

2022

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children

Overview





TABLE OF *Contents*

Foreword	4
Humanitarian Situation	6
Children in Crisis	8
Results Achieved in 2021	12
Humanitarian Funding in 2021	14
Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A)	20
Strategic Approaches and Priorities in 2022	22
Planned Results in 2022	28
Global Support for UNICEF's Humanitarian Action in 2022	32
Funding Required in 2022	34

Forward

HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR CHILDREN 2022



The Second World War touched every corner of the globe, leaving devastation and destruction in its wake. Even in December 1946, more than a year after the war ended, millions of children were still suffering daily deprivations.

This is the world into which UNICEF was born. Our mandate: to provide emergency aid, without discrimination, to all children in need.

This month, we mark our 75th anniversary in similarly troubling circumstances.

We are confronting a child rights emergency. Rising poverty and inequality, climate change and conflict, and the impact of COVID-19 are undoing decades of progress.

And, as is so often the case, it is children and young people who are the hardest hit.

What is at stake?

The pandemic has upended child health and well-being. Rates of routine immunization have fallen to levels not seen since 2009 – and it is children in humanitarian settings who are missing out.

We are slipping back on nutrition, too: The number of children suffering from wasting, the most life-threatening form of malnutrition, could increase by 9 million this year. And – driven by conflict and man-made crises – famine, which should be consigned to history, looms again.

Meanwhile, the world's worst humanitarian crises for children have deteriorated further in Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, and Burkina Faso.

And escalating conflicts in Ethiopia, Myanmar, and Mozambique have pushed millions more children and their communities to the brink of survival.

Attacks on children, including on civilian infrastructure critical for their survival, are continuing at an alarming rate. Last year, the United Nations verified a total of 23,946 grave violations against children in conflict – or 72 violations a day. Last month, Yemen passed a devastating milestone: Since the 2015 escalation of the conflict, 10,000 children have been killed or maimed.

Climate change is worsening the scale, frequency, and intensity of emergencies. The last 10 years were the hottest on record, and the number of climate-related disasters has tripled in the last 30 years. Today, over 400 million children live in areas where water vulnerability is high or extremely high. Madagascar is confronting a catastrophic food crisis – a direct result of drought caused by climate change.

Through all this, we are seeing more children on the move than ever before. Last year, more than 82 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced. A shocking 42 per cent were children. Disasters were among the biggest drivers. To take one example, a deteriorating conflict in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique forced nearly half a million children from their homes.

The response we are seeing does not match the scale of these crises.

From Ethiopia to Cameroon and from Syria to Myanmar, we continue to witness flagrant disregard for child rights in conflict and a yawning accountability gap for those responsible for grave violations. From Nigeria to the Central African Republic and from Bangladesh to South Sudan, humanitarian appeals remain dangerously underfunded. Across the world, child refugees are being denied the care and compassion they deserve.

Reasons to hope.

Yet I remain hopeful. Why?

Because of the dedication, commitment and courage of my amazing colleagues who are confronting this reality around the world and who remain in place to deliver for children and their communities.

Because of the courage and resilience of these children and their communities.

And because of the support from our global and national partners. Seventy-five years on, they are ensuring UNICEF can still step up to serve all children and their communities in need.

When the conflict in Afghanistan escalated, UNICEF teams did not miss a beat. We worked tirelessly to keep health

systems functioning and children learning, and to get routine immunization back on track.

When devastation hit Haiti yet again, UNICEF teams coordinated an immense humanitarian effort.

Working with partners and national authorities, we delivered safe water where systems and infrastructure had been destroyed; reunified separated children with their families; and, within the first 24 hours, sent essential medical supplies into hospitals.

Through advocacy and action, UNICEF has played a key role in the UN-wide COVID-19 response. This includes procuring and supplying personal protective equipment, diagnostics, therapeutics and COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility, to ensure all countries have a fair and equitable shot at recovery.

Away from the headlines, UNICEF has been protecting children, keeping them learning, and supporting their health and nutrition across worsening and complex crises in the Sahel, Venezuela, Somalia, and Sudan – navigating complex political situations with a resolute focus on reaching every child.

I am immensely proud of this work.

From anger, to hope, to action

But to keep this hope alive, we need a radical transformation in humanitarian action.

Four priorities are clear.

First, to avert a lost generation, **we urgently require timely, predictable, and flexible funding to save children's lives, preserve their dignity and protect their futures.**

Through 52 appeals aiming to reach over 177 million children, UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children 2022 sets out an ambitious agenda to respond to this unprecedented time. We need your help to realize this.

Second, **we must sharpen our focus on preventing and preparing for the next disaster.** From pre-arranged finance to anticipatory action, we need a global effort to mobilize resources well before devastating and irreversible damage to children occur.

Third, all of us must ensure the **meaningful participation of children, young people and their communities.** It is *their* future. So, from peace efforts, to climate negotiations, to decisions about where humanitarian funding goes, children and young people must be at the table.

Finally, while UNICEF is needed now as much as it was 75 years ago, **we must constantly adapt to ensure we can respond to the evolving humanitarian challenges of today and tomorrow.**

I am heartened that, with the support of our partners, we are rolling out major transformations recommended by our **Humanitarian Review** – based on feedback from communities we serve, as well as our staff and partners in the field.

UNICEF will take bold and concrete action to boost humanitarian leadership, skills, preparedness, and technical expertise. We will become a more agile, cost effective, innovative and strategic organization centered around constant learning and growth and equipped to respond to the emergencies of tomorrow.

Looking ahead

We believe just as firmly now as we did 75 years ago that we can guarantee the next generation a better life than the last.

Join us in achieving this ambition for every child.



Henrietta H. Fore

Henrietta H. Fore
UNICEF Executive Director



Humanitarian SITUATION

Prolonged and violent conflicts remain the key drivers of a need for humanitarian assistance. These include recent escalating conflicts in Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Myanmar; and increased humanitarian needs in the Central Sahel, Cabo Delgado (Mozambique), South Sudan, Sudan, Venezuela and Yemen.

The impacts of armed conflict and other forms of violence are particularly devastating for children. Attacks on schools and medical facilities prevent them from accessing education and interrupt vital health services. Humanitarian crises always increase the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), placing women and girls at risk.

Population displacements are expected to persist, and internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees and host communities continue to be the most vulnerable. Mid-2021, an estimated 35 million (42 per cent) of the 82.4 million forcibly displaced people are children below 18 years of age,¹ many of whom are crossing borders unaccompanied or separated from their families.

Disease outbreaks are increasing, and the COVID-19 pandemic caused an unprecedented crisis, straining already overburdened social and health service delivery systems, triggering a humanitarian, socioeconomic and human/child rights crisis, and exacerbating the inequalities and vulnerability of children and their families globally. The interruption of basic services, combined with the numerous consequences that COVID-19 has had on children's lives, is expected to lead to increased child morbidity and mortality in 2022 and beyond. The pandemic hit marginalized and poor households heavily, making it difficult for them to meet their most basic needs.

Climate change and natural disasters continue to cause more extreme weather events and exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, particularly in countries beset by violence.

In 2022, UNICEF and its partners will continue to provide a principled, timely, predictable and efficient humanitarian response, in line with international norms and standards.

Children IN CRISIS

The following map highlights some of the major crises affecting children and their families.



Haiti

The country's most vulnerable people are feeling the combined impact of natural hazard-related disasters, persistent political and socioeconomic crisis, gang-related insecurity, forced returns and internal displacement, and the COVID-19 pandemic. An estimated **2.95 million people, including 1.2 million children and 400,000 pregnant women and adolescent girls**, required emergency health care and **797,000 children need education support**. The earthquake's impacts and recent returns of migrants have exacerbated these vulnerabilities.



Venezuela and migration flow (children on the move)

As the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela endures its seventh consecutive year of economic contraction aggravated by hyperinflation, political tensions, sanctions and increasing violence – all intensified by COVID-19 – the toll on society and on children worsens. Schools have been partially closed, preventing **6.9 million students (3.4 million girls)** from accessing in-person instruction and other vital benefits, including school feeding. Additionally, **over 5.7 million people** have emigrated to escape violence, with increased protection risks such as trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse.



Central Sahel crisis (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger)

The consequences of climate change, insecurity, forced displacement, lack of access to basic services and the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to some **13.6 million people, including 7.6 million children**,² in need of humanitarian assistance across the Central Sahel. The crisis is also moving towards 5 coastal countries (Togo, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea) in the region.



Refugee and migrant crisis in Europe

As of 31 August 2021, **472,000 refugees and migrants, including 110,000 children in six countries** (Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro) are seeking refuge in Europe – a trend likely to continue in 2022. Children on the move, particularly the 10,000 children who are unaccompanied and separated, are highly vulnerable and require urgent care and protection.



Protracted humanitarian settings in Eastern Africa (Somalia and South Sudan)

In **Somalia**, the conflict continues to disrupt the lives of children and increase their vulnerability to protection violations. In total, **7.7 million people, including 5 million children, will need humanitarian assistance in 2022**. In **South Sudan**, years of prolonged conflict, chronic vulnerabilities and weak essential services are taking their toll. In 2022, **more than 8.3 million people, including 4.5 million children, require humanitarian assistance** to meet their basic needs.



Nigeria

There are approximately **12.8 million conflict-affected persons, including 8 million children** and 4.8 million adults in north-east and north-west Nigeria. Of these, **over 2.3 million are displaced**, while 1 million are living in inaccessible areas. Alarming levels of food insecurity and malnutrition from protracted conflict in the north-east, and a worsening situation from counterattack against armed groups in the north-west, are being compounded by epidemic outbreaks such as yellow fever, cholera and malaria, worsening already dire conditions.



Southern Madagascar (drought)

The country is suffering the first famine caused directly by climate change. Failed rains and prolonged drought in the south of the island have left nearly **1.5 million people food insecure**. An estimated **500,000 children under 5 years of age will suffer from acute malnutrition, while 110,000 will be severely malnourished**.



Cameroon

Humanitarian needs in Cameroon are driven by armed conflict, inter-community violence, an influx of refugees from neighboring countries, seasonal flooding, and disease outbreaks including cholera and measles – all compounded by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In urgent need of humanitarian assistance are **4.4 million people, including 2.3 million children, 1.1 million women and 660,000 persons with disabilities.**



Sudan

Regional turmoil surrounding Sudan is likely to trigger further refugee crises beyond the **55,785 Ethiopian refugees and 784,860 South Sudanese refugees that are among the 1.1 million refugees** already hosted. Internally, there are **3 million IDPs** in camps awaiting resolution to current and past conflict and solutions spanning the peace, development and humanitarian spheres. Sudan remains a junction for irregular migration and must reckon with both new and old internal complexities.



Central African Republic (CAR)

Election-related violence that erupted in December 2020 has had a devastating effect on civilians, particularly children, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee. The end of September 2021 saw 722,000 people displaced, a level not seen since the peak of the crisis in 2013. Including the 709,000 CAR refugees abroad, **one in four Central Africans is now displaced by conflict.** Increased violence, combined with the health and socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, have increased the number of people projected to **need humanitarian assistance in 2022 – estimated at 3.1 million (63 per cent of the population), including 1.4 million children.**



Northern Ethiopia crisis

Since military clashes erupted in northern Ethiopia, widespread fighting continues and humanitarian needs continue to increase. Conflict escalation in several areas, climatic shocks and disease outbreaks remain the main drivers of displacement, food insecurity and protection risks in Ethiopia. **Over 29.4 million people, including 15.6 million children and 4.4 million people with disabilities, need urgent humanitarian assistance.**



Protracted conflicts in the Middle East (the Syrian Arab Republic, Syrian refugees in the sub-region and Yemen)

The Middle East region remains the epicentre of two of the world's most protracted and severe emergencies. Children are bearing the brunt of the 11-year-old conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, where the number of children needing humanitarian assistance has increased by 27 per cent from 2020 to 2021, with 6.1 million children now affected. Yemen remains the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Protracted armed conflict, widespread economic collapse and a breakdown in national systems and services have left **70 per cent of the total population, including 11.3 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance.**



Afghanistan

Recent political developments have greatly exacerbated the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. The volatile situation has heightened the underlying vulnerabilities in the country, where **24.4 million, including 12.6 million children are already in need of humanitarian assistance.** Child protection risks remain high with continued insecurity and attacks against civilians, and families are resorting to child marriage and child labor to cope with the socioeconomic deterioration. **Over 10 million school-aged children need education assistance, in addition to the 4.2 million children already out of school.** In a context where 8 out of every 10 Afghans drink unsafe water, severe drought further limits the access to safe water. Outbreaks of measles, dengue fever and acute watery diarrhoea continue to affect children and overwhelm struggling health services. **Almost 23 million people will experience acute food insecurity** from November 2021 until March 2022 and **1.1 million children are at risk of death due to severe acute malnutrition in 2021.**

Myanmar

Myanmar is experiencing an unprecedented political and humanitarian crisis. Escalating conflict and violence with severe human rights violations, the COVID-19 pandemic, propensity to climate-related disasters, rising poverty and collapsing public services have left **an estimated 14.4 million people, including 5 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance.** These inter-related risks are threatening child survival, development, and well-being across the country.



Mozambique

The humanitarian situation in Mozambique is critical, particularly in Cabo Delgado, where **nearly 856,000 people, including 414,272 children, have been displaced and need humanitarian assistance.** In this province, 363,000 people are at risk of food insecurity (IPC crisis level 3 or above), and COVID-19 continues to deepen vulnerabilities of the affected population, particularly in health, education and nutrition.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

The country continues to witness some of the most complex, protracted and acute humanitarian crises. Persisting violence, inter-community tensions, acute malnutrition and major epidemic outbreaks continue to affect children's lives and well-being. **Over 5.5 million people are internally displaced, including 3.2 million children and 1.2 million women.** Of these, over 2.6 million people were newly displaced between August 2020 and August 2021, representing a 28 per cent increase from 2020. GBV remains a key concern, with women and children at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse and few avenues for reporting and seeking assistance. Nearly half (47 per cent) of health zones are identified in nutritional emergency, with a total of **2.4 million children under 5 years of age suffering from acute malnutrition and 700,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition.**



Results

ACHIEVED IN 2021

Results achieved in 2021 against the humanitarian targets.

Further 2021 reporting, including country-specific indicators, is available in the respective country appeals at www.unicef.org/appeals



HEALTH 22.4 million

CHILDREN AND WOMEN RECEIVING
ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES
IN UNICEF-SUPPORTED FACILITIES **63%**



NUTRITION 2.4 million

CHILDREN WITH SEVERE
ACUTE MALNUTRITION
ADMITTED FOR TREATMENT **42%**



WASH 34 million

PEOPLE ACCESSING A SUFFICIENT
QUANTITY OF SAFE WATER
FOR DRINKING, COOKING,
AND PERSONAL HYGIENE **56%**



EDUCATION 110.7 million

CHILDREN ACCESSING FORMAL
OR NON-FORMAL EDUCATION,
INCLUDING EARLY LEARNING **104%**



CHILD PROTECTION 5 million

CHILDREN AND CAREGIVERS
ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH
AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT **26%**



C4D³ 812.2 million

PEOPLE REACHED
THROUGH MESSAGING
ON ACCESS TO SERVICES **109%**



PSEA⁴ 3.2 million

PEOPLE WITH ACCESS TO SAFE
CHANNELS TO REPORT SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE **22%**



GBViE⁵ 8.6 million

WOMEN, GIRLS AND BOYS
ACCESSING GBV RISK
MITIGATION, PREVENTION OR
RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS **39%**

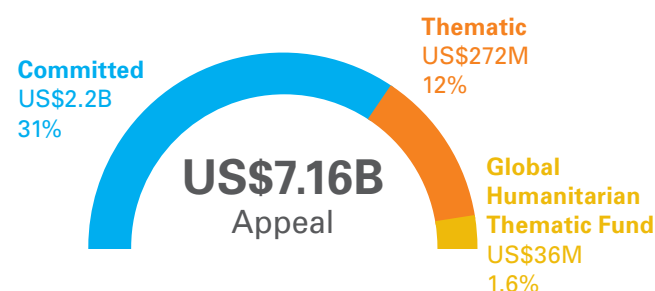


HUMANITARIAN CASH TRANSFERS 14.9 million

HOUSEHOLDS REACHED WITH
HUMANITARIAN CASH TRANSFERS
ACROSS SECTORS **81%**



Humanitarian FUNDING IN 2021⁶



2021 was a remarkably difficult year to be a child. Emergency needs reached new highs, making the humanitarian requirements in 2021 the largest on record for UNICEF. Humanitarian programming was adjusted to integrate COVID-19 response in individual country and regional appeals reflecting the needs emanating from the pandemic. Moreover, children were impacted by a rise in conflict and sociopolitical crises, as well as a surge in emergency needs due to climate change.

When the 2021 HAC was launched, it appealed for US\$6.4 billion to assist 190.8 million children in need in 149 countries and territories.⁷ By November 2021, the

need to accelerate equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines (ACT-A/COVAX).⁸

As of 11 November 2021, funding for the appeal had reached US\$2.2 billion, representing a 30 per cent increase in absolute terms from funding received in the same period last year (US\$1.69 billion in November 2020). With US\$1.34 billion available from the previous year, the 2021 appeal was 49 per cent funded. However, the overall commitments for non-COVID-19 related needs decreased in comparison to 2019, reflecting a shifting of resource partners' priorities and the wider economic implications of the COVID-19 response.

While the bulk of funding came from public sector partners, private sector fundraising levels in 2021 more than doubled from 2020, totaling US\$433 million – 20 per cent of total funding committed.⁹ This upward trend is in part thanks to private donor assistance to the ACT-A/COVAX appeal, which served as a catalyst for new donors to support UNICEF action for children in emergencies across the

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_5884



Overall, the top 10 partners made up the majority of funding received in 2021 – 77 per cent. These include the United States, European Commission, Government of Japan, U.S. Fund for UNICEF, Gavi,¹⁰ Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Government of Canada, Government of Sweden and the German National Committee for UNICEF. In 2021, UNICEF became the top recipient of CERF funding with US\$131 million received in 29 emergencies.

UNICEF saw a substantial increase in contributions from several partners compared to previous years, including the European Commission, Government of Japan, U.S. Fund for UNICEF, Government of Canada, Republic of Korea and Australia. In addition, Gavi provided US\$140 million to support the ACT-A appeal¹¹ in 2021. Partners also rose to action with support when situations deteriorated, such as the escalating conflict in northern Ethiopia, the devastating earthquake aftermath in Haiti, and the crisis in Afghanistan.

Top 10 Partners in 2021

Donor	Amount (in millions)
United States	US\$480
European Commission	US\$273
Japan	US\$250
U.S. Fund for UNICEF*	US\$139
CERF	US\$131
GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance	US\$140
United Kingdom	US\$87
Canada	US\$85
Sweden	US\$44
Germany Committee for UNICEF	US\$38

*Refers to National Committee for UNICEF.

Top 5 Multi-year partners*

Donor	Amount (in millions)
GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance	US\$54
Japan	US\$35
European Commission / ECHO	US\$17
Australia	US\$16
Denmark	US\$9

* Multi-year funding is funding provided for two or more years based on agreements signed in 2021.