



# Humanitarian action

Global Annual  
Results Report 2018

unicef   
for every child

Cover image: © UNICEF/UN0245867/Veska  
Ence, 6, whose home in Indonesia was destroyed by the September tsunami in Indonesia, after participating in psychosocial support activities provided by social workers trained by UNICEF (October 2018).

Thank you page: © UNICEF/UN0278460/Herwig  
Sham, 7 and her cousin Rahaf, in the warm winter clothes provided by UNICEF through its Makani child protection programme in Jordan (November 2018).

Page 2: © UNICEF/UN0216597/Sokol  
A young Rohingya refugee child smiles while holding onto a tree outside the UNICEF-supported CODEC Meghna Learning Centre in Leda Makeshift Camp, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh (April 2018).

Page 7: © UNICEF/UN0200346/Meerzad  
Sedraa outside her school in Jalalabad, which has received teaching and learning materials with UNICEF support. Sedraa returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan with her family one year ago and is a passionate advocate for girls' education (April 2018).

Page 21: © UNICEF/UN0238511/  
Koumbéré, 12, from Diambadougou village near Mopti, attends a community learning centre supported by UNICEF and partners, following the closure of her school due to insecurity (September 2018).

Page 46: © UNICEF/UN0264865/Ramzi Haidar  
UNICEF delivered much needed winter supplies to young children living in a Lebanese camp for refugees from the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic (December 2018).

Page 58: © UNICEF/UN0187065/Nader  
A girl smiles as she stands in front of water tanks that UNICEF and partners provided at a school in eastern Ghouta, Syrian Arab Republic, for internally displaced persons (March 2018).



# Thank you

UNICEF expresses its gratitude to all resource partners whose overall contributions supported the organization's humanitarian action in 2018. The achievements described in this report were also 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. UNICEF is especially grateful for contributions of global, regional and country humanitarian thematic funds, which provide the most flexible resources for emergency response.

Seventy 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 2018 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 2018 Executive Director Annual Report (EDAR), UNICEF's official accountability document for the past year.



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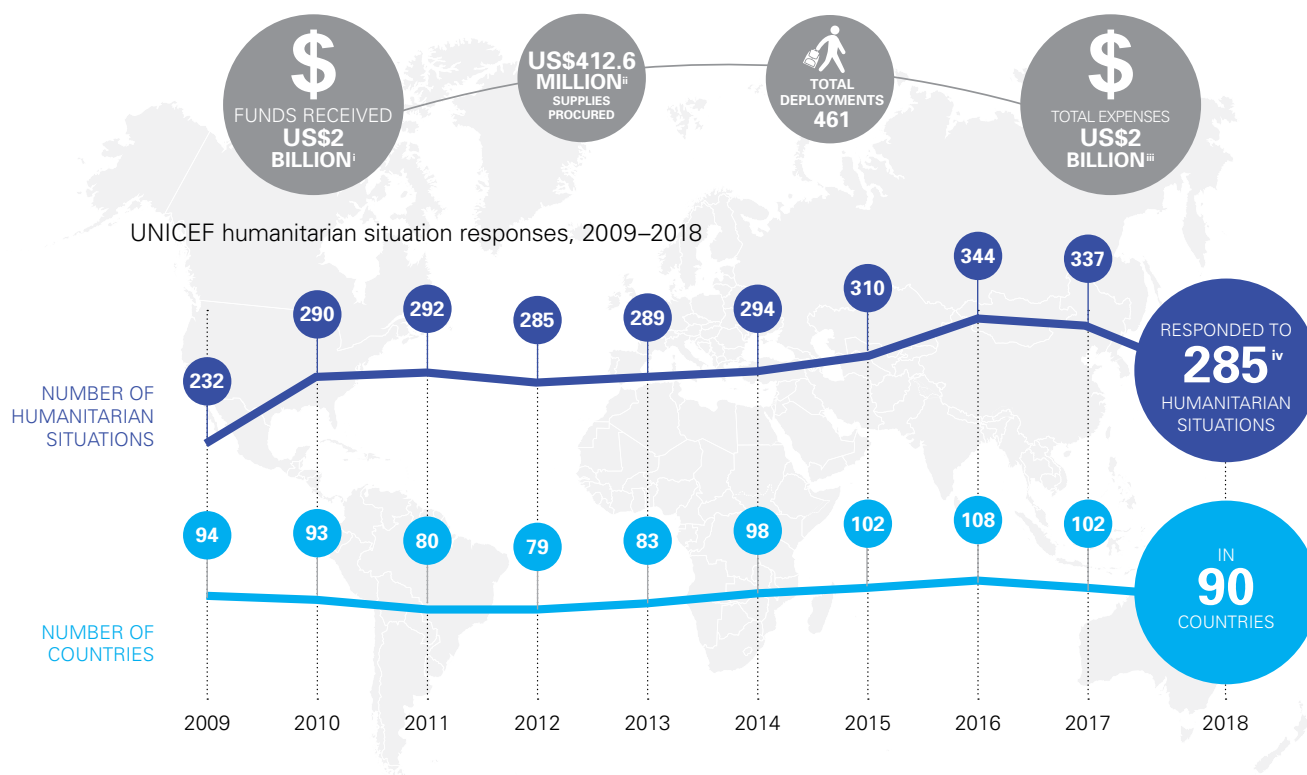
# Executive summary

Globally, humanitarian needs continued to grow in 2018. The number of people targeted for United Nations-led humanitarian assistance increased from 77 million in 2014 to 101 million in 2018,<sup>1</sup> and the average humanitarian crisis now lasts for more than nine years.<sup>2</sup> Conflict remains a primary driver of humanitarian need, with more countries embroiled in violent internal or international conflict than at any other time in the past 30 years<sup>3</sup> and one in five children living in an area affected by conflict.<sup>4</sup>

The consequences of violence continued to deepen in 2018, with widespread displacement, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and devastating impacts on the physical and psychological well-being of children. This was the case in countries where conflicts and related humanitarian crises have endured for years, such as Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Yemen.

FIGURE 1: Global response in 2018

In 2018, 90 country offices responded to 285 humanitarian situations. Forty-three per cent of these countries responded to situations affecting more than 1 million people.



<sup>i</sup> The figure is based on emergency contributions received in 2018, recognized as other resources – emergency.

<sup>ii</sup> 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 that it was 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’ in countries facing Level 1 crises. Of the US\$412.6 million, US\$247.3 million is other resources – emergency.

<sup>iii</sup> The figure represents expenses of emergency funds (other resources – emergency) received in 2018 and carried over from the previous year.

<sup>iv</sup> Although the number of situations declined from 2017, protracted crises have become increasingly complex, with some conflict-affected countries facing emergencies within emergencies and heightened risks to already vulnerable children.

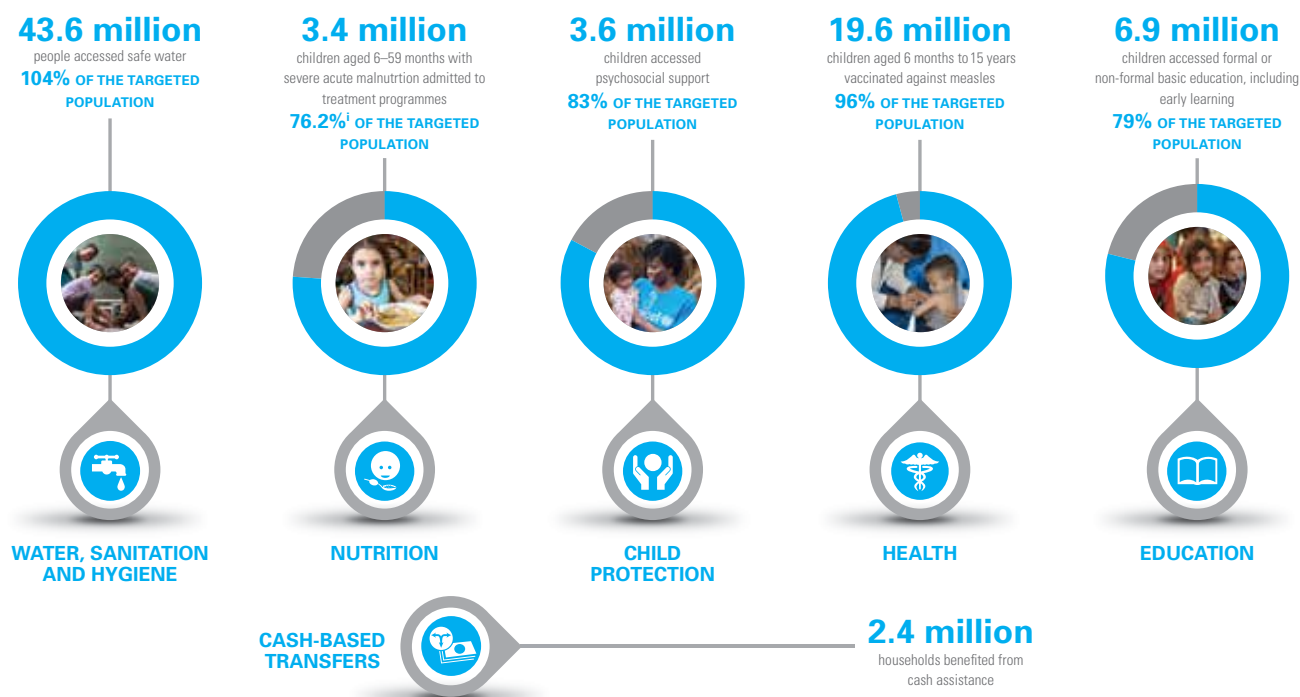
## UNICEF work and key results in 2018<sup>5</sup>

In 2018, UNICEF and partners responded to 285 humanitarian emergencies in 90 countries (see Figure 1). In line with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs), UNICEF focused on strengthening its response to mass population displacements and protracted crises, and on increasing the coverage and quality of humanitarian assistance. Counting expenses from all funding types, half of all UNICEF expenses in 2018 supported humanitarian action.

UNICEF continued to leverage its long-standing comparative advantages in its response to emergencies in 2018. This included having a field presence before, during and after emergencies; delivering multisectoral support; harnessing its vast network of partners, which includes governments, civil society, communities and private sector partners; and leading or co-leading the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition and education clusters, and the child protection area of responsibility.

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 2018. In some contexts, achievements were constrained by limited resources, including across sectors; inadequate humanitarian access; insecurity; and challenging operating environments.



<sup>i</sup> Calculation based on targets and achievement in countries with a Humanitarian Action for Children appeal in 2018.

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Globally, UNICEF and partners delivered results for millions of children in a variety of emergency contexts in 2018 in the areas of health, nutrition, HIV, education, child protection, WASH and social protection (such as humanitarian cash-based programmes) (see Figure 2). The organization prioritized equity and inclusion in its humanitarian action throughout the year, including programmes designed to reach women and girls, children with disabilities, young children, adolescents and other marginalized groups in humanitarian contexts. In 2018, 59 UNICEF country offices reported conducting specific work on children with disabilities in humanitarian action, a significant increase from 21 country offices in 2017;<sup>6</sup> UNICEF reached 1.3 million women, girls and boys in 37 countries affected by crisis with gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response services; and the organization supported more than 500,000 adolescent girls and boys living in humanitarian contexts in 23 countries to lead or participate in civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF programmes.

The organization's human resources remained essential to its ability to respond in emergencies. In 2018, the UNICEF Emergency Response Team (ERT) was expanded from 14 to 22 staff with specialized skills in emergency coordination, programming, operations, gender, accountability to affected populations (AAP) and humanitarian cash transfers. In 2018,

the ERT undertook 79 missions to 40 country offices, totalling 2,528 days. Seventy-eight per cent of these missions (2,404 days) supported preparedness and response to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 crises. For example, in Cameroon, the deployment of the gender ERT member helped UNICEF to establish a gender-focused field presence in crisis-affected areas, including by integrating gender considerations into Rapid Response Mechanism activities and mobilizing US\$2.3 million for gender-adapted emergency response.

UNICEF continued to advance initiatives aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness for humanitarian results in 2018, in line with its Strategic Plan and ongoing humanitarian and development system reforms. This included efforts to strengthen the coherence and complementarity between humanitarian action and development programming; enhance risk-informed programming, including investments in preparedness, advocacy and programming for risk reduction; expand support for local and national partners; increase the use and inter-agency coordination of cash-based programming with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP);<sup>7</sup> improve joint needs assessment, monitoring and reporting; focus more systematically on community engagement and accountability to affected

people; strengthen the normative frameworks around humanitarian access and adherence to international humanitarian principles; strengthen humanitarian leadership through learning and capacity-building; and enhance response for children with disabilities.

UNICEF continued efforts to improve its preparedness mechanisms and its ability to respond to humanitarian crises in a timely and efficient manner with the global launch and roll-out of the Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP). The EPP is an online tool that helps country offices to analyse risks, self-assess in-country capacities, identify high-return actions and get ready to respond before an emergency happens or a situation deteriorates. By mid-year, all 128 UNICEF country offices had approved their preparedness plans in the platform, and by December, many of them had reported taking significant steps to improve their ability to respond to emergencies and meet minimum preparedness standards such as the availability of pre-positioned supplies, standby agreements with partners and the identification of staff surge needs.

Cash transfer programming was expanded in humanitarian settings in 2018, with 26 countries – up from 15 in 2017 – using this approach as a key implementation modality. Overall, UNICEF delivered a total of US\$184 million as humanitarian cash transfers in 2018, reaching 2.4 million households and benefiting nearly 7.1 million children. In Yemen, UNICEF continued to support the Emergency Cash Transfers Project in partnership with the World Bank, which builds on Yemen's Social Welfare Fund. In 2018, the project reached 1.4 million households, including 4.5 million children.

UNICEF continued efforts to create – in a more systematic manner – space for affected people to voice their distinct needs and use their feedback to inform the design and provision of services and to take corrective measures. In May 2018, UNICEF adopted an organization-wide strategy and action plan for systematically integrating AAP into all programmes, in line with its Strategic Plan. These efforts also continued at the country level – for example, in the Syrian Arab Republic, an end-user survey to collect feedback on the use of toilets in schools was conducted and informed improvements to the standard hygiene kit provided to women and girls in camps and shelters for internally displaced people. The new hygiene kits benefited nearly 25,000 women and girls.

The organization's partnerships were central to its humanitarian response in 2018. UNICEF collaborated with a total of 1,403 civil society partners in the field for its humanitarian programming, nearly 67 per cent of whom were national partners. More than US\$575 million<sup>8</sup> in assets (cash plus value of supplies) were transferred from UNICEF to its civil society partners during the year, including US\$308 million (54 per cent) to national civil society partners. For example, in Iraq, UNICEF is increasingly supporting programming that builds the capacities of local and national partners; in 2018, more than 82 per cent of all cash transferred to implementing partners was to local and national partners, an increase of 10 per cent from 2017.

Standby partners<sup>9</sup> remained one of the main providers of surge support in UNICEF and a flagship partnership model for generating in-kind support with expertise in emergencies to

facilitate rapid scale-up. In 2018, 22 standby partners<sup>10</sup> provided UNICEF with 165 deployments to 33 countries, for a total of 22,093 days of support, the equivalent of US\$11 million of in-kind contributions. This included 115 standby personnel and 50 members of the Rapid Response Team (RRT) deployed to the field to support the organization's cluster, programme and operational commitments.

UNICEF continued to support the humanitarian system and to deliver on its responsibility for inter-agency coordination by mobilizing, leading and coordinating collective efforts through its cluster lead agency role. In 2018, UNICEF had designated staff to lead or co-lead sectors or clusters in 19 countries for education, 19 countries for WASH, 19 countries for child protection and 17 countries for nutrition.<sup>11</sup> With the support of cluster partners, including standby arrangements, global cluster RRTs provided direct coordination and information management support to 28 countries, including four UNICEF Level 3 emergencies, through 80 missions totalling 3,518 days.<sup>12</sup>

The organization's humanitarian response relied on timely and effective supply and logistics operations. Procurement for emergencies reached US\$412.6 million globally,<sup>13</sup> with 96 per cent (US\$397.5 million) going to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies. Supplies were provided to 53 countries and territories preparing for and/or responding to emergencies. The Supply Division of UNICEF provided direct support through 30 staff deployments to emergency locations, including the crises in the Horn of Africa, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. The largest component of total UNICEF emergency supplies by value in 2018 was for vaccine and biological products worth US\$76.4 million.

The year's results were made possible by the generous contributions of resource partners, including governments, National Committees and corporate partners. By 31 December 2018, the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal was 54 per cent funded, reaching US\$2 billion.<sup>14</sup> Humanitarian action remained central to the work of UNICEF in the field, with 51 per cent of all country-level expenses supporting emergency response in 2018.<sup>15</sup> Of overall UNICEF expenses, 50 per cent (US\$2.7 billion) supported humanitarian action during the year. US\$2 billion of this total was 'other resources – emergency'.

UNICEF was able to make strategic and timely allocations to country offices most in need using global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF) – its most flexible funds. In 2018, nearly US\$29.8 million in GHTF was allocated to humanitarian action, including US\$20.5 million allocated to country and regional offices. The flexibility of these funds enabled UNICEF to support critically underfunded country offices lacking donor support and visibility. For example, in Papua New Guinea, GHTF was used to provide immediate life-saving assistance to earthquake-affected populations, while in Afghanistan, the Sudan and countries affected by the migration crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean, GHTF was used to scale up crucial programmes.

The organization's Emergency Programme Fund was also crucial for efficient rapid emergency response. The internal fund released US\$66.7 million to 28 country offices and 2 regional offices in 2018 to rapidly respond to crises. For example, US\$6.2 million disbursed to the Syrian Arab Republic enabled UNICEF



to provide safe water, non-food items and sanitation services to nearly 185,000 internally displaced persons in collective shelters in East Ghouta and Dar'a.

As humanitarian needs continued to rise in 2018, reaching children in crisis became even more challenging. Humanitarian access was constrained in many of the world's most volatile contexts; and humanitarian needs continued to outstrip the

resources available to reach the most vulnerable. Recent evaluations of UNICEF humanitarian action have also found that country offices struggle to balance the scale of response with achieving quality programming and reaching those vulnerable populations that are most in need of assistance and protection. In addition, the timeliness of UNICEF humanitarian response remains mixed from one situation to another and within any given country.

## Looking ahead

UNICEF is committed to continuing to improve its humanitarian action to better meet the challenges described above, in line with the recommendations of recent evaluations of its emergency responses. UNICEF will focus on initiatives that improve the quality and timeliness of its humanitarian response generally, and particularly in high-threat contexts.

This includes investing in country office preparedness through better risk analysis and the identification of high-return actions; strengthening the normative frameworks around humanitarian access and simplified operating procedures for UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies; strengthening humanitarian leadership at the country level through learning and capacity-building initiatives; strengthening the centrality of protection; updating the CCCs to reflect new realities; better coordinating field support for countries planning for, preparing for and responding to crises; improving needs assessment and

target setting in emergency response plans; scaling up humanitarian cash transfer programmes by establishing systems, building capacities and generating evidence; strengthening intentional gender equality programming across sectors; expanding engagement with affected populations; ensuring that the organization's preparedness and response are relevant through improved benchmarking, better evidence and inter-agency collaboration; and mobilizing flexible and multi-year humanitarian funding.

This report and the accompanying Humanitarian Action Study summarize the scope of the humanitarian crises facing children in 2018, and the response put forward by UNICEF and partners. This is presented through a summary of the strategic context of UNICEF humanitarian action, including key results, and analyses of the results against the Strategic Plan goal areas and programme and operational commitments of the CCCs. It concludes with the organization's future workplan for humanitarian action.



Ryan, 11, is happy to see the return of clean, safe drinking water to his school in Mendi, Papua New Guinea, with UNICEF support (March 2018).



# Strategic context

## The humanitarian situation

Around 420 million children are living in areas affected by conflict<sup>16</sup> – in countries such as Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Yemen. Many crises have resulted in mass displacement, with nearly 69 million people on the move around the world in 2018.<sup>17</sup> Among them are nearly 25.4 million refugees, over half of whom are children.<sup>18</sup>

In the most devastating conflicts, children have become front-line targets of war. The number of verified grave violations against children in conflict has nearly tripled since 2010, though actual numbers are likely much higher.<sup>19</sup> This includes the killing and maiming of children, the use of children by armed forces and groups, sexual

violence against children, abduction of children, denial of humanitarian access and attacks against schools and hospitals. For example, in Yemen, the United Nations verified the killing and maiming of over 1,680 children in ground attacks and aerial bombardments in 2018 – a 28 per cent increase over 2017.<sup>20</sup>

Where conflict and other forms of violence have given rise to population movements, children have often been separated from their families, detained on security grounds and denied access to basic services. In Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda, millions of people – including over 3 million children – have been displaced from their homes due to violence and insecurity. Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are hosting at least 2.4 million refugees and migrants from

the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,<sup>21</sup> and the high and unpredictable migration flows have stretched the capacities of already limited services and structures in host communities.

In conflict-affected countries, such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Yemen, food insecurity and extreme weather events have compounded the effects of crisis and heightened the risk of malnutrition and disease outbreaks. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where violence has escalated significantly, in 2018, some 12.8 million people were at risk of food insecurity and acute malnutrition, representing a 30 per cent increase since 2017.<sup>22</sup> Deadly outbreaks of cholera and

Ebola have further impacted conflict-affected people in the country, creating crises within crises.

Natural disasters have also continued to generate significant human costs and damage to infrastructure. In East Asia and the Pacific, a rising number of extreme weather events, such as typhoons, cyclones and floods, struck countries across the region in 2018, including the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Tonga and Viet Nam. Increased seismic activity in the region in 2018 led to a series of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions affecting an estimated 25 million people, including more than 7.5 million children in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.<sup>23</sup>

## UNICEF humanitarian response in 2018

In 2018, UNICEF and partners responded to 285 humanitarian emergencies in 90 countries, compared with 337 situations in 102 countries in 2017. Forty-three per cent of these 90 countries responded to emergencies affecting more than 1 million people. Even as the number of humanitarian emergencies declined from 2017, protracted crises have become increasingly complex, with some conflict-affected countries facing emergencies within emergencies and heightened risks to already vulnerable children.

The 2018 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal was 54 per cent funded by 31 December 2018, reaching US\$2 billion. Humanitarian action remained central to the organization's work in the field, with 51 per cent of all country-level expenses supporting emergency response in 2018.<sup>24</sup> Of overall UNICEF expenses, 50 per cent (US\$2.7 billion) supported humanitarian response during the year. In Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, more than 90 per cent of country-level expenses were classified as humanitarian. Out of the 30 UNICEF country offices with the largest overall expenses, 24 had appeals in the 2018 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. These 30 offices comprised 74 per cent of total country-level expenses, both humanitarian and non-humanitarian.

UNICEF focused on delivering humanitarian response in line with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs). This included efforts to strengthen its response to mass population displacements and protracted crises; increase the coverage and quality of humanitarian assistance; recognize the profoundly different and gendered impacts that crises have on women and men, girls and boys; advocate for the centrality of protection, with particular attention to providing specialized protection services for children in situations of armed conflict; and grow organizational capacity to operate

and deliver critical services to the most vulnerable children in remote, insecure and high-risk and complex humanitarian emergencies.

UNICEF also continued to fulfil its mandate for mobilizing, leading and coordinating collective efforts in 2018 through its role as cluster lead agency for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition and education, and for the child protection area of responsibility (see *Figure 5*). For more on the organization's work as cluster lead agency, see commitment 1 under 'Nutrition' (p. 25), 'Education' (p. 31), 'WASH' (p. 38) and 'Child protection' (p. 34).



Gedain, 8, smiles as he waits in line for water at the UNICEF-supported Protection of Civilians site in Benitu, South Sudan (February 2018).

FIGURE 3: Type and scale of humanitarian response in 2018

RESPONDED TO  
**285**  
HUMANITARIAN  
SITUATIONS

**87**  
HEALTH CRISES

**28**  
OTHER<sup>i</sup>

**68**  
SOCIO-POLITICAL  
CRISES

**22**  
NUTRITION  
CRISES

**63**  
NATURAL  
DISASTERS  
(hydro-meteorological)

**17**  
NATURAL  
DISASTERS  
(geo-physical)

Scale of response by people in need

<200,000 200,000-500,000 500,000-1,000,000 >1,000,000

Total countries (90) 37 7 7 39

IN  
**90**  
COUNTRIES

**6 countries**  
EUROPE AND  
CENTRAL ASIA

**13 countries**  
MIDDLE EAST AND  
NORTH AFRICA

**5 countries**  
SOUTH ASIA

**13 countries**  
WEST AND  
CENTRAL AFRICA

**19 countries**  
LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN

**16 countries**  
EAST ASIA AND  
THE PACIFIC

**18 countries**  
EASTERN AND  
SOUTHERN AFRICA

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 upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the Parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

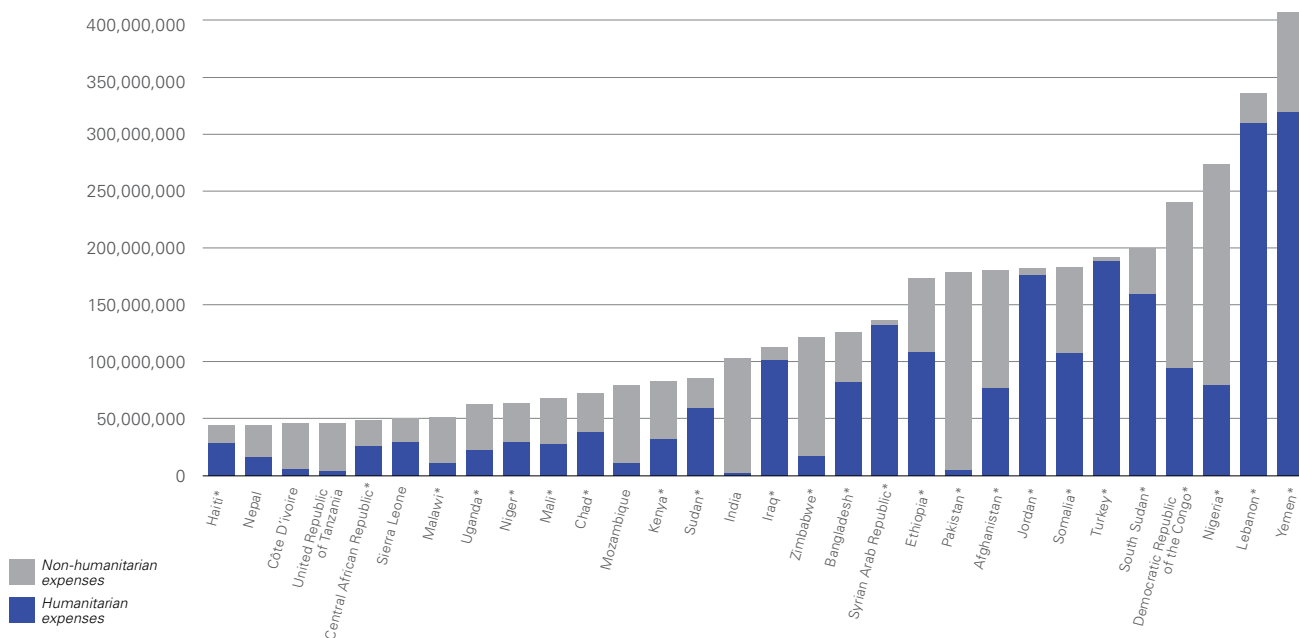
<sup>i</sup> Including but not limited to refugee response.



FIGURE 4: Expenses

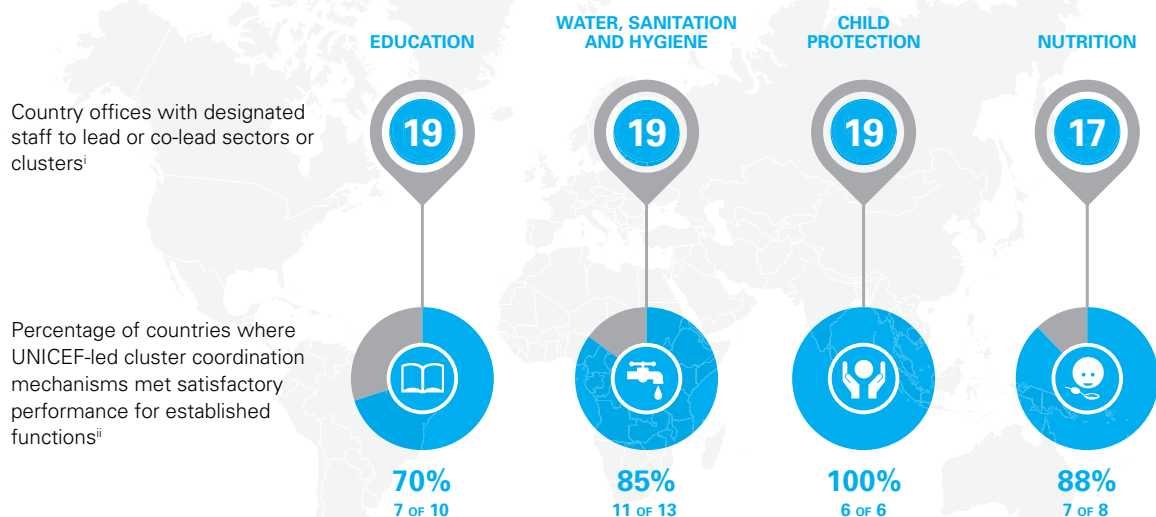
Top 30 country offices– 2018 expenses (includes all funding types).

**Humanitarian expenses were 50 per cent of overall organizational expenses in 2018.**



\*UNICEF country offices with Humanitarian Action for Children appeals in 2018.

FIGURE 5: Coordination



<sup>i</sup> For each sector/cluster, 2018 results are based on annual reporting from 20 UNICEF country offices included in the Global Humanitarian Overview with an inter-agency humanitarian response plan.

<sup>ii</sup> This is a new indicator in the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021. Satisfactory performance reported by country offices where a cluster coordination performance assessment was undertaken with partners is based on the following criteria:

- The country office assigns designated staff to lead/co-lead a humanitarian cluster/sector, area of responsibility or similar coordination mechanism (whether co-lead with the government or other actor).
- Where there is a designated a cluster lead/co-lead and any form of coordination performance assessment has been undertaken with partners during the year of reporting.
- The assessment is structured against the six Inter-Agency Standing Committee-agreed core functions of coordination and accountability to affected populations as per the cluster coordination performance monitoring tool.
- The country office reported that their coordination performance was good or satisfactory as per the above assessment.





After a day of activities at the UNICEF-supported temporary learning space, Aril helps his mother care for his four younger siblings. The family was displaced following the earthquakes that struck Indonesia in 2018 (October 2018).

In 2018, UNICEF and partners delivered results for millions of children affected by emergencies (see *Figure 6*). This included responses to five large-scale emergencies designated as UNICEF Level 3 emergencies: the refugee crisis in Bangladesh, the Ebola outbreaks in the Equateur province and the North Kivu and Ituri regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the protracted conflicts in Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. It also included responses to six UNICEF Level 2

emergencies: the socioeconomic crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the conflict in Cameroon, protracted conflicts in the Central African Republic, Iraq and South Sudan, and the refugee crisis in Syrian refugee-hosting countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey).<sup>25</sup> A total of 461 emergency (surge) deployments were completed in 2018, totalling 40,401 days, with an average mission length of 87 days (see '*Human resources*' on p. 52 for more on the 2018 surge response).

FIGURE 6: Key results from humanitarian responses

The map below highlights the key results achieved by UNICEF and partners in some of the major humanitarian responses in 2018.

**Syrian Arab Republic and the sub-region:**

In the Syrian Arab Republic and Syrian refugee-hosting countries, including Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, UNICEF and partners reached nearly **465,000 households** with cash-based support.

**Ukraine:**

Nearly **1.9 million people** had uninterrupted access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities through the repair of infrastructure in schools and hospitals, supply of chemicals and coordination of humanitarian and development assistance during the year (95 per cent of the 2 million targeted).

**Libya:**

Nearly **91,000 conflict-affected children** were supported with recreational and psychosocial activities, including through mobile psychosocial teams and in community spaces and schools (97 per cent of the 93,000 targeted).

**Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela migration crisis:**

Nearly **50,000 girls and boys on the move**, including adolescents, accessed formal education and/or alternative learning activities in Brazil, Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago (exceeding the 18,000 targeted).

**Lake Chad Basin:**

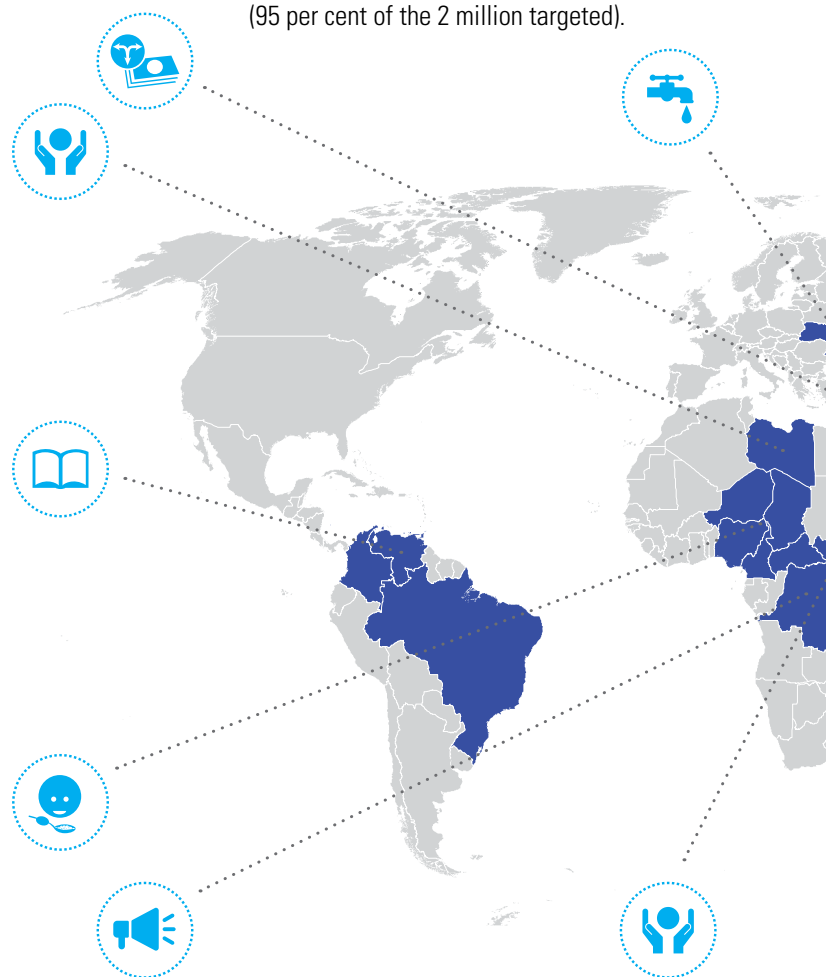
More than **439,000 children** with severe acute malnutrition in the Lake Chad Basin (the Far North Region of Cameroon, the Lac Region of Chad, the Diffa Region of the Niger and Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States of Nigeria) received treatment, representing one quarter of all children admitted for treatment in the Sahel region.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo:**

Nearly **10 million people** received Ebola prevention messages, including through community engagement, interpersonal communications, radio and door-to-door outreach.

**South Sudan:**

UNICEF supported the release of nearly **1,000 children** (265 girls) associated with armed groups and enrolled them in reintegration programmes.



#### Afghanistan:

Nearly **278,000 children under 5 years** received treatment for severe acute malnutrition in 24 provinces through services provided through health systems and mobile health and nutrition teams (94 per cent of the 294,000 targeted).



#### Bangladesh:

More than **168,000 vulnerable school-aged children** accessed non-formal education in both camps and host communities (83 per cent of the 202,000 targeted). This included 145,000 Rohingya refugee children.



#### Earthquakes in East Asia:

In the aftermath of the earthquakes that struck East Asia in 2018, nearly **1.8 million children in Indonesia** (92 per cent of the over 1.9 million targeted) and over **37,000 children in Papua New Guinea** (95 per cent of the 40,000 targeted) received measles and rubella vaccination.



#### Yemen:

In response to the cholera outbreak, nearly **5 million people** gained access to safe drinking water (83 per cent of the 6 million targeted) and nearly **732,000 people** in high-risk/priority areas received cholera vaccination.



#### Ethiopia:

Nearly **5.6 million people** gained access to safe water, including through durable solutions such as the extension of piped water systems to provide emergency water supply to internally displaced persons (exceeding the 3.3. million targeted).

*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 upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the Parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.*

# Strengthening efficiency and effectiveness for humanitarian results

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UNICEF continued to advance initiatives aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness for humanitarian results in 2018, in line with its Strategic Plan and ongoing humanitarian and development system reforms. This section provides a summary of this work.

## Improving the linkages between humanitarian action and development programming

The UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, includes the organization's clearest commitment and institutional accountability framework to date for strengthening the links between its humanitarian and development mandates. These commitments are in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, United Nations development system reforms and the United Nations prevention agenda. They are also grounded in the organization's mandate pursuant to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its commitment to international human rights, humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

In 2018, of the 58 countries that had Humanitarian Action for Children appeals, 57 reported employing programming strategies that aimed to meet immediate humanitarian needs while contributing to longer-term development outcomes; of these, two thirds employed such strategies across multiple (three or more) sectors. In 37 countries, UNICEF engaged with local communities, networks and authorities to strengthen mechanisms for the prevention and response to cases of violence, exploitation and abuse of children; in 33 countries, UNICEF established or rehabilitated water systems as part of its humanitarian response; and in 31 countries, UNICEF strengthened health systems through improved infrastructure and the capacity-building of government health workers.

For example, in countries hosting Syrian refugees, UNICEF has continued to meet the needs of affected people, while also catalysing development progress. That includes supporting governments and partners to deliver essential services to the most vulnerable children in refugee camps and host communities using cost-efficient and sustainable approaches and building the capacities of national institutions and community organizations in the process. In Iraq, UNICEF has worked with government partners to sustain WASH services in the eight Syrian refugee camps in Dahuk and Erbil, focusing on the implementation of durable water and sanitation systems. In 2018, the care and maintenance of WASH facilities in these camps brought safe water to more

than 65,000 Syrian refugees, including more than 28,000 children. In the three Erbil camps, UNICEF has supported a reduction in water pumping costs by changing to systems that prioritize solar power – addressing immediate humanitarian needs while also establishing infrastructure that can last over the longer term and contribute to the accelerated recovery of affected communities.

## Strengthening systems and localizing humanitarian and development programming

UNICEF emergency programmes not only meet humanitarian objectives, but also complement, build on and strengthen national systems for the delivery of social services and the protection of affected populations. For example, UNICEF supports the decentralization and strengthening of primary health care systems in the areas most susceptible to natural disaster and conflict (e.g., Ethiopia and India), and draws on risk assessments to strengthen school buildings and other infrastructure to withstand the impacts of hazards such as flooding (e.g., Bangladesh), hurricanes (e.g., the Philippines) and earthquakes (e.g., Chile). In emergencies, UNICEF is looking to reduce reliance on temporary approaches such as water trucking/desludging and provide more durable solutions such as establishing water and sanitation infrastructure, where the situation and funding (particularly multi-year funding) allow (e.g., Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan and Pugnido refugee camp in Gambella, Ethiopia).

Strengthening systems relies on building the capacities of local actors to address children's needs effectively in emergencies. This is made possible by working directly with local actors to strengthen local markets (*see 'Supply' p. 49*); establish multi-year planning and financing processes; build the capacities of local institutions; strengthen coordination mechanisms; and establish systems to mitigate programme risks.

For example, in Jordan, UNICEF and partners developed and implemented an inclusive education approach with the Ministry of Education in Syrian refugee camps and host communities. The approach involves training teachers and community members, supplying equipment to public schools, providing rehabilitation sessions, constructing inclusive playgrounds and opening model inclusive schools in vulnerable neighbourhoods with large numbers of refugees. While the approach was initially implemented with international non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, the Ministry of Education has agreed to take over the implementation of inclusive education services in public schools over the next 10 years. A 10-year handover strategy



was developed with UNICEF support and multi-year funding commitments from donors have encouraged the Ministry of Education to progressively take on a service provision role.

The decentralization of humanitarian and development programmes also means channelling more aid through local organizations and local governments. The proportion of UNICEF humanitarian funding going to local and national responders has steadily increased, from 20 per cent in 2014 to 31 per cent in 2017 and 36 per cent in 2018.<sup>26</sup> For example, in Iraq, UNICEF continues to work closely with national government and non-government actors and is increasingly supporting programming that builds the capacities of local and national partners. In 2018, more than 82 per cent of all funds transferred to implementing partners were to local and national partners, an increase of 10 per cent from 2017.<sup>27</sup>

To foster stronger local connections and partnerships, in 2018, UNICEF, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) launched the United Nations Partner Portal, an online platform for civil society organizations to create organizational profiles, view opportunities for partnership with the United Nations, and submit both solicited and unsolicited proposals. The portal is expected to provide local civil society organizations with a platform to introduce themselves to the United Nations, learn about United Nations partnership processes, view partnership opportunities and receive feedback.

## Strengthening social protection systems and increasing the use and coordination of cash-based programming in humanitarian action

Improving the preparedness of social protection systems to respond to crises can facilitate the expansion of coordinated cash transfer programmes in humanitarian situations. While UNICEF supports the use of cash transfers in its emergency response, it also seeks to leverage pre-crisis and longer-term investments in building the readiness and resilience of national social protection systems for future humanitarian crises and future development programmes. An example is establishing capacities and systems for emergency cash transfers that could be used later to strengthen social transfers in the country.

In 2018, UNICEF continued to scale up its cash transfer programming in humanitarian crises. Twenty-six countries<sup>28</sup> used this approach as a key implementation modality, reaching 2.4 million households and benefiting nearly 7.1 million children. Overall, UNICEF delivered a total of US\$184 million as humanitarian cash transfers in 2018. The majority of these humanitarian cash transfer programmes were funded and executed by UNICEF country offices with their partners. More than one quarter of UNICEF country offices implementing humanitarian cash transfer

programmes – Djibouti, Dominica, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Turkey – delivered the cash transfers through existing national social protection systems, which supported those systems to scale up in times of crisis. In an additional six countries – the British Virgin Islands, Iraq, Madagascar, Mali and Myanmar – UNICEF provided technical assistance to governments to deliver humanitarian cash transfers through domestic revenue or funding from sources other than UNICEF.

*(Further details and examples of UNICEF humanitarian cash programmes are provided in 'Social protection', p. 41.)*

## Ensuring programmes are informed by risk

UNICEF works with United Nations sister agencies to support countries to develop or strengthen policies and programmes related to climate change, disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding. The aim is to ensure that these policies and programmes are responsive to the needs of women and children and are designed to strengthen the coherence and complementarity of humanitarian and development programming by supporting systems to better prepare for, respond to and recover from shocks and stresses.

In 2018, a total of 47 countries reported having child-sensitive national or local risk-management plans addressing risk related to disasters, climate change, conflict, public health emergencies or other crises. UNICEF also initiated programmes institutionalizing risk-informed programming with the development of a full set of sector guidance – covering health, HIV, nutrition, education, child protection, WASH and social inclusion – to complement the global Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming launched in 2017. The guidance was also adapted to include a stronger focus on conflict and fragility, and the negative impacts of climate change.

UNICEF country offices also continued to focus on risk-informed programming during the year. Countries increasingly conducted thorough child-centred, multi-hazard risk analyses, either as stand-alone analyses or as part of general situation analysis (e.g., Panama and the Syrian Arab Republic) or linked to the work on the Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP) (e.g., Costa Rica). In some countries, risk-informed programming was reprioritized due to changes in the country context, for example in Libya, where the organization's previous strategy and modest budget were insufficient to respond to the new context and provide the government with the requested support. Countries were also increasingly aware of the benefits of employing a risk-informed programming lens when developing new country programme documents. This was the case in Rwanda, where the new Country Programme Document 2018–2023 was designed to be risk-informed to prepare for shocks such as environmental disaster or disease outbreak and address the needs of current and potential refugees.



## Investing in preparedness and risk analysis

In 2018, UNICEF continued efforts to improve its global preparedness architecture<sup>29</sup> and ability respond to humanitarian crises in a timely and efficient manner with the global launch and roll-out of the EPP. The EPP is an online tool that helps country offices to analyse risks, define emergency scenarios and the UNICEF response, self-assess in-country capacities, identify high-return preparedness actions and get ready to respond before an emergency happens or a situation deteriorates. By mid-year, all 128 UNICEF country offices had approved their preparedness plans in the platform, and by December, many of them had reported taking significant steps to improve their ability to respond to emergencies to meet minimum preparedness standards such as the availability of pre-positioned supplies, standby agreements with partners and the identification of staff surge needs.

In Liberia, the EPP enabled a swifter and more agile response to the potential impacts of flooding. In line with the EPP, during the preparedness phase, an emergency management team was established, supply and logistics contingency strategies were developed and implementing partners were identified for standing agreements. As a result, when heavy rainfall resulted in extensive flooding in three counties in 2018, UNICEF and partners were able to respond within 48 hours. Assessment teams were deployed and a response was immediately implemented in partnership with the National Disaster Management Agency. Within days, nearly 9,500 children benefited from life-saving WASH services.

During the year, UNICEF drew on risk analyses conducted by regional and country offices in the EPP to conduct horizon scanning to identify imminent risks to countries,



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A girl poses in Balukhali camp, a refugee camp sheltering more than 800,000 Rohingya refugees, in Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh. To prepare for the monsoon rains, UNICEF and partners worked to minimize the risks from landslides, flash floods and waterborne diseases (June 2018).

indicating the need to strengthen preparedness. In 2018, this scanning identified 11 countries as being at high priority for preparedness actions and helped to mobilize contributions from headquarters, regional offices and country offices towards successful preparedness efforts in these countries. For example, in Uganda, the scanning process triggered early and timely dialogue between headquarters and the country and regional offices, which ultimately resulted in the country office taking key actions to enhance its own and the government's preparedness for a potential Ebola outbreak. These actions included the recruitment of new surge staff and supporting risk communication,<sup>30</sup> social mobilization and the training of more than 230 health professionals and volunteers. While no cases have yet been reported, these actions have strengthened UNICEF and local capacities to face an outbreak.

## How preparedness adds value for money in UNICEF humanitarian response

To respond to a greater number and variety of crises, UNICEF needs to be properly equipped to deliver a high-quality, timely and effective response. Analysis of UNICEF emergency preparedness activities conducted between 2014 and 2017 found that every US\$1 invested early in high-risk humanitarian contexts saves more than US\$4 on average against the next emergency, and speeds up operations by more than 12 days – an example of how preparedness adds value for money in UNICEF humanitarian response.

To capitalize on this return on investment, in 2018, UNICEF created the First Action Initiative, which will allocate time-sensitive investments in emergency preparedness against rising risks in specific country and regional contexts. Using US\$2 million in global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF), UNICEF aims to demonstrate its conviction in the value for money in preparedness. In the Pacific Islands, UNICEF will use over US\$526,000 in GHTF to establish preparedness measures in the event of the next major tropical storm. When the emergency strikes, the performance of these investments will be tracked to provide vital information on the additional speed, cost savings and carbon emission reductions they deliver during an emergency mobilization.

The First Action Initiative will help UNICEF to generate evidence on how preparedness can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization's humanitarian response and add value for money – evidence that will be instrumental in putting preparedness at the heart of resource mobilization, planning and implementation for humanitarian action.

## Addressing fragility and building peace

UNICEF continued to engage in peacebuilding programming in 2018 in countries where conflict, violence and major threats to social cohesion presented risks to children and their supportive communities. UNICEF programme approaches focused on: reinforcing institutions and structures to equitably extend and expand social service delivery to all communities and individuals; leveraging service delivery to address the underlying structural causes of polarization, violence and tension; and building bridges within and between divided groups. UNICEF peacebuilding programming also included children and young people as key actors in preventing violence and building peace.

In 2018, forty-seven country offices reported that their country programmes included explicit objectives designed to promote peaceful and inclusive societies and address violence, conflict and challenges to social cohesion. UNICEF worked collectively with other United Nations agencies in 22 countries through the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund<sup>31</sup> to engage in critical conflict prevention and peacebuilding work based on a common understanding of conflict factors and dynamics. This work focused on strengthening inclusive social services; adolescent and youth participation in peace and reconciliation processes; the peacebuilding potential of education; and supporting children affected by armed conflict.

For example, in Mali, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) worked together to accelerate the implementation of the agreement for national peace and reconciliation by engaging 2,500 young people, including 900 young women, in conflict-affected areas. In Colombia, some 4,200 girls, boys and adolescents participated in peacebuilding actions in 25 municipalities of nine departments via the strategy of Somos Paz.<sup>32</sup> The children, their families and their communities gained skills that helped them lead 105 local reconciliation initiatives.

## Strengthening accountability to affected populations

UNICEF is working to create, in a more systematic manner, space for affected people – particularly adolescents – to voice their distinct needs, and is using their feedback to inform the design and provision of services and to take corrective measures. This includes building on investments in development programming for community engagement, behaviour change and real-time monitoring – all of which can strengthen the organization's accountability to vulnerable children and families affected by crisis.

In May 2018, UNICEF adopted an organization-wide strategy and action plan for systematically integrating accountability to affected populations (AAP) into all programmes, in line with its Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. The vision is that all vulnerable, at-risk and crisis-affected girls, boys, women and men supported by the organization's actions can hold it accountable for promoting and

protecting their rights and generating effective results for them, considering their needs, concerns and preferences, and working in ways that enhance their dignity, capacities and resilience.

UNICEF continued to lead the Communication and Community Engagement Initiative, which was established with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other partners in 2017 to develop collective approaches to AAP for more timely, systematic and predictable communication and community engagement across humanitarian actors and clusters/sectors. In 2018, collective approaches to AAP were established under the initiative in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Yemen, where the views and feedback of affected people are now informing the humanitarian responses. In Yemen, for example, the results of regular surveys conducted with affected communities have been key to bringing the views of affected people into humanitarian response plans and addressing Yemenis' concerns regarding how the humanitarian response is addressing their priority needs.

*(For additional examples of the organization's global and country-level engagement in AAP, see 'Accountability to affected populations', p. 44)*

In line with its AAP commitments, UNICEF Communication for Development (C4D) interventions in humanitarian settings seek to address the need for healthy and protective behaviours, positive sociocultural practices and community engagement across all sectoral responses. In addition to informing affected populations about risks and services, C4D strategies are designed to engage affected populations in ways that will improve trust, enhance community capacities and secure their tangible inputs in preparedness, response and recovery efforts – all of which are critical to building resilience for future adversities.

With the establishment of its first-ever dedicated C4D human resources capacity for humanitarian action, UNICEF was able to provide strategic, timely and efficient technical support to country offices on C4D, strengthen partnerships and collaborations with key sectors at the country level, and enable substantive field engagement in C4D. Over the course of the year, this support was extended to all UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies. In Bangladesh, the C4D specialist improved the organization's engagement with affected people in Cox's Bazar by setting up accountability and feedback mechanisms, strengthening capacities and skills for C4D, and establishing community-mobilization networks and partnerships with local actors.

UNICEF also coordinated its first-ever C4D effort in Papua New Guinea in 2018 in the aftermath of the earthquake. To better respond to the emergency in hard-to-reach areas, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the establishment of community engagement forums that increased community and caregiver demand for interventions and services. This increased demand helped UNICEF to reach over 37,000 children with measles and rubella vaccinations, 23,000 children with micronutrient powder, and 64,000 people with safe drinking water.

# Fostering collaboration and partnerships

## Leveraging partnerships

Partnerships remained central to the organization's humanitarian response in 2018. UNICEF collaborated with a total of 1,403 civil society partners in the field for its humanitarian programming in 2018, nearly 67 per cent of which were national partners (see Figure 7). More than US\$575 million<sup>33</sup> in assets (cash plus value of supplies) were transferred from UNICEF to its civil society partners during the year, including nearly US\$308.2 million (54 per cent) to national civil society partners.

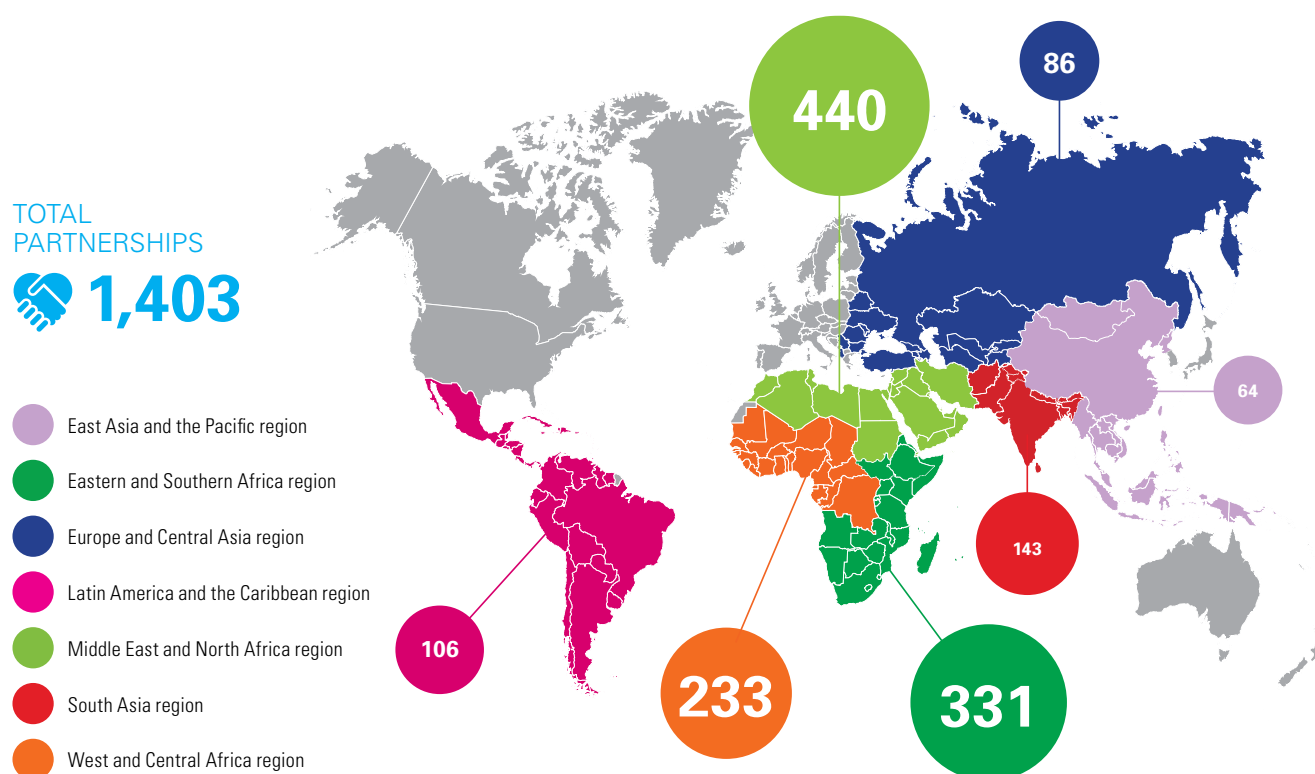
For example, in Djibouti, to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases, UNICEF partnered with the Red Crescent Society to conduct a large-scale hygiene-promotion campaign during which more than 25,000 people were reached on handwashing and household water treatment practices through multiple channels (e.g., text messages and face-to-face). Over 75,000 people are estimated to have been reached indirectly by these activities.

Standby partners remained one of the main providers of surge support in UNICEF and a flagship partnership model for generating in-kind support with expertise in emergencies to facilitate rapid scale up. In 2018, 22

standby partners provided UNICEF with a total of 22,093 days of support, the equivalent of US\$11 million of in-kind contributions. A total of 165 field deployments were undertaken during the year, to 33 countries, including 115 standby personnel and 50 Rapid Response Team (RRT) missions by standby personnel to support the organization's cluster, programme and operational commitments. Forty-nine per cent of these deployments were to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies. Deployments also supported smaller and underfunded emergency responses in Chad, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Uganda.

UNICEF also continued efforts to advance partnerships with the private sector for humanitarian response. In 2018, the ongoing partnership with the United Parcel Service (UPS), an international package delivery and supply chain management company, continued to support the organization's ability to reach children and their families with emergency supplies. Through the provision of free cargo space on flights, sea freight and road transport to ship essential health, nutrition, WASH and psychosocial support supplies to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Yemen, UPS enabled UNICEF to offset US\$650,000 in emergency transport costs.

FIGURE 7: Partnerships



## Strengthening inter-agency collaboration

UNICEF continued to build its partnerships with humanitarian partners, including United Nations sister agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and civil society organizations for humanitarian action in 2018. This included close engagement with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, including supporting the reform of its architecture and its new scaling up policy for large-scale emergencies.

UNICEF worked closely with UNHCR, IOM and civil society partners to support the commitments made under the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. Strong engagement with UNHCR and Member States on the development of the Global Compact on Refugees (adopted in December 2018) resulted in the inclusion of dedicated language on children and young people. The language references specific measures, such as integrated and age-sensitive services for refugee and host community children; investment in national child protection systems; cross-border cooperation on providing a continuum of protection and care; and the empowerment and participation of refugee and host community youth – which will contribute to strengthening child-sensitive policies and programmes in the context of refugee crisis responses.

Close engagement with IOM on the global migration process continued in 2018. The flagship of this partnership is the Displacement Tracking Matrix for children on the move, which aims to improve the evidence base on child migrants. In 2018, the project was implemented in 16 pilot countries – including

Greece, Libya and Nigeria – and was instrumental to making data-gathering and the analysis of migrant data more child-focused.

In an effort to address major humanitarian challenges, notably with regard to protection of civilians, principled humanitarian access and assistance to people in need – including the hardest to reach and most vulnerable – UNICEF collaborated with the International Committee of the Red Cross to seek solutions through concerted advocacy and exchange of expertise.

The memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and UNICEF – which focuses on building capacities for using geographical information systems and mapping in humanitarian response – became fully operational in 2018. In Chad, UNICEF utilized the innovative Floods Finder<sup>34</sup> – a portal that provides access to satellite-derived flood data and offers flooding forecasts based on river levels and rainfall – to publish flood monitoring bulletins that provided early warning alerts to the humanitarian community and reinforced government preparedness.

The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative partnership remained key to the organization's preparedness work during the year.<sup>35</sup> To ensure continuity and to advance this innovative multisectoral approach, in 2018, UNICEF facilitated the development and approval of a new programme for 2019–2022 for the joint Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative.<sup>36</sup> The programme will bring national NGOs, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies together to improve capacities for risk reduction and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Fostering equity and inclusion

UNICEF continued efforts to foster equity and inclusion in its humanitarian action throughout the year, including programmes designed to reach women and girls (see below), children with disabilities (see p. 43), young children (see p. 30), adolescents (see p. 44) and other marginalized groups in humanitarian contexts.<sup>37</sup> In 2018, more than 476,000 children benefited from early childhood development (ECD) kits in seven regions (84 countries), up from nearly 183,000 in 2017;<sup>38</sup> more than 500,000 adolescent girls and boys living in humanitarian contexts in 23 countries were supported to lead or participate in civic-engagement initiatives through UNICEF programmes; and UNICEF conducted specific work on children with disabilities in humanitarian action in 59 country offices, up from 21 country offices in 2017.<sup>39</sup>

### Gender equality

UNICEF is committed to an equal future for all girls, boys, women and men, and recognizes that delivering on gender equality is crucial in humanitarian situations. Humanitarian

contexts can aggravate the exploitation of gender-based vulnerabilities, including through gender-based violence, making it critical to prioritize intentional approaches across programmatic areas to identify and address gaps and opportunities. In line with the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021, and the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, UNICEF promotes gender equality in its humanitarian action by ensuring that the assistance and protection provided are planned and implemented to benefit girls, boys, women and men according to their rights and needs.

In 2018, UNICEF reached 1.3 million women, girls and boys in 37 countries affected by crisis with risk mitigation, prevention or response services to address gender-based violence (exceeding the 1.2 million targeted). In several countries affected by emergencies, including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and countries affected by the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe, UNICEF provided capacity-building support to institutionalize gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response (e.g., in Bulgaria and Serbia with the development of an Adolescent Girls' Safety and Resilience Pocket Guide for use



by front-line workers). In South Sudan, UNICEF took steps to improve the quality and gender sensitivity of its efforts to identify and release children associated with armed groups. UNICEF adapted its assessment procedures for identifying girls associated with such groups, which resulted in a larger proportion (28 per cent) of the children who were officially released in 2018 being girls. These girls were referred for specialized case management services to address their health, psychosocial and development needs (*see p. 35 for additional examples of the organization's response to gender-based violence in emergencies*).

UNICEF also works with governments and partners to facilitate equal access to health care, nutrition services and appropriate information for adolescent girls and mothers, including by building the capacities of female community health workers to provide quality care. In Yemen, UNICEF conducted high-level advocacy with ministries on gender mainstreaming and gender-sensitive planning and programming. As a result, in Yemen's Ministry of Water and Environment's RRTs for cholera interventions, 50 per cent of newly hired staff were female. The Ministry of Public Health and Population achieved almost 90 per cent of its target to include one female and one male service provider for every visit, resulting in greater access to female service providers to targeted households.

Given that women and girls shoulder a disproportionate burden of water management and are most affected by lack of hygiene and sanitation, especially in humanitarian situations, UNICEF works to strengthen systems in emergency contexts to be gender responsive and supports the participation of women and girls in WASH systems so these systems appropriately address their needs. For example, in Jordan, UNICEF-supported water infrastructure in Za'atari camp led to the full operationalization of water and waste-water networks in the camp, leading to the direct delivery of safe water to caravans in camps. This has helped to reduce child safety risks and service interruptions, relieve women and girls of the water-collection burden and reduce their exposure to violence.

Globally, nearly 1.3 million women and girls in emergency situations were reached with menstrual hygiene management services in 2018. For example, in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), menstrual hygiene packs were provided to more than 6,000 adolescent girls in 80 schools in the two drought-affected regions, and school latrines were fitted with sanitary bins. In seven countries dealing with emergency situations, including Bangladesh, Nigeria and the Syrian Arab Republic, nearly 34,000 girls and women with disabilities received menstrual hygiene management services.

## Challenges and constraints

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As humanitarian needs continued to rise in 2018 – as described at the beginning of this chapter – reaching children in crisis became even more challenging. Humanitarian access remained constrained in many of the world's most volatile contexts; and humanitarian needs continued to outstrip the resources available to reach the most vulnerable. In Mali, due to heightened insecurity in the northern and central regions and constrained resources for humanitarian action, only 36 per cent of the children targeted were able to access education services.<sup>40</sup> In the Central African Republic, due to lack of funding and increasingly constrained humanitarian access, less than one third of the 600,000 people in need accessed safe water.<sup>41</sup>

Despite enhanced engagement on protection and human rights in situations of armed conflict, increasing disrespect for international humanitarian and human rights law by parties to conflict also continued to offset the organization's efforts, and hindered its ability to protect children's rights in complex and high-threat environments. Attacks on aid workers remained high in 2018 – with 296 aid workers becoming victims of major attacks.<sup>42</sup>

Recent evaluations have also found that UNICEF country offices struggle to balance the scale of response with achieving quality programming and reaching those vulnerable populations that are most in need of assistance and protection – including women and girls, and children with disabilities. Those most in need are almost always

the least accessible and most costly to reach, particularly in complex emergencies. Internal constraints include the need to strengthen the ability of management and front-line staff to apply humanitarian principles in day-to-day programme delivery, navigate humanitarian negotiation and systematically strengthen community engagement.

In addition, the timeliness of UNICEF humanitarian response remains mixed from one situation to another, and within a given country, where one sector might be slower than another to scale up. This issue is a challenge even within protracted crises, as seen in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Yemen. UNICEF faces persistent challenges to timely response, including those related to its internal capacity (*see 'Human resources', p. 54 for additional detail*), as well as delays in scaling up partnerships with civil society organizations and bringing in adequate human resources. The lack of un-earmarked and multi-year funding also continues to hamper rapid, flexible scale up and integrated programme implementation, particularly where there are large funding gaps.

UNICEF is committed to addressing these challenges to improve its ability to access the populations most in need – particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized groups – and to strengthen the quality, timeliness and targeting of its humanitarian response. *For more on the specific actions that UNICEF will take to address these constraints in the coming years, see 'Future workplan' (p. 58).*





# Results by Strategic Plan goal area

*The information presented in the following sections follows reporting on the programme and operational commitments of the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs) and represents the contributions made by UNICEF, with partners, to each commitment. These are organized by and in line with*

*the goal areas of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. All figures come from the country office annual reports and consolidated emergency reports, unless otherwise stated. Further information on country-level results can be found in individual consolidated emergency reports.*

# Goal Area 1: Every child survives and thrives

UNICEF works to ensure that every child – including those affected by emergencies – survives and thrives. This means reaching children living in humanitarian situations with vital nutrition, health, HIV and early childhood development (ECD) services. In 2018, out of the total US\$2.1 billion expenditure under Goal Area 1, more than one quarter (28 per cent) was emergency funding to support critical nutrition, health and ECD interventions.

## Health in emergencies

In 2018, UNICEF supported the health of millions of children affected by health emergencies, natural disasters and conflicts, many of them protracted. This included the provision of measles vaccination to 19.6 million children aged 6 months to 15 years (96 per cent of the targeted population). Throughout the year, UNICEF and partners also responded to several outbreaks that required multisectoral assistance, including outbreaks of measles, diphtheria, cholera and Ebola. Globally, UNICEF reached more than 6 million people with two doses of oral cholera vaccine over the course of the year.



**%96**

of UNICEF-targeted children in humanitarian situations were vaccinated against measles.

EXCEEDED 2018 MILESTONE OF %95

### Commitment 1: Inter-agency coordination mechanisms in the health sector (e.g., cluster coordination) are supported and enhanced with links to other cluster/sector coordination mechanisms on critical intersectoral issues

In 2018, UNICEF membership and representation in global, regional and country inter-agency coordination mechanisms expanded from health-focused platforms – such as the Global Health Cluster, the Global Task Force on Cholera Control, the International Coordinating Group and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network – to include multisectoral coordination structures with Communication for Development (C4D); water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); nutrition; and child protection, as exemplified during the Ebola and cholera responses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and Yemen. The need for universal health coverage (UHC) in humanitarian settings and to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus resulted in the formation of UHC2030, a global platform with UNICEF representation that seeks to strengthen health systems and resilience to achieve UHC by 2030 in fragile and humanitarian contexts. UNICEF continued to

work closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other technical agencies at the regional level to support country coordination for health emergency preparedness and response, such as Ebola preparedness in Burundi, Rwanda and South Sudan. Its partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Médecins Sans Frontières and WHO also resulted in the successful application to the International Coordinating Group on Vaccine Provision<sup>43</sup> for an initial 125,000 doses of meningitis C vaccine to complement the 200,000 doses secured by UNICEF, which collectively reached more than 300,000 beneficiaries aged 1 to 19 years in Fiji – the site of a meningococcal disease outbreak in 2018.

### Commitment 2: Children and women access life-saving interventions through population- and community-based activities (e.g., campaigns and child health days)

In 2018, UNICEF continued to lead multisectoral partnerships in response to health emergencies, including the second-largest Ebola outbreak in the world in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*see Case Study 1*), cholera outbreaks in a number of countries, including Yemen and Haiti, and an alarming surge in measles outbreaks across continents. These health emergencies affected millions of children, primarily in crisis-affected countries. In Yemen, the first-ever oral cholera vaccine campaign was conducted in eight districts, with nearly 732,000 people vaccinated through multisectoral prevention efforts involving WASH and C4D. This led to a significant reduction in suspected cholera cases – the total number of reported cases in 2018 was 30 per cent lower than in 2017. In Haiti, UNICEF and partners responded to 90 per cent of all suspected cholera cases within 48 hours and contributed to a 72 per cent decrease in suspected cases since 2017. In Iraq, global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF) helped UNICEF to reach nearly 2.1 million children under 5 years with measles vaccination during the first phase of a two-phase national vaccination campaign. Similarly, UNICEF and WHO worked with the Government of Bangladesh to respond to a diphtheria outbreak in the context of the Rohingya refugee crisis, vaccinating more than 482,000 children aged 7 to 15 years.

Globally, UNICEF supported 19.6 million children aged 6 months to 15 years in humanitarian situations with measles vaccination (96 per cent of the targeted population).

## Case Study 1: An integrated response to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The year 2018 saw two outbreaks of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, both of which took place against the backdrop of a volatile humanitarian situation. The first, in the Province of Equateur, ended 11 weeks after its declaration in May 2018, thanks to the strong mobilization of the government and humanitarian partners. The second outbreak is ongoing and is the second largest in world history, with 554 confirmed cases<sup>46</sup> as of the end of 2018. Children and women have been disproportionately affected by the outbreak.

Working with the government, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners mounted an integrated response to the Ebola outbreak, focusing on five key areas: risk communication and community engagement; infection prevention and control; comprehensive case management and psychosocial care; education; and nutrition. Despite the complexity and insecurity of the operating environment, UNICEF facilitated population acceptance and improved the effectiveness of the response by reaching nearly 10 million people through interpersonal communication and community engagement. In addition, more than 500 health facilities and 565 schools received water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and over 500 orphans and separated children received psychological and nutritional care. Psychosocial support played a key role in other response strategies, including by enabling follow-up with contacts, preparing families for safe and dignified burials, and facilitating admission of patients to Ebola treatment centres. Listening to communities through surveys, focus groups and key interviews contributed to adaptations in local strategies and increased community engagement and acceptance of vaccination.

Despite challenges related to access and insecurity, the active participation of community members and UNICEF advocacy for humanitarian access (conducted with the government, local authorities and United Nations agencies), helped UNICEF and partners to reach affected populations in remote and insecure areas. A lesson learned for UNICEF is the need to maintain the provision of basic services – that is, not only outbreak control – to build community acceptance. UNICEF will reinforce this strategy so that outbreak control is better accepted within communities in the future, while working with the government, local communities and partners to end the outbreak.



An Ebola vaccination team administers the Ebola vaccine in Beni, North Kivu, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (August 2018).



### **Commitment 3: Children, adolescents and women equitably access essential health services with sustained coverage of high-impact preventive and curative interventions**

UNICEF expanded routine immunization services in countries affected by crisis to address the global threat of under-vaccination, which has the potential to reverse progress towards tackling vaccine-preventable diseases. For example, in Bangladesh, nearly 91,000 Rohingya refugees and host community children received three doses of pentavalent vaccine<sup>44</sup> in 2018. In South Sudan, where the long-standing armed conflict has destroyed health infrastructure, some 2.7 million people, including nearly 1.2 million children under 5, received life-saving treatment with UNICEF support, primarily for malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea (exceeding the 700,000 children targeted).<sup>45</sup> GHTF continued to play a critical role in responding to health emergencies around the world, including in the response to the flooding crisis in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, where these funds helped UNICEF to distribute 258 essential medicine kits, 110,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts, seven inter-agency emergency health kits and seven tents to temporarily replace damaged health facilities for affected populations in North and South Hwanghae Provinces. In Madagascar, GHTF helped UNICEF to support more than 36,500 vulnerable people in remote areas through mobile health clinics during the drought crisis in 2018.

### **Commitment 4: Women and children access behaviour change communication interventions to improve health-care and feeding practices**

C4D remained central to the organization's ability to prepare for and respond to health emergencies, including through its vast networks of community assets and communication channels. In Yemen, through integrated emergency and outbreak C4D response, UNICEF reached more than 10 million people, including 1.5 million boys and 1.6 million girls (exceeding the 4 million targeted). This included at least 200,000 marginalized people, such as internally displaced communities. In north-east Nigeria, where the Boko Haram insurgency has continued to affect millions, UNICEF reached nearly 5,600 pregnant women using mHealth, an innovative digital initiative that sends messages on maternal health through mobile phone voicemail. UNICEF also supported the printing and distribution of more than 3.2 million leaflets on polio and routine immunization in high-risk states. This, combined with birth tracking by volunteer community mobilizers, helped to reduce non-compliance with vaccination at birth to less than 1 per cent in areas covered by the volunteers. In Chad, C4D-in-emergencies interventions, including social mobilization and community dialogues, encouraged communities in 52 health districts affected by the measles epidemic (nearly 236,000 people) to vaccinate their children. This contributed to the total measles result, with some 2.5 million children aged 6 months to 14 years being vaccinated against measles.

### **Commitment 5: Women and children have access to essential household items**

In 2018, the UNICEF-led Rapid Response Mechanism was crucial to reaching the most vulnerable and excluded populations with essential non-food household items. In the Central African Republic, UNICEF supported 43 distributions of non-food items, reaching more than 237,000 vulnerable children and their family members with essential household items to address crisis-related loss and destruction (exceeding the 160,000 targeted). Similarly, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, nearly 720,000 internally displaced people (120,000 households) benefited from the distribution of non-food items provided through the Rapid Response to Movements of Population mechanism (exceeding the 437,500 targeted). Eighty-eight per cent of those reached also received complementary food assistance delivered by the World Food Programme (WFP) and other partners. In response to malaria, which is endemic and accounts for 36 per cent of under-5 deaths in South Sudan, UNICEF reached more than 187,000 families with two insecticide-treated mosquito nets per family (75 per cent of the 250,000 targeted). In the Syrian Arab Republic, as part of the winterization strategy to protect children from severe cold weather, UNICEF reached 667,000 children with seasonal clothes and blankets (98 per cent of the 682,000 targeted). Of those reached, 255,000 children were located in hard-to-reach areas, including 25,000 who were reached through inter-agency convoys. In response to the migration crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNICEF and partners provided non-food items to refugee women and children in several countries. For example, in Ecuador, the distribution of baby kits to children under 3 years helped to improve the hygiene and overall well-being of children on the move.

### **Challenges and constraints**

In recent years, health responses in emergencies have faced significant challenges, including increased disregard for the lives and resources of humanitarian actors, violations of international humanitarian law, including but not limited to attacks on civilian infrastructure and health personnel, and violations of children's rights. In many countries, long-standing challenges related to funding shortages, insecurity and humanitarian access have exacerbated these difficulties. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, attacks against health workers were evident during the Ebola response and resulted in the withdrawal of some partners' operations and the cessation of critical health services. UNICEF will continue to address these constraints through multisectoral collaborations with partners and governments and by expanding its advocacy and fundraising strategies, supporting capacity-building initiatives, and introducing evidence-based, high-impact service delivery models to reach those children who are most in need. In the Congo, the implementation of the Rapid Response Mechanism has already demonstrated significant success in reaching hard-to-reach populations, while in countries such as Afghanistan, mobile health teams remain crucial to the provision of integrated health and nutrition services.

## Nutrition in emergencies

In 2018, UNICEF and partners delivered life-saving action to safeguard the nutritional status of women and children in 59 countries experiencing new or protracted emergencies. Globally, 3.4 million children aged 6 to 59 months suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in humanitarian contexts were given treatment and care over the course of the year (76.2 per cent of the targeted population).<sup>47</sup> Of those children admitted to the programmes, 88 per cent recovered. In addition, nearly 18 million mothers and caregivers affected by humanitarian crises received information, counselling and support on infant and young child feeding (IYCF).



### 3.4 million

children aged 6–59 months with SAM were admitted for treatment in humanitarian situations.

2018 MILESTONE: 4.5 MILLION

### Commitment 1: Effective leadership is established for nutrition cluster inter-agency coordination, with links to other cluster/sector coordination mechanisms on critical intersectoral issues

In 2018, seventeen out of the 20 country offices in the Global Humanitarian Overview with an inter-agency humanitarian response plan had designated staff to lead or co-lead nutrition sectors or clusters. Cluster coordination performance assessment was undertaken with partners in eight of these countries, and 88 per cent (of the eight) met the satisfactory performance level for the established functions. The Global Nutrition Cluster provided a total of 231 days of direct Rapid Response Team (RRT) support to countries such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Nigeria. In collaboration with partners, UNICEF launched the Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition to provide predictable technical advice, guidance and leadership to countries, and thereby improve the technical quality of emergency nutrition responses. At the regional level, UNICEF leveraged its leadership role to strengthen partnerships for better nutrition response. For example, in the Eastern and Southern Africa region, UNICEF worked with Save the Children, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP to conduct joint IYCF-in-emergencies training in Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. As cluster lead agency in Myanmar, UNICEF played a key role in bringing together partners, such as the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (now the Access to Health Fund) and other non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, for joint strategic planning and coordination with the government on the integrated management of acute malnutrition and IYCF. This effort resulted in increased national capacity to provide quality nutrition services – with 1,875 health workers (50 per cent of those in the country) and 2,765 community health volunteers trained on the integrated management of acute malnutrition and IYCF, respectively.

### Commitment 2: Timely nutritional assessment and surveillance systems are established and/or reinforced

The availability of quality nutrition data and information is critical to effective planning and timely response in emergencies. In 2018, UNICEF made clear efforts to strengthen nutrition information systems. UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agriculture Development, WFP and WHO published the report, *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, in 2018, and for the first time, a specific analysis on IYCF in emergencies was included. UNICEF also contributed to the development of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) guidance manual 3.0, which harmonizes food security and nutrition situation analysis procedures; and to shaping the World Bank-led Famine Action mechanism, which will strengthen early actions to prevent famine and malnutrition. To improve the quality of nutrition situation analyses, the UNICEF West and Central Africa, and Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Offices and the IPC Global Support Unit facilitated training on the IPC for acute malnutrition, reaching 11 countries. In these countries, UNICEF also took steps to improve information management, nutrition data and surveillance. In Chad, UNICEF piloted the use of smartphones to replace paper-based reporting for nutrition data collection in four districts. The pilot generated important lessons for adopting a mobile phone approach, with some health centres already sharing weekly data using mobile technology. In the Central African Republic, UNICEF worked with partners (e.g., Médecins Sans Frontières, International Medical Corps, Cordaid International, Mentor Initiative and Action contre la Faim, among others) to undertake rapid nutrition needs assessments in hard-to-reach areas using mobile technology to increase the geographical coverage of nutrition services in high-priority areas.

### Commitment 3: Support for appropriate IYCF is accessed by affected women and children

Improving IYCF practices is particularly important during emergencies, when health and nutrition services are disrupted and caregivers face complex challenges to feeding children. In 2018, forty of the 58 countries with a Humanitarian Action for Children appeal implemented IYCF programmes as part of their humanitarian response.<sup>48</sup> In response to the complex crisis in South Sudan, UNICEF reached more than 950,000 caregivers of children aged up to 23 months with IYCF counselling, up from 540,000 in 2015 (94 per cent of the 1 million targeted). This remarkable progress has helped to increase the proportion of children aged up to 5 months in South Sudan to be exclusively breastfed, to 74 per cent in 2018 from 45 per cent in 2010. In the Sudan, UNICEF led initiatives to expand access to IYCF counselling for internally displaced people in communities previously isolated by conflict for more than five years in the Jebel Marra area of Darfur through the establishment of 30 new outpatient therapeutic feeding programmes and 60 mother support groups. Overall, nearly 832,000 caregivers were reached with IYCF counselling.



in the Sudan (exceeding the 564,000 targeted). To prevent the deterioration of Rohingya children's nutritional status in Bangladesh, nearly 147,000 pregnant and lactating women in camps and in host communities received IYCF support through one-on-one counselling and group demonstrations (exceeding the 63,000 targeted). These women were also reached through outpatient therapeutic feeding programmes, WFP feeding programme sites, 40 health and protection spaces and 16 breastfeeding support centres.

Globally, UNICEF supported 18 million mothers and caregivers in humanitarian situations with information, counselling and support on IYCF.

#### **Commitment 4: Children and women with acute malnutrition access appropriate management services**

When access to preventive nutrition and health services breaks down during emergencies, early identification, treatment and care for children with SAM is critical. In 2018, UNICEF reached 3.4 million children with SAM treatment, up from 3 million in 2017. The majority (78 per cent) of the children treated were from Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, the Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Yemen. In response to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh, more than 24,000 children with SAM (57 per cent girls) received treatment through UNICEF-supported outpatient therapeutic feeding programmes (99 per cent of the 24,500 targeted). In response to the nutrition crisis in Yemen, UNICEF made significant gains towards expanding essential treatment for SAM in 2018. In partnership with 17 international and local NGOs, UNICEF reached nearly 306,000 children with SAM treatment (exceeding the 276,000 targeted). In South Sudan, UNICEF significantly contributed to preventing famine in counties with elevated levels of food insecurity by providing integrated nutrition, ECD, WASH and health services and care to children with SAM. This contributed to reaching nearly 207,000 children with SAM treatment (96 per cent of the 215,000 targeted) and reducing SAM prevalence from 9.9 per cent in 2010 to 2.7 per cent in 2018. UNICEF continued to strengthen the early identification of children with SAM. For example, in the Niger, screening was integrated into the national seasonal malaria chemo-prevention campaign, which covered 61 out of 72 districts in 2018. More than 3.5 million children were reached with monthly screening and some 35,000 children were referred for SAM treatment.

#### **Commitment 5: Children and women access micronutrients from fortified foods, supplements or multiple-micronutrient preparations**

Vitamins and minerals are critical for child survival, growth and development, as well as for women's health and well-being. In emergencies, there is an increased risk of vitamin and mineral deficiencies due to interrupted food supply and health services and disease outbreaks. For this reason, UNICEF continued to support families with micronutrient programmes in several countries. In Chad, despite implementation challenges, such as a lack of qualified workers in health facilities and recurrent strikes, UNICEF leveraged partnerships with NGOs and appointed additional staff to reach children with essential micronutrients. Nearly 781,000 children aged 6 to 59 months, and more than 673,000 children aged 9 to 59 months were reached with vitamin A supplementation and deworming, respectively, conducted during the measles outbreak response. To improve the quality of children's diets in Somalia, UNICEF provided multiple micronutrient powders to 87,000 children age between 6 and 23 months. Anaemia prevention among adolescents and pregnant and lactating women was also scaled up in several countries. For example, to address critical gaps in the availability of nutritious food in Bangladesh, nearly 44,000 adolescent girls and nearly 76,000 pregnant and lactating women affected by the refugee crisis received iron and folic acid supplementation.

#### **Commitment 6: Children and women access relevant information about nutrition programme activities**

To ensure that populations have access to and use available services and adopt positive nutrition practices in emergencies, UNICEF widely disseminates information on nutrition services and supplies and about how caregivers can best care for their families in emergencies. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNICEF distributed 50 portable speakers to the flooding evacuation camps and health facilities in Sanamxay District. The speakers were used to broadcast key messages on available health and nutrition services, including safe motherhood, newborn danger signs, breastfeeding and complementary feeding, hand washing with soap, hygiene and sanitation, and health-seeking behaviour. In Pakistan, a communication initiative called Misaali Maa ('perfect mum') was implemented in partnership with the Lady Health Worker programme. This initiative mobilized front-line health workers to provide advice on appropriate feeding based on age.

## Case Study 2: Taking a community-based approach to treating severe acute malnutrition in Nigeria

Protracted violence and conflict-related displacement have had a devastating impact in north-east Nigeria. Some 1.8 million people are now displaced due to conflict, and an average of 4,000 people – most of them women and children – are newly displaced every week, up from 1,400 in 2017. The cumulative impacts of violence, population movement and the consequent stress have weakened the coping capacities of communities, putting over 1 million children at risk of acute malnutrition.

In 2018, UNICEF and partners reached nearly 234,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with treatment (exceeding the 216,000 targeted). In December alone, more than 9,300 children with SAM received treatment in 509 UNICEF-supported treatment facilities in the three north-east states affected by the ongoing conflict. These results were enabled by community-based nutrition screening of children aged 6 to 59 months, which both improved the early detection of children with SAM and the reach of infant and young child feeding (IYCF) messages.

However, UNICEF was unable to achieve its targets in other aspects of the response, including counselling on IYCF, due to limited humanitarian access, the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in some areas and a lack of funding.<sup>49</sup> In 2019, UNICEF will strengthen its partnerships to improve service delivery, using strategies that are better adapted to contexts, such as system strengthening, in areas where security has improved and where returns have taken place.



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Amina Shallangwa, a UNICEF-supported midwife, measures the head of a newborn baby at a UNICEF-supported health clinic in Muna Garage camp for internally displaced persons in northeast Nigeria (January 2018).

## Challenges and constraints

UNICEF was unable to reach its nutrition targets in some countries due to limited funding, weak information and monitoring systems, and low capacities among partners and governments (e.g., the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and Myanmar). In addition, access constraints remained a major bottleneck to scaling up nutrition interventions in conflict-affected countries (e.g., in northern Rakhine State in Myanmar, northern Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen). To address low capacities of governments and partners, in 2019 UNICEF will roll out a new nutrition emergency preparedness and response training programme (online and face-to-face) in various countries and regions. In addition, through the new Global Technical Assistance Mechanism, UNICEF and partners will provide technical support to governments and partners through remote support and the deployment of staff. UNICEF will also make a concerted effort in 2019 to gather evidence and systematically document experiences, for sustained advocacy to address access constraints and to increase investment from the global community and national governments to effectively reach affected populations with humanitarian assistance.

## HIV in emergencies

In its humanitarian work, UNICEF prioritizes HIV and the specific needs of pregnant women, children and adolescents at risk of and living with HIV. In 2018, UNICEF reached women and children in humanitarian settings with HIV prevention and treatment through a combination of technical support, education, innovation and community engagement.

### Commitment 1: Children, young people and women have access to information regarding prevention, care and treatment

The success of HIV prevention programming for women, children and adolescents in humanitarian settings is premised on the ability to provide correct information on the prevention and management of HIV to at-risk and affected individuals. For example, in Cameroon, UNICEF supported two interactive channels – U-Report, a confidential, free, nationally available SMS-based interactive counselling service, and Ligne Verte, a free hotline addressing questions related to HIV, family planning and sexually transmitted infections. These channels provided vulnerable youth with round-the-clock access to accurate information on HIV while preserving confidentiality and promoting inquiry. UNICEF also supported RODIS, a youth organization in Cameroon that provides outreach to Central African youth in refugee camps, highlighting HIV information and available HIV services. There are almost 270,000 registered U-Reporters in Cameroon, 23 per cent of whom are located in crisis-affected regions. In Chad, where only 26 per cent of young people have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/

AIDS and only 7.8 per cent have been tested for HIV,<sup>50</sup> UNICEF supported HIV prevention education sessions that reached more than 74,000 children and adolescents. UNICEF also continued to prioritize the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV in Chad, where nearly 53,000 pregnant women were reached with HIV counselling and testing during antenatal visits.

### Commitment 2: Children, young people and women access HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment during crisis

In 2018, an important element of the organization's work in humanitarian settings was to reach and identify women, children and young people living with HIV and provide access to antiretroviral treatment. In the midst of conflict and instability in the Central African Republic, UNICEF contributed to strengthening HIV programming by expanding the number of facilities providing HIV testing and PMTCT services. As a result, nearly 25,000 adolescents (14,683 girls) in high-prevalence cities in the Central African Republic were tested for HIV during the year. This is especially important given the vulnerability of adolescents and their limited access to information and services. In Chad, where the HIV epidemic is most significant in crisis-affected areas, nearly 3,000 children admitted to health centres for SAM were tested for HIV. Of these, 53 children tested positive and received antiretroviral treatment. In Kenya, an assessment on the impact of drought on the HIV response, conducted in collaboration with WFP and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) generated evidence that will be used to strengthen the HIV response in emergency situations in the coming years.

### Commitment 3: Prevention, care and treatment services for children, young people and women are continued

In 2018, UNICEF also focused on continuing sustainable preventive and treatment services for women and children living with HIV, particularly in protracted and chronic crisis settings where such services can be disrupted. In Uganda, for example, UNICEF reached more than 4,400 refugee children living with HIV with antiretroviral treatment (exceeding the 3,500 targeted) and more than 2,700 pregnant women with PMTCT services. In Chad, UNICEF strengthened the capacities of health systems to deliver PMTCT and paediatric HIV care by training more than 500 health professionals. This contributed to reaching nearly 45,000 pregnant women with HIV screening and PMTCT services (exceeding the 40,000 targeted). An additional 95 medical doctors in Chad were trained on new data collection tools and improving demographic information on individuals living with HIV. In South Sudan, HIV is integrated (financially and programmatically) within the humanitarian health response. In 2018, nearly 57,000 pregnant women were tested for HIV, and the 1,085 women found to be living with HIV were referred for treatment.<sup>51</sup>

## Case Study 3: Providing HIV services in the context of the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh

In 2017, the Rohingya minority in Myanmar were stripped of their civil and human rights, and thousands of Rohingya families began fleeing to nearby Bangladesh from torture, rape and unimaginable violence. Since August 2017, more than 730,000 Rohingya, including 400,000 children, have fled violence in Myanmar and settled in the Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh. Cox's Bazar is now the largest refugee camp in the world.

Given the higher HIV prevalence among the Rohingya compared with the host population (estimated at 0.6 per cent versus 0.1 per cent), HIV programming has been an important part of the organization's integrated response in Bangladesh. Despite significant challenges, including monsoons, landslides and flash floods, UNICEF has launched interventions with sustained impact. In late 2018, UNICEF supported the establishment of prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) programmes at Sadar Hospital in Cox's Bazar and Ukhiya Upzilla Health Complex, reaching some 4,000 pregnant women. An additional 617 pregnant women in the Rohingya community and nearly 2,700 from the host community were tested for HIV in outreach programmes in the camp. Overall, UNICEF reached nearly 3,300 pregnant women with HIV testing and counselling in Bangladesh in 2018 (66 per cent of the 5,000 targeted). PMTCT services are now offered throughout pregnancy, labour and breastfeeding, as are HIV prevention services for newborns.

The large numbers of women served in these programmes despite the short period of implementation underscores the high unmet need for HIV testing, prevention and treatment services in Bangladesh. However, HIV is highly stigmatized in both the host community and the Rohingya refugee population, and this challenges efforts to scale up services. In 2019, UNICEF will work to increase access to testing, treatment and care by expanding investment in HIV and the number of sites where services are available. UNICEF will also increase the capacities of community health workers and mobilizers to provide accurate information about the availability and confidentiality of HIV services.



A Rohingya mother holds her child outside their shelter in Kutupalong refugee camp, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh (March 2018).

### Challenges and constraints

While HIV services in emergencies continue to see growth and expansion, significant barriers remain. HIV programming is frequently overlooked in humanitarian funding appeals, and limited funding is a persistent barrier to the scaling up of HIV programming in emergencies. This lack of funding is in stark contrast to the increased risk of HIV among internally displaced and refugee women and children, who are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. In 2019, UNICEF will continue to address these challenges by working across sectors to reduce gender-based and sexual violence in humanitarian contexts and increase access to reliable and accurate information on the availability of HIV prevention and treatment services. UNICEF will use a data-informed approach to use resources effectively and efficiently to improve access to quality HIV prevention and treatment services.



## Early childhood development

Early childhood development (ECD) services in humanitarian and fragile settings are increasingly recognized as essential to ending preventable deaths among newborns and children under 5 years. These services also have the potential to drive economic recovery and peacebuilding in communities and countries. UNICEF therefore employs ECD interventions in emergencies to address the unique risks facing newborns and young children, to promote caregiver well-being and to safeguard healthy brain development among the most vulnerable.

In 2018, UNICEF contributed to raising the profile of ECD as a critical component of emergency responses. UNICEF helped the Early Childhood Peace Consortium to launch its knowledge-sharing website to broker knowledge on the ECD agenda, translate scientific evidence on ECD services and provide a platform for advocacy on ECD in emergencies. With UNICEF support, in 2018, the Early Childhood Peace Consortium launched its first publication, *Contributions of Early Childhood Development Programming to Sustainable Peace and Development*, which summarizes and combines evidence on developmental pathology, health and nutrition, with lessons learned from the peacebuilding and social services administration sectors, to help practitioners appreciate how ECD services can prevent and mitigate conflict between individuals and among groups.

UNICEF continued to deploy its ECD kits in emergency contexts as an integral part of humanitarian response. The ECD kit contains materials to help caregivers create a safe learning environment for up to 50 young children aged 0–8 years, complementing basic services related to young children's hygiene and sanitation, health and nutrition, protection and education. In 2018, UNICEF distributed more than 17,000 ECD emergency kits in seven regions (84 countries) and reached 69 per cent of targeted girls



A pupil of the Bright Early Childhood Development Centre in Bidibidi refugee settlement in northern Uganda plays outside. The centre, which is supported by UNICEF, provides integrated early childhood development, a child-friendly space and accelerated learning services (June 2018).

and boys in humanitarian situations with ECD kits through its programmes (against the Strategic Plan milestone for 2018 of 70 per cent). In Yemen, for example, 70 ECD kits were distributed to nutrition stabilization centres, reaching children being treated for malnutrition. In the Philippines, 34 ECD kits and sets of local storybooks benefited more than 1,000 preschool children in target districts.

Globally, UNICEF supported more than 476,000 children in humanitarian situations with ECD kits through its programmes (69 per cent of the targeted population).

UNICEF also supported 10 countries affected by emergencies with specific ECD interventions, including Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, the Niger, Turkey and Uganda. For example, in Jordan, the Makani “My Space” centres<sup>52</sup> provide a comprehensive approach that links learning support, community-based child protection, ECD, youth participation, life skills and innovation labs. In 2018, some 32,000 parents and caregivers of children aged 0–8 years were reached through UNICEF-supported ECD parenting programmes in Jordan designed to promote child development and reduce violence against children. Assessments of the initiative showed that 80 per cent of parents and caregivers completing the programme better understood and applied positive and developmentally appropriate practices.

## Challenges and constraints

Incorporating the needs and priorities of young children in sector-specific humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery plans remains a challenge. While ECD may be well integrated into a specific sector in a specific country (e.g., education in the form of early childhood education), it is rarely incorporated across all relevant sectors simultaneously in the same country/geographic locations. In part this is due to poor coordination between sectors, inadequate funding targeting young children and families, and the lack of disaggregated data on young children in humanitarian situations, which makes it difficult to plan and develop appropriate and context-specific interventions for young children. To address these challenges UNICEF will incorporate ECD-specific commitments in its revision of the CCCs and provide guidance on how to embed ECD within existing humanitarian planning across sectors; support governments to integrate ECD into humanitarian planning; and engage with key partners to ensure that ECD is embedded in stakeholder plans. UNICEF is also leading an inter-agency task team to better understand the current landscape and address gaps based on evidence and promote stronger cross-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration.



# Goal Area 2: Every child learns

## Education in emergencies

In 2018, UNICEF continued to focus on delivering education materials and services – and ensuring every child's access to learning – in emergency situations. For the second year in a row, education comprised the largest percentage of the organization's Humanitarian Action for Children appeals – at 25 per cent in 2018; and in many humanitarian situations, UNICEF was the largest provider of education in emergencies. Out of the total US\$1.2 billion expenditure under Goal Area 2 in 2018, nearly half (45 per cent) was emergency funding to support critical education-in-emergencies interventions. During the year, UNICEF reached 79 per cent of targeted girls and boys in humanitarian situations (75 per cent for girls, 83 per cent for boys) with early learning, or primary or secondary education through its programmes. This enabled the organization to support 6.9 million school-aged children with formal and non-formal education.



**79%**

of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in humanitarian situations participated in early learning, primary or secondary education through UNICEF-supported programmes.

EXCEEDED 2018 MILESTONE OF 74%

### Commitment 1: Effective leadership is established for education cluster/inter-agency coordination (with co-lead agency), with links to other cluster/sector coordination mechanisms on critical intersectoral issues

In 2018, 19 out of the 20 country offices in the Global Humanitarian Overview with an inter-agency humanitarian response plan had designated staff to lead or co-lead education sectors or clusters. Cluster coordination performance assessment was undertaken with partners in 10 of these countries, and 70 per cent (of the 10) met satisfactory performance for established functions. The Global Education Cluster RRT provided 318 days of deployment support, focusing on improving the quality of humanitarian response planning, needs assessment and information management. The deployment of an RRT member to Bangladesh led to the finalization of the multi-year response plan funded by Education Cannot Wait. With Global Education Cluster support, country education clusters also gained access to operational guidance on both the humanitarian programme cycle and longer-term development. Global, regional and country-

level training held in Somalia, South Sudan and north-east Syrian Arab Republic equipped more than 100 cluster staff and partners from 20 countries with the skills to develop evidence-based strategies and response plans. During the year, the cluster worked in partnership with UNHCR and the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies, with support from the Overseas Development Institute and funding from Education Cannot Wait, to develop an evidence base on joint planning, response and coordination for education in emergencies. The Global Education Cluster also worked with the Permanent Missions of Switzerland and Norway to launch a four-part series of Member State meetings to mobilize support for education in emergencies in 2018.

### Commitment 2: Children, including preschool-age children, girls and other excluded children, access quality education opportunities

In several contexts, UNICEF focused on expanding opportunities for early childhood education for children affected by conflict. In Rwanda, UNICEF supported the government to initiate ECD and primary school services for refugee children in Mahama Camp through centre- and home-based care to reach more than 10,000 children, including 1,100 children aged 0 to 6 years. In Jordan, UNICEF provided non-formal education catch-up and dropout programmes to nearly 13,000 Syrian refugee children (41 per cent females). Nearly 1,200 children (54 per cent females) successfully graduated from the catch-up programme (out of 3,500) and reintegrated into the formal school system. Recognizing that children with disabilities face particular barriers to accessing school during crises, UNICEF programmes in Lebanon, Nepal and Turkey supported inclusive education in collaboration with governments and NGOs. In Lebanon, this resulted in 400 children with special needs enrolled in inclusive public schools and 723 children with disabilities provided with accredited non-formal learning. Girls face significant disadvantages in accessing education in emergency contexts. In South Sudan, where the primary school enrolment rate for girls is only 28 per cent,<sup>53</sup> UNICEF worked through community mobilization campaigns and in close cooperation with parent teacher associations and school management committees to support the enrolment and retention of girls in school. GHTEF helped UNICEF to support more than 24,000 children (40 per cent girls) to access quality preschool and primary education in South Sudan in 38 schools in 2018. Given the magnitude of the problem, however, greater efforts must be undertaken urgently to ensure that girls' right to schooling is respected.

Globally, UNICEF supported 6.9 million children in humanitarian situations with formal and non-formal education (79 per cent of the targeted population).

## Case Study 4: Reaching crisis-affected children in Afghanistan with vital learning opportunities

In Afghanistan, the protracted conflict, the worst drought in decades and deepening poverty contributed to a deteriorating humanitarian situation in 2018, with 2.4 million children in need of humanitarian assistance. Violence surrounding parliamentary elections in October led to school closures impacting 500,000 children, with girls disproportionately affected.

UNICEF co-leads the Education in Emergencies Working Group in Afghanistan and engages in education service provision. In 2018, UNICEF reached more than 93,000 school-aged children (52 per cent girls) with teaching and learning materials, established more than 1,400 temporary classrooms and supported the recruitment and training of 1,067 teachers. This enabled internally displaced, returnee and host community children to access formal and non-formal schooling through community-based education and accelerated learning programmes.

As the first responder to the drought in the Badghis and Herat Provinces in the Western Region, UNICEF provided training to 116 teachers on education in emergencies, including how to manage difficult classroom environments and child-centred teaching. Working in collaboration with the Education in Emergencies Working Group and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Child Protection Clusters, UNICEF reached over 7,000 children through a systemic and integrated service approach to meet urgent educational needs.

A key aspect of the success of these programmes has been the organization's engagement with communities. With UNICEF support, communities, through school management shuras, provide sheltered physical space for education, ensure school safety and maintain school equipment and materials. Communities also encourage girls to attend school and include the active participation of women in the formation and running of the shuras.

While UNICEF and partners made considerable progress in providing educational opportunities to children in Afghanistan, emergency education remains severely underfunded within the overall humanitarian response, at only 17 per cent funded by the end of 2018. A targeted fundraising and communication strategy will be applied in 2019 to attract specific education-in-emergencies funds to reach more children impacted by conflict and disaster.



Two girls read through their notebook at the Accelerated Learning Center in Darikundi province, Afghanistan. With UNICEF support, the centre hosts lessons for women and girls who missed out on primary education (May 2018).

### Commitment 3: Safe and secure learning environments that promote the protection and well-being of students are established

Attacks on education, which have been occurring with alarming frequency, were reported in 74 countries during a five-year period ending in December 2017.<sup>54</sup> UNICEF supports safe schools through its global advocacy and by rehabilitating classrooms, constructing temporary learning spaces, providing learning materials and engaging the community to ensure the continuity of learning in safe and secure conditions. For example, in the Central African Republic, the third-largest humanitarian crisis in the world,<sup>55</sup> GHTF helped UNICEF to reach nearly 70,000 displaced children (46 per cent girls) with education in 296 temporary learning spaces staffed with teachers recruited by the community. In Burkina Faso, UNICEF worked in partnership with the government and NGOs to accelerate the implementation of the Safe School strategy through the cascade training of teachers on the strategy, focusing on risk analysis, mitigation plans and psychosocial support. This strengthened the resilience of some 1,400 schools in regions bordering Mali, benefiting more than 293,000 students (44 per cent girls), including nearly 6,100 refugee children (54 per cent girls) (exceeding the 150,000 targeted).

### Commitment 4: Psychosocial and health services for children and teachers are integrated in educational response

In crisis- and conflict-affected settings, children often face long-term repercussions to their physical, mental and psychosocial well-being; and teachers and schools play an important role in providing psychosocial support and other critical services to learners. UNICEF has therefore continued to integrate psychosocial and health services into its education-in-emergencies responses. In Chad, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Civic Promotion, provided teacher training on psychosocial support and risk mapping in schools (78 teachers trained, including 9 women) and combating violence and inequalities in the classroom (410 teachers trained, including 161 women), benefiting nearly 11,000 children affected by crisis (exceeding the 8,000 targeted). In response to the migration crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Colombia, around 14,500 children (51 per cent girls) accessed education programmes incorporating coping skills and emotional support activities, which are crucial to building the resilience of children in the context of migration.

### Commitment 5: Adolescents, young children and caregivers access appropriate life-skills programmes and information about the emergency, and those who have missed out on schooling, especially adolescents, receive information on educational options

UNICEF supports young people and caregivers impacted by conflict to develop necessary life skills for healthy, productive lives and to contribute to resilience building. With 400,000 out-of-school children and adolescents in Turkey, UNICEF worked in partnership with the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, to conduct regular outreach campaigns in host communities to inform Syrian refugee families about available educational opportunities. This effort reached nearly 32,000 children, including 10,500 out-of-school children who were referred directly to the Ministry of National Education for enrolment into formal education. In Lebanon, nearly 21,000 adolescents and youth (57 per cent females) completed competency and market-based skills training (97 per cent of the 21,300 targeted). Of those trained, nearly 7,000 youth (56 per cent females) received employment support services, including mentorship, on-the-job training and apprenticeships. In addition, more than 4,300 young people (55 per cent females) participated in employment or income-generating activities and more than 16,000 young people (54 per cent females) received life-skills training (84 per cent of the 19,000 targeted).

### Challenges and constraints

Far too many children remain out of school for too long in emergency contexts. As the severity and magnitude of emergencies and their impact on children's education continues to increase, funding remains insufficient and the capacity to respond to children's educational needs in times of crisis remains a challenge. For example, the 69 per cent funding gap for the educational response to Syrian refugees created severe limits on how the organization could respond. Limited access in the face of insecurity, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Myanmar, posed challenges to implementation and caused delays in delivery. UNICEF will broaden its efforts to protect children's access to education in crisis situations and enable diverse and sustainable learning pathways for children. This will include building country capacities to respond to education in emergencies, while also strengthening the capacities of regional and country offices to address the impact of shocks and stresses and avoid disruptions of education service delivery. An education-in-emergencies eLearning course will be rolled out globally in four languages to improve knowledge and skills for education-in-emergencies interventions. UNICEF will also lead research with partners on providing a pathway for displaced and conflict-affected children and adolescents to continue learning and have that learning formally recognized, and to facilitate smooth transitions to formal education systems.

# Goal Area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

## Child protection in emergencies

UNICEF is a global leader in child protection in emergencies, providing critical services to girls and boys exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation in humanitarian situations, and galvanizing action across sectors to ensure every child is protected. In 2018, UNICEF and partners provided protective services to millions of children affected by armed conflict and natural disasters in 68 humanitarian situations. Out of the total US\$658 million expenditure under Goal Area 3 in 2018, more than one third (35 per cent) was emergency funding to support critical child-protection-in-emergencies interventions.

Overall, UNICEF reached more than 3.6 million girls and boys with psychosocial support (83 per cent of the targeted population); securing the release of more than 13,000 children associated with armed groups and helping them to reintegrate in their families and communities; and supporting 1.3 million women, girls and boys with gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response services (exceeding the 1.2 million targeted and the 2018 Strategic Plan milestone of 80 per cent). In addition, more than 60 per cent of the more than 113,000 children registered as unaccompanied or separated in emergencies received family-based care or were reunified with families; and more than 3.7 million girls and boys in 20 countries received mine risk education (72 per cent of the 5.2 million targeted, just below the Strategic Plan milestone of 80 per cent).



**83%**

of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in humanitarian situations were provided with psychosocial support.  
EXCEEDED 2018 MILESTONE OF 80%

**Commitment 1: Effective leadership is established for both the child protection and gender-based violence cluster areas of responsibility,<sup>56</sup> with links to other cluster/sector coordination mechanisms on critical intersectoral issues. Support is provided for the establishment of a mental health and psychosocial support coordination mechanism**

In 2018, 19 out of the 20 country offices in the Global Humanitarian Overview with an inter-agency humanitarian response plan had designated staff to lead or co-lead the child protection area of responsibility/

sector. Cluster coordination performance assessment was undertaken with partners in six of these countries and 100 per cent (of the six) met satisfactory performance for established functions. The UNICEF-led Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility provided 886 days of deployment support in 2018, including to Bangladesh, Cameroon, Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic, laying the groundwork for adequate coverage and quality child protection programming. The Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility and WFP conducted an analysis of how food insecurity can give rise to child labour in places such as Mali, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. This work has helped UNICEF and its partners to carry out more effective child protection services on the ground. Seven countries are now using this approach in their humanitarian needs overview and humanitarian response planning processes, with additional countries planned for 2019. Recognizing the critical role of governments in leading child protection, the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office supported seven governments to develop whole-of-government action plans, in partnership with the African Union and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. To ensure that child survivors of gender-based violence have access to appropriate and quality services, field support was provided to coordination groups in Iraq, Myanmar, the Niger and the Sudan. UNICEF Myanmar used this support to scale up their efforts on child survivors in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

**Commitment 2: Monitoring and reporting of grave violations and other serious protection concerns regarding children and women are undertaken and systematically trigger response (including advocacy)**

UNICEF contributes to global efforts to monitor and report on grave violations of children's rights in armed conflict, working with other United Nations bodies and partners to document these incidents, mobilize greater support for affected children and communities, and hold parties to the conflict to account. In 2018, more than 13,000 grave violations were documented across 20 countries through country task forces on monitoring and reporting co-chaired by UNICEF.<sup>57</sup> By the end of 2018, 14 out of 66 parties to conflict (21 per cent) listed in the annex to the United Nations Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict had signed an action plan to prevent and end grave violations against children. UNICEF also supported the drafting of five such reports on the Democratic



Republic of the Congo, Mali, Myanmar, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. In Somalia, UNICEF-led improvements to the monitoring and reporting system resulted in the documentation of incidents affecting nearly 5,000 children. In Burundi, UNICEF trained 318 partner staff on the monitoring and reporting of grave violations and case management to support child victims, resulting in 735 cases being documented and more than 60 per cent of child victims receiving appropriate services. In the Sudan, after years of UNICEF support to end the recruitment of children and strengthen the national child protection system, the armed forces of the Sudan completed their action plan and were delisted.<sup>58</sup>

### **Commitment 3: Key child protection mechanisms are strengthened in emergency-affected areas**

Efforts to reinforce child protection systems in emergency-affected areas were strengthened, ensuring vulnerable children had access to safe environments and specialized services. In Iraq, UNICEF partnered with 14 government and non-government agencies to strengthen child protection services for refugee children and families, reaching nearly 14,700 refugee children (7,118 girls and 7,551 boys) with psychosocial services and more than 1,800 refugee children (852 girls and 981 boys) with specialized support such as case management and alternative care. In Mauritania, humanitarian thematic funds were pivotal to extending the reach of community-based child protection mechanisms. In M'Berra refugee camp alone, 310 community members were trained to identify and refer child victims of violence and abuse, and 43 child protection committees were established and supported to develop and implement community action plans to keep children safe.

### **Commitment 4: Separation of children from families is prevented and addressed, and family-based care is promoted**

UNICEF strives to reunite separated children with their families as quickly as possible, while ensuring their care and protection, recognizing that the longer a separation lasts, the greater the child's risk of exposure to violence, abuse and exploitation. In Nigeria, UNICEF documented nearly 9,600 cases of unaccompanied and separated children, and provided case management services, including alternative care options, to all children identified. Restricted humanitarian access limited family reunification services, however, with only 732 children successfully rejoining their families or caregivers. In Afghanistan, where unaccompanied children have been forcibly returned from neighbouring countries, UNICEF and partners supported the reunification of some 3,000 adolescent boys with their families and caregivers, and provided reintegration services including psychosocial support, access to education and economic support.

Globally, UNICEF supported 60 per cent of the 113,000 children registered as unaccompanied and separated in emergencies with family-based care or reunification with their families.

### **Commitment 5: Violence, exploitation and abuse of children and women, including gender-based violence, are prevented and addressed**

UNICEF employs a three-pillar approach to gender-based violence in emergencies programming: (1) services for survivors; (2) community-based prevention; and (3) integration of gender-based violence risk mitigation across other sector interventions. In Bangladesh, UNICEF and partners reached nearly 27,000 refugee women and girls with multisectoral gender-based violence prevention and response services, helping them to find safety and justice following their flight from conflict and grave human rights violations in Myanmar. In Somalia, humanitarian thematic funds helped UNICEF to mobilize a multi-agency, multisectoral coalition to identify and address urgent safety concerns for women and girls in and around displacement sites. As a result, health, WASH, shelter, camp management and other sectors took action to make their services safer for women and girls (e.g., by improving lighting or providing locks on latrine doors), to improve their procedures for safely referring survivors for specialized services, and to adopt routine measures to identify new gender-based violence risks. In Turkey, UNICEF and partners redoubled efforts to combat gender-based violence, focusing on eliminating child marriage. UNICEF trained over 1,000 government staff, religious and community leaders, caregivers and adolescents on how to respond in a survivor-centred manner to child marriage cases, and reached 8,000 girls and women, including both Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens, through structured, community-led activities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

Globally, UNICEF supported 1.3 million women, girls and boys with gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response services (exceeding the targeted population).



## Case Study 5: Working with partners and communities to protect conflict-affected children in South Sudan

The humanitarian and protection situation in South Sudan remains dire, with continued violence, multiple displacements, acute food insecurity, economic crisis and disease outbreaks. Children face multiple threats to their well-being, such as gender-based violence, family separation, and recruitment and use by armed groups, but also have limited access to protection, with an estimated 1.5 million living in hard-to-reach areas.

Despite access constraints, UNICEF and partners reached more than 257,000 children (120,545 girls and 136,937 boys) with structured psychosocial support through a community-based approach intended to strengthen the nurturing and protective skills of caregivers and social networks (exceeding the 250,000 targeted). More than 18,000 caregivers and community members participated in support groups and received critical information on how to manage their own stress and how to support positive coping for their children.

Working in collaboration with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, UNICEF also facilitated the release of 955 children from armed groups, including 265 girls – a significant increase due to improved gender sensitivity in identification procedures. Humanitarian thematic funding helped UNICEF to pair each child with a dedicated social worker and provide them with holistic reintegration support. UNICEF is also working nationwide to ensure children separated from their families receive psychosocial, reunification and reintegration support. More than 1,100 children (556 girls and 556 boys) were reunited with their families in 2018. New partner organizations have joined the response and received training, which has helped to expand case management services and tailor support for children with acute protection concerns.

In 2019, UNICEF will work to strengthen its holistic, multisectoral response to keep children safe, with a focus on recovery and resilience. UNICEF will prioritize basic social services, community-based system strengthening, accountability to affected populations and durable solutions for displaced populations.



Falluoch, 11, holds a drawing of his parents, who he has not seen for two years. They became separated during an outbreak of violence in Malakal and have not seen each other since. UNICEF has taken the boy's information in the hope of reuniting him with his family (October 2018).

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## Commitment 6: Psychosocial support is provided to children and their caregivers

With increasing numbers of children displaced and affected by protracted emergencies, UNICEF is diversifying its approach to be more holistic by including community-led services and focusing on strengthening family and social supports and mental health and psychosocial support systems. In 2018, 13 countries implemented this approach based on new operational guidance published by UNICEF (Bangladesh, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine and Yemen).<sup>59</sup> In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, humanitarian thematic funding helped UNICEF and partners to provide more than 7,000 children and caregivers affected by the Ebola outbreak with psychosocial support through an innovative model integrating mental health and psychosocial support into all areas of the public-health response. UNICEF supported the establishment of locally led psychosocial commissions that identified and trained 734 community workers to provide individualized support and multisectoral referrals.<sup>60</sup> In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF and partners reached 377,000 children with structured mental health and psychosocial support services, including giving support to their caregivers through parenting programmes.

Globally, UNICEF supported 3.6 million girls and boys with psychosocial support (83 per cent of the targeted population).

## Commitment 7: Child recruitment and use, as well as illegal and arbitrary detention, are addressed and prevented for conflict-affected children

UNICEF works in partnership with governments and other stakeholders in 20 countries to prevent child recruitment by armed forces or armed groups and to support children's release and reintegration in situations of armed conflict. With UNICEF support, more than 13,600 children in 16 countries across five regions were released from armed forces and armed groups in 2018, and more than 13,500 received UNICEF-supported care and services, of whom more than 9,300 (68 per cent) were reintegrated with their families. In Afghanistan, UNICEF successfully advocated with the government to release 252 children associated with the Taliban from adult prisons into juvenile centres where children received legal aid, psychosocial support and education. In Somalia, following sustained advocacy by UNICEF and other United Nations actors, the government agreed to shift its policy to treat recruited children as victims rather than combatants. Thirty-four children previously associated with Al-Shabaab received an official pardon, and all children have now been reunited with their parents and are receiving reintegration support.

## Commitment 8: The use of landmines and other indiscriminate or illicit weapons by state and non-state actors is prevented, and their impact is addressed

Landmines and other explosive remnants resulted in the killing or injuring of nearly 2,500 children in 2018, the highest number of child casualties in more than 20 years.<sup>61</sup> Children were also harmed by explosive attacks such as air strikes, shelling and other forms of explosive violence, particularly in densely populated areas. UNICEF prioritized action to strengthen mine risk education, victim assistance and advocacy for ratification and/or compliance with international humanitarian law in 2018. For example, in Yemen, where conflict and the use of explosives continue in densely populated areas, UNICEF reached nearly 1.6 million children and community members (including over 631,000 boys and 514,000 girls) with life-saving mine risk education (exceeding the 1.5 million targeted). UNICEF also expanded victim assistance services, providing 315 children with disabilities with assistive devices and rehabilitation support. In Ukraine, UNICEF reached more than 613,000 children affected by the ongoing conflict with mine risk education, and began an innovative master trainer programme, empowering 418 children and adolescents to deliver mine risk education in their own communities.

## Challenges and constraints

In 2018, more complex and protracted emergencies, insecure operational contexts and funding shortfalls posed major challenges to UNICEF's efforts to care for and protect children affected by crisis. With the average humanitarian crisis now lasting for more than nine years,<sup>62</sup> many children are growing up under harsh and unstable conditions, with potentially dire consequences for their long-term development. At the same time, the humanitarian operating context is characterized by greater disregard for international humanitarian and human rights law by parties to conflict, as well as the denial of humanitarian access and the use of explosives in densely populated, urban areas. Funding for child protection also continues to be outstripped by the growing numbers of children in need of protection. UNICEF is working to meet these challenges by advocating for the rights of children in conflict and developing innovative strategies that bridge the humanitarian-development nexus. This includes developing more adaptive programme models, including increasing the engagement of first responders and communities, using technology to extend reach, developing multisectoral integrated responses and leveraging partnerships to transform humanitarian action on a broad scale. UNICEF is also working with governments and engaging with non-state actors to address violations of international humanitarian law and prevent and end violence against women and children in armed conflict, bringing the weight of inter-ministerial collaboration to bear on multifaceted challenges such as child reintegration, and promoting collective action on gender-based violence in emergencies and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

# Goal Area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

## WASH in emergencies

WASH interventions are at the core of life-saving response in emergencies. In 2018, UNICEF responded with WASH interventions in 64 countries. Out of the total US\$1 billion expenditure under Goal Area 4 in 2018, nearly half (49 per cent) was emergency funding to support critical WASH-in-emergencies interventions. In its largest WASH effort to date, UNICEF reached 43.6 million people with emergency water supply interventions (exceeding the targeted population), including 11.6 million with durable water supply systems and 32 million people through trucking and other temporary measures. Over 13 million people benefited from support for emergency sanitation services, and 4.4 million children in crisis-affected countries received WASH services in schools and safe learning spaces.



# 104%

of the UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations were provided with sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.

EXCEEDED 2018 MILESTONE OF 93%

### Commitment 1: Effective leadership is established for WASH cluster/inter-agency coordination, with links to other cluster/sector coordination mechanisms on critical intersectoral issues

In 2018, nineteen out of the 20 country offices in the Global Humanitarian Overview with an inter-agency humanitarian response plan had designated staff to lead or co-lead WASH sectors/clusters. Cluster coordination performance assessment was undertaken with partners in 13 of these countries and 85 per cent (of the 13) met satisfactory performance for established functions. UNICEF cluster leadership at the national and subnational levels was closely supported by the Global WASH Cluster and the Field Support Team, which contributed 2,058 days of deployment support to 21 affected countries. In Bangladesh and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Field Support Team deployments covered all three modes of support: WASH cluster coordination, sector-wide assessments and the establishment or refinement of information management systems for effective decision-making and efficient sector response by partners. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the Field Support Team facilitated assessments and coordination at

multiple hubs, including inside the country in the north-east, and from Gaziantep, Turkey. In addition, the Global WASH Cluster's strong engagement with the Sanitation and Water for All partnership helped to bring the WASH humanitarian and development agendas closer together, and to promote stronger links between humanitarian and development actors. In the West and Central Africa region, UNICEF worked through the Regional Cholera Platform to support country offices and partners to respond to cholera outbreaks through the dissemination of tools, alerts, training, advocacy and coordination with the Global Task Force for Cholera Control. In its capacity as cluster lead agency in Afghanistan, UNICEF worked with the government, the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghanistan Refugees and Norwegian Church Aid to develop WASH-in-emergencies guidelines, and supported 17 additional provinces to establish local coordination systems and contingency plans.

### Commitment 2: Children and women access sufficient water of appropriate quality and quantity for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene

In 2018, the organization's response to the critical water needs of crisis-affected populations demonstrated a strong effort to incorporate sustainable solutions and link humanitarian and development programming. For example, in Yemen, UNICEF met the immediate, life-threatening water needs of the affected population, reaching nearly 930,000 people with short-term solutions (93 per cent of the 1 million targeted), and provided durable solutions to safe water by strengthening the resilience of local communities and the capacity of local institutions, reaching nearly 5.4 million people. In South Sudan, UNICEF helped to ensure the ownership and sustainability of safe water supply systems by forming and training 218 WASH committees (40 per cent women members) on the operation and maintenance of water points. This included the provision of basic spare parts and strengthening the capacities of registered pump mechanics and manual drillers' associations. In Somalia, 300,000 people in four urban areas gained sustained access to safe water through infrastructure improvements. UNICEF supported line ministries at the federal and regional levels with capacity strengthening and technical support throughout the project. In the Philippines, humanitarian thematic funding added value by enabling UNICEF to reach people with safe water while also strengthening local capacities for maintaining water safety. UNICEF reached more than 17,000 people through the distribution of 3,500 water kits and the repair of water sources, and supported the training of 61 staff members from six municipalities on water quality monitoring and testing.

## Case Study 6: Responding to the cholera outbreak in Yemen through Rapid Response Teams

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains one of the largest in the world – 24 million people (80 per cent of the population) require life-saving assistance and protection. With over half of the country's health facilities not functioning and 17.3 million people in urgent need of safe water, the population is at heightened risk of disease outbreaks, including cholera and diphtheria.

In 2018, UNICEF and partners provided an integrated cholera response in Yemen, incorporating health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and community engagement prevention and response activities targeting 117 high-risk areas. To overcome the health system challenges, UNICEF deployed Rapid Response Teams in 20 governorates to reach communities with suspected cholera cases with hygiene kits, household water-treatment tablets and hygiene-awareness sessions. With UNICEF support, nearly 5 million Yemenis gained access to safe drinking water (83 per cent of the 6 million targeted) and nearly 732,000 people in high-risk/high-priority areas received cholera vaccination. These activities contributed to curbing one of the largest cholera/acute watery diarrhoea outbreaks ever by helping to reduce the number of suspected new cases from more than 1 million in 2017 to 370,000 in 2018.

In 2019, UNICEF will continue to focus on improving access to primary health care for conflict-affected people in Yemen. This will include scaling up the response to communicable disease outbreaks, supporting community prevention and management of malnutrition, and facilitating the rehabilitation and sustainability of local water management systems.



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A child is vaccinated against cholera in Al Marawi'ah District, Hudaydah Governorate, Yemen (September 2018).

### Commitment 3: Children and women access toilets and washing facilities that are culturally appropriate, secure, sanitary, user-friendly and gender-appropriate

Culturally appropriate and gender-appropriate safe and sanitary sanitation facilities in humanitarian situations play a critical role in saving lives by protecting populations from communicable disease outbreaks. In Bangladesh, UNICEF reached more than 648,000 Rohingya refugees and host communities with safe and dignified latrines and washing facilities across all camp

areas in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the Bangladeshi Army. In parallel, UNICEF provided latrine construction materials to 1,000 families and applied the community-led total sanitation approach to ensure that the open-defaecation-free environment was sustained. In Burkina Faso, using GHTF, UNICEF and implementing partners scaled up and implemented community-led total sanitation activities in the conflict-affected Sahel region to build the resilience of communities hosting Malian refugees. In response to heavy rains and flooding in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNICEF reached more than 7,000 people with



sanitation services through the provision of 25 pour-flush toilets, 24 bath cubicles and 8 handwashing tables for boys and girls, as well as safe drinking water in the evacuation camps around Sanamxay (exceeding the 6,300 targeted). In the Niger, nearly 58,000 people in the Diffa region benefited from improved sanitation infrastructure through emergency and semi-durable latrines. To meet the needs of women and people living with disabilities, latrines were built in separate blocks for women and men and were equipped with locks and access ramps.

Globally, UNICEF supported 43.6 million people with emergency water supply interventions (exceeding the targeted population).

#### **Commitment 4: Children and women receive critical WASH-related information to prevent child illness, especially diarrhoea**

Hygiene promotion and the distribution of basic hygiene supplies are critical to preventing disease outbreaks in humanitarian situations. During the cholera outbreaks in Zimbabwe, UNICEF delivered key health and hygiene messages to nearly 1.3 million people in Harare and other cholera hot spots using a range of communication channels, including door-to-door and media campaigns. This was achieved through the training of community health volunteers and school health teachers and the establishment of community health clubs, which were responsible for disseminating key health and hygiene education. In Djibouti, in collaboration with the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti, UNICEF conducted a large-scale hygiene promotion campaign on handwashing and household water treatment practices that reached more than 25,000 people through multiple channels such as short message service (SMS) and face-to-face outreach. Additionally, more than 5,000 people living along the migrant routes in the Tadjourah region and at risk of acute watery diarrhoea were also reached through hygiene-promotion interventions in partnership with a national NGO. As part of the hurricane response in Cuba, through an educational communication campaign, Always Safe Water, UNICEF promoted handwashing and the responsible use of water among all community members and helped to empower adolescents as agents of change. Adolescents also received hygiene kits with water containers, water purification tablets, soap and buckets with lids. In Bangladesh, in response to the Rohingya refugee crisis, UNICEF and partners distributed more than 121,000 hygiene kits alongside safe water and hygiene-promotion activities, allowing nearly 693,000 individuals to practise safe hygiene and reducing the incidence of waterborne disease (exceeding the 600,000 targeted). Special attention was given to the needs of women and girls with activities aimed at raising their awareness about, and providing supplies for, menstrual hygiene management.

Globally, UNICEF supported 13 million people with emergency sanitation services.

#### **Commitment 5: Children access safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in their learning environment and in child-friendly spaces**

In humanitarian situations, adequate WASH in learning facilities is important to promoting school attendance, learning and healthy growth for children in stressful environments. Following volcanic activity in the Pacific islands and successive mass evacuations of Ambae island, UNICEF used humanitarian thematic funding to support the government to design and distribute WASH-in-schools kits and conduct interactive hygiene-promotion activities with students and teachers in both host and displaced communities. Overall, nearly 4,500 students received the kits and 60 female teachers and 673 students received menstrual hygiene management education. In India, UNICEF supported the de-sludging of septic tanks for 105 school sanitation facilities, which were serving as temporary camps for flood-affected people. In addition, a cleaning campaign and minor repairs were supported in nearly 3,300 flood-affected schools to ensure the functionality of WASH facilities. In Angola, UNICEF supported WASH-in-schools initiatives that reached 755 schools and over 1,700 teachers with training on the prevention of cholera and mosquito-borne diseases, indirectly benefiting 400,000 students.

Globally, UNICEF supported 4.4 million children in crisis-affected countries with WASH services in schools and safe learning spaces.

#### **Challenges and constraints**

Key challenges that UNICEF faced in 2018 included the weak capacities of subnational government systems, financial gaps and humanitarian access constraints (e.g., in Cameroon, Mali and Myanmar). Underfunding was a particular concern in protracted crises. Despite the organization's advocacy efforts, Ethiopia struggled to raise funds for durable WASH interventions for the 2.8 million internally displaced persons,<sup>63</sup> and the Congo received no funding for WASH in 2018, which led to vast underachievement against targets for safe water, sanitation and WASH in schools. UNICEF will address these challenges by providing capacity-building opportunities for government counterparts, including through the development of a WASH-in-emergencies graduate degree course in Jordan for national partners; and working closely with other United Nations agencies and implementing partners to advocate for better access to affected populations, including through closer collaboration with UNHCR to reach refugees in camp and host community settings with quality services.

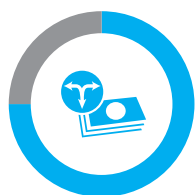


# Goal Area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

UNICEF works to provide all children with an equitable chance in life, including those affected by emergencies. This includes improving the use of social protection in fragile and humanitarian settings and implementing interventions that aim to reach, and meet the unique needs of, children with disabilities, adolescents/youth and women and girls. Out of the total US\$427 million expenditure under Goal Area 5 in 2018, nearly one third (29 per cent) was emergency funding to support critical emergency interventions.

## Social protection

In 2018, UNICEF incrementally scaled up its work on social protection in emergencies with a sharper focus on expanding the use of humanitarian cash transfers in ways that built on and strengthened social protection systems. UNICEF supported governments in 36 countries to enhance the preparedness of social protection systems to scale up in response to crisis during the year.<sup>64</sup> Of these, nine countries reported having national cash transfer programmes that were ready to respond to crisis.<sup>65</sup>



### 9 countries

with national cash transfer programmes were ready to respond to a crisis.

2018 MILESTONE: 12 COUNTRIES



### 2.4 million

households benefitted from cash assistance in 26 countries.

Overall, UNICEF reached 2.4 million households with humanitarian cash assistance in 26 countries in 2018, benefiting 7.1 million children. In 13 countries<sup>66</sup> (out of the 26), the organization supported the scaling up of existing social protection systems in response to crisis by providing technical assistance and/or funding for humanitarian cash transfer programmes to be delivered through the existing social protection systems, reaching more than 645,000 households, including nearly 1.7 million children.

UNICEF continued to support the Yemen Emergency Cash Transfers Project in partnership with the World Bank, which built on Yemen's Social Welfare Fund and reached 1.4 million households, including 4.5 million children, in 2018. Independent third-party monitoring of the programme indicates that for 89 per cent of beneficiary households, the cash transfers increased their financial access to basic social services such as health care, food and water.

In response to Hurricane Maria, which struck the Caribbean in late 2017, UNICEF and WFP supported the Government of Dominica to continue to implement the Joint Emergency Cash Transfer Programme in 2018. The programme entailed scaling up the existing social assistance programme to provide a top-up to existing beneficiaries and reach new beneficiaries. More than 6,000 children from beneficiary households received a child-related top-up as a part of this programme in 2017 and 2018, with more than 5,000 reached in 2018 (exceeding the 6,000 targeted for both years). Households reported that they spent the funds on meeting basic needs such as food, clothing and school supplies – and noted that the money had made a noticeable difference to their ability to cope with the aftermath of the hurricane.<sup>67</sup> The programme's success led to the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Offices of UNICEF and WFP to strengthen collaboration on humanitarian and development engagement in the region. The intervention provides a strong example of how multiple donors can partner to achieve significant results.<sup>68</sup>

In Madagascar, UNICEF and partners, including the World Bank, continued to support the Fiavota (recovery with dignity) emergency and recovery cash programme – an expansion of the national cash transfer programme designed to support the transition from emergency response to recovery and longer-term development. In 2018, UNICEF reached 4,000 vulnerable households affected by the prolonged crisis, as well as the depletion of livelihood assets and reduced productive activities, with 30,000 Malagasy ariary (US\$8) per month. About half of these transfers were financed with humanitarian thematic funding.

## Case Study 7: Supporting the expansion of social protection systems for Syrian refugees in Turkey

Now in its eighth year, the Syrian refugee crisis remains the largest displacement crisis in the world, with over 5.6 million registered refugees, including more than 2.5 million children living in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Despite the efforts of host governments to provide the refugees with access to public services, such as health and education, demand continues to exceed the capacity of institutions and infrastructure to respond.

In 2018, UNICEF continued to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees, while catalysing development progress across the subregion. In Turkey, UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, the Ministry of National Education and the Turkish Red Crescent Society, extended the conditional cash transfer for education (CCTE) programme to Syrians and other refugees, reaching nearly 411,000 children (205,736 boys and 205,004 girls). The programme, which more than doubled in size in 2018, aims to encourage school enrolment and regular attendance for children from vulnerable households. Administrative data indicate that 76 per cent of CCTE beneficiary children regularly attended school; and a household survey found that 60 per cent of beneficiary families attributed their children's school attendance to the cash transfer programme.

The extension of the CCTE to refugees also includes a strategic child protection component, including visits to households with children at risk of not meeting the attendance criteria and referrals for these children to child protection services as needed. Over 50,000 children were reached with such outreach services in 2018. The child protection component of the CCTE for refugees has generated strong interest within the social protection sector in Turkey, resulting in a policy dialogue regarding models and approaches to better link cash assistance and social services in the national social protection system.

The protracted presence of Syrian refugees has placed enormous strain on existing services and systems in host countries such as Turkey. UNICEF and its partners will continue to help refugees and vulnerable host communities to meet their basic needs, while strengthening the capacities of national and subnational service delivery systems, including the social protection system, in equitable ways to support and increase social cohesion within and between communities.



Emine, 9, a Syrian refugee, uses a wheelchair for mobility following injuries she sustained after a bomb attack destroyed her home in the Syrian Arab Republic. She and her family now live in Turkey, where they receive support from UNICEF, including child protection services and cash grants through the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education Programme (February 2018).

## Challenges and constraints

UNICEF has committed to systematically consider cash-based programming in ways that build on and form the basis for sustainable social protection systems. Still, existing social protection systems can be weak or nascent in crisis-prone countries, making this work difficult. UNICEF will therefore increase its emphasis on preparing and strengthening social protection systems to deliver humanitarian cash transfers in advance of a crisis. This includes working with governments to adjust the social protection policy and legal framework, as well as the operational mechanisms for scaling up social transfers and strengthening coordination mechanisms for cash transfers in emergencies. To address the lack of adequate funding for the continuation of cash-based programmes, UNICEF will fundraise for and invest in its own internal capacities to scale up and systematize the use of cash transfers in humanitarian action.

*(See 'Future workplan' on p. 58 for more on how UNICEF will address cash-related challenges.)*

## Children with disabilities in emergencies

Globally, 1 in every 10 children has a disability.<sup>69</sup> During disasters and conflict, children with disabilities face disproportionate risk and are more likely to be left behind, abandoned or neglected.<sup>70</sup> However, while crises put children with disabilities at risk, they can also create opportunities through the design of inclusive services and by 'building back better'.

Disability-inclusive humanitarian action – including mainstreaming disability into humanitarian policies, programmes, capacities and supplies – is a growing priority for UNICEF. In 2018, 59 UNICEF country offices reported conducting specific work on children with disabilities in humanitarian action, a significant increase from 21 country offices in 2017.<sup>71</sup> Of these 59 countries, 20 had Humanitarian Action for Children appeals and reported that their humanitarian responses in 2018 systematically included children with disabilities – an increase of 67 per cent from 12 countries in 2017.



59

country offices (36%)  
reported conducting specific  
work on children with  
disabilities in humanitarian  
action.

EXCEEDED 2018 MILESTONE OF 30%

To address critical gaps in knowledge and capacity in the area of disability-inclusive humanitarian action, in 2018, UNICEF rolled out specific guidance on the inclusion of children with disabilities in humanitarian

action. In the Middle East and North Africa region, the guidance was included in a regional action plan that emerged from the Middle East and North Africa Regional Humanitarian Network Meeting, in which more than 15 countries participated. This will enable country offices in the region to take concerted steps to address the inclusion of children with disabilities in their humanitarian programming in the coming years. UNICEF also released the discussion paper, 'Children with Disabilities in Situations of Armed Conflict',<sup>72</sup> which examines the heightened risks faced by children with disabilities and provides recommendations on strengthening protection and disability-inclusive humanitarian assistance. The paper was launched during the first meetings of the Security Council on people with disabilities and armed conflict, which was co-sponsored by UNICEF.

At the country level, UNICEF increased access to humanitarian programmes and services for children with disabilities across WASH, education, child protection and cash programmes. In Bangladesh, Jordan, Nigeria and the Syrian Arab Republic, nearly 34,000 women and girls with disabilities received menstrual hygiene management services through large-scale disability-inclusive programmes. In Kenya, more than 6,000 children – 53 per cent of whom were girls with disabilities – accessed inclusive and accessible child-friendly spaces in refugee camps. In Afghanistan, all 66 schools built in the Central Highlands in 2018 include accessibility features such as ramps and accessible toilets.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF supported the expansion of its cash transfer programme for families of children with disabilities from two to six governorates. The cash transfer scheme is complemented by child protection case management services to enhance the inclusion of children with disabilities in available services. Some 10,500 children with disabilities were reached with cash assistance and case management in 2018, and more than 19,400 have been reached with these services since the programme began in 2016. Post-distribution monitoring surveys in 2018 have found a 65 per cent increase in health expenditure and 88 per cent increase in education expenditure for households with children with disabilities after receiving the cash assistance. In addition, over 90 per cent of families were satisfied or very satisfied with the case management services for their children.

## Challenges and constraints

The unavailability of reliable and comparable national data on children with disabilities, especially in humanitarian contexts, continues to challenge the delivery of disability-inclusive humanitarian programmes and services. In 2019, UNICEF will invest in strengthening data collection and monitoring with the finalization and roll-out of the guidance on strengthening disability inclusion in humanitarian assessments and planning, in collaboration with inter-agency partners. Uneven capacity and knowledge on mainstreaming the inclusion of children with disabilities in humanitarian programmes also continue to present

challenges to UNICEF and partners. To address this, UNICEF plans to strengthen knowledge and capacity by rolling out additional guidelines on children with disabilities in humanitarian action and making technical support on disability inclusion available to country offices.

## Adolescents and youth in emergencies

Nearly 125 million adolescents are living in countries or areas affected by armed conflict.<sup>73</sup> As these young people transition from childhood into young adulthood they face a multitude of challenges, including difficulty accessing basic services, education and opportunities to build their future. UNICEF therefore works to ensure that the priorities, needs and rights of adolescent girls and boys affected by crisis are addressed and that they are informed, consulted and meaningfully engaged throughout all stages of humanitarian action.

In 2018, UNICEF supported the development and launch of the Secretary-General's Youth Strategy<sup>74</sup> and the youth, peace and security report 'The Missing Peace'.<sup>75</sup> UNICEF also launched Generation Unlimited<sup>76</sup> – a global partnership dedicated to ensuring that every young person is in school, learning, training or employment by 2030 – as well as its own Programme Guidance for the Second Decade.<sup>77</sup> In addition, UNICEF, in collaboration with partners, led the development of the inter-agency guidelines on working with and for young people in humanitarian settings, which will be a key resource for the humanitarian community and young people themselves. These contributions all emphasize the need to work with and for adolescents in emergencies and to report on concrete results.

At the country level, more than 500,000 adolescent girls and boys living in humanitarian contexts across 23 countries were supported to lead or participate in civic-engagement initiatives through UNICEF programmes, and over 130,000 adolescents in 14 countries affected by crisis benefited from the Adolescent Kit for Expression and Innovation. The kit is a package of guidance, tools and supplies to support country programmes to reach and engage adolescents affected by crisis through education, child protection, youth development and peacebuilding initiatives.

For example, in Indonesia, UNICEF and partners used the Adolescent Kit for Expression and Innovation to engage adolescents in skills development, focusing on disaster-risk prevention and preparedness. The adolescents mapped potential risks, developed innovative solutions to manage the risks, presented these to their communities and engaged with policymakers to mobilize resources to implement the solutions. Based on this experience, the Ministry of Education and Culture committed to strengthening adolescent participation in risk assessments, and UNICEF supported the ministry to better equip responders to implement adolescent-focused activities.

In the Syrian Arab Republic and countries hosting Syrian refugees (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey), nearly 212,000 adolescents participated in or led civic-engagement initiatives through UNICEF-supported programmes. These initiatives are designed to foster a generation that is protected, educated, employable and that has a sense of shared responsibility through the provision of integrated services, skills development, civic and economic engagement at the community level, and participation in policy decision-making at local to global levels.

## Challenges and constraints

Incorporating the needs and priorities of adolescent boys and girls in sector-specific humanitarian plans and responses remains a challenge. In part, this is due to the lack of strong data on adolescents in humanitarian situations, which makes it difficult to plan and develop appropriate interventions for adolescent boys and girls. Therefore, in line with its priority to focus on the second decade of life, UNICEF, in coordination with the Norwegian Refugee Council, is leading the development of inter-agency guidelines on working with and for young people in humanitarian settings, which will be launched and operationalized in 2019. The organization is also continuing to consult and engage adolescent girls and boys in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes in all phases of humanitarian action.

## Accountability to affected populations

The inclusion of crisis-affected children and their families in the design, implementation and monitoring of emergency programmes is core to the approach that UNICEF takes towards humanitarian action. In 2018, of 157 countries<sup>78</sup> reporting, 71 (45 per cent) reported that affected populations were consulted throughout one or more phases of humanitarian programming. In addition, 45 per cent of countries reported providing information to affected and at-risk people, including the most marginalized groups, on life-enhancing and life-saving actions that they can take; 38 per cent reported providing information to affected and at-risk people, including the most marginalized groups, to make them better informed about their entitlements, the programme available to them and how to access these; and 34 per cent reported that affected people had access to systematic feedback and complaint mechanisms that are designed to reach the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, and inform decisions about programme design and course correction.

For example, in Bangladesh, as a member of the Communicating with Communities Working Group, UNICEF reinforced accountability mechanisms by increasing the participation of affected populations in the establishment and improvement of humanitarian services. In 2018, the number of Information and Feedback Centres operating





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Children smile and enjoy a singing activity at a UNICEF-supported child-friendly space in Ban Bok camp, Attapeu, Lao People's Democratic Republic (August 2018).

in Rohingya camps increased from 8 to 12. These centres disseminated life-saving information and collected 55,000 individual complaints, grievances and feedback on humanitarian assistance. These were collated through a digital platform and used to improve the response.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, emergency response from UNICEF has ensured that the needs and concerns of the affected population are taken into account in the design of the emergency response. For example, efforts have been made to ensure that all WASH facilities built or rehabilitated in schools and learning centres give due consideration to the specific needs of girls for privacy. An end-user survey to collect feedback on the use of toilets in schools in Qamishli city was conducted and it informed changes to the standard hygiene kit provided to women and girls in camps and shelters for internally displaced persons. The new hygiene kits, which have been designed to better meet the specific menstrual and hygiene management needs of girls, benefited nearly 25,000 women and girls.

UNICEF responded to the heightened risk that Ebola would spread from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Uganda by embarking on media engagement activities in 30 districts. A communication and community engagement risk strategy implemented in North Kivu, Ituri and Equateur provinces resulted in the mobilization of 25,000 local leaders, 15,000 front-line workers and 90,000

radio broadcasts in four languages across 113 stations to engage nearly 10 million people on Ebola prevention and to dispel rumours and misconceptions. Thirteen surveys of knowledge, attitudes and practices conducted during the response indicated an increase in Ebola-related knowledge from 23 per cent to 91 per cent.

## Challenges and constraints

While there has been significant progress in efforts to improve humanitarian accountability to affected populations (AAP), the scale, in terms of populations reached, is limited in most countries. In addition, the uptake and understanding of AAP remains limited across UNICEF and there is a need for better evidence of the added value of integrating AAP into humanitarian programming. Collective approaches remain ad hoc, and stronger support is needed to ensure that they are widely understood, adopted, resourced and supported by country leaderships. In 2019, UNICEF will undertake a rigorous and independent assessment of its strengths and weaknesses in regard to AAP, which will serve as a robust basis for further strengthening its approaches to AAP, particularly at the country level.

*(See 'Future workplan' on p. 58 for more on how UNICEF will address AAP-related challenges.)*



# Results by cross-cutting commitment

## Rapid assessment, monitoring and evaluation

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### **Commitment 1: The situation of children and women is monitored and sufficiently analysed and rapid assessments are carried out whenever necessary**

UNICEF is supporting country offices to strengthen the use of risk analysis to better assess the situation of children and women and make new country programmes more risk-informed. For example, in Pakistan, following risk-analysis workshops on social cohesion, drought, flooding and earthquakes, risk-informed adjustments were proposed to the country office's annual workplans. As of late 2018, some 47 country offices had supported similar processes.

A coordinated effort was initiated through UNICEF-led clusters, headquarters and regional offices to strengthen country office engagement in joint needs-assessment processes to drive evidence-based response planning and better link humanitarian and development programming. In 2018, UNICEF-led global cluster help desks, Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) and headquarters and regional offices provided training and technical support to more than 25 countries, including all UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies, to address key technical challenges identified in humanitarian needs overviews, including: defining people in need and target setting; analysis of gender, age, disability and other

vulnerability characteristics; and linking humanitarian and development needs-assessment processes.

In line with efforts to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action and to address these emerging technical challenges, UNICEF has continued to support the drive for stronger country-level joint needs assessment processes. In 2018, all 27 UNICEF country offices with inter-agency appeals contributed to joint needs-assessment process.<sup>79</sup> In 78 per cent of cases, these contributions were made through cluster coordinators and/or UNICEF staff and through UNICEF leadership on data collection and analysis for one or more sectors. In just under two thirds of cases, UNICEF took a lead role in data collection for all four sectors for which it led or co-led the cluster or area of responsibility (nutrition, WASH, education and child protection).

UNICEF continued to provide technical inputs into processes under the Global Cluster Coordinators Group, the Joint Inter-Sectoral Analysis Group and the humanitarian programme cycle-review process led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), all of which contributed to the strengthening of global needs-assessment guidance and resources. UNICEF-led clusters co-led work streams on gender and age disaggregation and the definition of clear scales for assessing the severity of humanitarian situations to improve prioritization. UNICEF-led clusters also initiated work on strengthening the complementarity of intersectoral data across their sectors and have continued collaboration with International Organization for Migration (IOM) on the Displacement Tracking System for children on the move (see 'Strengthening inter-agency coordination', p. 19).

## **Commitment 2: Systems for performance benchmarking regularly monitor UNICEF humanitarian action, enabling Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs) implementation to be measured**

In 2018, UNICEF continued efforts to maintain and strengthen systems for the high-frequency monitoring and reporting of humanitarian response coverage. All country offices with Humanitarian Action for Children appeals continued to report at the output level, relying in part on implementing partner reporting on priority high-frequency indicators. Under the eTools project, a reporting platform for UNICEF implementing partners was piloted in Malawi, Rwanda and the Sudan. Feedback from the pilots confirmed that the system was both user-friendly and will save time on reporting, including by helping to track disaggregated data. The pilot also provided an opportunity to align and strengthen results-based management and technical-monitoring guidance across UNICEF, among implementing partners and with clusters.

Systematic field monitoring served as a critical facet of performance monitoring, putting a lens on the quality of programming, supporting site-specific improvements

and technical support, and feeding into programme-wide improvements. Humanitarian field monitoring was conducted through a combination of staff and third-party monitors, with third-party monitoring used when security constraints or the large scale of the monitoring made it appropriate (e.g., in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Mali, Somalia and the Pacific islands). For example, in Cameroon, third-party monitors helped to identify populations in need that had not been reached by the humanitarian response. The scale of field monitoring was adjusted according to the scale of response and implementation challenges, with some country offices having very large-scale field monitoring systems, such as South Sudan, which had an average of 80 field monitoring site visits per month. New field monitoring guidance was issued in early 2018 on the planning and quality assurance of field monitoring systems, including reinforcing methods focusing on quality of programming and using field monitoring data for corrective action.

UNICEF also sought to strengthen its evidence systems to reflect advances in the use of feedback mechanisms with affected people, in line with its commitments to accountability to affected populations (AAP). In addition to the use of field monitoring with focus group discussions, other approaches used in 2018 included: the information and feedback centres for the Rohingya populations in Bangladesh; community monitoring mechanisms within the Polio Immunization and Communication Network in Afghanistan; the use of the existing U-Report system in Burundi (a two-way SMS-based communication platform) to help responders receive and respond to communications about health emergencies; and the use of systematic end-user surveys after non-food item distributions in the Syrian Arab Republic, which helped to refine the supplies distributed. Most UNICEF Rapid Response Mechanisms employed in 2018 used some form of follow-up field monitoring or feedback and complaint mechanisms. For example, in the Niger, the Rapid Response Mechanism routinely sets up a complaint committee engaging refugee, displaced and host populations.

## **Commitment 3: Humanitarian action is regularly assessed against the CCCs, policies, guidelines, UNICEF quality and accountability standards, and the stated objectives of humanitarian action through evaluative exercises, with partners wherever possible**

In 2018, UNICEF conducted a number of evaluations of its humanitarian action, including on its response in complex humanitarian emergencies, its response to the cholera epidemic in Yemen, and its response to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh.

The evaluation of the coverage and quality of the UNICEF humanitarian response in complex emergencies<sup>80</sup> found that UNICEF was among the largest and most important providers of humanitarian assistance and protection. At the same time, UNICEF country offices struggle to balance the



scale of response – that is, reaching the greatest number of people and children – with achieving quality programming and reaching those vulnerable populations that are most in need of assistance and protection. The timeliness of humanitarian response remains mixed, situation to situation, and within a given country. Recommendations covered the need for a strategic vision for accessing those in greatest need; improving evidence-based decision-making to determine coverage, quality and equity; developing a more coherent, modular humanitarian learning and knowledge management strategy; and improving risk analysis and risk-informed programming for timelier humanitarian response.

UNICEF undertook a real-time evaluation-plus<sup>81</sup> of its Level 3 response to the 2017 cholera/acute watery diarrhoea epidemic in Yemen.<sup>82</sup> The primary objective was to inform the organization's integrated cholera/acute watery diarrhoea response, prevention and system-strengthening plan, while identifying corrective actions to better respond to needs. The evaluation's findings highlighted the slow scaling up of the response following the system-wide failure to anticipate the epidemic in 2017; but also recognized the quick action that UNICEF took once the epidemic became apparent, and the relevance of its approach. The evaluation recommendations immediately triggered a number of critical actions by the Emergency Management Team, including the establishment of the Middle East and North Africa Regional Office Cholera Task Force; the development of the RRT coordination centre for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and the recruitment of an epidemiologist at the regional level.

UNICEF also used real-time evaluation-plus to review its response to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh, generate evidence to improve the response as the crisis was unfolding and identify lessons to apply to any future situation of rapid mass and forced displacement and settlement.<sup>83</sup> Several successes in the organization's response were identified, including its rapid scale-up and the general appropriateness of its advocacy efforts around the issues of the weak protection environment, the congestion in camps and the challenges related to

inter-agency coordination. The key gaps included its overall strategic vision, which lacked a clear articulation of the gender dimensions of the crisis, the intersectoral links required for effective service delivery and the sequencing of priorities. The evaluation also found that quantity was prioritized over quality, even some months into the response, across several areas of work. Recommended improvements focus on preparedness, coordination, strategic planning and integrated programming – many of which UNICEF started implementing while the evaluation was still unfolding.

## Challenges and constraints

Challenges remain in assessing the situation of children, especially in protracted emergencies, where more systematic data gap mapping and prioritized data collection planning and investment is needed, and where humanitarian and development assessment processes must be better connected. There is also a need for sustained investment in capacity development at the cluster, inter-cluster and UNICEF levels, as well as with national partners, to better support needs-assessment coordination and planning and to address the challenges in technical practice mentioned under Commitment 1.

Recent evaluations have also shown that UNICEF faces some challenges in situation monitoring, needs assessment and programme monitoring that are shared across much of the humanitarian system. These include contextual and methodological challenges in collecting data on populations in need and specific vulnerable subgroups, especially where the situation is fluid. These issues challenge the ability of UNICEF to continuously and reliably track its coverage in relation to shifting needs and to accurately determine whether it is reaching those in greatest need. UNICEF is working to reinforce ongoing efforts to improve evidence generation and evidence-based decision-making to determine coverage and quality, including equity in emergencies, and is investing in strengthening systematic technical approaches to humanitarian response planning and monitoring (see 'Future workplan' on p.58 for additional detail).

## Supply and logistics

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The organization's supply and logistics operations were essential to its humanitarian response in 2018. Procurement for emergencies reached US\$412.6 million globally, with 96 per cent of the total supporting UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies (US\$397.5 million). Supplies were delivered to 53 countries and territories facing humanitarian emergencies and nearly 85 per cent of all international emergency orders were delivered on

time. The Supply Division supported 30 deployments to emergency locations, including in response to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (nine staff), the polio outbreak in Papua New Guinea (five staff) and the earthquake and tsunami in Sulawesi, Indonesia (three staff).



## Commitment 1: Essential supplies necessary to alleviate humanitarian suffering in women and children are deployed by UNICEF and partners

Over the course of the year, UNICEF procured a total of US\$76.4 million worth of vaccines and biological products for emergencies, making this commodity the largest by value of total UNICEF emergency supplies (see Figure 8). Twenty-one charter flights were arranged to deliver emergency vaccines to children and their families, 15 of which were for Yemen. This included Yemen's first-ever shipments of oral cholera vaccine valued at US\$3.8 million, delivered in March and October to both Aden and Sana'a to ensure the quickest and widest distribution possible. These shipments contributed to reaching more than 730,000 people with cholera vaccination in high-risk areas.

In response to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo – the second-largest outbreak in history – UNICEF shipped US\$439,000 worth of essential health, water and sanitation supplies to the country directly from its Copenhagen warehouse. This operation

was made possible by an in-kind contribution of a charter flight and ground transportation to fly supplies to Kigali and from there take them by road to Goma. From Goma, the organization's local team delivered supplies to affected areas in Beni and Mangina. The response drew heavily on lessons learned from the 2014–2016 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, including how best to pre-position and stockpile supplies based on an analysis of the local context.

UNICEF continued efforts to increase local procurement to help local markets to respond to regional needs. In 2018, UNICEF procured 65 per cent of its ready-to-use therapeutic food from programme countries – surpassing its target of 50 per cent. Local sourcing for emergency response was even greater. For example, in response to the crisis in the Horn of Africa, 98 per cent of the organization's emergency procurement of ready-to-use therapeutic food – amounting to 2,679 metric tons or US\$8.6 million – was procured from suppliers in Ethiopia and Kenya for a timely and effective response to the emergency nutrition needs of children in those countries and in Somalia.

FIGURE 8: Emergency supplies

In 2018, UNICEF procurement for emergencies reached US\$412.6 million globally for 53 countries and territories.



### Vaccines

UNICEF procured a total of **US\$76.4 million** worth of vaccines and biological products for emergencies, making this commodity the largest by value of total UNICEF emergency supplies.

**85 shipments** of vaccines went to **19 countries**, delivering more than **24.7 million doses** of vaccines.

Top five countries/crises for vaccine and biological products				
<b>Bangladesh</b> (for the Rohingya refugee crisis)	<b>South Sudan</b>	<b>Syrian Arab Republic</b>	<b>Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela</b>	<b>Yemen</b>
<b>2 million doses</b> measles and rubella vaccine	<b>10.2 million doses</b> oral polio vaccine	<b>3.4 million doses</b> pentavalent vaccine	<b>5.6 million doses</b> tetanus and diphtheria vaccine	<b>3.1 million doses</b> oral cholera vaccine
			<b>2.3 million doses</b> measles and rubella vaccine	<b>16.9 million doses</b> measles and rubella vaccine

<sup>i</sup> 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 that it was 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' in countries facing Level 1 crises. Of the US\$412.6 million, US\$247.3 million is other resources – emergency.

## Commitment 2: Supply response by UNICEF and partners is appropriately resourced

In an effort to strengthen countries' emergency-preparedness mechanisms to minimize disruption to children's lives during humanitarian situations, UNICEF provided technical assistance to 73 country offices to develop risk- and context-specific emergency-supply plans and supply and logistics strategies as part of the global roll out of the Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP). These offices are now able to identify and plan for emergencies based on a tailored analysis of existing supply and logistics capacities within their countries.

UNICEF also rolled out new services and facilities to enable a rapid and large-scale supply response when needed. For example, a new warehouse was established in Brisbane, Australia with the support of the Government of Australia that will enable a more timely and cost-effective response to future emergencies in Pacific island countries. UNICEF has secured bonded status for this facility, which means that supplies arriving there will be considered 'in transit' and not subject to customs clearance in Australia. The new hub facilitates the immediate dispatch of supplies to a disaster zone, avoiding the high costs and delays previously associated with transporting supplies to such remote island nations.

UNICEF continued to simplify and streamline its approach to helping countries to tackle funding challenges, including

through pre-financing. Pre-financing refers to a range of tools deployed to 'bridge' timing gaps in the disbursement of funds to avoid supply shortages or stock-outs.<sup>84</sup> For example, UNICEF pre-authorized up to US\$9 million for emergency stockpile vaccines for outbreak response to speed up the disbursement of necessary funds. As a result, UNICEF Fiji was able to quickly access US\$1.3 million to purchase vaccines in response to an outbreak of meningococcal disease in March 2018.

## Challenges and constraints

The capacity of UNICEF to respond with appropriate numbers of experienced supply personnel came under considerable strain in 2018, and the organization continued to face challenges in the provision of supplies and services to children affected by conflict and disaster in remote and hard-to-reach regions. To better prepare for future emergencies, a roster of UNICEF emergency surge staff within the supply and logistics function was developed in 2018 and will be finalized in 2019. This surge roster should improve staff capacity for future emergencies by making available a list of pre-qualified experts in supply and logistics who can deploy to emergencies. These staff will be able to establish logistics hubs in areas with limited access and ensure that solid supply chains are activated at the onset of acute emergencies.

# Media and communications

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## Commitment 1: 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 2018, global media and communications work strengthened the organization's advocacy to protect children affected by emergencies and drive fundraising for humanitarian response. UNICEF colleagues in country and regional offices, as well as National Committees, helped to shape and build the narrative around the impact of major humanitarian crises on children, such as the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh and the conflicts in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Yemen. For example, a report on out-of-school children in Afghanistan<sup>85</sup> received widespread coverage in *The New York Times*, *Reuters* and *Al Jazeera*, among other national and international media outlets. On social media, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Priyanka Chopra's field visit to Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and her Facebook Live event

highlighted the critical needs of Rohingya children to more than 10 million users.

Child alerts also remained a key tool for raising awareness on the situation of crisis-affected children. In 2018, UNICEF issued four child alerts, including two on the situation of Rohingya children in Bangladesh and Myanmar that helped to sustain engagement and understanding about the impact of the crisis on children. A child alert on the situation in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and one on the Central African Republic highlighted the impact of conflict on children in these crises, which have generally been under-reported in international media. Following the release of the Central African Republic child alert, and a collaboration between the United States Fund for UNICEF and NBC News that featured the crisis, UNICEF raised US\$48 million to support children affected by the crisis, showing a clear link between the release of the alert and resource mobilization.

The global Children Under Attack<sup>86</sup> campaign provided a framework for articulating the horrific impact of conflict on children and gave country and regional offices space

to speak out following grave violations of children's rights. As part of the campaign, the UNICEF Executive Director spoke out on numerous occasions following attacks on children in conflict across the world, such as in Afghanistan and Yemen, leading by example and strengthening the organization's voice for the most vulnerable children. In December, UNICEF released a press release about how the world failed to protect children in conflict in 2018 that received significant coverage, including by *CNN*, *The Telegraph* and mainstream media outlets across Europe, including ARD in Germany and EFE in Spain.

## **Commitment 2: Humanitarian needs and the actions taken to address them are communicated in a timely and credible manner to advocate for child-friendly solutions, increase support for the response and, where necessary, assist with fundraising**

The 2018 Humanitarian Action for Children fundraising appeal focused on the impact of crises on water and sanitation systems and the subsequent health effects on children. The appeal launch received widespread media coverage, with 59 mentions in mainstream media outlets. The Humanitarian Action for Children website ([www.unicef.org/appeals](http://www.unicef.org/appeals)) had a 203 per cent increase in unique page views compared with 2017, and hashtags and keywords related to the appeal reached an estimated 200 million people. In addition, out of 31 public statements made by the UNICEF Executive Director in 2018, 21 highlighted the organization's humanitarian response.

UNICEF continued to highlight the theme of WASH in emergencies in its advocacy and communications throughout the year, including through direct in-country support to raise the profile of WASH issues in South Sudan and to respond quickly following attacks on water infrastructure and personnel in Ukraine. The rapid release of WASH incident reports meant the office could maintain awareness about the regular impact of attacks on water

facilities and personnel, while a trip to east Ukraine produced strong and engaging multimedia content on the challenges to accessing safe water and sanitation for children in the area.

In 2018, the communications Emergency Response Team (ERT) member provided in-country humanitarian advocacy and communication support in Afghanistan, the State of Palestine and the Sudan. This included helping these offices to respond quickly to breaking news and emerging issues and to identify opportunities for more proactive advocacy and communications work. In Afghanistan, for example, the ERT helped the country office to develop an advocacy and communications package for the launch of the out-of-school children report. This included identifying and setting clear advocacy messages that were articulated through high-quality multimedia content.

## **Challenges and constraints**

Given the protracted nature of conflicts today, maintaining public and broader Member State engagement, including sustained and flexible funding, remained a challenge. Political developments in the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Western Europe have meant that children's issues in crisis-affected countries have often fallen off the international news agenda. In 2019, UNICEF will use the opportunities of the 30-year anniversary of the signing of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 70-year anniversary since the adoption of the four 1949 Geneva International Conventions to call for attacks on children to stop and for a recommitment to protect children affected by conflict. UNICEF will also increase its focus on specific thematic issues in its communications, including attacks on schools, WASH in emergencies and gender-based violence, with clear advocacy objectives, alerts and messages. Capacity-building for advocacy and communications in country offices will be strengthened so UNICEF can quickly react to acute events within an existing emergency and/or respond to new crises.

# **Security**

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## **Commitment 1: Security risks that could affect staff and assets, and subsequently the emergency response, are identified, assessed and managed**

In 2018, the safety and security of UNICEF staff and assets were enhanced with the roll-out to all country and regional offices of the UNICEF Framework of Accountability for Security. The Framework, which establishes efficient and structured oversight and defines internal accountability mechanisms for

security management in UNICEF, is already facilitating more informed security decisions across the organization and safer programme delivery in the field. For example, the clarity provided on roles and accountabilities has made the process of approving very high-risk mission security clearance requests more streamlined and vigorous. In the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, this has enabled UNICEF to deliver programmes and save lives in hard-to-reach areas.

A total of US\$9 million allocated from the Central Investment Fund helped 83 UNICEF country offices to implement measures

to reduce risk to staff and operations. For example, in 2018, UNICEF Mali received Central Investment Funds to purchase two additional armoured vehicles and apply other enhanced security risk management measures. In December, two UNICEF personnel on board one of these armoured vehicles were fired upon. The personnel emerged from the incident without injury due to the protection afforded by the vehicles.

Proactive security support provided through 80 missions from headquarters and regional offices enabled critical decision-making and the implementation of security risk measures in priority countries such as Bangladesh, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Turkey, Ukraine, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Yemen. In Yemen, UNICEF developed a security risk management process and concept of operations for security clearance requests for very high-risk missions that enabled UNICEF and partners to reach affected children in Hodeida with life-saving assistance.

Investments in learning programmes and capacity-building also helped to strengthen the safety and security of UNICEF personnel in 2018. More than 700 female staff members across five regions participated in the redesigned Women's Security Awareness Training in 2018, which contributed to addressing

female-related security concerns and promoting empowerment and situational awareness.

The UNICEF Operations Centre provided monitoring and reporting on political and security dynamics, events and natural hazards that helped UNICEF senior management to make informed decisions about the organization's humanitarian response. This included first-line reporting on emergency events, such as the December 2018 volcano-induced tsunami in Indonesia, for which the Operations Centre compiled breaking news alerts with updates that helped senior management to act quickly on the latest developments.

## Challenges and constraints

Armed conflict, violence, civil unrest and crime continued to affect staff security and programme delivery in 2018. UNICEF also struggled to attract and maintain the high calibre of security personnel needed for its global security workforce due to rising demand from the humanitarian community. In 2019, UNICEF will develop a human resources and capacity development strategy that will streamline the recruitment and retention of security personnel and that will enable UNICEF to build a security workforce that has the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to operate in emergency and high-threat environments.

# Human resources

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**Commitment 1: Appropriate and experienced staff and personnel with relevant deployment training are provided and rapidly deployed, primarily through internal redeployment of staff. This is complemented by external recruitment and standby personnel to allow for recruitment of possible longer-term posts, as needed**

A total of 461 emergency (surge) deployments were completed in 2018, including 135 deployments for coordination, including RRTs, standby partners and UNICEF deployments in support of cluster coordination. The year's emergency surge missions totalled 40,389 days, with an average mission length of 87 days. Twenty-two standby partners provided UNICEF with 165 deployments to 33 countries, for a total of 22,093 days of support, the equivalent of about US\$11 million of in-kind contributions. This included 115 standby personnel and 50 members of the RRT deployed to the field to support the organization's cluster, programme and operational commitments.

The largest share of deployments (14 per cent, or 63 deployments) supported the humanitarian response to the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh, followed by the Indonesia

tsunami response, which benefited from 45 deployments, and the response to the earthquake in Papua New Guinea, which received 32 deployments. The bulk of deployments provided personnel for WASH, child protection and emergency coordination. While 58 per cent of standby deployments were to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies, these deployments also supported smaller emergency responses in Myanmar, the Sudan and Tonga.

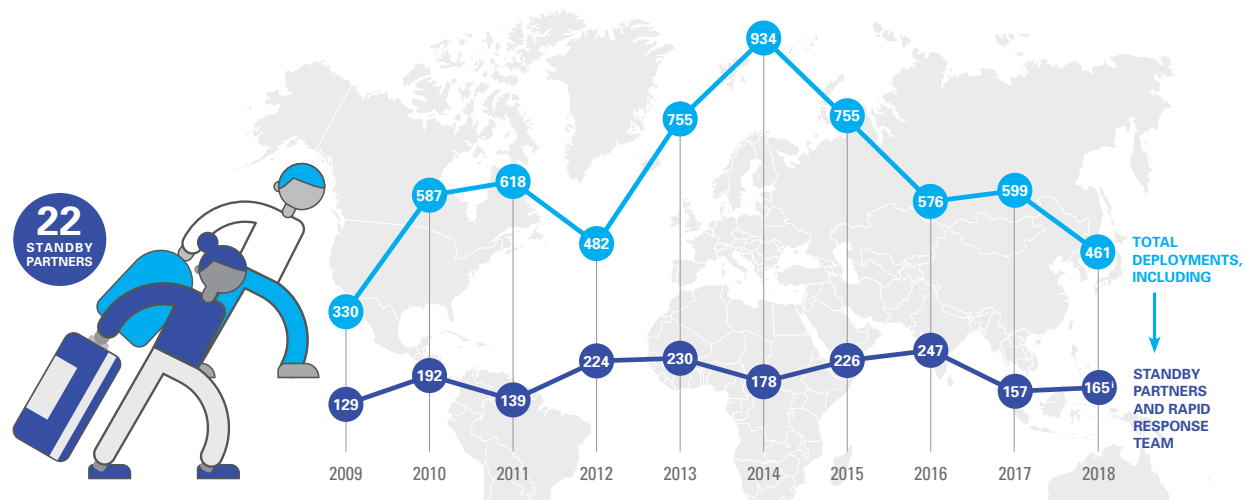
The UNICEF ERT expanded from 14 to 22 staff with specialized skills in emergency coordination, programming, operations, gender, AAP and humanitarian cash transfers. In 2018, the ERT undertook 79 missions to 40 country offices, totalling 2,528 days. Seventy-eight per cent of these missions (2,404 days) supported preparedness and response to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 crises. For example, in Cameroon, the newly recruited (October 2018) gender ERT member helped UNICEF implement actions in line with the Gender Action Plan 2018–2021 and establish a gender-focused field presence in crisis-affected areas, including by integrating gender considerations into Rapid Response Mechanism activities and mobilizing resources (US\$2.3 million from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development) for gender-adapted emergency response.



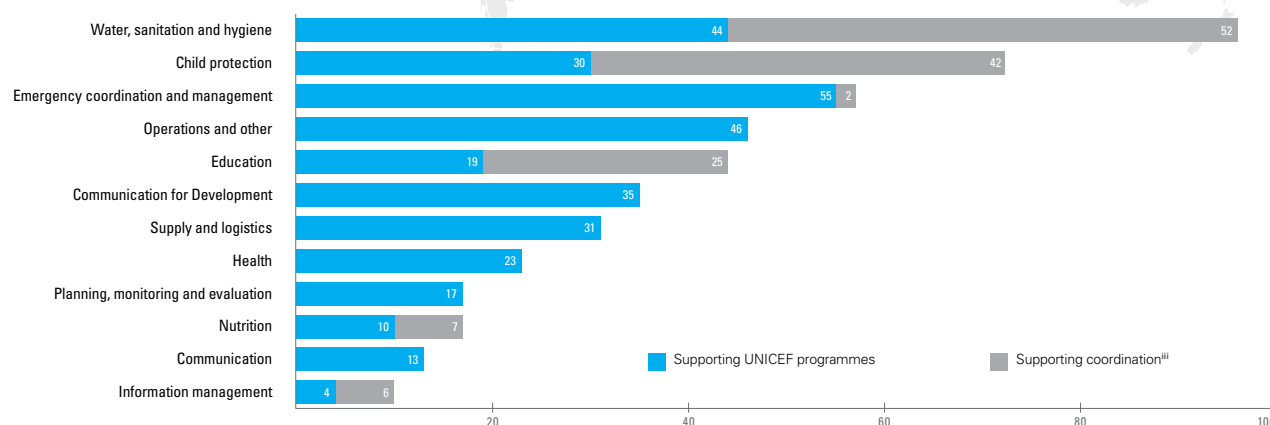
FIGURE 9: Emergency deployments

### TOP 3 CRISES SUPPORTED

Bangladesh–Rohingya refugee crisis	63
Indonesia–tsunami	45
Papua New Guinea–earthquake	32



461 deployments by functional area<sup>i</sup>



<sup>i</sup> Includes 115 standby partner deployments and 50 Rapid Response Team deployments to support UNICEF led/co-led clusters and areas of responsibility.

<sup>ii</sup> The child protection category also includes gender and youth and adolescent development deployments; the emergency management category includes emergency specialists, executive management and programme management deployments; the planning, monitoring and evaluation category also includes resource mobilization, reporting, social policy/planning and cash programming deployments; and the operations and others category includes regular operations, finance, human resources, information and communications technology and security deployments.

<sup>iii</sup> Includes Rapid Response Teams, standby partners and UNICEF deployments in support of cluster coordination.

## Commitment 2: Well-being of staff is assured

In 2018, UNICEF continued to build on the momentum of previous years to improve staff well-being across the organization. The number of international professional staff counsellor posts was increased from 11 in 2017 to 15 by the end of 2018, and more than 4,200 individual counselling sessions were provided during the year, representing an 11 per cent increase over 2017. More than half of these counselling sessions benefited staff working in hardship duty stations, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, where 761 individual counselling sessions and 24 group counselling sessions took place during the year. A mandatory pre-deployment briefing system was introduced at the beginning of 2018 for international staff deployed to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 duty stations, reaching 273 staff. During the one-on-one briefing with a staff counsellor, staff are encouraged to explore their psychological strengths, examine lessons learned from past experiences in similar contexts, and learn how to use evidence-based resilience tools to prepare for deployment. In addition, 64 staff well-being missions were conducted to emergency duty stations in 2018, representing a 14 per cent increase over 2017. UNICEF launched the Health and Fitness Aid for Humanitarian Professionals – a personalized online exercise and nutrition programme piloted in the Middle East and North Africa with 160 participants. The programme aims to help mitigate the adverse effects of stress and trauma.

## Commitment 3: Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers is prevented

UNICEF is advancing a robust agenda to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse in all humanitarian settings across the organization, in line with the findings of an independent panel review<sup>87</sup> of its systems for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2018, the UNICEF Executive Director was appointed Inter-Agency Standing Committee Champion for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment and launched an inter-agency plan in December 2018 to accelerate collective action and investment in the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in all humanitarian and refugee responses. UNICEF committed US\$11 million of internal resources to strengthen and scale up these services and systems in 16 countries<sup>88</sup> facing humanitarian crises, and rolled out a monitoring framework to measure progress and results. These funds are being used to contribute to inter-agency results, for example to establish inter-agency prevention and sexual abuse coordinators. UNICEF also revised its programme cooperation agreements so that partners working with crisis-affected women and children uphold the highest standards in protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. For example, in Somalia, UNICEF implemented a programme for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse to strengthen staff capacity, complaints mechanisms and access to assistance for survivors. Fifty-two inter-agency focal points and 30 sectoral focal points<sup>89</sup> in Somalia were trained and supported to conduct safety audits in 47 sites to identify the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and ensure the accessibility of complaints mechanisms and assistance to survivors.

## Commitment 4: UNICEF staff members and key partners have knowledge and skills for effective emergency preparedness and response. This includes knowledge about humanitarian reform and the cluster approach

Learning is essential to the effectiveness of UNICEF humanitarian action. In 2018, humanitarian learning focused on improving organizational capacities to more effectively operate in high-threat environments and improve emergency preparedness at all levels of the organization. To support the organization's ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies, the roll-out of the EPP was complemented by the dissemination of related learning packages to regional and country-level staff. The learning packages helped emergency focal points to develop their country office preparedness plans in the EPP and to improve response capacities. In the Eastern and Southern Africa region, humanitarian learning programmes strengthened the capacities of the 85 national staff who will be added to emergency surge rosters.

UNICEF also took steps to improve the knowledge and capacities of its leadership at country, regional and global levels to operate and programme in complex and high-threat environments. As part of the organization's effort to increase the centrality of protection in its humanitarian action, global workshops for regional emergency and security advisers and country representatives<sup>90</sup> – predominantly working in countries responding to complex emergencies such as Afghanistan, Mali, Somalia and South Sudan – fostered peer-to-peer exchange and learning on the leadership skills needed to reach children in complex and high-threat situations. These include protecting children from grave violations, security management, negotiating access, sustaining critical programmes, operating in high-risk situations, engaging non-state entities and managing risk and the impact of counter-terrorism measures.

## Challenges and constraints

Staffing shortages continued to affect the organization's humanitarian response in 2018. It remained challenging to identify suitable, qualified and ready-to-be-deployed staff to respond to emergencies. In addition, overall standby deployments in 2018 were lower than in previous years, due to the more competitive human resources environment, as well as fewer requests, and funding and capacity restrictions. Resources have been planned for 2019 to augment internal capacity to address some of the issues, build the visibility of the standby scheme internally in UNICEF and its complementarity with other UNICEF mechanisms, enhance partnership management, seek new partners and explore alternative standby partnership models.

Gaps also remain in the provision of mental health support due to the lack of staff counsellor posts in some high-risk and emergency duty stations, such as the Central African Republic and Yemen. To cover these capacity gaps, regional staff counsellors will continue to conduct well-being missions to these emergency duty stations, while

advocating with regional and country representatives to create additional country office staff counsellor posts.

In addition, in complex emergencies, there is a need to strengthen the ability of management and front-line staff to apply humanitarian principles in day-to-day programme delivery, to navigate humanitarian negotiation and to

systematically strengthen community engagement. Over the next two years, UNICEF will focus on developing a more coherent, modular humanitarian learning and knowledge management strategy to ensure that all staff working in emergencies, particularly leadership, have adequate knowledge, skills and capacities to address these challenges.

## Resource mobilization

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### Commitment 1: Quality, flexible resources are mobilized in a timely manner to meet the rights and needs of children and women in humanitarian crises

In 2018, the organization's resource mobilization strategy for humanitarian response continued to generate adequate, predictable, timely and flexible resources for better and more efficient, and equitable results for the most vulnerable children affected by humanitarian crises.

During the reporting period, the most senior leadership at UNICEF (the Executive Director, deputy executive directors and directors of emergency programmes, public partnerships and private fundraising) participated in consultations with partners, including Member States, National Committees, civil society and the private sector, to take stock of progress and gaps against the resource mobilization goals linked to humanitarian action, and to boost flexible and multi-year funding. Many of these engagements further strengthened relationships with partners and yielded concrete results. For example, UNICEF signed the first-ever multi-year regular resources agreement with Sweden for US\$300 million for 2018–2021. This covered the largest amount of UNICEF core funding ever agreed under a single agreement. In 2018, UNICEF also received US\$553 million of emergency resources from multi-year agreements.

UNICEF continued to contribute to Grand Bargain efforts on multi-year planning and funding and reduced earmarking with the Government of Canada, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Government of Sweden and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). UNICEF launched four multi-year humanitarian appeals covering 12 countries in 2018, for Afghanistan, Mali, the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe, and for Syrian refugees. Under the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, UNICEF committed to increasing the number of countries in protracted crisis where multi-year Humanitarian Action for Children appeals would be developed, in line with multi-year inter-agency humanitarian response plans, with a target of 15 countries by 2021. As multi-year plans are increasingly funded, UNICEF is also committed to passing this flexible funding on to local partners.

UNICEF headquarters supported country offices facing emergencies to develop fundraising and advocacy strategies for humanitarian response. In this regard, key surge deployments were made to Bangladesh and Myanmar for the Rohingya refugee response, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Panama for the migration crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to Indonesia for the earthquake response. Support was also provided to Burundi to develop a multi-year humanitarian–development resource mobilization strategy.

The organization also improved its reporting on the use of flexible funding (regular resources and thematic funds) and the results achieved using this type of funding. The visibility and recognition of partners who supported humanitarian action was strengthened across the organization's reporting and through social media, print media and other communications campaigns.

### Challenges and constraints

In 2018, UNICEF received US\$2 billion in emergency resources against its US\$3.8 billion Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, reaching 54 per cent of needs. This represents a modest increase from 2017 (US\$1.98 billion). While donors responded generously, given the extraordinary number of affected children, resources were not enough to respond effectively with predictable and quality programming. In some cases, emergency resources made available for the humanitarian response did not move towards greater flexibility but towards greater conditionality, making it difficult to reach those most in need.

The unparalleled challenges in humanitarian emergencies require new and innovative solutions to bring adequate and quality resources to enhance preparedness, address humanitarian needs and strengthen the links between humanitarian and development efforts, while increasing efficiencies and the effectiveness of both financing and programmes. The changes required on both sides (UNICEF and resource partners) are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and can shape the extent to which UNICEF can achieve these ambitious outcomes.

# Finance and administration

**Commitment 1: Effective and transparent management structures are established, with support from the regional offices and UNICEF headquarters, for effective implementation of the programme and operational CCCs. This is done in an environment of sound financial accountability and adequate oversight**

UNICEF continued efforts to strengthen its operational, financial and administrative processes to support emergency response efforts in 2018. For example, the organization provided strategic and practical assistance to country offices to facilitate cash-based programme

operations. For the World Bank-funded Emergency Cash Transfers Project in Yemen, UNICEF established a first-of-its-kind Project Management Unit to mitigate risks related to fund use and ensure that intended cash amounts reached the qualifying beneficiaries.

The recruitment of the Field Administrative Manager ERT post (which had been vacant) in 2018 bolstered operations capacity for humanitarian response, covering a range of functions, including human resources, finance, administration, information technology supply and oversight, particularly in relation to risk management. The two operations ERT members provided a total of 34 weeks of in-country technical operations support, undertaking



Children play at a UNICEF-supported child-friendly space in Zone 7, Palabek Refugee Settlement in Uganda.



five response missions with an average mission length of 50 days and one preparedness mission to five<sup>91</sup> countries and one regional office over the course of the year. This included three country offices responding to UNICEF Level 3 emergencies: Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria. For example, in Nigeria, the operations ERT member served as interim chief of operations, fulfilling all related functions, including supporting the revision of the office structure to ensure that it was fit for purpose to respond to the UNICEF Level 3 emergency.

### Challenges and constraints

UNICEF staff who are at the front lines of its emergency response face a growing range of challenges and risks

to: (a) ensure that funds are managed with appropriate accountability, (b) arrange and safeguard ready access by UNICEF staff and partners to resources and emergency-affected areas, and (c) address increasing demand from country and regional offices seeking additional technical capacity to respond to emergencies. UNICEF will continue to improve its operational capacity by developing and implementing innovative financial and administrative support solutions in, for example, Yemen. Systematic processes will be applied to identify, communicate, mitigate and monitor top risk events and to refine risk-management and oversight functions. This will include the establishment of a comprehensive, updated Enterprise Risk Management Policy and online tools for governance, risk management and compliance and transaction-level monitoring.

## Information and communication technology

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### Commitment 1: Timely, effective and predictable delivery of telecommunications services to ensure efficient and secure programme implementation, staff security and compliance with inter-agency commitments

In 2018, information and communication technology (ICT) remained crucial to the UNICEF emergency response. During the year, ICT operations supported UNICEF humanitarian response to all UNICEF Level 3 emergencies, as well as several UNICEF Level 1 and Level 2 emergencies. This included four critical country missions conducted by UNICEF and inter-agency partners to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and South Sudan – each of which had numerous emergency locations classified with high or very high vulnerability profiles. These missions identified and corrected emergency telecommunications vulnerabilities and assisted country and regional offices to close any ICT-related gaps. For example, in Somalia and South Sudan, these missions enabled the installation of new network bases to contribute to more efficient and reliable ICT infrastructure in conflict-affected areas.

As part of efforts to build and maintain an innovative and current emergency ICT infrastructure, in 2018, UNICEF deployed an additional 10 emergency ICT kits – self-contained toolkits comprising the necessary hardware to rapidly deploy core UNICEF ICT services to offices of various sizes. In countries such as the Central African Republic, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Somalia and South Sudan, these kits enabled the immediate implementation of emergency telecommunications infrastructure, enhanced data collection from emergency sites, and facilitated faster, more agile and scalable ICT services in emergency situations.

UNICEF also focused on building the ICT capacities of UNICEF staff and local partners for preparedness, response and recovery in 2018. A total of 56 staff, including 15 partner staff from Amazon, Ericsson, NetHope, RedR Australia, Save the Children, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) were trained and certified to provide ICT solutions in emergencies through the emergency telecoms training workshop.

### Challenges and constraints

A key challenge for the organization's ICT support is ensuring that the rising dependency on sophisticated digital communications does not increase vulnerability during emergencies. For example, power disruption can be enough to undermine essential ICT at the height of a crisis. UNICEF is therefore investigating new standards on power alternatives, including the use of solar power, and establishing long-term agreements with partners to implement such standards. In addition, UNICEF has identified the lack of ICT representation on the ERT as a key challenge to maintaining ICT functionality in emergencies, particularly in UNICEF Level 3 emergency situations. The ICT Division has recommended that this functional area be included as part of the ERT.



# Future workplan

UNICEF is committed to improving its humanitarian action, in line with its Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, and to meet the challenges described throughout this report, in line with the recommendations of recent evaluations of its emergency responses.

## Improving the normative frameworks around humanitarian access

Under its Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, UNICEF is working to establish a more systematic and principled approach to humanitarian access, including clear accountabilities and improved capacities and support mechanisms across

relevant functions to support country offices to develop and implement humanitarian access strategies. UNICEF will also build a more systematic approach to resolving practical dilemmas in complex emergencies, including managing conditions set by donors, addressing the impacts of sanctions, facilitating civil-military coordination, working with integrated missions, and engaging with non-state entities and host governments for principled humanitarian action.

## Strengthening the centrality of protection

To strengthen quality and equity in humanitarian response strategies and implementation, UNICEF will continue to emphasize and strengthen the centrality of protection through advocacy and across its programmes. At the launch of the 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, UNICEF underscored the urgency of protecting children in crisis from all threats to their lives, well-being and dignity; and emphasized that all children must be protected and every child has the right to survive and thrive – especially in the face of violent conflict and harrowing crisis. This was particularly fitting in the year marking the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, the strategic priorities of the organization's humanitarian advocacy cover the most salient protection and assistance needs of children in emergencies today, and speak to the changes that would be needed on the ground to enable UNICEF to respond appropriately, namely to: end the targeting of children, end the detention and criminalization of children and end the denial of humanitarian access. In partnership with Inter-Agency Standing Committee members, UNICEF will step up its engagement in humanitarian advocacy initiatives to address these concerns, at the global and country levels. The organization will strengthen its programmatic response, including in its response to gender-based violence; strengthen gender equality programming in the sectors; and improve intersectoral integration across programmes, including interventions that address the needs of children with disabilities. For example, in the response to the Rohingya refugee crises in Bangladesh, UNICEF is already working to facilitate a robust gender-based violence response, to integrate gender equality across all programming and to establish information centres to collect feedback and complaints from the affected populations so as to respond and adjust interventions accordingly.

## Strengthening humanitarian leadership through learning and capacity-building

To better respond in complex emergencies, UNICEF will strengthen the ability of management (ongoing) and front-line staff (planned) to apply humanitarian principles in day-to-day programme delivery, navigate humanitarian

negotiation and systematically strengthen community engagement, including making better use of its networks to advocate for principled access. This will include the development of a more coherent, modular humanitarian learning and knowledge management strategy to ensure that all staff working in emergencies, particularly in leadership roles, have adequate knowledge, skills and capacities to address these challenges and to improve the organization's ability to reach those most in need. This focus on learning will span complex humanitarian emergencies, operationalizing the organization's approach to equity; understanding and operationalizing humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law; translating its accountability framework into practice; and enabling emergency preparedness. UNICEF has also established the Humanitarian Evidence and Learning Section within the Office of Emergency Programmes to reinforce these and existing efforts.

## Better articulating a strategic vision for humanitarian action and updating related policies and procedures

UNICEF recognizes the need to articulate a strategic vision for accessing those who are in greatest need in a timely and principled manner – particularly in relation to the coverage, quality and equity of its response – and especially in contexts where there is limited funding or there are humanitarian access constraints. UNICEF took major steps in 2018 to update several of its emergency procedures and guidance, and, in 2019, will complete its review of the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs) to make its approach in emergencies more accountable and fit for delivering results. The revised CCCs will reflect some key new areas of work, such as humanitarian cash transfers, accountability to affected populations (AAP), prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as cross-cutting areas such as adolescents, persons with disabilities and early childhood development (ECD). The organization is also revising its standard operating procedures for emergencies to address persistent challenges, particularly related to its civil society partnership agreements and the deployment of human resources.

## Investing in country office emergency preparedness

While the launch of the Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP) and new preparedness architecture led to real improvements in UNICEF country office preparedness in 2018, the experience also illustrated that these tools alone would not be enough to achieve a sufficiently high level of operational preparedness in UNICEF offices worldwide. UNICEF recognizes that an organization shift – a new way

of operating that is supported at the highest levels of the organization – is needed to put preparedness and risk-informed programming at the heart of the organization's programme cycle. In doing so, preparedness will be better embedded in its programme planning, which will also support organizational efforts to better link humanitarian and development programming.

UNICEF is taking practical steps towards this end that will be intensified in 2019 and beyond. A new section has been established in the Office of Emergency Programmes to strengthen and better link risk analysis, horizon scanning and preparedness efforts. This section will work in close collaboration with regional offices, and in line with work being done at the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. In addition, UNICEF will work to: increase technical assistance and quality assurance; strengthen the capacities of staff and partners; provide evidence and share good practices; improve guidance and tools to respond to user demand; find new sources of funding for preparedness; adapt preparedness to the different contexts; ensure that country, regional and headquarters offices enhance their dialogue and mutual support; and strengthen risk analysis and horizon scanning by developing capacities at the regional and country levels. UNICEF headquarters will continue to support senior managers at the country level to ensure that their offices engage critically in preparedness planning, allocate adequate staff and funds, and strive for risk and preparedness to be given due attention throughout UNICEF programming.

In line with these next steps, UNICEF will generate further evidence on how preparedness can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization's humanitarian response and add value for money – evidence that will be instrumental to enabling this organizational shift. For example, UNICEF has used global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF) through the First Action Initiative to establish preparedness measures in the Pacific islands in the event of the next major tropical storm. When emergency strikes, these investments will provide vital information on how preparedness can yield cost savings in the response, reduce carbon dioxide emissions and increase the efficiency of service delivery.

## Scaling up humanitarian cash transfer programmes

In 2019, UNICEF will continue to institutionalize and mainstream the use of humanitarian cash transfers to deliver results for children. This will include fundraising for and investment in the internal capacities needed to scale up and systematize the use of cash transfers in humanitarian action; strengthening collaborative approaches to cash with partner agencies; and supporting country offices to enhance the use of cash transfers in humanitarian crises. A specific investment will be in developing a beneficiary data-management system that will allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and other agencies to collectively store and safely exchange data and facilitate a more harmonized approach to data on humanitarian cash transfers. At the

country level, UNICEF will also continue to systematically leverage opportunities with UNHCR and WFP to jointly deliver cash to beneficiaries.

## Improving joint needs assessment, response planning and monitoring

UNICEF is working to reinforce ongoing efforts to improve evidence generation and evidence-based decision-making to improve the coverage and targeting of its humanitarian response, as well as the equity of its assistance in emergencies. In the coming years, UNICEF will invest in strengthening outcome-level data collection approaches with partners, including capitalizing on technology advances to push for more granular and fluid analysis of vulnerabilities. This is a learning area for the humanitarian sector as a whole and requires longer-term investments.

In addition, the organization is investing in strengthening systematic technical approaches to humanitarian response planning and monitoring. This aims to support a more transparent and principled needs-based approach to balancing coverage, quality and equity in strategy development, benchmarking, targeting and monitoring. This includes systems development, as well as technical support and training in the field, all designed to increase the organization's agility to adapt to shifting contexts. UNICEF is coordinating this work with UNICEF-led clusters and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and will advocate for more consistently principled approaches to needs assessment, planning and monitoring at the global and country levels.

## Expanding engagement with affected populations

In 2018, UNICEF developed the AAP Business Case and Roadmap, which sets directions for scaling up AAP across the organization and integrating AAP into all UNICEF programmes. In 2019, a benchmarking exercise will provide a rigorous and independent assessment of the organization's strengths and weaknesses in regard to AAP, which will serve as a robust baseline for further strengthening its approaches to AAP, particularly at the country level.

In the coming years, UNICEF will continue to scale up AAP, including through the use of U-Report, ensuring that all programmes have robust information sharing, participation and feedback systems in place, so that they are informed by the views and feedback from affected communities. Training on AAP for UNICEF staff and partners is currently under development, and will be provided to country programmes that need additional technical support.

UNICEF will also continue to reinforce collective efforts for AAP through its leadership of the Communication and Community Engagement Initiative, in partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent



Societies (IFRC), OCHA and others, to ensure more predictable and systematic approaches to AAP, as well as through its co-chairmanship of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Results Group on Inclusion and Accountability.

## Mobilizing flexible and multi-year humanitarian funding

In 2019, UNICEF will strengthen partnerships and explore new and innovative solutions to attract flexible and multi-year resources. UNICEF senior management is already making concerted efforts to diversify its donor base

through proactive engagement with emerging and existing corporate and public donors. This will help to mobilize multi-year flexible funding in support of the organization's humanitarian action. For example, to mobilize flexible resources, in 2018, UNICEF made an effort to promote Islamic financing instruments to support its humanitarian action. Discussions resulted in the signing of a global memorandum of understanding with the World Zakat Forum,<sup>92</sup> which paves the way for future discussions on how zakat funds can be used to meet the needs of children affected by crisis. UNICEF is also continuing to improve its reporting on the receipt and use of flexible funds, particularly thematic humanitarian funds, through a dedicated annex to this report.



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Rohingya children paint a mural as part of a public art exchange at a UNICEF-supported child-friendly space in Bulukhali camp for Rohingya refugees, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh (May 2018).

# Abbreviations and acronyms

AAP	accountability to affected populations
C4D	Communication for Development
CCC	Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action
ECD	early childhood development
EPP	Emergency Preparedness Platform
ERT	Emergency Response Team
GHTF	global humanitarian thematic funding
ICT	information and communication technology
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IYCF	infant and young child feeding
NGO	non-governmental organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PMTCT	prevention of mother-to-child transmission (of HIV)
RRT	Rapid Response Team
SAM	severe acute malnutrition
UHC	universal health coverage
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UPS	United Parcel Service
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

# Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Global Humanitarian Overview 2019', OCHA, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *States of Fragility 2018*, OECD, 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Save the Children, *Stop the War on Children: Protecting children in 21st century conflict*, Save the Children, 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Global figures presented throughout this report are derived from the country office annual reports, unless stated otherwise. Further information on global figures can be found in the UNICEF Executive Director's Annual Report 2018, Data Companion and Score Card. There may be slight discrepancies due to rounding of some values.

<sup>6</sup> This accounts for 36 per cent of all country offices providing disability-inclusive humanitarian programmes and services.

<sup>7</sup> UNICEF has implemented humanitarian cash transfer programmes in collaboration with WFP in Bangladesh, Dominica, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Turkey; and has also worked with UNHCR and WFP to jointly implement cash transfers in Jordan and Lebanon.

<sup>8</sup> This is other resources – emergency.

<sup>9</sup> Standby arrangements are a tool for strengthening emergency response capacity. Under such an arrangement, partners maintain a pool of operational resources, including personnel, technical expertise, services and equipment that can be deployed to UNICEF to enhance response capacity at the onset of an emergency.

<sup>10</sup> This is out of 30 total standby partners.

<sup>11</sup> For each sector, this is out of 20 country offices in the Global Humanitarian Overview with an inter-agency humanitarian response plan.

<sup>12</sup> This includes missions undertaken by the Global Cluster Coordination Unit.

<sup>13</sup> This total includes all programme supplies going to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies; all programme supplies for any new UNICEF Level 2 or Level 3 emergencies, from the date that it was 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' in countries facing UNICEF Level 1 crises. Of the US\$412.6 million, US\$247.3 million is other resources – emergency.

<sup>14</sup> One billion is 1,000 million.

<sup>15</sup> This figure is calculated based on a refined, more robust methodology and is therefore not comparable to the 2017 figure of 55 per cent. Based on the previous methodology, the 2018 country-level humanitarian expense would be 57 per cent.

<sup>16</sup> *Stop the War on Children*.

<sup>17</sup> 69 million have been forcibly displaced, including 40 million who are internally displaced, 25.4 million who are refugees and 3.1 million who are asylum seekers. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Figures at a Glance', Geneva, <[www.unhcr.org/uk/figures-at-a-glance.html](http://www.unhcr.org/uk/figures-at-a-glance.html)>, accessed 2 February 2019.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> *Stop the War on Children*.

<sup>20</sup> Information verified by the United Nations in Yemen (2018).

<sup>21</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'Children on the move: Migration flows in Latin America and the Caribbean', *Humanitarian Action for Children 2019*, UNICEF, New York, January 2019.

<sup>22</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'Democratic Republic of the Congo', *Humanitarian Action for Children 2019*, UNICEF, New York, January 2019.

<sup>23</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'East Asia and the Pacific', *Humanitarian Action for Children 2019*, UNICEF, New York, January 2019.

<sup>24</sup> This figure is calculated based on a refined, more robust methodology and is therefore not comparable to the 2017 figure of 55 per cent. Based on the previous methodology, the 2018 country-level humanitarian expense would be 57 per cent.

<sup>25</sup> Two UNICEF Level 3 crises were downgraded to Level 2 emergencies in 2018: South Sudan and Syrian refugee-hosting countries. Two UNICEF Level 2 crises ended in 2018: the Horn of Africa drought response (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia) and the Lake Chad Basin response.

<sup>26</sup> Based on data generated from the organization's system-generated financial reports as of December 2018.

<sup>27</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'Iraq Crisis 2018 Consolidated Emergency Report', UNICEF, 2019.

<sup>28</sup> Up from 15 country offices in 2017. The 26 country offices are: Bangladesh, the British Virgin Islands, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine and Yemen.

<sup>29</sup> The UNICEF global preparedness architecture consists of the Procedure on Preparedness for Emergency Response; the Preparedness Guidance Note; the online EPP; an associated learning package; and a network of offices collaborating on risk analysis, quality preparedness planning, learning, knowledge management, partnerships and resources.

<sup>30</sup> Risk communication refers to the exchange of real-time information, advice and opinions between experts and people facing threats to their health, economic or social well-being. The ultimate purpose of risk communication is to enable people at risk to take informed decisions to protect themselves and their loved ones.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, <[www.unpbf.org](http://www.unpbf.org)>, accessed 26 April 2019.

<sup>32</sup> The Somos Paz methodology seeks to develop and strengthen children's capacities through art, communication, music and sports activities.

<sup>33</sup> This is other resources – emergency.

<sup>34</sup> With funding from the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

<sup>35</sup> The only capacity development initiative delivering services on the ground in 30 countries, the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative partnership aims to identify critical capacity gaps in disaster risk reduction at the country level, address prevailing risks and articulate coherent interventions to respond when those risks materialize.

<sup>36</sup> The joint programme involves OCHA, WFP, WHO, UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as executive partners and IFRC, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Office for Project Services and the World Bank/Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery as observers.

<sup>37</sup> Sections on ECD, adolescents and disabilities are placed later in the report in 'Results by Strategic Plan goal area' under the relevant goal areas (ECD – Goal Area 1; adolescents and disabilities – Strategic Plan goal area 5), while gender equality is included here as it cross-cuts the achievement of all goal areas within the Strategic Plan.

<sup>38</sup> While the percentage of children in humanitarian situations receiving ECD kits decreased by 11 per cent from 2017 to 2018, the total number of children receiving ECD kits increased significantly, from 182,679 to 476,215.

<sup>39</sup> This accounts for 36 per cent of all country offices providing disability-inclusive humanitarian programmes and services.

<sup>40</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'Mali Humanitarian Situation Report', New York, 31 December 2018.

<sup>41</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'Central African Republic Humanitarian Situation Report', UNICEF, December 2018.

<sup>42</sup> Aid Workers Security, 'Security Incident Data', <<https://aidworkersecurity.org/incidents/search?start=2018&end=2018&detail=1>>, accessed 5 February 2019.

<sup>43</sup> World Health Organization, 'WHO and Partners Provide Vaccines to Control Meningitis C in Nigeria', Geneva, 13 April 2017, <[www.who.int/emergencies/nigeria/meningitis-c/en/](http://www.who.int/emergencies/nigeria/meningitis-c/en/)>, accessed 26 April 2019.

<sup>44</sup> Pentavalent vaccine is a combination of five vaccines-in-one that prevents diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B and haemophilus influenza type B, all through a single dose.

<sup>45</sup> Targets are provided where these were available in the country's consolidated emergency report.

<sup>46</sup> WHO, 1 January 2019.



<sup>47</sup> Calculation based on targets and achievements against this result in countries with a Humanitarian Action for Children appeal in 2018.

<sup>48</sup> The most recent data available from the UNICEF NutriDash monitoring platform.

<sup>49</sup> Only 36 per cent of the 2018 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Nigeria was funded.

<sup>50</sup> Chad Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2015.

<sup>51</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #128', UNICEF, 31 December 2018.

<sup>52</sup> Makani, or 'My Space' centres are a comprehensive approach by UNICEF in Jordan that allow children to access under one roof multiple services that promote and contribute to the development and well-being of children and young people.

<sup>53</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 'South Sudan', Quebec, <<http://uis.unesco.org/country/SS>>, accessed 15 April 2018.

<sup>54</sup> Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, *Education under Attack 2018*, GCPEA, New York, 2018.

<sup>55</sup> After the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Calculated based on the number of people in need of assistance, as indicated in 'Global Humanitarian Overview 2019'.

<sup>56</sup> UNICEF is no longer the co-lead of the gender-based violence area of responsibility, which is now led by UNFPA.

<sup>57</sup> Monitoring and Reporting Information Management System.

<sup>58</sup> An armed force or group is delisted when all activities in their action plan to end grave violations of children's rights have been successfully completed.

<sup>59</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'Operational Guidelines: Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Humanitarian Settings – Three-tiered support for children and families', UNICEF, New York, 2018.

<sup>60</sup> UNICEF Democratic Republic of the Congo, internal reporting on mental health and psychosocial support, 2018.

<sup>61</sup> International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition, 'Landmine Monitor 2018', ICBL-CMC, November 2018.

<sup>62</sup> 'Global Humanitarian Overview 2019'.

<sup>63</sup> International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix, 'Ethiopia National Dashboard Round 11 May-June 2018', IOM, July 2018; Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Ethiopia: Gedeo-West Guji Displacement Crisis – Situation update no. 7', OCHA, 17 August 2018; and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Humanitarian Bulletin: Ethiopia*, issue 66, New York and Geneva, 15–28 October 2018.

<sup>64</sup> With the new Strategic Plan coming into effect in 2018, UNICEF programmes in countries specifically measure progress on the full spectrum of policy provisions, capacity of operational systems and coordination mechanisms required to scale up national cash transfer programmes in times of crisis. The expansion of criteria has resulted in a reduction in the number of countries that reported on shock-responsive social protection in 2018.

<sup>65</sup> These figures look specifically at the perceived country-level preparedness to implement humanitarian cash transfers through existing national social protection systems. These figures are not linked to the figures on humanitarian cash transfer programmes implemented through national systems in 2018.

<sup>66</sup> The British Virgin Islands, Djibouti, Dominica, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Sierra Leone and Turkey.

<sup>67</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'Process Review of the UNICEF-WFP Joint Emergency Cash Transfer (JECT) Programme in Dominica', UNICEF, New York, 2018.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> United Nations Children's Fund Innocenti Research Centre, 'Promoting the Rights of Children with Disabilities', *Innocenti Digest* No. 13, UNICEF, New York, 2007.

<sup>70</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, *State of the World's Children: Children with disabilities*, UNICEF, New York, 2013.

<sup>71</sup> This accounts for 36 per cent of all country offices providing disability-inclusive humanitarian programmes and services.

<sup>72</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'Children with Disabilities in Situations of Armed Conflict: Discussion Paper', UNICEF, New York, 2018.

<sup>73</sup> Based on population data from the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015).

<sup>74</sup> United Nations, *Youth 2030: Working with and for Young People. United Nations Youth Strategy*, New York, <[www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080\\_UN-Youth-Strategy\\_Web.pdf](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080_UN-Youth-Strategy_Web.pdf)>, accessed 27 April 2019.

<sup>75</sup> See United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, 'Identical Letters Dated 2 March 2018 from the Secretary-General Addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council', A/72/761–S/2018/86, <[www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Progress\\_Study\\_on\\_Youth\\_Peace\\_Security\\_A-72-761\\_S-2018-86\\_ENGLISH.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Progress_Study_on_Youth_Peace_Security_A-72-761_S-2018-86_ENGLISH.pdf)>, accessed 27 April 2019.

<sup>76</sup> Generation Unlimited, <[www.generationunlimited.org/](http://www.generationunlimited.org/)>, accessed 27 April 2019.

<sup>77</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'UNICEF Programme Guidance for the Second Decade: Programming with and for adolescents', UNICEF, New York, October 2018.

<sup>78</sup> This is all countries in which UNICEF conducts programmes.

<sup>79</sup> Humanitarian response plans, refugee response plans or other inter-agency appeals.

<sup>80</sup> The 'Evaluation of the Coverage and Quality of the UNICEF Humanitarian Response in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies' was finalized in 2018 and will be published in 2019.

<sup>81</sup> Real-time evaluation-plus is a new approach that combines elements of a retrospective and formative evaluation with those of a real-time evaluation, with the intention of delivering findings and conclusions in a short time frame.

<sup>82</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'Evaluation of the UNICEF Level 3 Response to the Cholera Epidemic in Yemen: A crisis within a crisis', UNICEF, New York, June 2018.

<sup>83</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'Evaluation of UNICEF's Response to the Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Bangladesh', UNICEF, New York, November 2018.

<sup>84</sup> UNICEF provides these funds through a recurring model known as the Vaccine Independence Initiative Revolving Fund or through ad-hoc interventions. The Vaccine Independence Initiative is a financial mechanism designed to bridge temporary gaps when domestic budgets are not immediately available at the time a procurement must take place.

<sup>85</sup> Ministry of Education, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, United Nations Children's Fund and Samuel Hall, 'All in School and Learning: Global initiative on out-of-school children – Afghanistan country study', Ministry of Education, UNICEF, Samuel Hall and USAID, Kabul, 2018.

<sup>86</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'Children Under Attack', <[www.unicef.org/children-under-attack](http://www.unicef.org/children-under-attack)>, accessed 27 April 2019.

<sup>87</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, 'Independent Panel Review of the UNICEF Response to PSEA', UNICEF, New York, September 2018.

<sup>88</sup> Bangladesh, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

<sup>89</sup> Focal points came from the health, nutrition, shelter, camp coordination and camp management clusters.

<sup>90</sup> Participants in these workshops included 17 representatives, 7 regional emergency advisers and 15 security advisers.

<sup>91</sup> Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Indonesia and Nigeria.

<sup>92</sup> The World Zakat Forum is a triennial conference that gathers all those who are interested in zakat initiatives. Zakat is a form of alms-giving treated in Islam as a religious obligation or tax.

<sup>93</sup> All data are as of April 2019, pending audit and certification.

<sup>94</sup> Makani, or 'My Space' centres are a comprehensive approach by UNICEF Jordan that allows children to access under one roof multiple services that promote and contribute to the development and well-being of children and young people.

<sup>95</sup> This figure is calculated based on a refined, more robust methodology and is therefore not comparable to the 2017 figure of 55 per cent. Based on the previous methodology, the 2018 country-level humanitarian expense would be 57 per cent.

<sup>96</sup> This represents funding type 'other resources – emergency'.

<sup>97</sup> Further information on the results achieved by UNICEF in 2018 against the UNICEF Strategic Plan indicators can be found in the UNICEF Executive Director's Annual Report 2018, Data Companion and Score Card. Rounding of figures has resulted in some slight discrepancies with the 2018 EDAR Data Companion.

<sup>98</sup> This is cumulative result since 2016 and includes 1.46 million people who were provided with insecticide-treated nets to protect them from malaria in 2018.

<sup>99</sup> 2018 severe acute malnutrition admissions do not represent the full year of reporting, since the majority of the countries reported data as of October/November of 2018. UNICEF is revising the methodology to address this issue and an updated figure will be published in next year's data companion.

<sup>100</sup> The humanitarian dimension of this indicator reflects the number of children admitted for SAM in countries with a Humanitarian Action for Children appeal.

<sup>101</sup> This lower value from the 2016 baseline reflects a more rigorous methodological approach with focus on results that UNICEF has contributed to.

<sup>102</sup> Methodological challenges in data collection for this indicator mean that the 2017 and 2018 values should be interpreted with caution.

<sup>103</sup> UNICEF strives to reach every child released from armed conflict with at least some sort of protective service. The number of children reached can exceed 100 per cent because there is expected spill-over of children released from previous cohorts who are still provided with protective services.

<sup>104</sup> Operational constraints in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen have affected 2018 results.

<sup>105</sup> UNICEF is collecting data to establish baselines, milestones and targets for the following indicators: number of states that have a formal UNICEF-supported best interests assessments/best interests determinations process for unaccompanied and separated children; number of unaccompanied and separated children who have benefitted from a formal UNICEF-supported best interests assessments/best interests determinations process; and percentage of countries where legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination for children, regardless of their migratory status.

<sup>106</sup> The indicator measures progress only on preparedness for humanitarian crisis. For this reason, no humanitarian disaggregation is available for this indicator.

<sup>107</sup> In the 2018 Annual Results Report – Humanitarian Action, result values are reflected as the number of UNICEF country offices that reported conducting specific work on children with disabilities in humanitarian action.

<sup>108</sup> Defined as change strategies necessary for the achievement of results.

<sup>109</sup> The 2018 result values are based on countries with inter-agency multi-year appeals, which is different to the reporting within the 2018 Annual Results Report (Humanitarian Action), in which countries with multi-year UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeals are mentioned.

<sup>110</sup> The (d) and (h) figures represent the percentage of country offices that meet organizational benchmarks on Communication for Development programmes in development and humanitarian settings respectively.

<sup>111</sup> This is a new indicator in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. Result values for 2018 are different in the 2018 Annual Results Report – Humanitarian Action, in which the focus is on countries where a cluster coordination performance assessment was undertaken with partners.

<sup>112</sup> Defined as internal factors that support the delivery of results and change strategies.



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On 25 April 2019 in Colombia, Anderly Aparicio, 7, plays with friends and UNICEF Volunteers in a 'Return to Joy' activity in La Parada, Cucuta, where she lives with her mother. Anderly moved here two months ago from Venezuela.



# Annex 1: Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding 2018



Sudan, 2018. Two students stand outside Nemery Primary School in South Darfur, which was rehabilitated with support from UNICEF.

## WHAT IS GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING?

### EMERGENCIES

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UNICEF seeks quality flexible resources to respond quickly and effectively to humanitarian crises. UNICEF thematic contributions are pooled, flexible multi-year

funds that are designed to support the implementation of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. This quality funding<sup>i</sup> facilitates UNICEF achieving its mandate to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

Through humanitarian thematic funding contributions at the global, regional and country levels, partners support the delivery of results against the UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. Global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF) – the most flexible form of funding available after regular resources – allows UNICEF to respond to humanitarian crises rapidly and strategically. It provides the greatest level of flexibility and allows UNICEF to deliver timely and effective assistance to the most vulnerable children when and where needed.

The nature of GHTF allows for faster and more cost-effective response than other external humanitarian funding mechanisms. When an adequate GHTF pool is available, it can critically improve aid effectiveness and predictability in humanitarian response.

“UNICEF is a key partner for Denmark in securing better outcomes for vulnerable children and their families in humanitarian crises. It is a priority for the Danish government to ensure that no one is left behind – and children are a top priority. Through our multi-annual strategic partnership, we support UNICEF's holistic approach to responding to children's needs through protection, education, health, sanitation, and nutrition. It is central to me that UNICEF in all of this has a cross-cutting focus on reducing the barriers for girls in achieving their potential. UNICEF also remains an important partner in applying technology and finding innovative humanitarian solutions. By contributing to the thematic humanitarian fund, we enable UNICEF to respond swiftly, in a flexible manner and within a long-term planning horizon, when seeking to address the most pressing needs. UNICEF helps us bring back hope in the lives of girls and boys living in extreme hardship.”

- Ulla Tørnæs, Minister for Development Cooperation, Denmark

## WHY INVEST IN GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING?

### Saving lives, protecting rights and securing a better, healthier and safer future for children

The fast, flexible and multi-year nature of GHTF allows UNICEF to reach the most vulnerable children and to use available resources strategically and effectively. With this type of funding, UNICEF and its partners are able to:

- **Provide immediate life-saving assistance** to the children most in need;
- **Respond more equitably** by reaching children in smaller and/or forgotten crises, in underfunded sectors (e.g., child protection), and in multi-country and subregional crises; and
- **Invest in preparedness** to deliver a more timely and effective response.

## Global humanitarian thematic funding allocations

### Allocation criteria

Allocations of GHTF are governed by an internal, senior-level Allocations Committee composed of the directors of UNICEF's Public Partnerships Division, Programme Division and Office of Emergency Programmes. GHTF can be allocated to any office that has a valid humanitarian appeal, including regional and headquarters offices that exhibit the following:

- Critical unmet needs for the most vulnerable children;
- Critical funding gaps based on available and projected contributions;
- Strong implementation capacity based on delivery track records vis-a-vis the regular country programme.

<sup>i</sup> The funding is predictable, flexible and multi-year.

## How is the allocation criteria applied? Three country examples

### Ukraine – GHTF allocation: US\$550,000

#### Criteria applied:

- Protracted crisis that receives little media attention, making it very difficult to fundraise for.
- 83 per cent of the humanitarian appeal was underfunded, with no confirmed funding projections at the time of GHTF allocation.
- The country office had high utilization rates of available regular and other resources at the time of GHTF allocation (over 60 per cent at mid-year), indicating a strong implementation capacity.

### Burundi – GHTF allocation: US\$400,000

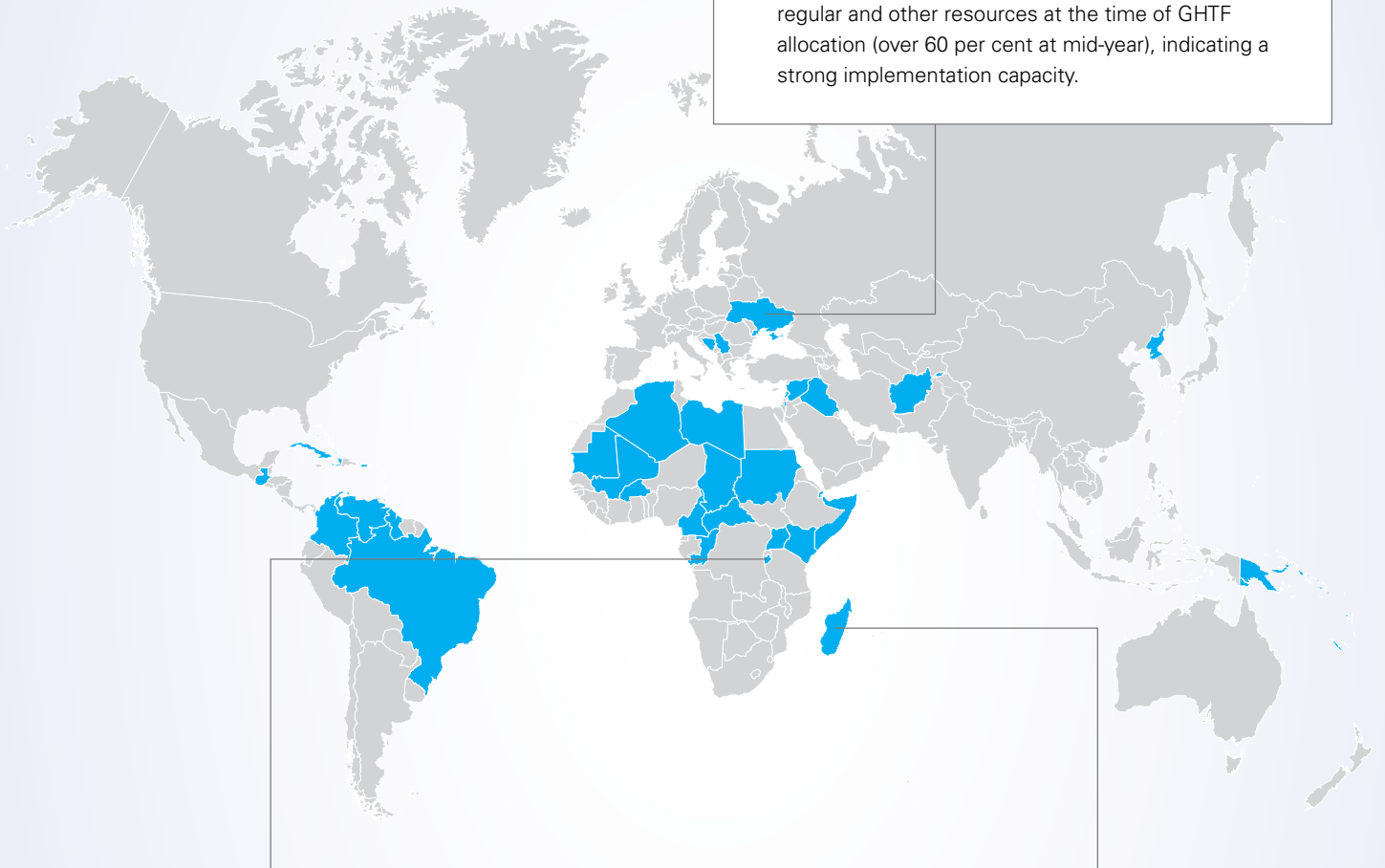
#### Criteria applied:

- Deteriorating humanitarian situation with 1 million chronically malnourished, including 60,000 children with SAM.
- 89 per cent of the humanitarian appeal was underfunded, with no confirmed funding projections at the time of GHTF allocation.
- The country office had high utilization rates of available regular and other resources at the time of GHTF allocation (nearly 50 per cent at mid-year), indicating a strong implementation capacity.

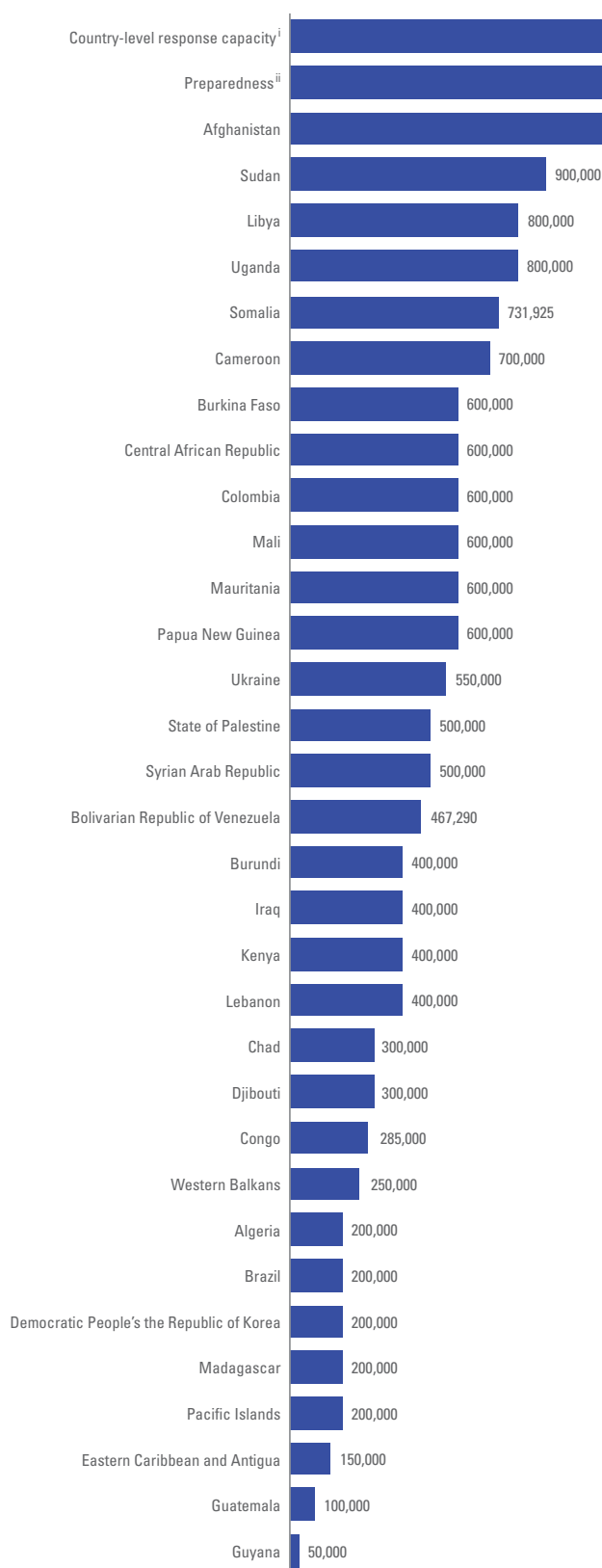
### Madagascar – GHTF allocation: US\$200,000

#### Criteria applied:

- Early and strategic investments in preparedness and emergency planning in the context of a disaster-prone country, yielding strong results in terms of humanitarian response.
- Critically underfunded, with 97 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded and no new funds forecasted at the time of GHTF allocation.
- The country office had high utilization rates of available regular and other resources at the time of GHTF allocation (over 60 per cent at mid-year), indicating a strong implementation capacity.

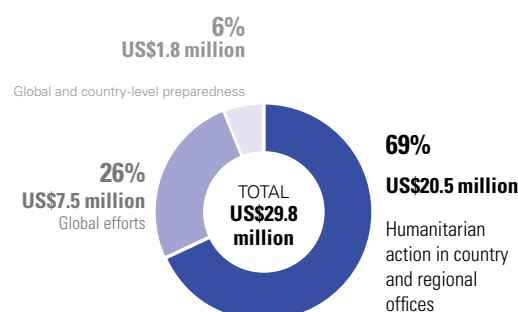


## 2018 global humanitarian thematic funding country-level allocations (US\$)



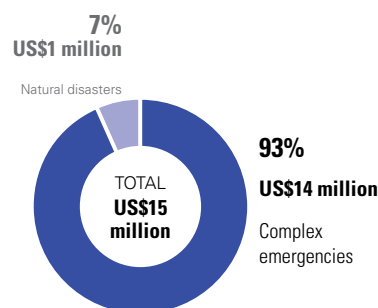
UNICEF received US\$34.8 million in GHTF in 2018. During the year, US\$29.8 million was the programmable amount allocated for humanitarian action over the 2018 period. Of this programmable amount, 69 per cent (US\$20.5 million) supported humanitarian action in country and regional offices, 6 per cent (US\$1.8 million) supported global and country-level preparedness work and 26 per cent (US\$7.5 million) supported global efforts.

### Programmable allocations for humanitarian action



Based on the criteria indicated, 15 per cent of all country allocations went to seven of the most chronically underfunded emergencies: in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, the Congo, Madagascar, Mauritania, Uganda and Ukraine. The majority of country-level allocations, nearly US\$14 million or 93 per cent, supported complex humanitarian situations triggered by socio-political crisis, mainly conflicts, and over US\$1 million (7 per cent) supported countries responding to natural disasters.

### Country-level allocations



<sup>i</sup> This is direct implementation support to country offices and includes technical support through the deployment of Emergency Response Team members and contingency for urgent critical support.

<sup>ii</sup> This includes investments in organizational preparedness systems and country-specific preparedness actions.



## Who supports global humanitarian thematic funding?

The Government of the Netherlands remained the GHTF champion in 2018. Over the years, the Netherlands and other partners – including the Swedish Postcode Lottery via the Swedish Committee for UNICEF, Sansiri via UNICEF Thailand and the governments of Canada, Denmark and the Republic of Korea – have been central to helping UNICEF use GHTF to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable, crisis-affected children.

### Top 10 sources of global humanitarian thematic funding, 2014–2018 (US\$)

1	The Netherlands	76,550,461
2	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	8,348,524
3	UNICEF Thailand	5,038,793
4	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	4,040,892
5	The Republic of Korea	3,331,122
6	Finnish Committee for UNICEF	2,709,711
7	U.S. Fund for UNICEF	2,425,863
8	Canada	1,912,629
9	Denmark	1,815,997
10	Korean Committee for UNICEF	1,000,000

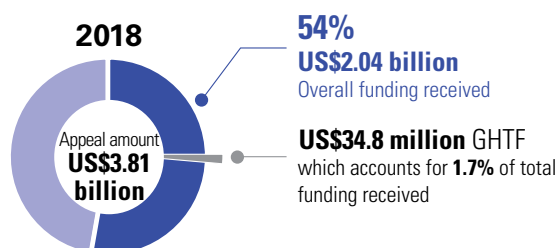
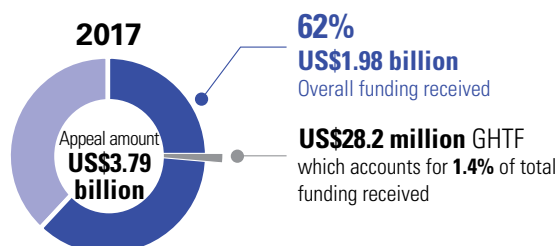
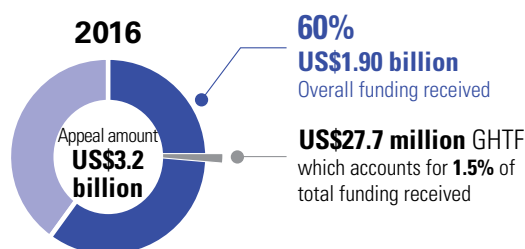
In 2018, humanitarian thematic funding made up 8 per cent of all emergency contributions, for a total of US\$154 million. Nearly 23 per cent (US\$34.8 million) of this amount was GHTF. Compared with the overall emergency funds received, GHTF stood at only 1.7 per cent. Despite the generosity of partners over the years in response to UNICEF Humanitarian Action of Children appeals, overall thematic funding trends, particularly in GHTF, remain low.

Given the importance and impact of flexible funding, UNICEF's goal is to at least double thematic funding as a share of all humanitarian resources by 2021, to 15 per cent.

“Protection and humanitarian assistance for people in need remain central to the Netherlands’ international engagement. This report on humanitarian action shows that UNICEF enables real-time, effective responses for the most vulnerable: children. The Netherlands continues to deliver the strongest support.”

- Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the Netherlands

### UNICEF humanitarian funding trends 2016–2018



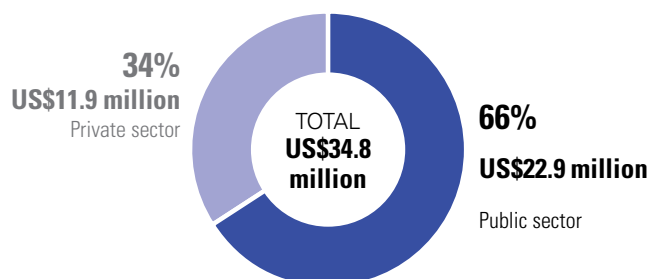
### Key donors providing support to UNICEF's humanitarian action through National Committees in 2018:

National Committees	Key donors
United Kingdom National Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Eleva Foundation</li> <li>• H&amp;M</li> <li>• Andy Murray Live</li> <li>• easyJet</li> </ul>
Swedish National Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swedish Postcode Lottery</li> </ul>
UNICEF Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sansiri</li> </ul>
U.S. Fund for UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Airlines</li> <li>• ALEX AND ANI</li> <li>• GlobalGiving</li> <li>• Rosse Family Charitable Foundation</li> </ul>

## 2018 global humanitarian thematic funding at a glance

UNICEF would like to thank all resource partners who provided GHTF in 2018. GHTF supporters collectively contributed to the achievement of humanitarian results and made a difference for some of the most vulnerable children in need across the world.

### Global humanitarian thematic funding by type of resource partner, 2018



The GHTF pool saw an increase of US\$6.6 million over the past year, from US\$28.2 million in 2017 to US\$34.8 million in 2018. A total of US\$22.8 million was provided by three public-sector resource partners and US\$11.9 million came from 22 private-sector resource partners. The increase in 2018 was mainly due to the substantial contribution from the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF of US\$4 million and the increase in the amount contributed by the Government of the Netherlands due to the fluctuation in currency exchange rates. However, the UNICEF Committees for France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and UNICEF United Arab Emirates also contributed to this positive trend by providing GHTF for the first time since 2014.

Of the total 25 GHTF resource partners in 2018, the top six partners provided 91 per cent of the year's total contributions. The top GHTF donor, the Government of the Netherlands, provided 59 per cent of the total flexible funding received.

The flexibility and predictability of the funding received from these partners has provided a lifeline for UNICEF. While this funding represented a relatively low percentage of overall humanitarian funding, it allowed UNICEF to act quickly and to make strategic and timely allocations to those country offices most in need, particularly those lacking donor support and visibility.

UNICEF will continue its efforts to further diversify the humanitarian donor base and expand the flexible financial support that is needed to deliver effective programmes for millions of children – from life-saving assistance and protection, to efforts to strengthen systems and build resilience, enhance preparedness and link humanitarian action to longer-term goals so that no child is left behind.

### Sources of global humanitarian thematic funding, 2018 (US\$)

1	The Netherlands	20,531,401
2	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	4,040,892
3	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	3,528,812
4	The Republic of Korea	1,666,667
5	UNICEF Thailand	1,012,515
6	U.S. Fund for UNICEF	907,896
7	Finnish Committee for UNICEF	707,231
8	Denmark	667,891
9	UNICEF China	343,279
10	Canadian Committee for UNICEF	229,865
11	French Committee for UNICEF	172,112
12	Swiss Committee for UNICEF	172,112
13	Italian Committee for UNICEF	172,112
14	German Committee for UNICEF	100,399
15	Portuguese Committee for UNICEF	100,399
16	Dutch Committee for UNICEF	100,399
17	Norwegian Committee for UNICEF	97,174
18	New Zealand Committee for UNICEF	50,198
19	International online donations	43,062
20	Spanish Committee for UNICEF	43,028
21	UNICEF United Arab Emirates	39,894
22	Belgian Committee for UNICEF	19,447
23	Australian Committee for UNICEF	18,067
24	UNICEF Hungarian Foundation	14,521
25	Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF	8,483
Total		34,787,856

## Afghanistan

**In 2018, the flexible nature of humanitarian thematic funding enabled UNICEF Afghanistan to allocate resources to support the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism and increase access to learning by reopening schools.**

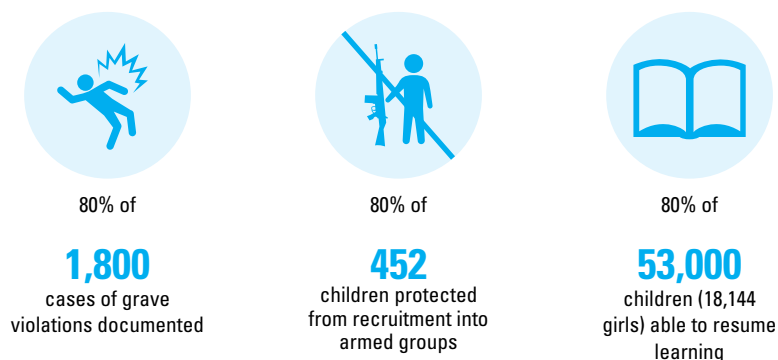
Flexible funds also allowed UNICEF to carry out its humanitarian response in a neutral and impartial manner in an environment where security concerns continued to hamper the organization's response in critical locations, where children's needs were greatest.

For its child-protection response, UNICEF used humanitarian thematic funding to implement Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism activities in 16 provinces (Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Daykundi, Ghazni, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Panjshir, Saripul and Zabul). Using humanitarian thematic funds, UNICEF was able to document more than 1,800 cases of grave violations of children's rights. With training provided by UNICEF, the Afghan National Police's child protection units prevented nearly 452 children, including 4 girls, from recruitment into armed groups.

In addition, with UNICEF support, 83 monitoring and reporting consultation meetings were held on preventing grave violations in communities, particularly child recruitment and attacks on schools. As a result, 91 schools were reopened following negotiations between community elders and armed opposition groups in the area.



Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2018:

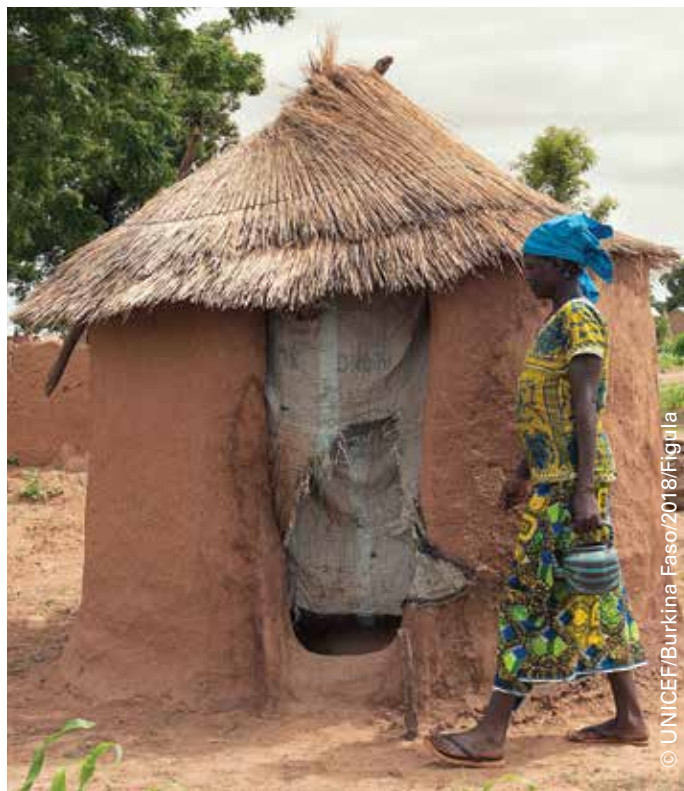


## Burkina Faso

**In 2018, global humanitarian thematic funds helped UNICEF implement crucial and critically underfunded water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions in Burkina Faso.**

The community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach is an innovative approach to eliminating open defaecation, improving community sanitation and decreasing the risk of disease outbreaks. It adds value by strengthening the links between humanitarian action and development programming. In 2018, the emergency CLTS programme in Burkina Faso was facing a significant funding gap.

To address this, UNICEF used humanitarian thematic funds to implement CLTS activities in the emergency-affected Sahel region, which is not only facing insecurity and a chronic nutrition crisis, but also has among the poorest sanitation indicators in the country. Working with implementing partners, including Oxfam and the Danish Refugee Council, UNICEF was able to implement social and behavioural change activities in 438 communities in the Sahel region. Of those, 111 communities have been declared free of open defaecation through their own actions. And as a result, some 3,300 crisis-affected people are now living in areas sustained free of open defaecation.



Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2018:



**438**  
communities  
triggered CLTS



**111**  
communities  
declared free of open  
defaecation



**3,300**  
crisis-affected people  
living free of open  
defaecation



## Libya

### Global humanitarian thematic funding was instrumental to supporting UNICEF's operations and ability to prepare for emergencies in Libya in 2018.

In the last quarter of 2018, UNICEF used humanitarian thematic funds to pre-position US\$350,000 worth of supplies needed to respond to a rapid-onset emergency and improve the delivery of life-saving humanitarian response. The pre-positioned stocks proved essential to UNICEF's response to the wide-scale armed clashes that started in Tripoli on 4 April 2019.

UNICEF also pre-positioned supplies in three locations in Tripoli and one location in Misrata to prepare for the shifting battle fronts and the related risks to accessing and delivering supplies to affected populations. This effort was supported by a partnership agreement signed with STACO, a Libyan non-governmental organization, which will manage the pre-positioned stock in its own warehouse, and deliver on-site to the population in need.

Humanitarian thematic funds also helped UNICEF to spearhead and mobilize the Rapid Response Mechanism with other United Nations agencies (the International Organization for Migration, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Population Fund) and respond immediately to the critical humanitarian needs of vulnerable and hard-to-reach children before the roll-out of the broader humanitarian response under the sectors – increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the response. Through the Rapid Response Mechanism, UNICEF and partners reached 770 families (3,850 individuals) in the first five days of its activation, constituting more than 60 per cent of the total United Nations response to the crisis in Libya.



© UNICEF/UN0271176/Diffidenti

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2018:



**US\$350,000**

worth of supplies  
pre-positioned



**INTER-AGENCY  
RAPID RESPONSE  
MECHANISM**  
established

through  
which



**770**  
families were reached  
in the first 5 days of  
activation

## Refugee and migrant crisis in Europe

**In 2018, one quarter of the funds received for the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe were humanitarian thematic funds.**

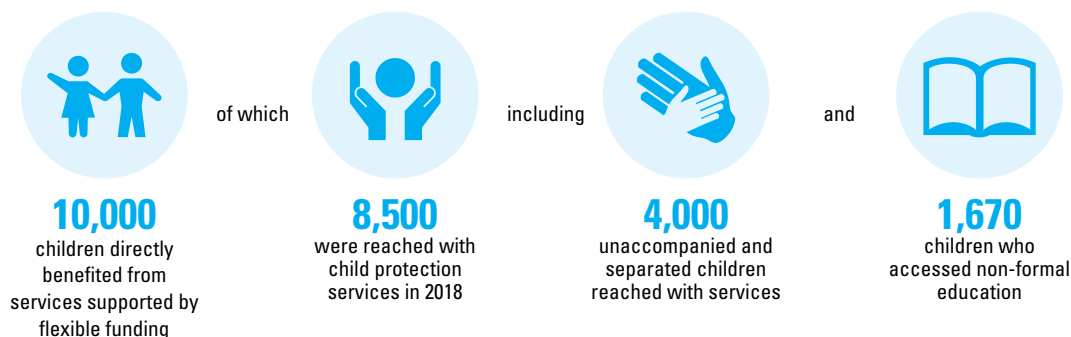
The flexibility of humanitarian thematic funds enabled UNICEF to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of refugee and migrant children and their caregivers across six countries in Europe, directly benefiting over 10,000 children.

This included improving child protection standards, guardianship and outreach activities for over 4,000 at-risk unaccompanied and separated children in Greece and Italy. In Bulgaria and Serbia – for which global humanitarian thematic funding was the only funding source for education – these funds allowed UNICEF to sustain critical non-formal education for 1,670 children. These children were otherwise unable to benefit from public school enrolment, either due to limited capacities of schools or because they were beyond compulsory school age.

Flexible humanitarian thematic funds were also essential in linking emergency activities with longer-term national child protection and education system strengthening, thus contributing to a broader equity agenda and the humanitarian–development nexus. Where countries were able to pool humanitarian thematic funds with earmarked humanitarian funding – for example in Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia – the funds maximized the impact of UNICEF's response to the immediate needs of refugee and migrant children while increasing efficiencies in terms of value for money.



Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2018:



## Papua New Guinea

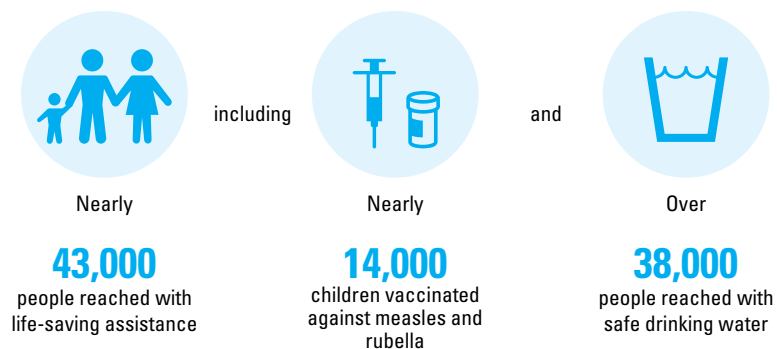
**After a 7.5-magnitude earthquake struck Papua New Guinea in February 2018, humanitarian thematic funding enabled an initial injection of staff to immediately plan and scale up the response.**

As a direct result of humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF Papua New Guinea was able to rapidly establish an operational presence in affected hard-to-reach areas and provide life-saving assistance in WASH, nutrition, child protection, education and health to nearly 43,000 people. The rapid deployment of emergency coordination, programme, security and supply and logistics staff allowed UNICEF to quickly assess the impact and needs of children, and evaluate the security situation on the ground, develop an initial integrated emergency response plan with the Disaster Management Team and identify additional staff requirements.

By the end of November 2018, UNICEF had reached nearly 14,000 children with measles and rubella vaccinations and over 13,000 children with micronutrient powder. More than 38,000 people gained access to safe drinking water, and nearly 3,300 children received psychosocial support services through 22 newly established child-friendly spaces.



Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2018:



## Somalia

**In Somalia, the flexibility of humanitarian thematic funding allowed UNICEF to respond to the time-critical needs of the pre-famine response.**

This included supporting child protection interventions that have typically been underfunded. In 2018, humanitarian thematic funding accounted for 47 per cent of funding received for essential child protection activities and 13 per cent of funding for child protection emergency activities.

These funds helped UNICEF to scale up holistic child protection services supporting unaccompanied and separated children, survivors of gender-based violence and children associated with armed forces and groups. UNICEF activities – which were supported by humanitarian thematic funding of US\$700,000 or 10 per cent of total funds for child protection in emergencies – ensured that more than 9,000 survivors of gender-based violence (over 3,000 girls) accessed medical assistance and psychosocial support – an 80 per cent increase from 2017.

In addition, more than 10,000 unaccompanied and separated children (nearly 5,600 girls) received family tracing, care and support, and more than 1,000 children formerly associated with armed forces or groups and 287 other vulnerable children in affected communities received support for reintegration.



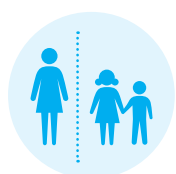
Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2018:



Over

**9,000**

survivors of gender-based violence accessed support



Over

**10,000**

unaccompanied and separated children received family tracing, care and support



**1,000**

children formerly associated with armed forces or groups and 287 other vulnerable children in affected communities received support for reintegration



## The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela migration crisis

**Flexible funding was extremely valued during the first stages of the response to the migration crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

Humanitarian thematic funds were critical to allowing UNICEF to conduct field assessments and recruit and deploy specialized staff – elements that were essential to establishing the foundations of the organization's response strategy across the region.

For example, in Colombia, the sizeable humanitarian thematic allocation helped to scale up the response by reaching certain sites before any other responder was there. Such was the case with rural communities of Riohacha in La Guajira department and in the urban areas of Barranquilla and Santa Marta.

In Brazil, humanitarian thematic funds were instrumental to UNICEF's education response, including addressing the specific needs of indigenous children. Nearly 1,000 indigenous children from the Warau and Inepa communities benefited from a specific curriculum in the indigenous language and initiation to Portuguese, as well as the recruitment and training of 31 indigenous teachers. In addition, equipment and materials were provided to 14 child-friendly spaces benefiting more than 3,000 children and 10 temporary learning spaces that reached nearly 2,300 children.



Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2018:



Nearly

**1,000**

indigenous children  
benefited from a  
tailored curriculum



Over

**3,000**

children received  
learning materials



Over

**2,300**

children accessed  
learning in temporary  
spaces

## Global support for humanitarian action

**In 2018, GHTF supported UNICEF's strategic global efforts to support country-level humanitarian action, including critical emergency surge deployment such as through the Emergency Response Team, the Rapid Response Team and standby partner missions; and emergency preparedness at the global and country levels.**

### The Emergency Response Team

In 2018, GHTF was instrumental to UNICEF's Emergency Response Team (ERT), which was expanded from 14 to 22 staff with specialized skills in emergency coordination, programming, operations, gender, accountability to affected populations and humanitarian cash transfers. In 2018, the ERT undertook 79 missions to 40 country offices, totalling 2,528 days. Seventy-eight per cent of these missions (2,404 days) supported preparedness and response to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 crises.

For example, in Cameroon, the new ERT member focusing on gender worked to establish a gender-focused field presence in crisis-affected areas by integrating gender considerations into Rapid Response Mechanism activities (e.g., menstrual hygiene management, and gender-sensitive infant and young child feeding) and mobile maternal care services. In addition, menstrual hygiene management has been integrated into the WASH programme and nearly 3,000 women and girls have received kits and benefited from related sensitization.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ERT member fulfilled the critical coordination function for the Ebola outbreak in Beni, managing the field office and the four outbreak sites in Nord Kivu and



Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2018:

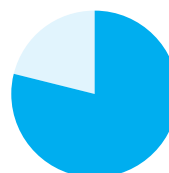
#### EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



Expanded from  
**14 to 22**  
staff



Undertook  
**79 missions**  
to 40 countries, totalling  
2,528 days



**79%**  
of these missions  
supported preparedness  
and response to UNICEF  
Level 2 and Level 3  
emergencies

Ituri. Having this capacity in place early on led to the establishment of additional outposts and rapid response teams, which significantly increased UNICEF's ability to respond to the outbreak.

## Investing in emergency preparedness

GHTF also helped UNICEF to become better equipped to deliver a high-quality, timely and effective response through increased investments in emergency preparedness.

When donors support emergency preparedness, they help make UNICEF's emergency response faster, cheaper and greener. Investments in emergency preparedness mean 12 days faster operational speed, which saves more lives; US\$400,000 saved in the response for every US\$100,000 invested; and 69 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions saved for every US\$100,000 invested by shipping instead of flying emergency supplies.

In 2018, UNICEF began piloting the First Action Initiative, which allocates time-sensitive investments in emergency preparedness against rising risks in specific country and regional contexts. Using US\$2 million in GHTF, UNICEF is demonstrating its conviction in the value for money in preparedness. The performance of these investments will be tracked in terms of the additional speed, cost savings and carbon emissions reductions they deliver upon an emergency mobilization.

UNICEF also used GHTF to strengthen its global preparedness architecture to respond to humanitarian crises in a timely and efficient manner with the 2018 global launch of the Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP). The EPP is an online tool that helps country offices to analyse risks, define emergency scenarios and the UNICEF response, self-assess in-country capacities, identify high-return preparedness actions and get ready to respond before an emergency happens or a situation deteriorates. By mid-year 2018, all 128 UNICEF country offices had approved their preparedness plans in the platform, and by December, had taken significant steps to improve their ability to respond to emergencies by meeting minimum preparedness standards such as the availability of pre-positioned supplies, standby agreements with partners and identification of staff surge needs.

"The Postcode Lottery is run based on the belief that the world is getting better with a free and strong non-profit sector. An important prerequisite for this is that the organizations themselves have the opportunity to prioritize their needs and efforts. Therefore, the majority of the support is not earmarked, which means that the organizations themselves decide what activities the money should go to. In the case of UNICEF, this means that the support goes to their global humanitarian thematic pool so that they can be prepared to act quickly when a disaster occurs without having to spend time collecting donations. It also allows them to help children in the disasters that are going on quietly and which are not reported by the media and thus are unknown to the general public and donor."

- Hélène Carlbark, Head of Charities at Swedish Postcode Lottery

"I strongly believe that each of us has a role to play in providing the best possible environment for children; a society where their rights are respected, their values are heard and their innocence is cherished. But we can't do this alone. Having someone like UNICEF as partner allows us to see the bigger picture and realize our potential in becoming part of sustainable solutions."

- Mr Srettha Thavizin, President of Sansiri Public Company Limited

Sansiri started working with UNICEF nearly a decade ago, and, since 2011, has been providing GHTF to protect children in all emergencies. Sansiri has provided quality, flexible and predictable funds to enable UNICEF to treat children with acute malnutrition, to vaccinate millions against preventable diseases and provide safe environments for children to play and thrive. Mr. Thavizin has visited several emergencies and has seen first-hand the impact that UNICEF is making for children affected by conflicts and natural disasters. He continues to be a strong children's rights advocate alongside Sansiri staff and business partners.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF supported our emergency preparedness in 2018.

**FOR EVERY US\$100,000  
OF INVESTMENT  
IN EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS:**



We are  
**12 days**  
faster in our  
operational response



We save  
**US\$400,000**  
in response cost



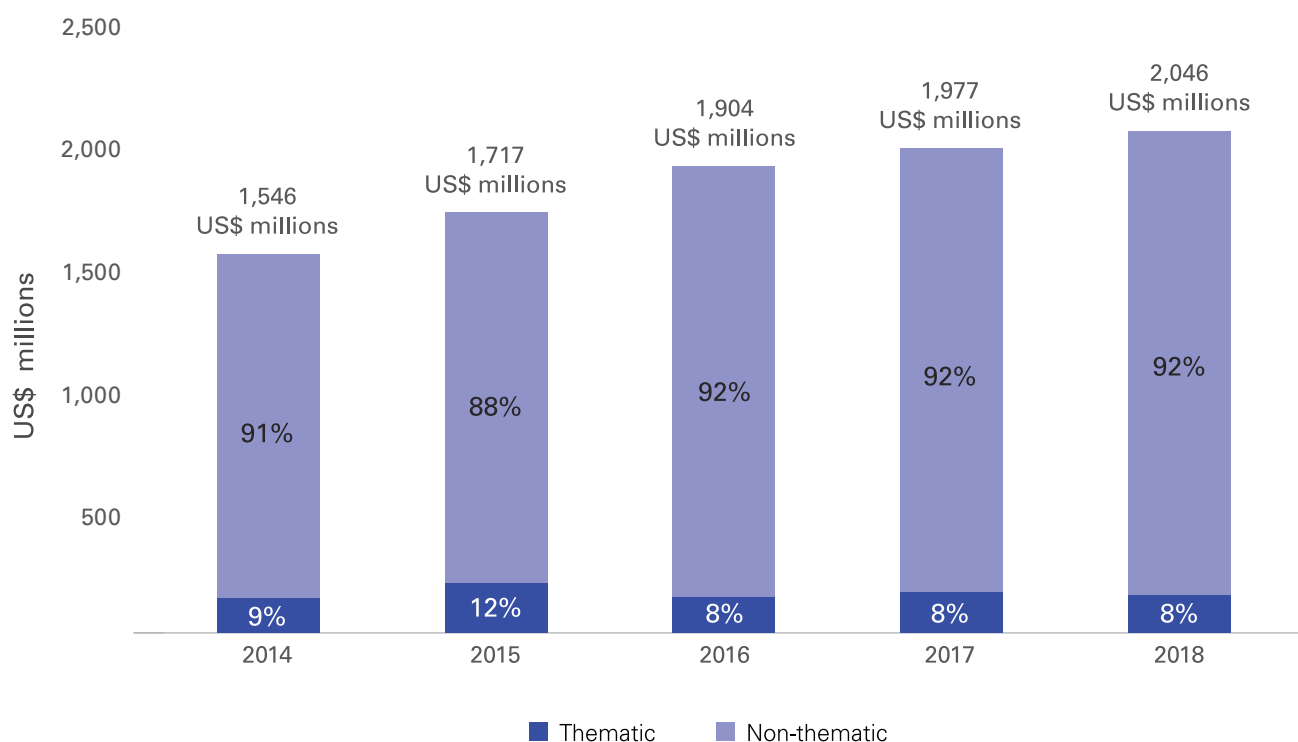
We reduce  
**69 tonnes**  
of carbon emissions

# Annex 2: Financial report<sup>93</sup>

At the beginning of 2018, UNICEF requested US\$3.6 billion for the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. By the end of the year, the emergency appeal had risen to US\$3.8 billion, making it the organization's largest-ever funding request for humanitarian action. The increase was triggered by new natural disasters, the regional migration crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean and the deteriorating situations in conflict-affected and fragile contexts such as Afghanistan, Mali, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. UNICEF Level 3 emergencies continued to represent over half of UNICEF's funding requirements for the year at 59 per cent.

Donors responded generously to the high level of need. Reported contributions against the 2018 humanitarian appeal reached US\$2 billion, including US\$1.9 billion from the public sector (92 per cent of total funding received) and US\$162 million from the private sector (8 per cent of total funding received). Despite this generosity, the Humanitarian Action for Children funding gap stood at 46 per cent in 2018, leaving many crisis-affected children without the assistance and protection they needed. The majority of the funds received – 92 per cent – were earmarked, similar to the 2017 trend.

FIGURE A2-1: Other resources – emergency contributions, 2014–2018





Humanitarian funding levels remained insufficient compared with needs and focused on a few large and protracted crises, such as those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Syrian refugee-hosting countries, and Yemen. These four emergencies accounted for 60 per cent of all UNICEF humanitarian funding received in 2018. Seventy-seven per cent of funding went to 10 emergency appeals, while the remaining 33 appeals received a combined portion of

only 23 per cent. The five most underfunded emergencies (proportional to needs) were Angola, Burkina Faso, the Congo, Madagascar and Uganda, with funding received accounting for only 1 per cent of the total received for 2018. Similar to 2017, the Middle East and North Africa region received the largest proportion of funding, while the East Asia and the Pacific region, followed by the Latin America and Caribbean region, received the least.

FIGURE A2-2: Other resources – emergency contributions by partner group, 2018

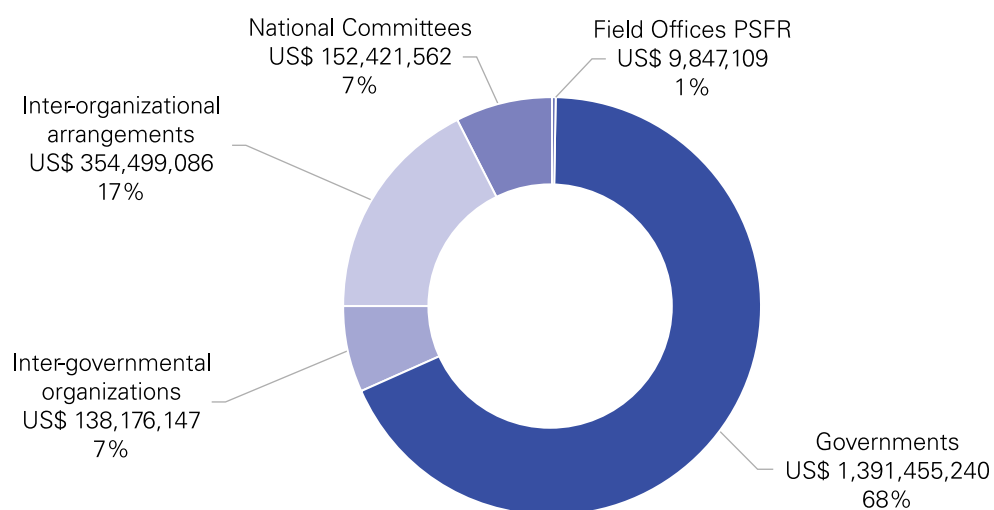
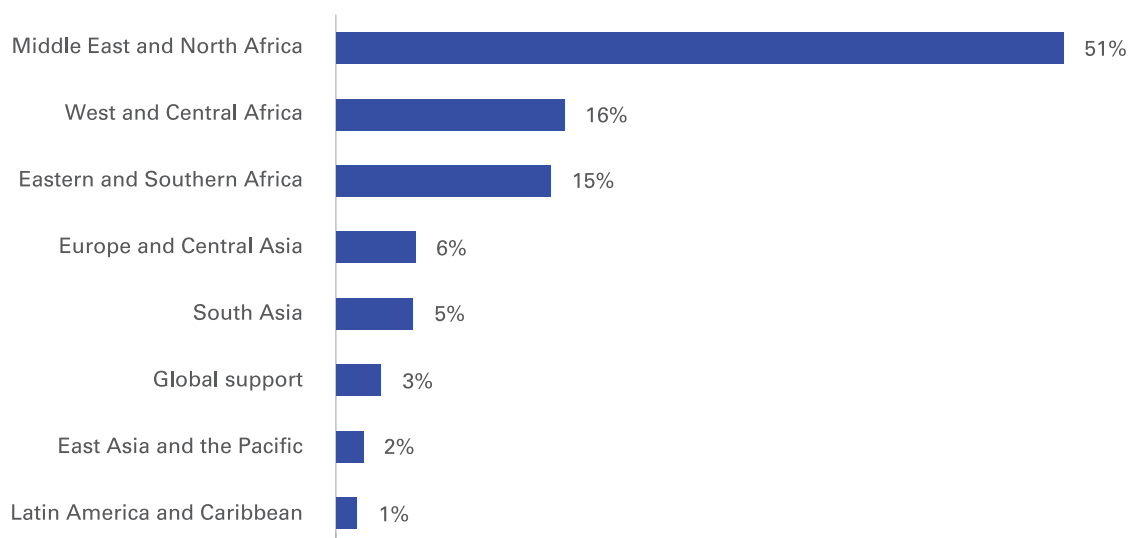


FIGURE A2-3: Humanitarian contributions (other resources – emergency) received in 2018, by region



The majority of the humanitarian funding received – 67 per cent of the total – came from five resource partners, whose contributions ranged between US\$130 million and US\$500 million. The top 10 donors to UNICEF humanitarian action contributed a total of US\$1.7 billion, or 81 per cent of all emergency funding received. While some top donors decreased their humanitarian contributions in 2018 as compared with 2017, it is worth noting that the governments of Belgium, Canada, Kuwait, the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia, as well as the Central Emergency

Response Fund, all increased their funding to UNICEF in 2018.

In 2018, UNICEF welcomed US\$553 million in multi-year contributions from 70 resource partners. Longer-term funding allowed UNICEF to be more strategic and predictable, to respond effectively where needs were greatest and to bridge humanitarian action and development programming.

TABLE A2-1: Top 20 humanitarian resource partners by contributions received, 2018

Rank	Resource partner	Total (US\$)
1	United States	485,526,518
2	UNOCHA*	318,321,083
3	United Kingdom	243,400,826
4	Germany	193,783,042
5	European Commission	135,261,094
6	Kuwait	61,550,000
7	Japan	59,284,395
8	Canada	59,036,723
9	Netherlands	54,554,181
10	Norway	52,393,116
11	Sweden	37,707,911
12	U.S. Fund for UNICEF	32,735,757
13	Germany	30,443,648
14	Saudi Arabia	20,806,500
15	UNDP	18,433,190
16	Australia	18,127,422
17	Democratic Republic of the Congo**	16,710,382
18	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	15,818,536
19	Denmark	14,905,221
20	Italy	14,033,074

\*The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs includes contributions received from the Central Emergency Response Fund, country-based pooled funds, and the pass-through contribution for Yemen from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

\*\*Pass-through contribution from the World Bank.

TABLE A2-2: Top 20 humanitarian contributions received, 2018

Rank	Resource partner	Grant Description	Total (US\$)
1	UNOCHA*	Support and Funding of the UN Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2018	151,481,870
2	Kuwait	Support the humanitarian relief efforts in Yemen	59,000,000
3	Germany	Preventing Lost Generation in Turkey: Support Syrian Volunteer Teachers	50,041,369
4	Germany	Supporting access to formal education for girls and boys in Lebanon, RACE II	35,267,349
5	United States	Turkey: 2017-2018 Syria Regional and Resilience Plan (3RP)	32,170,177
6	United States	Lebanon: 2017-2018 Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)	31,693,116
7	United States	Jordan: 2018-2019 Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)	29,507,215
8	Germany	Access to formal education for Lebanese and non-Lebanese children	28,935,185
9	United States	Lebanon: 2018-2019 Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)	25,747,009
10	United States	Jordan: 2017-2018 Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan(3RP)	25,419,496
11	United Kingdom	Education & Child Protection for Extremely Disadvantaged Children, Lebanon	23,903,673
12	United Kingdom	UNICEF Integrated Emergency and Resilience Support, Somalia	22,305,695
13	Saudi Arabia	Implementation programme for integrated response to emergency intervention, Yemen	20,806,500
14	Netherlands	Humanitarian Action, Global Thematic Funding	20,531,401
15	United States	Integrated Essential Emergency Education Services (IEEES) in South Sudan	19,883,674
16	United Kingdom	Sahel Humanitarian Emergency Response Programme	19,157,088
17	United States	Emergency Response for Internally Displaced People, Syria	16,875,299
18	Democratic Republic of the Congo**	Contingent Emergency Response Component to 2018 Outbreak Response to Ebola Virus Disease in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo	16,710,382
19	United States	Bangladesh's Response Plan of New Influx 2017	16,088,414
20	Japan	Integrated life-saving interventions to Rohingya children and women, Bangladesh	15,727,272

\*Pass-through contribution from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

\*\*Pass-through contribution from the World Bank.

## Case Study 8: The value of multi-year funding in Jordan and Lebanon

Over the past few years, multi-year funding has helped to ensure UNICEF has the ability to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan and Lebanon – not only by supporting the delivery of life-saving interventions, but also by facilitating longer-term programmatic shifts, such as to strengthen national and local systems for the most vulnerable girls, boys and their families.

Both countries have found that building local capacities leads to a more cost-efficient and sustainable response. Multi-year flexible funds have also increased effective programme planning and enhanced the focus on results, rather than activities; and translated into stronger operational and programmatic coordination. Across the board, the key is that the funds are flexible, so that they can be used where funding is most needed.

The Makani centres<sup>94</sup> in refugee camps in Jordan, which used multi-year funding, were able to make a strategic shift to a community-based approach to empower community members and transfer leadership, ownership and engagement to the Syrian refugees. This new strategy is helping UNICEF to make the management of Makani more cost-efficient, contributing to its sustainability in the camps and ensuring vulnerable children and communities can continue to access a high-quality, comprehensive selection of services that promote their well-being, development and resilience.

In Lebanon, multi-year funds have allowed UNICEF to invest in working with national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which typically have a better understanding of the local context. At the beginning of the response to the crisis, the majority of implementing partners were international NGOs. Since 2016, the majority have been national partners. The capacity-building of these partners has helped to improve sustainability, quality assurance and stronger anti-fraud and risk processes.

Multi-year funding also presents opportunities to further strengthen aspects of UNICEF interventions, notably to increase visibility and communications on the crisis and to lower operational costs to improve value for money in the response. UNICEF in Jordan and Lebanon are looking forward to further exploring such opportunities with donors to determine how gains in these areas can be maximized in the future.



Besan, 10, after receiving winter clothes at a UNICEF-supported Makani Centre (November 2018).



UNICEF humanitarian programmes continued to benefit from the Central Emergency Response Fund and country-based pooled funds in 2018, which comprised 9 per cent of all humanitarian funds received. With the largest annual Central Emergency Response Fund allocation ever, of US\$132.1 million, UNICEF was able to provide timely and life-saving support in 34 countries through the rapid response window, and in 16 countries through the underfunded window. Following the trends of the past

several years, UNICEF received 26 per cent of these allocations globally and remained the second-largest recipient agency. UNICEF country offices received funding allocations from all 17 country-based pooled funds that were active in 2018. At the end of the year, the total combined funding amounted to US\$48 million.

FIGURE A2-4: Top 10 donors for multi-year contributions in 2018 (US\$ millions)

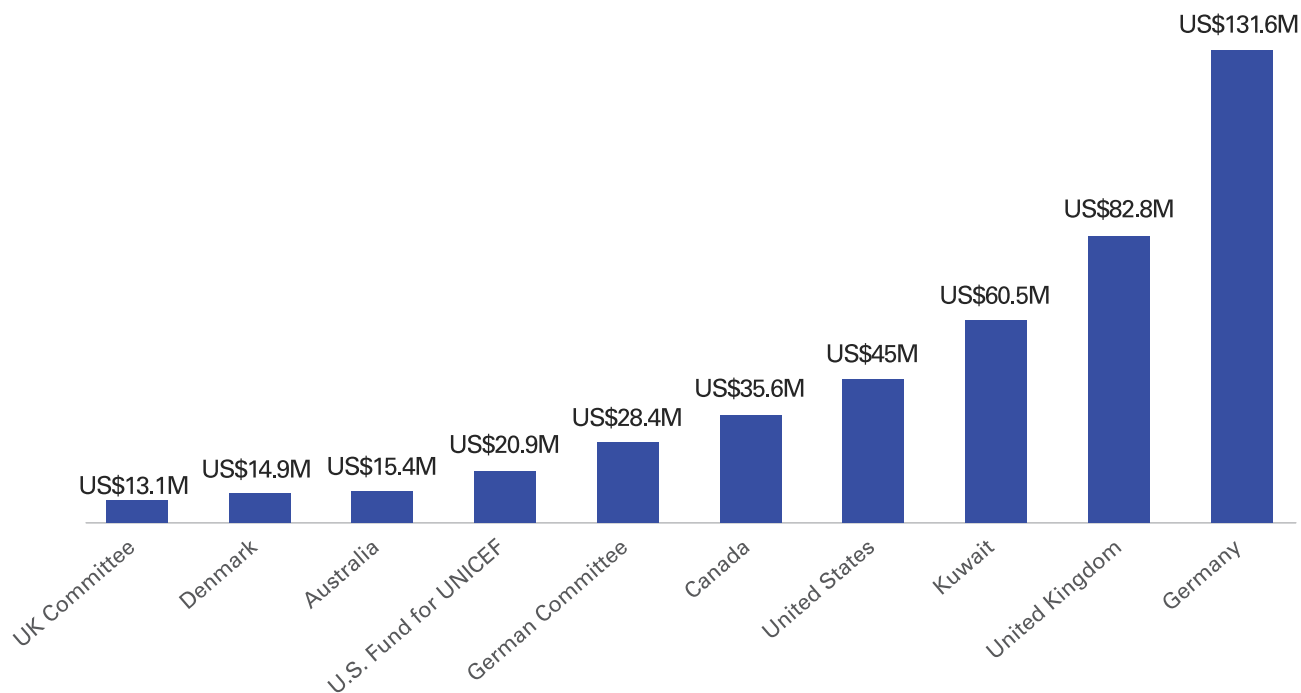


TABLE A2-3: Thematic funding contributions by resource partner to humanitarian action, 2018

Resource partner type	Resource partner	Total (US\$)	Percentage of total
Governments 25.77%	Netherlands	20,531,401	13.33%
	Denmark	14,490,971	9.41%
	Republic of Korea	2,066,667	1.34%
	Sweden	1,203,369	0.78%
	Iceland	952,618	0.62%
	Estonia	425,718	0.28%
	Lithuania	24,540	0.02%
	Romania	3,938	0.00%
National Committees 71.30%	German Committee for UNICEF	24,672,844	16.02%
	U.S. Fund for UNICEF	14,910,510	9.68%
	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	13,124,633	8.52%
	Japan Committee for UNICEF	10,013,349	6.50%
	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	7,097,239	4.61%
	Norwegian Committee for UNICEF	6,673,365	4.33%
	French Committee for UNICEF	5,300,773	3.44%
	Spanish Committee for UNICEF	3,978,863	2.58%
	Italian Committee for UNICEF	3,872,776	2.51%
	Dutch Committee for UNICEF	3,808,854	2.47%
	Danish Committee for UNICEF	2,394,757	1.55%
	Swiss Committee for UNICEF	2,352,089	1.53%
	Finnish Committee for UNICEF	1,806,301	1.17%
	Canadian Committee for UNICEF	1,234,329	0.80%
	Australian Committee for UNICEF	1,135,124	0.74%
	Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF	1,114,908	0.72%
	UNICEF Ireland	1,047,483	0.68%
	Belgian Committee for UNICEF	1,001,181	0.65%
	Polish Committee for UNICEF	816,208	0.53%
	Portuguese Committee for UNICEF	765,249	0.50%
	Luxembourg Committee for UNICEF	719,047	0.47%
	New Zealand Committee for UNICEF	570,162	0.37%

Resource partner type	Resource partner	Total (US\$)	Percentage of total
	Korean Committee for UNICEF	391,011	0.25%
	Austrian Committee for UNICEF	369,752	0.24%
	Iceland National Committee for UNICEF	271,591	0.18%
	Turkish National Comm for UNICEF	130,226	0.08%
	Czech Committee for UNICEF	121,915	0.08%
	Slovenian Committee for UNICEF	67,767	0.04%
	Andorran Committee for UNICEF	47,215	0.03%
	Hungarian Committee for UNICEF	14,521	0.01%
	Hellenic Committee for UNICEF	3,206	0.00%
Field Offices - humanitarian	UNICEF Thailand	1,411,911	0.92%
2.87%	UNICEF Indonesia	589,315	0.38%
	UNICEF China	447,215	0.29%
	UNICEF Croatia	358,368	0.23%
	UNICEF Bangladesh	356,571	0.23%
	UNICEF United Arab Emirates	300,440	0.20%
	UNICEF Argentina	291,216	0.19%
	UNICEF Mexico	253,251	0.16%
	UNICEF Malaysia	177,507	0.12%
	UNICEF Brazil	100,822	0.07%
	UNICEF Uruguay	43,475	0.03%
	UNICEF Ecuador	19,556	0.01%
	UNICEF Chile	19,277	0.01%
	UNICEF India	17,372	0.01%
	UNICEF Guatemala	16,034	0.01%
	UNICEF Philippines	8,412	0.01%
	UNICEF Qatar	6,717	0.00%
	UNICEF Romania	3,965	0.00%
	UNICEF Kuwait	3,816	0.00%
Other 0.05%	International online donations	79,423	0.05%
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>154,031,133</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

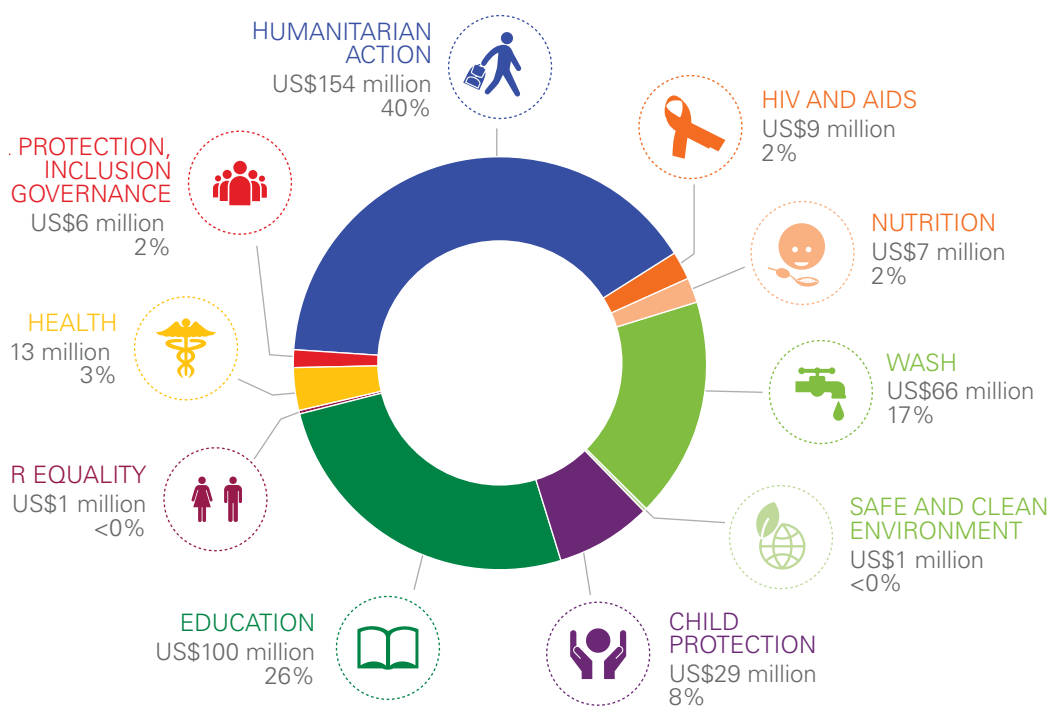
Humanitarian thematic funding made up 8 per cent all emergency contributions in 2018, for a total of US\$154 million. Of this amount, 23 per cent was global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF), the most flexible

form of funding available after regular resources. Compared with the overall emergency funds received, GHTF stood at 2 per cent (*see Annex 1 for additional detail*).

FIGURE A2-5: Humanitarian thematic funding contributions at country, regional and global levels, 2018



FIGURE A2-6: Thematic contributions by thematic pool, 2018 (US\$ millions)





In 2018, humanitarian action remained central to the work of UNICEF in the field, with 51 per cent of all country-level expenses supporting emergency response in 2018.<sup>95</sup> Of overall UNICEF expenses, 50 per cent (US\$2.7 billion) supported humanitarian action during the year. Using funds received from 2018, and resources from previous years, UNICEF emergency earmarked funding expenses in 2018 totalled US\$2 billion – 37 per cent of the organization's total expenses of US\$5.4 billion. This represented a 1 per cent decrease from emergency earmarked funding<sup>96</sup> expenses in 2017 (US\$2.1 billion).

In 2018, the highest share of emergency funding expenses was for Goal Area 1 (health, nutrition, early childhood development and HIV programming). Under Goal Area 2, emergency funding expenses for education programming were 27 per cent, the largest share for any one programme area. This was in line with the education funding requirement under the 2018 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, which was 25 per cent of the overall funding requirement in 2018.

As was the case in 2016 and 2017, emergency earmarked expenses in 2018 were the highest (48 per cent – US\$947.6 million) in the Middle East and North Africa. The largest crisis in terms of amount of emergency earmarked funding spent was the Syrian crisis (both inside the country and in neighbouring countries), followed by Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Bangladesh. All of these crises were the most significant both in terms of scale and complexity.

In 2018, the UNICEF Emergency Programme Fund released US\$66.7 million to 28 country offices and 2 regional offices to rapidly respond to crises. For example, US\$6.2 million disbursed to the Syrian Arab Republic enabled UNICEF to provide safe water, non-food items and sanitation services to nearly 185,000 internally displaced people in collective shelters in Dar'a and East Ghouta.

FIGURE A2-7: Other resources – emergency expenses by goal area, 2018

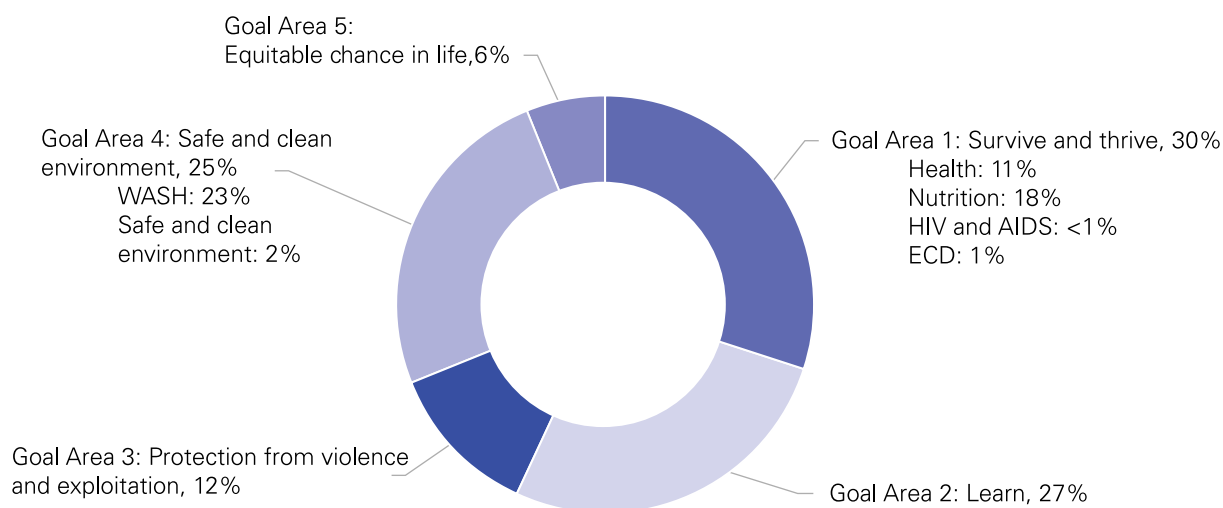


TABLE A2-4: Expenses by outcome area, 2018 (US\$)

Goal Area	Other resources - emergency	Other resources - regular	Regular resources	Grand total
Goal Area 1: Survive and thrive	592,801,406	1,160,068,811	352,829,517	2,105,699,735
Health	223,623,950	863,546,289	200,389,106	1,287,559,344
Nutrition	349,400,687	219,812,609	99,026,136	668,239,433
HIV and AIDS	5,002,037	36,716,727	33,301,096	75,019,861
ECD	14,774,732	39,993,186	20,113,179	74,881,097
Goal Area 2: Learn	533,646,746	508,736,265	149,732,476	1,192,115,487
Goal Area 3: Protection from violence and exploitation	231,130,363	254,815,138	172,237,541	658,183,041
Goal Area 4: Safe and clean environment	498,727,371	341,347,352	171,363,720	1,011,438,442
WASH	458,422,551	320,197,516	133,576,735	912,196,802
Safe and clean environment	40,304,819	21,149,836	37,786,985	99,241,640
Goal Area 5: Equitable chance in life	123,169,832	200,954,715	102,921,863	427,046,410
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1,979,475,718</b>	<b>2,465,922,281</b>	<b>949,085,117</b>	<b>5,394,483,115</b>

FIGURE A2-8: Other resources – emergency expenses by region, 2018

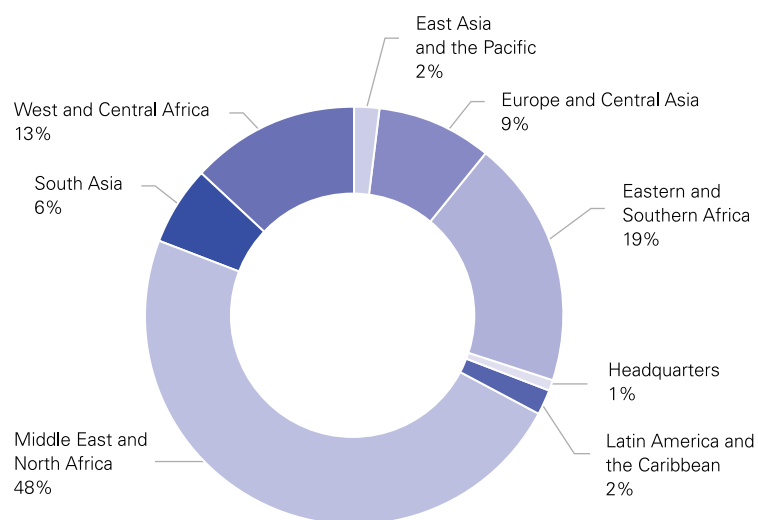
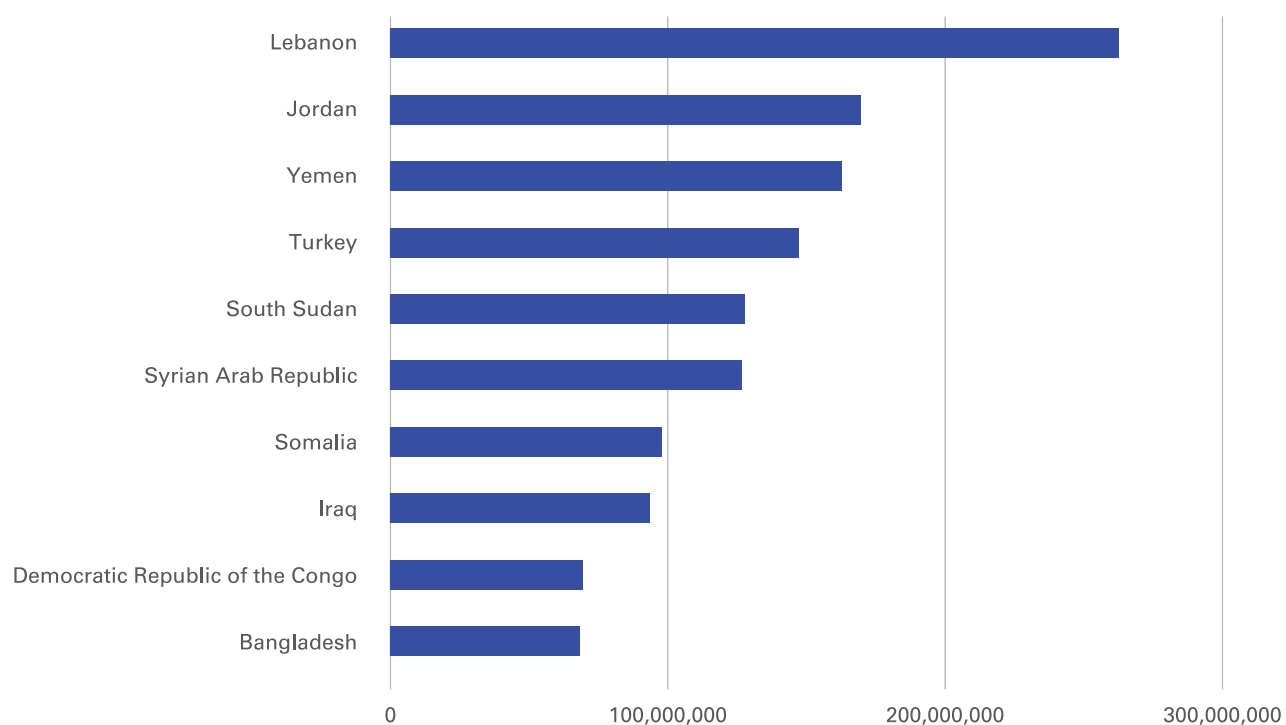


FIGURE A2-9: Top 10 countries by other resources – emergency expenses, 2018



# Annex 3: Humanitarian data companion

A. OUTPUT INDICATORS	
Output indicators	2018 results <sup>97</sup>
<b>GOAL AREA 1</b>	
1.b.5. Percentage of polio priority countries that had less than 5 per cent missed children at district level during the last polio vaccination campaign in at least half of all districts in the country	100%
1.b.6. Percentage of UNICEF-targeted children in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles	96%
1.c.5. Percentage/number of people receiving insecticide-treated nets as per international recommended standards through UNICEF-supported programmes	3.7 million <sup>98</sup>
1.e.1. Number of girls and boys with severe acute malnutrition who are admitted for treatment <sup>99</sup>	3.4 million <sup>100</sup>
1.h.3. Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in humanitarian situations who participate in organized programmes with early childhood development kits through UNICEF-supported programmes	69%
<b>GOAL AREA 2</b>	
2.a.2. Percentage (and number) of countries with equitably accessible education systems, including children with disabilities (including the emergency preparedness/resilience dimension)	29%
2.a.4 Girls and boys targeted by UNICEF as a share of girls and boys targeted by all partners for early learning or education support in humanitarian situations	54%
2.a.5. Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in humanitarian situations who have participated in early learning, or primary or secondary education through UNICEF-supported programmes	79%
2.b.1. Number of girls and boys provided with individual educational/early learning materials through UNICEF-supported programmes	5.5 million
2.c.1. Number of girls and boys who have participated in skills-development programmes for learning, personal empowerment, active citizenship and/or employability through UNICEF-supported programmes	1.4 million



GOAL AREA 3	
3.a.3. Number of countries in which an interoperable information management system supports and tracks case management, incident monitoring and programme monitoring	8 <sup>101</sup>
3.a.4. Percentage of countries affected by armed conflict with a strategy to strengthen the protection of children from grave violations of international humanitarian law	26% <sup>102</sup>
3.a.5. Prevention, risk mitigation and response services through UNICEF-supported programmes in humanitarian situations: (a) Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in humanitarian situations provided with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces with inter-sectoral programming interventions	83% (3.6 million)
3.a.5. Prevention, risk mitigation and response services through UNICEF-supported programmes in humanitarian situations: (b) Percentage of UNICEF-targeted unaccompanied and separated girls and boys registered with family tracing and reunification services and family-based care or appropriate alternative services	61% (69,109)
3.a.5. Prevention, risk mitigation and response services through UNICEF-supported programmes in humanitarian situations: (c) Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys recruited and used by armed forces and groups that have been released and reintegrated with their families and provided with adequate care and services	99.96% (13,636) <sup>103</sup>
3.a.5. Prevention, risk mitigation and response services through UNICEF-supported programmes in humanitarian situations: (d) Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in areas affected by landmines and other explosive weapons provided with relevant prevention and survivor-assistance interventions	72% (3.7 million) <sup>104</sup>
3.a.6. Percentage of UNICEF-targeted women, girls and boys in humanitarian situations who were provided with risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions to address gender-based violence through UNICEF-supported programmes	103% (1.3 million)
3.a.7. Number of children on the move who received protective services through UNICEF-supported programmes <sup>105</sup>	1.7 million
GOAL AREA 4	
4.a.3. Percentage of UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations provided with a sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	104%
4.b.4. Percentage of UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations: (a) Provided with access to appropriate sanitation facilities and living in environments free of open defaecation	82%
4.b.4. Percentage of UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations: (b) Provided with menstrual hygiene management services	53%
4.b.4. Percentage of UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations: (c) Provided with access to appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities for males and females, hygiene education in schools, temporary learning spaces and other child-friendly spaces	116%

GOAL AREA 5	
5.b.2. Number of countries with national cash transfer programmes that are ready to respond to a crisis <sup>106</sup>	9
5.e.3. Percentage of countries providing disability-inclusive humanitarian programmes and services <sup>107</sup>	36%
B. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
Indicator	2018 progress
<b>HOWS<sup>108</sup></b>	
H1.c.1. Percentage of country offices that meet organizational benchmarks on: (a) preparedness (b) implementing risk-informed programming (c) promoting peaceful and inclusive societies	(a) 65% (b) 37% (c) 36%
H1.c.2. Number of countries with inter-agency multi-year humanitarian response plans where country offices have aligned multi-year strategies and plans <sup>109</sup>	11
H1.c.3. Percentage of humanitarian funding provided to local and national actors	36%
H1.c.4. Percentage of countries with humanitarian response plans where country offices contribute to coordinated needs assessments through UNICEF-led cluster coordination mechanisms or directly with the humanitarian country team	78%
H1.d.1. Percentage of county offices that meet organizational benchmarks on Communication for Development programmes for community engagement and behaviour change, including adaptation for humanitarian response	32% (d: 40%) (h: 23%) <sup>110</sup>
H5.b.2. Number of novel products on pathway to being at scale in programme countries by 2021, including products developed to address health emergencies	3
H6.a.5. Percentage of countries where UNICEF-led cluster coordination mechanisms meet satisfactory performance for established functions: <sup>111</sup> (a) nutrition (b) education (c) WASH (d) child protection (area of responsibility)	(a) 41% (b) 37% (c) 58% (d) 32%
H7.a.1. Percentage of countries implementing proven real-time information innovations at large scale, including adaptation for humanitarian response	
<b>ENABLERS<sup>112</sup></b>	
E3.b.3. Percentage of relevant staff who have completed relevant learning programmes: (c) Results-based management, including risk-informed programming	73%
E3.d.1. Percentage of requests for emergency response team support filled within three days	73%



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