Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding 2021

Mozambique, 2021
Ana José, 38, stands with some of her family in the Pachinuapa temporary shelter centre, Nangua B locality, in Metúge district, Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique. They were among more than 100,000 people displaced from Palma, a town on the northeast coast of the province, after attacks there by non-state armed groups in March 2021. Quality funding helped UNICEF and its partners to support displaced families in Nangua B camp with the distribution of hygiene kits and the construction of latrines and handwashing stations.

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ABOUT GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING

UNICEF relies on voluntary contributions to uphold its mission of reaching every child. Sufficient levels of quality funds can support effective preparedness and the timely response to humanitarian and protection needs, particularly for the most vulnerable people. UNICEF thematic contributions – one type of funding – are pooled, flexible multi-year funds to support the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, including humanitarian action. Global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF) is, after the core resources for results (regular resources), the most flexible form of funding, because it allows for rapid and strategic responses by UNICEF to humanitarian crises. GHTF makes it possible for UNICEF to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable children when and where it is needed, in a timely and effective manner. Such flexibility is particularly important during responses to sudden-onset emergencies because funding is often required immediately, and to efforts in protracted emergencies, where needs are chronic – yet urgent – and the world’s attention may be far away.

WHY INVEST IN GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING?

Global humanitarian thematic funding can be one of the best mechanisms to save lives, protect rights and secure a better, healthier and safer future for children and their communities, because it allows UNICEF and its partners to:

- Provide immediate life-saving assistance to the children most in need.
- Speedily release funds for sudden-onset emergencies within 24 hours, as needed.
- Respond equitably based on needs by reaching children in smaller and/or forgotten crises, in underfunded sectors (e.g., child protection) and in multi-country and subregional crises.
- React faster in underfunded/forgotten emergencies to flexibly address immediate or ongoing critical needs when it is difficult to attract international attention and funding.
- Invest in preparedness for early response through better risk analysis and the identification of high-return actions, which saves lives and makes emergency response faster and more efficient. Such investment also facilitates stronger and more strategic UNICEF programming.
- Ensure more cost-effective response because every US$1 invested in preparedness reduces response cost by US$2, and investment in preparedness can make responses faster by an average of 14 days.
- Save transaction costs associated with managing individual and earmarked contribution agreements. Because it uses harmonized and strategic reporting, GHTF reduces transaction costs, resulting in a lower cost recovery rate, so that more funding is programmed.
- Ensure a higher quality response by allowing for strategic and efficient allocation based on clear criteria and priorities. Through quality assurance processes along with robust technical assistance, UNICEF can ensure timely and high-quality results for the most vulnerable children.
GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

In 2021, UNICEF allocated US$33.2 million of programmable global humanitarian thematic funding for humanitarian action. Of this, 79 per cent supported humanitarian response in the country and regional offices and 21 per cent supported other global coordination and technical support efforts provided to the field. In addition to this, a critical reserve of US$1.5 million was maintained for response to unforeseen emergencies.

Figure A1-1: Global humanitarian thematic funding country-level* allocations, 2021 (in US dollars)

For sudden-onset crises, GHTF can make all the difference for children in the first days and weeks; and GHTF funding is considered the ‘last resort’ for emergencies that are forgotten or whose responses have a chronic or significant lack of adequate resources. The allocation of GHTF serves as life-saving catalytic funding that can kick-start responses to sudden-onset emergencies; scale up operations in escalating crises; fill temporary funding gaps to avoid interruption in critical operations, especially in protracted, less-visible crises; and ensure the delivery of essential field support.

Twenty-seven per cent of all country- and regional-level GHTF allocations in 2021 went to nine underfunded emergencies with an average funding shortfall of 73 per cent of the required funds: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Mozambique (Cabo Delgado crisis) and Myanmar.

The largest allocations of GHTF in 2021 went to responses in Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Rohingya crisis), Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Haiti, Mozambique, South Sudan, State of Palestine and Yemen.

In 2021, US$8.2 million, or 39 per cent of the country-level allocations, supported complex humanitarian situations triggered by socio-political crises, mainly conflicts, while US$1.5 million, or seven per cent of these allocations, supported natural disasters. It is notable that nearly US$4.8 million (23 per cent of all country-level allocations) supported emergency preparedness and response work.

Figure A1-3: Country-level allocations by emergency type and emergency response teams, 2021 (in US dollars)

* This figure excludes regional and global-level allocations.

1 This category includes protracted crises with ongoing high humanitarian needs without notable escalation of the situation and multi-dimensional crises whose primary drivers are composed of multiple factors, and includes life-saving interventions in WASH, child protection (gender-based violence), nutrition and responses for refugees and internally displaced persons.
ALLOCATION CRITERIA

A senior-level allocations committee within UNICEF governs global humanitarian thematic funding allocations based on established criteria, with final approval given by the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes. A set of clear criteria is used to allocate GHTF at all levels – country, regional and global. Criteria include:

- Critical unmet needs for the most vulnerable children
- Critical funding gaps based on available and projected contributions
- Strong implementation capacity based on the delivery track record of regular country programmes

Alignment with organization-wide initiatives aimed at strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of UNICEF humanitarian action (e.g., the Humanitarian Review recommendations and the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action). Other examples of this include gender-transformative programming; establishing effective mechanisms for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; accountability to affected populations; and localization strategies that emphasize anti-racism and anti-discrimination.

GHTF ALLOCATION CRITERIA EXAMPLES2

Burundi
GHTF allocation: US$300,000

- Natural disasters, including major flooding, resulted in significant damage to 14,000 affected households that are home to an estimated 70,000 people and impacted basic social services, with the partial or total destruction of schools and health facilities. In the wake of internal displacement and relocation, children and women were at high risk of violence and other protection violations.
- With only 36 per cent of the humanitarian appeal for Burundi funded, and with significant gaps in supplies, GHTF was crucial for helping to meet the many needs of affected people, including their access to WASH services and educational and safe spaces, and to meet their need for immediate food and nutritional assistance.

Cameroon
GHTF allocation: US$200,000

- A worsening humanitarian crisis that affected 9 out of the 10 regions in Cameroon in 2021 left 4.4 million people (including 2.3 million children) in need of humanitarian assistance. The crisis displaced thousands of people. Needs mainly driven by increased armed conflict and intercommunal violence, refugee influx, disease outbreaks and flooding were further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- With only 23 percent of the total humanitarian appeal for Cameroon funded and no additional funds forecast at the time of allocation, GHTF was crucial for helping to meet the many needs of affected people, including their access to WASH services and educational and safe spaces, and to meet their need for immediate food and nutritional assistance.

Cuba
GHTF allocation: US$150,000

- Many Cubans experienced multiple humanitarian risks linked to the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the country’s economic crisis and shortages of food, basic supplies and medicine. Against this backdrop, an unprecedented situation of civil unrest exacerbated people’s vulnerability to natural hazards (e.g., hurricanes and earthquakes) and limited the country’s capacity to respond to new emergencies.
- Flexible funding through the Co-Funding Initiative enabled preparedness actions (including pre-positioning of critical items) and helped strengthen the capacity of families and communities to face potential crises.

2 Allocation amounts provided in these examples cover one allocation per country, so may not match total allocation amount provided in Figure A1-1, “Global humanitarian thematic funding country-level allocations, 2021.”
Kyrgyzstan  
GHTF allocation:  
US$100,000

- There was an urgent need to meet the humanitarian needs and reintegration of children being repatriated to Kyrgyzstan from Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and other areas with ongoing armed conflicts. By the end of January 2021, an estimated 79 Kyrgyz children in Iraq were staying in orphanages (or, for the younger children, in prison with their mothers) and were scheduled to be repatriated in the following weeks.

- There was a critical funding gap, with no funds received for the humanitarian appeal and no additional funds forecast at the time of allocation. GHTF was critical to support repatriation, case management, reintegration support, mental health and psychosocial support and targeted supplementary education support for children who had received little or no education to date.

Myanmar  
GHTF allocation:  
US$250,000

- The deteriorating humanitarian situation in Myanmar was marked by a military coup in February 2021; conditions forced the displacement of 320,900 people nationwide. Households faced significant decreases in or total loss of income. As basic food prices increased, household food consumption significantly worsened, causing families to turn to negative coping strategies, including sending their children to work for income, which can severely impact children’s well-being.

- With only 35 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded, GHTF provided crucial unconditional multipurpose cash transfers to crisis-affected pregnant and lactating women, children under age 2 and children with disabilities through the Humanitarian Child Grant programme. This bolstered household income, helped provide for children’s basic needs and reduced the need to utilize negative coping strategies.

Pakistan  
GHTF allocation:  
US$400,000

- Humanitarian needs in Pakistan in 2021 increased primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a chronic nutrition crisis and recurrent natural disasters. Some 10.5 million people, including 5.5 million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance. More than one third of households are food insecure, and 18.3 per cent of households are severely food insecure.

- Because the nutrition sector faced critical funding gaps, GHTF was urgently required to scale up treatment for severe acute malnutrition using the community management of malnutrition approach, for delivering services at both the facility and community levels and for supporting outreach and mobile approaches where permanent health facilities are not available.

State of Palestine  
GHTF allocation:  
US$400,000

- A worsening protracted, highly complex and multifaceted crisis with 2.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 1.1 million children, has been compounded by the rise of tensions and violence in the West Bank, specifically in East Jerusalem, and by the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has put the country’s already weak health system at risk of total collapse.

- Because funding for humanitarian actors remained constrained due to the political impasse, and with only 12 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded at time of allocation, GHTF was invaluable in shoring up critical, life-saving WASH, education and child protection programmes in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

- A Palestinian girl readsies to fill a jerrycan with clean drinking water in May 2021. Since the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip began on 10 May 2021, 40 Palestinian children have been killed, with many more injured and displaced. Even prior to this escalation, 1 in 3 children in the Gaza Strip required psychosocial support for conflict-related trauma.
In 2021, UNICEF raised US$39.5 million in global humanitarian thematic funding, a 25 per cent increase compared with 2020. However, the percentage of total humanitarian funding received as GHTF remained extremely low, 1.3 per cent of the overall humanitarian contributions received in 2021, the lowest percentage of the last five years. The majority of humanitarian funding (86 per cent of the total amount received\(^3\)) remains strictly earmarked and heavily concentrated on a small number of emergencies,\(^4\) which impedes UNICEF’s ability to respond equitably, effectively and rapidly to the humanitarian needs of all vulnerable children. UNICEF advocates for more investment in GHTF from its resource partners to address this growing concern about the levels of flexibility for humanitarian response.

The Government of the Netherlands continued to be the top supporter of GHTF, providing more than half of the total funding received. At the same time, the main driver of the increased absolute levels of GHTF funding in 2021 came from private sector fundraising from UNICEF country offices. Of public sector resources partners, the Governments of Denmark, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea increased their contributions to GHTF in 2021 compared with 2020.\(^5\)

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\(^3\) Of the total funds received in 2021, 86.2 per cent represent non-thematic humanitarian funds to UNICEF. The remaining funds are comprised of the various levels of flexible thematic funding: 1.3 per cent in global humanitarian thematic funds, 0.2 per cent in regional humanitarian thematic funds and 12.3 per cent in country thematic funds.

\(^4\) Sixty-eight per cent of all humanitarian funding supported the top 10 most high-profile emergencies.

\(^5\) By order of contribution amount: the Netherlands (7 per cent increase), Republic of Korea (100 per cent increase) and Denmark (12 per cent increase).
In all programme areas, global humanitarian thematic funding played a catalytic role in meeting the needs of vulnerable children and their families in Bangladesh, including Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar District.

By the end of 2021, Bangladesh was hosting 918,841 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar (52 per cent children) in 34 camps in Cox’s Bazar District and on the island of Bhasan Char. The conditions in the Rohingya camps and in Bhasan Char are complex and meeting Rohingya refugees’ time-critical and life-saving needs remains challenging. A fire in March 2021 that severely affected several refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar deepened humanitarian needs. As the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to adversely affect vulnerable children and their families in 2021, GHTF enabled UNICEF to ensure continuation of services and meet humanitarian needs in all programme areas.

Thanks to GHTF, UNICEF and partners reached 125,000 Rohingya beneficiaries (51 per cent female, and including 3 per cent people with disabilities) with access to safe water and sanitation and with hygiene promotion. In host communities, a total of 30,000 people (50 per cent female, and including 1 per cent people with disabilities) benefitted from hygiene promotion activities and from 6,304 latrines in the Ukhiya, Teknaf, Cox’s Bazar Sadar, Ramu, Chakaria and Pekua upazilas (subdistricts).

As part of its education response, UNICEF and partners used GHTF to implement home-based, caregiver-led education activities and repair and maintain learning centres. The funds also supported capacity development activities for partners and learning centre management committees. To support a safe school reopening in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, GHTF also helped provide teacher training and hygiene materials to 657 government primary schools serving host communities throughout Cox’s Bazar District. As a result, a total of 231,578 children (52 per cent girls, and including 1 per cent children with disabilities) continued their education despite pandemic-related interruptions to learning; and 138,022 children (49 per cent girls) were supported through caregiver-led home-based learning in safe and protective environments. After the Rohingya refugee camp fire in March 2021, GHTF was pivotal in enabling UNICEF and partners to reconstruct 142 learning centres, two multipurpose centres, a teacher resource centre and 44 WASH facilities destroyed by the fire.
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Global humanitarian thematic funding catalysed delivery of an integrated package of life-saving health and nutrition services (free essential care, immunization and screening and treatment for malnutrition) in the hardest-to-reach conflict-affected communities in the Central African Republic.

Despite the peace agreement signed in 2019, the combined impacts of enduring violence, epidemics, structural fragility and economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic left 2.8 million people (57 per cent of the population) in the Central African Republic in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021, including 1.3 million children and 430,000 people with disabilities. The security deterioration and socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic restricted access to food and essential health care and services, deepening the vulnerability of crisis-affected populations, especially in hard-to-reach areas.

By the end of December 2021, midway through the project, 12,442 children under 15 years of age had received free treatment, mostly for malaria, acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea. In addition, a total of 2,028 children under 5 years of age were treated for malnutrition (including 760 for severe acute malnutrition and 1,268 for moderate acute malnutrition); 790 children under 12 months of age were vaccinated against measles and other childhood diseases, 759 pregnant and 1,008 lactating women received free consultations and 3,657 individuals from the general population received free essential care. Forty-five local health workers received training and were supported with incentives.

Thanks to GHTF, UNICEF and Médecins d’Afrique implemented an emergency health and nutrition mobile clinic project. This provided an integrated package of life-saving services to conflict-affected people in hard-to-reach areas in the southeast along the Rafai-Dembia, Alindao-Mingala and Mobaye-Zangba road axes in Mbomou and Basse-Kotto prefectures.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2021:

- **12,442 children** received free treatment for illnesses
- **760 children** were treated for severe acute malnutrition
- **759 pregnant and 1,008 lactating women** received free consultations

**Central African Republic**
In 2021, natural hazards, civil unrest, displacement and protracted conflicts and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the lives of women and children and increase their vulnerabilities throughout the East Asia and Pacific region. UNICEF leveraged GHTF to enhance its actions together with partners to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.

In **Cambodia**, GHTF enabled translation of the global gender-based violence response pocket guide app into the Khmer language. This guide was used to train 600 social workers and quarantine centre staff on gender-based violence risk mitigation and response in the three provinces with the highest numbers of migrants returning from Thailand. As a result, community members, especially girls and women, have benefitted from information and referrals to gender-based violence response services, risk mitigation and awareness raising activities.

In **Papua New Guinea**, UNICEF used GHTF to support the operationalization of the national toll-free gender-based violence helpline 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain. This included its expansion to a 24-hour service and support for case management practices and standards. While many services for gender-based violence were suspended or scaled down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the service filled a critical gap for women and children experiencing violence and abuse. The helpline recorded more than 11,000 instances of violence in 12 months. UNICEF support also helped ensure 1,349 children (609 girls, 740 boys) and 3,731 adults (1,179 females, 1,948 males) were able to access the helpline and were provided with case management and mental health and psychosocial support services.

In **Viet Nam**, thanks to GHTF, UNICEF supported 600 women and child survivors of violence to access telephone counselling and mental health and psychosocial support. This included referrals for safe shelter and accommodation and other services. UNICEF supported the training of 800 social welfare officers, child protection officers and national gender-based violence helpline staff on case management for gender-based violence and child protection in emergencies. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and flooding, UNICEF provided 660 women and children with dignity kits, including sanitary napkins, hygiene products and information on how to access gender-based violence services and support for survivors of violence.
HAITI

In Haiti, global humanitarian thematic funding enabled the rapid provision of emergency care for the victims of the August 2021 earthquake through direct support for medical supplies to hospitals and deployment of mobile clinics to remote areas.

More than 12,700 people were wounded and approximately 2,300 people died as a result of the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit the southern region of Haiti in August 2021. Additionally, more than 60 per cent of the health infrastructure (97 health facilities) in these regions was destroyed or damaged, leaving thousands of women and children in urgent need of emergency primary health care assistance.

Thanks to GHTF contributions, UNICEF delivered 135 emergency medical kits to 28 health facilities; deployed 24 teams to run mobile clinics in 18 highly affected and remote municipalities; installed more than 30 tents to enable temporary resumption of primary health care at 27 damaged health facilities; and established an electronic system for data monitoring via tablets distributed to mobile teams and health directorates.

The flexible funding also enabled UNICEF to provide emergency essential health care to more than 24,000 vulnerable children, women and their families affected by the earthquake during the four months that followed. Overall, in 2021, 192,000 children and women received primary health care services in UNICEF-supported facilities and through community health interventions, including integrated management of childhood illnesses, immunization, maternal health care, HIV/AIDS services and adolescent care. The flexibility of GHTF has positioned UNICEF in Haiti as a key partner of the Government for restoring and maintaining continuity of basic health care for vulnerable Haitian children, pregnant women and their families.
Thanks to flexible humanitarian thematic funding, in 2021 UNICEF was able to sustain key WASH and adolescent programme interventions for vulnerable Iraqis who are internally displaced, for returnees and for children and families from the host communities.

An estimated 2.5 million people, including 1.1 million children, need humanitarian assistance in Iraq. Of these, 961,000 people are in acute need. Decreased humanitarian funding for Iraq and low government resource allocations for social services constrained humanitarian action in the country in 2021, in particular programming for adolescents and for water, sanitation and hygiene. Flexible humanitarian thematic funding helped fill critical gaps in programmes and ensure continuity of life-saving services.

Children in Iraq make up 48 per cent of the country’s population, while youth aged 15–24 years account for 20 per cent of the population. On top of the country’s challenging humanitarian and socioeconomic situation, insecurity and a longstanding political stalemate continued to negatively affect children and young people in Iraq throughout 2021. Thanks to flexible humanitarian thematic funds, including global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF reached 15,054 young people (8,197 girls) with learning and skills-building services that covered life skills, digital skills and employability and entrepreneurship skills.

Flexible humanitarian thematic funds also permitted a quick UNICEF response to critical WASH needs. Thanks to this particularly flexible source of funding, UNICEF ensured the provision of safe water and sanitation services in the seven camps for internally displaced persons in Ninewa Governorate and in the city of Sulaymaniyah, reaching a total of 30,472 individuals (15,530 women and girls). To address water turbidity and river contamination in the Kirkuk and Ninewa Governorates, UNICEF reached a total of 71,727 affected people (36,500 women/girls and 33,000 children) with water purification materials that included 180 tons of chlorine gas, 40 tons of calcium hypochlorite and around 250 tons of aluminium sulphate.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2021:

- **15,054 young people** (8,197 girls) reached with learning and skills-building services
- **30,472 individuals** (15,530 women/girls) accessed safe water and sanitation services
- **71,727 affected people** (36,500 women/girls) benefited from water purification materials
Global humanitarian thematic funding 2021

UNICEF

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE IN EUROPE

In response to the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe, global humanitarian thematic funding was invaluable in giving UNICEF flexibility to address emerging priorities and provide basic services, supplies and systematic capacity building to help ensure that children on the move in this region could realize their rights.

The year 2021 was marked by a 75 per cent increase from 2020 levels in the number of refugees and migrants arriving in Europe, with the majority coming from Afghanistan, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic and from north Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. In total, some 165,500 new arrivals, including 23,000 children, made the dangerous journey to Europe. Because the humanitarian response to this influx of people was unevenly funded in receiving countries, GHTF was critical for enhancing preparedness and ensuring a rapid response to adequately address the urgent needs of refugee and migrant children, regardless of their country of reception. Activities included bolstering and filling such critical social service gaps as gender-based violence and protection services, gaps that were the result of overstretched national services, the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased refugee influx.

In Italy, GHTF was key to strengthening UNICEF’s gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response interventions to support refugee and migrant women and girls facing difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF provided prevention and response services to nearly 1,300 survivors of gender-based violence and individuals at risk of such violence, through outreach interventions and safe spaces in Calabria, Rome and Sicily and in border areas. Additionally, more than 20,000 individuals were reached with reliable information on gender-based violence risks and services.

In Bulgaria, UNICEF used GHTF to facilitate preparedness and further strengthen capacities to address some of the most critical gaps in the provision of gender-based violence and protection services, integrating support for refugee and migrant children into the national child protection and welfare system. As result, a total of 317 frontline workers and representatives of non-governmental organizations, state institutions and staff from United Nations agencies were trained on gender-based violence prevention and response, and 3,617 refugee and migrant children accessed gender-based violence services.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF provided essential non-food items to 504 children in temporary reception centres, including 151 children in Una-Sana Canton, 193 children in Sarajevo Canton and 160 children in various outreach locations – all thanks to humanitarian thematic funds, including GHTF. This flexible funding also facilitated the establishment in temporary reception centres with 24/7 core care services for children on the move; it provided for child-friendly spaces, case management, referrals and mental health and psychosocial support services even with the funding gaps in 2021.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2021:

- More than 20,000 people reached with reliable information on gender-based violence risks and services in Italy
- 3,617 refugee and migrant children accessed gender-based violence services in Bulgaria
- 504 refugee children received non-food items in Bosnia and Herzegovina
GHTF CASE STUDIES

SOUTH SUDAN

In South Sudan, humanitarian thematic funding was crucial in meeting the multidimensional needs of crisis-affected populations and enabling capacity development for long-lasting and sustainable efforts.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a spike in intercommunal violence, floods and the arrival of desert locusts, more than 8.3 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in South Sudan in 2021. Overall, there was a significant increase from 60 per cent of the population in need of aid in 2020 to 66 per cent in 2021. In this humanitarian context, and with limited humanitarian funding at the beginning of 2021, GHTF was crucial to emergency programming in the WASH, child protection, nutrition and education sectors.

As part of the WASH response, for example, and thanks to GHTF, UNICEF procured 9,000 containers for households to provide 54,000 emergency-affected people with water storage and collection containers. In response to the subnational conflict in Tambura County, Western Equatoria that resulted in the displacement of 90,000 people, using GHTF UNICEF met time-critical needs by providing hygiene items along with related messaging to 27,000 internally displaced people; sanitation and handwashing facilities in three camps for the internally displaced; and water supply for 14,500 internally displaced people.

Life-saving child protection interventions were funded in part by GHTF together with other flexible thematic funds. UNICEF and partners reached 256,522 individuals (91,625 girls; 93,321 boys; 40,358 women; 31,218 men) with critical services including case management, family tracing and reunification, mental health and psychosocial support, support to children associated with armed forces and armed groups, prevention of and response to gender-based violence and explosive ordnance risk education. GHTF also supported UNICEF’s work on capacity development with the country task force on monitoring and reporting. Altogether, it enabled 29 capacity building sessions for 790 members (111 women) of the armed forces, and 3,236 members of the security forces (773 women) benefited from 179 child protection awareness-raising sessions.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2021:

- **54,000 emergency-affected people** received water storage and collection containers
- **27,000 internally displaced people** benefited from non-food items and messaging on WASH services
- **256,522 caregivers and children** accessed life-saving child protection interventions

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South Sudan

In October 2021, a woman and a child pump water at the only available borehole (water hand pump), which stands in the middle of a flooded area of Panyagor, in Twic East County in Jonglei State, South Sudan.
UNICEF has two dedicated funding initiatives for emergency preparedness, the First Action Initiative and the Co-Funding Initiative. These initiatives have enabled important investments in the preparedness capacity of UNICEF and partners. In 2021, global humanitarian thematic funding was a critical source of funds for these two important emergency preparedness initiatives.

The First Action Initiative rapidly increases UNICEF’s standing capacity to deliver an initial life-saving response to a likely humanitarian crisis. It offers an innovative investment portfolio approach to emergency preparedness, providing the foundational seed investments needed to meet risk levels with appropriate readiness and capacity to undertake early action. The First Action Initiative also contributes to a more environmentally sustainable approach, because investments are expected to result in significant savings in terms of funding, time and carbon dioxide emissions (due to pre-positioning of supplies in key areas).

The Co-Funding Initiative provides seed money to regional and country offices for preparedness interventions. This funding mechanism offers valuable opportunities to strengthen cooperation on preparedness with government actors and partners and can help country offices 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 engagement activities, emergency supply pre-positioning and support to government planning, coordination and monitoring. Gender considerations and gender-based violence mitigation efforts are included in all interventions.

In 2021, UNICEF made US$4.4 million in preparedness funding allocations through the First Action Initiative and the Co-Funding Initiative, funded primarily with GHTF. These allocations were matched by US$2.8 million from UNICEF regional and country offices (through the Co-Funding Initiative), and altogether provided support to 19 country offices.
BURKINA FASO

In 2021, the situation in Burkina Faso remained complex, with increasing security challenges and 3.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 2.1 million children. Attacks by non-state armed groups persisted during the year, with a total of 733 incidents and 1,280 victims (14 children) recorded between January and December 2021. The intensification of hostilities resulted in the disruption or unavailability of essential services, reduced access to livelihoods in the most affected areas and led to substantial displacement. Nearly 1.6 million people were internally displaced throughout 2021, 62 per cent of them children.

With a critical funding gap for responding to the protracted emergency, the UNICEF country office’s standing capacity to respond to new crises was limited. Through the Co-funding Initiative, UNICEF Burkina Faso received a US$400,000 contribution to support supply and logistics preparedness measures, including pre-positioning of stocks. Thanks to these funds, 900 non-food item kits (1 kit per household of 7 people) were immediately purchased to provide rapid assistance to newly displaced people in several regions. Kits included kitchen items, mosquito nets, blankets, plastic mats, water bucket and a plastic basin, soap, solar lamp, plastic sheet and rope. Some of the kits were used at the end of December to provide a joint response with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Food Programme to displaced people in Bourzanga and the city of Kongoussi in the Centre-Nord region. This stock allowed a more efficient supply chain management of the response to sudden shocks and improved UNICEF’s readiness to deliver humanitarian assistance.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

The deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan in 2021 posed the risk of refugee outflows to countries in Central Asia and Europe. Security assessments anticipated a surge in conflict and violence in Afghanistan and an outflow of people seeking refuge in the Afghanistan’s neighbouring countries: Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. By mid-September 2021, more than 2,500 Afghan refugees had been evacuated to Albania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Romania, and as of December 2021, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were hosting 25,000 Afghan people. Noting that these countries continued to be highly prone to natural hazards and that their basic social services and governmental capacities were already overstretched by the COVID-19 pandemic, it was crucial for UNICEF to scale up humanitarian preparedness efforts.

In this context, the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia received US$500,000 through the Co-Funding Initiative to strengthen its collaboration with Governments and other partners, including UNHCR, to robustly enhance preparedness actions to ensure effective and immediate capacity to respond to a sudden refugee influx of people from Afghanistan into Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Thanks to this flexible funding, UNICEF trained implementing partners in these countries to build preparedness and response capacities and procured and pre-positioned child-centred emergency supplies to ensure access to education, early childhood development, recreation, health, nutrition and WASH services. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were prepared in this way to cover 10,000 arrivals each, and Turkmenistan to cover 1,000 arrivals. UNICEF’s scenario-based approach was in line with the inter-agency Refugee Response Plan for preparedness and response efforts led by UNHCR, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and humanitarian actors.
LIBYA

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

With only 22 per cent of the humanitarian appeal for Libya funded, UNICEF provided US$590,000 through the Co-Funding initiative for the Libya Country Office to scale-up preparedness actions in light of the potential increases in polarization and political tensions due to elections in December 2021, including possible scenarios of armed conflict. These flexible funds allowed UNICEF to develop a training of trainers on emergency preparedness and response planning for 75 participants from the Libyan Red Crescent Society, the Libyan Scouts and Government counterparts. Based on the key preparedness gaps identified, the country office conducted a national system analysis of the emergency preparedness and response structure.

The system analysis was fully funded by thematic funding. It 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 a regulatory framework and for systems 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 preparedness and response planning and for topic-specific capacity building to support localization initiatives, in line with Grand Bargain commitments.

Transparency, accountability and reporting

In 2021, UNICEF continued its commitment to transparent and accurate reporting on humanitarian financing. Key tools for this include the Financial Tracking System (FTS) of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other real-time external platforms, including the Global humanitarian thematic funding live platform, which reports the latest allocation data with the list of major donors who contribute global humanitarian thematic funding to UNICEF, and the COVID-19 donors and partners page, which contains contribution amounts to UNICEF’s ACT-A (Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator) Humanitarian Action for Children appeal and to the COVID-19 pandemic response. UNICEF has also strengthened its reporting on funding for the response to gender-based violence in emergencies as part of regular reporting to FTS and will continue to enhance this reporting in 2022.
UNICEF is grateful to all resource partners that contributed to global humanitarian thematic funding in 2021, and for their commitment to quality funding for UNICEF’s critical humanitarian interventions.

The Netherlands remained the largest government contributor to UNICEF’s GHTF in 2021, as it has been since 2017. A champion of high-quality, multi-year funding that enables the most flexible, rapid and strategic response to emergencies, the Netherlands signed a three-year agreement for a total commitment of US$55.7 million in GHTF to UNICEF for 2019–2021. As part of this agreement, the Netherlands contributed US$19.9 million in 2021, nearly 53 per cent of all GHTF contributions received.

After the Netherlands, the next largest source of GHTF was private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices, which contributed nearly US$11 million to GHTF in 2021. UNICEF is extremely grateful to the private sector partners for significant increase in their support for GHTF, and, in particular, to private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices, where the contribution to GHTF in 2021 increased threefold compared with 2020.

Those top two sources combined – the Government of the Netherlands and private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices – accounted for nearly 78 per cent of all GHTF received in 2021.

Of the US$39.5 million in GHTF contributed in 2021, around US$21.7 million came from five public sector partners. The remaining US$17.8 million was contributed by 19 private sector partners. The number of resource partners remained steady in 2021 (24, compared with 25 in 2020). One public sector partner and seven private sector partners that supported GHTF in 2020 did not provide support in 2021; however, seven resource partners were either first-time supporters of GHTF or returning supporters of GHTF after a hiatus.

The increase in GHTF in 2021 can be attributed to the increase in absolute dollars provided by the private sector and to an increase in the proportion of GHTF coming from the private sector. Additionally, the percentage of partners contributing to GHTF who were in the private sector increased from 38 per cent in 2020 to 45 per cent in 2021, an all-time high.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Contributions (in US dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>95,762,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices</td>
<td>23,291,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Swedish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>16,653,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>10,713,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>6,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>United States Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>3,725,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Finnish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>2,385,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Danish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>1,317,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>1,253,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dutch Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>955,105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Figure A1-5: Global humanitarian thematic funding by type of resource partner, 2020 and 2021 (in US dollars)**

- **Public sector:**
  - 2020: US$11.9 million (37.5%)
  - 2021: US$17.8 million (45.1%)

- **Private sector:**
  - 2020: US$19.7 million (62.1%)
  - 2021: US$21.7 million (54.9%)

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6 Government of Romania and the UNICEF National Committees in France, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland.

7 Governments of Canada and New Zealand, the New Zealand Committee for UNICEF; the Hungarian Committee for UNICEF and private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices in Brazil, Malaysia and United Arab Emirates.
In 2021, UNICEF secured first-time contributions or contributions after a hiatus in support to GHTF from several partners: the Governments of Canada and New Zealand, the New Zealand Committee for UNICEF, the Hungarian Committee for UNICEF and private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices in Brazil, Malaysia and United Arab Emirates.

Despite the positive trend of new donors and an overall increase in support to GHTF, it is still concerning that GHTF as a portion of overall humanitarian funding remains extremely low. UNICEF will continue its strategic engagement with donors to diversify its donor base as a way to expand flexible financial support to the organization. UNICEF will also continue to strengthen its reporting on the impacts of GHTF and communicate this more proactively with resource partners.

On behalf of some of the world’s most vulnerable children, UNICEF sincerely thanks and acknowledges all resource partners that have provided GHTF in 2021. Support from these partners has been an essential catalyst for reaching some of the most vulnerable children in crisis-affected settings and in forgotten crises. Each one of these resource partners, regardless of contribution size, has made a tremendous difference in the lives of children.

Table A1-2: Top 5 resource partners supporting GHTF through National Committees in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Committee</th>
<th>Key donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Svenska PostkodLotteriet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Poul Due Jensen Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Eleva Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Colgate-Palmolive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table A1-3: Sources of global humanitarian thematic funding, 2021 (in US dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Netherlands</td>
<td>19,929,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices</td>
<td>11,029,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Swedish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>3,082,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Republic of Korea</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Finnish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>765,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Denmark</td>
<td>662,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Dutch Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>642,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>628,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Danish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>461,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 German Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>351,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 United States Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>294,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Canadian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>184,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>130,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 New Zealand Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>96,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Canada</td>
<td>76,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Australian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>65,683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 International online donations</td>
<td>42,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Belgian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>31,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 New Zealand</td>
<td>14,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,490,782</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2021, the child protection specialist on the monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM) on children and armed conflict, funded by global humanitarian thematic funding, provided technical guidance to more than 25 countries to support the implementation of UNICEF’s responsibility to monitor and report on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict. In line with UNICEF’s Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and relevant Security Council Resolutions on Children and Armed Conflict, countries that received support included the 21 situations covered in the annual Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General as well as humanitarian situations with rapidly developing conflict situations. Child protection teams and senior management were equipped with the tools and guidance required to establish and scale up monitoring mechanisms to document grave child rights violations as well as engage with parties to conflict. Burkina Faso and Cameroon, the two most recent situations added to the Secretary-General’s Report, along with Ethiopia and Mozambique, were the countries that received significant support from the child protection specialist in 2021. In Mozambique, remote field monitoring was implemented to quickly scale up UNICEF’s ability to respond to the conflict situation. This modality also enabled skills development of United Nations and other partners’ staff and resulted in the establishment of the MRM in Mozambique.

In early 2021, an education specialist funded by global humanitarian thematic funding was deployed to support UNICEF Ethiopia’s education in emergencies response in the northern Ethiopian region of Tigray. The specialist worked with UNICEF and partner teams on refining and launching an integrated approach to child protection and education programming known as ‘Bete’ (My Home). Bete helps internally displaced people affected by conflict and climate events, and community caseworkers, with the help of local authorities, take care of children from their arrival in the host community until they return to school.

Additionally, the education specialist assisted strategic partnership building with an eye towards implementing the Drought Anticipatory Action Plan, a pilot programme funded by CERF, targeting the Afar region, the Somali region and the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ region. More than 27,500 children (51 per cent girls) benefited from a package including cash voucher assistance and WASH and child protection interventions. As interim Cluster Coordinator, the education specialist played key roles in liaising with Education Cannot Wait (or ECW, the United Nations’ global fund for education in emergencies) and mobilizing US$1 million under ECW’s First Emergency Funding window for the education in emergencies response in Tigray.

**Ethiopia**
Mariam, 13, reads in Alelo, Ethiopia, in March 2022. In early 2021, Mariam’s village was completely destroyed by floods, displacing her family. However, thanks to the Bete (My Home) programme, Mariam had the opportunity to go to school, for the first time ever.
In 2021, global humanitarian thematic funding supported a Beneficiary Data System Specialist position to provide in-country support to UNICEF country offices in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and South Sudan for the roll-out of the UNICEF Humanitarian Cash Operations and Programme Ecosystem (HOPE).

As a result, 36,000 teachers in South Sudan received payments to incentivize teacher attendance and the reopening of schools after a year-long closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In Afghanistan, the HOPE system was used to rapidly register 371,216 crisis-affected households as part of the Level 3 emergency response. As of December 2021, UNICEF had disbursed cash assistance to more than 266,151 people (including 156,819 children) in 36,459 households. As part of UNICEF’s commitment to shift from in-kind to cash-based assistance, winterization cash top-ups were provided at the start of winter for households to access essential winter items for children. In both countries, the deployment of HOPE enabled the implementation of a humanitarian cash transfer programme at scale.

In the Central African Republic, GHTF supported the expansion of humanitarian cash transfers for the COVID-19 pandemic response extending support to an additional 6,720 individuals, providing US$150 per family per month for three months to address their increased vulnerabilities as a result of the pandemic.

Overall, HOPE has been deployed in seven countries since early 2021: Afghanistan, Antigua & Barbuda, Bangladesh, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and the Sudan.

**Afghanistan**

In Badghis Province, Afghanistan, workers check an individual’s name against a payment list before disbursing a humanitarian cash transfer. Crisis-affected households receive cash transfers as part of UNICEF’s emergency response.
Global communications and advocacy

In 2021, global humanitarian thematic funding was crucial to the implementation of a global web strategy to ensure UNICEF continues to be positioned as a leading voice for children in emergency contexts. During the first quarter of the year, UNICEF Division of Global Communication and Advocacy launched the UNICEF in Emergencies hub to increase online visibility, reach and engagement. Web traffic to humanitarian and emergencies content on the UNICEF global website nearly doubled compared with 2020.

Additional flexible funding enabled the Division to support the India Country Office during the Delta variant wave of COVID-19 with the creation of an emergency response page and human interest content. This live emergency page generated more than 1.1 million pageviews and 40,000 donation clicks on the global website alone.

Similarly, the Division worked with the Afghanistan Country Office to create an extensive suite of web content, including an emergency response page highlighting UNICEF’s work in the country along with advocacy asks. It generated more than 350,000 pageviews from August to December 2021. The humanitarian web editor also provided direct support by helping to manage the country office’s website by proxy, including refreshing the structure, uploading critical content and running in-depth scans of content to flag potential sensitivities.

The Division of Global Communication and Advocacy also developed a global web presence for the Central African Republic Country Office, which at the time had no local website, to effectively communicate - globally - about the needs of children there.