



Humanitarian action

Global Annual
Results Report 2019

unicef 
for every child

Cover image: © UNICEF/UNI210752/Townsley
Joniste, whose three-year-old son died of Ebola, now works with children orphaned due to Ebola, providing the love and attention they need in their parents' absence. Working with national governments, the World Health Organization and other partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF is leading mass public health information campaigns, protecting schoolchildren with handwashing facilities and supporting caregivers like Joniste to work with children orphaned by Ebola (July 2019).

Expression of thanks page: © UNICEF/UN0312525/Filippov
Maksim, 3, attends a UNICEF-supported kindergarten housed in Novotoshkivske school building, 2 kilometres from the contact line in eastern Ukraine, where the fighting is the most severe (April 2019).



Expression of thanks

UNICEF expresses its gratitude to all resource partners whose overall contributions supported the organization's humanitarian action in 2019. 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 response. It is thanks to thematic funding and its flexibility that UNICEF has been able to provide timely and effective technical, operational and programming support to countries in all regions as part of 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.

More than 70 years after UNICEF was established, the organization's mission to promote the full attainment of the rights of all children is as urgent as ever.

The UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 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 has a fair chance in life. It sets out measurable results for children, especially the most disadvantaged, including in humanitarian situations, and defines the change strategies and enablers that support their achievement.

Working together with Governments, United Nations partners, the private sector, 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 2019 and reviews the impact of these accomplishments on children and the communities where they live. This is one of eight 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', and a short report on Communication for Development (C4D). It supplements the 2019 Executive Director Annual Report (EDAR), UNICEF's official accountability document for the past year.

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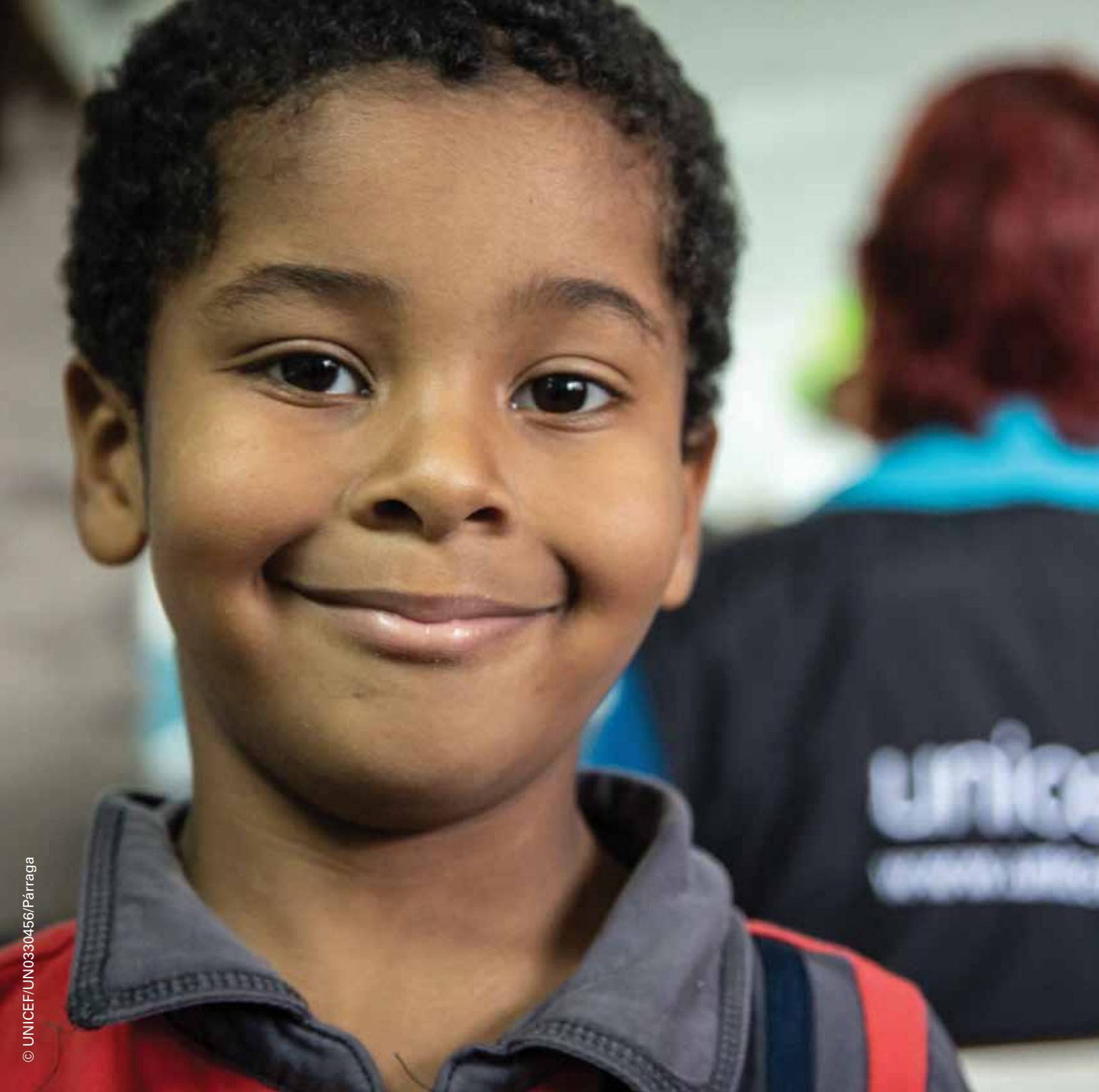
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Executive Summary

A boy attends recreational activities in one of the protection centres supported by UNICEF in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Activities at the centre are part of the psychosocial support provided for the most vulnerable children and adolescents in Barrio Union, Petare, in the outskirts of Caracas (July 2019).

Globally, one in every 45 people requires humanitarian assistance – the highest level of humanitarian need that the world has ever witnessed.¹ Prolonged and violent conflict remained the main drivers of humanitarian need

in 2019, with displacement, food insecurity, disease outbreaks such as Ebola and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), natural disasters and other emergencies giving rise to substantial needs.

UNICEF work and key results in 2019²

In 2019, UNICEF and partners responded to 281 humanitarian situations in 96 countries (see Figure 1). Counting expenses from all funding types, more than half (52 per cent) of all UNICEF programme expenses in 2019 supported humanitarian action.

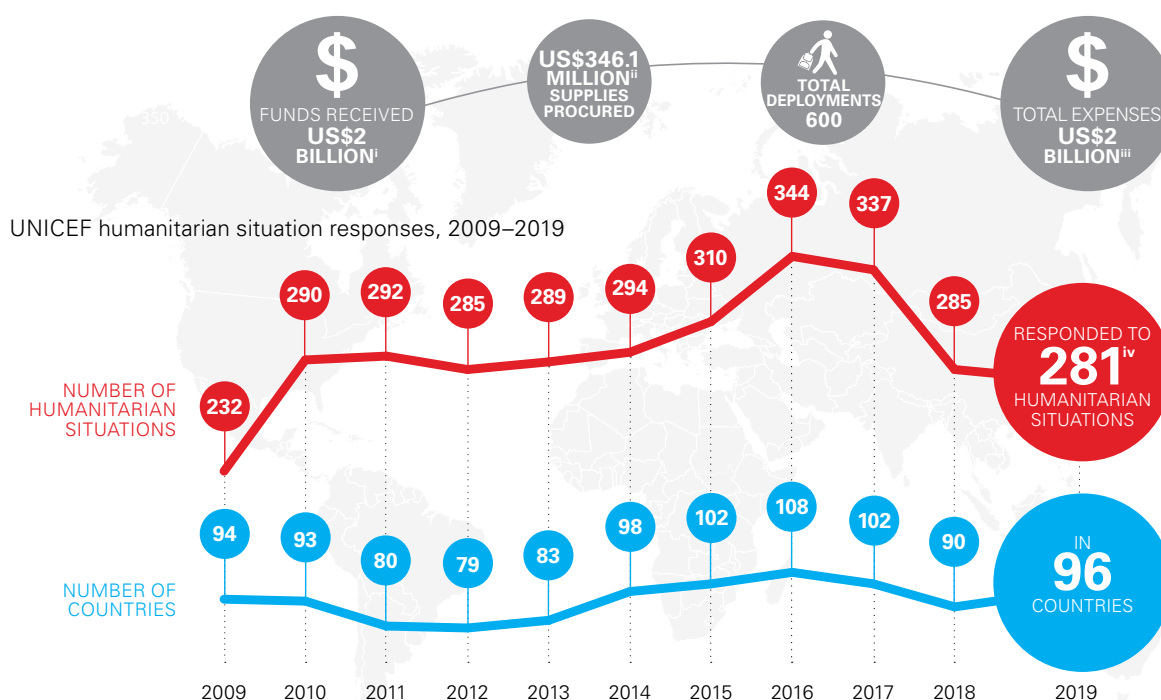
In line with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs), UNICEF continued to leverage its long-standing comparative advantages, including having a field presence before, during and after emergencies; delivering multisectoral support;

leading or co-leading four clusters/areas of responsibility; and harnessing its vast network of partners, which includes governments, civil society, communities and the private sector.

Globally, UNICEF and partners reached millions of children with life-saving, gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive interventions in the areas of health; nutrition; education; child protection; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and social protection during the year (see Figure 2).

FIGURE 1: Global response in 2019

In 2019, 96 country offices responded to 281 humanitarian situations. Forty-two per cent of these country offices responded to situations affecting more than 1 million people.



ⁱ The figure is based on emergency contributions received in 2019, recognized as other resources – emergency.

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. Of the US\$346.1 million, US\$151 million is other resources – emergency.

ⁱⁱⁱ The figure represents expenses of emergency funds (recognized as other resources – emergency) received in 2019 and carried over from the previous year.

^{iv} Although the number of situations has declined slightly since 2018, protracted crises have become increasingly complex, with some conflict-affected countries facing emergencies within emergencies and heightened risks to already vulnerable children.

For example, 53 countries provided humanitarian programmes and activities that were inclusive of children with disabilities in 2019,³ and of these, 21 countries implemented humanitarian responses that systematically included children with disabilities.⁴ UNICEF also reached 3.3 million women, girls and boys in 46 countries with gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response services⁵ – up from 1.3 million in 2018 (exceeding the target).

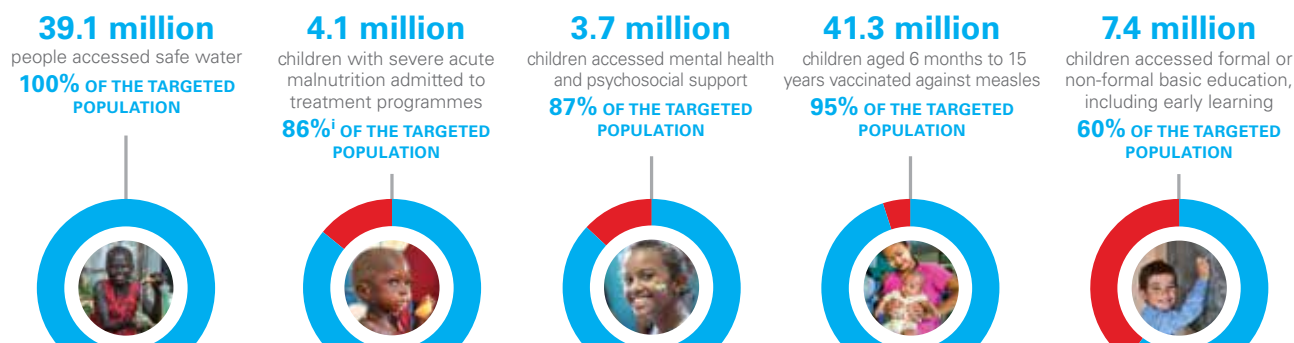
Human resources remained central to the ability of UNICEF to respond to emergencies in 2019. A total of 600 emergency (surge) deployments were reported and completed in 2019 – up from 461 in 2018. These deployments totalled over 43,000 days, with an average mission length of 73 days. For example, the UNICEF Global Emergency Response Team (ERT) – 22 UNICEF staff with specialized skills in emergency coordination, programming, operations, gender, accountability to affected populations (AAP), and humanitarian cash transfers – undertook 70 missions to 18 country offices, totalling just over 2,800 days. The ERT brings these specific skills in emergency management to support existing staff in country offices.

Nearly 75 per cent of these ERT missions (almost 2,100 days) supported preparedness and response to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 crises. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ERT member developed Ebola virus disease contingency protocols and established preparedness teams in Goma. These steps significantly increased UNICEF response capacity and enabled a rapid effort to contain the outbreak in Goma and prevent the risk of Ebola spreading into a complex urban context.

UNICEF continued to take steps to strengthen its efficiency and effectiveness for humanitarian responses in 2019. Following the 2018 evaluation of the coverage and quality of its humanitarian response in complex humanitarian emergencies, UNICEF developed a management response plan and is implementing the recommendations of that response plan to improve areas identified as having shortcomings. UNICEF also initiated a “humanitarian review” process in 2019 in an effort to promote institutional change in how the organization designs and systematically delivers quality integrated humanitarian programmes and acts on its own policies and procedures. The review has contributed to a better understanding of the major

FIGURE 2: Delivering humanitarian results for children

These are some of the key humanitarian results achieved against targets for children by UNICEF and partners in 2019. In some contexts, achievements were constrained by limited resources, including across sectors; inadequate humanitarian access; insecurity; and challenging operating environments.



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