

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION  
FOR CHILDREN 2024 **OVERVIEW**

With local partners, going the last mile to save lives.

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Around the world in 2023, millions of children were confronted with a broad array of humanitarian crises that threatened their lives and their rights.

Nowhere was this more evident than for the 460 million children living in conflict zones. Wherever violence occurred – from the State of Palestine to Ukraine, from Haiti to the Sudan to Yemen – children suffered first, and they suffered most.

Many were injured, killed or abused. They lost family members and friends. Some were recruited and used by armed forces or groups. And many were displaced multiple times, risking separation from their families, losing critical years of education and fraying ties to their communities.

Over the course of the year, new and protracted conflicts coincided with other devastating crises including disasters, disease outbreaks and increasing food insecurity – all of which disproportionately impact children. Climate change continued to wreak havoc on young lives by causing severe droughts, heatwaves and more intense storms.

In many places, crises overlapped and amplified each other. For example, nearly 2.4 million children in South Sudan and the central Sahel suffered from severe wasting in 2023 because of conflict and drought linked to climate change.

In response, UNICEF and our partners delivered life-saving services and support for millions of children across the globe. This included providing treatment for severe wasting to more than 3 million children under age 5, reaching more than 23 million people with safe drinking water, helping nearly 14 million children access both formal and non-formal education and vaccinating 27 million children against measles. We also reached nearly 9 million women and children with risk mitigation and response services for gender-based violence.

As we provided children with life-saving assistance, we also worked to strengthen the systems that they rely on – health care, protection, water and sanitation – and to make those systems more resilient to future shocks. And we continued to improve our capacity to anticipate crises so that we are better prepared to meet children's needs as emergencies unfold.

Our local partners – including women's organizations, front-line community health and social workers and faith-based organizations – are at the heart of these efforts. Working together, UNICEF can be more impactful, inclusive and responsive to the needs of families and communities. In 2023, we continued to prioritize these partnerships with a strong focus on building the capacity of local partners in humanitarian action.

But for us to deliver moving forward, it is critical that UNICEF and our partners have full support. Timely, predictable and flexible funding enables us to respond quickly based on need, and to prepare for future risks.

The proportion of flexible funding as part of UNICEF's overall income is shrinking. We must urgently reverse this trend and ensure that we have the necessary funding to effectively reach vulnerable children – especially given the scale of global humanitarian needs.

The 2024 UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeal requests \$9.3 billion to reach 94 million children impacted by humanitarian crises.

Working together through principled humanitarian action, we can reach the most vulnerable children and protect them from violence and abuse. We can provide them with essential services like health care, education, clean water and sanitation. And we can ensure that all children's rights are protected and upheld. I hope that we can count on your support, which will be critical to achieving these goals for children.

# CHILDREN IN CRISIS

The following map highlights some of the major crises affecting children and their families.

### Haiti

Haitians are facing some of the worst human rights violations and threats to their lives seen in the country's recent history. The result is chronic as well as acute humanitarian needs, including unprecedented levels of gender-based violence. Prolonged political turmoil, disease outbreaks, disasters and escalating armed violence persist, **resulting in 3 million children requiring humanitarian assistance**. At least 200,000 people are internally displaced, and this includes many unaccompanied children who are exposed to abuse, exploitation and violence. Approximately 3.4 million people require water and sanitation support, more than 1.2 million women and children need emergency protection services, more than 100,000 children under age 5 require treatment for severe wasting, and 1.9 million children will require access to education in 2024.



### Children on the move in Mexico and Central America

More families with children are migrating across Mexico and Central America, fleeing poverty and violence. This phenomenon is pushing the number of children and families on the move transiting the subregion to record highs, **leaving 11 million people – including 4.1 million children – in need of humanitarian assistance**.



### Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is home to the highest number of United Nations-verified grave violations against children globally. It is also home to one of the highest numbers of internally displaced people found in any country. All told, **14.9 million children are experiencing the worst effects of an escalation in armed conflict, recurrent disease outbreaks, endemic sexual violence and growing humanitarian access constraints, exacerbating their vulnerability and pushing child mortality rates higher**. Across the country, more than 1.2 million children under 5 years of age require treatment for severe wasting; 4 million women and children need protection services; 6.6 million children require emergency water and sanitation; and 1.6 million children require emergency education services.



### Sahel crisis spillover

The spillover from the ongoing crisis in the central Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger) has become a permanent threat to northern communities in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. Between January 2021 and October 2023, 882 security incidents were reported in the northern regions of these four coastal countries, including the emerging use of improvised explosive devices. This situation is progressively leading to more restrictions on social services and markets; it is also causing a reduction of some economic activities, which itself is prompting population movements internally and across borders. Causing families to flee, growing insecurity is impacting negatively on the well-being of children and their families, and on children's development. **In these four coastal countries, the number of internally displaced persons, returnees and refugees is now estimated at 123,000, including 36,000 children**. These numbers could increase given political and conflict dynamics across Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger.



### Pakistan

Pakistan is faced with a multitude of challenges that have converged to create extremely difficult conditions for children and families there. The country is highly susceptible to climate change, rendering it one of the world's most disaster-prone nations. What's more, the impacts of climate change have intensified. This has led to frequent floods and extreme weather events, and vulnerable populations are the most affected by these calamities. In 2022, catastrophic floods struck the country, affecting 33 million people, half of whom were children. A total of 1,100 people lost their lives. A year later, many of the hardest-hit districts remain among the most vulnerable places in the country, with people having limited access to essential services. Despite extensive humanitarian response efforts, **26.6 million people require humanitarian assistance**.



### Armenia

Between 24 September and 4 October 2023, 100,632 ethnic Armenians, including 30,000 children, fled to Armenia following the military operation in their region of origin. Around 52 per cent of this group are women and girls and 31 per cent are children; 16 per cent are people with disabilities. **Around 98,000 refugees** have been officially registered throughout Armenia, with the highest numbers in Yerevan, followed by Syunik, Kotayk and Ararat Provinces. The influx of refugees has been so large that the lives of people in host communities, who are already overstretched, have been deeply affected in many ways. **An estimated 95,000 people from host communities will require support**.



### Somalia

Due to ongoing conflict, instability, drought, floods and disease outbreaks, **8.25 million Somalis, including 4.13 million girls and women and 1.2 million people with disabilities, urgently need humanitarian assistance**. The displacement of 3.8 million individuals due to insecurity and climate shocks has further intensified the existing humanitarian crisis. Although the 2023 Gu (April, May and June) rains and humanitarian aid have provided some relief, significant food insecurity in Somalia is projected to persist. An estimated 4.3 million people could be experiencing crisis level (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity or worse, and more than 1 million people might be at an emergency level (IPC Phase 4) through 2023.



## Ukraine and Refugee Response

The ongoing war in Ukraine continues to devastate the lives of children and families. Across Ukraine, 4.6 million people have returned to the country, while more than 3.7 million remain internally displaced. Nearly 6 million refugees are hosted across Europe, 88 percent of them women and children; 5 million people have applied for national protection schemes. Children's mental health, learning and access to services (including health, water, electricity and heating) continue to be impacted. Many children remain at risk of disease, separation from families and violence (including gender-based violence).

## East Asia and Pacific region

The East Asia and Pacific region remains the most disaster-prone region in the world. In 2023, the people of the region experienced cyclones, floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and drought as well as civil and intercommunal conflict. The El Niño weather phenomenon will likely increase extreme weather events and slow-onset disasters in the region, compounding the already significant impacts of climate change on people's lives. **More than 210 million children are highly exposed to cyclones; 140 million to water scarcity; and 120 million to coastal flooding.**



## Sudan

The conflict in the Sudan has left nearly **25 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including close to 14 million children**. A staggering 6 million people are on the move, of whom more than 1 million crossed borders in search for safety. More than **3 million children are on the move**, making the Sudan home to the largest child displacement crisis in the world. The country already had 3.7 million internally displaced persons prior to the crisis that has unfolded since April 2023. The country also hosts around 1 million refugees.

## South Sudan

South Sudan will face a complex year in 2024, with increasing vulnerability, growing humanitarian needs and severe aid budget cuts. Political instability, violence, widespread flooding, disease outbreaks and high inflation are compounding the difficulties and chronic needs of the most vulnerable people in the country, especially children. Livelihoods are severely impacted and access to education, nutrition, water, sanitation and health services hampered. Children are at a high risk of abuse, violence, exploitation and psychosocial distress; and **2.8 million children (52 per cent girls) out of school are especially vulnerable. Women and children are at greatest risk of gender-based violence.**

## State of Palestine

There are an estimated **3.1 million people who require humanitarian assistance in the State of Palestine, 2.2 million of them in the Gaza Strip and 900,000 in the West Bank**. The conflict escalation which began in the Gaza Strip on 7 October 2023 compounds the protracted protection crisis there. The escalation has caused severe humanitarian consequences, including the deaths of thousands of children and women and 160 births daily in precarious conditions. Additionally, **1.8 million people who are internally displaced – more than 80 per cent of the population in the Gaza Strip – face an increasingly dire humanitarian situation with severely limited access to such basic necessities as water, electricity and health services.**

## Ethiopia

Ethiopia continues to face multiple complex and protracted humanitarian crises due to armed conflict and intercommunal violence, climate hazards, disease outbreaks, acute food insecurity and high inflation, all of which contribute to large-scale population displacements. This is compounded by humanitarian access constraints, food aid suspension and significant new refugee influxes. **Altogether, more than 20 million Ethiopians are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including 15.4 million women and children, nearly 4.4 million displaced people, 1.8 million children with disabilities and 117,000 new refugees.**

## Afghanistan

**In Afghanistan, a staggering 23.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, 12.6 million of them children.** Women and girls continue to experience the worst of the crisis through restrictions on education, movement, employment and access to public services. The impact of these restrictions on women and girls is glaring, as evidence shows worsening conditions among female-headed households, including employment of negative coping strategies. In addition, restrictions and exclusions are reinforcing pre-existing gender inequalities and increasing protection concerns. This is creating a cycle of escalating needs among women and girls.

## Myanmar















The situation of children in Myanmar has worsened and remains a significant concern. Ongoing – and escalating – conflict has led to multiple displacements and the deterioration of social services in conflict-affected communities. Nearly 2 million people were displaced internally as of 31 October 2023. Cyclone Mocha, which hit in May 2023, caused widespread destruction in five states, and seasonal monsoons negatively impacted already vulnerable communities. **More than 18.6 million people, including 6 million children, require humanitarian assistance.**



















# FUNDING REQUIRED IN 2024

The 2024 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal includes a total of 43 appeals: 30 country appeals; 5 multi-country crisis appeals; 7 regional office appeals; and 1 global support for UNICEF humanitarian action.

Click on the name of the appeal to see details on country-specific requirements

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION	US\$
 Myanmar	208,285,828
East Asia and Pacific Region	75,826,039
Total	284,111,867
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION	US\$
 Ethiopia	535,302,118
 Kenya	44,709,701
 Madagascar	41,410,000
 Malawi	47,382,732
 Mozambique	114,275,256
 Somalia	222,162,845
 South Sudan	238,857,033
 Uganda	28,430,456
 Zimbabwe	26,767,000
Eastern and Southern Africa Region	55,000,000
Total	1,354,297,141
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION	US\$
 Armenia	12,630,000
 Türkiye	116,045,303
Ukraine and Refugee Response Multi-country	580,546,515
Europe and Central Asia Region	39,608,626
Total	748,830,444
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION	US\$
Mexico and Central America: Children on the move and other crises Multi-country	153,019,399
Children on the Move in South America, and crisis-affected communities Multi-country	177,354,710
 Haiti	221,650,212
 Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	147,000,000
Latin America and Caribbean Region	12,350,000
Total	711,374,321

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION	US\$
 Iraq	41,157,085
 State of Palestine	154,414,281
 Sudan	840,000,000
 Syrian Arab Republic	401,668,323
Syrian Refugees and other vulnerable populations Multi-country	860,524,323
 Yemen	142,000,000
Middle East and North Africa Region	72,565,653
Total	2,512,329,665
SOUTH ASIA REGION	US\$
 Afghanistan	1,440,125,182
 Bangladesh	150,323,213
 Pakistan	135,554,462
South Asia Region	37,687,677
Total	1,763,690,534
WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION	US\$
 Burkina Faso	239,024,199
 Cameroon	64,641,960
 Central African Republic	66,700,000
 Chad	137,175,910
 Democratic Republic of the Congo	804,295,490
 Mali	133,500,000
 Niger	109,660,774
 Nigeria	214,700,000
Response in coastal countries linked to Sahel crisis spillover Multi-country	68,382,614
West and Central Africa Region	52,504,826
Total	1,890,585,773
GLOBAL	US\$
Global Support for UNICEF humanitarian action	73,740,962
Total	73,740,962
GRAND TOTAL	9,338,960,707

# PLANNED RESULTS IN 2024

The following information summarizes the global requirements for UNICEF humanitarian programmes, the total number of people and children to be reached and planned results of Humanitarian Action for Children 2024.

## UNICEF PLANS TO ASSIST



**147 million**  
people

**80.8 million**  
women/girls

**14 million**  
people with disabilities



Including  
**93.8 million**  
children

**50.1 million**  
girls

**9.3 million**  
children with disabilities



**\$9.3 billion**  
funding requirement

## BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL REQUIREMENT FOR EACH THEMATIC PRIORITY



**\$1.50 billion**  
**16%**  
EDUCATION



**\$1.72 billion**  
**18%**  
WATER, SANITATION  
AND HYGIENE



**\$1.65 billion**  
**18%**  
NUTRITION



**\$1.48 billion**  
**16%**  
HEALTH



**\$1.11 billion**  
**12%**  
CHILD  
PROTECTION



**\$713 million**  
**8%**  
SOCIAL  
PROTECTION



**\$73 million**  
**1%**  
GLOBAL  
SUPPORT



**\$1.02 billion**  
**11%**  
OTHER<sup>1</sup>



UNICEF and partners will work towards the following results in 2024:



## HEALTH

**17.3 million**

CHILDREN VACCINATED  
AGAINST MEASLES



## NUTRITION

**7.6 million**

CHILDREN WITH SEVERE WASTING  
ADMITTED FOR TREATMENT



## EDUCATION

**19.3 million**

CHILDREN ACCESSING FORMAL  
OR NON-FORMAL EDUCATION,  
INCLUDING EARLY LEARNING



## CHILD PROTECTION

**26.7 million**

CHILDREN/CAREGIVERS ACCESSING  
COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH  
AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



## HUMANITARIAN CASH TRANSFERS

**1.8 million**

HOUSEHOLDS REACHED WITH  
UNICEF-FUNDED HUMANITARIAN  
CASH TRANSFERS



## WASH

**52.4 million**

PEOPLE ACCESSING A SUFFICIENT  
QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF WATER



## SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

**199.3 million**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH TIMELY/LIFE-SAVING  
INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO  
AVAILABLE SERVICES



## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

**14.8 million**

WOMEN AND CHILDREN ACCESSING  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RISK  
MITIGATION, PREVENTION, RESPONSE



## ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

**10.2 million**

PEOPLE SHARING THEIR CONCERNS  
AND ASKING QUESTIONS THROUGH  
ESTABLISHED FEEDBACK MECHANISMS



## PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

**32.7 million**

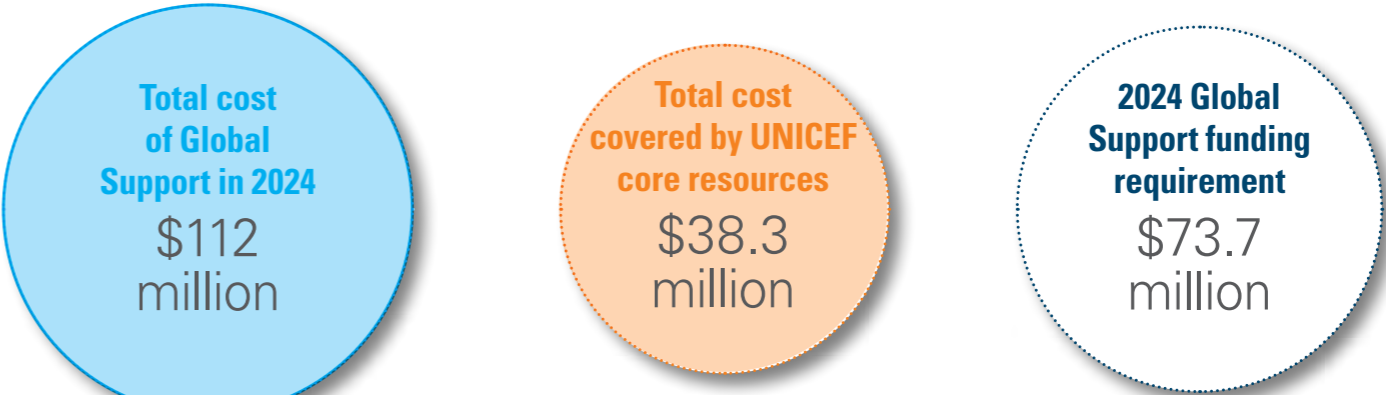
PEOPLE WITH SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE  
CHANNELS TO REPORT SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

# GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN 2024

The UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes coordinates the organization’s global support for humanitarian action, including through a security team and the 24/7 Operations Centre. UNICEF’s global humanitarian architecture includes seven regional offices and headquarters divisions, which directly support humanitarian action at the country level.

In 2024, this support will cost \$112 million. UNICEF will cover 34 per cent of this cost through its core resources and will require \$73.7 million in flexible and multi-year funding to cover the remaining needs.

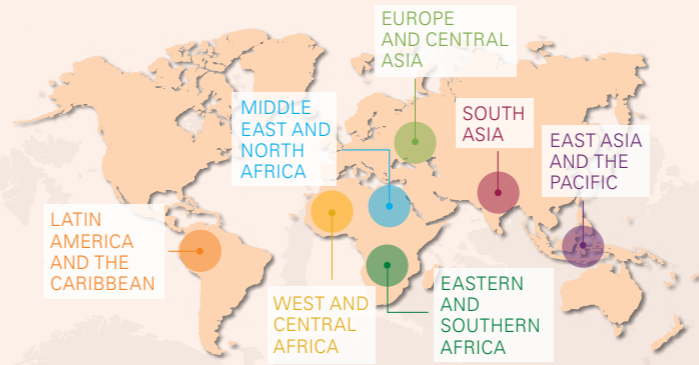
UNICEF Global Support includes **three major components**:



1

## Regional support \$5.8 million

This helps enable the seven UNICEF regional offices to support the UNICEF country offices with humanitarian action, capacity building and technical support.



2

## Emergency operational support \$11.9 million

This delivers operations and management support to country office senior management and staff in emergency contexts, including rapid-onset and protracted crises.



3

## Humanitarian programme support \$94.3 million

This reinforces coordination and collaboration, partnerships, and support strengthen country or regional capacities for effective and efficient programme delivery in humanitarian action.



# A TIME FOR TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

## Reaching every child requires trusted partnerships on the ground.

Partnerships at all levels animate UNICEF's work and make results for children possible.

UNICEF unites with other United Nations agencies, with the public sector, the private sector and with civil society, including youth and women, to improve children's health, nutrition, education and protection. UNICEF's relationships with civil society organizations,<sup>2</sup> including local civil society organizations, enable us to reach children with life-saving help and hope. In more than 190 countries and territories, our civil society partners offer a broad range of expertise and experience, working with us to bring children the nutrition, education, protection and safe water and sanitation they need – even in the world's toughest places.

In all situations, UNICEF has committed to building on local knowledge, capacities, systems, structures and resources to fulfil its mission for children. We carry out our humanitarian, development and peacebuilding programming without propagating racism, discrimination or marginalization. UNICEF recognizes, respects, trusts and strengthens the role of local actors in leading and coordinating humanitarian action by investing in local actors' institutional and technical capacity. The goal is for local actors to be in a position to address the needs of children affected by humanitarian crises and to pave the way for long-term, sustainable development.



**Localization approach in humanitarian action**

## From transactional to transformative partnerships

UNICEF recognizes, respects and strengthens the leadership and capacity of local communities, civil society organizations and authorities in humanitarian action. Preparing national and subnational actors for future humanitarian responses will better address the needs of children affected by humanitarian crises.

## Cascading predictable and flexible funding

Funding local actors is entrenched in UNICEF's strategic plan.

We are committed to tracking the percentage of humanitarian funding provided to local and national actors. In 2022, UNICEF transferred a record level of \$2.9 billion in cash to 9,418 entities for programme implementation, in both humanitarian and development settings. As part of its humanitarian response, UNICEF transferred \$1.5 billion in cash to partners at all levels. A total of \$482.5 million went to national government responders and \$569.2 million went to local actors, exceeding the Grand Bargain target of 25 per cent. UNICEF also continued championing greater engagement of local organizations led by women and girls; In 2022, 8 per cent of the humanitarian funding that was transferred to partners went to 647 local women's organizations.

Yet advancing predictable, flexible and multi-year funds aligned to multi-year programme documents with local actors is still a challenge, for various reasons.

Among them are the need to strengthen local actors' capacities to carry out longer-term agreements (e.g., 24-month programme agreements), which UNICEF is working on through its capacity strengthening efforts with these partners. Also critical is multi-year funding from donors to UNICEF that will allow us to extend the same efficient, predictable, multi-year funding to our local partners where appropriate.

UNICEF is also doing its part to simplify processes for engaging local actors to prevent delays in determining engagement modalities and allocations of funding. One example of this simplification is the possibility to advance up to \$50,000 as a start-up cost for partners when their programme document with UNICEF is being finalized.

## **Comprehensive risk management**

Working with local actors involves risks such as fiduciary and reputational risk, delays in funds disbursement and security risks, and requires a due diligence processes. What is essential is that UNICEF manage and mitigate such risks while ensuring that service provision to children is not interrupted or delayed by lengthy risk management processes.

UNICEF is developing a comprehensive risk management process with local partners to reduce risk transfer in the delivery

of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF is producing an inclusive risk statement that addresses the need to invest in processes that mitigate local partners' risks. Areas covered include duty of care and security risk management. UNICEF will ensure that these are aligned with the Grand Bargain risk sharing framework endorsed at the annual Grand Bargain meeting in June 2023.

## **Strengthening the participation and leadership of local actors in UNICEF-led coordination mechanisms**

The participation, representation and leadership of local and national actors in humanitarian coordination and decision-making structures is key to fulfilling the localization agenda. The UNICEF-led or co-led clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility are enhancing local partners' participation, representation and leadership within cluster governance structures, including in their respective Strategic Advisory Groups at the country level.

This is being done by investing in local actors' institutional capacities to deliver on their co-leadership responsibilities though, for example, the roll-out of the Inter-Agency Toolkit on Localization in Humanitarian Coordination in northeast Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan; and by disseminating the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's guidance on the participation of local actors in humanitarian coordination mechanisms via webinars on localization, focusing on exchanges on best practices and lessons learned on localization.

“UNICEF is rising to the challenge – responding to the ever-increasing humanitarian needs around the world. **Our local partners are central to our emergency response, serving on the front lines to reach the most vulnerable children and families, including those who are in the most dangerous and inaccessible locations.** Into 2024, we will continue to strengthen the capacities of local actors and support local economies by tapping into community talents and resources, such as manufacturing and procurement. Together with our partners, we will continue responding to urgent humanitarian needs while standing up for the rights of all children living in situations no child should have to endure.”

**Ted Chaiban**

Deputy Executive Director, Humanitarian  
Action and Supply Operations  
UNICEF



# HUMANITARIAN FUNDING AND RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2023

## Highlights

1. The funding requirements contained in the 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal rose by \$0.83 billion during the year to reach \$11.09 billion by 31 October 2023. Crises continued to evolve, and funding requirements followed these growing needs.
2. The gap in funding the 2023 appeal is estimated at 62 per cent. Money applied to the appeal is comprised of 2023 funding commitments of \$2.8 billion and a carryover amount of \$1.4 billion.
3. Equity is at stake. Fifty per cent of funding is focused on only five emergencies: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Syrian Refugees and Ukraine and Refugee Response. Funding is often a result of visibility (i.e., exposure in the media) and the interest of the donor community.
4. Flexible humanitarian thematic contributions have decreased by 73 per cent compared with 2022, hampering UNICEF's ability to work flexibly and in a timely way for every child, everywhere. One result of the drop in flexible funding is an expected increase in the use of regular resources for the humanitarian response: as of 31 October, \$231.7 million in regular resources had already been used for the 2023 humanitarian response, only \$12 million less than the 2022 year-end figure.<sup>3</sup>
5. The Grand Bargain has a target of 30 per cent of funding being flexible funding, but UNICEF has received only 8 per cent of its humanitarian funding as flexible funding.<sup>4</sup> Thus the target is unmet.
6. UNICEF is exceeding the Grand Bargain commitment on localization in 2023: UNICEF partners with 3,077 local implementing partners, and 39 per cent of humanitarian funds UNICEF transferred to implementing partners is going to local and national actors.<sup>5</sup>

## Results achieved in 2023

Provisional figures as of June 2023. Further 2023 reporting, including country-specific indicators, is available in the respective country appeals at [www.unicef.org/appeals](https://www.unicef.org/appeals).



### HEALTH

**26.8 million**

CHILDREN VACCINATED  
AGAINST MEASLES



### NUTRITION

**17 million**

CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE BENEFITING FROM  
EARLY DETECTION SERVICES, INCLUDING 3 MILLION  
ADMITTED FOR TREATMENT OF SEVERE WASTING



### WASH

**23.2 million**

PEOPLE ACCESSING A SUFFICIENT  
QUANTITY OF SAFE WATER FOR DRINKING  
AND PERSONAL HYGIENE



### EDUCATION

**13.9 million**

CHILDREN ACCESSING FORMAL  
OR NON-FORMAL EDUCATION,  
INCLUDING EARLY LEARNING



### CHILD PROTECTION

**10.8 million**

CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND CAREGIVERS  
ACCESSING COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL  
HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



### ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

**18.5 million**

PEOPLE SHARING THEIR CONCERNS AND ASKING  
QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS TO ADDRESS THEIR NEEDS  
THROUGH ESTABLISHED FEEDBACK MECHANISMS



### PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

**15.5 million**

MILLION PEOPLE WITH SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE CHANNELS TO  
REPORT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE BY PERSONNEL  
WHO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS



### GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

**8.7 million**

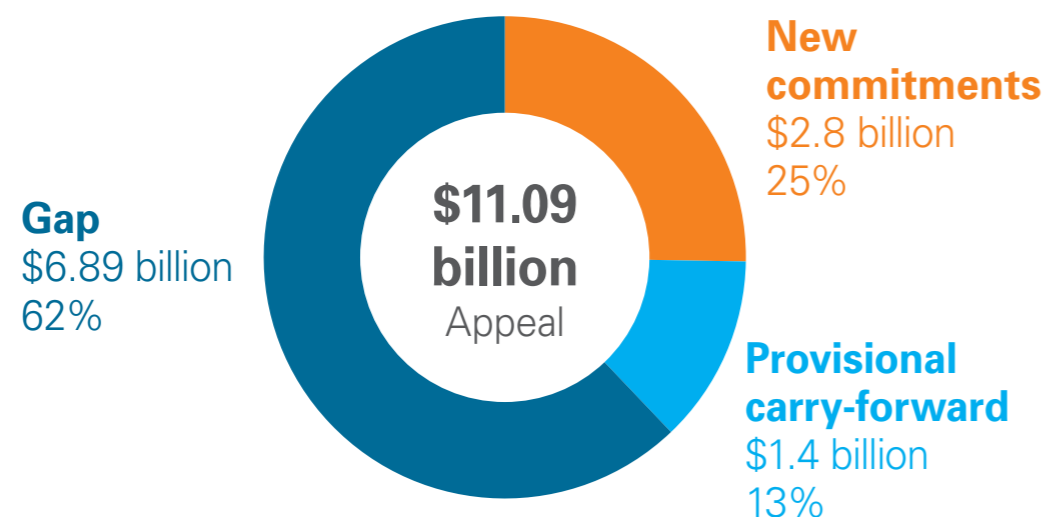
WOMEN, GIRLS AND BOYS ACCESSING GENDER-  
BASED VIOLENCE RISK MITIGATION, PREVENTION  
OR RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS

The 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal was launched in December 2022 with a total financial requirement of \$10.26 billion. The appeal was designed to assist 110.3 million children in need in 155 countries and territories. By 31 October 2023, total humanitarian requirements had risen to \$11.09 billion. This \$0.83 billion increase was due primarily to the escalation of protracted and new conflicts, climate change-driven emergencies (flooding and drought) affecting children on multiple continents and heightening their exposure to food insecurity, natural disasters (geophysical) and the economic downturn.<sup>6</sup>

As of 31 October 2023, donors had committed \$2.8 billion in funding to the 2023 appeal, compared with \$4.0 billion as of 31 October 2022 for the 2022 appeal. For 2023, more than half the mobilized resources were for five high-profile emergencies: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Syrian Refugees and Ukraine and Refugee Response.

With \$1.4 billion carried over from the previous year,<sup>7</sup> the 2023 appeal is 38 per cent funded, at \$4.2 billion.

## 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal funding status












Humanitarian contributions received<sup>8</sup> from public sector resource partners as of 31 October 2023 totaled \$2.4 billion, an increase of 13 per cent compared with the same period in 2022. Public sector contributions made up the majority of contributions received. The share of private sector humanitarian contributions (which totaled \$369.5 million) decreased significantly compared with 2022, accounting for only 13 per cent of total contributions received by 31 October 2023, compared with 31 per cent of contributions received during the same period in 2022. Overall, total private sector contributions received were 61 per cent lower compared with the same period in 2022, when exceptionally high levels of private sector funding were received for the Ukraine and Refugee Response appeal.

The top 10 resource partners to the 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal provided 63 per cent of all contributions received.



## Resource partners to the 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal (contributions received)

In US dollars

	<b>United States</b>	928.65 million
	<b>European Commission</b>	146.81 million
	<b>Japan</b>	140.29 million
	<b>Central Emergency Response Fund</b>	123.95 million
	<b>United Kingdom</b>	116.71 million
	<b>Sweden</b>	66.45 million
	<b>German Committee for UNICEF</b>	59.85 million
	<b>United States Fund for UNICEF</b>	57.33 million
	<b>Germany*</b>	50.73 million
	<b>Canada</b>	43.88 million

\*On 25 October 2023, UNICEF and the Government of Germany signed an agreement committing €20 million towards the global humanitarian thematic fund. As at 31 October 2023, this funding was recognized at the revenue level but as the funds were not received until November 2023, the amount of €20 million is not recognized in the data for this report.



## Humanitarian contributions received in 2023, by resource partner type



Public sector resource partners that increased their humanitarian contributions by more than \$10 million in 2023 include Australia, France, Kuwait, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway and the United States of America. Private sector partners that increased their humanitarian contributions by more than \$1 million in 2023 include the national committees of Austria, Ireland and Türkiye, private sector donations in Romania and donations received as one-time or anonymous donations.

Despite fundraising efforts, contributions received remain insufficient to cover humanitarian needs, specifically the needs of humanitarian crises that are large in scope or scale, forgotten and underfunded.

UNICEF regularly reviews crises to identify those that require priority fundraising efforts.<sup>9</sup> However, emergencies that are highly visible get more donor traction. This causes uneven funding support that creates inequities across the response.



## Resource partners, humanitarian thematic funding 2023 (contributions received)\*

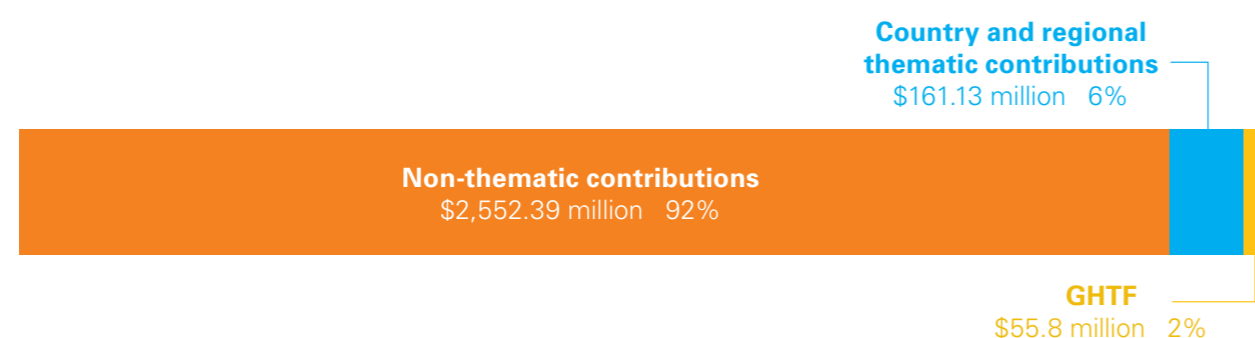
In US dollars

	United States Fund for UNICEF	38.1 million
	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	31.5 million
	Japan Committee for UNICEF	20.2 million
	Kingdom of the Netherlands	18.6 million
	Denmark	17.0 million
	German Committee for UNICEF	16.2 million
	Sweden	11.1 million
	Private sector fundraising through UNICEF country offices	10.3 million
	Italian Committee for UNICEF Foundation	7.9 million
	French Committee for UNICEF	7.9 million

\*On 25 October 2023, UNICEF and the Government of Germany signed an agreement committing €20 million towards the global humanitarian thematic fund. As at 31 October 2023, this funding was recognized at the revenue level but as the funds were not received until November 2023, the amount of €20 million is not recognized in the data for this report.

## The catalytic role of thematic funding in emergencies<sup>10</sup>

### Humanitarian contributions received in 2023, by contribution type

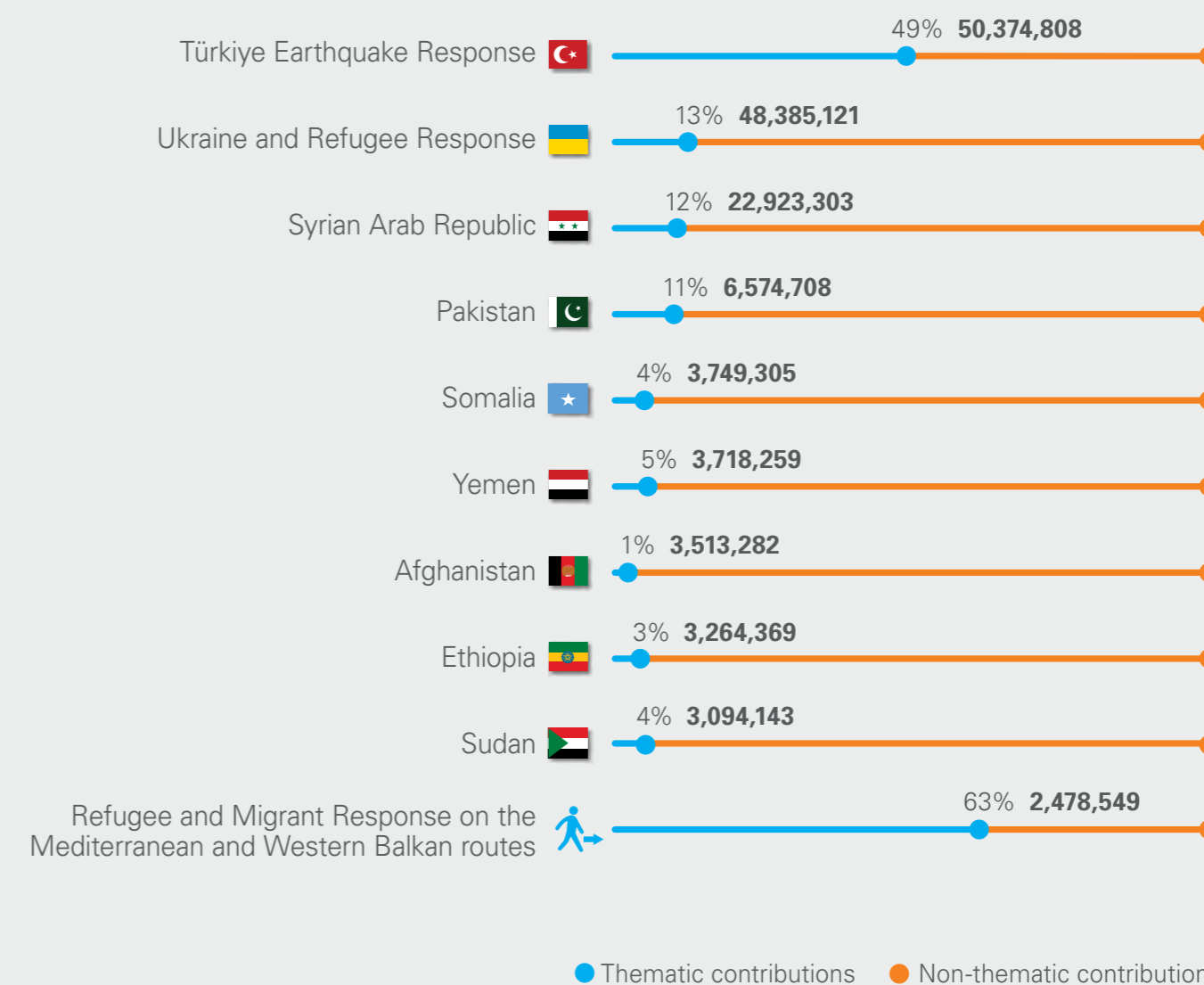


As of 31 October 2023, humanitarian thematic contributions reached only around 25 per cent of what was raised during the same period in 2022 (\$216.9 million compared with \$798.4 million). Out of the total of \$216.9 million, \$55.8 million was received as global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF), while \$161.1 million was earmarked for country and regional appeals. The high visibility of a small number of crises resulted in three quarters (\$121.7 million) of country and regional thematic funding supporting only three appeals: Türkiye Earthquake Response, Ukraine and Refugee Response and the Syrian Arab Republic, leaving the remaining 32 appeals to share only \$39.5 million in humanitarian thematic funding.<sup>11</sup>



### Recipients of country and regional humanitarian thematic funding\*

Proportion of flexible humanitarian thematic funding of all contributions received for the appeal, among the top 10 recipients of country and regional thematic funding



\* Excluding global humanitarian thematic funding allocations

Partnering with international financial institutions in humanitarian response settings helps UNICEF strengthen programming across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus and continue essential services in times of acute crisis.<sup>12</sup> As of 31 October 2023, UNICEF had received \$288.6 million<sup>13</sup> in funding from international financial institutions to support resilience activities in countries with Humanitarian Action for Children appeals. These institutions also provided another \$10.8 million in emergency funding (other resources – emergency).

**Multi-year, predictable and flexible funding is critical in emergencies.** As of 31 October 2023, UNICEF had received \$266.5 million in multi-year contributions from public sector resource partners, a 68 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2022 (\$159.0 million). As a signatory of the Grand Bargain, UNICEF continues to advocate for quality funding, which includes multi-year as well as flexible and unearmarked funding, to enable efficient, swift and agile humanitarian responses. Accessing timely, flexible and long-term funding will enable UNICEF to prepare for and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable children and their families. It will also allow an integrated, cross-sectoral humanitarian response, ensuring effective and lasting results.

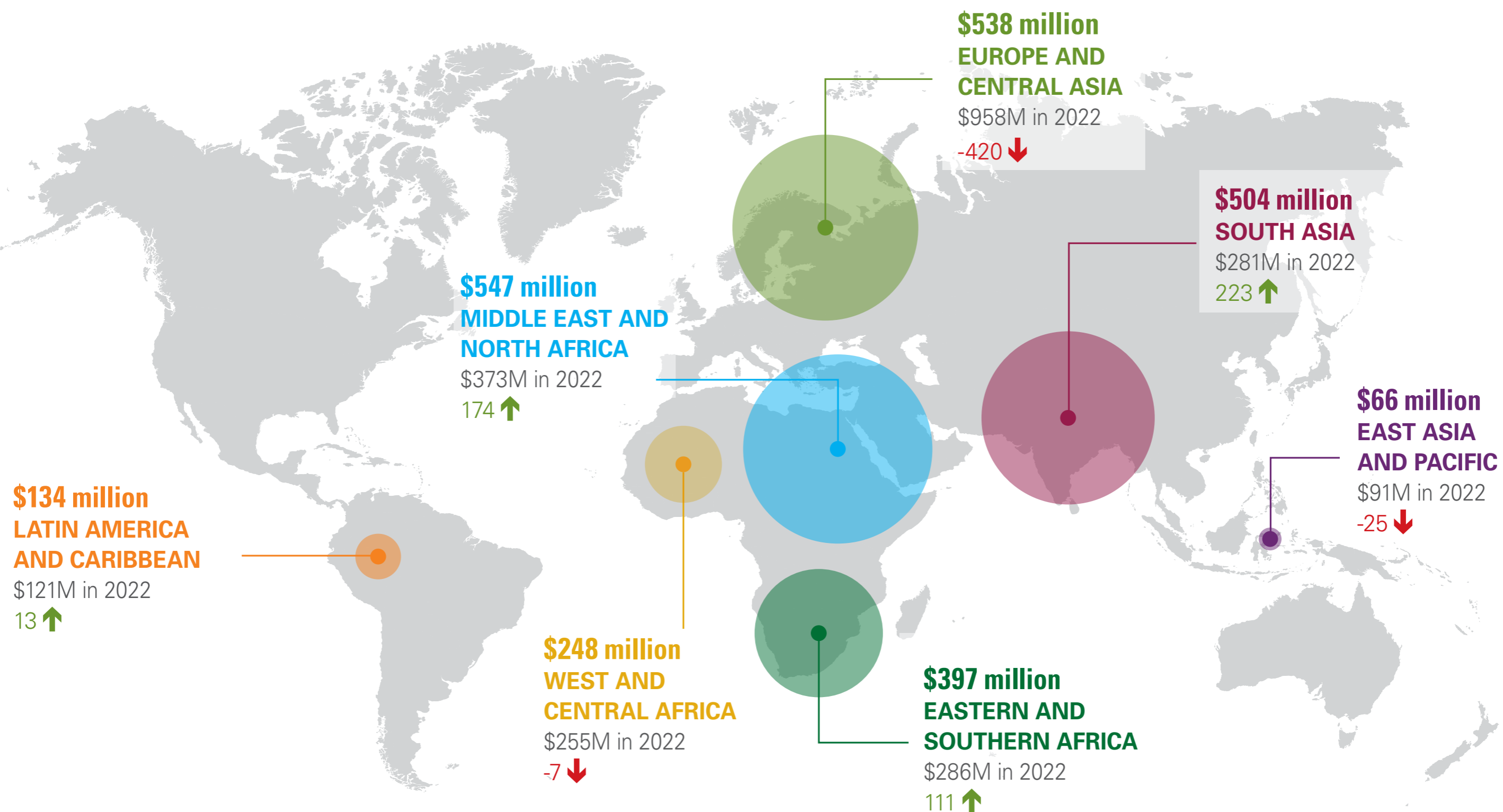
Partnering with local and national partners is critical to achieving sustainable results. As of 31 October 2023, UNICEF had provided funds to 3,077 local implementing partners. Thirty-nine per cent of the funds transferred for humanitarian response went to local and national actors working in partnership with UNICEF, exceeding the Grand Bargain commitments on localization.<sup>14</sup>

Due to funding gaps, UNICEF has had to increase the use of regular resources for humanitarian response, reaching \$231.7 million by the end of October 2023. Regular resources are the ‘first responder’: allocations via the Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) loan mechanism, for example, support the response to acute emergencies by fast-tracking resources to affected countries within 48 hours of a crisis. In 2023, UNICEF provided \$70.6 million in EPF loans to 23 countries and regions, an amount that already surpassed 2022 year-end EPF allocations, underlining to the increased levels of urgent humanitarian needs and the constrained funding environment.<sup>15</sup>

With crises growing in scale and complexity and with humanitarian needs remaining high, it is more crucial than ever that quality funding from partners become the norm. Flexible funding is a critical tool for humanitarian actors to prioritize strategically, respond quickly and ensure operational continuity in underfunded, neglected and protracted crises.



## Humanitarian contributions received by UNICEF in 2023, by UNICEF region

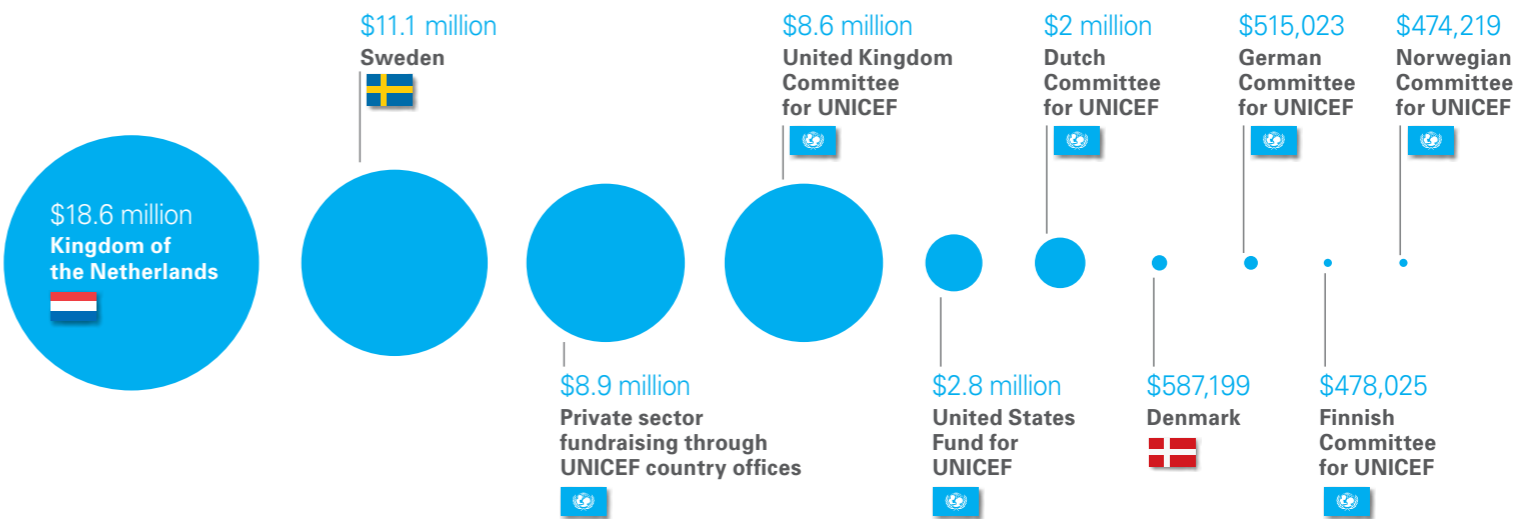


# Global humanitarian thematic funding

Global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF) – UNICEF’s most flexible resources after Core Resources for Results (RR) – reached \$55.8 million as of 31 October 2023, \$14.3 million less than the same period in 2022. With contributions of \$30.9 million, public sector donors were the main contributors to GHTF in 2023 (unlike in 2022, when the private sector contributed the majority of GHTF); the contributions of private sector resource partners reached \$24.9 million in 2023. Donors that increased their contributions to GHTF include the national committees of Australia, Portugal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. New resource partners to GHTF were the national committees of New Zealand, Norway and Poland, and the Government of Canada. GHTF received the third-highest amount of private sector resources after the appeal for Ukraine and Refugee Response and the appeals for earthquake response in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye. Widening the pool of resource partners that contribute to GHTF is crucial, because increased funding of GHTF leads to greater funding equity among all appeals.

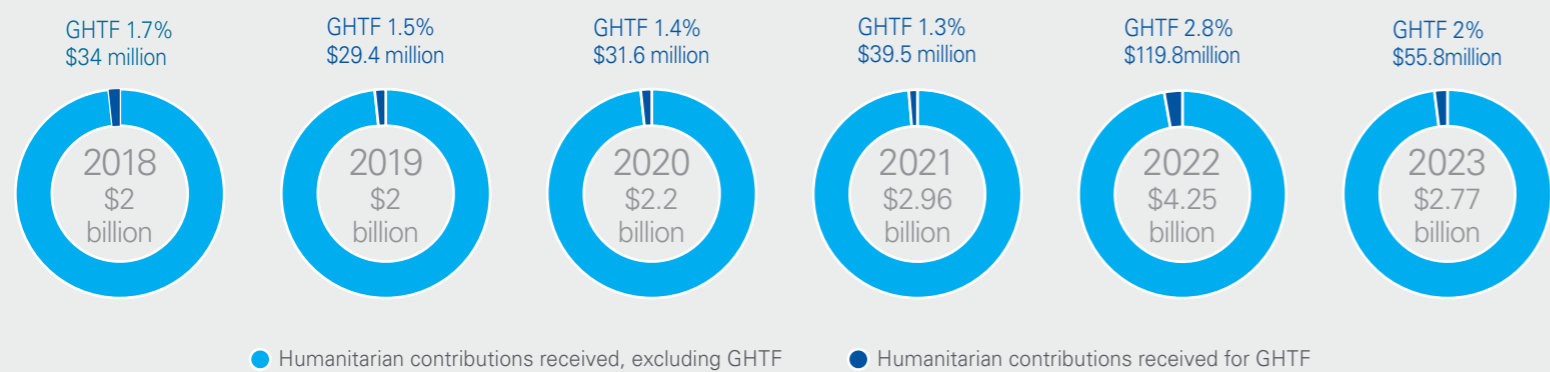
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## Resource partners, global humanitarian thematic funding (contributions received)



\*On 25 October 2023, UNICEF and the Government of Germany signed an agreement committing €20 million towards the global humanitarian thematic fund. As at 31 October 2023, this funding was recognized at the revenue level but as the funds were not received until November 2023, the amount of €20 million is not recognized in the data for this report.

## GHTF as a portion of humanitarian contributions received (2018 – October 2023)



Overall, humanitarian thematic funding provided an added level of flexibility – but mostly to highly visible emergencies. Protracted and forgotten emergencies had to rely heavily on GHTF allocations.

GHTF continues to be a key funding mechanism for responding to the needs of children and families who are living through crises with a humanitarian response that is otherwise underfunded. GHTF is a critical way for UNICEF to respond equitably, based solely on needs.

## How flexible funding is saving lives

With generous support from partners, global humanitarian thematic funding is helping UNICEF save lives.



# Türkiye

When two massive earthquakes and numerous aftershocks hit southeast Türkiye and northwest Syrian Arab Republic in February 2023, millions of children and their families were left without access to essential services including safe water, education and medical care.

Timely, flexible funding allowed UNICEF to quickly scale up its response in the aftermath of earthquakes, especially with interventions such as the establishment of support hubs,

which have reached more than 500,000 people with psychosocial support.

At the beginning of August 2023, more than 180,000 people were still living in informal sites or makeshift shelters with limited or no access to services in the four Turkish provinces hardest hit by the earthquake: Adiyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya. Across these provinces, another 340,000 individuals were living in tents or containers, although these numbers continue to fluctuate.

# Papua New Guinea

Despite considerable economic growth over the past decade that has eased some difficulties, significant challenges remain for Papua New Guinea's children and their families. The maternal mortality rate and the neonatal mortality rate remain the second highest in the Pacific region. The country's health system is fragile, with hundreds of thousands of children still missing out on life-saving vaccines, while malnutrition rates are still unacceptably high – in fact malnutrition is the underlying cause of almost half the deaths of

children under age 5. Basic health and nutrition services in some parts of the country, including in such disaster-prone areas as the Highlands Region, can be minimal or nonexistent.

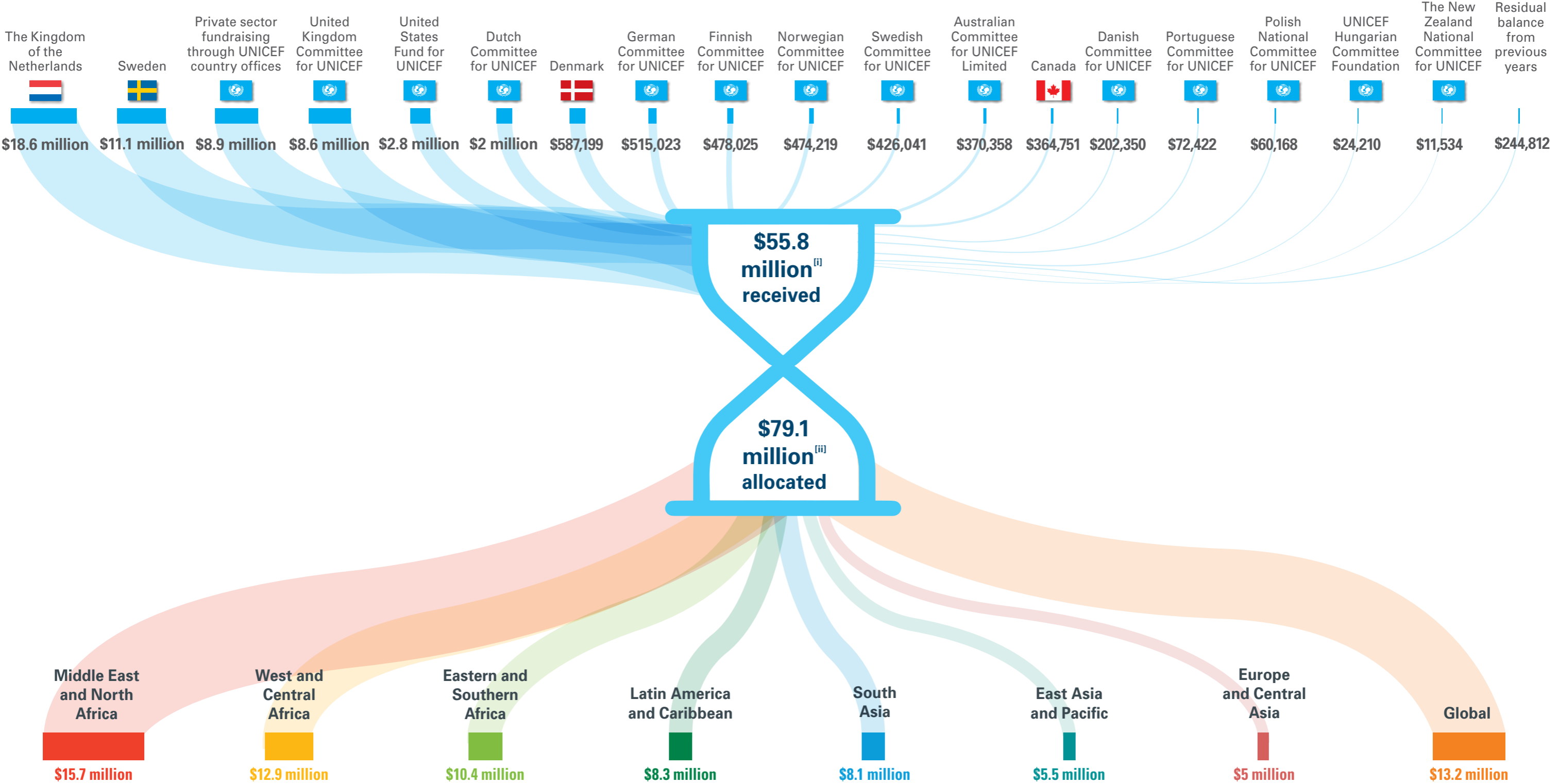
These challenges were compounded by general election-related violence in 2022, which disrupted already vulnerable public health systems in the Highlands Region, displaced health-care workers and others and forced the closure of health facilities. Such a 'normalization of violence' continues to have an impact on

children in this area, disrupting services they need. It has also made women and girls more vulnerable to gender-based violence.

In this context, global humanitarian thematic funding has helped UNICEF reach vulnerable children, families and communities in the Highlands Region. These flexible funds allow UNICEF to quickly procure nutrition supplies and equipment, including micronutrient powders and measuring tapes, to use during emergencies and for development programmes.



# Global humanitarian thematic funding in action: Contributions received and allocations made in 2023



\*On 25 October 2023, UNICEF and the Government of Germany signed an agreement committing €20 million towards the global humanitarian thematic fund. As at 31 October 2023, this funding was recognized at the revenue level but as the funds were not received until November 2023, the amount of €20 million is not recognized in the data for this report.

<sup>(i)</sup> Contributions received as of 31 October 2023.

<sup>(iii)</sup> Amounts allocated represent programmable amounts, which exclude the UNICEF recovery rate.

“The year 2023 was a catastrophic year for children. Humanity was tested. The humanitarian and protection needs of children continued to be high and to grow as new emergencies arose. Children suffered from new and protracted conflicts, climate shocks (droughts, floods, cyclones), food insecurity and devastating earthquakes.

Together with partners, we are making every effort to uphold the rights of every child. We thank our partners for their continued valuable support for every child to reach their full potential. Timely, flexible and longer-term funding enables UNICEF to prepare for and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable children and their families everywhere. As a signatory of the Grand Bargain and a key player in the Facilitation Group in 2023–2024, UNICEF reiterates the urgent imperative for quality funding and calls upon all partners to meet humanitarian funding needs to achieve an efficient, swift and agile response to crises.”

**Kitty van der Heijden**

Deputy Executive Director, Partnerships  
UNICEF



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- ← 1 Including cross-sectoral, emergency preparedness, rapid response mechanisms and cluster coordination.
- ← 2 The civil society organizations that partner with UNICEF are a diverse group of associations independent of the public and for-profit sectors and designed to advance collective interests. They include non-governmental organizations, service organizations and clubs, faith-based and religious organizations, membership-based organizations, universities, think tanks and research institutes, diaspora organizations, women's organizations, social movements, sports for development organizations and others.
- ← 3 UNICEF, Global Annual Results Report 2022: Humanitarian action, UNICEF, New York, July 2023, available at [www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2022-humanitarian-action](http://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2022-humanitarian-action).
- ← 4 The Grand Bargain sets a 30 per cent benchmark for multi-year funding, and a 30 per cent benchmark for a flexible funding. The share of the flexible funding at UNICEF for 2023 was at eight per cent of total humanitarian contributions received as of 31 October 2023.
- ← 5 Local and national actors comprise UNICEF's non-international implementing partners: these include government ministries/agencies, national non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.
- ← 6 Appeals that had changes in their funding requirements during the year include Afghanistan, Cameroon, Chad, Haiti, Lebanon, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Sudan, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen; the East Asia and Pacific Region appeal and the West and Central Africa Region appeal; and the Children on the Move in Mexico and Central America and Syrian Refugees appeals. New appeals were issued for Armenia, Malawi and Türkiye.
- ← 7 Carry-over budget excludes 2023 and future year payments of multi-year contributions.
- ← 8 UNICEF humanitarian programmes benefited from emergency resources (other resources – emergency) as well as other resources that helped to achieve results for children in 2023. Humanitarian funding includes other resources – emergency along with other types of funding that support UNICEF humanitarian response from public sector resource partners. In 2022, UNICEF implemented a system to record funds dedicated to humanitarian response from non-emergency partners' budgets, resulting in \$433.2 million in other resources – regular dedicated to humanitarian responses. In 2023, funds dedicated to humanitarian response from non-emergency partners' budgets reached \$386.2 million in other resources – regular. Contributions received includes cash and contributions in-kind received from resource partners within a calendar year or specified period of time.
- ← 9 Out of 11 emergencies designated for priority fundraising, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye had an increase in funding received that can be attributed to the media attention. The list of emergencies designated for priority fundraising active in the first part of 2023 is available at [www.unicef.org/emergencies/11-emergencies-need-more-support-2023](http://www.unicef.org/emergencies/11-emergencies-need-more-support-2023). This list was updated in July 2023, and the update is available at [www.unicef.org/documents/humanitarian-action-2023-mid-year-snapshot](http://www.unicef.org/documents/humanitarian-action-2023-mid-year-snapshot). A fourth quarter update was in progress at the time this 2024 appeal was under development. In 2023, UNICEF and the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations jointly engaged in a series of discussions on five underfunded crises and the impact such underfunding has on children.
- ← 10 The amount the country office may receive as flexible thematic funding directly to an appeal or through GHTF allocation may not be large; however, because this funding is flexible, it enables an office to address critical funding needs and ensure uninterrupted implementation.
- ← 11 Out of 52 appeals active in 2023, only 35 appeals received humanitarian thematic contributions directly.
- ← 12 Traditionally, international financial institutions provide support to UNICEF mainly through funding of country programme documents rather than Humanitarian Action for Children appeals. They rarely provide emergency support to UNICEF and instead complement the organization's humanitarian activities through development-focused support.
- ← 13 This amount includes funds dedicated to humanitarian response from non-emergency partners' budgets.
- ← 14 The Grand Bargain target in 2022 was set at 25 per cent.
- ← 15 UNICEF, Global Annual Results Report 2022: Humanitarian action, July 2023.



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