

Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding 2020

For more information on UNICEF humanitarian response in 2020, please see the [UNICEF Annual Results Report – Humanitarian Action](#)



Fiji, 2020

Asinate, 8, receives a water and hygiene kit Tavea Village, Bua, Fiji, following Cyclone Yasa (December 2020).

© UNICEF/UN0400152/STEPHEN

ABOUT GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING

Humanitarian thematic funding contributions at all levels – global, regional and country – allow partners to support the achievements set out under the UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. After regular resources, Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding¹ (GHTF) is the most flexible form of funding, allowing rapid and strategic responses by UNICEF to humanitarian crises. GHTF allows UNICEF to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable children when and where it is needed and in a timely and effective manner.

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

WHY INVEST IN GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING?

If adequately funded, GHTF can be one of the best mechanisms for saving lives, protecting rights and securing a better, healthier and safer future for children and their communities. It allows UNICEF and its partners to:



Provide immediate life-saving assistance to the children who are most in need.



Rapidly release funds for sudden-onset emergencies, within 24 hours, as needed.



Respond equitably based on needs by reaching children in smaller and/or forgotten crises, in underfunded sectors (e.g., child protection) and in multi-country and sub-regional crises.



React faster in underfunded/forgotten emergencies. When it is difficult to attract international attention for forgotten crises; GHTF helps to address this gap.



Invest in preparedness for early response. Through better risk analysis and the identification of high-return actions, preparedness saves lives and makes the emergency response faster and more efficient. This also facilitates more strategic and stronger UNICEF programming.



Ensure more cost-effective response – every US\$1 invested early in high-risk humanitarian contexts saves an average of over US\$4 on the next emergency and speeds up operations by more than 12 days. This means greater impact is achieved with limited resources.



Save transaction costs associated with managing individual and earmarked contribution agreements. By adopting harmonized and strategic reporting approaches, GHTF reduces transaction costs, resulting in a lower cost recovery rate, so that more funding is programmed.

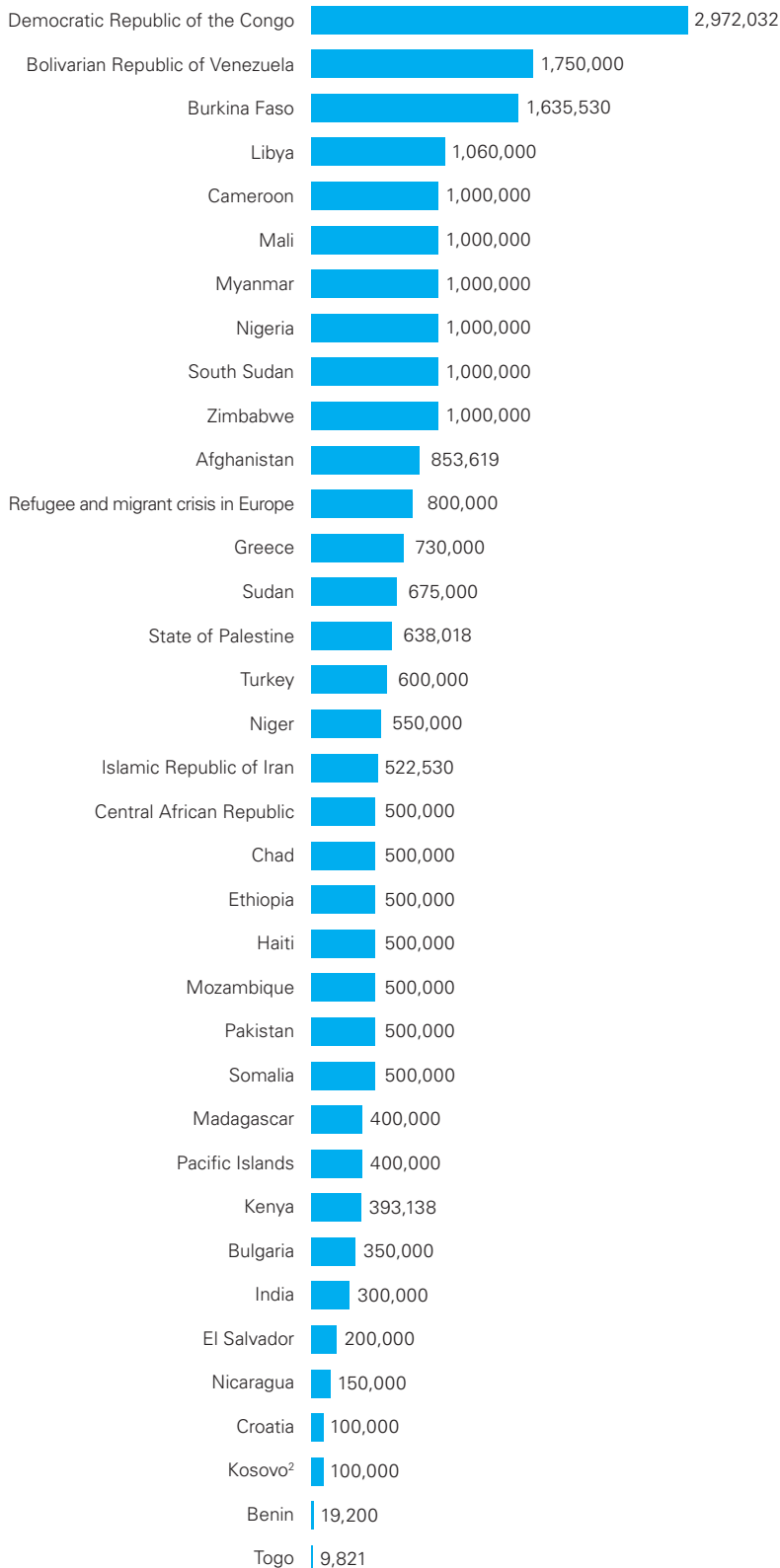


Ensure a higher quality response by facilitating strategic and efficient investments based on a clear set of criteria and priorities. Through quality assurance processes and robust technical assistance, UNICEF is able to ensure timely and high-quality results for the most vulnerable children.

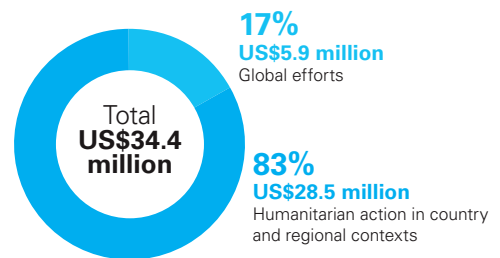
¹ United Nations Children's Fund, 'Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding', UNICEF, New York, 2021, <www.unicef.org/emergencies/global-humanitarian-thematic-funding>, accessed 1 April 2021.

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

2020 GHTF allocations (US\$)

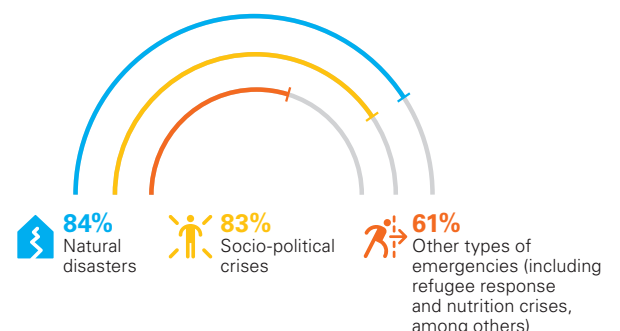


In 2020, UNICEF allocated US\$34.4 million of programmable GHTF for global humanitarian action. Of this, 83 per cent supported humanitarian action in countries and regions and 17 per cent supported other global coordination and technical support efforts. In addition to this, a critical reserve of US\$1 million is maintained for responses to unforeseen emergencies.



GHTF is considered the ‘last resort’ for those emergencies that are forgotten or constantly suffer from severe lack of adequate resources. GHTF allocated to these emergencies serves as life-saving catalytic funding that can kick-start responses to emerging crises; scale up operations in deteriorating emergencies; fill temporary funding gaps to avoid interruptions to critical operations, including protracted, less-visible crises; and ensure the delivery of essential field support. Ten of the most underfunded emergencies in 2020 received 33 per cent of all country allocations: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Pakistan, Zimbabwe and the State of Palestine.





GHTF can support overlapping and multidimensional crises in the same country and at the same time. For instance, in 2020, more than 80 per cent of GHTF allocations supported complex emergencies, including socio-political crises (acute economic crises, conflict/civil unrest and human rights crises) and natural disasters (floods, droughts, earthquakes, hurricanes, tropical storms, etc.).



² All references to Kosovo in this report should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

ALLOCATION CRITERIA

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

-  Critical unmet needs for the most vulnerable children.
-  Critical funding gaps based on available and projected contributions.
-  Strong implementation capacity based on the delivery track records of regular country programmes.
-  Alignment with organization-wide initiatives aimed at strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of UNICEF humanitarian action (e.g., the Humanitarian Review recommendations; the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, etc.) This can include gender-transformative programming; establishing effective mechanisms for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; accountability to affected populations; and localization strategies that emphasize anti-racism and anti-discrimination.



Greece

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



Criteria applied:

- Deteriorating refugee and migrant crises due to increasing inter-communal violence in overcrowded camps under lockdown. In September, a fire broke out at Moria Reception and Identification Centre on the Greek island of Lesbos that left some 12,000 refugees, migrants and asylum seekers – including 4,200 children, 400 of whom were unaccompanied and separated – without accommodation. UNICEF conducted a needs assessment and immediately requested US\$3 million. In response to the sudden onset emergency in Lesbos, a GHTF allocation was made to support the critical needs of affected children and their families.



Pacific Islands

**GHTF allocation:
US\$400,000**



Criteria applied:

- Widespread destruction due to Tropical Cyclone Harold in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Some 433,000 people are living in all affected areas and 110,000 people are living in the worst-affected areas, including 48,000 children.
- Critical underfunding, with only 19 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded as of May 2020 and a shortfall of US\$6.3 million.



Pakistan

**GHTF allocation:
US\$500,000**



Criteria applied:

- Worsening food insecurity, with an estimated 36.4 million people persistently and chronically vulnerable to food insecurity and exposed to natural hazards and shocks. The GHTF allocation was made to scale up urgently the nutrition response for some 41,000 children in Sindh and Balochistan regions.
- Critical underfunding, with only 20 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded as of July 2020.



Libya

**GHTF allocation:
US\$359,600**



Criteria applied:

- Multiple, overlapping crises, including a multi-front armed conflict, a protracted refugee and migrant crisis, and the worsening COVID-19 outbreak. As of mid-year, 893,000 people were in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.
- Critical underfunding, with only 25 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded and no additional funds forecast at the time of GHTF allocation.



Mali

**GHTF allocation:
US\$500,000**



Criteria applied:

- Volatile security situation and worsening food insecurity, which has been further exacerbated by conflict and the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Some 6.8 million people, including 3.5 million children and 333,000 internally displaced persons, need humanitarian assistance. The GHTF allocation was made to support the response to the Central Sahel crisis, including to meet the needs of displaced and food insecure people.
- Critical underfunding, with only 31 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded as of May 2020, and no additional funds forecast at the time of GHTF allocation.



Somalia

**GHTF allocation:
US\$500,000**



Criteria applied:

- Worsening humanitarian crisis due to the impact of flooding and the desert locust plague. These threats, coupled with COVID-19, left an estimated 5.2 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.
- Only 40 per cent of the humanitarian appeal was funded as of July 2020, but this funding was heavily earmarked, leaving the nutrition, flooding and locust responses severely underfunded (less than 10 per cent).



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

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



Criteria applied:

- Deteriorating humanitarian crisis, with water and electricity supplies falling to critical levels. The migration inflow reached 80,000 people, including 46,000 migrants during the first quarter of the year.
- Critical underfunding, with only 32 per cent of the humanitarian appeal funded as of March 2020, leaving limited funding to address the dire needs of 2.6 million people, including 1.7 million children and adolescents.

2020 GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING AT A GLANCE

In 2020, of the total funds received in the UNICEF appeal, US\$202.2 million was thematic funding for humanitarian responses at the country, regional and global levels – an overall reduction compared with the previous year. When looking at GHTF as a portion of the total funding received, about 1.5 per cent or US\$31.6 million was raised in 2020.

Despite of the transformative change and impact that flexible funding can create if adequate support is secured, the overall percentage of flexible funding, particularly GHTF, remains low. With the exception of 2018, over the past five years, flexible funding has been no more than 1.5 per cent of total humanitarian funding.

Given that humanitarian needs continue to evolve and increase significantly, UNICEF urges its resource partners to invest in flexible resources, which are critical to its ability to reach the most vulnerable children and their communities. GHTF is UNICEF's collective commitment to responding efficiently and effectively to growing humanitarian needs.

UNICEF humanitarian action needs strong, reliable and predictable GHTF.

Transparency, accountability and reporting

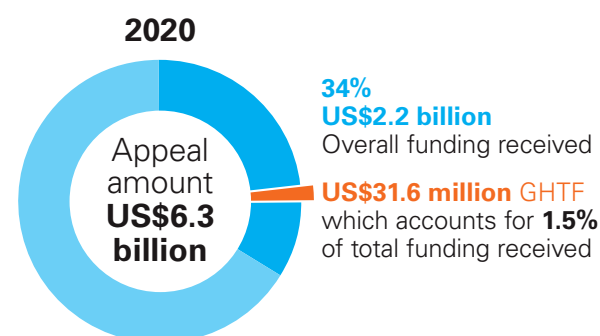
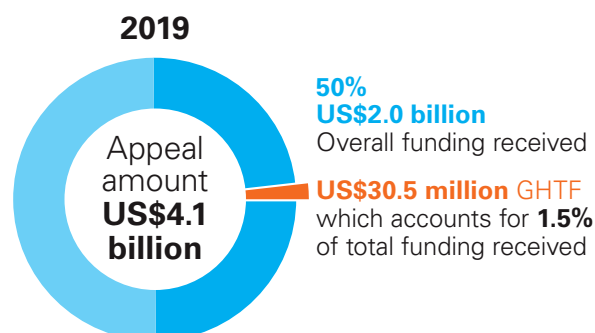
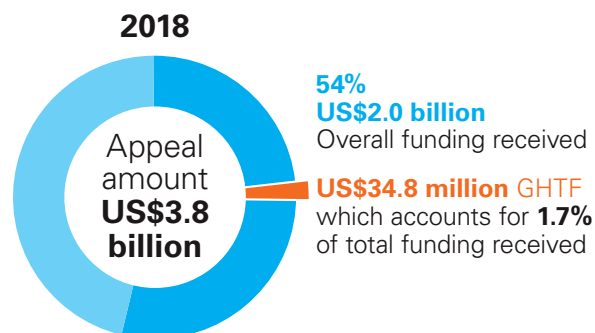
UNICEF has made significant progress towards improving the transparency, visibility and strong evidence-based reporting on the added value of quality funding, such as GHTF. Quality funding helps UNICEF achieve its mandate of advocating for children's rights, helping meet the basic needs of children, and expanding their full potential and the opportunities open to them.

To ensure full transparency on how funding is used in real time, UNICEF launched an [online platform about GHTF](#), which includes continuous updates on allocations. UNICEF also provides regular updates to the Financial Tracking System managed by Office for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on the GHTF funding allocated to emergency responses.

Internally, UNICEF has examined the impact of flexible funding, such as GHTF, on its work with implementing partners. In 2020, UNICEF published, 'UNICEF Internal Assessment on Cascading Quality Funding to Implementing Partners',³ which improved its ability to examine its internal systems. In line with the Grand Bargain workstream on enhanced quality funding, this exercise addressed UNICEF's commitment to transferring quality funding to implementing partners at the organizational level.

³ United Nations Children's Fund, 'UNICEF Internal Assessment on Cascading Quality Funding to Implementing Partners', UNICEF, New York, 2020.

UNICEF humanitarian funding trends 2018–2020



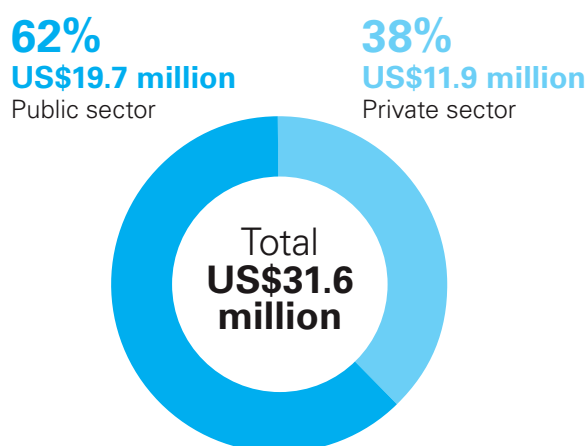
Top 10 sources of global humanitarian thematic funding, 2016–2020 (US\$)

1	Netherlands	97,061,975
2	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	13,680,297
3	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	10,522,095
4	Republic of Korea	5,500,000
5	UNICEF Thailand	5,055,028
6	U.S. Fund for UNICEF	3,641,168
7	Finnish Committee for UNICEF	3,333,143
8	Denmark	3,017,299
9	UNICEF China	2,513,220
10	Canada	2,390,381

WHO SUPPORTS GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING?

The partners who supported GHTF in 2020 were a lifeline. UNICEF acknowledges the role that these partners played in enabling critical humanitarian interventions. All such contributions help to achieve results for the most vulnerable children and their communities.

Global humanitarian thematic funding by type of resource partner, 2020



Of the US\$31.6 million in GHTF contributed in 2020, US\$19.7 million came from seven public sector partners and the remaining US\$11.9 million came from 23 private sector partners. Total GHTF increased over the 2019 level, as did the total number of resource partners: there were 30 resource partners in 2020 compared with 17 in 2019.

The Netherlands retained its position as the largest government contributor to GHTF for humanitarian action. The Netherlands signed a three-year agreement from 2019 to 2021 to contribute US\$55.7 million in GHTF. As part of this agreement, the Netherlands contributed US\$18.6 million in GHTF in 2020.

Key donors supporting UNICEF humanitarian action through National Committees in 2020

National Committee	Key donors
United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latter-Day Saint Charities Inc. USF various donors
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Louis Vuitton
United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EasyJet
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Svenska PostkodLotteriet

Partners that consistently support GHTF are essential to UNICEF's ability to reach the most vulnerable, crisis-affected and forgotten children. Each one of these resource partners, regardless of the size of their contribution, shares in the achievements of GHTF worldwide.

On behalf of some of the world's most vulnerable children, UNICEF thanks and acknowledges all of its resource partners providing GHTF in 2020. Your contributions make a tremendous difference.

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

Sources of global humanitarian thematic funding, 2020 (US\$)

1	Netherlands	18,558,952
2	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	3,850,084
3	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	2,962,521
4	UNICEF China	1,464,272
5	UNICEF Thailand	1,000,000
6	Danish Committee for UNICEF	611,197
7	Denmark	591,454
8	Republic of Korea	500,000
9	U.S. Fund for UNICEF	363,132
10	Italian Committee for UNICEF	308,164
11	Finnish Committee for UNICEF	303,938
12	French Committee for UNICEF	213,549
13	Netherlands Committee for UNICEF	190,553
14	Swiss Committee for UNICEF	155,069
15	Polish Committee for UNICEF	112,152
16	Canadian Committee for UNICEF	91,892
17	German Committee for UNICEF	88,431
18	Portuguese Committee for UNICEF	88,431
19	Romania	59,737
20	Australian Committee for UNICEF	52,433
21	Spanish Committee for UNICEF	37,899
22	Norwegian Committee for UNICEF	20,230
23	Belgian Committee for UNICEF	18,682
24	Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF	13,468
25	International online donations	594
TOTAL		31,656,831

CENTRAL SAHEL CRISIS – BURKINA FASO, MALI AND THE NIGER

The flexibility of humanitarian thematic funding was vital to UNICEF's ability to respond to the overlapping crises in the Sahel, where vulnerable people urgently needed multisectoral support throughout the year.

Attacks on children and violence across the central Sahel have continued to surge. In 2020, the crisis was compounded by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which deepened the vulnerability of millions of people.

In Burkina Faso, the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) response faced critical underfunding in 2020, with only 41 per cent of the WASH budget funded. In this context, UNICEF used thematic funds to reach over 16,000 people, including nearly 9,900 children, with life-saving WASH assistance. Although only 2 per cent of WASH humanitarian results are attributable to these funds, they helped UNICEF to deliver results faster and to alleviate a water crisis in Dori. For example, following the influx of displaced people into Dori in June, UNICEF used thematic funds to construct sanitation facilities – including 171 latrines and showers – for nearly 12,000 displaced people, in partnership with IEDA Relief.

In Mali, GHTF helped UNICEF provide a rapid and integrated response to the complex crisis despite significant underfunding. Thanks to the flexibility of these funds, UNICEF and partners were able to deploy mobile teams composed of a psychologist and a social worker to reach children affected by overlapping emergencies. Overall, 1,500 internally displaced and host community children received psychosocial support activities that helped them deal with trauma.

In the Niger, the flexibility of humanitarian thematic funding allowed UNICEF to respond to changing needs and the rapidly evolving crisis situation. When record flooding hit the country in August, UNICEF was able to cover immediate needs and improve preparedness while mobilizing additional resources. Working with partners, UNICEF delivered 2,000 flood kits with basic household items to more than 16,000 people in affected regions.



Mali

Hawa, 15, (L) who fled her village in 2019 following violence, plays a traditional game with a friend at the UNICEF-supported child-friendly space at the Socoura displacement camp in Mopti, central Mali (May 2020).

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2020:



In **Burkina Faso**,
16,000
people received WASH
assistance



In **Mali**,
1,500
affected children
received psychosocial
support



In the **Niger**,
16,000
people affected by flooding
received kits with basic
household items

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Humanitarian thematic funding added value across UNICEF's crisis response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Using these funds, UNICEF was able to scale up its response to displacement in the northeast and launch cash assistance with the World Food Programme (WFP).

The scale and complexity of humanitarian needs and protection concerns in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are staggering. Chronic poverty and weak essential service systems, recurrent armed conflict, acute malnutrition and major epidemic outbreaks – including the COVID-19 pandemic – have heightened vulnerability across the country.

In 2020, thematic funds were crucial to UNICEF's ability to respond to the frequent and repeated population movements driven by conflict in North Kivu and Ituri. They enabled UNICEF to address the critical needs of internally displaced persons, especially children, in a timely and comprehensive manner, with holistic multisectoral humanitarian assistance.

The WASH response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo faced critical underfunding in 2020, with only 15 per cent of the WASH budget funded. In this context, UNICEF used thematic funds to reach nearly 9,100 people – including nearly 3,200 children – with access to drinking water through the rehabilitation and construction of three water points. For each water point, UNICEF supported the establishment of a locally elected water management committee trained to maintain the water point. In addition, nearly 2,900 people benefited from the construction of latrines on sites hosting internally displaced people.

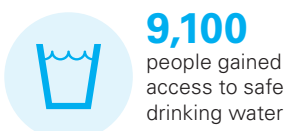
UNICEF also used GHTF to launch joint cash assistance with WFP. The aim of this project is to mitigate the secondary impacts of COVID-19 by helping cushion the loss of income experienced by households already living in precarious conditions. The project also aims to support shock-responsive social protection systems and tools. Thanks to thematic funds, UNICEF was able to complete the registration of more than 22,000 vulnerable households – 59,000 people – for future cash interventions, and recruit a dedicated cash specialist.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a student washes his hands at school using a bucket provided by UNICEF (October 2020).

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2020:



LIBYA

Across UNICEF programmes in Libya, humanitarian thematic funding was catalytic to the organization's ability to respond to multiple, severely underfunded crises; meet the urgent needs of children and vulnerable groups; and enhance emergency preparedness.

Due to the protracted armed conflict, political and economic crises and the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 1.2 million people, including over 348,000 children, require humanitarian assistance in Libya.⁴ Children and families have experienced a rapid deterioration in their access to public services – particularly education and health services – as well as higher food and fuel prices, loss of shelter and livelihoods and significant protection challenges.

With only 25 per cent of the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Libya funded, humanitarian thematic funds were critical to UNICEF's ability to respond to these crises, including the rapidly deteriorating socioeconomic conditions across the country, and meet escalating needs. During the year, UNICEF used GHTF to reach more than 35,000 people, including 14,000 children, through the Rapid Response Mechanism and direct emergency response. The beneficiaries of this assistance included conflict-affected displaced households, migrants and refugees, including in some hard-to-reach areas, and households affected by disasters.

These households received an integrated package of emergency assistance, including essential hygiene items and key hygiene messages and kits for babies and children. With the rising risks related to landmines and unexploded ordnances, UNICEF also provided explosive ordnance risk education messages with its emergency assistance.

UNICEF also used these funds to strengthen its capacity for emergency preparedness and response in Libya. This included supporting national sectoral and emergency coordination and capacities for stockpiling and storing supplies.

⁴ This was calculated as a 30 per cent increase over 2020 needs to accommodate for the COVID-19 pandemic and increased conflict-related needs. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Libya: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, New York and Istanbul, 2020.



Libya

In Libya, a little girl receives a winter clothing kit provided by UNICEF that will protect her from the harsh winter.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2020:



35,000
people reached
through the Rapid
Response Mechanism



This included
14,000
children reached with
life-saving assistance



UNICEF also
strengthened its
preparedness
capacities in Libya

KENYA

In Kenya, UNICEF used humanitarian thematic funds to take life-saving preparedness actions, including pre-positioning non-food item kits and providing a comprehensive nutrition response.

The humanitarian crisis in Kenya has deteriorated rapidly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, desert locusts, recurrent waterborne disease outbreaks, flooding and slow recovery from the 2019 drought. Access to basic social services is limited for vulnerable populations, particularly women and children.⁵ Kenya also hosts over 498,000 refugees and asylum seekers, more than half of whom are children.⁶ Only 40 per cent of the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Kenya was funded in 2020.

In 2020, UNICEF used humanitarian thematic funds to support preparedness actions in response to a flooding alert in Turkana County. UNICEF procured and dispatched 500 family relief kits, which were pre-positioned with the county government in anticipation of potential displacement.

In addition, through the First Action initiative, UNICEF supported the nutrition sector to indirectly reach 480,000 people and 17,000 children suffering from severe wasting in eight arid counties affected by desert locusts and COVID-19 through key preparedness actions, including advocacy, technical support and support for the government preparedness system. Eight counties were supported to develop and update multi-hazard preparedness and response plans and integrate emerging hazards into those plans.

The nutrition response in Kenya faced critical underfunding in 2020, with only 46 per cent of the nutrition budget funded. In this context, UNICEF used humanitarian thematic funding to give parents and caregivers the tools they need to protect their children against malnutrition through Family mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC). Family MUAC is an innovative approach that empowers parents and caregivers in hard-to-reach areas to routinely monitor their children for malnutrition using tapes. In 2020, over 12,000 parents and caregivers were trained through Family MUAC and 472 children were diagnosed with acute malnutrition and referred for treatment.



Kenya

A man whose household was affected by flooding receives a family relief kit provided by UNICEF in Naotin village, Turkana County, Kenya.

⁵ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Kenya Situation Report', OCHA, New York and Istanbul, 10 September 2020.

⁶ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Kenya: Registered refugees and asylum seekers', UNHCR, Geneva, 31 August 2020.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2020:



500

family relief kits
pre-positioned



480,000

people benefited from
nutrition preparedness
actions



12,000

parents and
caregivers trained
on Family MUAC

MOZAMBIQUE

Humanitarian thematic funding was instrumental to UNICEF's ability to reach children affected by the Cabo Delgado crisis with multisector humanitarian assistance, including health, education, child protection and social protection services.

The humanitarian crisis in Mozambique has deteriorated with the intensification of conflict in Cabo Delgado province. Some 425,000 people are displaced, and basic services have been severely disrupted.⁷ Over 135,000 people are food insecure and nearly 28,000 children are acutely malnourished.⁸

UNICEF used humanitarian thematic funding to strengthen its multisector response to the situation in Cabo Delgado. This included reaching nearly 95,000 children with measles vaccination and supporting children with disabilities with assistive devices such as crutches, walkers and canes.

Thematic funding was also critical to UNICEF's ability to reach affected people with life-saving messages on cholera and COVID-19. UNICEF used these funds to boost the signals of community radio stations so that internally displaced persons in Cabo Delgado had access to these messages. UNICEF also reinforced multimedia mobile units to make sure that life-saving messages reached those not covered by mass media.

The education response in Mozambique faced critical underfunding in 2020, with only 28 per cent of the education budget funded. In this context, UNICEF used thematic funds to train 61 teachers in distance learning, benefiting nearly 1,400 children – both internally displaced and host community children. Overall, 150,000 children benefited from distance education in 2020. Non-formal education, including vocational training, reached 850 out-of-school adolescents. Thematic funds were also used to reach over 16,000 affected children with psychosocial support.



Mozambique

Students at the Eduardo Mondlane School in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, show off school supplies provided by UNICEF (December 2020).

⁷ International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix, 'Mozambique: Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa provinces – Results of the baseline assessment round 6 – September 2020', IOM, Geneva, 23 November 2020.

⁸ Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security and Sovereignty, 'Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Food and Nutrition Security Assessment', SETSAN, July 2020.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2020:



95,000

children vaccinated against measles



150,000

children benefited from distance learning



16,000

children received psychosocial support

MYANMAR

In Myanmar, UNICEF used humanitarian thematic funds to scale up and enhance critical education and nutrition interventions, giving crisis-affected children the tools and services they need to learn and grow.

More than 1 million people, including an estimated 450,000 children are affected by Myanmar's decade-long conflict.⁹ Children and women are increasingly vulnerable to gender-based violence, family separation, exploitation, abuse, detention, arrest, recruitment and trafficking. Those affected also lack access to vital services, including health, nutrition and education.

In 2020, UNICEF used humanitarian thematic funding to help children in Chin State continue to learn. Given that the state does not currently have dedicated or specific grants, humanitarian thematic funding was vital to the education response for children affected by conflict and natural disasters.

The education response in Myanmar faced critical underfunding in 2020, with only 41 per cent of the education budget funded. In this context, UNICEF, in collaboration with the State Education Office, used thematic funds to provide education-in-emergencies supplies to help children continue to learn. This included the provision of 8 school tents, 2,000 roofing sheets, 2,900 school kits, 20 recreation kits and 5 school-in-a carton supplies to displacement camps in Paletwa. The roofing sheets were used to repair leaking classrooms, and the tents provided additional classroom space, accommodating more than 3,000 children. The education kits gave teachers and students materials to use in the classroom.

After a windstorm and fire swept through Chin State in 2019 and 2020 damaging school infrastructure, UNICEF coordinated with the State Education Department and Township Education Offices to distribute education-in-emergencies materials to 20 disaster-affected schools. This included 1,900 school-in-a carton kits, 600 roofing sheets and school kits for over 1,000 students.

Overall, UNICEF was able to support more than 4,000 conflict- and disaster-affected children in Chin State to continue their educations in child-friendly settings.

⁹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Myanmar: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft), OCHA, New York and Istanbul, 2020.



Myanmar

Lu Aung, 9, sits on a handloom, inside the common hall of a weaving workshop supported by UNICEF in Maina Camp for internally displaced persons in Waingmaw, Kachin State, Myanmar (July 2020).

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2020:



4,000
crisis-affected
children continued
their education



2,000
roofing sheets
provided to repair
leaking classrooms



8
school tents
provided additional
classroom space

PAKISTAN

In response to the growing nutrition crisis in Pakistan, UNICEF used humanitarian thematic funding to strengthen and continue nutrition services vital to the overall health, well-being and development of the country's children.

Pakistan is confronting multiple emergencies – the COVID-19 pandemic, an ongoing nutrition emergency and recurrent disasters. At the end of 2020, there were 346,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and the global acute malnutrition rate was 18 per cent.

GHTF was instrumental to sustaining and expanding integrated nutrition service delivery in Pakistan in 2020. While nutrition was the sector with the highest funding requirement in 2020, it also experienced the largest funding gap, at 89 per cent or US\$36 million.

Using these thematic funds, UNICEF was able to reach over 29,000 children with screening and assessment for acute malnutrition using biometric measurements. Of these, 2,300 children were diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition and registered for outpatient treatment using ready-to-use therapeutic food.

In addition, UNICEF provided the caregivers of 6,400 children with micronutrient powder to fortify food at home; nearly 5,400 pregnant and lactating women and 840 adolescent girls received a three-month supply of iron and folic acid for daily use to protect against anaemia; and 4,800 parents and caregivers received infant and young child feeding counselling.

Humanitarian thematic funds not only facilitated the provision of these services, but also funded the procurement of essential nutrition supplies, including iron folic acid, multi-micronutrient powder, amoxicillin dispersible tablets and anthropometric equipment. UNICEF was also able to establish 20 new nutrition sites and continue services in 25 existing sites.



Pakistan

Tabish, 4, enjoys mashed potatoes made by his mother, who received advice on child nutrition at a UNICEF-supported nutrition centre in Lahore district, Punjab province, Pakistan.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2020:



2,300

severely malnourished children received treatment



6,400

children received micronutrient supplementation at home



4,800

parents and caregivers received infant and young child feeding counselling

STATE OF PALESTINE

Flexible humanitarian thematic funds allowed UNICEF in the State of Palestine to respond where needs were most acute. This included a comprehensive health response, including for children with disabilities and young children.

The protracted protection crisis in the State of Palestine, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has continued to impact children. More than 2.2 million people need humanitarian aid and over 1 million children living in Gaza Strip have difficulty accessing essential services.¹⁰ In 2020, the humanitarian response in the State of Palestine faced critical underfunding, with only 28 per cent of the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal funded.

With flexible humanitarian thematic funds, UNICEF and partners were able to respond to the humanitarian health needs of the most vulnerable women and children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. UNICEF provided life-saving services, including essential supplies such as medical ventilators, consumables, early childhood development equipment and assistive devices for children with disabilities. UNICEF also ensured that quality essential health and nutrition services were accessible and available for high-risk pregnant and lactating women, newborns and young children.

UNICEF also partnered with WFP to address the sharp deterioration in living conditions through an e-voucher programme. The intervention benefited nearly 3,800 households – nearly 23,000 people – living in vulnerable communities.

Humanitarian thematic funding also facilitated the procurement of essential education emergencies supplies (stationery and writing kits and recreational kits), including warehouse storage and the installation of games in early childhood education centres for crisis-affected children.



State of Palestine

Iban, 2 months, waits to be vaccinated at the UNICEF-supported Ministry of Health clinic in Ramallah, State of Palestine (May 2020).

¹⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs, 'State of Palestine: 2020 humanitarian needs overview', OCHA, New York and Istanbul, December 2019.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2020:



UNICEF procured essential supplies, including ventilators and assistive devices for children with disabilities



3,800
households received e-vouchers



23,000
people from vulnerable communities received support

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE IN EUROPE

Humanitarian thematic funding gave UNICEF the flexibility to respond to emerging priorities and provide services that otherwise might have been out of reach.

Children on the move in Europe – particularly the over 10,000 unaccompanied and separated children – are highly vulnerable and require urgent care and protection. Access to quality, appropriate health, nutrition, protection and education services and basic supplies is critical.

In Greece, GHTF was the first funding made available to UNICEF following the sudden-onset Lesbos fire emergency. UNICEF was able to use these funds to provide life-saving support, including emergency accommodation for 400 unaccompanied and separated children and 200 single mothers; identification, referrals and case management through outreach teams; and recreational activities, psychosocial support and learning activities in child-friendly spaces.

In Bulgaria, UNICEF strengthened preparedness and emergency response capacities following a surge in migrants. Key programme interventions were prioritized for children in the areas of health and nutrition, as well as emergency supplies, child protection and education.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF provided continuous access to essential child protection, health and education services for children on the move and their caregivers. Some 350 unaccompanied and separated children received 24/7 care in temporary reception centres.

In Montenegro, where only 32 per cent of the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal was funded in 2020, UNICEF used GHTF to: deliver supplies and services, including laptops for children in asylum centres for online education; establish child-friendly spaces and mother and baby corners; and provide basic medical supplies. During the year, 409 children received psychosocial support.



Refugee and migrant response in Europe

Yosif, 13, plays football with other children in front of a UNICEF-supported centre for refugees and migrants in Lesbos, Greece (October 2020).

Across the response in Europe in 2020, humanitarian thematic funds were invaluable, giving UNICEF the flexibility to respond to emerging priorities and provide services not covered through institutional funding. Overall, this support helped UNICEF reach over 18,000 children and families on the move in Europe with vital protection, education, health and WASH services and systematic capacity building.

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2020:



18,000

children and families on the move received services



In **Greece**,
400

unaccompanied and separated children were given accommodations



In **Montenegro**,
409

children received psychosocial support

BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

UNICEF used flexible humanitarian thematic funding to rapidly respond to the COVID-19 context and adapt its interventions in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Children and adolescents in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela are affected by a triple burden: the protracted socioeconomic and political situation; the COVID-19 pandemic; and mixed migration flows across international borders.

Humanitarian thematic funds have been critical to supporting UNICEF's emergency response in the country. In 2020, these flexible funds enabled UNICEF to rapidly respond and adapt its interventions to the COVID-19 context.

For example, in Zulia Region, community mobilizers were struggling to reach populations in need due to quarantine restrictions, fuel shortages, and insecurity. UNICEF used thematic funds to procure bicycles to give these community promoters the mobility they needed to implement planned activities. Using the bicycles, these mobilizers were able to reach hundreds of children and women with life-saving services, including: 150 families with WASH promotion; 200 children with treatment for malnutrition; and 9,500 persons with key messages, including on COVID-19.

In addition, to prevent disruptions to pentavalent vaccine supplies, UNICEF redirected thematic funds to the acquisition of 520,000 doses for children under 5 years. This helped maintain and improve immunization coverage during the onset and subsequent impacts of the pandemic, including electric supply failures, transportation challenges, cash and fuel shortages and lack of health personnel.

UNICEF was also able to strengthen and improve specialized and integrated child protection services at border areas in Zulia and Bolívar states using humanitarian thematic funds. For example, in Bolívar, UNICEF rehabilitated child protection facilities to provide more friendly environments for children and improve the quality of services. Some 800 children and adolescents have benefited from these improvements every month.



The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

A child participates in a Global Handwashing Day activity at a UNICEF-supported centre for children in the Etnia Guajira neighborhood, Zulia state, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (October 2020).

Humanitarian thematic funding including GHTF contributed to the following results in 2020:



520,000
doses of pentavalent vaccine procured



800
children and adolescents received child protection services in child-friendly spaces every month



9,500
persons received key messages, including on COVID-19

GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Emergency Response Teams



Nutrition

In 2020, the UNICEF Nutrition in Emergencies Specialist supported global nutrition preparedness, response and recovery in emergency contexts by leading a strategic review of the Global Technical Assistance Mechanism. UNICEF, World Vision, the Emergency Nutrition Network, the Global Nutrition Cluster Coordination Team and International Medical Corps identified serious gaps in addressing nutrition technical needs in humanitarian contexts, including a lack of support for translating existing guidance into practice and lack of coordination between practitioners and approaches. Following this review, the Mechanism was transitioned into a Global Nutrition Cluster Technical Alliance of over 40 partners to provide access to the most up-to-date technical resources and tools; comprehensive remote and in-person technical support; and expert consensus on how to tackle new and difficult problems in the absence of guidance. In 2020, the Alliance provided over 62 weeks of technical support and was accessed by 6,600 unique users, including from United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations, governments and academia. This support helped these users respond better to their countries' nutrition needs.



Climate, environment, resilience and peace

Given the rise in the number of emergencies globally, conflict analysis, sensitivity and peacebuilding are critical areas to integrate into UNICEF humanitarian and development responses to foster long-lasting social cohesion and peace. The UNICEF Peacebuilding and Fragility Team strengthened capacities for peacebuilding in five priority country offices responding to emergencies (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia and the Sudan) and two regional offices (Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa) by integrating conflict analysis, conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into their child-centred humanitarian and development programmes. Over 40 staff in Mozambique completed an in-depth, online, blended training programme that equipped the office to conduct conflict analysis and included a conflict sensitivity in its response to the evolving emergency in Cabo Delgado. In the Sudan, 61 staff from seven field offices were trained to leverage UNICEF's child-centred development and humanitarian programmes in peacebuilding and strengthen four peacebuilding projects in Darfur, focusing on young people and displaced persons in the context of the national transition. UNICEF Sudan also refined its vision to include peacebuilding as a pathway for achieving results for children.



Emergency Response Team

Refugee children in Greece use temporary water facilities provided by the UNICEF ERT while permanent water infrastructure is constructed.



WASH

In Greece, following the fire that destroyed the Lesbos refugee camp, the Emergency Response Team (ERT) conducted a cost-effectiveness analysis on alternative water and sanitation delivery strategies to determine the most efficient solution to address immediate water needs. The return-on-investment tool revealed that investments in semi-permanent infrastructure would break even against continued water trucking in five months, or eight months for construction of permanent water infrastructure. Using semi-permanent and permanent infrastructure would result in €4.5 million and €7 million of savings, respectively. The tool also found that emergency latrines with semi-permanent treatment systems are the least costly option if centralized emergency latrines are used beyond three years. By demonstrating the benefits of more sustainable infrastructure investments, these findings have raised €7.5 million to rebuild WASH infrastructure at the Lesbos camp, where sustained services will support the WASH needs of 8,000 refugees. Water and sanitation investment analysis will be an important cost-saving exercise to address the long-term humanitarian needs of refugees.

Humanitarian cash transfers

The flexibility of humanitarian thematic funds enabled UNICEF Burkina Faso to implement its first Humanitarian Cash Transfer intervention in the country.

Burkina Faso is facing a multifaceted emergency crisis resulting from a combination of shocks. In 2020, the situation deteriorated severely and led to a sharp rise in humanitarian needs in six regions, forcing more than 1 million people to flee their communities.

Thanks to the GHTF allocation, nearly 3,700 vulnerable, crisis-affected households in the Centre-Nord region (67 per cent displaced people and 33 per cent host households, including 27,000 children and 441 people with disabilities) received three monthly cash transfers to meet their multisectoral basic needs. This financial support contributed to empowering targeted households to cover their child-related expenses in the local market and boosting the local economy for a faster recovery.

UNICEF transferred the cash using a Mobile Money operator. This delivery mechanism reinforced discretion and mitigated potential protection and safety risks to beneficiaries. It also prevented social gatherings during cash distributions to mitigate COVID-19 transmission in the region.

According to post-distribution monitoring results, the money had a very positive impact on beneficiaries' ability to access basic needs for children and improve their health and education status.

Preparedness

In Nicaragua, the First Action Initiative enabled UNICEF to engage in key preparedness actions in anticipation of a particularly severe hurricane season, including by pre-positioning WASH supplies, developing a communications strategy and strengthening collaboration with key partners. When hurricanes Eta and Iota made landfall within days of each other in November, UNICEF and its partners were immediately ready to respond, reaching 15,000 persons with safe water and hygiene kits. These actions were crucial to preserving the health of affected populations in a complex context further affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Kenya, the First Action Initiative also enabled UNICEF and its partners to increase their standing capacities to respond to the second wave of locust infestation in 2020 and avoid devastating consequences for children. This involved pre-positioning health and nutrition supplies, training caregivers to detect acute malnutrition, and developing multisectoral preparedness and response plans involving a range of stakeholders and key line ministries. The action targeted over 17,000 vulnerable children under 5 years of age with ready-to-use therapeutic foods and reached over 80,000 children at risk of malnutrition through risk communication messaging, caregiver training and malnutrition screenings.

Information and Communications Technology

Across the world, UNICEF staff worked remotely in 2020 because of COVID-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions; in some cases, this meant working in locations with unstable power supplies. To ensure the continuity of services for humanitarian action, UNICEF and its partner Danimex Communication A/S designed a portable renewable energy solution that would permit staff to telework from remote locations where power was either unreliable or unavailable. More than 250 kits were ordered by 11 country offices – Armenia, Argentina, Cuba, Gabon, Honduras, Jamaica, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Uganda and Zimbabwe. In Libya, where prolonged power cuts were common during the day, staff were able to use the solar kits to telework from their homes and increase productivity.



Libya – Information And Communication Technology

Safa Belhaj, a UNICEF Supply Associate, works remotely from home in Tripoli, Libya, using a portable renewable/solar power system that allows her to continue to deliver results for children during the COVID-19 pandemic.