



On 3 November, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake hit Jajarkot and Rukum West Districts in western Nepal. One week following the quake, children take part in a group psychosocial healing session.



# Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2

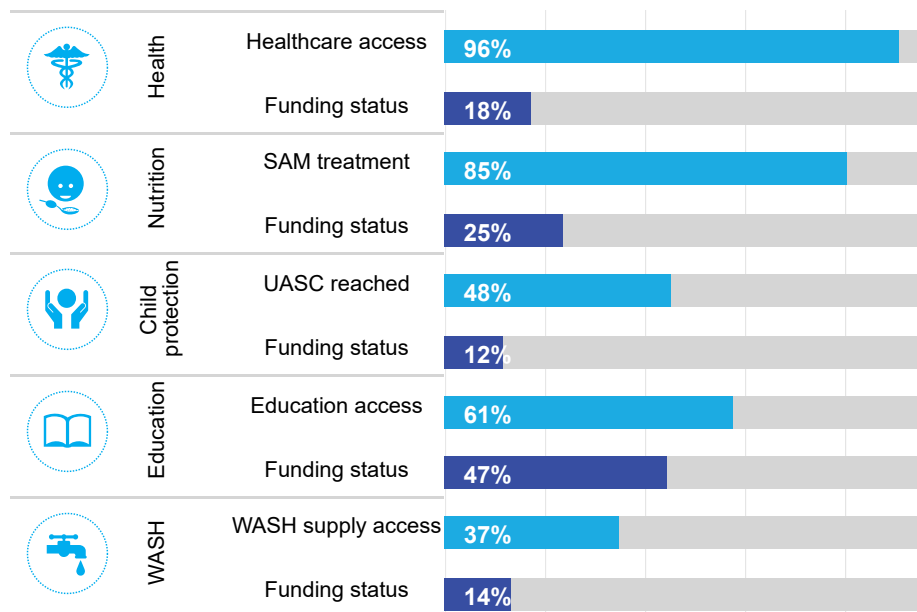
Reporting Period  
1 January to 31 December 2023

## South Asia Region

### HIGHLIGHTS

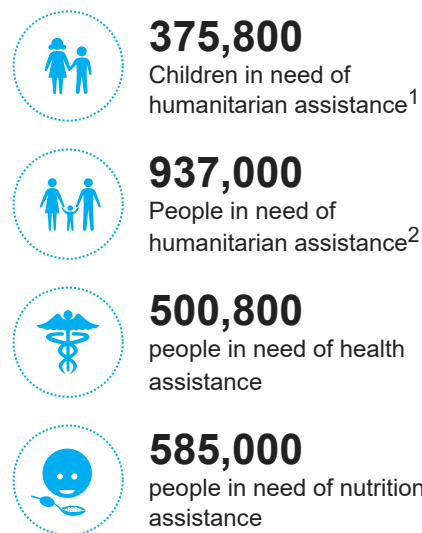
- In 2023, South Asia experienced natural disasters, political crises, public health emergencies and conflicts. Earthquakes hit Afghanistan and Nepal, requiring emergency responses. Three cyclones impacted Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Refugee crises in Bangladesh and Pakistan required a coordinated response. Bangladesh and Nepal managed dengue fever outbreaks.
- UNICEF South Asia supports countries to ensure a robust regional response for children facing emergencies. ROSA supported all eight country offices in the region to target 45 million people (26 million children) in need of humanitarian assistance, through remote and in-person surge support, and technical guidance on grand bargain themes, including AAP, Cash in Emergencies, localization and preparedness strengthening.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response trainings built the capacity of 225 UNICEF staff in the region to better prepare and respond to ongoing and future emergencies in their countries. Overall, the regional office supported country offices to reach approximately 20 million children in need of humanitarian support.

### UNICEF RESPONSE AND FUNDING STATUS\*

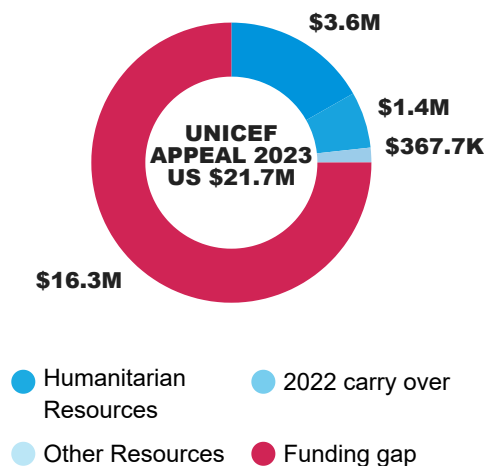


\* UNICEF response % is only for the indicator, the funding status is for the entire sector.

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS



### FUNDING STATUS (IN US\$)\*\*



\*\* Funding available includes: funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors

## REGIONAL FUNDING OVERVIEW AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2023, UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for South Asia required US\$21.7 million to prepare for and respond to sudden-onset emergencies—including floods, public health emergencies, economic crises, population displacement—as well as protracted conflicts with cross-border dimensions, while ensuring preparedness for multi-hazards. The appeal also included funding requirements for technical support to all eight country offices in the region, as well as further investment in the development of a regional surge mechanism to ensure quality and rapid response to emergencies.

UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all donors for their generous contributions, amounting to US\$5.4 million (including US\$1.4 million carried-forward from 2022), 25 per cent of the total funding requirement. This funding allowed for a partial humanitarian response within the region. While the region ensured adherence to its Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) in humanitarian situations, funding gaps prevented UNICEF from being able to scale up key strategic priorities and ensure all regional preparedness and localization activities were fully implemented. Further funding is required in 2024 to support the region to prepare for cyclical natural disasters, public health emergencies, and major earthquake events, while also putting in place a regional mechanism to ensure rapid response to future emergencies at scale.

## REGIONAL SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

2023 was a challenging year for tens of millions of children and their families in South Asia due to natural disasters, disease outbreaks, inflation and economic crises, continued refugee crises and social and political unrest in some countries. The INFORM Global Risk Index ranks four out of eight South Asian countries as either “very high” or “high” in terms of risk of emerging humanitarian situations: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India<sup>3</sup>. The INFORM Climate Change Index calculated in late 2022 predicted that the worldwide number of people living in very high- or high-risk countries, including the many of those in South Asia, will nearly double by 2050, to 5.5 billion and 70 per cent of countries will not have the resources to cope<sup>4</sup>.

In 2023, Afghanistan remained one of the world's worst continuing, complex humanitarian situations. Since the Taliban takeover in August 2021, the space for women and girls has continued to shrink, as they experience a series of restrictive measures curtailing basic freedoms, creating barriers to accessing services, excluding them from higher education opportunities, and limiting employment. Government edicts on women working for NGOs and UN Agencies in late 2022 and early 2023 triggered suspension of some aid work that relied on female field workers. On 7 October 2023, and for several days after, communities in Herat Province experienced a series of strong earthquakes 6 magnitude and above. An estimated 1.6 million people experienced high intensity shaking, and more than 275,000 people in nine districts were directly affected by the earthquake. These earthquakes required an additional mobilization of humanitarian response in Herat.

In 2023, Bangladesh continued to host nearly one million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in 33 camps in Cox's Bazar District and Bhasan Char Island in Noakhali District; over half of them are children. While the refugees are served by basic services, there continue to be disease outbreaks, malnutrition, and inadequate opportunities for children's education and skill acquisition. Climate related emergencies had a significant impact on Bangladesh this year. In May 2023, Cyclone Mocha made landfall with impacts to Cox's Bazar districts. In total 334,620 Bangladeshi nationals were affected and 36,907 Rohingya refugees living in camps had their homes damaged or destroyed<sup>5</sup>. In August 2023, heavy rains across Chittagong district triggered flash floods and landslides, and over half a million people in Cox's Bazar were exposed following the incident. Bangladesh was also hit by public health emergencies in 2023, in particular by the worst outbreak of dengue viral diseases in its history. As of 31 December 2023, there were 321,179 recorded cases of dengue fever (40 per cent female, 17 per cent children under the age of 15), with 1,705 deaths (57 per cent female, 10 per cent children under the age of 15)<sup>6</sup>.

India continues to face more severe and less predictable extreme weather events related to climate change. In 2023, India faced cyclones, floods, heatwaves, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods, and conflict-related displacement. Throughout the year, UNICEF continued its work on emergency preparedness and response, working closely with national and state government counterparts to build resilient systems and respond to conflict and emergencies that affected children and women in states where multiple vulnerabilities and shocks exist.

The people of Pakistan endured multiple, often interrelated humanitarian crises in 2023, while also recovering from the torrential rains and floods in late 2022. The country hosted over three million people from Afghanistan of various statuses. Hosting communities tend to have a high prevalence of malnutrition, poor access to safe water and sanitation and low school enrolment, especially for girls. On 26 September 2023, the Government of Pakistan announced plans for the deportation of undocumented foreigners, putting over 1.7 million Afghans in Pakistan at risk of forced return to Afghanistan. As a result, between 15 September and 31 December 2023, a total of 490,891 Afghans (59 per cent children) of various statuses returned from Pakistan to Afghanistan<sup>7</sup>.

Sri Lanka began the year in the middle of an acute economic crisis. After a year of economic hardship, Sri Lanka secured adequate debt relief assurances from its official creditors, which resulted in the International Monetary Fund Board approving a US\$3 billion bailout for 48 months on 20 March 2023, which led to some stabilization of the economy and situation. With the strengthening of El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), Sri Lanka also experienced delayed Southwest monsoon and less rainfall affecting 139,149 people in seven districts with drought and water scarcity.

Under the regional HAC, Bhutan and Maldives were not faced by significant natural disasters in 2023 requiring humanitarian response. However, disaster risks remain in both countries, with Bhutan at risk of mega-earthquakes, floods, glacial lake outburst floods, landslides and forest fires, many of which are being exacerbated by climate change. The Maldives is one of the lowest elevation countries in the world and is highly vulnerable to the threats of climate change and sea level rise. Investment in preparedness for both countries is essential to be ready for the future challenges.

Throughout 2023, the overall humanitarian situation in Nepal remained precarious, exacerbated by two large earthquakes – each with a magnitude exceeding 6.3 – that struck western Nepal in the final quarter. These earthquakes claimed a total of 155 lives and affected more than 70,000 households across over a dozen districts. Hundreds of aftershocks followed, continuing until the end of December. Additionally, the annual monsoon season left its mark, leading to 68 casualties and impacting more than 6,000 households nationwide. The country also

experienced the second consecutive year of high cases of dengue fever, which included 51,000 identified cases and 20 confirmed deaths as of 15 December<sup>8</sup>.

## REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, AND STRATEGY

UNICEF South Asia Regional Office (ROSA), building on critical roles UNICEF country offices play at the field level, supports and coordinates with country offices to ensure a robust regional response to children facing humanitarian emergencies by working with government authorities and technical working groups, UN agencies, funds and programmes, civil society organisations at national and sub-national levels, and private sector partners. Overall, the regional office is working closely with all eight country offices in the region to reach approximately 45 million people, including 26 million children in need of humanitarian support. ROSA organizes its response around four strategic pillars: promoting and influencing humanitarian policy throughout the region; supporting countries with technical support for humanitarian response, including the incorporation of grand bargain themes (AAP, localization); ensuring preparedness for future emergencies in all eight countries; and developing strategic partnerships with National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMAs) and youth platforms to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into their long term planning.

Monthly virtual emergency network meetings bring together emergency focal points from all country offices to exchange information and country office experiences on the latest global and regional developments, including policies, best practices and lessons learned related to emergency preparedness and response, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. In 2023, a total of eight virtual meetings were conducted with the network. To strengthen this cross-sharing, ROSA convened 22 country office staff for an in-person network meeting in April 2023. The meeting was focused on core Grand Bargain themes, with a specific focus on cash in emergencies, localization, accountability to affected populations, and preparedness. Experiences and ideas were shared on strengthening and leveraging UNICEF partnerships with national and provincial disaster management authorities and private sector. A deep dive, in collaboration with social behaviour change colleagues on accountability to affected populations provided an agreement on how to move forward with strengthening UNICEF's response and feedback mechanisms. Finally, a focus on preparedness looked into ways for UNICEF to prepare to the increased trend of emergencies in the region, including climate change driven disasters and conflict. Actions were agreed for how to take these three themes forward throughout 2023 and follow ups were conducted at the monthly emergency network meetings.

Emergency surge support was provided both in country and remotely for three rapid onset emergencies in Afghanistan and Nepal to ensure high quality flash updates, situation reports, Emergency Programme Fund applications, and response plans were developed to respond to affected children. These deployments ranged from two to four weeks and provided support during the rapid onset emergency until the country program was able to fully integrate into their existing emergency programs. UNICEF ROSA also updated the Regional Rapid Response Mechanism roster consisting of colleagues in the RO and all eight COs to support emergency affected countries with technical missions and surge support. In order to ensure that colleagues in the RO and on the regional surge roster have the requisite technical knowledge for deployment, UNICEF ROSA held three surge roster trainings in March, July and September 2023 to ensure colleagues are up to date on the latest Emergency Preparedness and Response modules, including the revised Core Commitments for Children and Grand Bargain workstreams, including Cash in Emergencies and Accountability to Affected Populations. Additionally, the Emergency Section also supported five country programs (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) to train staff on emergency preparedness and response to ensure readiness for the upcoming monsoon and cyclone season. The training included modules on humanitarian principles and frameworks, emergency preparedness and risk analysis, emergency response program cycle, and emergency procedures. The training was concluded with an emergency simulation exercise to test the readiness of participants to respond to a rapid onset emergency. Between the roster trainings and the country office trainings, a total of nine training were organized, where 225 UNICEF staff were trained to build the capacity of staff to respond to emergencies and ensure quality programming for children.

To further advance the Grand Bargain agenda, in collaboration with Social and Behavior Change colleagues, a focus was made on integrating Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) into humanitarian action. Following a stocktake exercise examining existing AAP systems, country offices were supported to develop and endorse collective AAP roadmaps for the implementation of relevant activities. ROSA Emergency section initiated a series of AAP capacity building trainings, where 142 key staff from UNICEF, partners, and governments were trained on AAP in humanitarian action in Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Afghanistan. The capacity building contributed to the development and implementation of the roadmaps to further scale-up AAP, adjustment of existing community engagement activities to support at risk communities in humanitarian action, and prepositioning of effective responsive and inclusive community feedback mechanisms to support the most vulnerable and less visible members of the community, including children and people living with disabilities. The team also supported countries offices to work through interagency coordination platforms with both the UN system and the government, to enhance AAP for children in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. This included the identification of thematic interventions to support children and other vulnerable groups in emergency situations. A best practice in AAP guidance note was shared with country offices, and reviews of the internal best practices existing in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka were completed. Additionally, to further the investments in the utilization of cash in emergency situations, the ROSA Office provided technical support to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal on a range of activities, including programme design, targeting and evaluation of cash programmes. A series of four webinars on shock responsive social protection (SRSP) were also organized, aimed to identify the role of the social service work force in SRSP, disaster risk financing options, disability and SRSP and integrated SRSP in emergencies.

UNICEF ROSA focuses its efforts on enhancing the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of the eight country offices, governments, and partners in South Asia by providing technical expertise and strengthening systems for child-sensitive and inclusive humanitarian action. This includes supporting country offices in acute humanitarian settings to ensure sustained humanitarian action and recovery efforts, such as with humanitarian action in Afghanistan, recovery efforts from the unprecedented 2022 flood response in Pakistan, ongoing protracted Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh, economic/political crises in Sri Lanka and upcoming monsoon season in Bangladesh, Nepal and India. UNICEF ROSA also support multi-sectoral humanitarian interventions, including the integration of DRR to address the needs of children with disabilities, adolescents, women and girls in humanitarian settings, focusing on the provision of gender-based violence prevention and response services, shock-responsive social protection systems, accountability to affected populations, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in emergencies, with linkages to longer-term development interventions. A specific focus was placed on setting

a foundation for the localization agenda to further engagement with local actors. A stock take of child-centred disaster risk reduction policies and strategies in the region was conducted to work more closely with NDMAs. Additional exploration for partnerships with youth platforms, including Scouts, in Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to strengthen child, adolescent, and youth participation in DRR will be further elaborated in 2024.

The Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and UNICEF ROSA in coordination with UNICEF Afghanistan and Nepal conducted a study titled 'Accountability to Affected Populations in Humanitarian Action: Pathways for Communities to have Meaningful Influence over Decision-Making' on accountability to affected populations in humanitarian settings. The study involved a desk review of research on international guidelines for accountability to affected populations in emergencies and selected interventions of UNICEF country offices supplemented by data from interviews, questionnaires, and secondary data to review UNICEF's existing feedback and response mechanisms. The report concluded in May 2023 represents progress and recommendations toward more inclusive responsive feedback mechanisms for affected communities in emergencies.

## COUNTRY - NEPAL

### SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Throughout 2023, the overall humanitarian situation in Nepal remained precarious, exacerbated by two major earthquakes – each with a magnitude exceeding 6.3<sup>9</sup> – that struck western Nepal in the final quarter. These earthquakes claimed a total of 155 lives and affected more than 70,000 households across a dozen districts<sup>10</sup>. Hundreds of aftershocks followed, continuing until the end of December. Additionally, the annual monsoon season left its mark, leading to 68 casualties and impacting more than 6,000 households nationwide. The country also grappled with a dengue outbreak in 2023.

The two earthquakes in western Nepal had occurred one month apart, with the first hitting Bajhang District on 3 October (6.3 magnitude) and the second in Jajarkot District on 3 November (6.4 magnitude). The Bajhang earthquake resulted in one death and left dozens of people injured, and reportedly impacted over 8,000 houses, as well as damaging schools and health facilities. The Jajarkot earthquake claimed the lives of 154 people (84 females, 70 males), including 81 children (37 girls, 44 boys), leaving 366 others injured. Deemed the deadliest earthquake since the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, it caused extensive damage to private and public properties, disrupting essential services. Reports from the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), estimated that around 250,000 people<sup>11</sup> (including 80,000 children) were affected, with more than 62,000 houses damaged<sup>12</sup> in the 13 most-affected districts (26,557 fully damaged, 35,455 partially damaged). Additionally, 50 government and public buildings also sustained damage. In the aftermath of the earthquake, around 200,000 people (including 68,000 children) required multi-sectoral emergency humanitarian assistance including WASH, protection, education, nutrition and health services.

As temperatures dropped in December, the swift delivery of humanitarian support to the most vulnerable and unreached affected families with winterization and recovery support continued to be a time-critical and urgent need in the case of both earthquakes. UNICEF, working together with the Government of Nepal, persisted in providing life-saving assistance to communities in need. In terms of recovery efforts, provision of housing grants for families to construct temporary shelters has emerged as a top priority for the Government. The disbursement of the first tranche of housing grants began in December and is currently ongoing, focused on five of the most-affected districts: Jajarkot, Rukum West, Salyan, Bajhang and Bajura.

The annual monsoon season, spanning from mid-June to mid-October<sup>13</sup>, triggered floods and landslides across the country, affecting all seven provinces. Two provinces, Koshi<sup>14</sup> and Lumbini, bore the brunt, resulting in 68 fatalities<sup>15</sup> and impacting over 6,000 households. The monsoon season caused damage to public infrastructure, including schools, roads, bridges and government offices, as well as significant losses in the agriculture sector. UNICEF continued to support the Government's response efforts throughout. Earlier in June, the Government of Nepal had unveiled the National Action Plan<sup>16</sup> on Monsoon Preparedness and Response - 2023, projecting that floods, landslides and other monsoon-induced disasters could affect over 1.25 million people<sup>17</sup> in 2023. This projection marked a decrease from the 2022 estimate of over 2 million, as the 2023 monsoon season was expected to bring below-normal<sup>18</sup> rainfall. This proved correct, as the 2023 monsoon was relatively less intense compared to previous years, with fewer casualties. UNICEF was also part of the OCHA Anticipatory Action Pilot project (floods focused) in Nepal, in flood-prone municipalities in the eastern river basin (Koshi), with provision of multi-purpose cash, protection (monitoring and psychosocial counselling) and WASH services, while ensuring and accountability to affected populations (AAP). However, the magnitude of flooding did not require the plan to be activated.

In the beginning of the year, Nepal experienced a measles outbreak, which prompted UNICEF's support for the GoN's outbreak response immunization (ORI) efforts. The outbreak had initially begun in Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City (SMC) in Banke District of Lumbini Province, and slowly spread 17 districts across five provinces by the end of June. As part of the response, UNICEF, alongside WHO and local authorities, worked to safely deliver Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccines to the affected areas as well as promoting their uptake in communities. This year, however, marked an alarming, record-high rise in dengue, with over 51,000 reported cases<sup>19</sup> reaching all 77 districts and 20 confirmed deaths. Accordingly, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in strengthening dengue prevention and control efforts.

Funding gaps affected UNICEF's ability to fulfil its commitments, particularly in responding to the Jajarkot earthquake. Only \$1 million was secured out of the \$15.7 million needed as of December, leading to a gap of over 93 per cent and covering just 19 per cent of the pressing needs for children and women.

### SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

Throughout 2023, UNICEF actively supported the Government of Nepal's response to the humanitarian situation in alignment with identified needs. This support encompassed multi-hazard response efforts, providing life-saving supplies and interventions to 52,190 people (17,514 women), including 17,880 children (9,082 girls). In response to the Jajarkot earthquake, UNICEF supported the Government to reach over

39,900 people (including around 13,560 children) from 7,992 households in the most-affected districts with critical relief supplies, including tarpaulins and blankets. During both the earthquakes in western Nepal, the response and recovery coordination was led by the Government at the federal, provincial, local and district levels, together with relevant stakeholders including UN agencies, relevant ministries (cluster leads) and co-leads including UNICEF, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international humanitarian organizations, among others. Towards the end of the year, a Joint Earthquake Recovery Action Plan<sup>20</sup> was initiated by UN agencies in consultation with the Government, aiming to support effective medium-term recovery in earthquake-affected areas.

UNICEF supported government partners to respond to various public health emergencies in 2023. UNICEF supported the Government of Nepal in vaccinating a total of 1,866,202 children (between 6 months to 15 years of age) with the Measles Rubella (MR) vaccine across 12 districts through two campaigns. This year, however, marked an alarming, record-high rise in dengue, with over 51,000 reported cases reaching all 77 districts and 20 confirmed deaths. Accordingly, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in strengthening dengue prevention and control efforts. UNICEF delivered 1,600 sets of dengue kits and 1,000 Long-Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLIN) to the MoHP's Epidemiology and Disease Control Division, from where they were dispatched to municipalities and health facilities in need.

Below is a summary of UNICEF's multi-sectoral humanitarian response in 2023:

## Health

In 2023, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF supported the Government of Nepal to vaccinate 1,866,202 children (between 6 months to 15 years of age) with the Measles Rubella (MR) vaccine across 12 districts through two campaigns. The first campaign was conducted in response to a measles outbreak in Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City in Banke District in January 2023. With the outbreak already spreading to surrounding districts and provinces, the vaccination campaign targeted a total of 10 districts<sup>21</sup>, reaching 1,747,371 children. The second MR campaign was carried out in the wake of the Jajarkot earthquake in December 2023, covering 118,831 children in Jajarkot and Rukum West Districts. Given the high risk of disease outbreaks among children and adolescents following the earthquake – especially during the winter season – UNICEF and WHO also supported the government in conducting a typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) campaign in seven districts, vaccinating 501,290 people (310,616 women) between 6 and 45 years of age.

The Jajarkot earthquake damaged 77 health facilities and caused significant disruption in critical health services such as maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health. To enable immediate resumption of these services, UNICEF provided five medical tents, one full set of equipment to run a birthing centre, two newborn resuscitation tables with radiant warmers, one delivery bed, 600 health kits and 1,650 newborn incentive kits to affected districts. UNICEF also organized a week-long mental health camp, providing services to 93 children and adolescents, with 63 of them receiving mental health treatment.

Furthermore, UNICEF handed over 50,000 pieces of information, education and communication (IEC) materials to the Karnali Provincial Health Directorate (PHD) with messages on prevention of diarrhoea, pneumonia, WASH and mental health issues, thereby reaching more than 100,000 people with key life-saving messages. As a result, 415,641 women and children directly benefitted from the response that contributed to enhance access to primary health care.

This year marked a second year of high numbers of dengue cases in Nepal, peaking at 27,529 in August and reaching a total caseload<sup>22</sup> of 51,243 by December. UNICEF delivered 1,600 sets of dengue kits and 1,000 Long-Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLIN) to the Ministry of Health and Population's Epidemiology and Disease Control Division, from where they were swiftly dispatched to municipalities and health facilities most urgently in need. Additionally, 16 social mobilizers and three district coordinators were mobilized to raise awareness on dengue prevention in 32 municipalities of Madhesh Province.

## Nutrition

As the co-lead for the nutrition cluster, UNICEF collaborated on and supported the coordination of the nutrition cluster at all levels, including the initial needs assessments, and the preparation and implementation of response plans.

Between January and December 2023, a combined total of 5,090 children (girls: 2596; boys: 2494), aged 6-59 months suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), were admitted and treated in the 1,500 outpatient therapeutic centres (OTCs) and 26 nutrition rehabilitation centres (NRCs) across the country. Meanwhile, during the Jajarkot Earthquake in the last quarter, 16,374 children were screened for malnutrition, out of whom 28 were identified as suffering from SAM and referred for treatment in OTCs in response to the Jajarkot earthquake (Jajarkot, Rukum West and Salyan districts). Meanwhile, 499 moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases received counselling with support from the Ministry of Health and Population.

Vitamin A supplements were distributed to 26,442 children who were missed during the bi-annual distribution, and 5,235 children received micronutrient powder (MNP). Additionally, 3,250 pregnant women received iron-folic acid (IFA) supplements, and infant and young child feeding counselling was provided to 3,420 caregivers, including mothers, with assistance from female community health volunteers and health workers.

In Berekot, Nalgad, Bheri and Kushe Municipalities in Jajarkot District, and Aathbiskot of Rukum West, a total of 10,106 children (4,956 girls, 5,150 boys) aged between 6 to 23 months and 4,180 pregnant and lactating women (2,136 pregnant, 2,044 breastfeeding) benefited from a blanket supplementary feeding programme. In earthquake affected Jajarkot, Rukum West and Salyan Districts, screening of children, and pregnant and lactating women was monitored to ensure that the disruption of essential services did not lead to the deterioration of their nutritional status.

UNICEF further supported the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) nutrition surveys in four additional districts in Lumbini and Karnali Provinces (Kapilvastu and Rukum East in Lumbini; Mugu and Jumla in Karnali) to estimate prevalence of SAM cases and address severe cases as preparedness action for potential emergencies. These surveys generated evidence guiding districts to focus interventions on more nutritionally- vulnerable groups and areas.

In 2023, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Population to organize three Nutrition in Emergency (NiE) trainings for nutrition cluster members at the provincial and federal levels. These trainings enhanced the capacity of approximately 75 individuals, over half of them women, in nutrition emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

## **Child Protection**

In 2023, UNICEF reached 9,423 children (3,811 boys, 5,612 girls) through protection helplines and emergency intervention services, providing them with appropriate care arrangements and emergency assistance. Of these children, 896 (641 boys, 255 girls) were successfully reintegrated with their families/caregivers or referred to other essential services, such as health, security and legal support. Additionally, 274 frontline workers, including case workers, underwent training to enhance their capacity to identify and respond to unaccompanied, separated or other vulnerable children.

To address the psychosocial needs of communities during disasters such as the Jajarkot earthquake, UNICEF and partners provided psychosocial support to 36,875 individuals (15,313 male, 21,562 female) through community-based psychosocial workers and counsellors in the affected districts. These services included psychological first aid (PFA), group healing sessions, one-to-one counselling in communities and child friendly spaces (CFS). These services offered immediate support to affected population by stabilizing emotions, connecting people to basic services and helping them understand and cope with the psychological impact of the crisis. Furthermore, 482 frontline service providers in Sudurpaschim, Karnali, Lumbini and Madhesh Provinces received training on PFA to enable them to provide timely and effective assistance to vulnerable individuals.

Following the 3 November earthquake, 1,568 children (763 boys, 805 girls) benefitted from 15 CFS established in Jajarkot and Rukum West Districts. The CFS approach ensured that children impacted by the crisis could readily access PFA, engage in supportive group activities, and participate in recreational opportunities in a safe, inclusive and stimulating environment to restore a sense of normalcy and continuity.

UNICEF responded to disasters with gender-based violence (GBV) programming, providing age-appropriate prevention, risk mitigation and gender-responsive services that reached 23,504 people (9,799 males, 13,705 females). Emphasis was given to addressing GBV and encouraging survivors and affected families to seek help. Additionally, 71 stakeholders from the government and civil society organizations were sensitized and oriented on GBV prevention and response, enabling them to provide appropriate services.

As a protection cluster co-lead, UNICEF collaborated with the Lumbini, Karnali and Sudurpaschim provincial governments to develop comprehensive protection cluster earthquake contingency plans, aimed at enhancing readiness and effectiveness in emergency response while also focusing on ways to mitigate protection risks. Furthermore, in collaboration with other UN agencies such as UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP, UNICEF also developed a comprehensive protection training package to enhance the capacity of provincial and local-level stakeholders on protection concerns, including GBV, child protection, psychosocial support, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and gender equality and social inclusion. Based on this package, 100 individuals, including government and protection actors, received training to prepare and respond to emergencies and strengthen coordination with other clusters for efficient referrals and response.

## **Education**

In 2023, the two earthquakes in western Nepal impacted more than 150,000 school-aged children (51 per cent girls) in the three most highly-affected districts of Jajarkot, Rukum West and Bajhang out of the total 20 districts<sup>23</sup> impacted. In response, UNICEF as co-lead of the education cluster, facilitated effective cluster functions and coordinated partners at provincial, district and local levels, contributing to post-disaster learning continuity for school children.

UNICEF reached 32,839 children (16,091 boys, 16,748 girls) in five municipalities highly affected by the earthquakes with improved access to learning opportunities. As part of this effort, essential education supplies, such as learning materials, were provided to children. A total of 8,736 children (4,281 boys, 4,455 girls), from pre-primary and primary levels, received individual learning packs as self-learning support. Additionally, 139 early childhood development (ECD) kits and 248 school kits were distributed in Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces.

UNICEF played a crucial role in sustaining safe and protected learning environments for more than 17,000 children, over half of them girls, through the provision of learning materials and supplies and establishment of 223 temporary learning centers (TLCs) in collaboration with local governments. These TLCs, where multi-grade teaching methods were implemented, helped to bring earthquake-affected children back to school, offering immediate learning support and mitigating the risk of drop-out.

Going forward, based on community feedback and needs of children, UNICEF has now adapted its strategy to a phased approach, transitioning to the support of semi-permanent transitional learning centres. These structures can last for a minimum two years and withstand weather conditions, and the shift aims to ensure learning continuity for children until permanent repair and reconstruction of school buildings take place. As this reconstruction is expected to take time, UNICEF and cluster partners continue to advocate with the Government and development partners for medium-term learning continuity and long-term recovery and rebuilding as part of the Joint Earthquake Recovery Action Plan initiated by UN agencies in consultation with the Government.

To assess post-disaster needs for recovery and reconstruction, UNICEF supported the Government in conducting a collaborative education sector post-disaster need assessments in Jajarkot and Rukum West. The forthcoming assessment report aims to help the Government identify immediate needs and plan for the recovery and reconstruction of damaged educational infrastructure, among others, to ensure children's education is not interrupted during the early recovery phase and that schools are more resilient to future shocks.

In terms of disaster preparedness, UNICEF continued to collaborate with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to institutionalize and operationalize the education cluster mechanism at the federal, provincial and local levels throughout the year. Additionally, the capacity of 705 government officials (31 per cent females) from provincial and local governments of Madhesh, Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces was enhanced on emergency preparedness and response through training.

## **Water, Sanitation And Hygiene**

Collaborating with the Government and partners, UNICEF was able to reach 52,150 people (25,885 females), including 18,774 children (9,574 girls), in 22 municipalities of 10 affected districts<sup>24</sup> with life-saving WASH interventions focused on providing access to safe drinking water and sanitation. This included distribution of water purification tablets and chlorine solution to 39,347 people; buckets and mugs to 11,057 people; hygiene kits to 35,586 people; and repair of water pipeline networks benefitting 1,746 people. Out of the total, 22,267 people (11,369 females), including 7,748 children, also gained access to appropriate sanitation services through establishment of temporary latrines, while 6,400 people were reached with hygiene promotion sessions.

Across 2023, UNICEF maintained its role as the WASH cluster co-lead and responder, actively engaging in disaster response efforts, including the annual monsoon and the earthquakes in western Nepal. As cluster co-lead, UNICEF – alongside the Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS) – played a key role in institutionalizing and strengthening cluster coordination at all levels. This involved providing technical support to local and provincial governments in establishing a robust cluster coordination mechanism, including the activation of clusters and effective inter-cluster coordination/collaboration for timely emergency response. This coordination facilitated regular updates on the humanitarian response for the benefit of cluster members, enhancing efficiency, particularly during the Jajarkot earthquake.

## **Social Protection**

In 2023, UNICEF pioneered emergency cash delivery methods, generating invaluable evidence for global implementation. Nationally, UNICEF emphasized a strategic, evidence-based advocacy to encourage the Government of Nepal to more robustly endorse the use of emergency cash assistance.

The UNICEF-backed cash transfer programme, known as RAHAT (simplifying access to cash relief), kicked off in late 2022 within the Jaleswor Municipality in Mahottari District, Madhesh Province. Concluding in April 2023, the initiative positively benefitted 1,900 vulnerable households in 2023 (approx. 9,500 people) affected by the pandemic as well as flood-prone households. Each family received a versatile cash grant of NPR 10,000 (approx. US\$75). Leveraging digital cash and voucher systems with mobile-based blockchain technology, the project facilitated fund transfers to recipients who had not been previously connected to financial institutions. June 2023 saw the execution of a programme evaluation in collaboration with UNICEF's Innovation Division. This assessment unveiled crucial insights regarding blockchain technology's applications in fragile humanitarian settings.

In response to the Jajarkot earthquake, UNICEF supported a market assessment that informed government and humanitarian agencies about emergency cash assistance. The market assessment findings revealed that multipurpose cash is feasible and effective to meet the needs of food and non-food items. As a result, WFP, as well other humanitarian agencies (Mercy Corps, DCA) also used cash transfers to support the affected population.

## **Cross-Sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE And AAP)**

Over the year, UNICEF trained 75 officials representing 38 local governments on the localization of disaster information management systems (BIPAD portal<sup>25</sup>), developed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA). This initiative aimed to improve information systems for timely humanitarian response. Additionally, the Nepal Country Office, in collaboration with the Regional Office for South Asia, conducted a series of capacity-building initiatives. In 2023, 190 people, including 79 UNICEF staff and 111 staff from the Government and partner civil society organizations, were trained on emergency preparedness and response, disaster risk reduction, UNICEF's core commitments for children, and AAP.

Under Social Behaviour Change (SBC) efforts, in response to the measles outbreak in Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City in Banke District, UNICEF implemented solutions co-created in collaboration with hard-to-reach communities. This initiative was part of the RCCE interventions implemented by UNICEF through the SBC+ Change Strategy, reaching approximately 1.7 million people in nine additional affected districts from April to June 2023 through extended outbreak response immunization campaign. PSAs in four languages were aired from 12 local FM stations and one-page information materials on measles were developed and disseminated during orientations and door-to-door visits.

Following the Jajarkot earthquake, telephone surveys were conducted to gather feedback on information needs and accessibility, preferred communication channels, and services for affected communities, including persons with disabilities. The surveys reached 750 individuals in earthquake-affected communities of Jajarkot and West Rukum Districts, leveraging UNICEF's Child and Family Tracker survey and end-user monitoring to complement assessment and feedback mechanisms on ongoing response. The findings were shared with sectors, governments at all levels, and relevant partners to inform and reorient the response, providing timely, relevant and accessible information. Help desks were established in the earthquake affected Aathbiskot Municipality of Rukum West and Nalgad Municipality of Jajarkot District, serving as a crucial component of the AAP approach, to ensure that humanitarian actors are responsive and accountable to the people they aim to assist. As a result, 113 complaints and feedback were collected, of which 30 were addressed in coordination with the respective municipalities, and the remaining are still being acted on through the feedback mechanism.

UNICEF mobilized 55 social mobilizers/volunteers in six earthquake-affected municipalities in Jajarkot and Rukum West to support the Government's MR and TCV vaccination campaign in December. The team helped with registration of around 10,000 people for vaccination through door-to-door visits and megaphone announcements, aimed at informing and motivating people to join the campaign. Over 49,462 people were reached in affected communities with appropriate life-saving messages on use of water purification solution/tablets, use of toilets, proper handwashing behaviours, maternal health and child protection in the affected communities.

UNICEF further launched the first one-stop earthquake response website to facilitate the update and sharing of life-saving sectoral communication packages and accountability tools with partners, while tracking the demand for resources such as documents, tools and multimedia.

Throughout 2023, as a part of the UN Crisis Management Team, Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and Inter-Cluster Coordination, UNICEF continued to support the Government of Nepal at federal, provincial and local levels in preparedness and response to public health emergencies, including earthquakes and monsoons. UNICEF supported the development of strategies, policies and plans, as well as inter-

cluster coordination in Lumbini Province as provincial focal point agency on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. UNICEF was also part of the OCHA Anticipatory Action Pilot project (floods focus) in Nepal, in flood-prone municipalities in the eastern river basin (Koshi), with provision of multi-purpose cash, protection (monitoring and psychosocial counselling) and WASH services, while ensuring and accountability to affected populations (AAP).

Throughout 2023, UNICEF Nepal's social media channels reached over 10.4 million people with diverse organic and paid content, addressing topics such as the prevention and treatment of dengue and measles in response to rise in cases around the country; learning recovery; and provision of cash support to vulnerable families impacted by crises through the Cash Plus programme and the RAHAT digital cash and voucher assistance system. In the wake of the earthquake in western Nepal, UNICEF developed focused multimedia packages with photos, videos and stories, documenting the situation of children and families, and UNICEF's response efforts. This also included the preparation of press releases and statements, coupled with active engagement with media outlets to raise awareness and garner support.

With government agencies as the cluster leads, UNICEF co-leads the four humanitarian clusters: WASH, education (with Save the Children), protection (with UNFPA) and nutrition, as well as the cash coordination group and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) working group, among others. In full coordination with governments at all three levels, UNICEF supported and responded to immediate humanitarian needs with life-saving and urgent assistance and advice while collecting feedback from the communities, including during the earthquakes in western Nepal.

## Human Interest Stories And External Media

- Safe Havens - Child Friendly Spaces in earthquake affected western Nepal  
<https://www.unicef.org/nepal/stories/safe-havens>
- Birthing Hope - Medical tents established in earthquake affected western Nepal  
<https://www.unicef.org/nepal/stories/birthing-hope>
- Lost Homes and Loved Ones - Supporting children and families impacted by the earthquake in Nepal  
<https://www.unicef.org/nepal/stories/lost-homes-and-loved-ones>
- Children account for half of dead and injured in Nepal earthquake - UNICEF  
<https://reliefweb.int/report/nepal/children-account-half-dead-and-injured-nepal-earthquake-unicef>
- BBC - Nepal earthquake: More than 150 killed in remote western Nepal  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-67317442>

## COUNTRY - BHUTAN

### SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Disaster risks in Bhutan include earthquakes, floods, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), landslides and forest fires. Bhutan is at risk for a mega-earthquake; scientists have predicted that a major earthquake of magnitude 8 or higher is overdue and may occur in the coming decades. Bhutan faces high risk to external and sectoral shocks, principally due to the country's rugged terrain, remoteness, and fragile mountain ecosystems. In 2023, Bhutan Country Office did not face any major humanitarian situation except in July 2023, where flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains washed away a section of a hydroelectric plant in Eastern Bhutan resulting in 7 deaths and 16 others missing. However, this emergency was within the government's capacity to respond, and UNICEF was not requested to support.

### SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

As no emergency response was required in 2023, the country office focused on emergency preparedness investments, in line with the intensified earthquake risks and predictions of a mega earthquake in the coming years. Preparedness efforts intensified after an internal capacity development and simulation training was conducted by Regional Office Emergency team. All staff in the country office were trained on emergency preparedness and response for 3 days, which also included a session on proper updating and utilization of UNICEF's internal Emergency Preparedness Platform for contingency planning for anticipated emergencies. To prepare for and respond to natural disasters from a child-centred and sensitive approach, Bhutan Country Office initiated partnership discussions with the Department of Local Governance and Disaster Management, and the De-suung Office, which manages the Desuup volunteer program in Bhutan. The latter is mandated by His Majesty the King to actively volunteer during disaster operations.

The country office will continue to invest in its preparedness plan, which includes among other components, surge requirements during emergencies, stock taking and planning for pre-positioning minimal supplies for immediate response, putting in place supply and communication strategies including logistics, market analysis, and identifying potential cluster partners. A guidance note on how UNICEF Bhutan will respond to emergencies in the first 72 hours from onset of emergencies is also under development, in coordination with plans developed through interagency mechanisms in coordination with the RC's office.



UNICEF participated in the Inter-agency capacity training organized by the RC's office and contributed to Inter Agency Emergency Preparedness planning discussions. UNICEF serves as an active member of the UN Bhutan Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group formed to strengthen inter-agency coordination for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and response to Bhutan's vulnerability to natural disasters and pandemics. UNICEF also serves as an active member of the Transboundary Emergency Preparedness Working Group formed in 2023 to consolidate, coordinate, and build humanitarian preparedness in Bhutan with strong linkages to other Himalayan countries who have many of the same risks and challenges, such as India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

## COUNTRY - MALDIVES

### SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Maldives is grappling with the triple planetary crisis, comprising climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, with far-reaching implications for country's unique ecosystems, marine biodiversity, and the health and well-being of children and general population. Disaster risks in the Maldives include public health emergencies, floods and storm surge, tsunamis, civil unrest and terrorism. The Maldives is one of the lowest elevation countries in the world and is highly vulnerable to the threats of climate change and sea level rise. About 64% of Maldivian islands are facing shoreline erosion, increases in mean annual temperature, and intensity and frequency of heat waves, which are already putting more people at risk of heat-related medical conditions.

No major rapid-onset natural disasters requiring UNICEF response occurred in the Maldives in 2023; however, preparedness remains key to ensure that the country team can respond to future emergencies that may be exacerbated in the coming years due to the continued impacts of climate change.

### SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

Following from the work started in 2022 to institutionalise Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) into national systems, UNICEF Maldives supported the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to incorporate RCCE, Community Engagement for Social Behaviour Change (SBC) as a system to be used during all emergencies, and principles of AAP into the working guidelines and training modules of the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs). The additions have been made by the NDMA in mid-2023 and were included in the Government's National Gazette. The revision of the CERT working guidelines and training modules will ensure that all established and future teams will be trained on the new systems introduced and follow them moving forward. The Government of Maldives and Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) both follow the same guidelines and training regime to establish community response teams, and the MRC sets up Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) in locations where the institution has its island-level teams set up. This ensures more island communities will have emergency preparedness and response capabilities, led by dedicated teams comprising of young people.

Based on the incorporation of RCCE, principles of SBC and AAP into the training regime of CERTs, two training workshops were conducted for CERTs of Kendhoo (Baa Atoll) and Komandoo (Shaviyani Atoll) islands in in Q1 2023. The trainings allowed the introduction of the new systems for the CERTs in the two islands and supports the systems to be used during all phases of any future emergency. The three systems are meant to strengthen community-level actions required to compliment central-level interventions; for example, when the Health Protection Agency (HPA) issues guidance on life-saving behaviours during a health emergency, the CERTs will work with their communities to localise messages and engage people accordingly.

In January 2024, during the heavy rains which flooded and caused damage across the country including the capital city of Malé, CERTs were reported by NDMA to have been active in the island of Komandoo, where they attended to flood response and support required by the affected population. NDMA noted the effectiveness of the Komadool CERT in attending to the public as they benefitted from the recent learnings. This proves that consistent engagement with volunteer-based teams such as CERTs through trainings on readiness enable them to be active, vigilant and provide them with insights which might have not previously been prioritized, such as working with people with disabilities.

To ensure the country office team is ready to support emergency preparedness at the national level, the team ensures that the Risk Analysis and Preparedness Plan of UNICEF's internal Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP) are up to date, based on inputs from key partners such as the NDMA, with a forward-facing outlook of potential emergencies that could occur in 2024. The EPP is a crucial planning tool for the CO as it provides an overview of the risks anticipated, impacts on children and families, how to work together with partners on preparedness, and UNICEF's response actions.

## HAC APPEALS AND SITREPS

- South Asia Region Appeals  
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/rosa>
- South Asia Region Situation Reports  
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/rosa/situation-reports>
- All Humanitarian Action for Children Appeals  
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals>
- All Situation Reports  
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/situation-reports>

**NEXT SITREP: 30 JUNE 2024**

# ANNEX A - PROGRAMME RESULTS

## Consolidated Programme Results

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2023 targets	Total results	Progress*
<b>Health</b>					
Children vaccinated against measles	Total	-	64,000	1.9 million	▲ 2916%
Children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities	Total	-	433,800	415,641	▲ 96%
Children receiving the minimum set of vaccines	Total	-	15,000	-	0%
<b>Nutrition</b>					
Children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder	Total	-	210,000	5,235	▲ 2%
Children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation	Total	-	24,000	-	0%
Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	Total	-	153,000	3,420	▲ 2%
Children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	Total	-	6,000	5,090	▲ 85%
<b>Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA</b>					
Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	Total	-	37,000	38,107	▲ 103%
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Total	-	8,400	34,177	▲ 407%
People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	Total	-	2,500	1,960	▲ 78%
Unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified	Total	-	1,881	896	▲ 48%
Children who have received individual case management	Total	-	1,881	9,423	▲ 501%
<b>Education</b>					
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Total	-	53,900	32,839	▲ 61%
Children receiving individual learning materials	Total	-	38,750	8,736	▲ 23%
Children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes	Total	-	6,000	-	0%
<b>Water, sanitation and hygiene</b>					
People accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	-	166,596	52,150	▲ 31%
Women and girls accessing menstrual hygiene management services	Total	-	2,000	-	0%
Children using safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	Total	-	20,000	-	0%

People accessing appropriate sanitation services	Total	-	42,639	22,267	▲ 52%
People reached with critical WASH supplies	Total	-	142,128	52,150	▲ 37%
<b>Social protection</b>					
Households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in kind) measures from governments with UNICEF-technical assistance support	Total	-	15,000	1,900	▲ 13%
<b>Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)</b>					
People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	Total	-	4.1 million	10.5 million	▲ 256%
# of preparedness/anticipatory actions for humanitarian action initiated and/or in place (# of people/children oriented on safety, rescue etc).	Total	-	37,500	-	0%
People with access to established accountability mechanisms	Total	-	266,500	113	0%

## Bhutan

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2023 targets	Total results	Progress*
<b>Health</b>					
Children vaccinated against measles	Total	-	10,000	-	0%
Children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities	Total	-	9,000	-	0%
Children receiving the minimum set of vaccines	Total	-	10,000	-	0%
<b>Nutrition</b>					
Children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder	Total	-	10,000	-	0%
Children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation	Total	-	20,000	-	0%
<b>Child protection, GBViE and PSEA</b>					
Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	Total	-	10,000	1,232	▲ 12%
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Total	-	700	10,673	▲ 1525%
People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	Total	-	700	-	0%
<b>Education</b>					
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Total	-	8,000	-	0%
Children receiving individual learning materials	Total	-	20,000	-	0%
Children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes	Total	-	4,000	-	0%
<b>Water, sanitation and hygiene</b>					

People accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	-	60,000	-	0%
Women and girls accessing menstrual hygiene management services	Total	-	2,000	-	0%
Children using safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	Total	-	20,000	-	0%
<b>Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)</b>					
People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	Total	-	130,000	100,000	▲ 77%

## Maldives

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2023 targets	Total results	Progress*
<b>Health</b>					
Children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities	Total	-	6,000	-	0%
Children receiving the minimum set of vaccines	Total	-	5,000	-	0%
<b>Nutrition</b>					
Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	Total	-	3,000	-	0%
Children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation	Total	-	4,000	-	0%
<b>Child protection, GBViE and PSEA</b>					
Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	Total	-	3,000	-	0%
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Total	-	500	-	0%
<b>Education</b>					
Children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes	Total	-	2,000	-	0%
<b>Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)</b>					
People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	Total	-	50,000	-	0%
# of preparedness/anticipatory actions for humanitarian action initiated and/or in place (# of people/children oriented on safety, rescue etc).	Total	-	37,500	-	0%

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2023 targets	Total results	Progress*
<b>Health</b>					
Children vaccinated against measles	Total	-	54,000	1.9 million	<sup>26</sup> ▲ 3456%
Children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities	Total <sup>27</sup>	-	418,800	415,641	▲ 99%
<b>Nutrition</b>					
Children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder	Total	-	200,000	5,235	▲ 3%
Children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	Total	-	6,000	5,090 <sup>28</sup>	▲ 85%
Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	Total	-	150,000	3,420	▲ 2%
<b>Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA</b>					
Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	Total	-	24,000	36,875 <sup>29</sup>	▲ 154%
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Total	-	7,200	23,504 <sup>30</sup>	▲ 326%
People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	Total	-	1,800	1,960 <sup>31</sup>	▲ 109%
Unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified	Total	-	1,881	896 <sup>32</sup>	<sup>33</sup> ▲ 48%
Children who have received individual case management	Total	-	1,881	9,423 <sup>34</sup>	<sup>35</sup> ▲ 501%
<b>Education</b>					
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Total	-	45,900	32,839 <sup>36</sup>	▲ 72%
Children receiving individual learning materials	Total	-	18,750	8,736 <sup>37</sup>	▲ 47%
<b>Water, sanitation and hygiene</b>					
People accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	-	106,596	52,150 <sup>38</sup>	▲ 49%
People accessing appropriate sanitation services	Total	-	42,639	22,267 <sup>39</sup>	▲ 52%
People reached with critical WASH supplies	Total	-	142,128	52,150 <sup>40</sup>	▲ 37%
<b>Social protection</b>					
Households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in kind) measures from governments with UNICEF-technical assistance support	Total	-	15,000	1,900	▲ 13%
<b>Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)</b>					

People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	Total	-	3.9 million	10.4 million <sup>41</sup>	▲ 265%
People with access to established accountability mechanisms 42	Total	-	266,500	113 <sup>43</sup>	0%

*\*Progress in the reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2023*

## ANNEX B — FUNDING STATUS

### Consolidated funding by sector

Sector	Requirements	Funding available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2023	Other resources used in 2023	Resources available from 2022 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	1,450,000	159,252	94,158	3,626	1,192,964	82%
Nutrition	795,000	-	6,510	194,000	594,490	75%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	1,002,150	-	-	115,409	886,741	88%
Education	1,230,000	-	22,173	561,648	646,179	53%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	1,370,000	43,902	143,727	-	1,182,371	86%
Social protection	2,500,000	43,198	-	-	2,456,802	98%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	1,340,000	512,332	101,083	107,552	619,033	46%
Emergency response	1,087,206	461,946	-	187,466	437,794	40%
Emergency preparedness	849,330	471,395	-	27,265	350,670	41%
Technical support	10,094,020	1,952,772	-	213,701	7,927,547	79%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,717,706</b>	<b>3,644,797</b>	<b>367,651</b>	<b>1,410,667</b>	<b>16,294,591</b>	<b>75%</b>

\*repurposed other resources with agreement from donors

### Bhutan

Sector	Requirements	Funding available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2023	Resources available from 2022 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	160,000	-	-	160,000	100%
Nutrition	95,000	-	194,000	-	0%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	100,000	-	-	100,000	100%
Education	80,000	-	-	80,000	100%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	120,000	-	-	120,000	100%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	100,000	-	-	100,000	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>655,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>194,000</b>	<b>461,000</b>	<b>70%</b>



## Maldives

Sector	Requirements	Funding available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2023	Resources available from 2022 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	40,000	-	-	40,000	100%
Nutrition	50,000	-	-	50,000	100%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	100,000	-	-	100,000	100%
Education	50,000	-	-	50,000	100%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	80,000	-	-	80,000	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Nepal

Sector	Requirements	Funding available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2023	Other resources used in 2023	Resources available from 2022 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	1,250,000	159,252	94,158	3,627	992,963	79%
Nutrition	650,000	-	6,510	-	643,490	99%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	802,150	-	-	115,409	686,741	86%
Education	1,100,000	-	22,173	561,649	516,178	47%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	1,250,000	43,902	143,727	-	1,062,371	85%
Social protection	2,500,000	43,198	-	-	2,456,802	98%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	1,160,000	512,332	101,083	107,553	439,032	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,712,150</b>	<b>758,684</b>	<b>367,651</b>	<b>788,238</b>	<b>6,797,577</b>	<b>78%</b>

\*repurposed other resources with agreement from donors

## Regional table

		Funding available		Funding gap	
Sector	Requirements	Humanitarian resources received in 2023	Resources available from 2022 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	-	-	-	-	-
Nutrition	-	-	-	-	-
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	-	-	-	-	-
Education	-	-	-	-	-
Water, sanitation and hygiene	-	-	-	-	-
Social protection	-	-	-	-	-
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency response	1,087,206	461,946	187,466	437,794	40%
Emergency preparedness	849,330	471,395	27,265	350,670	41%
Technical support	10,094,020	1,952,772	213,701	7,927,547	79%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,030,556</b>	<b>2,886,113</b>	<b>428,432</b>	<b>8,716,011</b>	<b>72%</b>

---

### Who to contact for further information:

**Sanjay Wijesekera**  
Regional Director, South Asia  
T +977 980 5556200 ext. 1201  
swijesekera@unicef.org

**Carmen Van Heese**  
Regional Advisor Emergency, South Asia  
T +977 980 1030064  
cvanheese@unicef.org

**Rene Ehounou Ekpini**  
Regional Advisor Health  
T +977 980 109 6877  
rekpini@unicef.org

## ENDNOTES

1. This includes 80,000 children in Bhutan, 45,000 children in Maldives, and 250,800 children in Nepal. Children in the other 5 countries in South Asia are included in the country specific HAC appeals
2. This includes 124,000 people in Bhutan, 213,000 people in Maldives, and 600,000 people in Nepal. People in the other 5 countries in South Asia are included in the country specific HAC appeals
3. <https://drmhc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index> August 2023
4. <https://drmhc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Climate-Change>
5. <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/cyclone-mocha-flash-appeal-bangladesh-may-december-2023>
6. Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Management Information System (MIS). Health Emergency Operation Center and Control Room. Dengue Press Release – 31 December 2023.
7. UNHCR-IOM Pakistan Flash Update #12: Arrest and Detention/Flow Monitoring (15 Sept – 31 Dec 2023). <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/unhcr-iom-pakistan-flash-update-12-arrest-and-detentionflow-monitoring-15-september-31-december-2023>
8. MoHP/EDCD (Dengue Situation update of 15 Dec 2023) <https://edcd.gov.np/news/20231215-dengue-situation-update>
9. Bajhang/Bajura District (6.3 magnitude) on 3 Oct. & Jajarkot District (6.4 Magnitude) on 3 Nov. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-67317442>
10. Around 7 districts impacted by 03 Oct Earthquake and over 13 districts affected by 03 November earthquake.
11. UNRCO Nepal-Western Nepal Earthquake 2023 Situation Report No. #3 (16 Nov 2023)
12. National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) Update (23 November 2023)
13. GoN/DHM [https://www.dhm.gov.np/uploads/dhm/climateService/monsoon\\_onset\\_and\\_withdrawal\\_dates\\_english.pdf](https://www.dhm.gov.np/uploads/dhm/climateService/monsoon_onset_and_withdrawal_dates_english.pdf)
14. <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/floods-and-landslides-wreck-havoc-in-koshi-province-as-monsoon-begins/>
15. MoHA/NDRRMA bulletin #1284 (29 Dec 2023) [https://bipad.gov.np/np/communication\\_centers/detail/1630](https://bipad.gov.np/np/communication_centers/detail/1630) (taking 3 main monsoon-related incidents (floods, landslides, and heavy rain) data only.
16. NDRRMA. <https://bipad.gov.np/np/587> . Plan endorsed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Executive Committee.
17. <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/around-1-25-million-people-in-nepal-likely-to-be-affected-by-disaster-this-year-ndrrma/>
18. <https://kathmandupost.com/money/2023/05/04/forecasts-of-less-rain-this-year-alarms-farm-sector>
19. MoHP/EDCD (Dengue Situation update of 15 Dec 2023) <https://edcd.gov.np/news/20231215-dengue-situation-update>
20. Joint Recovery Action Plan for Western Nepal Earthquake 2023' UNRCO, UNOCHA. (expected to be endorsed by end January 2024)
21. Banke, Bajura, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Surkhet, Dang, Bardiya, Mahottari, Sunsari and Morang districts.
22. MoHP/EDCD (Dengue Situation update of 15 Dec 2023) <https://edcd.gov.np/news/20231215-dengue-situation-update>
23. Around 7 districts impacted by 03 Oct Earthquake and over 13 districts affected by 03 November earthquake including 3 highly affected (Jajarkot, Rukum, Bajhang)
24. Taplejung, Panchthar, Sankhuwasabha, Udayapur, Rautahat, Bardiya, Bajhang, Bajura, Jajarkot, Rukum west and Salyan.
25. NDRRMA <https://bipadportal.gov.np/realtime/>
26. The results were overachieved as Nepal faced two emergencies - a major measles outbreak in early January and the earthquake response in November.
27. Women: 413,894, Girls: 891, Boys 856
28. Girls:2,596 (51%); Boys:2,494 (49%)
29. Women: 9,603; Men: 5,071; Girls: 11,959; Boys: 10,242
30. Women: 9,342; Men: 6,691; Girls: 4,363; Boys: 3,108
31. Women: 1,041; Men: 400; Girls: 282; Boys: 237
32. Boys: 641; Girls: 255
33. Due to the nature of the disasters many children were not unaccompanied or separated from their parents and caregivers.
34. Boys: 3,811; Girls:5,612
35. The target was exceeded due to the Jajarkot/Rukum West earthquake. Vulnerability assessment of children indicated that many children were in need of case management services.
36. Boys: 16,091; Girls:16,748
37. Boys: 4,281; Girls: 4,455
38. Women: 25,885; Men:26,265
39. Women: 11,369; Men: 10,898
40. Women: 25,885; Men: 26,265
41. Women: 4,032,215; Men: 6,373,502
42. The results capture the two helpdesks contribution to the UNICEF's AAP response to the Jajarkot earthquake (Nov. 2023) only. The results capture the two helpdesks contribution to the UNICEF's AAP response to the Jajarkot earthquake (Nov. 2023) only.
43. Females: 29; Males:84