



## UNICEF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUNDING INITIATIVES FACT SHEET

As emergencies become more frequent, and resources invested in humanitarian action grow, expectations for UNICEF to deliver on the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs) in a timely and effective manner increase. Emergency preparedness significantly enhances UNICEF's ability to meet these expectations, not only saving lives, but also making our emergency operations faster, greener and more cost-efficient. Emergency preparedness at UNICEF is being increasingly mainstreamed as everyone's responsibility, beyond specific functions or typical emergency contexts. Preparedness also helps Country Offices (COs) and partners strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus.

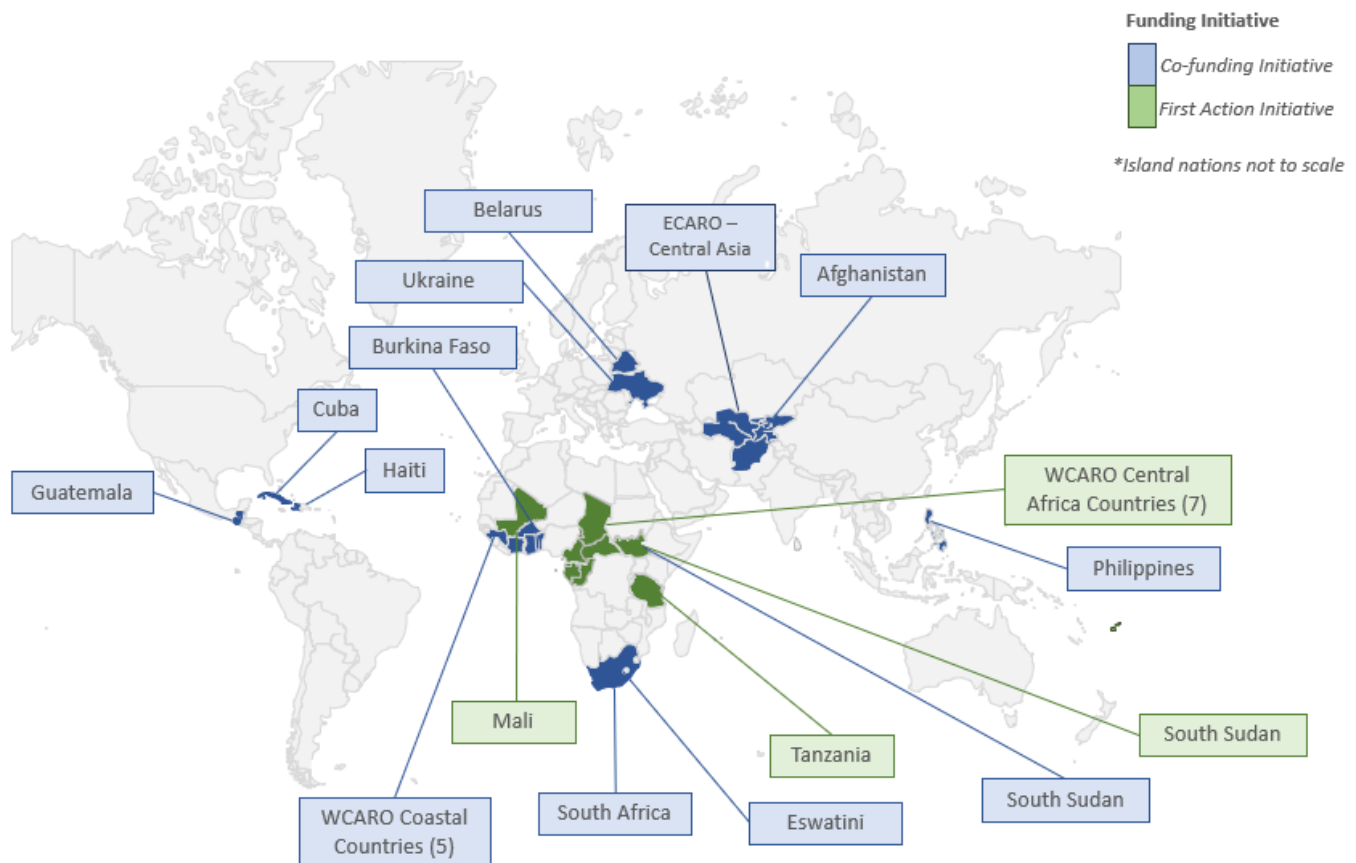
UNICEF has made preparedness planning mandatory and adopted new and more systemic ways of promoting it across the organization and in its work with partners. Preparedness is a core aspect of the overall planning process and is integrated throughout the planning cycle. The Procedure on Preparedness for Emergency Response ensures that preparedness is mainstreamed across UNICEF. It includes mandatory Minimum Preparedness Actions and Minimum Preparedness Standards for COs, Regional Offices (ROs) and Headquarters (HQ). The Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP) is an online tool for the implementation of the procedure. The EPP helps teams analyze risks, self-assess and monitor their operational preparedness, and identify high-return actions to get ready for an immediate response.

UNICEF has two dedicated funding initiatives for emergency preparedness, the First Action Initiative (FAI) and the Co-Funding Initiative (CFI). These initiatives are managed by UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS) and have enabled key investments in the preparedness capacity of COs, ROs and partners. In 2021 and 2022 (as of June), EMOPS made US\$ 7.1 million in preparedness funding allocations (FAI and CFI), matched by 3 million from ROs/COs (CFI), providing support to 31 COs.

Countries eligible for these initiatives are identified through a bi-monthly Horizon Scan process led by EMOPS, in collaboration with ROs and HQ divisions. The Horizon Scan process identifies a short list of emerging or imminent contextual risks where preparedness interventions are most needed. For these countries, EMOPS conducts preparedness reviews, discusses status needs with ROs, reviews eligibility for emergency preparedness funding, and coordinates support from HQ, including Emergency Response Team (ERT) deployments.

The approach synchronizes distribution of preparedness resources to risk levels, while serving as a prompt to COs to take action according to developments on the ground. The basis of risk assessment is drawn from the CO updates to their EPP risk profiles and preparedness plans, in addition to outside data and analysis. This further incentivizes COs to be proactive in identifying changes in risk levels, updating related preparedness and contingencies plans, as well as pinpointing the weak points within their own preparedness strategies to clarify where additional support is required. The overall impact is one of sharper analysis, improved information flow and greater collective transparency around risks.

## Emergency Preparedness Funding Initiatives 2021-2022 Allocations



### First Action Initiative (FAI)

UNICEF’s First Action Initiative (FAI) seeks to introduce an investment portfolio approach to emergency preparedness. Through FAI, UNICEF links risk assessment to resources in a dynamic and systematic way, strategically allocating resources -before an emergency occurs- to where they will have the most impact for children and the greatest value to donors. The FAI seeks to establish foundational seed investments in emergency preparedness required to meet risk levels with appropriate readiness to respond.

Actions considered for FAI funding are focused on initial life-saving responses as additional first wave resources are being mobilized to mount a scaled response. In addition to saving lives and protecting the rights of affected persons, FAI investments are

expected to result in significant savings in terms of funding, time and CO2 emissions. COs receiving these funds toward supply prepositioning are required to program them rapidly and ensure that the seed investment is carried forward into future emergencies with continued replenishment of stocks.

Thirteen FAI allocations have been made to date in the last three years, in the Pacific Islands region, State of Palestine, Haiti, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Iran, Kenya, West Africa Coastal Countries (Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Guinea), Nicaragua, Tanzania, Central Africa (Cameroun, Chad, CAR, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome & Principe), Mali and South Sudan. Using our return-on-investment calculation methodology, these FAI allocations are expected to result in approximately a net 73% in savings per

investment in average (meaning that every USD 1 invested through FAI would be worth USD 1.73 in a traditional emergency response). These investments also represent an average speed improvement of 31 days and a reduction of UNICEF's carbon footprint by over 284 metric tons.

### *FAI Example: Pacific Islands*

The Pacific Islands region faces extreme risk of disasters met with unique logistical challenges, both in terms of distances and weak access to global markets. A USD 526,000 FAI investment made in 2019 was aimed at increasing UNICEF's standing capacity to respond to a range of potential emergencies across the region. The investment made use of an innovative partnership with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) offering pro-bono warehousing and logistical support to UNICEF from DFAT's base in Brisbane.

Prepositioning of critical WASH and child protection supplies supported by the FAI and placed in Brisbane in 2019 have been mobilized to several emergencies in the region, including Tropical Cyclone Harold, Tropical Cyclone Yasa, as well as the COVID-19 response. The strategic importance of having emergency stocks in Brisbane was highlighted in 2020 as UNICEF faced simultaneous multiple emergencies in several countries in the region. Supplies that were mobilized toward emergencies have been replenished and will continue to support future emergency responses.

With supplies strategically prepositioned thanks to support from FAI and DFAT, UNICEF's standing capacity to respond to emergencies in the region more than doubled, with capacity to reach 86,000 beneficiaries. UNICEF also has a warehouse in Fiji, where supply and logistics staff are based, and maintains stocks of emergency supplies in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Micronesia.

In April 2020, Tropical Cyclone Harold tore through Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga, compounding the already difficult situation due to

the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF was ready to immediately deliver emergency supplies to Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu. Buckets and collapsible water containers were delivered to Solomon Islands, tents and WASH kits were delivered to Fiji, while buckets, tarpaulins and tents were delivered to Vanuatu.

When Tropical Cyclone Yasa hit the South Pacific region in December 2020, UNICEF immediately sent pre-positioned supplies to Fiji. Tents and education supplies made it possible for children to continue their education in temporary safe spaces while school infrastructures were being repaired. WASH kits and water containers were also distributed. Additionally, tents from Brisbane were sent to Fiji for COVID-19 response to serve as fever centers and triage facilities for hospitals. These tents were flown by Fiji Airways free of charge in their first cargo flight from Australia after the suspension of commercial flights due to the pandemic.

FAI emergency stocks have also been made available for loans to UNICEF Papua New Guinea (PNG), Indonesia and Timor-Leste. The PNG office has made use of this arrangement on three separate instances, allowing UNICEF to be among the first responders in the country. WASH kits and tents were delivered in January 2020 in response to the influx of refugees from West Papua (Indonesia) into PNG. Tents were delivered in April and July 2020 for COVID-19 response.



*Temporary learning spaces and education supplies prepositioned through FAI enabled the continued education of children in safe spaces in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Yasa. ©UNICEFPacific/2021/Stephen*

## Co-Funding Initiative

The Co-Funding Initiative (CFI) provides seed funding to ROs and COs for preparedness interventions, which are co-funded by EMOPS and ROs/COs own contributions. EMOPS' investments in preparedness through the CFI have served as effective incentives for ROs and COs to prioritize and make their own investments as well, strengthening their commitment to preparedness in the process.

This funding offers valuable opportunities to strengthen cooperation on preparedness with government actors and partners and help COs and partners to better link their development and humanitarian programming through preparedness. Actions are focused on preparedness to enable early action for an initial life-saving response. Interventions supported typically include a combination of activities, such as the establishment of contingency partnerships, risk communication and community outreach activities, emergency supply prepositioning, and support to government planning, coordination and monitoring. Gender considerations and gender-based violence mitigation efforts are included in all interventions.

### Co-Funding Initiative Example: Libya

Since 2011, Libya has suffered from continuing episodes of instability and armed conflicts. By the end of 2021, nearly 803,600 people, including more than 321,400 children, were in dire need of humanitarian assistance. The overall weak capacity of the Libyan government, coupled with previous conflicts, has eroded systems that were already strained. To meet the increasing humanitarian needs, national and local authorities relied heavily on the international humanitarian architecture for in-kind assistance, coordination, planning, needs assessments, technical support, guidance and implementation.

With only 22 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded, UNICEF Libya received US\$590,000 through the CFI to scale-up preparedness actions

for the potential increased political tensions and polarizations due to upcoming elections in December 2021, including possible scenarios of armed conflict. These flexible funds allowed UNICEF to develop a Training of Trainers (TOT) on emergency preparedness and response planning for 75 participants from the Libyan Red Crescent Society, Libyan Scouts and Government counterparts. Based on the key gaps identified, the CO conducted a National System Analysis of the emergency preparedness and response structure.



A UNICEF staff member handles core relief items. ©UNICEF/2021/Libya/Gharabuli

The system analysis consisted of a legal review of relevant national legislation, a literature review, key informant interviews, and a self-assessment questionnaire. Through this analysis, the country office identified the need for regulatory framework and system building, better coordination and communication mechanisms, data management, early warning systems and capacity building. UNICEF has used the system analysis as a baseline for advocacy and programming for the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) and topic-specific capacity building to support the localization initiatives, in line with the Grand Bargain commitments.

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