

HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR CHILDREN 2022

Water, sanitation and hygiene is essential for children in emergencies

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The humanitarian landscape

UNICEF brings life-saving support to the world's most vulnerable children and families through its annual Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal. This year, unprecedented conflicts and disasters around the world challenge UNICEF to reach ever greater numbers of people with emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

- **Protracted conflicts and extremely fragile contexts** are particularly devastating for children. WASH services are disrupted, and infrastructure destroyed, leaving families without safe water and sanitation. In protracted conflicts, children under five years old are more than 20 times more likely to die from diseases linked to unsafe water and poor sanitation than from direct violence.¹
- **Refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons** urgently need WASH services. Uprooted children and families on the move, in makeshift camps or in host communities, are more susceptible to abuse and disease, while also having limited access to health services. Every day around the world, on average, 700 children under-five years of age die from WASH-related diarrhoeal diseases.² Women and girls are also particularly at risk while accessing isolated and unsafe water points and latrine facilities.
- The **climate crisis and natural disasters**, manifested through prolonged droughts and extreme flood events, result in food and water insecurity and can trigger mass displacement. Unsafe water and poor sanitation can exacerbate malnutrition and stunting in children. Inadequate WASH conditions are estimated to account for around 50 per cent of global malnutrition.³ Globally, over 1.42 billion people, including 450 million children, live in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability.⁴
- **Increasing disease outbreaks**, such as recurrent cholera, Ebola virus disease (EVD) and the COVID-19 pandemic demand a robust WASH response. Endemic cholera in Africa and Asia continues to surge during natural disasters and conflicts; EVD outbreaks have attacked West African communities in recent years; and COVID-19 disruptions threaten the continuity of WASH services, especially for poor and marginalized households. Public health emergencies highlight the importance of hand hygiene in healthcare facilities, schools and refugee camps.

Emergency WASH results

Over the past four years, UNICEF WASH support in humanitarian situations reached an annual average of 38.8 million people with water and 9.5 million people with sanitation, more than ever before.⁵ In 2021, UNICEF also reached 11.6 million children with emergency WASH services in schools and temporary learning spaces and 1.3 million girls and women with emergency menstrual hygiene health services.⁶ The level of emergency WASH support was constrained by significant HAC funding gaps, which averaged 51 per cent by country in 2021.⁷ WASH support on the ground was also hindered by conflict-related access restrictions and COVID-19-related supply chain bottlenecks.

WASH targets for 2022

In 2022, UNICEF and its partners will continue to provide a timely, predictable and efficient humanitarian response, in line with international norms and standards. The global WASH target is to reach 57 million people with safe water, 22 million with safe sanitation and 51 million with WASH supplies. 35 million people will be reached through hygiene promotion, including handwashing and menstrual health and hygiene, and 11 million will be reached with WASH support in schools and healthcare facilities.

Thirty-nine countries are seeking HAC funding for WASH, with their requirements totaling USD 2.2 billion, which represents 22 per cent of the total UNICEF HAC requirement.⁸ About 5 per cent of this WASH requirement is for regional multi-country appeals for COVID-19 and children on the move. Greater detail and links to each appeal document can be found in *Table 1. HAC 2022 WASH targets and requirements by country and regional programmes*.

Immediate life-saving WASH actions

Generous HAC funding enables UNICEF to mobilize its global WASH expertise to respond with in-country teams, surge staff, stand-by partners and supply and logistics personnel, all delivering actions and supplies that meet the exigencies of each situation. Immediate WASH responses target remote locations, urban centres, displacement camps or population-wide disease outbreaks, and typically include:

- **Water supply:** water trucking, power generation, provision of bulk treatment chemicals, repairing pumps and pipelines, household water treatment, distribution of water handling containers, drilling wells, rehabilitating water points, water safety monitoring.
- **Sanitation:** temporary latrines, sewer repairs, communal toilets, fecal sludge management, family latrine slabs, power generation, on-site wastewater treatment.
- **Hygiene:** handwashing facilities, soap, hygiene messaging, health worker outreach, family hygiene kits, menstrual supplies, handwashing campaigns in schools and child-friendly spaces, infection prevention and control in healthcare facilities.

Tackling complex humanitarian crises

This essential WASH package of services in emergencies has saved lives across diverse humanitarian environments. But the increasing scale and complexity of today's conflicts and natural disasters require constant re-assessment and innovation to develop more appropriate and sustainable solutions to protect children's rights. Key initiatives and new directions are guiding changes in UNICEF's emergency WASH programme.



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- **Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs).** The CCCs set organizational, programmatic and operational commitments for which UNICEF holds itself accountable. The CCCs were updated to better contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to explicitly link humanitarian and development action, strengthen local capacity and build resilience. Ensuring WASH sector coordination with the cluster approach remains a primary commitment, as UNICEF fulfills its critical role as sector lead agency for predictable, effective and high-quality service delivery. The revised water supply and sanitation commitments raise the bar on service delivery through alignment with new JMP and SPHERE standards and more stringent benchmarks for quantity, reliability and quality. The WASH in schools commitment was adjusted to include healthcare facilities, and the hygiene commitment now also emphasizes community engagement. A newly crafted commitment for WASH system strengthening calls on governments and stakeholders to develop risk-informed plans for disasters, climate change, conflict and public health emergencies.
- **Linking humanitarian responses to sustainable development.** The trend of larger-scale and more protracted crisis situations obliges emergency WASH programmes to apply long-term, more durable and cost-effective approaches and solutions to the provision of WASH services. For example, expensive stop-gap water trucking was continued in some countries for years, instead of investing earlier in new or expanded water networks to meet population demands. This type of decision-making is supported by use of the return on investment analytical tool, which was developed to help determine the lowest total cost option. Early action can prevent or mitigate WASH system collapse, whether through infrastructure improvements or by ensuring that water providers have the capacities and staffing for ensuring systems are maintained and operational. Emergency WASH programmes now track the proportion of beneficiaries with long-term (rather than just short-term) water supply and sanitation solutions, which in 2021 was 21 and 19 per cent, respectively.⁹

The UNHCR-UNICEF Blueprint for Joint Action illustrates a shift towards greater inclusion by seeking to count refugees and returnees in national WASH, education and child protection plans and budgets alongside host communities. The Blueprint partnership in 2021 provided 4.5 million refugees, returnees and host community members with safe water services and 2.8 million with safely managed sanitation services.¹⁰

- **Climate-resilient WASH services and communities.** UNICEF is addressing climate impacts through its WASH programmes, including emergency WASH, to increase reliability and safety. The impacts of recurrent flooding and droughts are taken into account as emergency responses are planned and implemented, especially for the recovery and reconstruction phase. WASH services for resettled populations, for example, anticipate future extreme weather events, water scarcity and growing demand through purposeful selection of infrastructure location, technologies and institutional arrangements. Emergency responses are opportunities to upgrade WASH facilities to attain higher service levels for families as well as economies of scale. Community resilience and WASH services are strengthened in many cases by switching to low-carbon energy sources, such as solar power. Better groundwater management can mitigate risks to endangered aquifers, leakage reduction increases the efficiency of piped systems and sanitation options can be designed for durability and healthy environments.

UNICEF joins OCHA and other humanitarian actors in efforts to green humanitarian actions by integrating environmental considerations, such as environmental impact assessments, reducing the carbon footprint of office and field operations and increasing community environmental awareness and involvement.

- **Peace-building and conflict sensitivity.** Water supplies and WASH services, when not managed properly, can provoke community conflict and threaten national and regional security in extreme cases. The corollary of this is also true: water and WASH can be positive drivers of social cohesion and contribute to broader peace-building efforts. There is recent evidence showing that countries actively cooperating on water issues are less likely to engage in conflict. Some UNICEF WASH programmes, including in Lebanon and Somalia, have demonstrated that local cooperation to solve WASH problems can help to reduce inter-community violence and encourage social cohesion, and that young people can be facilitators in these processes.
- **Partnerships and advocacy.** The UNICEF emergency WASH programme works closely with the Global WASH Cluster (GWC), whose membership counts 86 organizations comprising UN agencies, international NGOs, academic institutes and donors – all major humanitarian WASH stakeholders. The GWC is an ideal platform for operational research, policy guidance and information dissemination. Current priority topics include gender-based violence, cash transfers and markets, accountability and quality assurance. The GWC Field Support Team is deployed in both sudden onset and protracted crises to build national assessment, information management and coordination capacities.

The foundational UNICEF ‘WASH in Emergencies’ training course, revamped to include peace-building, conflict sensitivity and humanitarian-development linkages, is being rolled out for sector-wide capacity building. UNICEF launched the ‘Water Under Fire’ agenda to advocate for greater awareness and action by the humanitarian community and national governments on the challenges of fragile and conflict-affected areas. Three reports were produced on this theme:

- *Emergencies, development and peace in fragile and conflict-affected contexts*, Water Under Fire, Vol. 1, 2019.
- *Strengthening sector capacity for a predictable, quality humanitarian response*, Water Under Fire, Vol. 2, 2020.
- *Attacks on water and sanitation services in armed conflict and the impacts on children*, Water Under Fire, Vol. 3, 2021.

WASH requirements for 2022

The global WASH requirement reflected in the country and regional HAC appeals amounts to USD 2.2 billion (*Table 1. HAC 2022 WASH targets and requirements by country and regional programmes*).

The largest WASH requirement by region is for South Asia (see *Figure 1. HAC 2022 WASH requirements by region*) due to the sizeable USD 813 million request for support to Afghanistan (both in-country and outflow to neighbouring countries) and the large requirement for Bangladesh. The second largest regional requirement is for Middle East and North Africa, with its complex, long-term crises in Syria and Yemen. East and Southern Africa is third with Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan together accounting for 70 per cent of the regional WASH requirement. In Europe and Central Asia, the Ukraine WASH requirement was recently revised upward to USD 113 million due to escalating need.

Figure 1

HAC 2022 WASH requirements by region

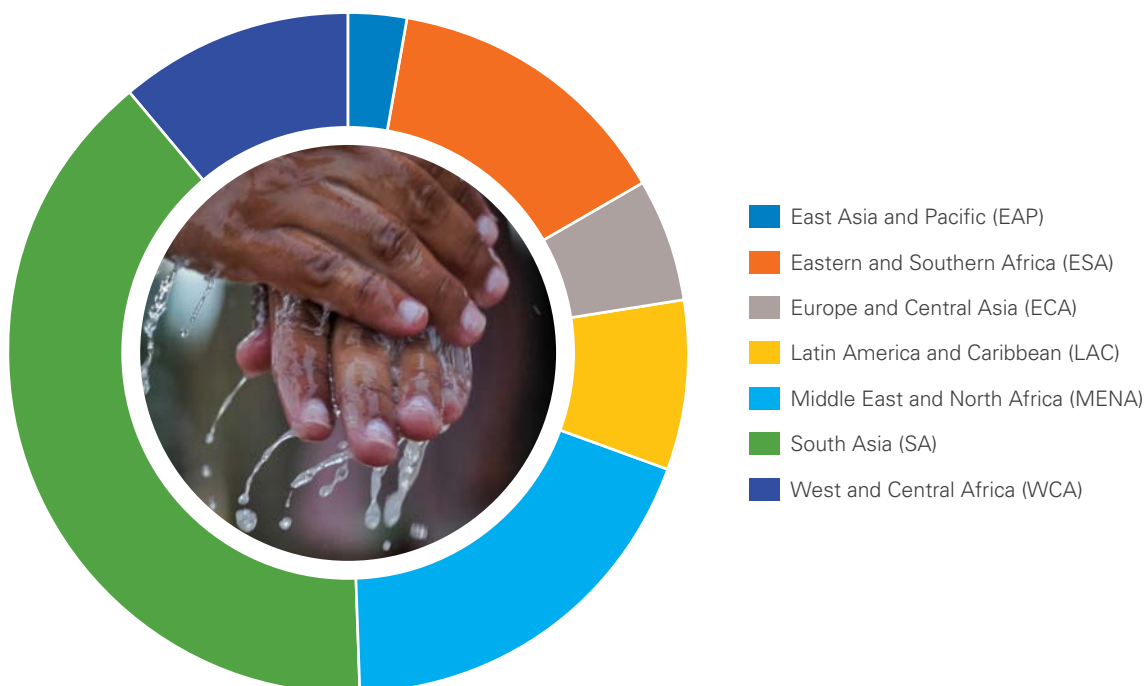


Table 1

HAC 2022 WASH targets and requirements by country and regional programmes

Region	Country	WASH sector number of people in need ¹¹	Targets by number of people reached					WASH requirement (USD)
			Safe water ¹²	WASH supplies ¹³	Safe sanitation ¹⁴	Hygiene messages ¹⁵	WASH in schools/health care facilities	
EAPR	WASH COVID-19 ¹⁶			1,294,543			1,075,805	18,754,568
	Myanmar	5,500,000	428,638	1,000,000	261,476	628,331		29,808,821
	Philippines ¹⁷	2,400,000	277,500	253,500	245,500	2,276,500		21,270,954
	Sub-total	7,900,000	706,138	2,548,043	506,976	2,904,831	1,075,805	69,834,343
ESAR	WASH COVID-19 ¹⁸		600,000	150,000	260,000		50,000	5,447,200
	Angola	1,200,000	700,000	400,000				6,000,000
	Burundi	515,195	150,000			322,641	77,000	5,041,336
	Eritrea	1,200,000	60,000		100,000	500,000		2,500,000
	Ethiopia	10,000,000	3,475,000	1,536,000	384,000		7,000,000	136,951,117
	Kenya	2,100,000	450,000			700,000		7,000,000
	Madagascar	6,400,000	500,000	2,000,000				9,895,000
	Mozambique	950,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	1,000,000		30,952,150
	Somalia ¹⁹	6,400,000	1,428,028		168,888	1,196,513		38,051,654
	South Sudan	5,900,000	700,000	1,400,000	223,000			34,975,000
	Uganda	915,000	125,000	280,000	35,000			4,949,473
	Zimbabwe	2,500,000	1,250,000	250,000				19,800,000
	Sub-total	38,080,195	10,138,028	6,716,000	1,870,888	3,719,154	7,127,000	301,562,930
ECAR	WASH COVID-19						273,800	9,791,000
	Refugee and migrant crisis in Europe			7,260				804,000
	Ukraine and Refugee Outflow (Pillar 1: Ukraine)	13,600,000	3,570,000	1,500,000				112,897,020
	Ukraine and Refugee Outflow (Pillar 2: Outflow)		130,000	1,093,200				
	Sub-total	13,600,000	3,700,000	2,600,460	-	-	273,800	123,492,020
LACR	WASH COVID-19		39,950	105,000		26,250	272,520	6,379,555
	Children on the move, including Venezuelans and communities affected by COVID-19		135,650	816,898		2,920,000	305,000	28,866,349
	COVID-19, children on the move and other crises in Mexico and Central America		285,115	427,973		244,122	91,678	24,440,237
	Haiti	3,300,000	604,915	604,915	230,000			19,552,699
	Venezuela	4,300,000	3,500,000	3,000,000	200,000		450,000	95,770,000
	Sub-total	7,600,000	4,565,630	4,954,786	430,000	3,190,372	1,119,198	175,008,840

Table 1HAC 2022 WASH targets and requirements by country and regional programmes (*continued*)

Region	Country	WASH sector number of people in need ¹¹	Targets by number of people reached					WASH requirement (USD)
			Safe water ¹²	WASH supplies ¹³	Safe sanitation ¹⁴	Hygiene messages ¹⁵	WASH in schools/health care facilities	
MENA	WASH COVID-19 ²⁰		30,000	2,241,328			100,000	4,762,415
	Iraq	1,600,000	449,300	160,000	206,000			10,825,942
	Lebanon	1,900,000	975,008					8,159,761
	Libya	380,613	58,800	126,000		42,000		8,215,200
	State of Palestine	1,400,000	731,420	240,000			469,000	16,230,057
	Sudan	11,000,000	2,500,000		100,000	2,500,000		33,384,000
	Syria	12,200,000	3,600,000		1,950,000	600,000		87,438,477
	Syrian refugees	3,200,000	730,297	100,000				156,362,139
	Yemen	15,400,000	6,800,000	5,910,000	3,400,000	5,910,000		100,000,000
	Sub-total	47,080,613	15,874,825	8,777,328	5,656,000	9,052,000	569,000	425,377,991
ROSA	WASH COVID-19 ²¹			226,856		12,500	350,000	800,000
	Afghanistan	15,100,000	11,537,160	9,210,951	7,478,621			768,889,756
	Afghanistan outflow	5,600,000	1,176,858	1,500,858	548,058			44,256,668
	Bangladesh	30,300,000	3,060,360		2,535,330			38,908,720
	India	30,600,000		7,785,970		11,507,860	204,640	11,805,900
	Nepal	780,000	234,000	252,000	90,000			5,328,000
	Pakistan	4,100,000				2,480,000	237,500	12,120,451
	Sub-total	86,480,000	16,008,378	18,976,635	10,652,009	14,000,360	792,140	882,109,495
WCAR	Emergency response and preparedness ²²							7,035,399
	WASH COVID-19 ²³		295,699	1,933,747			111,614	11,776,542
	Burkina Faso	2,800,000	755,000	950,000	800,000			55,254,334
	Cameroon	1,800,000	190,000	390,000	162,000		140,000	23,519,497
	CAR	2,800,000	300,000		150,000	330,000		9,200,000
	Chad	2,000,000	140,000		40,000			11,689,164
	Congo	1,000,000	118,054	203,259	118,054			3,382,845
	DRC	6,600,000	1,498,596		599,439			33,147,686
	Guinea	285,000	150,000	285,000			60,000	1,185,000
	Mali	1,700,000	482,000	390,000	50,000			19,200,598
	Mauritania	84,200	14,200			84,200	20,000	3,600,000
	Niger	1,300,000	237,375	500,000	169,526			8,082,234
	Nigeria	3,300,000	1,577,308	1,591,308	779,140	1,591,308		53,800,000
	Sub-total	23,669,200	5,758,232	6,243,314	2,868,159	2,005,508	331,614	240,873,299
Grand total	224,410,008	56,751,231	50,816,566	21,984,032	34,872,225	11,288,557	2,218,258,918	

Endnotes

- 1 Water under fire, volume 1, UNICEF
- 2 Water and the global climate crisis: 10 things you should know, UNICEF
- 3 4 things you need to know about water and famine, UNICEF
- 4 water-security-for-all.pdf (unicef.org)
- 5 Goal Area 4 Global Annual Results Report for 2021, Draft 1
- 6 Goal Area 4 Global Annual Results Report for 2021, Draft 1
- 7 Calculated from HAC 2022 Summary (Excel from Ayuko)
- 8 UNICEF HAC 2022 Overview
- 9 Goal Area 4 Global Annual Results Report for 2021, Draft 1
- 10 Goal Area 4 Global Annual Results Report for 2021, Draft 1
- 11 Inclusion of regional responses to COVID/ Children on the Move will result in elevated and duplicate total PIN.
- 12 People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs.
- 13 People reached with critical WASH supplies.
- 14 People in humanitarian situations accessing safe means of excreta disposal.
- 15 People in humanitarian situations reached with messages on appropriate hygiene practices.
- 16 Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Pacific (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.
- 17 WASH supplies include MHH
- 18 Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, Lesotho, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia
- 19 Safe water: 1,252,028 and sustainable water: 176,000
- 20 Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Oman, Tunisia.
- 21 Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. This appeal also covers support to the humanitarian response in all the countries in South Asia region including cross-border operations.
- 22 Includes emergency response and preparedness requirements, which primarily assist country offices in the region, as well as regional office technical capacity.
- 23 Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo

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