

Myanmar

Update on the context and situation of children

The security situation in Myanmar continues to deteriorate and shows no sign of improvement. Violence and instability throughout the country are causing large-scale displacement and taking an enormous toll on children.

The UN estimates that more than 1.4 million people are internally displaced by conflict as of October 2022. Hundreds of children have been killed or maimed by all parties to the crisis, with killing and maiming being the key driver of grave violations in 2022. At least 3.7 million of children are estimated to be out of school. Nationwide, coverage of measles vaccination has fallen from 91 per cent to 34 per cent and a projected 33,000 children have a risk of dying from vaccine-preventable diseases in the next year or so. Attacks on schools and hospitals have tripled and the use of schools - mainly as accommodation for military bases - has also increased throughout the year. Violence and instability throughout the country are causing large-scale displacement and negatively impacting children across the country.

Public policy crisis and instability

Myanmar's fiscal position has deteriorated considerably, and public spending is shifting towards energy and defense. Despite the critical importance of health, education, child protection, and social protection for child well-being and development, public spending on these services has declined and budget allocations to these sectors have been sharply curtailed. Fiscal monitoring by UNICEF indicates that national budget allocations to the ministries of health, education, and social welfare have fallen by 37 to 51 per cent in real terms, compared to 2020. Underinvestment in these sectors places recent hard-won gains in the provision of core public services at risk. Moreover, civil society organisations that are filling gaps in service delivery are facing severe operational challenges due to security risks and the enactment of the Organization Registration Law in 2022.

Restrictions on movement, checkpoints on roads and waterways, and escalating inflation have severely affected people's access to assistance and basic services and limited the availability of essential items in many villages. Yet, despite the enormous level of need, the Myanmar crisis is one of the most underfunded humanitarian crises globally.

A critical humanitarian situation

The impacts of COVID-19 and the aftermath of the February 2021 military takeover have erased nearly a decade of poverty reduction progress. The national child poverty rate is 53 per cent in 2022, up from 31 per cent in 2017, according to estimates by UNICEF and UNDP. The spatial distribution of poverty has shifted too, with large increases in informal settlements and urban areas such as Yangon. Inequality is estimated to have worsened, with low-income families falling into deeper destitution. Surveys indicate that coping mechanisms are under increasing strain, with over half of all households reporting cuts to non-food consumption, and significant proportions across the income distribution reporting cuts to food consumption, borrowing from friends and family, and sales of assets. While livelihoods have come under increased stress since 2020, public sector support has declined sharply, with fewer households receiving any form of social protection assistance.

The situation for children across the states/regions has significantly deteriorated in 2022. Multiple armed actors operate at local levels with control of large areas of the Northwest[1], Southeast[2], and KayahShan and Rakhine States contested by different forces. Communities face significant protection challenges; humanitarian access is severely constrained and local organisations at the forefront of the response face daily security challenges to reach people in need.

Children and their families in Sagaing Region have been hardest hit, with a ten-fold increase in the number of people displaced to almost 600,000. People are displaced across multiple informal sites with very limited basic services or protection. Bureaucratic impediments, checkpoints, denial of need and active conflict severely restrict humanitarian operations. Staff of local organisations often risk arrest and detention, as well as the confiscation of humanitarian supplies. Magway Region and Chin State are similarly impacted, with over 770,000 people displaced across the three locations.

In Rakhine State, the conflict has exacerbated the pre-existing complex humanitarian and human rights crises. Over 219,000 people remain displaced since prior to the military takeover, with a further 18,500 displaced following the resumption of conflict between the local forces. Support to the impacted communities has been limited by blanket restrictions on movement and humanitarian operations imposed in the latter half of 2022. 130,000 Rohingya and Kaman Muslims have been confined to IDP camps in central Rakhine State since 2012. A further 470,000 Rohingya remain living in villages in northern and central Rakhine State.

In Shan and Kayah States, over 164,000[3] people are displaced. Fighting has continued throughout the year with newly displaced children and their families sheltering in religious and community spaces or informal sites in hard-to-reach areas. Armed organizations in these areas have imposed restrictions on humanitarian assistance, leaving many people without consistent access to critical supplies and services. Displaced populations face pressure to return to their villages by the local State Administration Council (SAC) but are afraid for the safety and security of their families, given the ongoing conflict, destruction of their property and inability to access basic services and assistance to survive should they return.

In Kachin State, the intensification in fighting between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and armed groups has led to new civilian displacement across the state, adding to the protracted IDP population of 91,500. In total, 105,000 people are estimated to be displaced, with the newly-displaced sheltering in monasteries, church compounds and host communities.

After Sagaing Region, the Southeast has seen the largest increase in displacement and conflict-affected communities, from 4,400 in February 2021 to 194,300 in 2022. Access of populations to basic assistance and services remains severely constrained, with restrictions placed by all parties to the conflict.

[1] Chin State, Sagaing Region and Magway Region

[2] Kayin and Mon States and Tanintharyi and Bago East Regions

[3] UN in Myanmar, 5 December 2022

Major contributions and drivers of results

Result 1 - Programme continuity

Since the military takeover in February 2021, Myanmar has experienced an unprecedented political, socioeconomic, human rights and humanitarian crisis. Armed conflict has escalated and spread to new areas of the country, there has been a near economic collapse, and the overall human rights, humanitarian, and development situation has deteriorated significantly. To date, little progress has been made in stabilizing the situation: this context of high uncertainty has had a significant impact on UNICEF programming and on its partners.

In line with the second iteration of the United Nations Country Team guidelines, UNICEF has continued to adapt its programmes to meet the above challenges, focusing on the delivery of principled and needs-based humanitarian assistance across the country and on a limited number of

high-priority programmes that directly benefit the civilian population and local communities. UNICEF has focused on ensuring continuity of critical services at scale, while promoting long-lasting, durable community-based systems and solutions for children's survival, growth, and development, through NGOs and INGOs, civil society organizations (including ethnic and faith-based), the private sector and community-based organisations. While maintaining neutrality and impartiality, UNICEF has initiated engagement with the SAC, focusing on high-level advocacy efforts to improve the situation of children across the country.

In social protection, UNICEF shifted towards supporting shock-responsive social protection interventions with a temporary alternative alignment to the national system, reaching 38,000 pregnant women and young children. A humanitarian cash transfer programme reached 7,000 pregnant women, children under 2 and their family members with bi-monthly cash transfers in hard-hit informal settlements in Yangon. The scheme, which provides direct support to highly vulnerable pregnant women and young children, models innovative ways to deliver gender-sensitive social and behavioural change communication and can be re-integrated into the national system when the situation allows for it. Complementing investments in the cash transfers programme, the 'Bright Start: Mobile-based Emergency Health Care Microinsurance' programme provided emergency health care services in Yangon's six peri-urban townships, reaching 33,000 participants. The programme further increases access to primary healthcare and reduces families' out-of-pocket expenditures: participants have free access to teleconsultations with family doctors, home delivery of medicines, and reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenditures related to deliveries in local health facilities and other selected in-patient and out-patient care services.

In health, UNICEF advocated for the resumption of routine immunization services in government and ethnic-controlled areas. UNICEF trained 715 staff and volunteers from public health facilities, partners, and Ethnic Health Organizations (EHOs) in immunization practices and vaccine management. UNICEF supported the national EPI programme in vaccine forecasting, procurement, and shipments. Support for strengthening the cold chain expansion is ongoing: 167 units of cold chain equipment were installed at 53 locations across the country. UNICEF has also recently handed over two sub-depots, while the construction of the central cold store reached 80 per cent completion.

The need for humanitarian health assistance continued to increase, in line with the rise in new displacements: UNICEF delivered health supplies to partners, including first aid kits, clean delivery kits to support women during childbirth, community newborn kits and essential medicines such as oral rehydration salts, zinc tablets and amoxicillin. UNICEF reached 2.9 million of children aged 6–59 months and 61,242 pregnant and lactating women with preventive nutrition services, including distribution of multiple micronutrients powders, vitamin A supplementation, multiple micronutrient tablet supplementation and maternal infant and young child feeding (MIYCF) counselling. UNICEF supported partners in reaching 3,880 children suffering from severe acute, with a distribution of ready-to-use-therapeutic food (RUTF) and routine medicines for appropriate treatment.

In child protection, UNICEF prioritized a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) strategy, including provision of specialized mental health services, non-specialized support and community-based activities, to support and protect the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of children, youth and adolescents, parents, and caregivers, particularly in low-resource low-access areas. As many as 134,585 children (69,838 girls) were reached through in-person and remote support, while 35,935 parents and caregivers were provided with access to mental health information, psychosocial wellbeing awareness and parenting sessions. UNICEF provided multi-sectoral, in-person and online trainings in MHPSS capacity building to 989 field responders and volunteers on Child-focused Psychological First Aid and Stabilization and Relief, training in the PSS Activities Package for Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) to enhance targeted PSS and violence prevention interventions. UNICEF has continued to hold legal aid workshops to strengthen legal aid services for children in conflict with the law and their caregivers by providing legal aid support to an increasing

number of clients, including children and young people.

Despite widespread insecurity and severe humanitarian access restrictions, UNICEF and its partners have managed to implement Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) interventions, including GBV awareness raising, CP Case Management for children and adolescent survivors of sexual violence, girls' empowerment and adolescent engagement workshops, and life-skills capacity. Adolescents have benefitted from 30 sessions focused on knowledge and skills to prevent negative coping mechanisms and adopt positive social and gender norms. Partners have also identified most vulnerable and at-risk adolescent girls of GBV in their interventions and supported them with service provisions, reproductive health education, awareness raising on the risks of child and early marriage, as well as the consequences of adolescent pregnancy.

In WASH, UNICEF reached 594,699 people (196,250 children) with lifesaving supplies and services. Beneficiaries include displaced populations in long-term camps, temporary sites, forests and peri-urban settlements. Gender segregated sanitation services, including emergency latrines and bathing shelters, reached 236,864 people. 44,932 children were reached with WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning centers and safe spaces. Critical WASH supplies, such as soap, laundry detergent, sanitary pads, underwear for females, ladles for water and hygiene kits reached 536,491 people (285,611 female). Clean drinking water was provided to 427,717 people through the installation of water kiosks with a partner in informal settlements in Yangon, which produce and sell bottles of affordable safe drinking water. Every kiosk has the capacity to produce 2,500 liters of drinking water a day and collectively can reach 22,000 people. Twenty-liter bottles are sold for US\$ 0.02 each to local distributors in the communities: beneficiaries buy bottles at US\$ 0.04 which 1/10 the price of commercially available water. This business model will become sustainable with the production of 4,500 bottles per day.

In education, UNICEF worked with over 100 ethnic language and culture committees (LCCs) to extend early learning in mother tongues to minority ethnic children: 85,000 sets of four early learning resilience storybooks were distributed. The LCCs also received 560 tablets and laptops, and 282 persons from LCCs were trained in digital literacy and safe use of the devices to promote early learning. Additionally, 22,982 parents were trained on good parenting practices. The 'Bring Back Learning' programme supported 247,903 children (126,039 girls) to access learning, including 228 children with disabilities (106 girls), with the aim of strengthening community capacity to support children's safety and continuity of learning. A total of 2,219 community facilitators were trained using the Teacher Resource Package, a Myanmar-developed collection of training modules for educators; additionally, the capacity of 273 community facilitators was enhanced. Communities were supplied with learning resources: 2,745 children (1,398 girls) received story books, 42 community libraries were upgraded to provide safe learning spaces, 210,898 children (107,836 girls) received short-term home-based learning materials, and 3,323 facilitators received teacher guidebooks. UNICEF also provided education in emergencies response, reaching 167,896 (84,693 girls) across all conflict-affected areas.

Result 2 - Delivering as One UNICEF: Staff safety, security, and wellbeing

The priorities under the 'Delivering as one UNICEF' results area for 2022 were set with a deliberate focus on establishing and maintaining measures promoting staff wellbeing, safety and security and an appropriate country office management structure. The following was established to contribute towards achieving results in this area, as summarized below.

Working in collaboration between the Country Office Staff Association (COSA) and Management, relevant issues affecting staff safety and security and overall wellbeing of staff were collected and discussed during Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) meetings held on a quarterly basis. In response to increased security risks featured by high frequency of security incidents (e.g, armed conflict, shootings, shelling, airstrikes, IED explosions), management advocated for a review of security risk

management measures and support to all UN personnel through the Operations Management Team and Security Management Team that led to issuance of revised UN-wide security standards to be implemented by all UN agencies in the country and introduction of danger pay allowance to compensate for security related hardship. Additional measures to support business continuity when staff worked remotely (from home) included provision of mobile internet services support with procurement of power back-up solutions such as power banks and solar-powered inverters.

§ In addition to security advisories issued by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), security updates and refresher briefings were offered on security preparedness and response, such as how to behave during security road checks, night house checks, arrests and on how to deal with landmines. A gradual return to the office was implemented, while putting in place active risk reduction measures for COVID-19 and supporting staff with transportation to and from the office, as needed, due to the security situation and increased security check points, especially in Yangon.

§ Access to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services by staff was enhanced through the provision of relevant information on service providers in the country and organized specific sessions through webinars during the year. The office promoted a work-life balance by encouraging staff to apply for flexible work arrangements, as needed. Staff members are encouraged to apply flexible working hours during the week, provided their availability is ensured during core working hours. Staff can also apply for teleworking outside duty stations and Security Emergency Compressed Time-Off (SECTO).

§ Based on recommendations from programmatic and management reviews held in 2018-2019, UNICEF Myanmar was implementing a move of staff members from the main office in Yangon to the capital city Nay Pyi Taw (NPT) in 2020-2021. However, the move of staff was put on hold in 2021 partly due to the construction of the UN Common premises, a pre-requisite for completing the move, being put on hold by the UN Country Team. The review carried out in 2022 concluded that the move of staff to NPT will continue to be on hold until further review due to the continuity unstable situation in which the construction of the all-UN common premises is not expected to resume soon.

Result 3 - Advocacy, partnership and resource mobilization

UNICEF Myanmar's presence on social media continued to grow in 2022, with key metrics for voice, reach and engagement increasing substantially. The number of people following the UNICEF Myanmar Facebook page grew to over 1 million users. The Twitter account created in March 2021 reached a total of 4,500 followers - it has grown steadily and proved an important platform for sharing information with media, influencers and the public. UNICEF Myanmar's Instagram account was created in November 2022 and has a growing number of followers, most of them young people. UNICEF rolled out a number of public-facing communication campaigns on digital platforms in 2022 that achieved high levels of public engagement, including especially by young people.

Despite the challenges in the current political context, including the split of national media into pro-SAC and pro-democracy media, UNICEF worked with national and international media in 2022 to highlight the situation of children and the organization's response to the crisis.

UNICEF issued press statements, including through the country office, regional office and headquarters. These highlighted violations of children's rights, including killing and maiming of children, and called for concrete action to address them. UNICEF continued to highlight rights violations through its social media channels, with high levels of engagement and often setting the media agenda on key incidents. UNICEF shared regular updates on child rights concerns with international media through briefings by the Spokesperson of the UN Secretary-General, to ensure the protection of children's rights remained a key area of focus in reporting the crisis.

UNICEF identified three office-wide advocacy priorities, i.e., Immunization, Education, and Child Protection - Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) in a new Humanitarian Advocacy Strategy developed in consultation with the country office, regional office, HQ divisions and National

Committees. The key priorities have been operationalized across the respective programmes and have increased UNICEF's advocacy efforts to support the resumption of routine immunization for children across the country, ensuring children's access to safe learning spaces, and protecting children from grave violations.

UNICEF's joint leadership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and like-minded partners, through high-level dialogue, reached an agreement with the de facto Ministry of Health for COVAX vaccine approval, distribution, and technical support for revitalizing routine immunization programmes in Myanmar, including in non-government-controlled areas, with advocacy helping to deliver immunization services and significantly increasing the country's coverage from 37 per cent in 2021 to 70 per cent by end-2022.

UNICEF's public advocacy increased public awareness of the situation of children in Myanmar, UNICEF delivery and helped generate public demand for children's access to essential services in the country.

UNICEF contributed strongly to inter-agency advocacy efforts, including high-level strategic advocacy on both ad-hoc issues/incidents and ongoing concerns in Myanmar. Joint statements/reports on Myanmar were released and amplified.

Due to the unpredictable social media climate and challenges of political instability, U-Report adjusted its online engagement strategy with lessons learned from 2021 and progressed in all three aspects of the programme – scale, engagement, and impact - throughout the year. The number of young people joining U-Report Myanmar reached 90,000 and the platform achieved the highest average poll response rate in Southeast Asia - around 90 per cent. U-Report Myanmar Facebook has 110,000 followers - the second highest out of U-Report countries globally and has 3,500 YouTube subscribers - the second highest globally. Myanmar is the only country that has mobilized and empowered a network of young volunteers across the country whose members work closely with UNICEF as agents of change and champions for child rights – setting a powerful example for other UNICEF country offices.

UNICEF intensified its efforts to demonstrate UNICEF's important role and impact in responding to the humanitarian crisis with development partners and donors. Through the regular sharing of situation reports, a new quarterly newsletter and monthly thematic briefings for partners, UNICEF was able to demonstrate its impact and identify areas for collaboration and joint advocacy. UNICEF organized bilateral meetings between office management and technical experts with potential and existing partners to brief on UNICEF priorities and potential areas of collaboration. With these resource mobilization efforts, UNICEF raised USD 116,640,959 in 2022, as of mid-December. The top donors include GAVI, Japan, the Global Partnership for Education, UNOCHA, USAID-BHA, and Australia.

UNICEF Myanmar also worked to strengthen its partnership with the private sector, despite the challenging context, in collaboration with UNICEF Private Fundraising and Partnerships. A partnership was developed with Viber Myanmar to support communications with target audiences – including young people - in key programme priority areas. Efforts to strengthen our partnership with the private sector will continue in 2023 and will include incorporating children's rights and business work.

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

UNICEF scaled up partnerships with local actors (including community, faith and border-based organizations) to promote localization and extend coverage to reach the most vulnerable, conflict-affected and displaced populations. Using different strategies and platforms, the office developed a dashboard with key management component to map 272 civil society organizations (CSOs) in Myanmar, providing a one-window repository of partner-related information. This innovative tool is linked to the Programme Document planning tool and provides an overarching picture of the current reach and opportunities for potential partnerships, including contingency planning with frontline local organizations.

To expedite partnerships with local organizations, the office supported local responders to register in the UN Partner Portal, which increased registration of local partners by 89 per cent, from 71 to 134, between February and October 2022. In 2022, UNICEF developed 62 new humanitarian partnerships, 34 per cent of which are with national and local community-based organizations. Under the efficiency and effectiveness measure, the office was able to reduce the processing time for internal approval of programme documents from 12 to 5 days, thereby expediting programme implementation. Extensive efforts are underway to strengthen the capacity of local actors, including engagement with field offices and programme teams for ongoing mentoring, partner reporting, and trainings for PSEA awareness, financial management and budget monitoring.

UNICEF participated actively in finding solutions to challenges common to all UN agencies in the country. The Operations Management Team (OMT), of which UNICEF is an active member, served as a platform to discuss matters of common interest to all UN agencies, with proposals submitted for review and approval by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) such as interventions to support national staff in dealing with increased security threats through provision of a lumpsum allowance to reinforce residential security, financial support to purchase power back-up solutions to address frequent power-cuts, salary surveys, allowances, etc. were reviewed in OMT meetings.

The OMT, with support of the Resident Coordinator's Office, continued to negotiate for exceptional waivers on matters relating to banking services to ensure that UN agencies had uninterrupted access to cash and was able to disburse funds to partners, contractors and suppliers for programme implementation. UNICEF participated in the implementation of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) version 2.0. It is projected that a successful implementation of BOS will generate a cumulative amount of US\$ 4.7 million in cost avoidance and savings during the period 2018-2024.

UNICEF continues to play a key role in supporting the UN-led COVID-19 vaccination programme. The UNICEF Supply and Logistics team coordinated and supported the in-country logistics of the COVID-19 vaccines needed for the UN-led vaccination programme on behalf of all UN agencies. UNICEF also continued to host the storage of the vaccines before distribution to the vaccination centres until the end of the UN-led vaccination programme in July 2022. UNICEF's role included arranging for customs clearance, securing tax exemptions and approval from authorities for use of vaccines and facilitating in-country distribution of vaccines to all vaccination centres managed by the UN.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Humanitarian access and Technology

Humanitarian access remains severely constrained nationwide with movement restrictions and interference with humanitarian activities primarily by the SAC, but including incidents by other parties to the conflict, impeding the delivery of life-saving assistance to vulnerable populations. Closure of roads and waterways, targeted internet shutdowns and restrictions on communities'

movement further impedes the ability of populations to access life-saving support.

Safety and security of communities, partners and staff are a key priority. UNICEF field offices work with local organisations to this end. In 2022, as the humanitarian needs in the Northwest escalated, the UNICEF Kachin field office conducted a series of online and learning exchanges for 17 local organisations (39 participants) working in Chin, Sagaing and Magway, to support technical development and strengthen staff capacities to identify and manage operational risks. Based on the lessons learnt and recommendations, these interventions, including the Risk Management and Enhancing Negotiations workshop, will be replicated across the seven field offices in 2023.

UNICEF Myanmar has developed an access tracking and analysis system to support programming prioritisation, advocacy, and engagement strategies at local and national levels, with the aim of reaching more people in need of life-saving services. The system supports the identification of the areas with the most limited access, the major types of access constraints (for example, denial by authorities threats to aid workers etc.) and provides the baseline data analysis to support the implementation of access strategies specific to the local context.

Working with the seven field offices, programme and supply sections, the emergency unit has led an initiative using UNICEF's corporate tool for data collection and analysis, InForm. The INFORM platform utilises a common data collection standard and suite of tools based on the Open Data Kit. Any form created with an ODK-based data tool can be shared with other platforms, allowing collaboration and integration with other agencies. Data security is key feature of this platform and is critically important given the sensitive nature of the access data collected. The emergency team has ensured that the tools are compatible with the OCHA-led inter-agency access tracking system and contributes to holistic nationwide access analysis and aligned advocacy.

The UNICEF tool was piloted in the third quarter of 2022 and the number of access incidents recorded increased from 36 in July (the first month) to 88 in November, with a total of 267 reported in the five-month period. The most common access constraints are movement restrictions and interference, with the MAF and SAC being the main parties responsible for the constraints. The access tracker will be further developed in 2023.

UNICEF has further enhanced field office capacities in the area of humanitarian access. Staff are implementing local access plans, following participation in a series of online webinars and in-person workshop led by the Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS), based on UNICEF's global Access Framework. Evidence from the access tracker is being used and efforts to expand access will be further scaled up in 2023.

Programme integration in peri-urban Yangon

Since the start of the political and humanitarian crisis in 2021, UNICEF has significantly expanded its footprint in peri-urban Yangon, with a focus on eight townships that were placed under martial law. An estimated 720,000 pregnant women and children are living in these largely informal settlements, typically in slum conditions where access to basic services is restricted or unaffordable. UNICEF's interventions have evolved from direct humanitarian assistance to a more holistic systems approach comprising maternal and child cash transfers, the health micro-insurance programme 'Bright Start', installation of water treatment units, and complementary services such as nutrition screening. Throughout 2022, UNICEF provided regular income support to 7,000 families, tripled the coverage of Bright Start to over 31,000 participants, and reached 42,000 women and children with micronutrient supplements. New water kiosks can produce drinking water for 100,000 people that is 80 per cent cheaper than commercially bottled water.

UNICEF embedded the use of technology and innovation into its programmes from the start. Community mobilisers use tablets and computer-assisted personal interviews to register programme

participants. Social assistance transfers are disbursed via a mobile money platform and can be withdrawn as an over-the-counter cash payment at more than 1,500 agents and shopkeepers. Bright Start operates a free, 24-hour hotline that women and caregivers of children can dial to request emergency care, speak with their family doctor, or listen to information offered by an interactive voice response system. Other communication channels include SMS and a Viber chatbot. Moreover, third-party monitoring is conducted through mobile phone surveys with large samples of beneficiaries.

A critical success factor has been the use of integrated approaches and cross-team collaboration, with the cash transfer scheme serving as a platform to link beneficiaries to complementary services. Programme cooperation agreements with partners cover multi-sectoral interventions, including water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, social and behavioural change, and psychosocial support. On the ground, these interventions are delivered through a network of 73 community workers and 48 mother support groups. UNICEF has also invested in strengthening the capacity of community outreach structures by delivering a series of trainings on topics such as maternal and child cash transfers, interpersonal communication skills, infant and child nutrition, and psychological first aid. Post-training evaluations point to high levels of satisfaction with the quality and contents of the courses.

An important emerging opportunity is building systems to deliver services for children with disabilities. UNICEF is scaling up screening processes to identify children and adults with disabilities and put in place an online Disability Management Information System (DMIS) that can be used by partners to facilitate data storage and planning of interventions. Families with a member with a disability enrolled in the cash transfer scheme already receive a top-up in recognition of the additional costs of living with a disability. In 2023, UNICEF will also pilot new systems to provide access to assistive technology and medical interventions and roll out training on disability inclusion for frontline workers.