Yemen
Children fill a pail with water in the Al Nusayria neighborhood, Al Mudhaffar District, in Taiz Governorate, Yemen, in June 2022. They are extremely happy with the arrival of water. UNICEF has supported the delivery of diesel fuel so that 34 Local Water and Sanitation Corporations in 15 governorates can extract water, providing a safe water supply to around 2.5 million people daily.
GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING

To fulfil its mission of reaching every child, UNICEF relies on voluntary contributions. Sufficient levels of quality funding enable UNICEF to respond to crises effectively, deliver life-saving and prompt responses and invest in effective preparedness to address the needs of the most vulnerable children. UNICEF’s thematic funding windows are pooled, flexible multi-year funds meant to support the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, including humanitarian action. After core resources for results (regular resources), global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF) is the most flexible form of funding focusing on UNICEF’s humanitarian action. Designed to save lives and alleviate suffering before, during and in the immediate aftermath of emergencies, GHTF allows for rapid and strategic responses by UNICEF to humanitarian crises. It also supports efforts in protracted emergencies, where needs are chronic – yet urgent – and when the world’s attention is far away.

WHY INVEST IN GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING?

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

- Speedily release funds for sudden-onset emergencies within 24 hours, as needed.
- Provide immediate life-saving assistance to the children most in need.
- Ensure more cost-effective response because every $1 invested in preparedness reduces response cost by $2, and investment in preparedness can make responses faster by an average of 14 days.
- 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.
- React faster in underfunded/forgotten emergencies to flexibly address immediate or ongoing critical needs when it is difficult to attract international attention and funding.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
UNICEF allocated $63.7 million in programmable GHTF for humanitarian action in 2022, nearly double the amount that was allocated in 2021 ($33.2 million). Of this, 82 per cent supported humanitarian response in the country and regional offices and 18 per cent supported other global coordination and technical support efforts.

In a crisis, every hour matters and when an emergency strikes, GHTF enables UNICEF to react fast. This can make all the difference for children in the first days and weeks of an emergency. For forgotten or chronically underfunded emergencies, where it is difficult to attract international attention and resources, GHTF is often the ‘last resort’, providing life-saving assistance to the children who are most in need.

Through better risk analysis and the identification of high-return actions, preparedness saves lives and makes the humanitarian response faster and more efficient. Thanks to GHTF, UNICEF can invest in preparedness for early response. And the flexibility of GHTF allows UNICEF to ensure a principled and equitable response that enables adaptation based on emerging needs.

“Global humanitarian thematic funding provides essential emergency care services to women and children. It allows UNICEF to provide immediate life-saving assistance to the children most in need. It also helps with the quick release of funds for sudden-onset emergencies. GHTF also allows UNICEF to respond equitably based on needs by reaching children in smaller and/or forgotten crises. GHTF can therefore be an excellent mechanism to save lives and protect the rights of children.”

MR. PETER HAWKINS, UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE IN YEMEN
Thirteen per cent of 2022 allocations ($8.4 million) supported complex humanitarian situations triggered by sociopolitical crises, mainly conflicts, while 4 per cent of 2022 allocations ($2.6 million) supported natural disasters in country and regional emergencies.

In 2022, UNICEF allocated $4.26 million for preparedness through the First Action Initiative and the Co-Funding Initiative, with $3.2 million of this coming from GHTF (or 5 per cent of GHTF allocations). These funds went to 20 country offices and one subregional response. These allocations were matched by $1.2 million from UNICEF regional and country offices (through the Co-Funding Initiative), as well as funding specifically earmarked for gender-based violence preparedness efforts.

In 2022, 55 country or multi-country emergency responses and five regions received allocations of GHTF. More than half (53 per cent) of all GHTF allocations went to 10 country emergencies (starting with the highest GHTF allocation amount): Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen, Burkina Faso, Mali, Bangladesh, South Sudan, the Niger, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Philippines.

GHTF allocations to the UNICEF response in the Horn of Africa1 reached $13.6 million (21 per cent of total allocations) and allocations to the Sahel countries2 reached $11.2 million (18 per cent of total allocations).

Protracted emergencies in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Yemen received $6.4 million in GHTF allocations to cover critical funding gaps. And $1 million (2 per cent of total allocations) was allocated to ensure a timely response to public health emergencies (outbreaks of cholera and Ebola virus disease) in the Syrian Arab Republic and Uganda.

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1 Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.
2 Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, the Niger and Togo.
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; and
- Alignment with organization-wide initiatives aimed at strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of UNICEF humanitarian action (e.g., the Humanitarian Review recommendations, the key recommendations of the UNICEF role as cluster lead/co-lead agency (CLARE II) evaluation and the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action). Other examples of such areas 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 EXAMPLES

Papua New Guinea

GHTF allocation: $280,000

Electoral and tribal violence in the Highlands Region from May to July 2022 affected an estimated 265,000 people in five districts, leaving 105,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance and 16,000 people displaced. In addition, Papua New Guinea remained vulnerable to natural hazards such as the earthquake that hit the country in September 2022, which exacerbated the humanitarian situation for populations displaced by the elections-related violence.

GHTF was the key enabler for UNICEF to implement a rapid WASH response and reach 1,510 displaced or affected families with training on safe hygiene behaviour and with essential hygiene supplies.

Somalia

GHTF allocation: $4,000,000

With five consecutive failed rainy seasons, and a high likelihood of a sixth, Somalia faced a drought of historic severity in 2022. The drought resulted in severe water shortages, mass displacement and a devastating food crisis that worsened the plight of the 8.3 million people affected by drought. The nearly 3 million people internally displaced throughout the country in search of water, food and pasture approached life-threatening levels of need during the year.

The GHTF allocation of $4 million was critical for the country office to scale up and expand the drought emergency response, including strengthening UNICEF’s lead role in cluster coordination. UNICEF led the Nutrition Cluster (with WFP as deputy lead); led the WASH Cluster in co-leadership with Polish Humanitarian Action; and co-led the Education Cluster and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility with Save the Children International. As cluster lead agency, UNICEF provided dedicated full-time support to coordination and information management.

Kazakhstan

GHTF allocation: $500,000

Sparked by a sharp increase in the price of liquid gas, protests in January 2022 were marked by violence, looting and the destruction of infrastructure and resulted in the declaration of a state of emergency in Kazakhstan. Some 3,000 extremely vulnerable families with multiple children, living under the poverty line, were identified for urgent humanitarian support.

Global humanitarian thematic funding was critical for UNICEF to address urgent child protection and education needs, including through the provision of legal aid and mental health and psychosocial support and learning materials, remedial classes and mentorship programmes in support of affected children and families, including people with disabilities.
An unexpected and unforeseen rainfall hit the states of Bahia and Minas Gerais in December 2021, triggering an emergency declaration in 168 municipalities in Bahia due to flooding, while also affecting 341 municipalities in Minas Gerais. Preliminary assessments estimated that 815,597 people required humanitarian assistance, including 37,477 children. A total of 101,256 people were displaced. The humanitarian situation challenged the responsiveness of child-critical services and directly impacted children’s well-being.

Global humanitarian thematic funding was catalytic in helping UNICEF ensure that flood-affected children and adolescents had increased access to individual psychological care tailored to the emergency situation and to quality and responsive public services including health, education and social protection programmes. GHTF also played a part in strengthening the capacity of Brazil’s child protection system to prevent and respond to violence against children. As a result, 4,075 children affected by the floods accessed public services (health, education and social protection programmes) and 360 children received mental health support.

The war in Ukraine further exacerbated a food insecurity situation in Yemen that was already dire due to eight years of gruelling conflict, a devastating economic collapse and a long-failing agricultural sector. While a truce brought some relief, the situation remained volatile during 2022, with 80 per cent of the population in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including nearly 13 million children. More than 4 million people were displaced.

Despite the increasing needs, the total humanitarian appeal was only 29 per cent funded by August 2022, and the funding pipeline was entirely earmarked. During a highly fragile period of this protracted conflict, global humanitarian thematic funding proved crucial for the UNICEF country office to support effective cluster coordination specific to WASH and child protection. It also helped UNICEF to fill urgent response gaps and provide a range of life-saving interventions in health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection and social protection.

During the monsoon season in 2022, widespread flooding and landslides in Pakistan had severe repercussions on human lives, property and infrastructure. Flooding left an estimated 20.6 million people, including 9.6 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance. Many of the hardest-hit districts were already among the most vulnerable in Pakistan, where children suffered from high malnutrition, poor access to water and sanitation, low school enrolment and other deprivations that increased the risk of disease outbreaks during the intense flooding.

Despite continued resource mobilization efforts at the country level, donor support to Pakistan remained limited, with only 4 per cent of the total humanitarian appeal funded in July 2022. The global humanitarian thematic funding allocation was instrumental in helping the country office scale up its response to the floods, including by enabling the rapid local procurement of supplies (e.g., WASH supplies).

During the year, the humanitarian situation in Mali was jeopardized by such political and geopolitical upheavals as the economic sanctions imposed on Mali by the Economic Community of West African States and the withdrawal of international forces due to the ending of ‘Operation Barkhane’, among others. Furthermore, the increased actions of various non-state armed groups resulted in mass displacements, heightening the existing vulnerabilities of 7.5 million people in need, including 5.1 million children.

The ability of UNICEF and its partners to scale up a multisectoral response across Mali was hampered by difficulty accessing populations in need and by limited funding (just 41 per cent of the total humanitarian appeal was funded as of August 2022). No global humanitarian thematic funding had been allocated to Mali in 2021 or at that point in 2022. In this context, the global humanitarian thematic funding allocation was critical to strengthening the humanitarian response capacity of the country office, focusing on its most under-funded sectors, such as education.
Global humanitarian thematic funding is at the core of quality funding that is received by UNICEF for humanitarian action. UNICEF extends its gratitude to committed partners for their flexible contributions, which allow the organization to deliver timely and equitable aid to the most affected populations. Partners’ growing support through GHTF shows their firm trust in UNICEF’s principled role in reaching every child, everywhere.

During the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 period, the Government of the Netherlands stood out in its commitment to support GHTF, enabling UNICEF to activate prompt and high-quality life-saving responses where they were most needed. In 2022, the Netherlands remained UNICEF’s most committed partner for flexible humanitarian funding, setting an example for others to follow. The Netherlands’ $21.7 million top contribution represented 18 per cent of all GHTF received in 2022, a testament to the country’s continued trust in UNICEF’s work on the ground. Other valued partners that substantially contributed to GHTF throughout the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan period include the Governments of Denmark and the Republic of Korea.

At the start of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 cycle, UNICEF received $119.8 million in 2022, a remarkable tripling of GHTF compared with 2021. This boost is primarily due to first-time contributors, namely the German Federal Foreign Office, the Government of Sweden and the Committee for UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein as well as increases in contributions from the Netherlands and the United States Fund for UNICEF; private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices; and continued support from the Republic of Korea.

GHTF was 3.1 per cent of emergency funding (other resources – emergency) received in 2022, compared with 1.3 per cent in 2021. UNICEF continues its engagement with traditional and new resource partners to expand the donor base for GHTF, while maximizing efforts to showcase how flexible allocations can make a difference for children in emergencies and therefore make humanitarian response more equitable.

Figure A1-4: UNICEF other resources – emergency funding trends, 2018–2022 (in United States dollars)
There was a notable increase in contributions to global humanitarian thematic funding from private and public sector resource partners in 2022. Resource partners from the private sector contributed $64.1 million, more than triple the amount contributed in 2021, and public sector resource partners contributed $55.7 million, double their 2021 contribution.

In 2022, new public sector resource partners to GHTF, the German Federal Foreign Office and the Government of Sweden, together accounted for 27 per cent of total contributions received for global humanitarian thematic funding. Private sector resource partners from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America significantly increased their contributions through the UNICEF National Committees in these countries.

The contributions of private sector resource partners to GHTF allowed UNICEF to support emergencies that had lower levels of media and donor attention. The private sector not only led in contributions to GHTF in 2022, but also considerably increased their contributions to GHTF compared with 2021 ($64.1 million in 2022 compared with $17.8 million in 2021). Fourteen per cent of GHTF received in 2022 was attributable to private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices.

Despite the record level of funding received in 2022 for humanitarian action, the high and ever-expanding requirements to meet children’s needs meant that most of UNICEF’s humanitarian responses were still severely underfunded. In this climate, partners’ role in making a difference for children in need by donating to GHTF was all the more valued. UNICEF is grateful for all these flexible contributions, large or small, and recognizes their clear impact. UNICEF is looking forward to continuing solid and principled partnerships to reach the most forgotten, vulnerable children in environments that are becoming more volatile every day.

“UNICEF has been a longstanding and valued partner to the Netherlands in delivering vital humanitarian aid and addressing the most urgent needs of children and their families. Through our multiyear and flexible funding of global humanitarian thematic funding we enable UNICEF to respond timely, efficiently and where the needs are highest, including in those crises that might otherwise be forgotten. We hope that other donors follow in our footsteps and support UNICEF in their relentless efforts to reach the most disadvantaged children and adolescents – and to protect the rights of every child, everywhere.”

H.E. MS. LIESJE SCHREINEMACHER, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS
Table A1-3: Sources of global humanitarian thematic funding, 2022 (in United States dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>21,716,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>United States Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>21,567,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>German Federal Foreign Office</td>
<td>20,682,523</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices</td>
<td>16,627,834</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Committee for UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein</td>
<td>12,232,416</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>11,717,546</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>4,796,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Swedish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>3,538,013</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Dutch Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>589,188</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>UNICEF Ireland</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Finnish Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Danish Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>French Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Canadian Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td>Portuguese Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Belgian Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Australian Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>International online donations</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>UNICEF Hungarian Committee Foundation</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Slovenian Foundation for UNICEF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Balance from prior years</td>
<td>803,709</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>119,844,035</strong></td>
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The following case studies show how global humanitarian thematic funding was used in specific critical contexts in 2022. These are only a few of the places where UNICEF used these flexible emergency funds to save lives and protect the childhoods of the most vulnerable children. For comprehensive information on UNICEF humanitarian responses in 2022, including the role of global humanitarian thematic funding, see the publicly available consolidated emergency reports for 2022 at <https://open.unicef.org/documents?&key=2022>.

**Niger**
Maimouna Abdoullahi holds her son Hassan, 18, while he eats nutritional supplements at the CSI Health Centre in Diffa, in far southeastern Niger. Hassan is malnourished but is on the mend. His twin brother, however, is in intensive care. The twins were born with low birthweight and they are not gaining weight. In the Niger, surveys show that 2.4 per cent of children suffer from severe wasting. With UNICEF support, a total of 430,708 children under five years of age with severe wasting were admitted for treatment in 2022, including 63,339 with medical complications.

**Tonga/Pacific Islands**
Ana Fatai Na’a, 9, sits with her grandmother, Vaiolupe Na’a, in the doorway of her home in Kanokupolu on Tongatapu, Tonga’s main island, in January 2022. The damage was caused by the eruption that month of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai underwater volcano and subsequent tsunami. With UNICEF support, 16,096 people affected by the disaster accessed a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.

“During my visits to humanitarian projects, such as in Iraq, I was deeply moved by children’s drawings depicting the horrible experiences they had gone through. This is but one telling example of how important the support to these most vulnerable is. As crises grow in number and complexity, they also affect more and more children. It is a humanitarian imperative to offer assistance to these children, according to the highest standards and as needs-based as possible.

This is why we decided to fund the UNICEF GHTF with £20 million last year. This funding helped children in dire need: Child-friendly spaces and psychological support helped protect children from violence and abuse during the armed conflict in the Central African Republic, for instance. Children who had been forcibly recruited also found help.”

H.E. MS. DEIKE POTZEL, DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR CRISIS PREVENTION, STABILISATION, PEACEBUILDING AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AT THE GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE

“Ethiopia is facing multiple crises, including climate-induced drought, floods and conflict. Humanitarian needs are outpacing our response. To save the lives of countless children and their families, especially at the onset of an emergency, we are reliant on flexible funding, and global humanitarian thematic funding enables us to respond to crises as soon as they hit in an agile and timely manner, so we can meet immediate needs without delay. This type of funding also enables us to redirect support to where it is needed the most.”

MR. ABOU KAMPO, UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE IN ETHIOPIA
In 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding made a significant contribution in providing life-saving support to flood-affected children and women in Bangladesh, and to the response to the protracted Rohingya refugee crisis.

Bangladesh remained highly vulnerable to climate-related shocks and stresses in 2022, including monsoon flooding events. In June 2022, the northeastern region of the country suffered the worst flood in 122 years, severely affecting 7.2 million people, including 3.5 million children. The country office used GHTF to provide emergency life-saving support to flood-affected people in Sylhet and Sunamganj, including an immediate multisectoral response focused on health, nutrition, WASH, education and social and behaviour change. This response reached 1.7 million people in total, including 645,000 flood-affected people (255,420 children and 15,480 persons with disabilities). GHTF also allowed UNICEF to provide 18,000 affected children in Sylhet and Sunamganj with 600 emergency education kits and 75 sets of nutrition kits. Moreover, UNICEF provided safe drinking water and supplies to 846,000 people, and 8,802 vulnerable adolescents and family members accessed psychosocial support services.

Bangladesh continued to host 952,309 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in 33 camps in Cox’s Bazar District and on Bhasan Char, an island in Noakhali District. Fifty-two per cent of the refugees are children. Thanks to GHTF, UNICEF continued to ensure the provision of basic services to Rohingya refugees. To help meet their education needs, 7,968 children, adolescents and youth (3,997 girls, 71 children with disabilities) received education services in 28 schools on Bhasan Char. Children and adolescents also accessed a package of services through multi-purpose centres, including case management, psychosocial support and life skills-based learning. Positive parenting guidance was provided to at least 17,562 refugees (8,956 female and 211 persons with disabilities) in Cox’s Bazar refugee camps and host communities. Through global humanitarian thematic funding, 30,493 refugees (15,756 female and 216 persons with disabilities) in Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char accessed drinking water, while 30,295 refugees (15,621 female and 194 persons with disabilities) accessed safe and functional sanitation facilities. This flexible funding also partially supported a social and behaviour change study exploring the drivers of social practices, risk perception and health-seeking behaviour among the community and the factors influencing shifts in behaviour practices in health, nutrition education and WASH. This study was part of overall evidence generation work on risk communication and community engagement, covering Rohingya refugee camps and host communities.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022

- **846,000** flood-affected people accessed safe drinking water and supplies
- **7,968** Rohingya refugee children, adolescents and youth received education services in 28 schools
- **17,562** Rohingya refugees were reached with positive parenting guidance

**Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022**

- 3.2%
BURKINA FASO

The flexibility of global humanitarian thematic funding allowed UNICEF to scale up the Level 2 humanitarian response to the Sahel crisis in Burkina Faso, including replenishing the emergency stockpile to support displaced populations.

Throughout 2022, Burkina Faso was affected by a severe multidimensional crisis due to insecurity, demographic pressures, climate change, political fragility and economic and health crises. An estimated 4.9 million people, including 2.8 million children, required humanitarian assistance. The country also remained the epicentre of the humanitarian crisis affecting the Sahel region. Worsening insecurity resulted in massive internal displacements, with 1.9 million people internally displaced, 60 per cent of them children. Insecurity also restricted humanitarian access throughout the year, limiting access and hampering the delivery of assistance in crisis-affected regions.

Thanks to humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF purchased 2,570 boxes of ready-to-use therapeutic food; 1,160 boxes of therapeutic milk (F100 and F75); and 1,620 boxes of BP5 biscuits. Global humanitarian thematic funds also enabled UNICEF to build up a contingency stock of emergency medical kits and consumables for 96,000 vulnerable people and for performing 200 deliveries. In addition, as part of malaria prevention, 19,750 displaced families received 39,500 long-lasting insecticide-treated nets. These supplies strengthened UNICEF’s response capacity to provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations. These funds also supported the implementation of the community-led total sanitation in emergencies approach, benefiting 42,915 people in the Centre-Nord region. The funds also enabled the construction of additional latrines in targeted host communities. About 23,100 households were reached with awareness messages on water treatment; 2,000 households received kits that included aquatabs, soap and a bucket with a cover. UNICEF supported the integration of 748,426 children (60 per cent girls), 90 per cent of whom were internally displaced, through the provision of formal and non-formal educational opportunities. At the same time, 64,676 children (51 per cent girls) benefited from individual school kits for better learning. UNICEF interventions reached 246,816 children (123,619 girls) and 19,568 parents (13,118 mothers) affected by emergencies with mental health and psychosocial support through fixed and mobile child-friendly spaces and in the community. A total of 1,536 households benefited from humanitarian cash transfer interventions, enabling 15,222 people (including 7,779 children and 4,955 women) to meet their basic needs for three months.

Flexible funds also contributed to strengthening Burkina Faso’s early warning mechanism through UNICEF’s community-based Rapid Response and Community Resilience (3RC) emergency strategy. The 3RC strategy improves the emergency preparedness and response capacities of community-based structures to alert, target and respond with an adapted multisectoral package of minimum services, especially in hard-to-reach-areas.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022

- **42,915 people** accessed community-led total sanitation in the Centre-Nord region
- **748,426 children** were provided with formal and non-formal educational opportunities
- **1,536 households** benefited from humanitarian cash transfer interventions

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022

- **25%**
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Global humanitarian thematic funding was a key enabler of the response to violence and abuse against children and helped to ensure children’s access to the minimum necessary child protection services in the prefecture of Nana Mambéré in the Central African Republic.

The Central African Republic has been plunged back into acute armed conflict since January 2021. The northwest region bordering Cameroon was one of the areas that in 2022 experienced frequent military clashes, the presence of explosive devices and violence against civilian populations, including children. While funding for the humanitarian response was primarily directed towards the country’s north and east in 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding was fundamental in providing humanitarian assistance in the northwest – and particularly in filling a gap in child protection responses. GHTF helped to ensure availability of a minimum set of child protection prevention and response services.

Thanks to global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF, in partnership with the Canadian NGO All for Peace and Dignity, has strengthened prevention and response to violence and abuse against children, including those linked to the armed conflict situation in the prefecture of Nana Mambéré, located in the country’s northwest in an area bordering Cameroon. Community-based child protection mechanisms were strengthened by establishing 14 child-friendly spaces and 14 community-based child protection networks for community awareness and the early detection of child victims. This also supported the local response system to improve child protection against violence and abuse in an environment of conflict.

By the end of the year, 486 child victims of violence and/or abuse and vulnerable children – including 150 child survivors of gender-based sexual violence, 160 children associated with armed groups and forces, 150 unaccompanied and separated children and 26 other vulnerable children – accessed response services including individual psychosocial support, temporary care in foster families, health care, family tracing, school reintegration and vocational training. What’s more, 28,953 children (15,000 girls and 13,953 boys) accessed collective psychosocial support in the 14 child-friendly spaces established and supported by UNICEF. Around 80 members of community child protection networks were trained to prevent and respond to violence and abuse against children, with topics covering child recruitment, management of child-friendly spaces and psychosocial support to children through child-friendly spaces and the early detection of child victims and referral of children to services.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022

- **486 child victims and vulnerable children** accessed child protection services and health care
- **28,953 children** accessed collective psychosocial support in 14 UNICEF-supported child friendly spaces
- The capacity of **80 members of community child protection networks** was reinforced on prevention and response to violence and abuse against children

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022
ETHIOPIA

Through humanitarian thematic funds, including global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF was able to respond flexibly to emerging and continuous humanitarian needs in conflict- and drought-affected regions, particularly in the most underfunded sectors.

In 2022, conflict escalation in several areas, climatic shocks and public health emergencies remained the main drivers of displacement, food insecurity and protection risks in Ethiopia, leaving 29.7 million people, including 15.7 million children, in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. The year was marked by extremely severe drought that propelled more than 8 million people into food insecurity.

Humanitarian thematic funds, including global humanitarian thematic funding, supported the emergency response in conflict-affected northern Ethiopia and in drought-affected areas by helping to support life-saving nutrition interventions. For instance, during the reporting period, these funds contributed to screening – using a find-and-treat campaign that included 200 mobile health and nutrition teams established by UNICEF – more than 9.3 million children for early detection of severe wasting, with 709,996 children admitted for treatment in about 19,500 health facilities (88.5 per cent of children were cured).

While the WASH sector was 73 per cent underfunded, UNICEF leveraged humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, to procure 42 plastic water tanks (each with a capacity of 10,000 litres) for storing and distributing water trucked into the drought-affected zones of Oromia, benefiting more than 27,000 people. More than 175,500 people (21,590 men, 33,345 women, 54,405 boys and 56,160 girls) had access to safe water supply through the rehabilitation of 12 water systems in the drought-affected Afar, Oromia, Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ regions.

Despite a 65 per cent funding gap for programming to address gender-based violence, UNICEF was able to respond flexibly to emerging and continuous protection needs thanks to global humanitarian thematic funding. These funds allowed for a quick prioritization of hotspots and guaranteed that technical support and human resources were available to ensure a quality response. For example, UNICEF supported more than 1.1 million people (329,796 girls, 206,810 boys, 379,446 women and 201,897 men) through child protection and gender-based violence interventions, which included mental health and psychosocial support; family tracing and reunification and alternative care services for unaccompanied and separated children; and prevention and response to violence. The latter covered gender-based violence services in conflict- and drought-affected regions.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022

- **709,996 children** with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- More than **175,500 people** accessed safe water through the rehabilitation of 12 water systems
- More than **1.1 million people** were reached with child protection and gender-based violence interventions

**Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022**

- **5.9%**
REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE IN EUROPE

Flexible funds were crucial to continuing to provide child protection services in Greece and in ensuring that migrant and refugee children and youth benefited from quality inclusive education and skills development in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the end of 2022, 64,950 refugees and asylum-seekers lived in Greece. Most of the families lived in refugee sites on the mainland, sites whose smooth functioning was critical to the well-being and protection of refugee and migrant children. In a constrained funding environment, UNICEF used global humanitarian thematic funding to develop and roll out a self-assessment checklist tool to help site management authorities design and track progress towards achieving a child-friendly site in 22 accommodation centres that, by mid-December 2022, hosted more than 3,270 children. UNICEF provided its expertise for the design, methodology and use of the checklist tool and also trained site focal points on its implementation. Use of the tool culminated in an action plan for each site, including tangible actions for strengthening protection and service provision at the site level.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a significant increase in the number of refugees and migrants was reported between 2017 (just a few dozen arrivals) and the 2018–2022 period (when numbers were around 95,000). Within a constrained funding environment, global humanitarian thematic funding was critical in ensuring that children continued their learning. A non-formal education component, an Akelius digital language course for learning English, German and other languages, was provided in temporary reception centres, reaching 1,344 children (346 girls). Eventually this digital learning application was extended to formal schools in Una-Sana and Sarajevo Cantons that integrate refugees and migrants and reached an additional 2,976 children in both formal schools and temporary receptions centres. The Akelius course was used to help transition students into formal schooling, including into vocational training programmes, and ultimately 240 children (102 girls) were supported with inclusion in two primary schools through tailored preparatory programmes. Separately, with UNICEF support three schools in two cantons provided vocational training to 256 adolescents. And 59 teachers, teaching assistants and cultural mediators were reached with capacity-building sessions to enhance digital and pedagogical competency and provided with guidance on blended learning approaches.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022

- **22 accommodation centres** strengthened protection and service provision through the roll-out of the checklist tool in Greece
- **1,344 children** accessed non-formal education activities in temporary reception centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **256 adolescents** were reached with vocational training in three schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022

- **10.5%**
**GHTF CASE STUDIES**

**HAITI**

With support from global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF was able to ensure access to education for crisis-affected children, including those affected by the 2021 earthquake, as well as children residing in the areas of Port-au-Prince controlled by armed groups.

The majority of the 1,250 schools destroyed in the August 2021 earthquake in Haiti in the Sud, Grand’Anse and Nippes departments are yet to be rebuilt. This has left an estimated 250,000 children in non-conducive learning environments, with some children completely deprived of their right to education. In parallel, the situation in the urban areas of Haiti – notably Port-au-Prince – continued to deteriorate due to rising insecurity. More than 1,700 schools in and around urban areas – particularly in the areas of Bel-air, Bas-Delmas, Centre-Ville, Martissant, Cité Soleil, Croix-des-Bouquets and Tabarre – have been closed due to pressure from armed groups, depriving children of their right to education.

In this context, global humanitarian thematic funding played a key role in finalizing the construction of three earthquake-affected schools in the southern departments, including 21 classrooms accommodating a total of 840 children. The funding was also provided to support reading and math skills of 198 boys and 271 girls from eight public schools in Carrefour, Port-au-Prince – a high-risk zone controlled by armed groups. Through its implementing partners, UNICEF was also able to train and build the capacity of six school directors and 157 teachers to strengthen their teaching skills in mathematics and French, with an emphasis on the development of reading skills.

The flexibility of global thematic humanitarian funding allowed UNICEF to support education in emergencies responses that could be rolled out immediately, especially in conflict and other high-risk areas. Despite insecurity and violence delaying the opening of schools in Haiti by two months, global humanitarian thematic funding allowed the schools in the earthquake-affected areas to open rapidly. In Carrefour, GHTF allowed students to return to learning more rapidly in an area which, at the time, was not covered by other sources of funding.

**Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022**

- 840 children accessed education through the reconstruction of three earthquake-affected schools
- 469 children learned mathematics and reading skills in a high-risk zone controlled by armed groups
- 157 teachers strengthened their teaching skills in mathematics and French, with an emphasis on the development of reading skills

**Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022**

- 0% Global humanitarian thematic funding
- 0% Country thematic funding
- 0% Non-thematic funding

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Haiti

Students enjoy a nice moment at their desks at their school in Chantal, Les Cayes, Sud Department, Haiti, in June 2022. UNICEF worked to rebuild a number of schools in the Grand Sud that were destroyed or damaged in the August 2021 earthquake.
MYANMAR

Amid the deteriorating humanitarian situation that marked 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding allowed UNICEF to provide life-saving WASH interventions in Myanmar and ensure the continuation of formal and non-formal education services, including though the procurement of learning and recreational supplies.

The humanitarian situation in Myanmar deteriorated throughout 2022, with clashes across the country increasing in severity and frequency. The number of people displaced more than doubled in 2022 from more than 700,000 in January 2022 to more than 1.5 million at the end of the year. Large-scale violence and displacement and attacks on schools disturbed children’s opportunity to learn safely. More families withdrew their children from the formal education system due to safety concerns. Moreover, conflict-affected populations, especially internally displaced people, faced insufficient access or complete lack of access even to the most basic WASH supplies.

Thanks to global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF procured essential education supplies for approximately 74,000 children nationwide. UNICEF also provided 1,500 recreation kits and 13,844 roofing sheets to promote children’s access to learning in temporary learning spaces that offered opportunities for recreational activities. In addition, the country office purchased long-term open learning materials (self-study materials aligned with grades 1-5 of the Ministry of Education curriculum for Myanmar language, mathematics and science) to supplement the learning of children nationwide. UNICEF delivered education in emergencies services to reach approximately 5,880 children nationwide.

In addition, flexible funding supported the provision of life-saving WASH supplies and services for 104,669 affected people (including 33,596 children) and the distribution of bottled drinking water to 50,000 people in the peri-urban Yangon township – Hlaing Thar Yar – affected by martial law. The initiative later transitioned into social enterprise-managed water treatment and bottling kiosks to meet daily drinking water needs of the population. More than 54,000 internally displaced people in camps in the states of Kachin and Rakhine received regular water supply, gender-segregated sanitation services and WASH supplies to enable improved hygiene. During the year, 3,211 affected people in Kachin State gained access to a durable water supply solution. Nine health-care facilities benefited from improved access to WASH services.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022

- **74,000 children** nationwide received essential education supplies
- **13,844 roofing sheets** were procured to promote children’s access to learning in temporary learning spaces
- **104,669 people** were provided with life-saving WASH supplies and services

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022

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<th>Global humanitarian thematic funding</th>
<th>Country thematic funding</th>
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PHILIPPINES

The availability and flexibility of global humanitarian thematic funding allowed for UNICEF’s rapid quality response to Typhoon Odette, including the design and implementation of urgent interventions in the social protection and health sectors, among other areas.

In December 2021, the Philippines was struck by Super Typhoon Odette, the most destructive typhoon in eight years. Odette resulted in 409 deaths and thousands of injuries and displaced more than half a million people. In addition, the typhoon severely disrupted essential services, resulting in widespread humanitarian needs. It took a significant toll on the most vulnerable people, especially children, who were faced with increased risks to their survival and to their physical and mental health. By January 2022, the typhoon had affected 2.7 million families (an estimated 9.6 million people) in 11 regions. Forty per cent of those affected were children.

Global humanitarian thematic funding was essential for scaling up UNICEF’s humanitarian action in multiple programmatic sectors in the aftermath of the typhoon. For example, GHTF allowed UNICEF to expand the financial assistance provided by the Government through social protection programmes, as part of its response and early recovery efforts to manage the impact of the typhoon. GHTF supported the design and implementation of the HCT Plus programme, which reached 3,961 households with humanitarian cash transfers to help meet their basic needs, and the engagement of a third-party organization to conduct post-cash distribution monitoring.

With support from global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF readily trained and deployed community health workers and mobile health teams to augment the capacity of local government units in delivering primary health-care services to areas significantly affected by the typhoon. A total of 156,579 women and children (45,256 boys; 45,305 girls) received essential health services in UNICEF-supported facilities, and 103,499 children (51,785 boys; 51,714 girls) 6–9 months of age were vaccinated against measles. Lastly, efforts to mitigate COVID-19 transmission were also carried out, with a total of 1,155 health-care facility staff and community health workers (34 men; 1,121 women) trained on infection prevention and control; and 82,395 health-care workers and community members were provided with personal protective equipment (25,773 men; 24,074 women; 16,889 boys; 15,659 girls).

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022

- **3,961 households** were reached with humanitarian cash transfers
- **156,579 women and children** accessed health services in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **103,499 children** 6–9 months of age were vaccinated against measles

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022

- **13%**

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<th>Global humanitarian thematic funding</th>
<th>Country thematic funding</th>
<th>Non-thematic funding</th>
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SRI LANKA

Amid a deteriorating food security situation in Sri Lanka, UNICEF leveraged global humanitarian thematic funding to prioritize the procurement and distribution of life-saving nutrition supplies, coupled with messaging and counselling on infant and young child feeding.

The political and economic crisis in Sri Lanka early in 2022 severely impacted the livelihoods of many families, affecting their ability to access even such basic and essential items as food, fuel and medicine. This resulted in higher risks of growth and learning impediments in children. By October 2022, more than 18,000 children under 5 years of age throughout the country were diagnosed with severe wasting. Additionally, higher absenteeism was reported among preschool children in urban and rural areas, where parents could not afford to provide meals to their children.

In providing life-saving nutrition responses as cluster lead, UNICEF prioritized the procurement of urgently required ready-to-use therapeutic food to treat severe wasting among children under 5 years of age. The intervention benefited 15,900 children, of whom 630 children (4 per cent) were reached with the support of global humanitarian thematic funds.

Furthermore, UNICEF worked to ensure that young children continued to access early education while also receiving a midday meal – sometimes their only meal for the day. To this end, UNICEF collaborated with local authorities in eight of the most disadvantaged districts (Colombo, Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee, Badulla, Monaragala, Ratnapura and Nuwara Eliya) to provide midday meals for six months in 1,518 poorly resourced preschools and day-care centres. The preschool midday meal programme benefited 37,850 children in urban and rural areas, of whom 15,657 children (41 per cent), including 25 children with special needs, were reached with global humanitarian thematic funds. The targeted preschools reported improvements in nutrition levels and preschool attendance by the second month of the intervention. Activities to raise awareness among preschool teachers and parents of issues related to nutrition and early childhood development are being incorporated into the delivery of the preschool meal programme.

Sri Lanka

Monisha, 4, enjoys her midday meal in February 2023 at the Gunapala Silva early childhood development centre for children aged 3–5 years, a school run by the Colombo Municipal Council, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. With support from donors, UNICEF has been providing nutritious midday meals to all children enrolled at the preschool since August 2022. A sample menu is distributed among volunteer parents, who cook the food on a rotating basis. The midday meals ensure these children get nutritious food that is essential for their growth and development.

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, contributed to the following results in 2022

- **15,900 children** under age 5 with severe wasting received ready-to-use therapeutic food
- **1,518 poorly resourced preschools and day-care centres** were supported to provide midday meals
- **37,850 children** were reached through the preschool midday meal programme in urban and rural areas

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022

- Global humanitarian thematic funding
- Country thematic funding
- Non-thematic funding
Flexible funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, was crucial to UNICEF’s scale-up of the humanitarian response to the multidimensional crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, helping to reduce protection and education inequalities, among other sectoral needs.

Children throughout the Syrian Arab Republic continued to face one of the most complex emergencies in the world. Twelve years of crisis and continued multifaceted hardships (among them the COVID-19 pandemic, a cholera outbreak, years of worsening economic conditions, devastated public infrastructure and a weakened social services system, localized hostilities and mass displacement) have left two thirds of the population in need of humanitarian assistance. Many people are subject to systematic violations of international humanitarian and child rights laws. The number of children in need of humanitarian assistance continued to increase in 2022, from 13.4 million people and 6.1 million children in 2021 to 14.6 million people and 6.9 million children in 2022. This includes 4.2 million persons with disabilities and 5.3 million people who are internally displaced.

Through humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF and implementing partners provided case management services to 9,838 children (4,568 girls and 5,270 boys) exposed to child protection abuses. UNICEF supported the finalization of the National Mental Health Psychosocial Support Manual in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and Population. Sixty per cent of children attending mental health and psychosocial support activities underpinned by the new manual showed an increase in psychosocial well-being on several parameters, including better relations with their parents and being better able to cope with anger and everyday frustrations. UNICEF continued implementing explosive ordnance risk education activities for children through implementing partners, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, reaching 1,193,081 children and adults (484,130 girls, 474,119 boys, 134,846 women and 99,986 men).

UNICEF also provided education opportunities to 109,470 conflict-affected children (52,370 girls). These children – either out of school or at risk of dropping out – were reached with services and supplies, including improvements in and maintenance of school learning environments necessary for enrolment and retention. Due to lack of education materials and the non-availability of Arabic textbooks in the north east of the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF and partners provided 7,000 children across lines of hostilities (51 per cent girls) with self-learning materials, including textbook sets to allow them to study Arabic and participate in national examinations.
Global humanitarian thematic funding, when used to complement other sources of funding, allowed the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office to reinforce UNICEF country offices’ preparedness actions, build communities’ resilience and strengthen systems to prepare for and respond to crises. GHTF also helped to link humanitarian action with development programmes across the region.

In 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding allowed the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office to provide an integrated, multisectoral response to deliver life-saving services for children, women and families affected by climatic shocks and disease outbreaks, including populations living in camps for refugees and for internally displaced people.

Thanks to global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF ensured preparedness actions for public health emergencies in five country offices at risk of spillover of Uganda’s Ebola disease outbreak (caused by Sudan virus). Existing preparedness actions in these country offices were reinforced by ensuring adequate supplies. The Regional Office also provided critical support to country offices in countries in the Horn of Africa affected by drought by carrying out support missions on data readiness, providing remote technical support to country offices, ensuring strong advocacy for increased funding to meet children’s needs in the Horn of Africa and continuing to review preparedness actions. The Regional Office also provided support for humanitarian access to northern Ethiopia (Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions).

To minimize the risk of child mortality in the counties of the region, flexible funding was used to support 12 countries on overall efforts to address severe wasting. This included support for identifying severely wasted children and referring them to treatment through various mechanisms: community outreach, find-and-treat campaigns and implementation of simplified approaches for identifying and treating severe wasting. From January to December 2022, 2.07 million children under age 5 were admitted for treatment of severe wasting in the region. This was a 27 per cent increase in admissions compared with 2021. The highest increase was in three Horn of Africa countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia), which accounted for 62 per cent of all admissions for severe wasting in the region.

“‘Leave No One Behind’ lies at the very heart of our efforts to respond to humanitarian needs. The Republic of Korea supports UNICEF’s work as a leading humanitarian agency, particularly through the provision of flexible funds. The humanitarian thematic fund makes it possible for UNICEF to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable children in a timely and effective manner. The Republic of Korea is fully committed to humanitarian action in the aspiration to become a Global Pivotal State that contributes to freedom, peace and prosperity. We will remain a strong supporter of UNICEF until our mutual efforts reach the goal of ‘No Child Left Behind’.”

H.E. MR. PARK JIN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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4 Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.
5 Angola, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH ASIA

Humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, enabled the Regional Office for South Asia to provide strategic and technical guidance to country offices. It also allowed the office to allocate flexible resources for rapid and quality emergency responses in the region.

In 2022, humanitarian thematic funding, including global humanitarian thematic funding, supported the emergency management teams in the Regional Office for South Asia to plan, fundraise, communicate and directly support technical programming and surge missions. The funds were also used to ensure that country offices could meet prerequisites for humanitarian response, including through deeper investment in the UNICEF’s preparedness and by cultivating the involvement of national and subnational actors.

Regional office emergency staff undertook nine field missions to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These missions encompassed training on emergency preparedness and response, providing technical guidance on contingency planning and flash appeals and providing technical guidance on flood response. They enhanced the quality of humanitarian work in these country offices by helping to ensure that best practices and global knowledge were incorporated into plans and actions. The missions to Sri Lanka ensured development of a quality contingency plan that included risk analysis, scenario development, response planning and review of preparedness actions. The missions to Afghanistan supported development of an office contingency plan that incorporated multiple risks and interrelated vulnerabilities.

The regional office staff also supplied insights and strategic advice on challenges to humanitarian programme implementation.

Flexible funds were also critical to the regional office’s support of results for children in flood emergencies in Bangladesh and Pakistan. Global humanitarian thematic funding enabled the regional office to conduct a surge mission to Pakistan to support the multisectoral humanitarian response for the first three months of this Level 2 rapid-onset flood emergency. The regional office emergency specialist was also able, because of flexible funding, to conduct an urgent surge mission to coordinate and provide programmatic support to the Bangladesh Country Office and the Sylhet Field Office for the flood response there. The Emergency Specialist then supported the Bangladesh Country Office with a co-funding application to support strengthened preparedness measures in that country, because the flooding response had depleted key supplies.

“When flash floods hit Bangladesh in June 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding was instrumental to our ability to deliver for children. Our teams were on the ground from day one, providing life-saving services and supplies to over 300,000 people, including 110,000 children and 6,000 persons living with disabilities. Our rapid and targeted response within the first 72 hours of the onset of the emergency, and our continued presence in the affected communities, positioned UNICEF as the go-to UN partner. Global humanitarian thematic funding also allowed UNICEF Bangladesh to sustain critical services for Rohingya refugee children when other funding was shrinking. In 2022, over 220,000 children could continue to go to school; 6,600 children suffering from severe wasting received treatment; and over 30,000 children received the third dose of the pentavalent vaccine thanks to this critical funding.”

MR. SHELDON YETT, UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE IN BANGLADESH
Regional Support for Humanitarian Action

West and Central Africa Regional Office

The West and Central Africa Regional Office leveraged global humanitarian thematic funding in 2022 to enable multi-country support on emergency preparedness and to fund activities related to rapid response mechanisms across the region.

Throughout the year, global humanitarian thematic funding continued to be life-saving catalytic funding across West and Central Africa. It enabled the West and Central Africa Regional Office as well as country offices in the region to kickstart responses to sudden-onset emergencies, scale up operations in deteriorating crises, fill in temporary funding gaps to avoid interruption in critical operations and guarantee the delivery of essential field support.

For example, in 2022, the West and Central Africa Regional Office allocated global humanitarian thematic funding in Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Togo in response to the Level 2 emergency activation for the Sahel crisis and the associated scale-up of emergency preparedness and response efforts. The regional office also utilized global humanitarian thematic funding to pre-position key supplies in UNICEF’s warehouse in Douala, Cameroon for the purposes of responding in Chad, which is highly vulnerable to floods each year. The use of this complementary funding source, alongside the placement of field offices and staff in key locations – and a national-level flood preparedness simulation exercise in the weeks ahead of the anticipated floods – enabled a faster and more effective response when the floods hit. Staff were able to coordinate and deploy UNICEF resources (including supplies) more rapidly due to the pre-positioning and because of the prior simulation of their roles and responsibilities.

Added value of global humanitarian thematic funding as a critical resource for response in 2022

Throughout the region, UNICEF uses rapid response mechanisms to respond in hard-to-reach areas, unpredictable contexts and particularly where local infrastructure is weak. This makes it a very context-specific modality, requiring frequent re-evaluation and innovation to ensure rapid response programmes are keeping up with changing needs and obstacles. In 2022, the West and Central Africa Regional Office utilized global humanitarian thematic funding to support an initiative to strengthen connections and the sharing of best practice among the eight countries implementing rapid response mechanism modalities in the region. This led to in-person and online exchanges, the development of a matrix identifying key elements of each rapid response mechanism and an active network of best practice for future knowledge sharing and innovation.

"UNICEF is a leader in water, sanitation and hygiene and a key partner for the Grundfos Foundation in our mission to improve access to water for the world’s most vulnerable, including refugees and victims of natural disasters or other emergencies. In Tanzania, we work together to bring access to clean drinking water to almost 200,000 people in 31 rural communities in western Tanzania’s Kigoma Region. Kigoma Region also hosts over 260,000 refugees living in three camps. Expanding and increasing the support to host communities will help to promote socioeconomic development and decrease the risk of tensions and misunderstandings between the refugee/migrant population and the respective host populations. In the wake of a disaster, every minute counts, and that is why we are proud to support global humanitarian thematic funding, making sure that UNICEF and its partners on the ground can immediately assist the victims in the affected areas. In 2022, this funding helped provide drinking water for over 1 million people, including flood victims in Pakistan."

Mr. Kim Nøhr Skibsted, Executive Director, Grundfos Foundation
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 2022, 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 the 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 2022, UNICEF allocated $4.26 million for preparedness through the First Action Initiative and the Co-Funding Initiative, with $3.2 million of this coming from GHTF. These funds went to 20 country offices and one subregional response. These allocations were matched by $1.2 million from UNICEF regional and country offices (through the Co-Funding Initiative), as well as funding specifically earmarked for gender-based violence preparedness efforts.
Ukraine

The security situation in Ukraine deteriorated rapidly after the war escalated beginning on 24 February 2022, creating a major humanitarian and human rights crisis. The war resulted in deaths and injuries and the mass displacement of people from the southern and eastern parts of Ukraine to the western part of the country and to countries across Europe. Hostilities resulted in severe damage and destruction of homes and civilian infrastructure, including such essential services for children as schools and health facilities. By the end of 2022, 17.7 million people were estimated to need urgent humanitarian assistance inside Ukraine, including 3.4 million children requiring protection interventions, while an estimated 5.9 million people remained internally displaced inside the country.

Amid the increased volatility of the situation in Ukraine in October 2021, and as the protracted crisis there entered its eighth year in 2022, the Ukraine country office benefited from an allocation of $400,000 through the Co-Funding Initiative in early February 2022 – including $300,000 in global humanitarian thematic funding – to enhance the preparedness capacity of UNICEF and partners for a potential escalation of conflict in eastern Ukraine. The key risk mitigation components included procuring and pre-positioning supplies for immediate life-saving responses, securing key human resources to further support preparedness and immediate response capacities, establishing and expanding partnerships through programme cooperation agreements and facilitating the capacity-building of partners.

This investment in preparedness efforts was catalytic to achieving humanitarian results after the escalation of hostilities in February 2022. For example, through the partnership of UNICEF Ukraine with the Association of Ukrainian Cities, 51 cities or municipalities enrolled in the Child Friendly Cities Initiative received a grant to identify and respond to local needs in their communities. With this support, municipalities were able to provide quick solutions for 182,869 people, including 70,041 children, by establishing and equipping child-friendly safe spaces; restoring destroyed educational facilities; providing educational equipment, medical equipment and hygiene kits; and procuring food supplies for internally displaced families and children. In addition, 102 municipal professionals were trained in national standards for child-focused local governance, enabling municipalities that are part of the Child Friendly Cities Initiative to boost their local responses to the sudden increase in internally displaced people and to the heightened needs of children. UNICEF also directly complemented its support to municipalities by providing supplies and other services to increase the positive impact on the well-being of local communities.

Ukraine
Children in Zhytomyr, Ukraine enjoy class in their new school building in September 2022. Their previous school was completely destroyed by hostilities in early March 2022. The school basement in the new school was recently repaired and serves as a bomb shelter. There, children can distract themselves from the horrors outside with colouring books, and they can keep warm with blankets that hang on the chairs.
South Sudan

South Sudan is ranked seventh worst in the world according to the Children’s Climate Risk Index report, in terms of children’s exposure to climate change and environmental shocks and the lack of local capacity to respond. In 2022, 1 million people, including more than 600,000 children, were affected by floods across the country. Hundreds of thousands of families were forced to flee their homes, losing their assets and livelihoods. Children are the ones most impacted by floods and drought – in the near and longer term – due to families’ negative coping strategies, which can include child marriage, child labour, exploitation and abuse. In hotspots, there are extremely high levels of vulnerability due to the legacy of years of conflict, persistent floods, humanitarian access constraints and food and nutrition insecurity. This places affected people – especially women and girls – at a greater humanitarian risk.

By mid-2022, the South Sudan Country Office had received an allocation of $600,000 through the First Action Initiative, including $279,295 in global humanitarian thematic funding, to strengthen the country office’s emergency preparedness capacity in light of the upcoming rainy season and flooding risk, against a background of expanding and increasing food insecurity, malnutrition and conflict. This investment enabled UNICEF to ensure a rapid response to assist most people affected by the floods by providing WASH, nutrition and child protection supplies and training personnel to provide timely, effective response that could mitigate the impact of floods. In turn, UNICEF and partners were better positioned to provide an integrated package of early action responses including nutrition, WASH, child protection and gender-based violence responses to mitigate the impact of the floods on women and children.

For example, UNICEF operated a WASH warehouse in Bentiu that provided WASH items to WASH Cluster partners responding to displacements due to flooding. UNICEF also procured 9,000 buckets, to provide 54,000 emergency-affected persons (one bucket per household) with water storage and collection containers. This contributed to the overall pre-positioning of the WASH core pipeline of supplies for the immediate life-saving response to various crises. Furthermore, UNICEF leveraged these flexible funds to strengthen the prevention of gender-based violence by transforming social norms through the Communities Care programme. Communities Care promotes gender-equitable social norms to prevent gender-based violence and support survivors. As a result, 2,046 people (430 girls, 262 boys, 771 women, and 583 men) were engaged in changing harmful social norms, and 816 people (666 men and 150 women) spanning government officials and government security forces, members of opposition groups, community members and implementing partners in the protection sector were trained in child protection capacity-building for positive change in social norms that can contribute to gender equality and decrease gender-based violence and discrimination.

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*The Children’s Climate Risk Index provides the first comprehensive view of children’s exposure and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. It ranks countries based on children’s exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services.*
GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Public health emergencies

In 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding was critical in advancing UNICEF’s work on public health emergencies preparedness and response (PHE-PR). GHTF enabled development of a UNICEF white paper, Putting the Best Interest of Children, Women and their Communities at the Centre of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, which outlines the whole-of-society focus required for PHE-PR to be effective and sets out nine key recommendations for the global community. The public health emergencies unit also began work on a strategic plan of action that sets out how UNICEF can best focus its current resources and capacities – as well as mobilize additional ones required to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies – in the period 2023–2025.

The additional flexible funding furthered public health emergencies capacity strengthening through virtual and face-to-face technical assistance. The public health emergencies team finalized the development and dissemination of the PHE Toolkit to enhance the organization’s preparedness and response to epidemics and public health emergencies. Through global humanitarian thematic funding, in 2022 an estimated 30 UNICEF country offices developed preparedness and response plans following the guidance provided in the PHE Toolkit and were able to contribute to national response plans for cholera, Ebola virus disease and other outbreaks along with Governments, the World Health Organization and other international and local partners.

Senegal
Participants are actively engaged in a youth- and gender-responsive peacebuilding training in Thiès, Senegal, in May 2022. The inter-agency and cross-regional workshop focused on strengthening youth- and gender-responsiveness in project development, including conflict analysis, stakeholder analysis, theory of change, partnerships, programmatic responses and results frameworks.
Humanitarian capacity and leadership

In 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding was a critical enabler for strengthening humanitarian leadership and building humanitarian capacity – key recommendation areas of the Humanitarian Review. Towards this end, and thanks to these flexible funds (among other resources), the UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes continued to lead the Humanitarian Leadership Workshop series, a UNICEF learning initiative to better prepare and equip UNICEF managers responding to emergencies. The primary audience for these Workshops are UNICEF senior managers who have significant responsibilities leading teams in humanitarian response in the field.

During the year, 67 senior leaders were trained through the two streams of the Humanitarian Leadership Workshop series. Thirty-nine staff reinforced their capacities and skills on ‘Leading in emergencies’, a general learning stream covering broad humanitarian responses, from public health emergencies and natural disasters to slow-onset and protracted crises and emergency preparedness and response. Twenty-eight staff strengthened their capacity on ‘Leading in complex and high-threat emergencies’, the second stream, which focuses on situations characterized by very high security risks, significant access constraints, armed conflict, armed non-state actors, grave violations against children, United Nations peace operations and international sanctions regimes.

Overall, since the inception and development of the Humanitarian Leadership Workshop series in 2020, more than 170 colleagues have been progressively trained in person, with overwhelmingly positive and constructive feedback shared by participants. In addition, the Humanitarian Leadership Workshop grew from a five-day event to a nine-month learning process in 2022, including preparatory webinars and a coaching trajectory. In 2023 the sessions will be at full capacity, enrolling 96 senior staff.

In a nutshell, the flexibility of global humanitarian thematic funding allowed UNICEF to continue investing in the people who give life to UNICEF humanitarian work.

Participants actively engage in a Humanitarian Leadership Workshop focusing on leading in emergencies, at the Dead Sea, Jordan, in November 2022. This Workshop covers general topics relevant to humanitarian leadership and is meant for colleagues with general humanitarian crises experience, including emergency preparedness and response; and for those with an interest in taking on leadership roles in emergencies.
Humanitarian leadership talent management strategy

In 2022, global humanitarian thematic funding was crucial to the implementation of the human resources recommendations outlined in the Humanitarian Review Report.

GHTF funds were used in 2022 to elaborate the Humanitarian Leadership Talent Management Strategy, which was designed to strengthen leadership in humanitarian action. The Humanitarian Review had identified a need to address perceived inconsistencies and unpredictability in UNICEF’s humanitarian action at the country level, variations driven by leaders’ differing experience, skills and preferences.

Thanks to GHTF, the UNICEF Division of Human Resources also was able to meet the Humanitarian Review recommendation to elaborate a consolidated surge strategy to ensure UNICEF has a streamlined surge system and sufficient qualified staff and other in-house resources to enable timely surge wherever and whenever it is needed. Funds also complemented the capacity of the Division’s surge team to support the timely deployment of 359 staff members who undertook 386 deployments through internal surge to 39 countries.

Recognizing the importance of human resources staff having ready access to up-to-date, robust knowledge and resources to better support country offices and to have an opportunity to engage as a community, GHTF fund supported the Division of Human Resources in reinforcing its knowledge management capacity. This included updating the Human Resources in Emergencies Toolkit, the key guide providing human resource teams (and other staff) with guidance on better supporting country offices operating in emergency contexts.

The eSitRep platform: Leveraging technology for improved humanitarian action

To advance the Humanitarian Review recommendations on preparing for future emergency contexts, and thanks to global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF built the first-ever eSitRep (Electronic Situation Report) platform to digitize the development of humanitarian Situation Reports (or SitReps).

UNICEF’s humanitarian action in all countries leading a humanitarian response is published through SitReps, which provide a regular updated snapshot of the evolving humanitarian response, the needs of women and children, funding requirements, results achieved to date and major gaps or bottlenecks in the response.

Since its launch in mid-2022, more than 200 UNICEF staff in country and regional offices have been equipped with skills to use the eSitRep platform. Twenty country offices (46 per cent of all country offices with a standalone Humanitarian Action for Children appeal) transitioned to eSitRep and produced 61 eSitReps from June through December 2022. Overall, the new platform has contributed to improving the speed and quality of reporting on UNICEF’s humanitarian response. The eSitRep platform has facilitated reporting by country offices, thanks to system features that allow for strengthened collaboration and quality assurance across country offices, regional offices and headquarters; integration of data from other UNICEF tools; auto-generation of a designed layout; and automation of data collection and analysis. And, thanks to the improved quality of reporting, UNICEF has upheld and strengthened its transparency and accountability to affected populations, to national and local governments and to the broader humanitarian community, including the donors.

In alignment with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, and building on the positive feedback received from users as well as lessons learned, UNICEF has continued to enhance this innovative tool in support of humanitarian response, with an updated version planned for release in mid-2023.
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