



A child looks at his parents before Hurricane Ian hits their home. UNICEF pre-positioned humanitarian supplies in Cuba to assist vulnerable families in the aftermath of the hurricane.

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for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Latin America and the Caribbean Region

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- The Latin America and the Caribbean region is historically prone to disasters. More than 88 per cent of disasters between 2020 and July 2022 were related to natural hazards, including hurricanes, floods, landslides and drought; these impacted livelihoods, homes and access to services.³
- Violence, poverty and socioeconomic and structural inequality and sociopolitical turmoil, paired with the long-term effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, are exacerbating cumulative humanitarian needs and are the main drivers of internal displacement and cross-border migration. More than 18.4 million people in the region are displaced due to violence and disasters² and are in need of protection and humanitarian assistance.
- UNICEF appeals for US\$15.1 million to strengthen emergency preparedness for compounding humanitarian situations and to respond to emerging crises.⁴

IN NEED⁵



1.8 million
Children in need of health and nutrition services⁶



2.4 million
Children in need of protection services⁷



2.2 million
Children in need of access to school⁸



5.6 million
People lack access to safe water⁹



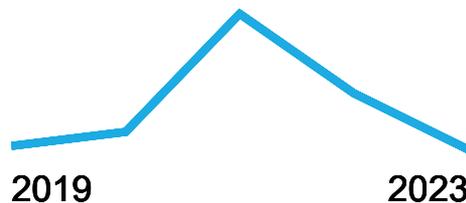
8 million
People affected by natural hazards



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

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 15.1 million



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are historically prone to disasters. Between 2020 and July 2022, 88 per cent of hazards were climate-related: hurricanes, floods, landslides and drought, and these impacted livelihoods, homes and access to services.¹⁰ As natural hazards increase in intensity and frequency, their impacts on children compound and include multiple socioeconomic crises with serious humanitarian implications. These natural hazards are a life-threatening reality for children.

Crises in the region are interwoven. Gender-based and other types of violence, poverty, socioeconomic and structural inequality and sociopolitical turmoil, all exacerbated by the secondary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, are the main drivers of internal displacement and cross-border migration of millions of people throughout the region. Pre-existing precarious conditions leave little room for resilience to the smallest shock and expose children to acute humanitarian needs.

The region continues facing multiple crises, including deteriorating sociopolitical circumstances; protracted migrant cross-border situations; urban violence and armed violence; disease outbreaks; and food insecurity. After sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean has the highest number of countries (19) facing a triple exposure to impacts of the war in Ukraine: rising food prices, rising energy prices and tightening finances. This can greatly erode the living conditions of 96 million people and fuel social instability.¹¹ More than 3.8 million people, including 1.5 million children, were affected by disasters in 17 countries and territories between January and September 2022.¹²

In 2023, small island and developing states in the Caribbean are expected to face increased vulnerability caused by climate-related migration and food insecurity.¹³ With losses and structural damage from tropical cyclones and a rising sea level, anticipatory action and resilience building are critical to mitigating the worst situation for children.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

With multiple ongoing humanitarian crises and given the risk profile of the Latin America and Caribbean region, UNICEF promotes strategies to address immediate humanitarian needs while building local/regional capacities for emergency preparedness and resilience. Guided by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, during emergencies that may occur in countries, or related to crises, not covered by other humanitarian appeals in the region, UNICEF will provide timely and integrated humanitarian responses to children and the most vulnerable populations, including pregnant and breastfeeding women, people with disabilities and indigenous communities. Cross-sectoral issues (e.g., gender, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, early childhood development and adolescents) and Grand Bargain¹⁴ commitments (localization, strengthening government and local actors' capacities, accountability to the affected population, humanitarian cash transfers), will be mainstreamed.

UNICEF will invest in building shock-responsive systems and will continue its strategic investments to strengthen national capacities for emergency preparedness and response, including through supporting comprehensive, risk-informed programming at the regional and country level. Preparedness in compliance with UNICEF's Minimum Preparedness Standards will lay the foundations for situational analysis and evidence-based planning and improved implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Given that most countries in the region have increasing demands for greater humanitarian response capacities and experience, UNICEF will continue to strengthen its regional surge mechanisms to ensure staff with expertise are on the ground when needed. Capacity building workshops, climate resilience assessments and national communication campaigns will be prioritized in 2023.

UNICEF will reinforce the linkages between humanitarian and development programming, taking into account climate change adaptation and risk management, advocating for child-sensitive climate and environmental policies and promoting youth engagement.

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Following the devastating eruption of La Soufrière volcano in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2021, life became physically and economically tough for families on St. Vincent. They had to cope with ashfall coating their houses. Food became scarce as shops were closed and all business activity ground to a halt in the eruption's aftermath.

UNICEF supported the Government to offer a lifeline by temporarily expanding the national social protection system to reach affected households. Innovations – including the use of bank cards, as well as the cash-plus approach – are informing the design and delivery of upcoming recovery programmes.

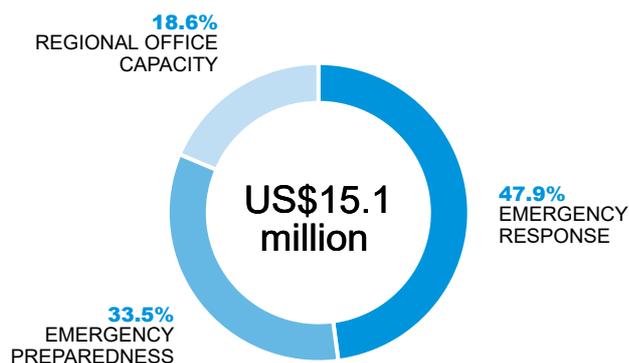
[Read more about this story here](#)

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF requests US\$15.1 million¹⁵ to support emergency preparedness, response and resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean. Received funds will allow UNICEF to strengthen linkages between humanitarian action and development programming, build shock-responsive services and keep the protection of children at the centre of humanitarian action. Funds will be strategically allocated to countries based on identified gaps and evidence-based needs.¹⁶

Emergency preparedness will focus on building regional- and country-level capacity to respond to compounding and increasingly complex emergencies. Countries with increased vulnerabilities will receive tailored support to develop comprehensive emergency preparedness plans. Support will be provided through capacity building of staff/counterparts, ensuring contingency stock items and supplementing existing support to shock-responsive systems through regular programmes.¹⁷ Emergency response funds will enable UNICEF to provide a timely and effective response to disasters and emerging crises in countries without Humanitarian Action for Children or inter-agency appeals.¹⁸

UNICEF requires flexible and multi-year resources to support priority preparedness initiatives at the country and regional levels that will improve response capacities while supporting shock-resilient systems. Not receiving this funding will hamper preparedness for providing timely response during emergencies, heightening children's humanitarian needs and their lack of access to services.



Sector	2023 requirements (US\$) ¹⁹
Emergency Response	7,250,000 ²⁰
Emergency Preparedness	5,070,000 ²¹
Regional Office capacity	2,820,000 ²²
Total	15,140,000

Who to contact for further information:

Youssouf Abdel-Jelil

Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean (a.i.)
T +50764494437
yabdeljelil@unicef.org

Manuel Fontaine

Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
T +1 212 326 7163
mfontaine@unicef.org

June Kunugi

Director, Public Partnerships Division (PPD)
T +1 212 326 7118
jkunugi@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. COVID-19 remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as declared by the World Health Organization in January 2020. On 1 July 2022, UNICEF deactivated its Level 3 Sustained Phase for the global COVID-19 pandemic response. All activities related to COVID-19 pandemic response, including programme targets and funding requirements, have been shifted into regular development programming and operations. While UNICEF's Level 3 emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was deactivated, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, their families and their communities and on the social systems they rely on.
2. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Global Report on Internal Displacement 2022: Children and youth in internal displacement, Part 2, IDMC, Geneva, 2022, available at <www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2022/#part2>.
3. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Latin America & the Caribbean weekly situation update (18-24 July) as of 25 July 2022, 25 July 2022, available at <<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/latin-america-caribbean-weekly-situation-update-18-24-july-2022-25-july-2022>>.
4. This appeal covers emergency preparedness efforts at regional level, and emergency response to situations that may emerge over the year in countries, or related to crises, not covered by other humanitarian appeals in the region.
5. The 'people in need' figure in this regional appeal reflects a preliminary assessment of 'at risk' population, based on the average number of people affected by natural hazards and complex emergencies in the Latin America and Caribbean region in the last five years (2017-2022), according to EM-DAT, the International Disaster Database. The figure does not consider the expected increase in natural hazards impact projections for 2023 related to climate variability, which will increase the intensity and frequency of extreme natural hazards in the region (Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability Working Group II Report for Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)); World Meteorological Organization; the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Report Centre Global Report on Internal Displacement 2022).
6. Sectoral 'in need' figures have been estimated on the basis of the expected sectoral interventions proportion that UNICEF envisages for the specific humanitarian scenarios to be addressed.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. OCHA, Latin America & the Caribbean weekly situation update (18-24 July) as of 25 July 2022, 25 July 2022, available at <<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/latin-america-caribbean-weekly-situation-update-18-24-july-2022-25-july-2022>>.
11. UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, Brief No. 2, Global Impact of the War in Ukraine: Billions of people face the greatest cost-of-living crisis in a generation, 8 June 2022.
12. Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) database, EM-DAT: The International Disaster Database, CRED, September 2022.
13. IPCC, 2022, Climate Change 2022: Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability, contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Pörtner, Hans-Otto, et al., eds, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge and New York, 2022. In press.
14. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.
15. While humanitarian needs are increasing, funding requirements are reduced by 49 per cent compared with 2022, because the current appeal excludes the COVID-19 pandemic response.
16. Preparedness activities for 2023 will continue to include capacity building workshops, climate resilience assessments for national systems and communication campaigns for health in emergencies, among others.
17. Including health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection and social protection.
18. This may include response in countries with sociopolitical situations in which the situation for children may rapidly deteriorate.
19. Funding requirements are for the whole Latin America and Caribbean region with a focus on preparedness and with the inclusion of a contingency plan. For 2023, regional humanitarian requirements exclude COVID-19-related interventions because these have instead been integrated into longer-term development needs and regular programmes.
20. Includes projected funding needs for responding to emerging situations not covered by other country/multi-country Humanitarian Action for Children appeals.
21. Emergency preparedness funding will focus on ensuring support to countries considered a priority according to regional risk analysis. As the region continues to face multiple crises of increasing frequency and intensity, with high exposure to natural hazards, funding for preparedness mirrors this growth. This support will be ensured in part through collaborating with governments to build shock-resistant systems to minimize the impact of emerging crises and via analysis of risk, scenario building, anticipated response analysis, technical assistance and quality assurance of emergency preparedness actions, contingency and preparedness planning through missions, workshops or remote support.
22. Regional capacity focuses on strengthening regional office capacity in guidance, supervision and oversight. This includes flexible contingency funds that will allow the regional office to respond to emerging situations with cross-border implications.