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Tiago Marquez, 4 years old, is measured by a doctor to check for his nutritional health in a UNICEF-supported mobile unit in Esquipulas, Guatemala (near the border with Honduras) on 30 July 2024.

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Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2

Reporting Period
1 January to 31 December 2024

Mexico and Central America: Children on the Move and other Crises

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2024, the migration of children across Mexico and Central America escalated, further exposing children on the move to heightened risks, including violence, exploitation and family separation. In Panama alone, more than 300,000 people crossed the Darien Gap, including over 4,500 unaccompanied children.
- Children on the move continued to face critical threats to their safety, health and well-being. Many experienced malnutrition, limited access to clean water, gender-based violence (GBV) and severe disruptions to their education.
- Despite the 2024 humanitarian appeal being only 47 per cent funded, UNICEF continued to provide life-saving support across the region. This included access to safe water and sanitation for 590,000 people, mental health and psychosocial support for 115,000 children and caregivers, and educational assistance for more than 35,000 children. Additionally, 115,000 children and women accessed GBV prevention services, while 81,000 children were screened for malnutrition.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

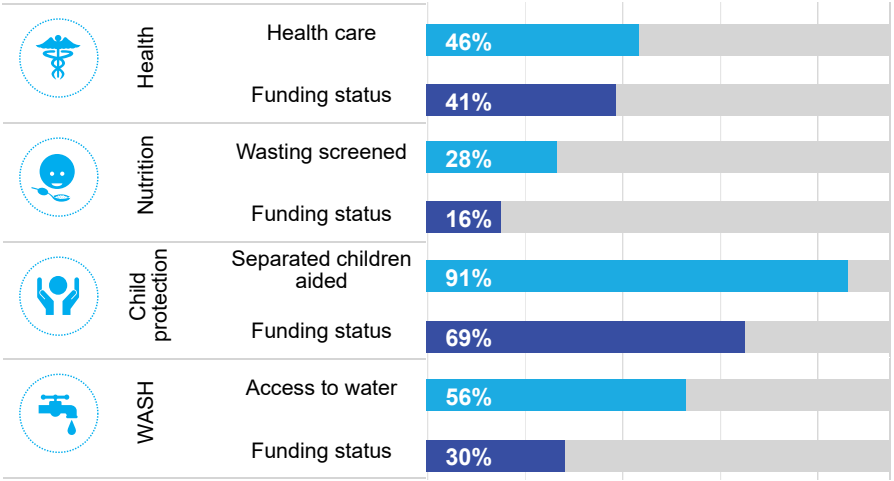
4,100,000
Children in need of humanitarian assistance[1]

11,000,000
People in need of humanitarian assistance

2,100,000
People to be reached

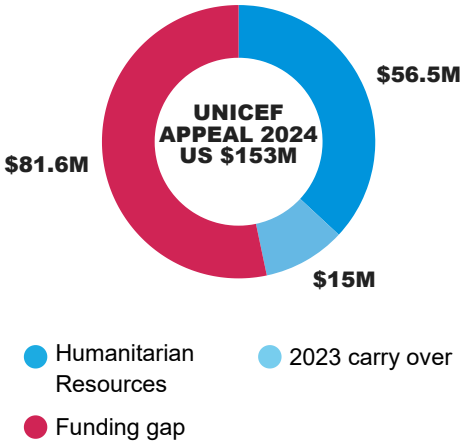
709,998
Children to be reached

UNICEF RESPONSE AND FUNDING STATUS*



* UNICEF response % is only for the indicator, the funding status is for the entire sector.

FUNDING STATUS (IN US$)**



** Funding available includes: funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors

FUNDING OVERVIEW AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2024, UNICEF appealed for US$153 million—funding essential to provide comprehensive humanitarian assistance to 2.1 million people, including nearly 710,000 children across Mexico and Central America. However, as of December 2024, only US$71 million (47 per cent of the appealed amount) had been secured, including US$56 million received in 2024 and US$15 million carried forward from 2023.

Despite this gap, UNICEF acknowledges with profound appreciation the donors who contributed to the US$56 million received in 2024, which enabled the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable children and families on the move. Generous funding from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the Government of France, OCHA allocations, the Republic of Korea, the Swedish Committee for UNICEF, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), UNICEF USA, UNICEF's Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds, the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), and USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) enabled UNICEF to address the urgent humanitarian needs across the sub-region.

In 2025, UNICEF requires US$249.5 million[2] to support children on the move across Mexico and Central America, as well as those affected by armed violence, climate threats and food insecurity throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. This expanded appeal reflects the growing humanitarian needs across the region, where escalating migration flows, intensifying climate-related hazards and worsening socio-economic conditions continue to put millions of children at risk.

Within Mexico and Central America, flexible funding remains critical to strengthen local systems and authorities in supporting children on the move and host communities, invest in child protection strategies that uphold children's rights and well-being, and maintain access to essential services, including safe water, education and child protection. It is also essential to provide continuous access to health and nutrition services for children and their families along migration routes and in hard-to-reach communities. Additionally, urgent support is required for other vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons and repatriated migrants, whose humanitarian needs are often overlooked.

SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In 2024, the migration of children throughout Mexico and Central America escalated, further exacerbating the region's already complex humanitarian crises. In Panama alone, over 300,000[3] crossings were recorded through the Darien Gap, including 64,764 children who accounted for 21 per cent of all migrants. Consequently, children now account for one in every five migrants crossing the Darien Gap, representing the fastest-growing demographic among those on the move in the region. Even more alarming, the number of unaccompanied children on the move increased by 36 per cent from 2023, reaching 4,500 in 2024.

Migration flows in Mexico have also surged, with 925,085[4] irregular migrants transiting the country between January and August 2024—a 132 per cent increase from the same period in 2023. Among them were 108,444 children, including 4,383 unaccompanied minors, reflecting a 70 per cent increase in child migration flows from the previous year. Many of these children originated from Venezuela, Ecuador, Honduras, Colombia and Guatemala. In Honduras, 346,013[5] irregular migrants were recorded passing through in 2024, 26 per cent of whom were children. Furthermore, more than 111,600[6] encounters with unaccompanied children were recorded at the US-Mexico border between January and December 2024. Together, these figures underscore the scale of the current child migration crisis across the region and continue to raise alarm regarding the ongoing risks that many face.

Recent reports highlight the potential dangers, revealing that three in five migrants[7] have experienced some form of mistreatment or abuse during their journey, including physical, sexual and psychological violence, as well as exploitation. Additionally, 38 per cent of migrants reported being victims of threats, intimidation or attacks. Children on the move, particularly unaccompanied minors, remain disproportionately vulnerable, facing heightened risks of family separation, exploitation and physical and psychological harm.

The situation is further exacerbated by multiple ongoing humanitarian crises within the region, including food insecurity, climate-related hazards and armed violence. Over 5.6 million people in the region, including 1.9 million children, are facing acute food insecurity,[8] often driven by climate-related events, such as droughts, wildfires and floods. In Guatemala, 28,701 cases of acute malnutrition were reported in 2024, marking a 16 per cent increase from the previous year. Of these cases, 21 per cent were classified as severe, with 83 deaths recorded among children under five. Widespread armed violence further compounds the crisis, with the region reporting some of the highest child and adolescent homicide rates worldwide.[9] Escalating insecurity and displacement continue to force families, particularly children, to flee their homes in search of safety.

The rising number of vulnerable children and families on the move have placed immense pressure on existing services, particularly in remote communities and transit hotspots where resources are scarce or non-existent. Despite securing less than half of the originally US$153 million appealed amount, UNICEF optimized its resources to deliver essential services throughout 2024, UNICEF maximised its resources to provide essential services throughout 2024, ensuring healthcare, nutrition, protection, education, safe water, sanitation and mental health support for vulnerable children and families along migration routes. UNICEF also strengthened preparedness, anticipatory actions and emergency response efforts to address the immediate needs of communities affected by multiple crises, including climate-related hazards and armed violence. This included adapting critical services and ensuring the timely delivery of essential supplies to remote and underserved areas. Of course, with full funding, UNICEF could have reached an even greater number of children in need, expanded critical services and responded more effectively to the escalating humanitarian demands of children on the move across the region.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE BY COUNTRY

BELIZE

Due to its proximity to the United States, Belize has long served as both a transit route and destination for irregular migrants, placing considerable strain on social services. An estimated 40,000–60,000 migrants arrive annually from neighbouring Central American countries such as Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, often fleeing violence, poverty and climate related hazards.

Despite efforts to integrate migrants, many continue to face significant barriers. Migrant children are particularly vulnerable, as they can be detained without adequate care. The discontinuation of the IOM-managed Assisted Voluntary Return programme, following

considerations related to immigration policies, has further limited support for migrants, including children on the move. A comprehensive migration policy is urgently needed to address legal identification, access to social protection and psychosocial services, prevent trafficking and exploitation, and ensure greater protection for migrant families and children.

In 2024, Belize faced unprecedented challenges in disaster preparedness and response. A severe dry season led to widespread wildfires, exacerbating vulnerabilities ahead of the Atlantic hurricane season. The country was subsequently impacted by Tropical Storm Sara in October and Tropical Storm Nadine in November, both of which brought heavy rainfall, strong winds and extensive flooding. Thirteen emergency shelters were activated, providing refuge for displaced individuals, including migrants from unregulated human settlements.

NUTRITION

Migrants continued to face significant barriers to adequate nutrition due to legal restrictions and limited resources. To address this, UNICEF implemented a comprehensive health and nutrition programme, delivering services to large migrant populations through health facilities and mobile clinics. By the end of 2024, 2,753 children aged 6 months to 5 years received Vitamin A supplements, 2,491 children aged 1 to 5 years received deworming tablets, and 4,168 children aged 6 months to 5 years were screened for malnutrition. Of these, 93 were underweight, 8 were wasted and 262 were stunted and received targeted interventions. Additionally, 17,147 primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months were provided with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling.

HEALTH

Migrant children in rural areas continued struggling to access consistent healthcare, hindered by transportation, financial, legal and cultural barriers. In response, UNICEF facilitated primary healthcare access through mobile clinics and supported health centres, reaching 3,313 children with essential vaccinations and providing skilled birth delivery support to 2,973 pregnant women.

WASH

Access to essential services, such as safe drinking water, remained unequal. Although 96 per cent of Belizeans had access to safe drinking water, rural areas, including Stann Creek and Toledo lacked access. Approximately 20 rural villages lacked basic water systems and only 58.3 per cent of schools had potable water. To address this, UNICEF enhanced water access in nine communities with large migrant populations, expanding distribution networks and installing solar-powered water systems, benefiting over 25,000 people. These new systems were also connected to health facilities and schools, ensuring broader community support. Additionally, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) kits were distributed to 250 migrant households in partnership with the Belize Red Cross and the Child Development Foundation.

In May 2024, severe forest fires in Toledo destroyed 10,000 hectares of agricultural land, affecting San Pedro Columbia, Crique Jute and Na Luum Ca. Fires threatened homes in surrounding villages, affecting 300 families. In response, UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Rural Transformation to provide water tanks to eight communities, improving water storage for both firefighting and consumption, benefiting over 10,000 people.

EDUCATION

Migrants in Belize faced barriers to education access due to legal status and frequent relocations in 2024. In response, UNICEF supported foundational learning skills development through digital assessments in eight primary schools among migrant communities, reaching 14,595 students. Additionally, 960 families and 1,124 children (including 10 children with disabilities), received Care for Child Development counselling and stimulation activities. In total, 22,402 children accessed formal and non-formal education in 2024. UNICEF also strengthened early childhood education (EcE) through capacity building, benefiting 3,000 children.

CHILD PROTECTION, GBVIE AND PSEA

Children on the move faced significant protection risks in 2024, including family separation and lack of legal identity. In partnership with IOM, UNICEF participated in six Legal Identity and Integration Mobile Hubs, supporting 6,959 children in obtaining legal identity services and facilitating the issuance of 12,173 birth certificates. An alternative placement shelter for unaccompanied minors provided care and case management services to 36 migrant children. A gender-transformative parenting programme supported 1,000 children, adolescents and caregivers, while 88 children and adolescents participated in national consultations on access to justice.

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND CASH TRANSFERS

In early 2024, UNICEF supported a nutrition-responsive cash transfer programme benefiting 454 individuals (402 children under five and 52 pregnant women) in 12 villages in Toledo District, where stunting prevalence had reached 33 per cent. The programme aimed to improve maternal and child nutrition outcomes by addressing immediate and underlying determinants through social protection, health, nutrition, WASH, early childhood development and agriculture interventions. Activities included cooking demonstrations, hygiene promotion and gardening initiatives to promote food security and nutrition. The programme concluded successfully in March 2024.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (SBC), ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MHW) in Belize to deliver health and nutrition education through community health workers, reaching 17,147 pregnant women and caregivers via health facilities, mobile clinics and home visits. These sessions promoted healthy behaviours, particularly breastfeeding and infant feeding practices, designed to contribute to an increase in trust of health services, higher institutional birth rates and greater child immunisation coverage. In addition, the joint IOM-UNICEF needs assessment, conducted through the Belize Red Cross, provided a safe and confidential feedback mechanism for affected populations. A public hotline, managed by the Belize Red Cross, provided accessible communication and support.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

Through the 3rd UN Joint Workplan, UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR increased advocacy efforts with the government of Belize, promoting a human rights-based approach to migration, aligned with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children and International Protection Law. The United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETT)—the primary humanitarian coordination body—developed the Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan, with UNICEF leading WASH coordination through partnerships with PAHO-WHO and MHW. UNICEF provided WASH support to families affected by wildfires and flooding from tropical cyclones. Additionally, the WASH Multi-Sectoral Body reconvened to draft its first multi-sector WASH response plan, in partnership with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and health authorities, assessing water access in shelters

and informal settlements.

A key milestone was the materialisation of a data sharing agreement under the 2024 UN Joint Migration Workplan, enabling data sharing between UNICEF and IOM. Separately, UN agencies with the Belize Red Cross, conducted a needs assessment in 15 host and migrant communities across Belize, surveying 870 households and revealing urgent gaps in mental health services. Alarmingly, 79 per cent of respondents reported that children and women had not received mental health support, underscoring the need for community-based mental health interventions.

COSTA RICA

In 2024, Costa Rica recorded the arrival of 316,490 migrants, 21 per cent of whom were children, with 53 per cent under the age of five. During the last few months of the year, there was a notable increase in migrants seeking permanent settlement, placing severe strain on national resources. Fiscal constraints have further limited the government's ability to provide adequate support, particularly in Los Chiles, near the northern border with Nicaragua. Families remain highly vulnerable to human trafficking and gender-based violence, with adolescent girls and women at risk of being forced into prostitution to finance their journeys. Alarmingly, the profiling of single women with children increased in the second half of 2024. Increased migration has also led to visible social tensions, including increased street begging, fuelling xenophobia, particularly in San Jose.

To support the Government of Costa Rica's response, UNICEF implemented humanitarian interventions in education in emergencies (EiE), child protection, health and nutrition, and WASH. These efforts targeted high-reception areas, ensuring comprehensive services for migrant children and their families. UNICEF prioritised strengthening partnerships to enhance government capacity through improved coordination, knowledge transfer and capacity building. All activities were closely coordinated with the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and UN agencies, including IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA and UN Women.

NUTRITION

Reports from the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Costa Rica confirmed that family groups with children made up a significant portion of the migration flow. In response, UNICEF prioritised support for pregnant and breastfeeding women. Consequently, three per cent of pregnant women were referred for medical assistance under the care of MoH. This initiative emphasised nutritional counselling for women, their partners and families, focusing on the health and psychological benefits of breastfeeding, strengthening infant immunity and reducing maternal stress for both lactating infants and mothers. To enhance this support, UNICEF established breastfeeding rooms at both borders, providing safe spaces where mothers received support and information. These facilities benefited 1,725 women, 162 men and 149 children. The breastfeeding rooms combined specialised infrastructure with comprehensive services, including lactation support from trained nurses. Topics covered included infant nutrition, early childhood stimulation, positive parenting, stress reduction, gender-based violence prevention and family planning. This initiative, in collaboration with UNFPA, provided holistic support to women, including adolescent mothers and their families.

HEALTH

To address the health needs of migrant children and their families, UNICEF, in partnership with MoH and international NGO, the Cadena Foundation, delivered health services at both the northern and southern borders of Costa Rica. In 2024, over 10,970 migrants in transit—of whom 45 per cent were children (51 per cent boys, 49 per cent girls)—received medical care, primarily for infectious, respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases. UNICEF strengthened health service coordination by improving screening, triage protocols and referral mechanisms between NGOs and the government, ensuring a more efficient response. Medical supplies, including gauze, manual resuscitators, oximeters, thermometers and cleaning and disinfection items, were distributed to support healthcare delivery. Recognising challenges in treating and monitoring malnourished children, UNICEF, in collaboration with UNFPA, promoted breastfeeding and worked to reduce reliance on breast milk substitutes at the Southern Migration Station (EMISUR) and Los Chiles. UNICEF also provided nutritional education and guidance to support child and maternal health.

WASH

In 2024, UNICEF provided 24/7 access to WASH services in Costa Rica, benefiting 306,039 migrants. The response prioritised knowledge transfer, enabling the government to strengthen national and local capacities, improve WASH infrastructure and enhance sector coordination at key border points. Rehabilitation, construction and maintenance of WASH facilities at border crossings and in the capital were central to UNICEF's efforts. At the border with Panama, UNICEF strengthened the government's capacity to address WASH needs at EMISUR. Advocacy and technical support facilitated stronger government leadership and the active participation of key local and national institutions, leading to improved WASH response and coordination. By April 2024, MoH assumed leadership of the WASH Services Coordination Mechanism, streamlining national, local and humanitarian efforts. Additionally, with UNICEF's support, MoH and the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) advanced plans for a new water treatment plant to cope with the daily influx of migrants. By July 2024, MoH assumed responsibility for coordinating the WASH sector at the northern border with Nicaragua, integrating sustainability measures and enabling the government to take ownership of key investments supporting migrants. In addition, 9,632 children and adolescents (48 per cent girls and 44 per cent boys) and their caregivers (five per cent women and three per cent men) received essential hygiene items.

EDUCATION

UNICEF prioritised educational referrals for 223 children and adolescents in the metropolitan area, supporting their enrolment in Costa Rica's public education system. As a result, 51 children successfully enrolled. In coordination with the Ministry of Public Education, schools in host communities received educational supplies to facilitate the integration of migrant children. A total of 3,002 children and adolescents benefited from these efforts, including 773 migrant children in transit who received educational continuity and early stimulation materials. Additionally, 1,557 children received educational kits and 672 received early stimulation kits in childcare centres located in migrant host communities. Non-formal education interventions in Child-Friendly Safe Spaces at the northern and southern borders with Panama and Nicaragua reached 6,023 children and adolescents (49 per cent girls, 51 per cent boys). These activities promoted educational continuity, strengthened literacy, mathematics and social sciences, while fostering skills development to support well-being and integration into the local education system.

CHILD PROTECTION, GBVIE AND PSEA

In collaboration with Costa Rica's Child Welfare Agency (PANI), UNICEF provided comprehensive services in four Child-Friendly Safe Spaces at the borders and one in the metropolitan area for migrant children and their families. Services included case management referrals to national institutions for medical treatment

and special protection services for unaccompanied and separated children. Additionally, psychosocial support, violence prevention and gender-based violence response efforts were integrated with play-based learning activities. These spaces also ensured access to essential WASH facilities, distributed humanitarian kits, facilitated emergency shelter referrals and provided internet connectivity, benefiting 48,458 children and adolescents on the move and their families (29 per cent girls, 32 per cent boys, 21 per cent women, 18 per cent men).

Strengthening reporting mechanisms for sexual exploitation and abuse remained a priority in 2024. Dedicated protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) resources were embedded within existing services at border points, including at EMISUR and the Temporary Attention Center for Migrants (CATEM) at the southern border and the Los Chiles community at the northern border. PSEA specialists worked closely with community leaders, government officials and civil society to integrate and enhance protection measures. In addition, 24 institutional and civil society partners participated in comprehensive PSEA capacity-building training, including the development of PSEA action plans.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE (SBC), ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATION (AAP)

In 2024, UNICEF ensured the active participation of migrant populations in Costa Rica in evaluating service quality and identifying evolving needs. A structured feedback mechanism was introduced for transit migrants at border points and in San Jose. Using the KoBo Toolbox platform, this mechanism gathered demographic data, enabled service selection, assessed quality, suggested improvements and evaluated staff and facilities. Since its launch in September 2024, data has been collected from 257 respondents (56 per cent women, 44 per cent men), primarily aged 25–59 years. Venezuelan nationals made up 80 per cent of respondents. Service satisfaction ratings were overwhelmingly positive: 66 per cent rated services as “excellent”; 23 per cent as “good”; 10 per cent as “fair”; and one per cent as “poor”. Staff performance was rated: “excellent” by 72 per cent; “good” by 19 per cent; and “fair” by nine per cent. In addition, 93 per cent of respondents reported the services and products met their needs. To further raise awareness of Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), including PSEA, UNICEF focal points provided information and support to 6,851 people (2,922 boys, 2,401 girls, 529 men, 999 women), including 123 pregnant women and 169 people with disabilities. Specialised, child-friendly methodologies enabled the provision of PSEA information to 1,803 children in transit.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

In coordination with the Directorate General of Migration and Foreigners, UNICEF worked with IOM, UNHCR and UNFPA to implement an Interagency Contingency and Action Plan, focused on responding to mixed migration flows and the increasing humanitarian needs of migrants. The government and the UN system established a working group to monitor changing conditions and provide differentiated humanitarian assistance based on evolving migration patterns. Discussions on establishing a new Migration Station at the northern border with Nicaragua remain ongoing at both the strategic level within the central government and the technical level among local authorities. Within this context, UNICEF, alongside UN agencies and local NGOs, continued to provide technical expertise and advisory support. As the sector lead for WASH, UNICEF strengthened humanitarian response coordination at EMISUR, in collaboration with the DGME and the municipalities of Corridoes and Los Chiles. UNICEF successfully advocated for the local MoH office to co-lead the response, ensuring improved coordination and shared responsibility.

EL SALVADOR

El Salvador continued to experience significant migratory pressures as a country of origin, return and transit to the United States in 2024. The Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance reported 5,479 Salvadorans seeking asylum[10] throughout the year, while US authorities recorded more than 53,000 encounters,[11] including 7,677 unaccompanied children. At El Salvador’s borders, 90,300 migrants arrived, primarily from Ecuador, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic.[12] Additionally, 15,003 Salvadorans returned, including 1,955 children and 512 unaccompanied minors, reflecting a 12.3 per cent increase from 2023. These figures highlight an urgent need to strengthen border services and shelters to meet the protection, education, health and WASH needs of migrants. In El Salvador, 37.9 per cent of children and adolescents live without parental care[13] often due to migration, abandonment, or the prolonged state of emergency that has led to over 83,600 arrests since March 2022. These children face heightened risks of poverty, malnutrition, abuse, mental health issues and institutionalisation. Erratic El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-driven weather patterns in 2024 resulted in severe storms, also displacing over 5,000 people, including 1,200 children.[14] In July 2024, a dengue emergency was declared, with 60 per cent of those affected under the age of nine.[15] These challenges underscore the critical need for a multi-sectoral response, combining child protection, climate resilience, and health interventions to support children without parental care and address emerging crises effectively.

NUTRITION

In 2024, UNICEF trained 1,247 health workers in nutrition surveillance, anthropometry and malnutrition management, using tools such as Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) bands. This training improved assessments and referrals for over 67,950 children and 2,265 pregnant women in 70 communities. Additionally, UNICEF provided IYCF counselling to 24,949 primary caregivers, including through educational materials on nutrition and breastfeeding for migrant and host communities. These efforts promote healthy behaviours, improve family nutrition and ensure critical support for vulnerable populations affected by human mobility.

HEALTH

UNICEF strengthened healthcare access in El Salvador in 2024 by equipping eight International Health Offices (OSI) and 49 health units in border areas, benefiting more than 146,000 people annually, including at least 41,199 migrants—96.7 per cent of whom were children. These facilities play a critical role in medical surveillance and healthcare, monitoring and verification of health documents, including vaccination records, health education, and promotion of preventive care. Strengthening these services has been crucial for early disease detection, timely medical care and the implementation of control measures, particularly for migrants in transit. These efforts ensured that vulnerable populations received essential health support and protection at key points of entry into the country.

WASH

UNICEF provided critical WASH support to 3,804 people on the move, including 1,098 children and adolescents. Assistance was delivered through essential supplies and hygiene promotion programmes, implemented via mobile units and Safe Spaces placed at strategic locations, such as border areas and schools. Additionally, 11,424 people, including 5,803 children and adolescents, gained access to dignified water and sanitation facilities. UNICEF’s

interventions prioritised gender, protection and accessibility, yet critical gaps persist in the provision of hygiene items, safe drinking water and adequate personal hygiene and menstrual health management facilities—all of which remain pressing needs for people on the move. UNICEF provided humanitarian assistance to 2,875 people, including 2,346 children, by distributing hygiene kits, mosquito nets and essential supplies to those displaced by storms and affected by the dengue outbreak. To strengthen emergency response efforts, UNICEF provided water quality monitoring equipment to the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA) and trained 12 staff in its use. These measures ensured timely, high-quality humanitarian assistance, prioritising the needs of children and adolescents.

EDUCATION

UNICEF provided learning materials to 963 children and adolescents in El Salvador in 2024, including digital resources such as QR codes for literacy, math, and English games, as well as physical materials designed to support motor and self-care skill development.[16] Of these, 335 children participated in educational reinforcement sessions organised by the Commission for the Determination of the Status of Refugees (CODER) and civil society organisations. Additionally, UNICEF trained 42 volunteers in catch-up methodology, enabling them to support math and literacy clubs in 10 host communities, directly benefiting 199 children. UNICEF also provided training to 13 officers from nine government institutions on EiE and the use of a multi-age learning guide. Given the limited time migrant children spend in transit in El Salvador, regional coordination remains critical in ensuring continuity in their education. UNICEF facilitated access to formal and non-formal education for 791 vulnerable children and adolescents in Santa Ana and San Miguel, identified as at risk due to poverty, absence of parental care, violence, and disabilities. Support included literacy and math recovery sessions, alongside multimodal education approaches. Furthermore, 471 teachers received training in life skills and psychosocial support, indirectly benefiting 2,365 children (1,183 girls, 1,182 boys). Educational continuity was further strengthened through the distribution of 2,837 education kits and psychosocial support for 548 children and adolescents.

CHILD PROTECTION, GBVIE AND PSEA

UNICEF provided mental health and psychosocial support, safe spaces, case referrals, legal counselling, essential information and supplies to 1,915 children and adolescents and 2,574 family members in El Salvador in 2024. Additionally, 2,927 people, including government officials, NGO workers and members of border communities, received training on child protection, PSEA, gender equality and psychosocial support. UNICEF also conducted data collection on migrant needs, particularly focusing on children, and collaborated with UNHCR and WFP to implement a regional mixed migration monitoring strategy. However, gaps remain in access to specialised services, as well as in the availability of comprehensive data to fully assess the specific needs of populations on the move. To address the growing crisis of children without parental care, UNICEF, in coordination with CONAPINA and the Latin American Foster Care Network (RELAF), launched a participatory assessment of the alternative care system in El Salvador. The objective is to prevent unnecessary family separation, ensure high-quality family- and community-based alternative care services and eliminate institutionalisation of children in line with national and international standards. This initiative seeks to strengthen the child protection system, promote family reunification and improve alternative care options for vulnerable children.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (SBC), ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

In 2024, UNICEF, in collaboration with partners, finalised a social and behaviour change strategy to support migrant populations in transit. This included the development and distribution of materials providing essential information on WASH, PSEA, coping mechanisms, psychosocial support, legal assistance and educational continuity, reaching 8,194 people. Feedback mechanisms significantly enhanced humanitarian response efforts by improving the selection and distribution of items, inventory management and referral services. A total of 72 individuals provided feedback on the services they received. UNICEF supported the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in El Salvador in designing and implementing a collective feedback and complaints mechanism for affected populations. This initiative began with mapping existing feedback mechanisms used by HCT members and the channels through which vulnerable populations access information, communicate and report concerns. These efforts aim to improve accountability, strengthen two-way communication and enhance response efforts in humanitarian settings.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

UNICEF played a central role in the humanitarian coordination in El Salvador, working closely with government agencies, UN partners and humanitarian organisations to respond to multiple crises, including migration flows, climate-related hazards linked to El Niño and La Niña and the national dengue emergency. UNICEF led coordination efforts in nutrition, education and WASH, while co-leading the child protection and health sectors. In collaboration with UNHCR and WFP, UNICEF also reinforced protection monitoring at border areas, ensuring a more effective humanitarian response to the increasing number of people on the move. Additionally, UNICEF actively participated in the Cash Transfer Group, providing technical support to prioritise interventions for households with children facing economic hardship. As part of its broader advocacy and evidence-based response efforts, UNICEF contributed to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) with OCHA, highlighting that 819,000 people[17] in El Salvador required humanitarian assistance.

GUATEMALA

In 2024, Guatemala experienced increased migration, reflecting regional trends and leading to heightened humanitarian needs for children and families in transit. Between January and November, 72,244 people (11 per cent children, 23 per cent women) were returned from Mexico and the United States, including 2,685 unaccompanied children, 48 per cent of whom are indigenous. Additionally, the National Institute of Migration (INM) of Honduras reported 339,978 people entering Honduras irregularly from Guatemala, marking a significant increase compared to 188,858 in 2022. Of these, 26 per cent were children and adolescents, with Venezuelans (54 per cent), Cubans (17 per cent) and Haitians (6 per cent) comprising the largest groups. In response, UNICEF adapted its programming to address the needs of unaccompanied and separated children, families and women with children, focusing on health, nutrition, education, child protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Throughout 2024, Guatemala experienced fluctuating climate trends due to the transition between El Niño and La Niña, which exacerbated rainfall levels, leading to significant crop losses and an escalating malnutrition crisis. By December, the country's MoH reported 28,701 cases of acute malnutrition, a 16 per cent increase

from 2023. Of these, 21 per cent were classified as severe, with 83 deaths reported among children under five. Droughts and hydrometeorological disasters triggered 2,976 incidents, affecting 23,702 people, displacing 2,061 individuals and forcing the evacuation of 52,284 people. In April, the government declared a state of calamity following widespread wildfires that ravaged northern Guatemala, impacting both forest and non-forest areas. A total of 2,634 fires destroyed 68,852 hectares of forest, threatening the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Following a severe dry season, heavy rainfall caused extensive infrastructure damage in San Marcos, Retalhuleu and other regions.

NUTRITION

In 2024, UNICEF prioritised nutrition support for migrants in transit in Guatemala, focusing on preventing malnutrition and mortality among children under five and women of childbearing age, including adolescents, pregnant and lactating women. Mobile Nutrition Teams operated at critical transit points, such as the Esquipulas border in Chiquimula, delivering comprehensive nutrition services, including evaluations, supplementation, deworming, counselling and caloric support for underweight individuals. In 2024, a total of 1,898 children under five (50 per cent girls, 50 per cent boys) were assessed, 23 of whom (8 girls, 15 boys) were diagnosed with acute malnutrition, while 22 were identified with moderate acute malnutrition. Of those diagnosed, 83 per cent received full treatment with therapeutic food. Additionally, UNICEF partnered with three shelters to enhance food services, introducing balanced menus for migrant populations.

HEALTH

UNICEF strengthened primary health care services in Esquipulas, Chiquimula in 2024. The expansion of mobile units allowed for medical assistance to be provided to 3,957 women, 2,813 boys and 2,319 girls. Additionally, 44 health workers comprised of 13 men and 31 women received training in infection prevention and control (IPC) to enhance health monitoring, disease prevention and service delivery.

WASH

UNICEF's WASH team played a pivotal role in providing essential water, sanitation and hygiene services at border points with Honduras and Mexico in 2024. Migratory flows remained consistent throughout the year, except for June, when the Venezuelan elections caused a temporary decline in transit migration. The prolonged stay of migrants in Guatemala increased the demand for WASH services, particularly in Esquipulas, which strained the existing infrastructure. In response, UNICEF restructured its WASH capacity to better meet the needs of migrants. Throughout 2024, UNICEF provided essential WASH supplies to 124,965 people, including hygiene items. safe sanitation facilities were accessed by 94,372 individuals and 30,658 children benefited from safe WASH facilities in schools and safe spaces. In September 2024, following a request from the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction's (CONRED) Executive Secretariat, UNICEF donated 250 family hygiene kits and 100 cleaning kits to flood-affected communities. This support benefited 1,500 people, including 780 women, 720 men and 900 children.

EDUCATION

Ensuring the right to education for all children and adolescents in Guatemala remained a significant challenge in 2024, particularly in emergency contexts. As a country marked by constant human mobility, many children and adolescents in transit faced severe barriers to education, including limited access to schools, prolonged stress and frequent disruptions to their learning. It was essential to provide alternative learning opportunities that emphasized the importance of education, reinforcing that it served as the foundation for their future, even as they navigated precarious conditions along their journey. In 2024, 500 individuals, including children and adolescents from Mexico, sought refuge in Cuilco Huehuetenango, in Guatemala. However, the area lacked sufficient educational facilities, preventing displaced children from accessing a safe and supportive learning environment. At the beginning of 2024, the Ministry of Education (MoE) released alarming data on educational infrastructure, revealing that 5,386 schools lacked sufficient water supply and 10,484 required water pipe repairs. Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is essential for ensuring safe and dignified learning environments.

Climate change and natural hazards further exacerbated disruptions in education, infrastructure instability and forced schools to function as shelters, further delaying emergency education response efforts. In 2023, 2.7 million children and adolescents were out of the education system, underscoring the urgent need for alternative learning opportunities. The After-School Education Centres (CEEX) played a critical role in reintegrating students into education. In 2024, UNICEF supported 10 CEEX centres, benefiting 739 students (64 per cent female, 36 per cent male). Additionally, 28 CEEX centres received teaching materials, which have since been integrated into the MoE's strategy in Alta Verapaz.

CHILD PROTECTION, GBVIE AND PSEA

In 2024, high levels of child migration and the return of Guatemalan minors persisted. In response, UNICEF Guatemala maintained a psychosocial support programme, offering play kits, safe spaces and information on child rights and services. UNICEF also strengthened case management and inter-institutional mechanisms in collaboration with government agencies, despite ongoing challenges. Across all child protection interventions, UNICEF reached 130,259 people, including: 49,979 men; 33,346 women; 26,005 boys; and 20,929 girls. UNICEF's psychosocial teams operated in four border points; two government shelters for unaccompanied children; two reception centres; five civil society shelters; and four departments with high migration flows. Additionally, behavioural change interventions were conducted in seven departments, while at the national level, UNICEF supported the development of a protocol for the Reception and Care of Migrant Children and Adolescents, promoting a rights-based approach to human mobility.

Also in 2024, 33,970 children, parents and caregivers received mental health and psychosocial support; 80,280 women and children accessed gender-based violence services; and 2,929 unaccompanied children (73 per cent boys, 27 per cent girls) were reunited or placed in alternative care. To achieve these results, UNICEF engaged in high-level lobbying with the Secretariat of Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking (SVET), the Ministry of Health (MSPAS), and the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES). These efforts aimed to ensure sexual violence prevention and response interventions were endorsed, coordinated and led by the central government. UNICEF continued to support children affected by gender-based violence with prevention and response mechanisms at the community and municipal levels. In 2024, there was an increase in the number of boys assisted in GBV-related interventions, highlighting the growing risks faced by both girls and boys in intervention areas, including Alta Verapaz, Escuintla and Guatemala City. In response, UNICEF supported 23,624 children, adolescents and caregivers in accessing mental health and psychosocial support; and ensured 39,331 women and children benefited from interventions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND CASH TRANSFERS

In the first quarter of 2024, UNICEF continued its efforts to integrate social protection cash transfers in collaboration with civil society

partners and the government. An analysis of the normative framework for cash transfers in Guatemala was conducted with the participation of key institutions, including the Ministry of Social Development and the Executive Secretariat of the National Coordinator for Disaster Risk Reduction. This analysis has facilitated the development of future programmes and improved overall disaster risk management in the country.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (SBC), ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

In 2024, migration remained constant in Guatemala's border areas, with high numbers of people in need of assistance. Many lacked access to vital information on available services, particularly in child protection, WASH, health and nutrition. Through UNICEF's Communication for Development (C4D) and Accountability to Affected Populations strategy, local partners actively engaged with migrant communities, ensuring their feedback was heard and incorporated into service improvements. The AAP strategy also addressed PSEA and safeguarding concerns, ensuring culturally relevant, accessible information was available to migrant populations. In border areas, UNICEF Guatemala focused on disseminating health and nutrition messages tailored to young children; Improving migrant access to key services; and strengthening collaboration with local governments and response institutions. Feedback mechanisms were strengthened through: A dedicated mailbox on UNICEF Mobile Units; Reports collected from field partners; and a targeted assessment to understand children's dietary needs and cultural food preferences. Findings were shared with service providers, ensuring that humanitarian assistance aligned with the actual needs of affected communities.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

UNICEF continued to coordinate with the national, departmental and municipal governments and other organisations' initiatives of Guatemala in affected communities in 2024. The coordination resulted in the launch of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HPR) for 2024 in the areas of nutrition, education, WASH and child protection. Similarly, in response to the migratory dynamics, the Council for Attention and Protection (CAP), an inter-institutional governmental space for the attention of migrants created by the Migration Code, continues to coordinate efforts to address the increased migration flows. The working group includes different United Nations agencies, among them UNICEF, which emphasizes the need for a child protection approach for children and adolescents in transit and aims to enhance coordination between migration agencies and child protection institutions. In 2024, UNICEF Guatemala assumed leadership of the United Nations Migration Working Group (GEMIG), coordinating efforts to address the humanitarian needs of the migrant population. In addition, UNICEF currently leads the nutrition, education and WASH sectors and the child protection cluster. It has established work plans, regular and extraordinary coordination mechanisms, emphasizing protection and accountability to affected populations. This leadership has resulted in more efficient and effective response to humanitarian situations, facilitating precise and timely decisions.

HONDURAS

In 2024, Honduras faced significant challenges related to human mobility, exacerbated by violence, socio-political instability and elevated levels of poverty and inequality. According to the INM, approximately 346,013 people (26 per cent children, 27 per cent women) transited irregularly through Honduras in 2024.[18] Despite a 25 per cent reduction in migration influx compared to 2023, Honduras remained a critical hub for human mobility. The proportion of migrant children also increased, from 20 per cent in 2023 to 26 per cent in 2024, underscoring the urgent need for child-focused humanitarian response efforts. Between January and August 2024, the US Border Patrol detained 36,658 Honduran migrant children, while 39,632 migrants (including 26 per cent children) were forcibly returned to Honduras.[19] Many returnees expressed their intention to migrate again due to deteriorating conditions. Surveys conducted by UNICEF and its partners indicate that migrant children—both in transit[20] and returnees—face severe risks, including limited access to basic services, exposure to violence (including sexual and gender-based violence) and prolonged disruptions in education, all of which threaten their development and well-being.

In 2024, Honduras continued to face complex crises, driven by deep social inequalities, armed violence and climate-related hazards. The country has one of the highest homicide rates in the region, with eight out of ten victims being children (2023). More than 819,263 school-age children—46 per cent girls—are out of the education system, primarily due to violence, forced displacement and insecurity. The humanitarian crisis worsened in November 2024 following Tropical Storm Sara, which affected 32 per cent of the national territory, particularly in the violence-prone Sula Valley region. The storm impacted more than 259,520 people, including 113,067 children, displacing 8,927 people across 116 shelters and leaving over 286,200 without access to safe water and sanitation systems. Prolonged rainfall, damaged infrastructure and created stagnant water, while isolated communities further hindered humanitarian access and increased response costs. Despite efforts from the government and humanitarian actors, limited funding and logistical constraints left critical needs unmet as of 2024 year's end. The convergence of violence, displacement and climate-related crises continues to strain Honduras' humanitarian and social protection systems, exacerbating vulnerabilities among the most at-risk populations.

NUTRITION

UNICEF's nutrition response in Honduras in 2024 focused on children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women (PWL) in the context of human mobility. A total of 8,599 children (49 per cent girls, 51 per cent boys) were screened to assess their nutritional status at the southern and western borders, Centro Belen and communities in Cortes. Of these, three per cent were identified as acutely malnourished and therefore received outpatient nutritional treatment. Nutritional supplements were provided to 1,494 PWL, while 5,905 primary caregivers (97 per cent women, 3 per cent men) were sensitised on breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices. In the final months of 2024, Honduras experienced a notable decrease in migration flows, leading to a reorientation of services at border care points and an extension of nutritional service hours for children under five and PWL. These adjustments required logistical and human resource adaptations to improve outreach, as well as enhanced protection measures due to rising security risks.

During the emergency response to Tropical Storm Sara, UNICEF provided nutritional support to 881 people, including 226 children under five years of age (51 per cent boys, 49 per cent girls) and 189 children aged 5-17 (53 per cent girls, 47 per cent boys), who were screened for malnutrition. In addition, 294 PWL received key messages on the importance of breastfeeding and appropriate nutrition during emergencies, while 172 male caregivers of children under five were sensitised on IYCF practices. Despite these efforts, the total number of people requiring nutrition assistance during the storm remained unknown, highlighting a significant gap in Honduras' ability to collect and analyse data to assess the real needs of children and women, particularly during emergencies. Secondary

sources offered no specific data on the number of children under five, infants under six months, and pregnant and lactating women, nor data disaggregated by age and gender. As a result, UNICEF relied on community-specific data collected by its implementing partners. While valuable, this information was limited in scope and did not fully capture the impact of the emergency.

HEALTH

In 2024, UNICEF provided life-saving primary health care to children, women and caregivers on the move at key transit points along the western and southern borders in Honduras. A total of 18,885 people (32 per cent boys, 33 per cent girls, 35 per cent women) received primary health care at five service points. Additionally, 406 children (43 per cent boys, 57 per cent girls) were vaccinated to address incomplete immunisation schedules, preventing disease outbreaks in their destination countries. Mobile health units operated in areas with high migration flows, ensuring that no one was left behind. These efforts were coordinated with the country's MoH and other health service providers to avoid duplication. However, gaps persisted, particularly the lack of a formal MoH response tailored to the needs of children on the move. UNICEF continues to advocate for the deployment of mobile community health teams to complement humanitarian efforts and is actively mobilising funding for medical supplies and essential medicines.

UNICEF also deployed mobile primary health care services to families living in high-violence areas, where gang control severely limits health workers' access to communities. Through these efforts in three municipalities, a total of 8,859 people (32 per cent boys, 33 per cent girls, 35 per cent pregnant women) benefited from primary health care services. Additionally, 21,398 people (30 per cent boys, 32 per cent girls, 20 per cent women, 18 per cent men) received health education on topics such as early pregnancy prevention, HPV vaccination, contraceptive use, menstrual hygiene and adolescent health. To address Honduras' low immunisation coverage, UNICEF also supported MoH in vaccinating 675,772 children across four prioritised health regions. However, access to health care remains severely restricted in gang-controlled areas, significantly impacting vaccination rates. UNICEF continues to engage in ongoing negotiations to deploy mobile health teams under specific conditions to deliver vaccination campaigns and essential primary health care services in these high-risk zones.

WASH

In 2024, a total of 166,489 migrants (22,409 boys, 22,593 girls, 5,8105 men, 63,382 women) were reached with dignified and gender-inclusive sanitation services. Additionally, 62,830 individuals (6,132 boys, 6,974 girls, 22,606 men, 27,118 women) received hygiene services and items, including menstrual hygiene products. Safe access to water was provided to 244,744 people (38,715 boys, 36,659 girls, 93,067 men, 76,303 women) at six migrant hotspots and shelters, with UNICEF being the sole WASH humanitarian assistance provider at two of these locations. Throughout 2024, 90 per cent of returned migrants identified through official data available for WASH needs assessments (400 out of 435 families) faced non-existent or limited WASH services at their households. This preliminary information revealed significant gaps in safe access to WASH services for returned migrants, leading to greater vulnerability to water-related diseases, nutritional setbacks, missed school days due to intestinal infections and gender-based violence when fetching water outside the household. In response, UNICEF improved access to safe water at the household level through the provision of purifying filters and training on water purification methods and healthy hygiene habits for 1,925 family members of 400 returned migrants, including 454 girls and 490 boys. Among these, 30 children and their families (126 people) were also supported with the improvement of toilets, sinks and the installation of water tanks, transitioning from non-existent or precarious conditions to safe access to WASH services.

The need for WASH services, specifically for migrants, increased tensions among host communities, who complained about the saturation of available services and the weakening of municipalities' capacity for waste management in migration hotspots. To address this situation and mitigate the risks of disease spread among migrant and host communities, UNICEF focused on sustainable WASH solutions, reaching at least 5,646 inhabitants living in communities near migration attention points (847 girls, 847 boys, 1,976 women, 1,976 men) with improved drinking water services and safe solid waste management. Additionally, 508 people (122 girls, 148 boys, 142 women, 96 men) living in communities affected by violence improved their access to safe water at the household level, and 837 people (186 girls, 180 boys, 237 women, 234 men) were reached with risk communication messages on healthy hygiene habits. As part of the response during Tropical Storm Sara, over 3,000 people (792 girls, 764 boys, 745 women, 699 men) affected were reached with WASH humanitarian assistance in Atlantida and Cortes departments, and 1,600 additional people (423 girls, 407 boys, 398 women, 372 men) were reached through climate-resilient durable solutions and improvements to water supply systems to prevent service interruptions during climate crises.

EDUCATION

In 2024, UNICEF provided flexible learning opportunities for 13,728 children and adolescents in Honduras, including 6,864 girls. Among them, 6,626 children in transit benefited from continued education along migration routes, while 7,102 returning children in vulnerable situations accessed remedial and learning recovery programmes. These interventions aimed to close educational gaps and were implemented in safe learning spaces in Danli (southern border, El Paraiso) and Centro Belen (San Pedro Sula). As part of these efforts, UNICEF distributed 15,581 educational kits, benefiting 7,791 girls and 7,790 boys to support their reintegration into education. According to Honduras' MoE, 15,014 children and adolescents (51 per cent girls, 49 per cent boys) accessed learning platforms in 2024, including the Learning Passport methodology. Data also indicates that one in five migrant children continued using the Learning Passport along their migration journey, demonstrating its potential as a tool to support access to education in transit.

UNICEF also ensured access to formal education for 5,630 children and adolescents (2,702 girls, 2,928 boys) at risk of violence or dropping out of school across 24 education centres in the Central District and Rivera Hernandez, San Pedro Sula. Additionally, 4,496 children (2,266 girls, 2,230 boys) received educational kits, while 848 teachers (702 women) were trained in flexible and alternative education methodologies, including the educational bridges approach. To support reintegration and retention in schools, UNICEF worked with the MoE, MoH, Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and Families (SENAF), local health centres and community leaders to provide psycho-emotional support to 5,380 people (39 per cent girls, 38 per cent boys, 20 per cent women, 3 per cent men). According to the MoE, Tropical Storm Sara damaged the infrastructure of 206 schools, while 66 education centres were repurposed as temporary shelters during school holidays. As part of the humanitarian response, UNICEF distributed cleaning kits to 20 schools in Atlantida and Colon, ensuring educational continuity for over 4,000 children. Additionally, UNICEF provided technical guidance to the MoE to develop a recovery plan for schools used as shelters.

CHILD PROTECTIOIN, GBVIE AND PSEA

Through the LIFE Consortium, an initiative that involves multiple organizations, UNICEF continued delivering protection services for

migrant families and children in transit in Honduras. Over 27,176 children and caregivers (5,936 girls, 5,663 boys, 6,612 women, 8,965 men) accessed child-friendly spaces, with 15,335 people (28 per cent girls, 30 per cent boys, 42 per cent caregivers) receiving psychosocial support. Additionally, 45,059 people (31 per cent girls, 27 per cent boys, 30 per cent women, 12 per cent men) benefited from interventions to mitigate, prevent and respond to gender-based violence and safeguard against sexual exploitation and abuse. Temporary shelters ensured protection and safety for 27,175 children, adolescents and parents, including the safe identification and referral of GBV survivors. UNICEF supported SENAF in delivering specialised protection services to 6,260 children and adolescents (45 per cent girls, 55 per cent boys) at border points, ensuring safe returns and family reunification. At the Belen Centre, 7,456 deported children (44 per cent girls, 56 per cent boys) received counselling and family reunification assistance, while 1,297 children (34 per cent girls, 66 per cent boys) accessed psychosocial support services. To strengthen the response, partners were trained in psychological first aid, service mapping was improved and key messages on PSEA and GBV prevention were shared with children and caregivers.

UNICEF continued supporting children and communities affected by violence, including armed violence, through its violence reduction model. This approach integrates a human rights-based and gender-sensitive perspective, focusing on transforming social norms, fostering community participation, de-escalating conflicts and providing psychosocial support. Key interventions included: enabling safe spaces, enhancing life skills development, strengthening case management systems and ensuring referrals to multi-sectoral service. As a result, 6,218 people (1,468 girls, 1,329 boys, 1,442 women, 1,979 men) received protection services in safe spaces and 11,888 people (3,578 girls, 3,369 boys, 3,438 women, 1,503 men) received psychosocial support to strengthen community resilience. In addition, 9,939 children (4,646 girls, 5,293 boys) were referred to specialised health, social welfare or justice services. Furthermore, 144,711 people (30 per cent girls, 27 per cent boys, 30 per cent women, 13 per cent men) accessed sexual exploitation and abuse reporting mechanisms through posters, letterboxes, QR codes and awareness sessions.

As part of the Tropical Storm Sara response, UNICEF and partners reached 408 children (234 girls, 174 boys) and 314 caregivers (233 women, 81 men) in 12 affected communities through child-friendly spaces. These interventions supported recovery from trauma and strengthened community resilience. UNICEF also assisted SENAF in identifying and referring cases for specialised protection services, prioritising immediate recovery through the Protection Case Management System and coordinating efforts with government and community institutions.

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND CASH TRANSFERS

In the south-eastern border region of Honduras, UNICEF provided cash transfers to 1,442 migrant families in transit, benefiting 5,148 individuals (53 per cent girls and female caregivers, 46 per cent boys and male caregivers). Of these, 51 per cent were children and adolescents under 18, including 1,268 girls and 1,353 boys. Support was prioritised for families with children under five, women survivors of GBV and families with children at risk of severe malnutrition or disabilities. UNICEF facilitated workshops were also established to refine eligibility criteria and improve Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), ensuring efficient resource allocation and targeted support for life-threatening cases. A total of 895 cash transfers were distributed, supporting 5,028 people (2,665 women, 2,363 men), including 1,223 girls and 1,393 boys, affected by armed and gender-based violence. As a result, 91 per cent of families improved their food security, food consumption indicators increased by 76 per cent, harmful coping mechanisms, such as withdrawing children from school, decreased to 2 per cent, and 205 cash transfers directly benefited 822 individuals, including 539 children (161 girls, 122 boys) at risk of malnutrition.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (SBC), ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

As part of the Regional SBC Migration Group, Honduras identified three priority areas to address across the four stages of migration (departure, transit, arrival and return): providing essential humanitarian assistance; influencing behaviours and attitudes towards migration risks; and strengthening systems to improve response capacity. In 2024, UNICEF expanded its efforts to strengthen participation and feedback mechanisms for affected populations in armed violence and human mobility contexts. A total of 3,404 people (29 per cent girls, 27 per cent boys, 37 per cent women, 7 per cent men) provided feedback through a safeguarding hotline, QR codes and suggestion boxes. Key requests included: mental health support for children and caregivers; stress management and positive parenting guidance; and general information about Honduras from migrants in transit. To enhance accountability, UNICEF conducted a survey with partners and affected communities to assess preferred communication channels and information needs. The results will guide the 2025 AAP strategy and inform recommendations to the Humanitarian Country Team.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

UNICEF strengthened coordination with humanitarian actors, UN agencies and government partners to promote a child-centred and women-centred humanitarian response in 2024. As a cluster lead agency, UNICEF supported the implementation of the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), ensuring quality response efforts across WASH, education, child protection and nutrition clusters. Transition plans for 2025 were developed in 2024 to enhance government leadership in humanitarian response and preparedness efforts. As part of its commitment to the HCT and the UN Country Team (UNCT), UNICEF led a SEA Risk Assessment, in collaboration with the HCT members, and developed an inter-agency PSEA protocol for Honduras. UNICEF and the clusters played a pivotal role in coordinating response efforts to the human mobility and armed violence crises, as well as the impact of Tropical Storm Sara in 2024. The WASH Cluster provided essential services to 60,000 migrants in transit and 67,527 people affected by violence. UNICEF also worked with government agencies, including the Secretariat for Risk Management and National Contingencies (COPECO) and SENAF, to strengthen leadership and coordination mechanisms.

Key interventions included: enhancing evidence-based response efforts for safe water access and climate-resilient solutions; providing psycho-emotional support and awareness on PSEA and GBV; advocating for breastfeeding support and maternal health services; and encouraging the use of alternative shelters to keep schools operational. Essential humanitarian supplies were pre-positioned, and standby agreements with partners enabled a rapid response within the first 72 hours of Tropical Storm Sara, underscoring the importance of robust preparedness strategies for multi-crises emergency contexts.

MEXICO

Mexico has historically been a country of origin, transit and return for migrants. In recent years, however, it has increasingly become a

destination for migrant children and their families, particularly those from Central and South America. According to the country's Migration Policy Unit, between January and August 2024, the National Migration Institute documented 925,085 irregular migrants transiting through Mexico—an increase of 131.85 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. Of these, 108,444 (11.7 per cent) were children and adolescents, including 4,383 (4 per cent) who were unaccompanied. The majority of migrant children originated from Venezuela (44,384), followed by Ecuador (10,833), Honduras (10,627), Colombia (10,374) and Guatemala (7,549). This represents a 70 per cent increase in child migration flows compared to 2023. Throughout their journey, children remain highly vulnerable to detention, family separation, deportation, physical and psychological harm, marginalisation, discrimination and sexual and economic exploitation. Between January and August 2024, Mexican immigration authorities returned 3,179 children and adolescents to their countries of origin, 1,908 (60 per cent) of whom were unaccompanied. During the same period, 173,397 Mexican citizens were returned from the United States, including 25,688 children and adolescents. Of these, 10,418 (40.6 per cent) were unaccompanied.

NUTRITION

Between January and December 2024, 36,840 primary caregivers of children and adolescents aged 0 to 18 years received counselling on infant and young child feeding. While this indicator primarily tracks caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months, its broader implementation extended to older children and adolescents, surpassing initial targets. Among children under five, six were diagnosed with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 80 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). Haemoglobin samples collected from 2,210 children and adolescents revealed that 56.3 per cent had anaemia, while tests conducted on 1,031 pregnant women showed that 27.5 per cent were affected by anaemia. During the same period, 677 pregnant women—out of the planned 3,000—received preventive iron supplementation. This shortfall was partly due to a decline in the number of pregnant migrant women transiting through Mexico, driven by misconceptions that giving birth in Mexico would prevent them from reaching the United States or fears of being referred to government facilities. To address this, UNICEF and its partners are developing social and behaviour change materials to counter misinformation. These materials aim to encourage pregnant women to seek medical care and raise awareness about the risks of delaying essential healthcare interventions.

HEALTH

Throughout 2024, UNICEF-supported facilities provided primary healthcare services to 76,053 children and women in Mexico. This included: medical consultations for 18,810 children, 717 pregnant women, 880 lactating women and 56 male caregivers; nutrition assessments for 14,239 children, 640 pregnant women, 1,388 lactating women and 61 male caregivers; psychosocial support for 12,722 individuals; and health and nutrition workshops for 27,682 participants. Among children and adolescents, the most frequently reported diagnoses were acute respiratory infections, with 4,467 cases, followed by intestinal infections, which affected 1,618 individuals. Pneumonia and bronchopneumonia were diagnosed in 355 cases, while conjunctivitis was reported in 207 cases. Acute otitis media affected 126 children, and streptococcal pharyngitis and tonsillitis were diagnosed in 251 cases. Additionally, there were 38 cases of urinary tract infections, 55 cases of asthma, 86 cases of malnutrition and 744 cases of scabies. Among pregnant women, the most common diagnoses included 45 cases of urinary tract infections, 24 cases of nasopharyngitis and 3 cases of acute otitis media. The youngest pregnant patient was 10 years old, while the oldest was 45. A total of 247 children and adolescents, along with 78 pregnant women, were referred to secondary care. Regarding vaccination status, 18,280 children and adolescents were asked whether they were up to date with their immunisations, with 89.1 per cent responding affirmatively.

WASH

In 2024, UNICEF distributed 6,000 hygiene kits to children and their families in migrant shelters across Monterrey, Reynosa, Matamoros, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Tabasco, Chihuahua, Baja California and Sonora, Mexico. A total of 8,556 people on the move, including 6,852 children, received essential hygiene and cleaning items. In collaboration with its partners, UNICEF established child-friendly 'hygiene-dignity corners' in shelters, reaching more than 22,760 children, women and men with health and hygiene messages. Additionally, over 12,000 people received essential WASH supplies. During this period, the construction of WASH infrastructure, including toilets, showers, hand-washing stations, septic tanks and sinks, was completed in 32 shelters and other sites hosting migrants in Tijuana, Juarez, Matamoros, Reynosa, Mexico City, Tuxtla and Tapachula. These improvements benefited over 125,206 people by providing access to safe sanitation and hygiene facilities. To promote WASH-related behaviour change, public awareness campaigns and theatre performances were conducted in 78 shelters and temporary camps, engaging 53,572 children and adults on the move. Finally, UNICEF began the preparation of documentation and procurement processes for the construction and delivery of two mobile WASH units and two hydration units for government partners in Tamaulipas.

EDUCATION

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided non-formal education support to 7,886 children on the move (4,209 boys and 3,677 girls) in shelters and other designated spaces in Mexico. These programmes emphasized early childhood education, basic literacy and numeracy, socio-emotional development and foundational digital and English language skills. Additionally, UNICEF continued implementing its broader strategy to strengthen the education sector's capacity to integrate children on the move into formal education. Key initiatives included teacher training on inclusive education and psychosocial support, the development of normative tools to improve school access and eliminate discrimination, and continued advocacy for migrant children's right to education. In collaboration with the federal MoE, UNICEF disseminated the Protocol on School Access for Children on the Move to all 229,000 primary schools nationwide. To further support educators, the teacher's guide "A donde voy, la escuela va conmigo"[21] was introduced. Furthermore, UNICEF launched a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on inclusive education for children on the move, benefiting 6,913 individuals. Additionally, more than 3,000 teachers completed UNICEF's blended in-service training programmes, which have now been integrated into the National Teacher Training Catalogue.

CHILD PROTECTION, GBVIE AND PSEA

UNICEF provided child protection interventions to 62,000 people on the move, including 22,602 children and 16,374 caregivers across 70 shelters in eight states who benefited from mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS). Additionally, 19,097 children on the move, including 2,454 unaccompanied children, received child protection case management services through UNICEF's direct support, covering 45 per cent of all unaccompanied cases identified by immigration authorities. UNICEF's gender-based violence (GBV) strategy reached 3,986 individuals, while more than 7,900 U-Report users accessed protection information. A total of 491 children received specialised psychosocial support, and 171 cases were referred to protection services for further assistance. To strengthen cross-border child protection, UNICEF supported the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between

Mexico and the United States, facilitating the reunification of over 200 families. In addition, UNICEF played a key role in establishing a binational procedure between Mexico and Guatemala to improve child protection, including identification, consular assistance and urgent protection measures. Joint efforts between UNICEF offices in Mexico and Honduras also strengthened consular networks' capacities on children on the move rights, with 30 Honduran consular officials trained through a virtual course developed by the Mexican Diplomatic Academy and based on UNICEF's consular protection model.

UNICEF also made significant progress in scaling up the Children on the Move Registry, expanding its coverage from 4 to 24 states in Mexico. A total of 40,000 children were registered, and 300 public servants were trained to use the registry effectively. In partnership with IOM, UNHCR, ILO, Save the Children and 17 NGOs, UNICEF established Protection Pathways for children on the move in Chiapas, Durango, Campeche, Veracruz and Tabasco, with additional pathways under development in Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua and Michoacan. UNICEF also provided technical assistance to the System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (SIPINNA) to update the Protection Pathway Indicator Matrix, improving monitoring mechanisms by incorporating data from the Children on the Move Registry. To improve standards of care, UNICEF supported the roll-out of the National Care Model for children on the move, which included the development of methodological guidelines to enhance service quality in shelters and ensure unaccompanied children are not detained. Training was provided to 1,153 individuals, including public officers from Child Placing Agencies (CPA) nationwide and shelter workers. More than 180 public and private shelters participated in this process and are now expected to provide enhanced, rights-based care for children. To strengthen protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, UNICEF provided technical assistance to implementing partners, offering recommendations on improving their PSEA policies following programme visits to shelters, camps and offices.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (SBC), ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

In 2024, UNICEF's strategy to support children and families on the move in Mexico focused on artistic, cultural and communication-based initiatives that complemented fieldwork programmes. These included exhibitions, museum activities, theatre performances, community murals and cultural centre programmes. A total of 18 cultural centre directors in Chiapas received training in Social and Behavioural Change. UNICEF, in collaboration with IOM and Telecommunications Without Borders, disseminated key messages through various media platforms resulting in the improved knowledge of essential topics, including health, nutrition, education, child protection and WASH for24,687 people across eight states in Mexico.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

As co-leader of the Child Protection Subgroup for children on the move, UNICEF continued securing key agreements to strengthen coordination between governmental and non-governmental actors in Mexico. In 2024, UNICEF convened the first National Meeting of Protection Groups, enhancing the coordination and information management capacities of field leaders.

NICARAGUA

Monitoring migration trends in Nicaragua continued to present a significant challenge in 2024, primarily due to the limited presence of civil society organisations in border communities. While these areas have institutional and infrastructure support, access to official data remains restricted. Nevertheless, migration flows remained steady in 2024, with a consistent movement of Nicaraguans towards the United States under the humanitarian pathway. In 2024, 1,561 children and adolescents on the move in Nicaragua were registered, assisted and returned to their country of origin. Repatriation efforts continued, with three weekly flights bringing returnees from Mexico and the United States. A total of 896 Nicaraguan children and adolescents were repatriated from Mexico and the United States. The Ministry of the Family (MoF) implemented protection measures for unaccompanied children, providing community-based support, individual kits and psychosocial assistance. Nicaragua's MoE enforced the Protocol for Children Affected by Migration, ensuring the enrolment of children in the education system.

Nicaragua continued to face exposure to various natural hazards in 2024, including droughts, floods, hurricanes, storms, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. The Fifth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) identified significant climate risks across Nicaragua's 153 municipalities. Specifically, 21 municipalities remain at risk of hurricanes, 48 face threats of drought, 33 are vulnerable to flooding and nine are exposed to rising sea levels. In 2024, the country experienced a series of natural hazards, including an earthquake in March near Chinandega in the northwest, and tropical storms affecting multiple regions.

NUTRITION

UNICEF screened and registered 500 children per month through the Natremia application initiative in 2024. The children reached resided in municipalities within the Dry Corridor, a region highly vulnerable to drought and food insecurity. This data was utilised by the Nutrition Component of the Ministry of Health (MINSA) to identify health sectors with the highest concentration of malnutrition and to develop targeted action plans with the Community and Family Health teams (ESAFC).

HEALTH

In 2024, UNICEF contributed to the development of the Operational Guide and Protocol for the Sectoral Technical Commission for Health (CTS) of the National Emergency System in Nicaragua. CTS coordinates the mobilisation of humanitarian assistance to the most affected areas. UNICEF also trained CTS members on the Core Commitments for Children and UNICEF's response to the climate crisis. UNICEF supported MINSA in the fight against dengue through a digital communication campaign aimed at encouraging community participation in clean-up activities, providing information on vector control, increasing awareness of warning signs and promoting community-based vector control. The campaign reached approximately 338,193 people.

WASH

With funding from the EU, UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure at three potential shelter sites (two schools and one community centre) in communities along the Caribbean Coast, benefiting a total of 1,278 children and their families (3,598 people). All rehabilitations were designed to be gender-sensitive, accessible, inclusive of persons with disabilities and resilient to climate change.

EDUCATION

Efforts were made to identify a minimum EiE package for children on the move, including the revision of Save the Children's "Ruta Educativa", UNICEF's "Learning Passport", the accreditation policy

of the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination of the Central American Integration System (CECC-SICA), the COVID-19 pandemic emergency curriculum and a visit to El Paraiso, a hotspot on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, to identify viable response strategies. In response to Hurricane Julia, UNICEF supported the installation of temporary learning spaces (TLS) in six rural communities in 2024. This included the provision of 15 ludic and pedagogic kits, teacher training on socio-emotional support and ludic pedagogies, and the refurbishment of physical spaces. The construction of six new schools to benefit 150 preschool and multigrade students continued, with at least 60% of the work completed by 2024 year's end. The project includes a total of nine classrooms, school kitchens and WASH systems adapted to the local environment. PSEA training was also provided to construction workers, and awareness campaigns were conducted in the communities to inform people about protection mechanisms for reporting and preventing sexual abuse.

CHILD PROTECTION, GBVIE AND PSEA

In 2024, 9,231 families in transit in Nicaragua received psychosocial support through the Ministry of the Family Helpline, supported by UNICEF. In addition, 9,532 adolescents, young people, families and community leaders were trained in various prevention, care and protection strategies for children on the move. Moreover, a protocol for the repatriation of national and international girls, boys and adolescents was implemented and promoted during the development of the "My Country, My Safe Home" campaign.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (SBC), ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

In Nicaragua's northern Caribbean coast, workshops were conducted to promote hygiene practices, identify barriers to behaviour change and validate educational materials in both Spanish and Miskito, engaging a total of 130 participants in 2024. Key barriers identified included limited access to clean water and traditional beliefs, while facilitators aimed to influence community leaders. The educational materials were reviewed to ensure cultural relevance. Additionally, UNICEF developed multilingual communication tools, including WhatsApp and chatbots, benefiting 1,146 people. The NGO, Nidia White, also facilitated dialogue and feedback mechanisms, reaching 2,530 participants.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

UNICEF strengthened its presence and role within the Nicaragua UN Emergency Team (UNETE) Inter-agency Emergency Management Group in 2024. The enhancement of the Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP) platform and UNICEF's emergency preparedness framework set a benchmark. Moreover, UNICEF's dedicated resource for geospatial management, including its work on affected population calculation models, further solidified its positioning among other UN agencies.

PANAMA

In 2024, Panama's National Migration Service recorded 302,203 people having crossed the Darien jungle[22] , including 84,408 women (28 per cent) and 64,764 children (21 per cent). The primary nationalities included Venezuelan (69 per cent), Colombian (6 per cent), Ecuadorian (5 per cent), Chinese (4 per cent) and Haitian (3 per cent). This marked a 42 per cent decrease compared to the previous year. However, the number of unaccompanied and separated children increased by 36 per cent, reaching 4,500. Life-saving services remained a priority, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children and survivors of sexual violence. In response, UNICEF provided essential services to the local population in the Bajo Chiquito community and strengthened the capacity of other affected communities to ensure access to clean water and a protective environment for children.

NUTRITION

Travel through the Darien Jungle continued to pose significant health and nutritional risks in 2024, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women and lactating mothers, who require specific caloric and nutrient intake. Throughout the year, UNICEF and its partners screened 11,559 children (0-59 months), identifying 2,184 at risk of acute malnutrition. Haemoglobin tests revealed anaemia in 25 per cent of children (6-12 years) and 48 per cent of adolescents (13-17 years). Children and women received supplementary feeding, deworming and counselling on proper nutrition and breastfeeding practices. UNICEF Panama continued its advocacy and technical support to the government, promoting the use of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods in emergencies.

HEALTH

Despite a reduction in the flow of migrants, health needs remained critical due to the difficult jungle passage, exacerbated by heavy rains and an increase in violence. In 2024, UNICEF and its partners provided primary health care to 28,929 people, including 11,559 children (0-5 years) and 867 pregnant women. Following the suspension of Médecins Sans Frontières services in March 2024, both Panama's MoH and UNICEF increased their efforts. UNICEF Panama supported the Ministry's capacity building through infrastructure development, provision of medicines and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits. Over 600 survivors of sexual violence received support from specialised GBV case managers, and where appropriate, PEP kits. In addition, the Panamanian government introduced an epidemiological monitoring component with support from WHO/PAHO.

WASH

Over 257,000 individuals benefited from WASH services in the Bajo Chiquito community and Lajas Blancas migration station in 2024. Water production reached 70 litres per person per day, four times the humanitarian standard. To further improve access to safe drinking water, UNICEF increased water production and storage capacity in Bajo Chiquito from 25,000 to 50,000 litres per day, and in Las Blancas from 85,000 to 100,000 litres per day. The local population in Bajo Chiquito now has access to water points, showers and toilets. UNICEF Panama continued to distribute age- and gender-specific hygiene kits and menstrual hygiene items in safe spaces. An innovative laundry strategy enabled the cleaning and reuse of over 755 kilograms of clothing. In addition, UNICEF built numerous latrines and showers at both sites, providing daily maintenance and sanitation management. Support was also provided to local water committees in 10 migration-affected communities, alongside a community hygiene promotion strategy.

CHILD PROTECTION, GBVIE AND PSEA

In 2024, UNICEF and its partners provided psychosocial and emotional support, as well as recreational and artistic activities, to 56,887 children—including 979 children with disabilities and 31,317 women—and their caregivers at critical points along Panama migration routes through Friendly Spaces. The adaptation of the Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP) kit led to the creation of the "Cool Zone," a safe space for young people, benefiting 2,585 individuals. In addition, 3,627 children and caregivers participated in protective environment activities in 10

communities affected by migration.

UNICEF Panama and its partners managed 5,310 cases of children's rights violations, supported by 14 professionals in coordination with the Border Patrol and National Migration Service. This included: 4,579 cases of unaccompanied and separated children; 633 cases of sexual violence, of which 105 survivors were under 18 (96 per cent were women and 4 per cent were men); and 98 cases related to document management, risk of statelessness and health needs. In addition, 274 unaccompanied children and adolescents received care at "La Casita", the transitional home in Darien. UNICEF continued to advocate for the permanent presence of state entities in migration hotspots to ensure the implementation of the best interest determination procedures and to bridge the information gap between clinical and judicial care for survivors of sexual violence. Furthermore, 27,115 people on the move, including 22,032 women and children, received GBV mitigation services through Safe Space, which included guided sessions on self-care, active listening, information sharing and menstrual hygiene. UNICEF continued to lead the implementation of the inter-agency PSEA mechanism, providing ongoing training for partners and state entities, and ensuring the dissemination of reporting mechanisms (QR codes, email, telephone hotlines and monitoring focal points).

At the national level, the protocol for the identification and care of unaccompanied and separated children was approved in 2024. The second Ombudsman's report on children on the move was released and the preparation of the technical annex on the care of trafficked children and adolescents was initiated. In addition, the "Espacio de Cuidado de Mi" document was finalised, introducing an innovative methodology for creating safe spaces for women and adolescents on the move.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (SBC), ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

During the final months of 2024, UNICEF implemented advocacy and communication initiatives across media and digital platforms in Panama, focusing on children on the move and extracontinental migration, particularly in the lead-up to Migrants Day. These efforts were supported by high-level missions from UNICEF officials, amplifying visibility and engagement on migration-related issues. UNICEF provided technical assistance to its partner, Global Brigades, to enhance social behaviour change interventions within indigenous communities in Darien. Activities included community development initiatives targeting Rural Water and Aqueduct Boards, as well as social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) activities through women's circles. Additionally, interviews with individuals of diverse nationalities at the Temporary Migrant Reception Station ETRM), were conducted to improve service delivery and promote life-saving messages tailored to migrants' needs. Under its Accountability to Affected Populations efforts, UNICEF Panama maintained information management systems for its country office response, collecting monthly data on refugees and migrants entering Panama. These activities ensured timely, evidence-based interventions for protection and assistance.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

In 2024, UNICEF continued to coordinate closely with key government institutions in Panama, including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Security, Health and Social Development, as well as the National Child Protection Authority and the Ombudsman for Human Rights. At both national and local levels, UNICEF remained an active participant in the Human Mobility Groups within the UN system in Panama, bringing together UN agencies and NGOs working in the Darien region. At the technical level, UNICEF led the coordination of the WASH Group, played a key role in the Protection Group and child protection sector, and co-led actions addressing Gender-Based Violence. UNICEF also led the local inter-agency PSEA Task Force, spearheading protocol development, capacity-building activities for partners and strengthening reporting mechanisms. UNICEF collaborated with RET International, Global Brigades, and the Organization for Integral Development Assistance to provide essential services to migrants. As part of the Mixed Movements Monitoring process, UNICEF and UNHCR collected monthly data on the characteristics, vulnerabilities and protection needs of refugees and migrants entering Panama through the Darien region. Individual interviews conducted in Darien and Chiriqui provinces informed a real-time dashboard[23] of UNICEF's humanitarian response efforts, ensuring data-driven programming and advocacy. To safeguard and assist migrant populations, UNICEF maintained a regular presence at migration stations, conducted frequent community visits and, thanks to donor support, ensured uninterrupted service delivery throughout the year, operating seven days a week in the most critical migration hotspots.

REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, RESPONSE AND SUPPORT TO COUNTRY OFFICES

In 2024, UNICEF's Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) continued supporting country offices in scaling up emergency response efforts for vulnerable migrants and refugees. This included addressing the needs of children affected by violence and displacement, particularly unaccompanied and separated children, those with disabilities and indigenous children. LACRO ensured the availability of human resources, tools and mechanisms to facilitate joint analysis, information sharing and advocacy initiatives. It also provided surge capacity for rapid deployment and represented UNICEF in regional coordination efforts, ensuring that the needs of children on the move remained a priority in decision-making processes.

Across Mexico and Central America, UNICEF strengthened community-based disaster preparedness programmes, enabling local populations to better respond to climate-related hazards. Efforts included training authorities and community leaders in early warning systems and disaster response strategies, while infrastructure resilience initiatives were expanded to ensure that schools, health centres and water systems remained operational during extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, wildfires and flooding. Intersectoral collaboration remained a priority, with partnerships strengthened and knowledge products developed. LACRO supported UNICEF's engagement in intergovernmental platforms to address migration and refugee-related challenges. Moreover, a two-day webinar[24] on psychosocial support for children on the move was hosted by UNICEF LACRO, UNICEF Belize and UNHCR as part of the Regional Conference on Migration (CRM). Further, quarterly data briefs and a thematic brief on the route-based approach were developed in alignment with discussions on a new UN-coordinated migration strategy. UNICEF also launched its first regional quarterly Newsletter[25] on Children on the Move, highlighting key initiatives at both the country and regional levels.

In 2024, UNICEF made significant progress in addressing malnutrition among migrant children and vulnerable populations, with over 100,000 children receiving nutrition screening across Mexico and Central America. Integrated nutrition programmes focused on acute malnutrition prevention and treatment, particularly in transit locations. UNICEF also scaled up efforts to promote breastfeeding, nutritional supplementation and safe food practices, working

alongside governments to strengthen nutrition policies and resilience-building in food-insecure communities.

More than 600,000 individuals benefited from primary healthcare, vaccination programmes and emergency medical care across Mexico and Central America. In 2024, UNICEF strengthened health systems in areas affected by migration and climate-related events, ensuring access to malnutrition treatment, maternal health support and psychosocial services for displaced populations. Increased support was provided to pregnant women and new mothers, alongside advocacy efforts to promote equitable healthcare access across the region.

WASH services for children on the move were expanded across Mexico and Central America in 2024, with country offices in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala receiving targeted support. In Honduras, UNICEF facilitated the transition to the national WASH sector coordination and expanded market-based sanitation solutions in transit centres. In partnership with the Global WASH Cluster, UNICEF developed technical guidance on WASH response efforts in migration contexts, set to launch in early 2025. A regional WASH LAC group meeting was also convened to exchange best practices and strengthen migration-focused interventions.

Access to education for children on the move improved with the rollout of the Learning Passport Strategy in six Central American countries. By the end of 2024, preparations were underway for its first phase in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama. UNICEF supported regional education policy integration to ensure learning continuity for displaced children and worked closely with governments to embed education response efforts within broader migration and emergency frameworks. The Learning Passport and Virtual Learning Academies played a key role in addressing education gaps among children affected by migration and violence.

Technical support for child protection focused on psychosocial support and transitory care for unaccompanied children in 2024. UNICEF collaborated with UNHCR, World Vision and Save the Children to develop a regional training, held in Panama, on Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. Additionally, UNICEF hosted the first global meeting of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action in the region, attended by nearly 200 participants. The Directory of Services for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action[26] was also launched and continues to serve as a key resource for regional child protection efforts.

Gender-based violence prevention and response efforts remained a priority for UNICEF in 2024, particularly for adolescent girls and women. Key initiatives included technical missions to Mexico and Guatemala, the development of guides on the social inclusion of refugee and migrant girls, and care protocols for LGBTQI+ adolescent GBV survivors. These resources were disseminated through the Quito Process and CRM, enhancing regional GBV response services. UNICEF also strengthened GBV risk mitigation strategies, including Safe Spaces in migration stations, with interventions focusing on menstrual hygiene and survivor support in the Darien Province and indigenous communities.

Safeguarding efforts were strengthened in 2024 with the planned rollout of the Safeguarding Procedure, including PSEA measures, set to launch in early 2025. LACRO will conduct quarterly coordination calls, technical training sessions and regional webinars to strengthen PSEA integration into ongoing programmes. Collaboration with the inter-agency PSEA group will focus on three core priorities: enforcing the Inter-Agency Risk Assessment (IARA), adapting PSEA training to the regional context, and developing a cross-border referral pathway to improve access to survivor support services.

Social protection systems were strengthened in 2024 with expanded Cash Transfer interventions for migrants and their families in destination communities across Mexico and Central America. A study was commissioned to assess the inclusion of children on the move in national social protection frameworks and identify best practices for their integration into social assistance programmes. Another study examined the financial costs of integrating migrant children into national education systems, informing future inclusion strategies.

Social and behaviour change and accountability to affected populations saw continued progress in 2024, with UNICEF expanding feedback and reporting mechanisms, focusing on safeguarding, PSEA and gender-sensitive approaches. Tailored technical assistance was provided to country offices to strengthen migration-related AAP initiatives, while guidelines for engagement with indigenous communities were developed in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. LACRO also collaborated with the AAP Interagency Group to strengthen the regional AAP community and ensure inclusive, respectful engagement with affected populations.

Communications supported the development of the Internet of Good Things (IoGT) platform, which will provide lifesaving information on health, education and mental health services for migrant populations. Set to launch in 2025, the platform will include web and offline content for communities with limited internet access. Advocacy and communications efforts also focused on education for children on the move, unaccompanied children and refugee rights, raising awareness of the unique risks faced by migrant populations, including lactating mothers and children under five at heightened risk of malnutrition.

Programme monitoring and evaluation efforts were enhanced in 2024 through improved data collection, analysis and reporting across country offices. This included quarterly briefs, thematic discussion papers (such as the route-based approach proposal), and contributions to the Mixed Movements Monitoring Report, which provides critical insights into regional migration trends. Collaboration with IOM, UNHCR and WFP facilitated the integration of cross-border data collection efforts, while upcoming activities include webinars and capacity-building sessions to enhance migration-focused monitoring and evaluation across Mexico and Central America.

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES AND EXTERNAL MEDIA

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

- [Costa Rica] A mother gave birth in the Darién jungle. We were able to provide basic humanitarian care at the southern border, where, like this baby, we work to save the lives of migrant children.
- [Costa Rica] After crossing the Darién Jungle, many families arrive thirsty, needing to clean themselves and wash their clothes. Therefore, the first thing they look for is water.
- [El Salvador] Kimberly quiere ser la primera universitaria de su familia

PRESS RELEASES

- [Belize] Justice without barriers for every child

- [Belize] UNCEF Belize Migration Agenda - A Snapshot of Belize's Response
- [Belize] Press Release: Signing of Data Sharing Agreement
- [Costa Rica] Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores y Culto
- [Guatemala] Strengthening inter-institutional coordination for the protection of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents
- [Guatemala] UNICEF makes donation in support of Rainy Season 2024 in Guatemala
- [Guatemala] Acting President oversees Emergency Operations Center - UNICEF donation of ASAP Shelters
- [Honduras] "Llegamos hace varios días, y hemos recibido una bonita atención"
- [Nicaragua] Transforming lives with flexible funding
- [Panama] Crece el número de niños, niñas y adolescentes que transitan por Darién solos: UNICEF
- [Panama] Bladimir, conexiones humanas en la ruta migratoria
- [Panama] Ruta de la caca

SOCIAL MEDIA

- [Belize] Identity
- [Belize] UNICEF's Migration Work
- [Belize] Roving Caregivers in Otoxha
- [Belize] IOM and UNICEF partner for Identity and Integration Hubs in San Pedro
- [Belize] Delmi and Emilio have waited 7 years for this moment!
- [Belize] A day well spent!
- [Belize] Marshall is 10 days old but today his parents, Isabella and Brandon, made an important step in giving him a secured future!
- [Belize] Grandma's Gift
- [Belize] Social Media Coverage – Wildfire Distribution
- [Costa Rica] Access to water and sanitation
- [Costa Rica] WASH
- [Costa Rica] Government Visit to safes spaces
- [Costa Rica] Cuando las madres reciben el apoyo que necesitan para amamantar a sus bebés, aún en condiciones de emergencia, todo el mundo se beneficia.
- [El Salvador] Cancillería de El Salvador
- [Guatemala] Launching of the "National Protocol for the Reception and Care of Migrant Children and Adolescents in Guatemala"
- [Honduras] La Ceiba, Atlántida, Honduras, C.A.
- [Honduras] UNICEF trabaja junto a las comunidades afectadas por la tormenta Sara
- [Honduras] Con el fin de asegurar el abastecimiento de agua limpia y segura a niñas, niños y familias afectadas, UNICEF continua su trabajo
- [Honduras] Unidos para la protección de la infancia antes, durante y después de las emergencias por la tormenta tropical Sara
- [Honduras] UNICEF y asociados apoyan comunidades en Yoro
- [Honduras] UNICEF continúa su fortalecimiento a cinco Gobiernos Locales del Valle de Sula
- [Mexico] Nuestro Embajador, @dr.mauriciogonzalez visitó nuestro trabajo en Chiapas
- [Mexico] "Cuando unimos fuerzas, podemos hacer más y llegar a más lugares"
- [Mexico] ¿Qué es la migración forzada?
- [Mexico] Pintando tus sueños
- [Mexico] ¿Cuál es la diferencia principal entre una persona migrante y una persona refugiada?
- [Panama] UNICEF Spain and Global UNICEF - Field report in Darien November 2024
- [Panama] Why do children and families migrate? What dangers face them? UNICEF's Juan Haro reports from the Darién Gap
- [Panama] Regional Director Visit
- [Panama] WASH experiences
- [Panama] Humanitarian Action Day

MULTIMEDIA

- [Guatemala] Chiquitita ABBA support in UNICEF Guatemala
- [Guatemala] Adolescents and young people Telma resume their studies at the CEEX UNICEF Guatemala

EXTERNAL MEDIA

- [Honduras] ¿Cómo puedo apoyar a las niñas, niños o adolescentes a mi cuidado ante una emergencia?

- [Honduras] ¿Cómo purificar el agua con cloro comercial desde tu hogar?
- [Mexico] 432. Migración forzosa: La dura búsqueda de una vida mejor | Karla Gallo
- [LACRO] Enfoque psicosocial en la protección de niños, niñas y adolescentes en contextos de movilidad 1/2

HAC APPEALS AND SITREPS

- Children on the move in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean Appeals
  https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mexico-and-central-america
- Children on the move in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean Situation Reports
  https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mexico-and-central-america/situation-reports
- All Humanitarian Action for Children Appeals
  https://www.unicef.org/appeals
- All Situation Reports
  https://www.unicef.org/appeals/situation-reports

NEXT SITREP: 15 AUGUST 2025

ANNEX A - PROGRAMME RESULTS

Consolidated Programme Results

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2024 targets	Total results	Progress*
Health					
Children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities	Total	-	171,000	78,322	▲ 46%
	Belize	-	20,000	9,929	▲ 50%
	Costa Rica	-	15,000	10,217	▲ 68%
	Guatemala	-	15,000	9,089[27]	▲ 61%
	Honduras	-	29,500	27,744	▲ 94%
	Mexico	-	50,000	73,231[28]	▲ 146%
	Nicaragua	-	5,500	-	0%
	Panama	-	36,000	48,155	▲ 134%
Children receiving the minimum set of vaccines	Total	-	79,132	140,503	▲ 178%
	Belize	-	5,000	5,382	▲ 108%
	El Salvador	-	36,500	-[29]	0%
	Guatemala	-	732	-[30]	0%
	Honduras	-	30,700	676,178[31]	▲ 2203%
	Nicaragua	-	6,200	-	0%
Nutrition					
Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	Total	-	465,371	26,353	▲ 6%
	Belize	-	25,000	19,482[32]	▲ 78%
	Costa Rica	-	4,000	479[33]	▲ 12%
	El Salvador	-	37,081	26,943[34]	▲ 73%
	Guatemala	-	347,590	1,185[35]	0%
	Honduras	-	16,000	93,142[36]	▲ 582%
	Mexico	-	30,000	4,662[37]	▲ 16%
	Nicaragua	-	5,700	-	0%
Children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder	Total	-	46,773	31,376	▲ 67%
	Costa Rica	-	473	-[38]	0%

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2024 targets	Total results	Progress*
	Honduras	-	45,000	41,731	▲ 93%
	Nicaragua	-	1,300	-	0%
Children 6-59 months screened for wasting	Total	-	289,269	81,385	▲ 28%
	Belize	-	7,500	7,520[39]	▲ 100%
	Costa Rica	-	500	-[40]	0%
	El Salvador	-	30,000	-[41]	0%
	Guatemala	-	180,000	1,897[42]	▲ 1%
	Honduras	-	47,000	231,154[43]	▲ 492%
	Mexico	-	5,000	4,303[44]	▲ 86%
	Nicaragua	-	3,050	-	0%
	Panama	-	16,246	19,711	▲ 121%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA					
Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	Total	-	297,845	111,394	▲ 37%
	Belize	-	15,000	36,811	▲ 245%
	Costa Rica	-	33,800	48,458	▲ 143%
	El Salvador	-	16,000	5,812[45]	▲ 36%
	Guatemala	-	40,000	57,072[46]	▲ 143%
	Honduras	-	80,000	27,223	▲ 34%
	Mexico	-	20,000	38,976	▲ 195%
	Nicaragua	-	45,660	3,691	▲ 8%
	Panama	-	47,385	85,083	▲ 180%
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Total	-	471,590	112,894	▲ 24%
	Belize	-	15,000	3,913[47]	▲ 26%
	Costa Rica	-	33,800	69,981[48]	▲ 207%
	El Salvador	-	2,500	4,557[49]	▲ 182%
	Guatemala	-	33,500	119,611[50]	▲ 357%
	Honduras	-	210,000	2,805	▲ 1%

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2024 targets	Total results	Progress*
	Mexico	-	8,000	3,971[51]	▲ 50%
	Nicaragua	-	154,500	-	0%
	Panama	-	14,290	38,254	▲ 268%
People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	Total	-	532,731	173,053	▲ 32%
	Belize	-	6,500	-[52]	0%
	Guatemala	-	11,000	-[53]	0%
	Honduras	-	340,000	186,965[54]	▲ 55%
	Mexico	-	60,000	150,921	▲ 252%
	Nicaragua	-	110,157	-	0%
	Panama	-	5,074	-	0%
Unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified	Total	-	30,625	27,957	▲ 91%
	Belize	-	5,000	36[55]	▲ 1%
	Guatemala	-	2,750	2,929[56]	▲ 107%
	Mexico	-	20,000	26,128[57]	▲ 131%
	Nicaragua	-	1,575	-	0%
	Panama	-	1,300	433	▲ 33%
Education					
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Total	-	195,892	14,716	▲ 8%
	Belize	-	25,000	22,412[58]	▲ 90%
	Costa Rica	-	67,692	6,023	▲ 9%
	El Salvador	-	8,970	3,005[59]	▲ 34%
	Guatemala	-	2,230	739[60]	▲ 33%
	Honduras	-	50,000	13,728[61]	▲ 27%
	Mexico	-	15,000	7,886[62]	▲ 53%
	Nicaragua	-	27,000	10,060	▲ 37%
Children receiving individual learning materials	Total	-	117,618	14,996	▲ 13%

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2024 targets	Total results	Progress*
	Costa Rica	-	12,404	5,040	▲ 41%
	El Salvador	-	13,470	7,097[63]	▲ 53%
	Guatemala	-	14,744	739[64]	▲ 5%
	Honduras	-	50,000	15,581	▲ 31%
	Nicaragua	-	27,000	3,820	▲ 14%
Children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes	Total	-	144,000	1,776	▲ 1%
	Belize	-	1,000	-[65]	0%
	El Salvador	-	2,000	1,096[66]	▲ 55%
	Honduras	-	140,000	1,100	▲ 1%
	Mexico	-	1,000	279[67]	▲ 28%
Teachers trained on EiE including psychosocial support, education preparedness and response	Total	-	16,860	971	▲ 6%
	Belize	-	500	160[68]	▲ 32%
	El Salvador	-	150	942[69]	▲ 628%
	Guatemala	-	6,190	-[70]	0%
	Honduras	-	8,000	500	▲ 6%
	Nicaragua	-	2,020	57	▲ 3%
Water, sanitation and hygiene					
People accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	-	1 million	580,964	▲ 56%
	Belize	-	30,000	45,000[71]	▲ 150%
	Costa Rica	-	225,641	306,039	▲ 136%
	El Salvador	-	20,700	13,493[72]	▲ 65%
	Guatemala	-	107,598	-[73]	0%
	Honduras	-	271,017	246,619	▲ 91%
	Mexico	-	140,000	313,019[74]	▲ 224%
	Nicaragua	-	13,000	-	0%
	Panama	-	225,641	396,814	▲ 176%

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2024 targets	Total results	Progress*
Children using safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	Total	-	107,596	27,965	▲ 26%
	Belize	-	25,000	986[75]	▲ 4%
	Costa Rica	-	67,692	40,231[76]	▲ 59%
	El Salvador	-	4,000	6,404[77]	▲ 160%
	Guatemala	-	7,704	30,658[78]	▲ 398%
	Nicaragua	-	3,200	200	▲ 6%
People reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes	Total	-	264,557	25,540	▲ 10%
	Belize	-	25,000	23,147	▲ 93%
	Guatemala	-	208,057	-[79]	0%
	Mexico	-	18,500	55,220	▲ 298%
	Nicaragua	-	13,000	-	0%
People reached with critical WASH supplies	Total	-	532,386	128,666	▲ 24%
	Belize	-	5,000	250[80]	▲ 5%
	Costa Rica	-	30,000	9,632	▲ 32%
	El Salvador	-	16,500	8,655[81]	▲ 52%
	Guatemala	-	232,257	126,465	▲ 54%
	Honduras	-	149,629	72,897[82]	▲ 49%
	Mexico	-	43,000	95,657	▲ 222%
	Nicaragua	-	13,000	5,000	▲ 38%
	Panama	-	43,000	24,453	▲ 57%
Social protection					
Households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	Total	-	13,647	451	▲ 3%
	Belize	-	500	-[83]	0%
	Guatemala	-	8,747	-[84]	0%
	Honduras	-	4,400	2,542[85]	▲ 58%
Households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in kind) measures from governments with UNICEF-technical assistance support	Total	-	5,400	-	0%

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2024 targets	Total results	Progress*
	El Salvador	-	1,000	-[86]	0%
	Honduras	-	4,400	-[87]	0%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)					
Affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life saving information on how and where to access available services	Total	-	3 million	48,945	▲ 2%
-	Costa Rica	-	315,000	8,949	▲ 3%
	Guatemala	-	1.7 million	348,261	▲ 21%
	Mexico	-	22,000	27,793[88]	▲ 126%
	Nicaragua	-	1 million	3.1 million	▲ 310%
	Panama	-	11,200	-	0%
People with access to established accountability mechanisms and interagency reporting platforms	Total	-	375,080	12,957	▲ 3%
-	Belize	-	7,500	2,670[89]	▲ 36%
	Costa Rica	-	180,512	6,851	▲ 4%
	Guatemala	-	159,720	637[90]	0%
	Mexico	-	2,200	59,469[91]	▲ 2703%
	Nicaragua	-	15,000	-[92]	0%
	Panama	-	10,148	27,497[93]	▲ 271%

**Progress in the reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2024*

ANNEX B — FUNDING STATUS

Consolidated funding by sector

		Funding available		Funding gap	
Sector	Requirements	Humanitarian resources received in 2024	Resources available from 2023 (carry over)	Funding gap (US$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	15,122,252	5,171,968	1,018,704	8,931,580	59%
Nutrition	28,728,680	3,555,077	996,579	24,177,024	84%
Child protection	39,527,690	18,619,368	8,682,552	12,225,770	31%
Education	15,382,590	7,758,690	2,367,198	5,256,702	34%
WASH	38,142,321	10,381,315	1,067,755	26,693,251	70%
Social protection	3,845,226	1,356,214	134,694	2,354,318	61%
Cross-sectoral	8,574,640	2,594,316	-	5,980,324	70%
Regional Support[94]	3,696,000	7,035,045	706,778	-	0%
Total	**153,019,399**	**56,471,993**	**14,974,260**	**81,573,146**	**53%**

Funding available *- funding available in the current appeal year to respond in line with the current HAC appeal.*
Humanitarian resources*– humanitarian funding commitments received from donors in the current appeal year.*
Resources available from 2023 (carry over)*– funding received in the previous appeal year that is available to respond in line with the current HAC appeal*

Consolidated funding by office

		Funding available		Funding gap	
Office[95]	Requirements	Humanitarian resources received in 2024	Resources available from 2023 (carry over)	Funding gap (US$)	Funding gap (%)
Belize	4,353,219	2,000,000	44,355	2,308,864	53%
Costa Rica	4,093,576	3,587,377	1,274,464	-	0%
El Salvador	13,434,535	1,107,000	1,260,433	11,067,102	82%
Guatemala	35,683,337	8,209,967	1,921,808	25,551,562	72%
Honduras	50,529,925	10,721,722	495,807	39,312,396	78%
Mexico	27,313,650	20,800,000	6,722,976	-	0%
Nicaragua	6,278,007	1,100,000	1,785	5,176,222	82%
Panama	7,637,150	7,269,869	2,502,819	-	0%
Regional support	3,696,000	1,676,058	749,813	1,270,129	34%

Total	**153,019,399**	**56,471,993**	**14,974,260**	**81,573,146**	**53%**

Funding available *- funding available in the current appeal year to respond in line with the current HAC appeal.*
Humanitarian resources*– humanitarian funding commitments received from donors in the current appeal year.*
Resources available from 2023 (carry over)*– funding received in the previous appeal year that is available to respond in line with the current HAC appeal*

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ENDNOTES

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2. UNICEF. 2025 HAC Children on the move and those affected by armed violence - Latin America. < https://www.unicef.org/media/165691/file/2025-HAC-Children-on-the-Move-Latin-America(1).pdf>. December 2024

3. In Panama, over 300,000 people crossed the Darien in 2024 alone, and the number of unaccompanied and separated children in 2024 has reached an all-time high, with over 4,500 cases (2,035 girls and 2,554 boys, 59% of them were adolescents). Additionally, since July 2024, Panama has initiated deportations and imposed fines against migrants. (UNHCR and UNICEF).

4. National Migration Institute of Mexico

5. NM. Estadísticas Migratorias. https://inm.gob.hn/estadisticas.html.

6. U.S. Custom and Border Protection, Southwest Land Border Encounters stats, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/nationwide-encounters>, accessed 01 March 2025.

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8. UNICEF, ‘Humanitarian Situation and Risks in Central American Dry Corridor’, June 2023, <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/media/42411/file>.

9. UNICEF. The Changing face of Child Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean. <https://www.unicef.org/media/144741/file/Migration-Child-Alert-English-2023.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com > September 2023

10. According to the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR)

11. According to the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR)

12. General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME)

13. EHPM 2023

14. El Niño-Southern Oscillation

15. Ministry of Governance

16. UNICEF in El Salvador assumes that access to digital and physical materials configures as non-formal education.

17. OCHA (2024). The figure represents 178,800 children in need of assistance in protection; 587,300 in WASH; 313,000 in education; y 208,300 in health and nutrition.

18. INM. Estadísticas Migratorias. <https://inm.gob.hn/estadisticas.html.>

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22. <https://www.facebook.com/unicef/videos/why-do-children-and-families-migratewhat-dangers-face-themunicefs-juan-haro-repo/1665224327723702/>

23. <https://www.unicef.org/panama/atencion-la-ninez-en-movilidad-y-las-comunidades-de-acogida-en-darien-y-chiriqui>

24. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgjomy3zNC4>

25. <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/reports/newsletter-children-on-the-move>

26. <https://mapassubgrupocp.worldvisionamericalatina.org/>

27. In addition to the children and women who received primary healthcare in the centers supported by UNICEF, 2,107 men in the context of human mobility received care, for a total of 7,827 services provided.

28. Including men, 41, 417 people were reached. This included medical consultations for 10,741 children, 431 pregnant women, 673 lactating women, and 38 male caregivers; nutritional assessments for 8,425 children, 373 pregnant women, 805 lactating women, and 29 male caregivers; psychosocial assistance for 9,748 individuals; and health and nutrition workshops for 11,296 participants.

29. No figures are reported under this indicator

30. No progress was made on this indicator because no actions were planned to provide a minimum set of vaccines with available BPRM funds for the humanitarian response to migrants in transit through Guatemala.

31. From last year a specific emergency grant was received to address the issue of low vaccinations rates in the country and a couple of programs have been in implementation in the northern and central region of the country with lowest coverage. Implementation focus on strengthening the Ministry of Health to increase coverage in this region, therefore all of the reach reported by the MoH in the prioritized regions is being reported.

32. 17,147 primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months received infant and young child feeding counselling through partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

33. UNICEF Costa Rica is not currently providing direct nutrition services, except for breastfeeding support rooms and informing mothers about related topics. Therefore, screenings for wasting are not being conducted, nor are micronutrient powders being distributed. At one point, expanding the nutrition intervention was considered, but it has since been limited to breastfeeding support.

34. This number includes people in host communities. UNICEF provided IYCF counseling to 24,949 primary caregivers, including through the provision of educational materials on nutrition and breastfeeding for migrant and host communities.

35. Since the focus of the humanitarian intervention with migrants in transit through Guatemala was on access to services, the indicator primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counseling, focused on providing this accompaniment to caregivers of children in this age range at the border of Esquipulas, Chiquimula, with funds from BPRM.

36. Here the coverage is being reported for caregivers of children up to 59 months of age because implementation was largely funded by CERF funds, and they require that age period. Likewise, not only primary caretakers were accounted for, but other complementary beneficiaries who support the childcare tasks at home.

37. The low number of primary caregivers of children aged 0–23 months receiving IYCF counseling is due to the small proportion of caregivers within this age group who visit the service points. This may be because not many families or caregivers travel with children under 24 months. However, from July to December, 8,223 caregivers (7,025 women and 1,198 men) of children aged 2–18 years received counseling on child feeding. This number is not included in the report, as the indicator specifically refers to children aged 0–23 months.

38. UNICEF Costa Rica is not currently providing direct nutrition services, except for breastfeeding support rooms and informing mothers about related topics. Therefore, screenings for wasting are not being conducted, nor are micronutrient powders being distributed. At one point, expanding the nutrition intervention was considered, but it has since been limited to breastfeeding support.

39. 4,168 children aged 6 months to 5 years were screened for malnutrition. Among them, 93 were underweight, 8 wasted, and 262 stunted

40. UNICEF Costa Rica is not currently providing direct nutrition services, except for breastfeeding support rooms and informing mothers about related topics. Therefore, screenings for wasting are not being conducted, nor are micronutrient powders being distributed. At one point, expanding the nutrition intervention was considered, but it has since been limited to breastfeeding support.

41. No figures are reported under this indicator

42. 2,165 men and 3,159 women in situation of human mobility were screened, 57 of them were identified with a disability.

43. UNICEF had the opportunity to expand coverage for this indicator in host communities in the South Western Border areas (Choluteca and Ocotepeque) and not only to migrant children. Moreover, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to implement a nutritional protocol in partnership with some municipality associations which increased the monitoring of children.

44. Including follow-up consultations, boys were evaluated in 608 follow-up consultations and girls in 666 follow-up consultations. Among children under 5 years old identified with disabilities, 7 were boys and 8 were girls. 4,663 children aged 5 to 18 years have been screened for malnutrition; of this group, 46 have some form of disability, 23 of whom are boys and 23 are girls.

45. UNICEF provided mental health and psychosocial support, safe spaces, case referrals, legal guidance, information, and supplies to 1,915 children and adolescents and 2,574 family members.

46. The goal has been surpassed, due to the fact that the coverage of human mobility actions has been expanded, especially in the different border areas and migratory routes of Guatemala, reaching more people with the services provided by UNICEF.

47. 3913 persons (2340 females, 1573 males) During the reporting period outreach and engagement using one of the three channels (Trained PSEA focal points, U-Report, Community mobilization) provided critical information and supported referrals for GBV, SEA, CMEU, Mental Health and child abuse to a diverse group, including adolescents, youth, community actors, faith leaders, and decision makers. Specific awareness-raising activities were conducted by partners to first inform communities about the reporting and referral pathways, and to support in reporting and/referring incidences of SEA and GBV.

48. A more descriptive account of the results achieved for this indicator will be provided in the next SitRep (February 2025).

49. All persons participating in protection activities receive counseling on GBV risk mitigation and are made aware of mechanisms for reporting or requesting support.

50. The goal has been surpassed, due to the fact that the coverage of human mobility actions has been expanded, especially in the different border areas and migratory routes of Guatemala, reaching more people with the services provided by UNICEF.

51. UNICEF reached fewer individuals this year through its prevention, mitigation, and response activities for gender-based violence (GBV) due to a lack of budget for implementing the GBV strategy during the first quarter. This funding gap halted programs with implementing partners, significantly reducing UNICEF's capacity to meet its outreach goals.

52. No intervention for this reporting period

53. This indicator was not addressed under this perspective in 2024, however the AAP strategy was underpinned, in a cross-cutting manner, and the data is reflected in the indicator # people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services.

54. Same reach as indicator as 4.4 because it is the people reached to let them know about the channels they have to report

55. In 2024, 36 migrant children (22 males, 14 females) benefited from dedicated access to appropriate care and case management services, including safe accommodation and psychosocial support (PSS) services.

56. In 2024, more family reunification processes were carried out than planned, as the number of returnees, especially unaccompanied children, increased throughout the year.

57. There is no additional data to report, aside from what was included in the mid-year report.

58. Students in primary schools accessed UNICEF supported Think Equal programming and foundational learning skills development with digital assessments in 8 primary schools in migrant communities, reaching a total of 14,595 students.

59. UNICEF supported 839 children and adolescents with learning materials, including digital resources like QR codes for games on literacy, mathematics, and English, and physical materials for motor and self-care skills. Of these, 335 participated in educational reinforcement sessions with CODER and civil society organizations.

60. This indicator does not show the correct progress; the progress is 33% and this is due to the fact that the only funding available for this action is linked to ECHO-EU funds.

61. Idem.

62. Data from July to December includes number of children adolescents on the move from 0 to 17 years old at shelters as well as to students in community centers, transition spaces and public basic education schools attended by CoM.

63. UNICEF supported 839 children and adolescents with learning materials, including digital resources like QR codes for games on literacy, mathematics, and English, and physical materials for motor and self-care skills.

64. This indicator does not show the correct progress; the progress is 33% and this is due to the fact that the only funding available for this action is linked to ECHO-EU funds.

65. No intervention has been done during this reporting period on this indicator

66. UNICEF supported 548 children and adolescents in psychosocial assistance.

67. The objective of this line of action has shifted towards a systemic approach. UNICEF is aiming to build capacity at the state level in Baja California, Sonora and Chihuahua so that the skills development model is sustainable and is ultimately scaled up

68. 106 teachers participated in both theory and practical counseling sessions and completed a CCD assessment.

69. 471 teachers enhanced their capacity to teach life skills and received psychosocial training to support vulnerable children, benefiting approximately 2,365 children, indirectly.

70. This indicator does not show the correct progress, the progress is 5% and this is due to the fact that the only funding available for this action is linked to ECHO-EU funds.

71. Access to safe water was enhanced in 9 communities with high migrant populations through the expansion of distribution networks and installation of solarized water systems, reaching over 25,000 beneficiaries. Additionally, in response to the wildfires, UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Rural Transformation provided water tanks to 8 communities to support the storage of water used for both addressing the wildfire and water consumption. This intervention benefited over 10,000 people.

72. UNICEF also improved the water service and the system to guarantee its quality in more than a dozen areas intended to serve the migrant population, which also benefits people from host communities. These figures include people from host communities.

73. In 2024 WASH had no funding for “other crises”, which is where this indicator is framed.

74. Idem.

75. A total of 500 boys and 486 girls, including 8 children with disabilities (6 boys and 2 girls), benefited from improved Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services in schools located in Los Tambos, Garden City, and Armenia Primary, Cayo District.

76. Idem.

77. UNICEF facilitated access to dignified sanitary facilities for safe and appropriate WASH services to 11,424 individuals, including 5,803 children and adolescents. These interventions incorporated a gender, protection, and accessibility approach. These figures include people from host communities.

78. The goal has been surpassed, due to the fact that the coverage of human mobility actions has been expanded, especially in the different border areas and migratory routes of Guatemala, reaching more people with the services provided by UNICEF.

79. The goal has been surpassed, due to the fact that the coverage of human mobility actions has been expanded, especially in the different border areas and migratory routes of Guatemala, reaching more people with the services provided by UNICEF.

80. WASH kits were distributed to 250 migrant households through partnerships with the Belize Red Cross and the Child Foundation Development.

81. UNICEF supported 3,804 people on the move with access to critical WASH supplies and hand-washing behavior programmes, including 1,098 children and adolescents. These interventions took place at mobile units and Safe Spaces managed by implementing partners and placed at strategic locations, such as border areas, schools, etc. In 2024, El Salvador declared a State of National Emergency due to weather conditions and a red alert for dengue fever.

82. Idem.

83. No major humanitarian action was required in 2024 that needed cash intervention

84. During 2024 social protection did not have resources to make cash transfers with UNICEF funds.

85. 1,393 migrant families

86. No figures are reported under this indicator

87. N/A

88. The dissemination of the messages through on-site socialization and the distribution of printed material in shelters, federal, state and municipal government agencies in the states of Chiapas, Chihuahua and Baja California was added to the playful and artistic activities that were maintained through which children interact with the messages prioritized for the population in mobility.

89. A total of 870 families (2670 people) interviewed during the joint IOM-UNICEF needs assessment were informed and received access to an established accountability mechanism.

90. funding gap

91. Feedback mechanisms were established in the museographic spaces designed to sensitize the host populations and support people in mobility. The total number of people attending (59,469), which was well above expectations, had access to the mechanism. While 5022 people shared information or made inquiries.

92. The population reached in 2024 was reduced, since an adaptation of the mechanisms implemented in the field was promoted, and only some periods of the year were counted. Due to the change of government, the tools that were in place were discontinued.

93. Feedback mechanisms were established in the museographic spaces designed to sensitize the host populations and support people in mobility. The total number of people attending (59,469), which was well above expectations, had access to the mechanism. While 5022 people shared information or made inquiries.

94. Regional Office requirements cover regional-level resources and initiatives directly impacting UNICEF’s response to the situation in Mexico and Central America, including: high-level advocacy, technical assistance, coordination support, information management, evidence generation, capacity building and support for scaling up responses to the sudden deterioration of humanitarian situations at the country level.

95. Sectoral amounts include costs related to advocacy, communication, coordination, planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, operations and security.