Statement of ChildFund Alliance:
First Regular Session of the UNICEF Executive Board, 8-11 February 2022
Agenda Item 6: UNICEF Humanitarian Action

Mr. President, Executive Director Katherine Russell and Distinguished Members of the Board, I would like
to express ChildFund Alliance’s appreciation for the opportunity to address the First Regular Session of
the UNICEF Executive Board for 2022.

On behalf of ChildFund Alliance, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations on the appointment
of Katherine Russell as the eighth Executive Director of UNICEF.

As the Secretary General of ChildFund Alliance, I address you on behalf of 11 child-focused global
development and humanitarian organizations. ChildFund helps over 21 million children and family
members in more than 70 countries. ChildFund is committed to
the objectives of humanitarian action
which are aimed at alleviating suffering and ensuring the safety and dignity of people.

ChildFund welcomes the progress UNICEF has made in implementing the recommendations in the report “Strengthening UNICEF’s Humanitarian Action, The Humanitarian Review: Findings and
Recommendations.” We are encouraged to see these recommendations reflected in UNICEF’s
Humanitarian Action for Children 2022 Overview.

We are acutely aware that 2022 poses immense challenges to the safety and wellbeing of children
and their families worldwide. This is particularly true for children in Afghanistan where the humanitarian
situation has worsened significantly with the recent political and socioeconomic developments.

ChildFund’s newest member, WeWorld, recently returned to Afghanistan for the first time since 2017,
sensing the urgency of the situation and the inherent risks to women and children in the country. Upon
request of their longstanding national partner located in Herat province, the Rural Rehabilitation
Association for Afghanistan (RRAA), WeWorld has begun with the implementation of a cash for food
project in Northern Herat, supporting widowed households in feeding their families through the harsh
winter. RRAA first targeted 110 households headed by widowed women and were later able to expand
to 230 households, reaching over 1300 children in need and providing cash for food. The support of
ChildFund members will allow this project to be sustained through May 2022, with the goal to scale up
assistance to reach almost double the number of women and children in need. WeWorld, with the
support of ChildFund, will continue to expand its operations in Afghanistan, through strong, established
partnerships with local organizations and relentless efforts to secure greater funding for effective
humanitarian action.

Children and their protection must lie at the heart of each humanitarian action. Everyone has a role to
play in the protection of children. The international community must increase efforts to fund
humanitarian action in Afghanistan, before it worsens. We are immensely grateful to UNICEF for its
historic, single-country appeal of $2 billion for Afghanistan for 2022, to support over 24 million people,
half of whom are children.

In closing, ChildFund Alliance expresses its sincere thanks to UNICEF for working tirelessly to help those
in need in Afghanistan.