



Reporting Period: End of year 2022

COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean

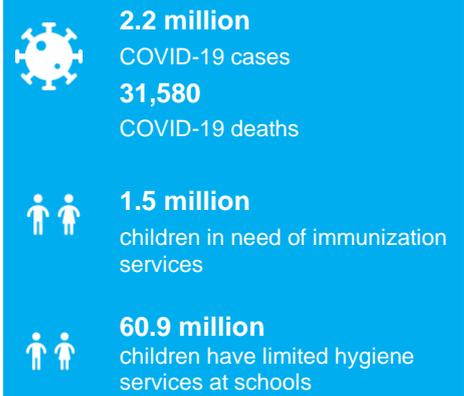
Humanitarian Situation Report

End of year 2022

Highlights

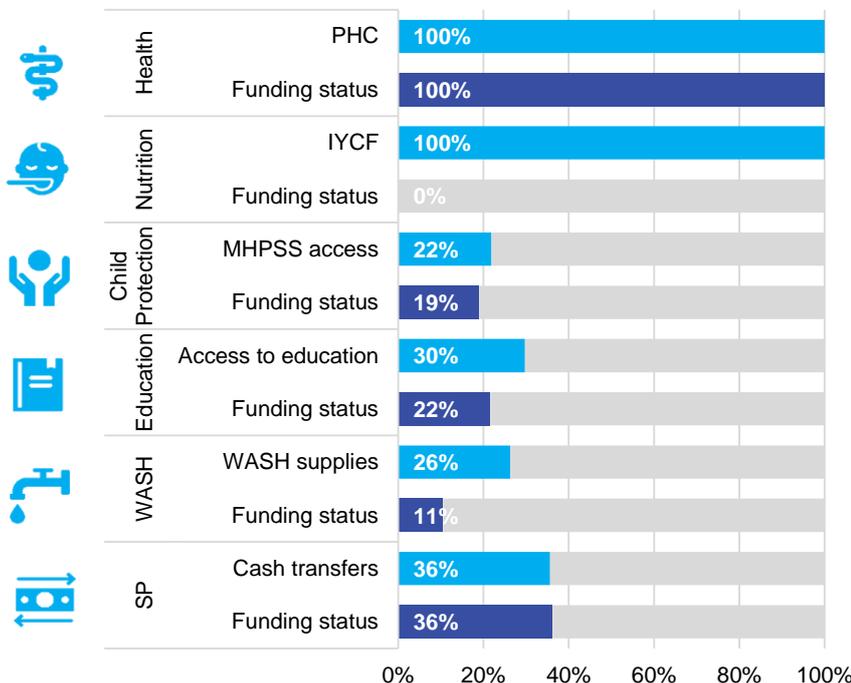
- The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect millions of children and their families, leaving many of them relying on humanitarian support. In the 15 countries and territories included in this appeal,^a since the start of the pandemic, 2.2 million COVID-19 cases and 31,580 deaths had been confirmed by the end of 2022. Roughly 55 per cent of the population of these countries and territories had been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Despite the challenging context, UNICEF-supported actions to prevent and respond to the direct and secondary impacts of the pandemic resulted in 1.1 million children accessing immunization, 147,000 people accessed health care, 89,000 caregivers received nutritional counselling for young children, 67,000 children benefited from improved WASH facilities in their schools, 88,000 children received learning materials, and 4.3 million people were reached with messaging on access to services. At regional level, UNICEF continued to provide technical assistance to Country Offices, building preparedness capacities at all levels and ensuring linkages between humanitarian actions and development programmes.
- UNICEF requested US\$ 21.1 million to address COVID-19-related humanitarian needs at the country level, prioritizing the safe return of children to school, infection prevention and control, and support for the continuity of basic services. By December, UNICEF's COVID-19-specific appeal was 68 per cent underfunded.

Situation in Numbers



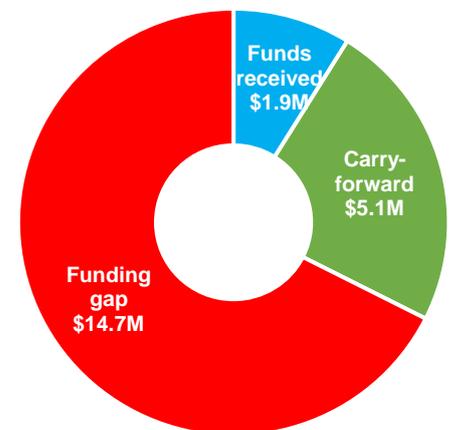
Sources: Our World in Data, Feb. 2023; UNICEF HAC 2022.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2022

US\$ 21,7 million



^a Including Cuba, Eastern Caribbean Area (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands), Nicaragua, Paraguay and Suriname.

Regional Funding Overview & Partnerships

As of December 2022, UNICEF had US\$7 million available against the US\$21.7 million appeal for COVID-19-related response,ⁱ including: US\$5.1 million carried over from 2021 and US\$1.9 million received in 2022. Critical funding received to scale-up the COVID-19 response in 2022 included contributions from Canada, the European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), Republic of Korea, the United States of America, allocations from OCHA's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and private contributions raised through the Spanish Committee for UNICEF, in addition to UNICEF's Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds.

UNICEF acknowledges the sustained support from donors to the humanitarian response for children and families across the LAC region. In 2023, UNICEF will continue advocating for flexible and sustained funding, critical to be able to adapt its response strategy to the ever more complex and fluid humanitarian context.

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued impacting the most vulnerable families in the region. Latin America and the Caribbean region (LAC) was among the worst affected regions by the COVID-19 pandemic, and as of December 2022, the region recorded over 80 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and over 1.7 million deaths.ⁱⁱ While nearly 1,300 million COVID-19 vaccine doses had been administered in LAC, lingering gaps in achieving target vaccination levels throughout the region are especially concerning as new variants continue to emerge.

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: deteriorating socio-political contexts; unprecedented levels of migration flow that had become more complex and multi-directional; urban violence; armed violence; disease outbreaks; and food insecurity. After sub-Saharan Africa, LAC 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 rapidly erode the living conditions of 96 million people and fuel social instability.ⁱⁱⁱ More than 3.8 million people, including 1.5 million children, were affected by disasters in 17 countries and territories in 2022.^{iv}

In 2023, small island and developing states in the Caribbean are expected to face increased vulnerability caused by climate-related hazard, migration and food insecurity. 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.

Regional Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination, Response and Support to COs

Across all programme and cross-cutting areas, UNICEF at the regional level provided technical support and quality assurance for humanitarian action, offering tools and resources for a quality and evidence-based humanitarian response, and building capacities of UNICEF's teams and partners in the countries. In 2022, UNICEF continued to represent/lead regional sectoral groups in coordination platforms.

Sector	Highlights of coordination, regional-led activities and support to COs
Nutrition	UNICEF leads the regional nutrition group. UNICEF strengthened its partnership with UN Nutrition (the UN inter-agency coordination and collaboration mechanism for nutrition at the global and country levels) to better showcase nutrition in LAC and agreed on ways to contribute to the UN Nutrition Annual Report.
Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)	The Regional WASH LAC Group is co-led by UNICEF and PAHO. UNICEF contributed to the capacity strengthening of the WASH sector national platforms in Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica, among other countries, via a series of WASH in Emergencies trainings between June and December 2022. These trainings included a half day table-top simulation exercise which helped to test the coordination arrangements and led to identify key emergency preparedness actions for the WASH platforms to include in their workplan for 2023.
Education	Technical support to country offices continued to strengthen their capacities to prepare and respond to emergencies. UNICEF has coordinated quarterly meetings with regional humanitarian coordination mechanisms of the education sector to support in their main challenges and priorities as working groups and/or clusters. UNICEF has developed an online course for education specialists and teachers to develop their capacities in times of crisis: Educate in times of crisis – preparation for the return to school.
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	UNICEF has co-led, with World Vision, the regional Child Protection humanitarian Action Sub-group in the region. During 2022, the sub-group developed the second edition of the virtual course on child protection in emergencies, focused on strengthening specific interventions and improving monitoring and follow-up. UNICEF coordinated with World Vision, at the request of UNDRR and ECHO, a discussion forum with ECHO's implementing partners on child protection and preparedness.
Social Protection	UNICEF provided technical support to country teams for the implementation of humanitarian cash-transfers, for the response/recovery from COVID-19 and other crises, including through an in-person deployment to Antigua and Barbuda to facilitate an After-Action Review and forward-looking capacity building plan with the Ministry of Social Transformation. In June, UNICEF organized a five-day regional training course on humanitarian cash transfers for programme and operations staff.
Gender	UNICEF provided technical support to country offices in developing gender-based violence (GBV) strategies, exchange of experiences and capacity building. To enhance the capacities of GBV service providers, a virtual training for the implementation of GBV remote support services for girls and adolescent girls was conducted in Nicaragua. From September to October 2022, a GBV training was conducted for UNICEF staff to strengthen their knowledge, skills and tools for the GBV programme approach and operational guidance.

Content Summary – Quick links

[Cuba](#) | [Eastern Caribbean](#) | [Nicaragua](#) | [Paraguay](#) | [Suriname](#)

[Annex A: Summary of Programme Results](#)

[Annex B: Funding Status](#)

CUBA

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

By the end of 2022, Cuba had recorded 1.1 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and 8,531 deaths, while 89 per cent of the population had completed the initial COVID-19 vaccination protocol.^v The country continued to experience an economic crisis, aggravated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on access to fuel, food and medicines, and rising food prices. The situation was further aggravated by other emergencies such as the explosion of the Saratoga Hotel in Havana, the fire in Matanzas, and the impact of Hurricane Ian in the province of Pinar del Río. Humanitarian needs remain related to improving access to safe water and overall WASH conditions in communities, health centers and schools, preventing nutritional deficiencies in children and pregnant women, and providing emotional and psychosocial support to families and caregivers.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

With UNICEF support, 6,233 children between 12 and 36 months old in Cienfuegos and Sancti Spiritus provinces received micronutrient powders, and 7,623 primary caregivers (70 per cent women) received materials on nutritional counselling and health promotion, including socialization of key messages by health professionals, through digital platforms.

Procurement of supplements to fortify infant and young child feeding in vulnerable communities continues to be a priority identified by sector authorities in the context of food shortages and rising food prices.

Health

UNICEF focused its efforts on strengthening maternal, neonatal and child health care in the geographical areas where indicators showed setbacks due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the socioeconomic situation in the country. Health care services were supported in 464 health centres, 4,592 health professionals strengthened their technical capacities, and around 14,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) items were distributed. A total of 88,000 one-year-old children were immunized against Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR), as a part of the continuity of the National Immunization Programme with UNICEF's support in procurement of vaccines.

WASH

As leader in the WASH sector, UNICEF focused on COVID-19 prevention and control efforts by improving hygiene conditions and water storage capacities for vulnerable families. Approximately 23,000 people benefited from water containers, hygiene kits and a water treatment plant.

Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA

A total of 3,254 people (including 528 boys, 509 girls) received psychosocial support by UNICEF and partners. At least 338 people (including 50 girls and 237 women) were reached with GBV prevention and attention services, and 1,592 people (470 boys, 509 girls, 301 women) were reached with awareness activities on PSEA. Innovation and Expression kits for adolescents supported 717 adolescents and 90 adults to learn new skills, develop positive relationships, and to replicate these actions in their communities.

Education

In 2022, classes were resumed and all schools in the country were opened. UNICEF supported the rapid return of 23,040 children and adolescents to protective learning spaces affected by emergencies, through the delivery of learning materials and materials for psycho-emotional support. Needs in hygiene and sanitation conditions in schools were identified, due to lack of investment in WASH facilities.

Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population

Through social media, 1.5 million people were reached, and more than two million people via mass media, including 103 national and international media outlets, through Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) messages on COVID-19 preventive measures. UNICEF partnered with local stakeholders, celebrities, goodwill ambassadors, influencers, and donors to support Cuba's recovery from the pandemic.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF maintained its role as coordinator of the inter-agency technical team integrated by PAHO, WFP, UNFPA, UNDP and the UN Resident Coordinator Office, to complement efforts, achieve synergy among activities by different agencies, and ensure a comprehensive view of the United Nations System contribution to the COVID-19 response.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Human Interest Stories

- ["Las vacunas son la esperanza de volver a ver a mis amigos con normalidad"](#)

Press releases

- [Mantiene UNICEF Cuba apoyo a las autoridades nacionales frente a la COVID-19](#)
- [Mantiene Unicef apoyo a Cuba en respuesta a la emergencia sanitaria](#)
- [Unicef y Japón apoyarán respuesta de Cuba a Covid-19](#)
- [“The vaccines are the hope of meeting my friends normally again”](#)
- [UNICEF Cuba maintains support of national authorities against COVID-19](#)
- [UNICEF Cuba continues support in response to the health emergency](#)
- [UNICEF Cuba and the Government of Japan initiate project to strengthen the capacities of the National Healthcare System in the context of COVID-19](#)
- [UNICEF acompañó al MINSAP en Taller nacional de actualización en manejo del recién nacido pretérmino extremo y crítico en el contexto de la COVID-19](#)
- [Apoya UNICEF respuesta a la emergencia sanitaria por COVID-19 en Artemisa](#)
- [Proyecto financiado por el Gobierno de Japón e implementado por UNICEF Cuba celebró acto oficial de entrega de donativos](#)

Social Media

- [La COVID-19 en niños y adolescentes cubanos.](#)
- [Importancia de la vacunación contra la COVID-19 para niños, niñas y adolescentes](#)
- [La pandemia de #COVID19 ha provocado el mayor retroceso en la vacunación de los últimos 30 años](#)
- [La COVID-19 ha puesto de manifiesto la importancia y urgencia de contar con sistemas sanitarios de calidad](#)
- [Esta familia de Santa Clara, en el centro de Cuba, nos cuenta cómo se sienten más protegidos gracias a las vacunas](#)
- [¿Por qué debemos vacunarnos contra la COVID-19?](#)
- [El lavado de manos es la primera línea de defensa contra la propagación de muchas enfermedades, incluyendo la COVID-19](#)
- [¡Utiliza la mascarilla adecuadamente para protegerte de la COVID-19!](#)
- [¿Cuál es el reto de la nueva normalidad para el COVID-19? Más autocuidado y responsabilidad](#)

EASTERN CARIBBEAN

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Eastern Caribbean area countries and territories^{vi} recorded close to 217,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,700 deaths by the end of 2022, and approximately 50 per cent of their population had completed the initial vaccination protocol.^{vii}

Education systems have been strengthened through digital curriculums and capacity-building exercises for teachers to administer online classes, providing access to high-quality education for children, and as schools reopened, children also had access to safe learning environments. Remaining humanitarian needs include the provision of counselling programmes, the expansion of social protection systems in response to the economic impacts of the pandemic on the lives of families, and support of social media messaging to dispel myths about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH

UNICEF supported four countries to improve their disaster resilience by establishing a WASH coordination mechanism in Dominica, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, and Trinidad and Tobago, and by providing capacity building in WASH in emergencies. Infectious diseases (including COVID-19), waterborne, hygiene related diseases outbreak are among the risks identified within the WASH preparedness and response plans.

Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA

UNICEF-supported counselling programmes responded individually to 5,027 children, caregivers and frontline workers. Approximately 30,000 persons were reached with GBViE and PSEA guidance via radio and social media. Initial responses focussed on immediate direct delivery of e-counselling support and crisis management training in self-care for teaching and health professionals, as the restrictions on social and economic activities imposed by governments, including closure of schools and childcare facilities, had a detrimental impact on children's mental health and wellbeing. UNICEF supported an online mental health and psychosocial service to provide a 24/7 tele-mental health service which operated from May 2020 to May 2022. A service was adapted to the COVID-19 context with online accessibility, provided a multifaceted service. In addition, UNICEF supported the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States commission to provide teachers with crisis management training in self-care, and worked with PAHO to reach 3,649 teachers and health professionals. Radio was used to bring awareness on GBViE and PSEA throughout the lockdown periods across the countries.

Education

As countries in the Eastern Caribbean transitioned fully to in-person classes, UNICEF provided the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Grenada with cleaning and sanitizing supplies to assist 63 pre-schools to continue to meet the required health standards for reopening. As a result, 1,997 children under 5 years old accessed clean and safe learning environments on their return to their early childhood development (ECD) centres. UNICEF, in collaboration with the MoE in Trinidad and Tobago, provided over 9,000 children with kits for their return to ECD centres. UNICEF supported the MoH in Antigua and Barbuda, and the MoEs in Dominica and Barbados, with the procurement of hand sanitising stations with messages on the prevention of COVID-

19 for primary and secondary schools. The MoEs in Dominica, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago were also supported with the development of messages targeting parents of school-age children on vaccination and COVID-19 protective measures. In addition, in response to the challenge of extended school closures, UNICEF continued its support to the MoE in the 12 Eastern Caribbean countries to ensure continuity of learning by strengthening the knowledge, competencies and skills of educators to develop digital curriculum content and to deliver education through digital modalities. With UNICEF support, over 26,600 educational contents were developed, and the capacity of 628 teachers for developing digital content were strengthened. This result is expected to contribute to improved learning of 145,000 children and enhanced teaching support for 11,400 teachers across countries in the Eastern Caribbean.

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Transformation and the Social Protection Board in Antigua and Barbuda to temporarily expand social protection for the families affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19. In total, over 381 households received a one-off temporary transfer through the social protection system, which reached estimated 1,235 people.

UNICEF encouraged the governments to apply UNICEF's humanitarian cash transfer management information system HOPE to improve collection, storage and management of social assistance beneficiary information and limit any fraud and misappropriation. It will provide a ready to use solution for the Ministry for Emergency programmes while a national solution is being developed with support of UNICEF (see [video](#)).

Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population

UNICEF continued to support MoH and MoEs in Barbados, Antigua, St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, and Trinidad and Tobago to implement campaigns to promote COVID-19 vaccines, along with general COVID-19 prevention. Key to this process was to partner with an organisation for social listening to gauge rumours and misinformation across various media platforms which would contribute to address vaccine hesitancy. Nine sub-regional social listening reports informed the change of MoHs' strategies. In addition, UNICEF conducted two vaccine hesitancy surveys in seven countries. The surveys showed the people's hesitancy for vaccinating their primary and pre-school aged children because they were "too young". The survey's findings were shared with key stakeholders to modify their interventions. Through the strategy of community engagement, UNICEF supported MoHs in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and in Trinidad and Tobago to work in community-based health fairs to put COVID-19 prevention and vaccination within the overall context of good health and well-being. They were planned with the involvement of community members and reached more than 10,000 persons. The main challenge was that while this approach led to less resistance to COVID-19 vaccination, but not to large uptake for the COVID-19 vaccine. UNICEF supported Barbados to implement mobile vaccination clinics to deliver vaccines to the communities, vaccinating approximately 4,000 persons.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Social Media

- [Effects of COVID-19 across the region](#)
- [Mental health interventions critical for educators](#)

NICARAGUA

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As of December 2022, the MoH reported 15,466 people infected with COVID-19 and 245 deaths. According to WHO/PAHO data, as of January 2023, 92.3 per cent of the population had received at least one dose and 88.9 per cent has completed the full primary dosing schedule. Gaps remain regarding the integration of routine immunization with COVID-19 vaccine efforts in indigenous and afro-descendant communities of the Caribbean Coast, and in rural communities in Northern Nicaragua to ensure that no child or adult is left unvaccinated.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

UNICEF supported MoH's efforts on COVID-19 vaccination, trained 3,100 health personnel and community leaders, supported the deployment of 700 health workers to the field, promoted integration of vaccination against COVID-19 with routine vaccinations, promoted alliance between health workers and 250 religious leaders, provided them with technical tools and knowledge on routine and COVID-19 immunization. UNICEF strengthened the cold-chain by procuring two ultra-freezers, 37 solar coolers, 200 vaccines thermoses, 56 cold boxes, three horizontal freezers, 2.3 million syringes, and installed 13 air conditioners for vaccine storage in isolated communities in Northern and Central Atlantic Coast.

WASH

Hygiene awareness was promoted in seven primary schools, directly engaging 560 children. An additional 752 children were trained in hand washing, water disinfection and COVID-19 prevention in five schools in the Mayangna communities of Alto Wanki, through national television, child-led content promoted handwashing practices.

Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA

A total of 620 children and adolescents, and 500 officials of the Migrations Institute from five border posts, received PPE, cleaning and sanitation supplies, with 10 workshops on COVID-19 prevention measures. Complementary, 25,370 migrants in irregular situation were assisted at border posts, through coordinated work with authorities and IOM. UNICEF supported capacity development efforts, targeting 1,137 officials of border municipalities.

Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population

With health authorities, vaccination against COVID-19 and routine immunization were promoted, reaching more than 2.5 million people nationwide (close to 40 per cent of the national population) with culturally-adapted messages. The risk-communication approach to foster demand for routine immunization was institutionalized and will be continued in the country. Information and communication mechanisms were established, including two-way communication mechanisms to enable dialogue with the population, especially with children, adolescents, and women. 1,755 children were involved in feedback mechanisms and in generating content to inform COVID-19 response, biosafety measures and vaccination efforts.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF continued to work with PAHO to mobilize the donation of vaccines to the country under the COVAX mechanism. In response to the pandemic, UNICEF has been an essential partner to government institutions, particularly the MoH. UNICEF's efforts in 2022 have focused on providing technical assistance to strengthen the cold chain for COVID-19 and the vaccines of the regular program. This partnership with the MoH contributed to strengthening their capacities on behaviour change communication to reach unvaccinated populations.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Human Interest Stories

- Children's experiences:
 - [Jordany](#)
 - [Diego and Sergio](#)
 - [Alexa and Cristopher](#)
- Health workers and volunteers:
 - [Volunteer brigade members promote vaccination against COVID-19 among indigenous communities](#)
 - [Stories of health workers and community volunteers' commitment](#)

PARAGUAY

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Paraguay reported nearly 726,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 19,688 cumulative deaths by December 2022. Approximately 52 per cent of the population had been fully vaccinated by the end of the year. In 2022, schools resumed face-to-face classes, and UNICEF's support focused on reaching vulnerable schools with critical hygiene supplies and learning materials in the Chaco Region with indigenous population. Droughts worsened the situation in the Chaco Region, requiring further efforts for strengthening communities' resilience and preparedness capacities.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

UNICEF led capacity-building activities on primary health care and the continuum of care, maternal and child health, child development, nutrition for young children, water, and hygiene, reaching 96 health care workers and health community agents. Breastfeeding was promoted with the Indigenous Communicators Network, using radio to disseminate key messages with an intercultural approach, and through indigenous health promoters.

Health

UNICEF strengthened the capacities of the MoH for the distribution, storage and management of COVID-19 and other vaccines. UNICEF provided high-end cold chain equipment to 881 health facilities. The National Expanded Immunization Programme capacities were strengthened through training, vaccine storage and monitoring, supporting 1,189 healthcare staff. UNICEF's support to the health services benefited 28,335 people in vulnerable communities from the Paraguayan Chaco region. UNICEF provided technical assistance which led to significantly increasing the vaccine storage and management capacity of the National Regular Immunization Programme. UNICEF carried out a Real Time Assessments (RTA) of the support to the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out and immunization programme strengthening.

WASH

Around 67,000 people were reached with critical WASH training and supply items, such as disinfection and hygiene kits, oral hygiene kits, and menstrual hygiene items, through Family Health Units, schools, and in most vulnerable communities. A total of 24,922 children benefited from improved WASH facilities in schools and Family Health Units in the Chaco region. 234,279 children and adults were engaged in interventions to change behaviour around handwashing habits. 4,350 people received prevention messages through 10 community radio programmes, which were translated into Nivacle, Ayoreo, Enhet and Guaraní indigenous languages. The most accepted messages by the listeners were about hand washing and on emergency

preparedness for natural disasters. UNICEF also provided water tanks to municipalities of vulnerable communities affected by the drought in the Chaco Region, providing access to safe water to 1,798 people. Solar panels were delivered for the water provision system, making it climate resilient.

Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA

UNICEF actions focused to identify local government institutions delivering response services by mapping communication channels in Chaco Region and Central department. UNICEF supported them in strengthening their local protection intervention mechanisms and specific referral mechanisms, that are culturally sensitive for indigenous communities. Tablets with the local protection roadmap graphics and other GBV prevention and response content were delivered.

Education

To support the continuity of learning and literacy, UNICEF developed learning materials with an intercultural and rights-based approach, considering sociocultural and linguistic aspects of 18 indigenous communities, reaching 32,595 children and adolescents. UNICEF strengthened capacities of 146 teachers (42 schools) and 39 community leaders to implement safety protocols and develop risk management plans for schools. In addition, 43 indigenous schools received critical supplies: hygiene items, first-aid kits, teaching kits, and recreational kits, and 10 schools developed risk management plans, benefitting 3,209 children and adolescents. UNICEF supported to develop back-to-school protocol, audio messages, and flyers for safety measures, prevention, and COVID-19 vaccination, in four indigenous languages: Nivaclé, Enxet Sur, Guaraní and Enlhet Norte. In addition, 30 radio spots were produced in Guaraní, Enxlet, enxet Nivaclé, and Ayoreo, addressing topics such as safe water, handwashing, COVID-19 symptoms and prevention.

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

UNICEF concluded the implementation of the Integrated Social Protection Card (FIPS) in the district of Villeta, covering 2,100 families. It is an instrument for surveying the levels of social protection of the local population, which includes specific information of children and adolescents, and elderly population. The Ministry of Children has been the first government institution to adopt this tool as an information gathering mechanism to inform the identification and selection of their social programmes' beneficiaries, including the cash transfer programme "Abrazo."

Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) has been crucial for improved outcomes in health promotion and COVID-19 vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccine promotion campaign continued in vulnerable communities in Asunción, Central, Alto Paraná and Caaguazú and reached 1.2 million people with effective and simple information. A total of 1,984 volunteers were mobilized and supported the vaccination campaigns, facilitating community dialogue spaces in prioritized communities of the Central department. UNICEF developed materials for volunteers, which included a community awareness booklet, and a guide for community engagement to strengthen primary health care.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF leads the WASH platform in coordination with the Government in Paraguay. At the local level, UNICEF supports MIAS Chaco, a coordination platform for institutions that work in the area of WASH and climate change. Under the leadership of MoH, UNICEF supported their risk communication and community participation to monitor rumours and false information about COVID-19 and strengthened the communication messages and strategies. UNICEF supported the implementation of Community Epidemiological Surveillance strategies to prevent, control and mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, in coordination with community actors. UNICEF carried out an RTA of the coordination mechanisms of the humanitarian response in the Gran Chaco.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Human Interest Stories

- [Julián Weich, embajador de UNICEF Argentina visita proyecto de vacunación en el Bañado Tacumbú](#)
- [Comunidad educativa del Chaco se prepara para dar respuesta a emergencias](#)
- [UNICEF fortalece servicios de salud y prepara escuelas para las emergencias en el Chaco Paraguayo](#)

Press releases

- [Proyecto contribuyó al aumento de vacunación contra COVID-19](#)
- [Servicios de salud de todo el país cuentan con nuevos sistemas de cadena de frío para vacunas](#)
- [Comunidad educativa del Chaco se prepara para dar respuesta a emergencias](#)
- [Banco Mundial y UNICEF urgen mitigar crisis de aprendizaje luego de pandemia](#)

SURINAME

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As of December 2022, Suriname had recorded nearly 82,000 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 1,393 deaths.^{viii} The impact of COVID-19 has affected social determinants in Suriname, as seen in the reduction of incomes and high levels of economic insecurity, which have challenged children's access to basic social services. Domestic vulnerabilities were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a sharp GDP contraction (15.9 percent in 2020) and increasing unemployment and poverty.^{ix}

Floods in 2022 exacerbated needs in vulnerable areas and also resulted in the re-shaping of humanitarian interventions to address the emerging needs.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

Through partnerships with the government and NGOs, UNICEF provided support to the health sector. Partnerships with NGOs enabled supporting primary health care in the most remote areas of the interior to reach the most marginalized communities, as well as those in coastal and urban areas. With previous experience in supporting breastfeeding, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and maternal health, UNICEF contributed to boosting essential maternal and new-born health services which due to the COVID-19 pandemic had fallen behind, as well as developing innovative programmes for promoting a healthy lifestyle-disease prevention. Around 20,000 people benefited from UNICEF-supported IYCF activities.

Health

UNICEF continued supporting health systems strengthening and immunization services for COVID-19 and regular vaccinations, through cold chain strengthening via solar powered refrigerators, remote temperature monitoring systems, Infection Prevention and Control supplies (4,000 face masks and 600 face shields for 52 clinics) and capacity building of staff, reaching 52 villages with 54,000 people.

UNICEF supported community sensitization campaigns for increased demand for COVID-19 and routine immunization vaccine in communities, and the supported a Knowledge, Attitude and Practices survey on COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy, which results will provide a better understanding of the misconceptions around COVID-19 vaccines from different perspectives, as well as solutions to address misconceptions, to inform programming in 2023.

UNICEF supported the Government of Suriname in coordinating vaccine supplies, risk communication, community engagement, capacity building and strengthening of the cold chain in response to COVID-19. New partnerships were essential to strengthen advocacy, act and support the achievement of common goals. The return to in-person activities following the COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity to strategically position UNICEF to utilize its convening power and expertise in key areas to support partners and young people to take action in support of children. It is critical that the momentum be maintained, and support continued in the new year to accelerate the achievement of results for children.

WASH

WASH in Schools continued in 2022 in collaboration with MoE, to improve water access, rehabilitating existing handwashing facilities, improving sanitation facilities in selected schools and hygiene and handwashing promotion, reaching 4,000 children. In the village of Apetina, the surface water filtration system was rehabilitated benefiting 75 students and 450 community members with safe and clean drinking water. UNICEF supported training of 250 key stakeholders in WASH emergency response and preparedness.

Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA

UNICEF supported the strengthening of the existing child protection mechanism, for an effective and efficient child protection system. Support was provided to the “123tofree helpline,” to be operationalized for 24 hours and expand their service for WhatsApp chat. Support was provided to capacity building of social and para-social workers to provide psycho-social support to children and adolescents. Youth Empowerment programmes were started in collaboration with the Government, NGOs and Suriname Red Cross on violence against children, GBViE, mental health and psychosocial support.

Education

UNICEF supported the launch of a healthy lifestyle programme for 50,000 primary school children in eight out of 10 coastal districts, focused on physical, emotional and social wellbeing, disease prevention (including COVID-19) and others, in collaboration with the Foundation of Regional health clinics.

UNICEF supported to improve access to quality early stimulation and learning for children aged 0–6 years, contributing to school readiness, given that only 24 per cent of children in this age group have access to early learning opportunities. A total of 25 day-care workers from nine institutions were trained on this new curriculum. Further, several early stimulations and learning videos and stories for children and parents were produced for dissemination via social media and broadcast on television, reaching about 85,000 viewers. About 1,000 children were engaged through face-to-face stimulation and learning activities, and an estimated 6,000 children through television and social media.

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

UNICEF supported the analysis of multidimensional child poverty and the social programmes, highlighting the major deprivations and gaps in programmes. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequity and future infectious disease outbreaks are likely to negatively impact the government’s allocations for social programmes for the most marginalized children and families.

Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population

Engagement with local influencers increased the outreach of UNICEF messages on social media and online platforms, to targeted audiences, in particular youth and marginalized maroon communities. UNICEF engaged with local artist and developed a UNICEF theme song and videoclip on health and responsive behaviour, which reached over 350,000 YouTube views in three months, and the participation of over 1,500 young people in schools and in maroon communities on the topic of healthy lifestyles and COVID-19 vaccination.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Social Media

- [Supporting the response to flooding.](#)
- [Workshop to review and finalize the legislation for the establishment of an Ombudsperson for Children in Suriname.](#)
- [Sensitization sessions about the importance of Covid-19 vaccinations in schools in Suriname.](#)
- [Sensitization session in secondary school.](#)
- [Launch of Vaccination Campaign for youth.](#)
- [Reaching marginalized communities in Suriname with COVID-19 sensitization sessions.](#)

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office: www.unicef.org/lac

UNICEF LAC Facebook: www.facebook.com/uniceflac

UNICEF LAC Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/lac>

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Annex A: Summary of Programme Results

Sector		UNICEF Target 2022	Result
Indicator	Country		
Nutrition			
# primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving with IYCF counselling		21,350	89,029
Cuba		3,000	7,623
Nicaragua		550	49,722 ¹
Paraguay		9,000	11,684 ²
Suriname		8,800	20,000
# children 6-59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders		9,190	79,735
Cuba		8,000	6,233
Nicaragua		1,190	73,502
Health			
# children vaccinated against measles		70,000	88,000
Cuba		70,000	88,000
# children and women receiving primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities		34,510	147,459
Nicaragua		9,510	114,432
Paraguay		25,000	33,027
# children receiving the minimum set of vaccines		24,707	1,131,500
Nicaragua		1,190	1,126,500
Suriname		23,517	5,000
# of health workers reached with PPE		14,500	25,662
Cuba		10,000	14,000
Nicaragua		1,500	11,000 ³
Paraguay		1,000	406
Suriname		2,000	256
Water, sanitation and hygiene			
# people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs		39,950	12,576
Nicaragua		39,950	12,576
# of women and girls accessing menstrual hygiene management services		26,250	8,351
Nicaragua		13,250	7,265
Paraguay		13,000	1,086
# children use safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces		132,020	67,385
ECA		96,050	-
Nicaragua		9,970	9,820
Paraguay		26,000	57,565
# people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)		105,000	27,600
Cuba		55,000	23,000
Suriname		50,000	4,600
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA			
# children, parents and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support		49,300	10,788
Cuba		17,000	3,264
ECA		5,000	260
Nicaragua		25,500	5,694
Paraguay		1,500	969
Suriname		300	601
# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions		57,800	17,228
Cuba		15,000	338
ECA		30,000	1,167
Nicaragua		10,000	15,117
Paraguay		2,800	606 ⁴
# people reached with awareness activities and community mobilisation interventions on PSEA		16,780	2,995
Cuba		4,000	1,592
Nicaragua		11,400	883
Suriname		1,380	520
Education			
# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning		100,850	30,000
ECA		96,050	-
Nicaragua		4,800	30,000 ⁵

¹ Overachievement attributed to the continuation of Eta/Iota response during the first four months of 2022, also contributing to COVID-19-related results.

² Includes people reached with key preventions messages on COVID-19 and information on access to health services.

³ Overachievement attributed to the continuation of Eta/Iota response during the first four months of 2022, also contributing to COVID-19-related results.

⁴ Data collected for this indicator corresponds to the interventions in the Chaco Region, which during the first semester of 2022 included UNICEF's support to interventions reaching children, adolescents and women with risk mitigation and prevention, for which UNICEF had available data. However, during the second semester, interventions were aimed at an institutional level, focused on the strengthening of local government capacities in six districts of the Chaco Region.

⁵ Overachievement attributed to the continuation of Eta/Iota response (including trainings and temporary learning spaces) during the first quarter of 2022, also contributing to COVID-19-related results.

Sector		UNICEF Target 2022	Result
Indicator	Country		
# children receiving learning materials		872,000	87,635
Cuba		800,000	23,040
Nicaragua		50,000	30,000
Paraguay		20,000	32,595
Suriname		2,000	2,000
# of teachers trained on EiE including psychosocial support, education preparedness and response		11,750	1,219
ECA		6,500	65
Nicaragua		1,250	-
Paraguay		2,000	1,034
Suriname		2,000	120
Social protection and cash transfers			
# households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and funding		500	178
ECA		500	178
# households benefitting from new or additional social transfers from governments with UNICEF technical assistance support		35,000	-
Paraguay		5,000	.6
Suriname		30,000	-
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)			
# people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services		1,161,980	4,276,499
Cuba		250,000	1,514,692
ECA		100,000	1,104
Nicaragua		191,980	116,801
Paraguay		500,000	2,583,902 ⁷
Suriname		120,000	60,000
# people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)		620,000	1,278,664
Nicaragua		500,000	465,554
Paraguay		100,000	811,110
Suriname		20,000	2,000
# people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms		39,000	19,959
Cuba		1,000	7,654
Nicaragua		28,000	5,735
Paraguay		10,000	6,570

⁶ UNICEF concluded the implementation of the Integrated Social Protection Card (FIPS) in the district of Villeta in the second semester of 2022, covering 2,100 families. The Ministry of Children has been the first government institution to adopt this tool as an information gathering mechanism to inform the identification and selection of their social programme beneficiaries, including the cash transfer program Abrazo.

⁷ Includes 1,126,000 people reached through the COVID-19 vaccine promotion campaign, and 3,800 children and adolescents in safe spaces in vaccination spots. 4,350 people from indigenous communities in the Chaco Region were reached through messages about water safety and care, and COVID-19 prevention.

Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available against appeal as of 31 December 2022*		Funding gap %
		Funds received in 2022	Carry-over	
Nutrition	1,048,388	-	-	100%
Health	3,185,418	558,201	2,690,223	-
Water, sanitation and hygiene	6,379,555	-	671,834	89%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	1,827,000	172,966	174,127	81%
Education	6,095,800	1,080,873	237,367	78%
Social protection	1,218,000	-	440,722	64%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE, AAP)	1,966,780	-	668,084	66%
Multi-sector		114,814	238,002	
TOTAL	21,720,941	1,926,854	5,120,359	68%

Endnotes

ⁱ The LACRO Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) 2022 appeal considers response actions to address humanitarian needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Other actions exclusively related to COVID-19 vaccination are covered by the Global ACT-A HAC.

ⁱⁱ Our World in data, February 2023.

ⁱⁱⁱ 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.

^{iv} Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) database, EM-DAT: The International Disaster Database, CRED, September 2022.

^v Our World in Data, February 2023.

^{vi} Including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands.

^{vii} Our World in Data, February 2023.

^{viii} Idem.

^{ix} World Bank, Suriname overview, February 2023.