

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR CHILDREN 2026 **OVERVIEW**



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Around the world, children caught in conflict, disaster, displacement and economic turmoil continue to face extraordinary challenges. Their lives are being shaped by forces far beyond their control: violence, the threat of famine, intensifying climate shocks, and the widespread collapse of essential services. 2024 saw the highest number of grave violations against children on record. Thousands of children are being killed and maimed, attacks on schools and hospitals continue unabated, while verified cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence against children are on the rise. Affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable, are frequently denied access to assistance and protection. For millions of children, the hope of safety, learning, and a healthy future is slipping further out of reach.

In the Gaza Strip, children have endured cycles of violence, and loss that no child should ever experience — with essential services decimated and families struggling daily to secure food, water and protection. In the Sudan, children are living through one of the fastest-growing and least visible crises in the world, with widespread displacement and hunger pushing communities into famine. In Haiti, spiraling insecurity and the collapse of basic systems have pushed families to the breaking point, leaving children at acute risk. In Bangladesh, the protracted humanitarian crisis among Rohingya refugees continues with no solutions in sight. In the Sahel, the surge in armed violence is having a devastating impact on children's survival, education, protection and development. And in Ukraine, the ongoing war continues to disrupt every facet of children's lives, from education and mental health to access to safe water and heating.

These and many other crises are unfolding at a time when the resources available to meet children's needs are dramatically diminishing. Severe funding shortfalls are placing UNICEF's life-saving programmes under immense strain. Across our operations, frontline teams are being forced into impossible decisions: focusing limited supplies and services on children in some places over others, decreasing the frequency of services children receive, or scaling back interventions that children depend on to survive. These hard choices reflect the stark reality of today's humanitarian funding landscape.

Despite these challenges, UNICEF continues to deliver. In the hardest-hit contexts, our teams and partners are working every day to protect children from disease, malnutrition, violence, exploitation and loss of learning. But the growing gap between needs and resources means that without urgent support, we will not be able to reach every girl and boy who requires life-saving assistance.

As we plan for 2026, we are sharpening UNICEF's focus on the most critical needs of the children at greatest risk, including those living in chronically underfunded and neglected emergencies. We are strengthening preparedness to reduce suffering before crises deepen. We are investing in national and local capacities, recognizing that long-term solutions depend on national governments and systems that are resilient, inclusive and adequately financed. We are engaging with parties to conflicts and with Member States to facilitate humanitarian access and promote respect for international humanitarian and human rights law. And we



are reinforcing our surge capabilities so we can respond swiftly and effectively wherever needs arise.

We are also helping to reimagine how the global humanitarian system operates. This includes supporting governments to lead, engaging regional actors, and bridging humanitarian and development efforts to reduce long-term vulnerability.

None of this will be possible without predictable, flexible and multi-year funding.

I am deeply grateful to our partners, donors and colleagues whose commitment makes UNICEF's work in humanitarian emergencies possible. Together, we can turn today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities — and ensure that every child, no matter where they live, has the chance to survive, grow and thrive.

CHILDREN IN CRISIS

In 2026, UNICEF estimates that **more than 200 million children will require humanitarian assistance** in 133 countries and territories covered by this appeal. In alignment with the 2026 Global Humanitarian Overview, the UNICEF 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal focuses on the most pressing needs affecting children, while maintaining UNICEF’s commitment to principled humanitarian action in accordance with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.



Ukraine

The war in Ukraine is entering its fifth devastating year, marked by an escalation of unrelenting attacks since April 2025 and the systematic destruction of critical infrastructure. The war continues to endanger children’s lives, disrupt essential services and take a severe toll on mental health. In 2026, an estimated 10.8 million people, including 2.2 million children and 3.8 million internally displaced people will require humanitarian assistance. Conflict-related destruction and displacement have eroded access to basic services and heightened protection and gender-based violence risks. Children in occupied areas remain largely inaccessible to humanitarian assistance.



Haiti

In Haiti, people are experiencing the worst effects of the convergence of escalating armed violence, mass displacement, the collapse of essential services, the resurgence of waterborne diseases, widespread malnutrition and recurrent climate shocks and natural disasters. Armed groups control about 90 per cent of Port-au-Prince and in 2024 the United Nations verified more than 300 cases of child recruitment and use by armed groups, nearly double the figure from 2023. Violence has also spread northwards, cutting off trade and humanitarian routes. An estimated 1.4 million people are displaced, including more than 741,000 children. Around 5.7 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) through mid-2026.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo faces a long-standing polycrisis driven by escalating conflict in the eastern provinces, mass displacement, recurrent health emergencies, access constraints, rising protection risks, severe food insecurity, and climate-driven shocks. Grave violations are rampant, and the brutality of sexual violence is worsening – children account for over 40 per cent of the nearly 10,000 reported cases in early 2025. Nearly 1,200 schools in the eastern provinces lie in ruins or have become shelters, leaving 1.6 million children out of school and vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and recruitment.



Syrian Arab Republic

Children in the Syrian Arab Republic face significant vulnerabilities after 14 years of conflict. Following the change in authorities in late 2024, there is a historic opportunity for positive change, one that holds new hope for children and young people. This moment must be seized to support the country’s recovery and reconstruction. Despite progress, the Syrian Arab Republic remains one of the world’s most complex humanitarian crises with rising needs due to large-scale returns, economic decline, climate shocks and damaged infrastructure. More than 1.9 million internally displaced people and 1.1 million refugees – of these 3 million, 1.7 million are children – have returned to areas with limited access to basic services.



State of Palestine

The conflict in the Gaza Strip and rising violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have triggered mass fatalities, displacement and extreme protection risks for children. At least 3.3 million people require assistance. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the entire Gaza Strip was experiencing famine in September 2025, with 100,000 children age 6–59 months and 37,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women requiring treatment for wasting. UNICEF welcomes the ceasefire, which must now afford humanitarian actors the opportunity to scale up the response and system restoration that the children of Gaza so desperately need. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, more than 800,000 people need healthcare and WASH support, and more than 150,000 children face barriers to accessing education.



Bangladesh

The protracted Rohingya humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh continues with no durable solutions in sight. At the same time, ongoing conflict and instability in Myanmar are driving new arrivals into Bangladesh, exacerbating humanitarian needs and increasing the pressure on host communities. Since 2017, the refugee population has increased to 1,156,000 (more than half of them children) due to the unstable security environment in Myanmar that prevents safe and voluntary returns. Reduced funding for the Rohingya response has meant drastically fewer services for children, forcing difficult choices and operational changes.



Myanmar

Children and families in Myanmar are enduring a steadily deteriorating and increasingly complex humanitarian crisis, driven by conflict and displacement and compounded by natural hazards, economic instability and the erosion of essential social services they depend on. These overlapping shocks are upending lives and livelihoods across the country, leaving nearly 3.6 million people – more than one third of them children – internally displaced, forced from their homes, schools and communities. The devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake of 28 March, followed by more than 235 aftershocks, has further strained already stretched coping capacities, pushing more families into extreme vulnerability.



Sudan

The Sudan is at the epicentre of one of the world’s gravest humanitarian crises. There are 33.7 million people, including 17.3 million children, who require life-saving support – urgently. Conflict has displaced 9.5 million people. It has shattered essential services and left more than 21 million people facing acute food insecurity. Famine conditions in parts of Darfur and Kordofan regions require immediate humanitarian access and multisectoral response at scale. Nearly three years into conflict, children are trapped in a polycrisis of conflict, displacement, disease and hunger. Overlapping threats demand an urgent, comprehensive, child-centred response.

This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.

PRIORITIZING CHILDREN WITHIN THE HUMANITARIAN RESET AND BEYOND

The number and severity of crises continue to rise, with children losing their lives and childhoods from emergencies not of their making. Conflicts and violence, along with disease outbreaks, displacement, climate-related emergencies and natural disasters, mean that children's needs continue to be extreme. The worsening humanitarian situation in many contexts reflects a broader trend of disregard for international humanitarian and human rights law by parties to conflict. Grave violations against children were up by 25 per cent in 2024 compared with the previous year, the highest number reported since inception of the children and armed conflict mandate in 1996. Funding cuts have worsened the situation of so many children, intensifying their need for humanitarian assistance.

UNICEF teams and partners are doing everything they can to rise to the challenge. Building on initial prioritization efforts undertaken in 2025, UNICEF is focusing its humanitarian action in 2026 to more closely align its efforts with inter-agency planning processes while also ensuring it can continue to deliver on the objectives outlined in the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. This includes continued efforts to prioritize child protection and education in emergencies as core life-saving interventions.

Greater prioritization of UNICEF's response does not reflect a reduction in humanitarian needs, but rather a need to focus on the most acute needs amid unprecedented funding cuts that are impacting our ability to sustain current response levels. These funding cuts in critical life-saving emergency programmes are forcing UNICEF front-line teams in humanitarian crises to make



impossible decisions: focusing limited supplies and services on the most vulnerable children in some places over others, decreasing the frequency of services children receive, or prioritizing some interventions over others – shifting strategies to try and save as many lives as possible with the resources available by focusing on the highest impact interventions. UNICEF will continue to invest in quality humanitarian programming that promotes preparedness, Anticipatory Action and systems strengthening, with local and national actors at the forefront of the response. Anchored in its child rights mandate in all circumstances, the UNICEF dual humanitarian–development mandate situates the organization to bridge gaps caused by constrained funding and hyper-prioritization of humanitarian action, and to continue to advocate for the protection of child rights.

The 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal outlines many of the immediate changes UNICEF is pursuing as part of the Humanitarian Reset, while maintaining its commitment to principled humanitarian action. While these changes will not compensate for the reduction in humanitarian funding and growing humanitarian needs, they aim to mitigate some of the impacts through more effective and collaborative humanitarian action. These reforms are embedded in the approach outlined in the new UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029, which places greater emphasis on mobilizing partners – including Governments, civil society and the private sector – to promote outcomes for children at scale and with impact and enhance collaboration and coherence between humanitarian, development and peace efforts.



The wave of funding cuts to humanitarian assistance enacted beginning in early 2025 has accelerated efforts to enhance efficiencies and reduce bureaucracy in the humanitarian system. UNICEF is drawing on its child rights mandate, unique organizational presence and technical expertise to shape these reforms in the best interests of children. UNICEF is deeply engaged in the Humanitarian Reset (and in the UN80 initiative) and is working to safeguard the needs of children amid key operational changes, including in important reforms to how humanitarian assistance is planned and delivered.

This includes the development of an integrated approach to UN supply chains in complex environments, co-led by UNICEF under the UN80 Initiative. The model addresses inefficiencies through coordinated and collaborative services that improve efficiency, coherence, and value for money. It focuses on three core service areas - coordinated procurement, optimized global logistics, and harmonized in-country logistics - enabling agencies to leverage economies of scale, shared infrastructure, and established supplier networks to strengthen the speed, reliability, and quality of humanitarian delivery.

The goals of the Humanitarian Reset are not new: to deliver appropriate, effective, and efficient assistance for more children and families. The Reset builds on previous aspirations for change in the humanitarian system: for better ways of working, for more power to local and national actors, for more efficiency, more accountability, more transparency. What is new is the urgency with which these reforms must be achieved. UNICEF, and other humanitarian (and development) actors can no longer do what they did before. Change is a necessity, not a choice.



A HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE MORE FIRMLY IN LOCAL HANDS

In 2026, UNICEF will continue to champion localization. By both necessity and principle – and building on aspirations and intentions of the World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain – responsibility for humanitarian response must shift to reside more intentionally in the main duty bearers: Governments, and beyond them other local and national actors. This is a key tenet of the Humanitarian Reset and puts decision-making closer to the people affected by humanitarian crises.

UNICEF continues to advocate that work with government authorities be considered part of the localization agenda, because Governments are the primary duty bearers as first responders for assisting those in need. To meet the needs of children in crisis, it is critical that Governments and other local and national actors, including development actors, redouble their efforts. UNICEF is uniquely positioned to support scaled up efforts by the system to enhance localization, as systems strengthening has been a part of UNICEF's work across humanitarian–development programming and is a core

strategy in many country contexts, e.g., Afghanistan, Haiti and South Sudan.

UNICEF is reinforcing its focus on supply localization to strengthen national and regional production and procurement and to optimize end-to-end supply chains, bringing planning, implementation, and decision-making closer to children. In 2024, more than 57 per cent of all supplies and services were procured from suppliers registered in programme countries. UNICEF's localized approach accelerated the delivery of 5.2 million cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food, 66 per cent of which was sourced from suppliers in programme countries. UNICEF is also deepening its collaboration with regional partners, such as the Africa Centres for Disease Control, to strengthen health systems, expand regional procurement mechanisms, and advance local vaccine manufacturing as part of a sustained agenda to strengthen regional self-reliance. Reflecting this shift, in 2024 UNICEF awarded 40 per cent of its syringe procurement volume to Africa-based manufacturers—up from less than 10 per cent in 2023—and aims to increase this to 60 per cent by 2029.



PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES

As we are increasingly confronted with growing protection concerns for far too many children and their communities around the world, centrality of protection continues to be a key UNICEF priority. UNICEF is strengthening its policy framework to improve how we operationally address protection risks and make protection a shared responsibility across the organization. This includes not only the work on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism and the work on children and armed conflict, but also protection through presence, pressing for access and respect for humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law, providing services for survivors of violence and strengthening protection systems guided by the voices and priorities of affected populations. Humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy are central to our protection approach, engaging key stakeholders – including parties to conflict – on access, protection and solutions to crises. This principled engagement is essential in all contexts to reach those children most in need.

At a time when grave violations against children are at such high levels, funding cuts

not only jeopardize our ability to effectively monitor, document and verify grave violations – critical for developing and implementing evidence-based programming and advocacy, and holding perpetrators to account – but it also limits capacity to deliver crucial services to children affected by conflict, such as reintegration support for children formerly associated with armed groups or mental health and psychosocial support for child survivors of grave violations.

UNICEF remains committed to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and to delivering gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response in emergencies; it is mitigating some of the funding cuts by continuing integrated programming to address gender-based violence in emergencies (e.g., through integration with health, nutrition, education and cash transfer interventions). UNICEF has translated its minimum set of gender-based violence risk mitigation actions into a quick reference guide for humanitarian coordinators and humanitarian country teams; offering creative, ‘light-lift’ funding solutions for supporting related programming and women-led organizations.



EDUCATION – A LIFELINE IN EMERGENCIES

UNICEF maintains its commitment to education in emergencies, grounded in every child's right to education. Education is life-saving, life-changing and life-sustaining. In every emergency, children and caregivers consistently rank it among their top priorities, because it offers safety, hope, and a sense of normalcy amid chaos. Without education, crisis-affected communities cannot rebuild or recover.

In response to funding constraints, UNICEF is prioritizing the most vulnerable children while placing greater emphasis on strengthening national education systems to build longer-term resilience. Education in emergencies often serves as a lifeline, connecting children to essential services like health protection and nutrition. In emergencies, schools are more than places of learning – they are safe spaces that provide hope, stability, protection, and access to essential services, which are vital to children's recovery and well-being in times of distress. Protecting education means protecting lives – and securing the future.

UNICEF projects that a \$3.2 billion drop in international education aid (a 24 per cent drop) could leave an additional 6 million children out of school by 2026, 30 per cent

of them in humanitarian settings. Children in fragile contexts and those who are on the move (e.g. refugees and the forcibly displaced) will bear the worst consequences. Gender-focused education aid (covering such things as safe and private toilets, girls' tuition subsidies and girls' skills programmes) faces a 28 per cent cut. Funding cuts have already forced UNICEF to make difficult trade-offs. In Bangladesh for example, in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, where UNICEF leads the education response and is responsible for 83 per cent of all learning centres, UNICEF could only open 17 per cent of learning facilities for Rohingya refugees by the end of June 2025. With limited resources, UNICEF prioritized access to secondary education, opening secondary classes first, to mitigate the severe protection risks out-of-school adolescents face in the camps, including exploitation, forced recruitment, child marriage, early pregnancy and hazardous child labour. Grade 5 classes and community-based programmes for overage adolescent girls (grades 2–4) were also opened in June, but for just one day per week due to funding constraints. Classes for younger children only opened in early October, except for kindergarten and Grade 1, which were still shuttered at that time.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND ANTICIPATORY ACTION

Preparedness and Anticipatory Action remain cornerstones of UNICEF's approach. Through better risk analysis, which enables early and appropriate response, preparedness saves lives and makes the humanitarian response faster and more efficient. UNICEF can, with flexible resources, fund and operationalize preparedness measures that make response more effective and prevent deterioration. This includes risk-informed contingency planning, building the response capacities of local and national actors, and the pre-positioning of supplies and expertise.

Ensuring timely and sustained access to life-saving supplies is a critical component of this preparedness approach. To ensure that critical supplies can be delivered quickly and efficiently when crises occur, UNICEF is increasing national and regional procurement, reducing logistical bottlenecks, pre-positioning emergency supplies, and optimizing warehousing. At the same time, UNICEF will ensure the availability of skilled supply and logistics surge capacity and will strengthen coordination with partners by sharing real-time supply chain information, aligning efforts, and reducing duplication.

Anticipatory Action refers to a set of pre-agreed, pre-financed, and pre-positioned interventions triggered by forecasts or early warnings of predictable hazards. It bridges the gap between preparedness and response. UNICEF delivers Anticipatory Action to save lives, reduce humanitarian needs, and protect rights – by acting before crises fully unfold. Through Anticipatory Action, UNICEF deploys a proactive approach that involves taking pre-agreed actions ahead of a predicted hazard to reduce its impact on children and communities. This includes but not limited to, 1) using forecasting and early warning systems 2) pre-positioning supplies in high-risk areas 3) pre-committed funds for quick disbursement.

In alignment with the Humanitarian Reset, which emphasizes proactive, people-centred, and risk-informed humanitarian action, Anticipatory Action continues to be a priority for UNICEF in 2026. UNICEF's growing investment in early warning systems, risk analytics, and innovative and flexible financing mechanisms reflects its commitment to scaling Anticipatory Action as a core component of humanitarian programming.



CLUSTER SIMPLIFICATION

Clusters remain the main coordination mechanism for humanitarian sectors when activated, complemented by operational coordination at the local level. At the national level, clusters provide strategic leadership, technical guidance, and policy engagement; support field teams; contribute to joint analysis and planning; mobilize resources; ensure information management and accountability; and act as provider of last resort. Area-based coordination ensures integrated, context-specific responses and stronger engagement with local authorities and communities. This model promotes coherence between national leadership and localized operations for timely, principled, and efficient humanitarian action.

As part of the Humanitarian Reset, the number of clusters has been reduced from 11 clusters and four areas of responsibility to eight clusters. The Child Protection Area of Responsibility, which UNICEF has led, is

being integrated into the Protection Cluster. UNICEF is committed to remaining the provider of last resort for child protection. UNICEF remains committed as Cluster Lead Agency for Education (with Save the Children), Nutrition and WASH and will continue to support partners for a quality and efficient sectoral responses.

As part of the cluster simplification process, all humanitarian coordination structures are to become more agile, complementary and time bound. Coordination structures are to be activated only when strictly necessary, and when used they will be linked to and support national coordination structures and support transitioning out of the humanitarian coordination architecture. This will reinforce national systems and promote long-term sustainability. It also fosters integrated planning and ensures alignment with development and resilience objectives.





"I wish to see an end to this war, and for Al Fasher to return to what it was — so people can go back home safely and live in peace."

Azuz, 13, Sudan

PLANNED RESULTS IN 2026



The following information summarizes the planned global requirements for UNICEF humanitarian programmes, the total number of people and children to be reached and planned results of Humanitarian Action for Children 2026.

UNICEF PLANS TO ASSIST



117 million
people

59.5 million
women/girls

16.7 million
people with disabilities



Including
73 million
children

37 million
girls

9.1 million
children with disabilities



133
countries and territories

\$7.66 billion
funding requirement

BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL REQUIREMENT FOR EACH THEMATIC PRIORITY



\$1.55 billion
20%
WATER, SANITATION
AND HYGIENE



\$1.53 billion
20%
NUTRITION



\$1.22 billion
16%
EDUCATION



\$1.07 billion
14%
HEALTH



\$910 million
12%
CHILD
PROTECTION



\$795 million
10%
OTHER¹



\$536 million
7%
SOCIAL
PROTECTION



\$53 million
1%
GLOBAL
SUPPORT



UNICEF and partners will work towards the following results in 2026:



HEALTH

44.6 million

CHILDREN AND WOMEN ACCESSING
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE



NUTRITION

33 million

CHILDREN SCREENED FOR WASTING



EDUCATION

22.9 million

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



CHILD PROTECTION

12.9 million

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



WASH

55.2 million

PEOPLE ACCESSING A SUFFICIENT
QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF WATER



SOCIAL PROTECTION

3.2 million

HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITING
FROM SOCIAL ASSISTANCE



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

6.7 million

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



PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

28.6 million

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



ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

3.6 million

PEOPLE SHARING THEIR CONCERNS AND
ASKING QUESTIONS THROUGH ESTABLISHED
FEEDBACK MECHANISMS











SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE
















104.5 million

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

FUNDING REQUIRED IN 2026

The 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal includes a total of 35 appeals: 23 country appeals; 4 multi-country crisis appeals; 7 regional office appeals; and 1 global support appeal for UNICEF humanitarian action. UNICEF estimates that a total of \$7.66 billion will be required to achieve the planned results in 2026.

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION	US\$
 Myanmar	267,186,048
East Asia and Pacific Region	39,535,599
Total	306,721,647
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION	US\$
 Ethiopia	401,508,000
 Mozambique	58,757,125
 Somalia	121,000,000
 South Sudan	196,751,227
Protecting Children Amid Overlapping Crises in the Great Lakes Multi-country	33,977,658
Eastern and Southern Africa Region	128,941,955
Total	940,935,965
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION	US\$
Ukraine and Refugee Response Multi-country	387,900,943
Europe and Central Asia Region	21,405,000
Total	409,305,943
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION	US\$
Children on the Move and Those Affected by Armed Violence – Latin America Multi-country	106,208,008
 Colombia	27,100,000
 Haiti	256,598,900
 Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	137,600,000
Latin America and Caribbean Region	53,800,000
Total	581,306,908

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION	US\$
 Lebanon	376,800,000
 State of Palestine – Gaza Strip and West Bank	673,830,000
 Sudan	962,866,106
 Syrian Arab Republic	481,432,714
Syrian Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations Multi-country	229,518,269
 Yemen	126,245,778
Middle East and North Africa Region	148,717,906
Total	2,999,410,773
SOUTH ASIA REGION	US\$
 Afghanistan	949,074,566
 Bangladesh	108,020,662
South Asia Region	71,394,515
Total	1,128,489,743
WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION	US\$
 Burkina Faso*	161,237,217
 Cameroon*	63,074,646
 Central African Republic*	39,138,422
 Chad*	102,335,328
 Democratic Republic of the Congo*	402,730,214
 Mali*	84,091,360
 Niger*	75,518,052
 Nigeria*	221,100,000
West and Central Africa Region	92,593,161
Total	1,241,818,400
GLOBAL	US\$
Global support for UNICEF Humanitarian Action	53,255,926
Total	53,255,926
GRAND TOTAL	7,661,245,305

* These are preliminary figures based on the prioritization of the 2025 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. The 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal will be released in line with the inter-agency plan.

GLOBAL SUPPORT IN 2026


The appeal for Global Support for 2026 is critical for effective leadership and coordination of the organization's global humanitarian response, including through a fully dedicated security team and the 24/7 Operations Centre. In 2026, UNICEF requires \$53.3 million in funding to cover the costs for Global Support.

UNICEF's global support for humanitarian action – led by the Office of Emergency Programmes in its global oversight role – ensures a rapid, effective and coordinated response to emergencies affecting children and their families worldwide. Global support encompasses provision of humanitarian technical assistance, financial resources, supply and logistics, operational capacity, human resources, advocacy, capacity building and technical expertise. Through global support, UNICEF provides coordinated support to sustain our emergency programmes and operations in the field, deploying highly experienced emergency staff with a diverse range of expertise to enhance the quality of emergency response in sudden-onset, protracted or complex emergencies.

In 2026, UNICEF will continue to advance several key efficiency initiatives within the Humanitarian Reset and UN80, and ensure these are shaped with children's interests front and centre. These include the integrated humanitarian supply chain initiative, which UNICEF co-leads and which aims to streamline procurement and both global and country-level logistics supplies; an initiative to create a more collaborative humanitarian diplomacy framework for emergent and protracted crises, which UNICEF also co-leads; clarification of roles and responsibilities designed to reduce duplications in the area of nutrition, led by UNICEF; cluster simplification, co-led by UNICEF; and further promotion of common services.

In line with the Humanitarian Reset and UN80, UNICEF continues to re-tool itself to carry out its mandate given the new realities, through the Future Focus Initiative. Among many other elements, the Future Focus Initiative includes streamlining of capacities across headquarters and regions and the establishment of four Centres of Excellence to strengthen the organization's global support capacity. Complementing the Office of Emergency Programmes global oversight role, and the Regional Offices' accountability for coordination and oversight of emergency response in their respective geographies, the new Centres of Excellence will maintain robust emergency programme expertise and surge capacity to enhance UNICEF's humanitarian action and response architecture – ensuring rapid, coherent and effective global emergency operations.

Funding for global support also helps UNICEF drive forward the humanitarian–development–and peace nexus strategy, which fosters resilience and long-term recovery for vulnerable populations.



A UNICEF-supported child-friendly space in a displacement camp in Kachin State offers a vital respite from the escalating conflict in Myanmar. Here children can play badminton and participate in recreational activities. "It's a moment of happiness, even for a little while."

Kyang Sau*, 16, Myanmar

*Names and locations in this story are changed to protect the identity of the individuals involved.

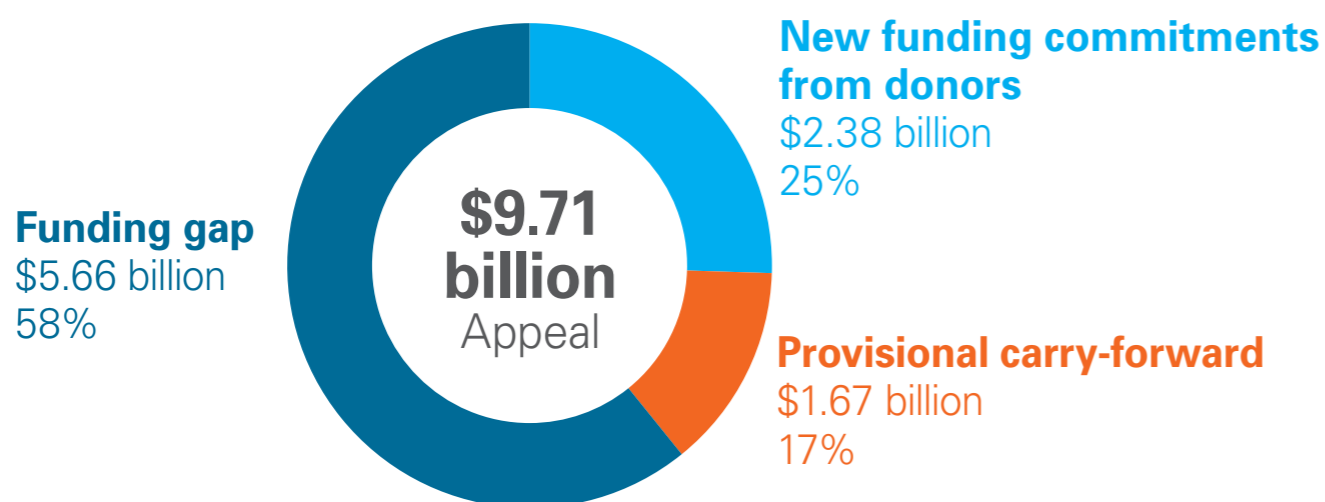
HUMANITARIAN FUNDING AND RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2025

Humanitarian funding in 2025

As of 31 October 2025, the funding requirement of the 2025 Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal stood at \$9.71 billion, reflecting a slight decrease from the \$9.87 billion requested at the launch of the appeal in December 2024. The appeal is set to reach 109 million children living through humanitarian crises with both immediate life-saving services and investments for their longer-term development. The revised funding requirements reflect the sharpened focus on priority interventions, worsening conditions in several humanitarian settings and the increasing vulnerabilities of children driven by climate-related disasters and earthquakes, ensuring that resources are targeted to the most critical and urgent needs.

As of 31 October 2025, resource partners had committed \$2.38 billion in new funding commitments to the 2025 appeal.² With \$1.67 billion carried over from the previous year,³ the 2025 appeal is 42 per cent funded, at \$4.05 billion. UNICEF would like to highlight the decrease in annual funding commitments by resource partners in 2025.

UNICEF, as a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, supports the Humanitarian Reset. Along with the revisions of the stand-alone appeals, 16 appeals⁴ issued prioritization addenda. Overall, this revision and prioritization process resulted in requirements of \$8.47 billion to meet the priority needs of the most vulnerable children.



Results achieved in 2025

Provisional figures as of June 2025. Further 2025 reporting, including country-specific indicators, is available in the respective country appeals at www.unicef.org/appeals.





As of 31 October 2025, humanitarian contributions received⁵ had reached \$2.14 billion, a 4 per cent decrease compared with the same period in 2024. Of this amount, \$1.66 billion was received as other resources – emergency, a \$215 million reduction compared with the same period in 2024, and \$473.0 million was received as development funding for humanitarian response. Public sector contributions made up 92 per cent (\$1.96 billion) of humanitarian contributions received, and private sector contributions 8 per cent (\$181.5 million). The top 10 resource partners to the 2025 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal provided 62 per cent of all humanitarian contributions received.

Appeals for four high-profile emergencies,⁶ affecting 19 per cent of all children to be reached, have attracted 47 per cent of the humanitarian contributions received. The remaining 34 appeals share the rest of funding received. On the other hand, chronically underfunded crises,⁷ affecting 31 per cent of children to be reached, continue to struggle in receiving attention from the donor community, with appeals for these emergency responses receiving only 17 per cent of the humanitarian contributions received.

UNICEF’s conservative projection of contributions to other resources – emergency for 2026 is estimated at \$1.43 billion, **more than a billion less than in 2024 and less than half** the amount of other resources – emergency received in 2023.⁸



Resource partners, other resources – emergency
(contributions received), 2025

		US dollars
	United States	\$536.5 million
	United Kingdom	\$223.3 million
	European Commission	\$193.6 million
	Central Emergency Response Fund	\$82.4 million
	Japan	\$76.7 million
	Sweden	\$56.3 million
	Republic of Korea	\$46.2 million
	German Committee for UNICEF	\$38.3 million
	Canada	\$36.7 million
	Kingdom of the Netherlands	\$35.7 million

Of the current top 10 resource partners, as of 31 October 2025, emergency contributions from Canada had surpassed their reported year-end 2024 figure, and emergency contributions from Japan were only \$4.2 million below their reported year-end 2024 figure. In 2025, UNICEF benefited from foreign rates of exchange.

Ninety-eight per cent of emergency contributions received from the United States in 2025 represent payments against agreements signed in previous years.

Use of regular resources in humanitarian response

Regular resources continued to play a critical part in saving children's lives in fragile and emergency contexts in 2025, because this type of resource allows UNICEF to act fast. As of 31 October, \$231.6 million in regular resources had been spent in humanitarian contexts during the year.

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 the onset of a crisis. As of 31 October, UNICEF had provided \$55.3 million in EPF loans to 30 countries and regions. The decrease in the value of EPF loans issued in 2025 compared with 2024⁹ has been driven by fewer new sudden-onset emergencies that resulted in a new corporate emergency declaration, on the one hand, and by the limited feasibility of UNICEF offices to repay these loans, on the other, due to the decline in funding.

Quality funding

With the clear overall decrease in humanitarian funding in 2025, predictable multi-year humanitarian contributions and unearmarked humanitarian contributions are precious. As a signatory to the Grand Bargain, UNICEF advocates for **quality funding – multi-year, flexible and unearmarked funding** – to enable efficient, swift and agile humanitarian responses. As of 31 October, UNICEF had received \$399.1 million in multi-year funding, a 6 per cent decrease compared with the amount reported during the same period in 2024.



Flexible funding supports an equitable humanitarian response

Flexible funding is central to UNICEF’s mission, because such funding promotes equity and enables UNICEF to **reach those children who are hardest to reach**.¹⁰ The tightening levels of humanitarian funding also affect humanitarian thematic contributions, which is the most flexible type of resources after regular resources.

Earmarking of humanitarian funding, coupled with the geopolitical interests of resource partners, is reducing the space for flexible humanitarian thematic funding (global, regional and country). Yet this type of funding is crucial for humanitarian response because it helps address inequities and critical funding gaps and ensures uninterrupted life-saving services for children. After a peak in 2022, humanitarian thematic contributions received by UNICEF declined in subsequent years. For example, in 2024, humanitarian thematic contributions declined by 27 per cent compared with 2023.

A preliminary analysis of 2025 indicates a slight increase in humanitarian thematic contributions received from private and public resource partners as of 31 October 2025 compared with the same period in 2024. Humanitarian thematic funding had reached \$172.8 million as of 31 October 2025.¹¹ Private sector resource partners continued to be the main contributors of humanitarian thematic funding, providing \$119.8 million, or 69 per cent of the total. Public sector resource partners provided \$53.0 million, 31 per cent of the total. The slight increase in humanitarian thematic contributions received compared with 2024 reflects resource partners’ commitment and generosity, in particular in the face of emerging needs of children triggered by floods, earthquakes and ongoing emergencies in Afghanistan, Haiti, Mozambique and Myanmar. UNICEF is grateful to private and public resource partners for their trust and continued support.



Resource partners, humanitarian thematic funding (contributions received), 2025

Humanitarian thematic funding (country, regional and global) total to date: \$172.8 million



		US dollars
	German Committee for UNICEF	\$21.5 million
	Kingdom of the Netherlands	\$19.9 million
	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	\$14.4 million
	Private sector fundraising through UNICEF country offices	\$13.4 million
	United States Fund for UNICEF	\$13.1 million
	Denmark	\$12.9 million
	Sweden	\$11.4 million
	Japan Committee for UNICEF	\$10.5 million
	UNICEF Ireland	\$9.7 million
	Germany	\$7.6 million

Global humanitarian thematic funding (GHTF) is a key funding mechanism for responding to the needs of children and families when emergencies strike or when a humanitarian response is otherwise underfunded. GHTF is a critical way for UNICEF to respond equitably, based solely on children’s needs. As of 31 October 2025, emergency contributions to GHTF had reached \$57.2 million from private and public resource partners. UNICEF is grateful to its resource partners who have sustained and increased their humanitarian thematic contributions to GHTF.

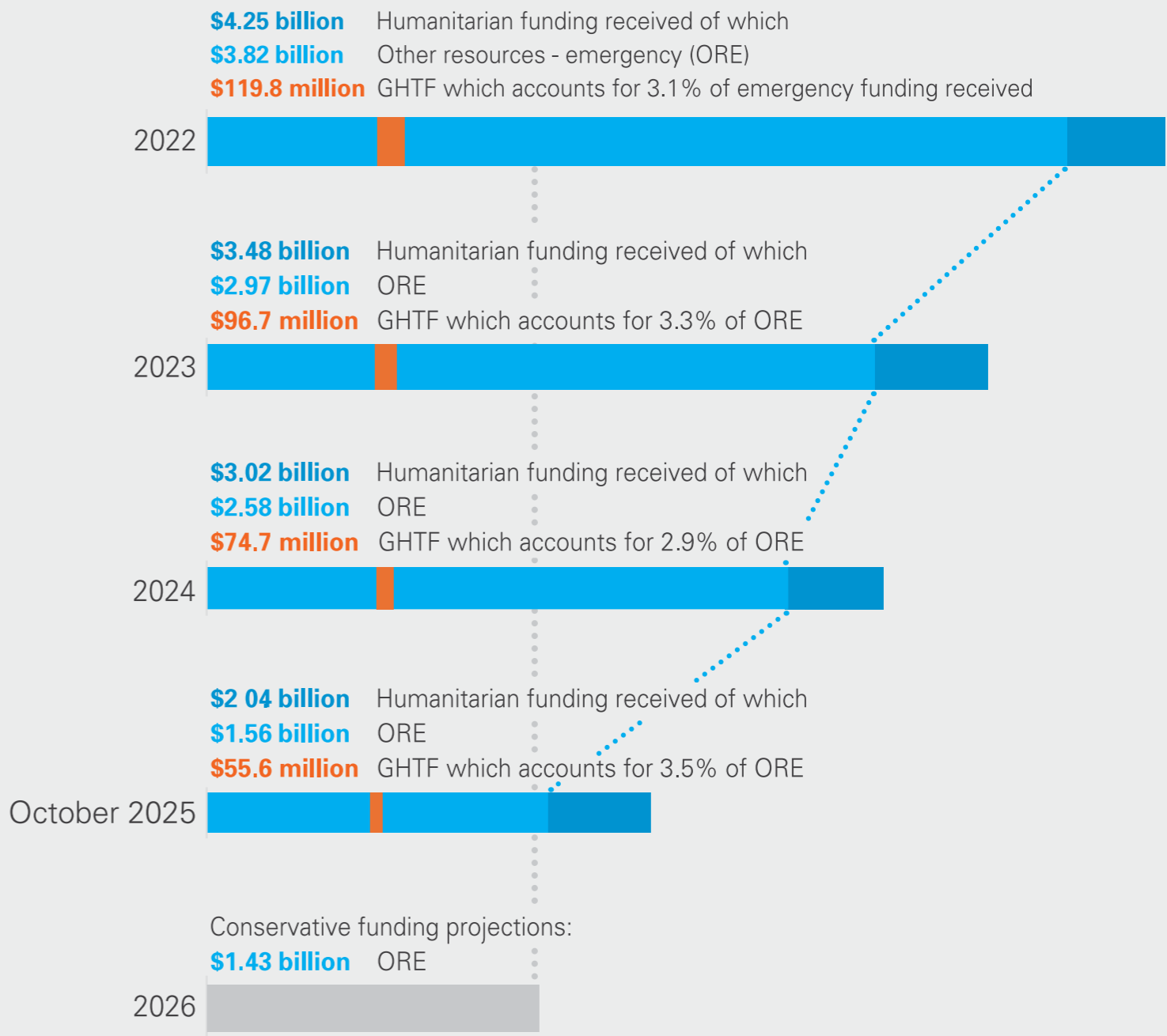
With the current constrained funding environment, flexible humanitarian funding is more important than ever as a tool to uphold children’s rights. UNICEF urges its humanitarian resource partners to sustain and grow GHTF – because this type of funding, along with UNICEF implementing partners and technical staff on the ground, is a valuable tool to ensure equity in humanitarian response.



GHTF resource partners in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 cycle, January 2022 through October 2025

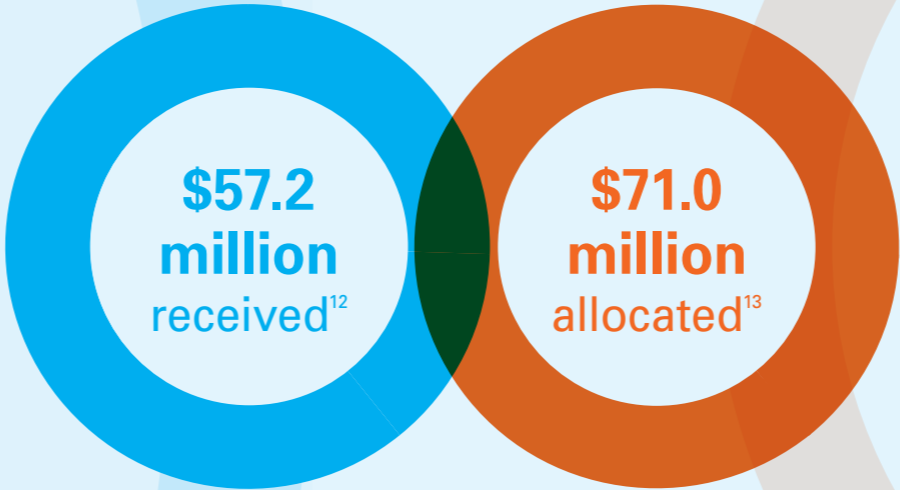
In US dollars		
	Kingdom of the Netherlands	\$78.8 million
	Germany	\$70.6 million
	Private sector fundraising through UNICEF country offices	\$50.1 million
	Sweden	\$44.7 million
	United States Fund for UNICEF	\$29.0 million

Global humanitarian thematic funding as a portion of humanitarian contributions received, 2022 through October 2025



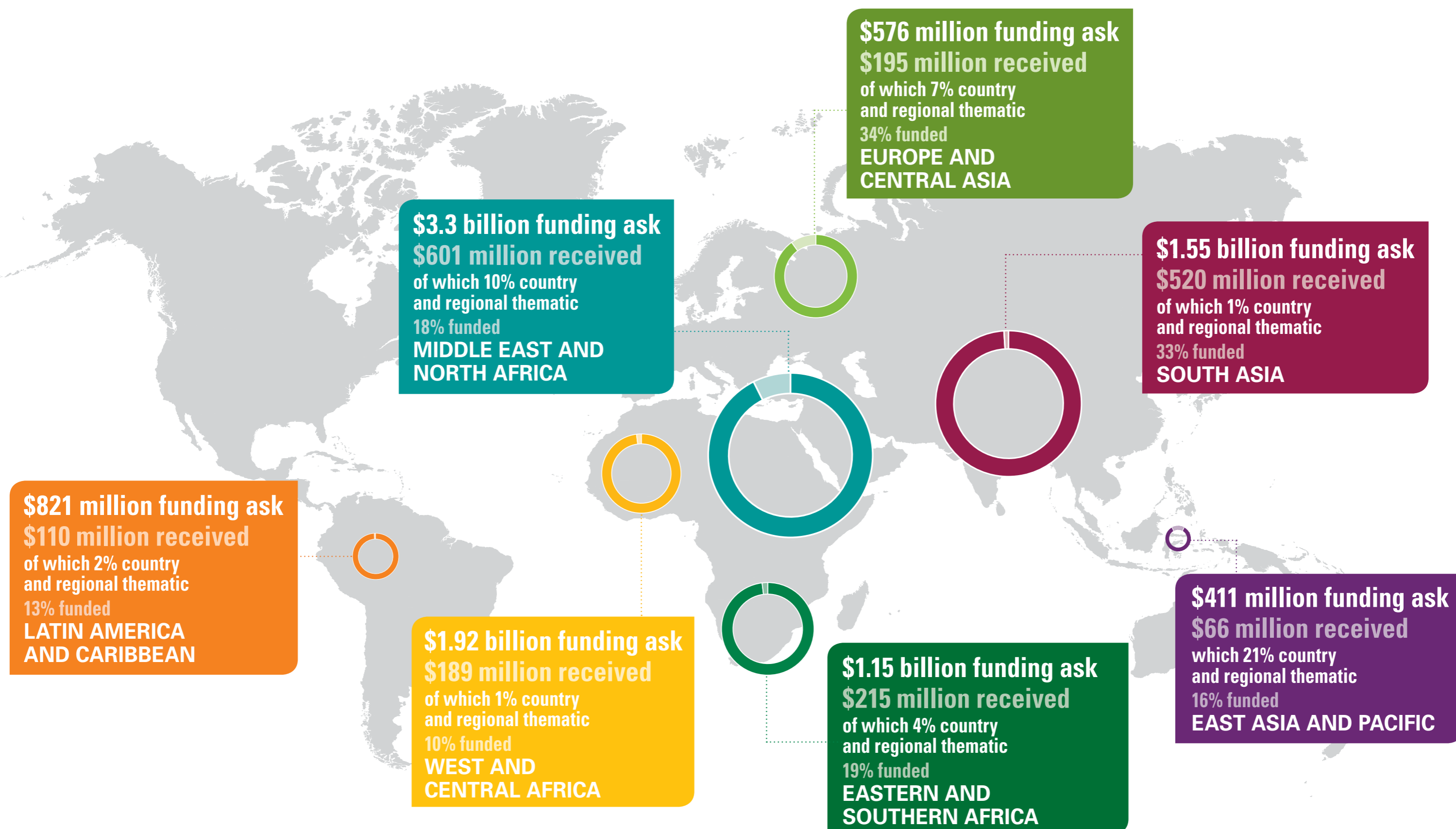
Global humanitarian thematic funding in action: Contributions received and allocations made in 2025

	Kingdom of the Netherlands	\$19.9 million
	Sweden	\$11.4 million
	Private sector fundraising by UNICEF country offices	\$9.8 million
	Germany	\$7.6 million
	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	\$1.8 million
	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	\$1.5 million
	Dutch Committee for UNICEF	\$1.4 million
	German Committee for UNICEF	\$1.1 million
	United States Fund for UNICEF	\$820,038
	Finnish Committee for UNICEF	\$348,210
	Luxembourg Committee for UNICEF	\$246,911
	Canadian UNICEF Committee	\$246,203
	Norwegian Committee for UNICEF	\$240,294
	Italian Committee for UNICEF – Foundation Onlus	\$225,263
	Danish Foundation for UNICEF	\$210,647
	Czech Committee for UNICEF	\$81,877
	Spanish Committee for UNICEF	\$52,938
	Czechia	\$41,516
	Portuguese Committee for UNICEF	\$34,780
	Slovenia Foundation for UNICEF	\$33,130
	Korean Committee for UNICEF	\$20,660
	Icelandic National Committee for UNICEF	\$11,641



Middle East and North Africa	\$17.8 million
West and Central Africa	\$9.4 million
South Asia	\$7.9 million
Latin America and Caribbean	\$7.7 million
Eastern and Southern Africa	\$7.2 million
East Asia and Pacific	\$7.0 million
Europe and Central Asia	\$2.8 million
Global	\$11.2 million

Humanitarian contributions received in 2025: Non-thematic and thematic, by UNICEF region



Chad

Since the beginning of 2025, fighting around the Sudanese city of El Fasher – particularly in the displacement camps of Zamzam and Abu Shouk – has forced thousands of people to flee to Chad. Between January and April 2025, more than 35,000 refugees crossed the border into the provinces of Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est.

Many of the refugees, mostly women and children, have arrived at the Oure Cassoni camp in Ennedi Est province, Chad. Among them is Aïcha Souleymane Saleh Ali, a mother of seven, who walked from Zamzam in the Sudan to reach Oure Cassoni.

“We walked half the way... I have no news of my brothers who were injured there. We've been here for 16 days. We're living under makeshift shelter, exposed to the sun. We have serious water problems. Alhamdulillah, this kit will help me take care of my children.” Thanks to the generous funding of UNICEF resource partners, including through global humanitarian thematic funding, the Ministry of Water and Energy, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Red Cross of Chad, has been able to distribute hygiene kits, providing a lifeline for populations in Chad affected by the Sudanese crisis, including Aïcha Souleymane Saleh Ali.

UNICEF supports the efforts of the Government of Chad by providing vital water, hygiene and sanitation assistance to people affected by the Sudanese crisis, including host communities. To meet urgent water needs, UNICEF has installed five water tanks (bladders) in the camp, with a total capacity of 46,000 litres, enabling more than 41,300 people – including nearly 25,000 children – to access safe drinking water, at a quantity of 7.5 liters per person per day.

[Read more about UNICEF's essential water and hygiene support for families affected by the Sudanese crisis in eastern Chad](#)



Afghanistan



Between January and August 2025, more than 1.2 million people, half of them children, returned to Afghanistan from the Islamic Republic of Iran through the Islam Qala reception centre.

Women, children and families arrive at the reception centre tired, hot, disoriented and most of all scared. They have been forced to return to a country that is unfamiliar to them, unsure of where to go and how to get there. They carry with them everything they own, in trolleys and in suitcases, quite literally on their backs.

Some move through quickly, others stay up to four days at the reception centre.

UNICEF, using global humanitarian thematic funding, has been able to rapidly scale up its response and provide additional services to returnees.

One of the most critical services is access to safe and clean drinking water, toilets and showers. To meet the immediate needs of the returnees as numbers began to rise in June, UNICEF began trucking clean drinking water to the reception centre, providing safe drinking water to more than 200,000 returnees at the end of June and the beginning of July. UNICEF also led the drilling of a new borehole with a solar pump and solar system; installed 24 water

reservoirs with accessible drinking taps; and continued work on a 20-cubic-meter elevated water tank to meet the increasing needs of families.

Without global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF would not have been able to respond so quickly. This is a good example of how essential this type of funding is to UNICEF and particularly to vulnerable people who require assistance that cannot wait.

[Read more about how global humanitarian thematic funding supports immediate WASH services for Afghan returnees](#)



"I almost lost my daughter to cholera."

Oriata, mother of Noel-Dina, sparked a community movement in Grand-Goâve, Haiti, that transformed her neighborhood and saved lives.

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- ← 1 Including cross-sectoral, emergency preparedness, rapid response mechanisms and cluster coordination. And the remaining endnotes need to be re-numbered accordingly.
- ← 2 As of 31 October 2024, new funding commitments by donors had reached \$2.5 billion.
- ← 3 The funding status of the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal is calculated based on the new funding commitments from donors and provisional carry-forward. The carry-over budget excludes 2025 and future-year payments of multi-year contributions. New funding commitments from donors are payments scheduled by the donor for Humanitarian Action for Children appeals within the UNICEF appeal year.
- ← 4 Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Children on the move and those affected by armed violence – Latin America, Madagascar, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Sudan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Zimbabwe. For more information, see [Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal I UNICEF](#).
- ← 5 Contributions received include cash and in-kind contributions received from resource partners within a calendar year or specified period of time. The \$2.14 billion in humanitarian funding received in 2025 includes other resources – emergency as well as \$473.0 million in other resources – regular that was dedicated to humanitarian responses. Other resources – emergency includes \$5.6 million that was received in insurance payouts through the Today and Tomorrow Initiative for humanitarian responses to tropical cyclone-induced emergencies that occurred in Fiji, Madagascar, Mozambique and Vanuatu.
- ← 6 Appeals for Afghanistan, the State of Palestine, the Sudan and Ukraine and refugee response.
- ← 7 Appeals for Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Children on the move and those affected by armed violence in Latin America, Mali, Myanmar, the Niger, Central Sahel Outflow and Syrian refugees and other vulnerable communities.
- ← 8 UNICEF, Annex to the UNICEF integrated budget, 2026–2029, E/ICEF/2025/AB/L.6/Add.1, 7 July 2025, available at www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/32586/file/2025-ABL6-Add-1-Annex-Integrated-budget-2026-2029-EN-ODS.PDF.
- ← 9 During the same period in 2024, the value of EPF loans issued was \$78.6 million.
- ← 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 of programmes.
- ← 11 This amount includes \$5.6 million in Today and Tomorrow Initiative insurance payouts.
- ← 12 Global humanitarian thematic funding received as of 31 October 2025.
- ← 13 Amounts allocated represent programmable amounts, which exclude the UNICEF recovery rates.

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