



Latin America and the Caribbean

Humanitarian Situation Report 2023



Reporting Period: 1 January to 31 December 2023

Highlights

- Latin America and the Caribbean continue to grapple with significant challenges as the world's second most disaster-prone region. The aftermath of disasters in 2023 affected 10.8 million people, including 3.6 million children, highlighting the region's vulnerability. Hurricane Otis in Mexico and the El Niño phenomenon caused substantial disruptions in the lives of thousands of children, exacerbating existing issues such as poverty, inequality, and violence.
- The surge in migration in 2023 strained resources and services, particularly for vulnerable populations. Multidimensional poverty, political instability, and limited humanitarian access further hindered crisis response efforts. The ongoing El Niño phenomenon has exacerbated food insecurity and malnutrition across some of the most vulnerable areas in the region.
- In response to these challenges, UNICEF intensified efforts to enhance emergency preparedness and response capacities at both regional and country levels, leveraging its network of local partners. UNICEF demonstrated agility in adapting and responding to sudden emergencies, whether triggered by natural events or emerging from social unrest, in collaboration with authorities, local partners, and communities.

Situation in Numbers

10.8 million
 People affected by disasters related to natural hazards*

3.6 million
 Children affected by disasters related to natural hazards*

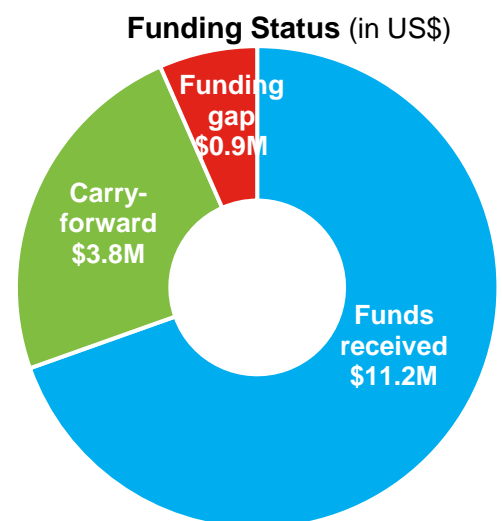
Estimated based on EM-DAT data.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

As of December 2023, UNICEF had US\$11.7 million available against the US\$15.1 million appeal (77 per cent), including: US\$3.8 million carried over from 2022 and US\$7.9 million received in 2023. Critical funding received to support localized emergencies in 2023 included contributions from the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (ECHO), allocations from OCHA's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF); and private contributions raised through UNICEF in Mexico, Peru and through National Committees in Spain, Sweden, and the United States. In addition, UNICEF's Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds, have been critical to enable the emergency preparedness agenda across the region.

UNICEF acknowledges the sustained support from donors to the humanitarian response for children and families across the LAC region. In 2024, UNICEF will continue advocating for flexible and sustained funding, critical to be able to adapt its response strategy to the ever more complex and fluid humanitarian context.

UNICEF Appeal 2023 US\$ 15.1 million



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

With 190 million people impacted by disasters from 2000 to 2022, Latin America and the Caribbean stand as the world's second most disaster-prone region. Three out of every ten individuals in the region have directly felt the effects of disasters within their communities.ⁱ Throughout January to December 2023, a staggering 10.8 million people, including 3.6 million children, grappled with the aftermath of disasters across 19 countries in the region.ⁱⁱ Particularly concerning were the repercussions of Hurricane Otis in Mexico, affecting nearly 1 million peopleⁱⁱⁱ and causing unprecedented economic losses. Additionally, the cumulative damages and losses from the El Niño phenomenon in various parts of Central and South America have been profound.

Beyond natural hazards and climate change impacts, a myriad of risks converge, requiring bolstered preparedness, response, and resilience capacities in country. The year 2023 witnessed a substantial surge in migration and displacement through South and Central America, overwhelming countries' capacities as hundreds of thousands of vulnerable families and children traversed borders or moved within their nations due to poverty, inequality, violence (including gender-based violence - GBV), climate-related shocks, and limited access to essential services like nutrition, health, water, sanitation, protection, and education.

An estimated 32 million people grapple with multidimensional poverty in the region,^{iv} rendering them highly susceptible to new shocks, even minor ones. Women and children increasingly face risks in countries dealing with socioeconomic and political instability, constrained humanitarian access (with 15 countries reporting access challenges),^v and state fragility,^{vi} hindering effective crisis response by governments and partners.

In 2024, immediate impacts are anticipated due to the El Niño phenomenon, including drought in Central America and parts of South America, alongside heavy rains in the Southern region disrupting agricultural activities and food production. This scenario heightens food insecurity and malnutrition levels, particularly affecting children in areas already facing food and water scarcity. The region continues to witness more frequent storms, allowing affected communities less time to recover between events. Moreover, small island and developing states in the Caribbean brace for tropical cyclones in 2024, posing challenges to food security, income access, basic services, and living conditions for millions of children.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

The following section describes key results achieved by UNICEF with preparedness and response efforts, implemented with emergency funding, in countries – or related to situations - not covered by other UNICEF humanitarian appeals.

Belize

Belize country office (CO) received preparedness funding which was critical in its emergency preparedness efforts in support to national and local initiatives. In 2023, UNICEF formalized its partnership with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) through the signing of an agreement with the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. Discussions with NEMO have started to support the digitalization of relevant data required to improve the government's ability to comprehensively record, manage and report on both historical and current data on disaster losses and damages, as well as the timely dissemination of information and early warning on multi-hazards to the public. UNICEF and NEMO engaged in a dialogue with Delille Academy Highschool students to develop a 'Belize Disaster Risk Management' application, referred to as the NEMO app. Also, this project will include an emergency responder capacity development training to strengthen preparedness planning and response in Belize, at the national and subnational level during the first half of 2024.

Furthermore, 35 girls and 40 boys with 116 adults from Cayo District benefitted from the remodelling of the bathroom infrastructure at the More Tomorrow Primary School, which is the only school in this migrants' community and is one of the major water access points for the community. This school has been identified by the government as the only safe structure to be used in the event of a hurricane within the community. The remodelling of the primary school will further elevate the safety standards of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure while ensuring it is climate resilient to meet the minimum requirements of NEMO. A backup water catchment system is being established in this village.

As an integral part of the humanitarian-development nexus approach, UNICEF has convened nationwide dialogues on social protection, inclusive of shock-responsive social protection to be activated in times of emergencies, a crucial step in laying the groundwork for the development of Belize's National Social Protection Strategy. These dialogues brought together diverse stakeholders, including government entities, civil society representatives, international organizations, employers, and unions, resulted in a first-ever joint discussion of potential social protection priorities for Belize among all relevant stakeholders to ensure that everyone is protected throughout their lifecycle, especially during emergencies.

Under the Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Fund Programme on 'Resilient Belize' aimed at strengthening the social protection system, efforts are being made to enhance the implementation of the humanitarian cash transfer programme. In this regard, while WFP has conducted a financial service landscape analysis to augment the options for cash delivery, UNICEF has established an internal cash task force with members from operations and programmes

sections. The internal task force will act as the foundation for the establishment of a UN Cash Working Group as a component of the wider shock response social protection system in Belize.

Colombia

UNICEF has taken proactive steps to integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency preparedness into its operations. The overarching aim is to embed this approach across all development and humanitarian activities, aligning closely with UNICEF's global policies and procedures, while prioritizing a child-centered perspective on risk reduction. To achieve this, UNICEF has focused on developing contingency plans and assessing current in-house information to identify areas for strengthening implementation and coordination mechanisms. Moreover, efforts are ongoing to establish new partnerships aimed at bolstering preparedness and DRR measures.

Drawing from insights gained through a simulation exercise led by UNICEF's Regional Office, the CO has devised a strategy to enhance its capacity, along with local government bodies and national partners, to respond promptly and effectively to the needs of children and vulnerable populations in La Guajira department. This strategy places particular emphasis on mitigating the humanitarian consequences of El Niño, which includes droughts and floods situations in different areas of the countries. To achieve this overarching objective, the CO is working towards three key outcomes:

- Gathering primary and secondary information on the current impact of the El Niño phenomenon at the community and school levels in La Guajira, while updating available data tools.^{vii}
- Activating the contingency plan devised by UNICEF and its partners, which complements the broader Humanitarian Country Team Plan.^{viii}
- Producing Flash Updates in anticipation of the El Niño phenomenon, ensuring swift and informed responses to emerging challenges.

Cuba

In 2023, UNICEF continued its vital support for communities impacted by sudden emergencies that occurred in 2022, such as the fire in Matanzas and Hurricane Ian in Pinar del Río.

Thanks to UNICEF-supported initiatives, 211,920 people affected by Hurricane Ian saw significant improvements in their basic hygiene practices and safe water storage conditions. Furthermore, 44 health centres, including 39 community health clinics, now boast improved conditions for sustainable water storage across the seven most affected municipalities.

In addition, 116,487 individuals regained access to safe water services thanks to the rehabilitation of three water pumping stations in Matanzas and Pinar del Río.

In Education, UNICEF played a crucial role in reintegrating 54,144 children and adolescents into safe learning environments in Pinar del Río. This was achieved through initiatives like providing waterproofing for school roofs and supplying educational and recreational materials, including early childhood development kits. Additionally, UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of 67 schools affected by the emergencies.

In Health, a total of 22,000 individuals, predominantly women, children, and adolescents, benefitted from the delivery of 20 health emergency kits containing medicines and consumables. These kits were crucial in supporting the continuity of maternal and childcare services in three hospitals impacted by Hurricane Ian.

As part of UNICEF's DRR efforts, 42,428 individuals received tailored messages on DRR and strategies to adapt to the effects of climate change, either through community initiatives or by actively participating in school-generated actions. UNICEF has made significant investments in bolstering the resilience of the education system to respond effectively to natural-origin disasters. This includes enhancing the resilience of learning environments and communities vulnerable to various risks, with a particular focus on the pivotal role of children and adolescents. Through UNICEF-supported initiatives, a total of 2,156 teachers in Santiago de Cuba and Granma provinces have enhanced their expertise and skills in addressing the protection needs of girls and boys. This was achieved through comprehensive capacity-building sessions and training of trainers. Additionally, at least 137 local stakeholders increased their readiness to respond to high-impact emergencies such as hurricanes and major earthquakes in vulnerable communities across Santiago de Cuba and Granma provinces.

Furthermore, UNICEF has strategically prepositioned essential supplies to ensure the continuity of the school year in the event of a significant emergency. This includes tents, sanitation and water storage facilities, as well as school and recreation kits prepositioned throughout the country. These resources are ready to immediately support approximately 5,000 children who may face psychological distress or homelessness in the aftermath of a disaster.

Dominican Republic

As the lead agency in a joint UNICEF-WFP programme focusing on disaster preparedness, UNICEF has directed its efforts towards strengthening emergency education initiatives, specifically targeting institutional and community resilience to enhance child and youth protection. Noteworthy achievements in 2023 include the establishment of a risk

management and climate change diploma programme with 93 participants, the training of 200 teachers and school management teams across 40 educational centres, the appointment of 400 children and youth as Ambassadors of Risk Management and Climate Change, and the provision of technical assistance to the Ministry of Education (MoE) in updating its Risk and Environmental Strategic Plan. In 2024, UNICEF will continue to offer technical support to the MoE for updating emergency and risk management plans, promoting evidence-based decision-making.

Responding to the cholera outbreak in the southwest of the country, UNICEF provided essential technical assistance to the WASH sectoral coordination group. This support led to the dissemination of prevention information to vulnerable families, training for 32 laboratory staff in bacteriological analysis, and strengthening of local response operations across 13 territories. Additionally, UNICEF played a pivotal role in conducting a bottleneck analysis of WASH and climate change impacts in the education sector (WASHBAT), coordinated by the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development. Initial outcomes included a strong commitment from the Ministry of Education to integrate WASHBAT's recommendations.

To tackle food security and nutrition challenges, UNICEF focused on reducing acute malnutrition, covering 664 primary healthcare facilities, 97 early childhood care centres, and 10 non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Screening efforts encompassed 12,071 children and 7,366 pregnant/lactating women, with 4,655 requiring ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF). UNICEF also enhanced the NUTREMUAC App as a digital tool for case follow-up and programme monitoring, conducted monitoring visits to 411 centres, and facilitated the distribution of 163,502 RUTF sachets and 2,500 mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measuring tapes.

Eastern Caribbean Area (ECA)

UNICEF is actively engaged in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories (Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands) to bolster cash transfer programmes. This initiative aims to develop a versatile cash transfer programme specifically for vulnerable migrant children and their families, alongside creating data protocols tailored to people on the move. The design process prioritises community involvement to ensure it meets their needs effectively. The development of the cash transfer initiative will culminate in the creation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and activation protocols, which will include an anticipatory activation strategy. Additionally, in collaboration with key social protection stakeholders, UNICEF will enhance mechanisms for accountability to affected populations linked with the cash transfer programmes. To complement these cash transfer programmes, a mechanism is being devised to support beneficiary parents and caregivers, ensuring they possess the capacity and knowledge to provide the protection, stability, and nurturing care vital for children post-emergency.

To establish an integrated approach bridging cash transfers with mental health and psychosocial support, a mapping exercise was completed to identify key partners within related sectors, fostering collaboration, referrals, and support. Furthermore, a training of trainers in psychological first aid was successfully conducted with health and education staff from Turks and Caicos, Anguilla, and Montserrat. This initiative ensures a well-prepared cadre of trained personnel ready to implement the integrated process of psychosocial support. These trained individuals will then proceed to train nationals in their respective territories throughout 2024, including a training session in the British Virgin Islands.

As part of efforts on Business and Community Resilience (BCR), UNICEF ECA, in partnership with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM), the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) in Trinidad and Tobago, leveraged the private sector in Trinidad and Tobago to establish an operational approach facilitating improved collaboration in emergency preparedness and response, through completion of a mapping exercise and process flows, defining how businesses and ODPM would collaborate in an emergency response. In September 2023, UNICEF ECA brought private and public stakeholders in Trinidad and Tobago together in a workshop under the BCR initiative to validate the findings as well as to co-create next steps and recommendations for advancing efforts towards improved collaboration and private sector integration. Major commitments emerged from the event: notably, the inclusion of the private sector in the country's cabinet-appointed National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Multi-sectoral Committee, and the National Emergency Operations Centre.

To influence evidence-based, child-sensitive programmes that enhance the climate and disaster resilience of children and also strengthen disaster preparedness, UNICEF worked with countries to develop a sub-national assessment model which can be used through a geospatial platform for risk-informed decision making and planning. The initiative, known as the Child Climate Risk Index Disaster Risk Model (CCRI-DRM), targeted Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Over 60 national stakeholders from these three countries were consulted and gained an appreciation of the sub-national data required to develop a composite climate and disaster risk index and maps that show variances of child risks across the countries.

Ecuador

In 2023, the National Emergency Operations Committee anticipated a level 5 scenario for the El Niño–Southern Oscillation, predicting a high probability of extreme rainfall leading to severe floods and landslides that could affect up to 2.3 million people. In response to this potential crisis, UNICEF Ecuador developed a comprehensive contingency plan aimed at mitigating the potential impacts of El Niño, by simulating various risk scenarios and mapping capacities. This plan was based on the collective needs of the at-risk population, as identified through intersectoral collaboration.

Furthermore, building upon a multi-country simulation exercise led by UNICEF Regional Office, Ecuador Country Office (CO) identified gaps in preparedness, contingency planning, and emergency response. This analysis was integrated into the humanitarian contingency plan and DRR preparedness strategies.

Furthermore, Ecuador CO engaged in capacity mapping within an inter-agency coordination framework, at both community and national levels. This initiative aimed to enhance the ability to respond efficiently and promptly to the needs of children and vulnerable populations. Additionally, UNICEF organised training sessions to build the capacity of the WASH in emergency coordination group (cluster). These sessions focused on improving inter-agency coordination and equipping participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical tools for an effective WASH response coordination and implementation. These efforts ensured a strengthened sectoral response capability moving forward.

Guatemala

As part of its Business and Community Resilience (BCR) initiative, UNICEF Guatemala conducted two studies titled "Analysis of the Potential Role of the Private Sector in Developing Resilient Environments for Children in Guatemala". One study focused on the national level, while the other targeted specific municipalities, including 22 prioritized municipalities in Alta Verapaz, Quiché, Huehuetenango, and Chiquimula departments. Additionally, five co-creation events were organised, one at the national level and four in various departments. Moreover, ten workshops on business continuity and resilience were conducted in several municipalities, such as San Pedro Soloma, Barillas, Huehuetenango, Nebaj, Cobán, San Cristobal Verapaz, Chiquimula, Camotán, Jocotán, and San Juan Ermita. The co-creation events aimed to identify and analyse incentives, best practices, experiences, and areas for improvement related to the private sector's role in emergency preparedness, response, and community resilience. These events also explored opportunities for partnerships, coordination, and network establishment in this domain.

Furthermore, 22 municipal coordinators and 4 departmental coordinators for disaster risk reduction were trained on the guidelines outlined in the "Reference Manual for Territorial Intervention in Disaster Risk Management." Additionally, UNICEF provided support to the Disaster Reduction National Coordination Agency (CONRED) in implementing an updated warehouse control and monitoring system. This system enables real-time data tracking on human resources, suppliers, and logistical details essential for aid and assistance management during emergency or disaster situations.

Lastly, in collaboration with CONRED, the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC), and Miyamoto – an international company specialised in comprehensive risk management and a partner in the initiative – UNICEF developed the Massive Open and Online Course titled "Business Resilience and Private Sector Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction." This course is currently hosted on UNICEF's e-learning platform AGORA.

Mexico

Hurricane Otis struck the Southern Mexican Pacific coast on 25 October 2023, making landfall as a Category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of 270 km/h and heavy rains. The coastal area of Guerrero state bore the brunt of the devastation, prompting UNICEF to swiftly mobilise a team to assist local authorities in responding to the emergency and meeting the humanitarian needs of the most affected population. UNICEF's focus was on delivering essential support in health, nutrition, child protection, WASH, education, and promoting social behaviour change.

In partnership with ADRA, an implementing NGO partner, UNICEF provided crucial medical and nutritional assistance to 17 pregnant women and 359 children and adolescents in Acapulco. These individuals received vital micronutrients or dietary supplements, while caregivers were educated on breastfeeding and recommended emergency feeding practices, benefitting 481 caregivers. Furthermore, UNICEF delivered 11,000 packets of rehydration solution to the Guerrero Ministry of Health for distribution among those affected in Acapulco.

Recognising the protection risks faced by children and adolescents in the aftermath of Hurricane Otis, UNICEF established eight safe spaces in Acapulco, where 954 young individuals accessed mental health and psychosocial support services. Working closely with DIF Acapulco (part of the National Social Protection system) and other partners, UNICEF conducted a multi-service brigade offering psychosocial care, child friendly spaces, and legal services, reaching 161 children and adolescents. Additionally, UNICEF's multidisciplinary team collaborated with local child protection authorities to identify and protect unaccompanied, separated, or at-risk children, as well as implement necessary protection measures.

Assessment of critical WASH systems and infrastructures in six Social Assistance Centers and four primary schools were completed, with rehabilitation works scheduled to commence in January 2024. Hygiene items were distributed to benefit 3,000 children, adolescents, and their families, along with health education messages reaching 1,500 individuals. Safe drinking water was directly distributed to families, benefitting over 1,500 children and adolescents.

Furthermore, UNICEF provided mental health and psychosocial support to 101 supervisors and educational staff. Collaborating with implementing partners such as ADRA, Save the Children, and La Jugarreta, UNICEF integrated Risk Communication and Community Engagement strategies, featuring audiovisual materials covering topics on health, nutrition, protection (including Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse – PSEA), mental health, psychosocial support, WASH, and GBV.

Nicaragua

As part of the efforts to enhance the preparedness of national and local systems, UNICEF has facilitated the establishment of an information system within the RACCN (North Caribbean Autonomous Region) local government. This system serves as a central repository of information on damage and needs assessments during emergencies. Currently operational in 3 out of the 7 targeted municipalities, the system also incorporates risk maps that will aid in conducting damage assessments during emergency situations.

In Bilwi, Waspam, and Alamikamba municipalities (RACCN), the local protection system has been bolstered through the active involvement of a youth network comprising 541 adolescents, supported by the Nidia White Women's Movement. Additionally, 75 leaders underwent training to offer psychosocial support and address complaints related to sexual exploitation or abuse in line with the United Nations PSEA policy. These leaders engaged with 792 individuals through door-to-door visits. Furthermore, 165 children and adolescents from the specified municipalities received specialised psychological care, enhanced protection, and legal aid.

In Waspam, Puerto Cabezas, and Prinzapolka municipalities (RACCN) a teacher training programme was implemented, involving nearly 1,200 individuals including pedagogical advisors, school principals, and classroom teachers. The aim was to equip them with strategies for reactivating education during emergencies. The training covered several key areas: developing school emergency plans, providing socioemotional support to the educational community, establishing and training school first aid brigades, and managing temporary shelters. This process involved adapting and translating basic training materials into Miskito language, providing pedagogical and recreational kits for teachers to implement the learned strategies, and supplying first aid kits for the school brigades. Furthermore, pedagogical and recreational kits, along with first aid kits, were procured for a second round of training for educational communities in two additional municipalities. This training is scheduled to take place in the first semester of 2024.

Communications in Emergency, with cultural relevance, has been integrated as part of emergency preparedness and response plans, focusing on capacity building at the systems level. In collaboration with SINAPRED, 48 municipality leaders were trained (32% of the total); 2,664,755 people were reached through health campaigns to prevent the spreading of preventable waterborne diseases; awareness of protection in emergencies was raised among 175,211 people; 250,000 people were reached through education campaigns aiming to keep children in school; and 555,000 people were targeted with messages on protection against sexual violence in emergencies. Direct and digital communication feedback mechanisms were ensured in all face-to-face training activities in the framework of the emergency preparedness program. Finally, UNICEF procured 52 emergency kits, intended to equip SINAPRED's community emergency brigades in the Caribbean Coast.

Paraguay

UNICEF has worked in enhancing preparedness by renewing the memorandum of understanding for collaborative efforts with the National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) and facilitating the creation of a coordination platform between SEN and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to prepare and respond to potential scenarios of drought in the Chaco region and of floods in riverine areas.

UNICEF's team and the Inter-Agency Gender and Human Rights table of the UN have undergone training and mentoring sessions. Additionally, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education in updating its national contingency plan. In the health sector, UNICEF assisted the Ministry of Health in mobilising resources, securing approval for over US\$ 10 million to strengthen the health surveillance system. UNICEF's specific focus was on supporting the implementation of the risk communication and community engagement strategy within this initiative.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and health volunteers, UNICEF conducted a prevention campaign for dengue and other vector-borne diseases, involving the production of communication and visibility materials. A consultation with the affected population and local authorities was carried out to identify priority needs in WASH and health and determine the most appropriate models. Based on this information, the procurement of supplies at the local level has been initiated, to be repositioned for both potential drought and floods in riverine areas.

An agreement has been established with SEN to enhance the information survey tool and utilise digital platforms effectively. Concurrently, UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Education in collecting WASH data in indigenous schools nationwide, and coordination is in progress for the response to the Chaco drought with SENASA (National Environmental Sanitation Service) and the inter-institutional WASH table.

Peru

After the national emergency declaration caused by Cyclone Yaku in March 2023, which affected around 249,000 children, UNICEF activated its humanitarian response through a multisectoral intervention, including actions in the sectors of WASH, health and nutrition, education, protection, and cash transfers in 4 districts in Tumbes, 22 in Piura, and 14 in Lambayeque.

Access to safe water and sanitation was crucial for the recovery of the affected population. UNICEF rehabilitated key water infrastructure in 14 communities and hygiene facilities in 12 schools in the three most affected regions, reaching

more than 72,000 children and adolescents and their families. In addition, 6,154 hygiene kits, menstrual hygiene kits, and vector-borne disease prevention kits were distributed.

In terms of health and nutrition services, UNICEF reached 63,788 children and adolescents and pregnant mothers in Piura and Lambayeque, with a focus on strengthening the skills of health professionals and community brigades, adolescent mental health, and immunisation services. UNICEF also distributed 450,000 zinc tablets to 30 health centres for the treatment of diarrhoea. A communication campaign on disease prevention was carried out in schools and at the community level. Nutritional supplements were provided for children suffering from anaemia.

UNICEF provided psychosocial care with recreational activities for 3,585 children and adolescents and strengthened the parenting skills of 1,010 parents and caregivers in eight communities in Piura. It also promoted leadership training for adolescents and young women, delivered safety kits to 1,766 adolescents and women, strengthened the capacity of the child protection authorities for risk case management in child protection, and delivered recreational kits.

To promote access to safe schools, UNICEF supported the relocation and installation of 12 temporary classrooms for nine affected schools, trained teachers and school leaders in socio-emotional support and disaster risk reduction and distributed 56 socio-emotional kits and 10 school debris removal kits. It also provided 500 learning recovery kits and 2,000 school supply kits. More than 30,000 children and adolescents and 80 schools in Piura and Lambayeque have benefited from these activities. Additionally, UNICEF reached 284 vulnerable families (1,200 people) with three multi-purpose cash transfers to help them recover from the effects of Cyclone Yaku.

A humanitarian response to the socio-political crisis was implemented between January and June 2023. It focused on providing humanitarian assistance to 3,054 affected children and their families who faced challenges accessing basic needs such as water, food, transport, health care, and shelter. The project also provided socio-emotional support to children who had witnessed violent confrontations and deaths in their communities, as a result of social mobilisations. The main areas covered were Ayacucho, Madre de Dios, Puno, Tacna, and Metropolitan Lima. UNICEF worked closely with the Ombudsman's Office and the NGO World Vision.

As part of its preparedness agenda, UNICEF undertook several efforts in 2023:

- In July 2023, an Interinstitutional Agreement was signed between UNICEF and the National Institute for Civil Defence (INDECI), focused on working together to improve reactive risk management at a national level. Within this agreement and the Business and Community Resilience (BCR) Initiative, a mobile app was designed and developed that enables users to create their own Family Emergency Plan (see below).
- In collaboration with INDECI, three DRM capacity-building workshops were held in Tumbes, Piura, and Lambayeque, focusing on local authorities. The training centred on using information tools for developing contingency plans and needs assessments, with a special focus on protecting the rights of children and adolescents. More than 100 public officers from 36 districts in the areas most vulnerable to El Niño were reached. Additionally, UNICEF has printed 1,000 copies of INDECI's Facilitator Guide for community training on abilities in the face of disaster risk, to be delivered to the National Library.
- UNICEF has acquired and pre-positioned 10 tents for the implementation of basic services (health, nutrition, water distribution, among others), as well as other emergency supplies for the delivery of kits. The tents are 72m² in size and suitable for cold and warm weathers. Two of these tents will go to the Lima office, one to Tumbes, Loreto, Ucayali, and Huancavelica, and two will go to storage units provided by partners, in order to move them to vulnerable territories in case of an emergency.
- UNICEF has also developed long-term agreements (LTAs) with key providers of supplies and services so that they can be contacted easily and quickly in emergencies, avoiding long and complicated bidding processes.

In the framework of the BCR Initiative, a series of activities focused on collaborating with the private sector were developed, in partnership with relevant public institutions, to enhance community preparedness for natural disasters and emergencies in Peru. These initiatives included:

- Development of a mobile app for the Family Emergency Plan: An app was created to enable users to complete their personalised Family Emergency Plan based on INDECI's guidelines, in collaboration with private sector partners and INDECI. The objective was to reach 10,000 families following the app's launch in December 2023. [Link to the app](#).
- Course on Emergency Preparedness for schools and companies: a training course on Family Emergency Preparedness was developed with versions tailored for schools and companies. This course reached 237 teachers and 25 companies.
- Study of the private sector's sectoral plans on DRM: This study focused on assessing the level of integration between the private sector's sectoral plans and national plans and policies, as well as the inclusion of the perspective of protecting the rights of children and adolescents. The objective is for this study to propose the integration of plans across various productive sectors within the private sector. [Link to the study](#).

Suriname

In recent years, many villages in the interior of Suriname have been affected by flooding, and more recently, by drought. Approximately 2,000 people, including children, have been directly impacted by these crises. UNICEF responded to the emergency in close collaboration with the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR), also being part of the national crisis team that coordinated the overall response to the emergency. The support provided through UNICEF resulted in:

- Provision of nutritional items to support periodic food security to 350 households and approximately 1,500 people, including children, in 5 villages in the interior of South Suriname.
- Distribution of dignity items to 350 women to ensure menstrual and personal hygiene.
- Provision of child-friendly items to 100 children to support learning, development, and emotional well-being.
- The support included assisting villages in recovery and returning to normal life. The intervention also focused on strengthening the NCCR in emergency response and preparedness.

The response also focused on providing immediate relief and aid to communities in East Suriname affected by flooding, which caused damage to schools, health facilities, houses, and crops, resulting in school closures, evacuation of healthcare workers, and food insecurity. Support included essential basic health items, resumption of education, and assistance with the communities' recovery efforts. In response to the flooding in East Suriname in February 2023, UNICEF Suriname, with the support of the Netherlands government and in partnership with the Medical Mission, addressed the immediate needs in WASH, health, education, and nutrition in the hinterland. Approximately 200 children from four directly affected schools in East Suriname were provided with educational supplies to continue their education. Support was also provided for the procurement and distribution of emergency relief packages (water, food, and hygiene items) for 220 households (including 200 students and 41 healthcare workers), medical supplies for 52 clinics, and essential PPE gear for 41 healthcare workers for outreach. Healthcare workers of the Medical Mission in East Suriname (41) also received essential emergency relief packages (food, water, hygiene supplies, and water boots for outreach activities).

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Belize

Video

- [Strengthening Humanitarian Response in Migrant Communities](#)

Cuba

Human interest stories

- [Desde el primer momento, supimos que UNICEF nos apoyaría](#)
- [The girl with the talking eyes](#)
- [Pathways to resilience](#)
- [Disaster risk reduction, in defense of life](#)
- [Harmony is in nature](#)

Social media

- [UNICEF support in Matanzas, with Korea funding](#)

ECA

Social media

- [Training of trainers – Psychological first aid for children](#)

Ecuador

Campaigns

- [Protege a niños, niñas y adolescentes frente al Fenómeno de El Niño](#)
- [#PrevenirEsProteger](#)
- [#Protege a los niños, niñas y adolescentes](#)

Guatemala

Press releases:

- [Donation of warehouse management software to CONRED Guatemala.](#)
- [Strengthening of Coordinating Bodies for Disaster Reduction for the incorporation of the private sector in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, as a result of the BCR initiative.](#)

Social Media:

- [UNICEF Guatemala, in collaboration with the World Food Program \(WFP\) and under the coordination of the Resident Coordinator's Office, donated the "Azure Service and Licensing -SAP- and for Multiwarehouse Administration" to the Executive Secretariat of CONRED](#)
- [Fact Sheet on Community Resilience and Strengthening the Private Sector in Guatemala.](#)

Peru

Human interest stories

- [Story of a migrant family affected by heavy rains and flooding in Tumbes](#)

Next SitRep: August 2024

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/lac#download>

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Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available against appeal as of 31 December 2023*		Funding gap %
		Funds received in 2023	Carry-forward	
Emergency Response**	7,250,000	6,949,829	1,179,557	0%
Emergency Preparedness**	5,070,000	2,925,433	2,020,067	2%
Regional Office capacity	2,820,000	1,352,377	649,993	29%
TOTAL	15,140,000	11,227,639	3,849,617	6%

*Funds available includes funds received against current appeal and carry-forward from previous year.

**Includes response funding available for countries or crises not covered by other HAC appeals, including for Brazil, Cuba, ECA, Mexico, Peru, Suriname.

***Includes funding available for preparedness actions at country level, not covered by other HAC appeals, including for Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, ECA, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru.

Endnotes

ⁱ OCHA and UNDRR, Overview of disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean 2000–2022, September 2023.

ⁱⁱ EM-DAT, Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters/University of Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, The International Disaster Database, available at <<https://public.emdat.be/>>, accessed 10 March 2024.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023: Unstacking global poverty – Data for high impact action, UNDP and OPHI, 2023.

^v ACAPS, Humanitarian Access Overview: July 2023, ACAPS, Geneva, July 2023.

^{vi} The Fragile States Index is at 'Warning' or 'Alert' levels in 16 countries in the region. Source: The Fund for Peace (FFP), Fragile States Index: Annual Report 2023, FFP, Washington, D.C., June 2023.

^{vii} Climate scenarios monitoring tool, <<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e83e3101e41e4b6db383cb5b6f0f3d80>>. Education Data Cube, <<https://cubodedatoseducacion.latam.3isolution.org/#/>>.

^{viii} OCHA, 'Anticipatory Action, Preparedness and Response Plan - EHP - El Niño Phenomenon', November 2023, <<https://www.unocha.org/attachments/59b00a7f-8c11-4377-bc13-4882ebe06dd7/Colombia%20-%20Plan%20de%20Acciones%20Anticipatorias%2C%20Preparaci%C3%B3n%20y%20Respuesta%20-%20EHP%20-%20Fen%C3%B3meno%20de%20El%20Ni%C3%B1o%20%28Noviembre%202023%29.pdf>>