



Humanitarian action

Global Annual
Results Report 2022

unicef 
for every child

Cover image: © UNICEF/UN0729019/Zaidi
Students (left to right) Farid, 6, Kashif, 8, and Muhammad Hussain, 7, participate in a class in October 2022 at a UNICEF-supported temporary learning centre at a camp for people displaced by flooding in the village of Meenhoon Khani Budi in Sindh Province, Pakistan.

Expression of thanks: © UNICEF/UN0663284/Sewunet
Two girls play in their village in Suqsude, in the Somaliland region of Somalia, in June 2022. More than 8.3 million people are affected by drought in the country. The nutrition situation remained critical in 2022, and, through UNICEF programmes, nearly 460,000 girls and boys aged 6–59 months (251,765 girls and 207,851 boys) with severe wasting were admitted for treatment, with 96 per cent discharged as cured.



Expression of thanks

UNICEF expresses its gratitude to all resource partners whose overall contributions supported the organization's humanitarian action in 2022. The achievements described in this report were the result of these continued partnerships. In particular, UNICEF expresses its sincere appreciation to all resource partners that contributed thematically to the organization's work in humanitarian responses. Thanks to thematic funding and its flexibility, UNICEF has been able to provide timely and effective technical, operational and programming support to countries in all regions as part of its efforts to prepare and deliver life-saving protection and assistance to children and families. On behalf of children, their families and communities in urgent need, UNICEF is especially grateful for contributions of global, regional and country humanitarian thematic funds, which provide the most flexible resources for emergency response. The work of UNICEF is funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector. Voluntary contributions enable UNICEF to deliver on its mandate to protect children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. We take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their commitment and trust in UNICEF.

The mission of UNICEF to promote the full attainment of the rights of all children is as urgent as ever.

The UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 is anchored in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and charts a course towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the realization of a future in which every child is able to fully enjoy their rights. It sets out measurable results for children, especially the most disadvantaged, including those in humanitarian crises, and defines the change strategies and enablers that support their achievement.

Working together with governments, United Nations partners, the private sector and civil society, and with the full participation of children, UNICEF remains steadfast in its commitment to realize the rights of all children, everywhere, and to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a world in which no child is left behind.

The following report summarizes how UNICEF and its partners contributed to humanitarian action in 2022 and reviews the impact of these accomplishments on children and the communities where they live. This is one of seven reports on the results of efforts during the past year, encompassing gender equality and humanitarian action as well as each of the five Strategic Plan Goal Areas – ‘Every child survives and thrives’, ‘Every child learns’, ‘Every child is protected from violence and exploitation’, ‘Every child lives in a safe and clean environment’, and ‘Every child has an equitable chance in life’. It supplements the Annual Report for 2022 of the Executive Director of UNICEF, the official accountability document for the past year.

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Executive Summary

Ukrainian and Romanian children sit behind the structures they created at a play, learning and parenting hub in Bucharest, Romania in October 2022. UNICEF and partners established 10 such hubs throughout the country to promote social inclusion through early education and care, supporting Romanian children as well as Ukrainian children who fled to Romania.

Climate change and conflict shaped many children's lives for the worse in 2022. Flooding, storms, drought, war, local and regional conflict and other forms of violence negatively impacted children's safety; their health and exposure to communicable diseases; their nutritional status; their access to education; their environment and access to safe water; and their ability to stay in their homes and communities. Economic and political conditions, including inflation and instability, either emerged from or exacerbated those threats, affecting families' livelihoods and the ability of caregivers to provide for their children. In short: Children's well-being was deeply affected by a 'polycrisis' of threats that created a negative impact far beyond the sum of the individual parts.

However, by delivering on its mandate and working with governments and other partners, UNICEF was able to be a counterweight to the forces that threatened children's rights and their childhoods and achieve life-saving results for children in humanitarian settings.

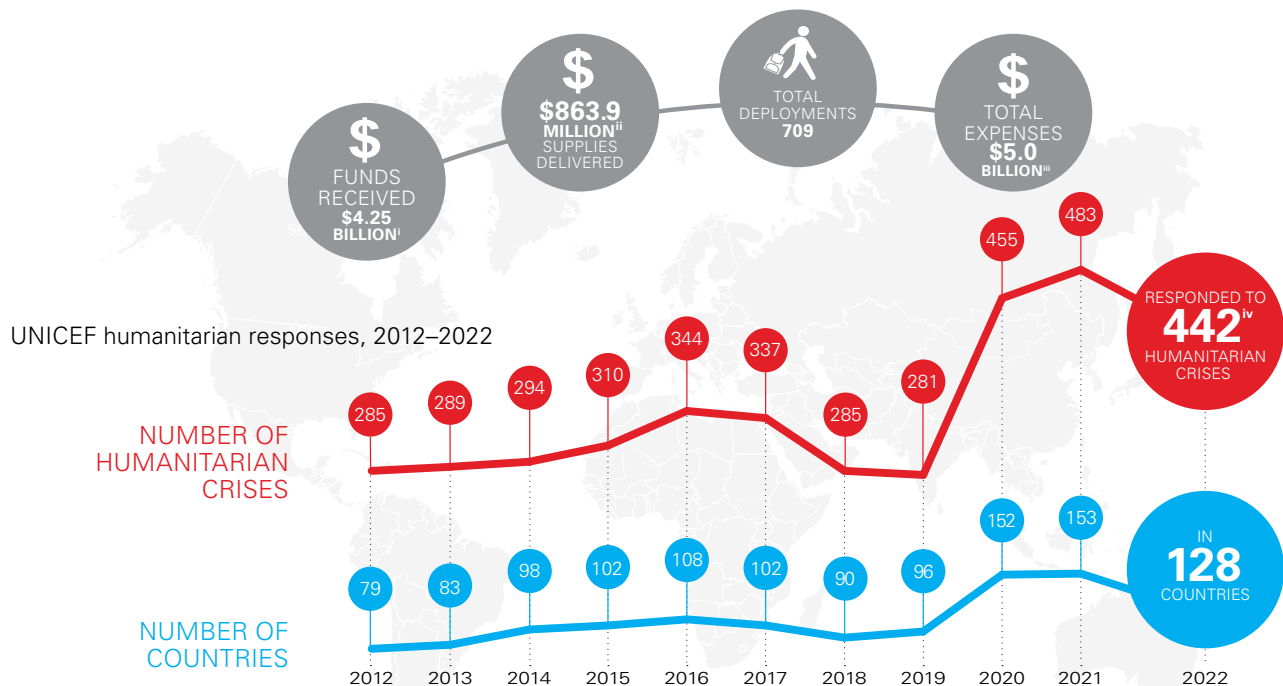
UNICEF responded to a total of 442 new or ongoing humanitarian crises in 128 programme countries in 2022, compared with 455 crises in 153 countries in 2021 (see Figure 1). Responses were aligned with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025.

UNICEF responded to human-made crises and to natural disasters aggravated by human-made climate change, including drought in the Horn of Africa, affecting Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia; floods in Pakistan; surging conflict in the Sahel, affecting Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger and further devastating one of the regions hardest-hit by climate change; conflict in Ukraine, and the resulting massive refugee outflow into other countries in Europe; crisis in Afghanistan; conflict in northern Ethiopia and Yemen; and gang violence and flooding in Haiti. Working with partners, UNICEF was able to deliver critical humanitarian results for children in these and other crises (see Figure 2).

To support UNICEF country and regional office staff in these and other humanitarian responses, a total of 709 deployments were made from both internal and external surge structures in 2022. UNICEF also deployed regional gender advisers, a gender emergency response team

FIGURE 1: UNICEF global response in 2022

In 2022, 128 country offices responded to 442 humanitarian crises, reaching millions of children with life-saving, gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive interventions.



ⁱ The figure is based on contributions received in 2022. Humanitarian funding includes other resources - emergency and other types of funding that support UNICEF humanitarian response.

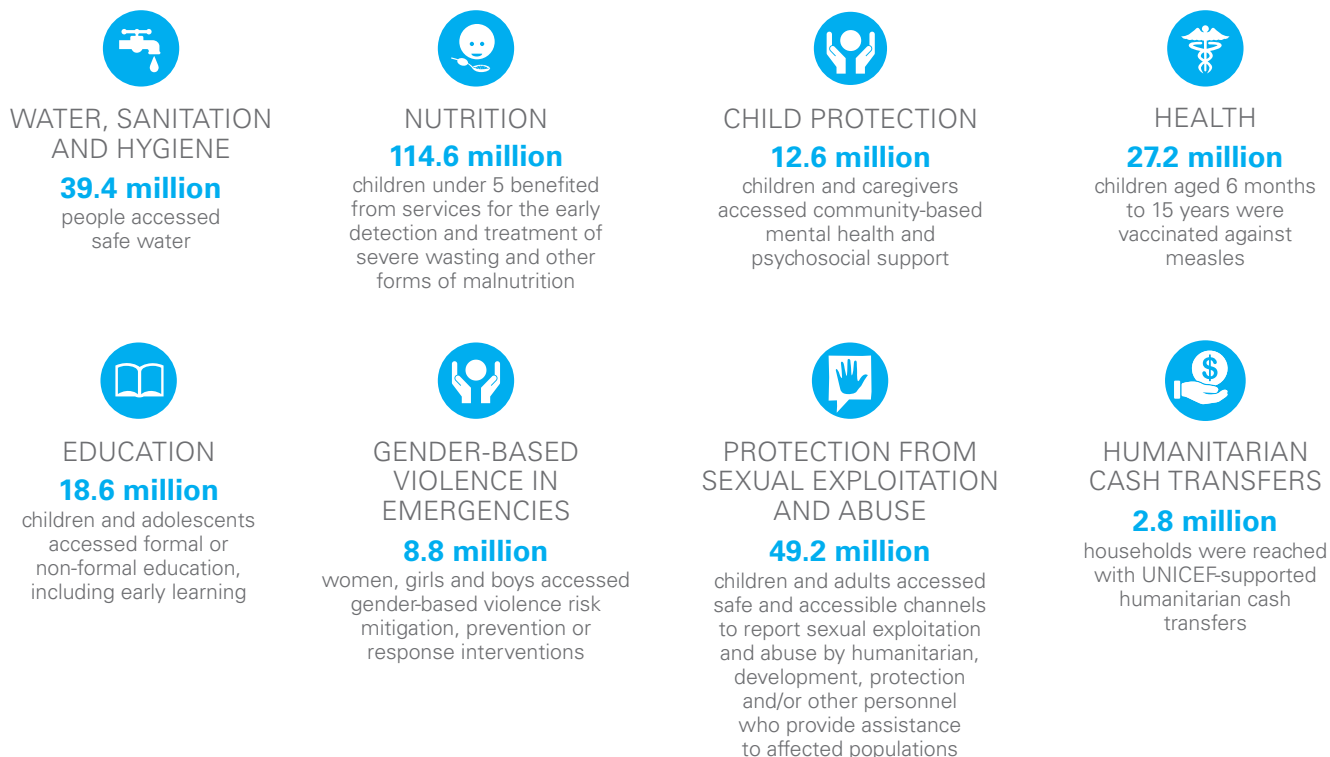
ⁱⁱ This total includes all programme supplies going to Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies; all programme supplies for any new Level 2 or Level 3 emergencies, from the date they are declared; specific relevant orders for the countries in which only a region or part of the country is in an emergency; and specific supplies flagged as emergency supplies in countries facing Level 1 crises.

ⁱⁱⁱ The figure represents expenses of humanitarian funding received in 2022 and carried over from the previous year.

^{iv} This total includes 106 natural disasters, 62 sociopolitical crises, 187 health emergencies (including the COVID-19 pandemic response), 33 nutrition crises and 54 other critical crises.

FIGURE 2: Humanitarian results for children in 2022

These are some of the key humanitarian results achieved by UNICEF and partners in 2022. In some contexts, achievements were constrained by limited resources, including across sectors; inadequate humanitarian access; insecurity; and challenging operating environments.



specialist or a gender-in-emergencies specialist to every Level 3 emergency in 2022. This helped to ensure that gender commitments guided the organization's response.

UNICEF delivered a record level of life-saving supplies to children in emergencies – more than \$863.9 million in supplies for emergencies in 140 countries, with more than 94 per cent going to Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies. Afghanistan and Ukraine received the highest value of emergency supplies. UNICEF delivered \$256.3 million in nutrition supplies – a 90 per cent increase over 2021 – largely due to a substantial increase in demand for ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF).

Reaching those who needed assistance proved challenging in many places. In fact, more than 30 countries recorded high to extreme access constraints from July through October 2022. Eritrea, Ethiopia, Myanmar and Yemen were classified as having extreme access constraints, and 17 other countries, including Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine, were classified as having very high access constraints.¹ UNICEF provided life-saving humanitarian assistance in all of these places, a response enabled by dedicated support for humanitarian access and related policy issues from UNICEF headquarters provided to a

number of UNICEF country offices (Afghanistan, Colombia/ the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Haiti, Myanmar, Somalia, the Sudan and others). This resulted in, among other activities, the creation of access strategies and workplans in Myanmar and Somalia, and an engagement strategy with the de facto authorities in Afghanistan. Globally, UNICEF teams began to make use of the new Humanitarian Access Field Manual and Guidelines for UNICEF Engagement with Armed Non-State Actors. UNICEF also continued its strong engagement with the children and armed conflict agenda of the United Nations Secretary-General.

Connections between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding approaches became stronger in 2022 and were codified in a revised UNICEF Procedure on Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus, which became effective in September. Just as important was the increasing integration of humanitarian response across programmatic sectors. Such synergies can, ideally, act as the opposite of a polycrisis – and be force multipliers leading to results for children are more than the sum of each individual effort of intervention.

Examples of programmatic integration in 2022 for greater realization of children's rights abound. For instance, after the massive flooding in Pakistan, key family care practices and parenting interventions were mainstreamed to promote early childhood development within health, nutrition, WASH and education sector responses. 'Cash plus' interventions in places as disparate as Albania and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines combined humanitarian cash transfers with additional education or nutrition support or referrals to social services. Elsewhere integration took the form of multisectoral delivery points or mechanisms, such as the 117 UNICEF-supported safe spaces in Afghanistan that offered 224,000 women and girls information on risk mitigation and integrated services, psychosocial support, gender-based violence case management, life-skills and livelihood training and a place simply to connect with others in their newly restricted world. UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots (child and family protection hubs) in countries receiving refugees from Ukraine served 741,157 people (including 241,915 children) by providing children with a safe place to play and their families with information, referrals and protection. More than 50 cross-sectoral complaints/feedback mechanisms were established in the Central African Republic through the inter-agency collective service for Accountability and Community Engagement, giving local actors key input into programme design and the decision-making process. UNICEF engaged in developing tools and resources at the inter-agency level to integrate child protection and food security responses. And the organization combatted the global resurgence of cholera by simultaneously applying expertise in health (including provision of oral cholera vaccine), public health emergencies, WASH and social and behaviour change to reduce the spread of this disease which, appearing in an unprecedented 30 countries in 2022, was itself a sentinel for our times, demanding a holistic response to the underlying causes of so much humanitarian need: inequity, poverty and lack of access to key services.

The cross-pollination of ideas, innovations and response pathways is the hallmark of a new programmatic centre laid out in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, one focused on climate change, environment, energy and disaster risk reduction and recovery. The planetary crisis is unfolding rapidly, and it is impacting children here and now. In 2022, UNICEF supported 69 countries (up from 37 in 2021) in implementing cross-sectoral, child-sensitive programmes that promote climate and disaster resilience, reduce environmental degradation and advance sustainability. There is a commitment to make responding to this crisis a prime focus for all of UNICEF in the future, with humanitarian action as a critical component.

Of course, nothing UNICEF does can be done without partners, as true in 2022 as it has been since the organization's founding. As a leader for children among its peers, UNICEF strengthened connections with other critical United Nations bodies during the year (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Organization for Migration, World Health Organization and others) to create better results for children and more

accountable humanitarian action. As a voice for children, UNICEF engaged with governments worldwide and in every type of humanitarian crisis to make sure children's needs were a primary consideration for government-led responses – and then supported those responses. And with an eye on the future, UNICEF engaged more than 16.1 million adolescents and youth (45 per cent girls) in 89 countries, with nearly 345,000 of them engaged in humanitarian settings in more than 30 countries; and built the capacity for a more local response by transferring \$569.2 million to local and national non-governmental partners. Donors were also a bedrock of partnership with UNICEF in 2022, their commitment enabling a depth of work and a global reach that could truly multiply benefits for children.

UNICEF continued to lead or co-lead the Global Education, Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. In line with the Humanitarian Review recommendation on cluster coordination, UNICEF continued to ensure that a dedicated cluster team is in place when clusters are activated, and work got under way for more than half the actions laid out as a response to the second evaluation of UNICEF's role as cluster lead/co-lead agency (CLARE II), which was completed in 2022. UNICEF furthered the establishment of career development options for cluster coordinators.

The organization continued to strengthen its accountability to affected populations throughout the year. Specialists in accountability to affected populations in five regions along with UNICEF headquarters provided technical support to 54 country offices between January 2021 and December 2022. Substantial support was also provided for responses to the crisis in Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa drought emergency and the war in Ukraine. All these efforts were guided by the UNICEF strategy 'Taking accountability to affected populations to the next level: Strategy 2022–2025'. And, in 2022, UNICEF became the first United Nations agency to mandate inclusion of a minimum set of interventions for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) from the outset of every humanitarian response, thus making significant progress towards more systematic integration of the inter-agency system's survivor-centred and standards-based approach. As a result, 49.2 million children and adults (5.9 million of them in humanitarian settings) had access to safe and accessible channels in 110 countries in all seven UNICEF regions for reporting sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian and development or other personnel in 2022.

Considerable challenges impacted UNICEF's ability to support children in emergencies and help them to realize their rights. Chief among these were the rapidly expanding needs of children and subsequent high demand for support from the field that sometimes outstripped UNICEF's ability to provide the advice and support required. Other critical constraints included the conduct of parties involved in conflict and interference, threats to humanitarian workers, and the rigid earmarking of funding. To overcome these, UNICEF built on remote modalities first employed during the pandemic and which still proved useful in certain

circumstances, and of course continued to leverage the work of its partners, including local and national partners; promoted anticipatory action and enhanced preparedness; trained UNICEF staff on issues related to humanitarian access and disseminated key guidance on this organization-wide; and continued to call for flexible and unrestricted funding.

Against its 2022 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, UNICEF received \$4.25 billion in humanitarian funding. At its launch in December 2021, however, the appeal called for \$9.4 billion, with the total requirement rising to \$11.74 billion by the end of 2022.

Looking ahead, UNICEF will deepen its response to climate change and climatic events that impact children, and will lead a multisectoral response to famine prevention to prevent, detect and treat child wasting. UNICEF will continue to foster inclusion and gender equity; enhance cluster leadership capacity; refine its response to public health emergencies; evolve its anticipatory action practices; and call for flexible funding – all to better uphold the rights of children living through humanitarian crises. *For more detail on each of these areas, see 'High-level Priorities' on page 29.*



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Gladys Milanzie, 2, and her mother Mary Banda, accompanied by Village Head Tilora, wash their hands in front of a UNICEF-supported cholera treatment centre set up at Chilumba Rural Hospital, in Karonga, Northern Region, Malawi, in September 2022. Gladys was treated for cholera at the centre.



Strategic context

Ritaj and Asma stand in front of a UNICEF-supported learning centre in Rohingya refugee camp 2W in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. They are about to start their formal kindergarten schooling. Following the successful launch of the Myanmar curriculum pilot for Grades 6–9 in December 2021, Rohingya refugee children living in the camps are now able to study the national curriculum of their home country in kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2.

The humanitarian situation in 2022

Approximately 274 million people required humanitarian assistance in 2022, up from 235 million in 2021.² An even greater number – 339 million people – are expected to require such assistance in 2023.³

The humanitarian story in 2022 was one of ‘more’: more displacement (a record 103 million people displaced globally);⁴ more mortality from such epidemics as cholera and coronavirus disease (COVID-19);⁵ more children at risk of wasting owing to more drought and other factors;⁶ more flooding (e.g., rainfall in Chad at a 30-year high, one third of Pakistan under water); and more children living in multidimensional poverty.

Conflict and violence continued to drive a great part of humanitarian need. It affected millions of children in all regions where UNICEF is present. In Ethiopia, a sprawling conflict in the north is only one of multiple, overlapping hazards that put millions at risk; in Yemen, conflict has continued for more than eight years. And the war in Ukraine spawned an entire global ecosystem of suffering and need in 2022 (and ongoing into 2023), starting with the 27.3 million people (including 7.1 million children) who required assistance both within Ukraine and in the countries where many who fled sought refuge.

That conflict, occurring in one of the world’s breadbaskets and with a ripple-out effect on food availability and fuel prices globally, was one of several circumstances that increased the number of families and children living in poverty globally⁷ in 2022 and deepened children’s hunger, making an existing global nutrition crisis worse. All told, 60 million children globally were at risk of being acutely malnourished by the end of 2022,⁸ 27 per cent more than in 2021.

Hundreds of millions of people globally experienced the adverse effects of climate change in 2022. Climate-related disasters and conditions either caused or worsened

a substantial portion of humanitarian need, uprooting approximately 26,900 children each day⁹ and causing crises in health and nutrition, education, protection and participation.

Displacement is often a direct consequence of conflict and climate disasters. And many of those displaced are children: Nearly one in two of the world’s refugees are children – 12.5 million children – and another 1.2 million children are seeking asylum. An even larger number, 25.2 million children, are internally displaced. The war in Ukraine caused the greatest ebb and flow of people on the European continent since the Second World War.¹⁰

Globally, members of armed forces and armed groups continued to harm children in the context of war and conflict. In 2021, the most recent year for which complete data are available, the United Nations verified 23,982 grave violations against children, affecting 19,165 children (13,633 boys, 5,242 girls, 290 sex unknown).¹¹

Humanitarian access (of people to services, and of humanitarian actors to those who required assistance) proved challenging in many places in 2022, not unlike previous years. More than 30 countries recorded high to extreme access constraints from July through October 2022. Eritrea, Ethiopia, Myanmar and Yemen were classified as having extreme access constraints; 17 countries – among them Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine – were classified as having very high access constraints.¹²

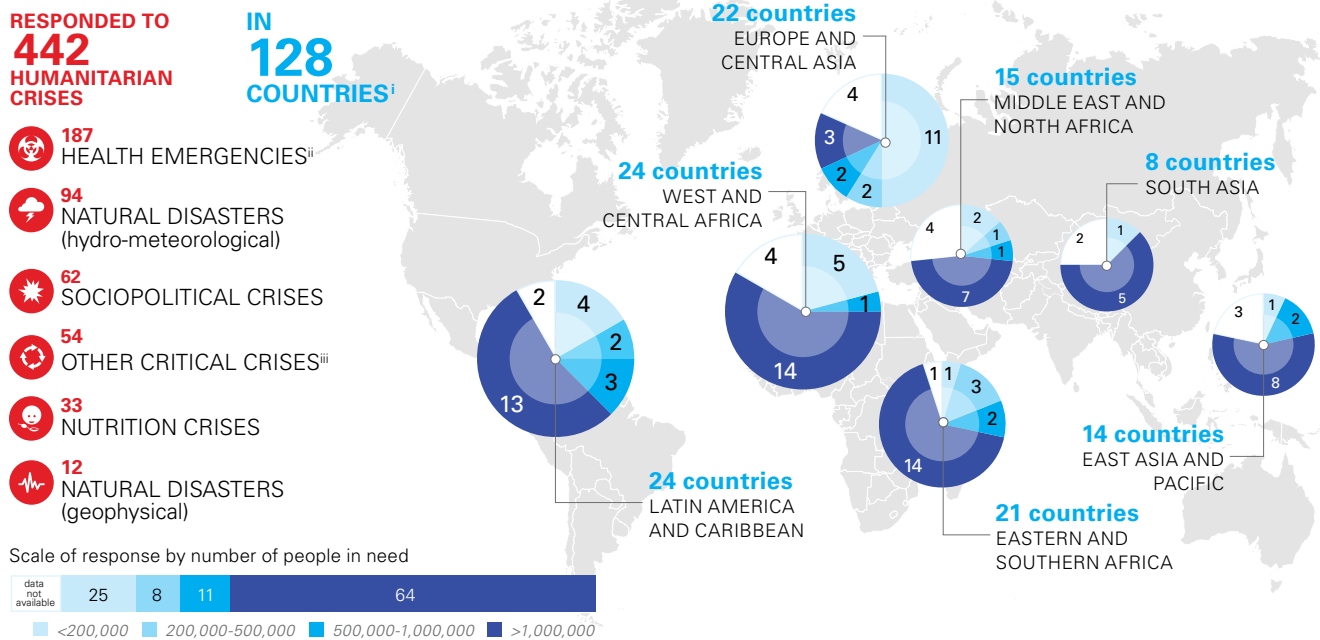
Lastly, three global headwinds – geopolitical, economic and environmental – are expected to shape the coming years and, in fact, the remainder of the 2020s,¹³ with a profound impact on the lives of children, and especially those already living in, or vulnerable to, humanitarian crises.

The UNICEF humanitarian response in 2022

UNICEF responded to a total of 442 new or ongoing humanitarian crises in 128 programme countries in 2022, compared with 455 crises in 153 countries in 2021 (see Figure 3). Responses were aligned with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. Crises designated as Level 3 emergencies included those in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa (elevated from Level 2 to Level 3 in September 2022), Ukraine and Yemen, as well as COVID-19 (until 1 July 2022). Level 2 emergencies included those in Haiti, Madagascar, Mozambique, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Sahel region, Uganda and Ukraine refugee outflow countries.

To enact its humanitarian responses, UNICEF received \$4.25 billion in humanitarian funding against the 2022 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. At its launch in December 2021, the appeal called for \$9.4 billion but, by the end of 2022, the total requirement had risen to \$11.74 billion. Overall, a total of \$5 billion was spent on humanitarian action in 2022, or 63 per cent of all UNICEF’s expenses. The country offices with the highest overall humanitarian expenses (in descending order) were Afghanistan, Ukraine, Yemen, Lebanon and Ethiopia. In Ukraine and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, more than 95 per cent of country-level expenses were classified as humanitarian expenses. UNICEF was able to

FIGURE 3: Type and scale of humanitarian response in 2022



This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control agreed by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed by the Parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

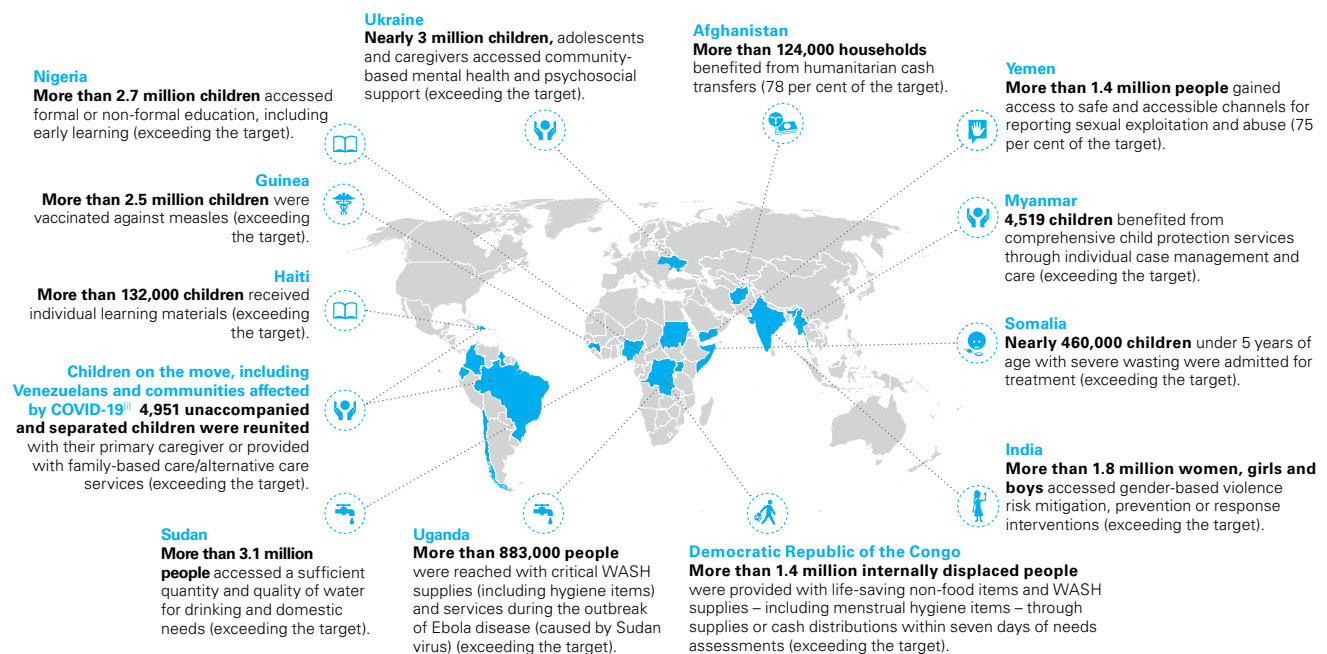
ⁱ Out of the 128 countries where UNICEF responded in 2022, 108 countries reported the total number of people in need. The charts in this graphic reflect the breakdowns by region and scale of response for those 108 countries.

ⁱⁱ Including the COVID-19 pandemic response.

ⁱⁱⁱ Including but not limited to the response for refugees and migrants.

FIGURE 4: Key results from humanitarian responses

This map highlights the key results achieved by UNICEF and partners in some of the major humanitarian responses in 2022.



This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control agreed by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed by the Parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

ⁱ The affected countries include Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

achieve life-saving results for children in humanitarian crises across the globe (see Figure 4 for a snapshot of key country-level results).

UNICEF continued to support the humanitarian system and deliver on its responsibility for inter-agency coordination by mobilizing, leading and coordinating collective efforts through its cluster lead or co-lead agency roles for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and for the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. For more on the organization's work as cluster lead agency, see Commitment 1 in each of the following chapters of the Results by Strategic Plan Goal Area section: Nutrition (page 38), Education (page 51), Water, sanitation and hygiene (page 62) and Child protection (page 54).

The UNICEF response was shaped by deeply concerning trends in the conduct of parties to conflict, affecting civilians and civilian infrastructure as well as aid workers. Lack of respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian access not only led to growing needs, but also hampered the response to humanitarian needs and hindered the protection of civilians, in particular children. Persistent violations of international humanitarian law impeded the ability of aid workers to operate, while interference, threats and violence against them increased. With the significant increase in people in need in 2022, international humanitarian assistance and financing were

stretched and lacked the flexibility to keep up with the growing needs and allow rapid scale-up and adaptation of humanitarian responses.

Despite these constraints, UNICEF was able to maintain a steady humanitarian presence and deploy its workforce in a timely way at the onset of emergencies. A total of 709 deployments were made from both internal and external surge structures in 2022. Internal surge mechanisms provided support to 39 countries, with 22 Emergency Response Team members carrying out 55 deployments and another 359 staff members undertaking 386 deployments. UNICEF also benefited from 268 deployments via external surge mechanisms to 61 country, regional and headquarters offices (198 deployments through the standby partner mechanism, 70 through the Rapid Response Team). UNICEF deployed regional gender advisers, a gender emergency response team specialist or a gender-in-emergencies specialist to every Level 3 emergency in 2022. This helped to ensure that gender commitments guided the organization's response.

The global UNICEF humanitarian response in 2022 was delivered in line with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. The results described in this Annual Results Report are organized according to these Core Commitments.

Strengthening efficiency and effectiveness for humanitarian results

Investing in preparedness and ensuring programmes are informed by risk

Commitment: Improve humanitarian response through investing in preparedness with a focus on enabling effective and timely response, reducing costs and reaching the most vulnerable

UNICEF emergency preparedness efforts in 2022 focused on identifying critical risks, providing technical and financial support to the field and testing systems through simulations: for example, a national-level flood preparedness simulation exercise in early July 2022, a few weeks ahead of anticipated floods in Chad, enabled a faster and more effective response when the floods did hit. Other efforts focused on improving systems and tools to link humanitarian and development programming.

Anticipatory action as an important life-saving and dignity-enhancing humanitarian response component gathered pace in 2022. During the year, UNICEF, with partners, developed anticipatory action frameworks for all 12 anticipatory action pilots of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Lessons from these informed the development of UNICEF's first corporate anticipatory action strategy, which, along with a related framework that is still under development, will support timely, high-quality early action and will help UNICEF to leverage existing forecasting tools to reduce vulnerability immediately before shocks, thus mitigating their impact.

Under the CERF pilots, UNICEF has contributed to collective early actions in South Sudan (May–November 2022) with the installation of flood-resilient WASH infrastructure and dyke protection for nutrition facilities. UNICEF also contributed to mitigating the impact of the drought in the Niger (September 2022–March 2023) with WASH, nutrition and education activities. More recently, with the activation of the cholera outbreak anticipatory action pilot in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

UNICEF has begun to implement the case-area targeted intervention approach. This approach is designed to help control an outbreak before it spreads widely – so, intervening early to mitigate the risks of a wider epidemic (see page 48 for a case study on the UNICEF public health emergencies response to the cholera epidemic in that country and globally).

Other UNICEF anticipatory action efforts in 2022 largely focused on mitigating the impact of flooding. For example, in Bangladesh, UNICEF strengthened community resilience and flood mitigation capacity in the WASH sector. In Nepal, UNICEF supported critical actions linked to potential flooding in municipalities along the Koshi River basin. Fortunately, only ‘readiness trigger’ actions were carried out, because ‘action trigger’ criteria in the anticipatory action framework for that location were not met. In Nigeria, another anticipatory action programme provided unconditional and unrestricted cash transfers of around \$85 to each of 4,970 households in the zone at risk for riverine flooding along the Kaduna River. The cash was provided about a month before the flooding occurred.

Another type of anticipatory action occurred in the West and Central Africa region, at the regional level. UNICEF designated not only Sahel countries but also – proactively – their coastal neighbours as requiring a Level 2 corporate response in July 2022 to address security incidents, displacement and compounding shocks.

UNICEF preparedness efforts, including anticipatory action, are predicated on a sound assessment of risk. UNICEF’s internal risk assessment systems, including Horizon Scan, continued to evolve in 2022. Horizon Scan was used to identify 30 crises/countries or relevant regional offices as priorities for technical and financial support in risk analysis and preparedness.

Ultimately, UNICEF allocated \$4.26 million in 2022, with nine allocations through the Co-Funding Initiative and three through the First Action Initiative. These funds reached 20 country offices and included subregional actions. One of the First Action Initiative allocations was to Central Africa, a subregion affected by armed conflicts, political unrest and intercommunity violence. The funding was designed to pre-position non-food items and WASH and health supplies in case of emergency for more than 157,000 people in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe. For items unavailable within the subregion, UNICEF stockpiled internationally procured supplies. This was complemented by market assessments aimed at improving access to locally available supplies and reducing the lead time to needed to procure them using local open long-term agreements. This type of subregional approach can optimize existing resources.

UNICEF online geospatial country risk dashboards bring together frequently updated subnational data on risk, early warning, UNICEF programme activities and operational considerations (e.g., access) to provide an up-to-date view of how all factors intersect and support operational

decision-making. In 2022, such dashboards were developed in Afghanistan, the Sahel region, South Sudan and Yemen. In Afghanistan, the dashboard was created using new, sustainable, open-source software, and country office information management staff were trained to maintain it, ensuring ownership and durability. Dashboard development was one of several coordinated risk analysis and preparedness actions in that country that built on preparedness funding provided in 2021. The Afghanistan Country Office also received support in scenario planning, which can feed into internal and inter-agency planning. Globally, UNICEF is developing a geospatial analysis platform to automate and standardize this type of work, which will be less expensive and provide better results than currently available commercial products.

Challenges, lessons learned and innovations

The increasing prevalence of numerous, simultaneous, interconnected crisis, sometimes affecting multiple countries at the same time, is a challenge to preparedness in specific ways. Influences include increasing climate-related shocks, global economic fragility and heightened geopolitical competition. Effects on preparedness include more frequent shocks that can erode standby capacities and strain global human resources, and increased vulnerability of people who do not have time to recover between shocks, leading to compounded impacts.

The demand for geospatial analysis support across UNICEF is outstripping the sustainable capacity to provide it. On the positive side, open-source geospatial solutions, which UNICEF is actively working on, can make evidence-based risk analysis feasible at all levels. One example of this is the Children’s Climate Risk Index – Disaster Risk Model, currently being piloted in Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Dominica, Kenya and Somalia. These efforts bring UNICEF together with governments and other partners to map out child vulnerabilities and exposure to climate and societal hazards at the subnational level, producing a common understanding of risk and the location of the most vulnerable children. This greater subnational detail and nuance supports evidence-based targeting of risk-informed programmes and emergency preparedness, spanning both humanitarian and development contexts. A second phase is planned that will cover 8–10 additional countries.

The importance allocated to preparedness continues to grow internally within UNICEF. One way this is manifested is in a greater commitment to mobilize resources at scale. For example, in 2022, preparedness was made a mandatory component of all Humanitarian Action for Children appeals – the key tools for funding UNICEF’s humanitarian response.

Climate change, environment, energy and disaster risk reduction and recovery

Commitment: Incorporate environmental sustainability into the design and delivery of UNICEF's humanitarian action and strengthen communities' resilience to climate change

The UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 acknowledges the profound impact of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on children's well-being and development. It promotes [climate, environment, sustainable energy and disaster risk reduction](#) as central components for building resilience and connecting the humanitarian and development work required to enhance people's long-term prospects. UNICEF has three areas of focus in this agenda: (1) improving the resilience of children, young people and their communities by adapting essential social services to disasters, a changing climate and a degrading environment; (2) empowering children and young people with the education, skills and opportunities to be champions for the planet; and (3) driving sustainability within UNICEF and among its global networks.

UNICEF's Strategic Plan calls for a comprehensive, collaborative and cross-cutting approach to strengthening environmental sustainability in humanitarian action and climate and disaster resilience. This approach is implemented both cross-sectorally and within each of UNICEF's Goal Areas. With regard to cross-sectoral action, in 2022, UNICEF supported 69 countries (up from 37 in 2021) in implementing child-sensitive programmes¹⁴ that promote climate and disaster resilience, reduce environmental degradation and advance sustainability. Additionally, UNICEF engaged children and young people on climate and disaster risk reduction issues in 68 countries (50 countries in 2021). In 64 countries, UNICEF country offices worked with governments to make preparedness frameworks and actions more child-sensitive.

The Strategic Plan also promotes sector-specific action in the education, health, nutrition, child protection, social policy and WASH sectors. Such an approach was visible in 2022 when UNICEF was critical to the delivery of climate-resilient WASH services in 64 countries and in strengthening climate-resilient health-care facilities in 59 countries. UNICEF led on development of the updated [Comprehensive School Safety Framework 2022–2030](#) for child rights and resilience in the education sector. This Framework recognizes that school safety is central to sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and resilience, climate action, conflict and violence prevention and humanitarian response.

UNICEF country offices around the world are contributing to community resilience and climate change adaptation. In one example, with the implementation of solar-powered pumping and rainwater harvesting at education facilities in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNICEF, the Ministry

of Education and other implementing partners supported 166,718 children (85,076 girls) in 259 schools in 12 states through the environmentally sustainable activities.

Ensuring water is safe and accessible throughout the year and that WASH services are resilient to the impacts of climate change is critical for the health and development of children. In 2022, UNICEF's WASH programme installed 1,855 solar-powered water systems in 52 countries, the highest annual total ever. Since tracking began in 2019, more than 6,100 solar-powered water systems have been installed in communities, schools, health-care facilities and multi-use schemes. The multi-use installations provide safe water for multiple uses, including community and small-scale agriculture, schools and health-care facilities, and can also provide essential livelihood opportunities. Notably, the solar systems enable water to be collected from many collection points. This reduces travelling and queuing times – freeing up time for children and young people to attend school and for other productive activities.

Incorporating sustainability requires a long-term perspective and must be integrated into all aspects of humanitarian action, from initial relief efforts to long-term development initiatives. In the Syrian Arab Republic, for example, UNICEF is accelerating its shift from a primarily emergency WASH response to a continuum of rapid, sustained and equitable responses. The focus is on longer-term solutions that build the resilience of communities and sector systems to endure shocks and crises, including in response to the changing climate. The solarization of water systems is an important example of this shift: two systems were solarized in 2021, increasing to nine systems in 2022. UNICEF will continue to scale up these investments through the current country programme, which runs from July 2022 through December 2024.

Additionally, as part of its corporate framework, UNICEF is committed to implementing Environmental and Social Standards for programming while prioritizing the reduction of harm to the environment in emergency and development contexts. UNICEF experiences to date underscore the importance of working closely with local stakeholders when promoting this aim, and of including communities and the private sector. The collaborative approach promotes ownership, builds capacities and helps to tailor sustainability efforts to local needs and contexts. In Guyana, for example, in 2022 UNICEF supported an enabling environment and strengthened community capacity to establish and manage WASH systems sustainably. Key activities included training 100 civil society organizations to better equip them with the knowledge and skills to operate and maintain the water supply systems in their villages. This included building new capacity to maintain climate-resilient photovoltaic (solar power) systems that can provide safe water for 15,000 people. In an example of utilizing the expertise of national partners, in Iraq UNICEF partnered with Iraqi academic institutions to build domestic capacity. This included institutionalized training on social protection reform with the University of Baghdad as well as drawing on the expertise of

postgraduate students at the University of Technology–Iraq to conduct environmental and social impact assessments of planned projects.

UNICEF also applies a holistic vision of working for and with children and young people so they can gain the skills, knowledge and resources they need to survive, grow, develop and thrive in the green economy. An example of this commitment is the launch of the [Green Shark Challenge](#) by UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme to provide youth and community members with opportunities to develop and implement solutions that respond to global climate challenges. Supporting youth as agents of change and co-creators of a sustainable world also occurs within communities (*see the Bangladesh case study below*).

UNICEF is proactive in becoming sustainable within its own global programming, operations and supply chain (*see page 84 for information on sustainable operations*).

Challenges, innovations and looking ahead

Despite the progress made by governments worldwide in strengthening disaster preparedness and humanitarian action in the face of climate change and environmental degradation, more must be done to provide reliable financing and technical assistance for vulnerable countries and to explicitly protect the youngest generation. The numbers remain daunting: One billion children are currently at extremely high risk from such climate hazards as heat waves, floods, drought, air pollution and water scarcity,¹⁵ so the efforts must be deep, and the solutions must be broad. Child-sensitive financing must take into account the additional vulnerability of children and young people to climate, environmental and disaster risks. Climate finance decisions should prioritize the most vulnerable communities. They should include targeted funding for child-critical social services to build resilience and meaningfully engage children and young people in solutions. Other challenges to incorporating environmental sustainability into humanitarian action include an enduring tendency to prioritize immediate relief efforts over long-term initiatives; and the complexity of measuring the effectiveness of sustainability work.

UNICEF recognizes the role the private sector can play in humanitarian action, and specifically in climate mitigation and response efforts. Engagement between UNICEF and the private sector on the climate agenda is increasing year by year. A few 2022 examples include UNICEF assessing the private sector's role in humanitarian action and disaster resilience in Peru; supporting the national and regional authorities in the Caribbean and the regional Chamber of Commerce to organize a regional forum for private sector engagement in humanitarian action and resilience; and, for the future, public-private initiatives in Indonesia for disaster-resilient WASH. The Indonesia Country Office is also engaging in the [WASH4Work](#) global initiative, which

strengthens business resilience to disasters and increasing climate risks by providing safe and sustainable WASH services in the workplace.¹⁶

UNICEF understands that innovative solutions are needed at both the financial and programmatic levels to bring its full expertise into the service of children and young people whose lives are and will be most impacted by climate-related humanitarian crises. To this end, during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) in November 2022, UNICEF launched the Today and Tomorrow Initiative, the first integrated global parametric insurance and climate finance mechanism tailored to the climate crisis needs of children and youth. It brings together currently fragmented climate and humanitarian financing mechanisms under one holistic integrated finance platform. Through the Child Cyclone Index-based insurance mechanism, the Initiative quickly mobilizes trigger-based private capital to help finance UNICEF's critical role in disaster response alongside governments and other actors. Under the Today climate resilience component, the Initiative provides rapid climate finance and technical assistance to countries across the continuum of climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, disaster response and sustainable recovery.

Working in partnership with the public and private sectors, the initial phase of the Today and Tomorrow Initiative (2023–2025) intends to reach an estimated 13.5 million children, girls and women in communities at extremely high risk from climate change.

UNICEF recognizes the need to do more given the speed at which the planetary crisis is unfolding and its impacts here and now on children. Thinking of 2023, there is a commitment to make responding to this crisis a prime focus for all of UNICEF, with humanitarian action as a critical component. This means ensuring that all UNICEF country offices, along with regional office and headquarters teams, are equipped to integrate responding to the climate crisis as a key element of their planning, programme delivery and advocacy. It also means that UNICEF will identify specific targeted priorities where it has the ability, with partners, to address critical global gaps in responding to this crisis for children. Key among these gaps are more holistic responses to climate-related disasters, which require linkages between building the resilience of children and communities well before disasters strike; reducing the damage these disasters inflict on children and their families; and conducting recovery operations with the next disaster in mind.

CASE STUDY

Bangladesh: Solar energy solutions support safer learning environments in refugee camps¹⁷

To improve student learning outcomes and promote climate-resilient schools, UNICEF connects schools and learning centres to renewable energy sources while supporting educational, community and government partners to ensure the systems are designed for the long-term and sustainable. Access to energy is crucial in ensuring quality education through digital learning, and equitable technology access is vital for providing children and young people with the skills they need to improve their prospects and safeguard their well-being.

In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, more than 351,000 Rohingya children and young people living in refugee camps are studying at 2,800 learning centres and 150 multipurpose centres supported by UNICEF. Of these centres, 150 have renewable energy systems, such as solar panels, that power lights, fans and other equipment. UNICEF and its partners also facilitate training in solar repair and maintenance for adolescents and youth in the refugee camps. The young people learn how to fix and maintain learning centre solar panels and also use their technical skills to serve the wider community, for example by using them in shelters or to maintain solar streetlights.

The reliable energy access brought by the solar panels has resulted in increased student attendance and retention at the learning and multipurpose centres. In addition, the necessary power supply is also available within the community at shelters and on streets: this is critical for child protection, safety and well-being. In 2022, 1,723 Rohingya adolescents aged 15–18 (14 girls and 1,709 boys) graduated with solar repair and maintenance skills from the 78 multipurpose centres in Cox's Bazar that train students in this trade.

UNICEF's efforts to provide renewable energy systems to schools and learning centres in Cox's Bazar are improving the quality of education and promoting sustainable and resilient communities. And, by empowering young people with solar repair and maintenance skills, UNICEF is helping to equip them to be agents of change who can contribute to the well-being of their communities and to a more sustainable future. It is one way, in one humanitarian setting, that UNICEF is supporting children and young people to be champions of the planet.



Rafiq, 15, and his friends construct a model at a UNICEF-supported multipurpose centre in a camp for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. They are learning to operate and maintain solar panels as part of a youth training programme.

Humanitarian–development nexus programming

Commitment: Foster coherence and complementarity between humanitarian and development programming

Recognizing the need to better integrate humanitarian and development programming and work towards resilient community systems, the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 adopted risk-informed humanitarian–development nexus programming as an important operational change strategy. At the same time, UNICEF refined its Core Standard Indicators (required for use in country programme planning, monitoring and reporting) to track performance on organizational benchmarks for conflict-sensitive programming and for contributing to social cohesion and peace.

In 2022, 23 per cent of UNICEF country offices met the organizational benchmark on conflict-sensitive programming, and 29 per cent of offices met the benchmark on contributions to social cohesion and peace; these low percentages are likely due in part to under-reporting against a revised indicator. Performance has, however, been particularly strong in countries where UNICEF is implementing projects supported by the United Nations Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund. *(See page 17 for information on one such project, designed to reduce the common vulnerabilities of the people living in villages on the Burkina Faso–Côte d’Ivoire border.)*

In 2022, UNICEF strengthened the requirements for country offices to consider humanitarian, development and peacebuilding dimensions when developing new country programmes of cooperation, a direct response to the formative evaluation of UNICEF work to link humanitarian and development programming in 2021. UNICEF also revised its Procedure on Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus, effective from September 2022, and is in the process of developing a global peacebuilding framework to be launched in 2023. These tools will help UNICEF programmes address root causes of fragility while strengthening resilience and building the capacity of individuals, communities and institutions to address the needs of children.

Progress in nexus programming approaches was visible in 2022 in several critical country contexts. In Mozambique, for example, UNICEF laid out the Community Recovery and Resilience Plan (CRRP) – A Child Focused Approach to the North (2022–2024) to connect the new Mozambique Country Programme to humanitarian response needs. The CRRP is aligned with government plans. In the Sahel, a joint mission with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) focused on operationalizing the humanitarian–development–peace nexus in fragile contexts, including those of forced displacement. And

new country programme documents for Cameroon, Haiti, Libya, Sri Lanka and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela all emphasized a humanitarian–development–peace approach. In Chad, UNICEF initiated consultations to support systemic resilience in the face of the climate crisis by helping to define shock-responsive standards for the construction of classrooms.

Challenges and lessons learned

Leveraging a complex mix of mandates, roles, responsibilities and functions at the global, regional, national and subnational levels to support building local and government systems is a great challenge. Strengthening collaboration, coherence and complementarity – and building trust between a large number and variety of engaged stakeholders – are thus the very basis of successful implementation of projects that can contribute to social cohesion and leave no one behind.

Coordination challenges in undertaking this multifaceted work remain, and joint analysis and joined-up planning must more meaningfully translate into programming. Additionally, the stakeholders closest to the affected communities – in particular local actors, civil society organizations and national and international non-governmental organizations involved in implementing programmes – should be included in a more meaningful way in joint planning processes. Investing in national and local capacities and systems cannot be an afterthought.

Partnerships are paramount for addressing humanitarian and development challenges for more peaceful societies. These partnerships need to call on the comparative advantages of multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental partners, and on civil society, to more effectively support communities and local and national systems. To ensure greater impact at the country level, closer coordination, better understanding of risks and vulnerabilities, more agile programming and better utilization of financing are crucial.

In the future, UNICEF will work to ensure systematic and consistent linkages between its humanitarian action, development programming and contributions to peacebuilding. This includes implementing the provisions of the UNICEF Procedure on Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus, rolling out the forthcoming global peacebuilding framework and – with partners – supporting the implementation of the Development Assistance Committee Recommendation on the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus¹⁸ and developing key inter-agency guidance products under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force on Humanitarian Development Collaboration and its Linkages to Peace. Lastly, UNICEF will increasingly invest in and prioritize identifying and documenting – as evidence for action – good organizational humanitarian–development–peace nexus practices.

CASE STUDY

Libya: Supporting Libya's social protection system during a time of transition

In 2022, with inter-agency humanitarian coordination mechanisms in Libya slated for deactivation in December 2022, UNICEF advanced risk-informed humanitarian–development nexus programming and strengthened systems to provide high-quality responsive and resilient social services in all situations without disruption, while engaging in service delivery for neglected groups.

UNICEF combined several strategies in its various programmes, including community engagement and social and behaviour change. UNICEF also leveraged partnerships with the Government and institutions, civil society, the private sector and United Nations agencies. This focus on transition work towards the development end of the humanitarian–development nexus echoed other sectoral shifts along the same lines.

In Libya's complex and fragile context, UNICEF built partnerships with United Nations agencies (including WFP, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organization), international stakeholders, international non-governmental organizations and local partners to promote a child-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection system able to function in both emergency and development contexts. And by engaging with the Cash and Markets Working Group, the inter-agency platform to support and coordinate a harmonized approach to multipurpose cash assistance, UNICEF was able to strengthen the dialogue on social protection policy from a child perspective.

In keeping with its nexus vision to link humanitarian cash transfers to the national system, as part of the multipurpose cash assistance being offered, UNICEF finalized the design and started the implementation of an integrated cash for education programme, with an education top-up benefit that includes expenditures related to education in the Minimum Expenditure Basket. UNICEF, along with WFP and UNHCR, also supported the organization of two cash programming capacity-building activities that included the participation of staff from the state's Social Solidarity Fund.

Moreover, UNICEF is working on a strategy with the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (which is currently supporting the Libyan-led ceasefire monitoring mechanism) to further develop that body's national and subnational networks for monitoring and reporting on grave violations committed against children and reinforcing programmes, such as victim assistance programmes, with mental health and psychosocial support.

The country office is also enhancing its emergency preparedness and risk-informed and adaptive programming to mitigate risks linked to potential turmoil and violence surrounding elections, which are tentatively slated for 2023.



Participants engage in a final feedback session as part of the UNICEF-led Social Protection Policy Development Workshop in December 2022. The workshop trained a government team on social policy development, one element of UNICEF support for child-sensitive social policy in Libya.

Fragility and peacebuilding

UNICEF has elevated peacebuilding as a cross-cutting priority in a deliberate effort to use its humanitarian and development programming to contribute to preventing crises, reducing fragility and building peace. Violent conflict drives 80 per cent of all humanitarian needs and threatens children's rights. It also makes it more difficult to meet children's needs: Children who live in conflict settings are more than twice as likely as those who do not to be undernourished and without clean water; twice as likely to die before 5 years of age; and more than three times as likely to be out of school. In 2022, 36 country offices reported on the existence of major peacebuilding, social cohesion and violence prevention plans. Of these, 24 (67 per cent) reported that national peacebuilding plans are child- or youth-sensitive and include community engagement components. In addition, 16 country offices met organizational benchmarks for the use of conflict analysis, promotion of social cohesion and peace and collaboration among humanitarian–development–peace actors in WASH programming. *(See page 15 for information on performance against other humanitarian–development–peace benchmarks.)*

UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action were revised in 2020 to include (among other changes) specific benchmarks on conflict sensitivity, including the use of conflict analysis, social cohesion and peace in programming as well as sector-specific benchmarks for WASH programming. Performance is particularly strong in countries where UNICEF is implementing projects supported by the United Nations Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund.¹⁹ In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, the UNICEF country office used a regional conflict analysis to inform programming in a province (Tanganyika) affected by long-running inter-community conflicts. In another project in the country, UNICEF supported the establishment of 361 peace clubs or committees in conflict-affected schools in South Kivu and Ituri provinces. The clubs and committees facilitated relationships through dialogue, mediation, negotiation and reconciliation and prevented and denounced abuse and violence in schools; throughout 2022, a noticeable reduction in conflicts in the schools where the peace committees operate was observed. In the Sudan, UNICEF launched a joint programme with WFP to strengthen resilience and social cohesion among communities in Darfur. This programme takes a holistic approach to tackling underlying barriers to peace, stability and development through all five Goal Areas. It also has an explicit focus on peacebuilding.

To reduce the common vulnerabilities of the population in the villages situated in border areas between Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, UNICEF led a cross-border Peacebuilding Fund project in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme. The project provided children and young people aged 15–24 with WASH and child protection services and dedicated interventions targeting adolescents and youth among diverse ethnic groups

on both sides of the border, including intergenerational dialogue, young peace ambassadors, supporting U-Reporters and life skills training. UNICEF zonal office staff were particularly helpful in monitoring community dynamics and emerging conflicts and helping to build confidence and trust within communities.

Challenges and looking ahead

There is still much work to be done to fully harness UNICEF's role and long history in developing conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming and in designing sector-specific approaches that build on this. This includes strengthening institutional capacity in conflict analysis and conflict-sensitive programme design. UNICEF's contributions to peace are child-centred and rights-based. They focus on three broad and interlinked dimensions of peace: safety, equity and inclusion and social cohesion, a reflection of people's own active engagement in building and sustaining peace, and the impact that fostering peace can have on their communities.

To advance its peacebuilding agenda in the service of children, UNICEF is currently developing a new global peacebuilding framework, to be launched in the second half of 2023. The new framework will accelerate and enhance peacebuilding programming across core sectoral work and enable UNICEF to better track results.

Humanitarian access

Commitment: Seek to establish and maintain humanitarian access, so that all affected populations can safely and consistently reach assistance and services

UNICEF continued to support its country offices in 2022 with policy advice, tailored capacity-building initiatives and dedicated country support – all designed to establish and sustain timely, equitable and unimpeded humanitarian access to people living in complex and high-threat environments.

UNICEF disseminated to regional, country and field offices its new Humanitarian Access Field Manual and Guidelines for UNICEF Engagement with Armed Non-State Actors and undertook several in-person, in-depth training sessions on humanitarian access for staff in the field. A number of UNICEF country offices (Afghanistan, Colombia/the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Haiti, Myanmar, Somalia and the Sudan, among others) received dedicated support on humanitarian access and related humanitarian policy issues from UNICEF headquarters. This resulted in the creation of access strategies and workplans in Myanmar and Somalia, and an engagement strategy with the de facto authorities in Afghanistan, as well as other activities.

Some country offices made use of remote capacity-building and learning support on such topics as humanitarian principles and navigating humanitarian dilemmas, access stakeholder mapping, humanitarian civil–military coordination and humanitarian engagement with armed non-state actors. This remote support, which began as an interim solution during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, remains an effective complementary option to in-person meetings and in-country support. UNICEF often builds the basics of humanitarian access with a country office remotely and provides more specialized support with in-country missions when the situation warrants. This dual modality approach has enabled a more efficient – and cost-efficient – use of the time and capacities of headquarters and field staff. It has effectively increased the bandwidth of UNICEF staff who provide access-related guidance and support to country offices on this issue. The remote options have also facilitated technical support and capacity-building in situations where it is challenging for staff to travel and/or obtain visas. Likewise, remote access support has fostered subregional connections and has promoted collaboration between country offices (e.g., between the teams in Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela).

Challenges and looking ahead

An increased demand for access and related humanitarian policy and advocacy support to country offices and subregions with common humanitarian concerns has outpaced the capacity of headquarters staff to respond. The dual remote/in-person approach (described above) has eased this somewhat. Additionally, in the first quarter of 2023, the humanitarian access team at UNICEF headquarters expanded to include an Access Emergency Response Team member, which is a new function in UNICEF in line with the Humanitarian Review recommendations. This has increased capacity for direct support to country offices.

UNICEF has also accelerated training for senior country office staff via the two Humanitarian Leadership Workshops on complex and high-threat environments that were held in 2022, as well as through a peer-to-peer workshop for UNICEF Representatives serving in complex and high-threat environments.

Looking ahead, UNICEF is pursuing a three-pronged approach with respect to access: developing and implementing humanitarian policies and guidance on emerging issues; strengthening partnerships to maximize synergies and complementarities; and, finally, focusing intensively on implementing humanitarian access-related capacity-building efforts that can help UNICEF staff in field offices, including national staff, to stay and deliver. In fact, UNICEF efforts to build humanitarian access capacity are increasingly focusing on staff at the field office level, because they are on the front line of engagement with parties on humanitarian assistance and protection. Furthermore, access constraints inventories, actor mappings and access strategies must reflect the

granularities of local contexts (e.g., Afghanistan and Myanmar), and this requires strong access support to staff in field offices.

Community engagement and social and behaviour change

During 2022, UNICEF continued to scale up people-centred and community-led humanitarian responses, with community engagement and social and behaviour change (SBC) work as the core. In terms of global results, in 2022, \$138 million (or 31 per cent of all SBC core expenses) was related to emergencies. Furthermore, 73 country offices (out of 129 reporting) developed and implemented emergency-specific SBC strategies. From the same reporting group, 55 country offices had established benchmarks for institutionalized participatory planning, monitoring, feedback and social accountability for humanitarian programming. UNICEF is currently focusing on partnerships at all levels and on capacity-building and strengthening evidence.

Commitment: Implement community engagement for behaviour and social change in collaboration with national and local actors

Community engagement for SBC in collaboration with national and local actors helped to increase community participation and ownership, improve service delivery and demand, increase accountability and transparency and strengthen local partnerships and networks.

In Cambodia, for example, UNICEF supported the development of the citizen budget and guidelines for engaging young people in community planning and budgeting. This facilitated systematic inclusion of people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and internally displaced people through rapid coverage assessments, capacity development for eight provinces on equitable access to COVID-19-related risk communication and community engagement and services, community feedback mechanisms and data for decision-making. In the Niger, UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Community Development to model the integrated participatory community-based approach to enhance community participation and engagement in local decision-making bodies. This work is based on the standards for quality community engagement.²⁰ The goal is to enhance communities' resilience and participation in local decision-making by harmonizing and improving the quality and sustainability of community engagement efforts and strengthening the accountability of stakeholders.

And in the Central African Republic, UNICEF led the inter-agency collective service for Accountability and Community Engagement, and through this supported the establishment of more than 50 cross-sectoral community-based feedback/complaints mechanisms around the country, including

in camps for internally displaced persons and in hard-to-reach areas. Through these mechanisms, which create community spaces for dialogue to receive direct feedback from communities and their leaders about programming taking place in their localities, local actors are able to provide key input into programme design and the decision-making process. This approach has resulted in more than 9,000 such community dialogues around the country.

Challenges, lessons learned and innovations

Ongoing challenges to SBC efforts stem from limited resources, political instability, weak coordination mechanisms and social and cultural barriers to community engagement. There is also a need for clear mandates, roles and responsibilities for the various actors involved in community engagement coordination mechanisms to avoid confusion or duplication of efforts. Furthermore, one of the biggest challenges that remain for effective community engagement coordination is how to sustain these efforts over time and with a long-term commitment to build trust and relationships with communities.

An illustration of these challenges can be seen in UNICEF work in Afghanistan, Ukraine and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and in neighbouring country offices, where substantive resources have been allocated to support integrated responses to the humanitarian and migration crises in these countries. Despite the robust resources, sustaining trust and utilization of services and addressing increasing xenophobia and discrimination – and staying responsive to the constantly changing conditions of marginalized communities – will require a multi-year commitment to be able to sustain the capacity and resources to address the challenges faced by children and their communities.

Global collaborations like the Social Science for Community Engagement in Humanitarian Action Project, which is led by UNICEF, developed a series of global goods to strengthen data, evidence and available tools for community engagement in the humanitarian cycle. The Project is a partnership of more than 70 global humanitarian and academic actors to develop global goods for social science integration into humanitarian programming community engagement.

Many country offices have emphasized in their reporting the importance of investing in capacity-building and training, building trust and relationships with communities and adapting programming to local contexts and needs. This has included the use of digital technology for programme feedback; community monitoring; and risk communication and outreach using such tools as Internet of Good Things and new monitoring tools including Community Rapid Assessments (CRA), a rapid mobile phone-based survey that allows for rapid assessments of community dynamics and behavioural patterns. For example, in South Sudan, Internet of Good Things is currently integrated into community feedback mechanisms in remote areas to support field mobilization for COVID-19

vaccine uptake. Similarly, during the COVID-19 response, CRAs were deployed in 12 countries across Eastern and Southern Africa and South Asia to provide baseline data about community practices on handwashing, mask wearing and social distancing, among others. Currently, CRAs continue to play a key role in providing information on COVID-19 vaccine uptake and on routine immunization programmes, and a second generation of the tools is being deployed in Angola, the Comoros, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Malawi. There are also ongoing innovations in youth and adolescent engagement through child-friendly spaces and youth leadership programmes, and in the use of arts and culture through theatre as a means of youth empowerment (*see the case study, below*). These have contributed towards social inclusion and the engagement of marginalized groups.

Strengthening systems and localizing humanitarian response

Strengthening the national and local systems that support children and their families is foundational to ensuring the rights of children are upheld over the long term. UNICEF has set out to make sure this vision is at work before, during and after humanitarian crises. Systems-strengthening is also a cornerstone – and a goal – of the capacity-building that builds resilience in communities in the face of shocks and puts local actors in the driver's seat of humanitarian response.

Efforts to bolster systems and help governments to make them more resilient abound in UNICEF humanitarian action and there are references to this work throughout the present Annual Results Report on Humanitarian Action. In fact, nearly every component of UNICEF work includes priorities around supporting strengthening local and national systems so that they can better uphold the rights of children in every type of context. In Cameroon, for example, UNICEF support for the response to a cholera outbreak in 2022 offered the opportunity to invest capacities for the delivery of health care – as was the case in many countries experiencing disease outbreaks and other health emergencies. UNICEF supported establishment and maintenance of sustainable WASH systems and networks in Libya, Nepal, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in many other places. Countries where UNICEF works have already reaped benefits from prior systems-strengthening work. In Uganda, for example, years of systems-strengthening work in the health and HIV services sectors helped social systems to continue delivering crucial services (e.g., antiretroviral treatment) during the outbreak of Ebola disease (caused by Sudan virus) (*see page 45 for more information*). This is an example of the 'after' of successful systems-strengthening work, along with a clear depiction of 'why' UNICEF engages in this work – and why it is so important and is critical for a true localization of humanitarian response.

CASE STUDY

The Plurinational State of Bolivia: Vacunación – Integrated community engagement programming and innovative outreach efforts boost immunization

Hospitals in the Plurinational State of Bolivia collapsed under the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic. Deadly outbreaks of the virus in communities and significant losses of health personnel due to the disease impacted the capacity of medical institutions and the level of trust people placed in them. This made it difficult to implement both COVID-19 and routine immunization, including routine immunization of children under age 5. In this context, ‘Vacunación’, a UNICEF–WHO initiative with the Bolivian Government, sought to increase vaccination coverage in selected municipalities through dialogue and engagement among local authorities, health officers, grass-roots organizations, communities and families. The goal was to restore positive behaviours around vaccinations. The programme had three main components: (1) community mobilization; (2) engagement with local authorities and community leaders; and (3) concerted risk communication efforts to reaffirm good practices and behaviours given the risks of having a large, unvaccinated population.

The programme mobilized teams of health-care professionals, cultural animators and experts on risk communication and community engagement to more than 30 municipalities. There, the teams implemented several key approaches. They partnered with local organizations, targeted messaging to address concerns and misconceptions about the vaccine and implemented community outreach programmes with door-to-door engagement, town hall meetings and mobile vaccination clinics. Teams also promoted the use of behavioural incentives, with some vaccination clinics offering free food or other small rewards to people who received the vaccine.

Vacunación also used arts and culture as part of its outreach efforts. This included using street theatre performances with music, dance and community interaction to convey important messages about the COVID-19 vaccine and address people’s concerns and misconceptions. Murals designed by local artists incorporated messages about the vaccine. Cultural events in various communities to promote COVID-19 immunization included music and dance festivals as well as other cultural activities, including, during the FIFA World Cup competition, vaccination challenges – efforts to achieve the highest vaccination participation – between communities.

Some early results from an ongoing evaluation of the programme show an overall increase on COVID-19 vaccination uptake. For example, in the state of Beni, all participating municipalities reported surpassing their vaccination targets, with some municipalities reporting achieving 350 per cent of their goals for vaccination during the campaign. And in south Cochabamba, coverage of routine vaccinations increased from under 30 per cent to 60 per cent during the duration of the programme.



A health-care worker prepares a vaccine at the Public Assistance Health Centre in Oruro, Oruro Department, Plurinational State of Bolivia, in March 2023. While the Vacunación campaign in the country was designed to boost uptake of COVID-19 vaccinations, it also resulted in increased levels of routine vaccination in some areas.

Other observed results from programme monitoring point to increased health staff integration of risk communication and community engagement approaches in other parts of the country and with other actors. As part of the overall effort, around 1,700 health personnel received a programme certification for Vacunación, which included specialized content on key risk communication and community engagement components. Both results contribute towards greater capacity for risk communication and community engagement programming and integration and a streamlining of community engagement approaches – strengthening local ownership and contributing to better results. Other reported results from partners and government officials are strengthened stakeholder collaboration; greater levels of community engagement through similar arts, sports and cultural event approaches; and higher demand for mobile immunization clinics.

Commitment: Invest in strengthening the capacities of local actors (national and local authorities, civil society organizations and communities) in humanitarian action

UNICEF remained engaged in global and inter-agency efforts to further the localization of humanitarian response, co-chairing the IASC Task Force on Localization and leveraging its global cluster leadership role. Other notable streams of work at the inter-agency level included leading efforts to mobilize the humanitarian system in operationalizing IASC guidance on the participation of local actors in IASC coordination mechanisms; developing a common approach to capacity sharing arrangements with local actors; and advancing the IASC guidance document Provision of Overheads to Local and National Partners. UNICEF also developed a guidance note strengthening institutional capacity for local actors and provided support to the development of a joint preparedness framework for subnational local actors with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

In addition to work at the global level to integrate a more localized humanitarian response into the humanitarian architecture, UNICEF continued to walk the talk of localization in its actions at the country level. Close collaboration with national and local partners remained a priority in 2022 (see Figure 5) and \$1.5 billion in cash was transferred to partners at all levels for humanitarian response. Of this, a total of \$482.5 million went to national government responders, and

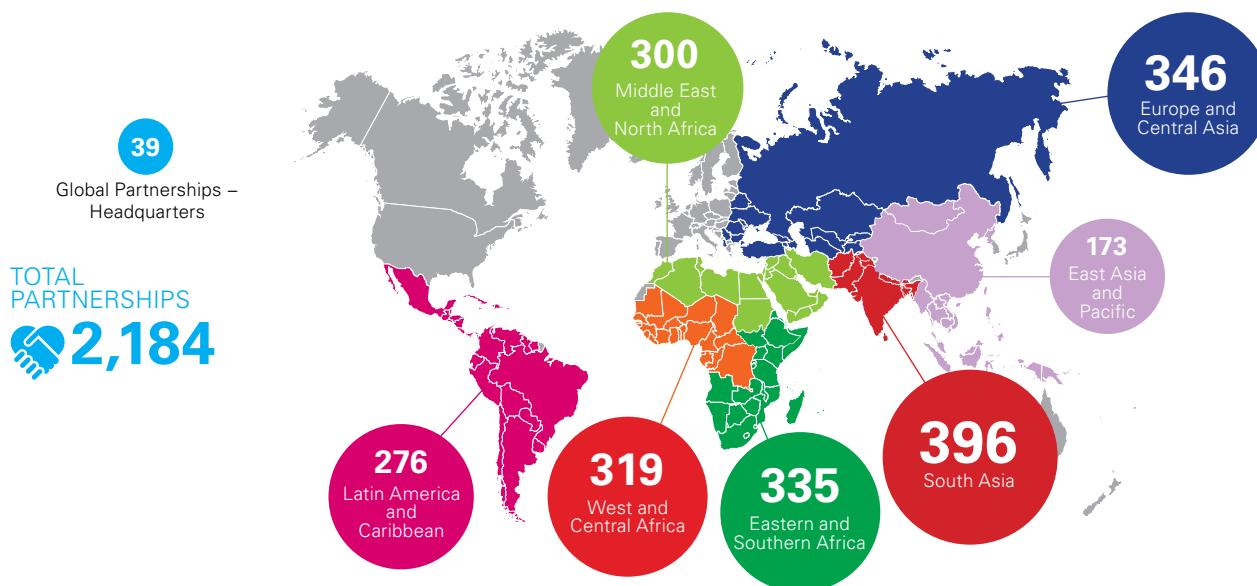
\$569.2 million (39 per cent) went to local actors,²¹ exceeding the Grand Bargain target of 25 per cent. UNICEF remained engaged in global and inter-agency efforts to further the localization of humanitarian response, co-chairing the IASC Task Force on Localization and leveraging its global cluster leadership role. UNICEF also continued championing greater engagement of local organizations led by women and girls. In 2022, 7.7 per cent of the humanitarian funding that was transferred to implementing partners went to 647 local women's organizations. UNICEF transferred 27 per cent of humanitarian multi-year funding to implementing partners, contributing to the sustainability of partnerships. Overall, at the country level, 79 per cent of UNICEF country offices – compared with 53 per cent in 2021 – transferred at least 25 per cent of their humanitarian funding to local or national responders.

Challenges, lessons learned and innovations

Only eight UNICEF country offices²² with Humanitarian Action for Children appeals reported implementation of some elements of the localization approach in their September 2022 situation reports. The extent to which countries with Humanitarian Action for Children appeals have implemented or are implementing the localization approach has not been fully captured due to an inadequate reporting system for the localization approach at the country office level.

FIGURE 5: Partnerships

In 2022, UNICEF collaborated with 2,184 civil society partners, 1,639 of them local partners. Nearly \$1.5 billion in cash was transferred to partners at all levels for humanitarian response. Of this, a total of \$482.5 million went to national government responders, and \$569.2 million (39.2 per cent) went to local actors, exceeding the Grand Bargain target of 25 per cent.



ⁱ Data extracted on 4 March 2022 from UNICEF's InSight performance management platform.

This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control agreed by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed by the Parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

Strengthening accountability to affected populations

Commitment: Ensure that affected children and families participate in the decisions that affect their lives, are properly informed and consulted and have their views acted upon

Specialists in accountability to affected populations (AAP) in five regions along with UNICEF headquarters staff provided technical support to 54 country offices between January 2021 and December 2022. Beyond this regional capacity, the responses to the crisis in Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa drought emergency and the war in Ukraine were also given substantial support. All these efforts were guided by the new UNICEF strategy 'Taking accountability to affected populations to the next level: Strategy 2022–2025'.

Feedback mechanisms were tailored to the specific needs of people experiencing humanitarian emergencies. In Myanmar, for example, UNICEF partners were required to incorporate AAP measures into their programme agreements. UNICEF established an online platform for monitoring feedback (disaggregated by age, gender, location and sector of intervention), with 18 partners making use of the platform to report a total of 3,290 submissions of feedback during the year. The feedback received led to improvements in provision of essential WASH, health, nutrition and other services to communities. In one example of this, after feedback that one sanitary pad packet per hygiene kit per month was not adequate, additional packets were added to the distribution.

In Kenya, AAP principles were operationalized by embedding them in partnership documents and programme monitoring procedures, followed by extensive capacity-building among the UNICEF workforce and partners. A number of digital and analogue platforms are being explored to expand access to feedback mechanisms regardless of a person's geographical location, literacy, disability and gender. During the drought response, for example, DigiRadio, a network of more than 60 radio stations, provided a platform for real-time information sharing and feedback between communities and humanitarian responders (including civil society organizations and the Government). As a result of a local government leader participating in a radio programme and hearing the complaints and concerns regarding the drought situation in his area, 500 households received food rations as an immediate intervention from the state. UNICEF also worked closely with the Kenya Red Cross Society, which set up a toll-free number for feedback that received 617 items of feedback, primarily linked to cash and voucher assistance. The feedback was then shared with county coordinators for response and action.

In Haiti, during the cholera outbreak, UNICEF set up a social media monitoring platform and a near real-time dashboard, along with a rumour log. Social media tracking reports fed into a real-time Q&A document in alliance with

the Ministry of Health, to debunk unfounded rumours, and which was widely shared among media and community health workers. Other feedback mechanisms (U-Report, an inter-agency hotline and an online feedback form to collect feedback through community health workers) will be added to the approach. End-of-year reporting, with data derived from some partners and from social media, showed that only 12 per cent of the 20,000 people targeted to have access to feedback mechanisms actually did have such access. UNICEF expects that this will improve once the U-Report work is launched.

UNICEF continued to play an important role in the new IASC AAP Task Force after handing over its role as co-chair of the IASC Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion. UNICEF co-leads two of the three workstreams of the Task Force: the work on inter-agency complaints and feedback mechanisms and the work on strengthening capacity for AAP. These efforts support inter-agency AAP coordination at the country level for such humanitarian responses as those in the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Yemen, countries where UNICEF is leading or co-leading AAP coordination. UNICEF also continued to co-lead the Collective Service – a multi-partner platform for increasing the scale and quality of community engagement approaches during public health emergencies and other crises.

Challenges and looking ahead

In 2023, UNICEF will consolidate and expand its capacity to provide direct technical support on AAP to country offices. To this end, UNICEF is establishing an AAP talent pool, in collaboration with its standby partners. UNICEF will also continue its inter-agency engagement on AAP, including exploring the establishment of a global roster of technical specialists to support collective AAP.

At the programmatic level, UNICEF will focus on strengthening feedback mechanisms, including satisfaction surveys and options for digital engagement. Digital engagement has flourished during the pandemic, increasing the speed and scale of engagement with populations. It had also been a way to gain feedback from people when physical access and face-to-face communication is not possible. However, UNICEF will carefully assess affected populations' preferred communication channels and will need to pay special attention to groups who may be excluded from digital communication.

The perennial challenge of ensuring that feedback mechanisms and participatory approaches feed into planning, monitoring and decision-making was still apparent in 2022. Overall, progress on AAP continues to correlate with country-level UNICEF leadership strongly supporting AAP, so maintaining high leadership engagement from UNICEF on this agenda will be a critical part of efforts to scale it up.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Commitment: Deliver on the UNICEF commitment to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

UNICEF further accelerated protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), including the scale-up of safe and accessible SEA reporting channels. In 2022, 49.2 million children and adults had access to reporting channels for sexual exploitation and abuse (including 5.9 million in humanitarian settings), through a total of 110 country offices (20 per cent more country offices than in 2021). Additionally, by 2022, 81 per cent (104 of 129) of country offices were supporting the roll-out of internal and partner reporting mechanisms, including through the nomination of focal points and by training partners on reporting.

As the first United Nations agency to mandate inclusion of a minimum set of interventions for PSEA from the outset of every humanitarian response, in 2022 UNICEF achieved this milestone by mandating such interventions in 100 per cent of crisis-affected countries (including 75 countries covered by Humanitarian Action for Children appeals), representing significant progress towards more systematic integration of the inter-agency system's survivor-centred and standards-based approach.

Risks of sexual exploitation and abuse increase in certain contexts, notably humanitarian emergencies where populations are more dependent on assistance, making robust safeguarding measures particularly important. To measure contextual risks, in 2022, UNICEF, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom developed the Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Risk Overview, a publicly available composite index of risks of sexual exploitation and abuse. The index provides an evidence-based analysis of risk drivers in humanitarian crises and disasters to support strategic and programmatic decisions about resource allocation, technical support requirements and risk management. It ranks the risk in countries with humanitarian response operations, enabling comparisons between countries and over time.

Mechanisms for reporting and reaching communities with messages about protection from sexual exploitation and abuse vary with the context. UNICEF deployed a PSEA Specialist from the outset of the Ukraine response, for example, and led the roll-out of the United Nations Protocol on the Provision of Assistance to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (the Victims' Assistance Protocol) in Poland, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The Ukraine Country Office used Facebook and Instagram to engage 1.6 million beneficiaries in Ukraine in dialogue about sexual exploitation and abuse and a safe humanitarian response. In Haiti, UNICEF established measures from the outset of the humanitarian response. A dedicated team raised awareness of UNICEF commitments, reporting channels and survivor

assistance. It expanded access to reporting channels, engaged communities and disseminated awareness-raising material (including child-friendly messages in French and Creole). Hundreds of U-Reporters were trained on the topic to enable two-way communication between affected communities and UNICEF through U-Report. In Afghanistan, surveys on the U-Report platform helped with broad-based community engagement, including raising awareness on sexual exploitation and abuse issues and securing feedback on gaps. The survey feedback was used to develop risk mitigation measures and to prepare a training package for partners on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and on related investigations. These are only a handful of examples of UNICEF's implementation of its PSEA commitments at the country level.

UNICEF's ethical and safeguarding values are embedded through training and dialogue across the organization and colleagues know their obligations: of the more than 5,000 who were surveyed, almost 99 per cent think UNICEF policies on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse are clear and taken seriously, 98 per cent understand standards of conduct and 95 per cent know their reporting obligations.

To strengthen responses and assistance, including at the inter-agency level, country offices are collaborating with and supporting the individual country PSEA coordination mechanisms to roll out the United Nations Victims' Assistance Protocol, so that assistance and support is in line with the global quality standards outlined by the Protocol and its technical note. In 2022, 69 countries had developed PSEA Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) at the inter-agency level that integrate global victim assistance standards outlined in the Protocol. Of those countries, 19 rolled out the PSEA SOPs on victim assistance, which means that country PSEA Network members follow and implement the procedures outlined in the SOP for referring people to appropriate services and for initiating victim assistance, conducting training on the procedures for safely and confidentially referring survivors for assistance in line with the survivor-centred approach, and monitoring and addressing gaps in assistance coverage.

Challenges

While UNICEF has made significant progress in accelerating protection from sexual exploitation and abuse at the country level, this agenda continues to face uneven resourcing. UNICEF is working closely with the IASC and the broader United Nations system to identify opportunities for the sustainable funding of PSEA work in humanitarian contexts, building upon the work that UNICEF has put in place through its Emergency Procedures.

Under-reporting of sexual abuse and exploitation remains a concern: community surveys suggest gaps in awareness about how and what to report. Efforts to improve communities' knowledge of their rights and how to report incidents will continue.

Fostering collaboration and partnerships

Adolescents and young people as partners

In 2022, UNICEF expanded its work with adolescents and youth as change-makers in their societies, engaging more than 16.1 million adolescents and youth (45 per cent girls) in 89 countries, with more than 345,000 of them involved in humanitarian settings in more than 30 countries.

UNICEF's work with adolescents and young people globally was first and foremost from a perspective of partnership. This was true in all the kinds of contexts where UNICEF works. In its humanitarian responses, UNICEF lifted up and amplified young people's voices and actions in such conflict-affected places as Afghanistan and Ukraine (and in the response in neighbouring countries) and in disaster responses, such as those in Bangladesh, Indonesia and elsewhere.

See page 72 for details on UNICEF's global work with adolescents and youth in humanitarian settings in 2022, and page 74 for a detailed look at UNICEF collaboration with the World Organization of the Scout Movement and other youth initiatives that empowered hundreds of thousands of young people to respond to the needs of children and families impacted by the war in Ukraine. And see page 14 for details on support to adolescents and youth in camps for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh that has provided them with skills and earning potential in the area of solar panel installation and maintenance.

Strengthening inter-agency collaboration

Throughout 2022, UNICEF's investments in inter-agency collaboration enabled the efficient, effective and agile implementation of collective humanitarian action and the achievement of transformative results for crisis-affected children. UNICEF made significant progress in strengthening partnerships with multiple United Nations agencies, including under the overall umbrella of the Humanitarian Review recommendations on partnerships. Ever-stronger partnerships helped to maximize the capacity of each partner to address the increasing humanitarian needs that marked 2022.

For instance, building on strong collaboration and learning from the UNHCR–UNICEF 2020–2022 Blueprint for Joint Action for Refugee Children in 10 pilot countries, the two agencies solidified their cooperation through the development of a Strategic Collaboration Framework in 2022, which will replace their 1996 Memorandum of Understanding. The Strategic Collaboration Framework

was formally signed in February 2023 between the two Principals. This new partnership builds on the overall vision for the strategic collaboration between UNICEF and UNHCR and commits both organizations to promoting the inclusion of refugee children and their families in national plans, budgets, datasets and service delivery systems, and to preventing childhood statelessness.

As part of inter-agency work on humanitarian financing, with the co-leadership of Oxfam, UNICEF stepped up the process of mapping partners' current practices related to indirect cost coverage. These efforts led to the launch of the IASC guidance 'Provision of Overheads to Local and National Partners' in October 2022. This provides recommendations on how international humanitarian organizations can improve current policy and practice to ensure that local and national partners can access overhead funding.

In advancing the Grand Bargain commitments, UNICEF participated in the Grand Bargain Intermediaries Caucus on the role of intermediaries in supporting locally led humanitarian action, which was set up to address the ongoing challenges within the relationships of donors, intermediaries and local and national organizations, and with a particular goal of fostering more equitable partnerships. The final outcome document is a stepping-stone outlining the commitments of organizations with an intermediary role, those of local and national actors, and those of funding partners to prioritize actions which strengthen principles of equitable partnerships and better support locally led humanitarian action.

Engaging the private sector for humanitarian action

UNICEF has focused on mobilizing the private sector to build resilience against climate- and disaster-related shocks, specifically linked to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) access and other rights-based indicators (e.g., gender equality and disability inclusion). In addition, UNICEF has concentrated on maintaining family-friendly children's rights and business principles in the workplace, across supply chains and in the communities where workers live.

A public–private engagement to strengthen national humanitarian systems and community resilience, the Business and Community Resilience (BCR) approach aims to leverage existing business relationships and networks to drive and strengthen bilateral and multi-stakeholder partnerships towards achieving results for children. This involves building the internal capacity of UNICEF teams, strengthening cooperation with other United Nations

agencies and initiatives, aligning with national government plans and priorities and co-creating with the business sector.

In 2022, initiatives fostering advocacy and co-creation helped advance the BCR approach, with strategic events on disaster resilience aimed at businesses, and worked with the business sector and other United Nations agency initiatives (Trinidad and Tobago, Eastern Caribbean and Bali, Indonesia). UNICEF also facilitated business engagement strategies and regional consultations regarding disaster and climate resilience (Peru and Sri Lanka). A global retreat with 35 UNICEF staff (senior management and technical specialists) plus strategic partners was held in 2022. Finally, UNICEF developed various tools and guidance. UNICEF also promoted the co-creation with the business sector of innovations that could support positive outcomes for children (Ethiopia, Guatemala and Peru). The BCR initiative is currently under way in seven countries in four regions.

Strengthening humanitarian coordination capacities as a cluster lead agency

Commitment: Support the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response, along with national and local stakeholders, and in compliance with humanitarian principles

In 2022, UNICEF continued to lead or co-lead the Global Education, Nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Clusters, and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. In line with the Humanitarian Review recommendation on cluster coordination, UNICEF upped its efforts to ensure that a dedicated cluster team is in place when clusters are activated and that the organization improves career progression prospects for cluster staff. A cluster-specific talent management strategy was finalized in late 2021 and implementation began in 2022 to support the human resources-related recommendations of both

the Humanitarian Review and the CLARE II evaluation. Additionally, UNICEF invested in cluster coordinators and national co-leads through the launch of self-paced learning modules linked to cluster work in March 2022. By the end of the year, 1,639 learners (22 per cent of them at the subnational level) in 93 countries had completed 3,508 online courses. This is in addition to cluster-specific capacity development and learning efforts. The Office of Emergency Programmes is working to mainstream cluster-relevant learning goals into all aspects of the Humanitarian Leadership Workshop, and the workshop eligibility criteria have been amended to accommodate cluster leadership participation to bring coordination perspectives to the training while offering leadership training to cluster coordinators.

The implementation of the Humanitarian Review recommendations on cluster coordination interlocked with the actions called for by the second evaluation of UNICEF's role as cluster lead/co-lead agency (CLARE II), which was completed in 2022. More than half of the actions aimed at reinforcing cluster lead agency (CLA) accountability are under way, including the regular analysis of cluster coordination performance management results and the development of key performance indicators that reflect CLA accountability. In fulfilling this accountability, the clusters conducted the yearly cluster coordination performance management exercise, and all UNICEF-led clusters that engaged in this exercise achieved 'satisfactory' performance for established functions or better (*for details on key achievements of each cluster or area of responsibility in 2022, see Commitment 1 results in the relevant Goal Area chapters*).

UNICEF also made progress on the evaluation actions outlined in the management response to CLARE II. Following the mapping and analysis of country cluster staffing at the end of July 2022, which uncovered critical gaps in Level 3 and Level 2 emergency countries, \$4.1 million in global humanitarian thematic funding was allocated to address critical coordination gaps in Ethiopia, Mozambique, the Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, the State of Palestine and Yemen.

Fostering equity and inclusion

All aspects of UNICEF humanitarian response rest on the drive for equity and inclusion: the drive for all children to have their needs met, and for all children to realize their rights. In 2022, UNICEF took specific actions to ensure that the most vulnerable children – very young children (*see page 47*), those living with disabilities (*see page*

70), adolescents and youth (who are often forgotten in emergencies but who can be powerful actors for change, *see page 72*), and, of course, women and girls (*see below*) could benefit equally from life-saving and childhood-preserving assistance.

Gender equality

In 2022, UNICEF continued to ensure that its core commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are central to its humanitarian action.

Women and girls account for 50 per cent of all forcibly displaced persons and up to 80 per cent of those who experience climate-related displacement.²³ Adolescent girls and those with intersecting vulnerabilities – e.g., having a disability, living in poverty or identifying with a socially marginalized identity – are especially impacted by crises. They are least likely to access services and most at risk for gender-based violence and sexual exploitation. Despite these vulnerabilities, the proactive steps required to meet women's and girls' needs, build their resilience, secure their safety and uphold their rights during crises are far too often add-ons, afterthoughts or outlier steps classified as 'good practices' or 'case studies'. UNICEF is working internally and with partners to make gender equity in its actions an indispensable standard operating procedure to achieve equality in results and transformative change during recovery.

In its emergency preparedness, UNICEF recognized the importance of advancing gender equity before the onset of crises. In 2022, UNICEF integrated six gender priority actions into its Emergency Preparedness Platform, which country offices must update every six months. These priorities include mapping and establishing partnerships with local civil society organizations; assessing gender staff capacity needs for various scenarios; documenting the status of gender-based violence referral mechanisms, community complaint mechanisms and protection from sexual abuse and exploitation; and ensuring supply plans include essentials for women and girls. The actions preposition UNICEF to deliver on its gender commitments. From 2023 on, UNICEF will track how country offices take up of the preparedness gender priorities and report progress to the Executive Board.

In its emergency response, UNICEF advanced both its sectoral gender commitments and delivered on the three cross-sectoral gender commitments under the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action that advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The cross-sectoral commitments focus on mitigating and preventing gender-based violence; engaging and supporting women and girls, including local organizations that advance their rights; and prioritizing gender-responsive interventions across all sectors with a focus on adolescent girls, gender analysis and data disaggregation.

Programmes to prevent, respond to and mitigate the risk of gender-based violence in emergencies reached 8.8 million people in 74 countries in 2022 (3.6 million girls in countries reporting sex-disaggregated data). In Ukraine, 352,103 people received information on risk mitigation and prevention of gender-based violence, and in drought-

affected communities in Somalia, 121,768 people (30,367 girls and 53,522 women) accessed risk mitigation, prevention and response interventions. In Afghanistan, such services were provided through 117 community-based safe spaces established by UNICEF (see the case study for more details).

Engaging women and girls meaningfully and establishing partnerships with the rights-based organizations and networks they lead is central to achieving gender-transformative results. In 2022, UNICEF transferred 7.7 per cent of the humanitarian funds provided to implementing partners to approximately 647 local women's organizations, including in every country impacted by a Level 3 and Level 2 emergency. Furthermore, UNICEF uses a gender equality marker and gender tags for nuanced tracking of the allocation and expenditure of resources related to actions that promote gender equality. Applying a new and tighter formula to define gender-transformative expenditure, in 2022, 13.5 per cent of emergency expenditures advanced transformative programming in education, health and WASH.

In 2022, UNICEF supported and endorsed the membership of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in the IASC Principals Group. Having UN-Women among the principals elevates women, girls and gender equality within the inter-agency group. As the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (and its accompanying accountability framework) highlights, gender in humanitarian action still needs significant strengthening, ranging from gender analysis and meaningful engagement of women and girls in programming and coordination to more targeted, gender-responsive interventions.

In 2023, UNICEF will continue to strengthen gender integration in humanitarian action. To increase resource allocation to local women- and girl-led organizations, UNICEF will continue to address local capacity, stakeholder risk tolerance and bureaucratic processes. Additionally, UNICEF will build on 2022 improvements regarding rapid gender analysis, data disaggregation and the retention of female staff in emergencies. In 2022, all 49 country offices with stand-alone Humanitarian Action for Children appeals conducted some rapid gender analysis to inform their emergency responses, compared with 23 in 2021. More attention is needed to address staffing imbalances in emergency settings. Even though UNICEF deployed gender expertise to every Level 3 and Level 2 emergency, as of December 2022, women comprised only 31.5 per cent of staff in emergency settings, rising only slightly from 30 per cent in 2021.

CASE STUDY

Adolescent girls in Afghanistan – Never beyond reach

UNICEF's Core Commitments reinforce proactive measures to reach and engage adolescent girls, ensuring that they can access multisectoral services without experiencing violence, abuse or exploitation. For adolescent girls, crises strain their already tenuous claim over their secondary schooling, access to public spaces and agency in decision-making. In Afghanistan, the authorities' decision to restrict girls' movements and learning is clearly damaging adolescent girls' access to services and violating their rights.

With mobility of Afghan girls limited and their access to secondary education halted in most provinces, UNICEF is concurrently advocating strongly for their rights and identifying ways to safely connect them to services and support their development and well-being.

Through mobile platforms and 117 community-based safe spaces established by UNICEF in 19 provinces, UNICEF provided multisectoral services to Afghan women and girls, and in some cases boys. Nearly 224,000 women and girls visited one of the 117 safe spaces, where they received life-saving information on risk mitigation and integrated services, as well as psychosocial support, gender-based violence case management, referrals and life skills and livelihoods training. Moreover, accessing the safe spaces allowed women and girls to maintain contact with the outside world, nurture their friendships and connect to social networks for strategizing, solidarity and support.

Life-skills training at the safe spaces reached 54,719 adolescents (50,348 girls and 4,371 boys), a big leap in numbers from the 13,269 adolescents reached in 2021. Unfortunately, UNICEF had to close 75 of the spaces due to the government's ban on female humanitarian workers.

Recognizing the economic drivers of child marriage, UNICEF provided three rounds of child protection cash assistance to more than 32,000 vulnerable households in Badghis Province, enabling families to meet their basic needs and avoid negative coping mechanisms, such as marrying their daughters off. In collaboration with local actors, UNICEF also engaged 40,410 community members (20,737 men and 19,673 women) to build support for girls' learning, health and alternatives to child marriage.



Adolescent girls in the village of Shish, in Afghanistan's Daikundi Province, sit in front of their sewing and tailoring tools in March 2022 upon their graduation from a 5-month vocational training programme for tailoring. "At first I had no skills but now I can do tailoring and support my family financially," says Zarifa, 18, one of the 15 girls who graduated. With funding from the European Commission, UNICEF supports 10 vocational training centres for girls aged 13–21 years old in 10 different districts. Each centre focuses on a different vocation. After graduating from the programme, the girls receive toolkits for starting small businesses, plus 15,000 afghani (around \$170) along with business development training in marketing, sales and client relations.

Challenges and lessons learned

Considerable challenges impacted UNICEF's ability to support children in emergencies and help them to realize their rights. Details on challenges – and what UNICEF has done to address or overcome them – are provided



Ma Cho Cho holds her son Aung Ko Ko Shine, 8 months, as they participate in a community-based nutrition programme in Sat Kwin village, Kan Gyi Daunt, Ayarwaddy Region, Myanmar, in July 2022. When she was pregnant with the baby, Ma Cho Cho enrolled in the Nourish Delta programme, which is supported by UNICEF and World Vision and encompasses nutrition education, growth monitoring, supplementary feeding and micronutrient administration, among other components. She credits the programme with giving her a grounding in the importance of good nutrition to her son's health.

throughout this Annual Results Report on Humanitarian Action. Below are some of the overarching challenges faced by UNICEF teams in 2022.

The sheer extent – and marked expansion – of humanitarian needs had the deepest impact on children and families. But it also created challenges for UNICEF's response to those needs. The rapidly expanding needs of children and subsequent high demand for support from the field sometimes outstripped UNICEF's ability to provide the advice and support required. This phenomenon could be seen in various areas of work (e.g., demand for geospatial risk analysis, humanitarian access support, communications and advocacy work, and many other areas). To overcome this, UNICEF built on remote modalities first employed during the pandemic but which still proved useful in certain circumstances, and of course continued to leverage to work of its partners, including local and national partners.

Additionally, the growing prevalence of multiple, simultaneous, interconnected crises, influenced by increasing climate-related shocks, global economic fragility and heightened geopolitical competition, and sometimes affecting multiple countries at the same time, is a challenge to preparedness in specific ways. Effects on preparedness include more frequent shocks that can erode stand-by capacities and strain global human resources, and increased vulnerability in populations that do not have time to recover between shocks, leading to compounded impacts.

The conduct of parties to conflict and interference and threats to humanitarian workers continued to make assistance to the most vulnerable people difficult. Lack of respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian access not only led to growing needs, but also hampered responses to these needs and hindered the protection of civilians, in particular children. Persistent violations of international humanitarian law impeded the ability of aid workers to operate, while interference, threats and violence against them increased.

The heavy earmarking of funding in 2022 meant that some needs of children and families went unmet. With the significant increase in people in need in 2022, international humanitarian assistance and financing were stretched and lacked the flexibility to keep up with the growing needs and allow rapid scale-up and adaptation of humanitarian responses. Disproportionately earmarked funding and aid conditionalities (despite the World Humanitarian Summit commitments to flexible funding) remained significant challenges throughout the year.



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High-level priorities and the way forward

Children in Kassala State, Sudan, hold aloft their long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, distributed by UNICEF and partners in December 2022. That month the Federal Ministry of Health, in partnership with UNICEF launched a campaign to distribute insecticide-treated mosquito nets in 150 localities to protect 33 million people, including more than 17 million children, from malaria. The campaign, which also includes a community awareness component, is one of the largest in the Middle East and North Africa region and will provide more than 18 million long-lasting insecticide-treated nets to the most vulnerable communities in the Sudan.

Respond to children and families experiencing humanitarian crises owing to climatic events and build resilience to such shocks in development and humanitarian programming.

Climate concerns and addressing them figure prominently in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 – a reflection of the need to do more, given the speed at which the planetary crisis is unfolding and its impacts here and now on children. Looking forward, there is a commitment to make responding to the climate crisis a prime focus for all of UNICEF, with humanitarian action as a critical component. This means ensuring that all UNICEF country offices, along with regional office and headquarters teams, are equipped to make responding to the climate crisis a key element of their planning, programme delivery and advocacy. It also means that UNICEF will identify specific targeted priorities where it has the ability, with partners, to address critical global gaps in responding to this crisis for children. Key is the need for more holistic responses to climate-related disasters, which require linkages between building the resilience of children and communities well before disasters strike; reducing the damage these disasters inflict on children and their families; and conducting recovery operations with the next disaster in mind. Innovative solutions are also needed at the financial level to bring the full expertise of UNICEF into the service of children and young people whose lives are and will be most impacted by climate-related humanitarian crises. During the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27), UNICEF kicked off the Today and Tomorrow Initiative, the first integrated global parametric insurance and climate finance mechanism tailored to the climate crisis needs of children and youth. Working in partnership with the public and private sectors, the initial phase of the Today and Tomorrow Initiative (2023–2025) intends to reach an estimated 13.5 million children, girls and women in communities at extremely high risk from climate change. See page 12 for information on UNICEF’s efforts on climate change, environment, energy and disaster risk reduction and recovery.

Lead an urgent, integrated and multisectoral response to famine prevention so that fewer children experience the worst forms of wasting and a greater number of those who do receive treatment.

The No Time to Waste acceleration plan, which UNICEF launched in September 2022, provides a pathway to reaching more than 26 million children and women between October 2022 and September 2023 with a package of essential interventions to promote early prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting. UNICEF’s efforts to address the impacts of climate change are also a crucial component of this work, because the worsening climate crisis is the biggest structural threat to food and nutrition security.

Foster gender equity and inclusion in humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery action.

As the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls highlights, gender in humanitarian action still needs significant strengthening, with issues ranging from gender analysis and meaningful engagement of women and girls in programming and coordination to more targeted, gender-responsive interventions. Gender analysis is now a mandatory component of UNICEF humanitarian action, and UNICEF has committed to more equity-focused data collection and disaggregation. At the global level, in 2022, UNICEF supported and endorsed the membership of UN-Women in the IASC Principals Group, which will elevate women, girls and gender equality within this inter-agency group.

Promote disability inclusion in emergency preparedness and response.

Children with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by humanitarian emergencies and face steeper hurdles accessing humanitarian assistance. UNICEF has outlined a comprehensive plan for 2023 to promote disability inclusion in its emergency preparedness and response. The plan prioritizes inter-agency collaboration and engagement with local organizations of persons with disabilities and the private sector to ensure the effective implementation of disability-inclusive humanitarian action. The plan includes the dissemination of the Disability-Inclusive Humanitarian Action Toolkit and development of related expertise among staff working in emergency preparedness and response.

UNICEF expects to further integrate disability inclusion into its work across the humanitarian–development nexus, for example, by strengthening disability inclusion in emergency preparedness processes and in response to children on the move.

Enhance cluster leadership capacity.

Under the aegis of the Humanitarian Review and the second evaluation of the UNICEF role as cluster lead/co-lead agency (CLARE II), critical initiatives are well under way to strengthen capacities for leading key clusters within the inter-agency cluster system. These range from mapping the current status of UNICEF-led clusters to expanding options for cluster-related leadership learning, to implementing a comprehensive cluster-related talent management strategy. See page 25 for more information.

Build UNICEF’s role in a reinvigorated global health architecture.

UNICEF is building a global strategic plan of action for public health emergency preparedness and response that is complementary to the work of the World Health Organization and supports a reinvigorated global health architecture. See page 44.

Empower and equip UNICEF staff and partners in the field to stay and deliver in complex emergencies and to access the most vulnerable children in the hardest-to-reach areas.

UNICEF is pursuing a three-pronged approach to humanitarian policy issues, including humanitarian access to populations in need: developing and implementing humanitarian policies and guidance on emerging issues; strengthening partnerships to maximize synergies; and maintaining an intensive focus on supporting UNICEF field offices to stay and deliver, including national staff in humanitarian access-related capacity-building efforts, while also increasing the focus on staff at the field office level, who are often on the front line when it comes to access. Inventories of access constraints, mapping of actors and subsequent access strategies need to reflect the realities and granularities of local rather than country-wide contexts (e.g., Afghanistan and Myanmar), and this requires capacity at the field office level.

Prioritize risk-informed humanitarian and development nexus programming as an operational change strategy for achieving results in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025.

UNICEF will work to ensure systematic and consistent linkages between its humanitarian action, development programming and contributions to peacebuilding. This includes implementing the provisions of the UNICEF Procedure on Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus (which became effective in September 2022), rolling out the forthcoming global peacebuilding framework and – with partners – supporting the implementation of recommendations of the Development Assistance Committee Recommendation on the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus²⁴ and developing key inter-agency guidance products under the IASC Task Force on Humanitarian Development Collaboration and its Linkages to Peace. Lastly, UNICEF will increasingly invest in and prioritize identifying and documenting – as evidence for action – good organizational humanitarian–development–peace nexus practices. See page 15.

Increase UNICEF efforts on anticipatory action, in relation to inter-agency collaboration, forecasting, pre-financing and ensuring better readiness.

Anticipatory action gained traction in 2022 within UNICEF and at the inter-agency level and led to improvements in the lives of children and families. UNICEF will continue to strengthen its collaborations and technical expertise to implement key anticipatory action interventions. UNICEF will continue to participate in the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) anticipatory action pilots and apply learning from these efforts. As triggers for anticipatory action are based on forecasts, such action is closely linked to risk analysis and to using a no-regrets approach to humanitarian response.

Continue to seek out unrestricted and flexible funding.

Unrestricted and flexible funding is critical to responding to humanitarian crises. UNICEF will continue to improve reporting and information-sharing on its humanitarian response and on the benefits of anticipatory action and preparedness in general – and how unrestricted and flexible funding can provide support.



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Results by goal area

A young girl takes a cup of drinking water at a camp for displaced people at Maing Pyoe monastery in Nyang Shwe, Shan State, Myanmar, in December 2022.

Goal Area 1: Every child, including adolescents, survives and thrives, with access to nutritious diets, quality primary health care, nurturing practices and essential supplies

The polycrisis has amplified pre-existing challenges in realizing children's rights to survive and thrive, as the confluence of climate change, conflict, inflation and other factors has threatened children's health, nutrition and well-being. Children living through humanitarian emergencies felt this acutely in 2022, as is the case every year. UNICEF worked on Goal Area 1 in 155 countries in 2022. The total Goal Area 1 expense was \$3.3 billion, including \$2.1 billion for humanitarian action.

Health

During 2022, UNICEF sought to ensure that children, mothers and their families in all corners of the globe had access to essential health services. Additionally, a total of 142 country offices responded to outbreaks or other public health emergencies (*see page 44 for more on UNICEF's public health emergencies response*). Despite multiple challenges, such as disruption of supply chains, ongoing and new conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic and disease outbreaks, UNICEF, in collaboration with partners, played a key role in sustaining and improving the access of children and families to primary health-care services. UNICEF also was part of a team of partners that strengthened emergency preparedness, responded to outbreaks, distributed vaccines and other essential health commodities in humanitarian settings and advocated for and facilitated access to health services for children on the move. UNICEF used its global leadership role to ensure that humanitarian response in health was child-sensitive.

Globally in humanitarian settings, more than 3.5 million newborns were delivered in health-care facilities through UNICEF-supported programmes. Nearly 7 million children benefited from UNICEF-supported integrated management of childhood illnesses services (integrated community case management and/or integrated management of neonatal and childhood illness) and more than 27.2 million children received measles vaccination.

Commitment 1: Effective leadership and coordination are established and functional

UNICEF was a global leader in the provision of COVID-19 vaccines for humanitarian populations in 2022, and also renewed commitments with the International Organization for Migration and UNHCR to ensure access to health

services for children on the move. In Somalia, UNICEF oriented its health response to ensure that funding and programming were aligned with the inter-agency and UNICEF drought response plans as well as those supported by other partners. In Madagascar, UNICEF, together with the Ministry of Public Health, provided emergency health support in cyclone- and drought-affected areas that reached 186,766 people (93 per cent of the target).

Commitment 2: Women, adolescent girls and newborns safely and equitably access quality life-saving and high-impact maternal and neonatal health services

In humanitarian settings, UNICEF focuses on improving and increasing access to maternal, newborn and child health care, which is very often disrupted or limited during emergencies. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNICEF support helped to increase access to maternal and newborn services in 2022, with a 17 per cent increase in the number of antenatal consultations (from 82,135 in 2021 to 96,322 in 2022), 29 per cent more births attended by skilled personnel (from 96,441 in 2021 to 124,329 in 2022). The number of newborns accessing specialized care in neonatal intensive care units jumped from 8,473 in 2021 to 12,474 in 2022, a 47 per cent increase. In Somalia, UNICEF supported safe maternal and newborn services, with 142,877 pregnant women receiving their first antenatal consultation; 60,621 having their delivery assisted by skilled birth attendants (far exceeding the target of 36,804); and 36,812 mother and infant pairs receiving their first postnatal consultation within 48 hours after birth.

Commitment 3: Children and women receive routine and supplemental vaccinations

UNICEF continues to support maintaining or re-establishing routine vaccination services as one of the high-priority health interventions during humanitarian emergencies to limit avoidable morbidity and mortality due to vaccine-preventable diseases. In response to the sharp increase in measles cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2022 – an increase due to the gap in routine measles vaccination brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic – UNICEF supported vaccination of more than 1.5 million children aged 6–59 months living in zones affected by humanitarian crises. This result was 42 per cent more than

the target of 1,095,868 children because the campaign reached beyond the areas hosting internally displaced people, the initial plan. In Yemen, UNICEF supported the vaccination of 1.2 million children aged 6–59 months against polio (95 per cent of the target). The country is also one of 20 countries that have not yet eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus, so UNICEF supported tetanus vaccination for 13,850 women of reproductive age in 47 high-risk districts. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), reached 1.9 million people with the oral cholera vaccine (95 per cent of the target) to help to stem a cholera epidemic that spread across the country beginning in September 2022, an outbreak with roots in large-scale destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure, electricity outages, prolonged drought and population movements. *(See page 48 for more on UNICEF's global response to cholera in 2022.)*



Globally, UNICEF supported measles vaccination for **more than 272 million children** in humanitarian situations.

Commitment 4: Children and adolescents safely and equitably access quality life-saving and high-impact child health services

During emergencies, UNICEF works to ensure that children and adolescents have safe and uninterrupted access to health services through functional health-care facilities, school and community-based activities, and at the household level. In South Sudan, malaria causes 52.6 per cent of all morbidity and 58.2 per cent of all mortality in the country. The coverage of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets is low. In 2022, UNICEF scaled up integrated management of newborn and childhood illnesses and supported quality child health services through the new Boma Health Initiative (which works at the lowest level administrative district in the country) and was able to provide insecticide-treated nets in malaria-endemic areas to more than 1 million children and pregnant women in 190 bomas, more than triple the target. After scaling up of integrated management of childhood illnesses services in crisis-affected areas in the Sudan, 1.3 million children were able to access these services, exceeding the target. In response to the cholera outbreak in Haiti, UNICEF delivered 245 acute watery diarrhoea medical kits, 313,000 oral rehydration salts sachets, zinc and antibiotics, as well as personal protective equipment. Globally, UNICEF, through the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACTA) mechanism, participated in the procurement of 853 oxygen concentrators delivered to eight countries experiencing humanitarian emergencies to support the treatment of pneumonia and other clinical conditions in mothers and children.

Commitment 5: Primary health care continues to be provided through health-care facilities and community-based service delivery mechanisms

In places affected by conflict, UNICEF advocates for the protection of health workers, health-care users, health-care facilities, health supplies and ambulances to ensure the continuity of primary health care. In Myanmar, through a network of 13 partners, including four local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), 458,141 women and children accessed primary health-care services in UNICEF-supported fixed and mobile clinics. This achievement was nearly triple the intended target. The effort was part of an expansion in alternate modes of service delivery required in the face of limited functioning of the country's health system. UNICEF also expanded its partnerships with NGOs and the private sector to train and deploy 888 community health workers to manage common childhood illnesses at the community level. To support those impacted by the war in Ukraine, UNICEF provided critical supplies to 1,005 health-care facilities. In collaboration with partners, UNICEF provided primary health-care services to more than 4.9 million women and children via UNICEF-supported facilities and mobile teams inside the country (exceeding the target), and to 433,701 people in refugee-receiving countries (also exceeding the target).

Commitment 6: At-risk and affected populations have timely access to culturally appropriate, gender- and age-sensitive information and interventions, to improve preventive and curative health-care practices

UNICEF aims to increase the resilience of communities and social actors in transitional areas by the sustainable improvement of access to basic social services and the strengthening of the capacities of community structures to manage the risks associated with crises. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda, more than 10 million people were reached with messages on COVID-19 vaccination (94 per cent of the target), and 1.6 million were engaged in risk communication and community engagement activities at the community level (76 per cent of the target). In five governorates in Iraq, UNICEF and partners supported scheduled home visits by community health workers to mothers and newborns in camps for internally displaced persons to detect danger signs and provide appropriate referrals to higher levels of care. A total of 6,833 newborns (3,399 girls) received home visits. Finally, in Haiti, as one of the multiple components of tackling the cholera outbreak that started in 2022, UNICEF supported cholera prevention spots that aired on radio and TV stations and the distribution of leaflets containing information on how to reduce cholera transmission.

CASE STUDY

Afghanistan: Multi-partner collaboration helps the health-care system avoid collapse, and ensures the provision of essential health services to mothers, children and their families

After the political turmoil experienced in Afghanistan in 2021, the country entered a profound socioeconomic crisis that has impacted all aspects of Afghan life. Despite the multiple challenges flowing from this event, such as the temporary cessation of international aid, widespread food insecurity, increased restrictions on women's mobility and participation, uncertainty over contracts with implementing partners managing health-care facilities, delayed issuance of quality certification of medicines from the Afghanistan Food and Drug Authority and inadequate numbers of beds for management of outbreaks, it was possible to ensure continued access to health services for children and their families. The general strategies used to make this happen included dialogue with the Ministry of Public Health, the Health Cluster, the World Health Organization (WHO) and donors, and periodic extension of contracts with the implementing partners who managed the health-care facilities.

Notably, UNICEF – in partnership with WHO and multiple non-governmental organizations, and with financial support through various mechanisms and from key donors – not only sustained the provision of primary health care and essential hospital services²⁵ but also expanded these services from 17 provinces to all 34 provinces in the country. Thanks to this effort, more than 18.5 million people accessed primary health care services (123 per cent of the target).



A father plays with his young son at a health-care facility in Bamyan Province, central Afghanistan, in November 2022. Working with a large network of partners and funded through various mechanisms and by key donors, UNICEF helped to sustain and expand primary health care and essential hospital services in 2022 from 17 provinces to all 34 provinces in the country, and helped to ensure that people could access primary health-care services at no cost.

In addition, UNICEF sought to ensure that remote and vulnerable populations, including internally displaced people, had access to health services by increasing the number of mobile health and nutrition teams from 70 to 171. These teams provided 1.6 million consultations (44 per cent for children under age 5). As part of this effort, to improve the quality of services UNICEF trained more than 11,000 community health workers, 180 primary health-care officers and 108 midwives.

Yet Afghanistan also faced health emergencies above its baseline health-care challenges in 2022, including disease outbreaks and the health consequences of an earthquake in June, among others. UNICEF coordinated the response to numerous health emergencies. For example, in the face of the country's perennial diarrhoea outbreaks, which peaked in June 2022, UNICEF established 349 cholera treatment centres, along with 33 integrated emergency response teams to provide rapid health, water, sanitation and hygiene support in hotspots. The organization also provided first aid and trauma care to 1,696 patients in the aftermath of June's earthquake. At UNICEF-supported health-care facilities and via mobile health and nutrition teams, UNICEF ultimately provided 13,340 outpatient consultations, 4,796 consultations for injuries and trauma and admission, treatment and discharge for 301 patients over the three months that followed the quake.

CASE STUDY

Honduras: UNICEF and the Honduras Red Cross provide mental health and psychosocial first aid to children and adolescents impacted by exposure to violence, migration, hurricanes and the COVID-19 pandemic

Honduras has one of the highest rates of violence against children in the world, with a significant impact on children's mental health and well-being. Children and their caregivers are at risk of exposure to gang violence, domestic violence and forced displacement due to the country's high level of violence and insecurity and the impact of natural disasters. Children are often left with other caregivers when their parents migrate, or they face challenges in reintegrating if they are deported back to Honduras. While access to data is limited in this context, UNICEF reports in general that children exposed to violence may experience emotional and psychological distress, which can lead to long-term mental health problems and affect their development. These effects worsen in contexts where children are forcibly displaced, because these children lose access to support networks and services.

In 2020 and early 2021, Hurricanes Eta and Iota affected 4.6 million people in Honduras, leaving 2.8 million people in need of support. Displaced families faced challenges around water, sanitation and hygiene services. They expressed concerns about the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents, particularly due to the disruption of daily life, loss of social support and increased risk of violence and exploitation in these contexts.

In August 2022, after several years in partnership with the Honduras Red Cross developing and employing methodologies (closely aligned with UNICEF's Multisectoral MHPSS [Mental Health and Psychosocial Support] Framework) to support the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents experiencing migration, natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF began work on the Manual de Recuperación Emocional (MRE), or Emotional Recovery Manual. The Manual captures these methodologies and practices developed to date and is designed to support psychologists and youth volunteers in delivering structured group activities.



Children in Azacualpa, Honduras, raise pictures drawn during a workshop by the Honduras Red Cross in November 2022. Children and their caregivers in Honduras are at risk of exposure to gang violence, domestic violence and forced displacement, significantly impacting children's mental health and well-being. UNICEF and the Honduras Red Cross developed the Manual de Recuperación Emocional (MRE), or Emotional Recovery Manual, which captures the methodologies and practices developed over the course of several years to support psychologists and youth volunteers in delivering structured group activities.

The original methodology focused on supporting returned migrant children, children whose parents or caregivers had migrated and internally displaced families. Groups of 15–20 children in schools received play-based sessions twice a week, with content around the eight measured emotional indicators, including self-esteem, anxiety, aggressiveness, coping skills, social skills, resentment, guilty feelings and sadness. Over time, the UNICEF team trained 43 psychologists who supported 212 youth volunteers in migration settings. They reached 3,578 children and adolescents aged 7–17 years in 20 municipalities, with 86 children receiving individual counselling from volunteer psychologists. Over 53 per cent of child participants who completed the four sessions improved in at least three of the eight emotional indicators assessed, with children’s anxiety levels improving the most.

In 2020, the methodology was adapted to reach those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the hurricanes. Children participated in various MHPSS stations that offered playful activities and games, supervised by psychologists and trained volunteers. The stations were designed to provide important information (e.g., important hygiene measures against COVID-19) and to use games to help children manage the stress and anxiety brought about by pandemic-related confinement. These efforts – a unique type of psychological first aid intervention – reached families in 60 communities in 30 municipalities and, because of quarantine, also reached children and adolescents and their caregivers living in shelters as well as children and adolescents in alternative care.

The MRE manuals, which will be finalized in mid-2023, will continue to be a useful tool for promoting emotional recovery for children and adolescents who have witnessed or been exposed to extremely distressing or traumatic events. The step-by-step approach includes screening on whether children and adolescents are affected in the eight emotional indicators the methodology works with; providing emotional support and creating a safe environment; and encouraging positive coping strategies and addressing any underlying social or environmental factors that may have contributed to the mental health concerns. This approach can be easily adapted to meet the dynamic and complex needs in Honduras. Methods emphasized by the MRE, including assessments and establishing a volunteer support structure, will continue to fill gaps in understanding the extent of MHPSS needs among children and adolescents in this context. It will also build local capacity for future emergency response efforts.

Challenges and lessons learned

During 2022, the ability of children and families to realize their rights to health care faced numerous obstacles, some of them long established: delays in availability and procurement of supplies; fuel shortages; misinformation about and limited demand for COVID-19 vaccines; a paucity of functional emergency preparedness and response mechanisms; poor availability of health workers, more pronounced in underserved areas; lack of data; limited quality of services and equipment, e.g., vaccine storage and transportation; and insufficient funding. On top of these, there were other challenges to people’s health and to providing humanitarian assistance to meet their needs: the war in Ukraine, which hindered the access to health care of people living there and caused a new wave of refugees in Europe; global inflation; and multiple global outbreaks, for example of measles and cholera, the former due to vaccination disruptions occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic, the latter a marker of inequity and poverty and lack of access to key services.

To overcome these barriers, UNICEF employed critical strategies: strengthening emergency preparedness and response plans; pre-positioning key health supplies; developing strong risk communication and community engagement strategies, particularly for emerging health technologies/vaccines; expanding community health worker programmes; and fostering the use of solarization to ensure

uninterrupted electricity supply for health-care facilities (*see page 12 for information on how UNICEF is working towards a climate-resilient humanitarian response*).

Nutrition

UNICEF supports governments to prepare for and respond to nutrition crises. This includes supporting emergency preparedness and response planning that prioritizes the prevention of malnutrition – while also ensuring the provision of life-saving interventions to detect and treat severe wasting where prevention falls short. Through its role as Cluster Lead Agency for nutrition, UNICEF promotes system-wide actions during emergencies and helps countries prepare for, withstand and bounce back from crises.

Despite significant improvements over the past two decades, malnutrition remains a leading cause of child death and disease globally and is a major threat to children’s growth and development. Worldwide, 202 million children under 5 years of age are living in severe food poverty in early childhood, 149 million children are experiencing stunted growth and development and 45 million are suffering from wasting. According to data presented in UNICEF’s most recent report on women’s nutrition, more than 200 million adolescent girls and women worldwide are underweight. An already vulnerable global nutrition situation worsened in 2022, with 266 million people facing

high levels of acute food insecurity in 58 countries and territories with available data – an increase of almost 74 million people since 2021.²⁶ UNICEF and partners met critical needs in 38 countries experiencing humanitarian crises. Key achievements included coordination support to 58 countries (including 24 Humanitarian Response Plan countries); 182 million children benefiting from programmes for the early prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting, including more than 114.6 million children in humanitarian settings, more than 47 million caregivers receiving information to support breastfeeding and other recommended feeding and care practices to prevent malnutrition; more than 7.8 million children receiving micronutrient supplementation; and more than 218 million children receiving vitamin A supplementation.

Commitment 1: Effective leadership and coordination are established and functional

In 2022, the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) launched its 2022–2025 strategy, reflecting the continued commitment by GNC partners and UNICEF as Cluster Lead Agency. Using the strategy as its guide, the GNC provided coordination and technical support to 58 countries (including 24 Humanitarian Response Plan countries). Specifically, the GNC met 380 requests for support from 47 countries and conducted 30 deployments (with an average of 35 days per deployment) to 15 countries and two regional offices (West and Central Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa). Throughout the year, all nutrition clusters conducted a cluster coordination performance management exercise and all achieved satisfactory performance for established functions. In addition, the GNC launched the GNC Learn Initiative, with 136 learning modules and 41 short courses; mentored 18 mentees from 15 countries; conducted 21 webinars reaching 54 countries; and conducted 10 blended Nutrition Cluster Coordination training sessions and 17 nutrition in emergencies technical training sessions.

Inter-cluster/intersectoral collaboration (ICSC) was a key approach promoted by the GNC in 2022. In one example of this, the GNC strengthened ICSC in Somalia in 2022. Following the release of the joint statement on action needed in the face of the widespread and rapid deterioration of the situation and the increase in nutrition insecurity,²⁷ a joint ICSC strategy was developed to align the Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Food Security, Health, Nutrition and WASH Clusters for famine prevention. This strategy was then translated to collaborative efforts by proposing a first-line integrated response framework to deliver holistic packages – ready-to-eat food for food assistance, treatment of moderate and severe wasting, hygiene and dignity kits, first-line routine drugs and other interventions – and to provide life-saving emergency assistance for people who are either newly displaced or those living in hard-to-reach or extremely challenging areas. A second phase of response is planned for 2023 and will be part of regular humanitarian programming, not only humanitarian response.

Overall, UNICEF leadership and the coordination of 41 global partners in the Global Nutrition Cluster supported the effective delivery of life-saving nutrition interventions in emergencies that benefited 43.9 million people globally (a 14 per cent increase compared with 2021).

Commitment 2: Monitoring and information systems for nutrition, including nutrition assessments, provide timely and quality data and evidence to guide policies, strategies, programmes and advocacy

In 2022, UNICEF continued to invest in actions to improve the availability and quality of nutrition information and analysis for decisions, in collaboration with nutrition clusters and partners. UNICEF launched the Nutrition Vulnerability Assessment in Crisis, a joint initiative with the World Food Programme (WFP) to improve the availability and strategic use of nutrition information in crisis settings. In Haiti, UNICEF worked closely with the Ministry of Public Health and Population to launch a country-wide nutrition survey with SMART (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition) methodology. In the Syrian Arab Republic, advocacy efforts were successful in including nutrition indicators in the annual Food Security Assessment. UNICEF and WFP also helped to develop the complementary Joint Nutrition and Food Security Assessment 2022, a tool that provided updated wasting prevalence rates – as well as information on the linkages between food security and nutrition – as evidence for programming.

Commitment 3: Children aged under five years benefit from diets, practices and services that prevent stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight

UNICEF continued to support actions to prevent malnutrition in children under 5 years of age, focusing on improving infant and young child feeding practices that are life-saving in an emergency. In Mali, where conflict and climate change have deepened a complex humanitarian crisis marked by displacement, food insecurity and protection concerns, UNICEF expanded efforts to prevent stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies in children under 5 years of age. A total of 629,117 caregivers of children aged 0–23 months were supported to adopt recommended infant and young child feeding practices, including both breastfeeding and complementary feeding – more than 100 per cent of UNICEF's target in 2022. UNICEF also ensured that 5,741,236 children aged 6–59 months received two doses of vitamin A supplementation and 5,005,965 children aged 12–59 months were dewormed.



Globally, UNICEF supported **more than 114.6 million children** under 5 years of age with services for the early detection and treatment of severe wasting and other forms of malnutrition.

Commitment 4: Children in middle childhood (5–9 years) and adolescent girls and boys (10–19 years) benefit from diets, practices and services that protect them from undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and anaemia

Children in middle childhood and adolescence are an emerging area of focus for UNICEF nutrition programming in emergencies and are also included in the 2020 revision of the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. The school feeding reform initiative in Ukraine, originally launched in 2021 but interrupted by the war, was successfully re-established with a renewed focus on involving and supporting caregivers, adolescents and educators in fostering healthy dietary choices. More than 4,500 primary school teachers have completed the Basics of Healthy Eating course, effectively delivering a series of six lessons on nutritious eating habits to students in grades 1–4. To facilitate the continued progress of the school feeding reform, an extensive assortment of materials was disseminated, resulting in an estimated 4.5 million viewers accessing video courses on healthy eating practices for children.

Commitment 5: Pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers benefit from diets, practices and services that protect them from undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and anaemia

In 2022 UNICEF supported actions to protect pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers from all forms of malnutrition in fragile contexts. In India, UNICEF reached 27.9 million pregnant women with iron and folic acid supplementation out of a target of 29.5 million. As a result, the coverage of iron-folic acid supplementation has significantly improved among school-going adolescent girls and pregnant women, from 23 per cent in 2017 to 50 per cent in 2022 and from 77 per cent in 2017 to 95 per cent in 2022, respectively. In camps for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, UNICEF reached 67,230 adolescent girls aged 10–19 years and 41,999 pregnant and lactating women with iron-folic acid supplementation and nutrition messaging to reduce the incidence and prevalence of anaemia.

Commitment 6: Children aged under five years benefit from services for the early detection and treatment of severe wasting and other forms of life-threatening acute malnutrition in early childhood

Early detection and treatment of severe wasting gives children the opportunity to survive and catch up on growth and development. In the Niger, UNICEF supported nutrition service delivery at the institutional level. A total of 430,708 children under 5 years of age with severe wasting were admitted for treatment in all eight regions, representing 88 per cent of the adjusted annual expected caseload. In Tajikistan, 200 health-care workers were trained on treating severe wasting and more than 12,696 children were treated for severe wasting using supplies procured by UNICEF. In the Syrian Arab Republic, a total of 14,674 children aged 6–59 months (8,435 girls) were admitted and treated for severe wasting (80 per cent of the annual target); 7,173 children in the north west of the Syrian Arab Republic were also treated.



Globally, UNICEF supported **5.6 million children** aged 6–59 months in humanitarian situations with treatment for severe wasting.

Commitment 7: Services to prevent and treat malnutrition in children, adolescents and women are provided through facility- and community-based delivery mechanisms in ways that strengthen national and subnational systems

UNICEF's system strengthening approach for the delivery of nutrition services is reflected in increasing investments in the capacity of Governments and in health and nutrition infrastructure from community to facility levels. In the Sudan, to improve the capacity of workers in both community and facility settings, more than 700 nutrition workers were trained on community management of acute malnutrition, and training in infant and young child feeding counselling was provided for more than 14,600 mother-to-mother support group volunteers in the community and more than 3,500 staff in health facilities. In addition, close to 59,000 mothers were trained on mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening. In Namibia, UNICEF supported nutrition workforce planning to improve emergency responses and address programme barriers. Examples of improvements include a shift to family-led MUAC screening, where caregivers screen their children for wasting, as well as delivery by community health workers of essential nutrition actions including management of wasting and delivery of vitamin A and zinc supplements.

SUPPLY SPOTLIGHT

Delivering life-saving nutrition supplies in response to the global nutrition crisis

UNICEF responded to the global nutrition crisis by working to ensure equitable access to essential nutrition supplies. In 2022, UNICEF delivered \$256.3 million worth of nutrition supplies to 112 countries, including:

- 68,702 metric tons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) to 64 countries, more than 74 per cent of it sourced in programme countries;
- 920 metric tons of therapeutic milk to 60 countries;
- 612.7 million sachets of multiple micronutrients powder delivered to 42 countries; and
- 18.6 million mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tapes to 54 countries.

In 2022, the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with conflict, climate shocks and the rising cost of living, put an increasing number of children at risk of malnutrition. At the same time, key nutrition supplies and services became less accessible due to producers' limited access to the working capital necessary to obtain raw materials, along with shortages in qualified staff and reduced production capacity. These circumstances, coupled with logistics and transportation challenges that affected supply efforts in all sectors, interrupted UNICEF's ability to scale up access to nutrition supplies and services (*see page 80 for 2022 results against all supply-related Core Commitments*).

UNICEF undertook extensive work in 2022 to reduce market barriers to accessing nutrition supplies. UNICEF engaged with the industry by convening the Nutrition Supply Forum (encompassing 180 partners) in January 2022 to address challenges with key supplies as well as the availability of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), a life-saving paste that treats severe wasting in children under 5 years of age. And, in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development and the World Food Programme, UNICEF convened the Lipid-based Nutrient Supplements and RUTF Industry Consultation in August to discuss scaling up production of these life-saving commodities, including how to accelerate their availability to meet the needs of people affected by the global nutrition crisis. UNICEF was also instrumental in the adoption of new international standard guidelines for RUTF. While protecting quality and safety, the new guidelines allow producers and researchers to create local versions of RUTF, using alternative protein sources that are locally available and less expensive.

For nearly two decades, UNICEF's RUTF market-shaping strategy has driven the expansion of RUTF production capacity from a sole supplier in 2005 to 21 suppliers in 2022. Today, 90 per cent of RUTF manufacturers are based in programme countries, closer to children in need of treatment. Diversifying the RUTF supplier base has facilitated access to RUTF at reduced economic and

environmental costs and contributed to local jobs and markets. In 2022, more than 74 per cent of RUTF procured by UNICEF was from programme countries.

UNICEF and partners also championed innovative ways to support children suffering from wasting. UNICEF expanded nutrition pre-financing interventions through the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII), which accelerated access to nutrition supplies for countries facing temporary budget shortfalls. In 2022, by using country pre-financing, framework contracts and advance payments to suppliers, the VII and related RUTF window accelerated the procurement of 3.8 million cartons of RUTF, or enough to treat 3.8 million children suffering from severe wasting. In addition, a new advanced payment solution for RUTF suppliers was introduced. This addressed the working capital financing needs of suppliers and increased overall production capacity and, ultimately, the availability of RUTF.

In 2022, UNICEF's Nutrition Match Fund (NMF) awarded \$2.8 million to three countries to match the domestic resources committed by these countries for the prevention and treatment of child wasting. In Mauritania, UNICEF and partners delivered more than 36,300 RUTF cartons. Half of the consignment was paid for by the Government of Mauritania, while the remainder was covered by the NMF. The NMF makes financing for RUTF, and other critical nutrition supplies, more predictable. It also incentivizes governments to put robust allocations of domestic resources towards preventing and treating malnutrition.

To mobilize investments in response to the current nutrition crisis, UNICEF leveraged its partnerships. The United States Agency for International Development announced a \$200 million contribution to UNICEF for nutrition interventions – the largest single investment in malnutrition treatment in history. To ensure the continuity of programmes and mitigate potential breaks in supply pipelines, UNICEF coordinated in-kind logistics with such partners as Flexport, chartering flights to deliver more than 10,200 RUTF cartons to Chad and Ethiopia and 1,500 boxes of therapeutic milk, another treatment option, to Yemen to treat 36,000

children. UPS, another partner, also supported the delivery of 6,600 cartons of RUTF to Chad from a regional stockpile in Ghana. With another partner, the World Economic Forum, UNICEF signed the Supply Chain & Transport Industry Charter for Humanitarian Supply Chain Resilience with 20 logistics companies to support the global movement of humanitarian supplies. CMA CGM, a signatory to the Charter, prioritized the shipment of 26,781 cartons of RUTF to strengthen regional rapid response in Cameroon and Ghana.

Responding to the global nutrition crisis, UNICEF delivered \$256.3 million worth of nutrition supplies in 2022 – a 90 per cent increase compared with 2021 that was largely due to a substantial increase in demand for RUTF. UNICEF delivered 5.1 million cartons of RUTF during the year. Thirty-nine per cent of this was shipped to the Horn of Africa, enough to treat nearly 2 million children.

Through systemic and focused interventions that build resilience, UNICEF worked with countries to strengthen end-to-end health and nutrition supply chains. In 2022, the UNICEF Supply Chain Maturity Model (a government-led

supply chain assessment) was deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria and South Sudan to provide a comprehensive review of critical supply chain functions and to shape corrective plans and strategies. In parallel, findings from UNICEF's end-user monitoring surveys in seven African countries highlighted supply chain improvement needs at the 'last mile'. The evidence gathered by these assessments was instrumental in determining readiness levels and management capacity, and in understanding the supply chain investments needed for an equitable and efficient roll-out of nutrition and health products.

Investments in strengthening the nutrition supply chain are critical for ensuring access to life-saving commodities in emergency contexts and beyond. Such investments bridge the gap between humanitarian and development planning and response and are part of global efforts to forge a humanitarian–development continuum. Through its supply strategies, UNICEF will continue working to ensure equitable and inclusive access to essential nutrition supplies and services for every child.



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Abdula Mohammed, 1, eats ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) while being held by his mother, Farxiyo Mohammed, at the UNICEF-supported Garowe General Hospital Stabilization Centre in the Nugal region of Somalia, in October 2022. Five days earlier, Abdula had been in critical condition due to severe wasting. "The day I admitted him he was very sick, and I was so worried," says his mother. "Now he is well." In 2022, UNICEF delivered 5.1 million cartons of RUTF globally, 39 per cent of it to the Horn of Africa, enough to treat nearly 2 million children. In Somalia alone, nearly 460,000 children aged 6–59 months were admitted to UNICEF-supported therapeutic care for severe wasting in 2022, and 96 per cent were discharged as cured.

Commitment 8: At-risk and affected populations have timely access to culturally appropriate, gender- and age-sensitive information and interventions that promote the uptake of diets, services and practices and contribute to improve their nutritional status

In 2022 UNICEF continued efforts to reach women, adolescents and children with timely information and interventions. In East Asia and the Pacific, the UNICEF regional office developed and disseminated guidance notes on gender-based violence in emergencies risk mitigation in WASH, nutrition, education and health; a gender-based violence in emergencies fact sheet; and related case studies from Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and Viet Nam. In Ukraine and in the refugee response, more than 1.5 million social media users were reached with key messages to support breastfeeding, and a video course supporting breastfeeding was created and viewed by more than 500,000 caregivers.

Challenges and lessons learned

In 2022, UNICEF faced an increasing number, scale and intensity of emergencies, among them an unprecedented global food and nutrition crisis that is still unfolding. These crises have threatened gains made in reducing child malnutrition, particularly in the Central Sahel and the Horn of Africa. They have slowed efforts in some countries to strengthen national systems and build resilience to future crises. In addition, reductions in unrestricted funding in the context of the global food and nutrition crisis along with the shrinking fiscal space for many resource partners and host countries are posing important challenges to progress in combatting malnutrition. In 2022, UNICEF also faced the higher costs of programme delivery due to the increased cost of essential supplies and raw ingredients, such as those used to produce RUTF.²⁸ (See page 40 for detailed information on UNICEF's extensive work to reduce market barriers to accessing life-saving nutrition commodities.)

The scale of the current global food and nutrition crisis has offered an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the commitments made by national governments and their partners in the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting. The Global Plan was launched in 2020 by the United Nations Secretary-General as the first-ever global plan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals targets for the prevention of child wasting. It reflects a shared commitment to prevent, detect and treat child wasting at scale in the 15 countries worst affected by the global food and nutrition crisis. In 2022, UNICEF launched the 'No Time to Waste Acceleration Plan' to reach more than 26 million children and women with a package of essential nutrition and social protection actions to prevent, protect, detect and treat child wasting. Provided that the plan's \$1.2 billion funding requirement is met, UNICEF expects to reach this target in 2023.

Guided by its strategy, vision and goal, in 2021 UNICEF and WFP launched a Partnership Framework for Child Wasting, with specific emphasis on children affected by humanitarian crises. The Partnership Framework streamlines the collaboration between UNICEF and WFP and is designed to increase the impact of our individual and joint actions in humanitarian contexts. In 2022, the Partnership Framework was implemented effectively in the 15 countries most affected by the global food and nutrition crisis. UNICEF was also granted a \$200 million supplemental award from the United States Agency for International Development's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance for the early detection and treatment of child wasting. This is an exceptional opportunity to accelerate UNICEF's work to meet the rising levels of need resulting from the 2022–2023 food and nutrition crisis. This multi-country grant was set up to reach and treat an estimated 2.4 million children with severe forms of wasting in the recipient countries. This multi-year award is being used to establish a more secure pipeline in target countries. It supports optimal demand planning and forecasting in the various offices and shipment plans for staggered deliveries of key nutrition commodities and for meeting surge needs across countries. The longer horizon for estimating demand and the placement of staggered orders has already contributed to enhancing supply chain management and ensuring the availability of supplies across most service points in every country.

HIV/AIDS

In a challenging year marked by numerous human- and climate-caused emergencies and the ongoing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, including its impact on access to quality health services, UNICEF continued to support national efforts to diagnose, treat and provide care for women, children and adolescents living with HIV, and to prevent HIV among those at risk of acquiring it.

Commitment 1: Children, adolescents and women have access to information and services for HIV prevention, including HIV testing

UNICEF supported access to HIV information and testing and treatment in a variety of humanitarian contexts in 2022. In the drought-affected county of Wajir in Kenya, UNICEF provided technical guidance on innovative approaches to HIV testing (family index testing) to 243 households to reach older children living with HIV. Community-based door-to-door outreach resulted in HIV screening of 349 children and young people. In Haiti, in order to involve young people in the health response, UNICEF, working with the partner 'Solidarité pour une Jeunesse Résiliente' supported training on reproductive health for 87 young peer educators, who in turn reached nearly 7,500 adolescents with HIV information and testing.

CASE STUDY

Afghanistan: Mobile teams and expanded interventions double the number of children treated for severe wasting with UNICEF support

The critical humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is marked by ongoing conflict, political instability, economic collapse and recurring natural disasters. This protracted humanitarian crisis has worsened the nutrition vulnerability of women and children. In 2022, the number of severely wasted children under 5 years of age requiring life-saving treatment doubled compared with 2021. The challenge for UNICEF and partners was to scale up nutrition services, address supply gaps and overcome significant administrative and operational obstacles to reach the estimated 1 million severely wasted children.

During the year, UNICEF increased the number of sites providing nutrition services from around 1,000 to more than 3,200. To cover underserved populations in rural areas, UNICEF expanded services by utilizing a variety of platforms, such as family health houses funded by the United Nations Population Fund. UNICEF deployed 171 mobile health and nutrition teams and supported the strengthening of quality and scale-up of services for severe wasting treatment in inpatient departments through support for renovation or construction where needed. UNICEF also procured and distributed ready-to-use therapeutic food and trained health workers on the integrated management of wasting and on maternal, infant and young child nutrition. In addition, UNICEF continued to implement the community-based nutrition package (an approach begun in 2018) within communities and rolled it out to 13 additional provinces during the year, bringing the number of provinces implementing the package to 20.

In 2022, more than 662,870 children (376,444 girls and 286,426 boys) under 5 years of age were treated for severe wasting with UNICEF support. This was double the number identified and admitted for treatment in 2021, thanks to the expansion of the static nutrition sites and the outreach work of the mobile clinics. To prevent malnutrition, more than 1.6 million children received multiple micronutrient powders in 2022, and more than 3 million caregivers received nutrition counselling. UNICEF also conducted 13 SMART surveys, which revealed that child wasting was highest in (in order of severity) Urozgan, Badakhshan and Faryab provinces.

Continued expansion of nutrition services is needed in Afghanistan in 2023, particularly in urban areas. Capacity-building for external partners and hiring additional staff for hospitals are both required to be able to do this. Ongoing monitoring, evaluation and collaboration with relevant authorities will help address challenges related to data collection, operational restrictions and service delivery in health-care facilities.



Shukria Ahmadi, a nutrition screener with a UNICEF-supported mobile health and nutrition team, assesses a child for malnutrition using a mid-upper arm circumference tape in Safeedi-Mish, a village in Nili District in Daikundi Province, central Afghanistan, in October 2022. To meet growing needs, UNICEF increased the number of mobile health and nutrition teams in Afghanistan from 70 to 171 during the year. The teams provided 1.6 million consultations, 44 per cent for children under age 5. The mobile teams provided a lifeline to inaccessible communities who would otherwise be unable to visit health clinics.

Commitment 2: Children, adolescents and women living with HIV access treatment and care services

In 2022, UNICEF supported continuity of HIV services in countries impacted by humanitarian crises. Under an emergency memorandum of understanding with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Ukraine, UNICEF assumed the role of Principal Recipient, collaborating with the Public Health Centre of Ukraine to procure HIV diagnostics to test and confirm the HIV status of 625,000 people, including pregnant women and children, and to monitor treatment effectiveness for around 200,000 people. In Mozambique, UNICEF ensured that the drought response included medical supplies to support the continuity of treatment for children, adolescents and women living with HIV, while promoting HIV prevention, especially among adolescent girls and young women. In Zimbabwe, UNICEF partnered with the National AIDS Council and Ministry of Health and Childcare to ensure HIV was considered as part of disaster risk reduction and preparedness and response planning, resulting in continuity of HIV treatment for 29,885 pregnant and breastfeeding women affected by drought and floods. Amid the ongoing civil war in the Central African Republic, 255 health-care facilities (out of 405 that provide services for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV) received biomedical equipment; and UNICEF contributed eight diagnostic machines to laboratories to strengthen infant diagnosis of HIV. In 326 UNICEF-supported health-care facilities, there was a significant increase in demand not only for testing but also for antenatal care as well as an increase in the number of clients attending four or more antenatal care visits. Again in Kenya, in four drought-affected counties (Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit and Isiolo), UNICEF trained and supported health-care workers to deliver antiretroviral therapy to more than 3,200 children, adolescents and pregnant or breastfeeding women living with HIV.

Commitment 3: At-risk and affected populations have timely access to culturally appropriate, gender- and age-sensitive information and interventions, to improve prevention practices, care and treatment

In 2022, UNICEF leveraged community workers, HIV peer mentors and digital platforms (e.g., U-Report) to support continuity of essential HIV services and gather community feedback during the outbreak of Ebola disease (caused by Sudan virus) in Uganda (*see the case study on how UNICEF supported the Government to maintain HIV services in Uganda during the outbreak*). With its partner Youth Advocates, in Zimbabwe UNICEF provided information and referrals through a helpline on HIV and COVID-19 to more than 3,200 young people. This included referrals to HIV testing and psychosocial support. UNICEF also supported training for children and adolescents to disseminate COVID-19 and HIV information to their peers through an online platform.

Challenges and lessons learned

Despite inclusion in the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, HIV is not routinely considered when designing and implementing humanitarian response plans. Yet, in high-burden settings, humanitarian crises can have a direct impact on access to HIV information, testing, treatment and care. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic and extended lockdown measures, which persisted in many places into 2022, negatively affected children, adolescents and pregnant women living with HIV and increased the risk of HIV in high-burden countries, especially for adolescent girls and young women.

Just as many lessons learned over decades of the HIV response informed countries' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, key efforts linked to pandemic response (decentralization of COVID-19 diagnosis, for example) have improved the diagnosis of HIV, as well as tuberculosis. UNICEF continues to document and share lessons from these symbiotic experiences – and continues to innovate, adapting programmes to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic while sustaining HIV services for people living with or affected by HIV.

Public health emergencies

In 2022, 142 UNICEF country offices responded to at least one public health emergency. These included, among others, Ebola disease, Sudan virus disease, Marburg virus disease, cholera and measles, and three public health emergencies of international concern (COVID-19, mpox and polio). UNICEF promotes a child-centred and whole-of-society approach to public health emergency preparedness and response and to the socioeconomic impacts of such emergencies, putting the rights of the child at the centre of the response. UNICEF's work covers the breadth of the four core commitments for children for public health emergencies: coordination and leadership, risk communication and community engagement, public health response and continuation of essential services and humanitarian assistance.

Commitment 1: Effective coordination is established with governments and partners

UNICEF supports government-led responses and complements the World Health Organization (WHO) through its whole-of-society approach to public health emergencies. UNICEF provides leadership and mobilizes expertise in identifying threats through community surveillance; in preventing their spread including through WASH interventions and risk communication and community engagement; and in mitigating the impacts of public health emergencies on other sectors to safeguard the rights of children, women and their communities. Several examples of this from 2022 include UNICEF's active engagement in Uganda's Incident Management System, which coordinated the response to the outbreak

CASE STUDY

Uganda: The 'after' of systems-strengthening - A more resilient health system sustains HIV services during the Ebola outbreak

In September 2022, Uganda confirmed an outbreak of Ebola disease (caused by Sudan virus) affecting nine districts and resulting in 142 confirmed cases (28 of them in children) and 55 deaths (among them, 12 child deaths). With an HIV prevalence of 5.2 per cent, there are 1.4 million adults and children living with HIV (including 88,000 children aged 0–14 years),²⁹ so it was important to maintain crucial HIV services. The response to the Ebola outbreak, led by a multisectoral national task force comprising government ministries and partners, including UNICEF, succeeded in doing this.

UNICEF provided leadership and coordination to the overall Ebola response, including technical and operational support to district-level Ebola task forces, and supported disease surveillance, laboratory and diagnostic services, case management and supply chain management. UNICEF also leveraged the experience gained during the COVID-19 pandemic response to help ensure continuity of essential HIV services for women and children. This included using the existing civic engagement platform U-Report to support community engagement and feedback; training health workers on relevant guidelines; and supporting district health departments to closely monitor service utilization and access.

Although there was a lockdown in two of the Ebola-affected districts (Kasanda and Mubende), there was minimal disruption in delivery of HIV and other essential health services in the nine affected districts due to sustained investments in HIV and health systems and in community engagement. Achievements of the joint effort included optimal levels of HIV testing during antenatal care services; a sustained number of HIV-exposed infants receiving a first PCR test within two months of birth; sustained numbers of people living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy; and maintaining existing viral load suppression rates. The response was truly successful, and in fact capacity to maintain HIV and other essential services in the face of the Ebola outbreak is an example of the 'after' of systems-strengthening – the systems are strong and were able to provide what was needed to the affected population. At the same time, for future Ebola responses, UNICEF has identified a need to strengthen mental health and psychosocial support, along with child-friendly services, for people receiving HIV services.



Mary and her grandson Jordon, 3, sit in front of their home in Mubende District, Uganda in April 2022. Through local community screening, health workers from the Madudu Health Centre discovered that Jordon, who was very ill, was HIV positive. After going on medication and with monitoring by staff at the health facility, he improved greatly. UNICEF and partners have helped train primary health care and community service providers in case finding, using multiple approaches, to reach undiagnosed children living with HIV. When an outbreak of Ebola disease (caused by Sudan virus) was confirmed in Uganda in September 2022, there was minimal disruption in delivery of HIV and other essential health services in the affected districts (including Mubende) due to sustained investments in HIV and health systems and in community engagement.

of Ebola disease (caused by Sudan virus), and deployment of additional capacities in Uganda including in WASH and infection prevention and control; risk communication and community engagement; and Integrated Outbreak Analytics and surveillance.

UNICEF and WHO/WHO Health Emergencies Programme signed a memorandum of understanding in 2022 to institutionalize and strengthen the two organizations' cooperation and collaboration on health emergency preparedness, response and resilience within countries, regionally and at the global level. This strong partnership and close collaboration are critical for the success of joint commitments to protect the health and well-being of all people from the impacts of health emergencies. Collaboration is fundamental for assisting countries, their systems and populations to better prevent, detect and respond to public health threats.

Commitment 2: Communities are reached with targeted messages on prevention and services and are engaged to adopt behaviours and practices to reduce disease transmission and its impact. They participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of the response for ongoing corrective action

UNICEF continues to play a leadership role in public health emergency response, bringing partners together in the field of community engagement and risk communication at the global, regional and country levels. UNICEF builds community-level preparedness and response through evidence-based programmes that engage with affected and at-risk communities, including children, adolescents, young people and women.

In Thailand, UNICEF screened videos providing information and addressing vaccine hesitancy, an effort that led to an increase in COVID-19 vaccine uptake among pregnant women. In Uganda, UNICEF and partners supported priority high-risk districts to take the necessary precautions and adopt preventive and protection measures against Ebola through dissemination of critical information and messages – especially in local languages, using multiple platforms including radio, television, newspapers and social media. In Burundi, the results of a U-report poll reinforced the need to strengthen risk communication on Ebola, because the risk perceptions were very low in some provinces with only fragmented information available.

Commitment 3: Populations in at-risk and affected areas safely and equitably access prevention, care and treatment, to reduce disease transmission and prevent further spread. Specific attention is given to women and children

UNICEF leadership in most areas of public health emergency prevention goes beyond classic biomedical interventions. In the outbreak of Ebola disease (caused by Sudan virus) in Uganda, UNICEF developed a standard and holistic approach for infected children; children who were contacts of people who were infected or children in quarantine; and children separated from their caregivers or parents because those individuals were admitted to treatment centres or had died from the disease. UNICEF supported child-friendly case management by recruiting and deploying health workers to two treatment centres to ensure the provision of dedicated, child-friendly and holistic care. And in Mubende district, for example, through UNICEF and its partners' support, children separated from their family were supervised in a home-like quarantine facility and provided with supplies and social services, including non-Ebola related health services to ensure their health and well-being.

Since the start of the cholera outbreak in the Syrian Arab Republic in August 2022, UNICEF has been providing safe drinking water to affected areas and supporting chlorine residual monitoring and chlorinating drinking water in all governorates. Efforts helped 13.8 million people (51 per cent female, including 2.8 million girls) to access safe drinking water. In Pakistan, UNICEF responded to outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea, malaria and dengue by providing training for medical staff and supporting mobile health teams to reach affected communities. UNICEF also provided medical supplies and testing kits for malaria and dengue to flood-affected areas using four chartered planes and established specialized areas in public health-care facilities to respond to health emergencies.

Commitment 4: Essential services and humanitarian assistance are maintained and scaled up as necessary, and communities can safely and equitably access them

Continuity of essential social services is critical in a public health emergency to ensure the health and well-being of children. UNICEF's whole-of-society approach puts the protection of children at the centre of the response. In Lebanon, the first cholera outbreak in 30 years debilitated and burdened a fragile health sector already struggling under the weight of economic and financial strain. UNICEF was able to support 500 Expanded Programme on Immunization points to apply effective vaccine management as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the Lebanese health system. Additionally, 213,687 children and adolescents who had missed out on key vaccines were reached with age-appropriate vaccinations, out of a target

of 100,000. To address declining immunization coverage in the country, UNICEF also supplied 1.3 million vaccine vials and associated consumables. In Uganda, UNICEF developed and disseminated guidelines and standard operating procedures for the safe operation of schools so that they could remain open during the Ebola outbreak.

Challenges and lessons learned

Inequity and poverty remain perhaps the fundamental challenges in preventing disease outbreaks. Cholera is itself a marker of inequity and poverty: it disproportionately affects the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities because they lack access to safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and health care.

There are growing concerns that climate change will act as a vulnerability multiplier in health emergencies in the future. An increase in the intensity and frequency of cyclones and hurricanes is expected to result in more extreme rainfall and devastating floods. At the same time, climate change has worsened droughts by making them more frequent, longer and more severe. Tackling this key driver of health emergencies requires a global response (see page 12 for information on UNICEF's work on climate change, environment, energy and disaster risk reduction and recovery).

Lessons learned – or reiterated – in 2022 include the need to continue to advocate for a whole-of-society approach to prevent and mitigate the humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences of public health emergencies on children, women and their communities. Looking ahead, as part of public health emergencies preparedness and response, UNICEF will (1) prioritize and invest in robust primary health-care systems; (2) ensure water, sanitation and hygiene services for all; (3) invest in strong immunization systems to reach the most marginalized people; (4) strengthen the capacities of first responders (e.g., community health workers, educators and social workers); (4) ensure that no child misses out on their education; (5) foster social cohesion and build trust through social protection systems; (6) strengthen systems to care for and protect the most vulnerable children; (7) invest in informed and better decision-making through data systems; and (9) make life-saving countermeasures universally accessible, relevant and acceptable to all. The whole-of-society focus required for effective public health emergencies preparedness and response is set out in a white paper issued by UNICEF, which includes nine key recommendations for the global community.³⁰ UNICEF is calling on all stakeholders to take decisive action to ensure that children are at the front and centre of all relevant efforts to protect future generations from the impacts of public health emergencies.

Early childhood development

In early childhood, children's rapidly developing brains are especially sensitive to environmental influence: the toxic stress of conflict and crisis jeopardizes children's development and long-term achievements. Multisectoral early childhood development (ECD) programmes can mitigate the impact of adversity and are therefore an essential commitment in humanitarian response. ECD interventions also contribute to sustainable social cohesion and gender equality and to building empathy and resilience. UNICEF's ECD interventions in emergencies support young children, their caregivers and the workforce that interfaces with them. In 2022, the delivery of 19,869 ECD kits provided nearly 1 million children in 37 countries with stimulation and early learning opportunities. A programme known as Care for Child Development benefited front-line workers in 54 countries, and a new intervention package called Care for the Caregivers, designed to address the mental health and well-being of parents and caregivers, was piloted in eight countries.

Commitment 1: Young children have equitable and safe access to essential services to fulfil their developmental needs

UNICEF provides ECD services through sectoral platforms, including nutrition, health, education, social protection and child protection. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF's child-friendly primary health-care initiative reached 15,198 children under age 5 (7,405 girls) with immunization, nutrition surveillance, detection of disabilities and other services, including responsive caregiving sessions for 26,071 parents. In Ukraine and in seven countries hosting refugees from Ukraine, UNICEF prioritized increased access to formal and non-formal early childhood learning and care. Nearly 1.5 million children in Ukraine accessed these services: 298,593 accessed psychosocial support and social-emotional learning and 770,958 children received individual learning materials through play and learning hubs. In Poland, UNICEF's ECD centres expanded access to early learning and childcare services to 30,000 children. More than 10,000 Ukrainian refugee children and their parents accessed trauma-informed ECD services, which are tailored for humanitarian settings.

CASE STUDY

Global: Ramping up a child-centred cholera response globally as an unprecedented number of countries experience outbreaks

Since the start of 2022, there has been a worldwide rise in the number of countries reporting cholera outbreaks, with a record 30 countries reporting confirmed autochthonous cholera cases. Cholera has a devastating effect on children's health, particularly when associated with malnutrition, as is often the case in areas affected by cholera. In the Syrian Arab Republic, for example, 1 out of 4 suspected cases of cholera occurred in children under age 5. In Haiti, children under age 10 made up around 33 per cent of suspected cholera cases and in Somalia, children under age 5 constituted 64 per cent of those affected. From the beginning of the outbreak in Malawi in March 2022 through late January 2023, 10,000 cholera cases and 162 deaths were among children. UNICEF has been responding to cholera outbreaks in affected countries by supporting surveillance, early detection and outbreak investigations; case management to reduce mortality; risk communication and community engagement to address the sociocultural drivers, prevention and timely access to health services; provision of oral cholera vaccine; and provision of safe water and sanitation to affected communities to reduce the spread of the epidemic.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF deployed human and financial resources to help respond to outbreaks in two provinces where cholera was not endemic and where consequently there was a lack of capacity to treat people with cholera and prevent its spread. In partnership with the provincial health directorate, UNICEF strengthened community surveillance, including establishment of surveillance teams to monitor and investigate cholera alerts. UNICEF deployed the case area targeted interventions approach to rapidly minimize the risk of transmission through an integrated package of interventions including case management, WASH and infection prevention and control, risk communication and community engagement and social and behaviour change. The case area targeted intervention approach focuses on the households of confirmed or suspected cholera cases and their immediate surroundings. UNICEF interventions at the community level were coupled with its leadership role in Integrated Outbreak Analytics, a holistic multidisciplinary approach of real-time operational research to help understand community linkages in disease transmission and, ultimately, to perform evidence-based outbreak response.



A young girl receives the oral cholera vaccine in December 2022 at the École Colibri Vert Marouge in Mirebalais, Haiti, during a cholera vaccination campaign carried out by the Ministry of Health and supported by UNICEF. The campaign was designed to immunize more than 1.64 million people. UNICEF helped the Ministry of Health to deliver oral cholera vaccine doses to health institutions in the target communes and also provided fuel to keep cold rooms and the national vaccine depot in Ouest Department operational. UNICEF helped to equip more than 1,000 vaccination teams with vaccine carriers to maintain the vaccine doses at the right temperature. Haiti was one of 30 countries that reported cholera outbreaks in 2022.

Commitment 2: Parents and caregivers are supported to practise nurturing care

Parents' and caregivers' capacity and well-being impacts their ability to nurture and care for their young children. In Serbia, 234 caregivers of children under age 5 (213 per cent of the target) received ECD and parenting counselling focused on responsive and gender-balanced caregiving, play and communication, and on stress coping strategies. This was a significant increase in caregivers reached compared with the previous year, due to a large increase in refugees arriving in the region (not including refugees from Ukraine). In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNICEF supported 202 Venezuelan refugee parents and caregivers with workshops on complementary feeding in early childhood. Global humanitarian thematic funding provided 1,293 parents and caregivers of migrant children with psychosocial support and parenting guidance. As part of its response to Typhoon Rai in the Philippines, UNICEF leveraged thematic funding to support 3,780 parents of young children with disabilities or at risk of developmental delays, providing them with the resources, skills and space to meet their children's developmental needs.

Commitment 3: Capacity of front-line workers and partners in inclusive ECD and nurturing care is strengthened

For sustainable and quality ECD, building the capacity of the workforce is essential. In 2022, UNICEF in Guyana increased coverage of ECD services for migrants by 22 per cent by training 1,039 community-based stakeholders. This promoted ownership, enhanced cultural appropriateness of the services and resulted in community members and health workers voluntarily engaging families, including 1,368 children, with stimulation and positive parenting interventions. In Uganda, UNICEF supported local governments, partners and communities in eight refugee-hosting districts to enrol children in ECD programmes and build the capacity of 473 front-line workers on community childcare practices. This benefited 31,659 children (16,304 girls) with play-based learning and stimulation in ECD centres.

Challenges and lessons learned

While awareness of ECD in humanitarian response has increased, it remains an under-resourced and poorly coordinated area. For example, the global clusters expressed eagerness to integrate ECD into their work, and they requested technical support to help them do this better. At a regional level in East Asia and the Pacific, where some island nations lead the fight against climate change, there

is recognition of ECD as a key sustainable contributor to disaster risk reduction and the best way to build resilience; however, ECD is not prioritized in emergency preparedness and response. In country emergency responses, human and financial resources for ECD programmes are scarce, and response follows mostly an old model – that is, it is siloed into sectors. UNICEF is assessing the status of the systematic implementation of ECD in emergencies and revising, adapting and simplifying tools and guidance to provide quality multisectoral ECD programming for the youngest children and their families in prevention of situations that can create toxic stress and derail the developmental process, and in preparedness and response.



Rugayia Mustafa Abdallah Mohammed and her three sons sit at their home in Port Sudan, Sudan, in December 2022. Her youngest son, Amar Motassim, is 15 months old. She received two tranches of cash from the Mother and Child Cash Transfer Plus programme and spent the money on nutritious food for the family. After registering for the programme while pregnant with Amar, Rugayia completed all antenatal visits and breastfed Amar exclusively for 6 months and was also guided on the use of contraceptives and birth spacing. Beneficiaries register with the programme through primary health-care facilities, and they receive unconditional cash grants combined with knowledge and links to essential health-care services (e.g., antenatal care, immunization and nutrition care).

CASE STUDY

Pakistan: Enhancing care and development of the youngest children during flooding and its aftermath

The floods that began in Pakistan in June 2022 covered one third of the country, affecting 33 million people and leaving 9.6 million children in need of humanitarian assistance. Several of the hardest-hit districts were already the most vulnerable, with malnutrition rates high, access to water and sanitation poor and school enrolment low.

With the need for an integrated humanitarian response, UNICEF adopted a multisectoral ECD approach, mainstreaming key family care practices and parenting interventions into health, nutrition, WASH and education



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Two young children look on with rapt attention as their mother prepares cardboard toys made from ready-to-use therapeutic food cartons, in flood-affected Mirpurkhas district in Sindh Province, Pakistan, in 2023. This is part of Project Play, a pilot early childhood development intervention to provide children receiving nutrition services with early stimulation and play.

sector responses. Parenting and child development information was included in lady health worker and newborn kits, and a digital ECD campaign was launched widely and reached 2.8 million caregivers. In the 996 temporary learning centres that UNICEF established for safe, inclusive and accessible learning, 10,100 young children benefited from play and stimulation opportunities provided by ECD kits. To strengthen the capacity of front-line workers, an online platform was created to promote learning and disseminate resources to enhance the delivery of ECD interventions.³¹

Using funding from the United States Agency for International Development's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, UNICEF also launched Project Play, an initiative that repurposes the cardboard packaging of nutritional supplements into play materials to stimulate children aged 6–59 months who are being treated for and in recovery from wasting. In collaboration with local partners and suppliers, 10 facilities offering outpatient therapeutic programmes were selected as pilot Project Play sites and received 5,435 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food with new, removable inserts, including drawings, that can be used to create toys. The tool was complemented with parenting support and ECD training materials for front-line workers.

Pakistan's comprehensive ECD response highlighted the efficacy of integrating ECD and parenting interventions into existing sectoral platforms and systems in humanitarian plans and responses. By using such integration, UNICEF was able to quickly mobilize and implement ECD interventions, reaching the most vulnerable children and caregivers and promoting holistic child development in the midst of the epochal flooding and its aftermath.

Goal Area 2: Every child, including adolescents, learns and acquires skills for the future

The year 2022 marked a transition from a state of global education emergency response towards recovery. At the same time, though, children's learning poverty has increased. Children living through humanitarian crises must work doubly hard to make up for lost time and to overcome the substantial challenges to realizing their right to be educated. UNICEF worked on Goal Area 2 in 148 countries in 2022. The total Goal Area 2 expense was \$1.6 billion, including nearly \$0.9 billion for humanitarian action.

Education

In 2022, 74 UNICEF programme countries reported support for children's education in humanitarian settings. UNICEF provided support for learning continuity and equitable education access for children affected by humanitarian crises caused by conflict, natural and climate-related disasters and public health emergencies, and other challenging circumstances. Of the nearly \$1.6 billion UNICEF spent on education in 2022, more than \$880 million was spent in humanitarian settings. As a result, 18.6 million children – including 3.1 million children on the move³² – received access to education at the early learning, primary and secondary levels. Twenty-four per cent of those children reached were at the primary level. A total of 3.7 million children were provided with learning materials.

Commitment 1: Effective leadership and coordination are established and functional

In 2022, UNICEF, as the co-lead of the Global Education Cluster, provided support to more than 27 humanitarian contexts through 1,090 days of in-country and remote deployments. During the year, 141 cluster coordination staff and partners were trained in foundational coordination and information management skills. All UNICEF-led clusters that undertook the cluster performance management exercise were rated 'satisfactory' or above for established functions.

Among its other accomplishments in 2022, the Global Education Cluster bolstered its support to countries in needs assessment and rapid education response; one element of this was stepping up efforts to integrate child protection concerns into education assessments. Following a USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance-supported Needs Assessment and Preparedness training for eight humanitarian contexts, the Cluster deployed its Rapid Response Team to Burkina Faso, Myanmar, the Niger and northwest Syrian Arab Republic to help roll out a joint assessment that included strong child protection elements. In Burkina Faso, these efforts helped finalize a joint assessment framework, draft questions and data collection

tools and train cluster members on data collection. The assessment, which included school staff interviews and focus group discussions, targeted 14 communes deeply affected by the country's multifaceted humanitarian crisis. Enumerators were trained in meaningful and safe child participation based on the Nine Basic Requirements for Meaningful and Ethical Children's Participation and then conducted interviews with 290 children so that their voices and perspectives could infuse the assessment of their needs. Evidence collected through this assessment fed into the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview.

Commitment 2: Children and adolescents have equitable access to inclusive and quality learning opportunities

War and conflict, natural and climate-related disasters and public health emergencies (including the ongoing the COVID-19 pandemic) all impacted children's learning globally in 2022. UNICEF supported the access of children – including girls, children with disabilities and children on the move – to quality and inclusive education and learning from childhood through adolescence. In Myanmar, where the COVID-19 pandemic and the military takeover have affected children's learning, UNICEF supported 29,698 children (15,366 girls) in receiving access to skills development programmes, 165 per cent of the original target. In Cambodia, where flooding and the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted children's access to education, UNICEF supported 10,715 children with disabilities (5,403 girls) with access to learning, including remote learning and return to school, 107 per cent of the target.



Globally, UNICEF supported **18.6 million children** in humanitarian situations in 2022 with formal and non-formal education.

Commitment 3: Children and adolescents have equitable access to safe and secure learning environments

In 2022, there were more than 1,500 verified incidents of attacks on schools and military use of schools in 24 situations of concern, compared with 950 such attacks in 2021. This impacted the safety and security of students and teachers and disrupted children's opportunity to learn. In the State of Palestine, UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of 26 schools damaged during the escalation of hostilities in

the Gaza Strip in 2021; these efforts provided 26,244 children (an estimated 50 per cent girls) with safe access to learning (99 per cent of the target). In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where there is a considerable population of refugees and internally displaced people, 343,482 children (165,305 girls) (89 per cent of the target) were reached with access to education, which included the establishment of 361 in-school peace clubs led by community groups. These programmes promoted dialogue, mediation, negotiation and reconciliation among refugees and internally displaced people and their host communities and led to a reduction in school conflicts.

Commitment 4: Mental health and psychosocial support for students, teachers and other education personnel is available in learning environments

In response to children's displacement due to war and disasters and in support of their return to school after prolonged COVID-19 closures, in 2022 UNICEF increased efforts to provide mental health and psychosocial support for children – and for teachers. In Cameroon, where children are affected by protracted crisis and displacement due to armed conflict, UNICEF supported 467,195 children to access psychosocial support in their schools and learning programmes (148 per cent of the target). In Somalia, UNICEF trained 1,367 teachers (473 women) in crisis education, supporting the learning of 58,770 children (27,623 girls) (114 per cent of the target). This included training on psychosocial support and gender-based violence, so that teachers could identify instances of gender-based violence and promote mental health and psychosocial care for their students.

Commitment 5: Education systems are risk-informed to ensure inclusive, quality education and safe and protective learning environments

UNICEF partnered with governments and other organizations on risk-informed approaches to strengthen education systems, including as part of disaster risk reduction and preparedness planning for education systems impacted by natural disasters. In Nepal, UNICEF supported schools to develop school disaster management plans and safe school reopening in 47 municipalities. While the initial target for this work was 200 schools, funding opportunities linked to the pandemic response enabled the organization to reach 878 schools and a total of 142,658 children (69,620 girls), 439 per cent of the target. In north-east Nigeria, school-based management committees are key to protecting children and schools. UNICEF supported active community involvement by training more than 5,000 committee members (113 per cent of the target). Committees are composed of teachers, head teachers, community members or leaders and representatives of learners, and their training covered such areas as concepts, roles and responsibilities, resource mobilization to support school development, measures linked to COVID-19 and school development plans, including development and implementation of disaster risk reduction and school emergency preparedness planning.

Commitment 6: Children and caregivers have timely access to culturally appropriate, gender- and age-sensitive information on educational options and other social services, and are engaged in interventions creating a conducive learning environment

Humanitarian services that children, their caregivers and communities are aware of, understand and are a part of are critical in the design and implementation of inclusive, accessible education services. UNICEF works with vulnerable population groups to provide quality education services to children. In Paraguay, as part of the response to the Venezuelan migrant outflow, UNICEF developed learning materials with an intercultural and rights-based approach, considering sociocultural and linguistic aspects of 18 Indigenous communities. These materials reached 32,595 children and adolescents (163 per cent of the target). In Yemen, UNICEF identified 38,651 community members in the most marginalized communities to lead awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of education for girls. This aided an estimated 856,667 children (47 per cent girls) in receiving access to formal or non-formal basic education (171 per cent of the target).



Globally, UNICEF supported **3.7 million children** in humanitarian situations in 2022 with learning materials.

Challenges and lessons learned

Climate change and natural disasters, conflict and economic instability, public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic and mass-scale migration have caused significant increases in children's learning poverty, calculated as the number of children unable to read a simple passage with comprehension by age 10 along with those children of primary age who are out of school. In 2022, UNICEF and partners reported that 222 million school-aged children need educational support, including 120 million crisis-affected children who are in school but not achieving minimum proficiency in reading or mathematics.³³ Additionally, only one third of children in emergency countries are able to complete lower secondary school by the expected age.³⁴ Humanitarian funding for education in emergencies decreased from 2.9 per cent in 2021 to only 2.6 per cent in 2022,³⁵ despite the rising scale of education needs of children in emergencies globally. Building on lessons learned from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, further investment is needed for preparedness measures that can help ensure learning continuity when schools are forced to close during humanitarian crises.

CASE STUDY

Poland and other refugee-hosting countries: UNICEF supports refugee-hosting countries to deliver education to Ukrainian refugee children

Prior to the war in Ukraine, Poland was not a UNICEF programme country. However, given the scale of the challenges brought about by refugee flows into the country due to the war, UNICEF established a response office in the country in March 2022 at the request of the Polish Government. Poland has hosted the most refugees, an estimated 3.5 million refugees (90 per cent women and children) during peak displacement and an estimated 1.5 million at the end of 2022. UNICEF's response office began providing education and social services to refugee children and their families and supported the creation of safe and secure learning spaces for children. To support the integration of Ukrainian refugee children into the Polish education system, 13,000 teachers, including 1,500 Ukrainian teachers, benefited from professional development opportunities. UNICEF supported access to formal education, including early learning in the Polish education system, as well as non-formal education in play and learning hubs and in digital hubs. UNICEF also provided skills development opportunities for adolescents and made available a Ukrainian-based curriculum reaching 462,347 children (50 per cent girls) in 2,220 education institutions in 12 municipalities in Poland. Additionally, 11,000 children (50 per cent girls) were offered enrolment into Polish language classes to aid their integration into their host communities.

This education response was echoed, in ways that varied with the scale of need and the context, in other refugee-hosting countries. In Romania, for example, UNICEF extended access to formal and non-formal education opportunities, including early learning, to more than 5,495 children from Ukraine and provided quality individual learning materials to 15,772 host community children. In Bulgaria, UNICEF provided 4,940 refugee children (2,618 girls) with access to formal and non-formal education and supported five learning hubs and a network of 11 learn and play areas in 11 locations, for host community and refugee children.

In total, UNICEF reached 588,788 refugee and host community children (51 per cent girls) in 19 refugee-hosting countries, providing them with access to formal or non-formal education, including early learning. This was 94 per cent of the target. UNICEF will continue supporting refugee-hosting countries to ensure all refugee children are given the opportunity to continue their education and are integrated into national education systems.



Ukrainian children study Polish at a Spilno Hub in Lublin, Poland, in December 2022. The UNICEF Spilno Hubs (Spilno means 'together' in Ukrainian) are designed for people who have fled their homes in Ukraine for refuge in Poland. The Hubs have a friendly environment and provide support, information, Polish language classes and plenty of opportunities for families and children to make new friends and integrate into local Polish communities. Poland hosted an estimated 3.5 million refugees from Ukraine (90 per cent women and children) during peak displacement in 2022, and an estimated 1.5 million at the end of the year.

Goal Area 3: Every child, including adolescents, is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices

Protection risks are heightened for children living in countries affected by fragility and conflict, which are furthest behind in attaining Sustainable Development Goal targets; for children on the move; for children living without family care, including an estimated 2.9 million living in residential care worldwide; and for children deprived of their liberty, including more than 410,000 deprived of their liberty by means of the administration of justice. UNICEF worked on Goal Area 3 in 151 countries in 2022. The total Goal Area 3 expense was \$0.9 billion, including \$0.5 billion for humanitarian action. In humanitarian settings, UNICEF support contributed to more than 26 million individuals and 7.9 million children on the move benefiting from a range of interventions.

Child protection

In 2022, increasingly complex and multidimensional emergencies threatened the survival, safety and well-being of millions of boys, girls and women, intensifying protection concerns and raising the risk of grave child rights violations. In response, UNICEF prioritized inclusive and multisectoral programming to prevent harm and save lives, provided targeted support to children at risk and ensured those experiencing protection violations – especially the most vulnerable – received quality services.

In total, across humanitarian and development contexts, UNICEF's child protection teams reached 25.2 million people in 109 countries with mental health and psychosocial support, including around 5.6 million children on the move. UNICEF and partners provided more than 201,000 unaccompanied or separated children with temporary alternative care. Of these children, 133,350 received family- and community-based care while the organization pursued durable solutions, including reunification. UNICEF responded to the needs of nearly 12,500 children who had exited from armed forces or armed groups, of whom more than 5,800 were reintegrated with their families and communities. UNICEF reached nearly 10 million children in 18 countries (nearly 5 million children in 14 humanitarian settings) with life-saving explosive ordnance risk education and nearly 9 million people with comprehensive services to deal with gender-based violence in emergencies. Globally, 49.2 million children and adults (including 5.9 million in humanitarian settings) in 110 countries in all seven UNICEF regions had access to safe and accessible reporting channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian and development or other personnel.

Commitment 1: Effective leadership and coordination are established and functional

The Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CPAoR), which UNICEF leads, supported 52 contexts in 2022 with child protection coordination, information management and thematic technical support for coordination teams (including on mental health and psychosocial support, localization and data related to children in situations of forced displacement or migration). This was carried out through a mix of in-country and remote deployments and via the global and language-specific Help Desks.

In partnership with Plan International and in collaboration with the Global Food Security Cluster, the Global CPAoR launched an initiative in 2022 to strengthen collaboration between child protection and food security actors in humanitarian settings. One element of this work was an evidence review of the linkages between child protection and food security in humanitarian settings. Key findings show that children's protection is affected by food insecurity.³⁶ The Central African Republic, north-east Nigeria and South Sudan were supported through in-country deployment of Plan International's Child Protection in Emergencies Specialist (Food Security), who provided technical support for contextualizing and developing tools and resources to integrate child protection and food security responses within their specific contexts. This initiative will continue, with support to additional countries in 2023.

In collaboration with the Global Education Cluster, the Global Nutrition Cluster and the Global WASH Cluster, as well as Save the Children and other international and national child protection actors, in 2022 the Global CPAoR launched and piloted the Inter-Agency Toolkit on Localisation in Humanitarian Coordination. It aims to equip inter-agency humanitarian coordinators, co-coordinators and co-leads and partners to invest in local and national actors' participation and leadership in coordination in diverse humanitarian settings. Importantly, the toolkit provides specific resources for local and national actors to leverage their capacity for influence and leadership in coordination forums. The toolkit was piloted in north-east Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan.

A total of 23 child protection coordination groups in 20 countries undertook the Cluster Coordination performance management exercise to further promote accountability in coordination. All the participating groups scored above satisfactory levels. The areas that scored exceptionally well across all countries were supporting service delivery

and accountability to affected people. Areas requiring further improvement and support included planning and implementing cluster strategies, monitoring and evaluating performance and building national capacity in preparedness and contingency planning.

Commitment 2: Child protection systems are functional and strengthened to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices

In 2022, UNICEF reported work towards national child protection system strengthening in more than 40 countries responding to a humanitarian situation. Indeed, child protection in humanitarian action can contribute to national systems-strengthening by promoting critical features of such systems, including a continuum of services adhering to global minimum standards, effective governance and coordination mechanisms that recognize authorities' leadership or legal frameworks in line with international child rights instruments, e.g., the United Nations-endorsed Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. Child protection case management is a key service in humanitarian settings that enables UNICEF and partners to respond to individual child protection violations and protect children from further harm. Overall, more than 565,000 children were reached with child protection case management as part of a humanitarian response. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF provided case management for 7,741 children at risk of or experiencing violence, exploitation, abuse or neglect, and more than 700 front-line workers (466 females) were trained with UNICEF support on case management tools, including referrals. In Myanmar, UNICEF reached 3,517 children (1,647 girls) with case management services while expanding reach to new geographical areas in an increasingly complex operating environment. UNICEF worked on harmonizing case management tools and processes for use across multiple organizations and on the pilot implementation of CPIMS+, the inter-agency child protection information management system for case management.

Commitment 3: MHPSS needs of children, adolescents and caregivers are identified and addressed through coordinated multisectoral and community based MHPSS services

In 2022, by scaling up mental health and psychosocial support services to children and prioritizing expanded support to caregivers and communities, compared with 2021, UNICEF reached more than twice as many children and adults across all contexts, including 12.6 million people in humanitarian settings. In Yemen, where millions of children are affected by conflict and many are experiencing the immediate and long-term consequences of exposure to violence, UNICEF strengthened multisectoral delivery mechanisms for mental health and psychosocial support. UNICEF strengthened the capacity of 1,518 service

providers (teachers, community volunteers, health workers and social workers), who were able to reach 478,381 individuals, including 400,952 children (49 per cent girls) with mental health and psychosocial support. In Afghanistan, UNICEF partnered with 26 non-governmental organizations (international and local) to expand capacity, reaching 8.4 million children and caregivers with mental health and psychosocial support (against the planned target of 4,237,000); of these, 3.4 million individuals were reached with well-being messaging.



Globally, UNICEF supported **nearly 12.6 million children, adolescents, parents and caregivers** with community-based mental health and psychosocial support services.

Commitment 4: Separation of children from families is prevented and responded to, and family-based care is promoted in the child's best interest

UNICEF provides unaccompanied and separated children with a range of multisectoral support and services across the continuum of care, in partnership with government social workers, local organizations and international NGOs. In Afghanistan, more than 14,900 unaccompanied and separated children who were displaced or returnees from neighbouring countries were offered temporary alternative care and reunification services, compared with approximately 5,000 in 2021. UNICEF also worked closely with border police and local child protection authorities to identify and subsequently provide specialized services to nearly 5,000 unaccompanied and separated children who crossed the border from Ukraine into Romania. Children who could not be reunited with families were referred to family- or community-based temporary care.



Globally, UNICEF supported **more than 201,000 unaccompanied and separated girls and boys** in humanitarian contexts with alternative care, family tracing and reunification services.

Commitment 5: In situations of armed conflict, grave violations against children and other serious rights violations and protection concerns are documented, analysed and reported, and inform programmatic response and advocacy interventions

In 2022, through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, co-led by UNICEF, more than 24,000 grave violations (affecting more than 12,500 children) were verified. The United Nations Secretary-General added three new situations of concern to his annual report on Children and Armed Conflict: Ethiopia, Mozambique and Ukraine³⁷ and requested enhanced monitoring in the central Sahel region, bringing the total number of conflict situations being monitored to 25 – the highest since the children and armed conflict agenda was established a quarter century ago. In Yemen, one of the parties to the conflict, the Houthis (who call themselves Ansar Allah), signed an Action Plan committing to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children.

Commitment 6: Child recruitment and use by armed actors, as well as illegal and arbitrary detention and criminal processing of conflict-affected children, are prevented and addressed

UNICEF worked with partners, including governments, to prevent child recruitment and provide direct care to nearly 12,500 children who exited from armed forces or armed groups in 17 different conflict situations. In Nigeria, UNICEF and partners reintegrated 4,313 formerly associated children (2,303 girls) with their families and communities (107 per cent of target). And the Government of Nigeria signed the landmark Handover Protocol, under which children encountered during military operations or held in military custody are transferred within seven days to child protection actors for support services, including reintegration assistance. Agreement on the Protocol was the result of more than four years of engagement. In the Central African Republic, UNICEF conducted capacity-building with service providers and community-based child protection groups on case management and available services to support vulnerable children. This resulted in identification and provision of reintegration support to 1,467 children (37 per cent girls) who had exited armed groups, of whom 1,415 accessed socioeconomic reintegration services, enabling them to return to school, attend vocational training or engage in income-generating activities.

Commitment 7: The use of landmines and other indiscriminate or illicit weapons by state and non-state actors is prevented and their impact addressed

UNICEF is driving the global shift from traditional explosive ordnance risk education to more comprehensive prevention work, leading to a significant expansion in reach. In Afghanistan, UNICEF integrated explosive ordnance risk education into outreach polio vaccination drives, education programmes and mobile health and nutrition services. Combined with mass messaging, UNICEF reached more than 3.1 million people with prevention efforts. In Yemen, mine risk education was delivered in schools and child friendly spaces, through television spots, mobile messaging and community outreach to reach 2.9 million children (1,392,099 girls) and 2.4 million adults (1,156,704 women) in 22 governorates. UNICEF provided a range of services to nearly 5,700 child victims in 13 countries. In the Syrian Arab Republic, 181 child survivors and their families were provided with quarterly cash assistance and case management services.



Globally, UNICEF reached **nearly 5 million children** in humanitarian settings with explosive ordnance risk education and comprehensive prevention interventions or survivor assistance.

Commitment 8: Survivors of GBV and their children can access timely, quality, multisectoral response services and GBV is prevented

In 2022, UNICEF's investment in gender-based violence in emergencies response, risk mitigation and prevention programming focused on access and quality of critical services via multisectoral and community-based delivery. In Afghanistan, UNICEF reached 1,238,730 people (387,404 girls, 240,653 women) with programmes addressing gender-based violence, including through safe spaces. In Iraq, UNICEF collaborated with the Government and civil society to reach 81,440 women, girls and boys (62,080 women and girls) – achieving the target – with gender-based violence prevention and response services. Additionally, 91,326 (61,034 girls; 30,292 women) received dignity kits to mitigate risks of gender-based violence. UNICEF also trained 158 case workers from 21 civil society organizations on the gender-based violence information management system for better service delivery to survivors of gender-based violence. In Yemen, gender-based violence risk mitigation activities, which included gender-responsive hygiene kits as well as the provision of post-rape kits to health-care facilities, reached 1,956,253 women and girls.



Globally, UNICEF reached **nearly 9 million women, girls and boys** in humanitarian contexts with risk mitigation, prevention or response programmes to address gender-based violence.

Commitment 9: Children and affected populations are protected from SEA by humanitarian workers

UNICEF is the first United Nations agency to mandate inclusion of a minimum set of interventions for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) from the outset of every humanitarian response. In 2022 UNICEF achieved this milestone, reaching 100 per cent of crisis-affected countries (including 75 countries covered by Humanitarian Action for Children appeals), representing significant progress towards the more systematic integration of the inter-agency system's survivor-centred and standards-based approach. UNICEF deployed a PSEA Specialist from the outset of the Ukraine response and led the roll-out of the United Nations Protocol on the Provision of Assistance to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Ukraine. In Haiti, for example, UNICEF prioritized safe and accessible reporting channels alongside development of awareness-raising materials, including child-friendly PSEA messages distributed in French and Creole as part of the public health and humanitarian crisis response. In Pakistan, a trained PSEA focal point was embedded in sectoral mobile teams (polio, WASH, etc.) to lead targeted PSEA engagement, enabling 2,350,006 children and adults to have access to SEA reporting in 2022.



Globally, UNICEF reached **49.2 million children and adults** (including more than 5.9 million people in humanitarian settings) with access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian, development, protection and/or other personnel who provide assistance to affected populations.

Commitment 10: At-risk and affected populations have timely access to culturally appropriate, gender- and age-sensitive information and interventions, to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices

In the protection response for refugees from the war in Ukraine, UNICEF and UNHCR established Blue Dot Hubs, equipped to provide information and referral to services as well as a safe space for mothers and children to rest and play. In Romania, eight Blue Dots served 132,417 individuals, including 33,191 children. Primero, the case management information management tool, helped the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption to register and provide individual case management to nearly 16,000 children from Ukraine, thus playing an important role in preventing abuse and exploitation of refugee children. In the Republic of Moldova, UNICEF developed information and communication materials to promote the UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots and engaged 11,184 people in social and behaviour change activities on breastfeeding in emergencies, education and prevention of child trafficking and violence against children and women.

Gender-based violence commitment: GBV prevention and risk mitigation for all is included in programmes, with a focus on the safety and resilience of girls and women

In South Sudan, UNICEF and partners launched a multi-year study to measure whether and how gender-based violence risk mitigation interventions affect safety and access to nutrition services for women and adolescent girls. Initial findings illustrate important linkages between gendered power dynamics, safety risks related to gender-based violence and the ability of the nutrition sector to deliver their services optimally. For example, the study found that even when nutrition supplies are distributed to women, their husbands often determine whether these supplies are used as intended or sold/shared with others. In addition, women and girls feel safer at nutrition sites that have female staff and where referrals to specialized gender-based violence services are available.

The UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa developed and piloted the first-ever training on integrating gender-based violence response considerations into responses to public health emergencies. The Core Commitments for Children include specific commitments on public health emergencies and gender-based violence, providing a unique opportunity for UNICEF to provide leadership for public health emergency interventions that are responsive to and mitigate risks of gender-based violence through WASH, health, risk communication and community engagement and protection. Recognizing the increased gender-based violence risks during public health emergencies – which cut across all programming areas

– this investment, via the regional Preparedness Working Group, will strengthen the overall approach across the region. *(For more on the UNICEF response to public health emergencies in 2022, see page 44).*

Challenges and lessons learned

In 2022, UNICEF and child protection actors continued to advocate that child protection programmes, access and funding are critical in humanitarian responses. UNICEF’s rapid and significant scale-up of protection services, including family reunification, mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence services and explosive ordnance risk education in response to child protection crises in Ukraine, for example, has saved lives. Previously, during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF and partners advocated extensively and successfully to recognize social service workers as essential staff with the right of movement. However, in most complex humanitarian emergencies, child protection services – such as reintegration support for children suffering egregious rights violations, counselling and case management for survivors of gender-based violence and prevention interventions – are not considered essential, despite being life-saving in a crisis. In such circumstances as food security crises, natural disasters including droughts and floods and public health emergencies – all of which deeply affect children of the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and other places – child protection is often relegated to a secondary priority.

It is of critical importance that UNICEF and partners across sectors secure global agreement that child protection programmes are essential and life-saving, requiring resourcing and access from the outset of any crisis. Further to this, UNICEF is partnering with Norway, the International Committee of the Red Cross and Save the Children, as well as with governments, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to galvanize new political and funding commitments for child protection in armed conflict situations in 2023, to deal with an important gap in our sector-wide ability to prevent and respond to child protection needs. In preparation for this event, an analysis of the funding situation for child protection in conflict-affected contexts was conducted. This analysis suggests that, by 2024, the child protection sector will require \$1.05 billion and by 2026, \$1.37 billion to respond to the needs of children affected by armed conflict. This analysis also suggests that, by 2024, we will likely see a shortage of \$835 million, and one of \$941 million by 2026, in funding for child protection programming for conflict-affected children. This gap in resources risks leaving children with lasting impacts of the war and increasing the threats of recruitment and use, child labour, trafficking, violence and exploitation, as well as poor outcomes across all basic indicators – fundamentally, leaving these children behind.

Children on the move

UNICEF’s global action for uprooted children is a large and growing focus of the organization’s humanitarian response. Nearly one in two of the world’s refugees are children – 12.5 million children – and another 1.2 million children are seeking asylum. An even larger number, 25.2 million children, are internally displaced. Floods, storms, droughts and wildfires are uprooting approximately 26,900 children each day,³⁹ exacerbating protection risks and children’s access to services and disrupting their families’ livelihoods.

At all stages of a child’s migration journey, UNICEF meets their immediate humanitarian needs, advocates for child-sensitive refugee and migration responses that save lives, protects children’s rights and strengthens their access to inclusive national systems and durable solutions. Adolescents and young people are one focus of this work: UNICEF empowers young people to influence the decision-making that shapes their lives – and to unlock their potential by connecting them with opportunities to learn, earn and thrive.

Commitment 1: Effective coordination is established with UNICEF’s participation

UNICEF’s strategic frameworks with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were developed in 2022 to improve collaboration and maximize the organizations’ programme and advocacy impact in such areas as cross-border coordination in large-scale movements of people and inclusion of refugee children in national systems. UNICEF is also contributing to a new United Nations-wide push stemming from the Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, with the organization focusing on 16 priority countries. In one example of how such global coordination frameworks can be leveraged successfully within countries: UNICEF continued to co-chair the national refugee child protection sub-working group with UNHCR in Uganda, providing technical support to ensure a harmonized response to protection concerns faced by children in refugee-hosting districts. With nearly 1.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda (58 per cent of them children), such coordination is a critical element of meeting the humanitarian needs of both refugee and host populations.

Commitment 2: The best interest of the child guides all actions concerning children, including status determination procedures and the identification of durable solutions

UNICEF co-leads the United Nations Network on Migration workstream on return, readmission and reintegration, together with IOM and the Migration Policy Institute. UNICEF advocacy led to the implementation of concrete pledges on child-sensitive return and reintegration.

CASE STUDY

Ukraine: UNICEF delivers a comprehensive, life-saving child protection response inside Ukraine

The war in Ukraine unleashed a humanitarian emergency and child protection crisis of extraordinary proportions. The situation was marked by complex, unpredictable and multifaceted needs on the ground and required an urgent and massive scale-up of protection services.

Millions of children were exposed to violence, including armed conflict and explosive weapons. Children were uprooted from their homes or separated from their caregivers. By the end of 2022, 17.7 million people were estimated to need urgent humanitarian assistance, including 3.4 million children who required protection interventions.³⁸ In response, UNICEF provided immediate life-saving child protection response services (for example responding to the needs of displaced families and providing protection services to children separated from caregivers), provided technical guidance to enhance the protection capacities of professionals and caregivers and supported longer-term child protection systems-strengthening.

The rapid scale-up of 70 UNICEF-supported multidisciplinary mobile teams across the country, each including four specialists (a social worker, psychologist, lawyer and health-care specialist), was central to UNICEF's ability to deliver critical protection services to families' doorsteps. As a result, UNICEF provided 930,067 beneficiaries with integrated services in 18 regions.

More broadly, child protection programming reached nearly 3 million children and caregivers, including 354,509 children with disabilities, with MHPSS interventions, including psychosocial support, in combination with sport, art and other individual and group activities. UNICEF reached 352,103 people with gender-based violence risk mitigation and prevention information; and provided 140,808 people with access to gender-based violence and violence against children response interventions. In addition, 48,000 children received individual case management; more than 3,300 families were trained online to provide temporary care and protection for unaccompanied or separated children; 11,017 professionals and humanitarian workers were trained to provide psychosocial support services, case management and specialized services for children from vulnerable families; and 1,516,017 million people accessed information through a four-month PSEA campaign on Facebook and Instagram. In addition, 9.4 million people were reached via a large-scale awareness campaign in partnership with the State Emergency Service and Patron, the national explosive ordnance risk education Ambassador, on safe behaviour around mines and explosive ordnance. Approximately 75,000 children and young people participated in online lessons on behaviour around explosive ordnance.

UNICEF will sustain and expand its flexible, adaptive response to the unpredictable situation in Ukraine, continuing to provide essential care and protection support to the most vulnerable children and families. UNICEF will also invest in holistic and inclusive child protection systems to deliver sustainable development outcomes over time.

The war also exposed the tremendous risks children face in institutional care. Before the conflict, Ukraine had the highest number of children in institutional care in Europe. UNICEF is supporting the Government of Ukraine to end the use of large institutions for children. This includes addressing the needs of children evacuated from large institutions to neighbouring countries.

Environmental consequences associated with the war, including those linked to explosive remnants, have not been assessed yet. Recovery plans are being developed to align legislative, policy and institutional frameworks on children's rights with international standards, opening an opportunity to advance a child-centred, resilience-building recovery and reconstruction.



Children engage in an art therapy class at the Smart Library in Lviv, Ukraine in October 2022, led by Halyna, a psychologist. The art therapy project, launched by specialists with UNICEF support, helps the children deal with the trauma of war. As the war in Ukraine continues, the Smart Library has become a safe space for children to draw, play, craft and make new friends. It is also a place for them to share emotions and worries and master new skills. UNICEF-supported mental health and psychosocial support interventions (including psychosocial support, in combination with sport, art and other individual and group activities) reached nearly 3 million children and caregivers in Ukraine in 2022, including 354,509 children with disabilities.

Capacity-building efforts with specific Member States helped them enact policies and practices in line with children's best interest. With IOM, UNICEF developed tools on the best interest principle in situations of return and reintegration, including guidance for return counsellors. These tools are now being rolled out through technical capacity-building workshops.

Commitment 3: Children and their families have access to safe and age-, gender- and disability-appropriate reception, accommodation and care

As co-lead (with [International Detention Coalition \(IDC\)](#) and UNHCR) of the Network on Migration workstream on alternatives to detention, UNICEF hosted three global peer learning meetings with more than 50 Member States, secured pledges to end child immigration detention and, with IDC, provided training sessions on ending child immigration detention involving the Governments of Djibouti, Egypt, Germany and Thailand, along with civil society organizations. In Djibouti, 603 unaccompanied or separated children or those who were living on the streets benefited from family reunification, reintegration services and access to food, hygiene and recreational activities; in Djibouti City, UNICEF provided access to psychosocial support services to 2,439 children. In India, UNICEF enabled 62,227 unaccompanied and separated children (29,380 girls) to access family-based alternative care and provided protective services to 130,163 migrant children.

Commitment 4: Children have timely access to child-friendly information on their rights, available services, public health information, legal and administrative processes and durable solutions

UNICEF advocated for policies that ensure children's access to asylum and other durable solutions in global forums, in public communications and through private dialogue with a number of Member States, notably in Europe and Southeast Asia. In several regions, UNICEF brokered cross-border mechanisms and child-sensitive border procedures for children to access protection (including in southern Africa and on the border between Mexico and the United States of America). In Europe and Central Asia, UNICEF, UNHCR and other partners set up 41 Blue Dots (child and family protection hubs) to provide information, legal aid and counselling to people fleeing the war in Ukraine; identify children at risk; and provide access to child-friendly spaces, psychosocial support and referral to specialized services. Between March and December 2022, 741,157 people (including 241,915 children) benefited from protection, access to services and/or vital information through UNICEF-supported Blue Dots in seven refugee-receiving countries.

Commitment 5: Children have access to essential services,⁴⁰ without discrimination, regardless of their legal status

UNICEF pressed for access of refugees and internally displaced people to national education, health and social protection systems; for their meaningful participation in policy processes, learning-to-earning opportunities; and for States to tackle xenophobia and discrimination. UNICEF supported 1,800,488 refugee children to access education in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia. In Pakistan, UNICEF and UNHCR supported 645,919 Afghan refugees (including 147,806 girls and 168,695 women) with water supply and services. In Burkina Faso, UNICEF assisted 16,652 internally displaced children who were out of school to access a four-month catch-up learning programme with daily meals and to reintegrate into formal education at the start of the school year.

Challenges and lessons learned

While humanitarian support is best delivered by national systems, approximately 83 per cent of refugees are hosted in low- and middle-income countries whose public systems and infrastructure are often nascent and which struggle to provide basic services even to their own citizens. Given their complimentary mandates, UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM and Member States must work effectively to create and deliver a continuity of support and access to essential services for uprooted children.

The war in Ukraine reminds us that UNICEF must be prepared to deliver in any humanitarian context, even in high-income countries. And the reality that 95 per cent of conflict-related displacements occur in countries that are also highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change means that UNICEF must recognize and respond to the interplay between climate change and displacement, rather than approaching them as separate issues.

Working with partners, UNICEF also strengthened data on hotspots for climate-related displacement of children in order to predict and prepare for such displacements, so that services are shock-responsive and able to reach the most vulnerable before, during and after disaster strikes. Building on its Children's Climate Risk Index, UNICEF partnered with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre to generate new data insights on current and future risks of weather-related displacement of children to identify climate displacement hotspots.

CASE STUDY

Ethiopia: An integrated UNICEF response upholds the rights of children on the move

In 2022, conflicts in Ethiopia, intercommunal violence, displacement, seasonal flooding and the worst drought in 40 years left 29.7 million people in need of humanitarian interventions,⁴¹ including at least 2.73 million internally displaced people in 2,200 sites in all 11 of the country's regions. Ethiopia also shelters more than 880,000 refugees, the third-largest refugee population of any country in Africa.⁴²

UNICEF's comprehensive and integrated interventions in the country in 2022 balanced development approaches (through the PROSPECTS programme, which provides approximately \$2.4 million in funding annually) and life-saving humanitarian responses. UNICEF supported protection, WASH, health and education services for displaced children; interventions also included resilience building and advocacy for inclusive services in the health, education, social protection and WASH sectors.

In 2022, UNICEF strengthened its child protection and gender-based violence response in Ethiopia, including case management. In Somali Region, for example, six mobile mental health and psychosocial support teams served 110,173 internally displaced people. In Amhara Region, UNICEF distributed cash-for-dignity kits to 15,000 adolescent girls and women, primarily conflict-affected internally displaced people, and trained and deployed 36 social workers. UNICEF also provided 5,772 displaced people with gender-based violence prevention and response services. Under the PROSPECTS partnership, 38,532 internally displaced people and host community members (4,148 children) received child protection services and 20,000 children and adults received mental health and psychosocial support in the Somali and Afar regions.

UNICEF delivered shock-responsive cash transfers to 56,415 households of internally displaced people who were affected by conflict, drought and floods in the Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromia and Somali regions. This intervention reached a total of 211,089 people.

In the displacement-affected regions of Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Somali and Tigray, UNICEF provided an integrated package of accelerated learning and life-skills education and child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support and case management. Through the Education Cannot Wait project in Tigray, UNICEF supported 22,252 displaced and host community children (51 per cent girls). Through PROSPECTS, a total of 2,888 internally displaced learners (1,352 female and 1,536 male) acquired foundational numeracy and literacy skills in a 10-month (1,400 hours) accelerated learning programme in 107 speed schools in Afar and Somali regions.

The drought occurring in the Horn of Africa has had a deep impact on children's nutrition status in Ethiopia. In 2022 alone, 709,996 children with severe wasting were admitted for treatment (36 per cent more than in 2021), while more than 4.3 million children aged 6–59 months received vitamin A supplementation. More than 3 million children received measles vaccinations and more than 2.5 million children and women received UNICEF-supported primary health-care services. In partnership with the Government of Ethiopia and NGO partners, UNICEF implemented emergency WASH responses throughout the country. As a result, over 3 million people, including refugees and internally displaced people, were provided with a safe water supply. Seven million beneficiaries were also reached with hygiene promotion activities, including key hygiene practices on disease prevention and handwashing, and a further 1.5 million were reached with critical WASH supplies.

Even with UNICEF's comprehensive action across the humanitarian–development nexus, and the actions of other partners, the compounding impact of drought and conflict in Ethiopia has made it difficult for refugee and internally displaced children and their families to access needed support. Alongside immediate humanitarian response, UNICEF continues to work to strengthen national systems so that refugee and displaced children are included across the health, WASH, education and social protection sectors.



Mohammed, 10, plays in April 2022 at a UNICEF-supported child-friendly space at a site in the Shabelle Zone of Somali Region, Ethiopia for people who have been displaced by the country's severe drought. Drought, flooding and intercommunal violence have resulted in at least 2.73 million internally displaced people in 2,200 sites throughout the country. Ethiopia also shelters more than 880,000 refugees, the third-largest refugee population of any country in Africa.

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

The world is making progress in improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), but not at the rate necessary to meet Sustainable Development Goal 6. Insufficient financing, the increasing impact of climate change on WASH systems and widespread humanitarian crises are impeding progress and threatening past gains. Meanwhile, more than half of all children – approximately 1 billion – live at extremely high risk from climate hazards. UNICEF worked on Goal Area 4 in 156 countries in 2022. The total Goal Area 4 expense was \$1.3 billion, including \$0.9 billion for humanitarian action. UNICEF reached more than 39 million people in humanitarian emergencies with WASH services in 2022, including through major interventions in response to war in Ukraine, flooding in Pakistan, and conflict and severe drought in Ethiopia and neighbouring countries. UNICEF also responded to the global cholera outbreak that hit an unprecedented 30 countries in 2022.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Access to clean water, sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices is fundamental to overall healthy lives and the prevention of infectious diseases. Globally in 2022, UNICEF provided potable water to 39.4 million people, appropriate sanitation services to 9.2 million people and basic hygiene services to 12.7 million people experiencing humanitarian crises. At the same time, the organization continued to provide sustainable solutions for those repeatedly affected by disease outbreaks. Among these were people affected by cholera outbreaks in 30 countries, many of them in sub-Saharan Africa.⁴³ The cholera response required substantial WASH-related interventions, which were an integral complement to the health – and public health – responses to treat those infected and prevent the spread of the outbreaks (*see page 48 for more information on the UNICEF public health response to cholera globally*).

Commitment 1: Effective leadership and coordination are established and functional

During the year, the Global WASH Cluster (GWC) launched the GWC's [Strategic Plan 2022–2025](#). The strategy demonstrates the cluster's role as a thought leader in the sector and renews the focus on excellence in effective and accountable humanitarian WASH coordination to benefit the people most affected by and vulnerable to crises. The strategy's implementation plan and monitoring framework have marked a pathway for GWC members and National Coordination Platforms (NCPs) to act collectively to make coordination more visible and more valued within the humanitarian WASH sector.

By providing direct support to NCPs in more than 30 countries, the GWC sought to achieve impact by targeting for assistance 101.6 million crises-affected people of the 165.4 million who required WASH-related support in 2022. The Field Support team supported nine NCPs during 17 deployments (in-country and virtual) to nine countries, providing 890 days of operational support in 2022. To this were added an additional 534 days of remote support for coordination, information management and assessment. All UNICEF-led WASH Clusters/sectors that conducted a cluster coordination performance management exercise in 2022 met 'satisfactory' performance for established functions.

The GWC fosters the active participation and meaningful representation of local partners in humanitarian coordination processes. The GWC contributed to the new Inter-agency Toolkit on Localisation in Humanitarian Coordination, which was piloted by all UNICEF-led clusters in 2022, and also worked with local partners to develop tools and conduct targeted research.

The GWC provided WASH operational coordination and leadership training for 108 participants in Haiti, Kenya, Senegal and Somalia, and a separate training course for 12 WASH Sector or Cluster Information Managers, in addition to offering ongoing online courses. The cluster launched an Agora Learning Channel in coordination with the UNICEF WASH Talent Management Initiative. The cluster training programme now consists of seven distinct courses offered at the incoming, general and expert levels, most available on the Agora platform, with an additional five under development. The GWC also provides an extensive set of guidance, tools and field examples on cluster coordination, information management and assessments through the GWC Coordination Tool Kit.

Commitment 2: Affected populations have safe and equitable access to, and use a sufficient quantity and quality of water to meet their drinking and domestic needs

UNICEF provided safe potable water to 39.4 million people in 76 countries affected by the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, cholera outbreaks, climate-induced events and natural disasters. Although such temporary interventions as water trucking and water treatment were the main mode of response, nearly 9 million people were provided with water infrastructure that is expected to endure even after the period of the humanitarian response. In one example, in the Syrian Arab Republic UNICEF delivered safe drinking water to 4.8 million people (132 per cent of the target) through the rehabilitation of wells, pumping stations and water distribution networks, providing lasting infrastructure improvements. In response to a cholera outbreak in the country, UNICEF also provided water quality monitoring support, sodium hypochlorite supplies for chlorinating water in all governorates and water testing equipment.



Globally, UNICEF reached **39.4 million people** in humanitarian contexts with appropriate drinking water services.

Commitment 3: Affected populations have safe access to, and use appropriate sanitation facilities; and excreta is safely managed

Adequate sanitation facilities in humanitarian settings are critical to providing a disease-free and sanitary living environment and in promoting the safety of affected populations from such potential harms as gender-based violence. In 2022, UNICEF reached 9.2 million people with sanitation services, an increase of around 1 million people compared with 2021 due to efforts in a number of countries to slow down the spread of cholera infections. In the camps for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, 277,211 refugees (143,237 female and 1965 persons with disabilities) had access to functional sanitation facilities supported by UNICEF. This was achieved through the construction and maintenance of latrines, bathing spaces, faecal sludge management and solid waste management sites. As part of peacebuilding practices, UNICEF provided similar sanitation services to 94,754 people in the surrounding host communities.



Globally, UNICEF supported **9.2 million people** in humanitarian settings with appropriate sanitation services.

Commitment 4: Affected populations have safe access to, and use, appropriate WASH services in health-care and learning facilities for children

The COVID-19 pandemic brought a turning point in UNICEF's work to provide adequate WASH and infection prevention and control services at health-care facilities. This has since become a key priority, and in 2022 8,868 health-care facilities globally were supported with full WASH services, more than double the number in 2021. Similarly, 26,385 schools (three times more schools than in 2021) were provided with WASH services to facilitate safe learning environments. The significant increase in the result is likely due to WASH interventions supporting safe school openings begun during the COVID-19 pandemic and completed in 2022. During 2022, an outbreak of Ebola disease (caused by Sudan virus) occurred in Uganda, and UNICEF distributed such critical hygiene items as soap, hand sanitizer and disinfectant to 146 health-care facilities and 38 schools, reaching 92,000 people in the affected districts. UNICEF also installed 30 mobile latrines at four Ebola treatment units, which benefited 8,850 people and helped prevent the further spread of Ebola.

Commitment 5: WASH national and local systems are equipped to assess, prevent and address risks and hazards at service delivery and user level

In parallel to providing responsive humanitarian WASH assistance, UNICEF is committed to strengthening the sector's capacity to better prepare for and respond to future emergencies. This is particularly important to countries with limited resources and regular disaster risks. For example, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNICEF supported MINAGUAS, the Ministry of Water, to make preparations in 2022 for a WASH Bottleneck Analysis to occur in 2023. This exercise will look into the root causes of various sectoral issues, such as lack of sector capacities and the need for costed plans for operation and maintenance of WASH facilities. In Libya, UNICEF supported WASH sector needs identification through launching the National WASH Needs Assessment in collaboration with REACH, a humanitarian research initiative. And as part of the annual the COVID-19 pandemic response review in Nepal, UNICEF supported joint monitoring visits led by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation to improve the quality of preparedness, response planning and recovery work with sector partners.

Commitment 6: At-risk and affected populations have timely access to culturally appropriate, gender- and age-sensitive information, services and interventions related to hygiene promotion, and adopt safe hygiene practices

During pandemics and outbreaks, handwashing with soap is the most inexpensive and effective way to protect against diseases. In the effort to mitigate the spread of cholera and COVID-19, UNICEF provided handwashing facilities with water and soap to 12.7 million people and limited hand hygiene supplies to 10.9 million people. In partnership with Lixil and other sector partners, UNICEF in India reached 1,177,686 people with handwashing stations at temporary settlements for people displaced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, cyclones and flooding. In response to cholera outbreaks in drought-affected Somalia, UNICEF reached nearly 2 million people with intensified hygiene promotion work undertaken alongside other WASH interventions.

Challenges and lessons learned

One of the underlining causes of recurrent cholera outbreaks globally has been the lack of sustainable WASH services. Although timely response to cholera outbreaks can curtail their spread, preventing such outbreaks will remain difficult and limited unless more investment is made in safe drinking water and sanitation services. In parallel to reducing immediate service gaps, UNICEF will continue to focus on providing long-term WASH services in cholera-prone areas by providing a cholera response that strengthens humanitarian–development linkages.

Another constraint experienced in 2022 was increasing operational costs, particularly in hard-to-reach areas affected by insecurity; inflation also had an impact on the costs of WASH supplies. Despite this challenge, UNICEF was able to deliver WASH services to meet the needs of affected populations – primarily through carefully selected third-party organizations and by adjusting agreements with implementing partners based on cost implication analyses.

Goal Area 5: Every child, including adolescents, has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty

The impacts of the polycrisis have pushed more children and families into poverty. UNICEF worked on Goal Area 5 in 155 countries in 2022. The total Goal Area 5 expense was \$1.0 billion, including \$0.7 billion for humanitarian action. UNICEF scaled up the use of humanitarian cash transfers as part of emergency response, including in Level 2 and Level 3 contexts, reaching more than 2.8 million households in 43 countries (up from 2.7 million in 2021).

Social protection

UNICEF is uniquely placed to deliver cash transfers and social protection support to children and their families across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. The organization has technical, operational and political strengths in social protection systems-strengthening and in the delivery of cash transfers in humanitarian contexts. Together, these provide a comprehensive offer to address the financial barriers that children and households have in accessing essential services, cover humanitarian needs, contribute to households being able to better manage risks and enhance overall resilience in fragile and humanitarian contexts. This is an excellent example of how UNICEF realizes its dual humanitarian and development mandate to improve children's lives and their families' prospects.

Since 2017, UNICEF has helped governments to strengthen and prepare their social protection systems to support the needs of crisis-affected children, with encouraging results. The number of countries with nascent/low readiness to respond to crises fell to 39 in 2022 from 54 in 2021 and the number of countries with moderate readiness grew from 68 to 78 over the same period (*see Figure SP1*). The slight increase in 'absent' systems from 2021 to 2022 is partly attributed to new mandatory reporting requirements for this indicator.

Commitment 1: Effective coordination is established and functional

As co-lead of the Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board working group on linking humanitarian (cash) assistance with social protection, UNICEF organized exchanges between practitioners via webinars in 2022 and hosted an event in Türkiye for learning exchanges and to finalize the group's workplan. UNICEF continues to be an active member of the Global Cash Advisory Group. In many countries, UNICEF is a leader in social protection coordination and in linking social protection efforts to humanitarian cash coordination efforts. In the State of Palestine, for example, UNICEF is the technical advisor to the Local Aid Coordination Secretariat, which promotes harmonization of work between the Ministry of Social Development and humanitarian cash actors.

CASE STUDY

Pakistan: Incorporating the feedback of women and girls to tackle gender-based violence during the WASH response to flooding

Unprecedented flooding during the monsoon season in Pakistan in 2022 caused widespread displacement, and approximately 20.6 million people required humanitarian assistance. While providing immediate WASH interventions to 1.2 million people, UNICEF identified potential gender-based violence risks and concerns for women and children at sites for water collection, latrines and hygiene supply distribution – notably due to displacement sites being scattered across miles on higher ground or established as makeshift roadside tent communities.

UNICEF first sought to understand the WASH-related needs and the risks of women and girls through focus group discussions. With a gender-based violence checklist and the support of specialists in this area, UNICEF streamlined gender-based violence into WASH by carefully selecting sites for supply distribution and WASH infrastructure; providing lights and locks on latrine doors; and training sector partners on gender-based violence risk mitigation in the WASH response.

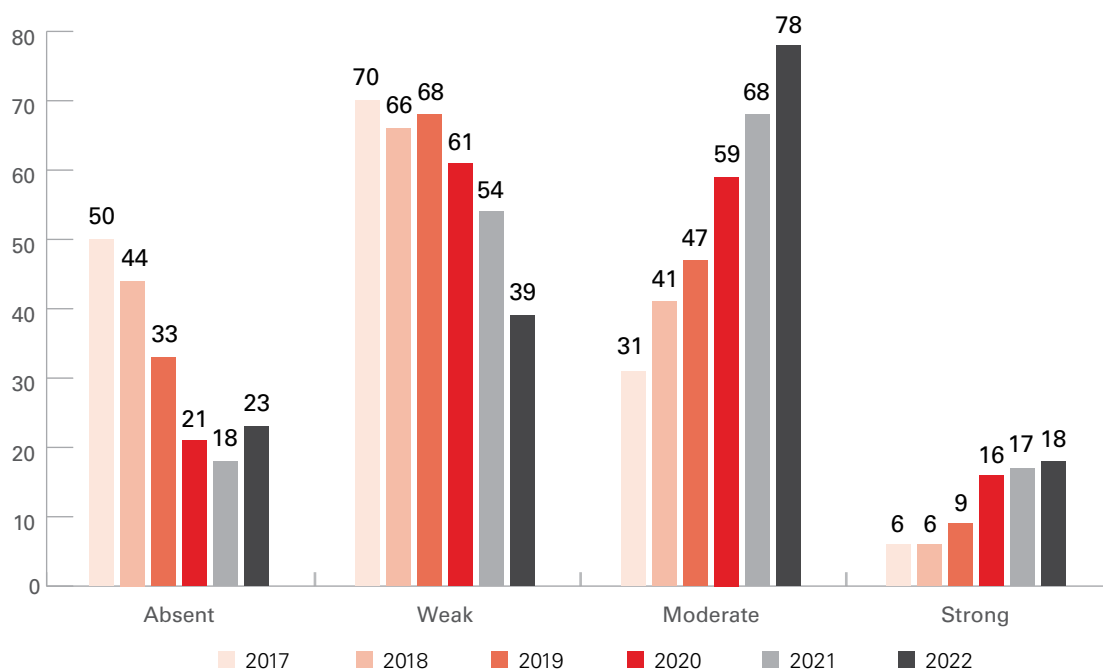
To assess the effectiveness of these WASH interventions, UNICEF implemented a safety audit that encompassed household surveys, key informant interviews, focus group discussions and direct observations. The results showed that half the respondents acknowledged that UNICEF WASH interventions made women and girls feel safe while using WASH facilities. However, overcrowding at distribution sites for hygiene and dignity kits potentially made women and girls more vulnerable to gender-based violence. To address overcrowding, UNICEF organized dedicated distributions for women/girls and increased the number of distribution staff for more efficient operations. Some 85 per cent of women thought that the project appropriately addressed their needs and 67 per cent of households were satisfied with the consultations prior to the provision of hygiene kits. Only 21 per cent of beneficiaries submitted feedback through a complaints system, however, which indicates that more awareness-raising is required for the use of such a system in the future.

UNICEF, with its sector partners, is currently applying the findings from the safety audit to the flood recovery programme in Pakistan to ensure better integration of gender-based violence concerns into WASH interventions.



Saima, 10, (right) fetches water with her sister and mother in Allah Abad, Jampur, South Punjab, Pakistan in May 2023. “Before the floods, we had a water point in the town,” says Saima. “Now it isn’t working.” Saima and her family must trek to a lake 45 minutes from their home to collect water, which is still dirty. The 2022 floods damaged most of the water systems in affected areas, forcing more than 5.4 million people to rely solely on contaminated water from ponds and wells. In the aftermath of the flooding, with UNICEF support nearly 1.2 million flood-affected people in Pakistan (576,000 girls and women) were reached with access to safe drinking water in 2022, through water tanks and installation of water filtration plants. However, millions living in flood-affected areas, like Saima and her family, still lack such access.

FIGURE SP1: Trends in the number of countries with national cash transfer programmes that are ready to respond to crises, 2017-2022



Source: For 2022: UNICEF Core Standard Indicators (CSI); for 2018–2021: Standard Monitoring Questions (SMQ)

In Nepal, UNICEF is leading efforts to develop a Joint Humanitarian Cash Programming Framework to bring the Government and humanitarian agencies together to align cash transfer delivery with local needs. In Côte d'Ivoire, UNICEF leveraged its roles as lead of the development partners' working group on social protection and co-lead of the cash transfer working group to promote policy dialogue on developing a new child-sensitive, inclusive and shock-responsive social protection strategy.

Commitment 2: Adequate support is provided for the effective functioning of social protection systems

As part of the second commitment to provide technical and/financial support to social protection systems, including the use of humanitarian cash transfers, in Cambodia UNICEF supported flood and inflation cash transfers for more than 4 million Cambodians while ensuring delivery of routine social protection measures for children, pregnant women and people with disabilities. Support in Belize in 2022 included provision of cash-based support to more than 900 children from migrant families using an innovative digital solution (DigiWallet) for timely payments. In Albania, through the cash plus initiative, 2,000 families with children receiving cash assistance were referred to other support services to address multiple deprivations. In Ethiopia, UNICEF-supported cash transfers reached 120,000 households of internally displaced persons with life-saving and recovery-promoting support through the government system in six regions.

Commitment 3: Support national systems to address financial barriers of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable families to meet their essential needs

Activities under this pillar have been critical in moving the needle on addressing financial barriers for inclusion of the most marginalized. A key part of UNICEF's work on inclusive and shock-responsive social protection is facilitating the access of displaced and migrant populations to social protection. In Colombia, UNICEF supported the regularization process for Venezuelan migrants through the Temporary Protection Statute, which has seen 1.6 million Venezuelans issued with identity cards. UNICEF also supported the enrolment in the national social protection system of migrant households intending to settle in Colombia. These activities were complemented by research on sociocultural barriers that affect the social inclusion of migrants and, consequently, the supply side of social services. Inspired by South–South collaboration and a study visit to Brazil, in the Islamic Republic of Iran the Government initiated, with UNICEF support, the KIAN (Kodak Yare Iran) model to support the most vulnerable households. KIAN is an integrated approach to support vulnerable households that have children out of school or at risk of dropping out with cash transfers and social services, including child protection and education services. The model reached 17,011 children in 6,500 households in Kermanshah province. In Ecuador, UNICEF and partners WFP and UNHCR continued to implement delivery of cash transfers to migrant and refugee families with children. The programme consists of a cash transfer for nine months, with a top-up for education and

early childhood along with continuous accompaniment to the families to access education, protection and other services. In 2022, 143 new families benefited from this work, bringing the number reached since 2020 to more than 1,400 families with a total of 5,500 beneficiaries (60 per cent children and adolescents).

Commitment 4: Communities are consulted and informed on the planning, design and implementation of social protection programmes

UNICEF continued to work on better ways of communicating with affected populations in 2022 for advocacy and changes in programme implementation. Since 2020, in Ecuador UNICEF has monitored the situation of children and their families through rapid telephone surveys. Three surveys conducted in 2022 revealed that families with children continued to face challenges two years after the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF used the results to support the launch of the #ChildrenFirst advocacy strategy. In Paraguay, UNICEF supported the implementation of the Integrated Social Protection Card (FIPS) in the district of Villeta, covering 2,100 families. FIPS is an instrument for surveying the levels of social protection of the local population, which includes specific information of children and adolescents, the elderly population and households overall. The Ministry of Children and Adolescents was the first government institution to adopt this tool as an information-gathering mechanism to inform the identification and selection of the beneficiaries of their social programmes, including the cash transfer programme Abrazo. In Mali, UNICEF provided support to the Directorate of Social Protection to improve social registry, complaints and grievance management systems, which is critical to scaling them up and ensuring they can respond rapidly in an emergency. From 350,000 households in 2017, the coverage of the social registry has now reached 1,450,000 households (7 million individuals, or 30 per cent of the total population).

CASH transfer commitment: All country offices, with the support of regional offices and headquarters, promote the use of unconditional and unrestricted humanitarian cash transfers, whenever relevant and feasible

UNICEF reached more than 2.8 million households in 43 countries with humanitarian cash transfers in 2022. Ten per cent of recipient households (282,000 households) were reached using existing national social protection programmes in 10 countries,⁴⁴ while around 2.5 million households in 11 countries were reached using UNICEF delivery systems that aligned with or reused at least one element of an existing social protection system.⁴⁵ UNICEF deployed a full operational system to deliver humanitarian cash-based responses in 24 countries.⁴⁶ In 2022, the overall volume of payments to UNICEF partners for cash-based assistance reached \$725 million over the course of the year.



Globally, UNICEF supported **more than 2.8 million households** with humanitarian cash assistance.

Challenges and lessons learned

UNICEF has made significant progress in supporting governments to develop shock-responsive social protection systems and in scaling up the delivery of humanitarian cash transfers via systems or directly.

At the same time, the ongoing socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and conflict have revealed that further work is needed to ensure that national social protection systems can respond to the impact of these threats on vulnerable people or, where required, UNICEF can directly intervene to support households in need. Preparedness is crucial to the ability to do this. Adequate preparedness requires time and resources to institutionalize within government systems and among humanitarian actors, including UNICEF. However, good preparedness can multiply the benefits of UNICEF's direct support of households in need and ongoing support to countries for creating social protection systems that are shock-responsive and inclusive. Funding preparedness across the humanitarian–development nexus, however, remains a key challenge.

Strengthening the capacities (including staff capacities) of national social protection systems and of UNICEF to respond to shocks will remain a core part of UNICEF's work in humanitarian and fragile contexts.

UNICEF will continue to provide technical support to governments and UNICEF country offices spanning the organization's comprehensive offer of social protection systems-strengthening work and cash transfer support to reach vulnerable households. This includes (1) training both government and UNICEF staff in humanitarian cash transfers; (2) shock- and gender-responsive social protection system assessments and road maps, especially for countries vulnerable to conflict and other shocks; and (3) targeted in-country technical assistance in times of humanitarian crisis. The development of guidance and tools (e.g., for rapid assessment of systems) to use in emergency response will also continue into 2023.

UNICEF will continue the development of the global digital solution Humanitarian cash Operations and Programme Ecosystem (HOPE) for country office management of beneficiary data when no government beneficiary management system can be used.

CASE STUDY

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: From humanitarian response to building stronger systems – A cash plus approach supports people impacted by the eruption of La Soufrière volcano

In 2022, UNICEF continued implementing activities in response to the residual needs caused by the eruption of La Soufrière volcano in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in April 2021. UNICEF accelerated strategic support and services through the national social protection system, using a five-pronged approach focused on cash plus interventions. This included: (1) continued temporary expansion of the existing Family Support Grant from 2021; (2) roll-out of a new Transition Grant provided through a one-off cash payment to 456 households in the red zone; (3) enrolment of social assistance beneficiaries in a 12-week family life education programme; (4) mainstreaming hygiene promotion within the family life education programme; and (5) technical assistance to strengthen the design and delivery of shock-responsive social protection. Rapid-Pro technology, linked to the assistance provided via the social protection system, was used to improve monitoring and accountability to the affected population.

Cash plus support was provided via the Transition Grant using a one-off transfer to 456 households in the red zone (out of 500 targeted), in addition to the 490 Family Support Grant beneficiaries. In post-distribution monitoring, 94 per cent of households reported a 'good/very good' ability to cover their basic needs, compared with 15 per cent at the onset of the volcanic eruption.

All the households receiving cash were enrolled in the national family life education programme, which is designed to address both financial and non-financial barriers to recovery from the disaster. Topics included stress and time management, self-respect and respect for others, communication, conflict resolution, healthy lifestyles, decision-making and financial management. There was an 85 per cent graduation rate for this programme.

Based on these promising results, the Government received funding from the World Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank to reach an additional 4,500 households with the same cash plus design. UNICEF provided technical and financial support for this, which included updating monitoring tools, case management tools, communication materials and the use of Rapid-Pro to verify the cash payments. UNICEF also supported a post-distribution survey using the free, open-source KoBo Toolbox to evaluate impact.



Atasha Matthews stands with her two sons in front of La Soufrière volcano in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2022, as their community continues to recover from the volcano's eruption in April 2021. The family received cash assistance for six months through the Family Support Grant. This assistance is one element of UNICEF's strategic cash plus approach to supporting those impacted by the disaster through the national social protection system.

CASE STUDY

Ukraine: Humanitarian cash transfers support conflict-affected families

UNICEF's response to address the humanitarian needs arising from the war in Ukraine has included providing cash transfers to crisis-affected households. UNICEF leveraged its existing relationship with the Government to reach an agreement for the organization to launch a humanitarian cash transfer programme for families inside Ukraine with young children, more than three children or children living with disabilities. Towards the end of the year, this coverage was expanded to include an additional 400 foster families.

To allow for the nimble implementation of the programme, UNICEF deployed its beneficiary data management system tool, the Humanitarian cash Operations and Programme Ecosystem (HOPE), which provides a safe and risk-informed approach to managing sensitive data for humanitarian cash transfer programmes. HOPE's registration module had an existing in-person registration mechanism. However, for implementation in Ukraine in the context of active war, this needed to be converted to an online self-registration module to ensure safe access to the programme. UNICEF quickly developed an online registration platform and it became accessible to recipient families on 30 March, just over a month after the start of the war.

Recipient families registered for UNICEF cash assistance directly through a computer, tablet or mobile phone. Families without access to digital devices were supported by a programme partner to register online. Payment was made directly into the bank accounts of individuals, and UNICEF worked with the national post offices to ensure that beneficiaries without access to a bank account could also receive their money. By early May, UNICEF was making payments to households in all 25 oblasts of Ukraine, including those that were hardest to reach (in Donetsk, Kherson and Luhansk oblasts).

The humanitarian cash transfer programme in Ukraine reached more than 224,000 households in 2022 with a total of approximately \$900 per household. Some households with five or more children or a child with a disability received an additional payment of \$900. In post-distribution monitoring, nearly 9 in 10 beneficiaries reported being able to obtain otherwise inaccessible goods and services for their children using the cash support. The main types of reported expenses using the cash support included psychosocial services, health-related items and services, and nutritious or diversified food.



Sofia, 16, together with her sister Anya, 10, brother Bohdan, 2, and mother Olia have been living away from home for about 10 months. Their home in Irpin, Ukraine, was destroyed by the war. Money was tight after both Olia and her husband lost their jobs. However, last summer Olia received a humanitarian cash transfer from UNICEF for her children, which she used to repair their summer kitchen so that the family would have a place to live. She also bought clothes for the children. UNICEF's humanitarian cash transfer programme in Ukraine reached more than 224,000 households in 2022.

Children with disabilities

Following its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF made substantial progress at the global and country levels in 2022 in prioritizing disability inclusion in humanitarian action.

In 2022, UNICEF also focused on building its own institutional capacity on disability-inclusive humanitarian action. This included integrating disability inclusion competency into its humanitarian learning framework and rolling out the Disability-Inclusive Humanitarian Action Toolkit for UNICEF staff and partners. At the country level, UNICEF prioritized including children with disabilities in preparedness and in needs assessment and all data collection processes and maximizing the impact of efforts through cross-sectoral programming. As a result, 65 per cent of UNICEF country offices with a Humanitarian Action for Children appeal systematically included children with disabilities in programming in 2022, up from 55 per cent in 2021; 21 country offices without appeals also systematically included children with disabilities in their humanitarian responses.

In 2022, UNICEF continued to co-chair the Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, along with the International Disability Alliance and CBM Global, and through this helped to strengthen the collaboration of more than 300 organizations on disability-inclusive humanitarian action. The collaboration involved strengthening the engagement of local organizations of persons with disabilities in emergency preparedness and response and developing training materials for humanitarian actors.

Commitment 1: The needs of children with disabilities⁴⁷ and their caregivers are identified and reflected in planning and monitoring

Data collection on children with disabilities is essential for assessing their needs and monitoring their access to humanitarian assistance. UNICEF continued to identify the risks and barriers faced by children with disabilities using needs assessments and analyses, and this informed programme planning and monitoring. Globally, UNICEF has also been leading inter-agency efforts, supported by the United Kingdom's Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office, to strengthen disability inclusion in Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Humanitarian Response Plans, resulting in substantial progress on disability-related data collection and use in these products. In 2022, 96 per cent of Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Humanitarian Response Plans used data disaggregated by disability, far exceeding the 2022 target of 70 per cent of Humanitarian Response Plans routinely disaggregating by disability. In Yemen, UNICEF, in partnership with Handicap Care and Rehabilitation Fund, established an identification and case management system to capture data on children with disabilities, disaggregated by age and sex. Data on children with disabilities informed planning processes and

such interventions as providing referrals to cash transfer programmes to 9,682 persons with disabilities and delivering humanitarian cash transfers to households that included 14,270 children with disabilities (42 per cent girls).

Commitment 2: Children with disabilities and their caregivers have safe access to humanitarian programmes

In 2022, UNICEF worked to ensure safe access to humanitarian programmes and services for children with disabilities by improving accessibility of programmes and providing targeted support. Globally, UNICEF-supported programmes provided menstrual hygiene management services to 82,990 girls and women with disabilities, appropriate sanitation services to 669,313 persons with disabilities and health and social services or justice/law enforcement services to 40,547 children with disabilities who had experienced violence.

In Ukraine, UNICEF worked with partners to provide specialized support, psychological support, assistive technology and access to community-based services for children with disabilities. More than 224,000 households, including 55,000 households with children with disabilities, received support through cash transfers and other initiatives (*see page 67 for more information on the cash transfers programme*). UNICEF also provided assistance to refugees with disabilities in neighbouring countries through safe spaces; identification and registration and access to services; preschool provision; and family-based care options to ensure equal access to humanitarian assistance.

Commitment 3: Children with disabilities participate in the design of programmes and in the decisions that affect their lives

In 2022, UNICEF prioritized disability inclusion in humanitarian responses by making substantial efforts to involve children and adults with disabilities and their representative organizations in programme design and decision-making. At the global level, UNICEF, together with partners, led the implementation of 'Capacity Building of OPDs – Strengthening Inclusive Humanitarian Action', a project of the Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. This focused on enabling the active participation, coordination and meaningful consultation of organizations of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. UNICEF and partners delivered awareness sessions in multiple languages, reaching 80 members of organizations of people with disabilities in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and Asia. In Zimbabwe, 77,000 children with disabilities received assistive and communication devices with UNICEF support, which in turn created opportunities for their continued participation in the community and in education. Additionally, UNICEF engaged more than 272,000 individuals in cholera awareness and

CASE STUDY

East Asia and Pacific Region: Nothing about us, without us – Collaborating with organizations of persons with disabilities on emergency preparedness and response

Coordination and partnerships with organizations of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action is one of UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. Partnerships and collaboration with these organizations improves the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian operations because persons with disabilities are best qualified to provide information on the challenges they experience and to provide informed input that can strengthen the quality of inclusive practices. However, lessons learned from involving organizations of persons with disabilities in the East Asia and Pacific region during the COVID-19 pandemic response showed that, despite the participation of these organizations in humanitarian contexts, there are still many challenges that hinder their meaningful engagement in emergency preparedness and response efforts.⁴⁸ Obstacles include the lack of accessibility of planning and response processes and a lack of consultation with these organizations; lack of capacity and human resources within organizations of persons with disabilities; limited financial support available to them; and limited awareness and recognition among humanitarian actors of the role of organization of persons with disabilities.

The UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office has invested in human resources dedicated to fostering disability-inclusive emergency responses. Using this increased capacity, the Regional Office was able to scale up activities to support country offices on disability-inclusive humanitarian action through analysis and evidence generation, technical support and capacity-building. This included identification of organizations of persons of disabilities with which UNICEF could collaborate and enter into partnerships.

To support country offices in their work with organizations of persons with disabilities, staff from headquarters and the regional office conducted a series of webinars for disability and emergency focal points on engaging with organizations of persons with disabilities in emergencies. To build the capacity of the organizations on emergency preparedness and response, UNICEF regional offices in South Asia and in East Asia and the Pacific co-facilitated two training sessions (one in March 2022 and another in August) to introduce organizations to humanitarian response and identify entry-points for their participation.

In 2022, nine country offices in East Asia and the Pacific reported providing disability-inclusive and/or accessible services and programmes to children with disabilities in humanitarian situations. A mapping found that 86 per cent of country offices in the region had engaged with organizations of persons with disabilities in 2021 and 2022. Of the 26 different organizations UNICEF engaged with during this time period, 5 worked with UNICEF on emergency preparedness and response (in the Philippines, Timor-Leste, the Pacific Islands and the Lao People's Democratic Republic). However, only half of UNICEF's engagements with organizations of persons with disabilities in the region were formal partnerships, and only one third included financial support. In an example of a formal partnership that also included financial support, in Timor-Leste UNICEF partnered with the umbrella organization of persons with disabilities Asosiasaun Defisiensiencia Timor-Leste to build its capacity to distribute essential humanitarian supplies to persons with disabilities. Through this partnership, young people living with disabilities have been able to benefit from an inclusive capacity-building camp, which has been successfully implemented across the country.

In 2023, UNICEF will further strengthen engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities. This will include enacting longer-term partnerships. It will also involve systemic, meaningful collaboration through providing information on partnership procedures, investing in institutional capacity and leveraging UNICEF engagement in national systems.



A team from UNICEF and from the Pacific Disability Forum meets with children, teachers and parents in Fiji in June 2022. The Pacific Disability Forum was one of the organizations involved in capacity-building to strengthen inclusive humanitarian action, carried out by the Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

prevention in Lebanon, ensuring that people with disabilities and the organizations supporting them participated in sensitization training and received inclusive materials.

Challenges and lessons learned

Disability-inclusive humanitarian action has made significant progress, but various challenges remain and were evident in 2022. Among them is the need to equip humanitarian actors with the necessary capacity and technical competencies to implement disability-inclusive programming in emergencies. Additionally, there is a lack of substantial engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities at the field level. The systematic integration of disability inclusion into the humanitarian–development nexus needs to be strengthened, and disability inclusion in data and in evidence-based decision-making needs to be expanded. To address these challenges, UNICEF initiated a review of evidence and good practices related to data collection and analysis of children with disabilities in humanitarian settings.

UNICEF launched its first-ever Disability Inclusion Policy and Strategy (DIPAS) 2022–2030 in early 2023. The Strategy lays out specific goals and priorities related to disability inclusion in emergency preparedness and response. The organization's comprehensive plan for 2023 includes the dissemination of the Disability-Inclusive Humanitarian Action Toolkit and the development of expertise among staff working in emergency preparedness and response. UNICEF will also work towards integrating disability inclusion throughout the humanitarian–development nexus,



Fatima poses next to a hygiene kit distributed by UNICEF partner Taybeh Foundation at Al-Alili Camp for displaced people in Al Khawkah District, Al-Hudaydah Governorate, Yemen, in November 2022. Each kit includes laundry detergent, 10 body wash soap bars, two kilos of soap powder and two water containers for obtaining and storing household water. Hygiene promotion activities, such as handwashing education, accompanied the distribution.

prioritizing inter-agency collaboration and engagement with local organizations of persons with disabilities and the private sector to ensure effective implementation of disability-inclusive humanitarian response.

Adolescents and youth

In 2022, UNICEF rapidly amplified young people's voices and actions in humanitarian contexts ranging from conflicts in Afghanistan and Ukraine (and in the linked response in neighbouring countries), to disaster responses in Bangladesh and Indonesia. Guided by such global standards and flagship tools as the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines *With Us & For Us: Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises* (also called the IASC Youth Guidelines), the Adolescent Kit for Expression and Innovation and the UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide, UNICEF engaged more than 16.1 million adolescents and youth (45 per cent girls) in 89 countries, with more than 345,000 of them engaged in humanitarian settings. Young people were at the front and centre of large-scale humanitarian responses that underscored UNICEF's commitment to walking the talk in humanitarian action – not only for, but with adolescents and youth.

Commitment 1: Adolescent girls and boys have safe access to gender-responsive and inclusive services and programmes that promote their participation and respond to their rights and needs

One highlight of 2022 was the increased demand (compared with 2021) to contextualize and roll out the IASC Youth Guidelines. These guidelines provide a framework for scaling up efforts to work with and for young people across sectors, throughout the humanitarian programme cycle. From global advocacy to training and learning series in multiple languages, UNICEF and the [Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action](#) led several training efforts on the roll-out of the Guidelines for partners and young humanitarians responding in Ukraine, Afghanistan and other emergencies. UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund translated the IASC Youth Guidelines and related training materials into Arabic, Dari and Pashto to support local organizations and partners in prioritizing the needs of young people, especially young girls and those living in marginalized communities.

Another global humanitarian programme is the [Adolescent Kit](#), which UNICEF and partners have used since 2017 to reach more than 900,000 adolescents in more than 30 countries and to train nearly 55,000 partners and youth volunteers. In 2022 alone, despite COVID-19 mitigation measures ongoing in many countries, UNICEF and partners reached more than 300,000 adolescents in 11 countries. In Afghanistan, nearly 2000 Kits were procured to support adolescents, especially girls; and in

Ukraine, approximately 7,800 adolescents were reached through adolescent circles of psychological support, one component of the Adolescent Kit.

Inclusive gender-responsive programmes were also scaled up through the active engagement of adolescents and youth. In Myanmar, where violence and instability have upended the lives of millions of people, social media platforms reached more than 50,000 young people with information regarding gender-based violence. And 1900 young people (760 boys and 1,140 girls) contributed to information-gathering on gender-based violence through U-Report. In Zimbabwe, whose complex humanitarian situation encompasses flooding, drought and other climate-related disasters, economic instability and disease outbreaks, 24,618 girls and 29,917 women were reached with information on violence against children and on gender-based violence, including information on where to access psychosocial support and referrals to protection services.

Commitment 2: Adolescent girls and boys have equitable access to capacity-building opportunities, including skills development to make informed decisions on issues related to their lives and be effective agents of change within their communities

In 2022, UNICEF continued to multiply results for adolescents and youth through the PROSPECTS partnership. PROSPECTS is a multi-stakeholder partnership involving UNICEF, UNHCR, the International Labour Organization, the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation, funded by the Government of the Netherlands. The partnership opened opportunities for learning-to-earning and the safe and systematic participation of forcibly displaced young people in Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, the Sudan and Uganda. PROSPECTS partners established a youth workstream, created space for young people through forums such as Youth at Heart, and conducted training sessions and adapted materials and standards for young humanitarians. PROSPECTS is a key pathway for developing mechanisms to support and meaningfully engage forcibly displaced young people and host communities.

More countries are providing capacity-building for adolescents and youth to reach their full potential. For example, nearly 40,000 adolescents (75 per cent girls) in Ethiopia participated in programmes for skills development, active citizenship, personal empowerment and employability. In Iraq, 12,200 young people, including those who are internally displaced, refugees and members of host communities, were engaged in skills-building opportunities. In Türkiye, 180,000 adolescents and youth, including Syrian refugees, benefited from community-based social cohesion activities. In Afghanistan, approximately 55,000 adolescents (44,489 girls) actively participated

in peer-to-peer mentoring sessions to build their agency and exercise their rights to participation, and more than 240,000 young people (117,339 females), including 15,084 with disabilities (9,173 females), engaged in life skills and citizenship education.

Commitment 3: Adolescent girls and boys are engaged in the design and implementation of humanitarian programmes and peacebuilding initiatives

In 2022, UNICEF signed its first-ever agreement with [Global Refugee Youth Network](#), a youth refugee-led organization, to support local action with refugee youth in forcibly displaced contexts. UNICEF has also partnered with the United Nations [Major Group for Children and Youth](#) for the Youth on the Move Fellowship Programme, which offered the opportunity to gain practical skills and work experience with 12 UNICEF teams to 15 talented and passionate youth on the move or young refugees from 10 countries, who face obstacles in accessing traditional internships and learning-to-earning opportunities. These innovative partnerships have shown UNICEF's ongoing commitment to partnering for and with adolescents and youth – as equal partners in humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts.

Challenges and lessons learned

Despite efforts to make young people central to UNICEF's humanitarian responses, their inclusion, needs and priorities across sectors are often ignored in the broader context of humanitarian action. Humanitarian actors must scale up innovative approaches with and for young people by building their capacities, supporting their local efforts and community-based activities and establishing mechanisms for their systematic engagement across sectors and throughout all phases of the humanitarian programme cycle. UNICEF and partners have invested time and effort in consulting and co-creating with young people many of the global standards and flagship tools mentioned above (UNICEF's Core Commitments, the IASC Youth Guidelines, the Adolescent Kit and the Youth Advocacy Guide). UNICEF must continue to leverage these tools while addressing, along with young people themselves and other partners, young people's needs and engaging them in humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts. As UNICEF continues to embark on more innovative solutions with young people, there needs to be collective action from all stakeholders – including youth networks, civil society, national governments and international organizations – to completely shift the humanitarian landscape to be more inclusive of and responsive to young women, young men, girls and boys.

CASE STUDY

Ukraine: UNICEF and the World Organization of the Scout Movement mobilize youth to support children and families affected by the war

In 2022, UNICEF and the [World Organization of the Scout Movement](#) launched a regional cooperation agreement mobilizing young people to provide care and support to children and families fleeing the war in Ukraine. This involved the neighbouring countries of Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, as well as Czechia, Latvia and Lithuania (where refugees are continuing their journey).

Scouting is a global youth movement that builds skills for life, shaping young people's futures as active citizens. The Scout Movement is the biggest youth organization in the world. It is active in 173 countries, mobilizing more than 57 million young people to participate in activities and events worldwide.

In addition to providing essential services to arriving refugees, the Scouts are helping Ukrainians access public services and supporting the smooth integration of children and adolescents into host communities. These initiatives range from organizing activities for children and adolescents at reception points and shelters and providing summer camps (Poland), distributing essential supplies to refugee families arriving at train stations and implementing social cohesion programmes that raise awareness of migration and refugee needs through storytelling (Hungary); to helping refugees access local services through dedicated web pages (Lithuania). Direct support has also been provided in Ukraine, where Scout groups are reaching internally displaced people seeking safety within the country. UNICEF's work with the Scouts is echoed in other partnerships engaging youth. For example, UNICEF has partnered with the Ukrainian Volunteer Service and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, engaging more than 180,000 youth volunteers in similar efforts to support internally displaced families. These youth-led actions have demonstrated how valuable and powerful young people's engagement in humanitarian action can be when they are provided with appropriate resources and support.

UNICEF and the World Organization of the Scout Movement are working together with other civil society organizations, local governments and youth networks to engage and empower young people from Ukraine and refugee-hosting countries in the broader response to the humanitarian crisis in and around Ukraine and to ensure their voices are heard in decision-making processes affecting them. For instance, UNICEF, the Scouts, the United Nations Population Fund and the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action conducted an inter-agency workshop that trained more than 100 young humanitarians working in Ukraine crisis response to strengthen

work with and for young people supporting displaced and refugee families, peers and communities in Ukraine and in the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Romania and other surrounding areas.

Together with UNICEF, in 2022 the Scouts supported nearly 900,000 Ukrainian individuals, 408,000 of whom were children and young people, in thousands of locations throughout the nine programme countries. In addition, there were nearly 2.2 million communications and social media interactions up to 31 December 2022.

UNICEF's partnership with the Scout Movement to support the Ukraine humanitarian response has been groundbreaking and sets an excellent example of young people's meaningful engagement in UNICEF's humanitarian efforts. In fact, UNICEF is looking at continued work with the Scouting movement, building on the experience of the Ukraine response. If funding is received, this Scouting for Social Cohesion programme will focus on skills-building for sustainable impact, preparedness and active inclusion.



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Ukrainian children wearing Scout scarves from their own country participate in team-building games at a day camp organized by Polish Scouts in Gdansk, Poland. The aim of the camp is for children to get to know each other while participating in Scouting-related non-formal education activities. The day camps mix Polish Scouts and Ukrainian children to help Ukrainians make friends and integrate into their host communities.



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Results by operational commitment

Students play during a break at Omar Al Mokhtar school, Baba Amer, Homs City, Syrian Arab Republic, in September 2022. From 2014 to 2018, the school was used as a shelter for internally displaced families. In 2019, the displaced families moved to another education centre and the Ministry of Education rehabilitated the first floor of the school to put it back into service. Increasing numbers of returnees and the lack of operating schools in the area heightened the demand for more learning spaces, so in 2022 UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of the second floor of the building, preparing an early childhood education class and installing special water and sanitation facilities for this age group. The school was also equipped with facilities for children with disabilities, including washrooms, and with furniture for classrooms and teacher rooms. These activities were part of the United Nations' Joint Programme to Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and Conditions for Recovery in Syria.

Needs assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation

In 2022, UNICEF strengthened needs-based planning and results-based management of programmes to ensure appropriate and timely humanitarian action for children and their communities. As part of these efforts, the Core Commitments for Children Indicator Guidance was updated to align it with other UNICEF frameworks and processes, including the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 indicators, the RAM Standard Indicators, the Country Standard Indicators and the Humanitarian Action for Children indicators. The Indicator Guidance is a tool to help country offices quickly and easily choose indicators against the Core Commitments and their benchmarks for humanitarian response planning and reporting, including the development of Humanitarian Action for Children appeals and humanitarian situation reports. Contributing to this goal, the updated tool included new sheets for such cross-cutting areas as protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, community engagement, social and behaviour change and accountability to affected populations, helping focal points quickly access the relevant consolidated cross-cutting indicators.

Commitment 1: Disaggregated data are collected, analysed and disseminated to understand and address the diverse needs, risks and vulnerabilities of children and their communities

To advance UNICEF's commitment to equity, the UNICEF Disaggregated Data Improvement Working Group invested efforts in ensuring that data disaggregated by age, gender, disability, location and other context-specific considerations are collected, analysed and disseminated in all assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation activities. A key 2022 milestone for this Working Group was the development of the UNICEF Guidance on Concepts and Processes in Data Disaggregation, which presents the main concepts and uses of data disaggregation to make UNICEF programming more equitable. While the guidance was disseminated across the organization's technical teams in October 2022, UNICEF plans to share it with inter-agency partners in 2023.

Commitment 2: Coordinated, timely and impartial assessments of the situation, humanitarian assistance and protection needs, vulnerabilities and risks are undertaken

UNICEF and partners conducted in-depth needs assessments and analyses throughout the year, ensuring these exercises are child- and gender-sensitive, meet inter-agency standards and integrate data and feedback from affected populations. In this context, the Global Education Cluster and the Global Child Protection Area

of Responsibility teams deepened ongoing collaboration by strengthening the inclusion of child protection considerations into Joint Education Needs Assessments, including equipping 98 participants in eight humanitarian contexts with foundational skills to undertake these multisectoral assessments. The coordination of the Child Protection Area of Responsibility was also strengthened through country coordination groups on information management, including the conducting and/or reinforcement of child protection needs analysis and response planning for the 2023 humanitarian planning cycle. As part of WASH cluster coordination, a People Centred Programming Coordinator supported in-country deployments to Ukraine and Yemen to initiate the Accountability Working Group and developed guidance on integrating gender equality into humanitarian needs assessments.

Commitment 3: Response plans are evidence-based and consistent with inter-agency planning. They address coverage, quality and equity, adapt to evolving needs, ensure conflict sensitivity and link humanitarian and development programming

UNICEF strengthened country- and regional-level planning, monitoring and evaluation in humanitarian contexts through nine support missions, including to Afghanistan, Kenya, Pakistan, Ukraine, Eastern and Southern Africa and Europe and Central Asia. These missions assisted country and regional offices in developing response plans, establishing partner reporting and field monitoring systems and undertaking evaluative reviews of UNICEF's humanitarian responses.

In addition, humanitarian planning and supporting resources were integrated into the new package of UNICEF Procedures released in October 2022. This included a procedure on country programme planning that guides the development of five-year plans for UNICEF country offices and includes humanitarian programming for protracted crises and preparedness for known hazards. A programme implementation procedure that operationalizes the implementation of both humanitarian and development planning was also included.

Commitment 4: The humanitarian situation and the coverage, quality and equity of the humanitarian response are monitored to inform ongoing corrective action and future planning processes

In 2022, UNICEF launched the first-ever eSitRep (electronic situation report) platform to digitize the development of humanitarian situation reports (also known as SitReps). UNICEF's humanitarian action in all countries where there is a humanitarian response is published through the SitReps, which provide a regular updated snapshot of the

evolving humanitarian response, the needs of women and children, funding requirements, results achieved to date and major gaps or bottlenecks. Since its launch in mid-2022, more than 200 UNICEF staff in country and regional offices have been trained on the use of the eSitRep platform, and 19 country offices (46 per cent of UNICEF country offices with a stand-alone Humanitarian Action for Children appeal) transitioned to eSitRep. These offices produced 61 eSitReps by the end of 2022. The new platform has contributed to improving the speed and quality of reporting on UNICEF's humanitarian response. First, the eSitRep system has facilitated reporting by country offices, thanks to features that allow for strengthened collaboration and quality assurance across country offices, regional offices and headquarters; its capacity to integrate data from other UNICEF tools; the automation of data collection and analysis; and the automatic generation of a designed layout. Second, UNICEF has strengthened the speed and timelines of its reporting to the broader humanitarian community, and in particular to donors.

Challenges and lessons learned

While significant progress has been made in better integrating humanitarian and development planning, monitoring and reporting systems at headquarters, this integration is not present to the same level in regional and country offices. More work needs to be done in communicating the changes made at headquarters globally and in supporting a culture shift in planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation among colleagues across the organization. Additionally, further harmonization of humanitarian and development procedures and processes related to planning, monitoring and evaluation is required in headquarters divisions. Another crucial matter is improved communications with country and regional offices to be able to better identify technical gaps and produce the necessary training modules and guiding tools available to bridge capacity gaps.

Human resources

Commitment 1: Timely deployment of personnel at the onset of emergencies enables rapid emergency response

To support UNICEF country office teams with timely deployment of an appropriately qualified workforce during emergency situations, a total of 709 deployments were made from both internal and external surge structures (see *Figure 6*). Twenty-two Emergency Response Team (ERT) members carried out 55 deployments, and another 359 staff members undertook 386 deployments to provide internal surge support to 39 countries. UNICEF also benefited from 268 deployments from its external surge mechanisms to 61 country, regional and headquarters offices (198 deployments through the standby partner mechanism, 70 through the Rapid Response Team). The

countries that received the highest number of combined internal and external surge deployments were Ukraine (112), Pakistan (62) and Somalia (40).

Commitment 2: Regional offices, country offices and field offices are adequately staffed to enable ongoing humanitarian response

To ensure UNICEF has an appropriate workforce to enable ongoing humanitarian response, UNICEF continued to encourage staff membership in Frontlines – a global community of UNICEF colleagues interested in pursuing careers in humanitarian contexts. Membership in the platform grew from 2,800 members in 2021 to 4,427 in 2022 (46 per cent female). Frontlines also serves as an important talent forum, bringing humanitarian staffing workforce planning, sourcing and talent identification into one platform. UNICEF made progress in linking appropriately qualified individuals on regional rosters to the Frontlines platform to increase the number of vetted candidates available for global surge needs.

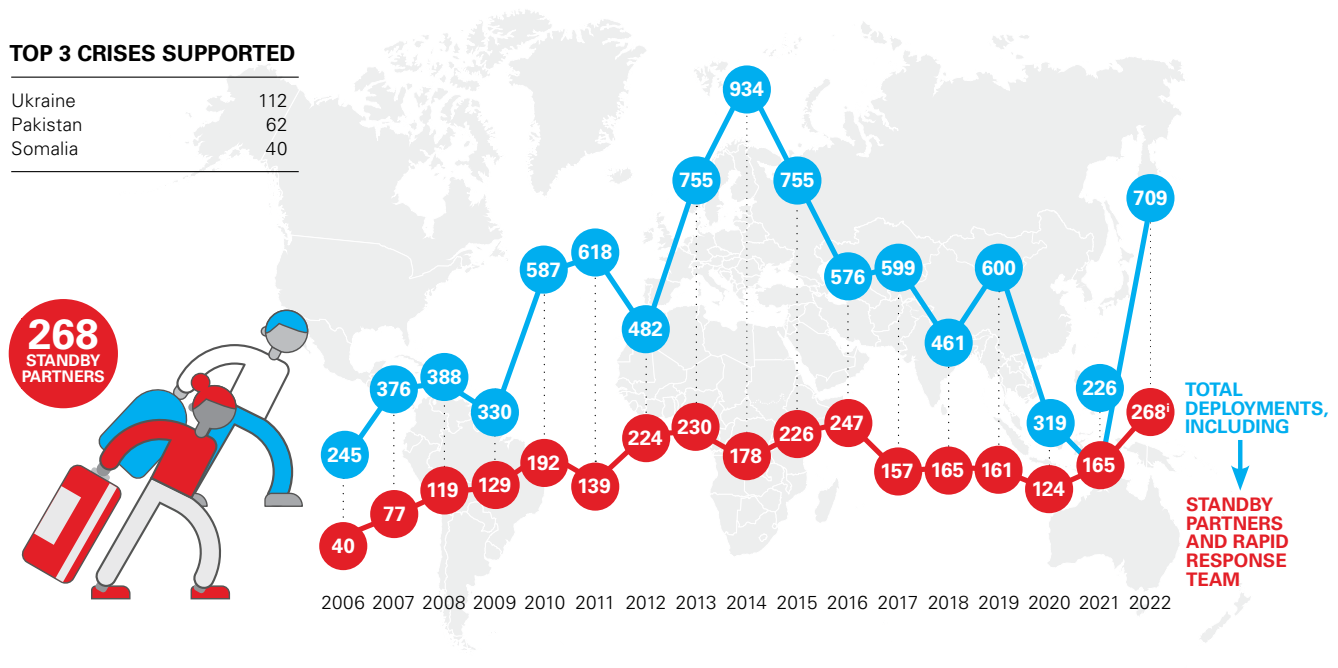
Skills mapping exercises continued in 2022. This included identification and mapping of both current and future skills linked to nine UNICEF functional areas. Following extensive consultation with human resource business partners, the Global Staff Association and global human resources colleagues, in December 2022 UNICEF issued the Division of Human Resources Procedure on Talent Mobility (supplemented by Talent Mobility Guidance), which details the Mobility Exercise and the designation of highly specialized posts. This Procedure has clear milestones and will foster greater effectiveness and efficiencies in talent mobility. In 2022, UNICEF continued its Mobility Exercise, which had begun in 2021, with more than 900 staff receiving support to navigate the Talent Mobility process of which approximately 200 were serving in humanitarian contexts. Throughout the year, various interventions were used to bridge the significant gap between the number of participating staff members and posts (there were more staff participating than posts available), and to maximize placement options, among them a complementary placement exercise, proactive mobility, and pilot projects for the functional areas of security, information and communication technology and WASH, among other interventions. Webinars, clinics and bilateral meetings supported staff, hiring offices, human resources teams and Mobility Panels in carrying out the Mobility Exercise.

During 2022, the applicability of temporary assignments, through which staff on fixed-term contracts can take up temporary appointments while retaining their fixed-term status, was expanded to include the possibility of staff in the international professional (IP) category taking up IP posts in Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies, in response to the need for scaling up operations in response to the war in Ukraine. With 103 staff members opting to do this, the measure proved to be an important and flexible talent option and will now be expanded in other contexts where relevant.

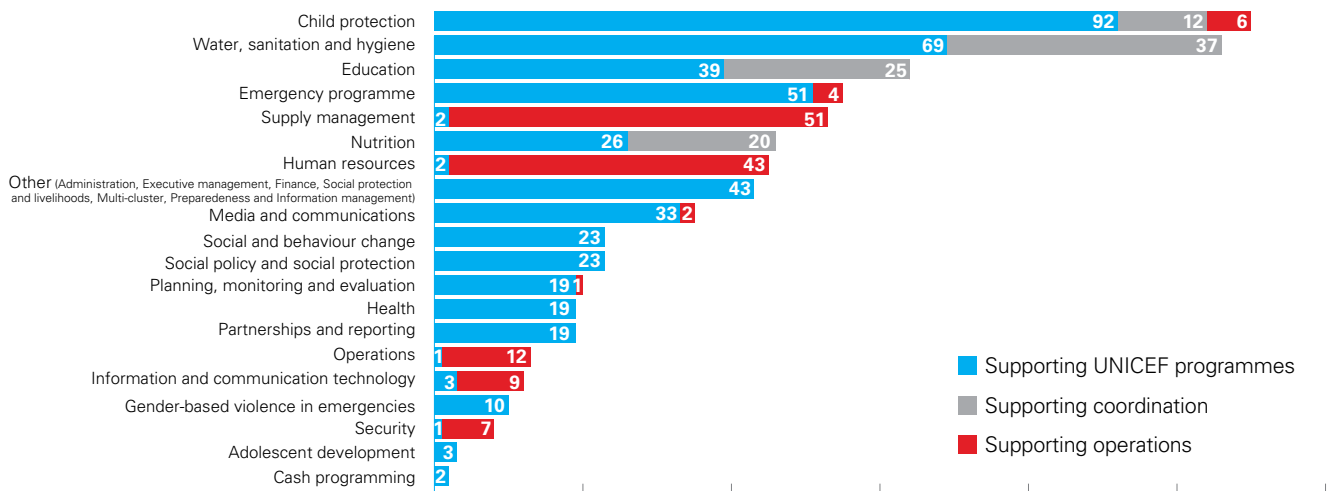
FIGURE 6: Emergency deployments

TOP 3 CRISES SUPPORTED

Ukraine	112
Pakistan	62
Somalia	40



709 deployments by functional area



ⁱ Includes 198 deployments through the standby partner mechanism, 70 through the Rapid Response Team to support clusters and areas of responsibility led or co-led by UNICEF.

To meet recommendations arising from UNICEF’s Humanitarian Review, a Cluster Talent Management Strategy was finalized in 2022. The Strategy reinforces the UNICEF leadership or co-leadership position for its three clusters and one area of responsibility. It supports the need for cluster teams from the moment of cluster activation and rewards such positions with appropriate seniority and supports them with sufficiently staffed teams and enhanced career management options.

A humanitarian leadership talent management strategy was drafted in December 2022. The strategy will address the current deficit in UNICEF humanitarian leadership capacity over the short term and reorient UNICEF talent management systems to strengthen leadership in humanitarian action as part of the dual mandate of UNICEF in the long term.

Commitment 3: Duty of care for UNICEF personnel is assured

During 2022, UNICEF continued to provide strong support to staff serving in humanitarian contexts through the global well-being programme and dedicated staff care initiatives.

The Global Staff Wellbeing Team trained 366 new peer support volunteers (PSVs) globally, bringing the cohort to 574. Three UNICEF regions – Middle East and North Africa, West and Central Africa, and Eastern and Southern Africa – together ran a tailored cross-regional training for 220 PSVs, with a focus on emergencies. This included the introduction of PSV focal points to ensure better on-the-ground care coordination in the larger duty stations.

The Global Staff Wellbeing Team also piloted a cross-regional collaborative approach to be more agile in emergency response. For example, in Ukraine, to provide more timely and effective staff support, team members of the Global Staff Wellbeing Team engaged in remote counselling and created tailored resources, including a pre-deployment podcast.

In 2022, UNICEF focused even more intently on providing psychosocial support for healthy workplace environments in challenging contexts. For example, psychological safety training sessions – meant to provide offices with skills to create an atmosphere where staff can voice their concerns, ask for help, generate ideas and make mistakes without the fear of negative consequences – were provided to staff in the Afghanistan Country Office. This resulted in staff feeling more comfortable approaching management with professional or personal issues. In addition, the staff counselling team in the West and Central Africa Regional Office offered learning and discussion opportunities on psychological safety in 11 country offices in 2022. This is now a standard agenda item of all well-being missions in the region.

Commitment 4: UNICEF personnel have appropriate knowledge of emergency preparedness and response

UNICEF continued to strengthen staff and partner knowledge and skills for effective emergency preparedness and response.

To date, at least 50 country offices and regional offices, through different types of learning session formats, have been trained on UNICEF's Emergency Procedures, the package of minimum mandatory actions and simplifications for humanitarian contexts. These sessions have reached at least 3,800 staff in Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies since the Emergency Procedures were published in December 2021. Multi-country training events have allowed peer-to-peer learning and the exchange of good practices. In addition, there were 3,949 course completions in 2022 on the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action on the CCC learning channel, bringing the total number of course completions to 14,403. Various learning packages on core humanitarian topics (humanitarian

standards and principles, humanitarian advocacy, access and accountability to affected populations) are also either already active or under development.

Already making an impact in country offices and in key humanitarian response efforts is the Humanitarian Leadership Workshop. In total, 169 managers have been trained since 2020. In 2022, 67 senior leaders were trained, 39 completing the course titled 'Leading in emergencies' and 28, the course 'Leading in complex and high threat emergencies'.

UNICEF made more than 900 UNICEF humanitarian and development knowledge products freely available via the external portal <www.corecommitments.unicef.org/>.

Several initiatives were designed to equip human resources staff to better support humanitarian action, one of the recommendations of the Humanitarian Review. The update of the Human Resources in Emergencies Toolkit and the creation of a knowledge management platform (a central repository for human resources knowledge and an engagement hub) began in 2022 and was slated for completion in 2023. To capture human resources-related lessons learned in emergencies more systematically, an after-action review was undertaken in Afghanistan, with results to be shared in 2023. Similarly, the Annual Global HR in Emergencies Network Meeting in Istanbul convened with 45 participants (in-person and remote) representing seven regions and 21 country offices experiencing Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 emergencies, as well as headquarters locations. This meeting helped build the capacity of human resources staff on the Emergency Procedures and also looked at how to achieve the human resources core commitments for children through support to country and regional offices.

Commitment 5: UNICEF personnel observe organizational standards of conduct, both as an individual responsibility and an organizational commitment. These include standards on discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of authority, child safeguarding and sexual exploitation and abuse

As international civil servants, UNICEF staff members are expected to meet the highest standards of integrity, efficiency and competence. UNICEF has zero tolerance for any form of sexual exploitation and abuse or sexual harassment.

Throughout 2022, UNICEF continued to implement the recommendations from the Task Team on Anti-Racism and Discrimination. UNICEF conducted awareness-raising sessions on diversity, equity and inclusion issues; established guidelines on respectful child imagery and moving away from white saviourism; and promoted greater internal communications on living the core values of UNICEF.

In 2022, UNICEF conducted a Global Staff Survey, which had a staff response rate of 76 per cent. The component on Standards of Conduct received 77 per cent positive

responses overall, with 96 per cent of respondents knowing what constitutes misconduct, 90 per cent of respondents aware of the mechanisms to report misconduct, with 92 per cent of those knowing how to report sexual harassment. However, only 68 per cent of the respondents felt that, in their office, appropriate measures were being taken to address questionable conduct matters; 61 per cent believed that they would be protected from retaliation if reporting misconduct through appropriate channels; and only 58 per cent thought that the mechanisms to address conduct matters were being applied fairly and in a timely way. Follow-up actions based on Survey results were under way as of early 2023.

UNICEF has robustly integrated protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) into its corporate systems. PSEA commitments are entrenched throughout the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and PSEA scale-up measures are included in the updated Emergency Procedures. They are also embedded in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025. UNICEF further strengthened systems to prevent and respond to SEA in 2022. Mandatory PSEA actions include the development and implementation of an office-wide PSEA action plan, the establishment of dedicated PSEA capacity and PSEA focal points within all UNICEF offices, including relevant field offices, SEA risk assessments and safe programming, internal and external SEA reporting systems, referral pathways and victim assistance requirements. These are all core interventions from the outset of a humanitarian response. By the end of 2022, 124 out of 129 UNICEF country offices had established a PSEA focal point system and trained UNICEF colleagues on how and where to report SEA. In addition, 65 UNICEF country offices had achieved criteria established in the UNICEF Strategic Plan for having a PSEA system in place (which includes the establishment of a PSEA focal point as well as other elements), compared with 53 in 2021.

Challenges and lessons learned

The current team structure of the Global Staff Wellbeing Team is increasingly limited in its ability to respond to emergencies in an agile way because it does not have the appropriate staffing structure and resources. This impacts not only staff on the ground but also the well-being of the staff counsellors. The slow pace of recruitment and the difficulty in attracting the right candidates for certain posts have left gaps in critical staff support. In 2023, the strategic priorities for well-being include the redesign and strengthening of the capacity of the global staff well-being function so that it can better deliver results for staff, including in humanitarian contexts. Additionally, UNICEF will develop a staff counsellor self-care framework in 2023, in line with the recommendations of the United Nations Mental Health and Well-being Strategy.

To allow for more cost-effective and rational staffing structures in humanitarian contexts, the Division of Human Resources will invest in improved organizational design and development support from 2023 onwards which

will accompany offices through scale-up and scale-down phases of humanitarian response and streamline related processes to ensure more effective utilization of human resources during these times.

Supply and logistics

Supply and logistics overarching commitment: Ensure the timely delivery and distribution of supplies and essential household items to affected populations, partners and/or point-of-use

Despite the increasing scale, complexity and frequency of emergencies, UNICEF delivered a record number of life-saving supplies to children in emergencies – more than \$863.9 million in supplies for emergencies in 140 countries, with over 94 per cent going to Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies (see Figure 7). UNICEF delivered \$256.3 million in nutrition supplies – a 90 per cent increase over 2021 – largely due to a substantial increase in demand for ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF). Of this, \$108 million worth of RUTF was for use in humanitarian responses. UNICEF delivered 68,702 metric tons of RUTF in 2022 – a 33 per cent increase compared with 2021.

Deliveries from UNICEF's global supply hubs increased by 30 per cent of all deliveries, reaching a record \$363 million in goods delivered out of these hubs in 2022. To support increased emergency responses, UNICEF optimized its

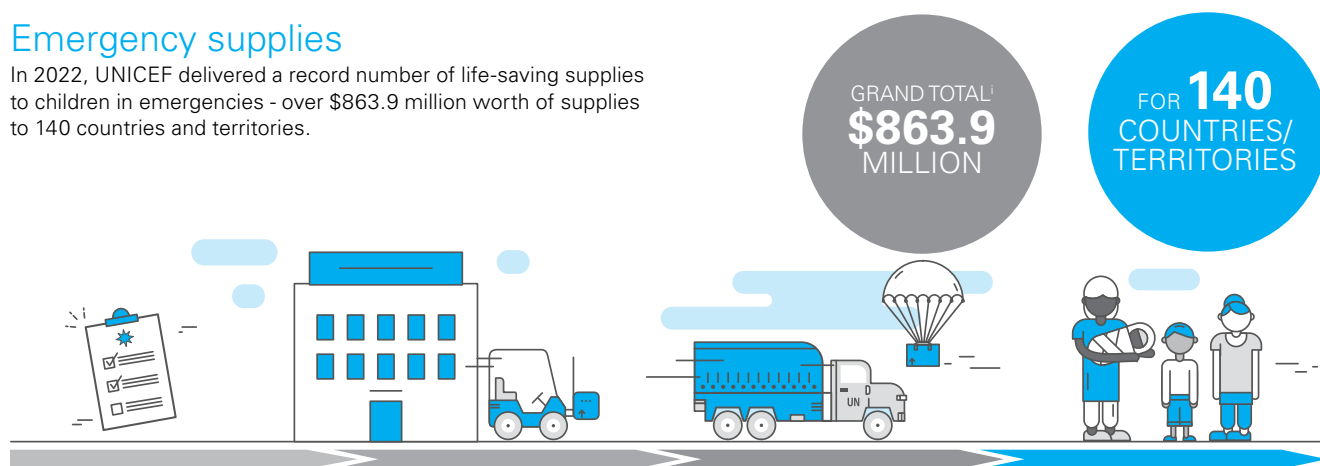


At the airstrip in Ménaka, Mali, COVID-19 vaccines are loaded onto a vehicle in December 2022 for use in a vaccination campaign in Ménaka and surrounding areas. Due to access difficulties caused by a volatile and unpredictable regional security situation that has impacted civilians and hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance, trucks could no longer be used to transport vaccines beyond Mopti, in central Mali. So, working closely with Mali's National Immunization Centre, UNICEF chartered humanitarian flights to deliver medical inputs for COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in the northern Malian regions of Timbuktu, Gao, Taoudénit, Kidal and Ménaka.

FIGURE 7: Emergency supplies

Emergency supplies

In 2022, UNICEF delivered a record number of life-saving supplies to children in emergencies - over \$863.9 million worth of supplies to 140 countries and territories.



Vaccines

In 2022, UNICEF delivered **261 million vaccine doses, worth \$101.5 million, to 15 countries** (including 164.1 million doses of polio vaccine, 29.1 million doses of measles-containing vaccine, 16.1 million doses of bacille Calmette-Guérin vaccine, 14.6 million doses of tetanus-diphtheria vaccine and 12.8 million doses of pentavalent vaccine).

Nutrition

In 2022, UNICEF delivered nutrition supplies worth **\$256 million – a 90 per cent increase from 2021** – largely due to an exponential increase in demand for ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF). UNICEF delivered 70,204 metric tons of RUTF in 2022 – a 36 per cent increase from 2021.

Top commodities shipped in response to:

COVID-19 PANDEMIC (\$316.9 million)	AFGHANISTAN (\$166.9 million)	UKRAINE (including outflow countries) (\$91.5 million)	YEMEN (\$82.5 million)	HORN OF AFRICA (\$49 million)
Medical supplies and equipment \$292.4 million	Vaccines/biologicals \$57.9 million	Water and sanitation supplies \$24.6 million	Vaccines/biologicals \$27.5 million	Nutrition \$47.3 million
Water and sanitation supplies \$9 million	Nutrition \$28.8 million	Medical supplies and equipment \$22.5 million	Water and sanitation supplies \$17 million	Pharmaceuticals \$880,464
Pharmaceuticals \$5.9 million	Water and sanitation supplies \$24.2 million	Education supplies \$14.4 million	Medical supplies and equipment \$10.8 million	Medical supplies and equipment \$482,151

ⁱⁱ This total includes all programme supplies going to Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies; all programme supplies for any new Level 2 or Level 3 emergencies, from the date they were declared; specific relevant orders for the countries in which only a region or part of the country is in an emergency; and specific supplies flagged as emergency ones in countries facing Level 1 crises.

warehousing capacities; and, in the Copenhagen supply hub, operations increased to seven days a week and new packing lines were added to nearly triple the number of kits packed in 2022 compared with 2021.

Commitment 1: Supply and logistics preparedness measures are in place at global, regional and country levels, including pre-positioning of supplies and contractual arrangements for logistics services and more commonly requested goods

UNICEF supported emergency preparedness by pre-positioning supplies locally and by building capacity for preparedness and response, including for public health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic; Ebola disease (caused by Sudan virus) in Uganda and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring countries;

Marburg virus in Ghana; and cholera outbreaks in 30 countries. To support these efforts, UNICEF developed a health emergency preparedness and response strategy and a public health emergencies 'archetypes' framework to guide supply selection for responses to various kinds of outbreaks.

To increase preparedness knowledge, improve response and enhance coordination and information sharing for supply responses, UNICEF also organized a virtual Emergency Preparedness and Response training, including an online simulation, for more than 70 UNICEF staff members from six regions.

Commitment 2: Life-saving supplies for children and communities are delivered to partners and/or point-of-use in a timely fashion

UNICEF's Supply Community provided direct staffing support, primarily in warehousing, supply and logistics and procurement, via 59 deployments for a cumulative total of 3,112 days to 17 emergency locations. The highest numbers of deployments were to Ukraine (20), Pakistan (8) and Afghanistan (6).

To increase the visibility of supply operations, UNICEF generated country-focused supply chain dashboards for a consolidated view. Moreover, Supply Division developed the Nutrition Crisis Dashboard, which includes RUTF country forecasts and funding availability, for improved strategic planning.

Commitment 3: Sustainable procurement, supply and logistics arrangements (contracts, agreements and/or plans) are made available at the onset or deterioration of a humanitarian crisis

To ensure the continuity of programmes and mitigate potential breaks in supply pipelines, UNICEF brokered more than \$13.3 million worth of in-kind logistics with partners, including free-of-charge warehousing in Dubai and Karachi for increased agility and efficiency, and in-kind freight services valued at \$3.3 million to airlift critical supplies for the response in Ukraine.

Expanding the previous Charter led by UNICEF and the World Economic Forum, the Supply Chain & Transport Industry Charter for Humanitarian Supply Chain Resilience was signed with World Economic Forum and 20 logistics companies to further support the global movement of humanitarian supplies.

Challenges and lessons learned

Logistics and transportation challenges – including container shortages, complex shipping bottlenecks, increased port congestion, rising transportation costs and persistent labour shortages – exacerbated supply chain issues and further compromised access to essential supplies and services in 2022.

To overcome this increasing pressure on supply chains, UNICEF collaborated with partners and optimized warehouse operations across its global network. UNICEF also adopted a flexible delivery approach by splitting shipments over various carriers, approaching multiple carriers through freight forwarders and improving planning and forecasting.

Communications and advocacy

Commitment 1: Accurate information on the situation and needs of children, women and their communities and UNICEF's response are shared in a timely manner. Accurate information about the impact of the situation on children and women is rapidly provided to National Committees and the general public through local and international media

In 2022, UNICEF leveraged hard-hitting communication products to disseminate information on the needs of children facing conflict, displacement, disasters and disease outbreaks.

During the year, UNICEF issued more than 125 distinct emergency-related media products (press releases, statements, media briefings) on 28 countries, and secured more than 140,000 media mentions on emergencies. UNICEF's global spokesperson deployed to numerous emergency contexts as a live voice from the front lines and delivered an estimated 20 proactive briefings to the Geneva Palais press corps on the humanitarian needs of children.

As war escalated in Ukraine in February 2022, UNICEF immediately deployed spokespersons on the ground and ultimately issued 28 press releases, statements or briefing notes in 2022. The UNICEF global spokesperson conducted more than 200 interviews on Ukraine alone, including to top-tier media. With 444 posts on social media in the first two weeks of the crisis alone, UNICEF had the highest



U-Reporters take part in an awareness-raising action around water access in May 2022 at a well in Fada N'Gourma, a city in eastern Burkina Faso. Young people can express their opinions on this and other topics, and find opportunities to raise awareness and act, via U-Report, a social platform created by UNICEF (available via SMS, Facebook and Twitter). More than 29 million U-Reporters are registered in 93 countries.

U-Reporters span the globe in 2022

U-Report is UNICEF's flagship digital platform to engage children, adolescents and youth in its humanitarian and development responses and advocacy actions. More than 29 million U-Reporters are registered in 93 countries – a growth of one U-Reporter every 4 seconds since the launch of the platform in 2011.

U-Report continued to be an important element of UNICEF's humanitarian communications and engagement toolbox throughout 2022. UNICEF rolled out the '[Guidance Note on U-Report in emergency and humanitarian contexts](#)' for UNICEF country teams to learn how to launch U-Report in emergencies. Globally, the organization engaged more than 7 million U-Reporters in emergency contexts during the year:

- Madagascar – tropical cyclones (160,481 U-Reporters received warning messages, 32 online U-Report counsellors were trained to respond to user queries)
- Mozambique – tropical cyclones (more than 5,068 U-Reporters responded to an emergency poll)
- Ukraine, Europe Region – war, the refugee crisis (more than 12,546 U-Reporters engaged within Ukraine through polls, more than 18,600 were reached in other European countries through a regional chatbot)
- the Democratic Republic of the Congo – Ebola and polio outbreaks (more than 91,000 people received the messages on the outbreaks, and the EBOLA bot was accessed more than 78,000 times)
- Uganda – Ebola disease, caused by Sudan virus (28,713 U-Reporters were reached through an Ebola chatbot)
- Malawi – cholera (more than 20,576 U-Reporters navigated a U-Report bot)
- Chad – flooding (more than 200 U-Reporters volunteered to help more than 15,000 affected families)
- Haiti – cholera (4,759 U-Reporters were engaged through a poll)
- Lebanon – cholera (6,328 U-Reporters were engaged through a poll)
- Pacific Islands – typhoons (technical support was provided to the country to redefine a strategy for U-Report in the emergency)
- the Philippines – volcanic eruption and tsunami (technical support was provided to the country to redefine a strategy for U-Report in the emergency)
- Nigeria – floods (13,471 U-Reporters were engaged through a poll)

engagement on Ukraine of all international organizations. Ukraine content on UNICEF's global website – including a main page in English, French and Spanish – generated nearly 5 million page-views. And UNICEF's U-Report tool reached more than 8,000 young people in Ukraine affected by the war, sharing information on [volunteering](#) and financial assistance, and across the region, reached more than 21,000 young Ukrainians on the move.

When floods swept across Pakistan in 2022, UNICEF expanded content on the situation of children in Pakistan on our digital channels with 98 social media posts, which received more than 1 million views. UNICEF also launched a dedicated [emergency response page](#) featuring the latest information on the impact of the floods and how UNICEF was assisting in the response, and this received nearly 250,000 page-views.

Commitment 2: Advocacy is conducted at country, regional and global levels to protect the rights of children, women and their communities, promote adherence to international laws and standards, facilitate principled humanitarian access and the delivery of programmes and promote child-friendly policies and practices

In 2022, UNICEF increased targeted support to country and regional offices to conduct effective humanitarian advocacy, including through surge missions, capacity-building and humanitarian advocacy strategy development workshops and remote support. In addition, coordination of advocacy efforts in complex crises helped bring greater coherence across country, regional and global levels and allowed UNICEF to speak with one voice on major humanitarian crises threatening the rights of children.

UNICEF took an integrated approach to humanitarian advocacy in 2022, leveraging public and private channels to increase impact for children. For example, UNICEF sounded the alarm early in 2022 on the growing drought in the Horn of Africa and secured sustained media and political attention on the impact on children, with Goodwill Ambassador visits to the region (one visit to Kenya generated more than 27 million views), deployment of the UNICEF spokesperson, participation in high-level roundtables and donor conferences and multiple media briefings and press releases. With the escalation of war in Ukraine, UNICEF leveraged private and public opportunities to call for principled and unimpeded humanitarian access and for an end to the killing and maiming of children and attacks on children and the infrastructure they rely on – including schools, hospitals and critical infrastructure. This included private advocacy at the inter-agency level and with Member States, as well as media products, in-depth web content, sustained social media focus and innovative use of multimedia. It also incorporated visits and virtual support from several Goodwill Ambassadors.

UNICEF also conducted global-level humanitarian advocacy initiatives in 2022. Chief among them was a new political declaration to end the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Using direct negotiations and private advocacy alongside [multimedia](#), web, social media and media efforts, UNICEF raised awareness of the impact of explosive weapons on children and helped influence 83 Member States (as of November 2022) to endorse the declaration.

Ahead of the launch of the UNICEF 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal in December 2022, a month-long advocacy effort successfully mobilized Goodwill Ambassadors, multimedia featuring front-line staff, a [global campaign page](#) and 205 pieces of content in four languages to issue a clear call to action for flexible, timely funding to ensure life-saving assistance to children in emergencies – wherever they are, and whenever they need support. The campaign secured 5.6 million views through digital channels and complemented private advocacy efforts through direct engagement with UNICEF humanitarian partners.

Challenges and looking ahead

Many country and regional offices are without dedicated advocacy experts, and communications teams are often overwhelmed with competing demands in complex and dynamic contexts and on sensitive issues. In addition, due to staff rotations and departures and lengthy recruitment processes, five out of seven UNICEF regions were without Chiefs of Communications and Advocacy for prolonged periods when crises were multiplying. Together, these limitations in communication and advocacy capacity affected UNICEF's ability to effectively advocate and speak out for children on violations of their rights. This increased reputational risk for the organization and resulted in a lack of consistent, coordinated and effective advocacy across emergencies. To address these challenges, in 2022 UNICEF

deployed advocacy and communications surge staff to country and regional offices and provided targeted field support from headquarters where most needed.

While the Humanitarian Review and the revised Emergency Procedures have led to increased understanding of the importance of effective humanitarian advocacy, the demand for capacity-building is quickly exceeding the ability to supply it. And, while significant progress has been made in developing humanitarian advocacy strategies for major emergencies, challenges remain in coordinated implementation of these strategies at subnational, national, regional and global levels – particularly on sensitive issues. Considering the ever-growing demands on humanitarian advocacy, targeted investment in UNICEF's humanitarian advocacy is urgently needed in specific countries as well as at the regional and global levels to provide sustained support to countries and regions, enhance coordination and maximize global opportunities for change at scale.

In 2022, media outreach on the full range of humanitarian contexts was challenging due to the escalation of the war in Ukraine in February and the ensuing focus from global media. The proliferation of emergencies as well as the protracted nature of crises in many regions makes it difficult to attract and sustain the attention of overloaded news desks. This is exacerbated by lack of compelling and globally representative data. To address this, UNICEF is working to leverage strategic partnerships with media entities, key influencers and Goodwill Ambassadors, as well as engage news desks strategically on issues with growing or sustained media attention, such as climate change.

Finance and administration

Commitment 1: Programmes are delivered through transparent and efficient use of resources

The UNICEF Division of Financial and Administrative Management (DFAM) used the Emergency Response Team mechanism to help UNICEF country offices use a sound risk management approach and navigate simplifications to emergency procedures for Level 3 and Level 2 responses. The Division also addressed context-specific operations issues in 2022 in countries including Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Haiti and Ukraine.

In Afghanistan, for example, DFAM provided the liquidity that was critical for all cash-based transfer programming and for UNICEF's operations, establishing funding channels and assessing and approving 11 financial service providers to make payments. And in Ukraine, UNICEF expanded a Prepaid Card (PCard) solution that greatly facilitated its response inside Ukraine and in Belarus, Czechia, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, countries that hosted Ukrainian refugees. (See page 69 for more on humanitarian cash transfers in Ukraine.) The PCard was also used in Uganda in September 2022 during the response to the Ebola disease outbreak.

The position of Senior Operations Manager (at the P5 level) was established and the staff member joined in May 2022 to support Emergency Response Team operations. Posted in Istanbul, he was deployed to Ethiopia and Haiti for a total of 86 days in the second half of 2022. The Senior Operations Manager led the country offices in scaling up the UNICEF response by acting as Deputy Representative for Operations and overseeing human resources functions, helping to increase staffing to respond to urgent needs (via new fixed-term positions submitted through ad hoc Mail Poll Programme Budget Review, temporary appointments, surge, Emergency Response Team and standby partners); ensuring liquidity solutions with alternate financial services providers and establishing cash on hand accounts and petty cash accounts; and leading the country offices in establishing humanitarian cash transfer mechanisms to ensure the greatest coverage while mitigating fiscal risk to the greatest degree. The Senior Operations Manager also provided training to office staff on the new UNICEF Simplified Emergency procedures to educate them on how to ensure a rapid response in the areas of human resources scale-up, procurement, logistics and staff welfare, and on how to seek seed funding through the Emergency Programme Fund facility.

Commitment 2: Cash is disbursed to partners and vendors in a timely manner and in compliance with established policies and procedures

UNICEF's Global Shared Services Centre processed all payments centrally and met performance targets in 2022. Country office payment runs were on the agreed frequency schedule, based on country office emergency status, with payments for emergency country offices processed daily. As a performance indicator, service-level agreements were monitored, and 90 per cent or more of payments were processed within two days.

Movement restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic spilled over into 2022 and posed a challenge to meeting the cash disbursement commitment in some settings. Offices working with manual payments endured practical delays in the submission of manual payment instructions because payment instructions had to be physically delivered to banks when movement was in some cases still restricted. Additionally, with many banks scaling down in-branch services due to the global rise in online banking (a trend that gathered pace during the height of the pandemic) and therefore requiring the use of their electronic platforms, there was a need to accelerate payment automation for countries making manual payments. In Ukraine the war and related sanctions on certain banks disrupted payments to key suppliers, who needed to quickly change their banking relationships. At the same time, a general increase in payments vetting by UNICEF partner banks slowed down payment receipt by some partners and vendors in specific areas. To mitigate this, UNICEF worked with its partner banks to pre-clear payments to various partners and vendors.

Commitment 3: Safe and conducive working environments and appropriate accommodation are in place to enable UNICEF field presence and programme delivery

UNICEF is updating policies and procedures related to ensuring a safe and conducive working environment and appropriate accommodation for staff in the field, in both humanitarian and development response contexts. Also under development is a checklist on safety, energy efficiency and accessibility of premises to facilitate compliance. The revised procedures recommend that offices establish Occupational Safety and Health Committees to address all aspects of health and safety in the workplace, to focus on primary prevention of hazards and preventing accidents and harm to people from work-related incidents.

By the end of 2022, 53 per cent of UNICEF offices were in common premises and met the basic accessibility level for people with disabilities. The implementation of policies and procedures linked to common premises (which also integrate accessibility and environmental sustainability) was funded by UNICEF's Capital Asset Fund and Greening and Accessibility Fund. Both funds support initiatives that contribute to the efficiency, safety, security and eco-sustainability of offices.

As an active member of the United Nations Task Team on Common Premises and Facilities Services, UNICEF helped to develop guidelines on new space standards and began to implement the Hybrid Work Modality, which addresses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and shifting working configurations (on-site, remote and satellite office-based). The guidelines strengthen the United Nations' efforts to make more efficient use of space, promote open space with areas of higher air circulation, better work collaboration potential and enhanced learning and focus. The guidelines have been explained to all UNICEF country offices and are being implemented wherever applicable.

Challenges and lessons learned

Challenges with implementing common premises include timeliness of decision-making, given the need for so many agencies to weigh in, along with the lack of capital funds from some agencies for construction or rehabilitation of facilities in keeping with evolving guidance on safety, security, accessibility and well-being. UNICEF's role in the inter-agency United Nations Task Team on Common Premises has helped to mitigate some of the challenges. New space standards and implementation of the Hybrid Work Modality have also been challenging, as staff are not eager to drop their current comfort of being in larger spaces in order to comply with new standards. In 2022, there were numerous presentations to staff as part of the roll-out of the new guidelines. It is also important to note that the difficulties described here are not unique to UNICEF.

Information and communication technology

The digital necessities required during emergencies have evolved in recent years, and the UNICEF Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD) response along with them. In 2022, ICTD provided strategic, technical and oversight support to all UNICEF emergency operations. Each of these responses addressed infrastructure and programmatic digital needs, ultimately contributing to a more efficient and effective UNICEF emergency response.

Commitment 1: Information and communication technology infrastructure and solutions are deployed on time, supporting efficient programme implementation and staff security

A larger number of programmatic responses now leverage digital technologies to reach more people, faster and more efficiently. Furthermore, the increasing access to digital tools on the part of emergency-affected people has also opened new channels for support. For example, ICTD provided training and cutting-edge satellite equipment to the Ukraine humanitarian response operation to ensure the country office had access to connectivity that responded to its context-specific needs. Furthermore, in response to school closures in the country, ICTD provided support for the development of the Numo! bot, the first online chatbot for parenting tips. Children and their caregivers benefited from 121 episodes of interactive and accessible lessons covering all key competencies of child development. More than 4.6 million unique beneficiaries accessed content on the platform.

Globally, UNICEF dispatched more than \$130,000 in emergency ICT equipment from the Global ICT Emergency Stock to emergency countries in 2022. Through this effort, country offices had access to required equipment without delays, supporting a quick and efficient emergency response.

Commitment 2: Information and communication technology personnel have the capacity to respond to emergencies in line with Telecoms Security Standards and inter-agency standards

With the increase in available ICT solutions and new related emergency tools, building staff capacity to take full advantage of these tools was vital during 2022. Training and learning opportunities included all-ICT staff informal learning session, online courses and face-to-face training sessions. In addition, 18 ICT staff (internal and external) were trained to manage the digital needs of small- and medium-sized humanitarian responses through UNICEF's Emergency Telecommunications Training. Ten UNICEF ICT staff also attended external training.

Security management

Commitment 1: Security risks that could affect personnel, premises, assets or the ability to deliver emergency programmes are identified, assessed and managed, in compliance with the security risk management policy

Commitment 2: Security risk management capacity is adequate to manage risks to personnel, assets and premises and enable the delivery of programmes

Commitment 3: Active participation in inter-agency security forums at global and national levels ensures that security risk management measures, policies and guidelines enable programme delivery by UNICEF and partners

UNICEF continued to apply the United Nations Security Framework of Accountability (FoA) throughout the organization in 2022, while also updating the UNICEF Security FoA based upon lessons learned, consultations and feedback from regional and country offices. The UNICEF FoA complements the United Nations FoA by clarifying security advice and decision-making within UNICEF to ensure acceptable risk decisions are made at the appropriate level.

Together these frameworks enabled UNICEF activities to take place within acceptable levels of security risk throughout the year. They reinforced decentralized security advice and decision-making, enabling country offices to effectively manage security risks in support of programme activities, including in such high- and very high-risk areas as Afghanistan, Haiti, Ukraine and Yemen.

Direct security support to country and regional offices increased in 2022 as travel restrictions linked with the COVID-19 pandemic eased. The UNICEF Office of Security Coordination (OSC) conducted 13 field support missions in 2022, compared with 8 in 2021. These included, among others, missions to support the UNICEF regional offices in West and Central Africa and South Asia to provide strategic security advice and support. Support missions focused on improving security in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action Security Management Benchmarks – and specifically the use of the Security Risk Management approach – to ensure acceptable risk decisions are made effectively at the right levels and that adequate human and financial resources are in place, and to improve collaboration with partners, particularly the Department of Safety and Security (DSS) and other United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) organizations. In Somalia, for example, the UNICEF FoA guided decisions by the Representative related to the

implementation of Level 3 drought response activities. This was complemented by a surge mission from OSC that provided significant technical expertise and advice to the Representative and to the broader UNSMS, and brought about force-multiplying changes to the country's security risk management that facilitated more programme activities in drought-affected areas.

A support mission to Ukraine was conducted in February/March at the onset of the conflict. This mission provided critical support to the relocation of the country office and the establishment of new warehouses, along with the relocation and evacuation of colleagues. It also provided high-quality, timely security advice to support decision-making and enable emergency response activities in a dynamic conflict environment. In Haiti, a support mission provided detailed advice and recommendations to address security constraints and improve humanitarian access. A Women's Security Awareness Training was also delivered during this mission, fulfilling a country office priority that had been on hold due to the lack of in-country capacity. Eighteen colleagues from UNICEF and WFP participated.

In addition to the 13 field support missions, OSC conducted 19 missions linked to training, learning and development. Training for Country Security Focal Points (CSFPs) resumed in 2022. A total of 47 CSFPs and their alternates were trained in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Eastern and Southern Africa.

UNICEF also led the delivery of a Women's Security Awareness Training 'training of trainers' on behalf of the UNSMS that certified 23 female security colleagues as trainers. Hostage Incident Prevention webinars reached a total of 599 colleagues during the year. The Office of Security Coordination also delivered a webinar to 59 security professionals and CSFPs on incident reporting to ensure that those with security responsibilities were aware of updates in the reporting guidelines.

OSC collaborated with the EMOPS Humanitarian Policy Section to deliver a series of webinars on the topic of access, civil-military coordination and engagement with armed non-state actors. Four webinars were conducted for 164 UNICEF colleagues with security responsibilities. OSC also supported the delivery of four Humanitarian Leadership Workshops, where 67 UNICEF leaders improved their capacity in the areas of security risk management and crisis response. OSC participated in the delivery of the Senior Leaders Orientation, which was offered by the Division of Human Resources to members of the Senior Staff Review cadre. UNICEF security professionals also supported broader UNSMS training events in Germany, Hungary and Panama, and contributed to the DSS-led Afghanistan Lessons Learned process that examined UNSMS response, decisions and actions at all levels to the crisis in 2021.

The UNICEF Operations Centre (OPSCEN) provided sustained and continuous situational awareness in 2022 to support risk-informed preparedness and response across the organizations, strengthening the security of the UNICEF workforce and programmes globally. Through real-time

monitoring, OPSCEN prepared and disseminated 164 early alerts and situation briefs on risks encompassing economic and security-related instability, conflict and natural disasters, along with 629 media summaries. OPSCEN also shared or published more than 420 UNICEF Situation Reports, factsheets and dashboards and produced 122 data infographics, including 41 country and regional GIS maps for senior management. Additionally, OPSCEN provided operational support for 160 emergency-related meetings and coordinated the process for the Executive Director's approval of 17 mission security clearance requests for very high security risk missions to Ukraine, Yemen, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Challenges and lessons learned

UNICEF made efforts to address all requests for security-related training and field support that required travel in 2022; however, not all requests could be fulfilled, particularly in-person training requests. Other critical challenges during the year included limited human resources for information and knowledge management support, despite an increasing demand; the lack of awareness among workforce in the field of OPSCEN's services/products; and delays in efforts to improve staffing support for OPSCEN's critical 24/7 Watch Associate operation. To mitigate this latter issue, OPSCEN is pursuing innovative means to establish an informal Emergency Watch Associate roster to sustain its 24/7 operation through the re-launch of the OPSCEN Career Development Initiative at the headquarters level and its expansion to regional offices. At the same time, OPSCEN has initiated several visibility initiatives to enhance awareness of its services – slated for completion in early 2023 – and encompassing various communication initiatives (e.g., on SharePoint, via video, outreach to key clients to obtain feedback). OPSCEN will continue to work with critical organization focal points to improve internal coordination and standardize workflows.

The inconsistent quality of security advice from DSS and that office's internal capacity challenges remained notable impediments to the effective delivery of UNICEF programmes in several country offices in 2022. To address this, UNICEF is continuing its multilevel engagement with the Department. At the same time, OSC will also increase efforts to improve the capacity of UNICEF security decision makers (including Representatives and Chiefs of Field Offices) to further support decentralized security decision-making within the United Nations Security Management System in a manner that enables UNICEF programmes.

In 2022, DSS decided to reduce its involvement in security course delivery. In light of this, and to address the insufficient numbers of trainers for such courses, in 2023 UNICEF colleagues in certain positions will be invited to attend a course to be certified as UNSMS trainers, increasing UNICEF's capacity to deliver training independently and to support other UNSMS organizations when feasible.

Resource mobilization

Commitment 1: Adequate and quality resources are mobilized in a timely and predictable manner to support preparedness and response to humanitarian and protection needs, particularly of the most vulnerable populations

The 2022 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal aimed to assist 177.7 million children in need. Requirements for doing so were \$9.4 billion at the appeal's launch. However, by the end of 2022, the total humanitarian requirements had risen to \$11.74 billion. Yet, while the needs grew over the course of the year, the funding to meet them did not keep pace. The total amount of humanitarian contributions received by UNICEF in 2022 was \$4.25 billion.

In 2022, the efforts to mobilize multi-year funding⁵¹ led to \$1.13 billion received from partners.⁵² In terms of flexible resources, UNICEF saw a remarkable increase in the level of humanitarian thematic contributions in 2022, with \$928 million received. Humanitarian thematic funding provides UNICEF with the flexibility to adapt and invest where needs are greatest. When it comes to flexibility at the country or regional level, a significant portion of the thematic funding (77 per cent) was earmarked for Ukraine and Refugee Outflow and ACT-A appeals.

The most flexible form of funding for UNICEF's humanitarian action, global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF), experienced a three-fold increase in 2022, reaching \$119.8 million. This funding helped to address critical funding gaps in protracted emergencies, sudden-onset emergencies and preparedness.⁵³



A UNICEF team conducts a mine risk training session at a UNICEF-supported child-friendly space located on the outskirts of Basra, in southern Iraq, in March 2022. Iraq remains among the countries most contaminated by landmines and explosive devices in the world. UNICEF supports mine risk education programmes to teach children and adults how to identify, report and protect themselves against explosive hazards. Globally, UNICEF is driving a shift from traditional explosive ordnance risk education to more comprehensive prevention work, leading to a significant expansion in reach.

In 2022, UNICEF provided \$64.1 million through the Emergency Programme Fund to 31 countries for protracted emergencies,⁵⁴ sudden-onset emergencies⁵⁵ and preparedness.⁵⁶

Commitment 2: Integration of humanitarian and development resources is enhanced

Close collaboration with national and local partners remained a priority in 2022 and \$1.5 billion in cash was transferred to partners at all levels for humanitarian response. Of this, a total of \$482.5 million went to national government responders, and \$569.2 million (39 per cent) went to local actors,⁵⁷ exceeding the Grand Bargain target of 25 per cent. UNICEF remained engaged in global and inter-agency efforts to further the localization of humanitarian response, co-chairing the IASC Task Force on Localization and leveraging its global cluster leadership role. UNICEF also continued championing greater engagement of local organizations led by women and girls. In 2022, 7.7 per cent of the humanitarian funding that was transferred to implementing partners went to 647 local women's organizations.

The Humanitarian cash Operations and Programme Ecosystem (HOPE) beneficiary data management system was deployed in eight countries⁵⁸ and ensured the risk-informed and predictable management of individual data in compliance with UNICEF's data protection policy.

UNICEF humanitarian programmes benefited from both other resources – emergency and other types of funding (\$433.2 million in other resources – regular⁵⁹ went towards appeals including those for Afghanistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and ACT-A).

Commitment 3: Resources are allocated impartially, based on the needs of affected populations

As required by the Guidance for Allocation and Management of Thematic Funds for the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Strategic Plan, thematic humanitarian contributions are received against Humanitarian Action for Children appeals and address the areas covered in the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, based on criteria that include priorities and funding gaps.

UNICEF commits to do the utmost to mobilize resources – especially high quality, flexible funding in the form of core resources and thematic funds. The 'Accelerated Resource Mobilization' enabler within the Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 focuses on maximizing flexible and predictable income to enable faster, more effective and at-scale delivery of results for children and humanitarian response and to mitigate the risks of donors' conditions.

UNICEF is independent of political, economic, military, security or other objectives. UNICEF staff are on the front lines and must make difficult decisions daily. They weigh threats and opportunities, keeping immediate needs in mind while ensuring long-term sustainability of results in line with UNICEF's mandate and its mission statement.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAP	accountability to affected populations	ICTD	Information and Communication Technology Division
ACT-A	Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator	IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
BCR	Business and Community Resilience	IOM	International Organization for Migration
CCCs	Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action	MHPSS	mental health and psychosocial support
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund	MUAC	mid-upper arm circumference
CLARE II	second evaluation of the UNICEF role as cluster lead/co-lead agency	OPSCEN	UNICEF Operations Centre
CLA	cluster lead agency	OSC	Office of Security Coordination
CPAoR	Child Protection Area of Responsibility	PSV	peer support volunteer
CRA	Community Rapid Assessments	PSEA	protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
COP27	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 27th Conference of the Parties	RCCE	risk communication and community engagement
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019	RUTF	ready-to-use therapeutic food
CRRP	Community Recovery and Resilience Plan	SBC	social and behaviour change
CSFPs	Country Security Focal Points	SMART	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition
DFAM	Division of Financial and Administrative Management	SOP	standard operating procedure
DSS	Department of Safety and Security	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ECD	early childhood development	UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
EMOPS	Office of Emergency Programmes	UNSMS	United Nations Security Management System
FoA	Framework of Accountability	UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
GHTF	Global humanitarian thematic funding	WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
GNC	Global Nutrition Cluster	WFP	World Food Programme
GWC	Global WASH Cluster	WHO	World Health Organization
HOPE	Humanitarian cash Operations and Programme Ecosystem		
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee		
ICSC	Inter-cluster/intersectoral collaboration		

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46. Afghanistan, Belarus, Belize, Bulgaria, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Republic of Moldova, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Serbia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic.

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50. Balance coverage, quality and equity: A process which consists of balancing the objective to reach the greatest number of people (coverage) with the objective to reach the people in greatest need (equity), while maintaining the quality of the programme. This balancing is particularly critical in contexts with limited funding. Coverage is guided by estimates of people in need. Quality is measured against UNICEF and inter-agency and IASC standards. Equity is judged by appropriate prioritization of the people most in need, informed by assessment and analysis of vulnerability and deprivation, and the principle of leaving no child behind.
51. In line with the definition of the OECD, the term ‘multi-year humanitarian funding’ is defined here as funding with a duration of 24 months or more based on the start and end dates of the original formal funding agreement.
52. This includes public and private sector thematic and non-thematic funding.
53. For more information on global humanitarian thematic funds, please see Annex 1: Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding 2022.
54. The Central African Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.
55. Horn of Africa, the Sahel, Ukraine and refugee outflow crises, Haiti and Pakistan.
56. Burundi, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.
57. Local actors include national non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations.
58. Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Slovakia, the Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago and Ukraine. In Slovakia, UNICEF worked with key partners (UNHCR and IFRC) to provide humanitarian cash transfers to Ukrainian refugees for an initial 3–6 months, then transitioned the caseload to the government social protection system. The disaster risk reduction and social policy section of the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia strengthened the social protection module within the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) tool.
59. Resource partners contributing other resources – regular in order of contributions received, starting from the largest: the World Bank, Government of Canada, Asian Development Bank, European Commission, United States Agency for International Development, Government of Iceland, Development Bank of Latin America and the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office.

Annex 1: Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding 2022



Yemen

Children fill a pail with water in the Al Nusayria neighborhood, Al Mudhaffar District, in Taiz Governorate, Yemen, in June 2022. They are extremely happy with the arrival of water. UNICEF has supported the delivery of diesel fuel so that 34 Local Water and Sanitation Corporations in 15 governorates can extract water, providing a safe water supply to around 2.5 million people daily.

ABOUT GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING

To fulfil its mission of reaching every child, UNICEF relies on [voluntary contributions](#). Sufficient levels of quality funding enable UNICEF to respond to crises effectively, deliver life-saving and prompt responses and invest in effective preparedness to address the needs of the most vulnerable children. UNICEF's thematic funding windows are pooled, flexible multi-year funds meant to support the [UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025](#), including humanitarian action. After [core resources for results](#) (regular

resources), [global humanitarian thematic funding \(GHTF\)](#) is the most flexible form of funding focusing on UNICEF's humanitarian action. Designed to save lives and alleviate suffering before, during and in the immediate aftermath of emergencies, GHTF allows for rapid and strategic responses by UNICEF to humanitarian crises. It also supports efforts in protracted emergencies, where needs are chronic – yet urgent – and when the world's attention is far away.

WHY INVEST IN GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING?

Global humanitarian thematic funding can be one of the best mechanisms to save children's lives, protect children's rights and secure a better, healthier and safer future for children and their communities, because it allows UNICEF and its partners to:



Provide immediate life-saving assistance to the children most in need.



Speedily release funds for sudden-onset emergencies within 24 hours, as needed.



Respond equitably based on needs by reaching children in smaller and/or forgotten crises, in underfunded sectors (e.g., child protection) and in multi-country and subregional crises.



React faster in underfunded/forgotten emergencies to flexibly address immediate or ongoing critical needs when it is difficult to attract international attention and funding.



Invest in preparedness for early response through better risk analysis and the identification of high-return actions, which saves lives and makes emergency response faster and more efficient. Such investment also facilitates stronger and more strategic UNICEF programming.



Ensure more cost-effective response because every \$1 invested in preparedness reduces response cost by \$2, and investment in preparedness can make responses faster by an average of 14 days.



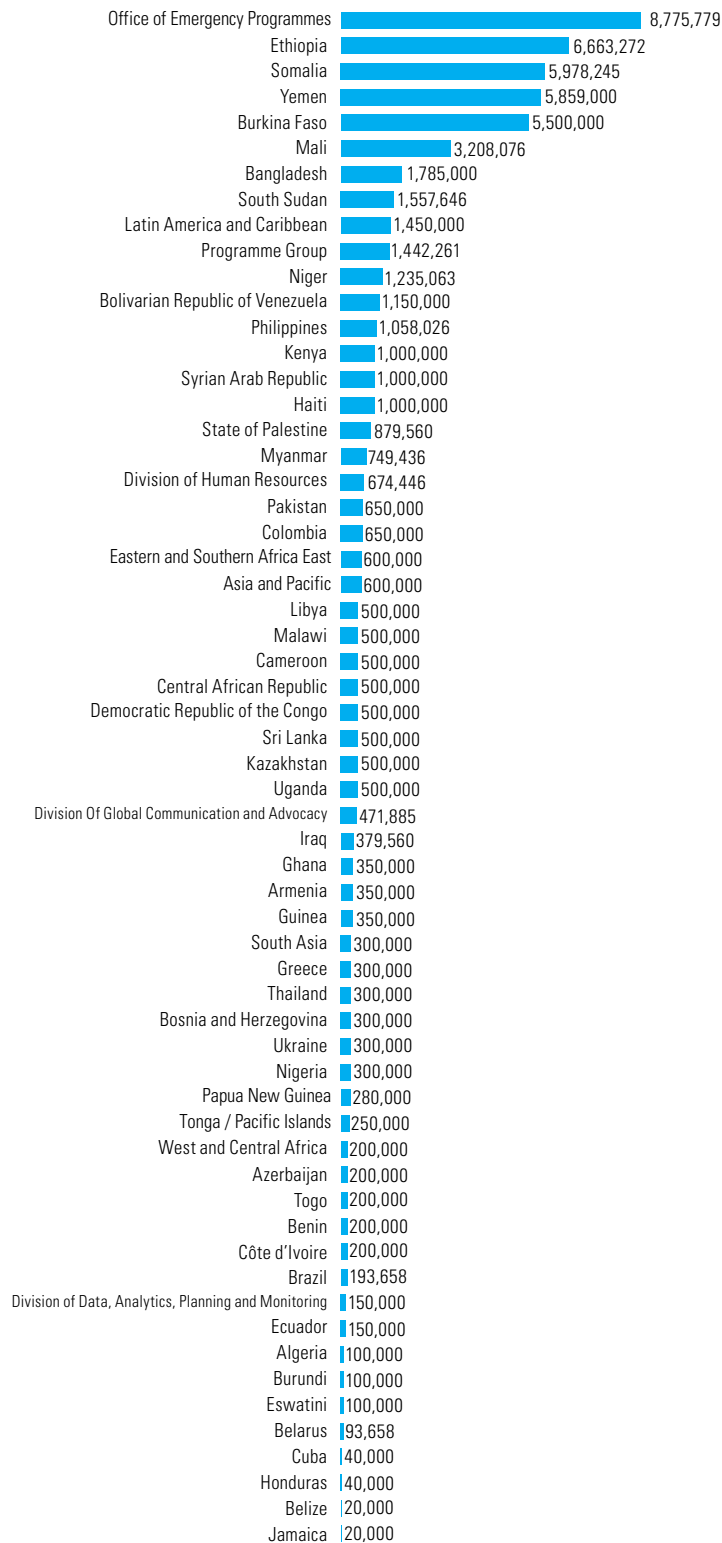
Save transaction costs associated with managing individual and earmarked contribution agreements. Because it uses harmonized and strategic reporting, GHTF reduces transaction costs, resulting in a lower cost recovery rate, so that more funding is programmed.



Ensure a higher quality response by allowing for strategic and efficient allocation based on clear criteria and priorities. Through quality assurance processes along with robust technical assistance, UNICEF can ensure timely and high-quality results for the most vulnerable children.

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

Figure A1-1: Global humanitarian thematic funding allocations, 2022 (in United States dollars)

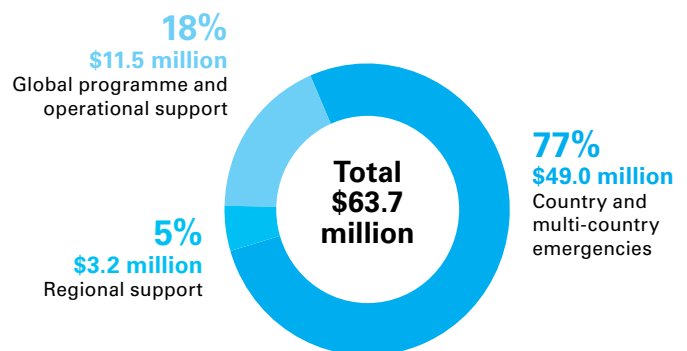


UNICEF allocated \$63.7 million in programmable GHTF for humanitarian action in 2022, nearly double the amount that was allocated in 2021 (\$33.2 million). Of this, 82 per cent supported humanitarian response in the country and regional offices and 18 per cent supported other global coordination and technical support efforts.

In a crisis, every hour matters and when an emergency strikes, GHTF enables UNICEF to react fast. This can make all the difference for children in the first days and weeks of an emergency. For forgotten or chronically underfunded emergencies, where it is difficult to attract international attention and resources, GHTF is often the 'last resort', providing life-saving assistance to the children who are most in need.

Through better risk analysis and the identification of high-return actions, preparedness saves lives and makes the humanitarian response faster and more efficient. Thanks to GHTF, UNICEF can invest in preparedness for early response. And the flexibility of GHTF allows UNICEF to ensure a principled and equitable response that enables adaptation based on emerging needs.

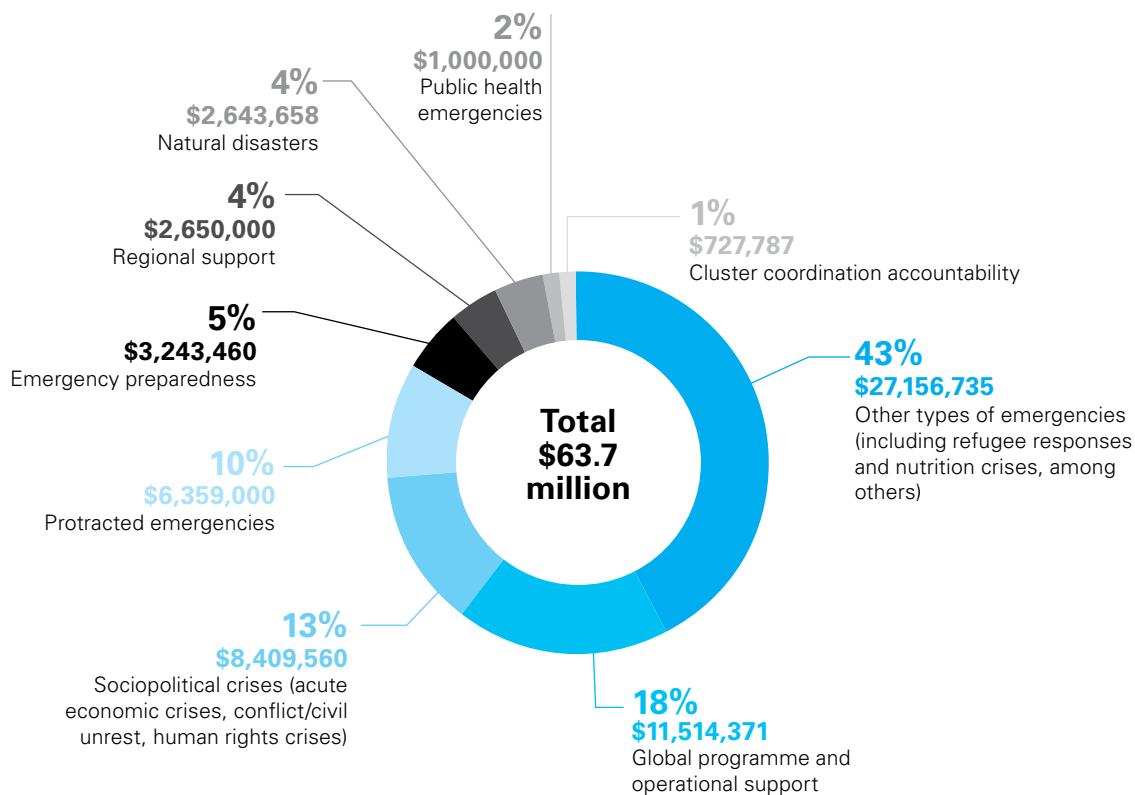
Figure A1-2: Breakdown of programmable global humanitarian thematic funding allocations, 2022 (in United States dollars)



"Global humanitarian thematic funding provides essential emergency care services to women and children. It allows UNICEF to provide immediate life-saving assistance to the children most in need. It also helps with the quick release of funds for sudden-onset emergencies. GHTF also allows UNICEF to respond equitably based on needs by reaching children in smaller and/or forgotten crises. GHTF can therefore be an excellent mechanism to save lives and protect the rights of children."

MR. PETER HAWKINS, UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE IN YEMEN

Figure A1-3: Global humanitarian thematic funding allocations by category, 2022 (in United States dollars)



In 2022, 55 country or multi-country emergency responses and five regions received allocations of GHTF. More than half (53 per cent) of all GHTF allocations went to 10 country emergencies (starting with the highest GHTF allocation amount): Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen, Burkina Faso, Mali, Bangladesh, South Sudan, the Niger, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Philippines.

GHTF allocations to the UNICEF response in the Horn of Africa¹ reached \$13.6 million (21 per cent of total allocations) and allocations to the Sahel countries² reached \$11.2 million (18 per cent of total allocations).

Protracted emergencies in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Yemen received \$6.4 million in GHTF allocations to cover critical funding gaps. And \$1 million (2 per cent of total allocations) was allocated to ensure a timely response to public health emergencies (outbreaks of cholera and Ebola virus disease) in the Syrian Arab Republic and Uganda.

Thirteen per cent of 2022 allocations (\$8.4 million) supported complex humanitarian situations triggered by sociopolitical crises, mainly conflicts, while 4 per cent of 2022 allocations (\$2.6 million) supported natural disasters in country and regional emergencies.




In 2022, UNICEF allocated \$4.26 million for preparedness through the First Action Initiative and the Co-Funding Initiative, with \$3.2 million of this coming from GHTF (or 5 per cent of GHTF allocations). These funds went to 20 country offices and one subregional response. These allocations were matched by \$1.2 million from UNICEF regional and country offices (through the Co-Funding Initiative), as well as funding specifically earmarked for gender-based violence preparedness efforts.


¹ Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

² Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, the Niger and Togo.

ALLOCATION CRITERIA

A senior-level allocations committee within UNICEF governs global humanitarian thematic funding allocations based on established criteria, with final approval given by the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes. A set of clear criteria is used to allocate GHTF at all levels – country, regional and global. Criteria include:

-  Critical unmet needs for the most vulnerable children;
-  Critical funding gaps based on available and projected contributions;
-  Strong implementation capacity based on the delivery track record of regular country programmes; and

 Alignment with organization-wide initiatives aimed at strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of UNICEF humanitarian action (e.g., the Humanitarian Review recommendations, the key recommendations of the UNICEF role as cluster lead/co-lead agency (CLARE II) evaluation and the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action). Other examples of such areas include gender-transformative programming; establishing effective mechanisms for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; accountability to affected populations; and localization strategies that emphasize anti-racism and anti-discrimination.

GHTF ALLOCATION CRITERIA EXAMPLES³

Papua New Guinea

GHTF allocation:
\$280,000



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A student from Sevese Morea Primary School, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea uses the school's new WASH facilities in May 2022.

- Electoral and tribal violence in the Highlands Region from May to July 2022 affected an estimated 265,000 people in five districts, leaving 105,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance and 16,000 people displaced. In addition, Papua New Guinea remained vulnerable to natural hazards such as the earthquake that hit the country in September 2022, which exacerbated the humanitarian situation for populations displaced by the elections-related violence.
- GHTF was the key enabler for UNICEF to implement a rapid WASH response and reach 1,510 displaced or affected families with training on safe hygiene behaviour and with essential hygiene supplies.

Somalia

GHTF allocation:
\$4,000,000



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A girl enjoys lunch with friends at Kabasa Primary School in Dollow, Somalia, in November 2022. Students come to the school from a nearby camp for internally displaced persons, where they are living with their families due to severe drought conditions. UNICEF supports the school, which provides pupils with clean water and healthy meals. The children are free to take any leftover food back to their families at the end of the school day.

- With five consecutive failed rainy seasons, and a high likelihood of a sixth, Somalia faced a drought of historic severity in 2022. The drought resulted in severe water shortages, mass displacement and a devastating food crisis that worsened the plight of the 8.3 million people affected by drought. The nearly 3 million people internally displaced throughout the country in search of water, food and pasture approached life-threatening levels of need during the year.
- The GHTF allocation of \$4 million was critical for the country office to scale up and expand the drought emergency response, including strengthening UNICEF's lead role in cluster coordination. UNICEF led the Nutrition Cluster (with WFP as deputy lead); led the WASH Cluster in co-leadership with Polish Humanitarian Action; and co-led the Education Cluster and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility with Save the Children International. As cluster lead agency, UNICEF provided dedicated full-time support to coordination and information management.

Kazakhstan

GHTF allocation:
\$500,000



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Teymur Ibrakhimov works on his literacy at the lyceum school No. 53 Baurzhan Momysuly, in Astana, Kazakhstan, in May 2022. The school offers the pilot Akelius programme, supported by UNICEF, to improve the literacy of children in migration processes and children in need of special courses to make up for missed classes.

- Sparked by a sharp increase in the price of liquid gas, protests in January 2022 were marked by violence, looting and the destruction of infrastructure and resulted in the declaration of a state of emergency in Kazakhstan. Some 3,000 extremely vulnerable families with multiple children, living under the poverty line, were identified for urgent humanitarian support.
- Global humanitarian thematic funding was critical for UNICEF to address urgent child protection and education needs, including through the provision of legal aid and mental health and psychosocial support and learning materials, remedial classes and mentorship programmes in support of affected children and families, including people with disabilities.

³ Allocation amounts provided in these examples cover one allocation per country, so may not match total allocation amounts provided in Figure A1-1, Global humanitarian thematic funding allocations, 2022.

Brazil

GHTF allocation:
\$193,658



Adolescents in Amargosa, in the state of Bahia, northeastern Brazil, engage in a group activity in September 2022.

- An unexpected and unforeseen rainfall hit the states of Bahia and Minas Gerais in December 2021, triggering an emergency declaration in 168 municipalities in Bahia due to flooding, while also affecting 341 municipalities in Minas Gerais. Preliminary assessments estimated that 815,597 people required humanitarian assistance, including 37,477 children. A total of 101,256 people were displaced. The humanitarian situation challenged the responsiveness of child-critical services and directly impacted children's well-being.
- Global humanitarian thematic funding was catalytic in helping UNICEF ensure that flood-affected children and adolescents had increased access to individual psychological care tailored to the emergency situation and to quality and responsive public services including health, education and social protection programmes. GHTF also played a part in strengthening the capacity of Brazil's child protection system to prevent and respond to violence against children. As a result, 4,075 children affected by the floods accessed public services (health, education and social protection programmes) and 360 children received mental health support.

Yemen

GHTF allocation:
\$5,859,000



Salma pours water from a jerrycan for her son Mohammed to wash his face and hands in their apartment in Dhamar Governorate, Yemen, in March 2023. Yemen's deteriorating economy and collapsing basic services are driving people's needs in all sectors and exacerbating critical water and sanitation conditions that put children at a higher risk of malnutrition and disease. In Dhamar, a UNICEF-supported solar-powered water project has secured clean water for 137,000 people, including in schools and health centres and for vulnerable communities. This is one of 150 solar-powered water projects that reach 2.5 million people throughout the country.

- The war in Ukraine further exacerbated a food insecurity situation in Yemen that was already dire due to eight years of gruelling conflict, a devastating economic collapse and a long-failing agricultural sector. While a truce brought some relief, the situation remained volatile during 2022, with 80 per cent of the population in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including nearly 13 million children. More than 4 million people were displaced.
- Despite the increasing needs, the total humanitarian appeal was only 29 per cent funded by August 2022, and the funding pipeline was entirely earmarked. During a highly fragile period of this protracted conflict, global humanitarian thematic funding proved crucial for the UNICEF country office to support effective cluster coordination specific to WASH and child protection. It also helped UNICEF to fill urgent response gaps and provide a range of life-saving interventions in health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection and social protection.

Pakistan

GHTF allocation:
\$300,000



Geetu, 8, shows parts of the hygiene kit her family received from UNICEF as she sits on floor of her shared tent at the Mohammad Medical Emergency Camp in Umerkot District, Sindh Province, Pakistan, in September 2022.

- During the monsoon season in 2022, widespread flooding and landslides in Pakistan had severe repercussions on human lives, property and infrastructure. Flooding left an estimated 20.6 million people, including 9.6 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance. Many of the hardest-hit districts were already among the most vulnerable in Pakistan, where children suffered from high malnutrition, poor access to water and sanitation, low school enrolment and other deprivations that increased the risk of disease outbreaks during the intense flooding.
- Despite continued resource mobilization efforts at the country level, donor support to Pakistan remained limited, with only 4 per cent of the total humanitarian appeal funded in July 2022. The global humanitarian thematic funding allocation was instrumental in helping the country office scale up its response to the floods, including by enabling the rapid local procurement of supplies (e.g., WASH supplies).

Mali

GHTF allocation:
\$2,294,055



Student members of the science club at the Kalaban Bougou Extension School, in Bamako, Mali attentively follow a science lesson in June 2022.

- During the year, the humanitarian situation in Mali was jeopardized by such political and geopolitical upheavals as the economic sanctions imposed on Mali by the Economic Community of West African States and the withdrawal of international forces due to the ending of 'Operation Barkhane', among others. Furthermore, the increased actions of various non-state armed groups resulted in mass displacements, heightening the existing vulnerabilities of 7.5 million people in need, including 5.1 million children.
- The ability of UNICEF and its partners to scale up a multisectoral response across Mali was hampered by difficulty accessing populations in need and by limited funding (just 41 per cent of the total humanitarian appeal was funded as of August 2022). No global humanitarian thematic funding had been allocated to Mali in 2021 or at that point in 2022. In this context, the global humanitarian thematic funding allocation was critical to strengthening the humanitarian response capacity of the country office, focusing on its most under-funded sectors, such as education.

WHO SUPPORTS GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING?

Global humanitarian thematic funding is at the core of quality funding that is received by UNICEF for humanitarian action. UNICEF extends its gratitude to committed partners for their flexible contributions, which allow the organization to deliver timely and equitable aid to the most affected populations. Partners' growing support through GHTF shows their firm trust in UNICEF's principled role in reaching every child, everywhere.

During the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 period, the Government of the Netherlands stood out in its commitment to support GHTF, enabling UNICEF to activate prompt and high-quality life-saving responses where they were most needed. In 2022, the Netherlands remained UNICEF's most committed partner for flexible humanitarian funding, setting an example for others to follow. The Netherlands' \$21.7 million top contribution represented 18 per cent of all GHTF received in 2022, a testament to the country's continued trust in UNICEF's work on the ground. Other valued partners that substantially contributed to GHTF throughout the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan period include the Governments of Denmark and the Republic of Korea.

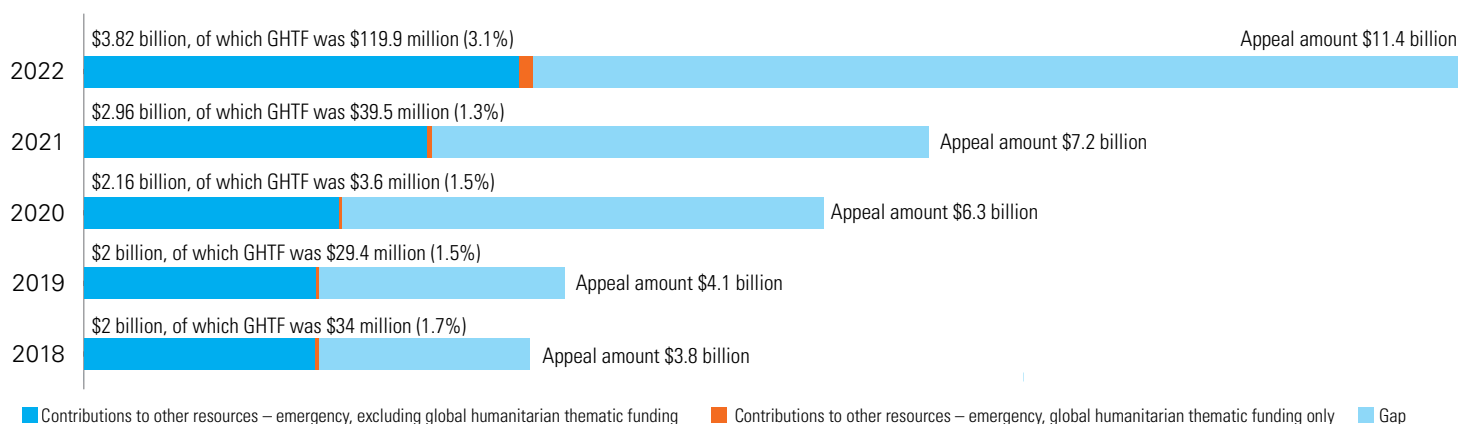
At the start of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 cycle, UNICEF received \$119.8 million in 2022, a remarkable tripling of GHTF compared with 2021. This boost is primarily due to first-time contributors, namely the German Federal Foreign Office, the Government of Sweden and the Committee for UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein as well as increases in contributions from the Netherlands and the United States Fund for UNICEF; private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices; and continued support from the Republic of Korea.

Table A1-1: Top 10 resources of global humanitarian thematic funding, 2018-2021 (in United States dollars)

1	Netherlands	77,619,575
2	Private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices	16,499,061
3	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	12,237,247
4	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	10,713,495
5	Republic of Korea	4,833,334
6	Denmark	2,531,396
7	United States Fund for UNICEF	2,437,212
8	Finnish Committee for UNICEF	2,287,036
9	Danish Committee for UNICEF	1,317,029
10	Dutch Committee for UNICEF	955,106

GHTF was 3.1 per cent of emergency funding (other resources – emergency) received in 2022, compared with 1.3 per cent in 2021. UNICEF continues its engagement with traditional and new resource partners to expand the donor base for GHTF, while maximizing efforts to showcase how flexible allocations can make a difference for children in emergencies and therefore make humanitarian response more equitable.

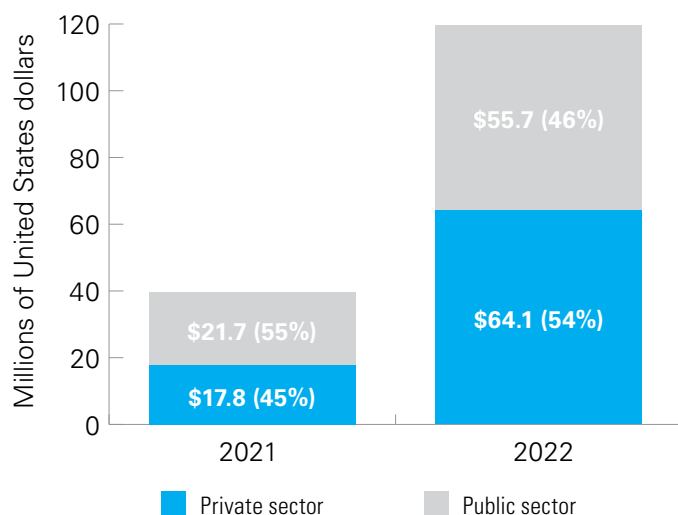
Figure A1-4: UNICEF other resources – emergency funding trends, 2018–2022 (in United States dollars)



There was a notable increase in contributions to global humanitarian thematic funding from private and public sector resource partners in 2022. Resource partners from the private sector contributed \$64.1 million, more than triple the amount contributed in 2021, and public sector resource partners contributed \$55.7 million, double their 2021 contribution.

In 2022, new public sector resource partners to GHTF, the German Federal Foreign Office and the Government of Sweden, together accounted for 27 per cent of total contributions received for global humanitarian thematic funding. Private sector resource partners from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America significantly increased their contributions through the UNICEF National Committees in these countries.

Figure A1-5: Global humanitarian thematic funding by type of resource partner, 2021 and 2022



The contributions of private sector resource partners to GHTF allowed UNICEF to support emergencies that had lower levels of media and donor attention. The private sector not only led in contributions to GHTF in 2022, but also considerably increased their contributions to GHTF compared with 2021 (\$64.1 million in 2022 compared with \$17.8 million in 2021). Fourteen per cent of GHTF received in 2022 was attributable to private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices.

Table A1-2: Key donors supporting GHTF through UNICEF National Committees, 2022

National Committee	Key donors
Denmark	Poul Due Jensen Foundation
France	Teleperformance
Sweden	The Swedish Postcode Lottery
United Kingdom	Aggreko PLC
	Daniel and Manizeh Rimer
	ELEVA FOUNDATION
	H & S Davidson Trust
United States	Target Corporation

Despite the record level of funding received in 2022 for humanitarian action, the high and ever-expanding requirements to meet children’s needs meant that most of UNICEF’s humanitarian responses were still severely underfunded. In this climate, partners’ role in making a difference for children in need by donating to GHTF was all the more valued. UNICEF is grateful for all these flexible contributions, large or small, and recognizes their clear impact. UNICEF is looking forward to continuing solid and principled partnerships to reach the most forgotten, vulnerable children in environments that are becoming more volatile every day.



H.E. MS. LIESJE SCHREINEMACHER, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

“UNICEF has been a longstanding and valued partner to the Netherlands in delivering vital humanitarian aid and addressing the most urgent needs of children and their families. Through our multiyear and flexible funding of global humanitarian thematic funding we enable UNICEF to respond timely, efficiently and where the needs are highest, including in those crises that might otherwise be forgotten. We hope that other donors follow in our footsteps and support UNICEF in their relentless efforts to reach the most disadvantaged children and adolescents – and to protect the rights of every child, everywhere.”

Table A1-3: Sources of global humanitarian thematic funding, 2022 (in United States dollars)

1	Netherlands	21,716,649
2	United States Fund for UNICEF	21,567,098
3	German Federal Foreign Office	20,682,523
4	Private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices	16,627,834
5	Committee for UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein	12,232,416
6	Sweden	11,717,546
7	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	4,796,483
8	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	3,538,013
9	Dutch Committee for UNICEF	2,868,301
10	Republic of Korea	1,000,000
11	Denmark	589,188
12	UNICEF Ireland	518,486
13	Finnish Committee for UNICEF	435,645
14	Danish Committee for UNICEF	226,812
15	French Committee for UNICEF	218,585
16	Canadian Committee for UNICEF	143,830
17	Portuguese Committee for UNICEF	36,654
18	Belgian Committee for UNICEF	34,148
19	Australian Committee for UNICEF	31,189
20	International online donations	26,624
21	UNICEF Hungarian Committee Foundation	24,031
22	Slovenian Foundation for UNICEF	8,272
	Balance from prior years	803,709
	Total	119,844,035

GHTF CASE STUDIES

The following case studies show how global humanitarian thematic funding was used in specific critical contexts in 2022. These are only a few of the places where UNICEF used these flexible emergency funds to save lives and protect the childhoods of the most vulnerable children. For comprehensive information on UNICEF humanitarian responses in 2022, including the role of global humanitarian thematic funding, see the publicly available consolidated emergency reports for 2022 at <https://open.unicef.org/documents?&key=2022>.



Tonga/Pacific Islands

Ana Fatai Na'a, 9, sits with her grandmother, Vaiolupe Na'a, in the doorway of her home in Kanokupolu on Tongatapu, Tonga's main island, in January 2022. The damage was caused by the eruption that month of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai underwater volcano and subsequent tsunami. With UNICEF support, 16,096 people affected by the disaster accessed a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.



Niger

Maimouna Abdoullahi holds her son Hassan, 18, while he eats nutritional supplements at the CSI Health Centre in Diffa, in far southeastern Niger. Hassan is malnourished but is on the mend. His twin brother, however, is in intensive care. The twins were born with low birthweight and they are not gaining weight. In the Niger, surveys show that 2.4 per cent of children suffer from severe wasting. With UNICEF support, a total of 430,708 children under five years of age with severe wasting were admitted for treatment in 2022, including 63,339 with medical complications.



"During my visits to humanitarian projects, such as in Iraq, I was deeply moved by children's drawings depicting the horrible experiences they had gone through. This is but one telling example of how important the support to these most vulnerable is. As crises grow in number and complexity, they also affect more and more children. It is a humanitarian imperative to offer assistance to these children, according to the highest standards and as needs-based as possible.

This is why we decided to fund the **UNICEF GHTF** with €20 million last year. This funding helped children in dire need: Child-friendly spaces and psychological support helped protect children from violence and abuse during the armed conflict in the Central African Republic, for instance. Children who had been forcibly recruited also found help."

H.E. MS. DEIKE POTZEL, DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR CRISIS PREVENTION, STABILISATION, PEACEBUILDING AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AT THE GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE



"Ethiopia is facing multiple crises, including climate-induced drought, floods and conflict. Humanitarian needs are outpacing our response. To save the lives of countless children and their families, especially at the onset of an emergency, we are reliant on flexible funding, and **global humanitarian thematic funding** enables us to respond to crises as soon as they hit in an agile and timely manner, so we can meet immediate needs without delay. This type of funding also enables us to redirect support to where it is needed the most."

MR. ABU KAMPO, UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE IN ETHIOPIA

BANGLADESH

In 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding made a significant contribution in providing life-saving support to flood-affected children and women in Bangladesh, and to the response to the protracted Rohingya refugee crisis.

Bangladesh remained highly vulnerable to climate-related shocks and stresses in 2022, including monsoon flooding events. In June 2022, the northeastern region of the country suffered the worst flood in 122 years, severely affecting 7.2 million people, including 3.5 million children. The country office used GHTF to provide emergency life-saving support to flood-affected people in Sylhet and Sunamganj, including an immediate multisectoral response focused on health, nutrition, WASH, education and social and behaviour change. This response reached 1.7 million people in total, including 645,000 flood-affected people (255,420 children and 15,480 persons with disabilities). GHTF also allowed UNICEF to provide 18,000 affected children in Sylhet and Sunamganj with 600 emergency education kits and 75 sets of nutrition kits. Moreover, UNICEF provided safe drinking water and supplies to 846,000 people, and 8,802 vulnerable adolescents and family members accessed psychosocial support services.

Bangladesh continued to host 952,309 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in 33 camps in Cox’s Bazar District and on Bhasan Char, an island in Noakhali District. Fifty-two per cent of the refugees are children. Thanks to GHTF, UNICEF continued to ensure the provision of basic services to Rohingya refugees. To help meet their education needs, 7,968 children, adolescents and youth (3,997 girls, 71 children with disabilities) received education services in 28 schools on Bhasan Char. Children and adolescents also accessed a package of services through multi-purpose centres, including case management, psychosocial support and life skills-based learning. Positive parenting guidance was provided to at least 17,562 refugees (8,956 female and 211 persons with disabilities) in Cox’s Bazar refugee camps and host communities. Through global humanitarian thematic funding, 30,493 refugees (15,756 female and 216 persons with disabilities) in Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char accessed safe drinking water, while 30,295 refugees (15,621 female and 194 persons with disabilities) accessed safe and functional sanitation facilities. This flexible funding also partially supported a social and behaviour change study exploring the drivers of social practices, risk perception and health-seeking behaviour among the community and the factors influencing shifts in behaviour practices in health, nutrition education and WASH. This study was part of overall evidence generation work on risk communication and community engagement, covering Rohingya refugee camps and host communities.



Bangladesh

A Rohingya refugee boy raises his hand at a UNICEF learning centre in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, in November 2022. Education offers Rohingya children stability and structure to help them cope with trauma and protects them from child marriage, child labour, sexual exploitation and other harms. Education also gives these children a sense of hope. Following the successful launch of the Myanmar curriculum pilot for Grades 6–9 in December 2021, Rohingya refugee children living in the camps are now able to study the national curriculum of their home country in kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022



846,000 flood-affected people

accessed safe drinking water and supplies



7,968 Rohingya refugee children, adolescents and youth

received education services in 28 schools



17,562 Rohingya refugees

were reached with positive parenting guidance

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022

3.2%

■ Global humanitarian thematic funding ■ Country thematic funding ■ Non-thematic funding

BURKINA FASO

The flexibility of global humanitarian thematic funding allowed UNICEF to scale up the Level 2 humanitarian response to the Sahel crisis in Burkina Faso, including replenishing the emergency stockpile to support displaced populations.

Throughout 2022, Burkina Faso was affected by a severe multidimensional crisis due to insecurity, demographic pressures, climate change, political fragility and economic and health crises. An estimated 4.9 million people, including 2.8 million children, required humanitarian assistance. The country also remained the epicentre of the humanitarian crisis affecting the Sahel region. Worsening insecurity resulted in massive internal displacements, with 1.9 million people internally displaced, 60 per cent of them children. Insecurity also restricted humanitarian access throughout the year, limiting access and hampering the delivery of assistance in crisis-affected regions.

Thanks to humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF purchased 2,570 boxes of ready-to-use therapeutic food; 1,160 boxes of therapeutic milk (F100 and F75); and 1,620 boxes of BP5 biscuits. Global humanitarian thematic funds also enabled UNICEF to build up a contingency stock of emergency medical kits and consumables for 96,000 vulnerable people and for performing 200 deliveries. In addition, as part of malaria prevention, 19,750 displaced families received 39,500 long-lasting insecticide-treated nets. These supplies strengthened UNICEF’s response capacity to provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations. These funds also supported the implementation of the community-led total sanitation in emergencies approach, benefiting 42,915 people in the Centre-Nord region. The funds also enabled the construction of additional latrines in targeted host communities. About 23,100 households were reached with awareness messages on water treatment; 2,000 households received kits that included aquatabs, soap and a bucket with a cover.

UNICEF supported the integration of 748,426 children (60 per cent girls), 90 per cent of whom were internally displaced, through the provision of formal and non-formal educational opportunities. At the same time, 64,676 children (51 per cent girls) benefited from individual school kits for better learning. UNICEF interventions reached 246,816 children (123,619 girls) and 19,568 parents (13,118 mothers) affected by emergencies with mental health and psychosocial support through fixed and mobile child-friendly spaces and in the community. A total of 1,536 households benefited from humanitarian cash transfer interventions, enabling 15,222 people (including 7,779 children and 4,955 women) to meet their basic needs for three months.



Burkina Faso
Konata Karko, a mother of two, gives her daughter Mariam, 12 months, ready-to-use therapeutic food at the inpatient centre for complicated cases of severe wasting at the Health Center of Bobo-Dioulasso, Sud-Ouest region, Burkina Faso, in May 2022.

Flexible funds also contributed to strengthening Burkina Faso’s early warning mechanism through UNICEF’s community-based Rapid Response and Community Resilience (3RC) emergency strategy. The 3RC strategy improves the emergency preparedness and response capacities of community-based structures to alert, target and respond with an adapted multisectoral package of minimum services, especially in hard-to reach-areas.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022



42,915 people accessed community-led total sanitation in the Centre-Nord region

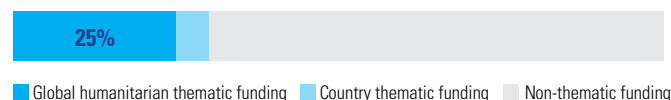


748,426 children were provided with formal and non-formal educational opportunities



1,536 households benefited from humanitarian cash transfer interventions

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Global humanitarian thematic funding was a key enabler of the response to violence and abuse against children and helped to ensure children’s access to the minimum necessary child protection services in the prefecture of Nana Mambéré in the Central African Republic.

The Central African Republic has been plunged back into acute armed conflict since January 2021. The northwest region bordering Cameroon was one of the areas that in 2022 experienced frequent military clashes, the presence of explosive devices and violence against civilian populations, including children. While funding for the humanitarian response was primarily directed towards the country’s north and east in 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding was fundamental in providing humanitarian assistance in the northwest – and particularly in filling in a gap in child protection responses. GHTF helped to ensure availability of a minimum set of child protection prevention and response services.

Thanks to global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF, in partnership with the Canadian NGO All for Peace and Dignity, has strengthened prevention and response to violence and abuse against children, including those linked to the armed conflict situation in the prefecture of Nana Mambéré, located in the country’s northwest in an area bordering Cameroon. Community-based child protection mechanisms were strengthened by establishing 14 child-friendly spaces and 14 community-based child protection networks for community awareness and the early detection of child victims. This also supported the local response system to improve child protection against violence and abuse in an environment of conflict.

By the end of the year, 486 child victims of violence and/or abuse and vulnerable children – including 150 child survivors of gender-based sexual violence, 160 children associated with armed groups and forces, 150 unaccompanied and separated children and 26 other vulnerable children – accessed response services including individual psychosocial support, temporary care in foster families, health care, family tracing, school reintegration and vocational training. What’s more, 28,953 children (15,000 girls and 13,953 boys) accessed collective psychosocial support in the 14 child-friendly spaces established and supported by UNICEF. Around 80 members of community child protection networks were trained to prevent and respond to violence and abuse against children, with topics covering child recruitment, management of child-friendly



Central African Republic

A 14-year-old boy in Bouar, Nana Mambéré prefecture, Central African Republic, holds the tools he is using to learn how to be a mechanic in a UNICEF-supported project to help children released from armed groups and affected by the conflict obtain the skills to become self-reliant and provide for themselves.

spaces and psychosocial support to children through child-friendly spaces and the early detection of child victims and referral of children to services.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022



486 child victims and vulnerable children accessed child protection services and health care



28,953 children accessed collective psychosocial support in 14 UNICEF-supported child friendly spaces



The capacity of **80 members of community child protection networks** was reinforced on prevention and response to violence and abuse against children

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022



ETHIOPIA

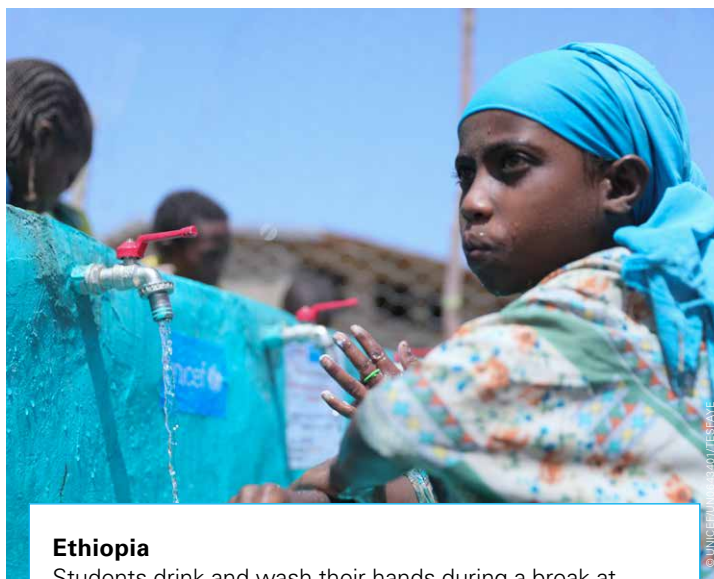
Through humanitarian thematic funds, including global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF was able to respond flexibly to emerging and continuous humanitarian needs in conflict- and drought-affected regions, particularly in the most underfunded sectors.

In 2022, conflict escalation in several areas, climatic shocks and public health emergencies remained the main drivers of displacement, food insecurity and protection risks in Ethiopia, leaving 29.7 million people, including 15.7 million children, in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. The year was marked by extremely severe drought that propelled more than 8 million people into food insecurity.

Humanitarian thematic funds, including global humanitarian thematic funding, supported the emergency response in conflict-affected northern Ethiopia and in drought-affected areas by helping to support life-saving nutrition interventions. For instance, during the reporting period, these funds contributed to screening – using a find-and-treat campaign that included 200 mobile health and nutrition teams established by UNICEF – more than 9.3 million children for early detection of severe wasting, with 709,996 children admitted for treatment in about 19,500 health facilities (88.5 per cent of children were cured).

While the WASH sector was 73 per cent underfunded, UNICEF leveraged humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, to procure 42 plastic water tanks (each with a capacity of 10,000 litres) for storing and distributing water trucked into the drought-affected zones of Oromia, benefiting more than 27,000 people. More than 175,500 people (21,590 men, 33,345 women, 54,405 boys and 56,160 girls) had access to safe water supply through the rehabilitation of 12 water systems in the drought-affected Afar, Oromia, Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ regions.

Despite a 65 per cent funding gap for programming to address gender-based violence, UNICEF was able to respond flexibly to emerging and continuous protection needs thanks to global humanitarian thematic funding. These funds allowed for a quick prioritization of hotspots and guaranteed that technical support and human resources were available to ensure a quality response. For example, UNICEF supported more than 1.1 million people (329,796 girls, 206,810 boys, 379,446 women and 201,897 men) through child protection and gender-based violence interventions, which included mental health and psychosocial support; family tracing and reunification and alternative care services for unaccompanied



Ethiopia


Students drink and wash their hands during a break at Serkema Primary School in Serkema, Oromia Region, Ethiopia, in March 2022. A UNICEF-supported solar-powered water scheme brings relief to the school and to the community.

and separated children; and prevention and response to violence. The latter covered gender-based violence services in conflict- and drought-affected regions.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022

 **709,996 children** with severe wasting admitted for treatment

 More than **175,500 people** accessed safe water through the rehabilitation of 12 water systems

 More than **1.1 million people** were reached with child protection and gender-based violence interventions

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022

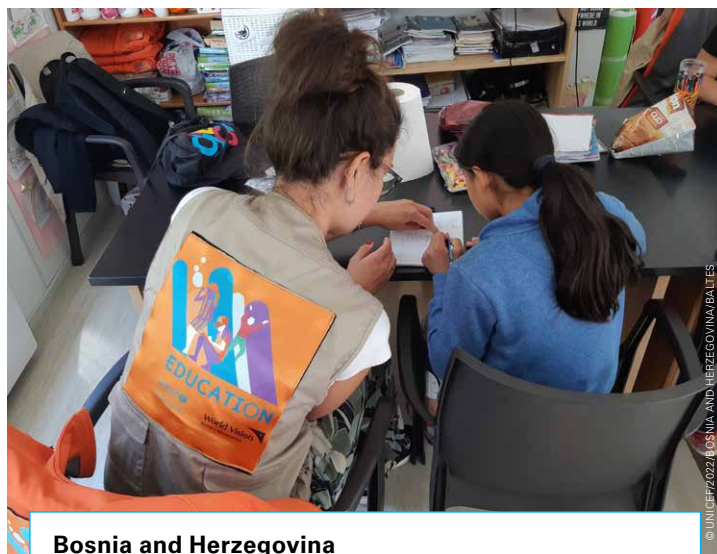


REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE IN EUROPE

Flexible funds were crucial to continuing to provide child protection services in Greece and in ensuring that migrant and refugee children and youth benefited from quality inclusive education and skills development in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the end of 2022, 64,950 refugees and asylum-seekers lived in Greece. Most of the families lived in refugee sites on the mainland, sites whose smooth functioning was critical to the well-being and protection of refugee and migrant children. In a constrained funding environment, UNICEF used global humanitarian thematic funding to develop and roll out a self-assessment checklist tool to help site management authorities design and track progress towards achieving a child-friendly site in 22 accommodation centres that, by mid-December 2022, hosted more than 3,270 children. UNICEF provided its expertise for the design, methodology and use of the checklist tool and also trained site focal points on its implementation. Use of the tool culminated in an action plan for each site, including tangible actions for strengthening protection and service provision at the site level.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a significant increase in the number of refugees and migrants was reported between 2017 (just a few dozen arrivals) and the 2018–2022 period (when numbers were around 95,000). Within a constrained funding environment, global humanitarian thematic funding was critical in ensuring that children continued their learning. A non-formal education component, an Akelius digital language course for learning English, German and other languages, was provided in temporary reception centres, reaching 1,344 children (346 girls). Eventually this digital learning application was extended to formal schools in Una-Sana and Sarajevo Cantons that integrate refugees and migrants and reached an additional 2,976 children in both formal schools and temporary receptions centres. The Akelius course was used to help transition students into formal schooling, including into vocational training programmes, and ultimately 240 children (102 girls) were supported with inclusion in two primary schools through tailored preparatory programmes. Separately, with UNICEF support three schools in two cantons provided vocational training to 256 adolescents. And 59 teachers, teaching assistants and cultural mediators were reached with capacity-building sessions to enhance digital and pedagogical competency and provided with guidance on blended learning approaches.



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Farah, 7, repeats what she hears from the World Vision team at the Ušivak Temporary Reception Centre in Hadžići, Sarajevo Canton, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where this team is implementing the Akelius digital language programme to foster inclusion of refugee and migrant children in the formal education system in Sarajevo Canton. This work is supported by global humanitarian thematic funding, and by the Swedish National Committee for UNICEF and World Vision Germany.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022



22 accommodation centres

strengthened protection and service provision through the roll-out of the checklist tool in Greece

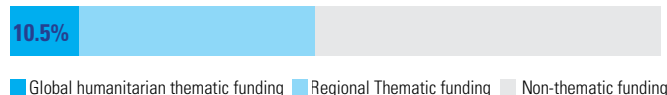


1,344 children accessed non-formal education activities in temporary reception centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina



256 adolescents were reached with vocational training in three schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022



HAITI

With support from global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF was able to ensure access to education for crisis-affected children, including those affected by the 2021 earthquake, as well as children residing in the areas of Port-au-Prince controlled by armed groups.

The majority of the 1,250 schools destroyed in the August 2021 earthquake in Haiti in the Sud, Grand’Anse and Nippes departments are yet to be rebuilt. This has left an estimated 250,000 children in non-conducive learning environments, with some children completely deprived of their right to education. In parallel, the situation in the urban areas of Haiti – notably Port-au-Prince – continued to deteriorate due to rising insecurity. More than 1,700 schools in and around urban areas – particularly in the areas of Bel-air, Bas-Delmas, Centre-Ville, Martissant, Cité Soleil, Croix-des-Bouquets and Tabarre – have been closed due to pressure from armed groups, depriving children of their right to education.

In this context, global humanitarian thematic funding played a key role in finalizing the construction of three earthquake-affected schools in the southern departments, including 21 classrooms accommodating a total of 840 children. The funding was also provided to support reading and math skills of 198 boys and 271 girls from eight public schools in Carrefour, Port-au-Prince – a high-risk zone controlled by armed groups. Through its implementing partners, UNICEF was also able to train and build the capacity of six school directors and 157 teachers to strengthen their teaching skills in mathematics and French, with an emphasis on the development of reading skills.

The flexibility of global thematic humanitarian funding allowed UNICEF to support education in emergencies responses that could be rolled out immediately, especially in conflict and other high-risk areas. Despite insecurity and violence delaying the opening of schools in Haiti by two months, global humanitarian thematic funding allowed the schools in the earthquake-affected areas to open rapidly. In Carrefour, GHTF allowed students to return to learning more rapidly in an area which, at the time, was not covered by other sources of funding.



Haiti

Students enjoy a nice moment at their desks at their school in Chantal, Les Cayes, Sud Department, Haiti, in June 2022. UNICEF worked to rebuild a number of schools in the Grand Sud that were destroyed or damaged in the August 2021 earthquake.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022



840 children accessed education through the reconstruction of three earthquake-affected schools

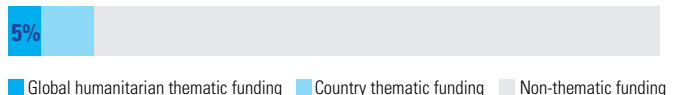


469 children learned mathematics and reading skills in a high-risk zone controlled by armed groups



157 teachers strengthened their teaching skills in mathematics and French, with an emphasis on the development of reading skills

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022



MYANMAR

Amid the deteriorating humanitarian situation that marked 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding allowed UNICEF to provide life-saving WASH interventions in Myanmar and ensure the continuation of formal and non-formal education services, including through the procurement of learning and recreational supplies.

The humanitarian situation in Myanmar deteriorated throughout 2022, with clashes across the country increasing in severity and frequency. The number of people displaced more than doubled in 2022 from more than 700,000 in January 2022 to more than 1.5 million at the end of the year. Large-scale violence and displacement and attacks on schools disturbed children's opportunity to learn safely. More families withdrew their children from the formal education system due to safety concerns. Moreover, conflict-affected populations, especially internally displaced people, faced insufficient access or complete lack of access even to the most basic WASH supplies.

Thanks to global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF procured essential education supplies for approximately 74,000 children nationwide. UNICEF also provided 1,500 recreation kits and 13,844 roofing sheets to promote children's access to learning in temporary learning spaces that offered opportunities for recreational activities. In addition, the country office purchased long-term open learning materials (self-study materials aligned with grades 1-5 of the Ministry of Education curriculum for Myanmar language, mathematics and science) to supplement the learning of children nationwide. UNICEF delivered education in emergencies services to reach approximately 5,880 children nationwide.

In addition, flexible funding supported the provision of life-saving WASH supplies and services for 104,669 affected people (including 33,596 children) and the distribution of bottled drinking water to 50,000 people in the peri-urban Yangon township – Hlaing Thar Yar – affected by martial law. The initiative later transitioned into social enterprise-managed water treatment and bottling kiosks to meet daily drinking water needs of the population. More than 54,000 internally displaced people in camps in the states of Kachin and Rakhine received regular water supply, gender-segregated sanitation services and WASH supplies to enable improved hygiene. During the year, 3,211 affected people in Kachin State gained access to a durable water supply solution. Nine health-care facilities benefited from improved access to WASH services.



Myanmar

Chit Sabel Oo, 14, focuses intently as she reads through a textbook during class at a learning centre for displaced children at the Myoma Yangon Monastery in Nyaung Shwe, Shan State, Myanmar, in December 2022. She is taking part in the Extended and Continuous Education and Learning (EXCEL) programme, an 11-month UNICEF-supported life skills course that targets out-of-school adolescents, many of them affected by conflict. EXCEL aims to improve literacy skills while also covering such topics as personal safety, drug abuse, reproductive health, HIV prevention and psychosocial competencies to build confidence, resilience and decision-making skills. Participants also learn other transferable skills, such as digital, job-specific and entrepreneurial skills, preparing them for the job market.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022



74,000 children nationwide received essential education supplies

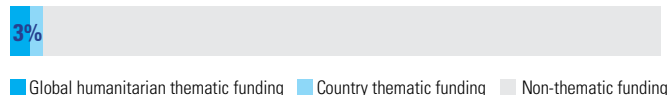


13,844 roofing sheets were procured to promote children's access to learning in temporary learning spaces



104,669 people were provided with life-saving WASH supplies and services

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022



PHILIPPINES

The availability and flexibility of global humanitarian thematic funding allowed for UNICEF's rapid quality response to Typhoon Odette, including the design and implementation of urgent interventions in the social protection and health sectors, among other areas.

In December 2021, the Philippines was struck by Super Typhoon Odette, the most destructive typhoon in eight years. Odette resulted in 409 deaths and thousands of injuries and displaced more than half a million people. In addition, the typhoon severely disrupted essential services, resulting in widespread humanitarian needs. It took a significant toll on the most vulnerable people, especially children, who were faced with increased risks to their survival and to their physical and mental health. By January 2022, the typhoon had affected 2.7 million families (an estimated 9.6 million people) in 11 regions. Forty per cent of those affected were children.

Global humanitarian thematic funding was essential for scaling up UNICEF's humanitarian action in multiple programmatic sectors in the aftermath of the typhoon. For example, GHTF allowed UNICEF to expand the financial assistance provided by the Government through social protection programmes, as part of its response and early recovery efforts to manage the impact of the typhoon. GHTF supported the design and implementation of the HCT Plus programme, which reached 3,961 households with humanitarian cash transfers to help meet their basic needs, and the engagement of a third-party organization to conduct post-cash distribution monitoring.

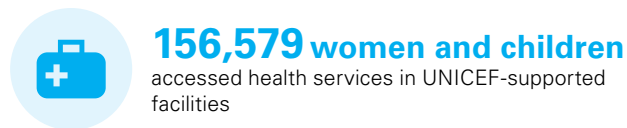
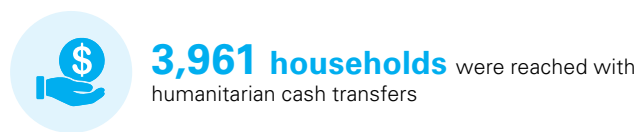
With support from global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF readily trained and deployed community health workers and mobile health teams to augment the capacity of local government units in delivering primary health-care services to areas significantly affected by the typhoon. A total of 156,579 women and children (45,256 boys; 45,305 girls) received essential health services in UNICEF-supported facilities, and 103,499 children (51,785 boys; 51,714 girls) 6–9 months of age were vaccinated against measles. Lastly, efforts to mitigate COVID-19 transmission were also carried out, with a total of 1,155 health-care facility staff and community health workers (34 men; 1,121 women) trained on infection prevention and control; and 82,395 health-care workers and community members were provided with personal protective equipment (25,773 men; 24,074 women; 16,889 boys; 15,659 girls).



Philippines

In 2022, residents of San Isidro Labrador, Bohol, the Philippines line up to receive the P5,000 (about \$90) assistance for each family affected by Typhoon Odette, which hit the Philippines in December 2021.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022



Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022



SRI LANKA

Amid a deteriorating food security situation in Sri Lanka, UNICEF leveraged global humanitarian thematic funding to prioritize the procurement and distribution of life-saving nutrition supplies, coupled with messaging and counselling on infant and young child feeding.

The political and economic crisis in Sri Lanka early in 2022 severely impacted the livelihoods of many families, affecting their ability to access even such basic and essential items as food, fuel and medicine. This resulted in higher risks of growth and learning impediments in children. By October 2022, more than 18,000 children under 5 years of age throughout the country were diagnosed with severe wasting. Additionally, higher absenteeism was reported among preschool children in urban and rural areas, where parents could not afford to provide meals to their children.

In providing life-saving nutrition responses as cluster lead, UNICEF prioritized the procurement of urgently required ready-to-use therapeutic food to treat severe wasting among children under 5 years of age. The intervention benefited 15,900 children, of whom 630 children (4 per cent) were reached with the support of global humanitarian thematic funds.

Furthermore, UNICEF worked to ensure that young children continued to access early education while also receiving a midday meal – sometimes their only meal for the day. To this end, UNICEF collaborated with local authorities in eight of the most disadvantaged districts (Colombo, Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee, Badulla, Monaragala, Ratnapura and Nuwara Eliya) to provide midday meals for six months in 1,518 poorly resourced preschools and day-care centres. The preschool midday meal programme benefited 37,850 children in urban and rural areas, of whom 15,657 children (41 per cent), including 25 children with special needs, were reached with global humanitarian thematic funds. The targeted preschools reported improvements in nutrition levels and preschool attendance by the second month of the intervention. Activities to raise awareness among preschool teachers and parents of issues related to nutrition and early childhood development are being incorporated into the delivery of the preschool meal programme.



Sri Lanka
Monisha, 4, enjoys her midday meal in February 2023 at the Gunapala Silva early childhood development centre for children aged 3–5 years, a school run by the Colombo Municipal Council, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. With support from donors, UNICEF has been providing nutritious midday meals to all children enrolled at the preschool since August 2022. A sample menu is distributed among volunteer parents, who cook the food on a rotating basis. The midday meals ensure these children get nutritious food that is essential for their growth and development.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022



Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022



SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Flexible funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, was crucial to UNICEF's scale-up of the humanitarian response to the multidimensional crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, helping to reduce protection and education inequalities, among other sectoral needs.

Children throughout the Syrian Arab Republic continued to face one of the most complex emergencies in the world. Twelve years of crisis and continued multifaceted hardships (among them the COVID-19 pandemic, a cholera outbreak, years of worsening economic conditions, devastated public infrastructure and a weakened social services system, localized hostilities and mass displacement) have left two thirds of the population in need of humanitarian assistance. Many people are subject to systematic violations of international humanitarian and child rights laws. The number of children in need of humanitarian assistance continued to increase in 2022, from 13.4 million people and 6.1 million children in 2021 to 14.6 million people and 6.9 million children in 2022. This includes 4.2 million persons with disabilities and 5.3 million people who are internally displaced .

Through humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF and implementing partners provided case management services to 9,838 children (4,568 girls and 5,270 boys) exposed to child protection abuses. UNICEF supported the finalization of the National Mental Health Psychosocial Support Manual in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and Population. Sixty per cent of children attending mental health and psychosocial support activities underpinned by the new manual showed an increase in psychosocial well-being on several parameters, including better relations with their parents and being better able to cope with anger and everyday frustrations. UNICEF continued implementing explosive ordnance risk education activities for children through implementing partners, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, reaching 1,193,081 children and adults (484,130 girls, 474,119 boys, 134,846 women and 99,986 men).

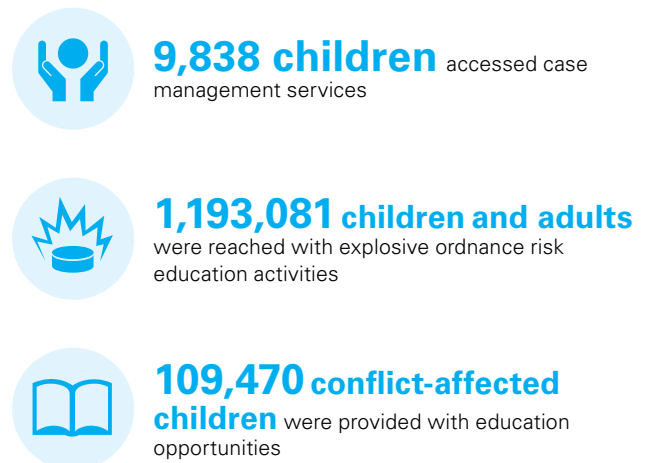
UNICEF also provided education opportunities to 109,470 conflict-affected children (52,370 girls). These children – either out of school or at risk of dropping out – were reached with services and supplies, including improvements in and maintenance of school learning environments necessary for enrolment and retention. Due to lack of education materials and the non-availability of Arabic textbooks in the north east of the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF and partners provided 7,000 children across lines of hostilities (51 per cent girls) with self-learning materials, including textbook sets to allow them to study Arabic and participate in national examinations.



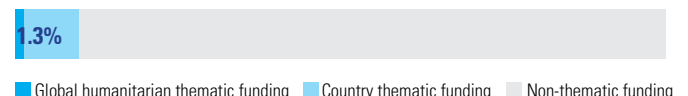
Syrian Arab Republic

Lilas 10, holds signs warning of explosive ordnance during the inauguration of a public park in Yalda, Rural Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, in October 2022. The park was rehabilitated by a UNICEF-supported psychosocial support team, through a social initiative to provide children a safe space in town to play in. “We should avoid playing in abandoned buildings and streets. We must play in safe areas instead,” Lilas says. “I am glad we now have this park in town.”

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022



Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022



EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

Global humanitarian thematic funding, when used to complement other sources of funding, allowed the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office to reinforce UNICEF country offices' preparedness actions, build communities' resilience and strengthen systems to prepare for and respond to crises. GHTF also helped to link humanitarian action with development programmes across the region.

In 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding allowed the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office to provide an integrated, multisectoral response to deliver life-saving services for children, women and families affected by climatic shocks and disease outbreaks, including populations living in camps for refugees and for internally displaced people.

Thanks to global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF ensured preparedness actions for public health emergencies in five country offices at risk of spillover of Uganda's Ebola disease outbreak (caused by Sudan virus).⁴ Existing preparedness actions in these country offices were reinforced by ensuring adequate supplies. The Regional Office also provided critical support to country offices in countries in the Horn of Africa affected by drought by carrying out support missions on data readiness, providing remote technical support to country offices, ensuring strong advocacy for increased funding to meet children's needs in the Horn of Africa and continuing to review preparedness actions. The Regional Office also provided support for humanitarian access to northern Ethiopia (Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions).

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022



To minimize the risk of child mortality in the counties of the region, flexible funding was used to support 12 countries⁵ on overall efforts to address severe wasting. This included support for identifying severely wasted children and referring them to treatment through various mechanisms: community outreach, find-and-treat campaigns and implementation of simplified approaches for identifying and treating severe wasting. From January to December 2022, 2.07 million children under age 5 were admitted for treatment of severe wasting in the region. This was a 27 per cent increase in admissions compared with 2021. The highest increase was in three Horn of Africa countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia), which accounted for 62 per cent of all admissions for severe wasting in the region.



“‘Leave No One Behind’ lies at the very heart of our efforts to respond to humanitarian needs. The Republic of Korea supports UNICEF’s work as a leading humanitarian agency, particularly through the provision of flexible funds. The **humanitarian thematic** fund makes it possible for UNICEF to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable children in a timely and effective manner. The Republic of Korea is fully committed to humanitarian action in the aspiration to become a Global Pivotal State that contributes to freedom, peace and prosperity. We will remain a strong supporter of UNICEF until our mutual efforts reach the goal of ‘No Child Left Behind’.”

H.E. MR. PARK JIN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

⁴ Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

⁵ Angola, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH ASIA

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, enabled the Regional Office for South Asia to provide strategic and technical guidance to country offices. It also allowed the office to allocate flexible resources for rapid and quality emergency responses in the region.

In 2022, humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, supported the emergency management teams in the Regional Office for South Asia to plan, fundraise, communicate and directly support technical programming and surge missions. The funds were also used to ensure that country offices could meet prerequisites for humanitarian response, including through deeper investment in the UNICEF's preparedness and by cultivating the involvement of national and subnational actors.

Regional office emergency staff undertook nine field missions to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These missions encompassed training on emergency preparedness and response, providing technical guidance on contingency planning and flash appeals and providing technical guidance on flood response. They enhanced the quality of humanitarian work in these country offices by helping to ensure that best practices and global knowledge were incorporated into plans and actions. The missions to Sri Lanka ensured development of a quality contingency plan that included risk analysis, scenario development, response planning and review of preparedness actions. The missions to Afghanistan supported development of an office contingency plan that incorporated multiple risks and interrelated vulnerabilities.

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022



The regional office staff also supplied insights and strategic advice on challenges to humanitarian programme implementation.

Flexible funds were also critical to the regional office's support of results for children in flood emergencies in Bangladesh and Pakistan. Global humanitarian thematic funding enabled the regional office to conduct a surge mission to Pakistan to support the multisectoral humanitarian response for the first three months of this Level 2 rapid-onset flood emergency. The regional office emergency specialist was also able, because of flexible funding, to conduct an urgent surge mission to coordinate and provide programmatic support to the Bangladesh Country Office and the Sylhet Field Office for the flood response there. The Emergency Specialist then supported the Bangladesh Country Office with a co-funding application to support strengthened preparedness measures in that country, because the flooding response had depleted key supplies.

"When flash floods hit Bangladesh in June 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding was instrumental to our ability to deliver for children. Our teams were on the ground from day one, providing life-saving services and supplies to over 300,000 people, including 110,000 children and 6,000 persons living with disabilities. Our rapid and targeted response within the first 72 hours of the onset of the emergency, and our continued presence in the affected communities, positioned UNICEF as the go-to UN partner. **Global humanitarian thematic funding** also allowed UNICEF Bangladesh to sustain critical services for Rohingya refugee children when other funding was shrinking. In 2022, over 220,000 children could continue to go to school; 6,600 children suffering from severe wasting received treatment; and over 30,000 children received the third dose of the pentavalent vaccine thanks to this critical funding."

MR. SHELDON YETT, UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE IN BANGLADESH

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

The West and Central Africa Regional Office leveraged global humanitarian thematic funding in 2022 to enable multi-country support on emergency preparedness and to fund activities related to rapid response mechanisms across the region.

Throughout the year, global humanitarian thematic funding continued to be life-saving catalytic funding across West and Central Africa. It enabled the West and Central Africa Regional Office as well as country offices in the region to kickstart responses to sudden-onset emergencies, scale up operations in deteriorating crises, fill in temporary funding gaps to avoid interruption in critical operations and guarantee the delivery of essential field support.

For example, in 2022, the West and Central Africa Regional Office allocated global humanitarian thematic funding in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo in response to the Level 2 emergency activation for the Sahel crisis and the associated scale-up of emergency preparedness and response efforts. The regional office also utilized global humanitarian thematic funding to pre-position key supplies in UNICEF's warehouse in Douala, Cameroon for the purposes of responding in Chad, which is highly vulnerable to floods each year. The use of this complementary funding source, alongside the placement of field offices and staff in key locations – and a national-level flood preparedness simulation exercise in the weeks ahead of the anticipated floods – enabled a faster and more effective response when the floods hit. Staff were able to coordinate and deploy UNICEF resources (including supplies) more rapidly due to the pre-positioning and because of the prior simulation of their roles and responsibilities.

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022



Throughout the region, UNICEF uses rapid response mechanisms to respond in hard-to-reach areas, unpredictable contexts and particularly where local infrastructure is weak. This makes it a very context-specific modality, requiring frequent re-evaluation and innovation to ensure rapid response programmes are keeping up with changing needs and obstacles. In 2022, the West and Central Africa Regional Office utilized global humanitarian thematic funding to support an initiative to strengthen connections and the sharing of best practice among the eight countries implementing rapid response mechanism modalities in the region. This led to in-person and online exchanges, the development of a matrix identifying key elements of each rapid response mechanism and an active network of best practice for future knowledge sharing and innovation.

“UNICEF is a leader in water, sanitation and hygiene and a key partner for the Grundfos Foundation in our mission to improve access to water for the world’s most vulnerable, including refugees and victims of natural disasters or other emergencies. In Tanzania, we work together to bring access to clean drinking water to almost 200,000 people in 31 rural communities in western Tanzania’s Kigoma Region. Kigoma Region also hosts over 260,000 refugees living in three camps. Expanding and increasing the support to host communities will help to promote socioeconomic development and decrease the risk of tensions and misunderstandings between the refugee/migrant population and the respective host populations. In the wake of a disaster, every minute counts, and that is why we are proud to support **global humanitarian thematic funding**, making sure that UNICEF and its partners on the ground can immediately assist the victims in the affected areas. In 2022, this funding helped provide drinking water for over 1 million people, including flood victims in Pakistan.”

MR. KIM NØHR SKIBSTED, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GRUNDFOS FOUNDATION

PREPAREDNESS FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION



Uganda

UNICEF field staff engage with children in Nsuwa Zone, Makindye division, Kampala, Uganda, in November 2022. This visit was part of the UNICEF teams' door-to-door risk communication and community engagement effort to raise awareness and educate families after the Ministry of Health declared an outbreak in September 2022 of Ebola disease (caused by Sudan virus) in Mubende District, about 150 km away from Kampala.

UNICEF has two dedicated funding initiatives for emergency preparedness, the First Action Initiative and the Co-Funding Initiative. These initiatives have enabled important investments in the preparedness capacity of UNICEF and partners. In 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding was a critical source of funds for these two important emergency preparedness initiatives.

The First Action Initiative rapidly increases UNICEF's standing capacity to deliver an initial life-saving response to a likely humanitarian crisis. It offers an innovative investment portfolio approach to emergency preparedness, providing the foundational seed investments needed to meet risk levels with appropriate readiness and capacity to undertake early action. The First Action Initiative also contributes to a more environmentally sustainable approach, because investments are expected to result in significant savings in terms of funding, time and carbon dioxide emissions (due to the pre-positioning of supplies in key areas).

The Co-Funding Initiative provides seed money to regional and country offices for preparedness interventions. This funding mechanism offers valuable opportunities to strengthen

cooperation on preparedness with government actors and partners and can help country offices and partners to better link their development and humanitarian programming through preparedness. Actions are focused on preparedness to enable early action for an initial life-saving response. Interventions supported typically include a combination of activities, such as the establishment of contingency partnerships, risk communication and community engagement activities, emergency supply pre-positioning and support to government planning, coordination and monitoring. Gender considerations and gender-based violence mitigation efforts are included in all interventions.

In 2022, UNICEF allocated \$4.26 million for preparedness through the First Action Initiative and the Co-Funding Initiative, with \$3.2 million of this coming from GHTF. These funds went to 20 country offices and one subregional response. These allocations were matched by \$1.2 million from UNICEF regional and country offices (through the Co-Funding Initiative), as well as funding specifically earmarked for gender-based violence preparedness efforts.

Ukraine

The security situation in Ukraine deteriorated rapidly after the war escalated beginning on 24 February 2022, creating a major humanitarian and human rights crisis. The war resulted in deaths and injuries and the mass displacement of people from the southern and eastern parts of Ukraine to the western part of the country and to countries across Europe. Hostilities resulted in severe damage and destruction of homes and civilian infrastructure, including such essential services for children as schools and health facilities. By the end of 2022, 17.7 million people were estimated to need urgent humanitarian assistance inside Ukraine, including 3.4 million children requiring protection interventions, while an estimated 5.9 million people remained internally displaced inside the country.

Amid the increased volatility of the situation in Ukraine in October 2021, and as the protracted crisis there entered its eighth year in 2022, the Ukraine country office benefited from an allocation of \$400,000 through the Co-Funding Initiative in early February 2022 – including \$300,000 in global humanitarian thematic funding – to enhance the preparedness capacity of UNICEF and partners for a potential escalation of conflict in eastern Ukraine. The key risk mitigation components included procuring and pre-positioning supplies for immediate life-saving responses, securing key human resources to further support preparedness and immediate

response capacities, establishing and expanding partnerships through programme cooperation agreements and facilitating the capacity-building of partners.

This investment in preparedness efforts was catalytic to achieving humanitarian results after the escalation of hostilities in February 2022. For example, through the partnership of UNICEF Ukraine with the Association of Ukrainian Cities, 51 cities or municipalities enrolled in the Child Friendly Cities Initiative received a grant to identify and respond to local needs in their communities. With this support, municipalities were able to provide quick solutions for 182,869 people, including 70,041 children, by establishing and equipping child-friendly safe spaces; restoring destroyed educational facilities; providing educational equipment, medical equipment and hygiene kits; and procuring food supplies for internally displaced families and children. In addition, 102 municipal professionals were trained in national standards for child-focused local governance, enabling municipalities that are part of the Child Friendly Cities Initiative to boost their local responses to the sudden increase in internally displaced people and to the heightened needs of children. UNICEF also directly complemented its support to municipalities by providing supplies and other services to increase the positive impact on the well-being of local communities.



Ukraine

Children in Zhytomyr, Ukraine enjoy class in their new school building in September 2022. Their previous school was completely destroyed by hostilities in early March 2022. The school basement in the new school was recently repaired and serves as a bomb shelter. There, children can distract themselves from the horrors outside with colouring books, and they can keep warm with blankets that hang on the chairs.

South Sudan

South Sudan is ranked seventh worst in the world according to the Children's Climate Risk Index⁶ report, in terms of children's exposure to climate change and environmental shocks and the lack of local capacity to respond. In 2022, 1 million people, including more than 600,000 children, were affected by floods across the country. Hundreds of thousands of families were forced to flee their homes, losing their assets and livelihoods. Children are the ones most impacted by floods and drought – in the near and longer term – due to families' negative coping strategies, which can include child marriage, child labour, exploitation and abuse. In hotspots, there are extremely high levels of vulnerability due to the legacy of years of conflict, persistent floods, humanitarian access constraints and food and nutrition insecurity. This places affected people – especially women and girls – at a greater humanitarian risk.

By mid-2022, the South Sudan Country Office had received an allocation of \$600,000 through the First Action Initiative, including \$279,295 in global humanitarian thematic funding, to strengthen the country office's emergency preparedness capacity in light of the upcoming rainy season and flooding risk, against a background of expanding and increasing food insecurity, malnutrition and conflict. This investment enabled UNICEF to ensure a rapid response to assist most people affected by the floods by providing WASH, nutrition and child protection supplies and training personnel to provide timely, effective response that could mitigate the impact of floods. In turn, UNICEF and partners were better positioned to

provide an integrated package of early action responses including nutrition, WASH, child protection and gender-based violence responses to mitigate the impact of the floods on women and children.

For example, UNICEF operated a WASH warehouse in Bentiu that provided WASH items to WASH Cluster partners responding to displacements due to flooding. UNICEF also procured 9,000 buckets, to provide 54,000 emergency-affected persons (one bucket per household) with water storage and collection containers. This contributed to the overall pre-positioning of the WASH core pipeline of supplies for the immediate life-saving response to various crises. Furthermore, UNICEF leveraged these flexible funds to strengthen the prevention of gender-based violence by transforming social norms through the Communities Care programme. Communities Care promotes gender-equitable social norms to prevent gender-based violence and support survivors. As a result, 2,046 people (430 girls, 262 boys, 771 women, and 583 men) were engaged in changing harmful social norms, and 816 people (666 men and 150 women) spanning government officials and government security forces, members of opposition groups, community members and implementing partners in the protection sector were trained in child protection capacity-building for positive change in social norms that can contribute to gender equality and decrease gender-based violence and discrimination.



South Sudan

Alekiir Deng Lueth, 12, washes pots in flood water outside the village of Panyagor in Twic East, Jonglei State, South Sudan, in January 2022. To reduce the impact of floods on the most vulnerable populations, UNICEF invests in the flood resilience of local communities and in preparedness activities, including pre-positioning of supplies during the dry season, when roads remain accessible.

⁶ The Children's Climate Risk Index provides the first comprehensive view of children's exposure and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services.

GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Public health emergencies

In 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding was critical in advancing UNICEF's work on public health emergencies preparedness and response (PHE-PR). GHTF enabled development of a UNICEF white paper, Putting the Best Interest of Children, Women and their Communities at the Centre of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, which outlines the whole-of society focus required for PHE-PR to be effective and sets out nine key recommendations for the global community. The public health emergencies unit also began work on a strategic plan of action that sets out how UNICEF can best focus its current resources and capacities – as well as mobilize additional ones required to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies – in the period 2023–2025.

The additional flexible funding furthered public health emergencies capacity strengthening through virtual and face-to-face technical assistance. The public health emergencies team finalized the development and dissemination of the PHE Toolkit to enhance the organization's preparedness and response to epidemics and public health emergencies. Through global humanitarian thematic funding, in 2022 an estimated 30 UNICEF country offices developed preparedness and response plans following the guidance provided in the PHE Toolkit and were able to contribute to national response plans for cholera, Ebola virus disease and other outbreaks along with Governments, the World Health Organization and other international and local partners.



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Senegal

Participants are actively engaged in a youth- and gender-responsive peacebuilding training in Thiès, Senegal, in May 2022. The inter-agency and cross-regional workshop focused on strengthening youth- and gender-responsiveness in project development, including conflict analysis, stakeholder analysis, theory of change, partnerships, programmatic responses and results frameworks.

Humanitarian capacity and leadership

In 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding was a critical enabler for strengthening humanitarian leadership and building humanitarian capacity – key recommendation areas of the Humanitarian Review. Towards this end, and thanks to these flexible funds (among other resources), the UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes continued to lead the Humanitarian Leadership Workshop series, a UNICEF learning initiative to better prepare and equip UNICEF managers responding to emergencies. The primary audience for these Workshops are UNICEF senior managers who have significant responsibilities leading teams in humanitarian response in the field.

During the year, 67 senior leaders were trained through the two streams of the Humanitarian Leadership Workshop series. Thirty-nine staff reinforced their capacities and skills on 'Leading in emergencies', a general learning stream covering broad humanitarian responses, from public health emergencies and natural disasters to slow-onset and protracted crises and emergency preparedness and response. Twenty-eight staff

strengthened their capacity on 'Leading in complex and high-threat emergencies', the second stream, which focuses on situations characterized by very high security risks, significant access constraints, armed conflict, armed non-state actors, grave violations against children, United Nations peace operations and international sanctions regimes.

Overall, since the inception and development of the Humanitarian Leadership Workshop series in 2020, more than 170 colleagues have been progressively trained in person, with overwhelmingly positive and constructive feedback shared by participants. In addition, the Humanitarian Leadership Workshop grew from a five-day event to a nine-month learning process in 2022, including preparatory webinars and a coaching trajectory. In 2023 the sessions will be at full capacity, enrolling 96 senior staff.

In a nutshell, the flexibility of global humanitarian thematic funding allowed UNICEF to continue investing in the people who give life to UNICEF humanitarian work.



Jordan

Participants actively engage in a Humanitarian Leadership Workshop focusing on leading in emergencies, at the Dead Sea, Jordan, in November 2022. This Workshop covers general topics relevant to humanitarian leadership and is meant for colleagues with general humanitarian crises experience, including emergency preparedness and response; and for those with an interest in taking on leadership roles in emergencies.

The eSitRep platform: Leveraging technology for improved humanitarian action

To advance the Humanitarian Review recommendations on preparing for future emergency contexts, and thanks to global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF built the first-ever eSitRep (Electronic Situation Report) platform to digitize the development of humanitarian Situation Reports (or SitReps).

UNICEF's humanitarian action in all countries leading a humanitarian response is published through SitReps, which provide a regular updated snapshot of the evolving humanitarian response, the needs of women and children, funding requirements, results achieved to date and major gaps or bottlenecks in the response.

Since its launch in mid-2022, more than 200 UNICEF staff in country and regional offices have been equipped with skills to use the eSitRep platform. Twenty country offices (46 per cent of all country offices with a standalone Humanitarian Action for Children appeal) transitioned to eSitRep and produced 61 eSitReps from June through December 2022. Overall, the new platform has contributed to improving the speed and quality of reporting on UNICEF's humanitarian response. The eSitRep platform has facilitated reporting by country offices, thanks to system features that allow for strengthened collaboration and quality assurance across country offices, regional offices and headquarters; integration of data from other UNICEF tools; auto-generation of a designed layout; and automation of data collection and analysis. And, thanks to the improved quality of reporting, UNICEF has upheld and strengthened its transparency and accountability to affected populations, to national and local governments and to the broader humanitarian community, including the donors.

In alignment with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, and building on the positive feedback received from users as well as lessons learned, UNICEF has continued to enhance this innovative tool in support of humanitarian response, with an updated version planned for release in mid-2023.

Humanitarian leadership talent management strategy

In 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding was crucial to the implementation of the human resources recommendations outlined in the Humanitarian Review Report.

GHTF funds were used in 2022 to elaborate the Humanitarian Leadership Talent Management Strategy, which was designed to strengthen leadership in humanitarian action. The Humanitarian Review had identified a need to address perceived inconsistencies and unpredictability in UNICEF's humanitarian action at the country level, variations driven by leaders' differing experience, skills and preferences.

Thanks to GHTF, the UNICEF Division of Human Resources also was able to meet the Humanitarian Review recommendation to elaborate a consolidated surge strategy to ensure UNICEF has a streamlined surge system and sufficient qualified staff and other in-house resources to enable timely surge wherever and whenever it is needed. Funds also complemented the capacity of the Division's surge team to support the timely deployment of 359 staff members who undertook 386 deployments through internal surge to 39 countries.

Recognizing the importance of human resources staff having ready access to up-to-date, robust knowledge and resources to better support country offices and to have an opportunity to

engage as a community, GHTF fund supported the Division of Human Resources in reinforcing its knowledge management capacity. This included updating the Human Resources in Emergencies Toolkit, the key guide providing human resource teams (and other staff) with guidance on better supporting country offices operating in emergency contexts.



Afghanistan

A multisectoral UNICEF team visits Gayan District, Paktika Province, Afghanistan, on 29 June 2022. The team met with community members affected by the earthquake that hit seven days earlier and discussed the needs, challenges and response with partners.

Annex 2: Financial Report

Millions of the world's most vulnerable children experienced 2022 as a year of crisis. Globally, children were exposed to historic flooding and drought; the impacts of proliferating conflicts; the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and political instability that slowed down economic recovery from the pandemic.

The 2022 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal was launched in December 2021 with a total financial requirement of \$9.4 billion. The appeal was designed to assist 177.7 million children in need in 145 countries and territories. By the end of 2022, however, the total humanitarian requirement had risen to \$11.74 billion due to new or deteriorating crises, including the war in Ukraine, floods in Pakistan, drought in the Horn of Africa and other worsening protracted emergencies for children,¹ in addition to the need to accelerate equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines during the year. New appeals were also introduced in 2022 for Djibouti, facing its worst drought in recent history, and Sri Lanka, where a rapidly unfolding economic crisis was disproportionately affecting children. This brought the total number of appeals to 55.

UNICEF humanitarian programmes benefited from emergency resources² as well as other resources that helped to achieve results for children in 2022.

As of 31 December 2022, \$4.25 billion had been received in humanitarian funding³ for the 2022 appeal, 43 per cent more than the \$2.96 billion received for the 2021 appeal. A point of concern is that the majority of contributions – both public and private – were earmarked, largely for a small number of emergency appeals. Sixty-four per cent of the \$4.25 billion received in 2022 was earmarked for appeals for four crises: Ukraine and Refugee Outflow, Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), Afghanistan, and Syrian Refugee hosting countries. In fact, the Ukraine and Refugee Outflow appeal accounted for 25 per cent of all humanitarian funds the organization received in 2022, making it the top recipient of funding and the most well-funded Humanitarian Action for Children appeal.

The top 10 resource partners provided 71 per cent of emergency funding received in 2022. UNICEF National Committees in Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America together provided 19 per cent of funding UNICEF received from the top 10 resource partners in 2022. Some government partners increased support in 2022, with Germany doubling its contribution, the United States increasing its contribution to UNICEF by about 56 per cent and the United Kingdom increasing its contribution by 24 per cent.

Public sector funding increased by 29 per cent compared with the same period in 2021, to \$3.16 billion. There was increased funding from Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States and from GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance. However, there was a decrease in funding from Canada, Japan and United Arab Emirates and from the European Commission and the World Bank.

While public sector funding continued to make up a majority of the funding received, its share decreased in 2022 due to the significant increase in private sector contributions, which doubled compared with the previous year, to \$1.09 billion. This increase in emergency funds from the private sector is attributed to a diversified revenue model for private sector fundraising,⁴ which helped to unlock additional opportunities for fundraising. The most significant increase in private sector funding in 2022 came from UNICEF National Committees in Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Private sector donors provided an extraordinary level of support to the Ukraine crisis and the Refugee Regional Response.

Fifty-seven per cent of public sector funding was earmarked for the following appeals: ACT-A, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Refugee Outflow and Syrian Refugee hosting countries. Eighty-four per cent of private sector funding was earmarked for the following appeals: Ukraine and Refugee Outflow, ACT-A and Afghanistan. The concentration of the private sector resources on a few appeals was so high that 5 per cent of humanitarian funding received had to be shared by 46 appeals.

1 These include emergencies in Bangladesh, Chad, Haiti, Lebanon, Mali and Nigeria and in those countries hosting Syrian refugees and Venezuelan refugees.

2 Other resources – emergency.

3 Humanitarian funding includes other resources – emergency along with other types of funding that support UNICEF humanitarian response from public sector resource partners. In 2022, UNICEF implemented a system to record funds dedicated to humanitarian response from non-emergency partners' budgets, resulting in \$433.2 million in other resources – regular dedicated to humanitarian responses.

4 Private sector fundraising is done through the network of UNICEF National Committees and through country offices.

FIGURE A2-1: Humanitarian contributions received in 2022, by partner group

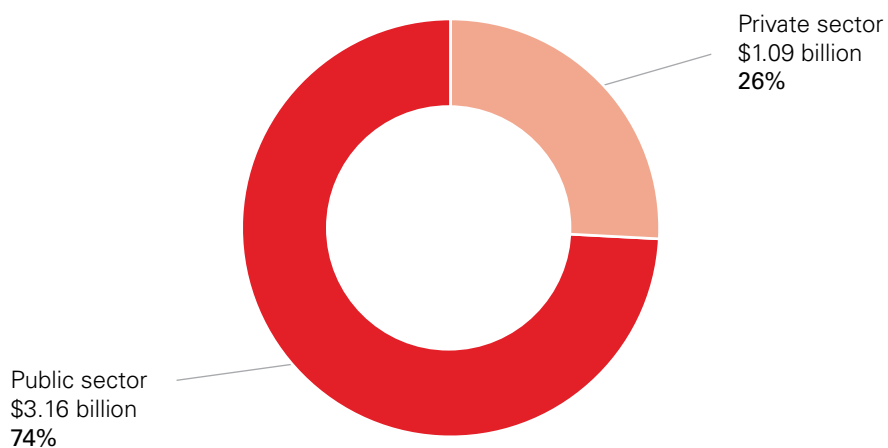
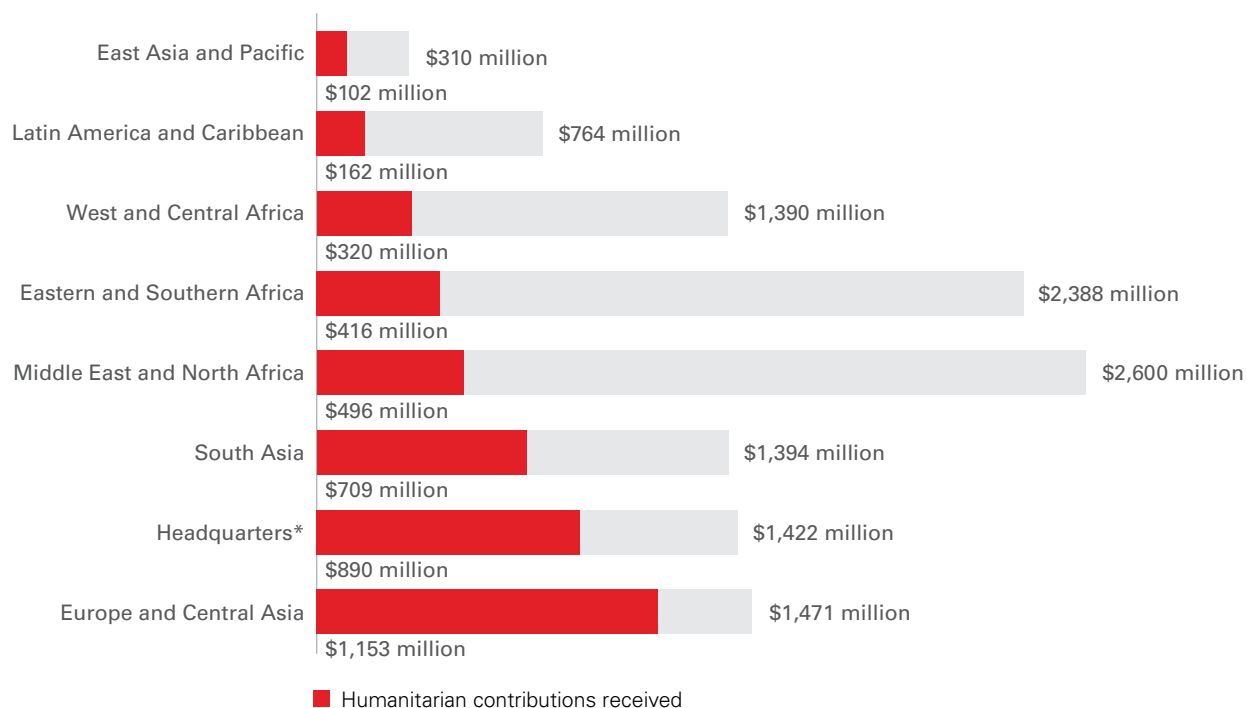


FIGURE A2-2: Humanitarian contributions received in 2022, by region, compared with appeal requirements

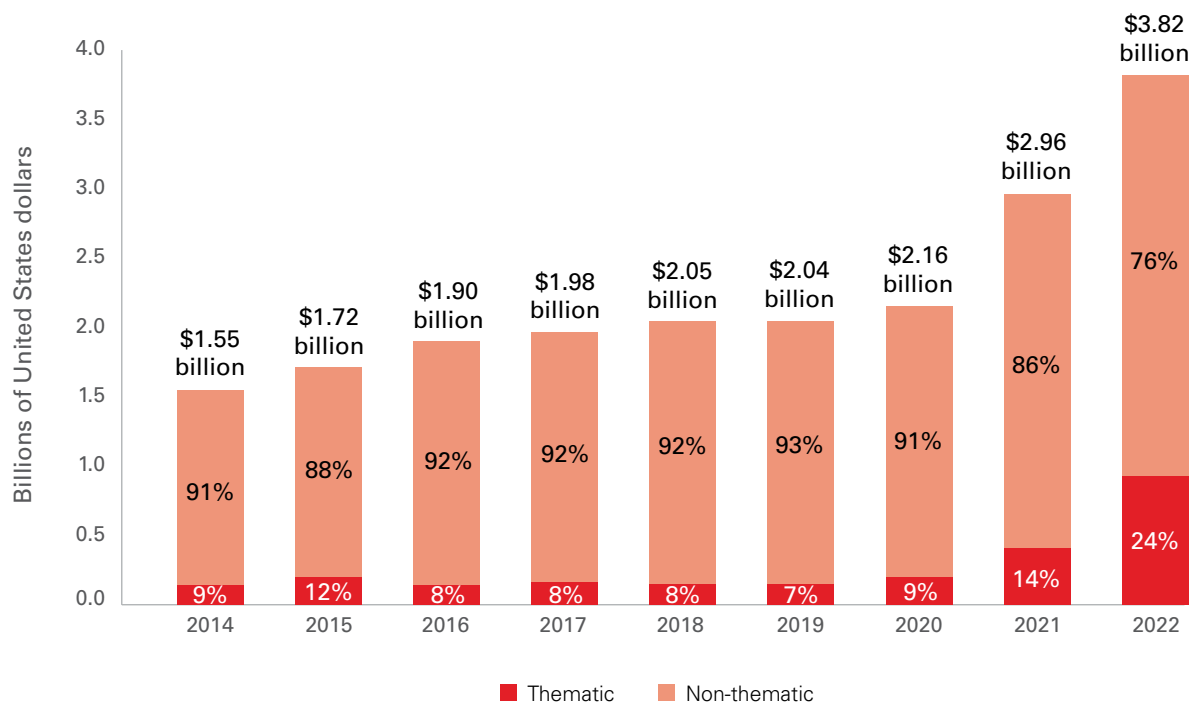


*Contributions received for the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for ACT-A were received at the headquarters level.

Quality funding (funding that is flexible, predictable and multi-year) for humanitarian action continued to be a top priority for UNICEF. In 2022, multi-year funding⁵ received from partners reached \$1.13 billion (including public and private sector thematic and non-thematic funding). This amount far surpassed the \$422.7 million received in 2021. However, UNICEF public sector partners, in particular, are yet to reach pre-pandemic levels of multi-year funding. In 2022, they provided \$260.6 million in multi-year funding, which is 39 per cent less than the amount received in 2018 (pre-COVID) and 24 per cent less than in 2021. Public sector resource partners who increased their multi-year contributions in 2022 compared with 2021 include Denmark, Finland, France, Germany and the Netherlands; and Czechia, Serbia and Sweden contributed multi-year funding for the first time.

Flexible emergency thematic contributions (country, regional and global) to the organization increased significantly in 2022, more than doubling to \$928 million and making up 24 per cent of all emergency contributions. This increase in thematic funding was due to a significant increase in private sector contributions, which stemmed from a higher number of countries involved in private sector fundraising efforts and to the expansion of the donor base in these countries. Eighty-three per cent of private sector contributions to flexible funding was earmarked for the Ukraine and Refugee Outflow and ACTA appeals. New public sector resource partners provided thematic funding in 2022, namely (in descending order of contribution) Germany, Sweden, Serbia, Kuwait and Liechtenstein.

FIGURE A2-3: Contributions to other resources – emergency, 2014–2022



⁵ In line with the definition of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the term 'multi-year humanitarian funding' is defined here as funding with a duration of 24 months or more based on the start and end dates of the original formal funding agreement.

FIGURE A2-4: Humanitarian thematic funding contributions, by designated level (country, regional or global), 2022

Other resources – emergency

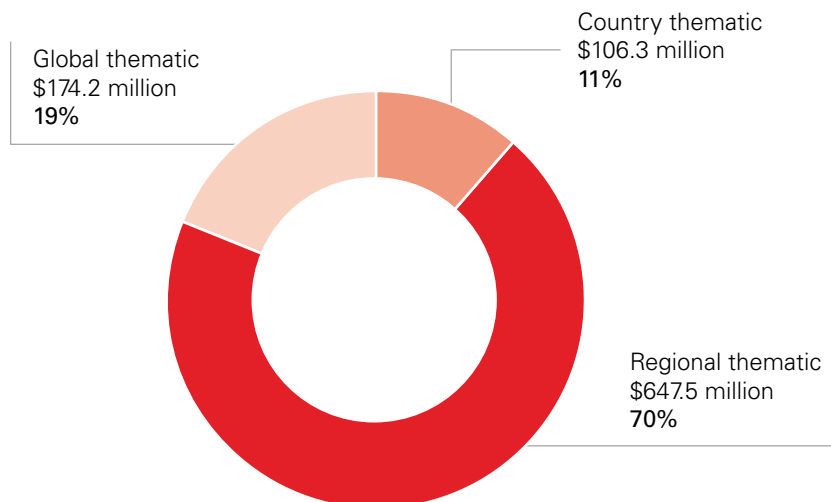


FIGURE A2-5: Appeals receiving the highest proportion of thematic funding, 2022

Other resources – emergency, excluding GHFT allocations

A higher proportion of thematic funding means more flexibility in the humanitarian response.

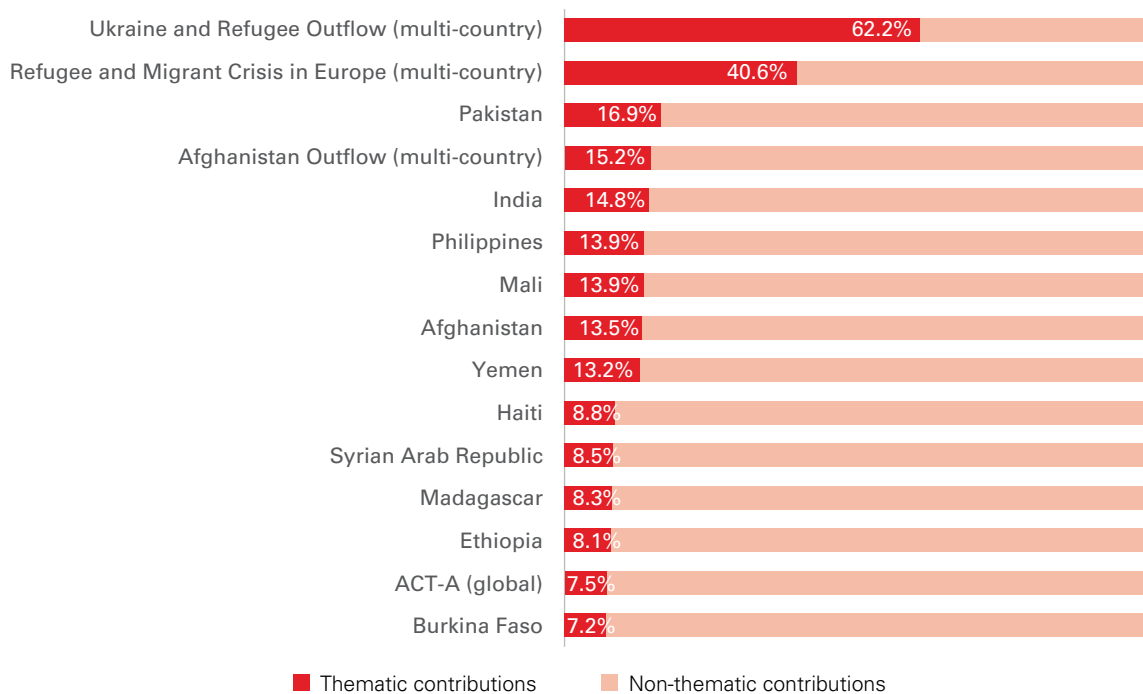
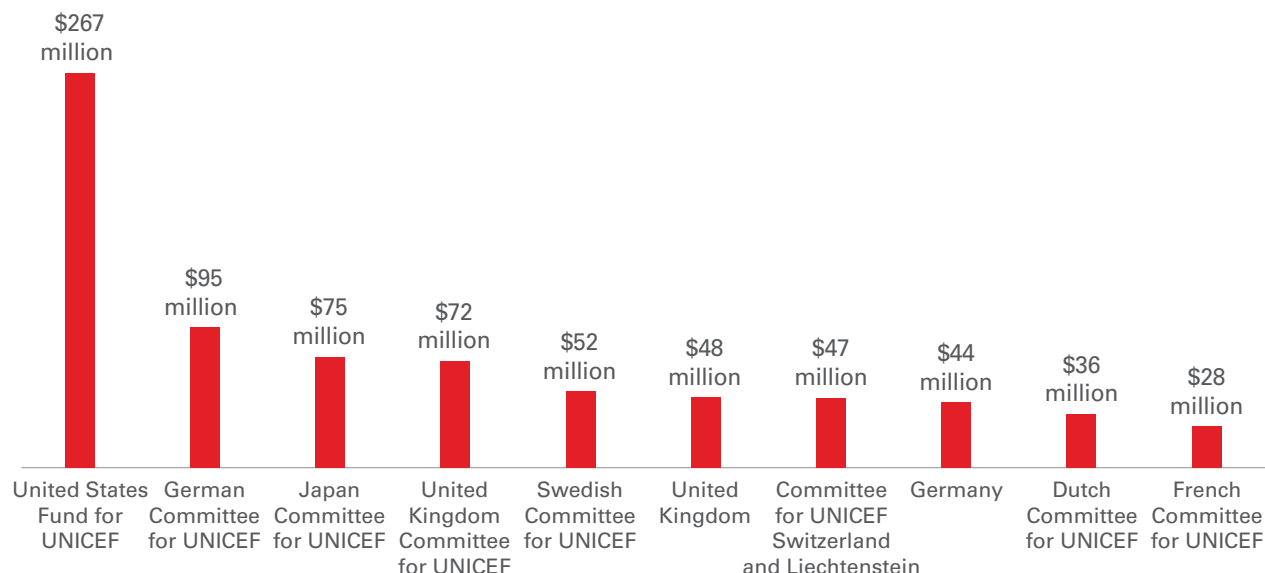


FIGURE A2-6: Top 10 resource partners for multi-year contributions, 2022

Other resources – emergency



Global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF) is the most flexible type of resource after core resources. GHTF more than tripled in 2022, reaching \$119.8 million.⁶ This significant increase was made possible thanks to new partners who contributed to GHTF – the Committee for UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein, the German Federal Foreign Office and Sweden – as well as increases in contributions from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF and the United States Fund for UNICEF, along with increases in private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices. Global humanitarian thematic funding contributed to the UNICEF response in the Horn of Africa and Sahel countries; ensured timely response to a cholera outbreak in the Syrian Arab Republic and to Ebola disease in Uganda; and helped to scale up responses to natural disasters in the East Asia and Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean regions and in Pakistan. GHTF provided timely funding to cover critical gaps.⁷

In terms of pooled funding mechanisms, UNICEF remained the top recipient of funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), receiving \$197.2 million.⁸ CERF allocations to UNICEF in 2022 supported 87 projects in 39 countries.⁹ Responses receiving more than \$10 million in CERF funding in 2022 were those linked to conflict- and climate-related crises in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen.

CERF rapid response funds continued to provide timely support for UNICEF field offices. CERF contributions were among the fastest humanitarian funding to arrive for use in responses. This was evident in places where the humanitarian situation deteriorated and required emergency response and where inter-agency plans were launched or revised, with a CERF Rapid Response window made available soon after. For example, during the Pakistan flood response, the CERF rapid response allocation was the first external contribution to arrive for UNICEF to support the delivery of life-saving WASH and nutrition services to thousands of internally displaced families in Sindh and Balochistan Provinces.

Allocations of country-based pooled funds decreased from \$46.1 million to 12 countries in 2021 to \$26.5 million to 8 countries¹⁰ in 2022.

Core resources are critical in supporting UNICEF humanitarian response: in 2022, \$243.9 million in core resources supported humanitarian programmes. Core resources also contributed to humanitarian responses via allocations from the UNICEF Emergency Programme Fund loan mechanism, which fast-tracks internal resources to affected countries within 48 hours of a crisis. In 2022, UNICEF provided \$64.1 million to 31 countries through this Fund, a 36 per cent increase compared with 2021.

6 For more information on global humanitarian thematic funds, please see Annex 1: Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding 2022.

7 For more information on allocations of the global humanitarian thematic funds to specific crises, please see Annex 1: Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding 2022.

8 Total allocation approved by OCHA through CERF to UNICEF in 2022 amounted to \$211 million. Figures generated on 31 May 2023, available at <<https://cerf.un.org/what-we-do/allocation-by-agency>>.

9 United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, Allocations by Agency, 2022. Figures generated on 31 May 2023, available at <<https://cerf.un.org/what-we-do/allocation-by-agency>>.

10 Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Nigeria, State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Yemen. Figures generated on 31 May 2023, available at <<https://cbpf.data.unocha.org/allocations-overview.html>>.

Partnering with international financial institutions in settings of humanitarian response helps UNICEF to strengthen programming across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and continue essential services in times of acute crisis.¹¹ In 2022, UNICEF received \$222.4 million¹² in funding from international financial institutions to support development activities in countries with Humanitarian Action for Children appeals. Of this, \$2.2 million was emergency funding (other resources – emergency), a decrease from 2021, given the transition away from COVID-19 emergency response activities. Though international financial institutions provided less money for humanitarian response in 2022, their overall level of support to UNICEF increased.

Despite the record level of funding received in 2022 for humanitarian action, the requirements continued to grow, which meant that most humanitarian responses remained severely underfunded. It is in this environment that an increase in quality funding – multi-year and flexible funding – is critical for addressing emergencies, including those driven by climate change. As a signatory of the Grand Bargain, UNICEF will continue to pursue quality funding to enable an efficient, swift and agile humanitarian response. Accessing timely, flexible and long-term funding will enable UNICEF to prepare for and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable children and their families.

TABLE A2-1: Top 20 humanitarian resource partners by contributions received, 2022

Rank	Resource partners	Total (US\$)
1	United States	984,914,091
2	United States Fund for UNICEF	310,555,294
3	Germany	258,595,866
4	GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance	228,788,808
5	European Commission	206,802,456
6	Central Emergency Response Fund	197,209,579
7	United Kingdom	159,985,941
8	Japan	146,433,374
9	German Committee for UNICEF	128,044,540
10	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	84,947,182
11	Japan Committee for UNICEF	79,067,143
12	Sweden	72,393,551
13	Committee for UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein	67,723,349
14	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	61,508,610
15	Canada	54,913,881
16	Netherlands	44,570,174
17	United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office	41,776,887
18	Dutch Committee for UNICEF	37,580,035
19	Italy	34,992,930
20	French Committee for UNICEF	34,307,797

11 Traditionally, international financial institutions provide support to UNICEF mainly through funding of country programme documents rather than Humanitarian Action for Children appeals. They rarely provide emergency support to UNICEF and instead complement the organization's humanitarian activities through development-focused support.

12 This amount includes funds dedicated to humanitarian response from non-emergency partners' budgets.

TABLE A2-2: Top 20 humanitarian contributions received, 2022

Rank	Grant description	Resource partners	Total (US\$)
1	Thematic Ukraine emergency, Ukraine and Refugee Outflow	United States Fund for UNICEF	176,013,602
2	United States Government contribution – Multi-faceted COVID-19 response (ACT-A)	United States	145,000,000
3	Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A)	Germany	84,083,361
4	Syrian refugee 2021 Humanitarian Appeal for Children in Lebanon	United States	70,927,411
5	Thematic Ukraine emergency, Ukraine and Refugee Outflow	Japan Committee for UNICEF	65,250,371
6	Thematic Ukraine emergency, Ukraine and Refugee Outflow	German Committee for UNICEF	59,745,953
7	COVID-19 vaccine delivery support (ACT-A)	GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance	59,040,000
8	COVID-19 vaccine delivery support: Cross-cutting workstreams (ACT-A)	GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance	52,158,750
9	COVID-19 vaccine delivery (ACT-A)	Germany	48,729,778
10	Humanitarian assistance needs for Syrian refugees and host communities, Lebanon	United States	47,957,532
11	Thematic cross-sectoral, Ukraine and Refugee Outflow	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	46,037,515
12	Thematic Ukraine emergency, Ukraine and Refugee Outflow	United States Fund for UNICEF	42,813,456
13	Thematic humanitarian funds for cross-sectoral activities, Ukraine and Refugee Outflow	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	39,396,318
14	Multi-purpose cash programme for addressing the urgent needs of war-affected families and children in Ukraine	Germany	38,532,550
15	Integrated emergency response addressing health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and protection needs in Afghanistan	United Kingdom	32,888,146
16	Humanitarian assistance needs for Syrian refugees and host communities in Türkiye	United States	31,832,096
17	COVID-19 vaccine delivery support at the country level (ACT-A)	GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance	30,000,000
18	Multi-sectoral humanitarian response to natural and complex emergencies (child protection, WASH, health and nutrition) in Somalia	United States	29,223,195
19	Ensuring access to life-saving health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, child protection supplies and services and provision of cash support for children and families in Ukraine	European Commission	28,589,678
20	Thematic Ukraine emergency, Ukraine and Refugee Outflow	Committee for UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein	28,542,304

TABLE A2-3: Thematic funding contributions by resource partner to humanitarian action, 2022

Resource partner type	Resource partner	Total (US\$)	Percentage of total
Private sector 91.76%	United States Fund for UNICEF	272,044,622	29.32%
	German Committee for UNICEF	97,162,773	10.47%
	Japan Committee for UNICEF	75,209,903	8.10%
	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	72,769,195	7.84%
	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	59,652,216	6.43%
	Committee for UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein	49,537,626	5.34%
	French Committee for UNICEF	28,195,276	3.04%
	Danish Committee for UNICEF	19,462,233	2.10%
	Finnish Committee for UNICEF	19,395,058	2.09%
	Luxembourg Committee for UNICEF	13,761,081	1.48%
	UNICEF Ireland	13,351,839	1.44%
	Canadian UNICEF Committee	12,784,951	1.38%
	Italian Committee for UNICEF Foundation	12,410,025	1.34%
	Spanish Committee for UNICEF	11,604,235	1.25%
	Norwegian Committee for UNICEF	11,513,496	1.24%
	Dutch Committee for UNICEF	10,298,434	1.11%
	Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited	9,687,329	1.04%
	Korean Committee for UNICEF	6,309,333	0.68%
	Portuguese Committee for UNICEF	5,490,387	0.59%
	Polish National Committee for UNICEF	3,825,305	0.41%
	The New Zealand National Committee for UNICEF	2,412,421	0.26%
	Belgian Committee for UNICEF	2,033,913	0.22%
	Icelandic National Committee for UNICEF	1,282,608	0.14%
	Slovenia Foundation for UNICEF	723,447	0.08%
	UNICEF Hungarian Committee Foundation	596,200	0.06%
	Austrian Committee for UNICEF	378,400	0.04%
	Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF	308,839	0.03%
	Turkish National Committee for UNICEF	188,929	0.02%
	Czech Committee for UNICEF	130,515	0.01%
	The Israeli Fund for UNICEF	124,631	0.01%
	Andorran Committee for UNICEF	86,368	0.01%
	Slovak Foundation for UNICEF	85,036	0.01%
Lithuanian National Committee for UNICEF	16,697	0.00%	
Private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices	38,645,832	4.16%	

TABLE A2-3: Thematic funding contributions by resource partner to humanitarian action, 2022

Resource partner type	Resource partner	Total (US\$)	Percentage of total
Public sector 8.24%	Netherlands	21,716,649	2.34%
	German Federal Foreign Office	20,682,523	2.23%
	Denmark	17,070,559	1.84%
	Sweden	11,717,546	1.26%
	Serbia	1,554,404	0.17%
	Kuwait	1,250,000	0.13%
	Republic of Korea	1,000,000	0.11%
	Luxembourg	730,282	0.08%
	Iceland	529,581	0.06%
	Liechtenstein	214,592	0.02%
	Estonia	36,765	0.00%
Total		927,982,052	100.00%

Humanitarian action continued to make up the primary expense of UNICEF in the field. A total of \$5 billion was spent on humanitarian action in 2022, or 63 per cent of all expenses.

FIGURE A2-7: Humanitarian expenses by region, 2022

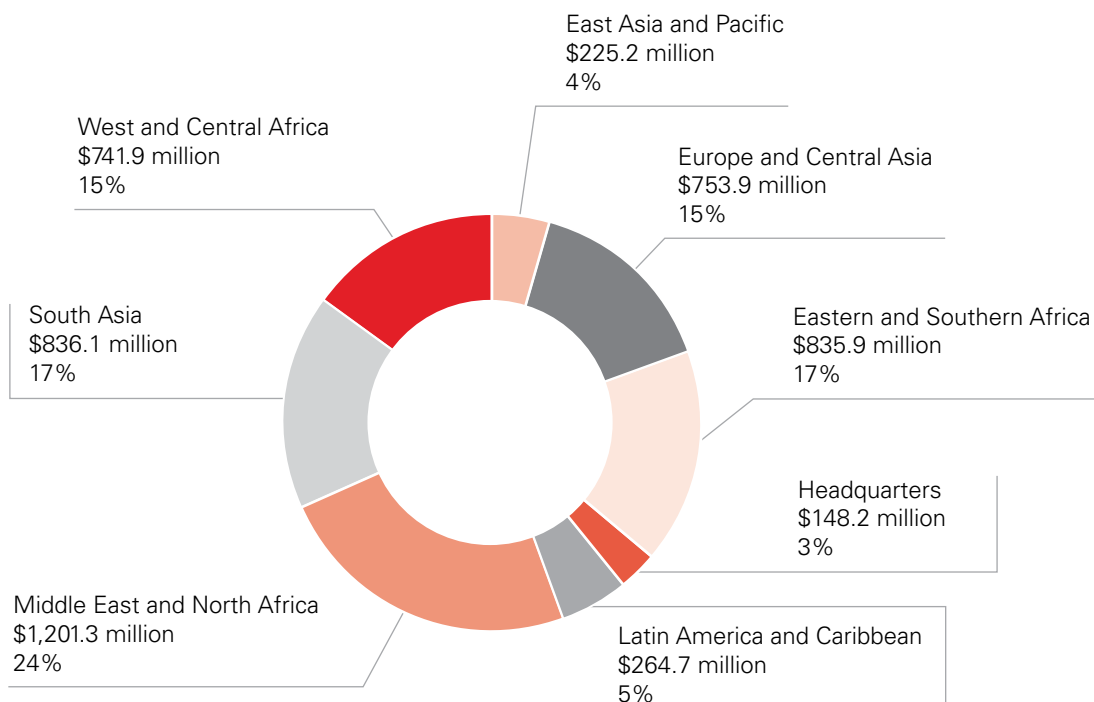
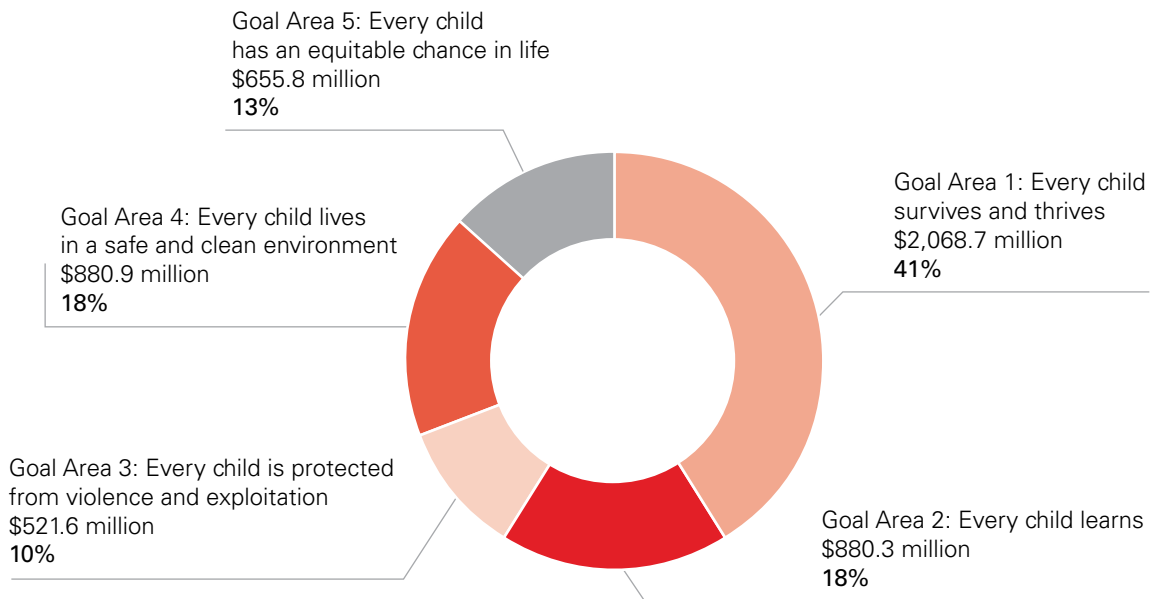


FIGURE A2-8: Humanitarian expenses by goal area, 2022



Annex 3: Humanitarian Data Companion

A. OUTPUT INDICATORS			
Output indicators		Results ¹	
		2021 ² (Baseline)	2022 ³
GOAL AREA 1			
1.1.1	Number of live births delivered in health facilities through UNICEF-supported programmes	813,101	3,507,229
1.1.2	Number of children benefiting from UNICEF-supported integrated management of childhood illnesses services (integrated community case management and/or integrated management of neonatal and childhood illness)	11,524,502	6,980,679
1.1.5	Number of countries in which UNICEF supported a timely response to outbreaks or other public health emergencies	156	142
1.2.1	Number of children vaccinated against measles through UNICEF-supported programmes	11,993,543	27,214,020
1.8.1	Number of children under 5 years of age who benefit from services for the early detection and treatment of severe wasting and other forms of malnutrition	107,788,915	114,615,051
	• Number of girls and boys with severe wasting who are admitted for treatment	5,035,846	5,598,026
GOAL AREA 2			
2.1.2	Percentage of countries with a resilient education system that can respond to humanitarian crises	25%	23%
2.1.4	Number of out-of-school children and adolescents who accessed education through UNICEF-supported programmes	31,654,053	50,244,707 ⁴
2.2.7	Number of children provided with individual learning materials through UNICEF-supported programmes	18,055,467	21,843,120 ⁵
2.2.10	Number of adolescents and young people who participate in or lead civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF-supported programmes	5,738,184	344,813

1 The 2021-2022 values presented in this Annex reflect results in humanitarian settings across Goal Areas, change strategies and enablers. For the complete set of data reported against the UNICEF 2022–2025 Strategic Plan Results Framework, please refer to the data companion and score card of the Annual report for 2022 of the Executive Director of UNICEF. Due to rounding, 2022 figures in this table may differ from those provided in the data companion and scorecard for the Annual report for 2022 of the Executive Director of UNICEF. See also the following note regarding 2021 data.

2 With the start of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, some indicators have changed compared with the previous Strategic Plan. In addition, the methodology for calculating some indicator values has changed. Therefore the 2021 baseline numbers included in this table may not match the 2021 results presented in the humanitarian data companion of the Global Annual Results Report 2021 – Humanitarian Action.

3 This data companion table reflects humanitarian results only unless otherwise noted. In the main body of the Global Annual Results Report 2022 – Humanitarian Action, figures reflecting consolidated humanitarian and development results are presented alongside the humanitarian result where available.

4 This figure is cumulative for 2021 and 2022. In 2022, UNICEF supported 18.6 million out-of-school children to access education, bringing the total to 50.2 million since 2021.

5 In 2022, 3.7 million children received learning materials, bringing the total to 21.8 million since 2021.

GOAL AREA 3			
3.1.5	Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys who have exited an armed force or group and who have been provided with protection or reintegration support	59% (12,736)	58% (12,468)
3.1.6	Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in areas affected by landmines and other explosive weapons provided with relevant prevention and/or	4,536,292	4,975,154 ⁶
3.1.7	Percentage of UNICEF-targeted women, girls and boys in humanitarian contexts provided with risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions to address gender-based violence through UNICEF-supported programmes	103% (13,853,928)	86% (8,827,379)
3.1.8	Number of children and adults who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian, development, protection and/or other personnel who provide assistance to affected populations • In humanitarian settings only	61,214,229	49,242,950 ⁷
		18,885,124	5,903,113
3.2.6	Percentage of UNICEF-targeted unaccompanied and separated girls and boys in humanitarian contexts who were provided with alternative care and/or reunified	123% (179,204)	96% (201,040)
3.2.7	Number of UNICEF-targeted children, adolescents, parents and caregivers provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support services	3,663,410	12,587,944
3.2.8	Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in humanitarian contexts who have received individual case management	79% (738,650)	67% (565,125)
3.3.1	Number of girls and women who receive prevention and protection services on female genital mutilation through UNICEF-supported programmes	N/A	25,602
3.3.3	Number of adolescent girls receiving prevention and care interventions to address child marriage through UNICEF-supported programmes	473,823	232,499

⁶ While this indicator is measured as a percentage, for the humanitarian value only an absolute number is available.

⁷ This figure covers development and humanitarian settings.

GOAL AREA 4			
4.1.3	Number of people reached with at least basic hygiene services, through UNICEF-supported programmes	-	12,726,738
4.1.4	Number of schools reached with basic WASH services, through UNICEF-supported programmes	-	26,385
4.1.5	Number of health-care facilities reached with basic WASH services, through UNICEF-supported programmes	-	8,868
4.1.6	Number of women and adolescent girls reached whose menstrual health and hygiene needs are addressed through UNICEF-supported programmes	-	3,671,600
4.1.7	Number of people in humanitarian contexts reached with appropriate drinking water services, through UNICEF-supported programmes	33,271,891	39,404,612
4.1.8	Number of people in humanitarian contexts reached with appropriate sanitation services, through UNICEF-supported programmes	8,384,636	9,247,390
4.2.5	Number of countries integrating a humanitarian–development–peace nexus approach on WASH programming through the participation of affected populations	13	16
4.3.1	Number of countries implementing child-sensitive programmes that enhance the climate and disaster resilience of children, reduce environmental degradation and promote low carbon development and environmental sustainability, with UNICEF support	37	69
4.3.2	Number of countries engaging children, adolescents and young people in action and advocacy to address climate change, unsustainable energy use and/or environmental degradation, with UNICEF support	50	68
4.3.3	Number of countries in which UNICEF supported the updating of government frameworks for preparedness and/or early/anticipatory action to be child-sensitive at the national and local levels	11	16
GOAL AREA 5			
5.2.4	Number of countries with social protection systems, including cash transfer capacities, that are able to effectively and rapidly respond to humanitarian crises	17	18
5.2.6	Number of households reached with UNICEF-supported humanitarian cash transfers	2,657,220	2,846,605

B. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator

HOWS⁸

H8.2	Percentage of country offices that meet organizational benchmarks on: (a) Updated preparedness plan (b) Risk-informed programming (c) Conflict-sensitive programming (d) Contributions to social cohesion and peace (e) Accountability to affected populations	(a) 85% (b) 51% (c) 27% (d) 29% (e) 23%	(a) 93% (b) 58% (c) 23% (d) 29% (e) 37%
H8.3	Percentage of humanitarian funding provided to local and national actors	30%	39%
H8.4	Percentage of countries in which UNICEF-led cluster/sector coordination mechanisms meet satisfactory performance for established functions: (a) Nutrition (b) Education (c) WASH (d) Child protection (area of responsibility)	(a) 90% (b) 100% (c) 86% (d) 87%	(a) 81% (b) 93% (c) 81% (d) 81%
H8.5	Percentage of countries providing disability-inclusive humanitarian programmes and services	55%	65%

⁸ A 'how' indicator is defined as a change strategy necessary for the achievement of a result.

Credits:

Coordination: UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes,
Director's Office Planning Unit

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and Administrative Management and Information and
Communication Technology Division

A special thanks to the Consolidated Emergency Report
literature review team.

Editor: Anastasia Warpinski

Design: Creatrix

Resources

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Published by UNICEF
3 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

www.unicef.org

July 2023

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