Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action

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Humanitarian context in 2021

Substantial increase in humanitarian needs resulting from:

- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Prolonged and violent conflicts
- Widespread displacement
- Severe hunger crisis
- Climate crisis and weather-related disasters
Key results in 2021

- **33.3 million** people accessed safe water (95% of the targeted population)
- **5 million** children with severe acute malnutrition admitted to treatment programmes
- **12 million** children and caregivers accessed mental health and psychosocial support
- **22 million** children aged 6 months to 15 years vaccinated against measles (85% of the targeted population)
- **31.7 million** children accessed formal or non-formal education, including early learning (51% of the targeted population)
- **13.9 million** women, girls and boys accessed gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions (103% of the targeted population)

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1. UNICEF reached 12 million children, adolescents, parents and caregivers with community-based mental health and psychosocial support in 2021. This included 8.4 million children (including the targeted population) and 3.6 million parents and caregivers (57% of the targeted population).

2. As the sources of data used to calculate UNICEF’s global severe acute malnutrition treatment admissions in 2021, as well as the prevalence of infant and young child feeding counselling and vitamin A supplementation, do not disaggregate humanitarian and development targets, all global humanitarian targets for those results are not presented.
Global response in 2021


This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.
Key humanitarian responses in 2021

Five Level 3 emergencies
- Global COVID-19 pandemic
- Escalation of conflict in Afghanistan and northern Ethiopia
- Protracted crises in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen

Seven Level 2 emergencies
- Complex crises in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the central Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger)
- Internal displacement and health epidemics in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Mozambique (Cabo Delgado crisis)
- Escalation of violence in Myanmar
- Drought in southern Madagascar
- Earthquake in Haiti
Partnerships

- Local and national civil society partners received nearly 30 per cent of humanitarian funding

- Engagement of adolescents and young people: 19.6 million in 125 countries

- WHO-UNICEF partnership for emergency health-related responses

- UNHCR-UNICEF Blueprint: 2 million refugee children and their families reached in 10 countries
In 2021, UNICEF collaborated with 1,933 civil society partners (1,373 local). Nearly US$906 million in cash was transferred to civil society partners (over 84 per cent to local partners). Eight per cent of UNICEF humanitarian funding awarded to local or national partners went to women-led organizations in 2021.
Challenges and adaptations

Constantly adapting programme models and approaches in all humanitarian sectors & contexts
- Staying, delivering and moving towards more agile humanitarian leadership and human resource capacity at all levels

Responding in insecure contexts with limited humanitarian access
- Identifying innovative ways to adapt and scale up programming, including remote implementation and monitoring

Significant underfunding of several crises despite escalating needs
- Continuing to advocate for increases in flexible and multi-year funding for humanitarian action
The way forward

• Complete the implementation of the recommendations of the Humanitarian Review

• Continue to promote a more localized humanitarian response

• Prioritize supporting country offices to establish accountability mechanisms

• Expand preparedness, resilience, anticipatory action and risk analysis

• Continue to strengthen UNICEF cluster lead agency accountability and global public-private partnerships

• Grow organizational capacity to support, operate and deliver critical services in remote, insecure, high-risk and complex humanitarian emergencies
Thank you.