth Environment Living Labs that was launched in 2021 by UNICEF and UNDP in **Malaysia** to strengthen youth-led climate and environmental action rooted in local narratives, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Impact Malaysia, and Putrajaya Collaboration, seed-funded 20 youth-led pilot

projects addressing local environmental issues. More than half of the projects are implemented by rural and indigenous youth groups. The Youth Environment Living Labs also ran an incubator programme for climate action that included, among other things, a writing competition for students aged 13 to 17, to reflect on their relationship with nature. ALAM, a subsidiary of the Malaysia Development Bank, has committed \$400,000 for Youth Environment Living Labs in 2023–2024. UNICEF also organized a Youth Day event at COP27 in Egypt, and a youth-focused workshop on climate change with the Malaysian Ministry of Youth and Sports.

In **Mongolia**, the UNICEF-supported Teen Parliament became a permanent platform for youth voices for SDGs implementation nationwide. The year 2022 was marked by the youth call-to-action for Mongolia's joining of the 'Intergovernmental Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action'. YOUCCAN (see Box 6) and the Teen Parliament are growing as a platform for youth voluntary engagement and education, and youth policy watch on children's environmental rights, climate change and clean air issues affecting children and young people. One of the major positive changes is that the Parliament of Mongolia, the highest official law-making institute at the national and sub-national levels, has shown respect to the rights of children for the environment, and acknowledged the values of educating, engaging, and empowering adolescents and youth on climate change and environmental sustainability issues.

### Box 6: Youth and children to advocate for climate change and clean air in Mongolia

In 2021, thanks to the support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UNICEF Mongolia, together with People in Need and The Scouts Association of Mongolia, joined efforts to help children and youth raise their voices on climate change and air pollution through a new initiative called 'YOUCCAN – youth and children to advocate for climate change and clean air'. YOUCCAN is a platform that brings voices of young people to combat against climate change and air pollution. YOUCCAN comprises of 14 organizations and numerous participating schools, and has raised awareness about air pollution among children and adolescents, and organized voluntary activities such as air quality mapping using low-cost sensors. As part of this initiative, the 'Teen Parliament' programme was developed in May 2021 in collaboration with the Parliament Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development Goals and the Parliament Research Institute. The Teen Parliament is a peer-to-peer educational programme, and its main goal is to empower the young generation by increasing their knowledge on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change, and environmental pollution. This platform also gives them an opportunity to have discussions on climate change with their peers, raise their voices to influence the decision-making progress, and volunteer in their communities to address climate change issues.



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More than 1.5 million people were reached by an innovative media campaign called ‘Together we act for a safe, green and clean **Viet Nam** for every child’, organized from October to December 2022 in response to the International Day on Disaster Risk Reduction. Coordinated by UNICEF in Viet Nam and the Standing Office

of the National Steering Committee on Disaster Prevention and Control, the campaign offered a series of creative activities for children nationwide to learn about disaster risk reduction and climate actions and raised public awareness on behaviour change of children, families, and communities towards green actions (see Box 7).

### Box 7: Media campaign for children in Viet Nam

The innovative media campaign ‘Together we act for a safe, clean and green Viet Nam for every child’ has provided a hit with Vietnamese children nationwide. The three-months campaign, coordinated by UNICEF in Viet Nam and the Standing Office of the National Steering Committee on Disaster Prevention and Control (NSCDPC), had attracted more than 33,000 participants and 1.6 million viewers by the time it closed in December 2022.

On the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management, the campaign was targeted at raising young people’s awareness and enhancing their skills to respond to the intensifying impacts of natural disasters and climate change through spreading the message: ‘Act today for a safe, clean and green future for every child.’ The campaign filled a critical need, as Viet Nam is one of the 13 countries most affected by natural disasters and climate change, leaving 27 million children vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change risks.

The campaign rolled out a series of creative activities to engage children who will be Viet Nam’s next line of defence against the climate threat. The activities included the ‘Beat the Internet’ gameshow, which for the first time had a version about natural disasters and responding to climate change for children, with the theme ‘preparedness for natural disasters and climate change’. The gameshow, which attracted more than 6,000 students, was held in Da Nang – a city often hit by typhoons and other extreme natural disasters.

Meanwhile, the ‘one-minute green video challenge’ on social networks with the theme ‘early action with children – disaster risk reduction and climate actions’, created a ripple effect nationwide with more than 25,000 children participating and submitting nearly 9,000 videos to the contest.



## Cross-sectoral climate smart-programming

UNICEF supported **Indonesia's** presidency of the G20 with the development of a study on co-benefits of climate change mitigation-adaptation synergy for SDGs and innovative climate finance. This was endorsed by G20 and communicated to a broader audience at an event during COP27, which was co-organized with the Government of Germany, GIZ, and the NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) Partnership. UNICEF collaborated with UNDP to conduct a climate finance study as part of the G20 Climate Sustainable Working Group.

Also in Indonesia, UNICEF supported the development of a climate landscape analysis for children, carried out together with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and involving 19 line-ministries and subnational governments. The landscape analysis sets a baseline and objectives for climate and environment action for and with children in Indonesia. The recommended strategies from the analysis were presented by the Ministry at an event during COP27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt.

In the **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, UNICEF cooperated with the Ministry of Planning and Investment on an assessment of the vulnerability of children to climate change and child poverty. The assessment identified a range of complex challenges and prioritized multi-sector mitigation strategies. Recommendations on how to plan and respond to future climate-related emergencies were presented and discussed in a meeting with vice-governors of the Lao People's Democratic Republic's 18 provinces. In 2023 and beyond, UNICEF will support government to mainstream these strategies into national policies and plans to provide a more sustainable future for Lao children.

In **Mongolia**, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to develop the medium-term Environmental Policy 2023–2030, defining policy directions and measures towards achievement of the SDGs – including green development, climate change, ecosystem conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental pollution reduction. The priority research themes and the action plan for implementation of air pollution related priority research, 2022–2025, were

approved by the ministry for coordinated cross-sectoral research and collaboration in six thematic directions.

UNICEF signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Orkhon Province to jointly implement measures for reducing the impact of climate change and environmental pollution on children for a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment, promoting green development and environmental sustainability through partnership and joint resource mobilization. Under this MoU, UNICEF agreed on 2023 actions towards low-carbon energy transformation for schools, kindergartens and health facilities and youth engagement, and launched the Cooking, Heating, and Insulation Products (CHIP) Information Centre to inform the public about environmentally friendly ways to improve indoor air quality and increase protection against the cold. Recognizing the importance of CHIP, the Government of Mongolia increased the subsidy for 'green loans', lowering the annual interest rate from 8 per cent to 3 per cent. Soon after, over 400 households applied for such loans and installed CHIP products in their homes.

UNICEF in **Myanmar** conducted community-based trainings in their programming areas on topics like global warming and climate change, the benefits of using organic fertilizers, and the advantages of using fuel-efficient cook stoves to reduce fuel consumption and improve indoor air quality. Practical sessions included training on the production of organic fertilizer use and how effective micro-organisms aid anaerobic digestion of organic wastes.

UNICEF's Multi-country Office for the **Pacific** drafted a new Climate, Environment, Energy and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2023–2027, a comprehensive, cross-cutting document that will guide its efforts over the next five years to protect the most vulnerable children from the impacts of climate and environmental-related shocks and disasters. This strategy is the first developed in the region and is being used as a model by other UNICEF country offices.

In **Thailand**, UNICEF conducted an impact assessment on the effects of climate change and environmental degradation on children. The assessment generated evidence and critical data, filling information and knowledge gaps to enhance child-sensitive climate and environmental policies and programmes in

Thailand. The assessment highlighted three gaps in climate change-related plans and policies, including 1) the absence of child-related protection measures in policies related to the effects of climate change and environmental degradation; 2) the lack of climate change adaptation plans and measures at a sub-national level, especially in high-risk provinces; and 3) the lack of coordination among relevant government agencies to address climate adaptations. Results and recommendations from this assessment will be used as a baseline for UNICEF to integrate climate change issues into the 2023 advocacy and workplans fostering child-sensitive climate action in Thailand.

In **Viet Nam**, UNICEF worked with the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority to strengthen institutional capacity of stakeholders by supporting child-centred climate change risk assessment, revising multisectoral disaster risk management plans, and improving child focus in disaster risk management guidelines and actions in education, nutrition, health, WASH, and child protection. UNICEF assisted the authority in developing an evidence-based communication plan with a set of key messages for risk reduction, preparedness, life-saving skills, and recovery. The plan targets communities and children in the Mekong Delta. Once completed, the communication plan is expected to be rolled out in other regions and will help communities to build resilience to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.



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A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small mound of dark brown soil. A young green seedling with two leaves and a small flower bud is growing out of the soil. The background is a solid, vibrant blue color.

# Financial and human resources

## Financial expenditure

UNICEF programmes in WASH, climate, environment, energy and disaster risk reduction East Asia and the Pacific spent a total of \$59 million in 2022. As seen in Table 3, over half (56 per cent) of these expenditures covered were on WASH service delivery in both development and humanitarian settings. Expenditures on WASH system strengthening amounted to 29 per cent. Activities addressing climate, energy, disaster risks, and environmental degradation made up the remaining 14 per cent of the expenditures.

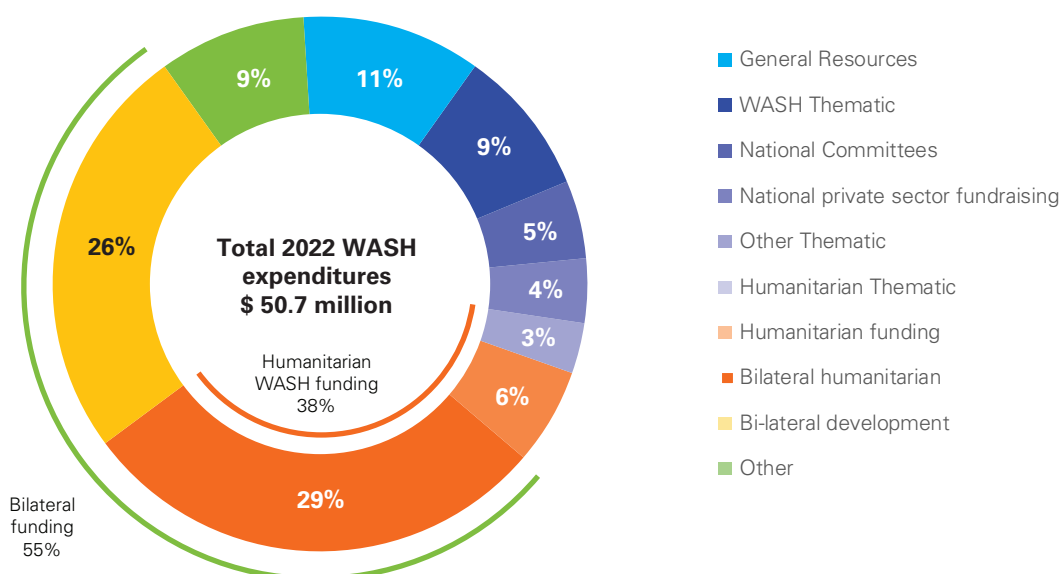
Table 3: EAP WASH, climate, and environment expenditures by outcome area, 2022

Results area	\$ (millions)	
1. Safe and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services and practices	<b>33.3</b>	<b>56%</b>
2. Water, sanitation and hygiene systems and empowerment of communities	<b>17.4</b>	<b>29%</b>
3. Climate change, disaster risks and environmental degradation	<b>8.3</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>100%</b>

## WASH expenditures in 2022

In 2022, UNICEF spent \$50.7 million on WASH. The expenditures included \$49.3 million on country-level activities, and \$1.4 million on regional WASH activities through EAPRO.

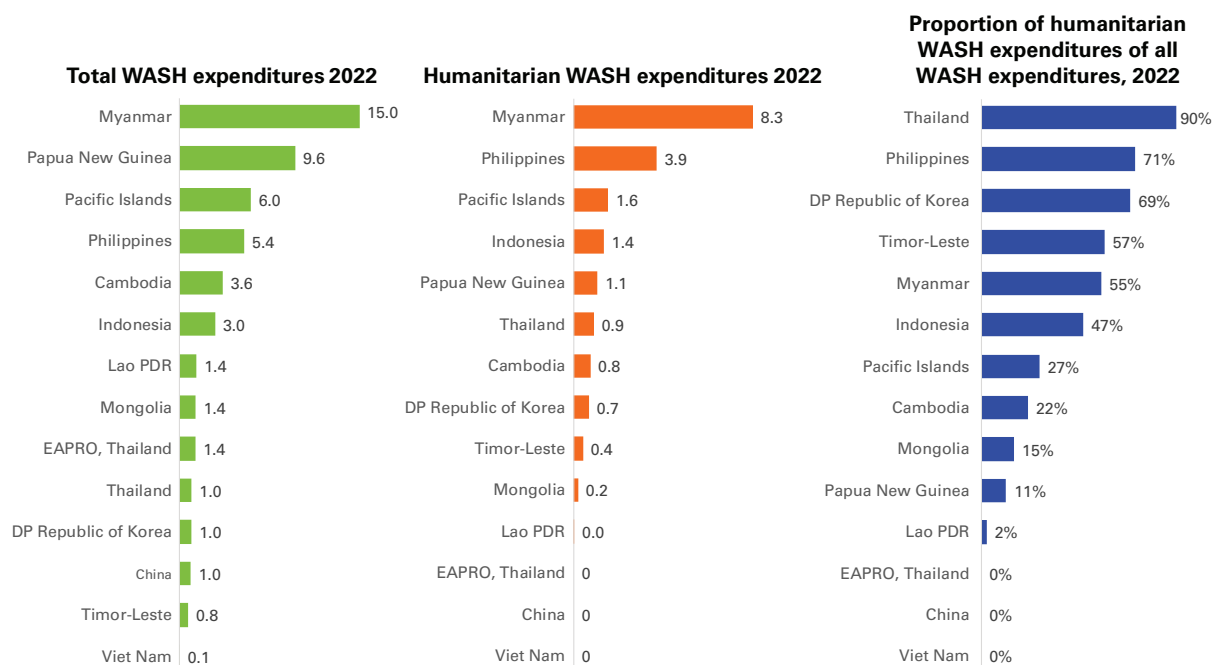
Humanitarian WASH expenditures in the EAP region accounted for 38 per cent of the total. Expenditures against bilateral funding amounted to \$27.7 million, equal to 55 per cent of all expenditures.





The largest UNICEF WASH programme in the region is in Myanmar, where UNICEF also ran its largest humanitarian WASH programme in the EAP region.

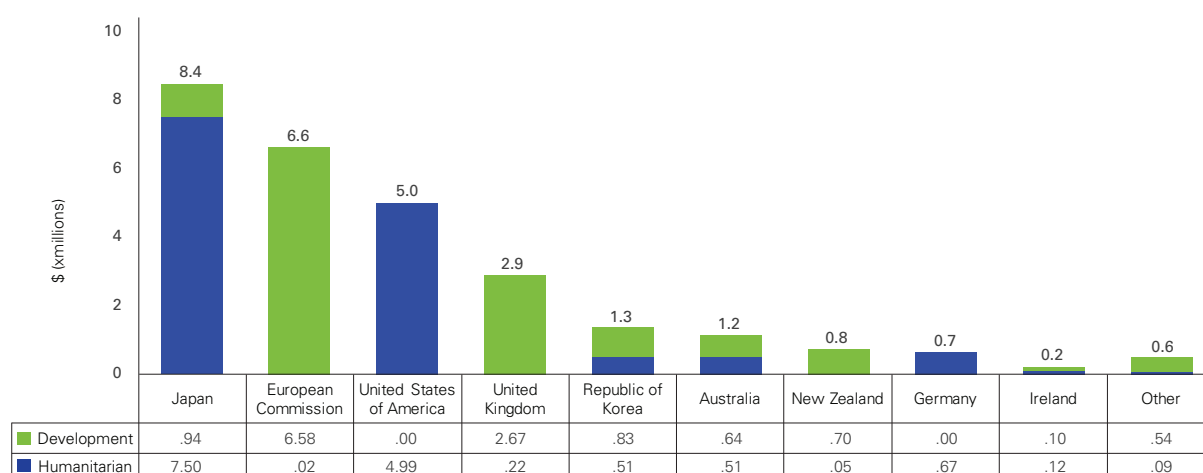
Figure 1: UNICEF total and humanitarian WASH expenditures for 2022, in \$ (millions).



Among the seventeen bi-lateral donors who generously supported the UNICEF WASH programme, three donors provide over two-thirds of the bi-lateral funding: Japan (31 per cent, or \$9.6 million), the European Commission (21 per cent, or \$6.6 million), and the United States of America (17 per cent, or \$5.3 million). Japan and the United States of America together provided 85 per cent of the humanitarian bi-lateral funding.

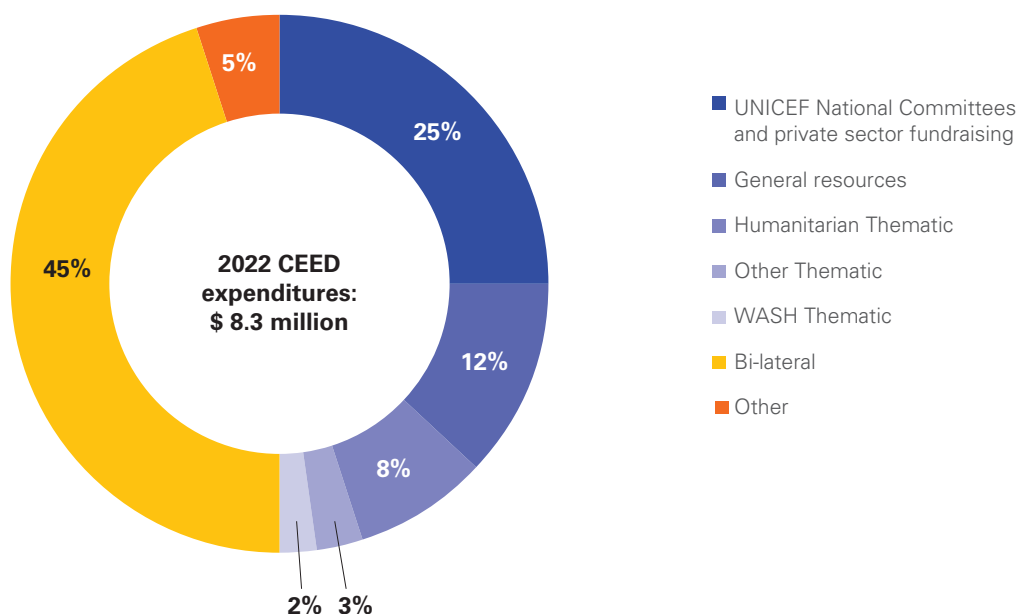
In 2022, UNICEF WASH in the EAP region received direct support from 17 bi-lateral donors, for a total amount of \$27.7 million.

Figure 2: UNICEF WASH expenditures in EAP region for 2022, by donor, in \$ (millions).



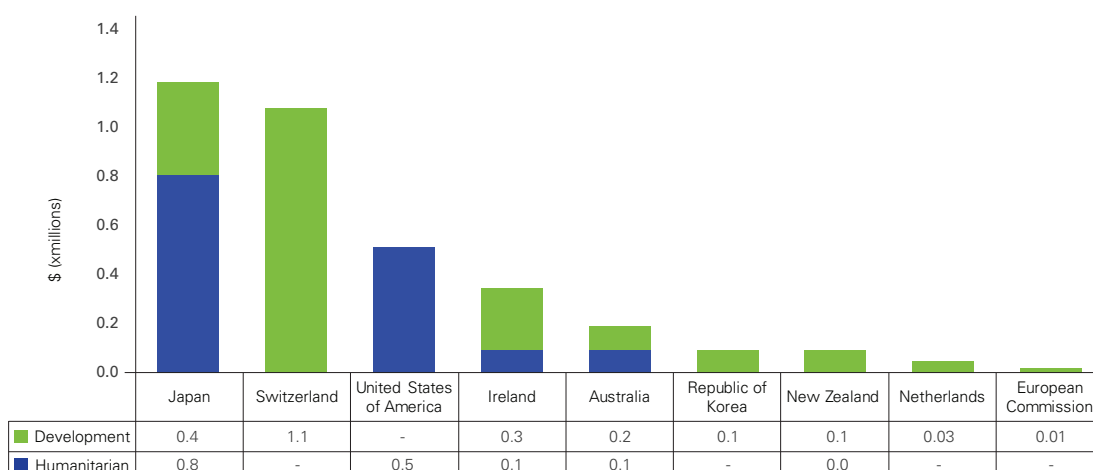
## Climate, energy, environment and disaster risk reduction expenditures in 2022

During 2022, WASH expenditures on climate, energy, environment and disaster risk reduction amounted to \$8.3 million.



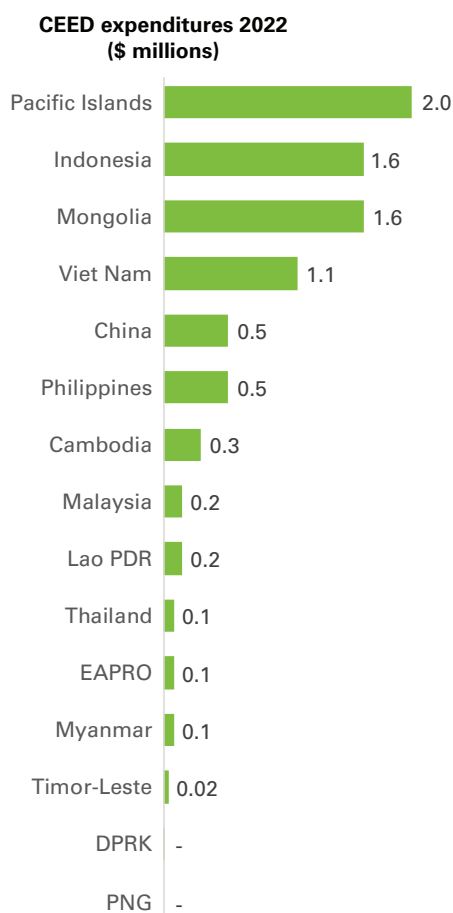
Nine bilateral donors funded 45 per cent of the climate, energy, environment and disaster risk reduction programming expenditures, equal to a total of \$3.7 million.

**Figure 3: UNICEF climate, energy, environment and disaster risk reduction expenditures in EAP region for 2022, by bilateral donor, in \$ (millions).**





Almost two-thirds (63 per cent) of the CEED expenditures occurred in the Pacific Islands, Indonesia and Mongolia.



## UNICEF WASH, climate and environment human resources in the EAP region

Throughout the EAP region, in 2022 UNICEF maintained 75 staff working on WASH, climate and environment, which comprised of 24 international professionals and 51 national professionals. In addition, UNICEF had long-term consultants, volunteers, and administrative support staff working directly on WASH, climate and environment in the region. The regional office in Bangkok is staffed with one international Regional Adviser for WASH, Climate and Environment, one international WASH Specialist, one international Climate and Environment Specialist, and one administrative support staff.

### 2022 UNICEF WASH, climate, and environment staff in EAP









# Lessons and future plans





**Fulfilling children’s rights to water and sanitation and a safe and sustainable climate and environment requires bold action. As the UN agency mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children’s rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential, UNICEF is uniquely positioned to mobilize all child-focused social sectors to achieve global targets on climate adaptation and the SDGs. Yet a key lesson learned from 2022 was that while climate and environment is an existential threat for the EAP region, the social sectors that are a key part of the solutions for children are insufficiently prepared to adapt.**

One year into the implementation of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022–2025, the EAPRO WASH, climate and environment team is focused on mobilizing its partnerships, capacity, and resources to ensure that the foundations are in place to deliver climate-resilient social services.

UNICEF’s WASH programmes have been leading the shift to climate-resilient social services for children, but more effort is needed to deliver fully resilient results and attract a larger share of climate funding to social services for children. Increasing water insecurity and environmental degradation, due in part to climate change, are increasing the needs and costs in the WASH sector. At the same time, many countries are not on track to reach SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 of safely managed WASH services for all. Reaching the last mile with basic services and achieving safe services will demand greater investment of domestic resources, at a time when the economic recovery from the pandemic is still ongoing.

In 2023, EAPRO WASH will increase its technical support, capacity development efforts, and expand its partnerships for climate-resilient WASH throughout the region. UNICEF will support governments to convene all WASH sector actors to make use of climate information and consult on climate risk assessment of the WASH sector. Based on this process, UNICEF will support the development of climate adaptation and mitigation plans with priority response options based on climate science. To deliver this, EAPRO will establish new partnerships with the Stockholm International Water Institute, UTS-ISF, the University of Bristol and Water Mission to provide high quality technical support. New approaches are also needed; for example, reducing emissions generated by WASH services and increasing efficiencies using frontier technologies, optimizing solutions for climate resilient urban

sanitation, filling data gaps for safely managed sanitation, promoting wider use of solar powered water systems, and strengthening the linkages between water resources management and WASH. With UTS-ISF, EAPRO will launch a new effort to define and measure the contribution of WASH to community resilience. In addition, EAPRO is seeking to strengthen knowledge and partnerships for gender-equal and socially inclusive WASH approaches throughout the region.

EAPRO will continue its collaboration with ASEAN and the Sanitation and Water for All partnership to continue to advocate with governments to prioritize and resource climate resilient and social inclusive WASH in the region. It will continue its engagement with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and other relevant sub-regional mechanisms for advocacy with Pacific Island country governments. EAPRO and the Food and Agriculture Organization are working together to strengthen the linkages between water resources management and WASH exploring opportunities along the food-water-energy nexus. Across all programme areas, UNICEF will strengthen partnerships with agencies accredited to receive climate funds so that funding can be accessed for the WASH sector across the region.

As UNICEF expands its agenda on climate and environment to all child-centred social sectors, there is an urgent need to mobilize flexible, catalytic resources to establish the foundations for climate-resilient social sectors. UNICEF EAPRO has established a three-pronged approach, encapsulated under a forthcoming regional initiative called ‘Climate Action for All’. This includes building the foundations for climate action within UNICEF offices, developing multisector programmes to maximize effectiveness, and harnessing cross-sectoral accelerators.

To build the foundations, EAPRO will support UNICEF country offices to build capacities for environmental and social standards, develop climate strategies, and develop the climate rationale for action in the social sectors. UNICEF will also scale up data and evidence generation and ensure country offices have the information they need to identify and propose adaptation and mitigation priorities in the social sectors.

To maximize effectiveness and efficiency, EAPRO will develop multi-sector programmes across a range of countries that include climate-smart health and nutrition, education, WASH, protection, and social policy programmes. These multisector programmes can be scaled-up, replicated and shared across countries, facilitated by EAPRO.

New accelerators such as renewable energy have the potential to transform how we deliver services in a sustainable and resilient way across the WASH, education and health sectors. Other accelerators include the creation of early warning systems, as well as innovative finance mechanisms, such as climate-impact bonds. With these accelerators, UNICEF can significantly advance progress across a range of sectors all at once.

Taken together, this three-pronged approach will not only help prevent slipping backwards on progress made towards the SDGs over the past few decades because of the climate crisis, but also give the next generation of children the best chance for surviving. Many young entrepreneurs and changemakers across the EAP region are already serving as agents of change and have developed smart solutions with creativity and ingenuity. The world owes it to the next generation to give them every possible chance of success – and this means providing them with climate-smart social services.















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