



Awema Chimenya has been a mentor mother since 2019, helping other HIV-positive women through a UNICEF-assisted programme to support HIV-positive teen mothers to deliver HIV-free babies in Malawi.

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for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

# Eastern and Southern Africa Region

## HIGHLIGHTS<sup>1</sup>

- Nearly 130 million people, including 65 million children, need humanitarian support in the region.<sup>4</sup> The 10 countries<sup>5</sup> directly covered in this regional appeal have approximately 30 million people, including 18 million children in need of humanitarian support due to climate-related shocks, health emergencies (including COVID-19), conflict, economic deterioration and displacement.<sup>6</sup> Countries are also struggling with poverty and food insecurity.
- In collaboration with partners, UNICEF will deliver life-saving services for children, women and families affected by climatic shocks and disease outbreaks, including populations living in displacement and refugee camps.<sup>2</sup> Emphasis will be on mitigating disruptions of emergency response resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, while ensuring the continuity of essential services.<sup>7</sup>
- UNICEF will work with women and youth leaders and community-based organizations and integrate gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response across sectors and localize capacities for emergency preparedness and response, improve accountability to affected communities, prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and build shock-responsive systems for better child-centered resilience.<sup>8</sup>
- UNICEF is appealing for US\$68.1 million to address humanitarian and COVID-19-specific needs in the region.<sup>3</sup>

## IN NEED<sup>9</sup>



**40 million**

people in need of nutrition assistance<sup>10</sup>



**3.7 million**

children in need of SAM treatment<sup>11</sup>



**105 million**

Children in need of emergency health assistance<sup>12</sup>



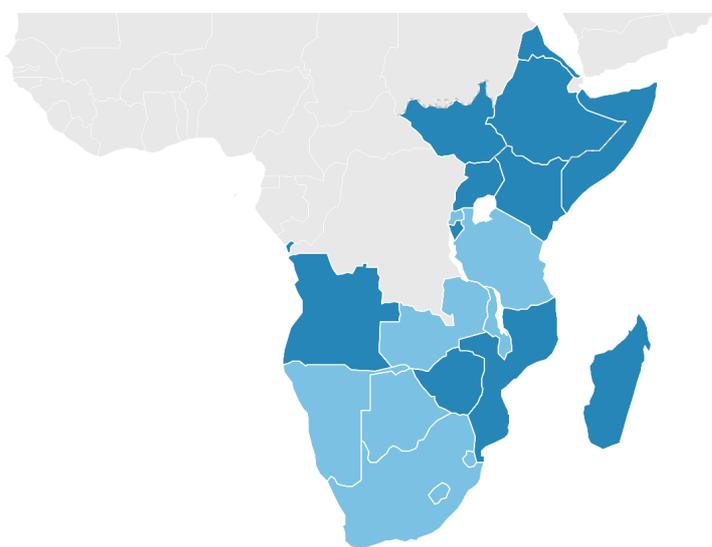
**25.1 million**

people lack access to safe water<sup>13,14</sup>



**25 million**

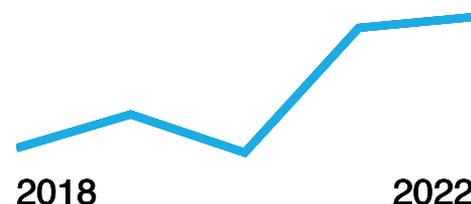
Children out of school in need of education<sup>15,16</sup>



This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The countries in light blue are embedded in this regional appeal. The countries in dark blue have corresponding standalone appeals or are covered under crisis appeals.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$ 68.1  
million**



Figures are based on estimates from 10 COs in the regional HAC and may be revised to align with evolving contexts in the respective COs.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Nearly 30 million people, including 18 million children, need humanitarian support in the 10 countries covered in this regional appeal due to climate-related shocks, including impact on food insecurity, malnutrition, health emergencies (including COVID-19), conflict, economic deterioration and displacement.<sup>17</sup>

The region is also facing growing risks to public health, with countries at risk of cholera, dengue fever, measles, malaria and COVID-19, which is continuing to threaten countries in Eastern and Southern Africa.

COVID-19 cases in the region continue to increase due to lowest vaccination rates, with countries like South Africa with highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Africa.<sup>18</sup> In addition to causing loss of life, the pandemic is disrupting routine health and nutrition services.

Although nearly 17.9 million people need urgent health care,<sup>19</sup> the number of mothers, pregnant women, children and people with chronic conditions who are seeking health care is declining. In addition, nearly 25.1 million people need clean water and sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support.<sup>20</sup> Countries in the region are also struggling with poverty and food insecurity, with 40 million people in need of nutrition services.<sup>21</sup>

Country-wide school closures have not only disrupted learning – but previous to the COVID-19 closures, there were already more than 25 million children out of school, among the highest rates in the world proportional to the population.<sup>22</sup> Prolonged school closures are exposing children, especially girls, to heightened protection risks, including gender-based violence (GBV), harmful practices, exploitation and abuse, and also affecting their mental health and well-being.

Humanitarian emergencies and extreme poverty are driving waves of internal and external displacements, with almost 2 million refugee children and 1.8 million internally displaced children in the region.<sup>23</sup>

## HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In line with government and inter-agency response plans and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCC), the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) will provide an integrated, multi-sector response to deliver life-saving services for children, women and families affected by climatic shocks and disease outbreaks, including populations living in displacement and refugee camps, with our partners. This will include reinforcing preparedness, building resilience and strengthening systems to prepare for and respond to crises, while linking humanitarian action with development programmes.

UNICEF will support integrated approaches to preventing and treating acute malnutrition by offering a continuum of care for children and mothers and emphasizing prevention, early detection and treatment through health facilities and community-based platforms. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions will address waterborne diseases, including cholera, contribute to preventing undernutrition, and provide basic services for people affected by emergencies. Access to water in camps, menstrual hygiene, health facilities and schools will be prioritized. UNICEF will continue to support safe school measures to prioritize in-person learning and will address the massive learning losses through remedial and accelerated education. UNICEF will work with women and youth leaders and community-based organizations and integrate prevention of sexual violence and abuse (PSEA) and GBV prevention and response across sectors. UNICEF will prioritize support to strengthen prevention and response to mental health and psychosocial needs across the region, including strengthening psychosocial trainings and support systems for front-line workers and parents and caregivers, children and adolescents.

Recognizing increased number and types of hazards in the region, UNICEF will continue building local emergency preparedness and response capacities, promoting accountability to affected populations,<sup>24</sup> providing emergency cash transfers and developing shock-responsive social protection mechanisms to respond to crises. The Regional Office will support Country Offices with human and financial resources in emergencies that may require an immediate response.<sup>25</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



Malita Nguni, a young woman from Zambia's Chinsali District, shares, "We were unable to maintain our vegetable gardens and children started suffering from malnutrition in the villages because of a lack of good food and clean water. The well which was some 5km away was always busy."

In 2020, in Zambia, UNICEF rehabilitated nearly 100 boreholes in Chinsali and neighbouring Isoka districts, benefiting more than 20,000 people. In 2021, under the Scaling-Up Nutrition Phase II (SUN-II) programme, nearby Mpika District, also in Muchinga Province, is being targeted with a similar intervention.

**[Read more about this story here](#)**

Safe water to scale up nutrition (SUN) in Zambia. The SUN Phase II programme is helping reduce stunting through improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

# COVID-19 REGIONAL RESPONSE

Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, Lesotho, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION (COVID-19)

As of the end of September 2021, over 13 million cases of COVID-19 and 335,000 deaths have been reported in Eastern and Southern Africa since the pandemic began.<sup>26</sup> South Africa has accounted for the highest number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Africa,<sup>27</sup> followed by Namibia.<sup>28</sup> Utilization of routine vaccinations in the region dropped further in 2021 and low uptake of the COVID-19 vaccinations with continuing waves remain a threat requiring scaled-up multi-sectoral efforts.

Lockdowns, school closures, suspension of essential services and the cessation/disruption of economic activities have had devastating humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences, particularly for children and women. Unemployment stands at its highest levels, pushing more families into poverty and forcing them to rely on humanitarian support. Due to COVID-19, millions of people in the region are severely food insecure. Sustained support is needed for the safe reopening and operation of schools.

School closures, disrupted access to child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services have increased the isolation of women and children in homes, exacerbating their risks of GBV and negatively impacting children's mental health and well-being. Additionally, other violations and risks, such as child marriage and adolescent pregnancies, have also been observed to have increased in the region.

## HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY (COVID-19)

UNICEF will continue to prioritize the continuity of health and nutrition services during the COVID-19 pandemic, including more targeted capacity building activities of health workers and rural health motivators, implementation of catch-up immunization, identification and treatment of malnourished children, services for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, learning through safe school operations or remote learning,<sup>29</sup> child protection, mental health, psychosocial services and gender-based violence services to better protect children and women, as well as expanding social protection systems, including cash transfers, to reduce negative coping strategies.

UNICEF will continue to work with governments to protect children and their families from exposure to COVID-19, minimize mortalities and mitigate the effects of the pandemic. This includes providing accurate life-saving information on COVID-19 through risk communication and community engagement; scaling up infection prevention and control at health, education and communal facilities, COVID-19 vaccination campaigns, distribution/dissemination of WASH supplies/messages and promoting WASH at the community level. Furthermore, the response will also focus on continued strengthening of health systems to mitigate possible future waves of COVID-19.

UNICEF will reinforce coordination at the regional and country levels to support rapid humanitarian response<sup>30</sup> and to support national COVID-19 preparedness and response plans, including procurement systems.

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

## 2022 PROGRAMME TARGETS<sup>31,32</sup>



### Nutrition<sup>33</sup>

- **50,000** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **300,000** children aged 6 to 59 months screened for wasting
- **200,000** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **1,300,000** children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation



### Health

- **78,000** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles
- **1,800,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **13,000** health care facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **600,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs
- **260,000** people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities
- **50,000** children use safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces
- **150,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **150,000** children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **325,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **1,400,000** people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers



### Education

- **3,000,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **500,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **560,000** teachers, members of parent-teacher association and school management committee trained



### Social protection

- **90,000** households benefitting from new or additional social transfers from governments with UNICEF technical assistance support



### HIV and AIDS

- **100,000** pregnant and lactating women living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy



### Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)

- **3,600,000** people engaged in risk communication and community engagement actions
- **54,000,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services

Targets have been determined based on CO inputs and may be revised should the respective country contexts evolve to warrant changes to their set targets.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2022

UNICEF is requesting US\$68.1 million to meet heightened emergency preparedness and response requirements in Eastern and Southern Africa in 2022. These needs are related to the expanded preparedness and response for drought and floods, disease outbreaks including COVID-19, conflicts and displacements.

The total request includes funds for multi-sectoral technical support to new and ongoing emergency situations, as well as to continue strengthening coordination and ensure that countries have adequate capacity to prepare for and launch emergency responses.

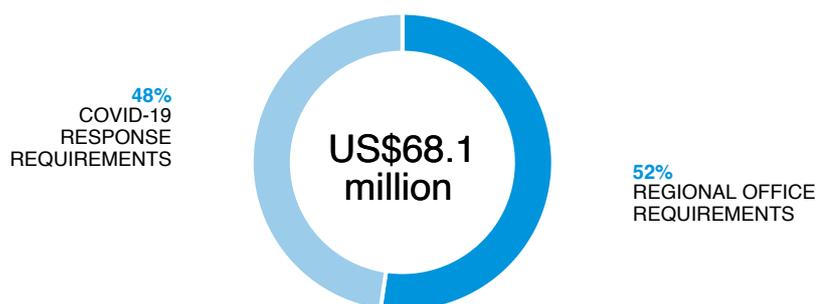
Support is also needed to scale up preparedness and response programming in countries at risk of civil unrest and economic instability. This funding will allow UNICEF to support host governments and the most vulnerable populations with risk communication and community engagement; infection prevention control; and the continuation of essential health, nutrition, education, child protection and social protection services — all of which have lacked sufficient funding so far. These funds will also allow UNICEF to scale up life-saving nutrition activities, including severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment, vitamin A supplementation and infant and young child feeding counselling, and to meet rising health and WASH needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child protection and education remain the least funded sectors and require urgent funding for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 actions. Key activities include facilitating the safe return to schools, supporting the mental health and well-being of children, their families and communities, and prioritizing gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE) and interventions for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Lesotho and Rwanda were added to the 2022 regional appeal from the standalone appeal, given the scale-down of the emergency caseload and programming in those countries. This has increased the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), given their requirements on hydro-meteorological risks, disease outbreak and refugee response specifically.

Without this funding, UNICEF will be unable to support an adequate response to the humanitarian needs of children and women projected to be affected by humanitarian crises in 2022. The needs of more than 41 million people, including 25 million children, will be left uncovered if this HAC is not funded<sup>34</sup> to cover COVID-19 life-saving response, support non-standalone countries in responding to sudden-onset emergencies, such as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, displacements, civil unrest and economic deterioration, which are not benefiting from inter-agency appeals; and supporting all countries in the region, including those in Level 2/3 emergencies, with surge support and preparedness activities.

UNICEF is grateful to all donors who generously supported the humanitarian response in Eastern and Southern Africa in 2021.



Sector	2022 requirements (US\$)
<b>Regional office requirements</b>	<b>35,667,071</b>
Emergency response	27,138,594
Emergency preparedness	4,873,415
Regional office technical capacity	3,655,062
<b>COVID-19 response requirements</b>	<b>32,465,329</b>
Nutrition	826,044
Health	6,913,235
Water, sanitation and hygiene	5,447,200
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	3,943,750 <sup>35</sup>
Education	8,195,000
Social protection	3,465,000
HIV and AIDS	1,412,950
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	2,262,150
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,132,400</b>

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## ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF's public health and socioeconomic COVID-19 response, including programme targets and funding requirements, is integrated into the standalone country, multi-country and regional Humanitarian Action for Children appeals. All interventions related to accelerating equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines fall under the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) global appeal.
2. Among the countries covered under this appeal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda and Zambia are also hosting and responding to nearly 450,000 refugees, including 230,000 children. UNHCR Data Portal as of 30 September 2021.
3. US\$29 million for COVID-19 emergency response and US\$40.5 million for all other emergencies beyond, including Regional Office overall support.
4. Calculation based on country level in-need analysis documents such as government surveys, inter-sectoral reports, nutrition surveys, health in-need documents from WHO, UNICEF and OCHA reports.
5. Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Lesotho, Rwanda.
6. Calculation based on country level in-need analysis documents such as government surveys, inter-sectoral reports, nutrition surveys, health in-need documents from WHO, UNICEF and OCHA reports.
7. For health, nutrition, WASH, HIV, child protection, gender-based violence, education and social protection.
8. Aligned with the Grand Bargain commitments, working with governments and partners.
9. The in-need figures reflect the pressing needs of the major sectors that UNICEF supports for all countries in the region.
10. Based on Nutrition SMART surveys and FEWSNET IPC 3 and above assessments for entire 21 countries of the region, including 8,000,000 people for the 10 countries covered under this HAC.
11. Based on children in need of SAM treatment in entire 21 countries of the region, including 50,000 in the 10 countries covered under this HAC. This is a 47 per cent increase in one year from 2021 SAM needs in the 21 countries.
12. This is based on country-level calculations for emergency health response needs, taking into account the needs for COVID-19, cholera, acute watery diarrhoea, polio, measles, malaria and dengue fever for the entire 21 countries of the region, including 1,822,178 children in the 10 countries covered under this HAC.
13. The estimated number of people in need (PIN) of humanitarian/emergency WASH assistance based on sources from UNICEF, WASH clusters and UNHCR is 25 million. For entire 21 countries of the region including nearly 500,000 people in the 10 countries covered under this HAC.
14. PIN decreased due to anticipated improvements in water situation in Southern Africa and water services which had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/2021.
15. Based on UNESCO UIS out-of-school figures for entire 21 countries of the region, including 6 million children in the 10 countries covered under this HAC. Includes 22.4 million OOC in September 2021 due to COVID-19.
16. PIN decreased due to the reopening of schools in most countries after closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most countries in ESAR are scaling up COVID-19 vaccination campaigns and other preventive measures making it safe to reopen schools.
17. Calculation based on country level in-need analysis documents such as government surveys, inter-sectoral reports, nutrition surveys, health in-need documents from WHO, UNICEF and OCHA reports.
18. Over 2.9 million cumulative cases and nearly 85,000 deaths registered as of end of September 2021.
19. Based on emergency health needs identified by the 10 countries covered in this appeal.
20. The estimated number of PIN of humanitarian/emergency WASH assistance based on sources from UNICEF, WASH clusters and UNHCR is 25 million. For entire 21 countries of the region, including nearly 500,000 people in the 10 countries covered under this HAC.
21. Based on Nutrition SMART surveys and FEWSNET IPC 3 and above assessments for entire 21 countries of the region, including 8,000,000 people for the 10 countries covered under this HAC.
22. Based on UNESCO UIS out of school figures for entire 21 countries of the region, including the 10 countries covered under this HAC.
23. Covered directly under this appeal- The United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda and Zambia are also hosting and responding to nearly 450,000 refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including 230,000 children on the move.
24. In line with the Grand Bargain commitments.
25. Emphasis will also be placed on rolling out the revised CCCs, emergency monitoring and information management and surge deployments.
26. Worldometer COVID-19 data for ESAR as of 26 September 2021.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. UNICEF will also support the education system to recover from the impact of COVID-19, including by supporting the most vulnerable children to catch up with their education levels, ensuring that all children return to school, and building back better and stronger schools that will enable learning under any circumstances. This includes in-school risk communication, safe schools' operation and remedial programmes for the most vulnerable children, including children with disabilities.
30. Including lead risk communication and community engagement efforts; and co-lead, with the World Health Organization, the operational coordination group.
31. This section reflects the consolidated targets of the countries included in the regional appeal only.
32. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
33. Covering 100 per cent of SAM caseload in the 10 countries under this appeal.
34. For the 10 countries covered under this HAC.
35. This includes US\$1,200,000 for gender-based violence interventions and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.