



REGIONAL CALL TO ACTION

HORN OF AFRICA DROUGHT CRISIS:
CLIMATE CHANGE IS HERE NOW

December 2022

Contents

Executive Summary	1
Highlights from UNICEF’s Emergency Response in 2022 Priority / Hard-to-Reach Locations for the Response	
Overview of the Regional Drought Situation and Threats to Children	4
UNICEF’s Regional Response Strategy	7
Life-Saving Action Resilience Action	
Funding Requirements	18
Lifesaving Response Resilience Response	

Executive Summary

Today, approximately 36.3 million people in the Horn of Africa—including 20.2 million children—require critical and timely support in response to the worst drought crisis of the past 40 years. While droughts have occurred in this region in the past, the magnitude of the current crisis and its underlying drivers have created catastrophic conditions for children and their families.

In 2023, approximately 1.9 million children are projected to need urgent treatment for severe wasting as acute food insecurity continues to spread across the region. Five consecutive dry seasons have killed vast swathes of livestock and crops, fueling malnutrition and increasing the risk of disease. With families driven to the edge, children are facing a range of dangers, from an alarming increase in child labor to child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Unfortunately, increases in food and fuel prices have created additional challenges for regional governments and humanitarian responders. The Horn of Africa's dependence on imported grain from the Russian Federation and Ukraine has rendered the region especially vulnerable to the war's adverse effects on supply chains and food production. As the drought crisis becomes a protracted emergency, current humanitarian funding levels are not sufficient to meet the needs of the vulnerable.

As we enter the second year of the response, UNICEF recognizes the necessity of providing life-saving support today, while increasing the resilience of drought-prone areas in the future, especially through climate-sensitive water infrastructure and systems strengthening. In light of that, this Call to Action has two interconnected pillars—life-saving response and resilience—that require equal attention and support.

For 2023, UNICEF is appealing for US\$759 million to provide life-saving support to 16.6 million high-risk people—including 12.2 million high-risk children—in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. An additional US\$690 million is required to provide climate-sensitive resilience support to communities across the affected areas in 2023 and 2024. The total of these combined requirements is US\$1.45 billion.

Due to the generosity of donors, by the end of November 2022, more than 60 per cent of UNICEF's 2022 emergency response had been funded. Indeed, the results achieved over the past year would not have been possible without the financial support

Across the Horn of Africa



82%

increase in people in need from **20 million to 36.3 million** between February and December 2022.



40%

increase in the number of severely wasted children admitted for treatment in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia between January and July 2022, compared to 2021.



98%

increase in IPC 3+ food insecurity, from **11.6 million to 23 million** between May and November 2022.



128%

increase in household water insecurity from **10.5 million people to 24 million people** between July and December 2022.



119%

increase in child marriage across areas worst hit by the drought in Ethiopia between January and April 2021 compared to the same period in 2022.



2.7 million

children out-of-school due to the drought in the three affected countries as of October 2022, with another **4 million** at risk of dropping out.

of resource partners. However, most of the funding received was for emergency nutrition support, while other key sectors such as child protection, education, and WASH struggled to attract resources. At the country-level, Somalia's response received more support than Kenya's, which continues to be under-resourced. For UNICEF and its partners to respond quickly and equitably based on need, especially in underfunded sectors and countries, flexible resources will play a critical role as the crisis evolves.

The funding outlook for 2023 will remain one of the key challenges for the drought response. UNICEF and its partners will continue to work on diversifying the donor base in an effort to secure timely, flexible, and longer-term funding. Such funding will allow UNICEF to prepare for and respond to the worst drought crisis in two generations, while ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable children and their families remain at the forefront of our work.

People Affected by the Drought**

36.3
million

Estimated total number of **people affected by the drought** across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia as of December 2022.

20.2
million

Estimated number of **children affected by the drought** across Ethiopia, Kenya and, Somalia as of December 2022.

UNICEF's Targets for 2023

16.6
million

Total number of **people in need** targeted by UNICEF across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

12.2
million

Total number of **children in need** targeted by UNICEF across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

** *Humanitarian Action for Children 2023. The estimated total numbers of people and children affected by the drought are tentative and will be updated once the interagency planning processes for 2023 are completed and published.*

Highlights from UNICEF's Emergency Response in 2022*



1,930,925 children and women

received access to essential life-saving health care services.



2,783,405 people

accessed safe water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene.



1,999,382 children

between 6 months to 15 years old were vaccinated against measles.



694,188 children

under 5 years old affected by severe acute malnutrition were admitted for treatment in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia (Jan to Oct 2022).



202,645 children

and caregivers were provided with mental health and psychosocial



569,019 individuals

were reached with emergency cash in regions affected by drought and conflict. 50,335 households received UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers, and 64,315 households were funded through government social protection systems with UNICEF funding and support.

* *Results were achieved between 01 January and 31 October 2022 unless otherwise indicated.*

Priority / Hard-to-Reach Locations for UNICEF's Drought Response

AFAR REGION, ETHIOPIA

Awsi
Kilbati
Gabi
Fanti
Hari

SOUTH WEST ETHIOPIA PEOPLES' REGION, ETHIOPIA

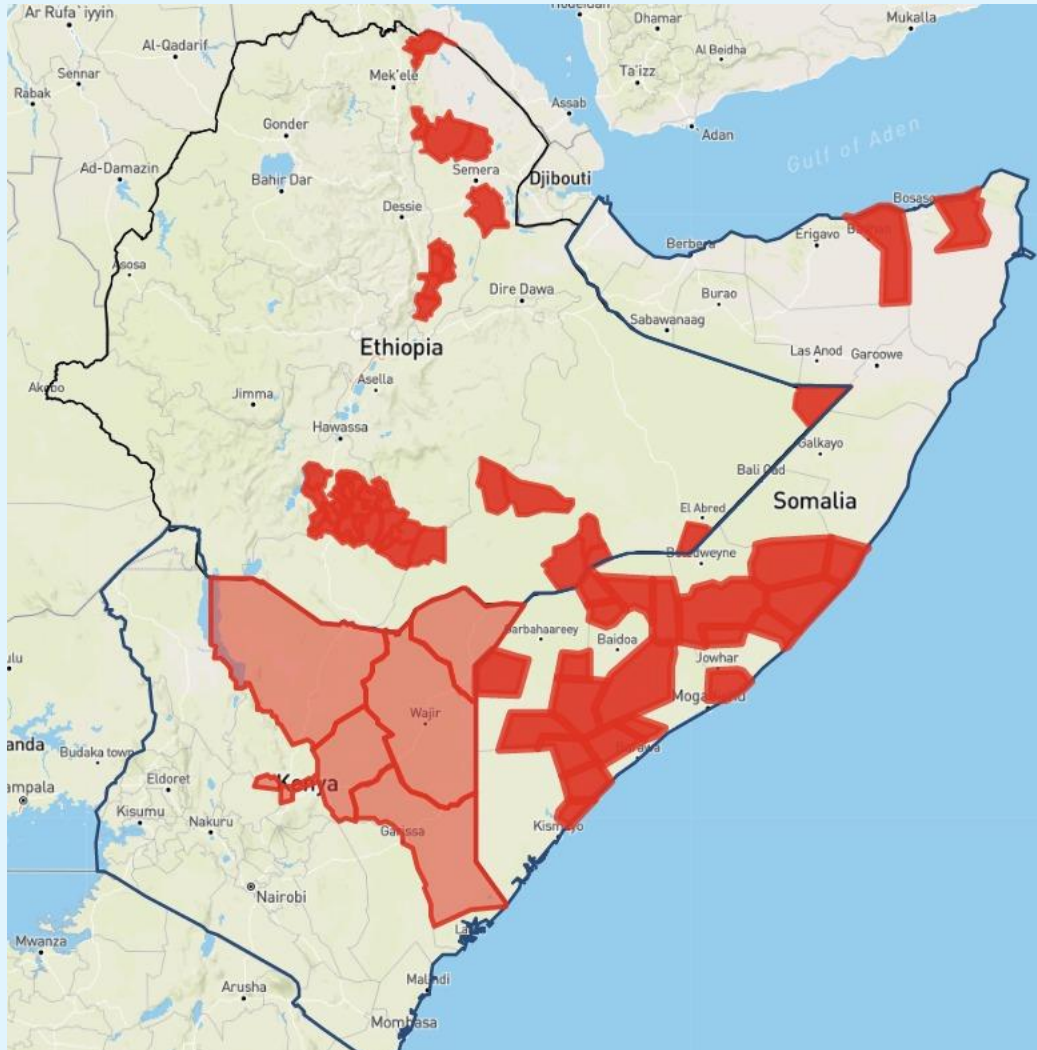
Dawro
Bench Sheko
West Omo

SOUTHERN NATIONS, NATIONALITIES, AND PEOPLES' REGION, ETHIOPIA

South Omo
Konso
Gofa
Special Woreda

ARID AND SEMI- ARID LAND (ASAL) REGION, KENYA

Lamu
Garissa
Wajir
Mandera
West Pokot
Turkana
Marsabit
Baringo
Samburu



BARI REGION, SOMALIA

Qandala

SANAAG REGION, SOMALIA

Badhan

SOMALI REGION, ETHIOPIA

Shebele
Afdar
Liban

OROMIA REGION, ETHIOPIA

Guji
West Guji

MUDUG REGION, SOMALIA

Xarardheere

GALGUDUUD REGION, SOMALIA

Ceel Buur
Ceel Dheer

HIIRAN REGION, SOMALIA

Bulo-Burte
Jalalaqsi

MIDDLE JUBA REGION, SOMALIA

Bu'aale
Jilib
Saakow

LOWER JUBA REGION, SOMALIA

Jamaame

GEDO REGION, SOMALIA

Ceel Waaq

BAY REGION, SOMALIA

Diinsoor
Buur Hakaba
Qansax Dheere

MIDDLE SHABELLE REGION, SOMALIA

Aadan Yabaal
Jawhar Balcad

LOWER SHABELLE REGION, SOMALIA

Kurtunwaarey
Sablaale

BAKOOL REGION, SOMALIA

Tiyeglow
Xuddur
Rabdhuure
Waajid

Overview of the regional drought situation and threats to children

The Horn of Africa is facing its fifth consecutive season of below-average rainfall, with a sixth expected. The region's drought and water crisis has affected up to 36.3 million people — including 20.2 million children — in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, many of whom will need water and food assistance in 2023.¹

- **Levels of malnutrition are soaring among children**, with 1.9 million children in drought-affected areas projected to experience wasting from severe acute malnutrition in 2023. Between June and September 2022, the combined health-facility admissions for Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia totaled more than 100,000 children per month — higher than during the droughts of 2011, 2015, and 2017.
- **Water insecurity has more than doubled**, with approximately 24 million people now confronting dire water shortages across the region.²
- **To survive, households are adopting coping strategies that have dangerous and often irreversible consequences for children.** These include reducing food intake, withdrawing children from school (to save money on school fees or to send children to work), selling off assets (livestock, household items, or land), marrying girls young, and migrating to urban centers in search of assistance.³ Current conditions have led to the internal displacement of 2.1 million people due to drought.⁴
- **The crisis has exacerbated disease outbreaks in the region**, with cholera, diarrhea, and measles on the rise.
- **2.7 million children are now out of school due to the drought**,⁵ with an additional 4 million children at risk of dropping out. An estimated 14.6 million children are out of school across the three countries.⁶ During the 2017 drought, 90% of children in Somalia who dropped out of school did not return, highlighting the importance of prioritizing education in the drought response. In the drought-affected areas, an entire generation is being denied access to education due to the drought or the combined effects of the drought and conflict, with devastating long-term intergenerational consequences for poverty, health, and wellbeing.
- **Gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual violence, exploitation, abuse, and intimate-partner violence, are becoming more acute** due to widespread food insecurity and displacement. A growing number of women and girls are forced to travel longer distances to secure water, food, and firewood for their families, leaving them vulnerable to sexual violence. Female-headed households, adolescent girls, older women, and those with disabilities are at heightened risk.

¹ Numbers updated based on revised Drought Response Plans for Ethiopia and Somalia, and revised 2022 flash appeal for Kenya; numbers of children in need are estimated based revised UNICEF 2022 HACs.

² WASH cluster estimations in drought response plans for Ethiopia (Sep. 2022 revision, 13 million people), Somalia (6.4 million people), and the drought flash appeal for Kenya (4.35 million people).

³ UNICEF. "Child marriage on the rise in Horn of Africa as drought crisis intensifies." Press release (28 June 2022). Available at <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/child-marriage-rise-horn-africa-drought-crisis-intensifies> (accessed 23 November 2022).

⁴ OCHA (revised 28 November 2022). Horn of Africa Drought. Regional Humanitarian Overview and Call to Action. Available at [Horn of Africa Drought: Regional Humanitarian Overview & Call to Action \(Revised 28 November 2022\) - Ethiopia | ReliefWeb](#) (accessed 30 November 2022).

⁵ In Kenya, the available data only captures the number of children out of school in the drought-affected regions, but may include children out of school due to non-drought-specific causes.

⁶ Data is comprised of an OOSC Initiative Study in Kenya from September 2021, a National Study on the Situations of At-Risk and Out-of-School Children in Ethiopia from January 2022 (using EMIS data from 2019/20), and a Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment in Somalia from November 2022.

- **The drought is accelerating child protection risks**, with many families adopting negative coping mechanisms for survival, such as child labor and family separation. Food insecurity is also increasing the number of adolescent girls being forced into marriage, which can lead to life-threatening reproductive health outcomes, the disruption of educations for girls, and poor development outcomes for the babies born into such marriages.
- **The risk of conflict remains high due to political fragility.** Conflict and social unrest in some of the drought-affected countries has further worsened living conditions. The active conflict in northern Ethiopia and protracted insecurity in Somalia have caused significant population displacements and are restricting humanitarian access.
- **Economic recovery has been slow.** Most countries are not expected to reach pre-COVID growth rates in the near future.⁷ People living in low-income countries, such as those in the Horn of Africa, are being hit especially hard.
- **The impact of the war in Ukraine** continues to push a growing number of families in the Horn of Africa into poverty. Fuel and food prices are soaring, while essential staples such as wheat and cooking oil are becoming more difficult to procure. The effects of the war have made children more vulnerable to malnutrition and disease, while dividing the attention of key donors and partners.

UNICEF is on the ground ensuring access to life-saving services and resilience-building responses. Over the past year, UNICEF has provided essential health, nutrition, immunization, WASH, education, child and social protection support, and GBV services.

UNICEF has been front-loading its internal core resources to respond to the drought on a no-regrets basis. This includes new loan and grant financing, repurposing regular resources for procurement, and supporting enhanced community outreach, while making strategic investments for long-term resilience, particularly through climate-resilient WASH and nutrition interventions.

- **UNICEF is uniquely positioned to address the water crisis** through immediate interventions such as borehole repair and cleaning, and more extensive investments such as mapping groundwater aquifers and accelerating the drilling of deep boreholes to make communities more resilient to future droughts, especially given the climate change patterns that are predicted for this region.
- As the lead UN agency for **WASH**, UNICEF is providing access to clean water and **reliable sanitation**, while promoting basic hygiene practices in rural and urban areas, including in emergency situations.
- UNICEF's **nutrition response** across the drought-affected regions includes life-saving treatment for children with severe acute malnutrition. UNICEF is the global leader in procuring ready-to-use therapeutic food, which is the gold standard in treating children suffering from acute malnutrition.
- UNICEF leads the **education and child protection** response to promote and support the continuity and inclusiveness of learning, while providing protective safe spaces for children with access to critical health, nutrition, and water services, along with mental health and psychosocial support. UNICEF has scaled up its child protection and gender-based violence interventions to support prevention and case management for vulnerable children and victims of GBV, while continuously engaging partners and communities to prevent female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage.⁸

⁷ IMF. World Economic Outlook. War Sets Back the Global Recovery. Report (April 2022). Available at: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2022/04/19/world-economic-outlook-april-2022> (accessed 23 November 2022).

⁸ UNICEF. "Child marriage on the rise in Horn of Africa as drought crisis intensifies." Press release (28 June 2022). Available at <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/child-marriage-rise-horn-africa-drought-crisis-intensifies> (accessed 23 November 2022).



UNICEF's regional response strategy

UNICEF has revised its emergency life-saving appeal from US\$262 million in July 2022 to US\$759 million for 2023. This represents a 190% increase in support for life-saving activities through 2023 and reflects the growing needs across the region. UNICEF is also appealing for US\$690 million in long-term resilience support for 2023-2024 to help children and their families adapt to climate change. Our resilience appeal is 13 per cent funded.

UNICEF thanks its partners for their generous support, which has allowed UNICEF to respond to the current situation in the Horn of Africa. However, the situation in the region continues to deteriorate. These are extraordinary times, with conflict, the war in Ukraine, a recovering world economy already devastated by COVID-19, and intensifying crises connected to climate change. Extraordinary efforts are needed from the international community to ensure a holistic and multi-sectoral response in the Horn of Africa to prevent deaths and build the resilience of affected communities.

Intersectoral response strategy

UNICEF is responding to the life-saving needs of drought-affected children and their families in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. Multi-sector plans including WASH, health, nutrition, education, child protection, and humanitarian cash transfers are featured in each country's 2023 humanitarian appeal. All country plans have expanded their coverage to reach communities in the most affected and hardest to reach areas through partnerships with governments, international NGO partners, the private sector, and civil society organizations. UNICEF is applying a "no-regrets approach" to delivering integrated services to affected populations.

Addressing household water insecurity is the core driver of the regional drought response in 2023. UNICEF is scaling up its WASH assistance, in collaboration with health and education programmes, for the most at-risk water-insecure households, as well as for health facilities and schools. Nutrition-sensitive WASH interventions are targeting highly food-insecure areas to mitigate disease outbreaks such as cholera (due to contaminated water) and skin diseases (due to lack of water for hygiene). The risk of gender-based violence is also being reduced by shortening the walking distance to water sources, while considering the specific support needs of persons with disabilities. UNICEF's WASH interventions are complemented by social and behavioral change programming to ensure that safe hygiene practices are promoted and that the allocation and rationing of water is well communicated to communities.

In terms of nutrition support, UNICEF is accelerating the procurement of UNICEF prioritizes its response to women and children, including those with disabilities and those living in the most affected and hardest-to-reach areas. All country plans have expanded their coverage to reach these communities through partnerships with governments, international NGO partners, the private sector, and civil society organizations. therapeutic foods (RUTF) for under-five children, with special priority going to children and families with the greatest need. Ethiopia and Somalia have specific access strategies in place, with immediate funding required to ensure that life-saving treatment and food assistance are provided to children who are moderately and severely malnourished.

Alongside the life-saving response for children and families affected by the drought, UNICEF is scaling up resilience interventions to achieve sustainable humanitarian outcomes that restore self-sufficiency and dignity to affected communities. Inclusive climate-resilient services (including health, WASH, child protection, nutrition, education, and shock-responsive social protection) delivered in, or close to, areas that have been most affected by the drought can help prevent non-reversible rural-to-urban migration, which was a documented long-term outcome of the last major drought in Somalia in 2017/2018, and created its own set of challenges by overwhelming critical services in urban areas while increasing the risk of disease outbreaks in congested areas that were already hosting IDPs.

Child protection and GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response are principal cross-cutting components for all interventions based on local analysis. Evidence from the 2016/2017 drought in the Horn of Africa showed increased rates of GBV, including sexual violence. In areas of Ethiopia that have been worst hit by the current drought, for instance, child marriage doubled between January and April 2021 compared to the same period in 2022, increasing by an average of 119 per cent.⁹ Within the same period, cases of FGM increased by 27 per cent.¹⁰ Unfortunately, the coverage of life-saving health, GBV, child protection, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and other services remain scarce across drought-affected areas. Gaps in services mean that many GBV cases go unreported, and women and children are unable to seek care and recover from violence and abuse.

UNICEF remains committed to addressing these issues through programming that promotes gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and disability inclusion. UNICEF's response in the Horn of Africa will continue to be informed by gender analysis, while accounting for the differentiated risks, needs, and capacities of women and girls. Engaging and partnering with local women-led organizations that advance the rights of women and girls—inclusive of those with disabilities—is a priority for UNICEF's emergency preparedness and response. Tailored interventions for adolescent girls whose mobility may be restricted, whose needs are specific, is also crucial.

Safeguarding and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), as well as accountability to affected populations (AAP), are at the core of all interventions, notably through developing safe and accessible reporting channels, community feedback mechanisms, and providing assistance to survivors of SEA.

UNICEF applies a “do no harm” approach in its programmes, particularly to avoid aggravating any existing tensions at the community level. All response programmes account for the multiplicity of underlying risks, particularly the possibility that certain vulnerable or politically excluded groups can be marginalized from accessing assistance. These principles are important, given that affected communities have been subjected to multiple shocks and those in need are already displaced.

⁹ Pandian, D and Sewunet Z. “Drought pushes more and more girls into child marriage, but not for girls like Fiinxee.” UNICEF Ethiopia (5 October 2022). Available at <https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/stories/drought-pushes-more-and-more-girls-child-marriage-not-girls-fiinxee> (accessed 23 November 2023).

¹⁰ UNICEF. “Child marriage on the rise in Horn of Africa as drought crisis intensifies.” Press release (28 June 2022). Available at <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/child-marriage-rise-horn-africa-drought-crisis-intensifies> (accessed 23 November 2022).

Life-saving action (2023)

As the lead or co-lead of three clusters¹¹ and one area of responsibility—WASH, nutrition, education, and child protection¹²—UNICEF is committed to bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent, principled, transparent, and accountable response to emergencies and preparedness essentials in the Horn of Africa.

Nutrition

The impact of the drought on nutrition continues to aggravate pre-existing vulnerabilities across the affected countries. In 2023, 1.9 million children are projected to require urgent life-saving nutrition treatment services. Record numbers of children with severe acute malnutrition have been admitted for in-patient care in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya. As the cluster lead agency and implementing partner, UNICEF continues to support critical nutrition activities through the procurement, prepositioning, and distribution of therapeutic supplies for children, support for the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition, and promotion of appropriate maternal, infant, and young child nutritional support (including micronutrient supplementation in emergencies). UNICEF also provides support to governments and partners to enhance screening and early case identification of children and women with acute malnutrition via integrated outreach programmes and mobile health and nutrition teams at the community level.

In line with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children, UNICEF is supporting routine interventions that benefit both children and adolescents through community and school-based packages, including iron-folic acid supplementation, deworming, and nutrition education. Capacity-building of the health workforce has also been prioritized to ensure quality service provision. To address the key drivers of malnutrition, UNICEF continues to strengthen government nutrition systems at the national and sub-national levels as well as through critical sectors such as water and hygiene and through innovative programmes involving cash transfers.

WASH

The priority for UNICEF's WASH response is to enable affected families to access enough safe water for drinking and hygiene to sustain their dignity, while reducing the risk of dehydration and diarrheal and skin diseases. UNICEF will continue to provide the goods and services that will support affected communities beyond the emergency response period to enable a full recovery. The planned activities in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia consist of maintaining, rehabilitating and expanding existing water sources and systems, while drilling high-performing and climate-resilient boreholes in strategic locations to phase out the use of costly water-trucking services (discussed in greater detail in the section on resilience). UNICEF also provides hygiene kits, water purification tablets, and jerrycans to displaced populations and at-risk groups, along with key institutions such as schools and health and nutrition facilities.

Health and HIV/AIDS

Multiple countries in the Horn of Africa are experiencing complex emergencies that have interrupted the provision of routine healthcare, which was already weakened by COVID-19, while increasing the risk of infectious disease outbreaks. UNICEF is responding to public health emergencies while prioritizing life-saving, essential, preventative and curative health services for affected communities, including people on the move. This support is provided through a number of modalities, including community, mobile health and nutrition teams. UNICEF is also strengthening national and sub-national health emergency preparedness and response through continuous needs assessments and implementation monitoring, as well as training and capacity-building activities for health workers.

¹¹ UNICEF is a partner in sector coordination led by the Government of Kenya, as the cluster system has not been activated.

¹² Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AOR).



When severe environmental emergencies and political instability disrupt the lives and livelihoods of communities, the risk of acquiring HIV increases, especially for women and girls who are at heightened risk of gender-based violence. During droughts, people living with HIV may have lapses in treatment due to population displacement and the effects of income loss. Malnourished children with HIV are at particularly high risk of severe illness and death. UNICEF is working to ensure that the drought response includes the provision of quality medical supplies, including last-mile delivery, to support the continuity of treatment for children, adolescents, and women living with HIV, while promoting HIV prevention, especially among adolescent girls and young women.

Education

Education is life-saving. Being out of school leaves crisis-affected children more vulnerable to child labor, child marriage, food and water insecurity, and recruitment into armed groups. Education in crisis can give children access to safe, inclusive, and quality learning, while providing an integrated platform for food, nutrition, health, and WASH services, mental health and psychosocial support, as well as interventions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. Education can offer stability and a return to some normalcy, while promoting psychosocial wellbeing — a safe place to learn, play, and heal. Moreover, ensuring that children continue to learn can help them acquire skills, and develop more effective coping strategies, to survive the current crisis.

The impact of the drought on education continues to aggravate pre-existing vulnerabilities across the affected region. Approximately 2.7 million children are now out-of-school due to the drought in the three countries,¹³ with an additional 4 million at risk of dropping out. UNICEF works to provide continued access to inclusive quality education for the most vulnerable drought-affected children, including displaced children. Teaching, learning, and recreation materials are provided in safe learning environments, with teachers trained in basic pedagogy and psychosocial support. Given the increased number of children currently out-of-school or at risk of dropping out, UNICEF is supporting critical social protection interventions to cover some of the direct costs of schooling for vulnerable drought-affected families, such as mandatory enrolment fees, student learning materials, and end-of-year examination fees. This will be done through school grant systems so that families do not need to choose between educating their children and meeting basic needs.

¹³ In Kenya, the available data only captures the number of children who are out-of-school in the drought-affected regions, but may include children who are out-of-school due to non-drought-specific causes.



Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence

UNICEF is scaling up child protection and GBV services to respond to the growing protection needs of women and children across the Horn of Africa. Child protection and GBV priorities are focused on supporting the development and expansion of quality inclusive case management and mental health and psychosocial support. UNICEF is implementing GBV risk mitigation measures to improve women's and children's safety and access to humanitarian assistance, while enhancing inclusive community-based protection mechanisms. UNICEF is also supporting family-tracing and the provision of alternative care for unaccompanied and separated children, while working with neighboring countries to provide a continuum of care across borders and within communities of departure, transit, and return. UNICEF is committed to PSEA through establishing community-based complaint mechanisms, improving access to survivor assistance, and capacity-building of staff and partners. In addition, UNICEF's programmes focus on preventing and responding to harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers

Humanitarian cash transfers are serving as a lifeline for families facing unimaginable challenges. In some of the worst affected areas in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, UNICEF is supplementing the national social protection system to reach those who are not receiving any other support. In Ethiopia, UNICEF is scaling up cash transfers that are aimed at populations who have been displaced (IDPs) as well as families residing in host communities, providing a one-off grant to ensure that internal movement does not prevent affected populations from receiving support. In northern Kenya and Somaliland, UNICEF is providing cash transfers to affected families over a six-month period to improve household consumption, while linking families to available nutrition and health services. In all countries, UNICEF is working with Cash Working Groups to coordinate responses and fill any gaps in ongoing government and partner interventions.

Social and Behavioural Change and Community Engagement

Data-driven social and behaviour change programming is critical to strengthening UNICEF's engagement with drought-affected populations. In the affected regions, SBC programming provides life-saving information on rights and entitlements, available services and how to access them. SBC programming supports the adoption of healthy and protective behaviours, including psychosocial self-care practices, and informs sector-specific activities through a range of rapid social and behavioural assessments and research approaches. Monitoring indicators such as the number of people reached with life-saving information, or community feedback on concerns and challenges, are critical elements of effective humanitarian responses.

Resilience action (2023-2024)

The predicted increase in the severity and frequency of climatic shocks in the Horn of Africa calls for an approach that strengthens the resilience of societies and empowers future generations. While resilience-building efforts across the region have made some important progress, communities have been hit by recurring crises that make it harder for families to recover between events. Scaling up investments in resilience will reap massive financial, social and developmental dividends by increasing the coping capacities of communities, while reducing the impact of humanitarian emergencies that may occur in the future. UNICEF is working to build resilience in the region through its work in six core programme areas below.

Resilience

The ability of children, young people, households, communities, and systems to participate, prevent, withstand, manage, and overcome cumulative stresses and shocks (e.g., natural hazards, epidemics, socio-economic instability, conflict, and climate change).

*Every Country Protected – Every Child Resilient:
UNICEF DRR in Action (2022)*

WASH and Climate Resilience

As the UN's lead agency in WASH, UNICEF is ramping up efforts to strengthen water systems in affected communities. Unfortunately, many areas in the Horn of Africa are water-insecure due to reductions in the availability of shallow groundwater, a phenomenon that is rendering a growing number of the region's traditional boreholes nonfunctional. To address this crisis, back in 2015 UNICEF began using satellite maps and probes to identify deep-aquifers in the region. With some of the same technology used by the petroleum sector, UNICEF was able to reach very deep groundwater through huge schemes that extracted water and pumped it through transmission pipelines running anywhere from 10 to 400 kilometers, providing some of the Horn's drought-affected areas with new sources of safe water.

Another WASH pilot currently underway is a downstream innovation that involves the creation of a professional water utility in large refugee and host communities. By using a bulk-meter paid for by UNICEF's partner, UNHCR, the pilot has developed an integrated supply model that is more cost-effective and sustainable than the traditional care-and-maintenance WASH models, while providing higher quality services.

Alongside this work, UNICEF is continuing its partnerships with governments and regional consortia to strengthen monitoring and early warning systems that provide information on climate and environmental risks and hazards. UNICEF always prioritizes meaningful engagement with adolescents and youth in climate action, including support for innovative climate-change mitigation, advocacy, and empowerment, especially among girls and young women.



Social Protection Resilience

People in the Horn of Africa were already experiencing extreme levels of poverty and vulnerability before the current drought, with families affected by political conflict, COVID-19, job losses, and locust invasions. To survive, vulnerable households began using coping strategies that have dangerous consequences, from reducing food intake and withdrawing children from school, to selling off productive assets (including livestock, household items, or land). Surviving the current drought is the immediate priority, but post-emergency recovery will be long and arduous. In situations like this, resilience includes expanding social protection programmes to minimize the shocks that families experience during an emergency, while maintaining support long enough to allow families the chance to rebuild their assets and livelihoods after the crisis subsides.

National cash transfer programmes are currently being used as an emergency response in Ethiopia and Kenya, where large-scale social protection systems already exist. Within these countries, UNICEF is working to ensure that a period of recovery is built into the programmes that extends the duration of support beyond the immediate emergency. In Somalia, UNICEF is engaged in systems development, working with the government to develop a cash transfer programme in a fragile context that had previously been overlooked. In all three countries, UNICEF is supporting the capacity-building and training of governments to implement cash transfer programmes and manage their rapid expansion, while strengthening national social registries to ensure that they contain key family information, especially in drought-affected areas.



Education Resilience

One of UNICEF's long-standing goals as an agency is to strengthen the resilience of education systems, schools, and learners. Within the drought-affected countries in the Horn of Africa, this will include strengthening the preparedness, response, and safety measures within schools and at the community level. UNICEF is currently supporting government preparedness and response through the Comprehensive School Safety Framework, a tool developed to increase school resilience, learning continuity, and protection measures during periods of educational disruption.¹⁴ UNICEF also supports alternative learning pathways to crisis-affected children who are out-of-school. Community mobilization remains a cornerstone of UNICEF's efforts to promote greater enrolment, attendance, and retention of at-risk children, especially in the aftermath of immediate crises. Given that 2.7 million children are currently out-of-school due to the drought,¹⁵ while another 4 million children are at risk of dropping out as conditions continue to deteriorate, the post-crisis mobilization of learners will be one of UNICEF's most important priorities.

Health Resilience

Children in the Horn of Africa need inclusive health systems that build community resilience and promote child survival and development. UNICEF works in hazard-prone communities to strengthen health systems through community-centered primary health care, capacity-building for health workers, health emergency preparedness and response, and building effective partnerships for service delivery. Public advocacy is a cornerstone of UNICEF's health programming in drought-affected countries and involves sustained engagement with policymakers to design and finance domestic policies that protect and promote the long-term health of children and families, especially those from marginalized and hard-to-reach areas.

Child Protection Resilience and Gender-Based Violence

UNICEF's child protection and gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE) resilience actions for the Horn of Africa include working with governments and civil society partners to improve comprehensive GBV and child protection case management, while strengthening the ability of the social service workforce to deliver quality inclusive care. UNICEF is also increasing child rights monitoring to improve the safety and wellbeing of all children, their families, and their communities, while scaling up gender-transformative and disability-inclusive interventions to address harmful social norms and beliefs that contribute to abuse, neglect, and exploitation. UNICEF will continue to prioritize life-skills training, school reintegration, and access to safe learning spaces to ensure that child protection and GBV prevention are mainstreamed into other sector programming.

¹⁴ The Comprehensive School Safety Framework was developed by the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GADRRRES) with support and leadership from UNICEF. Additional information available at: <https://gadrrres.net/comprehensive-school-safety-framework/> (accessed 23 November 2023).

¹⁵ In Kenya, the available data only captures the number of children who are out-of-school in the drought-affected regions, but may include children who are out-of-school due to non-drought-specific causes. An estimated 14.6 million children are out-of-school across the three countries (data from the following sources: OOSC Initiative Study in Kenya from September 2021; National Study on the Situations of At-Risk and Out-of-School Children in Ethiopia from January 2022 (using EMIS data from 2019/20); Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment in Somalia from November 2022).

Nutrition Resilience

Nutrition resilience in the Horn of Africa focuses on preventing malnutrition, while ensuring early treatment when prevention fails. Prevention and early treatment require early-warning information systems, early case identification, health workers who are properly trained to provide nutrition-specific service delivery, and strong supply chains with a special focus on Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF). An innovative resilience approach, called surge approach, is used in Kenya to track evolving nutrition situations by setting predictable thresholds for local action through remote-sensing data and facility-level admissions trends. In terms of prevention, the capacity of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) programming, including IYCF in Emergencies, is being strengthened through the adoption of the complementary feeding framework. UNICEF also trains thousands of community health and nutrition workers in how to prevent, detect and treat childhood malnutrition—especially during or after disasters. The Global Action Plan (GAP) on Child Wasting, along with UNICEF’s accelerated plan for 2022-2023, provide the framework for multi-system actions in food, health, social protection, and WASH to improve the prevention, detection, and treatment of child wasting.



Climate-Resilient WASH in Ethiopia: Investing in Durable Solutions

Ethiopia has endured multiple humanitarian crises since 2015, which have displaced almost three million people across the country. Water scarcity has been at the center of these crises and is also a key driver of conflicts. Growing evidence of the country's recurrent climate-related emergencies, coupled with reductions in the availability of shallow groundwater for traditional boreholes, prompted WASH actors to look beyond trucking water to building risk-informed and durable water systems.

As a key WASH partner to the Government of Ethiopia, UNICEF led the development of climate-resilient WASH programming, and introduced remote-sensing technology similar to what is used in the petroleum industry to map deep groundwater and drill into areas where water had not previously been detected. UNICEF then built multi-village water schemes connecting these high-yield boreholes to more beneficiaries via long transmission pipelines. The schemes, which were managed by rural water utilities, were endorsed by the government and integrated into Ethiopia's national WASH programme.

The results have been a game-changer for communities with access to these new water sources. People in Bisle, Ethiopia, for instance, were devastated by the 2015-2016 drought. Today, they have deep groundwater pumped over a 57-kilometer radius, which has shielded the whole area from the effects of the current drought crisis.

With additional funding, UNICEF will be able to continue building sustainable water systems in crisis-affected and chronically vulnerable areas, ensuring that communities and livelihoods are not upended by future droughts.



Funding Requirements

Lifesaving Response (January to December 2023)

UNICEF is appealing for **US\$759 million**¹⁶ to provide lifesaving support to **16.6 million** high-risk people in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya, of whom **12.2 million** are children.

The following drought appeal requirements are part of the **2023 Humanitarian Action for Children** appeals for the three countries, and are aligned with the UN's interagency humanitarian response plans and flash appeals. This appeal may be revised at a later date in agreement with the humanitarian coordination clusters, committees, and country teams.

All figures in USD millions.

	Ethiopia Drought ¹⁷	Kenya ¹⁸	Somalia ¹⁹	Total
Sectors	Funds Required (millions)	Funds Required (millions)	Funds Required (millions)	Funds Required (millions)
Nutrition ²⁰	96.5	34.5	79	210
WASH	125.3	36.6	70	231.9
Health and HIV/AIDS	14.6	23.8	41	79.4
Education	36	16.7	29	81.8
Child Protection, GBViE, PSEA	20.5	11.3	34	65.8
Social Policy	42.7	12	12	66.7
Cross-Sectoral (SBC, AAP, RCCE, etc.)	9.6	2.5	3.8	15.9
Cluster Coordination	-	-	3.5	3.5
Regional Technical Support				3.5
TOTAL	345.4	137.5	272.3	758.5

¹⁶ The figures in the table are provisional and reflect the requirements for Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia at the time of Call to Action's release. The figures are subject to change as the situation in each country evolves.

¹⁷ UNICEF Ethiopia's life-saving drought response represents 51 per cent of the total Humanitarian Action for Children 2023 appeal for Ethiopia, which is available at: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/ethiopia>

¹⁸ UNICEF Kenya's life-saving drought response represents 100 per cent of the total Humanitarian Action for Children 2023 appeal for Kenya, which is available at: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/kenya>

¹⁹ UNICEF Somalia's life-saving drought response represents 100 per cent of the total Humanitarian Action for Children 2023 appeal for Somalia, which is available at: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/somalia>

Resilience Response (2023-2024)

UNICEF is appealing for **US\$690 million** to provide two years of resilience support to people affected by climate-induced emergencies in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. Resilience funding will help UNICEF and its partners strengthen the infrastructure and social systems needed to protect the region from climatic shocks to come.

All figures in USD millions.

Sectors	Ethiopia			Kenya			Somalia			Total ²¹		
	Funds Required (millions)	Funds Received (millions)	% Gap	Funds Required (millions)	Funds Received (millions)	%Gap	Funds Required (millions)	Funds Received (millions)	% Gap	Funds Required (millions)	Funds Received (millions)	% Gap
Climate-Resilient WASH	120	8.2	93.2%	80	8.7	89%	60	22	63%	260	38.9	85%
Social Protection	15	-	100%	5	1.6	68%	12	0.016	100%	32	1.6	95%
Child Protection	15	-	100%	15	0.75	95%	15	5	70%	45	5.8	87.1%
Nutrition Systems Strengthening	97	-	100%	25.1	7.7	69%	41.3	10.6	74%	163.3	18.3	88.7%
Education Systems Strengthening	47.8	-	100%	2.5	0.13	95%	29.2	12.9	56%	79.4	13	83.6%
Health Systems Strengthening	36.2	2.2	93.4%	43.8	0.28	99%	30	4.3	86%	110	6.7	93.8%
Cross-Sectoral	-	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	6.5	-
TOTAL	330.9	12	96.4%	171.3	19.2	89%	187.5	59.7	69%	690.2	90.7	86.8%

²¹ This budget reflects funds received for Kenya and Somalia as of 31 October 2022, and funds received for Ethiopia's child protection and cross-sectoral programming as of 30 November 2022. Funds received in the final quarter of 2022 for all sectors and country offices will be incorporated into the budget in early 2023.

Drought Response Plans from UN Sister Agencies

It is impossible for UNICEF to achieve sustainable results for children without partnering with governments, UN sister agencies, NGOs, and civil society organizations. UNICEF's Call to Action is fully aligned with interagency planning frameworks and government plans, including humanitarian response plans and flash appeals. UNICEF is working closely with its main operational sister agencies in the UN to ensure that our humanitarian programming is developed, coordinated, and delivered in ways that harness the cumulative effect of our work, particularly in the hardest-to-reach locations where vulnerabilities are highest, while ensuring that our system strengthening and resilience programming is fully aligned with government plans to ensure sustainability.

UN Food and Agriculture Organization

The resilience of small scale-farmers and herders in their productive capacities, as well as the resilience of food systems, are important contributing factors to nutrition, especially for children under 5 years old. Because of that, intertwined programming between UNICEF, FAO, and WFP will be paramount to achieving our collective nutrition outcome. In 2022, FAO launched a Drought Response Plan aimed at saving the livelihoods of rural communities in the worst affected areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and to a lesser extent Djibouti:

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc0638en/>.

FAO, WFP, and UNICEF, in their cluster-lead functions, have also promoted inter-cluster collaboration and geographic programming convergences in order to achieve the cumulative effects of the agencies' responses. Given that the drought will likely continue into 2023 and recovery will be delayed, FAO is in the process of launching a new response plan in late January / early February 2023 as an advocacy document that supports Ethiopia's and Somalia's Humanitarian Response Plans and Kenya's Flash Appeal. FAO's programming in the eastern Africa region goes beyond the short-term drought response and is fundamentally based on resilience-building and climate adaptation priorities as described under the FAO Resilience Programme of Work 2022-2026.

World Food Programme

WFP's 2023 Regional Drought Response Plan calls for global solidarity to avert a major humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa. The Plan recognizes that, as of December 2022, more than 22 million people have been driven into acute food insecurity (IPC 3+) in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia as a result of the drought. To address these unprecedented food and nutrition needs, WFP is already on the ground, providing millions of people every month with life-saving assistance. WFP's forthcoming 2023 Drought Response Plan outlines our integrated response to meet the immediate life-saving food and nutrition needs of drought-affected people, while concurrently building the long-term resilience of affected communities and markets to extreme climate variability.

The UN Refugee Agency

Please find the link to the 2022 UNHCR Regional Drought Appeal which covers the second half of 2022: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/93891>. The appeal will be updated in early 2023.

For every child

Whoever she is.
Wherever he lives.
Every child deserves a childhood.
A future.
A fair chance.
That's why UNICEF is there.
For each and every child.
Working day in and day out.
In 190 countries and territories.
Reaching the hardest to reach.
The furthest from help.
The most left behind.
The most excluded.
It's why we stay to the end.
And never give up.



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