Humanitarian action

Global Annual Results Report 2019
Joniste, whose three-year-old son died of Ebola, now works with children orphaned due to Ebola, providing the love and attention they need in their parents’ absence. Working with national governments, the World Health Organization and other partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF is leading mass public health information campaigns, protecting schoolchildren with handwashing facilities and supporting caregivers like Joniste to work with children orphaned by Ebola (July 2019).

Maksim, 3, attends a UNICEF-supported kindergarten housed in Novotoshkivske school building, 2 kilometres from the contact line in eastern Ukraine, where the fighting is the most severe (April 2019).
Expression of thanks

UNICEF expresses its gratitude to all resource partners whose overall contributions supported the organization’s humanitarian action in 2019. The achievements described in this report were the result of these continued partnerships.

In particular, UNICEF expresses its sincere appreciation to all resource partners that contributed thematically to the organization’s work in humanitarian response. It is thanks to thematic funding and its flexibility that UNICEF has been able to provide timely and effective technical, operational and programming support to countries in all regions as part of efforts to prepare and deliver life-saving protection and assistance to children and families. On behalf of children, their families and communities in urgent need, UNICEF is especially grateful for contributions of global, regional and country humanitarian thematic funds, which provide the most flexible resources for emergency response.
More than 70 years after UNICEF was established, the organization’s mission to promote the full attainment of the rights of all children is as urgent as ever.

The UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 is anchored in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and charts a course towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the realization of a future in which every child has a fair chance in life. It sets out measurable results for children, especially the most disadvantaged, including in humanitarian situations, and defines the change strategies and enablers that support their achievement.

Working together with Governments, United Nations partners, the private sector, civil society and with the full participation of children, UNICEF remains steadfast in its commitment to realize the rights of all children, everywhere, and to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a world in which no child is left behind.

The following report summarizes how UNICEF and its partners contributed to Humanitarian Action in 2019 and reviews the impact of these accomplishments on children and the communities where they live. This is one of eight reports on the results of efforts during the past year, encompassing gender equality and humanitarian action as well as each of the five Strategic Plan goal areas – ‘Every child survives and thrives’, ‘Every child learns’, ‘Every child is protected from violence and exploitation’, ‘Every child lives in a safe and clean environment’, and ‘Every child has an equitable chance in life’, and a short report on Communication for Development (C4D). It supplements the 2019 Executive Director Annual Report (EDAR), UNICEF’s official accountability document for the past year.
Contents

Executive Summary ................................................. 2
  UNICEF work and key results in 2019 ........................................ 3
  Looking ahead .............................................................................. 6

Strategic Context ......................................................... 8
  The humanitarian situation .......................................................... 9
  UNICEF humanitarian response in 2019 ........................................ 9
  Strengthening efficiency and effectiveness for humanitarian results ........................................ 14
  Fostering collaboration and partnerships ........................................ 20
  Fostering equity and inclusion ........................................................ 21
  Challenges and lessons learned .................................................. 22

Results by Strategic Plan Goal Area ........................................ 25
  Goal Area 1: Every child survives and thrives .................................. 26
  Goal Area 2: Every child learns ...................................................... 36
  Goal Area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation ........................................ 39
  Goal Area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment ...................................................... 43
  Goal Area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life .................................................. 47

Results by Cross-cutting Commitment ........................................ 53
  Rapid assessment, monitoring and evaluation .................................. 54
  Supply and logistics ....................................................................... 56
  Media and communications .......................................................... 58
  Security ......................................................................................... 59
  Human resources ......................................................................... 60
  Resource mobilization ................................................................. 63
  Finance and administration ........................................................ 64
  Information and communication technology ................................... 65

Future Workplan ................................................................. 66
Abbreviations and Acronyms ...................................................... 68
Annex 1: Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding 2019 ......................... 69
Annex 2: Financial Analysis ......................................................... 89
Annex 3: UNICEF Strategic Plan Results Framework: Humanitarian Data Companion ...................................................... 100
Endnotes ...................................................................................... 103
Executive Summary

A boy attends recreational activities in one of the protection centres supported by UNICEF in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Activities at the centre are part of the psychosocial support provided for the most vulnerable children and adolescents in Barrio Union, Petare, in the outskirts of Caracas (July 2019).
Globally, one in every 45 people requires humanitarian assistance – the highest level of humanitarian need that the world has ever witnessed. Prolonged and violent conflict remained the main drivers of humanitarian need in 2019, with displacement, food insecurity, disease outbreaks such as Ebola and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), natural disasters and other emergencies giving rise to substantial needs.

**UNICEF work and key results in 2019**

In 2019, UNICEF and partners responded to 281 humanitarian situations in 96 countries (see Figure 1). Counting expenses from all funding types, more than half (52 per cent) of all UNICEF programme expenses in 2019 supported humanitarian action.

In line with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs), UNICEF continued to leverage its long-standing comparative advantages, including having a field presence before, during and after emergencies; delivering multisectoral support; leading or co-leading four clusters/areas of responsibility; and harnessing its vast network of partners, which includes governments, civil society, communities and the private sector.

Globally, UNICEF and partners reached millions of children with life-saving, gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive interventions in the areas of health; nutrition; education; child protection; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and social protection during the year (see Figure 2).

**FIGURE 1: Global response in 2019**

In 2019, 96 country offices responded to 281 humanitarian situations. Forty-two per cent of these country offices responded to situations affecting more than 1 million people.

1 The figure is based on emergency contributions received in 2019, recognized as other resources – emergency.
2 This total includes all programme supplies going to Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies; all programme supplies for any new Level 2 or Level 3 emergencies, from the date they are declared; specific relevant orders for the countries in which only a region or part of the country is in an emergency; and specific supplies flagged as emergency supplies in countries facing Level 1 crises. Of the US$346.1 million, US$151 million is other resources – emergency.
3 The figure represents expenses of emergency funds (recognized as other resources – emergency) received in 2019 and carried over from the previous year.
4 Although the number of situations has declined slightly since 2018, protracted crises have become increasingly complex, with some conflict-affected countries facing emergencies within emergencies and heightened risks to already vulnerable children.
For example, 53 countries provided humanitarian programmes and activities that were inclusive of children with disabilities in 2019, and of these, 21 countries implemented humanitarian responses that systematically included children with disabilities. UNICEF also reached 3.3 million women, girls and boys in 46 countries with gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response services – up from 1.3 million in 2018 (exceeding the target).

Human resources remained central to the ability of UNICEF to respond to emergencies in 2019. A total of 600 emergency (surge) deployments were reported and completed in 2019 – up from 461 in 2018. These deployments totalled over 43,000 days, with an average mission length of 73 days. For example, the UNICEF Global Emergency Response Team (ERT) – 22 UNICEF staff with specialized skills in emergency coordination, programming, operations, gender, accountability to affected populations (AAP), and humanitarian cash transfers – undertook 70 missions to 18 country offices, totalling just over 2,800 days. The ERT brings these specific skills in emergency management to support existing staff in country offices.

Nearly 75 per cent of these ERT missions (almost 2,100 days) supported preparedness and response to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 crises. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ERT member developed Ebola virus disease contingency protocols and established preparedness teams in Goma. These steps significantly increased UNICEF response capacity and enabled a rapid effort to contain the outbreak in Goma and prevent the risk of Ebola spreading into a complex urban context.

UNICEF continued to take steps to strengthen its efficiency and effectiveness for humanitarian responses in 2019. Following the 2018 evaluation of the coverage and quality of its humanitarian response in complex humanitarian emergencies, UNICEF developed a management response plan and is implementing the recommendations of that response plan to improve areas identified as having shortcomings. UNICEF also initiated a “humanitarian review” process in 2019 in an effort to promote institutional change in how the organization designs and systematically delivers quality integrated humanitarian programmes and acts on its own policies and procedures. The review has contributed to a better understanding of the major

FIGURE 2: Delivering humanitarian results for children

These are some of the key humanitarian results achieved against targets for children by UNICEF and partners in 2019. In some contexts, achievements were constrained by limited resources, including across sectors; inadequate humanitarian access; insecurity; and challenging operating environments.

1 The calculation (admissions/target) is based on countries with a Humanitarian Action for Children appeal in 2019. The targets are determined individually by countries depending on various factors.
The year also saw UNICEF revise key humanitarian policies, procedures and mechanisms, including the emergency activation procedures and the CCCs, its main humanitarian policy. The revised commitments will provide a more robust accountability framework for UNICEF and its partners to ensure principled, timely, predictable and efficient humanitarian response in line with international norms and standards, and reflecting new positions and agreements within the humanitarian community. They also reinforce the equity approach by integrating and reinforcing all cross-cutting areas, especially community engagement, behaviour and social change, adolescent participation, disability, early childhood development and gender as part of the core humanitarian response. UNICEF also undertook an organization-wide effort to systematically improve the coherence between humanitarian response and longer-term sustainable development. In May, the organization issued a procedure that aims to facilitate more consistent linkages between its humanitarian and development programmes.

UNICEF continued to institutionalize efforts to improve its risk analysis for stronger organizational preparedness. In 2019, the UNICEF Horizon Scan identified 28 countries as priorities for emergency preparedness – up from 11 in 2018 – and mobilized successful preparedness efforts in these countries. For example, as part of the First Action Initiative – in which UNICEF uses flexible funds in countries in urgent need of preparedness due to imminent risks – five country offices identified through the scan (Afghanistan, Haiti, the Pacific Islands, the State of Palestine and Zimbabwe) received a total of US$2.3 million in global humanitarian thematic funding to take key preparedness actions. UNICEF estimates that these allocations improved the speed of its emergency response by an average of 42 days, enabled 57 per cent in savings per investment, and reduced the organization’s carbon dioxide emissions by more than 1,000 metric tonnes.7

Cash transfer programming continued to expand in humanitarian settings in 2019, with 30 countries – up from 26 in 2018 – using this approach as a part of their humanitarian response during the year. Overall, humanitarian cash transfer programmes reached 2.8 million households, benefiting nearly 8.5 million children. In total, UNICEF delivered US$241 million to crisis-affected populations, including US$9 million provided in the form of vouchers. In addition, in Yemen, UNICEF and partners continued to support the Emergency Cash Transfers Project, which combines humanitarian and development objectives. The project is disbursing unconditional cash transfers to over 1.4 million households and impacting 9 million people across the country while also preserving the national social protection system.

Partnerships remained central to the organization’s humanitarian response in 2019. UNICEF collaborated with 1,394 civil society partners in the field for its humanitarian programming in 2019, of which 66 per cent were national partners. More than US$582.4 million in other resources – emergency funding (cash) was transferred from UNICEF to its civil society partners during the year.8 In addition, UNICEF partnered with national government responders and transferred nearly US$349.1 million of other resources – emergency funding to these partners. Overall, 34 per cent of humanitarian funding in 2019 was provided directly to local and national civil society and government responders, exceeding the target of 25 per cent.9 For example, in Iraq, three quarters of cash transferred to implementing partners went to local and national partners in 2019.

Strong engagement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), governments, private sector leaders and other stakeholders at the first-ever Global Refugee Forum in December 2019 underscored UNICEF’s position as a key partner implementing the Global Refugee Compact and responding to the needs of refugee and host community children in programme countries. UNICEF also took steps to strengthen humanitarian partnerships with NGOs in a two-day UNICEF–NGO consultation for partnership in humanitarian settings – the first of its kind since 2012 – attended by 46 international and national NGOs. And a joint study on country-level collaboration conducted by UNICEF and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies generated findings that will improve how the organizations work together.

The standby partnership mechanism remains a main provider of external surge support in UNICEF during emergencies. In 2019, 24 standby partners (out of 31 total standby partners) provided UNICEF with more than 18,000 days of support, equivalent to around US$9.1 million. In response to the sudden onset of cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, standby partners responded with rapid and significant support, with 35 deployments with an in-kind value of nearly US$1.9 million. A joint review of the standby response mechanism found that standby deployees were on the ground faster than other surge staff, enabling the United Nations to scale up its operations rapidly and get to hard-to-reach areas.

UNICEF continued to support the humanitarian system and deliver on its responsibility for inter-agency coordination by mobilizing, leading and coordinating collective efforts through its cluster lead agency role. In 2019, UNICEF designated staff to lead or co-lead sectors or clusters in 23 countries for education, 23 countries for WASH, 23 countries for child protection and 21 countries for nutrition. Standby arrangements provided 43 deployments totalling almost 6,700 days of coordination, information management and technical expertise delivered to cluster and government partners. With the support of cluster partners, including standby arrangements, global cluster Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) provided direct coordination and information management support to 24 countries, including five Level 3 emergencies, through 62 missions totalling some 2,750 days.11 Twenty new standby deployees initiated work with the global cluster RRTs in 2019.
In 2019, UNICEF procurement for emergencies reached US$346.1 million globally, with 94 per cent going to Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies. Nearly 100 per cent of all international emergency orders were delivered within the standard timeframe. Supplies were provided to 58 countries and territories preparing for and/or responding to emergencies. UNICEF provided direct support through 49 staff deployments to emergency locations, including the crises in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Yemen. In 2019, vaccines and biological products were the largest component of UNICEF emergency supplies by value, totalling US$88.8 million.

The year’s results were made possible by the generous contributions of resource partners, including governments, National Committees and corporate partners. As of December 2019, the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal was 50 per cent funded, reaching more than US$2.0 billion. Humanitarian action played a significant role in field operations by UNICEF, with 54 per cent of all country-level expenses supporting humanitarian response during the year (totalling over US$2.8 billion). Of overall UNICEF programme expenses, 52 per cent supported humanitarian action in 2019 (totalling nearly US$3.0 billion).

UNICEF global humanitarian thematic funds – critical multi-year flexible funding – allowed the organization to meet critical needs. In 2019, US$26.9 million was disbursed to 43 field and regional offices for humanitarian preparedness and response. Allocations of global humanitarian thematic funding were used to expand activities and respond to increasing needs in countries such as Burkina Faso, where displacement rose dramatically during the year, and the Sudan, with the outbreak of violence and social unrest after the destitution of Bachir.

Regular resources – essentially funding without restrictions – can also be used flexibly for children wherever the need is greatest. In emergencies, regular resources make it possible for UNICEF to provide immediate and long-term support to children in crisis. For example, when COVID-19 first took hold in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF was able to respond before donor funds were received: Regular resources were used to scale up programming and innovation in the critical first phase of the emergency.

The organization’s Emergency Programme Fund was also key to effective and timely response in 2019. The internal fund released US$68.5 million to 24 country offices and three regional offices in 2019 to rapidly respond to crises, including Level 2 and Level 3 situations. The US$7.5 million disbursed to Mozambique in response to Cyclone Idai, for example, allowed UNICEF to order supplies and deploy surge staff to coordinate the response.

UNICEF also faced challenges in its humanitarian action in 2019. Despite being one of the largest United Nations agencies, and its dual development-humanitarian mandate, UNICEF is not always seen as a major humanitarian actor. Several evaluations and reports point to variations in the quality of programmes and the overall performance of UNICEF as a humanitarian actor across various emergencies. Evaluations have also highlighted the need to strengthen equity in the UNICEF programme approach, improve technical capacity to objectively measure the quality of humanitarian response and strengthen quality assurance mechanisms. At the same time, in some countries, the targets in humanitarian response plans are not met.

To address this, UNICEF will implement holistic approaches with renewed, shared commitments from representatives, regional directors, headquarters directors and the organization’s senior leadership, based on a common understanding and consistent commitment to deliver on accountabilities and obligations to affected populations, host countries and partners. UNICEF will ensure a more coordinated approach to humanitarian response, and continue to take a multisectoral approach. This will enable the organization to consistently and more effectively enact its humanitarian and development mandate within its own programming.

Looking ahead

As part of the ongoing “humanitarian review”, UNICEF will assess its procedures and capacity to provide effective and timely responses to humanitarian crises. It will re-evaluate how it designs and delivers integrated programmes and interprets and acts on its own policies and procedures. The results of this “humanitarian review” are due in 2020.

UNICEF will strive to reach the most vulnerable children with the support they need in emergencies and will include women and persons with disabilities. A central element in achieving this will be the finalization and roll-out of the revised CCCs in 2020. These CCCs will provide a more robust accountability framework for UNICEF and its implementing partners to ensure principled, timely, predictable and efficient humanitarian response. UNICEF will continue to harness evidence and learning for principled humanitarian planning, programming and monitoring at all levels, providing clear needs-based guidance for more effective analysis, prioritization and coordination of its own and its inter-cluster and inter-agency programming. UNICEF will also strengthen its internal systems to generate evidence to make a stronger case to donors for
flexible and multi-year funding. UNICEF will expand its surge mechanisms, including through standby partnerships. The organization’s approach to partnerships will be improved, including through stronger engagement with civil society organizations, the private sector and at the cluster level. Across the organization, UNICEF will continue to strengthen risk analysis and horizon-scanning for better emergency preparedness. To increase its reach to the most vulnerable children, UNICEF will maximize its efforts to place child protection at the centre of humanitarian action, including through targeted, sustained, high-level advocacy. UNICEF will strengthen its leadership and the capacities of country offices on principled humanitarian action and engagement modalities. Further, UNICEF will scale up its capacities to deliver humanitarian cash programmes in the field, expand its efforts to localize humanitarian responses, and improve its accountability to crisis-affected communities.

Finally, the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), reported at the end of 2019, became a pandemic by early March 2020, swiftly throwing the world into an uncertain new reality. As UNICEF responds to the pandemic, it is taking measures to safeguard ongoing emergency operations and resources to avoid compromising the achievements to date. The organization is aligning its COVID-19 response with those of the World Health Organization (WHO) and sister United Nations agencies to address the shortages of critical supplies, coordinate support, and deliver assistance to children in countries at greatest risk. This will involve working with governments and partners to control outbreaks and mitigate the socioeconomic impacts, both of the disease itself and of the measures to reduce its spread.
Strategic Context

Latifatou, 15, and her family fled their home when armed men attacked their village in Burkina Faso. UNICEF and partners are providing essential education, child protection, health, nutrition and WASH services to the most vulnerable children in Burkina Faso, while strengthening the country’s emergency preparedness (December 2019).
The humanitarian situation

In 2019, global humanitarian needs grew to their highest levels ever. By the end of the year, more than 1 in every 45 people in the world – nearly 168 million people – needed urgent humanitarian assistance. Over the past five years, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has more than doubled.

Over the course of the decade, UNICEF and humanitarian partners have seen prolonged and violent conflicts become the primary drivers of humanitarian needs. People living in countries affected by conflict – such as those in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen – face the daily risk of death and injury, sexual and gender-based violence, loss of livelihoods and damage to property, heightened risks of hunger and mental health conditions, and forcible displacement from their homes.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, nearly nine years of war have left 5 million children in need and more than 2.5 million children living as refugees outside of the country. More than four years of conflict in Yemen have created the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. And some 1.2 million children in the Central African Republic are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance after six years of violence.

Crisis levels of hunger and undernutrition are also on the rise. For the fourth consecutive year, the number of undernourished people has increased, reaching 821 million in 2019. In conflict-affected countries, violence is exacerbating food insecurity: two thirds of people facing acute hunger – 74 million – are located in 21 countries and territories affected by conflict and insecurity. Yemen continues to experience the world’s worst food crisis, with nearly 16 million people in need of urgent assistance by the end of the year.

The number of people displaced by armed conflicts and violence also reached unprecedented levels in 2019, with nearly 71 million people forced from their homes. Children are disproportionately affected, making up one third of the world’s population, but half of all refugees and 40 per cent of people internally displaced by conflict and violence. Many of these children are being enslaved, trafficked, abused and exploited; they face increased risks of malnutrition and disease, and many live in limbo, without official immigration status or access to education and health care.

At the same time, climate change continues to cause more extreme weather events and exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, particularly in countries beset by violence. More than 500 million children now live in areas with extremely high flood occurrence, and almost 160 million in areas with high drought severity. Conflict-affected regions like the Sahel in Africa, where livelihoods rely on agriculture, grazing and fishing, are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

These trends are also placing millions of people at increased risk of disease outbreaks, as health, water and sanitation systems weaken under the strain of crisis. Diseases such as Ebola, cholera and measles heavily impacted conflict zones in 2019, further complicating humanitarian response in places where access is more and more restricted. This was the case in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the current Ebola outbreak is the world’s second most deadly incident of this disease on record.

The outbreak of COVID-19, reported at the end of 2019, had become a pandemic by early March 2020, throwing the world into an uncertain new reality. While the numbers of severe illnesses and deaths are above the capacity of most countries to manage, the pandemic’s wider consequences, in particular for children, women and their families as well as for many populations already in humanitarian situations, have yet to be seen.

UNICEF humanitarian response in 2019

In 2019, UNICEF and partners responded to 281 humanitarian situations in 96 countries, compared with 285 situations in 90 countries in 2018. Forty-two per cent of these 96 country responses were to emergencies affecting more than 1 million people. Although the number of situations declined from 2018, protracted crises are lasting for longer, with some conflict-affected countries facing emergencies within emergencies which heighten risks to already vulnerable children. Needs have remained exceptionally high over many years in conflict-affected countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

The 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal was 50 per cent funded by 31 December 2019, reaching over US$2.0 billion. Fifty-two per cent (totalling nearly US$1.1 billion) of all UNICEF programme expenses were used for humanitarian action in 2019, and 54 per cent (totalling over US$2.8 billion) of all country-level expenses supported humanitarian response during the year. In the
FIGURE 3: Type and scale of humanitarian response in 2019

RESPONDED TO 281 HUMANITARIAN SITUATIONS

- 74 HEALTH CRISES
- 63 SOCIO-POLITICAL CRises
- 82 NATURAL DISASTERS (hydro-meteorological)
- 29 OTHER
- 23 NUTRITION CRises
- 10 NATURAL DISASTERS (geo-physical)

IN 96 COUNTRIES

Scale of response by number of people in need

- <200,000
- 200,000-500,000
- 500,000-1,000,000
- >1,000,000

Total countries (96) 35 16 5 40

This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the Parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

FIGURE 4: Expenses

Top 30 country offices – 2019 programme expenses (includes all funding types).

Humanitarian expenses were 52 per cent of overall programme expenses in 2019.

*India and Sierra Leone excepted, all these country offices had Humanitarian Action for Children appeals in 2019.
30 country offices with the largest overall expenses, more than 60 per cent of country-level expenses were classified as humanitarian. Twenty-eight of these 30 country offices were included in the 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. In Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, more than 90 per cent of total expenses were humanitarian.

In 2019, UNICEF continued to deliver its humanitarian response in line with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs). This included efforts to strengthen its response to mass population displacements and protracted crises; increase the coverage and quality of humanitarian assistance; recognize the profoundly different and gendered impacts that crises have on women and men, girls and boys; advocate for the central position of protection, with particular attention to providing specialized protection services for children in armed conflict situations; and grow organizational capacity to operate and deliver critical services to the most vulnerable children in remote, insecure and high-risk and complex humanitarian emergencies.

UNICEF also fulfilled its mandate for mobilizing, leading and coordinating collective efforts in 2019 through its role as cluster lead agency for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); nutrition; and education; and for the child protection area of responsibility (see Figure 5). For more information on the organization’s work as cluster lead agency, see commitment 1 in each of the following sections of the Results by Strategic Plan Goal Area chapter: ‘Nutrition in emergencies’ (p. 29), ‘Education in emergencies’ (p. 36), ‘Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in emergencies’ (p. 43) and ‘Child protection in emergencies’ (p. 40).

UNICEF and partners delivered results for millions of children affected by emergencies in 2019 (see Figure 6). This included responses to five large-scale emergencies designated as UNICEF Level 3 emergencies: the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Cyclone Idai in Mozambique; and the protracted crises in Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. It also included responses to 11 UNICEF Level 2 emergencies: the socioeconomic crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; the migration situation in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru; armed violence in Burkina Faso and the Central Sahel region of Africa; and the risk of Ebola outbreaks in Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda. A total of 600 emergency (surge) deployments were reported and completed in 2019, up from 461 in 2018. These deployments totalled over 43,000 days, with an average mission length of 73 days (see ‘Human resources’ on p. 60 for more on the 2019 surge response).

FIGURE 5: Coordination

Country offices with designated staff to lead or co-lead sectors or clusters

Percentage of countries where UNICEF-led cluster coordination mechanisms met satisfactory performance for established functions

1 For each sector or cluster, 2019 results are based on annual reporting from 23 UNICEF country offices included in the Global Humanitarian Overview with an inter-agency humanitarian response plan.

2 This is a new indicator in the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021. Satisfactory performance reported by country offices where a cluster coordination performance assessment was undertaken with partners is based on these criteria:
   • The country office assigns designated staff to lead or co-lead, whether with the government or other actor, a humanitarian cluster or sector, area of responsibility or similar coordination mechanism.
   • Where there is a designated cluster lead or co-lead and any form of coordination performance assessment has been completed with partners during the year of reporting.
   • The assessment is structured against the six Inter-Agency Standing Committee-agreed core functions of coordination and accountability to affected populations or other assessment criteria in the cluster coordination performance monitoring tool.
   • The country office reported that their coordination performance was good or satisfactory under the assessment.
FIGURE 6: Key results from humanitarian responses

This map highlights the key results achieved by UNICEF and partners in some of the major humanitarian responses in 2019.

**Refugee and migrant situation in Europe:**
Nearly 20,000 children reached with quality child protection support, including mental health and psychosocial support, legal counselling and case management (exceeding the 19,000 targeted).

**Ukraine:**
UNICEF and partners ensured access to safe drinking water for more than 1.4 million people, while nearly 42,000 vulnerable individuals benefited from improved access to hygiene supplies.

**Central Sahel crisis:**
Nearly 663,000 children under 5 years with severe acute malnutrition admitted into therapeutic feeding programmes (94 per cent of the 703,000 targeted).

**Migration flows in Latin America:**
Over 182,000 affected children (87,784 girls and 94,633 boys) benefited from mobilized and strengthened programmes to prevent and address violence, abuse and exploitation, including gender-based violence (exceeding the 143,000 targeted).

**Ebola response:**
In response to the Ebola outbreak, UNICEF reached 38 million at-risk people through community engagement, advocacy and interpersonal communication interventions, in communities, schools and through radio messages (exceeding the 36.4 million targeted).

**Cyclone Idai in Southern Africa:**
In the aftermath of the cyclone, UNICEF supported nearly 65,000 vulnerable households (around 264,000 people) through humanitarian cash transfer programmes.

---

1 The affected countries include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Serbia.
2 The affected countries include Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger.
3 The affected countries include Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Panama, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.
4 The affected countries include Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda.
5 The affected countries include Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.
Afghanistan:
More than **148,000 children** affected by the emergency (86,003 girls and 62,207 boys) accessed education in 13 provinces through 4,542 temporary learning spaces (93 per cent of the 160,000 children targeted). Over 5,400 teachers (2,599 women and 2,833 men) were trained, including on basic psychosocial support.

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea:
Some **6.2 million people**, including **450,000 children under 5 years**, in 50 priority counties were given access to essential medicines (exceeding the 6 million targeted).

Yemen:
More than **1.2 million vulnerable displaced people** received rapid response mechanism kits within 72 hours (62 per cent of the 2 million targeted). UNICEF supported some 273,000 vulnerable people with multipurpose cash transfers (78 per cent of the 350,000 million targeted).

Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh and Myanmar:
Nearly **295,000 children** accessed education services, including early learning (83 per cent of the 356,000 targeted). A total of 685,000 people benefited from access to safe water (61 per cent of the 1.1 million targeted).

The Syrian Arab Republic and the sub-region:
In the Syrian Arab Republic and refugee-hosting countries, including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, over **3.1 million children** enrolled in formal and non-formal education (74 per cent of the 4.2 million targeted).

This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control agreed by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed by the Parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
Strengthening efficiency and effectiveness for humanitarian results

In 2018, UNICEF undertook an evaluation of the coverage and quality of its humanitarian response in complex humanitarian emergencies. The evaluation confirmed that UNICEF is among the largest and most important providers of humanitarian assistance and protection. At the same time, country offices struggle to balance scale — reaching the greatest number of people and children — with programme quality and reaching the most vulnerable populations in greatest need.

In 2019, UNICEF developed a management response plan to address the evaluation’s findings and has been working to implement the plan’s recommendations regarding shortcomings. For example, UNICEF took steps to improve evidence-based decision-making to determine coverage, quality and equity in humanitarian response by strengthening needs assessment, response planning and partner reporting on programme coverage and quality. A revised organizational monitoring architecture has been established, with clear standards for monitoring coverage, quality and equity across humanitarian—development linkages, including in complex emergencies.

To strengthen the centrality of protection and principled humanitarian action, UNICEF further scaled up its Global Humanitarian Advocacy Strategy, which focuses on the most salient protection and assistance needs of children in humanitarian crises and is supported by the global campaign, #ChildrenUnderAttack. A UNICEF Access Framework has been developed, to be rolled out in 2020 to address challenges involving access in a more predictable, principled and effective manner. UNICEF also initiated a “humanitarian review” process in 2019, in an effort to change the way the organization designs and delivers integrated humanitarian programmes and acts on its own policies and procedures.

UNICEF continued to revise its humanitarian policies, procedures and mechanisms in 2019, including the emergency activation procedures and the CCCs, its main humanitarian policy. The CCCs revision has involved an inclusive and consultative process across the organization, and with partners and experts. The revised commitments deliver a more robust accountability framework for UNICEF and its partners, to ensure principled, timely, predictable and efficient humanitarian response in line with international norms and standards and reflecting new positions and agreements within the humanitarian community. They provide new corporate commitments on critical areas of work, including preparedness, coordination, humanitarian advocacy, programme quality (including for gender, disabilities, adolescents and early childhood development), the humanitarian—development linkage, community engagement, environmental sustainability, accountability to affected populations (AAP), prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, health emergencies, and population movement.

The rest of this section summarizes continued efforts by UNICEF to advance initiatives to improve efficiency and effectiveness for humanitarian results in 2019, in line with its Strategic Plan and ongoing humanitarian and development system reforms.

Improving the linkages between humanitarian action and development programming

In 2019, UNICEF undertook an organization-wide effort to systematically improve the coherence between humanitarian response and longer-term sustainable development, to strengthen resilience to climate change and disasters, and to promote peaceful and inclusive societies. An organization-wide procedure was issued in May to facilitate more consistent and systematic linkages between humanitarian and development programmes. The procedure builds on well-documented lessons from country programmes from 2014 to 2018 and is guided by the United Nations development reform process. It was designed to help UNICEF achieve better results for children in fragile and crisis-affected situations and reduce their vulnerabilities and risks, and it seeks to link humanitarian and development programming in a systematic, consistent way across country programmes.

In 2019, of the 61 countries covered under the Humanitarian Action for Children appeals, 58 reported employing programming strategies that aimed to meet immediate humanitarian needs while contributing to longer-term development outcomes; of these, 49 employed such strategies across multiple (three or more) sectors. In 48 countries, UNICEF engaged with local communities, networks and authorities to strengthen mechanisms for the prevention and response to cases of violence, exploitation and abuse of children; in 40 countries, it established or rehabilitated water systems as part of its humanitarian response; and in 37 countries, UNICEF strengthened health systems through improved infrastructure and the capacity-building of government health workers.

The UNICEF WASH and education responses in Chad are a country-level example of how humanitarian—development linkages were strengthened in 2019. These responses targeted populations beyond those directly affected by the emergency, to increase access to essential services for host communities and catalyse social cohesion.
and peacebuilding. In the State of Palestine, UNICEF humanitarian interventions focused on solutions to improve WASH and address the energy dimensions of the Gaza water crisis, including by providing solar power and rainwater-harvesting, and by promoting behavioural change to conserve water and reduce the impacts of climate change on children. And in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the newly formulated country programme 2020–2024 promotes humanitarian–development synergy and addresses the overlapping deprivations faced by children.

**Localizing humanitarian and development programming**

UNICEF embraces the understanding that localizing humanitarian response is a process of recognizing, respecting and strengthening the local leadership – by local communities, local authorities, local governments and local civil society – of humanitarian action. The organization believes that this approach will better address the needs of children affected by humanitarian crises and prepare national and subnational actors for future humanitarian responses.

In 2019, UNICEF developed an organization-wide, systematic approach to the localization of humanitarian action to deliver more effective results for children in partnership with local civil society organizations and government authorities. The approach is anchored in eight pillars: (1) promoting principled partnership with local actors; (2) strengthening their institutional/organizational development systems; (3) strengthening the participation of local actors in humanitarian coordination; (4) mobilizing long-term and predictable funding for them; (5) strengthening mechanisms for involving local actors in humanitarian leadership; (6) strengthening the involvement of local communities in humanitarian action; (7) strengthening subnational reporting mechanisms; and (8) supporting local risk management strategies.

In line with its new approach, UNICEF continued to develop and sustain partnerships with local civil society organizations. The proportion of UNICEF humanitarian funding going to these partners continues to exceed the target of 25 per cent; in 2019, 34 per cent of humanitarian funding was awarded directly to local and national civil society and government responders. In Iraq, for example, UNICEF is increasingly building local and national partner capacities, in line with commitments under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee-led Grand Bargain, with nearly 74 per cent of cash transferred (totaling US$30.5 million) going to local and national implementing partners.
As part of its effort to harmonize engagement with both local and international partners, in 2019, UNICEF, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme began to roll out the United Nations Partner Portal, an innovative online platform for civil society partners to submit quarterly progress and humanitarian reports. To date, over 9,600 civil society organizations have registered, giving them profiles that, when verified by one United Nations agency, are accorded the same status across other agencies.

Strengthening social protection systems and increasing the use and coordination of cash-based programming in humanitarian action

Effective social protection support is often a crucial factor in determining whether children can quickly return to normality or will be permanently altered by crisis. All too often when emergencies strike, national systems are either too weak to respond, or are not designed to have the flexibility to adjust or to rapidly expand to reach children in need. UNICEF and its partners are therefore increasingly focusing on supporting governments to strengthen social protection systems so they are ready to respond to shocks. This includes strengthening emergency cash transfer systems and capacities where they exist, and building nascent ones where they do not.

UNICEF continued to expand its use of cash transfer programming in humanitarian crises in 2019. A total of 30 country offices – or 31 per cent of countries responding to humanitarian crises – used the cash transfer modality as part of their humanitarian response, an increase from 26 countries in 2018 (29 per cent). Overall, humanitarian cash transfer programmes reached 2.8 million households, benefiting nearly 8.5 million children. In total, UNICEF delivered US$241 million to crisis-affected populations, including US$9 million in the form of vouchers. In addition, in Yemen, UNICEF and partners continued to support the Emergency Cash Transfers Project, which combines humanitarian and development aims. The project is disbursing unconditional cash transfers to over 1.4 million households and impacting 9 million people across the country, while also preserving the national social protection system.

Of the 30 UNICEF country offices implementing humanitarian cash transfer programmes, 8 used existing national social protection systems. In countries where UNICEF funds did not go through existing national social protection systems, UNICEF used other elements of the national system, such as beneficiary lists or the social workforce (e.g., in Yemen and Zambia). In Jordan, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali and Mozambique, UNICEF provided the governments with technical support to ensure that crisis-affected households were covered by national social assistance programmes.

(Further details and examples of UNICEF humanitarian cash transfer programmes are provided in ‘Linking humanitarian cash transfers to social protection systems’, p. 47)

Ensuring programmes are informed by and adapted to risk

UNICEF recognizes that the suffering, losses and damage related to violent conflict, disasters, and the compounding effects of climate change, epidemics and economic shocks, can be greatly reduced. At the heart of risk-informed programming is a multi-hazard risk analysis carried out jointly with partners. This aims to protect children and to build more resilient service delivery systems, national and local governments, and communities, and the analysis informs humanitarian and development strategies, including preparedness, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and peacebuilding.

The proportion of UNICEF country offices meeting organizational benchmarks on implementing risk-informed programming has steadily increased, from 16 per cent in 2016, to 27 per cent in 2017, 37 per cent in 2018 and 41 per cent in 2019. Moreover, in 2019, a total of 57 countries (up from 47 in 2018) reported having developed child-sensitive risk-management plans nationally or locally to address risks, including those of disaster, climate change, conflict and public health emergencies.

In 2019, UNICEF took steps to strengthen the responsiveness of its programming to the specific needs of women and girls through a joint study, with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), on the gender and age inequalities of disaster risk. This found it was vital to acknowledge and understand gender and age dimensions of disaster risk and to be proactive in steps to ensure effective disaster risk reduction for all. These findings have been disseminated internally and to partners, including at the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

At the country level, in Burundi, UNICEF and United Nations sister agencies came together to map vulnerabilities, shocks and capacities using data on more than 50 Sustainable Development Goal indicators to identify the provinces with the greatest vulnerabilities. The exercise led to the prioritization of a set of collaborative outcomes for the resilience agenda in Burundi. In the Sudan, which is facing recurring climate-related disasters and related disease outbreaks, UNICEF and the United Nations Environment Programme contributed to a new integrated approach to climate resilience development and water resources management in Darfur and the eastern states.
Investing in preparedness and risk analysis

UNICEF continued the process of strengthening and institutionalizing its global preparedness architecture in 2019. The organization revised its procedure on preparedness for emergency response and its minimum preparedness standards, developed guidance on preparedness in countries affected by complex and protracted crises, and added new features to the emergency preparedness platform, including elements that will streamline planning, decision-making, quality control and preparedness planning at the onset of a crisis. These efforts have yielded clear improvements in country office emergency preparedness, such as increased numbers of standby agreements, and supply and logistics strategies.

In its second year of operation, the emergency preparedness platform continued to serve as the organization’s main place to track risks and strengthen early warning and preparedness. In 2019, 83 per cent of country offices reviewed their plans in the platform, 93 per cent reviewed their risk analysis and 40 offices in high-risk countries received feedback on the quality of their plans. The feedback included recommendations on how to close preparedness gaps to meet minimum standards, strengthen scenario and response planning, and leverage technical and financial support from regional offices and headquarters. Following these quality reviews, several high-risk country offices improved their preparedness capacities by, among other measures, enhancing the advance positioning of supplies and strengthening humanitarian partnerships.

In the Sudan, for example, where in the east the rainy season regularly causes flooding and disease outbreaks, UNICEF drew on these tools to carry out preparedness exercises with government partners, identify the localities most likely to be affected, and determine the response and supplies needed. This led to the pre-positioning of WASH and health supplies at the local level, and the formation of response teams ready to deliver health and hygiene campaigns. When flooding affected more than 7,000 households later in the year, UNICEF and partners were prepared to initiate an immediate and effective response: community mobilization was rapid; chlorination activities were continuously monitored; and WASH, nutrition and health supplies were available as needed. Five out of six affected localities were protected from disease outbreaks and the threat of cholera was effectively neutralized at the local level.
How risk analysis and preparedness add value for money in UNICEF humanitarian response

UNICEF has continued to institutionalize its efforts to analyse risks for stronger organizational preparedness. In 2019, the UNICEF Horizon Scan29 identified 28 countries as priorities for emergency preparedness – up from 11 in 2018 – and mobilized successful preparedness efforts in these countries.

For example, as part of the First Action Initiative – in which UNICEF uses flexible funds in countries in urgent need of preparedness due to imminent risks – five country offices identified through the scan (Afghanistan, Haiti, the Pacific Islands, the State of Palestine and Zimbabwe) received a total of US$2.3 million in global humanitarian thematic funding to take key preparedness actions. UNICEF estimates that these investments will allow for improvements in the speed of its emergency response by an average of 42 days, enable 57 per cent in savings per investment, and reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by more than 1,000 metric tonnes.30

In Zimbabwe, after a cholera hazard was identified through the Horizon Scan process, the country office received over US$417,000 via the First Action Initiative to support related preparedness and early actions to minimize the likelihood of an outbreak. This early allocation helped UNICEF reach 250,000 affected people with key hygiene and health messages, 25,000 people with access to safe water, and over 4,900 households with WASH hygiene kits.

The First Action Initiative is helping UNICEF to generate evidence on how preparedness can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization’s humanitarian response and add value for money.

Addressing fragility and building peace

Conflict and fragility remain major drivers of global humanitarian need, and pose significant risks to the rights of children. Recognizing the important role that UNICEF can play in addressing the underlying causes of conflict and fragility, and in building and sustaining peace, the 2019 procedure linking humanitarian and development programming requires – for the first time – UNICEF country offices operating in fragile and conflict-affected settings to conduct regular conflict analyses, design conflict-sensitive programmes, and contribute explicitly to peacebuilding and social cohesion.

To strengthen organization-wide learning on addressing fragility and building peace, UNICEF also launched two global reviews in 2019: a formative evaluation of its support to young people in peacebuilding, and an evaluative review of its multisectoral contributions to peacebuilding, social cohesion and the prevention of armed conflict. The evaluations will strengthen the evidence base on the organization’s comparative advantage and contributions to peacebuilding, highlight good practices and provide actionable recommendations.

Across all seven regions in 2019, 59 country offices in conflict and fragile settings implemented country programmes with explicit objectives to promote peaceful and inclusive societies and address the underlying grievances that lead to violence, conflict and challenges to social cohesion. In 22 of these countries, UNICEF, in partnership with other United Nations agencies, implemented 32 distinct peacebuilding projects funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. The role of UNICEF has consistently centred on the socioeconomic foundations of peace: reinforcing local and national systems to equitably expand social service delivery to all communities; using social services as mechanisms for building trust and cooperation among divided communities; and supporting the ability of children, youth and their communities to play active roles in strengthening social cohesion and building peace.

For example, in a number of countries, UNICEF has expanded its commitment to programming, specifically engaging adolescents and youth in peacebuilding at a large scale. As part of a Peacebuilding Fund initiative in Burundi, UNICEF partnered with young people in 15 of the communities hardest hit by the conflict. In 2019, young people from 10 youth networks that represent 30,000 individuals implemented activities to transform their communities’ relationship to the past using theatre, television, radio journalism and intergenerational dialogue sessions.

Strengthening our accountability to affected populations

In line with its organization-wide strategy on AAP, UNICEF is working to ensure that all of its programmes promote and protect the rights of affected people; consider their needs, concerns and preferences; and enhance their dignity, capacities and resilience.
The inclusion of crisis-affected children and their families in the design, implementation and monitoring of emergency programmes is core to the approach that UNICEF takes towards humanitarian action. In 2019, among the 68 countries with a humanitarian response, exactly half of them reported consulting affected populations throughout one or more phases of humanitarian programming. In addition, 69 per cent of countries reported providing information to affected and at-risk people, including the most marginalized groups, on life-enhancing and life-saving actions that they could take; 69 per cent reported providing information to better inform them about their entitlements and how to access these; and 41 per cent reported that affected people had access to systematic feedback and complaints mechanisms designed to include the most marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Following the endorsement of the AAP strategy in 2018, UNICEF continued to strengthen its accountability to affected people in 2019 by supporting country offices to implement the strategy. In an important step in this process, UNICEF undertook a rigorous and independent assessment of its current strengths and weaknesses regarding AAP, becoming the first United Nations agency to conduct such an exercise. The results found that, while UNICEF is systematically applying action-oriented evidence in its programming, the organization needs to improve its complaints and feedback mechanisms, and better document the information flowing from these mechanisms to facilitate more strategic programme adjustments.

UNICEF is already addressing these findings at the country level. In 2019, country offices in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Myanmar, Turkey and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela gained valuable technical expertise on improving mechanisms to collect and act on feedback. For example, in Cameroon, UNICEF supported the development of a new AAP strategy that led to the integration of specific AAP outputs and indicators into programme documents and partner agreements. The strategy yielded better participation in the humanitarian response for affected people and thereby addressed persistent challenges associated with programme acceptance.

In line with its AAP commitments, UNICEF strategies of Communication for Development (C4D, also known as social and behaviour change communication, SBCC) in humanitarian settings seek to engage communities so that they are prepared when disaster strikes, can respond with healthy and protective behaviours, and will recover while building resilience. C4D/SBCC interventions seek to inform affected populations about risks and services, while strengthening accountability mechanisms. A C4D/SBCC approach identifies relevant sociocultural beliefs and practices, fostering positive ones and addressing any that are harmful. It is a consultative process among programme and communication specialists, local authorities, change agents and communities.

In 2019, 40 per cent of reporting country offices met organizational benchmarks on C4D programmes, including for adaptation to humanitarian response. This is an improvement over the past two years (32 per cent in 2018 and 28 per cent in 2017), but falls short of the organizational milestone of 55 per cent. In humanitarian contexts, only 29 per cent of countries met these benchmarks, reflecting the need to accelerate attention and support to community system-strengthening in emergencies, where AAP is most critical. With the finalization of the inter-agency community engagement minimum standards and indicators in 2019, UNICEF is addressing this need by promoting the implementation of quality, evidence-based community engagement at large scale, including through its integration in the revised CCCs.

As global lead for risk communication and community engagement in emergency contexts, UNICEF worked with multiple partners at global, regional and country levels to respond to the outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri, the C4D team supported the establishment and reinforcement of nearly 3,800 community engagement and feedback structures in all high-risk areas and hot spots to raise awareness, address rumours and misconceptions, reduce fear and build trust. These structures comprising of elected community members have been used to issue community alerts and follow up on contacts, vaccination, and safe and dignified burials. The cells have supported the rebuilding of community health systems and services.

As part of the Ebola response, UNICEF also collaborated with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Internews, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization on the design and delivery of training for trainers, partners and government. This improved the capacities and skills of various actors (partner NGOs, front-line workers and local government) in the most vulnerable communities. C4D initiatives to address the ongoing Ebola virus outbreak were also ramped up in neighbouring countries, such as Rwanda, where more than 11,500 community health workers were trained in risk communication and community engagement for preparedness, resulting in the engagement of around 200,000 people in raising Ebola awareness and interpersonal communication.

C4D strategies were also applied both inside and outside of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to respond to the rising critical needs of vulnerable populations. A new programme was launched inside the country, including polio vaccination promotion and campaign days on the prevention of family separation. Key information was provided by the days with children initiative to 21,600 people (including 12,000 children), and the 19 workshops were instrumental in broadening the protective environment.

In neighbouring Colombia, UNICEF rolled out C4D actions that raised awareness about risks, reduced and tracked rumours among families, promoted and supported community-based activities, and built a more meaningful and relevant humanitarian response through constant.
feedback from communities. The overall objective was to ensure that children, adolescents and their families accessed information on protection and care and, in turn, on access to and the use of services. UNICEF also worked with several volunteer youth organizations to engage young people and address the risk of xenophobia. In three municipalities, for example, 150 young people are countering xenophobia and violence through workshops using the arts – including hip hop, audiovisual art and weaving – to teach the importance of living together peacefully. In total, C4D actions supported by UNICEF reached over 88,000 individuals in Colombia in 2019.

Fostering collaboration and partnerships

Leveraging partnerships

Partnerships remained central to the organization’s humanitarian response in 2019. UNICEF collaborated with a total of 1,394 civil society field partners for its humanitarian programming in 2019, 66 per cent of which were national partners (see Figure 7). More than US$582.4 million of other-resources emergency funding (cash) was transferred from UNICEF to its civil society partners during the year. UNICEF also partnered with national government responders, and transferred nearly US$349.1 million of other resources – emergency funding to these partners. Overall in 2019, 34 per cent of humanitarian funding was providing directly to local and national civil society and government responders, exceeding the target of 25 per cent. For example, in response to a series of heavy earthquakes in Indonesia, the UNICEF country office partnered with Catholic Relief Services to implement a cash-based assistance project in North Lombok, the regency most affected on the island. All households with pregnant women or children under 7 years were eligible for the assistance, with the national post office delivering the service. A total of 4,500 households benefited, including 10,000 children.

The standby partnership mechanism remains a main provider of surge support by UNICEF during emergencies.

FIGURE 7: Partnerships

In 2019, UNICEF collaborated with 1,394 civil society partners (two thirds local). More than US$582.4 million in cash was transferred to civil society partners (56.6 per cent to local partners).¹

TOTAL PARTNERSHIPS

1,394

¹ Data extracted on 7 April 2020 from UNICEF’s InSight performance management platform.

This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control agreed by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed by the Parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
In 2019, 24 standby partners (out of 31 total standby partners) provided UNICEF with more than 18,000 days of support, the in-kind equivalent of around US$9.1 million. A total of 161 deployments to 39 countries were undertaken during the year. Fifty-seven per cent of standby deployments were to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies. Deployments also supported smaller emergency responses in Angola, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Namibia and Pakistan.

In response to the sudden onset of cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, standby partners responded with rapid and significant support, with 35 deployments valued at the in-kind equivalent of around US$1.9 million. A joint review of the standby response found that standby deployees were on the ground faster than other surge staff, enabling the United Nations to scale up its operations rapidly and get to hard-to-reach areas. The standby mechanism also provided a critical mix of technical expertise (including in areas that are difficult to fulfil such as disabilities and cash), as well as emergency experience, relevant language skills and interpersonal cultural competencies.

**Strengthening inter-agency collaboration**

Humanitarian partnerships – including with United Nations sister agencies, the IFRC movement and NGOs – made significant strides in 2019. Strong UNICEF engagement with UNHCR, governments, private sector leaders and other stakeholders at the first-ever Global Refugee Forum in December 2019 underscored the organization’s position as a key partner implementing the Global Refugee Compact and responding to the needs of refugee and host community children in programme countries. The pledges made by UNICEF itself and with partners will shape the humanitarian community’s response to the situations of refugee children, returnee children and children in host communities for years to come.

In addition to its programmatic engagement with international NGOs around the world, UNICEF also took steps to strengthen humanitarian partnerships with NGOs. Forty-six international and national NGOs attended a two-day consultation event co-facilitated by UNICEF and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies – the first of its kind on such partnerships since 2012. This yielded seven recommendations for working together to address key issues such as localization, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and the revision of the CCCs.

A joint study on country-level collaboration conducted by UNICEF and IFRC generated findings that will improve the ways in which the organizations work together. The findings cover areas such as improving knowledge of the CCCs, improving partnership management and accountabilities, supporting joint advocacy between UNICEF and NGO partners on children’s rights in emergencies, and developing a global localization strategy. The resulting evidence-based road map will serve as a long-term strategy for the partnership.

In 2019, UNICEF continued to collaborate with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to build capacities for the use of geographical information systems and mapping in humanitarian response. The partnership helped the country offices in Chad, Djibouti, Indonesia and Mali to develop geospatial mapping skills that will equip them to better anticipate and prepare for emergencies.

**Fostering equity and inclusion**

UNICEF continued its efforts to foster equity and inclusion in its humanitarian action throughout the year, including through programmes designed to reach women and girls (see ‘Gender equality’ below), children with disabilities (see p. 50), young children (see p. 34), adolescents (see p. 51) and other marginalized groups in humanitarian contexts. In 2019, more than 615,000 children under 5 years in humanitarian situations benefited from early childhood development interventions; 440,000 adolescent girls and boys living in humanitarian contexts in 24 countries were supported to lead or participate in civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF programmes and activities; and UNICEF conducted specific work on children with disabilities in humanitarian action in 53 countries.

**Gender equality**

UNICEF is committed to conducting its humanitarian action in a way that responds to the unique needs of girls, boys, women and men, and reduces the risk of gender-based violence in emergencies. Prioritizing equity in action during humanitarian crises advances equality in both access and outcomes, and may create opportunities for broader social change that promotes gender equality.

In 2019, 44 UNICEF country offices prioritized gender-based violence in emergencies, compared with 18 country offices in 2018. As a result, UNICEF was able to reach more than 3.3 million women, girls and boys in 46 countries affected by crisis with gender-based violence risk mitigation.
prevention or response services — up from 1.3 million in 2018 (exceeding the target). UNICEF also strengthened national efforts to improve gender data. For example, through a partnership with the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality in Greece, UNICEF promoted systematic data collection and analysis of gender-based violence.

In Colombia, Lebanon, Myanmar and Somalia, UNICEF conducted life-saving, participatory safety audits looking at risks for gender-based violence in emergencies (e.g., in access to water, sanitation, learning and safe spaces). This informed programming and benefited more than 1.2 million people. For example, in Lebanon, UNICEF used the audit findings to improve gender-based violence risk mitigation interventions with more than 83 per cent of women and girls reporting feeling safer six months later. In Malawi, UNICEF supported a local partner in activating community-based complaints mechanisms, including two helplines designed to hear and refer cases of abuse, exploitation or gender-based violence towards girls and boys.

Gender-responsive programming also engages women in humanitarian action. For example, in the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF reached more than 600,000 caregivers with tailored messages on complementary feeding and dietary diversity, which contributed to 1.8 million women and children being screened for malnutrition, and 11,500 children under 5 years (55 per cent girls) receiving life-saving treatment for severe acute malnutrition.

Recognizing that sex, age and gender expectations intersect to create specific risks and needs for adolescent girls, as well as restrictions on their mobility and access to services, UNICEF also provides targeted support to adolescent girls in emergencies. In Afghanistan, UNICEF, in coordination with Health Cluster partners and the Ministry of Public Health, reached 1.4 million women and children under 5 years in remote areas through 77 mobile outreach interventions. The services provided included antenatal care, postnatal care, immunization and medical treatments, including the integrated management of newborn and childhood illnesses.

In 2019, UNICEF provided menstrual hygiene management services — including the distribution of dignity kits and the provision of private washing and disposal facilities and information — to 1 million women and girls from 39 countries dealing with emergencies. This included more than 24,000 women and girls living with disabilities. In Burkina Faso, menstrual hygiene management initiatives in schools were expanded to remove bottlenecks to girls’ education. In 2019, over 61,000 schoolchildren in 200 new schools introduced menstrual hygiene management initiatives. Focus groups with beneficiary girls found that the initiative has helped break taboos and encourage more free discussion about menstruation. In Cyclone Idai-affected communities in Zimbabwe, a total of 3,960 adolescent schoolgirls (99 per cent of the target) received menstrual hygiene management kits.

Humanitarian action is also an opportunity to challenge discriminatory social norms and practices. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNICEF reached over 6,200 caregivers (4,947 women and 1,276 men) to increase their positive parenting skills and to promote a protocol to mitigate peer violence in schools. In Chad, UNICEF trained around 800 women and 470 girls on the management of income-generating activities and on strategies to accelerate girls’ enrolment in school. In Somalia, the multisectoral Communities Care model — which uses community dialogue to challenge social norms around child marriage, violence against children and women, and female genital mutilation — engaged more than 226,500 people (56 per cent women and girls), including adolescent girls and boys. An evaluation of the initiative found that attitudes condoning violence were beginning to shift, while researchers noted a statistically significant reduction in the social acceptance of female genital mutilation in two communities (in Baidoa and Beled Hawo).

Challenges and lessons learned

Increasing predictability, quality and equity in UNICEF humanitarian action

Despite being one of the largest United Nations agencies, and its dual development–humanitarian mandate, UNICEF is not always seen as a major humanitarian actor. Several evaluations and reports point to variations in the quality of programmes and the overall performance of UNICEF as a humanitarian actor across various emergencies.

The current CCCs and Strategic Plan invite the measurement of UNICEF performance by “percentage of targets” achieved or “number reached” by interventions, which can lead the organization to prioritize large-scale responses over principled, high-quality ones delivered to the most vulnerable populations. Several evaluations highlight the need to strengthen equity in the UNICEF programme approach, improve technical capacity to objectively measure the quality of humanitarian response and strengthen quality assurance mechanisms. At the same time, in some countries, the targets in UNICEF humanitarian response plans are not met.

To address these findings, UNICEF will implement holistic approaches with renewed, shared commitments
from representatives, regional directors, headquarters directors and the organization’s senior leadership, based on a common understanding and consistent commitment to deliver on accountabilities and obligations to affected populations, host countries and partners. UNICEF will ensure a more coordinated approach to humanitarian response, breaking out from operating in programmatic silos, and taking a multisectoral approach. This will enable the organization to consistently and more effectively enact its humanitarian and development mandate within its own programming.

Increasing humanitarian capacity and leadership
UNICEF needs to focus on addressing the limitations in its human resources. Getting the right people in the right place at the right time – including at the leadership and technical levels – is a key factor in quality humanitarian action. To ensure that UNICEF is predictable in its role in humanitarian response, investment in career management and building humanitarian capacity will be important, as will investment in core funding for key leadership roles within the humanitarian architecture. UNICEF will also explore opportunities in collaboration with other United Nations agencies for improving human resources for humanitarian action.

Mobilizing more flexible and multi-year funding
Short-term funding commitments and donor conditionalities make response planning challenging. Flexible and multi-year funding remained low in 2019, undermining the ability of UNICEF to rapidly and equitably reach every child affected by emergencies – including in the less-visible crises – and in a way that achieves sustainable results over the longer term. Flexible funding has become even more imperative to ensure that UNICEF has the flexibility to respond quickly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, UNICEF shifted its 2020 Humanitarian Action for Children funding appeal to an earlier December 2019 launch to drive organization-wide efforts to reposition UNICEF as a leading humanitarian body and to synchronize the appeal within the inter-agency humanitarian appeal process. UNICEF is also working to improve its allocation criteria, tracking and results reporting on flexible funding to support additional resource mobilization efforts. The contributions made by UNICEF to the Grand Bargain work stream on flexible funding have been well received, and the organization is developing a clear position on donor conditionalities, particularly where there are counter-terrorism agendas.

Addressing inconsistencies in linking humanitarian and development programming
UNICEF has been engaged in this work at the policy level and is now investing in translating this work into coherent and systematic action in programming. The areas targeted for implementation for the new procedure on linking humanitarian and development work will also be carefully analysed and regularly monitored throughout the procedure’s implementation, to ensure that measures are adapted to each context.

Operating in complex and high-threat environments with access challenges
UNICEF continues to face challenges to maintaining and sustaining principled, timely and equitable access in complex and high-threat environments, particularly with the rise in the number of non-State entities in many contexts. UNICEF will take the following actions: scale up efforts in 2020 to systematically strengthen the capacities of leadership in country offices on principled humanitarian action and engagement modalities; provide dedicated country support for humanitarian access with the full roll-out of the UNICEF Access Framework and guidelines for engaging with non-state entities; and expand the expertise provided through the Emergency Response Team.
Defining an institutional risk appetite

UNICEF is working to support country offices and partners in managing risks more systematically, to ensure that their humanitarian action is more effective, principled and child-sensitive, particularly in complex and high-threat environments, and in line with the CCCs. This means the organization will be developing a “corporate risk appetite”, particularly in such environments, based on a common understanding of risk boundaries and more systematic risk-informed decision-making. This includes issues such as the engagement with non-State entities, sanctions, donor conditionalities, integrated mission settings, civil-military coordination, advocacy on grave violations against children, localization and duty of care.

Leveraging cooperation with international actors

Extensive consultation with civil society organizations has revealed that UNICEF needs to improve its partnership processes. Overall, there needs to be an organizational shift in how UNICEF approaches its partnerships, to ensure that it is an attractive partner to civil society and other implementing partners. The organization will also look to the private sector for new ways to partner in certain sectors or locations. Fostering more coherent engagement with the cluster system will also improve coordination, as well as the overall quality of cluster members’ responses and UNICEF programmes. With new coordination systems emerging, such as those in large-scale displacement or public-health emergency responses, UNICEF will define its approach to, and place in, such systems.

Providing some localization of humanitarian responses, and engagement with affected populations

In recent years, UNICEF has continued to advance its accountability to affected people through mechanisms such as U-Report, and including in its response to health emergencies such as the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Despite this progress, however, the people assisted through humanitarian programmes rarely have sufficient influence on how aid is prioritized or delivered and, where feedback mechanisms exist, feedback is rarely acted on. UNICEF will invest in closing the feedback loop, particularly where the feedback is coming from communities, and better operationalize its AAP efforts. Localization efforts will be context-specific, with improved analysis on where to localize, and a recognition that various disaster typologies call for differing levels of localization. Making use of existing local networks will also help UNICEF to focus its localization efforts.

Improving support for emergency preparedness/readiness

UNICEF needs to invest additional human and financial resources in emergency preparedness, including the global tools and systems needed to achieve better operational preparedness in the field. In 2020, UNICEF will develop a global simulation package enabling country offices to test their operational capacity, while strengthening its capacity to provide feedback to country office senior management on the quality of preparedness plans, and improving its financial resources for preparedness and risk analysis. A preparedness co-funding initiative designed to increase resource allocations to preparedness at the country level is being tested, and a new preparedness tagging function in the organization’s global financial data systems will be introduced. UNICEF will also increase preparedness resource-mobilization efforts across the organization. The organization also needs to invest more in capitalizing on its dual mandate to ensure a holistic response. This includes pushing for more multisectoral approaches – both externally with other agencies, and internally. Technology will be used more frequently in the analysis of context and needs, and multi-layered analysis will be looked at to understand the external factors influencing humanitarian contexts. This will allow UNICEF to be more proactive in its responses and better ready for immediate response.
Results by Strategic Plan

Goal Area

The information presented in this section follows reporting on the programme and operational commitments of the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs). It represents the contributions made by UNICEF, with partners, to each commitment. These are organized by and in line with the goal areas of the Strategic Plan. All figures come from the country office annual reports and consolidated emergency reports unless otherwise stated, and further information on country-level results can be found in those individual consolidated emergency reports.

Two young boys attend UNICEF WASH activities in Blue Nile State in the Sudan. Their village participates in the UNICEF, Ministry of Health and Sudanese Red Crescent programme to end open defecation and promote hygiene (May 2019).
Goal Area 1: Every child survives and thrives

UNICEF works to ensure that every child – including those affected by emergencies – survives and thrives. This means reaching children living in humanitarian situations with vital nutrition, health, HIV and early childhood development (ECD) services. In 2019, out of the total US$2.2 billion expenditure under Goal Area 1, around 29 per cent was emergency funding to support critical nutrition, health, HIV and AIDS, and ECD interventions.

Health in emergencies

In 2019, UNICEF delivered health care to millions of children in fragile, vulnerable and conflict settings in 61 countries. The focus remained on life-saving primary health-care services for the most vulnerable mothers, newborns, children and adolescents, through community- and facility-based services and other locally adapted strategies. UNICEF reached 41.3 million children aged 6 months to 15 years with measles vaccination (95 per cent of the target) and over 1.69 million people with insecticide-treated bed nets. UNICEF and partners also responded, through multisectoral approaches, to several outbreaks, including Ebola, malaria, dengue, measles, polio, diphtheria and cholera. At year’s end, UNICEF also confronted the emergence of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which swiftly threw the world into an uncertain new reality.

Commitment 1: Inter-agency coordination mechanisms in the health sector (e.g., cluster coordination) are supported and enhanced with links to other cluster/sector coordination mechanisms on critical intersectoral issues

In 2019, UNICEF brought together over 100 global partners on the key health issues faced by mothers, newborns and children in humanitarian settings through the child and newborn health in emergencies working groups, under the Global Child Health Task Force and through several inter-agency coordination mechanisms. The Integrated Programming for Famine Risk Reduction brought together the food security, health, nutrition and WASH clusters – the latter two which are led by UNICEF – for famine risk reduction in Yemen. UNICEF worked with the UHC2030 platform to strengthen health systems and resilience. UNICEF is a key partner in Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All to accelerate progress on the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. UNICEF, the World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO) conducted joint programming and advocacy under the Deliver Accelerated Results Effectively and Sustainably (DARES) initiative. UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and WFP also continued to coordinate the Rapid Response Mechanism consortium to support children and families affected by conflict or natural disaster.

Commitment 2: Children and women access life-saving interventions through population- and community-based activities (e.g., campaigns and child health days)

UNICEF continued to support local and context-specific strategies for life-saving health services. In several countries, UNICEF supported national authorities to respond to vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF led advocacy for measles and other vaccination in complex operating environments affected by Ebola virus disease (EVD) and multiple other outbreaks. In EVD-affected areas, over 1.5 million children were vaccinated against measles (85 per cent of the target), and over 764,000 were vaccinated against polio (92 per cent of the target). In 2019, UNICEF programmes were increasingly sensitive to the health needs of children on the move. In Peru, nursing staff were supported to vaccinate children from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, reaching over 11,000 children (exceeding the target; 50 per cent girls). In Uganda, UNICEF contributed to strengthening immunization service delivery in refugee-hosting districts through the procurement of vaccines, the implementation of innovative interventions and communication and social mobilization. Nearly 320,000 children (50 per cent girls) were vaccinated against measles in refugee-hosting districts. In these districts, UNICEF also provided other immediate and long-term life-saving health interventions aimed at building the resilience of health systems. In Gaza in the State of Palestine, UNICEF supported advanced newborn care in hospitals, delivered life-saving drugs for 162,000 high-risk pregnant and lactating women, and children under 5 years (exceeding the target), including almost 15,000 newborns (exceeding the target). In Bangladesh, UNICEF supported the response to the Rohingya refugee crisis, coordinating with the Government of Bangladesh to scale up neonatal care by establishing two new neonatal care units. More than 4,600 sick newborns received care through new and existing neonatal care units (exceeding the target; 36 per cent girls).
Commitment 3: Children, adolescents and women equitably access essential health services with sustained coverage of high-impact preventive and curative interventions

UNICEF consistently identified the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations and supported targeted interventions for equitable health access. In Burundi, responding to a malaria upsurge and working with numerous partners, UNICEF reached almost 228,000 people – at least half of them children – with essential malaria drugs (91 per cent of the target). UNICEF also maintained its support to service delivery in the most insecure and conflict-affected places. In the Syrian Arab Republic, it supported primary health-care delivery for over 2.2 million women and children (91 per cent of the target). With the establishment of 61 prefabricated clinics for deprived communities and internally displaced people, UNICEF was able to provide health services – including vaccination, essential newborn care and outpatient consultations – to over 56,000 vulnerable people, including over 20,000 children. In Nigeria, UNICEF and partners’ advocacy resulted in major high-level commitments, including the declaration of a state of concern for high maternal and child mortality. UNICEF helped to bring integrated primary health-care services to just under 4 million conflict-affected people in 2019 (exceeding the target; 1.9 million children under 5 years). In the Islamic Republic of Iran, global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF) enabled UNICEF to procure cold chain items in flood-affected areas as part of a multisectoral integrated response – including nutrition, water, sanitation and child protection interventions – for flood-affected populations. As a result, some 58,000 affected children were reached through the routine childhood immunization programme.

Commitment 4: Women and children access behaviour change communication interventions to improve health-care and feeding practices

Risk communication and community engagement for behaviour change saves vulnerable children’s lives by providing timely information on health risks, disease prevention and health-care availability. Community engagement through networks of health workers and volunteers, and other channels, remains UNICEF’s main strategy. In Burundi, timely risk communication and community engagement on EVD preparedness helped to reach 1.3 million people (exceeding the target) through over 1,400 outreach workers. In Uganda, community engagement reached 3.5 million people (exceeding the target) through nearly 42,000 community-based influencers and 8,100 teachers, adding to traditional media reach. In Yemen, a network of over 5,700 community volunteers and mobilizers played a crucial role in successful vaccination information campaigns reaching 7.3 million people (exceeding the target). In the Syrian Arab Republic, community engagement reached 3.4 million people (98 per cent of the target). Through this effort, UNICEF, the Government and partners identified children who had dropped out of school or missed immunization, WASH or nutrition services, and referred them to the relevant services. In the governorate of Deir-ez-Zor, this approach reached over 276,000 people (51 per cent women and girls), including 165,000 children referred to appropriate services.

Commitment 5: Women and children have access to essential household items

UNICEF was instrumental in reaching the most vulnerable and excluded crisis-affected populations with essential non-food items, including items that promote the prevention of preventable life-threatening diseases among children. In Ecuador, to facilitate service availability for migrants, UNICEF worked with health authorities to distribute baby kits for nearly 17,000 children under 3 years (exceeding the target; 54 per cent girls). This assistance was linked with breastfeeding and cash-based interventions. In Iraq, UNICEF delivered essential items, mainly winter clothes, to internally displaced children aged 0–14 years in highly vulnerable locations in Basrah. In Missan and Salah al-Din, the Rapid Response Mechanism supported the delivery of essential items to almost 38,000 flood-affected children (21 per cent of the target, mainly due to funding constraints; 50 per cent girls).

Globally, UNICEF supported 41.3 million children aged 6 months to 15 years in humanitarian situations with measles vaccination (95 per cent of the targeted population).
Case study 1: Delivering life-saving health services in challenging conditions in Yemen

Nearly five years in, the conflict in Yemen is the largest humanitarian crisis in recent history: 80 per cent of the population, including 12.3 million children, need humanitarian assistance. The health sector is in a dire condition – by the end of 2019, only 51 per cent of the country’s health facilities were fully functional, and health workers had not been paid for over three years.

In the face of these challenges, UNICEF has focused on three key intervention areas in Yemen: improve access to primary health care, prevent and respond to disease outbreaks, and preserve and strengthen the health system. As part of efforts to strengthen the health system, UNICEF supported nearly 2,000 primary health-care facilities to remain open and functional in 2019. In addition, community health workers were deployed in 65 of the 333 districts, and community volunteers were deployed in all 333. Other key results in 2019 in Yemen included:

- Over 2.5 million children under 5 years received treatment against childhood illnesses, and 4.5 million were vaccinated against polio.
- Some 11.8 million children between 6 months and 15 years were vaccinated against measles (91 per cent of the target), and 3.8 million were vaccinated against diphtheria.
- Almost 710,000 women (78 per cent of the national caseload) received antenatal care, nearly 237,300 women had skilled attendance at childbirth, and nearly 182,000 received postnatal care.
- Over 330,000 cases of acute watery diarrhoea/suspected cholera cases were treated (38 per cent of the caseload), and 1.9 million people were vaccinated against cholera.

Children in Aden show off the spots where they received their measles and rubella vaccinations. The Measles and Rubella Initiative in Yemen is a private–public partnership of five global partners, including UNICEF, spearheading a global effort to eliminate measles and rubella (February 2019).
Challenges

Most humanitarian contexts became more complex and fluid in 2019, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, communities, families and health systems in 2020 will be enormous. Preparedness to health emergencies remains a key challenge, and response capacity varies significantly among countries, including some high- and middle-income countries. Health responses in emergencies thus faced significant challenges, including complex operating environments, access constraints, insecurity and a disregard for the lives and resources of humanitarian actors. In Burkina Faso, for example, the departure of health workers from insecure areas in 2019 increased pressure on already overstretched health services. In several countries, including the Congo, the Niger and Yemen, humanitarian action was undermined by a lack of local health capacities. UNICEF will continue to address these constraints through multisectoral collaborations adapted to local contexts. UNICEF is also investing in partner capacity-building for health responses in emergencies, with a focus on non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Health strategies must be adapted for better local acceptance and engagement to ensure that health services are available where mothers and children can easily access them.

Nutrition in emergencies

In 2019, UNICEF and partners delivered life-saving action to safeguard women's and children's nutrition in 61 countries experiencing new or protracted emergencies. Over the course of the year, 4.1 million children aged 6–59 months who suffered from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were given life-saving treatment and care (86 per cent of the target), with a 93 per cent recovery rate, and information, counselling and support on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) was provided through UNICEF-supported programmes to nearly 17.4 million mothers and caregivers affected by humanitarian crises across 45 countries.39 In 2019, UNICEF reached more children with life-saving treatment for SAM than ever before.

Commitment 1: Effective leadership is established for nutrition cluster inter-agency coordination, with links to other cluster/sector coordination mechanisms on critical intersectoral issues

As cluster lead agency, UNICEF supports effective coordination in humanitarian contexts to maximize collective response to nutrition issues. In 2019, of the 23 country offices with an inter-agency humanitarian response plan in the Global Humanitarian Overview, 21 had designated staff to lead or co-lead nutrition sectors or clusters. Cluster performance assessments were conducted in 12 of these countries and all met satisfactory performance levels. Life-saving nutrition interventions in emergencies benefited 25.3 million people (79 per cent of the target) in 21 countries as a result of UNICEF leadership and coordination with over 40 partners in the Global Nutrition Cluster. UNICEF support included field missions, webinars, capacity-building, technical and strategic advice, and over 400 days of direct support41 by Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) in Afghanistan, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Zimbabwe, among other countries. In Zimbabwe, RRT support focused on strengthening nutrition capacity in the Cyclone Idai emergency. UNICEF and Global Nutrition Cluster partners strengthened the convergence of activities by nutrition, food security, health, WASH and education clusters, resulting in inter-cluster convergence plans in the Central African Republic, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the Central African Republic, these clusters developed a range of pooled multisectoral strategic objectives in the 2020 humanitarian response plan. Systematic participation in external forums by UNICEF and the Global Nutrition Cluster strengthened the humanitarian–development linkages by aligning strategic direction and activities at the country level.

Commitment 2: Timely nutritional assessment and surveillance systems are established and/or reinforced

The timely and good-quality analysis of nutrition data is critical for preparedness and response, and in 2019, UNICEF drove improvements in data methods and capacity. UNICEF helped to roll out Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analyses on acute malnutrition in 11 countries, including Mozambique and Somalia. UNICEF led the nutrition component of the Food Security Information Network’s 2019 Global Report on Food Crises, drawing greater attention to the poor quality of children's diets as a key driver of malnutrition, and the support given to improve children's diets in response to food crises. With GHTF, Somalia conducted a national health and nutrition survey for the first time in a decade, improving UNICEF's capacity to prioritize technical and programmatic support in this context. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF responded to 147 nutrition alerts from the nationwide nutritional surveillance and early warning system, allowing UNICEF to take early action and prioritize vulnerable communities.

Commitment 3: Support for appropriate infant and young child feeding is accessed by affected women and children

In 2019, UNICEF reached 17.4 million women and caregivers with support for IYCF, an increase of over 900,000 from the previous year. The UNICEF response to EVD was amplified through cross-regional learning hosted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which guided multi-country preparedness actions and raised the profile of nutrition in EVD response. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, nutritional care for EVD patients and
adequate nutrition for separated or orphaned infants under 24 months of age who could not be breastfed reached nearly 400 infants. In the Sudan, UNICEF reached nearly 883,000 mothers and caregivers from South Sudan in refugee camps and informal settlements with counselling on recommended IYCF practices (exceeding the target). In Colombia, nearly 137,000 caregivers (exceeding the target) were reached through promotional activities about child-friendly services, improving their knowledge of malnutrition risk factors and IYCF counselling. In drought- and flood-affected Mauritania, GHTF support enabled UNICEF, WHO and partners to use World Breastfeeding Week to support IYCF, with mass media reaching more than 65,000 pregnant women and 104,000 breastfeeding mothers.

Commitment 4: Children and women with acute malnutrition access appropriate treatment services
When the prevention of malnutrition fails, early identification and management of SAM is a priority. By strengthening systems and optimizing treatment approaches, UNICEF reached 4.1 million children with SAM in 2019, an increase of over 700,000 children compared with the previous year (86 per cent of the target). In Mozambique, integrated mobile teams screened almost 641,000 children, of whom nearly 36,000 had SAM and were admitted for treatment – and 82 per cent recovered. In Yemen, nearly 4.4 million children under 5 years were screened for acute malnutrition by more than 27,000 volunteers and health workers, and outreach campaigns spanned 88 districts. A total of just over 343,000 children aged 6–59 months with SAM (exceeding the target) received treatment in nearly 4,000 outpatient therapeutic programmes – 86 per cent of these children were discharged as cured. In the Sudan, 4.6 million children under 5 years were screened for malnutrition, up from 4.2 million in 2018. The number of children aged 6–59 months treated for SAM also increased somewhat: nearly 251,000 were treated (84 per cent of the target), compared with 244,000 in 2018. In the Central Sahel, UNICEF supported partners in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger to adopt simplified approaches for the community-based management of acute malnutrition. In these three countries, nearly 663,000 children with SAM were admitted for treatment (50 per cent girls), and 90 per cent were successfully rehabilitated. In Afghanistan, UNICEF reached nearly 303,000 children with SAM (80 per cent of the target, including just over 166,000 girls).

Globally, UNICEF supported nearly 17.4 million mothers and caregivers in humanitarian situations with information, counselling and support on infant and young child feeding.

Commitment 5: Children and women access micronutrients from fortified foods, supplements or multiple micronutrient preparations
In humanitarian contexts, the risk of micronutrient deficiencies increases, threatening the survival, growth and development of children and women. In 2019, UNICEF reached an estimated 9 million women and children with multiple micronutrient preparations in response to humanitarian crises. In Bangladesh, UNICEF provided nearly 57,000 adolescent girls (88 per cent of the target) and almost 39,000 pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers (100 per cent of the target) with iron and folic acid supplements, while just under 158,000 refugee children aged 6–59 months (exceeding the target, 49 per cent girls) from the Rohingya community received vitamin A supplements to strengthen their immune systems and enhance disease resistance. In Uganda, over 954,000 children (51 per cent girls) were reached with vitamin A supplements in refugee-hosting districts (exceeding the target). In Yemen, UNICEF provided vitamin A supplementation for 2.6 million children under 5 years (61 per cent of the target), and multiple micronutrient powders for 1.7 million children in the same age group (59 per cent of the target). In Yemen, some 850,000 children received deworming prophylaxis, and 2 million mothers received iron and folic acid. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNICEF and partners reached just over 302,000 children under 5 years, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, and provided more than 243,000 of these children and women with micronutrient supplementation (exceeding the target).

Commitment 6: Children and women access relevant information about nutrition programme activities
UNICEF disseminates information on how to improve children’s and women’s diets, seek nutrition services and adopt positive nutrition practices. In Bangladesh, UNICEF supported Rohingya refugees through intensive social mobilization activities targeting a range of influencers, including fathers and religious leaders. A network of 1,450 UNICEF-supported community mobilization volunteers reached 725,000 refugees twice a month with messages on key life-saving nutrition practices. In the Niger, UNICEF led efforts to empower mothers and caregivers to monitor their children’s nutritional status by scaling up the approach of mid-upper-arm circumference measurement in the Maradi region and training more than 872,000 women to screen for malnutrition in their children.
Case study 2: Leveraging partnerships to reach crisis-affected children with life-saving nutrition services in South Sudan

The unresolved conflict in South Sudan is preventing displaced people from returning home, severely affecting 7.5 million people, including 4.1 million children. Some 860,000 children were suffering from wasting and other forms of acute malnutrition in South Sudan in 2019.

In addition to coordinating the Nutrition Cluster, UNICEF worked with more than 40 civil society organizations – many of them local partners – to reach nearly 1.7 million caregivers of children aged 0–23 months with counselling on infant and young child feeding (a 77 per cent increase from 2018). More than 237,000 children (124,000 girls) received treatment for severe wasting and other forms of SAM, and 91 per cent recovered.

Despite the challenge of operating through a fragile health system, UNICEF increased the number of outpatient treatment sites from 858 in 2018 to over 1,100 in 2019. The integration of nutrition services with health and WASH services helped to address the underlying causes of malnutrition.

Building on this success, UNICEF will continue to strengthen its collaboration with partners across sectors to prevent childhood malnutrition in South Sudan.

Mothers and children wait to be screened for malnutrition at the nutrition centre at the Protection of Civilian area in Wau, South Sudan. The centre is run by UNICEF partner Johanniter and treats 100 severely malnourished children on average per month (November 2019).
Challenges
Political instability, overlapping climatic shocks and ongoing displacement and migration continued to challenge UNICEF investments in preparedness and response to nutrition in humanitarian contexts. While some responses were fully funded, others faced shortfalls ranging from around 20–30 per cent (Eritrea, Indonesia, Mali) to over 50 per cent (Pakistan, Uganda, Zimbabwe). In other cases, ongoing conflict and insecurity hampered access to vulnerable populations (Mali, Yemen). UNICEF will continue to address these constraints by supporting the scale-up of humanitarian-development-peace and risk-informed approaches to programming. In line with its accountability and leadership, UNICEF will continue to invest in coordination, information management capacity and supply chain strengthening and integration to strengthen the resilience and capacity of national governments to protect children’s diets and deliver nutrition support in emergency contexts.

HIV in emergencies
In crises related to war, civil strife, health emergencies and natural disasters, UNICEF recognizes that the most vulnerable, including families living with HIV, disproportionately bear the impacts. Displaced communities and communities in crisis may also experience a breakdown of social mores and an upsurge in gender-based violence and transactional sex that puts girls and young women at heightened risk of HIV. The comprehensive programme approaches of UNICEF seek to mitigate these impacts through both treatment and prevention, via technical support and the engagement of young people and people living with HIV, as well as direct service delivery.

Commitment 1: Children, young people and women have access to information regarding prevention, care and treatment
Providing timely and accurate HIV information is central to prevention programming for women, children and adolescents in humanitarian settings. UNICEF therefore focuses on building capacities and training health-care workers in HIV prevention and messaging in humanitarian situations. Alongside partners in Uganda, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to build the capacities of health workers delivering quality HIV and tuberculosis services in refugee communities. This included training 903 health workers (nearly two-thirds women) in HIV prevention and messaging in humanitarian settings. This included training 903 health workers (nearly two-thirds women) in HIV prevention and messaging in humanitarian settings. UNICEF also worked to reach adolescents in humanitarian settings in 2019, including in Boa Vista, Brazil, which hosted refugees from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. UNICEF provided health promotion information in the language, tone and style best suited to adolescents, and trained 20 adolescents as peer educators for the Youth Aware project on HIV prevention, testing and referrals.

Commitment 2: Children, young people and women access HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment during crisis
In 2019, UNICEF continued to prioritize access to consistent, quality antiretroviral treatment (ART) for women, children and adolescents living with HIV in humanitarian settings. This included testing, linking affected people to care, and supporting adherence to ART. In Pakistan, following an HIV outbreak that disproportionately affected children, UNICEF partnered with the Government to support testing, treatment and communications strategies. UNICEF support for social mobilization, community engagement and paediatric HIV units helped to mobilize the testing of 782 family members of children identified as living with HIV. The units also treated 971 of the more than 1,000 children living with HIV (95 per cent). In Bangladesh, where UNICEF scaled up voluntary HIV testing and counselling, the number of facilities providing these services in districts in and around Rohingya refugee camps increased from 3 to 16. As a result, over 17,000 women (86 per cent of the target) – half of them Rohingya women living in the camps – accessed prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV services. In the Central African Republic – an unstable environment with high HIV vulnerability – the integration of PMTCT within maternal, newborn and child health services in 40 sites significantly increased PMTCT uptake. UNICEF also supported training for health-care workers, who ultimately conducted HIV screening for 88 per cent of women attending antenatal care. Nearly 2,000 of those women who tested positive initiated ART. In Chad, efforts to boost HIV testing through messaging and direct services in crisis-affected areas helped to increase the share of pregnant women accessing HIV testing during antenatal care visits from 45 to 55 per cent. More than 39,000 women accessed HIV screening and PMTCT services (exceeding the target).

Commitment 3: Prevention, care and treatment services for children, young people and women are continued
UNICEF also focused on supporting the continuity of sustainable preventive and treatment services for women and children living with HIV, including in humanitarian settings. One of the organization’s biggest challenges and responses was in the wake of Cyclone Idai (see Case Study 3). In Zimbabwe, UNICEF worked with implementing partner AfricAid to build experience on tracking children, adolescents and young people living with HIV and retaining them in care. Eighty-eight per cent of children
and adolescents were reached through this initiative in the two districts most affected by the cyclone (more than 2,300 children in Chipinge and over 1,100 in Chimanimani). UNICEF also worked with AfricAid on a national effort in Zimbabwe to ensure that 7,600 children, adolescents and young people living with HIV could continue their ART. These separate but complementary efforts underscore the ability and readiness of UNICEF to respond to emerging humanitarian crises (in this case the effects of Cyclone Idai) and chronic crises (poverty and marginalization) simultaneously. Another example of this was seen in Bangladesh, where UNICEF supported initiatives to bolster HIV programming among women, children and adolescents country-wide, while also focusing on the specific needs of Rohingya refugees. Through technical training for healthcare workers in Cox’s Bazar, over 8,500 pregnant women received HIV testing and counselling.

Case study 3: Prioritizing HIV care for people affected by natural disaster in southern Africa

Cyclone Idai was extensively destructive in large parts of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in 2019, killing over 1,000 people – half of them children – and massively disrupting the lives of nearly 3 million residents. The infrastructure damage was especially devastating because it left most people with little or no access to health services after clinics and other facilities were lost and health staff were displaced.

Because these three countries have among the world’s highest HIV prevalence, including among women, children and adolescents,6 UNICEF recognized the urgency of prioritizing HIV prevention and treatment. With governments and partners, the organization focused on locating those people living with HIV who could be re-engaged in treatment and care, including people who had been lost to follow-up. In Malawi, in the first three months of the emergency response, this included supporting mobile health teams that reached over 3,200 people with HIV services. In Mozambique, UNICEF-supported outreach helped to locate 91 per cent of 188 pregnant and breastfeeding women lost to follow-up and encouraged their return to care and treatment. In Zimbabwe, a mobilized cyclone relief team supported by UNICEF helped to ensure that 7,600 children, adolescents and young people living with HIV were safe and had access to antiretroviral treatment.

© UNICEF/UN0293089/

A girl in Malawi listens to a UNICEF-supported HIV-awareness programme (September 2019).
Challenges
HIV services in emergencies are vital to a comprehensive, holistic response. The lack of funding for such services poses a major constraint to scaling up HIV programming in emergencies. In addition, the prioritization of pressing nutrition, shelter and sanitation needs in emergencies can mean that HIV prevention and treatment programmes are overlooked. UNICEF will continue to advocate for prioritizing and funding HIV responses for women, children and adolescents during emerging health and development crises.

Early childhood development
Conflict and displacement can have an adverse impact during the early years of life, when a child’s rapidly developing brain is sensitive to environmental influence. In humanitarian and fragile settings, ECD services are integral to preventing deaths and supporting healthy brain development in newborns and young children. ECD services also have the potential to drive economic recovery and peacebuilding. UNICEF therefore employs ECD interventions in emergencies to address the unique risks facing newborns and young children, promote caregiver well-being and safeguard healthy brain development among the most vulnerable.

In 2019, UNICEF continued to raise the profile of ECD in humanitarian action. Through advocacy at high-level events – such as at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, the United Nations General Assembly and the Global Refugee Forum – UNICEF, with governments, sister agencies, NGOs and the private sector, raised the visibility of the topic, bringing it to the attention of global leaders and stakeholders. This led to funding pledges specifically targeting young children living in humanitarian settings, including a commitment by UNICEF and Education Cannot Wait to put 10 per cent of their respective education-in-emergencies resources into early childhood education.

Globally, UNICEF country offices reached more than 615,000 children in humanitarian situations with ECD interventions (76 per cent of the target and exceeding the 2019 Strategic Plan milestone of 75 per cent). This included the distribution of more than 16,000 ECD emergency kits – which contain materials to help caregivers create a safe learning environment for up to 50 young children – in 48 countries, including nine large-scale emergencies. The UNICEF country offices with the highest rates of procurement of ECD kits included Bangladesh, Lebanon, the State of Palestine and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In Bangladesh, the ECD kits provided nearly 159,000 children under 5 years in the Rohingya refugee camps (nearly 79,000 of them girls), including 645 children with disabilities (310 girls), with play-based learning opportunities.

UNICEF also provided in-depth ECD support to 10 countries affected by emergencies: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Jordan, Mali, the Niger, the State of Palestine, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey. In Mali, more than 86,000 children being treated for SAM received ECD kits in nutrition rehabilitation centres. In addition, over 52,000 parents and caregivers of children under 5 years participated in monthly counselling sessions on child stimulation techniques led by nutrition support groups, ultimately improving the nurturing care received at home for over 78,000 children.

In the State of Palestine, UNICEF played a key role in facilitating coordination between the ministries of health, education and social development and the World Bank to strengthen the ECD and early childhood intervention systems. In 2019, UNICEF supported these ministries to deliver ECD intervention packages targeting the first 1,000 days of life in 62 nurseries, health facilities and kindergartens in Gaza and the West Bank. Through these interventions, nearly 11,000 young children (nearly 5,200 girls) were assessed for malnutrition and developmental delays.

Challenges
UNICEF needs to invest in advocacy, mobilize additional resources and strengthen its own capacities to better incorporate the needs of young children and ECD priorities into sector-specific humanitarian response. More work is needed to ensure that ECD tools and methodologies are well coordinated, integrated, monitored and evaluated across sectors in humanitarian situations. To address these challenges, UNICEF has incorporated ECD-specific commitments in the revised CCCs and provided guidance on how to embed ECD within existing humanitarian planning across sectors. UNICEF will also support governments to integrate ECD into humanitarian planning and engage with key partners to ensure that ECD is embedded in stakeholder plans. In leading the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies ECD Task Team, UNICEF and partners are also seeking to better understand the current landscape, address gaps based on evidence and promote stronger cross-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration.
Maya, 6, attends kindergarten class in Za’atari Refugee Camp in Jordan. Thousands of refugee children are receiving the best start to their education with the opening of 54 new kindergartens in refugee camps in Jordan as part of UNICEF’s effort to support the Government to achieve universal kindergarten by 2025 (March 2019).
Goal Area 2: Every child learns

Education in emergencies

In 2019, UNICEF continued to focus on ensuring every child’s access to learning in emergency situations. For the third year in a row, education continued to comprise the greatest proportion of the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal – at 29 per cent in 2019, up from 25 per cent in 2018. Of the total US$1.2 billion expenditure under Goal Area 2, 41 per cent was emergency funding to support critical education in emergencies interventions. During the year, UNICEF reached 60 per cent of targeted girls and boys in humanitarian situations with formal and non-formal early learning, primary or secondary education, reaching 7.4 million school-aged children (48 per cent girls), up from 6.9 million in 2018.

Commitment 1: Effective leadership is established for education cluster/inter-agency coordination (with co-lead agency), with links to other cluster/sector coordination mechanisms on critical intersectoral issues

In 2019, all 23 country offices in the Global Humanitarian Overview with an inter-agency humanitarian response plan had designated staff to lead or co-lead education sectors or clusters. Cluster coordination performance assessment was undertaken with partners in eight of these countries, all of which met satisfactory performance criteria. The Global Education Cluster RRT provided 404 days of deployment support to improve coordination, information...
management and needs assessment in 14 countries. In the Middle East and North Africa, the RRT cluster coordinator supported the development of the Whole of Syria multi-year resilience programme funded by Education Cannot Wait. This supports more collaborative education responses in protracted crises through joint analysis, joint programming and multi-year financing. In 2019, the Global Education Cluster launched its partners’ forum, a dedicated platform for 40 members from United Nations agencies, national and international civil society and donors, to prioritize and collaborate on education in emergencies. At the inaugural meeting, the Iraq and Nigeria coordination teams shared best practices and priorities. Following strong results achieved by the Global Education Cluster in 2018 and 2019 to strengthen capacities and improve needs assessment for country clusters, the European Commission’s Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department approved a new two-year, €2 million grant to strengthen the inclusion of education in rapid-response mechanisms. At the country level, the resources available to country coordination teams for assessing humanitarian needs were strengthened by the launch of the revised needs assessment package and the associated coaching programme on needs assessment and analysis for coordinated education in emergencies. These tools were piloted in Libya and Nigeria, where joint education needs assessments are under development.

Commitment 2: Children, including preschool-age children, girls and other excluded children, access quality education opportunities

UNICEF works to ensure that all children have access to quality inclusive education and learning from early childhood through adolescence, with particular attention to girls, children with disabilities and the most vulnerable, including children on the move. In Indonesia, following a catastrophic earthquake in the previous year, UNICEF provided learning spaces for over 64,000 children (exceeding the target, and 50 per cent girls). In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the organization supported early childhood education for nearly 2,300 refugee and internally displaced children (50 per cent girls) through the provision of ECD centres, classrooms, school supplies, and separated latrines and handwashing facilities. In Mali, where insecurity is hindering regular supervision by school inspectors, UNICEF implemented an innovative, remote training strategy using tablet computers that reinforced teaching capacity and benefited 23,700 children. In Afghanistan, where 65 per cent of out-of-school children are girls, UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and six NGOs, provided access to education for over 148,000 children affected by emergencies (58 per cent girls) in 13 provinces (93 per cent of the target) by establishing just over 4,500 temporary learning spaces. In response to disastrous cyclones in Zimbabwe, UNICEF reached just under 78,000 learners (49 per cent girls) – including 322 children with disabilities – from ECD to secondary school by distributing textbooks, classroom tents, schools-in-a-box and recreational kits to 114 schools (exceeding the target). To facilitate refugee and migrant children’s social inclusion in Greece, UNICEF identified spaces for new kindergartens, and facilitated school transportation for children from remote areas. As a result of a partnership between UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and local education authorities, some 12,800 refugee and migrant children were enrolled in formal education in 2019 (99 per cent of the target) and just over 5,800 school-age children and adolescents participated in structured non-formal education activities (77 per cent of the target).

Globally, UNICEF supported 7.4 million children in humanitarian situations with formal and non-formal education (60 per cent of the targeted population).

Commitment 3: Safe and secure learning environments that promote the protection and well-being of students are established

Conflicts and disasters intensify threats and attacks against educational facilities, teachers and learners. In West and Central Africa, where nearly 2 million children and 50,000 teachers were affected by school closures in 2019, the UNICEF Regional Office provided technical support that resulted in over 1,700 schools implementing the safe school approach to build resilience, and just under 340,000 children (52 per cent girls) studying in schools equipped with emergency preparedness and response plans (87 per cent of the target). In Grand Bahama, UNICEF supported school rehabilitation – including a school for children with special needs – following damage caused by Hurricane Dorian. As a result of collaboration with a local implementing partner, these schools were safely able to reopen, benefiting around 2,000 children. In Burundi, UNICEF used thematic funds to develop an EVD preparedness plan and promote EVD awareness throughout the education system by training 930 teachers who reached nearly 54,000 students with key messages. In turn, these students will be able to share EVD messages in their communities.

Commitment 4: Psychosocial and health services for children and teachers are integrated in educational response

During and after emergencies, children deal with the repercussions of trauma and limited access to protection, health and other critical services. UNICEF supports the provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and health services to children and teachers by using schools as integrated platforms. In the Niger, following training supported by UNICEF, teachers provided MHPSS to over 81,000 students (exceeding the target, and 51 per cent girls). In Iraq, UNICEF trained more than 4,500 education personnel (43 per cent women) on emergency
Case study 4: Reaching all children, especially girls, with learning opportunities in Bangladesh

Two and a half years after the initial influx, nearly 855,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar remained in Cox’s Bazar District in Bangladesh at the end of 2019. Nearly one quarter of Rohingya boys and nearly one third of girls aged 6–14 years are out of school in Cox’s Bazar.

UNICEF focuses on improving access to and the quality of learning for children affected by the Rohingya refugee crisis. In 2019, UNICEF and partners reached almost 274,000 children (48 per cent girls) with education in nearly 2,500 learning centres in refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar. A key challenge was that social barriers undermined girls’ access to education in the Rohingya community. UNICEF prioritized Communication for Development (C4D) interventions (also known as social and behaviour change communication, or SBCC) and introduced girls-only classrooms to support enrolment and retention for girls, particularly for those over 12 years.

Advocacy by UNICEF and partners on the importance of formal education resulted in the Government of Bangladesh agreeing to introduce the Myanmar curriculum for Rohingya children. An estimated 10,000 children in Grades 6 to 9 are expected to be reached with this curriculum on a pilot basis by the end of 2020.

To give host community students who have dropped out of school a second chance, the UNICEF-supported Ability-Based Accelerated Learning programme enrolled over 3,400 out-of-school children (51 per cent girls). This cohort will be able to take the national primary leaving exams after three years, or re-enter formal school after one year.

Mostakima, 11, and her best friend Shamima, 11, sit close to each other during a class in a UNICEF-supported learning centre in a refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. Like many of the children in Rohingya refugee camps, Mostakima wants to become a teacher. She and her classmates say that education gives them strong hope for the future (November 2019).
education, life skills and delivering MHPSS (90 per cent of the target). In Burkina Faso, nearly 341,000 children benefited from teachers having training on MHPSS (91 per cent of the target). In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNICEF supported extracurricular activities for more than 7,200 children to promote schools as safe spaces, while providing school reinforcement activities for over 24,000 children and developing psychosocial care benefiting more than 54,000 children and just over 5,000 teachers.

Commitment 5: Adolescents, young children and caregivers access appropriate life skills programmes and information about the emergency, and those who have missed out on schooling, especially adolescents, receive information on educational options

UNICEF prioritizes the development of life skills across all levels of education. In emergency contexts, many children and adolescents miss out on years of education, if they enrol at all. Life skills programmes can contribute to social cohesion and pathways to employment, particularly for adolescents. In the Syrian Arab Republic, 152,000 young people (52 per cent girls) benefited from life skills and employment support training. In Uganda, UNICEF supported school-level system strengthening in refugee-hosting locations that facilitated the provision of life skills education through school clubs for more than 32,000 adolescents (45 per cent girls). Accelerated education and life skills support also reached over 7,400 out-of-school adolescents (50 per cent girls).

Challenges

UNICEF prioritizes education in humanitarian settings, yet resources fall far behind those needed to effectively deliver learning for all children. Many countries also struggle with preparedness as instability increases globally due to natural disasters, conflicts and disease outbreaks. Often, education needs are under-reported, particularly for children with multiple vulnerabilities – and these children can be the most difficult to reach. In Burkina Faso, for example, the volatility of the security context negatively impacted humanitarian access, and construction activities and the distribution of school materials were significantly delayed by the late availability of funding. In Pakistan, a lack of funding delayed rapid needs assessments in drought-affected areas, which limited the education response. In 2020, UNICEF will continue to strengthen its service delivery to ensure learning opportunities reach all children whose education is disrupted by conflict, natural disasters and health emergencies. This will be accomplished through partnerships, innovative and portable delivery, system strengthening, learning support for children on the move, and the provision of alternative pathways such as accelerated education to support children who have missed out on education.

Goal Area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

Child protection in emergencies

A leading global advocate of child protection in humanitarian settings, UNICEF strives to protect every girl and boy from violence, abuse and exploitation in emergencies, mobilizing cross-sectoral action to monitor and report violations, provide services and ensure all children’s well-being. In 2019, UNICEF and partners’ services contributed to protection results for children in humanitarian situations in 74 countries. Of the total US$708.0 million expenditure under Goal Area 3 in 2019, over US$264.1 million (37 per cent) supported child protection interventions in emergencies. Overall, UNICEF reached 3.7 million children and nearly 517,000 caregivers with MHPSS, up from 3.6 million in 2018 (87 per cent of the target). The organization recorded the exit or release of nearly 13,200 children associated with armed forces and groups, and supported 3.3 million women, girls and boys with gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response services (exceeding the target). Over half of the children registered as unaccompanied or separated in emergencies received family-based care or were reunified with families. Across 22 countries, 4.4 million children received explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) (89 per cent of the target).

87%

UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in humanitarian situations provided with psychosocial support. EXCEEDED 2019 MILESTONE OF 80%
Commitment 1: Effective leadership is established for both the child protection and gender-based violence cluster areas of responsibility, with links to other cluster/sector coordination mechanisms on critical intersectoral issues. Support is provided for the establishment of a mental health and psychosocial support coordination mechanism.

In 2019, all 23 country offices in the Global Humanitarian Overview with an inter-agency humanitarian response plan had designated staff to lead or co-lead the child protection area of responsibility/sector. Seven of these countries were assessed for cluster coordination performance and all six met satisfactory performance criteria. UNICEF provided 572 days of child protection coordination support to 22 countries in 2019, including six new emergencies. Both direct and remote field support came at critical times in new emergencies or when specific surge capacity was needed in evolving crises (e.g., in Burkina Faso, Iraq, the Niger and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela). UNICEF championed the localization of child protection by partnering with Save the Children and Street Child UK to work with coordination groups in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Nigeria and South Sudan to boost local leadership. UNICEF collaborated with partners in the health and education sectors to improve MHPSS coordination capacities in the child protection sector and better target the responses in Bangladesh, the Niger and Ukraine. Engagement with the Food Security Cluster also improved joint analysis. In Mali, study findings on the linkages between food insecurity and child marriage will be used to guide practices. The UNICEF-led Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action launched the 2019 edition of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. Revised by 1,900 individuals from 85 agencies and 82 countries, the revised version places stronger emphasis on evidence and prevention, and increases their applicability to internal displacement and refugee contexts.

Commitment 2: Monitoring and reporting of grave violations and other serious protection concerns regarding children and women are undertaken and systematically trigger response (including advocacy)

UNICEF engages with United Nations partners to monitor and report grave violations of children’s rights in armed conflict, documenting incidents, prioritizing efforts against impunity and strengthening protective services and support. In the first half of 2019, over 10,000 grave violations were documented across 20 countries through the monitoring and reporting mechanism co-chaired by UNICEF. By the end of the year, 16 of 66 parties to conflict (24 per cent) listed in the annex to the United Nations Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict had signed an action plan against grave violations. In Mali, flexible GHTF was crucial for this critical work: Monitoring and reporting showed a 49 per cent increase in documented incidents, and informed engagement with parties to conflict; and related advocacy work led to concrete measures to end child recruitment and an action plan to end recruitment and other grave violations. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF worked closely with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other child protection partners to secure the release of children from 10 armed groups.

Commitment 3: Key child protection mechanisms are strengthened in emergency-affected areas

In 2019, UNICEF strengthened child protection systems in emergency settings and reinforced community-based mechanisms to ensure access to critical services in safe environments. In Turkey, to improve the ability of key ministries to work with vulnerable refugee children and to ensure the protection of their rights, capacity-building training was given to over 2,000 staff. Over 255,000 refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, including nearly 200,000 children, accessed services across 74 child- and adolescent-friendly spaces supported by UNICEF (exceeding the target). In Montenegro, UNICEF initiated training for 50 front-line professionals (100 per cent of the target), including for MHPSS, immunization referrals, and support for survivors of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse. The timely availability of GHTF was instrumental in launching the response. In Yemen, humanitarian child protection interventions were connected with longer-term recovery and resilience, in line with building humanitarian–development linkages.

Commitment 4: Separation of children from families is prevented and addressed, and family-based care is promoted

UNICEF prioritizes swift family reunification of separated children, minimizing the risks of prolonged exposure to violence, abuse and exploitation. In support of refugees in Serbia, with an emphasis on girls, UNICEF supported the identification and case management of unaccompanied and separated child victims of sexual violence, and children in weak guardianship arrangements. Care and/or services were extended to over 1,100 children (exceeding the target). In Kenya, UNICEF and partners gave comprehensive case management support in refugee camps to over 4,400 vulnerable children (41 per cent girls).

Globally, UNICEF supported almost 52,000 children registered as unaccompanied and separated in emergencies with family-based care or reunification with their families (58 per cent of the targeted population).
Commitment 5: Violence, exploitation and abuse of children and women, including gender-based violence, are prevented and addressed

By increasing its investment in and commitment to programming on gender-based violence in emergencies, UNICEF was able to deliver significant strategic gains in 2019. The organization supported 3.3 million women, girls and boys with gender-based violence response, prevention and risk mitigation activities across 46 countries, surpassing its 2019 milestone by 36 per cent and reaching over 150 per cent more people than in 2018. Given that children and women are disproportionately at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian settings, UNICEF doubled its protection efforts in 2019, reaching 32 countries (versus 16 in 2018). In Bangladesh, UNICEF provided gender-based violence interventions through 16 safe spaces, reaching over 34,000 adolescent girls and women with life-saving services and referrals and prevention and mitigation programming (exceeding the target, driven by high levels of outreach). In the Central African Republic, UNICEF focused on strengthening the capacities of health, MHPSS and legal actors to combat gender-based violence, which contributed to post-incident support for over 1,300 child survivors (268 boys) of gender-based violence. To improve the prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse, UNICEF integrated the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) acceleration plan into a monitoring framework to track progress. In 2019, 8.9 million children and adults could access a UNICEF-supported sexual exploitation and abuse reporting channel (up 27 per cent from 2018). UNICEF partnerships to strengthen capacities and build systems reached 54 countries (up 135 per cent from 2018). In the Central African Republic, Nigeria, the Philippines, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic, the organization also scaled up capacity-building for inter-agency networks on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea finalized a protocol for survivor-centred standards for assistance to child and adult victims of sexual exploitation and abuse that was endorsed by a United Nations high-level steering group in December.

Globally, UNICEF supported 3.3 million women, girls and boys with gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response services (exceeding the targeted population).

Commitment 6: Mental health and psychosocial support is provided to children and their caregivers

In 2019, UNICEF deepened its commitment to delivering MHPSS and reached 3.7 million children and adolescents across 60 countries and almost 517,000 caregivers in 41 countries. In the Gaza Strip of the State of Palestine, UNICEF used GHTF to improve child-friendly family centres in partnership with local NGOs. These centres supported nearly 10,300 children and almost 5,000 caregivers with a more integrated response, providing access to psychosocial, educational, health and protection services, as well as emergency response. Through UNICEF support in Lebanon, MHPSS services were mainstreamed in 12 schools in the most disadvantaged camps, in parallel with the community-based activities provided by the Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts and Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Globally, UNICEF supported 3.7 million girls and boys with psychosocial support (87 per cent of the targeted population).

Commitment 7: Child recruitment and use, as well as illegal and arbitrary detention, are addressed and prevented for conflict-affected children

UNICEF works jointly with governments and other stakeholders in 20 countries to prevent the recruitment of children by armed forces and groups, and aid their release and reintegration. UNICEF recorded the exit or release of nearly 13,200 children (18 per cent girls) in 17 countries across six regions, and provided care and services to 14,400 children (53 per cent of the target), reintegrating nearly 8,500 of these children with their families and communities. In Mali, advocacy by UNICEF and partners in accordance with the 2013 handover protocol signed between the Government of Mali and the United Nations led to the release of 39 boys (out of 58) detained for alleged association with armed groups. UNICEF continues to monitor the protocol’s implementation to ensure children are transferred to child protection actors for holistic care.

Globally, UNICEF supported 3.7 million girls and boys with psychosocial support (87 per cent of the targeted population).
Case study 5: Meeting the protection needs of populations affected by Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the world’s second-largest outbreak of the disease in history, with more than 3,000 confirmed cases, including more than 900 children.

In 2019, following attacks on Ebola treatment centres, community-based needs assessments revealed pressing social, humanitarian and infrastructure needs beyond those of public health concern. To better address child protection needs and strengthen community engagement, UNICEF and partners integrated mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) into all areas of the public health response. Overall, UNICEF reached nearly 170,000 children (47 per cent girls) with MHPSS.

Locally led psychosocial commissions were also set up, with training given to non-specialist staff drawn from the community. MHPSS workers used social networks and an in-depth understanding of cultural norms to include those children and families who may not otherwise seek assistance. Their services included family tracing, temporary care and durable solutions for orphans and unaccompanied children, plus daily individualized household visits to mitigate the discrimination, stigma and isolation associated with Ebola virus disease.

This model of engaging communities, which UNICEF will continue to build on in 2020, is designed to reduce child and family distress and promote healthy behaviours and recovery.

Elise, 17, and her 10-month-old daughter, Christelle, both caught Ebola in November 2019. Although it was a week before they went to a treatment centre, they made a swift recovery. But by the time they were ready to go home, Elise’s twin sister and the grandmother who had cared for her had both succumbed to the disease. Elise is now receiving regular psychosocial support through a UNICEF programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (January 2020).
Commitment 8: The use of landmines and other indiscriminate or illicit weapons by state and non-State actors is prevented, and their impact is addressed

UNICEF continues to prioritize and strengthen EORE and child-victim assistance in emergencies. It also advocates against the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and promotes universal acceptance of the Mine Ban Treaty to combat and record child casualties. Landmines and explosive remnants of war killed or injured over 1,700 children in 2018, with children making up half of all civilian casualties for the first time. In 2019, UNICEF expanded mine action programming to 23 countries (versus 20 in 2018), adding Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Libya. As a result, around 4.4 million children received EORE, and almost 12,900 front-line community workers were trained (up 24 per cent from 2018). In Myanmar, UNICEF and the Mine Risk Working Group reported 221 casualties (40 per cent children and women) from 156 incidents, and UNICEF responded with increased EORE and victim assistance. A new mobile phone app in the Myanmar language proved especially useful for EORE. Over 107,000 people accessed information on landmines and explosive remnants of war (96 per cent of the target). In Yemen, UNICEF provided EORE to 1.4 million children, teaching them directly about life-saving protection measures. A total of 547 children, including severely wounded survivors, received assistance.

Challenges

Greater disregard for international and humanitarian law by parties to conflict, increasing insecurity, higher likelihoods of disease outbreaks, and protracted emergencies all present ongoing threats to children and adolescents, particularly in contexts with counter-terrorism operations. These operational and strategic challenges demand creativity and innovation in programming. Even as resources for child protection interventions in humanitarian emergencies have increased, funding levels remain short of growing costs and expanding needs. UNICEF remains committed to advocating for the protection of all children and will meet these challenges with holistic, community-based programming, innovative technology to extend reach and scale, and initiatives that span the humanitarian–development nexus. UNICEF will also continue to invest in scaling up mental health programmes to meet the growing needs, particularly in the context of protracted conflicts and children on the move.

Goal Area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

Water, sanitation and hygiene in emergencies

WASH interventions play a critical role in all other UNICEF programme results in humanitarian situations, including health, education and protection. In 2019, out of the total US$1.1 billion expenditure under Goal Area 4 in 2019, US$491.4 million (44 per cent) was emergency funding to support critical WASH-in-emergencies interventions. UNICEF reached 39.1 million people with emergency water supply interventions (100 per cent of the target), including 9.5 million people with durable water supply systems and 29.6 million through trucking and other temporary measures. Over 9.3 million people were supported by emergency sanitation services (67 per cent of the target), and 2.8 million children in crisis-affected countries received WASH services in schools and safe learning spaces (42 per cent of the target).

Commitment 1: Effective leadership is established for WASH cluster/inter-agency coordination, with links to other cluster/sector coordination mechanisms on critical intersectoral issues

In 2019, all 23 country offices in the Global Humanitarian Overview with an inter-agency humanitarian response plan had designated staff to lead or co-lead WASH sectors/clusters. Cluster
coordination performance assessment was undertaken with partners in 11 of these countries and 100 per cent met satisfactory performance criteria. UNICEF cluster leadership at the national and subnational levels were closely supported by the Global WASH Cluster and field support teams, which contributed just over 1,400 days of deployment support to 17 affected countries. In Burkina Faso, the deployment of an information management specialist facilitated improvements in routine data delivery and mapping for humanitarian response. The Global WASH Cluster continued to strengthen the sector’s capacities for a predictable and high-quality humanitarian WASH response. In 2019, this included strengthening the quality of strategic planning by promoting greater clarity and consistency in humanitarian needs overview documents and humanitarian response plans. This work was transmitted to countries through deployments to the Central African Republic and Somalia, and through remote webinars and training on calculating numbers of people in need. Investments were also made in building the capacity of the humanitarian WASH sector with the development of the WASH Sector Road Map 2020–2025 – in consultation with partner organizations – which provides a framework for working collectively to rebuild capacity. The Global WASH Cluster also completed field-testing of the quality assurance and accountability system in four countries. This is an innovative tool to provide operational agencies and coordination platforms with a means of measuring the quality of the humanitarian response and increasing the accountability of humanitarian WASH partners to affected populations.

Commitment 2: Children and women access sufficient water of appropriate quality and quantity for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene

UNICEF provided potable water in various humanitarian situations in 2019, including natural and human-made disasters and outbreaks, and continued to provide sustainable/durable solutions to strengthen humanitarian and development linkages wherever possible. In partnership with Nigeria’s Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency, UNICEF provided sustainable water to over 169,000 conflict-affected people (exceeding the target) through the construction and rehabilitation of 139 boreholes, including solar-powered options, for both internally displaced people and host communities. UNICEF also provided eight handpumps in health centres in three states. In parallel, UNICEF trucked water to nearly 250,000 people living in hard-to-reach areas and parts of Borno State, where the construction of permanent water facilities was unfeasible (exceeding the target). Similarly, in the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF focused on sustainable solutions, including strengthening the capacities of local partners and building the resilience of water systems. This included the rehabilitation of piped water systems and wells, which increased access to water for nearly 4.7 million people (exceeding the target), successfully reducing reliance on expensive water trucking in areas such as Aleppo. In response to a cholera outbreak in Chad, timely response by UNICEF to supply water to more than 140,000 people (exceeding the target, and 51 per cent women/girls) helped to stop the outbreak. In the Central Sulawesi province of Indonesia, which is still experiencing the impacts of the previous year’s earthquake and tsunami, UNICEF supported just over 252,000 internally displaced people (exceeding the target) in camps, temporary houses, schools and health-care facilities through water trucking, construction of boreholes, operation of mini water treatment plants and rehabilitation of water supply systems.

Commitment 3: Children and women access toilets and washing facilities that are culturally appropriate, secure, sanitary, user-friendly and gender-appropriate

A lack of access to appropriate sanitation in humanitarian situations exposes affected populations to environments that put their health at great risk. UNICEF provided sanitation interventions in a range of humanitarian situations in 2019, including in urban and peri-urban areas in Yemen, where UNICEF repaired and rehabilitated sanitation systems to contain cholera through more than 120 quick-impact projects. UNICEF also assisted over 626,000 internally displaced persons with access to emergency latrines, sewerage and waste management services (78 per cent of the target). In the State of Palestine, more than 17,000 people benefited from the improvement of household sanitation facilities (exceeding the target), out of which 800 households gained connections to sewerage networks. The intervention considered the special needs of women, girls, growing children, people with disabilities, older people and the chronically ill. In South Sudan, UNICEF provided basic sanitation facilities to over 202,000 people through community-led total sanitation (67 per cent of the target) and by constructing and rehabilitating nearly 7,300 emergency communal latrines, almost 7,700 household latrines and 96 institutional latrines. In the Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatorial states of the country, the Accelerated Sanitation and Hygiene for All programme helped 67 villages become completely free of open defaecation. In Bangladesh and Mozambique, UNICEF piloted the innovative Disability-friendly Squatting Plate Add-on in Emergencies product to deliver inclusive and safe access to sanitary services for people with disabilities. UNICEF Bangladesh installed the product onto 50 latrines in Cox’s Bazaar, providing side handles and seating that fit onto the standard squatting plate.
Case study 6: Working with partners to bring safe water to crisis-affected people in Afghanistan

Eighteen years into the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, humanitarian needs are continuing to rise. Half of the population lives in conflict-affected areas, with escalating armed conflict, drought, natural disasters and higher levels of poverty recorded in 2019. One third of the population is using an unimproved water source.

In 2019, UNICEF worked with the Government of Afghanistan and non-governmental organizations to reach 291,000 people in 137 communities with improved drinking water. As part of the organization’s increasing focus on durable solutions, this assistance was provided through sustainable and low-emission water supply systems, including gravity-fed and solar-powered piped systems.

Overall, there was a 140 per cent increase in the number of people who gained access to safe water compared with 2018. In addition, over 79,000 people accessed gender-sensitive sanitation facilities, and over 342,000 people benefited from hygiene awareness services in conflict- and drought-affected areas. UNICEF will continue to help increase the resilience of communities with sustainable infrastructure and WASH systems in Afghanistan in 2020.
Commitment 4: Children and women receive critical WASH-related information to prevent child illness, especially diarrhoea

Hygiene promotion, supported by the provision of non-food items for WASH, is critical to containing disease outbreaks and plays a key role in infection prevention and control of Ebola and cholera. In Brazil, which is hosting migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNICEF followed up on the delivery of essential hygiene items through a cash-based intervention with hygiene promotion for over 7,000 people in 13 shelters. As part of this intervention, 15,000 children and adolescents received handwashing messages in the 25 Súper Panas (super friends) spaces. In the State of Palestine, UNICEF reached 6,000 households with family hygiene kits via an e-voucher mechanism established by WFP. These beneficiaries also attended hygiene awareness sessions that yielded noteworthy behavioural improvements. A knowledge, attitudes and practices survey identified a 26 per cent rise in the cleaning of water storage tanks and a 27 per cent fall in inappropriate waste disposal.

Commitment 5: Children access safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in their learning environment and in child-friendly spaces

In humanitarian situations, WASH in schools plays a critical role in retaining children, especially girls, at school and helping them to stay healthy. In Ukraine, UNICEF rehabilitated sanitation facilities, heating systems and water networks for 19 schools and kindergartens. In government-controlled areas, the installation of water tanks in 26 educational institutions helped to reduce the frequency of water supply interruptions. In addition to reaching more than 16,000 children with hygiene promotion sessions in schools, kindergartens and summer camps, an awareness-raising campaign on menstrual hygiene management promoted positive behaviour change and reduced stigma. In Malawi, during the flood response, UNICEF provided temporary sanitation facilities at schools, benefiting almost 12,000 children, as well as internally displaced people sheltering in schools. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNICEF delivered WASH interventions in more than 40 schools and 30 protection centres. The interventions, which included hygiene promotion, the distribution of key hygiene and cleaning products, and staff training, were implemented in collaboration with education and child protection sectors and reached over 9,000 children.

Challenges

Limited access to vulnerable populations due to a lack of security, and financial struggles in neglected humanitarian crises both presented challenges to UNICEF WASH interventions in 2019. Compounding these challenges were a lack of human resources, low capacity in information management, delays in epidemiological data-sharing by the health sector, and a lack of strong coordination mechanisms in public health emergencies. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, where WASH was not previously supported by the UNICEF country programme, the first challenge was to identify key implementing partners. To overcome these obstacles, UNICEF has been focusing on the capacity development of local WASH actors by providing machinery, offering training sessions, and supporting the strengthening of contingency and preparedness plans. Other efforts to overcome barriers include conducting advocacy for ignored protracted crises, improving multisectoral coordination for outbreak situations, disseminating the return-on-investment tool to encourage early and regular investment in durable infrastructure for long-term benefit, and developing new partnerships. UNICEF is also working to realign its WASH-in-emergencies programmes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Goal Area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

Across UNICEF programming, the organization strives to provide all children with an equitable chance in life, including those affected by emergencies. This includes improving the use of social protection in fragile and humanitarian settings and implementing interventions that aim to reach, and meet the unique needs of, children with disabilities, adolescents/youth and women and girls. Out of the total US$497.1 million expenditure under Goal Area 5 in 2019, 27 per cent was emergency funding to support critical emergency interventions.

Strengthening the shock-responsiveness of social protection systems

In 2019, UNICEF continued to strengthen the shock responsiveness of social protection systems in crisis-affected countries. UNICEF developed programme guidance for country teams on strengthening shock responsiveness, outlining the detailed actions needed to risk-inform all components of a social protection system. A tool to assess the readiness of social protection systems in providing cash transfers was also initiated in 2019 and piloted in four countries – India, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Nigeria.

The number of countries reporting work on strengthening the shock-responsiveness of social protection systems increased to 52 in 2019, up from 36 in 2018. In Mexico, UNICEF conducted a study on how to strengthen social protection response in emergencies, presenting recommendations to the country’s Ministry of Wellbeing and resulting in specific improvements to the country’s operational guidelines for cash transfers in emergencies. In Sierra Leone, UNICEF supported the development of the social transfer emergency preparedness and response plan, which includes processes and provisions for leveraging existing social transfer provisions. In Somalia, UNICEF began an ambitious partnership with the World Bank and WFP to support the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to develop a shock-responsive safety net for human capital development – a good example of how UNICEF works in fragile contexts. UNICEF will support the Ministry to establish the basic building blocks of a social protection system, including a unified social registry and an information system. Many governments also strengthened the preparedness of their social protection systems in 2019, as reflected in Figure 8.

Linking humanitarian cash transfers to social protection systems

Overall, UNICEF reached 2.8 million households and nearly 8.5 million children with humanitarian cash assistance in 30 crisis-affected countries in 2019. In eight of these countries, the organization used existing national social protection systems to deliver cash assistance.

UNICEF is committed to ensuring that humanitarian cash transfers are the basis for sustainable social protection systems. Nearly half of UNICEF country offices implementing humanitarian cash transfers (14 countries) worked towards meeting this commitment in 2019. Of these, eight countries fully leveraged existing social protection systems, two leveraged them partially and four provided technical assistance to existing government programmes. In instances when UNICEF funds did not go through existing systems (e.g., in Yemen and Zambia), the organization used other elements such as a list of beneficiaries or the social workforce to channel its support.

As a co-lead of the subgroup on linking social protection and humanitarian cash in the IASC-led Grand Bargain cash workstream, UNICEF organized a global workshop for stakeholders to discuss and undertake key actions to strengthen these linkages. The workshop allowed stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned. UNICEF responded to the workshop recommendations with a webinar series to further share examples of linking social protection and humanitarian cash in different crisis contexts.

In Yemen, despite the political and operational challenges, UNICEF disbursed unconditional cash transfers to over 1.4 million households, impacting 9 million people across the country. This programme has strong links to the existing

2.8 million households covering nearly 8.5 million children benefited from cash assistance in 30 countries.

9 countries with national cash transfer programmes were ready to respond to a crisis.

2019 MILESTONE: 17 COUNTRIES
national social protection system, thereby helping preserve the country’s social welfare fund. UNICEF Yemen also launched a cash-plus initiative in which emergency cash transfers were combined with referrals to, and the provision of, basic social services, and accompanied by awareness-raising messages. This was piloted in the Amanat Al-Asimah governorate, where some 8,000 households received emergency cash transfers.

In Iraq, cash assistance is unconditional but aims to reduce barriers to education for children from vulnerable families. UNICEF supports connections with government social services, including those related to education and child protection. At the end of the 2018–2019 academic year, UNICEF had supported over 5,600 children with direct cash assistance, against a planned target of 15,000. This progress was restricted in 2019 by a funding gap for the UNICEF cash response for internally displaced people, which in December had fallen short of the request by 77 per cent.

In Turkey, UNICEF and partners coordinated closely with local authorities on providing one-off cash assistance to nearly 10,500 of the most vulnerable households – both those fleeing the Syrian Arab Republic and those in the host communities – benefiting almost 51,000 people, including over 23,000 children. In Lebanon, an additional 140,000 children, including resident and hosted children, are being supported with cash and in-kind transfers. This includes the support given to around 40,000 children eligible for the Government’s national poverty-targeting programme.

**Challenges**

While 2019 saw an increased uptake of humanitarian cash transfers as an organizational strategy, technical expertise in programme implementation and scale-up remain limited across the organization. UNICEF will roll out a capacity-training strategy in all seven regions in 2020 and implement a fast-track training approach in targeted countries. The organization will also accelerate the development of the cash management information system in partnership with UNHCR, and run a country-level pilot. Specific areas of collaboration have also been identified with WFP for the joint beneficiary registration of humanitarian cash transfer programmes in non-refugee settings.

Strengthening social protection system readiness is an iterative process, and the lack of a long-term funding commitment continues to be a barrier. UNICEF will strengthen its fundraising efforts to address this problem going forward. More efforts are also needed to work with humanitarian donors to support humanitarian cash transfers through national social protection systems. This work will continue through the relevant subgroups – which UNICEF co-leads – of the evidence-gathering and knowledge-management functions of the IASC Grand Bargain cash workstream.
Case Study 7: Emergency cash provides social protection after two cyclones in Mozambique

Mozambique was affected by two Category 4 cyclones in 2019 – Cyclone Idai in March and Cyclone Kenneth in April. These events were the worst natural disasters occurring in southern Africa in nearly two decades. More than 2.5 million people were affected, including 1.3 million children.

UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) introduced multipurpose vouchers to support cyclone-affected people as part of the Government post-emergency cash grant. More than 22,000 households in Sofala province benefited, including nearly 57,000 children. In Cabo Delgado, UNICEF supported the Government of Mozambique to operationalize a post-emergency child grant to children under 5 years affected by Cyclone Kenneth. By the end of 2019, 2,600 households, including over 6,600 children, were registered with the social protection programme and a government system had been established to deliver emergency child grants beginning in January 2020.

Where Cyclones Idai and Kenneth impacted government capacities for service provision, UNICEF worked with the Government, WFP, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank to develop a shock-responsive social protection strategy note. This helped to raise US$45 million for the response through the national social protection system, reaching 105,000 households in three provinces.

UNICEF will evaluate the post-emergency child grant in 2020, to inform the Government’s shock-responsive social protection strategy and its own future cash and voucher-based interventions.
Children with disabilities in emergencies

The delivery of a disability-inclusive humanitarian response – with the participation of children with disabilities – is essential to promoting the rights and dignity of children with disabilities who are impacted by emergencies. UNICEF therefore plays a leading role in promoting disability-inclusive emergency response within the humanitarian community.

In 2019, the new IASC Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action were released following a development process co-led by UNICEF. The guidelines set out essential actions that humanitarian actors must take to effectively identify and respond to the needs and rights of people with disabilities who are most at risk of being left behind in humanitarian settings. These are the first humanitarian guidelines to be developed with and by people with disabilities.

During the year, UNICEF also led an inter-agency initiative with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and WHO, with support from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Department for International Development, to strengthen disability inclusion in humanitarian needs assessment and planning processes. The partners released new inter-agency guidance with agreed standards for the inclusion of people with disabilities in humanitarian needs overviews and humanitarian response plans – an achievement that will help humanitarian programming become more responsive to the needs of people with disabilities affected by crisis.

36% of countries covered under the 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal (21 out of 59 countries) implemented humanitarian responses that systematically included children with disabilities.

EXCEEDED 2019 MILESTONE OF 35%
At the country level, UNICEF continued to prioritize disability-inclusive humanitarian action. In 2019, 53 countries provided humanitarian programmes and activities that were inclusive of children with disabilities. Of these, 21 countries implemented humanitarian responses that systematically included children with disabilities — up from 20 countries in 2018. During the year, UNICEF increased access to humanitarian programmes and services for children with disabilities in its WASH, education, child protection and cash programmes using a wide range of actions, such as improving the physical accessibility of premises and facilities in humanitarian contexts, strengthening processes for identifying children with disabilities, and supporting the participation of organizations of people with disabilities in humanitarian response.

In a number of countries affected by emergencies, UNICEF improved access to education for children with disabilities. In Afghanistan, UNICEF led a task force to develop an education-in-emergencies teacher training manual designed to better equip teachers to work with children with disabilities. In Jordan, UNICEF constructed five disability-inclusive and accessible playgrounds in refugee camps, allowing children with and without disabilities to play together. UNICEF also supported inclusive education services in over 100 schools, enabling over 800 children with disabilities to enter and remain in school. In Indonesia, UNICEF provided accessible temporary learning spaces for nearly 1,400 children and adolescents with disabilities. And in Kenya, 48 disability-accessible classrooms were constructed in two refugee camps.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour continued to implement an innovative humanitarian cash transfer programme targeting children with disabilities. The programme combines cash transfers with case management services to address social and economic vulnerabilities. Since the project began in 2016, 15,000 children with disabilities have been reached, including some 7,500 in 2019. In January 2019, 40 per cent of the households receiving cash assistance reported that it helped them to meet the basic needs of their children with disabilities, compared with 22 per cent earlier in the programme.

Challenges

While much progress has been made on the inclusion of people with disabilities in humanitarian programming, deliberate and proactive action is needed to address the barriers faced by children with disabilities in humanitarian programming. This includes the systematic integration of disability inclusion at the start of an emergency. The limited availability and reliability of comparable data on children with disabilities also continue to challenge the delivery and monitoring of disability-inclusive humanitarian programmes. To address these barriers, UNICEF will roll out guidance in 2020 on the inclusion of children with disabilities in humanitarian action and will support country offices to operationalize it. UNICEF will also continue to work with humanitarian partners at the global and country levels to strengthen disability inclusion in humanitarian needs overviews and humanitarian response plans, focusing on data availability and quality.

Adolescents and youth in emergencies

At 1.2 billion, the size of the adolescent population is the largest the world has ever seen. In this context, humanitarian actors must think differently about how to respond to the specific needs of adolescents, support that adolescents have access to age- and gender-appropriate services, meet the unique needs of adolescents with disabilities, and carve out spaces for girls and boys, young women and men to be engaged in humanitarian responses and participate in meaningful ways.

As a leading humanitarian actor, UNICEF has contributed to a shift in the ways in which the humanitarian community works with and for adolescents. In 2019, UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council led an extensive inter-agency process, under the umbrella of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, to develop guidance — the first of its kind — to set standards and principles to facilitate the systematic inclusion of, and engagement with, young people in emergencies.

UNICEF also supported the United Nations Security Council resolutions 2250 and 2419 on youth peace and security, and the United Nations-commissioned ‘Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Young Peace and Security’ — all of which emphasized the importance of supporting adolescents and youth as promoters of peace and social cohesion.

At the country level in 2019, 440,000 adolescent girls and boys living in humanitarian contexts in 24 countries were supported to lead or participate in civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF programmes and activities. For example, in Burundi, nearly 24,000 out-of-school adolescents (12,474 girls) gained life skills and enhanced their resilience and community participation. Displaced adolescents reported that the experience of raising their voices and standing up for issues that matter to them in a constructive way increased their self-esteem.

UNICEF also continued to scale up the Adolescent Kit for Expression and Innovation — a package of guidance, tools and supplies to support country programmes to engage adolescents affected by crisis, and develop their skills and competencies. To date, the kit has been used in 21 countries and reached more than 160,000 adolescent girls and boys. In Indonesia, for example, adolescents are using it to build skills on disaster preparedness and resilience, develop their own innovative initiatives, and actively offer solutions through participation in community-level disaster risk reduction planning and management. The kit was
implemented in Central Sulawesi and West Nusa Tenggara, where over 1,500 adolescents (62 per cent girls) built leadership skills on disaster risk reduction.

In 2019, UNICEF Iraq and partners accelerated efforts to position young people as agents of change. Skills-building activities were integrated into cross-sectoral programmes to support adolescents to develop decision-making and problem-solving skills, with an estimated 15,000 adolescent girls receiving empowerment, citizenship, leadership and creativity skills training. An additional 27,000 adolescents (48 per cent girls) participated in and/or led nearly 3,000 social, economic and civic initiatives. These included important norms-changing initiatives to reduce child marriage and promote equitable gender roles.

Challenges
Planning and developing appropriate interventions for crisis-affected adolescents remains challenging due to the lack of strong data on adolescents in humanitarian situations and limited capacities and resources to implement programmes on a large scale. To address this, UNICEF is looking to ensure that adolescents have space to voice their concerns, provide feedback and engage in the entirety of emergency responses – in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation – so that programmes are more relevant to their needs. In line with its priority to focus on the second decade of life, UNICEF is working with partners such as the Norwegian Refugee Council, UNHCR and UNFPA to strengthen adolescent programming and participation in humanitarian action through capacity development initiatives, advocacy and joint action to address the needs of adolescents.
Children who have been evacuated in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian participate in activities organized by UNICEF's partner organization, IsraAid, at the Kendal G.L. Isaacs National Gymnasium in Nassau, Bahamas – the largest shelter run by the Government (September 2019).
Commitment 1: The situation of children and women is monitored and sufficiently analysed, and rapid assessments are carried out whenever necessary

In 2019, UNICEF continued to support its country offices to better assess the situation of children and women. Ten countries received targeted support to strengthen their humanitarian needs overview processes through help desks and rapid response teams. Of these, seven countries – Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Mozambique, Somalia, the Sudan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – were reached through field missions focusing on improving integrated, cross-sectoral analysis. These countries worked on addressing key technical challenges, including better defining people in need and setting targets; strengthening analysis related to gender, age, disability and other vulnerability characteristics; and strengthening the linkages between humanitarian and development needs assessment processes.

As part of its efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action, UNICEF worked to strengthen joint needs assessment processes at the country level, including addressing the key challenges noted above. Twenty UNICEF country offices with inter-agency appeals in 2019 contributed to joint needs assessment processes – for example in the Central African Republic and Somalia, where collaboration between UNICEF-led clusters and the REACH humanitarian initiative resulted in stronger multisectoral needs assessment.

UNICEF-led global clusters supported the implementation of an enhanced approach to the humanitarian response cycle that provides better intersectoral analysis for humanitarian needs overviews and greater clarity on priorities based on the severity of needs. This included mainstreaming the needs of people with disabilities into humanitarian needs overviews to facilitate a more equitable response. As an active member in the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Group and its Steering Committee, UNICEF-led clusters also worked with data experts to identify areas needing further work, such as making the tool more sensitive to small pockets of acute need. These will be taken forward in 2020.

Commitment 2: Systems for performance benchmarking regularly monitor UNICEF humanitarian action, enabling Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs) implementation to be measured

UNICEF continued to strengthen its systems for high-frequency monitoring and reporting on humanitarian action in 2019. All countries with Humanitarian Action for Children appeals reported results against UNICEF targets at the output level using data from implementing partners.

UNICEF increased its support to countries to boost the systematic field monitoring of partner reporting and the quality of humanitarian programming. In 2019, this work focused on digital data collection to enable rapid collection, analysis and corrective action. This was closely linked to the organization’s commitment to strengthening accountability to affected populations (AAP). Field monitoring collected information on beneficiary preferences, satisfaction, perceptions and complaints in regard to UNICEF programming.

For example, as part of the humanitarian response in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, digital data collection was introduced to accelerate facility-level needs assessment, programme monitoring and supply tracking. In north-east Nigeria, UNICEF used U-Report, a real-time data-collection tool and social messaging platform, to support the humanitarian response. In 2019, U-Report Nigeria registered more than 200,000 internally displaced people living in camps and host communities. With these registrations, UNICEF was able to collect additional feedback, administer rapid needs assessments for improved sectoral programming, and monitor quality service delivery. U-Report is also being used to support humanitarian performance monitoring by generating data on how feedback has been actioned at the community level.

UNICEF also continued to use third-party monitors to increase the reach of its field monitoring, particularly in contexts facing security constraints. In Yemen, for example, third-party monitors validated reported cholera cases to strengthen case classification in hard-to-reach areas.

To strengthen access to the guidance and information that is essential to effective humanitarian response, UNICEF launched an internal website devoted to humanitarian planning, monitoring and evaluation: the ‘Humanitarian PME’ intranet. This will be a one-stop shop for country offices needing quick access to the most recent UNICEF and inter-agency information and best practices on emergency response. To date, more than 550 UNICEF personnel have accessed the site. The website proved to be an ideal resource for country office staff responding to the Venezuelan migration crisis, as well as Cyclone Idai in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, where personnel with limited emergency experience used the website to access resources on planning, monitoring and evaluation.
Commitment 3: Humanitarian action is regularly assessed against the CCCs, policies, guidelines, UNICEF quality and accountability standards, and the stated objectives of humanitarian action, through evaluative exercises with partners wherever possible

UNICEF conducted a number of evaluations of humanitarian action in 2019. Four key examples of these evaluations commissioned at headquarters, regional and country levels are described below.

The real-time evaluation of the UNICEF response to Cyclone Idai in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe aimed to inform the organization’s preparedness and response to similar sudden-onset crises, while also offering guidance for ongoing recovery efforts in affected countries. The evaluation found that UNICEF played a critical role across the three government-led emergency responses, including in the rapid and effective containment of cholera, and in contributions to initial assessments and initiatives to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. While the response was generally timely, the evaluation recommended improvements in early warning, information management and monitoring, and on the length of surge deployments and programme cooperation agreements. It also recommended paying greater attention to gender and equity components, and more active participation of affected communities in humanitarian programmes.

Despite the challenging operating context in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the evaluation of the response to this Level 3 crisis found that UNICEF and its partners generally performed well. Needs were met through life-saving education and child protection interventions, and UNICEF was responsive to changing needs through adaptive planning. Nonetheless, the response suffered from shortcomings related to quality and equity, and preparedness was found to be largely inadequate due to limited field-level capacities and contingency planning, and a lack of clearly identified roles. The key recommendations centred on the need for predictable multi-year funding, preparedness responsibilities at the country level, the adoption of long-term considerations in the response, transition planning for education, and reinforcement of gender and programme monitoring.

The evaluation of disaster risk reduction programming in education in East Asia and the Pacific found the work of UNICEF was relevant to national needs and priorities. The organization’s interventions left governments and stakeholders more informed, and better prepared and able to respond to risks in the education sector. However, there was room to further mainstream disaster risk reduction into the way UNICEF works in the education sector. Key recommendations included devoting resources to strengthening the expertise of staff and partners in disaster risk reduction, and the application of this to education; mobilizing funding for disaster risk reduction in education interventions; and strengthening inclusive assessments.

The inter-agency humanitarian evaluation of the drought response in Ethiopia assessed the collective humanitarian response to recurring droughts. It found that the response was life-saving in nature and successful in many respects, thanks to the relevance of the assistance provided, close integration with the government and strong international coordination. Yet humanitarian organizations and donors reacted and responded too late, and humanitarian action did not effectively restore livelihoods and strengthen the resilience of communities. Gaps were also identified in needs assessments, targeting and planning; and weaknesses were reported in gender, disabilities, protection and AAP. Recommended actions included strengthening AAP and response monitoring, supporting early action through multi-year flexible funding that is not earmarked, and developing joint humanitarian and development programmes to reduce drought risks.

Challenges

The efforts of UNICEF to assess needs, monitor humanitarian results and evaluate its humanitarian action point to key challenges that the organization is already focused on strengthening. Priorities include improving the understanding of the needs of children affected by emergencies through strengthened needs assessments and better situation and programme monitoring; strengthening the connection between humanitarian and development processes; and making emergency responses more accountable to affected communities, and equity-focused.

Another challenge is the need to increase the number of humanitarian evaluations. Despite the significant investments made by UNICEF in humanitarian programming, some emergency responses remain unevaluated. To address this, the evaluation function is being enhanced at both the global and decentralized levels. Additional staff are being recruited and additional resources mobilized to ensure countries are supported in undertaking evaluations and using the evidence to improve results for children in these settings.
Supply and logistics

In 2019, UNICEF procurement for emergencies reached US$346.1 million globally, with 94 per cent of the total going to support UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies (US$325.7 million) (see Figure 9). Supplies were delivered to 58 countries and territories facing humanitarian emergencies, and nearly 100 per cent of all international orders were delivered on time. Supply Division provided 49 surge deployments to emergency locations, including the crises in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Yemen. In 2019, vaccines and biological products were the largest component of UNICEF emergency supplies by value, totalling US$88.8 million.

Commitment 1: Essential supplies necessary to alleviate humanitarian suffering in women and children are deployed by UNICEF and partners

In 2019, Supply Division provided specific support to 13 large-scale emergencies. In response to cyclones Idai and Kenneth – which became the worst natural disasters to hit Southern Africa (Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe) in nearly two decades – UNICEF chartered eight flights and procured US$42.8 million in goods (US$30.8 million international, US$12.0 million local). Between March and May, 188 trucks were dispatched with multisectoral supplies to Beira, Chimoio and Pemba in Mozambique. UNICEF worked with different actors to make sure supplies were swiftly reloaded and delivered to affected populations, including via helicopter to areas where access was difficult, such as the Ibo and Matemo islands.

Across the supply response, local or regional procurements were encouraged to strengthen markets and reduce delivery times, in line with efforts to strengthen the humanitarian–development continuum. This improved efficiencies by lowering costs and reduced environmental impacts by cutting down on transportation needs. For example, in Mozambique, UNICEF sourced ready-to-use therapeutic food from Kenya and Madagascar, and water chemical treatment

FIGURE 9: Emergency supplies

In 2019, UNICEF procurement for emergencies reached US$346.1 million globally for 58 countries and territories.

Vaccines

UNICEF procured a total of US$88.8 million in vaccines and biological products for emergencies, making these commodities the largest by value of total UNICEF emergency supplies.

261 shipments of vaccines were made to 25 countries, delivering more than 200.6 million doses of vaccines.

Top five countries/crises for vaccines and biological products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Doses of Oral Polio Vaccine</th>
<th>Doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>17.9 million</td>
<td>1.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>11.8 million</td>
<td>4.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>11.1 million</td>
<td>2.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>2.2 million</td>
<td>1.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>1.7 million</td>
<td>1.4 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 This total includes all programme supplies going to Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies; all programme supplies for any new Level 2 or Level 3 emergencies, from the date they were declared; specific relevant orders for the countries in which only a region or part of the country is in an emergency; and specific supplies flagged as emergency ones in countries facing Level 1 crises. Of the US$346.1 million, US$151 million is other resources – emergency.
from South Africa, while WASH products were sourced in country. UNICEF also worked with local and national partners to strengthen existing supply chains, and took an integrated approach to supply distribution by working with the Government and community-based organizations. These efforts strengthened the resilience of the population and the Government to withstand future shocks.

The UNICEF supply function supported responses to health emergencies, including the outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and helped to prevent outbreaks in neighboring Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda. This included WASH supplies (US$3 million), medical supplies and equipment (US$1.9 million), and shelter and field equipment (US$1.4 million). Globally, Supply Division sent 35.1 million doses of measles vaccine to guard against multiple outbreaks, and worked with countries and suppliers to manage the surge in demand. Supply Division arranged 15 charter flights in 2019 to deliver life-saving health products to Yemen (9 flights), Eritrea (2), Mozambique (2), the Comoros (1) and the Sudan (1).

Commitment 2: Supply response by UNICEF and partners is appropriately resourced

UNICEF Supply Division has built, expanded and maintained a surge roster of 269 highly competent and dedicated staff that can be deployed at short notice according to the level and areas of support needed. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, it deployed four staff, including emergency coordinators, and supply and logistics specialists, to provide country support and to review and evaluate the supply chain and pipeline, giving recommendations and strategies for improvement.

Two emergency supply and logistics training sessions were conducted in 2019 to strengthen country office preparedness and build capacities for a better-resourced supply response. Forty-six UNICEF country offices from all regions took part in a two-day simulation exercise for 51 staff from supply and logistics, operations, emergency coordination and finance. As a post-training assignment, participants developed or updated supply and logistics...
emergency strategies and plans that will be part of the UNICEF emergency preparedness platform: a global initiative for regional and country offices.

UNICEF also conducted a review of emergency stock levels of essential supplies to ensure the relevance of supplies and country preparedness. Emergency stocks now include 225 products meeting the basic needs of 250,000 at-risk people over a period of three months and amounting to a goods value of US$10.4 million. Emergency stock quantities and storage locations were regularly monitored, reviewed and adjusted. As a result, stock-outs were quickly replenished and there were no breaks in the supply pipeline.

**Challenges**

As humanitarian disaster management becomes more complex, the UNICEF supply function requires increasingly flexible funding to meet humanitarian needs, as well as clearer synergies between humanitarian response, early recovery and long-term development goals and objectives. UNICEF will continue to strengthen the bridge between preparedness, response and procurement to increase social and economic resilience in the communities it supports, particularly where public and private systems and services are disrupted or broken. This will include strengthening links among the organization’s humanitarian action and development measures, and increasing the flexibility of various funding modalities.

### Media and communications

**Commitment 1: Accurate information about the impact of the situation on children and women is rapidly provided to National Committees and the general public through local and international media.**

In 2019, UNICEF’s global communication work continued to raise awareness on and advocate for the protection of children and young people affected by emergencies.

After Cyclone Idai devastated parts of Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe in March, rapid and sustained communication work led to significant engagement with National Committees. The German National Committee led an emergency campaign on Mozambique during the year that mobilized €10 million. This was achieved through prime-time news coverage, authentic and compelling multimedia content, and innovative partnerships such as email service providers directly reaching millions of potential donors with key messages and requests.

UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore visited the worst-affected areas in Mozambique to highlight the impact on children, and Goodwill Ambassador Orlando Bloom travelled to the country to focus attention on the recovery work. His visit generated 120 mentions in print and online media outlets, and reached nearly 48.4 million people across UNICEF’s social media platforms.

Through the global Children Under Attack campaign, UNICEF called for an end to attacks on children affected by conflict. Ahead of the Third International Safe Schools Conference in Spain, UNICEF released new data on attacks on schools in Afghanistan and Ukraine. These media releases received 599 mentions in print and online news in the six official languages of UNICEF, with the Afghanistan content receiving coverage in major outlets, including The New York Times, Reuters and the BBC. This advocacy was instrumental in securing an additional 18 government endorsements of the Safe Schools Declaration, bringing the total number of endorsements to 101 by the end of the year.

Child Alerts played a key role in raising awareness about crisis-affected children, highlighting the response of UNICEF on the ground and presenting clear advocacy requests. Three Child Alerts were produced during 2019, including on the worsening violence in Afghanistan, children uprooted by storms and flooding in the Caribbean, and threats to education in West and Central Africa. These generated 474 mentions in print, online and broadcast media across the six United Nations languages.

**Commitment 2: Humanitarian needs and the actions taken to address them are communicated in a timely and credible manner to advocate for child-friendly solutions, increase support for the response and, where necessary, assist with fundraising.**

The 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children fundraising appeal, launched on 30 January, focused on the increasing protection needs of children affected by violations of children’s rights in conflict. The appeal was launched alongside the Children Under Attack call to action, with a dedicated global web presence that set out a clear narrative and change agenda. The website, launched in all United Nations languages, produced a 208 per cent increase in unique page views compared with 2018.

UNICEF social media coverage of the 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal reached nearly 597 million people and engaged over 458,000 users. This included the production of a signature video with UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Orlando Bloom, with a call to stop attacks
on children in conflict and donate to the emergency work of UNICEF. The video generated over 4.2 million views on UNICEF global channels.

The year also ended with the launch of the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for 2020 – the first time the humanitarian appeal has been launched in December. Media coverage included 465 mentions in print and online outlets across the six official languages. This included 21 mentions in top-tier media, including El País, VOA News and CNN Arabic.

A video produced by UNICEF on the use of water as a weapon was among the organization’s highest-performing videos in 2019 and won a Shorty Award. This content supported the release of the advocacy brief, Water Under Fire, which positioned UNICEF as a leader of the WASH-in-emergencies agenda and strengthened the case for mobilizing greater resources for this sector.

Challenges
Access to media space and opportunities to influence global discourse about the situation of crisis-affected children remained a challenge in 2019. Given the number of large and complex crises, putting children at the centre of the discussion required more unique and compelling data and angles. In 2020, UNICEF will continue to strengthen its evidence-based communications efforts through compelling and data-driven Child Alerts, media briefings and high-quality multimedia content to present itself as an intellectual leader on humanitarian issues, present solutions-oriented narratives and inspire action on behalf of children. UNICEF will also provide its platforms as a space for children and young people to have their voices heard as they increasingly demand and drive action for change.

Security

Commitment 1: Security risks that could affect staff and assets, and subsequently the emergency response, are identified, assessed and managed

In its first full year of implementation, the UNICEF Security Framework of Accountability – which details individual security roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for all UNICEF personnel – enabled more structured oversight and clear accountability mechanisms for UNICEF security management. For example, in the Syrian Arab Republic, the framework was used to streamline the internal approval process of a critical inter-agency mission to reach children affected by the dire situation in Al Rokban with life-saving assistance.

During the year, US$7.5 million from the UNICEF Headquarters Central Investment Fund was allocated to 83 country offices to facilitate compliance with safety and security standards in various areas of UNICEF operations. The funds were used to purchase key security equipment and reinforce the security of office premises in line with security risk management measures. For example, multiple country offices, including UNICEF Niger, were able to procure armoured vehicles to protect programme missions in dangerous, hard-to-reach areas. UNICEF Niger was also able to enhance the physical security of its main premises.

Proactive security support provided through more than 10 missions to Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Iraq, Libya, Nepal, Turkey, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Yemen strengthened country office emergency response, facilitated critical decision-making and helped country offices to implement security risk-management measures.

The onset of the crises in Burkina Faso and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela prompted security deployments that increased preparedness, facilitated vital contingency planning and enhanced the safety of UNICEF staff during programme delivery.

UNICEF also supported implementing partners within the United Nations Security Management System Saving Lives Together Framework, particularly in Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies. Through this framework, UNICEF and the United Nations Department for Safety and Security provided implementing partners with guidance on integrating security equipment and specific security measures into programme cooperation agreements and how to draft contingency plans to enhance security.

Investments in learning were also critical to building staff capacities for safety and security in emergency situations. For example, more than 250 female personnel from 11 countries received the Women’s Security Awareness Training, which addresses the particular security concerns and threats to women and provides practical tips and tools for managing risks.

The UNICEF Operations Centre continued to provide operational support 24 hours a day, seven days a week to UNICEF humanitarian operations, security activities and UNICEF staff globally. This included responding to requests for assistance from the field, including on highly sensitive subjects; rapidly distributing relevant information to colleagues and communicating directly with UNICEF staff worldwide; and supporting emergency management processes. The centre processed and disseminated a monthly average of around 300 reports, alerts and/or briefs.
Challenges
Within UNICEF and across the wider United Nations Security Management System, there are challenges related to the comprehension and implementation of Security Management System policies and approaches. UNICEF is addressing this by improving the coordination of recruitment for security advisers, strengthening collaboration and compliance monitoring and contributing to inter-agency efforts to improve security policies and operations. UNICEF will also continue to take a proactive approach to security management through additional learning and training activities, and staff development exercises. UNICEF has also supported the establishment – through the Inter-Agency Security Management Network – of an inter-agency compliance working group to address, and raise awareness of, security compliance issues in emergencies.

Human resources

Commitment 1: Appropriate and experienced staff and personnel with relevant deployment training are provided and rapidly deployed, primarily through internal redeployment of staff. This is complemented by external recruitment and standby personnel to allow for recruitment of possible longer-term posts, as needed

A total of 600 surge deployments were reported and completed in 2019 in the areas of coordination, programmes and operations, representing 70 per cent of total requests for emergency surge support (851 requests) (see Figure 10). This included 105 deployments of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs), standby partners and UNICEF staff in support of cluster coordination. The year’s emergency surge missions totalled over 43,000 days, with an average mission length of 73 days. The largest share of deployments (18 per cent, or 107 deployments) supported the humanitarian response to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, followed by the Cyclone Idai response to Mozambique, which benefited from 106 deployments, and the response to Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which received 56 deployments. The bulk of deployments provided personnel for WASH, emergency programmes and coordination, child protection and education (see Figure 11).

FIGURE 10: Emergency deployments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITMENT 1</th>
<th>TOP 3 CRISIS SUPPORTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMITMENT 1</td>
<td>Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMITMENT 1</td>
<td>Mozambique - Cyclone Idai response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMITMENT 1</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo - Ebola response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Includes 103 standby partner deployments and 58 Rapid Response Team deployments to support clusters and areas of responsibility led or co-led by UNICEF.
Surge missions by UNICEF staff members remain the largest contributor to emergency responses, with 345 deployments\(^58\) accounting for 58 per cent of all deployments in 2019. Twenty per cent of deployments undertaken by UNICEF staff members were conducted by UNICEF Emergency Response Team (ERT) members, 22 UNICEF staff members with specialized skills in emergency coordination, programming, operations, gender, AAP and humanitarian cash transfers. The UNICEF ERT undertook 70 missions to 18 country offices, totalling just over 2,800 days. Nearly 75 per cent of these missions (almost 2,100 days) supported preparedness and response to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 crises such as those in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

This was complemented by the strong support of 24 standby partner organizations (out of 31 total standby partners) providing UNICEF with 161 deployments to 39 countries. This support provided a total of 18,259 deployment days, the estimated equivalent of US$9.1 million. While 57 per cent of these missions (almost 2,100 days) supported preparedness and response to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 crises such as those in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

This was complemented by the strong support of 24 standby partner organizations (out of 31 total standby partners) providing UNICEF with 161 deployments to 39 countries. This support provided a total of 18,259 deployment days, the estimated equivalent of US$9.1 million. While 57 per cent of these missions (almost 2,100 days) supported preparedness and response to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 crises such as those in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Commitment 2: Well-being of staff is assured

In 2019, UNICEF’s global staff well-being programme continued to support the psychosocial well-being of all staff using evidence-based and best practice techniques to build personal resilience, lessen traumatic stress, prevent burnout and improve mental health. During the year, more than 3,500 individual counselling sessions were completed (67 per cent in person and 33 per cent remotely), covering requests related to family (25 per cent), workload (18 per cent) and working conditions (17 per cent), among other issues. More than 300 of these counselling sessions were held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including for staff working in areas affected by Ebola virus disease. Group-level support was provided in the form of well-being missions, workshops and group counselling sessions, with a 17 per cent increase in the number of well-being missions conducted in 2019 compared with 2018. The health and fitness aid programme developed to support staff in emergency duty stations in 2018 was expanded in 2019 to additional regions and is now also reaching staff in Eastern and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, and South Asia. More than 400 staff benefited from the programme. In addition, a six-part well-being booklet was published in four United Nations languages. The booklet includes a part on well-being in emergency and high-risk settings, which is designed to promote personal and professional well-being in crisis-affected contexts.

Commitment 3: Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers is prevented

Under the leadership of UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore as Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Champion on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, the humanitarian community scaled up its efforts to implement the IASC Plan for Accelerating the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Response at the country level. UNICEF contributed to this by allocating US$21.6 million of regular (core) resources in 2018 and 2019 to scale up the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
Commitment 4: UNICEF staff members and key partners have knowledge and skills for effective emergency preparedness and response; this includes knowledge about humanitarian reform and the cluster approach

In 2019, UNICEF continued to strengthen the quality of its humanitarian action, as well as the capacities of its leadership to guide response. This included training on cluster coordination and information management conducted by UNICEF-led clusters for more than 1,000 UNICEF staff, government counterparts and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. In addition, about 100 staff were oriented on response planning as part of the webinar series for the 2020 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. This covered such themes as calculating populations in need and needs-based humanitarian programme targeting.

UNICEF also helped to equip country offices to access critical information on humanitarian action with the revision of its Programme, Policies and Procedures manual. This involved making the transition from a paper-based static document to a more interactive Wikipedia-style online resource. The new platform will help country offices access programme policies, procedures, guidance and tools related to emergency preparedness and humanitarian action.

UNICEF also continued to improve the knowledge and capacities of its leadership at all levels. The organization’s skills for operating in complex and high-threat environments were strengthened through the second consecutive leadership workshop for representatives of 35 countries. The launch of the Humanitarian Leadership Workshop in 2019 expands the organization’s humanitarian learning resources, giving country leaders with no prior emergency experience the information and tools they need to lead emergency response. In October, UNICEF regional emergency and security advisors gathered to share lessons on achievements and challenges in the delivery of emergency assistance. According to participants’ feedback, the experience not only provided valuable insight that they can use to improve policy, practice and training; it also enhanced UNICEF’s understanding of how these advisory roles can effectively support its emergency response. And in December, an online learning resource was launched for managers in high-threat environments as part of the deliverables for the High-Level Committee on Management Working Group on Duty of Care. In addition, a number of staff also attended the Management Master Class, which contributed to strengthening their general managerial skills. A total of 239 participants were based in 61 emergency countries.

Another online learning resource, Humanitarian Learning Pathways, was launched to provide a gateway to build knowledge and skills to effectively contribute to UNICEF’s work with crisis-affected children and their communities, and support personal development and career progression. In addition, the annual Human Resources Network in Emergencies took place in Istanbul in May. This focused on the topics of duty of care and sharing good practices for preparing and responding to emergencies from a human resources point of view.

Challenges

UNICEF’s surge mechanisms are providing ongoing support to several protracted crises. While these country offices have made the transition to a more regular staffing structure, staffing shortages remain a significant issue when new crises emerge. UNICEF continues to prioritize the rapid transition from emergency surge to regular staffing to allow country offices in emergencies...
to strengthen their human resources and leverage staff knowledge and expertise. In 2020, UNICEF will focus on: (1) strategic workforce planning for emergencies, which will help better predict needs and map internal talent that can be deployed to respond to emergencies; and (2) streamlining tools to improve coordination and enhance UNICEF’s response.

UNICEF also continues to face challenges in identifying staff that are ready and willing to deploy in emergencies. The organization is continuing to streamline its process for identifying and deploying staff to respond in emergency contexts, without disrupting the regular work of country offices. To continue to support staff well-being in these contexts, UNICEF has also implemented flexible working arrangements in hardship duty stations to support a better work–life balance.

The need to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse from the outset of a humanitarian response remains a challenge that UNICEF is working to address with inter-agency partners, including in the context of the COVID-19 response. UNICEF plans to take this forward by drawing on the progress achieved in Mozambique and related efforts to scale up the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in 2019.

The relevance and usefulness of humanitarian learning extends well beyond UNICEF staff to the many partners and counterparts outside of UNICEF that implement humanitarian response with and on behalf of UNICEF. Providing effective learning and training at an adequate scale to many of these practitioners and collaborators, which are often working in far-flung places and in diverse contexts, has proven challenging. UNICEF is therefore developing a knowledge management strategy designed to make information available more purposefully for humanitarian practitioners and communities of practice, both within and beyond UNICEF.

Resource mobilization

Commitment 1: Quality, flexible resources are mobilized in a timely manner to meet the rights and needs of children and women in humanitarian crises

In 2019, the UNICEF resource mobilization strategy for humanitarian response continued to put children at the centre of political and policy agendas and generate adequate and quality financial resources for better and more efficient results on the ground.

UNICEF requested over US$3.9 billion at the start of 2019 through the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. By December, the appeal had reached over US$4.1 billion. By 31 December, UNICEF had received more than US$2.0 billion in donor commitments towards the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal (US$7 million less than in 2018). The year also ended with the launch of the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for 2020 – the first time the humanitarian appeal has been launched in December. The early launch was designed to drive organization-wide efforts to reposition UNICEF as a leading humanitarian body and synchronize the appeal within the inter-agency humanitarian appeal process.

Unparalleled challenges in humanitarian emergencies require innovative solutions to developing the quality resources needed to enhance preparedness, address humanitarian needs and strengthen the linkages between humanitarian and development efforts – while also increasing efficiency and effectiveness in both financing and programmes. In 2019, UNICEF again focused on two elements of quality funding: increasing multi-year and thematic (flexible) funding, especially global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF), and reducing the earmarking of funds – both of which strengthen humanitarian action and support better linkages between humanitarian and development programming to protect the lives and well-being of children everywhere.

While regular resources remain the most flexible funds, thematic funds are the next most efficient and effective...
Contributions to UNICEF. Of the funds received in 2019, US$145.3 million (7 per cent) was thematic funding for humanitarian responses at the country, regional and global levels. GHTF – the most flexible funding after regular resources – made up 1.5 per cent of the total commitments received (see Annex 1 for additional detail). The flexibility of thematic funding, including GHTF, allowed UNICEF to respond more equitably and effectively to emerging needs, and facilitated longer-term planning and sustainability. The transaction cost savings also meant more resources delivered directly to children. Allocations of GHTF were used to expand activities and respond to increasing needs in countries such as Burkina Faso, where displacement rose dramatically during the year, and the Sudan, with the outbreak of violence and social unrest after the destitution of Bachir.

In 2019, UNICEF welcomed US$493.9 million in multi-year contributions. While this was US$24.1 million less than in the year before, longer-term funding allowed UNICEF to be more strategic and predictable, and to respond effectively where needs were greatest, including bridging humanitarian action and development programming.

UNICEF also drew on funding arrangements specifically designed to deliver collective humanitarian results, particularly flexible and strategic mechanisms such as the Central Emergency Response Fund and the humanitarian country-based pooled funds (see Annex 2 for additional detail). International financial institutions remained important UNICEF partners for more predictable financing solutions and longer-term response, including in fragile and violent situations. UNICEF also continued to explore public–private partnerships, including the use of blended financing instruments.

Challenges

Despite donors’ generosity, the funding for UNICEF’s humanitarian appeal fell short in 2019, reaching just half of the humanitarian appeal target. Almost half of the funds focused on the large-scale, protracted crises in Lebanon, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Yemen. Many responses remained underfunded, including in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Pakistan, Uganda and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, all of which had funding gaps exceeding 70 per cent. Multi-year and flexible/ GHTF declined in 2019, with US$493.9 million in multi-year contributions (US$24.1 million down from 2018). GHTF made up less than 1 per cent of funding.

UNICEF will continue to adapt to evolving, critical humanitarian needs and, with partners, advocate for quality funding, which is crucial to meeting the needs of children everywhere. UNICEF continued its efforts in 2019 to maintain high transparency standards, increase efficiency and improve results reporting. UNICEF will also work to enhance the visibility of contributors to regular resources and humanitarian thematic funding, while demonstrating the value of such funding. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, flexible funding has become even more imperative to ensure that UNICEF has the flexibility to respond quickly.

Finance and administration

Commitment 1: Effective and transparent management structures are established, with support from the regional offices and UNICEF headquarters, for effective implementation of the programme and operational CCCs. This is done in an environment of sound financial accountability and adequate oversight

Financial, administrative and oversight processes in humanitarian contexts were strengthened in 2019 through capacity-building of the operations function and sharing of lessons learned from other emergencies. The operations function was strategically reformed to better support the entire organization, particularly in large humanitarian country programmes such as those in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria. These efforts have improved risk management and strengthened financial accountability and oversight in humanitarian contexts.

In 2019, the two ERT members with expertise in field operations provided substantial support to humanitarian responses in the areas of finance, human resources, administration and oversight. These ERT members provided a total of 27 weeks of in-country technical operations support, undertaking three emergency response missions and one preparedness mission. Missions to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela enabled the humanitarian work of UNICEF to continue despite the complex and challenging operating environments.

In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – an almost cashless economy reliant on electronic card payments during a time of extensive power cuts and sanctions – UNICEF implemented various cash solutions to ensure business continuity and continuous programme delivery. This included adjusting petty cash limits, facilitating the use of cash on hand and providing petty cash solutions using a debit card.
In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the Ebola response was unfolding in remote locations with no formal banking systems, the ERT developed a reliable mobile money system with the largest mobile telecommunications company in the country. Despite limitations on the disbursement of funds, UNICEF managed to deliver support and assistance through small communities involved in the implementation of the Ebola response with the ERT’s guidance.

Challenges
UNICEF continued to face financial and administrative challenges in emergencies related to the provision of funds for in-country activities, constrained banking structures, and challenging operating environments. This was the case in Yemen, where a limited number of staff are able to operate in country and project sites are inaccessible. The UNICEF operations function is working to strengthen organizational capacities to address these challenges and improve the reach of emergency operations in challenging environments. In 2019, the operations function was shifted from traditionally transactional accountabilities to more strategic and leadership responsibilities with the creation of the post of Deputy Representative – Operations. Dedicated training for operations staff was also launched in 2019. The next phase of work will focus on succession planning to ensure that a pipeline of operations exists to fill capacity gaps. UNICEF is also developing a plan to support operations staff and help country teams improve risk management, compliance and accountability in humanitarian contexts.

Information and communication technology

Commitment 1: Timely, effective and predictable delivery of telecommunications services to ensure efficient and secure programme implementation, staff security and compliance with inter-agency commitments

In 2019, the information and communication technology (ICT) function of UNICEF supported the organization’s humanitarian response in 61 countries, including in 9 countries affected by Level 2 or Level 3 emergencies.

Direct support for emergency preparedness and response was provided to 18 countries affected by emergencies. For example, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNICEF worked with private sector partner emergency.lu – a mobile, satellite-based telecommunications platform – to provide vital ICT equipment and help the office to stay connected during the crisis. All 18 countries also benefited from the deployment of more than 80 emergency ICT kits. These self-contained toolkits comprise the necessary hardware to rapidly deploy core UNICEF ICT services. The kits facilitated immediate connectivity, with access to data and information that was crucial for timely decision-making in support of the humanitarian response.

Working with the United Nations Technology Advisory Group and the United Nations Emergency Telecoms Cluster, UNICEF supported the launch of the Telecoms Security Standards, an inter-agency project that aims to standardize security communications systems supporting the safety and security of humanitarian staff. The launch involved 24 telecommunications assessment missions, 15 onsite support missions and 21 remote support activities in emergency locations.

UNICEF also took steps to build the ICT capacities of staff and partners for preparedness, response and recovery. Fifty-five participants from all UNICEF regions and key partner organizations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security, the World Food Programme and Save the Children, were trained at the Global Emergency Telecoms Training event, which featured sessions led by private sector partners such as Cisco Systems, CODAN, Danimex and IEC-Telecom. The participants graduated as certified emergency telecommunications responders with specific skills in emergency telecommunications procedures and systems. They also gained expertise on new and innovative rapid deployment solutions, such as renewable power alternatives, new emergency telecommunications kits and mobile satellites – all tools designed to advance responders’ communications capabilities during acute crises.

Challenges
UNICEF continued to face challenges in its ICT support for humanitarian action in 2019, including budgetary constraints, the lack of availability of immediate ICT resources (including human resources), the need to strengthen coordination mechanisms and accountability frameworks for Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies, and the limited involvement of UNICEF ICT personnel in the field in inter-agency activities. In 2020, UNICEF is requesting additional ICT resources for humanitarian action, and will take advantage of the ongoing review of its emergency procedures to work with all stakeholders to improve and strengthen coordination/collaboration in Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies.
Future Workplan

A baby waits to be vaccinated at a UNICEF-supported health centre in Bol, central Chad, where immunization is free for children under 59 months (March 2019).
As part of the ongoing “humanitarian review,” UNICEF will assess its procedures and capacity to provide effective and timely responses to humanitarian crises. It will re-evaluate how it designs and delivers integrated programmes and interprets and acts on its own policies and procedures. The results of this “humanitarian review” are due in 2020.

UNICEF will strive to reach the most vulnerable children with the support they need in emergencies and will include women and persons with disabilities. A central element in achieving this will be the finalization and roll-out of the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs) in 2020. These CCCs will provide a more robust accountability framework for UNICEF and its implementing partners to ensure principled, timely, predictable and efficient humanitarian response.

UNICEF will revise its emergency procedures in 2020 to rationalize decision-making and improve efficiencies and planning. It will also implement its first review of humanitarian–development linkages in 10 priority countries in 2019 with the highest humanitarian expenditures. The review will aim to systematically inform and improve linkages in practice between the humanitarian action and development programmes of UNICEF. This review has been designed for easy, cost-effective replication in subsequent years.

UNICEF will also continue to harness evidence and learning for principled humanitarian planning, programming and monitoring at all levels, providing clear needs-based guidance for more effective analysis, prioritization and coordination of its own and its inter-cluster and inter-agency programming. UNICEF will expand its surge mechanisms, including through standby partnerships. Across the organization, UNICEF will continue to strengthen risk analysis and horizon-scanning for better emergency preparedness.

UNICEF will invest in having more human and financial resources for better emergency preparedness on the ground. In 2020, simulation packages will be rolled out to test country operational capacities and preparedness plans, and to improve financial resources for preparedness and risk analysis. Anticipatory action and innovative financing will continue to be developed, based on advanced operations research and financial analyses. Through alliances with a diverse portfolio of partners and funding methods, innovative means to respond to humanitarian needs in efficient and effective ways will be ready for roll-out.

To increase its ability to reach the most vulnerable children, UNICEF will maximize its efforts to place child protection at the centre of humanitarian action, including through targeted, sustained, high-level advocacy. UNICEF will strengthen its leadership and capacity to tackle access challenges in a more predictable, principled and effective manner. Further, UNICEF will scale up its capacities to deliver humanitarian cash programmes in the field, expand its efforts to localize humanitarian responses, and improve its accountability to crisis-affected communities.

Finally, in response to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), which became a pandemic by early March 2020, UNICEF is taking measures to safeguard ongoing emergency operations and resources to avoid compromising the achievements made to date. The organization is aligning its COVID-19 response with those of sister United Nations agencies to address shortages of critical supplies, coordinate support and deliver assistance to children in the countries at greatest risk. UNICEF is working with governments and partners to control outbreaks and mitigate the socioeconomic impacts, both of the pandemic disease itself and of the measures being taken to reduce its spread.

A girl with the Venezuelan flag painted in her face smiles during an art therapy activity in one of the protection centres supported by UNICEF. Activities at the centre are part of the psychosocial support for the most vulnerable children and adolescents in Barrio Union, Petare, in the outskirts of Caracas, Venezuela. So far this year, UNICEF has provided psychosocial support for nearly 10,000 children and young people affected by the current economic crisis (July 2019).
Abbreviations and acronyms

AAP  accountability to affected populations
ART  antiretroviral treatment
C4D  Communication for Development
CBPF country-based pooled funds
CCC  Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action
CERF Central Emergency Response Fund
COVID-19 coronavirus disease 2019
DARES Deliver Accelerated Results Effectively and Sustainably
ECD  early childhood development
EORE explosive ordnance risk education
ERT  Emergency Response Team
EVD  Ebola virus disease
GHTF global humanitarian thematic funding
IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICT  information and communication technology
IFRC International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IOM  International Organization for Migration

IYCF  infant and young child feeding
MHPSS  mental health and psychosocial support
NGO  non-governmental organization
OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PMTCT  prevention of mother-to-child transmission (of HIV)
RRT  Rapid Response Team
SAM  severe acute malnutrition
SBCC  social and behaviour change communication
UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF United Nations Children’s Fund
WASH water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP World Food Programme
WHO World Health Organization
Somaliland, 2019
Two sisters sit at a UNICEF-supported health centre in Hargeisa, Somaliland (November 2019).
© UNICEF/2019/NAFTALIN

Annex 1: Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding 2019
WHAT IS GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING?

UNICEF seeks adequate and quality flexible resources to support effective preparedness and timely response to humanitarian and protection needs, particularly of the most vulnerable populations. UNICEF thematic contributions are pooled, flexible multi-year funds to support the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, including humanitarian action. This quality funding helps UNICEF to achieve its mandate to advocate for children’s rights, help meet the basic needs of children, and expand their full potential and the opportunities open to them.

Humanitarian thematic funding contributions at all levels – global, regional and country – allow partners to support the achievements set out under the UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. Global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF) is, after regular resources, the most flexible form of funding – allowing rapid and strategic responses by UNICEF to humanitarian crises. GHTF allows UNICEF to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable children when and where it is needed and in a timely and effective manner.

The nature of GHTF allows for faster and more cost-effective response than other external humanitarian funding mechanisms. When an adequate GHTF pool is available, it can critically improve aid effectiveness and predictability in humanitarian response.

WHY INVEST IN GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING?

Saving lives, protecting rights and securing a better, healthier and safer future for children and their communities

UNICEF is able to reach the most vulnerable children and to use available resources strategically and effectively thanks to the fast, flexible and multi-year nature of GHTF. As well as being the fastest and most effective way to reach children caught up in crises with humanitarian action, GHTF is also an essential enabler of the global Humanitarian Action for Children appeal by UNICEF. The mechanism allows UNICEF country offices to spring into emergency response straight away. When a new crisis emerges, GHTF also allows prioritization of the response.

With this type of funding, UNICEF and its partners are able to:

- **Provide immediate life-saving assistance** to the children most in need;
- **Speedily release funds** for sudden-onset emergencies, within 24 hours as needed;
- **Respond more equitably based on needs**, by reaching children in smaller and/or forgotten crises, in underfunded sectors (e.g., child protection) and in multi-country and subregional crises;
- **React faster in underfunded/forgotten emergencies** – it is difficult to gain international attention for forgotten crises, but GHTF helps to address this gap;
- **Invest in preparedness** to deliver a more timely and effective response through a predictability that facilitates strategic and stronger UNICEF programming;
- **Ensure more cost-effective response** – preparedness for early response (better risk analysis and the identification of high-return actions) saves lives and makes the emergency response faster and more efficient. Every US$1 invested early in high-risk humanitarian contexts saves an average of over US$4 on the next emergency, and speeds up operations by more than 12 days.
GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

2019 global humanitarian thematic funding country-level allocations (US$)

In 2019, UNICEF allocated US$31.8 million of programmable GHTF for global humanitarian action. Eighty per cent of this amount (US$25.4 million) supported humanitarian action in country and regional offices, 5 per cent (US$1.8 million) supported global and country level preparedness work, and 15 per cent (US$4.7 million) supported other global efforts.

Ten of the most chronically underfunded emergencies received, based on the criteria indicated, 27 per cent of all country allocations: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uganda and Ukraine. Nearly US$15.9 million, or 76 per cent supported complex humanitarian situations triggered by socio-political crises, mainly conflicts, and nearly US$2.8 million or 13 per cent supported countries responding to natural disasters.
ALLOCATION CRITERIA

A senior-level allocations committee in UNICEF governs GHTF allocations against the aforementioned criteria. The directors of the Public Partnerships Division, Programme Division and Office of Emergency Programmes endorse the proposals for GHTF allocation. The proposals are then reviewed and approved by the Deputy Director of Programmes. A set of clear criteria is used to allocate GHTF at all levels – country, regional, multi-regional and global. These criteria include:

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

**Iraq**

GHTF allocation: US$600,000

Criteria applied:
- Protracted crisis exacerbated by severe food insecurity, affecting 13.6 million people, with 2 million children under 5 years suffering from acute malnutrition (600,000 with SAM).
- Critical underfunding, with only 5 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded as of April 2019 and no additional funds forecasted at the time of GHTF allocation.
- Strong implementation capacity at the field level, with high utilization of regular resources (62 per cent) and other resources regular (48 per cent) at the time of GHTF allocation.

**Democratic People’s Republic of Korea**

GHTF allocation: US$500,000

Criteria applied:
- Critical underfunding, with only 44 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded as of October 2019, and few prospects for new funding given the political dynamics and firm continuation of sanctions.
- No additional funds forecasted at the time of GHTF allocation. GHTF is a key funding source when no other resources are available – it can be a lifeline to ensure that activities are implemented.
- Strong implementation capacity at the field level, with high utilization of regular resources (94 per cent) and other resources regular (61 per cent) at the time of GHTF allocation.

**Afghanistan**

GHTF allocation: US$200,000

Criteria applied:
- Protracted crisis exacerbated by severe food insecurity, affecting 13.6 million people, with 2 million children under 5 years suffering from acute malnutrition (600,000 with SAM).
- Critical underfunding, with only 5 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded as of April 2019 and no additional funds forecasted at the time of GHTF allocation.
- Strong implementation capacity at the field level, with high utilization of regular resources (62 per cent) and other resources regular (48 per cent) at the time of GHTF allocation.
**Burkina Faso**
**GHTF allocation:** US$222,000

Criteria applied:
- Deteriorating humanitarian situation, including 32 security incidents at operating schools and 77 incidents related to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).
- Critical underfunding, with only 21 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded as of December 2019, and no additional funds forecasted at the time of GHTF allocation.
- Strong implementation capacity at the field level, with high utilization of regular resources (68 per cent) and other resources regular (90 per cent) at the time of GHTF allocation.

---

**Ukraine**
**GHTF allocation:** US$300,000

Criteria applied:
- Deteriorating humanitarian situation, including an estimated 1.2 million people experiencing food insecurity, including over 133,000 children under 5 years with severe acute malnutrition (SAM).
- Critical underfunding, with only 15 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded as of September 2019, and no additional funds forecasted at the time of GHTF allocation.
- Strong implementation capacity at the field level, with high utilization of regular resources (92 per cent) and other resources regular (74 per cent) at the time of GHTF allocation.

---

**Colombia**
**GHTF allocation:** US$300,000

Criteria applied:
- Continued deterioration of the conflict, with rising reports of attacks, assassinations, displacements, recruitment and landmines. As of August 2019, 1.4 million people from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, including 350,000 children, have crossed the border into Colombia.
- Critical underfunding, with only 22 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded as of August 2019, and no additional funds forecasted at the time of GHTF allocation.
- Strong implementation capacity at the field level, with high utilization of regular resources (83 per cent) and other resources regular (70 per cent) at the time of GHTF allocation.

---

**Zimbabwe**
**GHTF allocation:** US$200,000

Criteria applied:
- Deteriorating humanitarian situation, including almost 5,700 cumulative typhoid cases as of October 2019 and increased incidence of cholera.
- Critical underfunding, with only 34 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded as of October 2019 and a shortfall of US$15.7 million.
- Strong implementation capacity at the field level, with high utilization of regular resources (86 per cent) and other resources regular (84 per cent) at the time of GHTF allocation.
WHO SUPPORTS GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING?

The Netherlands retained its position as the largest government contributor to GHTF for humanitarian action. Partners that are consistent in providing support to GHTF over the years continue to be essential in supporting UNICEF to reach the most vulnerable, crisis-affected and forgotten children. Each one of these resource partners, regardless of the size of their contribution, shares in the achievements of GHTF worldwide.

Top 10 sources of global humanitarian thematic funding, 2015–2019 (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>95,150,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Swedish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>11,011,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>6,672,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>UNICEF Thailand</td>
<td>5,078,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>U.S. Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>3,297,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Finnish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>3,220,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>2,425,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2,390,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>UNICEF China</td>
<td>1,048,948</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2019, of the total funds received in the UNICEF appeal, US$145.3 million was thematic funding for humanitarian responses at the country, regional and global levels – a reduction overall compared with the previous year. When looking at the portion of GHTF, about 1.5 per cent or US$30.5 million was raised in 2019 – a fall of 12 per cent compared with 2018, primarily due to a lower GHTF contribution from private sector donors. Now more than ever, UNICEF urges its resource partners to invest in flexible resources for humanitarian action to reach millions of children and their communities – GHTF is our collective commitment to respond effectively to growing needs. Strong UNICEF humanitarian action needs strong, reliable and predictable GHTF.

Key donors supporting UNICEF humanitarian action through National Committees in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Committees</th>
<th>Key donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| United Kingdom      | • ALEX AND ANI  
• Margaret A. Cargill 
Philanthropies  
• Next Gen – London  
• Eleva Foundation  
• easyJet  
• London Stock Exchange Group  
• Manchester United Limited |
| Ireland             | • Primark |
| Sweden              | • Svenska Postkodlotteria |
| Thailand            | • Sansiri |
| United States       | • Abram and Ray Kaplan Foundation |

Mali – Nutrition
A girl awaits a measles vaccination in Leauvaa Village as part of a UNICEF-supported national campaign in response to the measles outbreak in the Pacific region. Behind her is a cold box bearing a UNICEF logo. Cold boxes play a vital role in maintaining the cold chain, a series of temperature controls necessary to maintain vaccine potency from manufacture through inoculation (December 2019).
UNICEF acknowledges the partners who have supported GHTF in 2019 – they are the lifeline for flexible resources in humanitarian response. All contributions help to achieve the results and impacts on children and their communities.

Global humanitarian thematic funding by type of resource partner, 2019

70% US$21.9 million Public sector
30% US$8.6 million Private sector

Total US$30.5 million

With a total GHTF amount contributed of US$30.5 million, around US$21.9 million came from six public sector partners and the remaining US$8.6 million, from 21 private sector partners. While the total GHTF received fell below that of the previous year, there were 27 resource partners in 2019, up two on the number in 2018.


On behalf of some of the world’s most vulnerable children in need, UNICEF owes thanks and acknowledgment to all its resource partners providing GHTF in 2019 – these contributions make a huge difference.

UNICEF will continue to diversify its base of humanitarian donors and will expand flexible financial support. This will help the organization to deliver effective programmes for millions of children, including life-saving assistance and protection, and activities that enhance preparedness, strengthen systems and build resilience. UNICEF will also continue to link humanitarian action to longer-term goals so that no child is left behind.

Sources of global humanitarian thematic funding, 2019 (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>18,599,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Swedish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>2,663,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>2,193,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>1,666,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UNICEF Thailand</td>
<td>1,039,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>U.S. Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>872,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>609,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>UNICEF China</td>
<td>562,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Finnish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>510,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>477,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Danish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>244,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Canadian UNICEF Committee</td>
<td>160,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Australian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>60,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Norwegian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>59,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>French Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>36,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Italian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>36,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Swiss Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>36,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Belgian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>35,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>30,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>German Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>21,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Netherlands Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>21,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Portuguese Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>21,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>New Zealand Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>13,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Spanish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>9,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>International online donations</td>
<td>8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>UNICEF United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>7,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>30,498,106</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Slovakia is fully committed to humanitarian action, and UNICEF is our key partner in this regard. Together with UNICEF, we are able to fulfill one of our most valued moral responsibilities: taking care of children – our future leaders – and making sure they have a happy and fulfilling childhood. We support children and young people in humanitarian crises around the world, and try to address their needs through education, health care, protection and nutrition assistance. When we fulfilling their needs, we improve our collective future.

– H. E. Ivan Korčok, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
AFGHANISTAN

Flexible humanitarian thematic funding supports nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and child protection services in remote regions of Afghanistan affected by conflict and drought.

Humanitarian needs driven by armed conflict, natural disasters and poverty are on the rise in Afghanistan. In Herat, UNICEF and partners supported integrated mobile health and nutrition teams reaching 570 children affected by SAM with life-saving treatment. Flexible humanitarian thematic funds, including GHTF, were critical to supporting preventative counselling sessions on infant and young child feeding given to over 5,000 caregivers, including pregnant and lactating women. The flexibility of GHTF allowed UNICEF to support technical quality assurance, monitoring and reporting on the nutrition response.

With Afghanistan at high risk of natural disasters, humanitarian thematic funding also supported key preparedness actions in the country. These included the pre-positioning of critical WASH supplies, which allowed UNICEF to implement an effective and timely WASH response in disaster-prone and conflict-affected areas. These funds also provided continued access to WASH services at border crossings for over 7,300 people returning from Pakistan.

GHTF was crucial to the child protection response in Badghis and Herat, two western regions of Afghanistan. Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF directly supported nearly 50 per cent of child protection implementation. Among the beneficiaries were more than 10,000 displaced children (over half of them girls) reached with mental health and psychosocial support services and structured child protection activities, delivered via 30 child protection spaces (both mobile and stationary spaces). Over 20,000 community members (more than 45 per cent of them women) were trained to hold community dialogues, 500 girls were given vocational training and nearly 100,000 vulnerable children received winter supplies.

The Next Gen committee has been leading projects and initiatives to raise funds and advocate for UNICEF’s work for six years, giving support through public campaigns and private philanthropy. Next Gen London is committed to supporting the Children’s Emergency Fund – unearmarked funds for emergencies anywhere in the world – because it ensures life-saving aid can reach those most in need, regardless of media attention. We value this as it is vitally important in protecting those suffering from conflict or natural disasters, including silent emergencies, and helps mitigate future disasters.

– Layla Yarjani and Noura Al-Maashouq, on behalf of UNICEF Next Generation London

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2019:

- 570 children received life-saving treatment for SAM
- 7,300 returnees accessed safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services
- 100,000 vulnerable children received winter supplies
- >10,000 displaced children accessed mental health and psychosocial support services
Humanitarian thematic funding supported the life-saving multisectoral humanitarian response to reach the most vulnerable children affected by violence in the Sahel region of Africa.

Insecurity and violence have propelled the humanitarian emergency to unprecedented levels in the Sahel region of Africa.

In Burkina Faso, in the Centre-Nord region hosting displaced populations, GHTF enabled UNICEF and partners to provide life-saving treatment to over 10,000 children with SAM, repair eight hand pumps, construct 32 emergency latrines – rehabilitating another four at schools – provide 5,000 hygiene kits and disseminate hygiene promotion messages. Direct humanitarian cash assistance was given to nearly 1,300 children, and gender-based violence in emergencies services reached over 6,900 people.

In the Niger, flexible humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF filled critical funding gaps to implement rapid response mechanisms in volatile operational environments, reaching 116,000 people with food assistance, over 67,000 with non-food items and over 45,000 with WASH and emergency shelters. Some 177 children associated with armed groups and forces in Diffa also received social support.

In Mali, GHTF strengthened treatment for nearly 17,000 children affected by SAM, including nearly 7,700 girls. It also enabled the emergency distribution of water treatment products to over 20,000 internally displaced people (more than 10,000 children) affected by ongoing violence and conflict in Gao and Mopti. The funding also supported the monitoring of grave violations against children and provided appropriate assistance to those associated with armed forces and groups. A total of 744 incidents of grave violations were documented and reported, and 472 children received mental health and psychosocial support services and medical and other reintegration support. Over 1,300 unaccompanied and separated children (524 of them girls) received interim care, and 336 (72 girls) were reunited with their families and communities.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2019:

- **In Burkina Faso and Mali**: >27,000 children received life-saving nutrition treatment
- **In the Niger**: 116,000 people received food assistance
- **In Mali**: 472 children, including those associated with armed forces and groups, received mental health and psychosocial support and other services
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

By the end of the year, the humanitarian funding gap in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea had reached its lowest level in six years, thanks to donors’ generous contributions, including of GHTF.

GHTF was a major contributor to addressing the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, enabling UNICEF to successfully implement nutrition, health and WASH programmes. The funding gap at the end of 2019 had fallen to 33 per cent, the lowest it had been for six years.

As a direct result of flexible funding, UNICEF improved the technical knowledge and skills of 31 focal points for the community management of acute malnutrition in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. This enabled the proper identification and management of cases of acute malnutrition in the country. Thanks to GHTF, UNICEF also supported the ongoing procurement of multiple-micronutrient tablets, reaching around 29,000 pregnant and lactating women. The procurement and distribution of essential medicines for the treatment of childhood diseases was also supported by the organization – nearly 6.2 million people were given access to essential medicines. This included the provision of equipment and medicines for tuberculosis, including a digital X-ray machine and over 48,000 boxes of isoniazid tablets. Finally, GHTF was also critical for WASH interventions – the most underfunded sector in the country. Almost 18,000 people gained access to safe drinking water as a result of these interventions.

Democrat People’s Republic of Korea – Health
A mother with her two-year-old daughter, who came to the Jongju City Hospital in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea with fever, a cough and low weight. UNICEF has supported the hospital with supplies and medical training (June 2019).

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2019:

- Nearly 6.2 million people accessed essential medicines
- Some 29,000 pregnant and lactating women received multiple-micronutrient tablets
- Nearly 18,000 people accessed safe drinking water
Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2019:

- **925** front-line workers were mobilized for Ebola response and community engagement.
- **>760,000** at-risk people reached.
- **>28,000** schoolchildren with Ebola prevention information.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Thematic funds allowed UNICEF to ensure an integrated response to populations affected by Ebola virus disease, for individuals as well as wider communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In 2019, thematic funds constituted a precious flexible resource for UNICEF to meet the critical needs of affected populations, especially children, according to Ebola response priorities and funding gaps. To reinforce risk communication and community engagement, flexible funds granted to UNICEF and its partners enabled the mobilization of 925 front-line community workers for participatory community engagement, including sensitizing nearly 1,800 influential leaders and community members. As a result, over 760,000 at-risk people were reached with messages on the prevention of Ebola virus disease (EVD) through community engagement, advocacy, interpersonal communications, public animations, radio broadcasts, door-to-door visits, and church and school meetings. Thematic funds also allowed UNICEF to set up 75 village community accountability committees.

Thematic funding was also crucial to the provision of interventions on WASH, infection prevention and control, risk communication, community engagement and psychosocial care in all 29 EVD-affected health zones. UNICEF reinforced infection prevention and control through the provision of handwashing facilities, clean water and WASH consumables in 78 health facilities, 63 schools and 228 community sites. In schools, nearly 1,100 teachers were able to provide information to over 28,000 students.

The funding also enabled UNICEF to give psychosocial support to 256 children in treatment centres, and to 192 children separated or orphaned as a result of EVD. Psychosocial support and material assistance were also provided to 402 families, including 941 contacts of people with EVD who received individualized counselling.

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Ebola

Five-year-old Nelson’s mother died from Ebola virus disease 10 days earlier, and today he is living with his uncle. UNICEF is providing direct support to the families of the women and children affected by Ebola, including psychosocial support, cash assistance and supporting families to ensure that children like Nelson who lose their parents and caregivers are able to go to school (August 2019).
HAITI

In 2019, humanitarian thematic funding played a key role in meeting operational costs for nutrition and education emergency interventions in Haiti.

Despite a significant funding shortfall, UNICEF was able to rely on GHTF to maintain its support to the Ministry of Health on tackling malnutrition in Haiti. This support included integrated preventive and curative interventions to cover the underfunded nutritional therapeutic supply requirements of other departments (therapeutic milk, ready-to-use therapeutic food and medicines). More than 8,500 children with SAM under 5 years and nearly 9,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition were treated between January and December 2019.

Humanitarian thematic funding also helped to meet the pressing educational needs of more than 9,000 children in the southern and the northern regions of Haiti affected by conflict. This support enabled around 8,600 children to continue their learning with adequate materials, including backpacks, and in classrooms equipped with appropriate school furniture. UNICEF also supported the implementation of alternative learning programmes for over 900 adolescents who had dropped out of school before completing their primary education.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2019:

- >8,500 children under 5 treated for SAM
- Nearly 8,600 children given access to rehabilitated or newly equipped schools
- Over 900 adolescents without a primary education given alternative learning programmes

Haiti – Nutrition
Guino and Micherline in Jacmel, Haiti, hold their twin children. The family was assisted by a UNICEF-supported parenthood club to learn about diseases resulting from malnutrition and how to prevent them (September 2019).
REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE IN EUROPE

Humanitarian thematic funding enabled UNICEF to reach refugee and migrant children across six countries in Europe with protection, education and gender-based violence interventions.

The flexibility of humanitarian thematic funds enabled UNICEF to adapt and complement responses to the situations of refugee and migrant children across six countries in Europe. Overall, flexible funds enabled UNICEF to reach more than 19,000 children in 2019 through protection and child rights monitoring, education, and gender-based violence services. The funding was also crucial for delivering warm winter clothes and other basic supplies to these vulnerable children.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Italy, these funds helped to improve child protection standards, guardianship and outreach for over 4,000 at-risk unaccompanied and separated children. In Montenegro and Serbia, global thematic funding enabled the majority of the activities conducted in 2019 to support refugee and migrant children.

Flexible humanitarian thematic funds helped UNICEF link service provision with longer-term national child protection efforts and strengthen education systems in European countries. Flexible funds also allowed the organization to mount or expand responses promptly, to adapt to the evolving situation on the ground and to strengthen the linkages between humanitarian and development efforts by empowering authorities and civil society actors to monitor the situation of children on the move.

In addition, 1,300 front-line workers given gender-based violence training.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2019:

- More than 19,000 children supported
- 5,400 unaccompanied and separated children reached with protection services

Refugee and migrant response in Europe – Child Protection
Ibrahim (left), a migrant from Sierra Leone, rides the train with his foster brother, Andrea, near where they live in Rome, Italy (August 2019).
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Flexible humanitarian thematic funds enabled UNICEF to quickly scale up life-saving health and nutrition interventions for emerging needs in high-risk areas of the Syrian Arab Republic.

After eight years of conflict, the scale, severity and complexity of the humanitarian needs in the Syrian Arab Republic remain extensive.

In Idlib, UNICEF and partners supported mobile medical services and reached over 311,000 children and women with essential maternal and child health-care services in 2019. In Homs, UNICEF procured tuberculosis, tetanus and diphtheria vaccines, strengthened the cold chain and – during the World Health Organization (WHO) World Immunization Week in April – and supported Communication for Development (C4D, also referred to as social and behaviour change communication, SBCC) interventions that benefited over 832,000 children under 5 years.

GHTF supported routine immunization services in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, reaching 300,000 children under 2 years. These funds were also used to train 100 health workers on the prevention of childhood diseases, and paediatricians on nutrition issues.

At the national level, UNICEF and partners conducted a critical study on the causes of under-five mortality. This is guiding the development of the national child and maternal health strategy and supports humanitarian planning.

The flexibility of GHTF also allowed UNICEF to quickly airlift life-saving health and nutrition supplies in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic as hostilities escalated in the last quarter of 2019, and to monitor the situation of displaced populations in refugee camps in Aleppo and Al Hasakeh.

The following results were contributed to by humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF in 2019:

- >311,000 children and women accessed essential maternal and child health-care services
- 832,000 children under 5 years were reached through World Immunization Week
- 300,000 children under 2 years received routine immunization services
UKRAINE

Of the thematic funds allocated to Ukraine in 2019, 78 per cent were GHTF, enabling UNICEF to strengthen child protection and education interventions.

GHTF allowed UNICEF to continue its coordination of 20 child protection partners. It also enabled the organization to update and maintain the online mapping of psychosocial support activities, a system that is widely used by partners for planning these services. More than 494,000 people were reached throughout the year with information campaigns, with over 368,000 reached online. Over 59,000 girls, boys, women and men were covered by psychosocial support activities, while capacity-building activities reached nearly 2,600 service providers. This capacity-building work by UNICEF and partners strengthened the abilities of professionals to give psychosocial support and help with positive parenting.

GHTF also supported the planned evaluation of UNICEF psychosocial interventions implemented in eastern Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict. This evaluation provided major recommendations on strengthening psychosocial interventions, and explored opportunities for handing over psychosocial activities to the Government of Ukraine.

In the education sector, flexible funding contributed directly to the rehabilitation of two education facilities, providing a better learning environment for 350 girls and boys in conflict-affected regions.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2019:

- **494,000** people reached with child protection information campaigns
- **59,000** people covered by psychosocial support activities
- **2,600** professionals received capacity-building activities

Ukraine – Education

Maria, 13, attends class at Mariinka School, near the line dividing government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas in eastern Ukraine, where the fighting is more severe. (February 2019).
THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA MIGRATION CRISIS

UNICEF was able to scale up its response across the region to meet the most urgent needs of girls, boys and adolescents from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and host communities in Colombia and Ecuador.

Humanitarian thematic funds were critical to allowing UNICEF to integrate actions at the local level to strengthen the capacities of institutions and communities in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and host communities in Colombia and Ecuador. This helped promote access to basic services for child protection, education, health, nutrition, early childhood development and WASH, and adapt response strategies to the context of each territory.

In Colombia, for example, results attributable to flexible funding included over 5,800 women, boys and girls accessing maternal and child health services through mobile teams and in host communities. Programmes to prevent and address violence, abuse and exploitation, including gender-based violence, benefited more than 7,200 children and reached over 9,300 people with key messages, including information on life-saving skills and protective practices and behaviours.

In Ecuador, flexible funds enabled UNICEF to scale up its interventions through the deployment of key technical staff at both the national and field office levels. These funds also fostered the establishment of two child-friendly spaces that helped more than 6,100 girls and over 6,100 boys.

Thanks to the flexibility of thematic funds, and given potential funding gaps in 2020, a portion of these funds was reserved for 2020 to ensure the sustainability of critical interventions during the first months of the year.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2019:

- >18,000 children given psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces
- Nearly 8,300 children benefited from programmes addressing violence, abuse and exploitation
- 8,000 caregivers received counselling on infant and young child feeding
ZIMBABWE

In the aftermath of Cyclone Idai and in drought-affected regions of Zimbabwe, thematic humanitarian funding strengthened health systems for integrated health and nutrition services.

The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe has continued to deteriorate due to multiple natural hazards, including both drought and flooding. Drought has brought food insecurity, and flooding has raised the risk of disease outbreaks.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Child Care to revamp damaged health facilities and kick-start vital maternal, neonatal and childcare services in the districts most affected by Cyclone Idai. This included replacing the damaged cold chain for 10 clinics and providing essential equipment, technical support and training for effective vaccine management and maternal, newborn and child health services. The equipment provided included midwifery kits, fetal heart monitoring devices, newborn resuscitation equipment, on-site laboratory test kits, blood pressure monitoring equipment, and wheelchairs and stretchers.

In the 25 districts most affected by drought, UNICEF was able to use GTHF to strengthen the health systems and reach nearly 18,000 children (10,000 of them girls) with life-saving treatment for SAM. These funds also supported micronutrient supplementation for children aged 6–59 months. Delivered via health facilities and community-based village health workers, this intervention reached over 800,000 children (over half of them girls) with vitamin A supplementation. This high coverage was achieved partly because of effective integration between nutrition and health services, for example by integrating micronutrient supplementation into the WHO expanded programme on immunization.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2019:

- Health system strengthening in 25 districts most affected by drought benefited
- 18,000 children who received SAM treatment
- and
- 800,000 children who received micronutrient supplementation
GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In 2019, GHTF supported the global humanitarian architecture, including critical emergency surge deployments such as through the Emergency Response Team, the Rapid Response Team and standby partner missions; humanitarian advocacy, policy guidance, strategic partnerships and dialogue; and emergency preparedness.

GHTF plays a crucial role in the rapid deployment of the Emergency Response Team (ERT), which is made up of 22 UNICEF staff with specialized skills in emergency coordination, programming, operations, gender, accountability to affected populations and humanitarian cash transfers. The ERT undertook 70 missions to 18 country offices in 2019, totalling more than 2,800 days of support. Three-quarters of these missions (almost 2,100 days) supported preparedness and response to UNICEF Level 2 and Level 3 crises, such as those in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

In Mozambique, for example, the ERT member with expertise in humanitarian cash transfers supported the Cyclone Idai response by conducting a needs assessment and contributing to the design of a joint programme with the World Food Programme. The programme provides multipurpose cash transfers for food assistance, as well as non-food items and basic services. Over 22,000 households, including more than 57,000 children, received food assistance plus hygiene and household non-food items.

ERT technical support also played a significant role in Indonesia – in the design, implementation and fundraising for the multipurpose cash assistance programme for tsunami- and earthquake-affected households. In 2019, over 6,100 households, including nearly 14,000 children, received humanitarian cash assistance of US$250 each over four months to access improved shelter, better nutrition and other basic services. The programme’s strong community engagement component and effective feedback mechanism were critical to its success.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2019:

- The Emergency Response Team ran 70 missions to 18 countries, totalling over 2,800 days
- 75% of these missions supported preparedness and response to Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies
As part of the First Action Initiative, flexible GHTF helped to support countries where imminent risks created an urgent need for emergency preparedness. In 2019, five country offices were identified as priorities (Afghanistan, Haiti, the Pacific Islands, the State of Palestine and Zimbabwe). These countries received a total of US$2.3 million for key preparedness actions. The UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes estimates that these five allocations will improve the speed of the organization’s emergency response by an average of 42 days, enable 57 per cent savings per investment and reduce UNICEF’s carbon dioxide emissions by more than 1,000 tonnes.

In Zimbabwe, timely GHTF allocations under the First Action Initiative enabled UNICEF to take early action for cholera prevention. Two WASH Rapid Response Teams were activated and reached over 4,900 households with health and hygiene education, hygiene kits for vulnerable and high-risk households, analysis of the quality of 248 water sources, and decontamination of 35 burst sewers.

In Haiti, the positioning of WASH, education, child protection and health supplies in the capital city and six other locations built the capacity of UNICEF and partners to reach 30,000 vulnerable people with life-saving assistance in the case of natural disasters.

---

**Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF supported UNICEF emergency preparedness through the First Action Initiative in 2019:**

- **5 country offices** received **US$2.3 million**
  - cut emergency response speeds by 42 days on average
  - reduce UNICEF carbon emissions by >1,000 tonnes
  - enable 57% in savings per investment

---

**Democratic Republic of the Congo – Ebola**

Students play at Bunagana Primary School in Kisoro District, Uganda. The school is about 0.5 km from the Democratic Republic of the Congo where Ebola awareness messages have been disseminated with UNICEF support, through implementing partner Uganda Red Cross (February 2019).

---

**UNICEF is a key partner for Denmark when it comes to securing better outcomes for vulnerable children and their families in humanitarian crises, and thereby strengthening global solidarity. It is a top priority for Denmark to ensure that no one is left behind – especially children. Through our multi-annual strategic partnership, we support UNICEF’s holistic approach to responding to children’s needs through protection, education, health, sanitation and nutrition. A cross-cutting focus for our support is ensuring gender equality, with a particular focus on reducing barriers for girls to achieve their full potential. We also support UNICEF in their important work on finding transformative and innovative humanitarian solutions. By contributing to the thematic humanitarian fund, we enable UNICEF to respond swiftly, in a flexible manner and with a long-term planning horizon, when seeking to address the most urgent needs. This has proved even more important with the major crisis that the world is currently facing. In such dire situations, UNICEF helps us bring back hope in the lives of girls and boys living in extreme hardship.**

– Rasmus Prehn, Minister for Development Cooperation, Denmark
Nur, 11, waits to answer a question at a UNICEF learning space at a camp for Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh (July 2019).
UNICEF requested US$3.9 billion at the start of 2019 through the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. By December, the appeal had reached US$4.1 billion. Escalating insecurity and limited access to services in countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali, the Sudan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as well as natural disasters including Cyclone Idai in the Eastern and Southern Africa region and drought in Angola, Kenya, Pakistan and Zimbabwe, contributed to the increasing needs.

International humanitarian assistance from the public and private sectors slightly declined in 2019 compared with 2018. By 31 December, UNICEF had received over US$2.0 billion in donor commitments (US$7 million less than in 2018) towards the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. About 59 per cent of the funding received in 2019 came from five resource partners, whose contributions ranged between US$115.6 million and US$540.8 million.

Despite the generous support of donors, the funding shortfall remained significant, at 50 per cent. Almost half of the funds received focused on the large-scale crises in South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Syrian refugee-hosting countries and Yemen. Sixty-eight per cent of all funds received went to support 10 countries out of the 47 with appeals launched in 2019. Many responses remained underfunded, including the situations in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Pakistan, Uganda and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – all of which had funding gaps exceeding 70 per cent.

At the regional level, similar to the previous year, the Middle East and North Africa region received the largest proportion of funding at 45 per cent of the total, while Eastern and Southern Africa received 18 per cent and West and Central Africa received 14 per cent.

FIGURE A2-1: Other resources – emergency contributions, 2014–2019
FIGURE A2-2: Other resources – emergency contributions by partner group, 2019

- Private sector: US$149.8M (7%)
- Inter-organizational arrangements: US$328.1M (16%)
- Global programme partnerships: US$2.9M (<1%)
- Governments: US$1.6B (77%)

FIGURE A2-3: Humanitarian contributions (other resources – emergency) received in 2019, by region

- Middle East and North Africa: US$918.9M
- Eastern and Southern Africa: US$372.6M
- West and Central Africa: US$292.1M
- Europe and Central Asia: US$181.0M
- South Asia: US$112.7M
- Latin America and the Caribbean: US$65.4M
- Headquarters: US$59.9M
- East Asia and the Pacific: US$37.0M
The majority of the humanitarian funding received – 73 per cent of the total – came from the following top 10 resource partners: the Government of the United States of America, the Government of the United Kingdom, the European Commission, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Government of Germany, Saudi Arabia, the Government of Japan, the Government of United Arab Emirates, the Government of Sweden and the Government of Norway. These top 10 donors contributed a total of US$1.5 billion to UNICEF humanitarian action in 2019.


The top government partners included the Government of the United Kingdom, the Government of Germany, the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Netherlands. Several National Committees played an important role in raising multi-year funding, including the National Committees of Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan and Norway. Longer-term funding allowed UNICEF to be more strategic and predictable, and to respond effectively where needs were greatest, including bridging humanitarian action and development programming.

### TABLE A2-1: Top 20 humanitarian resource partners by contributions received, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Resource partners</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>540,837,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*</td>
<td>270,701,966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>244,497,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>157,272,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>115,558,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>66,203,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>65,978,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>56,122,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>48,370,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>42,813,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>39,900,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>39,220,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>U.S Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>36,107,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>33,978,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>German Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>30,279,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>20,795,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
<td>19,079,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>United Nations Office for Project Services**</td>
<td>16,656,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>14,483,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>12,531,976</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This includes contributions received from the Central Emergency Response Fund, country-based pooled funds, and the pass-through contribution for Yemen from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

**This includes pass-through funding from United Kingdom.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Grant Description</th>
<th>Resource Partners</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Support and Funding of the UN Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2019*</td>
<td>UNOCHA</td>
<td>69,339,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2018-2019 Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), Lebanon</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>65,452,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2018-2019 Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), Turkey</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>45,221,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CCTE 2 #120, Turkey</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>45,201,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Preventing Lost Generation in Turkey: Support Syrian Volunteer Teachers</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>43,763,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Contribution for the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) 2019**</td>
<td>UNOCHA</td>
<td>35,014,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>For the Project of Cash incentives to support teachers and Schools based staff in Yemen</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>35,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>For the Project of Cash incentives to support teachers and Schools based staff in Yemen</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>35,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Education &amp; Child Protection for Extremely Disadvantaged Children, Lebanon</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>31,572,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Support to the United Nations Children’s Fund for the Syria Crisis</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>28,374,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sahel Humanitarian Emergency Response Programme</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>23,809,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Supporting access to formal education for girls and boys, RACE II, Lebanon</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>21,590,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>An integrated Nutrition, Health and WASH Child Survival Package, South Sudan</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>21,353,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>UNICEF Concept Note for USAID/Food for Peace Award 2018, South Sudan</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>20,507,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Health System Strengthening for Better Maternal Child &amp; Health Results, Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>20,012,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Flexible funding for support UNICEF’s humanitarian relief efforts in Yemen</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Integrated Essential Emergency Education Services (IEEES), South Sudan</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>19,292,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>2019 Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) in Lebanon</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>18,780,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>18,599,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>FIT Response to nutrition-related humanitarian needs in Borno state, Nigeria</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>17,594,848</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Pass-through contribution from Saudi Arabia.
**Pass-through contribution from the United Arab Emirates.
UNICEF humanitarian programmes continued to benefit from CERF and the Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) in 2019, which comprised 9 per cent of all humanitarian funds received. With CERF’s largest-ever annual allocation of US$142.1 million, UNICEF was able to provide timely and life-saving support in 44 countries. In country after country, children are surviving and getting the help they need thanks to CERF’s ability to provide rapid support when and where it is most needed, including to forgotten crises. In addition, UNICEF country offices received funding allocations from all 18 CBPFs that were active in 2019. At the end of the year, the total combined CBPF funding amounted to US$40 million, enabling UNICEF to reach the most vulnerable children with health, nutrition, clean water, education and protection assistance.

In building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities of children and youth in emergencies and humanitarian contexts, we highly appreciate the country-specific know-how and expertise of UNICEF country offices. As children and youth are among the most vulnerable groups in such crises, affected by disease, food scarcity, malnutrition, violence, exploitation and a range of socioeconomic setbacks, response needs to be swift and effective. In the long-standing support of Estonia for UNICEF humanitarian appeals to alleviate the situations in eastern Ukraine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Jordan, we have especially been thankful for the ability of UNICEF to adapt to volatile and unforeseeable humanitarian emergencies. This has been also the case with the dire circumstances amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The aforementioned is the reason why providing flexible thematic funding for UNICEF has been important for Estonia. Talking from experience and the trust we have for UNICEF, we can only encourage others to do the same.

— Andres Rundu, Undersecretary, Economic and Development Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource partner type</th>
<th>Resource partner</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
<th>Percentage of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>18,599,562</td>
<td>12.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>11,434,670</td>
<td>7.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>1,666,667</td>
<td>1.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>0.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>477,752</td>
<td>0.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>306,391</td>
<td>0.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>213,980</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>30,523</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>German Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>29,181,597</td>
<td>20.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>16,366,667</td>
<td>11.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>11,043,404</td>
<td>7.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>8,592,702</td>
<td>5.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norwegian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>7,503,351</td>
<td>5.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swedish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>4,755,355</td>
<td>3.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>French Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>4,526,050</td>
<td>3.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>4,334,629</td>
<td>2.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>3,727,578</td>
<td>2.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Netherlands Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>2,950,794</td>
<td>2.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Italian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>2,242,439</td>
<td>1.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Portuguese Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>2,185,370</td>
<td>1.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swiss Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>2,178,357</td>
<td>1.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Thailand</td>
<td>1,424,542</td>
<td>0.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finnish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>1,295,878</td>
<td>0.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Australian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>1,242,938</td>
<td>0.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canadian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>1,088,892</td>
<td>0.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Ireland</td>
<td>947,846</td>
<td>0.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luxembourg Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>914,637</td>
<td>0.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF China</td>
<td>629,172</td>
<td>0.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belgian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>524,520</td>
<td>0.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Argentina</td>
<td>481,779</td>
<td>0.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource partner type</td>
<td>Resource partner</td>
<td>Total (US$)</td>
<td>Percentage of total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tetsuko Kuroyanagi</td>
<td>457,582</td>
<td>0.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Austrian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>378,957</td>
<td>0.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Polish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>368,272</td>
<td>0.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Czech Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>333,257</td>
<td>0.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>264,439</td>
<td>0.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Croatia</td>
<td>253,201</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Brazil</td>
<td>252,973</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Korean Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>247,652</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Slovenian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>246,041</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Zealand Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>218,106</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Indonesia</td>
<td>176,967</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Malaysia</td>
<td>145,500</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iceland Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>130,124</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>96,940</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turkish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>76,964</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International online donations</td>
<td>64,566</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF India</td>
<td>49,883</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andorran Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>32,973</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Chile</td>
<td>20,090</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Sri Lanka</td>
<td>17,834</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Guatemala</td>
<td>16,333</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Iran</td>
<td>11,148</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Philippines</td>
<td>9,586</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Mexico</td>
<td>6,748</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Kuwait</td>
<td>6,695</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Bangladesh</td>
<td>6,360</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Qatar</td>
<td>4,046</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Israeli Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Botswana</td>
<td>1,844</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td><strong>145,265,123</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Of the funds received in 2019, US$145.3 million (7 per cent) was thematic funding for humanitarian responses at the country, regional and global levels. Global humanitarian thematic funding – the most flexible funding after regular resources – made up 1.5 per cent of the total commitments received (see Annex 1 for additional detail).

UNICEF will continue its strategic engagement with a diverse set of stakeholders – from governments, to the private sector and civil society – to diversify its partnerships and funding and to find innovative ways to respond to humanitarian needs.

FIGURE A2-5: Humanitarian thematic funding contributions at country, regional and global levels, 2018–2019

FIGURE A2-6: Thematic contributions by thematic pool, 2019
Humanitarian action played a significant role in field operations in 2019, using 52 per cent (nearly US$3.0 billion) of overall UNICEF programme expenses. Of all country-level expenses, 54 per cent (over US$2.8 billion) supported humanitarian response. In Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, over 90 per cent of country-level expenses were classified as humanitarian. Of the 30 country offices with the largest overall expenses, 28 had appeals in the 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. Humanitarian action for these offices comprised 79 per cent of total country-level expenses, both humanitarian and non-humanitarian.

Using funds received in 2019, and resources from previous years, UNICEF emergency earmarked funding expenses in 2019 totalled US$2.0 billion (36 per cent of the organization’s total expenses of US$5.7 billion). In 2019, the highest share of emergency funding expenses, 31 per cent, was for Goal Area 1 (every child survives and thrives). This was followed by 26 per cent funding expenses under Goal Area 4 (safe and clean environment) and 24 per cent under Goal Area 2 (every child learns). Under the thematic areas, the highest expense at 23 per cent was for health, followed by 21 per cent for education and 18 per cent for WASH.

For the third consecutive year, emergency expenses in 2019 were highest (46 per cent – US$946.3 million) in the Middle East and North Africa. The largest crisis in terms of amount of emergency earmarked funding spent was the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic (both inside the country and in neighbouring countries), followed by those in Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Iraq, Bangladesh and Somalia. All of these crises were the most significant in terms of both scale and complexity.

Regular resources – essentially funding without restrictions – can also be used flexibly for children wherever the need is greatest. In emergencies, regular resources make it possible for UNICEF to provide immediate and long-term support to children in crisis. For example, when COVID-19 first took hold in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF was able to respond before donor funds were received. Regular resources were used to scale up programming and innovation in the critical first phase of the emergency.

In 2019, the UNICEF Emergency Programme Fund released US$68.5 million to 24 country offices and three regional offices to respond rapidly to crises, especially new ones. For example, US$7.5 million disbursed to Mozambique in response to Cyclone Idai allowed UNICEF to order supplies and deploy surge staff to coordinate an immediate response to the emergency.

FIGURE A2-7: Other resources – emergency expenses by goal area, 2019

- Survive and thrive: US$624.5M (30%)
- Learn: US$484.7M (24%)
- Safe and clean environment: US$541.8M (26%)
- Protection from violence and exploitation: US$264.1M (13%)
- Equitable chance in life: US$134.0M (7%)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal Area</th>
<th>Other resources - emergency</th>
<th>Other resources - regular</th>
<th>Regular resources</th>
<th>Grand total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal Area 1: Survive and thrive</strong></td>
<td>624,501,495</td>
<td>1,149,046,483</td>
<td>379,121,119</td>
<td>2,152,669,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>222,890,941</td>
<td>878,801,306</td>
<td>226,815,472</td>
<td>1,328,507,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>387,322,437</td>
<td>197,935,060</td>
<td>102,024,678</td>
<td>687,282,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and AIDS</td>
<td>1,760,878</td>
<td>31,520,780</td>
<td>31,834,609</td>
<td>65,116,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early childhood development</td>
<td>12,527,239</td>
<td>40,789,338</td>
<td>18,446,359</td>
<td>71,762,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal Area 2: Learn</strong></td>
<td>484,747,957</td>
<td>533,182,980</td>
<td>165,432,639</td>
<td>1,183,363,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal Area 3: Protection from violence and exploitation</strong></td>
<td>264,134,812</td>
<td>265,519,814</td>
<td>178,336,973</td>
<td>707,991,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal Area 4: Safe and clean environment</strong></td>
<td>541,771,778</td>
<td>391,782,342</td>
<td>175,395,584</td>
<td>1,108,949,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>491,399,617</td>
<td>368,263,617</td>
<td>132,165,873</td>
<td>991,829,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe and clean environment</td>
<td>50,372,160</td>
<td>23,518,725</td>
<td>43,229,711</td>
<td>117,120,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal Area 5: Equitable chance in life</strong></td>
<td>134,017,283</td>
<td>241,072,299</td>
<td>122,019,265</td>
<td>497,108,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,049,173,325</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,580,603,917</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,020,305,580</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,650,082,822</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIGURE A2-8: Other resources – emergency expenses by region, 2019

Latin America and the Caribbean, US$51.8M, 3%
South Asia, US$119.2M, 6%
Europe and Central Asia, US$185.5M, 9%
West and Central Africa, US$325.6M, 16%
Eastern and Southern Africa, US$351.5M, 17%
East Asia and the Pacific, US$376M, 2%
Headquarters, US$31.5M, 2%
Middle East and North Africa, US$946.3M, 46%

FIGURE A2-9: Top 10 countries by other resources – emergency expenses, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>US$305.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>US$217.9M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>US$164.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>US$128.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>US$122.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>US$111.7M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>US$91.0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>US$84.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>US$78.0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>US$70.8M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Annex 3: UNICEF Strategic Plan Results Framework: Humanitarian data companion

### A. OUTPUT INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output indicators</th>
<th>Results⁶⁶</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOAL AREA 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.b.5.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of polio priority countries that had less than 5 per cent missed children at district level during the last polio vaccination campaign in at least half of all districts in the country</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.b.6.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of UNICEF-targeted children in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.c.5.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people receiving insecticide-treated nets as per international recommended standards through UNICEF-supported programmes</td>
<td>1.46 million⁶⁷</td>
<td>1.69 million⁶⁸</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.e.1.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of girls and boys with severe acute malnutrition who are admitted for treatment⁶⁹</td>
<td>3.4 million</td>
<td>4.1 million⁷⁰</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.h.3.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in humanitarian situations who participate in organized programmes with early childhood development kits through UNICEF-supported programmes</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOAL AREA 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.a.2.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of countries with equitable education systems for access, including children with disabilities (including the emergency preparedness/resilience dimension)</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.a.4.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls and boys targeted by UNICEF as a share of girls and boys targeted by all partners for early learning or education support in humanitarian situations</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.a.5.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in humanitarian situations who have participated in early learning, primary or secondary education through UNICEF-supported programmes</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.b.1.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of girls and boys provided with individual educational/early learning materials through UNICEF-supported programmes</td>
<td>5.4 million</td>
<td>9.6 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.c.1.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of girls and boys who have participated in skills development programmes for learning, personal empowerment, active citizenship and/or employability through UNICEF-supported programmes</td>
<td>1.4 million</td>
<td>2.3 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## GOAL AREA 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.a.3</td>
<td>Number of countries in which an interoperable information management system supports and tracks case management, incident monitoring and programme monitoring</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.a.4</td>
<td>Percentage of countries affected by armed conflict with a strategy to strengthen the protection of children from grave violations of international humanitarian law</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.a.5 (a)</td>
<td>Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in humanitarian situations provided with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces with intersectoral programming interventions</td>
<td>83% (3.6 million)</td>
<td>87% (3.7 million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.a.5 (b)</td>
<td>Percentage of UNICEF-targeted unaccompanied and separated girls and boys registered with family tracing and reunification services and family-based care or appropriate alternative services</td>
<td>61% (69,109)</td>
<td>58% (51,980)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.a.5 (c)</td>
<td>Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys recruited and used by armed forces and groups that have been released and reintegrated with their families and provided with adequate care and services</td>
<td>99.96% (13,636)</td>
<td>53% (14,400)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.a.5 (d)</td>
<td>Percentage of UNICEF-targeted girls and boys in areas affected by landmines and other explosive weapons provided with relevant prevention and survivor-assistance interventions</td>
<td>72% (3.7 million)</td>
<td>89% (4.4 million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.a.6</td>
<td>Percentage of UNICEF-targeted women, girls and boys in humanitarian situations who were provided with risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions to address gender-based violence through UNICEF-supported programmes</td>
<td>103% (1.3 million)</td>
<td>116% (3.3 million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.a.7</td>
<td>Number of children on the move who received protective services through UNICEF-supported programmes</td>
<td>1.7 million</td>
<td>1.8 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## GOAL AREA 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.a.3</td>
<td>Percentage of UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations provided with a sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene</td>
<td>104%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b.4 (a)</td>
<td>Percentage of UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations: (a) provided with access to appropriate sanitation facilities and living in environments free of open defecation</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b.4 (b)</td>
<td>Percentage of UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations: (b) provided with menstrual hygiene management services</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b.4 (c)</td>
<td>Percentage of UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations: (c) provided with access to appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities for males and females and hygiene education in schools, temporary learning spaces and other child-friendly spaces</td>
<td>116%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## GOAL AREA 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.b.2</td>
<td>Number of countries with national cash transfer programmes that are ready to respond to a crisis</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.e.3</td>
<td>Percentage of countries providing disability-inclusive humanitarian programmes and services</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### B. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>H1.c.1</strong></td>
<td>Percentage of country offices that meet organizational benchmarks on:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) preparedness</td>
<td>(a) 65%</td>
<td>(a) 74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) implementing risk-informed programming</td>
<td>(b) 37%</td>
<td>(b) 41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) promoting peaceful and inclusive societies</td>
<td>(c) 31%</td>
<td>(c) 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H1.c.2</strong></td>
<td>Number of countries with inter-agency multi-year humanitarian response plans where country offices have aligned multi-year strategies and plans</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H1.c.3</strong></td>
<td>Percentage of humanitarian funding provided to local and national actors</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H1.c.4</strong></td>
<td>Percentage of countries with humanitarian response plans where country offices contribute to coordinated needs assessments through UNICEF-led cluster coordination mechanisms or directly with the humanitarian country team</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H1.d.1</strong></td>
<td>Percentage of county offices that meet organizational benchmarks on Communication for Development programmes for community engagement and behaviour change, including adaptation for humanitarian response</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(d: 40%)</td>
<td>(d: 51%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(h: 23%)</td>
<td>(h: 29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H5.b.2</strong></td>
<td>Number of novel products on pathway to being at scale in programme countries by 2021, including products developed to address health emergencies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H6.a.5</strong></td>
<td>Percentage of countries where UNICEF-led cluster coordination mechanisms meet satisfactory performance for established functions:</td>
<td>a) 41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) nutrition</td>
<td>b) 37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) education</td>
<td>c) 58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) WASH</td>
<td>d) 32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(d) child protection (area of responsibility)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H7.a.1</strong></td>
<td>Percentage of countries implementing proven real-time information innovations at large scale, including adaptation for humanitarian response</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ENABLERS

| | | |
| **E3.b.3** | Percentage of relevant staff who have completed relevant learning programmes: | |
| | (c) results-based management, including risk-informed programming | 73% | 61% |
| **E3.d.1** | Percentage of requests for emergency response team support filled within three days | 73% | 81% |
Endnotes


2 Global figures presented throughout this report are derived from the country office annual reports, unless stated otherwise. Further information on global figures can be found in the UNICEF Executive Director’s Annual Report 2019, Data Companion and Score Card. There may be slight discrepancies due to rounding of some values.

3 The slight reduction from 59 countries in 2018 is due in part to UNICEF country offices refining their self-rating on disability inclusion, based on an increased level of understanding of what disability-inclusive humanitarian action means in practice.

4 This represents 36 per cent of UNICEF countries (21 out of 59 countries) covered under the 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal.

5 In alignment with the survivor-centred approach and global best practice for gender-based violence service provision, UNICEF takes every possible precaution to manage gender-based violence survivor data safely and ethically. As such, for the purposes of reports such as this one, the number of survivors reached with response services is embedded in an aggregate figure that also encompasses risk mitigation and prevention activities.

6 The Horizon Scan process gives UNICEF a way of identifying risk, prioritizing countries that have large risks to ‘watch’ and ensuring that those countries have solid preparedness plans in place to address those risks.

7 Based on emergency scenario estimates provided by UNICEF country offices at the time of disbursement. Calculations will be updated to reflect actual return on investment as emergencies occur in investment contexts.

8 Data extracted on 7 April 2020 from UNICEF’s InSight performance management platform.

9 The 25 per cent target was established by the Grand Bargain, of which UNICEF is a signatory. UNICEF has internally set its own more ambitious target of 34 per cent in the Strategic Plan Results Framework.

10 Standby arrangements are a tool for strengthening emergency response capacity. Under such an arrangement, partners maintain a pool of operational resources, including personnel, technical expertise, services and equipment that can be deployed to UNICEF to enhance response capacity at the onset of an emergency.

11 This includes missions undertaken by the Global Cluster Coordination Unit.


13 In 2014, nearly 78 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Global Humanitarian Overview 2015, OCHA, Geneva, 2014.

14 Global Humanitarian Overview 2020, p. 11.


17 Ibid.

18 Ibid.


20 Global Humanitarian Overview 2020, p. 11.


24 The 25 per cent target was established by the Grand Bargain, of which UNICEF is a signatory. UNICEF has internally set its own more ambitious target of 34 per cent in the Strategic Plan Results Framework.

25 Based on data from the organization’s system-generated financial reports as of December 2019.


27 Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guyana, Iraq, Mozambique and Turkey.
This procedure was designed to ensure that preparedness is mainstreamed across UNICEF country, regional and global offices. It includes mandatory minimum preparedness actions and standards for analysing risks and systematic contingency planning and monitoring of progress towards agreed preparedness standards.

The Horizon Scan process gives UNICEF a way of identifying risk, prioritizing countries that have large risks to ‘watch’ and ensuring that those countries have solid preparedness plans in place to address those risks.

Based on emergency scenario estimates provided by UNICEF country offices at the time of disbursement. Calculations will be updated to reflect actual return on investment as emergencies occur in investment contexts.

The community engagement minimum standards and indicators finalized in 2019 were developed in a consultative process between UNICEF, key partner organizations and donors to provide globally established guidance on the contribution of community engagement in development practice and humanitarian action. For more information, see <www.unicef.org/mena/reports/community-engagement-standards>, accessed 15 May 2020.

Data extracted on 7 April 2020 from UNICEF’s InSight performance management platform.

The 25 per cent target was established by the Grand Bargain, of which UNICEF is a signatory. UNICEF has internally set its own more ambitious target of 34 per cent in the Strategic Plan Results Framework.

Standby arrangements are a tool for strengthening emergency response capacity. Under such an arrangement, partners maintain a pool of operational resources, including personnel, technical expertise, services and equipment that can be deployed to UNICEF to enhance response capacity at the onset of an emergency.

Information related to early childhood development, adolescents and disabilities comes later in this report under the relevant sections of the chapter, Results by Strategic Plan Goal Area (see p. 25). Gender equality is included here because it cuts across the achievement of all of the Strategic Plan goal areas.

The slight reduction from 59 countries in 2018 is due in part to UNICEF country offices refining their self-rating on disability inclusion, based on an increased level of understanding of what disability-inclusive humanitarian action means in practice.

In alignment with the survivor-centred approach and global best practice for gender-based violence service provision, UNICEF takes every possible precaution to manage gender-based violence survivor data safely and ethically. As such, for the purposes of reports such as this one, the number of survivors reached with response services is embedded in an aggregate figure that also encompasses risk mitigation and prevention activities.

Glass, Nancy, et al., ‘Effectiveness of the Communities Care Programme on Change in Social Norms Associated with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) with Residents in Intervention Compared with Control Districts in Mogadishu, Somalia’, BMJ Open, volume 9, no. 3, 13 March 2019, p. e023819.

Data are from NutriDash, 2018 (the latest available estimates) and refer to UNICEF-supported programmes.

This is the planned milestone for 2019 as per the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, which is different from the actual target of 4.7 million as per the 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal.

The disaggregated RRT figures presented in this section may be higher than the total RRT deployment figures provided in the Executive Summary, as these include staff, preparedness and training mission not included under surge deployments.


In alignment with the survivor-centred approach and global best practice for gender-based violence service provision, UNICEF takes every possible precaution to manage gender-based violence survivor data safely and ethically. As such, for the purposes of reports such as this one, the number of survivors reached with response services is embedded in an aggregate figure that also encompasses risk mitigation and prevention activities.

UNICEF is no longer the co-lead of the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility, which is now led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).


Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guyana, Iraq, Mozambique and Turkey.
UNICEF received US$30.5 million in GHTF in 2019 but the amount allocated in 2019 is higher because it includes an amount carried over from 2018.

The slight reduction from 59 countries in 2018 is due in part to UNICEF country offices refining their self-rating on disability inclusion, based on an increased level of understanding of what disability-inclusive humanitarian action means in practice.

This represents 36 per cent of UNICEF countries (21 out of 59 countries) covered under the 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal.


This is as of the end of 2019. At the time of writing this report, the total had reached 103.

This figure comprises deployments undertaken by UNICEF staff as part of the Humanitarian Surge Deployment, Regional/Rapid Response Mechanism, UNICEF hired Rapid Response Team and Emergency Response Team.

The figures presented for standby arrangements in the Global Annual Results Report – Humanitarian Action may differ from the figures presented in Division of Human Resources reporting on standby arrangements, which does not include deployments of less than seven days, deployments for preparedness and disaster risk reduction, headquarters-based deployments, and deployment days that went past 31 December 2019.

The funding is predictable, flexible and multi-year.

Direct implementation support for country offices, including technical support through the deployment of Emergency Response Team members and contingency for urgent critical support.

Includes investments in organizational preparedness systems and country-specific preparedness actions.

UNICEF received US$30.5 million in GHTF in 2019 but the amount allocated in 2019 is higher because it includes an amount carried over from 2018.

Based on emergency scenario estimates provided by UNICEF country offices at the time of disbursement. Calculations will be updated to reflect actual return on investment as emergencies occur in investment contexts.

This includes 46 standalone appeals (country, multi-country and regional) plus global support.

The 2018-2019 values presented in the Annex reflect results in humanitarian settings across Goal Areas, change strategies and enablers. For the complete set of data reported against the UNICEF 2018–2021 Strategic Plan Results Framework, please refer to the data companion and scorecard of the UNICEF Executive Director’s Annual Reports 2018 and 2019. Due to rounding, figures may differ from those provided in the data companion and scorecard to the 2019 UNICEF Executive Director’s Annual Report

This is the 2018 result. The data companion and scorecard to the 2018 UNICEF Executive Director’s Annual Report also reflects the cumulative result of 3.7 million since 2016.

This is the 2019 result. The data companion and scorecard to the 2019 UNICEF Executive Director’s Annual Report also reflects the cumulative result of 5.4 million since 2016.

The humanitarian dimension of this indicator reflects the number of children with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment in countries included in the 2018 and 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeals, with the exception of Nigeria which reports disaggregated data in both humanitarian and development contexts.

This figure captures the severe acute malnutrition admissions in the full year from October 2018 to September 2019.

Methodological challenges in data collection for this indicator mean that the 2018 value should be interpreted with caution.

UNICEF strives to reach every child released from armed conflict with at least some sort of protective service. The number of children reached can exceed 100 per cent because of an expected roll over of children released from previous cohorts who are still being provided with protective services.

Improved access to drinking water in humanitarian situations includes water treatment solutions.

Lack of donor funding may have contributed to decreasing results over the years. In addition, people may be targeted in 2019 but not reached until 2020 (achievements are still in progress).

As this indicator measures progress only on preparedness for humanitarian crisis, there is no humanitarian disaggregation available for this indicator.

77 A ‘how’ indicator is defined as a change strategy necessary for the achievement of a result.

78 The 2018 and 2019 results are based on countries with inter-agency multi-year appeals, which differs from the reporting in the 2018 and 2019 Annual Results Report – Humanitarian Action, where countries with multi-year UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeals are mentioned.

79 The (d) and (h) figures represent the percentages in development and humanitarian settings, respectively, of country offices that meet organizational benchmarks on Communication for Development programmes.

80 Ibid.

81 This is a new indicator in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. Result values for 2018 and 2019 are different from the main 2018 and 2019 Annual Results Reports – Humanitarian Action, in which the focus is on countries where a cluster coordination performance assessment was undertaken with partners.

82 This is defined as internal factors that support the delivery of results and change strategies.