

# EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL OFFICE

## CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY REPORT 2021



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Nurayim, 3 years old, holds a plate of nutritious food at her home in Kurshab village, Kyrgyzstan.

Prepared by:

**UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office**

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unicef  | for every child

## Expression of Thanks

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UNICEF's work is funded entirely through the support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector. Contributions enable UNICEF to deliver on its mandate to protect children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. Flexible emergency resources enable UNICEF to strengthen its commitment to work with Governments and partners to strengthen preparedness capacities, enhance resilience of communities and systems to reduce the impacts of disasters, and jointly respond to sudden shocks, stresses and emergencies. We take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their commitment and trust in UNICEF.

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

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|        |                                                             |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| AAP    | Accountability for Affected Population                      |
| BHA    | Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance                          |
| CCC    | Core Commitments for Children                               |
| CESDRR | Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction |
| CFS    | Child-Friendly Spaces                                       |
| CPIEWG | Child Protection in Emergency Working Group                 |
| ECAR   | Europe and Central Asia Region                              |
| ECARO  | Europe and Central Asia Regional Office                     |
| ENOC   | European Network of Ombudsman for Children                  |
| EPP    | Emergency Preparedness Procedures                           |
| EPR    | Emergency Preparedness and Response                         |
| GBViE  | Gender-based Violence in Emergencies                        |
| GFDRR  | Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction                 |
| hCT    | Humanitarian Cash Transfers                                 |
| IACP   | Inter-agency Contingency Plan                               |
| IFRC   | International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent      |
| IPC    | Infection Prevention and Control                            |
| KGS    | Kyrgyzstani Som                                             |
| KRCS   | Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society                             |
| RCSK   | Red Crescent Society Kyrgyzstan                             |
| RCST   | Red Crescent Society Tajikistan                             |
| REACT  | Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team            |
| SRSP   | Shock-responsive social protection                          |
| SOPs   | Standard Operating Procedures                               |
| UASC   | Unaccompanied and Separated children                        |
| UNDRR  | UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction                       |
| WASH   | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene                               |

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## I.Executive Summary

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Children and families in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region are affected by multiple disasters, including civil unrest, conflict, mass displacements, disease outbreaks and natural hazards. The Central Asian countries of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as certain Western Balkan countries, are particularly at high risk of major earthquakes. Small scale disasters including floods, landslides, earthquakes, wildfires and droughts also pose significant threats across the region. ECA countries thus face significant emergency risks requiring support to ensure strong preparedness and sufficient early-action capacities to deliver rapid, life-saving interventions.

In response to a series of strong earthquakes in Croatia at the end of 2020, UNICEF provided critical support in 2021, including supplies to protect homes and institutions as well as support to facilitate continued learning and school attendance, enhance protection of families at heightened risk and children most vulnerable and strengthen capacities to provide psycho-social support and develop psychosocial resilience.

In 2021, UNICEF continued to focus on enhancing emergency preparedness capacity in at risk countries in ECA, strengthening risk-informed programming to build resilience and supporting response to sudden onset emergencies. Recognizing the dominant threat earthquakes pose in Central Asia, funding received in 2021 from the USAID's BHA enabled the continued collaboration between UNICEF and IFRC to strengthen targeted preparedness interventions to mitigate the risk of impact on the most vulnerable populations, including children and women, in the event of a major earthquake in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

UNICEF and IFRC continued to work with national governments and partners to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities by pre-positioning supplies, promoting the use of hCTs, and delivering trainings on WASH in emergencies and ensuring community engagement and contributing on AAP, together with partners. This also contributed to UNICEF's wider DRR and climate change agenda for Central Asia, promoting safe schools, resilient communities and youth participation and development. All approaches were gender sensitive, promoted community engagement and ensured prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, in line with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.

In Central Asia, UNICEF and IFRC continued to jointly provide humanitarian assistance to children and families in response to border conflicts in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in April, earthquake, landslide, and mudflows in Tajikistan in July and mudflows in Kyrgyzstan, also in July. UNICEF supported provision of psychosocial support, distribution of hygiene items, distribution of cash grants and provision of temporary learning services.

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan continued to pose a risk of refugee influx to Central Asia and onward to countries within Europe, requiring scaled up emergency preparedness. As of December 2021, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were hosting 25,000 Afghans, and in these countries, as well as Turkmenistan, UNICEF actively engaged with governments, UNHCR, and key partners, undertaking multisector, interagency preparedness and response actions covering WASH, education, nutrition, health and child protection. UNICEF focused on strengthening internal preparedness and response capacities of humanitarian partners within the framework of UNHCR's Refugee Coordination Model. UNICEF Uzbekistan established a field outpost in Termez, the region bordering Afghanistan, to respond to humanitarian needs in Afghanistan and enhance preparedness for response in Uzbekistan.

In November –December 2021, an estimated 600 migrants in Belarus's Grodno province bordering Poland, including over 300 children, required immediate assistance to address health, protection, and basic needs.<sup>1</sup> UNICEF provided emergency items and supplies for harsh winter conditions, delivered

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<sup>1</sup> UN News. 2021. *IOM scales up aid at EU-Belarus border, as migrant hypothermia deaths tick up*. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1106692> (accessed 23 December 2021).

trainings to enhance the preparedness and capacity of the Country Office and partnership with the Red Cross and UN agencies, established safe learning spaces for children and a safe shelter for newborn children and their mothers.

In 2021, 21.4 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and 208,268 deaths were reported in the ECA.<sup>2</sup> UNICEF's response to COVID-19 in the region focused on preventing transmission of the virus and mitigating the impacts on vulnerable children and families. This included strengthening systems, services and relevant supply provision for social protection, education, health, WASH, risk communication and community engagement, education and nutrition and ensuring protection for at-risk children and adolescents in 20 countries in region where UNICEF is present<sup>3</sup>.

Finally, capacities of UNICEF Country Offices were significantly strengthened through the provision of technical support and trainings in emergency preparedness, DRR and risk-informed programming. Furthermore, technical support to enhance country emergency preparedness plans was provided to sustain organizational compliance with UNICEF's Procedure on Preparedness for Emergency Response.

## II. Humanitarian Context



In 2021, over 1.1 million<sup>4</sup> people in the region were affected by disasters. Floods, landslides, mudflows and earthquakes, including torrential rains during the second week of May in **Tajikistan**, mudslides and landslides in **Kyrgyzstan** and **Uzbekistan** in July, and an earthquake of magnitude 6 on the Richter scale in **Tajikistan**, affected over 18,000 people in Central Asia. Droughts in Central Asia also threatened the subsistence of 965,000 people causing 6,800 deaths<sup>5</sup>, while Mediterranean wildfires destroyed the livelihoods of over 148,000 people in **Greece**, **Turkey** and surrounding countries. Associated impacts of such events are likely to be exacerbated by climate change and rapid urbanization, becoming more frequent and intense in years ahead.

<sup>2</sup> Figures cover data from 23 countries including Italy to 31 December 2021 data source "WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard.

<sup>3</sup> Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

<sup>4</sup> Data from EM-DAT, GDACS, IFRC-GO and Reliefweb. Figure estimated based on country specific interagency plans for earthquakes, 2017-2019, Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee contingency plan for earthquake in Central Asia and South Caucasus, 2016, Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery, Disaster Risk Profile for Turkmenistan, 2015, and country multiple indicator surveys in 2018 and 2019.

<sup>5</sup> EM-DAT and IFRC data for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. [https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/RCCC%20IFRC%20Climate%20disasters%20COVID-20210910\\_V2.pdf](https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/RCCC%20IFRC%20Climate%20disasters%20COVID-20210910_V2.pdf).



In addition to this, outbreaks of vaccine derived polio cases were reported in **Tajikistan** and **Ukraine**, while a conflict at the border between **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan** in April resulted in internal displacements of around 68,000 people on both sides. The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan continued to pose a risk of refugee influx to Central Asia and countries within Europe, requiring scaling up of humanitarian preparedness efforts. By mid-September, over 2,500 Afghan refugees had been evacuated to **Albania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Romania** and as of December 2021, **Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** were reported to be hosting 25,000 Afghan people.

**Belarus** observed an unprecedented increase in attempts by irregular migrants to cross Belarusian borders with Lithuania, Latvia and Poland. The situation climaxed mid-November when up to 2,000 migrants (including over 400 children) were stranded at the Belarus border in extremely harsh conditions, with limited access to services and support. By the end of the year, an estimated 600 remained at the logistic centre in Belarus's Grodno province, including approximately 300 children, requiring immediate assistance to address health, protection, WASH, education and other basic needs.<sup>6</sup>

During the year, 21.4 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and 208,268 deaths were reported in the ECA region.<sup>7</sup> The highest peaks occurred over March and April and then October to December. In the first three quarters of the year, the Delta variant remained the predominant COVID-19 strain in the region, overstressing health systems and capacities and resulting in partial lockdown measures by several countries across the region. In the fourth quarter, the rapid spread of the Omicron variant led to some governments taking further precautionary measures, including travel bans and temporary closure of schools in the later months of the year. The impacts stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic significantly aggravated the socio-economic conditions and livelihoods of families, depriving children of basic services therefore creating greater need to protect and improve existing social protection schemes and provision of cash assistance, particularly for the most vulnerable children and families.

School closures carrying over from 2020 into the first half of 2021 continued to curtail access to education and cause disruptions in learning and wellbeing of children. Although education continued through blended or remote learning, children, particularly those from poor households without access to technologies, were greatly affected. While face-to-face learning mostly continued in the new school year, the various peaks in cases in the year either delayed school openings or led to partial closures in some countries. Routine immunizations services, hindered by the surge in cases during the last quarter of 2020, had been fully restored since mid-2021. UNICEF supported countries to catch up on their routine child immunization schedules by supporting the procurement of routine vaccines and strengthening the capacity of health professionals.

By the second quarter of 2021, all countries in the region had started vaccination campaigns, although not all vaccines were delivered through the COVAX facility. By the end of December, 51 percent of the population in ECA region had received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 44.5 percent were fully vaccinated. Half of the countries did not manage to reach the global target set at 40 percent, with six countries - Armenia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova reporting a vaccination rate of below 30 percent by the end of December.

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<sup>6</sup> UN News. 2021. *IOM scales up aid at EU-Belarus border, as migrant hypothermia deaths tick up.* <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1106692>> (accessed 23 December 2021).

<sup>7</sup> Figures cover data from 23 countries including Italy to 31 December 2021 data source "WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard.

### III. Humanitarian Results

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#### Emergency Preparedness, Response and Disaster Risk Reduction

UNICEF continued to maintain its focus on enhancing capacity in emergency preparedness and response and strengthening risk-informed programming in the ECA region. The ongoing work emphasized child centred DRR and mitigating the impacts of climate change on children. Together with IFRC, UNICEF increased emergency response capacities, including emergency supplies and contingency planning, to respond to earthquakes, floods, and border conflicts in Central Asia.

Following the earthquake, landslide, and mudflows in **Tajikistan** in July, UNICEF and RCST reached 300 households with emergency supplies and awareness materials on WASH and PSS. In areas affected by the mudflows in **Kyrgyzstan**, UNICEF and RCSK distributed family hygiene and dignity kits, covering 500 people, including 300 children.

Based on country feedback, WASH emerged as a critical sector for emergency action in the region. In response, IFRC and UNICEF delivered a dedicated WASH in Emergency training to 31 participants from governments, NRCS and UNICEF staff as well as staff from CESDRR across five countries - **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan** - to enhance their knowledge and skills to implement WASH responses in an emergency context.

UNICEF enabled 162 sub-national government representatives from **Kyrgyzstan** to develop a common understanding on WASH standards in emergencies and key elements and strategies in preparedness and response through a context specific WASH in Emergency training organized in response to the positive feedback from the training participants and request from the Ministry of Emergency Situation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In addition, UNICEF and IFRC facilitated a regional online training on Accountability to Affected Populations and Community Engagement, as part of their commitment to putting affected populations at the centre of their emergency preparedness and response work. The trainings engaged 38 representatives of key government counterparts from ministries/committees of emergencies, education, health, social issues, and regional development, and IFRC/NRCS and UNICEF specialists from five Central Asian countries.

Essential emergency supplies (WASH and dignity kits, early childhood development kits, school-in-a-box kits, etc.) were procured locally and offshore for prepositioning by UNICEF and NRCS in **Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** for immediate emergency response in disaster prone areas. Contingency programme agreements were put in place in three countries including standard



operation procedures for rapid activation, needs assessment and post-distribution monitoring tools for immediate emergency response.

UNICEF in cooperation with UNDP supported the CADRI partnership to undertake a DRR scoping mission to **Kyrgyzstan** to better understand the Government and the UN Country Team expectations and obtain guidance to contextualize a multi-sectoral DRR capacity diagnosis to risk-inform the national development plan, National DRR Concept and DRR planning at national and local levels.

Furthermore, in anticipation of a potential influx of refugees from Afghanistan to neighbouring countries in Central Asia, UNICEF enhanced preparedness capacities in **Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**. Over 91,000 people were targeted in the three countries through prepositioning emergency supplies (hygiene kits, winter clothes for children, education/ECD kits), development of contingency agreements with implementing partners, scaling up human resource capacities, and building capacities of partners to deliver a people-centred humanitarian response, supporting expected refugees as well as host communities. In coordination with UN agencies, UNICEF's contingency plans for Central Asia were included under UNHCR's 2021 Interagency refugee response plan. UNICEF also addressed critical needs for WASH and education of existing refugees/asylum seekers and host communities in **Tajikistan** by conducting needs assessments, rehabilitating and restoring critical WASH and education facilities. In **Uzbekistan**, UNICEF focused on enhancing preparedness and resilience of host communities in Termez in the Southern Uzbekistan region of Surkhandarya, including through delivery of PSS training for service providers and local NGOs, rehabilitation of WASH facilities in border areas and delivery of hygiene kits to local communities. In addition, UNICEF finalised the process to establish a field outpost in Termez to strengthen procurement and logistic capacity to respond to humanitarian needs in Afghanistan and enhance preparedness and response for Afghan nationals in Uzbekistan.

In August, several evacuation flights brought Afghan refugees to over ten countries in the region. In **Germany**, as the US Ramstein Airbase became a temporary transit location for 35,000 evacuees. UNICEF provided technical assistance and facilitated the identification of over 150 unaccompanied UASC, conducted individual Best Interest Assessments) and supported their onward movement towards durable solutions for every child. ECARO continued supporting Western Balkan countries in their response, based on government requests.

Regional emergency preparedness, response and disaster risk reduction activities as well as overall emergency coordination continued to be enhanced through technical support from the regional emergency team.

## COVID-19 Response

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the ECA region, UNICEF continued supporting governments in preventing the transmission of COVID-19 through risk communication and community engagement and mitigated impact on social services by providing a multisectoral response for children and their families. This included strengthening systems and services to ensure continuity of health and nutrition services; developing capacities of front-line health and social workers; enhancing COVID-19 prevention capacities by providing training and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); scaling up WASH services and supplies in schools and health care facilities; supporting quality, appropriate education and early learning services; supporting child protection services; preventing and responding to GBV; providing MHPSS services for families and children; promoting social protection services, including cash transfers for vulnerable families; facilitating appropriate risk communication and behaviour change activities; as well as engaging adolescents and young people. UNICEF ensured linkages between humanitarian and development programmes to build resilient and child-sensitive systems and services.

At country level, UNICEF and partners remained active in national coordination, providing technical support to governments in programme implementation and communication strategies related to

COVID-19. UNICEF supported governments and communities in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and restoring essential health services, overstretched by the pandemic and other emergencies in 2021. During the year, efforts focused on strengthening health systems through capacity building on IPC, providing healthcare services to pregnant women and new-borns, promoting catch-up immunization programmes, including provision of critical medical equipment and IPC supplies. UNICEF and partners also disseminated information on COVID-19 and provided counselling, home visits and referral services for families and pregnant women to facilitate access to health care. UNICEF also worked with partners to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the socioeconomic situation and mental health of vulnerable children and adolescents, generating evidence to inform policies and programmes.

At regional level, governance as well as demand and vaccine hesitancy related bottlenecks continued to persist in many countries in the region, and UNICEF Regional Office continued to work with partners to identify critical bottlenecks and develop targeted interventions. Together with WHO, GAVI, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other relevant partners, UNICEF supported countries in the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines and participated in regional coordination and technical groups covering supply and logistics, risk communication, and demand generation.

#### IV. Results achieved from Humanitarian Thematic Funding



With thanks to the allocation of predictable, flexible humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF ECARO was able to focus on strengthening and operationalizing risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response capacity for the region. Key results are detailed below.

##### Emergency Preparedness and Response and DRR

In response to a series of strong earthquakes in **Croatia** at the end of 2020, UNICEF provided 13.5 tonnes of protective tarpaulins to protect roofs of damaged homes and institutions of key service providers from rain and snow. More than 1,200 items of critical supplies (washing machines, stoves, heaters, air conditioners, school materials, tablets) were ensured, benefiting 157 children (77 boys, 80 girls) and families at heightened risks of family and gender-based violence, foster families, children in alternative care and the most vulnerable preschool and school children.

UNICEF provided support to strengthen capacities of school professionals to cope with stress, trauma and grief and improve teaching skills in socio-emotional competences. 29 schools from Sisak-Moslavina County were involved in a school program to develop psycho-social resilience and socio-

emotional competences, benefitting 8,402 children, with 20 additional schools including the program into their curricula, involving 2,215 children. Through a mentorship programme, 269 Roma students and their families at risk of dropout due to irregular schooling caused by the earthquakes and COVID-19 were supported with regular activities to build learning routines, resulting in continued school attendance for all of them.

The thematic funding enabled a swift response to the conflict on border between **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan** in April 2021. Support in **Kyrgyzstan** included provision of psychosocial support along with distribution of ECD and recreational kits for 15,723 displaced children in Batken. In **Tajikistan**, the response was undertaken jointly by UNICEF, RCST and the German Red Cross. A Rapid Needs Assessment was conducted in all affected settlements, with RCST interviewing 23 community leaders and 372 most affected households. 750 affected households benefitted from a humanitarian cash transfer programme and 950 households from the distribution of Family Hygiene and Dignity Kits (FHDK). MHPSS services, GBV and Child Rights monitoring systems as well as AAP mechanisms were put in place in all affected settlements, benefitting 4,147 children, adolescents, and their caregivers, and communication materials on COVID-19 prevention were distributed. In addition, flexible funding enabled UNICEF to conduct a multi-sector needs assessment and respond to mudflows in Khatlon, triggered by the torrential rains in May, causing death of at least seven people and affecting around 18,000 people and over 2,500 households.

Flexible funding allowed the Regional Office to strengthen Emergency Preparedness and Response in **Tajikistan**, **Uzbekistan** and **Turkmenistan**, in anticipation of an influx of Afghan Refugees in these neighbouring countries. UNICEF conducted training of implementing partners in these countries and procured and prepositioned child-centred emergency supplies, to ensure access to education, ECD, recreation, health, nutrition, and WASH. Preparedness was ensured to cover 10,000 arrivals per country in **Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan** and 1,000 in **Turkmenistan**. UNICEF's scenario-based solution approach was in line with the interagency Refugee Response Plan for preparedness and response efforts led by UNHCR, in collaboration with other UN agencies and humanitarian actors.

The unprecedented increase in attempts by migrants and refugees to cross the **Belarusian** borders with **Lithuania**, **Latvia**, and **Poland**, intensified during mid-November when up to 2,000 people, including over 500 children, were stranded at the EU-Belarus border for several weeks in extremely harsh conditions. They suffered limited access to drinking water and food, medical assistance, sanitation facilities, and shelter. UNICEF partnered with the Grodno Oblast Executive Committee and the Belarusian Red Cross to deliver hygiene supplies to over 500 children, establish child-friendly spaces, and deliver psychosocial support activities to more than 200 children in the Bruzgi logistics centre. UNICEF provided training to ten psychologists from the Grodno Education Department and 12 migrant teacher volunteers on critical issues, such as child safeguarding, GBV, and case identification and referral processes. UNICEF also supported new-borns and their mothers by delivering Baby Kits and Mother Care Kits and by ensuring food and protection for mothers staying in the shelter.

Thematic funding was also used to maintain the expert capacity of the regional emergency team who provided technical support and trainings to enhance expertise of UNICEF Country Offices in emergency preparedness, DRR and risk-informed programming, enhance emergency preparedness plans of all countries and sustain organizational compliance with UNICEF's procedures on preparedness for emergency response.

## COVID-19 Response

### Health

UNICEF continued to support routine immunisation for children during the COVID-19. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNICEF supported the Government and public health institutions on campaigns promoting the importance of routine immunisation, provided vaccine carriers as well as personal protection kits and hygiene material for schools. In **Kazakhstan**, UNICEF supported national

stakeholders in assessing the routine immunisation system, mapping the vaccine procurement process. In **Turkey**, UNICEF ensured routine vaccination of refugee and migrant children through monitoring and advocacy. UNICEF in **Bulgaria** continued supporting home visits to provide counselling to families with young children and pregnant women. 123 families from vulnerable and remote communities benefited from targeted support for vaccination, access to health services, information on government ordinances and recommendations to families with young children.

UNICEF enhanced the capacity of healthcare facility professionals and community health workers on IPC standards in **Armenia, Belarus, and Moldova**. In **Azerbaijan, Belarus, North Macedonia, and Romania**, health care professionals were supported on a variety of training topics, such as COVID-19 prevention and treatment, case management, hospital emergency management, risk communication, breastfeeding, and PSS. In **Belarus**, 6,000 healthcare workers benefitted from webinars on COVID-19, principles of intensive care, nutritional and respiratory support for children. In **North Macedonia**, UNICEF strengthened the capacity of 150 health workers on inter-personal communication skills.

UNICEF provided PPE, hygiene supplies and medical equipment to hospitals, health care centres and health professionals/workers in **Belarus, Croatia, Kazakhstan and Moldova**. In **Belarus**, 1,061 vulnerable children and 800 migrants and refugees received hygiene supplies to prevent and control the COVID-19 risk. In **Albania**, more than 260 families (730 individuals) were provided with hygiene materials and around 10,000 health care workers in all 412 primary health care centres benefited from the PPE supplies.

In **Croatia**, UNICEF supported early intervention services for girls and boys with developmental delays and disabilities. 126 parents and caregivers were counselled on how to incorporate occupational physiotherapy and sensory integration strategies in daily routines.

## Nutrition

UNICEF with governments and partners continued disseminating age-specific information, promoting breast-feeding in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and messages and counselling on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) in **Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, and North Macedonia**. To promote evidence-based interventions, UNICEF supported child development monitoring in **Kazakhstan and Albania**. In the latter, a nutrition monitoring system for children under five years of age was developed, while food and critical hygiene packages in four Mother- Baby Corners (MBC) were delivered.

Through UNICEF supported trainings, health personnel and primary care providers enhanced their knowledge and skills in breastfeeding and IYCF in **Albania, Belarus, and Romania**. As part of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, launched by UNICEF and WHO to encourage health facilities to better support breastfeeding, in **Albania, Azerbaijan, and Croatia**, UNICEF supported the development of tools to ensure implementation of safe breastfeeding protocols during COVID-19 and delivered trainings to the health workers.

## WASH

UNICEF supported governments in ensuring adequate WASH supplies and facilities at schools in **Albania, Armenia, Croatia, North Macedonia, and Ukraine** to support safe reopening during the pandemic, including renovation of WASH facilities, installation of handwashing stations, distribution of personal hygiene items and disinfectants. Furthermore, WASH supplies were provided to 28 healthcare and educational institutions in **Ukraine**, seven perinatal centres and seven children's hospital in **Kazakhstan**, 85 primary health facilities and one maternity hospital in **Albania**, and to 1,300 primary healthcare centres in **Moldova**. To support the most vulnerable of children, UNICEF in **Armenia** provided needs-based support packages to displaced persons to 144 children and 115 adults.

## Child Protection, GBV and PSEA



UNICEF supported governments and partners to sustain community-based child protection services, including case management, and provided with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) through face-to-face or online counselling in **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine**. In **Kazakhstan**, UNICEF developed two implementation packages to promote mental health of adolescents in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in a gender-responsive manner and provided MHPSS, legal support and counselling to migrant and refugees children and their families in asylum centres. UNICEF supported child protection assessments in **Armenia** and established child-friendly spaces and MHPSS services for children, adolescents and their families affected by conflict, including psycho-social assistance to 238 families.

In **Azerbaijan** and **Bulgaria**, UNICEF responded to increasing cases of child abuse, exploitation, exposure to domestic and gender-based violence as well as risks of abandonment by intensifying outreach, identification, prevention, and response services through mobile teams. The three Child Advocacy Centres in Bulgaria reached 809 children and caregivers, 418 children (236 girls and 182 boys), and 394 parents (290 women and 104 men) with MHPSS and protection services for victims of violence. UNICEF and partners continued to ensure availability of GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response services for children and their families through child helplines, GBV case management and capacity building of social workers in **Armenia, Moldova, North Macedonia, and Turkey**. In **Kazakhstan**, UNICEF collaborated with CSOs to help children and women who were ill-treated or at risk of abuse during COVID-19, reaching 247 women and 856 children through case management. 227 women and children received legal counselling, 190 women and children received psychological counselling, and 182 consultations were provided on accessibility for children with disabilities. A total of 299 participants were trained in violence prevention and response.

In **North Macedonia**, UNICEF advocated for trauma-informed primary healthcare and facilitated a pilot targeted inquiry for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). 370,000 people were also reached through social media with advices on positive parenting techniques.

Training for service providers and implementing partners was provided in **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Turkey, and Ukraine** on various topics such as Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy and procedures, child protection services, emergency response, response to increased domestic violence due to COVID-19, support for trauma survivors and MHPSS.

## Education

To ensure continuity of education in case of a potential closure of schools, online learning platforms and TV programmes for distance learning were developed and supported to expand interactive content in **Albania, North Macedonia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine**. To facilitate inclusive education and equal accessibility, UNICEF continued to advocate to address the issue of digital divide, supporting broadcasting of lessons and raising awareness on child rights. In **Armenia**, provision of online learning materials was enhanced and more than 100 adolescents in targeted locations were trained in life skills. UNICEF provided trainings on remedial classes for 15 schools hosting displaced children in **Armenia**. In **Croatia**, 269 Roma students at risk of dropout due to irregular schooling caused by COVID-19, were supported with regular activities to build learning routines, have positive educational experiences and increase school motivation and aspirations. In **Bulgaria** and **North Macedonia** UNICEF advocated for children with disabilities and their parents/caregivers to have access to safe, inclusive, and equitable services.

In **Bulgaria**, UNICEF contributed technical inputs to update the framework for reopening of kindergartens and schools and provided input for the development of education programming for 2021-2027, highlighting topics on prevention of school dropout, prevention of violence in schools, digital skills, and support for children with disabilities.



Refugee and migrant children were supported in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** through school enrolment and/or non-formal education activities, using blended learning methods. Funding was also used to provide humanitarian aid to 950 children and their parents in the migration process in **Kazakhstan**. Of these, 335 children received school supplies and 615 families with children received sanitary kits. The beneficiaries included children and families who were stranded at the **Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan** border early July due to Covid-19 restrictions. In **Armenia**, the funding equipped 5,000 children in temporary shelters and schools with learning materials and hygiene items. UNICEF also distributed learning equipment, school bags and hygiene supplies among the most vulnerable. Five schools received voltaic solar charger kits to power computers during emergency cuts of the electricity. In **Turkey**, UNICEF provided play boxes for early learning, while 191 EBA<sup>8</sup> support centres were established in lower secondary schools to ensure continuity of learning. UNICEF Turkey continued supporting the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) to ensure safe learning for children during the pandemic and provided IPC supplies and cleaning services in 764 schools and 490 public education centres, benefitting 323,488 children (162,623 girls, 160,865 boys), including approximately 82,791 refugees (44,681 girls, 38,110 boys).

Teachers were trained, improving their skills in blended learning and maintaining information communications technology (ICT) standards in **Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan** and **Moldova**. UNICEF provided trainings for schoolteachers and other support staff on hygiene, COVID-19 prevention, and healthy lifestyle skills in **Armenia** and **Moldova**, basic PSS to children through schools in **Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan** and **Ukraine**, inclusive education in **Bulgaria**, and career counselling in **Romania**. In **Albania**, 22 TechHUBS were set up in compulsory schools affected by an earthquake, benefiting 8,000 students.

## Social Protection and Cash Transfers

UNICEF supported governments in implementing cash transfer programmes for low-income, vulnerable populations affected by COVID-19 and other emergencies and strengthened existing social protection systems and services in **Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia**, and **Ukraine**. UNICEF supported impact assessment of COVID-19 on social protection in **Armenia** (including conflict affected families), **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Turkey** and **Ukraine**.

In **Armenia**, the Cash Coordination Group, co-led by UNICEF and UNHCR, and the Government developed a Memorandum of Understanding on modalities for humanitarian cash transfers which enabled cash support to 8,000 displaced children through the treasury system. To address the needs of families experiencing hardship in **North Macedonia**, the provision of social protection services was ensured for 260 families at social risk, including 487 children, and seven local CSOs were trained in providing support to families at risk.

## C4D, Community Engagement and AAP

UNICEF's Communication for Development (C4D) activities supported governments and implementing partners to develop context specific, gender and age-sensitive, socially, culturally and linguistically appropriate messages on access to essential, safe, trusted, and reliable services. In 2021, UNICEF provided messages on access to services, COVID-19 prevention, including hand-washing messages, tackling vaccine hesitancy and adherence to preventative measures in **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, North Macedonia, Turkey**, and **Ukraine** through traditional and social media campaigns. UNICEF in **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Turkey**, and **Ukraine** engaged public figures, influencers and celebrities to raise awareness on key messages related to COVID-19.

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<sup>8</sup> Facilities including mobile team to reach children in remote areas

In **Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, and North Macedonia**, informative content was shared through social media, promoting safety and hygiene measures in schools. In **Belarus**, risk communication and community engagement through the on-going communication campaign ‘Clean Trend’ focusing on proper hygiene skills that reached approximately 2.3 million people.

## Summary Programme Results 2021 (COVID-19 response)

UNICEF’s actions to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 response in 2021 were undertaken in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

| Summary of Results                                                                                                                           | 2021 Target | Total UNICEF Results in 2021  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>EC-01 - ECAR – Nutrition</b>                                                                                                              |             |                               |
| 1. Number of primary caregivers of children 0-23 months reached with messages and counselling on IYCF                                        | 552,500     | <b>844,462<sup>i</sup></b>    |
| <b>EC-02 - ECAR – Health</b>                                                                                                                 |             |                               |
| 1. Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control (IPC)                        | 61,200      | <b>21,593<sup>ii</sup></b>    |
| 2. Number of children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities                                                  | 301,600     | <b>289,977</b>                |
| 3. Number of children vaccinated against measles                                                                                             | 776,315     | <b>546,244</b>                |
| 4. Number of caregivers and frontline professionals (healthcare, social workers, teachers) provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) | 393,333     | <b>26,660<sup>ii</sup></b>    |
| <b>EC-03 - ECAR - Water, Sanitation and hygiene (WASH)</b>                                                                                   |             |                               |
| 1. Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services                                               | 452,000     | <b>467,383</b>                |
| 2. Number of children accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces                      | 1,542,530   | <b>609,012<sup>iii</sup></b>  |
| <b>EC-04 - ECAR – Education</b>                                                                                                              |             |                               |
| 1. Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning                                                     | 7,317,973   | <b>4,804,399<sup>iv</sup></b> |
| 2. Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)                                                   | 16,010      | <b>12,990</b>                 |
| 3. Number of teachers trained in delivering digital, distance, and blended learning                                                          | 141,658     | <b>204,954<sup>v</sup></b>    |
| 4. Number of parents/caregivers of children under 5 receiving ECD counseling and/or parenting support                                        | 296,000     | <b>784,979<sup>i</sup></b>    |
| <b>EC-05 - ECAR - Child Protection, GBViE &amp; PSEA</b>                                                                                     |             |                               |
| 1. Number of children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support                                                        | 640,350     | <b>1,120,703<sup>i</sup></b>  |
| 2. Number of women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions                                       | 106,400     | <b>25,731<sup>ii</sup></b>    |
| 3. Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements                                | 27,857      | <b>11,246<sup>ii</sup></b>    |
| 4. Number of people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse                                                     | 1,144,363   | <b>1,060,712</b>              |

| EC-06 - ECAR - Social Protection                                                                                                      |            |                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Number of # households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors                                                     | 10,500     | 1,949 <sup>ii</sup>     |
| 2. Number of households benefitting from new or additional social transfers from governments with UNICEF technical assistance support | 124,200    | 591,879 <sup>vi</sup>   |
| 1. Number of people reached through messaging on access to services. (ECAR)                                                           | 17,510,769 | 44,358,497 <sup>i</sup> |
| 2. Number of people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioral change)                                            | 1,081,500  | 719,145                 |

#### Notes

i *Targets have been exceeded owing to advocacy campaigns reaching a large number of people, achievements in online platform technologies, significant coverage due to social media messaging, enhanced partner capacities and increased participation through online trainings etc*

ii *Planned results underachieved as activities were either postponed to next year or other quarters or did not happen due to COVID-19 imposed restriction and funding unavailability or other partners addressed the need.*

iii *While some activities recently started and are in progress, target underachieved due to funding gaps that remain in WASH supplies and services in schools.*

iv *Target under education is underachieved as most of the schools either applied face-to-face or blended learning*

v *No progress in Quarter 3-4 due to the unavailability of funding.*

vi *Target overachieved and UNICEF is focusing on policy advocacy and technical support to strengthen existing social protection system.*

## V. Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

UNICEF's programmatic responses, advocacy and contingency planning at both country and regional level were informed by careful monitoring of risk profile for countries in the region to trigger early action and prioritize support for reinforcing preparedness to respond to emerging risks by identifying practical preparedness interventions.

The response intervention and results were monitored through a well-established Humanitarian Performance Monitoring system and in close consultation with partner and country teams. Based on the results, UNICEF developed quarterly situation reports and were disseminated.

## VI. Financial Analysis

At the end of December 2021, UNICEF's programme response was funded at USD 37.3 million (48 percent) against the regional 2021 Humanitarian Action for children (HAC) of USD 71.9 million. Of the total funding received, USD 23.7 million (64 percent) was earmarked for COVID-19 response and USD 10.8 million (29 percent) was earmarked for emergency preparedness and response and disaster risk reduction (DRR) interventions. Generous contributions from the European Union (EU), United States Agency for International Development's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID's BHA), the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), the Kingdoms of Norway, Luxemburg, Switzerland, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom, UNICEF Global Thematic Humanitarian Funds, UNICEF National Committees in Denmark, German, Sweden and the Netherlands, as well as private sector donors enabled UNICEF to provide critical humanitarian responses and strengthen capacities for emergency preparedness and response in 22 countries the region.

At country level, UNICEF coordinated closely with other UN agencies, particularly the World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (GAVI), government partners and line ministries, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and civil society organisations (CSOs) to address the impact of COVID-19 on children and their families. Together with its partners, UNICEF worked to develop and implement strategic actions to alleviate the negative effects of the pandemic and other emergencies.

In 2021, resource mobilization and partnerships efforts enabled UNICEF to address urgent needs resulting from the continuing COVID-19 pandemic in the areas of health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, GBV reduction, education, youth empowerment and RCCE as well as to respond to immediate needs of children and families at risk of and affected by several disasters. By effectively using funding received for COVID-19 and deploying efficient technologies and online modalities for service delivery, UNICEF was able to achieve significant results against targets related to psychosocial counselling, teachers training, parenting orientation on ECD and RCCE. Significant funding gaps however remained for most sectors – particularly nutrition (90 percent), social protection (84 percent), WASH (80 percent), child protection (76 percent) and education (67 percent) – and consequently expected results for all sectors were not fully achieved.

In 2022, UNICEF will need to sustain efforts to address and alleviate the direct impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable children and families as well as to enhance emergency preparedness, response and DRR capacities of government and partners in the ECA region.

The table below shows the funding status against HAC 2021 appeal by sectors/areas. The “Funds Received” and “Carry-Over” columns reflects overall amounts including cost recovery.

| <b>Table 1. Funding status against the appeal by Sector</b> |                     |                                         |                              |                                  |                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sectors                                                     | Requirement in 2021 | Humanitarian Resources received in 2021 | Other Resources used in 2021 | Resources from 2020 (Carry-over) | Funding gap in 2021 (%) |
| Nutrition                                                   | 1,380,000           | 74,636                                  | 52,800                       | 16,000                           | 90%                     |
| Health                                                      | 14,425,000          | 4,256,362                               | 5,588,998                    | 2,356,929                        | 15%                     |
| WASH                                                        | 11,699,000          | 1,976,910                               | 0                            | 414,289                          | 80%                     |
| Child Protection, GBViE & PSEA                              | 8,839,000           | 780,062                                 | 615,652                      | 751,252                          | 76%                     |
| Education                                                   | 10,033,000          | 657,016                                 | 346,939                      | 2,315,303                        | 67%                     |
| C4D                                                         | 7,767,000           | 876,932                                 | 2,511,702                    | 1,168,408                        | 41%                     |
| Social Protection                                           | 10,168,750          | 702,347                                 | 87,444                       | 871,307                          | 84%                     |
| Preparedness, Response and DRR                              | 7,110,000           | 9,513,712                               | 0                            | 650,358                          | -43%                    |
| RO Technical Support                                        | 550,000             | 471,145                                 | 0                            | 261,293                          | -33%                    |
| <b>Total</b>                                                | <b>71,971,750</b>   | <b>19,309,121</b>                       | <b>9,203,535</b>             | <b>8,805,138</b>                 | <b>48%</b>              |

**Table 2: Funding received and available by donor and funding type:** This table includes all resource partners and all types of funding received and available for emergency activities in the humanitarian appeals.

| Recipient Office                                               | Donor                      | Grant     | Overall Amount (US \$) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| <b>I. Humanitarian Funds received in 2021</b>                  |                            |           |                        |
| <b>a. Thematic Humanitarian Funds – See details in Table 3</b> |                            |           |                        |
|                                                                |                            | SM 189910 | 2,036,268              |
|                                                                |                            | SM 209910 | 824,771                |
| Total Thematic Humanitarian Funds                              |                            |           | 2,861,039              |
| <b>b. Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>                      |                            |           |                        |
| Albania                                                        | USA USAID                  | SM210696  | 917,000                |
| Armenia                                                        | Swiss Committee for UNICEF | SM210633  | 24,537                 |
| Armenia                                                        | Japan                      | SM210056  | 1,000,000              |
| Armenia                                                        | USA (State) BPRM           | SM210608  | 1,144,940              |
| Armenia                                                        | UNOCHA                     | SM210020  | 527,600                |

|                                                        |                                    |          |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Armenia                                                | UNDP USA                           | SM210579 | 324,247    |
| Azerbaijan                                             | UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office | SM210009 | 3,343      |
| Azerbaijan                                             | European Commission / ECHO         | SM210316 | 548,780    |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                                 | German Committee for UNICEF        | KM210001 | 297,000    |
| Croatia                                                | UNICEF-Croatia                     | KM210004 | 86,127     |
| Croatia                                                | UNICEF-Croatia                     | KM210026 | 24,000     |
| ECARO, Switzerland (Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro)       | Netherlands Committee for UNICEF   | SM210099 | 121,359    |
| ECARO, Switzerland                                     | The United Kingdom                 | SM210031 | 309,488    |
| ECARO, Switzerland                                     | Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance | SM210664 | 550,000    |
| ECARO, Switzerland (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)            | USA (State) BPRM                   | SM210718 | 2,600,000  |
| Georgia                                                | Japan Committee for UNICEF         | KM210039 | 1,597,045  |
| Georgia                                                | USAID                              | SM210695 | 1,000,000  |
| Kosovo                                                 | Netherlands                        | SM210788 | 115,660    |
| Kosovo                                                 | United Nations Multi Partner Trust | SM200766 | 346,186    |
| Moldova                                                | USA USAID                          | SM210143 | 500,000    |
| Moldova                                                | USA USAID                          | SM210694 | 1,208,000  |
| North Macedonia                                        | USAID                              | SM210699 | 1,400,000  |
| North Macedonia                                        | United Nations Multi Partner Trust | SM210034 | 350,000    |
| Uzbekistan                                             | Japan                              | SM210797 | 200,000    |
| Romania                                                | UNICEF-Romania                     | SM210025 | 26,350     |
| Serbia                                                 | UNICEF Serbia                      | SM210875 | 203,865    |
| Turkmenistan                                           | UNDP USA                           | SM210852 | 264,600    |
| Ukraine                                                | USA (State) BPRM                   | SM210609 | 891,000    |
| Ukraine                                                | WHO GSC                            | SM210140 | 86,400     |
| Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds                  |                                    |          | 16,667,527 |
| c. Pooled Funding                                      |                                    |          |            |
| Total Pooled Funding                                   |                                    |          |            |
| d. Other Types of Humanitarian Funds                   |                                    |          |            |
| Total Other Types of Humanitarian Funds                |                                    |          | N/A        |
| Total Humanitarian Funds received in 2021 (a+b+c+d)    |                                    |          | 19,528,566 |
| II. Carry-over of Humanitarian Funds available in 2020 |                                    |          |            |
| e. Carry-over of Thematic Humanitarian Funds           |                                    |          |            |
| Total carry-over of Thematic Humanitarian Funds        |                                    | SM189910 | 649,917    |
|                                                        |                                    | SM209910 | 1,847,131  |
| f. Carry-over of Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds       |                                    |          |            |
| Albania                                                | Swedish Committee UNICEF           | SM200456 | 52,000     |
| Albania                                                | USA USAID                          | SM200160 | 154,070    |
| Albania                                                | United States Fund for UNICEF      | SM200204 | 18,785     |
| Armenia                                                | USA USAID                          | SM200160 | 421,476    |



|                                                                |                                                     |          |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Armenia                                                        | United Nations Multi Partner Trust Fund             | SM200800 | 214,918   |
| Armenia                                                        | Swiss Committee for UNICEF                          | SM200484 | 42,251    |
| Armenia                                                        | United Nations Multi Partner Trust Fund             | SM200421 | 8,782     |
| Azerbaijan                                                     | USA USAID                                           | SM200142 | 256,395   |
| Belarus                                                        | USA USAID                                           | SM200160 | 275,311   |
| Belarus                                                        | UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)            | SM200793 | 31,924    |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                                         | USA USAID                                           | SM200142 | 569,498   |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                                         | United Nations Multi Partner Trust Fund             | SM200729 | 459,346   |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                                         | Swedish Committee for UNICEF                        | SM200454 | 68,558    |
| ECARO, Switzerland                                             | Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance USAID BHA        | SM190353 | 44,567    |
| ECARO, Switzerland                                             | European Commission / ECHO                          | SM200646 | 51,506    |
| Georgia                                                        | USA USAID                                           | SM200160 | 261,837   |
| Kazakhstan                                                     | USA USAID                                           | SM200160 | 54,045    |
| Kazakhstan                                                     | European Commission / ECHO                          | SM200646 | 4,341     |
| Kosovo                                                         | Luxembourg                                          | SM200304 | 43,587    |
| Kosovo                                                         | United Nations Multi Partner Trust Fund             | SM200766 | 21,556    |
| Kosovo                                                         | Japan                                               | SM200355 | 18,225    |
| Kosovo                                                         | USA USAID                                           | SM200160 | 72,490    |
| Moldova                                                        | USA USAID                                           | SM200142 | 267,262   |
| Montenegro                                                     | Norway                                              | SM200671 | 17,041    |
| Montenegro                                                     | UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)            | SM200533 | 43,949    |
| North Macedonia                                                | USA USAID                                           | SM200160 | 142,660   |
| Romania                                                        | United States Fund for UNICEF                       | SM200204 | 91,458    |
| Serbia                                                         | UNICEF-Serbia                                       | SM200148 | 50,964    |
| Serbia                                                         | USA USAID                                           | SM200142 | 642,736   |
| Serbia                                                         | Swedish Committee for UNICEF                        | SM200453 | 57,904    |
| Serbia                                                         | USA (State) BPRM                                    | SM190401 | 15,486    |
| Turkmenistan                                                   | USA USAID                                           | SM200160 | 249,286   |
| Ukraine                                                        | USA USAID                                           | SM200160 | 67,348    |
| Uzbekistan                                                     | Asian Development Bank                              | SM200127 | 9,924     |
| Uzbekistan                                                     | Asian Development Bank                              | SM200437 | 6,176     |
| Uzbekistan                                                     | European Commission / ECHO                          | SM200646 | 4,572     |
| Uzbekistan                                                     | British Government (DFID) Dept. for Int.Development | SM200098 | 12,485    |
| Total carry-over of Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds            |                                                     |          | 4,824,720 |
| Total carry-over of Humanitarian Funds available in 2021 (e+f) |                                                     |          | 7,321,768 |
| III. Other Sources                                             |                                                     |          |           |
| g. Other Regular Resources                                     |                                                     |          |           |

|                                             |                                              |              |            |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Albania                                     | European Commission/EC                       | SC210010     | 348,627    |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                      | European Commission/EC                       | SC210010     | 685,950    |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                      | USA USAID                                    | SC210152     | 73,836     |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                      | Switzerland c/o Swiss Agency for Development | SC180540     | 12,638     |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                      | SIDA - Sweden                                | SC1899050013 | 42,381     |
| Croatia                                     | UNICEF-Croatia                               | SC180071     | 78,999     |
| Moldova                                     | GAVI The Vaccine Alliance                    | SC210300     | 1,290      |
| Montenegro                                  | European Commission/EC                       | SC210010     | 279,921    |
| Montenegro                                  | European Commission/EC                       | SC210012     | 220,639    |
| Montenegro                                  | Global - Gender Equality THEMATIC FUND       | SC189909     | 9,054      |
| North Macedonia                             | European Commission/EC                       | SC210010     | 183,611    |
| Serbia                                      | European Commission/EC                       | SC210010     | 702,067    |
| Ukraine                                     | Switzerland c/o Swiss Agency for Development | SC210195     | 104,995    |
| Ukraine                                     | Ukraine/World bank                           | SC210230     | 1,400,000  |
| Ukraine                                     | GAVI The Vaccine Alliance                    | SC200764     | 54,963     |
| Ukraine                                     | USA CDC Centers for Disease Control &        | SC200429     | 54,000     |
| Ukraine                                     | USA USAID                                    | SC180553     | 5,309,473  |
| Total Other Regular Resources               |                                              |              | 9,562,444  |
| h. Regular Resources                        |                                              |              |            |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                      | Non-grant                                    | GC           | 100,340    |
| Georgia                                     | Non-grant                                    | GC           | 80,000     |
| Total Regular Resources                     |                                              |              | 180,340    |
| IV. Carry-over of Other Sources             |                                              |              |            |
| i. Carry-over of Other Regular Resources    |                                              |              |            |
| ECARO, Switzerland                          | Global Partnership for Education             | SC200273     | 200,000    |
| ECARO, Switzerland                          | Global Partnership for Education             | SC200189     | 11,700     |
| Croatia                                     | UNICEF-Croatia                               | SC180071     | 8,000      |
| Kazakhstan                                  | Global - Nutrition THEMATIC FUND             | SC189903     | 16,000     |
| Kazakhstan                                  | PPD Humanit/JP/MDTF                          | SC190532     | 36,664     |
| Kosovo                                      | SIDA - Sweden                                | SC200409     | 107,790    |
| Moldova                                     | GAVI The Vaccine Alliance                    | SC200764     | 5,754      |
| Moldova                                     | Global Partnership for Education             | SC200189     | 4,961      |
| Serbia                                      | Danish Committee for UNICEF                  | SC200312     | 56,473     |
| Serbia                                      | European Commission/EC                       | SC200627     | 848,000    |
| Total carry-over of Other Regular Resources |                                              |              | 1,295,342  |
| Total Other Sources (g+h+i)                 |                                              |              | 11,038,126 |

Table 3 · Thematic humanitarian contributions received in 2021

| Donor                                                  | Grant        | Programmable Amount (US \$) | Overall Amount (US \$) |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Slovenska Fundacija za UNICEF                          | SM1899100932 | 229,032                     | 241,086                |
| UNICEF-Croatia                                         | SM1899100918 | 288,835                     | 304,037                |
| Turkish National Comm for UNICEF                       | SM1899100987 | 20,088                      | 21,145                 |
| Allocation from Global Thematic Humanitarian           | SM189910     | 1,470,000                   | 1,470,000              |
| French Committee for UNICEF                            | SM2099100136 | 170,678                     | 179,211                |
| Allocation from Global Thematic Humanitarian - Covid19 | SM209910     | 200,000                     | 645,560                |
| <b>Total</b>                                           |              | <b>2,378,632</b>            | <b>2,861,039</b>       |

\* Programmable amounts of donor contributions, excluding recovery cost.

\*\* 2019 loans have not been waived; COs are liable to reimburse in 2020 as donor funds become available.

## VII. Future Workplan

In 2022, UNICEF will sustain its humanitarian response efforts to address and alleviate the direct impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable children and families as well as to enhance emergency preparedness, response and DRR capacities of governments and partners in the ECA region. The linkages between humanitarian and development will be prioritized during the planning and implementation of humanitarian programming.

UNICEF ECARO will continue to invest in enhancing emergency preparedness, response and disaster risk reduction capacities of governments and partners to facilitate effective, child-sensitive and gender-responsive humanitarian action and risk mitigation efforts. UNICEF will maintain a focus on providing targeted, multi-sectoral humanitarian response and technical assistance to address and alleviate the direct impacts of COVID-19 and other emergencies on vulnerable children and families.

Focus will be on scaling up national preparedness for sudden-onset emergencies, including natural disasters, conflict and displacements and delivering life-saving interventions in health, nutrition, education, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection and social protection. UNICEF will continue to work with authorities and communities to prepare for reintegration of children returning from Iraq, Syria and other armed conflicts and enhance capacities on disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation and risk-informed programming.

In Central Asia, UNICEF will sustain partnership with IFRC, further building capacities of governments and front-line actors through pre-positioning supplies; improving capacities in shock-responsive social protection, accountability to affected populations, WASH and gender in emergencies, promoting school safety and youth engagement. Inter-agency collaboration on preparedness and resilience will continue through co-facilitation of CADRI.

Strengthening skills of UNICEF staff across the region on risk informed programming, risk monitoring, preparedness planning and humanitarian action, and roll-out of global procedures will remain a priority focus. Regional surge mechanisms, supply procurement support and an early action emergency fund will be maintained to enable immediate response to humanitarian situations. Emphasis will continue on integrating GBV risk mitigation, addressing needs of adolescents, women, girls and children with disabilities in humanitarian settings and knowledge management on humanitarian action.

UNICEF will expand its activities in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, leading to (1) strengthened community-based and child-centred emergency preparedness and response, (2) enhanced school safety and preparedness of children and their community for possible disasters to reduce their impact through DRR interventions, and (3) engage young volunteers, adolescent girls, and boys in disaster risk-prone areas in community disaster preparedness and comprehensive school safety.

In partnership with CESDRR, UNICEF and IFRC will organize knowledge management, lessons learned and capacity development events with the engagement of UNICEF and Red Crescent country offices and government counterparts from Central Asian countries and UNICEF and IFRC regional offices.

UNICEF will introduce a new intervention on strengthening national Shock Responsive Social Protection systems in all Central Asian countries. The activity will support the development of coordination, governance, financing, and/or programme design for social protection in emergencies in all five Central Asian countries.

## **Annex A: two pager Non-Thematic Funding Contribution**

### **Contribution Summary**

- Donor name: Government of Japan
- Assisted country: Armenia
- Grant reference number: SM210056
- Total contribution: 1,000,000.00
- Programmable amount: 925,739.23
- Cumulative Expenditure\*: 999,798.37
- Commitments\*: 0.00
- Period covered by the report: 19.02.2021- 31.01.2022

*\* This figure is a provisional amount. Official expenditure figures will be provided by the UNICEF Comptroller after the closure of 2020 accounts.*

#### **a) Purpose of the Contribution**

UNICEF focused on responding to the immediate needs of the displaced population and host communities through improving access to **Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS), health/nutrition, education, social and child protection services**. The purpose was ensuring that children in refugee-like situations, children from host communities and their families benefit from improved access to essential services, including: a) community-based MHPSS, including GBV case management and support and social protection services for children, adolescents, and women; b) inclusive, quality, equitable and child-friendly education services through enhancement of host schools' capacity and provision of adequate supplies from pre-school to secondary; c) health and nutrition services. Additional support targeted at geographic and population levels complemented ongoing activities and directly supported national authorities to meet the immediate and medium-term needs of the affected population in the Armavir, Kotayk, Ararat, Vayots Dzor and Syunik regions.

#### **b) Results**

**CHILD PROTECTION.** Five community-based child-friendly spaces were established and supported in Etchmiadzin, Armavir, Mrgashen, Dvin and Abovyan. These spaces provide permanent access to community-based services for vulnerable children, including PSS, reaching in total more than 1,500 children annually. In addition, social service workforce was strengthened to reach out and provide PSS and GBV case management services to vulnerable groups during emergencies. 225 specialists (health workers, social workers, teachers, local government officials, community members, police officers) were provided with relevant skills and knowledge. Besides, outgoing sessions were arranged for around 100 children aged 14-17 on GBV in the target regions. The participants later carried out one-day seminars with their peers on GBV in their communities (with overall 85 children).

**EDUCATION.** UNICEF provided material and technical assistance to 15 schools that hosted the largest number of displaced children (around 2,000 officially registered) to restore and sustain a child-friendly and enabling environment for all children. As a result, over 8800 students (3970 girls, 4853 boys) from both displaced and host community have restarted classes in an improved school environment, including partial repair of WASH

facilities in September 2021. In collaboration with MoESCS and the AYB Educational Foundation UNICEF initiated a resilience building program for adolescents and young people, supported also by community youth workers and professional psychologists. As a result, 500 adolescents acquired the 16 core competencies leading to self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills and social awareness which will help them to manage conflicts, develop resilience, set goals, and make the right decisions. More than 2000 adolescents and young people had access to the manual and workbook with 16 basic life-saving skills for self-development. Interventions also included capacity building of 110 youth workers and peer support volunteers, to accompany adolescents through the process of getting basic life-saving skills to build their resilience.

**SOCIAL PROTECTION.** In collaboration with MoLSA and “SOURCE” Foundation, UNICEF supported refurbishment and equipment of the state-run Child and Family Support Center (Kapan, Syunik region), which serves also as a crisis center and still hosts displaced families. The center enables access for approximately 140 children, including displaced children and children with disabilities, to essential and inclusive social services. The four rooms include playrooms, ergotherapy and a room for group work with mixed groups of children. All the 10 staff members of the center were trained on the use of equipment and work with children. In addition, considering the finalization of the Government-led cash support programmes and the harsh winter months, as well as the need to test new assistance modalities with MoLSA to inform further policymaking, UNICEF together with Armenia Progressive Youth NGO supported the design and rollout of a voucher system for clothes, shoes and bedding items for displaced families with more than 4 children. 165 displaced families in target regions with more than 660 children, including 286 children under 5, benefitted from one-time voucher support of 50 USD per child.

**HEALTH.** UNICEF focused also on addressing the health needs of children and women in refugee-like situation, by providing them with basic services through outreach. Health facilities of targeted regions were provided with special equipment, including portable ultrasound systems, haemoglobinometers, and pulse oximeters, allowing to perform relevant analyses and tests directly in the communities. About 1,500 frontline health specialists in those regions were trained on monitoring child nutrition, growth and development, and PSS to children and families. UNICEF formed 10 paediatric mobile teams, that reached more than 10,000 children in refugee-like situation and those living in host communities. The teams assessed/screened the health and nutrition status of children, provided their parents with basic consultation and support, and referred them for further treatment as needed.

Frequent move of the targeted displaced children made it more difficult to address their needs. However, UNICEF in cooperation with local partners ensured that systematic outreach so that these children could benefit from the interventions.

#### **c) Future plans for utilization of grant balance**

The grant has been fully utilized.

#### **d) Visibility**

To raise awareness about mental health and psychosocial support among caregivers and to encourage them to seek professional guidance, UNICEF produced a public service announcement, in agreement with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA), promoting the child protection hotline 0800 61111, which is serviced by professional social workers and psychologists. The hotline service responds to issues related to children and child rights, including violence, education, mental health and wellbeing, as well as offers psychological first aid. The PSA will be disseminated through UNICEF and MoLSA digital channels, including websites and social media accounts. UNICEF will also seek MoLSA support to place the PSA on broadcast channels or in cinema halls in Yerevan.

UNICEF’s coursework on basic lifesaving skills for adolescents and young people has been made public through UNICEF channels and was shared with local organizations to be used while working with adolescents and young people. A story on voucher assistance is being finalized and will be published soon.

#### **e) Expression of Thanks**

UNICEF would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation to the people of Japan for their generous financial contribution in support of children in Armenia. On behalf of the entire UNICEF Armenia Country Office team, we thank you for helping to advance our shared commitments to protecting the rights and



improving the well-being of children displaced as a result of the military hostilities in and around Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone.

## Annex B: Donor Statement

### UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)



OTHER RESOURCES CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED FROM: BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

DONOR STATEMENT BY ACTIVITY (UNCERTIFIED) FROM 02 AUGUST 2019 TO 31 DECEMBER 2021 IN US DOLLARS

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#### Status of Contribution

|                         |                                                                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| External Reference:     | 720FDA19IO00079                                                             |
| Description:            | ECARO: Strengthening Local and National Capacities in high earthquake risks |
| Contribution Reference: | SM190353                                                                    |
| Effective Date:         | 02.08.2019                                                                  |
| Expiry Date:            | 31.12.2021                                                                  |
| Recipient Office(s):    | ECAR Regional Office, Rep of Uzbekistan, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan |
| Agreement Currency:     | USD                                                                         |
| Agreement Amount:       | USD 521,928.00                                                              |
| Funds Received:         | USD 402,967.23                                                              |
| Refunds:                | USD 0.00                                                                    |
| Funds Receivable:       | USD 118,960.77                                                              |

#### Summary of Expenditures (USD)

| Description               | Cumulative Expenditure |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Programmable Expenditure: | 481,192.79             |
| Indirect support cost 8%  | 38,495.42              |
| <b>Total:</b>             | <b>519,688.21</b>      |
| Funds Received in USD:    | 402,967.23             |
| <b>Unspent Balance:</b>   | <b>(116,720.98)</b>    |

#### Summary of Expenditures by Recipient Office (USD)

| Country/Regional Office | Incurred Expense  |                   | Cash Advances and Prepayments | Cumulative Expenditure | Commitments* |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
|                         | 2019-2020         | 2021              |                               |                        |              |
| ECAR Regional Office    | 39,486.54         | 55,760.92         | 0.00                          | 95,247.46              | 0.00         |
| Rep of Uzbekistan       | 10,840.15         | 46,401.12         | 0.00                          | 57,241.27              | 0.00         |
| Republic of Kyrgyzstan  | 84,806.71         | 83,278.98         | 15,514.30                     | 183,599.99             | 0.00         |
| Tajikistan              | 107,638.51        | 75,960.98         | 0.00                          | 183,599.49             | 0.00         |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>242,771.91</b> | <b>261,402.00</b> | <b>15,514.30</b>              | <b>519,688.21</b>      | <b>0.00</b>  |

\* "Commitments" include undelivered purchase orders, payment commitments for implementing partners and travel advances approved but not yet paid. The amounts shown in this column represent the status and value of the commitment as at the date the report is produced. As goods are received and commitments in respect of implementing partners and travel advances are paid these amounts will be added to "incurred expense".

Amounts in this report are provisional. Official amounts are provided in the Certified Statement of Account.

Note: This report contains data as of refreshed date 21.03.2022

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## Annex C: Case Study

Thanks to BHA funding for Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF was able to initiate emergency response to the mudflows in Jalal-Abad, by replenishing WASH-related emergency supplies and providing RSCK with family hygiene and dignity

kits. In response to the massive flash floods in Suzak, Toguz-Bulak, Leilek and Bakai Ata districts in May, UNICEF, in partnership with RCSK, initiated immediate support to affected families, distributing 100 pre-positioned family hygiene and dignity kits, covering the needs of 500 people, including 300 children. The response activities were planned and implemented based on a needs assessment conducted by RCSK in Suzak district.

BHA funding also enabled the response to the conflict on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, where UNICEF, in partnership with RCSK, reached a total of 66 affected families with cash grants in the amount of 4000 soms for each child, covering the needs of 155 children (95 girls, 60 boys) in Leilek and Batken districts. In addition, the same support was provided to 90 children (70 girls, 20 boys) of families affected from mudflows in Jalal-Abad, Suzak region. Following the response, a lessons learned session was held with involved staff and volunteers in Batken.

In the aftermath of the emergencies, post-monitoring visits were conducted by UNICEF, together with local RCSK staff, in Jalal-Abad and Batken. The burnt and damaged houses were reconstructed by the government, various assistance was provided to the affected families by local people, mainly humanitarian aid in the form of clothing, food, shelter, and goods. The framework of the project was specifically targeted at children of vulnerable families who suffered during the conflicts. UNICEF and RCSK monitored the implementation, talking to families in the villages of Dostuk and Orto-Boz. The stories of these families were captured in a video. While building work was still ongoing, houses were warm and almost fully furnished. Other families who received aid came from neighbourhood houses to express their gratitude.

A grandmother from one family remembers: *"I've been living here for about 30-35 years. Yesterday our house burned down due to riots at the border. After the house burned down, we get the first aid from the RCSK, putting up tents for us for the first time. We were left with nothing on the street, and neither cars nor minibuses are coming to us. After some time, we got financial aid from national society. We were very happy that we would be able to finish our house. I was very happy, because I don't work myself. My son is disabled, and his wife is at home with the children, except for my pension, we had no money. We bought winter clothes for the children, and we also performed eye surgery on my granddaughter. She's fine now. We are still building the house, but everything else is behind us."* The family is well now, they still remember the joyful moment when the Red Crescent promptly came to help.

Another family shared their story: "we have been living in this village for 10 years, I have five grandchildren and two daughters-in-law. In April, all the houses burned down, and we were left with nothing. Sand, stone and other building materials were needed for construction. Since there were no finances to finish the repair, we postponed this process. Thinking about it, we weren't in the mood. Also, we thought that this would happen, but thank God, our people will not leave each other in a difficult moment. The Red Crescent gave our children 4,000 SOM to each child. First of all, we bought food, then clothes. Winter is coming soon, and we bought the children a winter jacket and boots. We and also the residents of our village are very grateful to the Red Crescent for such assistance".

*Monitoring visit to program intervention field - Batken, Dostuk village. Houses affected by the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border conflict.*

