

CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY REPORT 2022

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC



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CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE PARTICIPANT, INDILINA, LEAPS INTO THE AIR AS SHE SKIPS ROPE DURING PLAY-BASED ACTIVITY AT THE CFS IN TASI TOLU, DILI.

Prepared by UNICEF EAPRO
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Expression of thanks

UNICEF's work is funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector. Voluntary 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. On behalf of children, their families and communities in urgent need, the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all our partners for their commitment and trust in UNICEF. The achievements described in this report were the result of these continued partnerships. In particular, EAPRO expresses its sincere appreciation to all resource partners that contributed thematically to UNICEF's work to improve the situation of vulnerable children and women affected by emergencies and conflict in the East Asia and Pacific region. Thanks to thematic funding and its flexibility, UNICEF has been able to provide timely and effective technical, operational and programming support to countries in the region as part of its efforts to prepare and deliver life-saving protection and assistance to children and families.

Consolidated Emergency Report 2022

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAP	Accountability to Affected People
ADAP	Adolescent Development and Participation
CCCs	Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action
CPiE	Child Protection in Emergencies
HCT	Humanitarian Cash Transfer
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
EAP	East Asia and Pacific
EAPRO	UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECDiE	Early Childhood Development in Emergencies
EPP	Emergency Preparedness Platform
EPR	Emergency Preparedness and Response
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBViE	Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies
HAC	Humanitarian Action for Children
HMIS	Health Management Information System
IMNCI	Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LWU	Lao Women's Union
LYU	Lao Youth Union
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MNCH	Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health
MoH	Ministry of Health
MUAC	Mid-upper arm circumference
NAP-ECCD	Cambodian National Action Plan on Early Childhood Care and Development
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PSEA	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
RCCE	Risk Communication and Community Engagement
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBC	Social and Behaviour Change
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRSP	Shock-Responsive Social Protection
T4D	Technology for Development
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

East Asia and the Pacific remains the most disaster-prone region in the world, and in 2022, natural hazards, civil unrest, displacement, and protracted crises continued impacting the well-being of millions of children. The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant and lasting effects across the region, leading to disruptions in healthcare, education, and child protection services, as well as increased poverty and food insecurity.

Natural hazards including tropical storms and typhoons, floods, droughts, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions impacted several countries in 2022. While many events were small or localized and within the capacities of local governments and communities to respond, UNICEF supported government-led responses to larger rapid-onset crises caused by the volcanic eruption that impacted Tonga; floods in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Timor Leste; droughts in the Pacific Island States of Kiribati and Tuvalu, and Mongolia; a series of tropical storms and cyclones in the Philippines; and an earthquake in West Java, Indonesia.

Myanmar's protracted humanitarian and human rights crisis continues to worsen. The ongoing political crisis and escalating conflict has been coupled with economic challenges, increasing people's vulnerability. Refugees fleeing the intensifying violence continued to arrive in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, prolonged border closures continued to impact delivery of essential services for children and their families and to limit humanitarian access to this protracted humanitarian situation. In Papua New Guinea, election violence continued over a period of months and humanitarian access to displaced populations was further constrained by the impacts of an earthquake in September.

The Regional Office engaged in a holistic disaster risk management approach to support country offices, governments and partners by strengthening emergency preparedness, building local and national capacities and providing technical expertise for child-sensitive, gender-informed and disability-inclusive humanitarian action. Across all country offices, UNICEF focused on supporting national efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other protracted and rapid onset crises by restoring basic services for children in the areas of health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, education and social protection. In addition to providing financial support and supplies to increase service delivery focusing on the most vulnerable, UNICEF country offices invested strongly in building systems and capacities for planning, monitoring and quality service delivery by government and civil society partners.

At the regional level, UNICEF engaged with ASEAN and other UN inter-agency mechanisms to coordinate regional initiatives and support to countries across a range of issues including emergency preparedness, comprehensive school safety, COVID-19 risk communication, shock-responsive social protection, and to leverage partners across the region to strengthen gender-informed and disability-inclusive humanitarian action. At the country level, UNICEF continued to support governments to lead sector / cluster coordination mechanisms to fulfil its cluster lead agency accountabilities. UNICEF worked closely with government and fostered strategic partnerships with UN agencies, NGOs, donors, civil society organizations, including organizations of people with disabilities, and the private sector to support the achievement of humanitarian results for children and adolescents.

The global economic slow-down coupled with supply chain disruptions, particularly for countries usually dependent on China for imports, impacted humanitarian responses in East Asia and Pacific through rising costs of importing supplies and delays in procurement and delivery. Inflation and currency devaluations caused some governments to adjust funding priorities toward COVID-19 health response, leaving other sectors underfunded. Limited humanitarian funding for the region also prevented humanitarian response plans from being

implemented in full, with funding gaps ranging from 12 to 71 per cent at the country level, while the Regional Office funding gap was 87 per cent.

Global humanitarian thematic funding in 2022 allowed the Regional Office to address the most urgent and critical funding gaps in Thailand (to support the humanitarian response to refugees crossing the Thai Myanmar border); in Tonga (to supported displaced families following the volcanic eruption); in Cambodia (to support flood response); in the Philippines (to replenish contingency stocks); and in Papua New Guinea (to support children and families displaced by post-elections violence). It also enabled the Regional Office to provide technical support for country level emergency preparedness and response, as well as to strengthen cross-cutting aspects of disability inclusion, early childhood development, shock-responsive social protection, and technology for development. The leveraging of regular programme funds to support emergency response interventions in Lao PDR, Malaysia and Viet Nam allowed more children to be reached and more sustainable results.

This report covers the results achieved against the East Asia and Pacific Regional Humanitarian Appeal for Children 2022, including regional level support and country level results for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet Nam.



Nong Nat explores his new toys and books. As part of COVID-19 response, UNICEF Magic Bags of books, toys and learning materials were delivered to young children of families living in crowded construction camps in Bangkok. Each Magic Bag also contained guidelines for parents on how to keep their children engaged in learning activities at home.

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1. Humanitarian Context

The humanitarian context in East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) during 2022 was characterized by natural hazards, protracted conflicts, civil unrest and displacement, as well as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The region is significantly affected by the negative impacts of climate change, with increasing occurrence and intensity of cyclones, floods and droughts. The ongoing socio-economic and political effects of COVID-19 and ongoing war in Ukraine, combined with geopolitical drivers across the region increased rates of civil unrest across multiple countries in 2022 which continued to impact the lives of children and adolescents.

In January 2022, an underwater volcano in the Pacific near Tonga erupted violently, shooting a 5 km-wide plume of ash, steam, and gas into the air, affecting 84 per cent of the Tongan population, including 36,500 children. Throughout the year, floods were experienced in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Timor Leste; while the population in the Philippines continued to deal with the aftermath of the December 2021 Super Typhoon Rai (local name Odette), which left 2.4 million people, including 912,000 children, in need of humanitarian assistance. The Philippines was further impacted by Tropical Storm Megi (in May), Super Typhoon Noru (Karding, in September), and Tropical Storms Nesat and Nalgae (Neneng and Paeng, locally) in October, with the latter impacting a further 4 million people. The La Niña weather phenomenon contributed to prolonged droughts in the Pacific Island States of Kiribati and Tuvalu. In Mongolia, a high Dzud period (extreme winter characterized by freezing temperatures, heavy snow, and frozen ground) began in the final month of the year, after a severe summer drought. An earthquake in West Java, Indonesia left 144,683 people, including 38,450 children, displaced.

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), the national general elections triggered violence in three Highlands provinces on an unprecedented scale and intensity which displaced 90,000 people, including health workers, teachers, social workers, and other public servants, and included significant cases of gender-based violence (GBV). Election violence was exacerbated by an earthquake in September 2022 affecting several thousand people which further hindered access to the affected areas.

Myanmar faced multiple challenges, including the ongoing political crisis and escalating conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate-related disasters, and a collapse in public services, leaving an estimated 14.4 million people, including 5 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance. Access by conflict-affected populations to services and delivery of humanitarian assistance has been further constrained by restrictions imposed on movements of both people and goods. The disruption of routine immunization services poses a significant risk of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, and forced displacement remains a major protection concern. During the fourth quarter of the year, there was a dramatic increase in the number of people, mostly Rohingya, fleeing the violence using dangerous sea routes, with refugees arriving in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

COVID-19 prevention measures introduced by the Government of DPRK in January 2020, including prolonged border closures, limited entry of supplies and long quarantine and disinfection processes of items arriving in the country, continue to impact delivery of essential services for children and their families and to limit humanitarian access to this protracted and probably worsening humanitarian situation. Stockouts of vaccines, along with other essential health and nutrition supplies, are of particular concern for children.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant and lasting effects in East Asia and the Pacific, leading to disruptions in healthcare, education, and child protection services, as well as increased poverty and food insecurity. In

particular, the education system has been severely impacted by the closure of schools and the switch to remote learning, leading to lost instructional time and learning gaps. Child protection services have reported an increase in cases of abuse and neglect, as well as child labour and exploitation. The pandemic has also taken a significant toll on household income, particularly for those working in the informal sector or those with low-paying jobs. Governments in the region have implemented various measures to alleviate the impact of the pandemic, such as cash transfers and social protection programs. However, the long-term effects of the pandemic on these critical areas are still being felt and will require sustained effort to address.



Children use meditation techniques during a Child-Friendly Space activity in Dili, Timor Leste. The breathing activity helps children to learn how to calm themselves, to be in contact with their feelings and environment.

Photo credit: UNICEF Timor/2022/BBenevides

2. Humanitarian Results

The EAP Regional Humanitarian Appeal for Children in 2022 continued to focus on supporting national and regional efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting protracted humanitarian crises, and ensuring readiness and capacity to respond to small- and medium- scale sudden-onset emergencies that may not benefit from inter-agency appeals. The Regional Appeal covered funding requirements for Regional Office support and for countries in the region that did not have a stand-alone Humanitarian Appeal for Children in 2022, including Cambodia, the DPRK, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pacific, PNG, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet Nam. Within EAP region, Myanmar and the Philippines has their own Humanitarian Appeals for Children in 2022 and will provide country-level Consolidated Emergency Reports.

This report covers the results achieved under the Regional Humanitarian Appeal for Children 2022, with the exception of results in the DPRK, Indonesia and the Pacific country offices. These three country offices will prepare their own consolidated emergency reports and to avoid duplication in reporting, their results are not included in the following chapters.

Sector	UNICEF	Total Result 2022		
Indicator Country	Target 2022	Female	Male	Total
Nutrition				
# children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for treatment	29,600			13,179
Cambodia	6,500	3,169	3,488	6,657
Laos	9,000			0*
Mongolia	100	63	49	112
Papua New Guinea	1,000			0*
Timor Leste	3,000	1,583	1,807	3,390
Viet Nam	10,000	1,418	1,602	3,020
# children 6 to 59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation	1,604,000			7,395,673
Cambodia	1,064,000			1,198,355
Laos	0 ¹	192,179	184,643	376,822**
Mongolia	342,000	194,151	204,690	398,841
Timor Leste	198,000	34,817	33,585	68,402
Viet Nam	0	2,513,265	2,839,988	5,353,253**
Health				
# children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	1,224,601			699,653
Cambodia	186,175			160,962
Laos	518,426			0*
Malaysia	100,000			20,000
Mongolia	220,000			312,968
Papua New Guinea	50,000	20,524	0	20,524
Timor Leste	150,000	99,520	85,679	185,199
# children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles	975,633			499,483
Cambodia	335,029			346,398
Laos	380,634			246,653
Mongolia	120,000	58,795	56,492	115,287

Sector	UNICEF	Total Result 2022		
Indicator Country	Target 2022	Female	Male	Total
Papua New Guinea	20,000			0****
Timor Leste	120,000	19,276	18,522	37,798 ²
Viet Nam	0			0
WASH				
# children use safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	827,652			1,170,816
Laos	10,000	7,173	6,995	14,168
Mongolia	600,000	447,066	429,534	876,600
Papua New Guinea	7,000	70,097	74,031	144,128
Timor Leste	162,652	66,193	69,727	135,920
Viet Nam	48,000			0****
# people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	1,049,543			973,314
Cambodia	602,543	311,182	276,397	587,579
Laos	25,000			9,228* ³
Mongolia	0			0 ⁴
Papua New Guinea	115,000	4,460	4,831	9,291
Thailand	200,000	108,252	114,518	222,770
Timor Leste	5,000	7,305	7,695	15,000
Viet Nam	102,000	64,982	64,464	129,446
Child Protection, GBVIE and PSEA				
# children [and caregivers] accessing mental health and psychosocial support	328,220			174,042
Cambodia	20,000			138,211
Laos	8,000	3,514	2,611	6,125
Malaysia	26,400			2,194
Mongolia	250,000			2,617
Papua New Guinea	5,500	449	735	1,184
Thailand	3,820	6,314	5,337	11,651
Timor Leste	2,500	1,004	1,200	2,204
Viet Nam	12,000			9,856
# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	76,800			96,641
Cambodia	20,300	8,563	18,171	27,796
Laos	20,000	21,123	3,957	25,080
Malaysia	3,000			6,349
Mongolia	3,000	1,181	3,210	4,931***
Papua New Guinea	4,000	7,434	5,501	12,935
Timor Leste	1,500			1,440 ⁵
Viet Nam	25,000			19,712
# people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers	5,751,300			502,488
Cambodia	10,000	14,232	13,534	27,766***
Laos	30,000			35,300***
Malaysia	10,000			6,349
Mongolia	300			59,392 ⁶
Papua New Guinea	5,300,000	745	783	1,562*/*** ⁷

Sector	UNICEF	Total Result 2022		
Indicator Country	Target 2022	Female	Male	Total
Timor Leste	1,000	1,684	2,089	3,773
Viet Nam	400,000	14,945	12,828	368,346 ⁸
Education				
# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	6,675,989			8,206,717
Cambodia	2,800,000	1,602,956	1,575,808	3,178,764
Laos	74,200	54,312	54,524	118,723 ⁹
Mongolia	150,000	592,712	569,468	1,162,180
Papua New Guinea	331,159	197,498	228,922	426,420
Timor Leste	320,630			320,630
Viet Nam	3,000,000	1,458,525	1,541,475	3,000,000
# schools implementing safe school protocols (IPC)	108,451			120,794
Cambodia	9,000			8,822
Laos	1,500			2,346
Malaysia	10,224			10,299**
Mongolia	1,620			2,220
Papua New Guinea	180			180
Thailand	54,093			54,093
Timor Leste	1,834			1,834
Viet Nam	30,000			30,000
# children with disabilities supported to access learning, including remote/ distance learning and return to school	95,435			116,981
Cambodia	10,000	5,403	5,312	10,715
Malaysia	50,000			64,575**
Mongolia	3,000			9,537
Papua New Guinea	9,935	4,328	5,326	9,654
Viet Nam	22,500			22,500
Social Protection				
# households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and/or funding	756,000			1,063,867
Cambodia	750,000			1,061,271
Laos	0			2,596
Viet Nam	6,000			0****
Cross Sectoral				
# people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	99,000,000			88,287,054
Cambodia	10,000,000			13,000,000
Laos	1,000,000			2,000,000***
Malaysia	20,000,000			4,832,029
Mongolia	1,500,000	875,000	375,000	1,250,000
Papua New Guinea	5,000,000	3,198,071	2,560,526	5,752,096 ¹⁰
Thailand	300,000			219,020
Timor Leste	1,200,000			1,233,909
Viet Nam	60,000,000	25,200,000	34,800,000	60,000,000

Sector	UNICEF	Total Result 2022		
Indicator Country	Target 2022	Female	Male	Total
# people with access to established accountability mechanisms	5,575,000			157,194
Cambodia	50,000			123,351
Laos	25,000			33,843***
Mongolia	200,000			0*
Papua New Guinea	5,300,000			0*

*No / limited humanitarian funding was available for this intervention in 2022.

** No humanitarian funding was raised for this intervention, UNICEF leveraged regular /other resources to achieve the result.

***This reflects the final results for 2022, updated since the publication of the EAPRO Humanitarian Situation Report No. 4.

**** There was no need for UNICEF to support this intervention in 2022.

¹ No UNICEF target was set; however, the Government target was 699,617 out of a total of 819,018 children.

² Complete and end of year results are not yet available. 60% of health facilities currently report through the national Health Management Information System, and latest data is from September 2022.

³ Humanitarian funding supported 2,975 people. The remainder were reached by mobilizing other resources.

⁴ EAPRO Humanitarian Situation Report No. 4 reported 500,716 people reached with critical WASH supplies. However, this figure included children reported under a UNICEF Regular Programme Indicator. This revised result corrects the duplication in reporting.

⁵ EAPRO Humanitarian Situation Report No. 4 reported a result of 144. This was a typing error and the correct result is now reflected.

⁶ The target of 300 was for number of reports of SEA processed through the reporting mechanism. In 2022, a total of 59,392 people had access to the 108 Child Helpline, through which 392 reports for SEA were received (from 261 female and 131 male).

⁷ Thirty-Three people did not specify their gender, 1 person recorded as transgender.

⁸ There were 368,346 calls reported by the national hotline in 2022. Out of which, 27,773 calls were provided with interventions: 14,945 callers were females and 12,828 callers were males. There was no disaggregated data by sex for the remaining calls.

⁹ Gender was undefined for 9,887 people.

¹⁰ Gender breakdown unavailable for 669 people (277 refugees and 422 people with disabilities).



Children at Nong Ping Primary School in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, happily resume in-person classes.

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Results Against Overarching and Cross-Cutting Commitments

2.1. Supporting emergency preparedness and response

In 2022, the Regional Office ensured coordinated support to all country offices to build their capacity and systems for emergency preparedness and response (EPR), while supporting their active responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and to humanitarian emergencies in Cambodia, Myanmar, Tonga, the Philippines, Thailand, and PNG. For the Myanmar Level 2 emergency, the Regional Emergency Management Team continued to guarantee leadership and support for the ongoing crisis. The regional emergency team worked closely with the regional sector and cross-sectoral specialists to ensure that each country office received technical and operational support tailored to their specific needs, and the details of this can be found under the relevant sector and cross-sector sections of this report. In particular, the Regional Office strengthened, consolidated and streamlined the integration of cross-cutting commitments and programming approaches under the Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) into its overall preparedness and response support, including for Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), GBV in Emergencies, Disability inclusion and Early Childhood Development (ECD) thanks to the engagement of dedicated consultants.

The Regional Office continued to implement the risk monitoring and horizon scanning mechanism throughout 2022, holding calls each quarter with selected country offices (based on the risk calendar) to review their preparedness levels and identify gaps and actions needed to address them. The process allowed for focused and timely engagement in advance of anticipated seasonal or emerging high risks and ensured systematic reviews of country office inputs in the Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP) were undertaken in coordination with Regional Office sector and cross-cutting focal points. As a result, country offices have been able to address identified gaps in their EPP inputs and all 14 countries in the region have achieved the minimum preparedness benchmark (defined as a $\geq 80\%$ compliance score on the EPP), while the four field offices in the Pacific have reached 70%. At the regional level, the regional emergency preparedness plan was updated to sustain an overall compliance score of 97%. The Regional Office Emergency Technical Team was also reactivated in late 2022 to further strengthen coordination of quality assurance and technical support to country offices for EPR.

The annual Humanitarian Action Workshop provided further opportunity for in-depth discussions on new humanitarian policies and guidelines, with a particular focus on strengthening risk-informed programming through enhanced child-centred risk assessments for disaster and climate resilience, as well as cross-sectoral preparedness and response actions on areas related to AAP, the use of Technology for Development (T4D), and the meaningful participation of adolescents across the humanitarian programming cycle and in specific sectoral responses.

In line with UNICEF support to the Grand Bargain's Commitments on localization of humanitarian programming, a new training course designed to strengthen the capacity of National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMA) was successfully piloted in Vietnam (25 participants) and in the Bangsamoro Region of Muslim Mindanao, Philippines (25 participants). The course covers both technical aspects of child-centred emergency preparedness and response and a Training of Trainers, to enable the NDMA's to embed the training into Government capacity-building plans. In addition, a training of Standby Partners was conducted in Thailand (25 participants).

At the inter-agency level, the Regional Office further strengthened and expanded its collaboration with UNHCR and actively participated in the Regional Refugee preparedness coordination mechanism led by UNHCR for the Myanmar Crisis, ensuring joint advocacy efforts on issues related to access to asylum, non-refoulement, birth

registration and documentation in line with the ASEAN Declaration on Children Affected by Migration. The Regional Office provided technical oversight to the Indonesia country office on the implementation of the UNHCR-UNICEF Blueprint for Joint Action while collaborating with relevant global and regional counterparts on its quality assurance. The Regional Office also organized a joint webinar with UNHCR and colleagues from the Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand country offices to review lessons from implementing the Blueprint in Indonesia, particularly in light of the upcoming Strategic Collaboration Framework, which will commit both organizations to a series of goals on inclusion of refugee children in national systems, such as education, water and sanitation, child protection, social protection and data; and on elimination of childhood statelessness. For the latter, the Regional Office envisions focusing on the Myanmar caseload, particularly as the protection at sea component affects and impacts all three countries.

The Regional Office also increased its internal operational focus on the refugee and migrant agenda, taking steps to consolidate a displacement tracking mechanism to monitor population movements and displacement trends that warrant further monitoring, humanitarian action and/or cross-border coordination. Standing operating procedures have been developed to systematize the actions being taken at regional and country levels in response to refugees and migrant boats and protection at sea crisis, particularly affecting the Rohingyas.

2.2. Strengthening child-centred disaster risk reduction and resilience building

In 2022, the Regional Office continued to support country offices in advancing disaster risk reduction (DRR) and risk-informed programming across the region. This has involved strengthening the integration of DRR strategies and approaches into UNICEF's sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes, including education, ECD, social protection, child protection, adolescent participation amongst others. As part of the new country programme development process, the Regional Office provided strategic and technical guidance to Cambodia country office in considering disaster risks, especially those related to natural hazards and climate change, and integrating the most prevalent risks into their upcoming country programme.

In the area of risk data and evidence, timely technical guidance and inputs were provided to country offices, notably Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, in the scoping, design and conduct of child-centred risk assessments. Technical support was also extended to Cambodia to pilot the subnational climate and disaster risk mapping model, which will help in developing a geospatial risk analytics platform to achieve a stronger understanding of the interplay between hazards and child vulnerability and the overall risk landscape for children across the country. The risk analysis will inform both preparedness and longer-term development and DRR actions.

The Regional Office continued to play an active role in inter-agency coordination, particularly through the UN Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience. In particular, a regional webinar on child-centred, vulnerability-focused risk assessment was hosted in partnership with UNDRR. The webinar provided an important opportunity to share risk assessment tools and methodologies, review some of the recent examples of country risk assessments and discuss ways to strengthen collaboration in this area.

Moreover, the Regional Office successfully coordinated UNICEF's engagement at Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR, which took place from 20 to 22 September 2022 in Brisbane, Australia. Four youth delegates from Australia, Fiji, Indonesia and Philippines were invited to share perspectives of children and young people at the conference. Several events were organized, including on comprehensive school safety, youth engagement and innovation, and child-centred disaster risk reduction. In partnership with UNDRR, NGOs and Major Group for Children and Youth, the Regional Office also organized the Children and Youth Forum which included a presentation of a Children and Youth Call for Action. This was complemented with outreach activities including distribution of communication products (including a [DRR Advocacy Brief](#)), social media messaging and a presence at the marketplace.

Building on the Indonesia experience, the Regional Office launched a regional initiative on business engagement in resilience, which comprised of a first-ever regional consultation on the topic and subsequent development of an initial regional roadmap to help frame UNICEF's objectives, strategies and priorities for business engagement in the region. Technical support was also extended to country offices in developing country-specific action plans, which formed the basis to shape a regional proposal for resource mobilization.

2.3. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Data from 2021 highlighted that country offices across EAP needed to significantly strengthen their efforts on ensuring adequate systems are in place to ensure prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in humanitarian crises. Only 21% of country offices had already established PSEA system in place, and of the 329 implementing partners from civil society across the region that were assessed regarding the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, 32% of partners were in the high-risk category.

To address this, throughout 2022 the Regional Office has provided sustained technical support to all country offices for the development of contextualized PSEA Action Plans, with a specific focus on a) safe and accessible referral and reporting mechanisms for cases of sexual exploitation and abuse; b) quality assistance to victims; and c) investment on accountability for affected populations, investigations and inter-agency collaboration. In addition, country offices have identified and begun to implement mitigating measures to enhance implementing partners' capacities to prevent and respond to cases of sexual exploitation and abuse. During 2022, all eight country offices were able to establish mechanisms to enable reporting of sexual abuse and exploitation by aid workers, though access to these mechanisms needs to be further expanded.

2.4. Gender equality and Gender-Based Violence

Under the new UNICEF Gender Action Plan 2022-2025, emphasis is placed on gender integration in humanitarian response and country level planning and programming for emergencies. In 2022, 12 out of 14 country offices in EAP reported against UNICEF's minimum standards for gender in the CCCs, however only four country offices undertook a gender analysis to inform their humanitarian action in 2022 and one country office (Myanmar) undertook a gender analysis as part of their emergency preparedness plan.

During 2022, UNICEF supported governments and partners to addressing Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) across ten countries, reaching more than 569,362 women and children with prevention, mitigation and response services and support. UNICEF's work included: (i) supporting GBV survivors with access to comprehensive services; (ii) mitigating the risk of GBV across humanitarian sectors; and (iii) preventing GBV by addressing its drivers.

In 2022, the Regional Office provided technical expertise to increase the capacity of UNICEF country offices and partners to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV in emergencies. This involved a rapid assessment of actions to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV across 13 country offices. Based on this analysis, the Regional Office developed and delivered a three-part learning series on GBViE programming, risk mitigation, survivor support and referrals delivered to 181 participants across 13 country offices. The Regional Office also designed and delivered three training sessions on PSEA-GBV referral pathways for 40 participants and a session on GBV risk mitigation and social protection for 50 participants.

A regional GBViE/Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) community of practice has been established with 13 country office focal points, meeting regularly to learn on key topics, and share their experiences. The Regional Office developed guidance and a checklist on GBViE in emergency preparedness plans. Using this guidance,

technical support was provided to eight country offices to integrate GBViE into their emergency preparedness plans (Cambodia, China, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pacific, PNG, Timor Leste and Vietnam). The Regional Office also developed and disseminated guidance notes on GBViE risk mitigation in WASH, Nutrition, Education, Health, a GBViE fact sheet and documented case studies on GBViE in six countries (Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, PNG, Timor Leste and Vietnam). The Myanmar country office was supported to develop a plan and strategy on GBViE/CPIE and to provide training and capacity building for partners. Technical assistance was provided to the PNG country office to scale up support, coordination and partnerships to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV in the Highlands and post-earthquake.

2.5. Disability-inclusive humanitarian action

In 2022, the collaboration between UNICEF disability, emergency and sector teams on disability inclusive humanitarian action continued. The Regional Office committed to and further invested in this area with the recruitment of a full-time consultant dedicated to disability inclusive emergencies, funding largely by UK FCDO. With increased capacity, the Regional Office was able to scale up activities to support country offices on disability inclusive humanitarian action through analysis and evidence generation, technical support, and capacity building.

An analysis of UNICEF emergency plans on the EPP determined that 93% of country offices in the EAP region had considered disability in at least one step of their preparedness planning. Most country offices (71%) had integrated disability across multiple risks and sector responses. Indonesia and Philippines have comprehensive disability inclusive emergency plans across almost all risks and sectors. The Regional Office collaborated with the Disability and the Risk Analysis and Preparedness teams in Headquarters on drafting a practical guidance on disability inclusive preparedness.

To ensure that country offices have the knowledge, skills, and guidance to implement disability inclusive responses, and based on a learning needs assessment conducted in 2021, the Regional Office provided a range of capacity building opportunities. In 2022, more than 100 UNICEF colleagues in EAP were trained on disability inclusion in humanitarian action, including WASH and Child Protection colleagues, Emergency Specialists and Focal Points, and Disability Focal Points. A twin track approach was taken comprising dedicated webinars on disability inclusive humanitarian action and mainstreaming disability into sector and emergency trainings, such as WASH in Emergencies trainings, Child Protection in Emergencies training and the Emergency Preparedness and Response training.

In 2022, 9 country offices in the EAP region reported providing disability inclusive and/or accessible services and programmes to children with disabilities in humanitarian situations. These disability inclusive responses covered all sectors. All of the 9 country offices provided WASH services and facilities in emergencies that were disability inclusive and accessible, while 7 provided disability inclusive and accessible health and rehabilitation services. The Regional Office provided technical support to strengthen the disability inclusion in emergency responses with a focus on high-risk countries in the region, including Philippines, Myanmar and Indonesia. In-country support was provided to the Mindanao Field Office in the Philippines to include children with disabilities in both development programmes and emergency responses in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). This technical support resulted in disability inclusion action plans being developed for all sectors and the first ever disability inclusion meeting of BARMM partners being held with participation from government and civil society, including organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs).

In alignment with the disability sector slogan, "nothing about us, without us," the Regional Office has a strategic priority on the engagement of OPDs. A mapping found that 86% of country offices in the EAP region had engaged with OPDs between 2021-2022. Of the 26 different OPDs UNICEF engaged with, 5 OPDs worked with UNICEF on emergency preparedness and response in Philippines, Timor-Leste, the Pacific, and Laos. To support countries offices to work with OPDs, a series of webinars were conducted for disability and emergency focal points on engaging with OPDs in emergencies. While to build the capacity of OPDs on emergency preparedness and response, UNICEF Regional Offices in South Asia and EAP co-facilitated 2 training sessions to introduce OPDs to humanitarian action and identify entry points for their participation. The training was organised by the Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and was attended by representatives from OPDs throughout Asia.

2.6. Early Childhood Development

Even in the best of times, babies and young children are among the world's most vulnerable people. However, given its complex and cross-cutting nature, ECD in emergencies is not always well integrated into humanitarian response plans. To begin to address this and systemize a regional approach, in 2022 the Regional Office completed a regional situational analysis of ECD in emergencies (ECDiE). The analysis took stock of how far a systems approach towards ECDiE is embedded at country level. About 60% of countries in the region have included ECD in their preparedness plans, though with varying quality. Some of the common challenges identified include a lack of awareness on the importance of prioritizing ECD in emergencies, scarcity of resources, as well as gaps in multi-sectoral coordination guidance and in national and decentralized leadership capacity. However, the analysis also outlines opportunities for leveraging additional support to young children within existing UNICEF emergency programming and identifies existing and new partnerships that UNICEF can nurture to embed ECD within emergency responses such as the post COVID-19, climate-related disasters, and armed-conflict or other inter-communal violence. There is also growing recognition of ECD as a key contributor to disaster risk reduction in the face of climate change, and positive enablers for moving this work forward include strong commitment of civil society, strong regional partnerships and platforms to rely on, and the development of a regional ECD in emergencies capacity development plan to strengthen and embed ECD within emergency programming across sectors.

The Regional Office contributed to UNICEF's global review of the ECD kit content and use, including its accompanying guidance. All country offices from the EAP region were consulted, and inputs were consolidated during a regional webinar jointly organized with the global ECD team. In parallel, the regional Child Protection, Disability and ECD teams are working with UNICEF Philippines to review the ECD kit to make it more disability inclusive.

The Regional Office has also hired an ECD in Emergencies consultant to strengthen the positioning of ECD in emergencies in the region. The Regional Office has provided continuous technical support to country offices to help them design and implement effective ECD in emergency programmes. Simultaneously, the ECD team facilitated knowledge sharing of best practices through webinars, workshops, and other forums, advocated for increased attention and resources for ECD in emergencies among partners including donors, and promoted new partnerships and collaborations between country offices and other stakeholders in the EAP region. The Regional Office has also taken on the role of regional representative for ECD in emergencies within the Global Education Cluster and Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies.

The Regional Office continues to have a strong partnership with the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC), which brings together all the relevant stakeholders in East Asia and the Pacific. To advance the climate change and environmental degradation agenda, an Asia Pacific regional scoping study on ECD, Climate Change and Environmental Degradation was launched in December 2022 in partnership with ARNEC, the ECD Action Network and Save the Children.

2.7. Adolescent Development and Participation

During conflicts, disasters and protracted crises, the rights and needs of adolescents are often overlooked to devastating effect – as well as their contributions. The COVID-19 pandemic and disasters faced in the region in the last year have shown what a powerful resource and asset young people are for their communities. In a region as young as EAP, with almost 300 million adolescents (47% girls), it is critical that meaningful adolescent participation is fostered, and that young people are supported to become change agents. In 2022, the collaboration between the regional Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP) and emergency teams on mainstreaming adolescent development and participation in emergency response plans continued. In May 2022, ADAP-Emergency regional teams conducted a series of training workshops for all Country Office Emergency and Adolescent Participation Focal Points in the Region. One workshop focused on how to meaningfully engage adolescents and youth in humanitarian and emergency settings, such as disaster response (typhoons, floods), the COVID-19 pandemic, and conflict situations. The workshop was conducted online and included an overview of [the IASC Guidelines on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian Crises](#), and presentations by young leaders on their first-hand experience contributing to emergency and disaster response.

Technical support was provided to Indonesia and Myanmar offices in their scale up and piloting (respectively) of UNICEF's [Adolescent Kit](#) as the only set of resources specifically designed for working with and for adolescents before, during and after an emergency. In addition, the Regional Office reviewed Indonesia's EPP inputs to ensure ADAP components were mainstreamed across all sectoral responses.

2.8. Community Engagement for Behaviour and Social Change, and Accountability to Affected Populations

During 2022, UNICEF supported governments and partners to ensure that community engagement for behaviour and social change was fully integrated across their humanitarian programmes, and worked with implementing partners to ensure that vulnerable, at-risk and crisis-affected populations could hold UNICEF to account for promoting and protecting their rights and generating effective results for them. In 2022, UNICEF reached over 88 million people through messaging on COVID-19 prevention and access to services. Just over 157,000 people had access to established accountability mechanisms.

[Regional Social and Behaviour Change \(SBC\) and Accountability to Affected Populations \(AAP\) in Emergencies Technical Support](#)

Technical guidance and support were provided to UNICEF country offices in the region to develop, implement, track and monitor Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) plans for the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines. This was carried out in conjunction with the support for continued RCCE for the prevention of COVID-19 through the adoption of COVID appropriate behaviours among families and communities.

In collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific region, a range of communication assets were produced to support RCCE efforts for the reopening of schools in the region in 2021. These were updated to ensure their continued relevance in 2022.

The pandemic continued to drive home the criticality of quality social and behaviour change (SBC) programmes as most diseases are driven to a great extent by human behaviours. Further, quality SBC remains central to achieving results across all the other sector and cross-sector Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. Although noteworthy success was achieved across countries in RCCE and SBC, limited human resources remained a major challenge. Investments in this area need to be exponentially increased to meet the ever-increasing needs for work around SBC.

While the introduction of vaccines brought hope to people, it also came with vaccine hesitancy and refusals among certain populations. A lot has been done to understand and combat hesitancy and refusals, but more needs to be done to ensure that everyone can be vaccinated in order bring an end to the pandemic. Pandemic fatigue also emerged as a new area of concern, making it a challenge to ensure that people continue to give importance to communication around COVID-19 and keep practicing COVID appropriate behaviours.

The Regional Office continued to support country offices in strengthening their Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and supporting the capacity of implementing partners in AAP. An AAP mapping of 11 country offices and 47 implementing partners informed the selection of priority areas for technical support.

Capacity building for partners, country office staff and some UN Country Team members was done through AAP training for some 120 staff and the integration of AAP material into emergency preparedness training for standby partners. AAP training focused on building an understanding of the UNICEF AAP Framework and its practical implementation in country programming and responses. The Regional Office supported country level training for implementing partners and the development of monitoring frameworks to leverage partners' existing AAP related activities.

Technical support additionally included the development of implementation tools and guidelines to support the establishment of feedback systems and integration of AAP actions at different points of the humanitarian programming cycle, including the selection of monitoring indicators for both country offices and implementing partners. The Regional Office collaborated with country offices in providing tailored technical support and developing purpose-built tools upon request. This included setting up complaint feedback mechanisms and developing standard operation procedures, developing AAP vetting tool for prospective partners, Social Power Analysis and Community Mapping guidance; and the inclusion of AAP in Post Distribution Monitoring (strategy and questionnaire).

Five country offices (Myanmar, Philippines, PNG, Timor Leste, Viet Nam) developed specific AAP action plans to guide community engagement activities and meet UNICEF's AAP benchmarks for country response. The Regional Office supported the development of terms of reference for country office AAP working groups/ task force and AAP support staff.

Regional AAP work additionally focused on the linkages between AAP and PSEA, specifically confidential feedback mechanisms and community facing aspects of PSEA. This was supported through coordination with regional interagency partners through the EAP Regional AAP-PSEA Working Group.

Cambodia

In 2022, UNICEF Cambodia further strengthened its position as a key strategic partner of the Royal Government of Cambodia in response to COVID-19 prevention and vaccination by continuing its RCCE campaign among targeted populations, especially in remote, hard to reach areas and among priority groups with specific

vulnerabilities. Over 70 visibility/multi-media assets were produced in response to the Omicron outbreak, reaching over 13 million people on social media and traditional media.

UNICEF supported RCCE for COVID-19 infection prevention and control by facilitating posting of hand washing promotion videos through the Ministry of Rural Development's social media channels. Radio and community media channels were used to broadcast hygiene promotion messages in 6 target provinces (plus Mondulkiri).

UNICEF also worked with two civil society organizations (CSOs) to build capacity in Village Health Support Groups, community facilitators and youth groups. Key communication materials (40,225 copies) were printed and distributed in communities to raise awareness and promote COVID-19 vaccine uptake among vulnerable populations in five targeted provinces. The activities reached 1,049,165 people including 512,794 females, 344,831 children under 18, 101,319 indigenous/minorities, 5,942 ID Poor households and 20,739 people with disabilities, among others.

The CSO partners empowered existing government structures to engage with vulnerable communities and affected persons in over 2,000 villages in 8 provinces. This is part of broader RCCE activities to improve equitable access to COVID-19 information and vaccination services where affected persons and communities are informed about their rights and entitlements (including available services and how to access them); key issues/barriers to access identified and discussed with communities and duty bearers; and existing community feedback mechanisms strengthened to inform ongoing programming/service delivery, and course correction.

Two related activities supported establishing and strengthening community feedback mechanisms to increase the number of people that could access these channels. Rapid Coverage Assessments were undertaken to identify and engage with missed populations on COVID-19 vaccination, helping provincial authorities (including leaders, health centres and community health workers) to refocus interventions. Targeting missed populations and zero-dose villages, existing feedback mechanisms such as Telegram (with RapidPro chatbot), hotlines, mobile kiosks, home visits, youth groups were strengthened to continuously identify and discuss issues from affected persons, engage with subnational authorities to address issues and improve access, demand and acceptance for COVID-19 vaccination.

Lao PDR

In 2022, UNICEF's advocacy, technical and financial support was instrumental in ensuring Lao children could attend in-person schooling with COVID-19 prevention measures in place in schools across the country. The digital and mass media campaign around *"back to school"* aimed at parents and children was part of a wider international and national campaign *"let me learn"* tackling the learning crisis. #SafelyBackToSchool campaigns reached 1.4 million on social media and included messaging for parents to ensure they send their children back to school for the new school year. To ensure safe operations, schools in high-risk areas also received COVID-19 information materials.

In addition to supporting the preparation of technical guidance provided to keep schools open, UNICEF ran the #VaccinateLaos campaign that included the vaccination of teachers and students as a key priority (including children aged 5-11). A total of 43 posts were made on social media to promote #VaccinateLaos with a combined reach of 38,836 and 37,259 engagements.

During the reporting year, 33,843 people have participated in AAP activities through parenting packages including community sessions, hospital sessions and home visits in 252 villages in 2 provinces. These activities use community dialogue and interpersonal communication approaches, and involved village committees who

support and advise the communities while at the same time act as a conduit for the community to share concerns and feedback.

Malaysia

As part of the COVID-19 awareness campaigns UNICEF, with the MoH, rolled out a 6-month RCCE digital campaign to promote 'living with COVID-19' behaviours amongst the public. Through RCCE activities UNICEF reached 482,833 and engaged 4,910 people from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds across Malaysia, including indigenous, migrants and undocumented communities.

UNICEF also promoted COVID-19 booster vaccinations and child vaccinations, engaging UNICEF Malaysia's National Ambassador Lisa Surihani in the MoH Campaign and producing 2 videos which were shared on MoH social media platforms.

Mongolia

With UNICEF support the National Center for Public Health and UNICEF continued communication efforts on the COVID-19 booster vaccines with tailored messages to targeted age groups, reaching an estimated 600,000 people between 18 and 65 years old. In response to growing concerns about the public's acceptance and support for paediatric doses that were revealed through the National Center for Communicable Disease's social media monitoring report and the Mongolian Red Crescent Society's perception survey, UNICEF revised its vaccine communication strategy to cover routine and seasonal flu vaccination topics in addition to COVID vaccination. In collaboration with the MoH, UNICEF produced two animations for children (continuing earlier series of Enkhee and Mendee's Advice) on COVID prevention measures, including paediatric vaccination and correct use of masks, shared on MoH social media channels. UNICEF also conducted community engagement through a range of events and promotion activities (covering hand washing, hygiene behaviours, health and nutrition tips, parental support in learning and COVID-19 prevention) to change behaviours, including engaging 10,300 parents, around 400 teachers and 10,110 children in 70 schools and kindergartens of 16 provinces and 3 districts of Ulaanbaatar. COVID prevention trainings were also conducted for special schools and kindergartens for children with disabilities, reaching some 2,650 children and their teachers.

Safe school operations related contents were developed in more innovative and creative ways with humour which had positive responses reaching 600,000 views on social media, which is 10 times higher than our regular posting on UNICEF Mongolia Facebook page.

Papua New Guinea

Awareness raising, information sharing and combating COVID-19 misinformation continued to dominate social media channels. More than 10,000 health workers, volunteers, community leaders and influencers have been trained in essential knowledge and tools in RCCE and SBC.

UNICEF contributed significantly to developing *Niupela Pasin* (New Normal), the national COVID-19 prevention and mitigation protocols. This particularly focused on schools and healthcare facilities, including establishing School Hygiene Clubs in Rigo, Goilala, Central Bougainville, Hagen Central, Goroka, and Hagen Central which mobilized over 30,000 students, half of them female, with ongoing messaging that focused on basic hygiene and physical distancing to reduce the COVID-19 transmission and other diseases per the *Niupela Pasin* government campaign.

Through its partners (Save the Children, Touching the Untouchables, Catholic Church Health Service and Australian Doctors International), UNICEF engaged communities, church leaders, and influencers using different

community engagement approaches to raise awareness to address the misinformation and rumours hampering demand for COVID-19 and routine immunization. More than 2.5 million information, education and communication materials and tools in the form of posters, stickers and banners containing messages aimed at improving COVID-19 vaccine demand as well as on the *Niupela Pasin* approach were developed and disseminated were developed and distributed to all health facilities and CSOs to support outreach to communities with uniform and consistent information. COVID-19 radio spots messaging and national TV campaigns to reinforce *Niupela Pasin* COVID-19 preventive messaging, generate demand and dispel rumours and misinformation about the pandemic were also supported. To support provinces in promoting demand for routine immunization and COVID-19 vaccination, UNICEF recruited 15 Health Promotion Officers (7 female, 8 male) to provide provincial level technical and coordination support.

UNICEF continued championing AAP to ensure that all vulnerable, at-risk and crisis-affected people can hold UNICEF to account for promoting and protecting their rights and generating effective results. UNICEF drafted an AAP action plan and has been able to mobilize resources to support the implementation in 2023.

Thailand

UNICEF continued to support the national COVID-19 response plan under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Health. Accurate and timely RCCE messaging reached 87,674 people (19,189 children and 68,485 adults) and 3,020 people (1,763 children and 1,257 adults) were engaged in actions based on SBC principals. Using local languages and various media, 1,426,023 people from vulnerable target populations were reached, including migrant children and more than 56,000 parents of children with disabilities. A 50-episode radio programme reached over 100,000 people in the southern border provinces, while a mobile cinema project along the Thai Myanmar border reached 5,599 people (2,713 children and 2,886 adults).

Adapting messaging to target vulnerable population groups was key to the success of interventions. Curated screening of videos providing information and addressing vaccine hesitancy led to an increase in vaccine uptake among pregnant women, while more than 56,000 people were reached with videos providing information to the parents of children with disabilities about the benefits of vaccination against COVID-19. UNICEF partners Help Without Frontiers (HWF), Sermpanya Foundation, Save the Children, the Office of the Basic Education Commission, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and the Department of Local Administration distributed communication materials that benefited 16,943 children with colouring books containing stories aimed at reinforcing hygiene protocols and address vaccine hesitancy. Building on this success, a pilot RCCE mobile project is underway along the Thai Myanmar border with materials produced in the vernacular of vulnerable populations on the move in hard-to-reach areas.

Timor-Leste

In 2022, UNICEF continued to support the rollout of the COVID-19 prevention and vaccine deployment strategies, working closely with the MoH to develop 11 videos on COVID-19 prevention, including in animation and Q&A formats for peer-to-peer education for child audiences and communities, as well as videos with sign language for people with hearing disabilities. These were used on television, social media and, in collaboration with the MoH, broadcast in 118 sukos (villages) reaching 3,990 people, 80 per cent of whom were below the age of 18. Close to 50,000 people were also reached through community radio in all municipalities with a wide range of messages on birth registration, health and COVID-19 prevention and vaccine uptake and around 60,000 people were reached each day through television with similar messages.

Children, adolescents, youth and communities were also empowered to lead positive change through the provision of information on health, immunization, ending violence, birth registration, COVID-19 prevention and COVID-19 vaccines through mass media engagement on television and community radio with TV and radio spots, direct community engagement and leveraging a Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Social Communications (MAPCOMS) community discussion programme in several municipalities. In total, 1,389 children, adolescents and youth (700 through MAPCOMS, 590 through International Children's Day and 99 through community radio) were engaged in communications and advocacy through different platforms.

Viet Nam

Recognizing the importance of keeping people informed and empowered to protect themselves, UNICEF, in cooperation with WHO and MOH, supported the mass and social media campaign '*Safe journeys*' which aimed to maintain key COVID-19 preventative practices, promote safe COVID-19 vaccination among target audiences and strengthen public trust in COVID-19 vaccines. The campaign reached more than 60 million people and engaged more than 5.3 million people via social media channels (Facebook, YouTube, TikTok and Zalo) and mass media (TV, radio). Importantly, the messages of the campaign were translated into ethnic languages and sign language to reach a variety of groups, including ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Across national television channels, including ethnic minority language channels, 3 talk shows on COVID-19-related topics such as vaccination for children, booster shots, home treatment for children, and prevention measures were broadcast 22 times.

Training on COVID-19 Risk Communication was provided to 300 medical staff from 63 provinces, and 100 staff from 25 provincial Centres for Disease Control were trained as trainers on COVID-19 vaccination and expanded immunization communication skills. In addition, UNICEF supported 35 project provinces to implement interpersonal communication activities in communities and schools on COVID-19 vaccine safety and effectiveness to increase the vaccination rate for children.

UNICEF raised awareness with government counterparts to consider children and youth as active agents of climate change. Adolescents, as agents of change, equipped with transferable skills, built their own communities' resilience to climate shock and disaster risk reduction, adopting more sustainable low-carbon lifestyles. As a result, they engaged more actively with schools to plan for how to respond to and mitigate the consequences of climate change in the school and community. In Soc Trang, for example, 1,200 students, mostly from the Khmer ethnic minority, in the seaside town Vinh Chau in the Mekong Delta, participated in painting and knowledge contests to celebrate Viet Nam National Week for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control to raise awareness and equipping then knowledge. The communication campaign "*TOGETHER WE ACT– For a safe, green and clean Viet Nam for every child*" celebrated International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction: 33,000 people across the country participated in campaign activities, and 1.6 million people accessed the content of media messages.

To build common understanding of existing standards and equip UNICEF staff with the necessary skills to implement AAP in humanitarian interventions, an introductory AAP training was conducted with Regional Office support. Staff identified priority actions to build on existing AAP practice in the office, informed by an AAP mapping of the country office. A key output of the training was the country office's draft AAP plan, which includes a goal to promote the UNICEF AAP Framework with operational partners within the Humanitarian Country Team and cluster members.

Results Against Sectoral Commitments

2.9. Nutrition

During 2022, UNICEF supported governments and partners to address nutrition risks in emergencies across EAP, focusing on (i) providing leadership and coordination in nutrition; (ii) strengthening nutrition monitoring and information systems; (iii) supporting evidence-based interventions to prevent, detect and treat malnutrition in children, adolescents and women; (iv) strengthening national and sub-national systems for maternal and child nutrition; and (v) improving nutritional status through social and behaviour change programmes. In total, UNICEF ensured 13,179 children aged 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition were treated; and that over 7 million children aged 6-59 months received Vitamin A supplementation.

Regional Nutrition in Emergencies Technical Support

The Regional Office Nutrition team provided technical support to seven countries to plan and respond to emergencies and to strengthen national capacities in humanitarian preparedness and response.

Direct technical support was provided to Myanmar and Thailand country offices in adapting their programme delivery strategies to the humanitarian needs of populations displaced by the ongoing civil unrest in Myanmar, ensuring that nutrition is adequately incorporated into strategic humanitarian response plans and appeals, and building the capacity of national partners to deliver essential emergency nutrition interventions. Technical guidance to the Myanmar country office also supported the development of an advocacy narrative for donors to raise awareness on the criticality of nutrition in the emergency response and position UNICEF as the lead agency in the emergency nutrition response.

The Regional Office continued to support country offices to prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies. Trainings were conducted in three countries (Malaysia, Fiji and Vanuatu) to strengthen national and sub-national capacities for nutrition emergency response. This is part of an EAPRO-led initiative to strengthen capacity in planning, coordination, and institutionalizing nutrition into local disaster risk management and climate change adaptations plans. A total of nine countries are being supported under this capacity development initiative to operationalize their national plans for strengthening response capacity for nutrition during emergencies

To support knowledge management across the region, the Regional Nutrition team has documented UNICEF's programming experiences and lessons learned on service delivery adaptations for COVID-19, and has disseminated the findings through a [blog](#) and a [report](#), 'Safeguarding Children's Access to Good Diets, Services, and Practices in East Asia and the Pacific'. Building on the documented findings, the Regional Office has provided technical support to countries to mainstream successful innovations introduced during the pandemic into longer-term programming. For example, chatbot counselling of mothers on child wasting and family mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurement has been integrated into the Nutrition programme in Indonesia, and simplified approaches to early detection for the treatment of child wasting have been integrated in Timor Leste and the Philippines.

To advocate for ASEAN member states to strengthen their national capacities for nutrition in emergencies, UNICEF delivered the keynote speech at a Side Event on Nutrition in Emergencies at the 15th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting in Bali, May 2022.

Cambodia

The preliminary Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS 2021-2022) results show no improvement in child wasting since 2014, despite major reductions in stunting, while the current coverage of SAM treatment is less than 10% of the estimated burden in the country. UNICEF therefore focused its nutrition interventions on the treatment, capacity development, advocacy and research on severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

UNICEF directly supported the treatment of 6,657 children (3,169 girls; 3,488 boys) with SAM. UNICEF supported the training of 755 health and nutrition workers on the management of SAM as per national standards and provided capacity building on growth monitoring promotion and SAM reporting to health staff. To further improve coverage of wasting prevention and treatment, UNICEF is working with the MoH to pilot simplified approaches for early community identification (e.g. 'mother MUAC' model) for reaching more children with screening-referral.

To further inform and guide the Government and UNICEF policy and guidelines development, UNICEF completed a landscape analysis on the Management of Acute Malnutrition of Infants, a barriers analysis to understand high SAM treatment defaulter rates, a study on Community Health Systems for Nutrition, and COMMIT (for nutrient profile standards of complementary foods). UNICEF also advocated for and supported the integration of nutrition into the Health Management Information System (HMIS). This resulted in the MoH's decision to include 10 indicators on wasting and growth monitoring promotion into the HMIS, which will provide routine data for monitoring and decision-making. UNICEF has also advocated for an increase in the national budget for allocation of commodities to the management of SAM to just under USD 180,000 (90% of the target). UNICEF further supported a high-level national workshop chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister on wasting and how to address, leading to recommendations to be taken forward in upcoming Government-UNICEF planning.

Lao PDR

UNICEF provided support to improve capacity for service delivery for high impact nutrition interventions. As a result of a partnership between the MoH, UNICEF and Save the Children, 15 people graduated as Government-accredited breastfeeding counsellors, the first cohort in the country. Efforts to strengthen the capacity for service delivery also included training for 213 health workers across 7 different provinces on curative and/or preventative interventions. Seventeen training videos and nine modules for the innovative Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition e-learning course were completed, translated, and pretested.

UNICEF supported government partners in organizing 'World Breast Feeding Week 2022' in line with the global campaign. More than 300 participants were sensitized on the benefits of breastfeeding. Additionally, breastfeeding awareness events were organized in Night Markets of Vientiane and Luang Prabang to reach the population with messages of breast-feeding advantages and benefits.

While supply tracking data shows that 3,339 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food were moved to health facility level to support SAM treatment programmes, administrative data on how many children were admitted or treated for SAM in 2022 is still not available. UNICEF will continue to work with the MoH to address these gaps within the HMIS, which continue to pose challenges for programme monitoring and decision making.

Malaysia

In 2022, UNICEF provided financial and technical support to the Government to review and strengthen the growth monitoring and promotion programme for children under five to improve service delivery. UNICEF provided the growth monitoring and promotion programme with 805 units of anthropometry equipment to measure weight, height/length, head circumference and mid-upper arm circumference for 114 community

health clinics in six districts. Technical support focused on delivering evidence-based interventions with a workforce supported by knowledge, skills and capacity in nutrition to ensure that children under 5 benefited from services for the early detection and treatment of malnutrition. To build workforce skills and knowledge, UNICEF conducted a five-day training on Nutrition in Emergencies (40 participants) for staff from the Nutrition Division of the MoH, the National Disaster Management Agency, the Malaysia Civil Defence Department, the Department of Social Welfare, and NGOs. Capacity building on utilizing SBC approaches to address micronutrient deficiencies in women (32 participants) was also supported.

Mongolia

In cooperation with the National Centre for Public Health, UNICEF completed a Micronutrient Availability Assessment to identify issues related to the Ukraine crisis. The assessment revealed that 52.5% of primary health centres do not have stocks of multiple micronutrient powder and multiple micronutrient supplementation. Within the country approximately 45% of children aged 6-23 months received multiple micronutrient powder, 85% children aged 6-59 months old received high-dose Vitamin A, while 94% children aged under 5 years consumed Vitamin D. UNICEF provided technical support and supplies for the admission and treatment of children with SAM and implementation of Vitamin A supplementation (benefiting 112 and 398,842 children aged 6 to 59 months respectively).

Papua New Guinea

UNICEF provided technical support to the Department of Health to incorporate Nutrition in Emergencies in the nutrition sector quarterly meetings. Due to funding constraints, UNICEF nutrition support has been limited to the provision of supplies targeting the three highlands conflict provinces of Enga, SHP and Hela. In collaboration with the Department of Health, UNICEF distributed a total of 42 boxes of nutrition supplies. UNICEF also provided Micronutrient Powder to IOM to include in their food baskets for emergency-affected families with children aged 6-59 months.

Timor-Leste

UNICEF continued to provide technical support to the MoH for the treatment of SAM in all facilities through the roll-out of simplified approaches to the management of acute malnutrition. The MoH adopted the combined protocol (simplified approach) for the treatment of wasting among children 6-59 months (using admission criteria of MUAC measurement of 130mm). This helped to identify 4,146 children suffering from SAM, who were referred and supported for treatment (at an 81% cure rate). In addition, 68,402 children 6-59 months old received Vitamin A, while 65,859 children 12-59 months old received deworming tablets. Furthermore, UNICEF supported the MoH to reach 33,816 children 6-23 months old with multiple micronutrient powders for home fortification to increase the micronutrient quality of complimentary food in all 13 municipalities. Coverage of Vitamin A supplementation was low due to supply shortages.

UNICEF supported the MoH to review the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) training modules for health workers in preparation to roll-out a community-IYCF counselling package in the second half of the year. UNICEF successfully supported the MoH and National Health Institute in providing middle-level Training of Trainers on IYCF to 394 health care workers, who then implemented IYCF training to Mother Support Group members. Consequently, a total of 2,083 Mother Support Group members (1,473 females; 610 males) in 150 suku (villages), benefited from the training and have enhanced their knowledge and skills to provide counselling and assistance to women and their families, specifically addressing the common factors that are associated with poor breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices in the community, which is key for reducing childhood malnutrition in Timor-Leste.

Viet Nam

UNICEF, in collaboration with the National Institute of Nutrition, provided assistance to detect and treat children under five suffering from acute malnutrition due to a lack of access to nutritious food as a side-effect of the COVID-19 outbreaks in Ho Chi Minh city and Binh Duong provinces (southern Viet Nam). Due to funding limitations, UNICEF's direct support resulted in 3,020 children under five years old receiving treatment for SAM (30% of target). While the numbers reached are very modest compared to the total need, this support has contributed to proving a successful implementation model for integrated management of acute malnutrition and UNICEF has been able to use the lessons learnt to advocate for a sustainable solution for treating all children with SAM across Viet Nam.

To further strengthen capacity for SAM management, UNICEF trained 60 district and provincial level health officers on emergency nutrition and risk-informed nutrition preparedness planning, enabling them to provide nutrition inputs for the provincial annual preparedness plans of the local health sector.

2.10. Health

During 2022, UNICEF supported governments and partners to address health risks in emergencies across EAP, focusing on (i) supporting health coordination mechanisms, in particular in relation to COVID-19 vaccination rollout; (ii) providing direct support and strengthening national systems for COVID-19 vaccination campaigns and routine immunization; (iii) supporting equitable access to quality life-saving and high-impact primary healthcare services, including services for neonatal, child, adolescent and maternal healthcare; and (iv) promoting access to culturally appropriate, gender- and age-sensitive information and interventions, to improve preventive and curative health care practices. In 2022, 699,653 people accessed primary healthcare through UNICEF support, and almost half a million children aged 6-59 months were vaccinated against measles.

Regional Health in Emergencies Technical Support

The Regional Office continued to provide technical support and oversight for the ongoing COVID-19 response in all country offices in EAP. The majority of funds for health in emergencies in 2022 was received under the global 'Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator' (ACT-A) Humanitarian Appeal for Children, the results of which have been reported under a separate mechanism. Additional financing for the COVID-19 vaccine rollout was received from the Government of Japan, and the Regional Office managed the receipt and distribution of these funds to country offices. In the Pacific Islands and Southeast Asian countries, these funds were used for the procurement and maintenance of cold chain equipment; while at regional level, the Regional Office provided support for the COVID-19 response to countries in the form of technical assistance, coordination, and capacity building. The Regional Office recruited a technical consultant to support COVID-19 vaccine rollout, who worked with country offices and coordinated closely with Supply colleagues at the regional and headquarter levels for timely and effective procurement and installation of the cold chain equipment.

A Cross Regional Working Group on Immunization was established by the Regional Office Health section to support country offices on the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and well as routine immunization. The support provided through the group includes RCCE along with service delivery, supplies and T4D. As part of the activities of this group, regular monthly meetings were held with country offices to understand their progress, challenges and support required from the Regional Office.

Cambodia

UNICEF continued supporting the Government's COVID-19 response with advocacy and technical support alongside partners. Best practices learned from the pandemic were incorporated into new health sector strategies to strengthen primary health care and routine childhood immunization. UNICEF invested in cold chain strengthening including the first-time set-up of ultra-cold chain capacities across the country and provision of training for 57 officers from 25 provinces on cold-chain logistics Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to strengthen supply chain management for COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Additional technical training was conducted for 312 healthcare workers (72 females) on COVID-19 case management to support the integration of COVID-19 vaccination as part of routine immunization programmes. UNICEF also supplied personal protective equipment (PPE) kits to health facilities in 14 provinces across the country.

UNICEF played a lead partner role to the MoH on SBC, T4D, and environmental health initiatives with plans for scale-up next year. These included the development of the MoH's first digital health immunization roadmap, initiation and chairing of the Development Partners Technical Working Group for digital health innovations, web-based Logistics Management Information System roll-out for all vaccines, planning the design of the new Electronic Immunization Record, remote training of community health volunteers using digital platforms for improved interpersonal counselling, and a preliminary stock take of country-level evidence on environmental health risks and hazards for children.

UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation to integrate COVID-19 vaccination status into ID Poor and Disability Information Management Systems, which provided disaggregated data useful for local authorities in identifying missed populations and low coverage areas. As UNICEF supports MoH on the implementation of its Zero Dose strategy next year, the use of such disaggregated data sources from non-health sector systems by local health managers should strengthen microplanning, targeting and outreach.

Lao PDR

In 2022, UNICEF mobilized necessary technical expertise, guidance, and resources to support the MoH to respond to COVID-19 pandemic as well as continuing support to ensure continuity of essential service delivery on Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health in six provinces providing supplies and capacity building. In support for the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) programme, UNICEF supported enhancements to the cold chain system, with 1,049 pieces of cold chain equipment (out of 1,082 delivered) installed. Two Walk in Cold Room have been procured for two provinces, as well as 37 Solar Direct Drive fridges for remote health centres with no power supply or frequently interrupted electric supply, 300 voltage stabilizers for cold chain equipment, and 15 voltage regulators for regional cold rooms. UNICEF also procured 510 android tablets for immunization focal persons at the primary health care centres to monitor immunization activities such microplanning, keeping vaccine stock and reporting on cold chain functionality. UNICEF provided technical assistance to 20 low-performing districts to assess and develop district action plans for improving routine immunization and COVID-19 vaccination coverage.

UNICEF supported the Lao University of Health Sciences and the Lao Paediatric Association in rolling out the IMNCI computerized module for pre-service training for Public Health Schools and medical training centres nationwide. UNICEF assisted in the IMNCI mobile application development and field testing in selected health centres. Health workers use it as a clinical job aid that includes a calculator for doses of drugs for curative childcare. The MoH has successfully scaled up the IMNCI toolkit to promote a skills-based training methodology in 14 out of 18 provinces nationwide.

Malaysia

UNICEF supported the MoH, through the National Institute of Health and Institute of Health Behavioural Research, to develop a study on contributing factors to psychological distress and help-seeking behaviour among adolescents living in low-cost flats during COVID-19 to inform policy and effective community engagement strategies, and to contribute to developing a module and screening tool to improve school children's resilience and mental health literacy. The study surveyed 400 children and adolescents aged between 7 and 12 years and provides important insights into their mental health needs.

To take this work forward, a consultant was recruited to coordinate initiatives aimed at promoting MHPSS in Malaysia. The consultant was tasked with shaping the strategic programmatic response on MHPSS across sectors and ensuring the inclusion of MHPSS in research, data collection/reporting, and communication exercises. Through effective collaboration with country and regional level teams, the consultant was able to launch a report on strengthening MHPSS systems and services for children and adolescents in Malaysia and to support the development of school-based interventions to improve school children's resilience and mental health literacy.

Some humanitarian funding was used as part of UNICEF's larger effort to deliver life-saving medical equipment to 5 maternity hospitals in Sabah. These hospitals added additional pre-natal COVID-19 screening facilities for mothers from interior and coastal communities.

Mongolia

In support of the Government's COVID-19 response and to strengthen routine health services, the Mongolia country office worked closely with the MoH and the National Center for Communicable Disease to conduct a one-month campaign in all 21 provinces, which established 576 new mobile vaccination points and reached 22,407 people, with 94% of them receiving the third and fourth doses. In the second half of the year, UNICEF procured COVID-19 vaccines for children, which began rolling out in August. To expand the COVID-19 testing capacities of the MoH's Comprehensive Laboratory, UNICEF procured six biosafety cabinets and six polymerase chain reaction (PCR) chambers. Once these have been installed, they will also help to ensure biosafety during the detection and culture analysis of other communicable disease agents, such as Enterobacteriaceae, meningitis, influenza, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis virus and parasites.

As part of the renewed commitment to the oxygen agenda, UNICEF procured and installed five PSA oxygen plants and equipped health facilities with 4 ventilators, 120 portable computers, 88 autoclave, pulse-oximeters, oxygen cylinders, rapid test kits, PCR chambers as well as support to pay gas bills. In addition, national level training of the medical gas engineer and technicians was conducted for the first time in a decade, followed by approval of the dedicated Oxygen Supply Systems Strengthening Plan and development of the first-ever national standards on oxygen supply systems. UNICEF has been working in close partnership with GFATM and Save the Children on strengthening the oxygen supply systems.

Through support provided by UNICEF, essential maternal and child health services including routine immunization are being monitored using H-Info 3.0 and child mortality dashboards.

Papua New Guinea

In 2022, UNICEF facilitated high-level advocacy on COVID-19 vaccination and routine immunization strengthening with national and provincial health authorities, as well as health managers from partners and CSOs. To further strengthen systems for both COVID-19 and routine immunization, UNICEF supported the procurement of PPE and auto-disable syringes, as well as the procurement and installation of new cold chain

equipment in health facilities across 11 provinces, resulting in 93% of all health facilities (788 out of 846) now with functioning cold chain. Through the support from GAVI and Government of Japan, the National Department of Health has been assisted with 46 vehicles which will improve immunization service delivery, vaccine distribution and monitoring. Additionally, UNICEF supported catch-up vaccination sessions, which improved the 2022 routine immunization coverage by 4% from the previous year. Expanding health service delivery through fixed, mobile and outreach sessions and integrated health services that reach targeted at-risk populations ensured both improved access and increased demand for immunization and health services simultaneously.

The national immunization Supply Chain Management (iSCM) SOP was developed, and training of store managers and cold chain key persons was conducted to improve vaccine management practices. This SOP will help improve the supply chain management, vaccine request processing and vaccine stock monitoring. The electronic logistics management system (mSupply) was rolled out in all 22 local stores and targeted 300 health facilities in nine provinces to improve vaccine and logistics management. In addition, capacity building on vaccine cold chain management, vaccine handling and cold chain repair and maintenance was conducted for 217 national and provincial immunization focal persons. A National Effective Vaccine Management assessment was conducted in October 2022 to assess the supply chain system, and its findings were reviewed in a workshop with key stakeholders. The next step is to develop a comprehensive improvement plan in a consultative process, which will be implemented in the country over the next 3-4 years.

Immediately following the election-related violence in the highlands and the earthquake in September in Morobe, Madang and Eastern Highlands, UNICEF launched rapid situation analyses with the government and partners to understand the impact and health needs. UNICEF mobilized existing emergency medical supplies to support the affected provinces.

Thailand

UNICEF continued to support the national COVID-19 response plan under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Health. 3,620 children (1,134 girls, 2,486 boys) and 6,257 adults (3,298 female) were provided with rapid test services. 7,142 people (1,449 children and 5,693 adults) were provided with health case management support (initial support for Home Isolation / Community Isolation measures, first aid, linkages with Tele medical support, referral, and follow-up) in Bangkok, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat, Songkhla, Kanchanaburi, Lampang and Chiang Mai provinces, a particular need for communities unable to avail of government services. Supporting the national immunization programme, UNICEF provided national health services with over 2.2 million doses of sodium chloride to support implementation of protocols in vaccination centres nationwide.

Timor-Leste

In 2022, significant progress was made in scaling up routine immunization as well as MNCH services. The measles and rubella vaccination second dose has reached above 80% of children in each municipality. A measles and rubella catch up campaign, plus introduction of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) vaccine, is scheduled for the first quarter in 2023. Pre-campaign activities such as advocacy meetings, printing of information, education and communication materials, enumeration, microplanning and budgeting at the municipal and national level have been carried out with UNICEF assistance.

The COVID-19 vaccination scaled up in 2022 targeting adolescents aged 12-17 years and a booster dose for those above UNICEF procured Pfizer vaccine (through DFAT grant) and facilitated transport and delivery of all vaccines provided through COVAX facility. UNICEF has supported integrated vaccination from point of delivery and supporting outreach campaigns in villages and communities through mobile outreach services. The

establishment of four regional warehouses with cold chain capacity to store routine antigen and Pfizer vaccine are testimony of health system building by leveraging COVID-19 resources.

Continuous investment was made in training and supportive supervision of MoH staff to build their skills and knowledge for integrating COVID-19 vaccination into regular primary health care services, repair and maintenance of cold chain equipment, IMNCI, and scaling up safe and clean delivery to improve quality of MNCH health services.

Establishment of the first basic emergency obstetric and new-born care facility in Liquisa Municipality and strengthening 37 Community Health Centres across six municipalities with MNCH equipment has gradually increased the number of deliveries at the health post and community health centres to 52% of total deliveries and decreased home deliveries from 3,035 (in 2021) to 2,657 (in 2022). Challenges in transferring data on regional and national hospital deliveries to the national health database persist.

Viet Nam

UNICEF focused its support in 35 hard-to-reach provinces to ensure equitable access and high COVID-19 vaccination coverage. Support included training for approximately 300 immunization and health staff on COVID-19 vaccination, routine immunization, and communications skills; procurement and delivery of three million syringes for vaccine injection and five cold trucks for transportation of vaccines. UNICEF also contributed to organizing over 6,000 outreach sessions (including home vaccination), benefiting approximately 21,000 people.

2.11. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

During 2022, UNICEF supported governments and partners to address water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in emergencies across EAP, focusing on (i) providing leadership and coordination for WASH; (ii) building national systems and capacities for WASH emergency preparedness and response, and for resilient WASH services; (iii) providing support to ensure access to, and use of, safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and supplies, in affected communities, schools and healthcare facilities; and (iv) implementing community and school based hygiene behaviour change programmes. As per the two previous years, the population reached with WASH infection prevention and control (IPC) support in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, is recorded under UNICEF's humanitarian results. In 2022, over 1.1 million children were supported to use safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in their learning environments, and over 970,000 people were reached with critical WASH supplies.

Regional WASH in Emergencies Technical Support

The Regional Office WASH team continued to support country offices in the region to prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies in the WASH sector. In 2022, support to 13 country offices focused on improving national capacities and preparedness for future emergencies, building on the lessons of the pandemic and the importance of WASH in responding to public health emergencies.

To fulfil our mandate in every country in the region, the Regional Office focused on ensuring that UNICEF staff have core knowledge and capacity to lead and contribute to humanitarian WASH responses. Two trainings for staff were conducted, improving coverage of staff that have completed the WASH in emergencies training in the past 5 years from 7% to 63%. To make this fundamental learning course easier to access, the Regional Office has also converted it into an online learning module through the AGORA platform, which accessible to UNICEF staff and partners.

The Regional Office provided in-person humanitarian WASH training in Viet Nam (34 participants), Timor-Leste (42 participants) and Philippines (32 participants) to provincial and national governments, NGOs, and UNICEF staff. Across all of the trainings, participants improved their understanding of coordination structures, response cycle fundamentals, and sector response plans. Common weak points for further engagement with all sector partners included quality monitoring, AAP, and ensuring that responses are age, disability, and gender sensitive and mitigate risks of violence. The Regional WASH and Child Protection teams collaborated to publish a [guidance note on mitigating the risks of GBV in emergencies through WASH](#) and will continue developing national capacities in this critical area.

The Regional Office WASH team continued to provide support to the Level 2 emergency response in Myanmar with effects on the border areas of Thailand. Feedback and support was provided to Myanmar country office on their programme strategies and on capacity building initiatives. In Thailand, the Regional Office supported WASH staffing, technical advice, and the development of new WASH partnerships, as well as support for coordination, capacity development for Thai partners, and for country office WASH preparedness.

To build capacity for quality programming on hygiene, the Regional Office led a training in a methodology called WASH'Em. This methodology, developed by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, is a way of rapidly designing evidence-based and context-adapted handwashing behaviour change in emergencies. Twelve UNICEF staff members from 6 country offices in EAP completed the training, held in January and February 2022 and were able to make use of these new approaches and tools. For example, Myanmar country office was able to train WASH Cluster partners in WASH'Em, leading to more effective hand hygiene behaviour change.

In Myanmar and PNG, the Regional Office supported piloting WASH as an entry point for peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity, with engagement of young people as agents of change. In both places, the country offices worked with partners to carry out a water management and WASH conflict analysis and based on the results, to design and implement conflict-sensitive interventions and build social cohesion while engaging young people as agents of change for peacebuilding.

Cambodia

UNICEF focused on preparedness and strengthening government systems and leadership for both for COVID-19 and flood responses in 2022. UNICEF supported 6 provinces to prepare WASH emergency preparedness and response plans. At the national level UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, assisting them to deliver on their relative mandates and improve coordination between agencies. UNICEF also supported government-led coordination with CSOs, and engagement with private sector WASH service providers to enhance and extend the reach and scale of WASH response actions.

Hygiene kits or key hygiene items to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic were distributed to ID Poor households in Takeo, Kampong Speu, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng and Kratie provinces, benefiting 587,579 people including 840 persons with disabilities. 55,940 factory workers (including 43,928 females) also received hygiene supplies, and cleaning and disinfection and hygiene kits supplies were distributed to 252 health centres and 17 referral hospitals. In response to the assessed needs of the flood-affected families, UNICEF released prepositioned emergency WASH supplies to 3,151 families in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces

Lao PDR

UNICEF focused on preparedness for seasonal flooding and strengthening sector coordination in 2022. To improve preparedness, UNICEF ensured that emergency WASH supplies were prepositioned for 25,000 people

and strengthened emergency supply management through improvements to four national warehouses and training of the warehouse staff. In response to the annual floods, emergency supplies were released for 2,250 people. In addition, in coordination with the National Center for Environmental Health and Water Supply, UNICEF procured menstrual hygiene pads to support 10,000 women and girls, to be included in government distributions.

UNICEF continued to strengthen coordination and collaboration across WASH development partners, including GIZ, EU, USAID, Plan International, Save the Children and SNV. Though this was not specific to humanitarian response, the sub-sector working groups provided a mechanism for partners to coordinate on emergency planning and response given that the Cluster mechanism was not triggered by Government.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 and support infection prevention and control in healthcare facilities, bleach production machinery was procured for 50 provincial and district hospitals to provide a continuous, affordable supply to these hospitals. Water supplies were provided to 140 schools, providing 10,419 children (5,315 girls) with school water supplies, and 492 schools received group handwashing tables. The provided WASH facilities were complemented by strengthening hygiene skills through teacher training in 710 schools and implementation of pupil-led hygiene activities, helping to reduce COVID-19 risks and enable safer school environments.

UNICEF was also able to support broader community WASH programming to strengthening community resilience to future emergencies and impacts of climate change. Though the implementation of community led total sanitation programmes, enabling Vapi District to be officially declared open defecation free in February 2022. Further sanitation behaviour change activities and technical support has been provided to villages in Lakhonepheng, Kongsedone and Sepone Districts. Community resilience was also significantly strengthened in eight villages in Vapi District through the provision of resilient water supplies with household connections. Village-level WASH committees have been established with clear roles and responsibilities for water fee collection and operational and maintenance arrangements to ensure sustainability of these systems.

Mongolia

The COVID-19 response continued in 2022 and provided an opportunity to make improvements to schools and healthcare facilities that will benefit children and their families after the pandemic. With funding from the Government of Japan, UNICEF provided support to the MoH to construct 6 WASH facilities, using shipping containers for Mobile Health Clinics. UNICEF supported the nationwide Hygiene Campaign, focusing on handwashing with soap for prevention and response to the COVID-19, produced a series of hygiene (handwashing) communication materials, and disseminated them through national TVs and social media. Critical COVID-19 hygiene and prevention supplies were procured for 1,461 public schools, dormitories, and kindergartens for an estimated 876,600 students and teachers in 13 provinces and 3 districts of Ulaanbaatar city (80% of the target) in partnership with the Mongolian Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Education and Science. Quartz sterilization lights were provided in November 2022 to 422 kindergartens, 191 schools, 309 dormitories of 20 provinces and districts of Mongolia to reduce the risk of infection among school children and to minimize children's absence at schools and kindergartens.

Papua New Guinea

UNICEF supported WASH emergency coordination and response as the co-lead of the WASH cluster. As of December 2022, 144,128 students (70,097 girls) from 335 schools, benefited from improved water sources and handwashing facilities funded through the Australian High Commission contribution to Education in Emergency Response and Recovery Plan, together with Government of Japan funding. More than 5,500 people (2,695

female), including students, parents, teachers, and school boards of management, have been trained on gender-sensitive health and hygiene messages including messages and information on COVID-19, operation and maintenance of WASH facilities, and incorporation of WASH in the School Learning and Improvement Plans.

UNICEF supported the WASH emergency response after the elections-related violence. Eleven households in Port Moresby and a total of 286 households (1,500 people) displaced by violence in Hela Province in the Highlands region benefited from hygiene kits, including menstrual kits for women, and hygiene promotion. The WASH emergency response was implemented in collaboration with World Vision, CARE International, ANIS foundation, Touching the Untouchables, and IOM. The National Department of Education led the promotion of key COVID-19 prevention measures and WASH interventions in schools.

The COVID-19 response continued in 2022. UNICEF, through the WASH sector, contributed significantly to developing *Niupela Pasin* (New Normal), the national COVID-19 prevention and mitigation protocols. This particularly focused on schools and healthcare facilities, with some community-based prevention measures.

Thailand

In 2022 UNICEF focused on pre-positioning WASH supplies with partners to ensure an accelerated response to crises including floods and influx of refugees.

UNICEF continued to support the national COVID-19 response plan under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Health. A total of 222,770 people (109,172 children and 113,598 adults; including 2,022 migrants) were reached with critical hygiene supplies.

In line with the Inter-Agency Preparedness and Response plan for Influx Communities, a targeted WASH response was developed by the country office. UNICEF partnered with two organizations to provide WASH support to vulnerable populations on the move along the Thai Myanmar border and in temporary safe areas. With financial support from the US Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration, almost 19,000 children and families were reached with health and sanitation supplies and learning kits. Support was also provided to install ten toilets and handwashing facilities in two designated temporary safe areas, alongside the provision of additional hygiene items.

Timor-Leste

Drawing on lessons learned from the 2021 floods and in line with the new institutional arrangements in the WASH sector. UNICEF partnered with the newly formed National Authority for Water and Sanitation to provide humanitarian WASH training in December 2022 to 42 persons (12 women, 30 men) from government (36%), UN agencies (19%), INGOs (14%) and local NGOs (31%). The course concentrated on processes and good practice covering preparation, risk identification, climate impact, humanitarian-development nexus, coordination, implementation quality, and accountability. The need to further clarify and strengthen institutional responsibilities for emergency response considering recent sector reforms emerged throughout the training. Areas for further capacity development included quality monitoring, AAP, and ensuring that responses are age-, disability-, and gender-sensitive and mitigate risks of violence.

UNICEF supported the local technical working group in the first-round review of draft national WASH standards for emergency response, which build on SPHERE standards. UNICEF's inputs ensured that standardization of emergency supplies and coordination protocols were included. The review will continue in 2023.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, UNICEF supported the construction of permanent handwashing stations at 17 public places in the capital Dili and provided WASH supplies to 15 community health centres in 5

municipalities. An additional of 43,230 people (12,969 children and 30,261 adults) have benefited from WASH improvements in 10 critical border locations.

Viet Nam

In 2022, UNICEF focused on preparedness planning and capacity building. In June 2022, UNICEF worked with the National Center for Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation to convene a national and provincial training on WASH in emergencies. Following the training, UNICEF provided technical support for 7 provinces to develop their provincial annual plans on WASH-related emergency response and disaster prevention.

In response to Typhoon Noru, which made landfall in September 2022 causing extreme rainfall and devastating floods in Nghe An province, UNICEF distributed water filters to provide clean drinking water for 129,446 people (68,685 children, including 556 children with disabilities) of the most affected population.

2.12. Child Protection

During 2022, UNICEF supported governments and partners to address child protection risks in emergencies across EAP, focusing on (i) providing leadership and coordination in child protection; (ii) strengthening child protection systems to prevent and respond to abuse and exploitation; (iii) preventing and responding to family separation; (iv) addressing GBV by ensuring services are accessible to all survivors, including child and adolescent survivors; (v) promoting community-based mental health and psychosocial services; (vi) protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse and (vii) monitoring and reporting grave violations of children's rights in situations of armed conflict. In 2022, UNICEF reached over 174,000 children and caregivers with mental health and psychosocial support, as well as 96,641 women, girls and boys with gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions. Just over half a million people had access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers.

Regional Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) Technical Support

The Regional Office provided remote technical support to country offices in their response to COVID-19, conflict, disasters and other humanitarian situations. The Myanmar country office was supported in resource mobilization, staff recruitment, and sub-national child protection coordination. Following Super Typhoon Rai (local name Odette) in the Philippines, the Regional Office provided support in developing the child protection response in the inter-agency Humanitarian Needs and Priorities plan, the recruitment of a CPiE consultant, and with ongoing programming technical expertise. In response to the Highlands violence and earthquake in PNG, the Regional Office supported the recruitment of a CPiE deployment and provided technical expertise for coordination and capacity building for the CPiE sub-cluster and scale up of child protection programming in the response. In November 2022, training for 25 UNICEF, 20 UN and 30 government and partners on Child Protection Minimum Standards and GBV in emergencies risk mitigation was undertaken in Timor Leste.

As part of continuous capacity development efforts, the Regional Office delivered a virtual 4-part Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) learning series to equip 60 UNICEF child protection staff and partners from 13 country offices with core knowledge and skills in MHPSS in child protection in emergency preparedness and response. The Regional Office developed a CPiE fact sheet and case studies for three countries (Timor Leste, Philippines and Indonesia) to facilitate knowledge sharing across the region.

Cambodia

In 2022, UNICEF expanded the child protection services provided by 3PC (Partnership Program for the Protection of Children) and Child Helpline Cambodia, which was launched to respond to children's significant mental health and psychosocial needs amidst COVID-19 recovery. A total of 16,300 children (including 8,002 girls and 419 gender undisclosed children), and 13,478 youth and adults (6,657 females) received professional counselling, psychiatric treatment, provision of life skills through education, information on primary mental health care, and hotlines and helpline services. Mental health care messages reached a wider audience through the partners' social media platforms, which focused on providing knowledge on recognizing the signs of mental health problems, the impacts and how to reach for support, including through the helplines.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased risk of GBV, UNICEF, enhanced its actions together with partners to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV to reach 27,796 women, girls and boys. UNICEF worked closely with UNFPA and UN Women to support the Ministry of Women's Affairs to strengthen the referral pathway, by developing a Guidance Framework to integrate GBV into Primero Case Management and in the Child Protection SOP, as well as in the development of GBV training modules. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and the Ministry of Women's Affairs to train 714 frontline workers on Prevention and Risk Mitigation.

UNICEF supported the National Committee for Counter Trafficking to conduct two trainings in Preah Sihanouk province, enhancing the knowledge and awareness of 99 frontline workers (34 female) on child protection and identification of human trafficking and abuse.

Lao PDR

In 2022, UNICEF supported capacity building and service delivery of the Lao Women's Union (LWU) and Lao Youth Union (LYU) to scale up protection and immediate shelter for GBV survivors, and expand the phone hotlines providing counselling, case management and referrals for survivors. 3,289 people (1,998 female) were reached through the LYU helpline. Of those, 477 survivors of violence (278 female), including GBV and violence against children, sought help. A further 708 survivors of violence (438 female) received assistance through the LWU helpline and Counselling and Protection Centres. The number of cases received through the hotlines showed that there was a dire need for mental health and psychosocial support to children and adolescents in the aftermath of COVID-19 in Lao PDR. Data from the LYU helpline showed that information about COVID-19 and its impacts on education and employment were the main reasons for children and young people seeking counselling services. To ensure quality services, UNICEF supported the LYU in implementing the recently launched Manual on Youth and Adolescents Counselling for Helpline Volunteers. LWU also revised its Hotline Guideline which served as a useful source of information for helpline workers to provide MHPSS more effectively to the most vulnerable women, children and youth.

With UNICEF's support, the LYU used the hotline data as a solid evidence base to advocate for the government to cover the operational cost of the helpline permanently. Starting in 2022, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications agreed to exempt the charge for the operational cost of the LYU helpline which helped to remove the financial barriers of adolescents and youth to seek MHPSS services. This is an example of how, as successfully advocated by UNICEF, the concept of child protection is built into the normative work of the government sectors with strong ownership and sustainability.

UNICEF continued its capacity building initiatives and conducted a session on PSEA and Child Safeguarding for 52 participants (25 female) during the launch of the disability grant and training of enumerators for child disability assessment in Xiengkhouang.

Malaysia

UNICEF was able to provide a PSEA training which reached 1,215 youth members across 42 organisations by leveraging funds through three pilot youth development programmes with the Malaysian Youth Council.

Mongolia

UNICEF, together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the National Emergency Management Agency trained 300 government staff from all 21 provinces and 9 Ulaanbaatar districts on how apply the Child Protection Minimum Standards in Emergencies at the stages of preparedness and response for different scenarios, including the pandemic. Participants included sub-national social policy officers, social workers, health service providers, education officers, police and NEMA staff in targeted communities.

Together with the Authority for Family, Child and Youth Development, UNICEF trained 118 child protection professionals on GBV case management. They reached at least 4,931 survivors of violence including 2,952 girls and boys with provision of response interventions to address GBV. UNICEF also supported the Child Helpline 108 which receives reports of child protection concerns, including sexual exploitation and abuse, via phone calls, chat, messages, as well as an online reporting portal (Internet Watch Foundation portal linked to ekids.mn). UNICEF continued promoting both reporting channels in 2022. In total, 392 reports of sexual exploitation and abuse were processed in 2022.

UNICEF supported the procurement and dissemination of disinfection and hygiene supplies for 57 childcare centres, One-stop service centres and protection shelters across the country to help continuity of services for survivors of violence during Covid.

UNICEF is co-leading the Protection cluster coordination for the dzud early action and response. UNICEF has advocated for collective efforts on PSEA among UN agencies and has contributed to the development of the UN Country Team PSEA Action Plan.

Papua New Guinea

Continuing work started in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF supported the Government through the National Office for Child and Family Services and an extended partnership with the Child Fund Helpline (1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain) to provide MHPSS services and support to children and women at risk of being affected by violence, including case management services and referral support. As the only national service in PNG, the hotline provides a critical service and support from UNICEF enabled its expansion to a 24-hour service, and ensured it had capacities in place to support case management practices and standards, including support for both child and adult survivors. Through the Helpline, support was provided to 1,562 people including 788 children (317 girls, 471 boys) survivors of violence and GBV, and 774 parents/caregivers (466 females, one transgender person, 33 unspecified) with MHPSS services.

UNICEF continued to co-chair the Child Protection sub-cluster throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, election violence and the earthquake. With surge capacity assistance after the earthquake crisis, UNICEF convened partners to build the capacity of National Office of Child and Family Services staff as the key government child protection agency as well as civil society humanitarian actors. Through the sub-cluster mechanism, UNICEF facilitated the development of an action plan on CPiE, which included identifying resource persons within sub-

cluster agencies to support on capacity building within the sector. A training in CPiE was facilitated for these focal-points, resulting in a pool of 16 CPiE experts (12 female, 4 male) from 8 organizations in Port Moresby who have provided further CPiE capacity-building for six key response institutions. The COVID-19 pandemic and other humanitarian situations in 2022 again highlighted the importance of nurturing partnerships with the Government, civil society and donors to achieve rapid and long-lasting results in times of crisis.

In cooperation with the Office of Children and Family Services and a relationship with the newly established Enga Provincial Council for Child and Family Services, UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment during the election-related violence in Enga and initiated new partnerships for CPiE in the Highlands region with Baptist Union PNG and Care International and expanded the partnership with Child Fund PNG.

UNICEF supported the capacity building of CSO partners and education cluster members for PSEA and child safeguarding requirements as conditions for partnership. UNICEF supported PSEA training for 7 NGOs/fait-based organizations and establishment of PSEA measures in their organizations that included codes of conduct and development of a PSEA action plan and policy, and identification/establishment of reporting referral pathways. Within UNICEF, internal processes for PSEA and Child Safeguarding were established and strengthened through completion of the PSEA/Child Safeguarding Implementation Guidance. All UNICEF partners' ability to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse has been assessed and this represents a key milestone to reduce the direct and indirect risk of harm to children from deliberate and unintentional acts, including neglect, exploitation and abuse.

Thailand

Contributing to ongoing health outcomes in high-risk provinces and reinforcing local and national capacity to address vaccine hesitancy and the psychosocial repercussions of the COVID-19 crisis, over 3,000 UNICEF trained community and youth volunteers and frontline health workers provided 5,359 children (2,725 girls, 2,624 boys) and 6,292 caregivers (3,579 female) with community-based mental health and psychosocial support in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Tak, Kanchanaburi, Songkhla, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat.

In line with the Inter-Agency Preparedness and Response plan for Influx communities, in support of national plans, UNICEF strengthened local partners' preparedness and response capacities to create stronger systems and workforce to meet protection and assistance needs. Through partnerships providing support in the areas of child protection, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, 90 staff from provincial and local entities and community-based organisations were trained on CPiE and Education in emergencies to support communities along the Thai Myanmar border.

UNICEF and partners conducted a study on "The effects of COVID-19 on children and families in Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and 4 districts in Songkhla province". Recommendations from the final report were presented to a gathering of 132 participants from relevant regional level organisations and stakeholders.

Timor-Leste

In light of increasing demand during the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF supported the MoH to conduct a workshop to strengthen mental health referral mechanisms. The 20 participants included MoH case managers from 13 municipalities, NGOs, doctors, mental health hotline operators. In partnership with local NGOs, 61 community-based volunteers have been trained to delivery MHPSS activities in Child Friendly Spaces. Through these partnerships, UNICEF continued to support community based MHPSS for children affected by Cyclone Seroja and floods that hit the country in 2021 through 22 Child Friendly Spaces in Dili, which have benefited around 2,381 children (1,172 girls and 1,209 boys) from the ages of under 5 to 17 years old. Furthermore, a Training of Trainers

on MHPSS was conducted for government officers and a local CSO (Jesuit Social Services) who work with children in detention facilities. UNICEF also supported the launch of a telephone hotline implemented by the MoH in conjunction with PRADET (an NGO), providing mental health and psychosocial support services by trained counsellors for people who experience trauma, mental illness, domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

In partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, UNICEF conducted a training on Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. The training was attended by 42 child protection workers from more than 30 institutions. UNICEF also built the capacity of 96 subnational Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports staff on the right to participation, PSEA and child safeguarding, and real-time monitoring. Further progress toward implementing PSEA and child safeguarding was achieved during the year, with training for implementing partners on the joint UN PSEA assessment.

In Timor-Leste, UNICEF built the capacity of OPDs in humanitarian context, training 20 staff on nutrition, access to education, life-skills based education and prevention of violence against persons with disabilities. The OPD staff then trained 15 adolescents with disabilities on life-skills based education and distributed hygiene kits and information to 254 families of persons with disabilities. During 2021 floods in Timor-Leste, the office of the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports was used as a headquarters for youth mobilization. Based on that experience, and to remove barriers for young people with disabilities to participate in youth activism in future emergency responses, in 2022 UNICEF supported accessibility improvements to the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports' office, including a ramp and accessible WASH facilities.

In collaboration with the Government, UN Women and UNFPA, UNICEF established the Child Protection coordination mechanism to plan and implement GBV and child protection interventions to respond and recover from emergencies. UNICEF also conducted a mapping to identify services and referral pathways for child protection and GBV, including strengthening case management. Finally, UNICEF also developed and disseminated key messages to prevent GBV and violence against children in emergencies and strengthened the GBV referral system to support services for survivors.

Viet Nam

In 2022, UNICEF supported children in accessing mental health and psychosocial support through various platforms. The National Hotline received 368,346 calls for support, from which 1,561 children received necessary support services. As part of efforts to provide increased knowledge and skills on case management for alternative care and MHPSS for children affected by the pandemic, UNICEF implemented online trainings, reaching 700 social welfare officers and frontline workers from the five most affected provinces, including Dong Nai, Dong Thap, Long An, Binh Duong and Ho Chi Minh City. As a result, 600 children orphaned due to COVID-19 in these provinces were assessed and 100 children received the necessary support. To further support families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in these provinces, food packages were also distributed to 5,925 children.

Working in collaboration with UN Women and other UN agencies, UNICEF conducted PSEA trainings for 128 staff from 25 organizations (both UN and government). UNICEF also conducted a refresher training for all staff on the PSEA reporting mechanism. UNICEF remains an active member of the United Nations Country Team Working Group on PSEA and Sexual Harassment, advocating for the inclusion of a component on Child Safeguarding within the UN Viet Nam Strategy on PSEA and Sexual Harassment and Work Plan for 2022–2023. As a result of these efforts, UNICEF was able to ensure that 368,346 people had access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers.

UNICEF's work on GBV included ensuring 600 women and child survivors of violence could access telephone counselling and mental health and psychosocial support, including referrals for safe shelter and accommodation and other support and services. UNICEF worked to support 5,000 social welfare officers, child protection officers and national GBV helpline staff across all 63 provinces in Viet Nam were equipped with increased knowledge and skills through online training on case management for GBV and child protection. Further, UNICEF provided 660 women and children with dignity kits, including sanitary napkins, and information on the risk of GBV and how to access services and support for survivors of violence. Finally, together with UNFPA and UN Women, an awareness raising campaign on prevention of violence against women and children was disseminated via mass and social media, and loudspeakers in disaster-affected communities.

2.13. Education

During 2022, UNICEF supported governments and partners to address education in emergencies across EAP, focusing on (i) providing leadership and coordination for education; (ii) supporting access to inclusive and quality opportunities for continued learning and to address lost learning, in particular in view of ongoing school closures; (iii) promoting and supporting equitable access to safe and secure learning environments as schools reopened after the COVID-19 pandemic; (iv) strengthening education systems to be risk-informed and resilient to future shocks; and (v) promoting school-based mental health and psychosocial services. In 2022, UNICEF reached over 8.2 million children and adolescents with access to formal or non-formal education, including over 116,000 children with disabilities. Over 120,000 schools were supported to implement safe school protocols.

Regional Education in Emergencies Technical Support

In 2022, the Regional Office continued to support country offices in their education in emergency preparedness, planning and response, as well as Comprehensive School Safety and climate change. As schools continued to re-open following extensive school closures as a result of COVID-19, countries across the region were looking for ways to tackle the learning crisis. The Regional Office prioritized foundational learning and was an active supporter of the Transforming Education Summit. Countries across the region were provided with technical support to prepare their national statements ahead of the Transforming Education Summit, and on the strategy for leveraging the commitments made at the summit for country level results. The Regional Office prepared a series of knowledge products on foundational learning to raise awareness about the successes in EAP, comprising a regional overview of UNICEF's work and five country case studies. The Regional Office also published a [guidance note on advancing foundational learning](#) to guide country office programming. At the Asia-Pacific Regional Education Ministers Conference in June 2022, UNICEF and UNESCO officially launched the adopted the 2022 Bangkok Statement, prioritizing safe school reopening and operation.

In addition, the Regional Office continued to focus on digital access and transformation of education services – including through the roll out of the Learning Passport across the region, as well as supporting countries to work on Safe to Learn and to prioritize the mental health and well-being of children in and around schools. In collaboration with the Safe to Learn Coalition, UNICEF successfully launched an [advocacy note](#) and held a regional Safe to Learn roundtable that brought together eight countries from the region to learn and share experiences and launched a regional initiative to support countries to advance the agenda at the national level. Working with the Asia Pacific Coalition for School Safety, UNICEF also held an event on Comprehensive School Safety at the Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Regional Office continued to provide support to the Myanmar country office in their response to the Level 2 emergency by providing additional staffing and supporting major resource mobilization efforts as well as the implementation of the programmes in Rakhine State specifically. The Regional Office also provided timely support to a wide range of emergency responses in the Philippines, Indonesia, PNG, and countries in the Pacific among others, which guaranteed continuity of learning for the most deprived children.

Cambodia

After the extended school closures of the past few years, UNICEF contributed to a wide range of high-quality evidence generation activities to inform policy formulation and programme strategies for safe school reopening. The learning loss analysis based on the National Learning Assessment for grade 6 was widely circulated and used as a key reference to identify strategies for learning recovery. The Assessment found that children had fallen behind in their learning during the pandemic. Compared to the last equivalent Learning Assessment in 2016, the percentage of students who failed to demonstrate basic proficiency increased from 34% to 45% in Khmer language and from 49% to 74% in Mathematics.

UNICEF leveraged this evidence to increase investment in the Early Grade Learning programme, supporting its largest ever expansion. The programme included comprehensive support for teachers, enabling them to deliver effective teaching and learning for early graders to acquire foundational literacy and numeracy skills. Specifically, training 2,250 Grade 1 teachers in Khmer language and 1,230 Grade 2 teachers in Mathematics. 3,178,764 children accessed formal or non-formal education, including early learning, as a result of UNICEF support. Significant investments were made by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and development partners to increase the reach of distance and remote learning modalities. UNICEF also supported 10,715 children with disabilities to access remote/distance learning and return to school.

To ensure preparedness for emergency response, UNICEF supported the prepositioning of 200 education-in-emergencies kits and learning materials in 10 provinces. Some of these materials and supplies were distributed to flood-affected schools to set up temporary learning spaces to ensure learning continuity.

Lao PDR

UNICEF continued its pivotal role in the COVID-19 education response by building on its partnerships and influence to support a coordinated response. Joint advocacy and monitoring by the Ministry of Education and Sports, MoH, UNICEF and WHO paved the way for re-opening of all schools in January and joint WHO and UNICEF engagement with all provincial education and health authorities helped ensure schools followed safety protocols. UNICEF advocacy, technical and financial support was instrumental in ensuring Lao children could attend in-person schooling with COVID-19 prevention measures in place in schools across the country. In addition to the jointly developed technical guidance, additional prevention supplies and information, education and communication materials were provided to 5,000 schools. Ministry of Education and Sports' capacity to deliver mental health and psychosocial support – seen as an essential part of helping children to resume face-to-face learning – was also enhanced with continued trainings in selected districts and schools across the country – reaching about 10%-12% of educational personnel from all 18 provinces.

UNICEF facilitated the introduction of innovations borne out of the pandemic, which were scaled-up in 2022. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Sports and mobilized partners to further scale digital learning. The first ever Lao PDR digital learning platform, the Ministry of Education and Sports' *Khang Panya Lao* now has 114,000 registered users. Trainers from all 18 provinces and districts, school principals and teachers have been trained on how to maximize the use of *Khang Panya Lao* as a supplementary learning resource. The government

has identified *Khang Panya Lao* as a key tool for the continuous professional development of teachers via blended learning.

The expansion of *Khang Panya Lao* has highlighted the importance of ensuring teachers are supported to understand and master digital pedagogies via hands-on trainings and given them access to peer-to-peer learning and technical support. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Sports to develop guidelines and implement a nationwide capacity development programme on this topic. A total of 5,202 teachers, principals, provincial and district officers have been trained and Teacher Training College capacity enhanced to integrate this in teacher trainings. Another 1,500 teachers received hands-on training on using *Khang Panya Lao* in the classroom and for children's learning at home. This included trainings on using ICT equipment that schools have to enhance learning. A total of 1,477 schools have been provided ICT equipment (a mix of laptops, tablets, LCD projectors and TV) and subsidized internet access, along with trainings on digital pedagogies. UNICEF also supported 2,346 schools in implementing safe school protocols.

Quality learning materials were also provided through the dissemination of the *My House* TV Series for young children and their families. *My House Season-II* reached an estimated 2,890,000 children and their families based on TV viewership, aside from the 962,734 online views since September 2020. In October 2022, *My House Season-III* was launched. All episodes include sign language and are shown across several TV channels and online. Storybooks based on *My House* have been printed and distributed to all early child education services and Grades 1 and 2 classes in the country.

Provincial and district authorities' understanding of disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness have also been improved through trainings across 14 provinces (benefiting 344 officials).

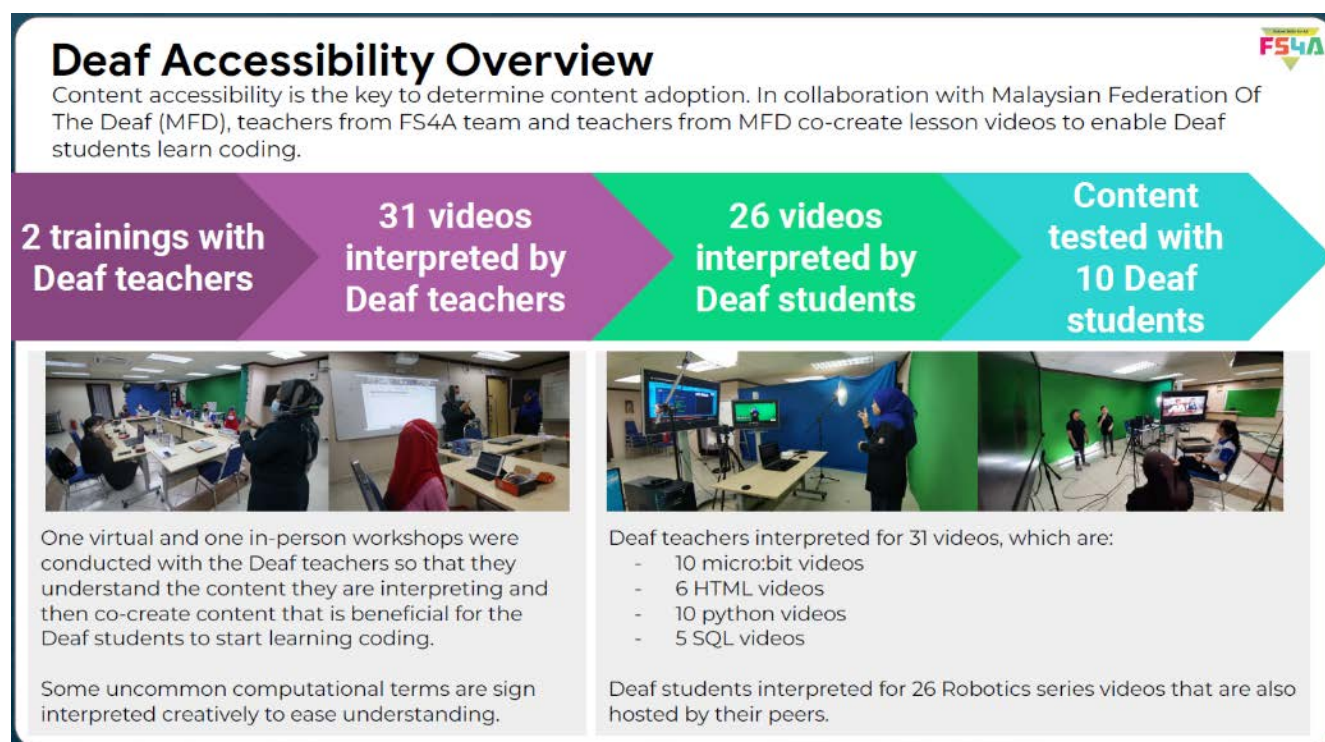
Malaysia

Prolonged COVID-19 lockdowns in Malaysia disrupted learning for over 4.5 million children. UNICEF supported one of the Ministry of Education's key programmes, Future Skills for All Phase 2. This built on the success of Phase 1 in 2021 and aimed to further strengthen digital and skills development of schoolchildren via the Digital Educational Learning Initiative Malaysia (*DELIMa*) platform. Collaboration partners include DiGi Telecommunications, Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation and Arus Education.

In 2022, Future Skills for All went into interior communities in 3 states (Perak, Sarawak, and Sabah) with offline learning kits and video tutorials that were updated with sign language. New accessible digital teaching aids were developed with deaf students and teachers from the Malaysia Federation of the Deaf. By end 2022, 99% of teachers and 85% of students have used *DELIMa* in their online teaching and learning. A critical part of *DELIMa* is the Ministry of Education-UNICEF supported Teacher Digital Learning Community, which aims to build teacher capacity as effective remote online educators. To date the content has been accessed by 4,115 teachers - of which 50% are from rural schools. It includes accessibility features for teachers and children with disabilities and a resource bank of over 1,570 resources curated from teachers who have completed the online training; and have been accessed 164,254 times.

UNICEF Malaysia has also begun work on an evidence generation piece examining the situation of youths not in employment, education or training (NEET) and their pathways to employability, as a key study to inform future employability programmes in UNICEF Malaysia. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is contributing through technical review of the study design and outputs. By end December, the research agency had developed an Inception Report detailing the approach and methodology. During the inception phase, young people (50% female, 35% with disability) were consulted to ensure that the research tools and facilitating materials are youth

and disability friendly. During data collection, close to 1,000 young people aged between 15-24 years completed the survey, 16 focus group discussions with 120 young people from varying socioeconomic statuses and marginalized groups were conducted, along with key informant interviews with public and private sector agencies, CSOs and youth organizations. Further consultations will be carried out before the full research report is finalized.



Future Skills for All Phase 2 included the development of digital teaching aids in partnership with the Malaysia Federation of the Deaf

Mongolia

After almost two years of school closure due to the pandemic, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Science with the safe re-opening of kindergartens and schools with a set of standards and COVID-19 preventative measures that included the development of safe school reopening plans as well as capacity building activities for 7,100 parents and teachers from all schools and kindergartens. In 2022, UNICEF supported 1,162,180 children to access formal or non-formal education, including early learning, far exceeding the initial targets through a combination of support to both online and offline lessons.

UNICEF supported 2,220 schools in implementing safe school protocols. The target for this indicator was exceeded as UNICEF initially planned to reach public schools, but later expanded to include private schools as well. This significantly contributed to the government's decision ensuring nationwide successful safe re-opening for schools and kindergarten where over 900,000 children were able to return to in-person classes on 15th February 2022.

UNICEF expanded its support in developing digital learning content for the pre-primary and primary education sector. A total of 120 interactive contents have been developed and made available to public on Medle.mn and as of now it has recorded total of 350,000 access. A total of 90 audio contents were developed and made

available to public and had been accessed over 803,000 times by December 2022. These audio contents especially supported the learning of 2,500 children in herder families in remote areas. A new game to support children's learning was developed named Nomadic Adventure and it is now available on mobile phone applications. The digital contents were specifically designed to be user friendly for children with hearing and visual impairments, reaching 9,000 children with disabilities.

Papua New Guinea

The implementation of the COVID-19 Education Emergency Response and Recovery Plan continued. Implementing the plan presented opportunities to establish new partnerships with CSOs, church agencies and the private sector, which have strengthened sectoral resilience and Education Cluster coordination. Through UNICEF support, 191,347 Home Learning Packs were printed and distributed for early childhood education to high school students to all five project locations, including remote areas in Western province and Telefomin. The Home Learning Packs were also used when schools were temporarily closed due to election-related violence. In addition, 9,171 (5,610 female) teachers were trained on Home Learning Packs and Booster Packs, 120 students with visual impairment were supported with 120 copies of adapted HLPs distributed to eight Inclusive Education Resource Centres, 24 (14 female) teachers were trained on Reach & Match sensory kits, Melanesian sign language, and COVID-19 awareness and assistive device fitting and maintenance. 263 students (125 female) received mobility, visual and hearing aids and 15,500 copies of Bilum Books past exam papers were distributed, ensuring schools supporting 28,820 (13,070 female) students for improved transition. As a result of these initiatives, UNICEF supported 426,420 children in accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning, of which 9,654 were children with disabilities. The targeted number of children accessing formal and non-formal education, including early learning, was exceeded due to the high numbers of people reached through TV and radio lesson broadcasts.

A total of 180 schools have been reached with safe school protocols. This included a needs assessment, and training in soft skills to be certified in meeting the safe school protocol.

A Psychosocial Support training programme was developed in partnership with Griffith University, ChildFund and the National Department of Education and was completed by 5,775 (2,839 female) teachers in 418 schools. An emotional well-being assessment was conducted for 104,000 students (49,930 female) for ongoing monitoring and support by Guidance and Counselling teachers. An end line study was conducted with 418 baseline schools and a final report will be disseminated in early 2023. Parenting in Emergencies training was given to 8,574 (5,422 female) parents and caregivers, using eight videos produced with topics covering: discussing family dream, caring for children, understanding stress and the importance of selfcare, understanding child development and problem-solving.

To ensure continuous use of the knowledge products under the COVID-19 Education Emergency Response and Recovery Plan, all materials (including Home Learning Packs, Booster Packs, assessment papers and parenting in emergencies materials) were uploaded to My PNG Home Study webpage. 2,000 micro-SD cards were uploaded with all training packages (Psychosocial support, Disaster Risk Management, and information, education and communication materials) as a digital Media Package and distributed to 2,000 schools for continuous in-service training. In particular the Home Learning Packs and digital learning platforms have been recognized as a useful tool for building resilience in the education system, as these can contribute to the continuity of learning as well as learning recovery and prevention of learning loss at the time of crises.

The national elections triggered violence across the country, and a government circular instructed provincial education authorities to suspend classes based on the local context and urgency. In Enga, Hela and Southern Highlands Provinces, the situations continued to be volatile, and some schools were suspended for the remaining school year. When schools reopened, they experienced low attendance due to safety concerns. UNICEF mobilized prepositioned stocks, including 32 School-in-a-box, 32 ECD kits, 31 Recreational kits and 30 tents, and established a partnership to implement learning and psychosocial support activities at the displaced locations, targeting 10,000 school-age children in Enga.

Thailand

In 2022, schools re-opened for in-person classes for the 2022-2023 school year and many students, teachers and parents faced challenges as they returned to school. The UNICEF-led high frequency survey highlighted that 94% of households indicated that their children returned to school; and of those who did not, over 90% are from Northeast and predominantly from poor households. Children did not return to school for multiple reasons, including fear of COVID-19 infection, school not ready to resume classes (for example, non-availability of revised curriculum or guidelines for catch-up, lack of devices and internet) and children's disengagement.

UNICEF and the Equitable Education Fund convened a stocktaking conference to address education recovery. This brought together 300 participants, combining school directors, teachers, and education supervisors, to share local challenges and solutions encountered during the first school term. The pilot in Samut Sakhon province helped demonstrate a systematic whole school approach to education recovery with a focus on teacher professional development. As a result, 15 micro-learning modules to support foundational learning were developed, 120 were teachers trained online and coached in person, and 3,000 students (1,650 girls) directly benefiting.

UNICEF conducted a nationwide public awareness campaign, which targeted 130,000 teachers, to address survey findings (based on 12 focus group discussions that brought together 200 participants) which revealed that during COVID-related school closures students experienced a dip in motivation, focus and emotional learning skills, this was coupled with increased malnutrition, and a lack of exercise and recreation time. UNICEF also continued to roll out the safe schools' guidance and operations resource pack.

To support children along the Thai Myanmar border displaced by conflict and not able to attend school, 4,900 home based learning kits were distributed to those most in need. To support continued learning under COVID-19 restrictions, UNICEF Magic Bags of books, toys and learning materials were delivered to 329 children in construction camps in Bangkok and in the Southern Border Provinces.

Timor-Leste

To determine the extent of learning loss due to COVID-19 related school closure, a study was completed in 2022. Based on the findings and the need to mitigate the impacts of the learning losses, UNICEF printed over 2 million children's story and activity books for distribution to all preschools and basic education schools. Guidelines for schools on how to use the books and a package of resources for teachers on strategies to address learning loss were produced and school leaders oriented on these. Training on the use of the *Eskola ba Uma* (School Goes Home) distance learning platform was provided to 59 teachers. Facilitators and teachers of children in institutional care facilities were also trained on the *Eskola ba Uma* Distance Learning programme. UNICEF also provided parenting education in 3 municipalities with a focus on how parents can support their children's learning at home.

To support schools in implementing safe school protocols, UNICEF supported the development and distribution of guidelines and protocols for all schools to follow for safe re-opening and ensuring that teachers completed a mandatory COVID-19 awareness course. UNICEF also provided hygiene materials to all targeted schools.

Viet Nam

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Training to re-open schools with an emphasis on building back better through more resilient and risk-informed planning. To strengthen national systems for disaster response, UNICEF supported trainings for education managers and teachers with an emphasis on improved school level planning for emergencies or other disruptions to the delivery of education service. UNICEF also provided support to 30,000 schools to implement safe school protocols. In close coordination with education officials, UNICEF procured 1,500 tablets to support online learning of at least 12,600 children in 42 schools in three provinces of Viet Nam (Ha Giang, Ha Tinh, and Kon Tum), prioritizing those who were severely impacted by COVID-19 to ensure their continuity of learning.

UNICEF's collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Training also supported adolescent student mental health, starting with a comprehensive national study of school-related mental health risk factors. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Training to embed mental health prevention and programming in schools with training for 150 core school health workers and teachers that will support the wellbeing of students.

To support children with disabilities to access learning, UNICEF partnered with two digital public goods – the Global Digital Library and VRapeutic – to advocate for equity, digital accessibility and inclusiveness in the digital transformation process of the education system. This support included the production of digital books in sign language.

2.14. Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers

During 2022, UNICEF supported governments and partners to address social protection in emergencies across EAP, focusing on (i) ensuring coordination between social protection systems and humanitarian cash initiatives; (ii) strengthening and supporting national systems to scale-up and expand to address the financial barriers of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable families; and (iii) supporting humanitarian cash transfers delivery systems to respond to newly identified needs. In 2022, over 1 million households were reached with cash transfers through government systems that had been supported by UNICEF.

Regional Social Protection in Emergencies Technical Support

In 2022, the Regional Social Policy and Economic Analysis Section invested considerable efforts in strengthening internal preparedness for emergencies using shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) systems, as well as strengthening integration of national social protection systems to cover the most vulnerable through the provision of humanitarian cash transfers (HCT).

Between March and May, in coordination with the HCT team in UNICEF headquarters, the Regional Office deployed HOPE, UNICEF's new HCT Management Information System (MIS), in the Philippines (providing face-to-face training to UNICEF staff and government) and Myanmar (through remote training of trainers). In the Philippines, HOPE allowed swift HCT pay-outs in the Bangsamoro Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), while in Myanmar, due to capacity constraints, HOPE never became fully operational and pay-outs had to be managed

with an alternate system. The Regional Office also provided technical support for the design of the cash response to Super-Typhoon Rai (local name Odette) in the Philippines and to the volcanic eruption in Tonga. In Mongolia, the Regional Office provided guidance to the cash response to the 2022-2023 Dzud.

These experiences informed the development of the first EAP Social Protection in Emergencies strategy and plan of action, to be rolled out in 2023. The strategy was developed between April and December, in consultation with country offices, as well as regional and headquarter emergency and social policy advisors. The strategy has four pillars including one on community engagement and accountability to affected populations. As a result of the sensitization done through this work, Vietnam country office requested Regional Office's support to develop their first SOP for Social Protection in emergencies.

UNICEF led the design and implementation of a new phase of the ECHO-funded project on SRSP in the ASEAN, with focus on Cambodia and Indonesia. The EUR 2 million funding allowed the Regional Office to continue with its work on disaster risk financing and SRSP to inform ASEAN policy and to take forward the SRSP and anticipatory action agendas in Cambodia and Indonesia. The Regional Office's experience on anticipatory action and disaster risk financing also informed the draft of UNICEF's first global strategy on anticipatory action.

Cambodia

UNICEF supported the Royal Government of Cambodia for the continued delivery of COVID-19 social protection measures in 2022. By December, the government's COVID-19 cash transfers covered 699,557 households, benefiting 2.8 million individuals and 63,066 people with disabilities. Additional cash transfers for 260,526 near-poor households impacted by inflation started in December 2022. Also in December, emergency cash transfers for 99,169 households affected by floods in 15 provinces started, including three monthly transfers to support household recovery following the floods, after which they will receive inflation cash transfer support.

Lao PDR

Under the social protection UN Joint Program with ILO and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to implement the mother and early childhood grant pilot, a scheme offering cash grants and positive health messaging to vulnerable pregnant mothers. Funded by both the UN SDG Fund and the Australian Government, the program reached 2,596 households totalling over 4,000 individuals, including pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children below 12 months. A nearly equal number of girls and boys (1,007 girls; 1,092 boys) benefited from the project, and 15% of pregnant women and lactating mothers were under 18 years old. The pilot reached 90% of the projected pregnant women from the three districts.

Mongolia

As part of a UN Joint Programme, in 2022 UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to pilot the provision of top-up maternity allowances in emergencies through the newly introduced social protection MIS, e-Halamj (e-Welfare). Based on the pilot and post-assessment, UNICEF provided recommendations to further strengthen the e-Halamj MIS and has also adjusted its Social Policy and SRSP support to the government.

Thailand

In response to lack of availability of real time data to inform policy decisions, UNICEF designed and implemented the first round of High Frequency Surveys to monitor the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and well-being of people, and track recovery trajectories among different population groups across

socio-economic dimensions, in areas as employment, income, food security, coping strategies, education, and health. The results (["Is Thailand on the path to an inclusive recovery": High-Frequency Surveys \(first round findings\) | UNICEF Thailand](#)) indicate that while the labour market shows promising signs of recovery, variations remain across population groups with regards to income recovery, particularly affecting families with children. The survey highlighted childcare as an obstacle for employment, especially among women, and pointed at the magnitude of learning loss. The findings were presented at a round table joined by key government partners and representatives from international organisations, academia and civil society, which provided a platform for high level technical discussions for inclusive and sustainable recovery for all.

Timor-Leste

The launch of a new cash transfer for pregnant women and young children, co-funded by Timor-Leste and Australia, marked a significant milestone for children. UNICEF participated actively in the Cash Plus Working Group, to identify how to link the cash transfers with nutrition initiatives to meet the twin objectives of tackling poverty and improving nutrition. UNICEF also supported the linking of social protection and nutrition with the provision of a calendar with nutrition messaging that the Government then distributed, along with cash, to nearly 100,000 families in the 5 municipalities with the highest stunting rate.

Viet Nam

In line with the CCCs, UNICEF Viet Nam has developed an SOP for social protection in emergencies and humanitarian cash transfers. A feasibility analysis to identify potential options in making decisions about HCT modalities is underway, including consultations with key stakeholders from national and local Government, UN, NGOs, CSOs and financial service providers. The SOP aims to support and facilitate the set-up and implementation of quality, rapid and scalable social protection in emergencies interventions in harmony with Government systems and to build the capacity of UNICEF and local partners on implementing HCT in emergencies in Viet Nam.

Results Against Operational Commitments

2.15. Human Resources

Capacity building for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) remained a priority in 2022. Using a mix of online and in-person modalities, the Regional Emergency team conducted EPR trainings for Cambodia, Indonesia (Papua field office), Lao PDR, Malaysia, Pacific and PNG (reaching 156 staff). The regional roster for Rapid Regional Response Mechanism (RRRM) was updated, resulting in inclusion of 81 staff across the region, and 2 members of the Australian National Committee. An additional roster of 31 members was created of Regional Office staff who will be deployed in case no one can be identified through the RRRM. Training on basic EPR knowledge and skills and pre and during deployment personal preparedness was conducted for 23 new RRRM members, and for an additional 24 Regional Office staff. During the year, seven orientations were also conducted to brief new country Emergency Focal Points and regional staff/consultants on UNICEF EPR Processes and Procedures including the EAP risk monitoring/horizon scanning and use of the Emergency Preparedness Platform and its review process (reaching 23 staff). In collaboration with headquarters, the Regional Office Operations team supported webinars on UNICEF's Emergency Procedures for Myanmar and the Philippines. The webinars covered the content and scope of application of the Emergency Procedures, as well as the tools that could be

used by country offices to simplify and fast track processes in areas of human resources, supply and programme implementation modalities.

2.16. Information and Communication Technology

In 2022, the Regional ICT and Digital Innovation team provided continued support to country offices in addressing demand for digital program delivery and monitoring in humanitarian action and preparedness. The team's efforts were instrumental in enhancing the effectiveness of emergency response, improving health outcomes, data for decision making and promoting accountability to affected populations.

To strengthen digital preparedness, the Regional Office developed a new curriculum that matches common humanitarian use-cases and digital products that can be deployed to aid UNICEF's Core Commitments to Children. The training was delivered at the interagency Emergency Telecommunications Training and mainstreamed into the annual training programme. One of the associated tools, the Digital Platforms Assessment and Response Tool (DPART), was piloted in response to Typhoon Odette (Philippines) to provide insight into the country's existing digital ecosystem.

In the context of COVID-19 in the region, the Regional Office facilitated training and capacity building of health workers in Indonesia and Cambodia on COVID-19 vaccine, digital literacy, safeguarding, and misinformation. A regional webinar series on digital immunization systems was also organized, with presentations and demonstrations from leading Electronic Immunization Registries (EIR) and Immunization Information Systems (IIS), along with guidance on their selection, procurement, and implementation. Additional support was provided to the country and field offices in the Pacific through a digital immunization systems assessment.

The Regional Office also provided continued specialized support in the use of data and digital technologies to better respond to emergencies by deploying InForm, UNICEF's data collection platform. The Regional Office leads the global InForm product team and continues to support major response efforts including Ukraine, Afghanistan and several regional deployments including Myanmar, Thailand and the Pacific Islands.

In line with regional efforts to strengthen SRSP, technical support was provided to support the first regional deployment of HOPE to manage the HCT intervention in Mindanao (Philippines), along with the establishment of two-way communication channels via RapidPro for community feedback mechanisms.

In 2022, data technologies were used to provide valuable information for emergency teams. The Frontier Data Technologies team provided estimates on the movement and displacements of populations affected by Typhoon Odette (Philippines), while a new product (OpenConnect) was developed and used to map school and health facilities' connectivity to guide the reopening efforts and support for online curriculums during the COVID-19 period. The Geowrangler tool was developed to simplify the processing of geospatial data, allowing geospatial analysts to gain insight during emergencies. Additionally, efforts were made to revamp the Humanitarian Data for Decision Making - Automated Situation Reporting tool to provide emergency teams with critical information within 72 hours of a disaster.

2.17. Communications and Advocacy

In 2022, the Regional Office Communication team supported humanitarian action in country offices by amplifying statements, press releases and social media posts on regional channels – website and social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn). These messages were also amplified on the Regional Director's Twitter account. This helped to drive traffic to country office platforms supporting resource mobilization efforts

for critical emergency responses and donor visibility. Guidance was also provided on sensitive issues with the Regional Office taking the lead on media responses when required.

A module on Communications and Advocacy was integrated into the regional EPR training package, providing guidance on the use of social media, media interviews and creating communication content in times of crisis.

There are regional rosters for writers, editors, videographers and photographers in place making the hiring process for these experts easier and faster supporting content creation and visibility for UNICEF's programme response in an emergency.

2.18. Security Management

During 2022, the Regional Office provided technical guidance, capacity development and oversight on security risk management and compliance. Assistance was provided on security risk management processes that supported valid, context-specific and timely risk management decisions enabling UNICEF programmes to stay and deliver in emergency and high threat environments such as Myanmar, West Papua (Indonesia) and PNG. Guidance was provided on the use of security resources to ensure efficient implementation of security management measures to enable the delivery of programmes at an acceptable level of risk. An agile people centred, and resilient security system was strengthened through multiple capacity building events, including Women's Security Awareness Training in Southern Philippines, and the integration of security considerations in training packages on PSEA, Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Crisis Management.

The Regional Security Advisor was an active participant in multiple external and interagency security forums and provided a critical coordination function with UNDSS, OCHA and other partners. Whilst efforts to enhance collaboration and support to implementing partners has commenced largely under the 'Saving Lives Together' Framework, this still remains a challenging area due to lack of resources. However, improved support to implementing partners is increasing in importance as many struggle with complex security and access environments, such as in Myanmar.

2.19. Supply and Logistics

During 2022, the Regional Office provided technical guidance to ensure that the CCCs related to the Supply Function were embedded in preparedness and response at the country level, including in relation to public health emergencies. Regular monitoring and reviews were conducted on country office supply and logistic strategies as part of emergency preparedness and response plans. Monthly meetings were arranged for Myanmar and DPRK to address logistical bottlenecks and accelerate programme delivery.

To support the regional response to COVID-19 and mitigate the acute challenging supply situation caused by the pandemic, the Regional Supply team actively engaged in the Cross EAP Regional Office Group on Immunization. Capacity building trainings were designed and conducted for over 40 standby partners from country offices and 21 regional emergency roster colleagues. An emergency preparedness and response knowledge cluster was set up with experienced supply experts in the region to provide additional technical support to EAP country offices.

3. Results Achieved from Humanitarian Thematic Funding

3.1. Regional Office

Within the Regional Office, the humanitarian thematic funding enabled hiring of key staff and consultants to support the work of the regional Emergency and DRR team, including the Emergency Specialist, DRR, the Emergency Programme Associate, and a UN Volunteer. These functions allowed the Regional Office to provide critical support to country offices through the course of the year.

The Emergency Specialist, DRR is critical to enable progress on strengthening child-centred resilience, including through a more systematic approach to risk assessment and integration of risk reduction approaches into country humanitarian and development programming. Throughout 2022, the Emergency Specialist, DRR continued to support country offices in strengthening the integration of DRR and climate adaptation strategies and approaches into new country programmes (Cambodia, Mongolia and the Pacific) and into UNICEF's education and social protection programmes, as well as cross-sectoral disability and youth participation programmes. The Emergency Specialist, DRR has been instrumental in supporting country offices, notably Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, in the scoping, design and conduct of child-centred risk assessments, and in piloting the subnational climate and disaster risk mapping model in Cambodia. The Regional Office was also able to play an active role in inter-agency coordination, particularly through the UN Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience, and successfully coordinated UNICEF's engagement at Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR, which took place from 20 to 22 September 2022 in Brisbane, Australia. The Emergency Specialist, DRR also worked closely with regional Private Fundraising and Partnerships colleagues to launch a regional initiative on business engagement in resilience, which comprised of a first-ever regional consultation on the topic and subsequent development of a roadmap to help frame UNICEF's objectives, strategies and priorities for business engagement in the region. Technical support was also extended to country offices in developing country-specific action plans, which formed the basis to shape a regional proposal to support resource mobilization.

The humanitarian thematic funding supported 3 months of a UN Volunteer's salary. The UNV position was responsible for supporting the work of the regional Emergency and DRR team on monitoring and reporting, which was essential given the additional reporting requirements during the ongoing COVID-19 response. The UNV helped to prepare the Regional Quarterly Situation Reports against the 2022 HAC, as well monthly internal humanitarian updates. As part of the displacement tracking mechanism, the UNV also supported media scanning to monitor population movements and displacement trends, in particular in relation to populations at sea, and flagged any issues that warranted further monitoring, humanitarian action and/or cross-border coordination to the relevant regional colleagues and country offices.

The thematic humanitarian funding also supported the Emergency Programme Associate. The Programme Associate provided critical support to the team to manage workplan budgets and financial reporting, providing administrative and logistical support for the Regional Office Emergency Management Team and Regional Office Emergency Technical Team meetings, in-person and on-line capacity building initiatives, and facilitating security and travel arrangements. The Programme Associate has also taken on the role of Knowledge Management focal point for humanitarian action. This has included restructuring the East Asia and Pacific Emergency SharePoint site and working in coordination with relevant staff and consultants to update and populate.

Continuing on from 2021, the Regional Office sustained the regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund, which was wholly financed through humanitarian thematic funding in 2022. This fund allows the Regional

Office to be able to swiftly disburse funds to countries in the region affected by disasters to provide life-saving support to children. In 2022, the Regional Office disbursed USD 435,000 funds to five country offices, including: Pacific – following the volcanic eruption in Tonga; the Philippines – to replenish the contingency stocks distributed for Super Typhoon Rai (Odette); Thailand – to implement the humanitarian response to populations displaced by the conflict in Myanmar; Cambodia – to respond to the floods that affected in provinces in the northwest of the country; and PNG – to respond to the displacement caused by the elections-related violence. Reporting on the utilization of these funds is included in the country sections below (with the exception of the results for the Pacific and the Philippines, which will be reported in their country level CERs).

Humanitarian thematic funding was also instrumental in enabling the Regional Office to provide timely in-person technical support to countries during prolonged crises and sudden on-set emergencies. The Regional Emergency Advisor was deployed to Myanmar for 3 months in 2022 to strengthen coordination and emergency response planning. The Regional Emergency Specialist travelled to PNG to support the emergency response planning following the earthquake in September, which exacerbated the humanitarian situation for populations displaced by elections-related violence. Field missions were also undertaken with Thailand country office colleagues to the Thai Myanmar borders, to assess the situation of refugees crossing from Myanmar, identify potential local partners and develop targeted response strategies for UNICEF.

Country level capacity building for EPR was also supported through humanitarian thematic funding. In addition to supporting internal EPR training for UNICEF staff in Indonesia and the Philippines, the thematic humanitarian funding enabled the UNICEF Regional Office to pilot the newly developed training package for disaster management authorities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Philippines (25 participants). The course covered both technical aspects of child-centred emergency preparedness and response and a Training of Trainers, to enable the NDMAs to embed the training into Government capacity-building plans. The development of this package aims to strengthen UNICEF's support to the localization agenda, by contributing to further strengthening national and local capacities for EPR.

3.2. Cambodia

Most humanitarian funding available to UNICEF Cambodia was allocated to specific aspects of COVID-19 response. The humanitarian thematic funding allowed the office to fill gaps in the COVID-19 response, support emergency preparedness and respond to new emergency situations that arose during the year.

In particular, humanitarian thematic funding was used to purchase additional PPE to fill the shortfall for healthcare workers during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak in 14 provinces in the remote northwest and northeast of Cambodia, as well as for healthcare workers supporting the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in five hard-to-reach areas of Ratanakiri, Kratie, Monduliri, Preah Vihear and Stoeung Treng provinces. In total UNICEF provided 225 boxes of HE Gloves, 8,000 boxes of Medical Exam Gloves, 325 pairs of Boots, 5,000 N95 masks, 5,000 isolation gowns, and 7,250 face shields. Providing these supplies helped to ensure that healthcare workers were protected and able to continue providing essential services to these remote and underserved areas.

UNICEF also used the humanitarian thematic funding to ensure continuous equitable coverage and quality of MNCH services to vulnerable populations. Funds supported integrated outreach activities, including 246 health promotion sessions (reaching 6,245 beneficiaries) and message broadcasting via loudspeakers at vaccination sites, healthcare facilities, and communities (reaching 41,794 people), as part of the overall social and behaviour change strategy.

Part of the overall capacity building strategy for health workers and local health volunteers was implemented using humanitarian thematic funding. This included orientations on COVID-19 infection prevention and control for 557 health workers and health volunteers (139 females), trainings on COVID-19 case management for 312 healthcare workers (72 females), and on-site coaching on midwifery skills to improve MNCH service quality. Supportive programmatic visits to monitor and provide ongoing mentoring of healthcare staff were also implemented, ensuring that UNICEF-supported supplies and equipment were being appropriately used and that services being provided to vulnerable populations were adequate.

In October 2022, three residential care facilities were heavily affected by the flood in the North-East provinces. Through the local authorities, UNICEF provided support to 121 children (36 girls) who were evacuated from these facilities and needed immediate care and support. The humanitarian thematic funding enabled UNICEF to rapidly mobilise assistance to these highly vulnerable children. In addition, 27,766 people were also reached by PSEA reporting channels through implementing partners in areas prone to natural disasters.

Ensuring Readiness For The Next Emergency In Cambodia

Background:

As part of contingency planning ahead of seasonal floods, in coordination with the Provincial Department of Rural Developments, UNICEF had pre-positioned emergency supplies in high-risk provinces. Heavy rainfall in September and October led to flash floods which affected 85,482 households, mostly from Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces.

Progress and Results:

In response to the assessed needs of the flood-affected families, UNICEF released prepositioned emergency WASH supplies. These were distributed to 3,151 families in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces (<https://fb.watch/jfTUwtEmnl/>).

With the humanitarian thematic funding support from the Regional Office, UNICEF Cambodia was able to immediately restock the WASH emergency supplies through the procurement of 10,000 bars of soap; 3,500 1kg packs of laundry powder; 1,400 jerry cans; and 1,500 ceramic filters. These items have been stored at the warehouses of the Provincial Departments of Rural Development in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Kratie provinces, helping to ensure the Government (with UNICEF support) is ready to respond to the needs of up to 10,000 families affected by future floods or droughts.

Moving Forward:

Based on the trend of recurrent emergencies, it is vital for country offices to have access to contingency funds to support anticipatory and immediate response actions, including: i) rapid assessments, and ongoing monitoring and technical support during the response; and ii) replenishing contingency stocks as soon as possible after distributions. Further investments in building government capacities for emergency preparedness and response are also required.

3.3. Lao PDR

Very limited humanitarian thematic funding was available to UNICEF Lao DPR in 2022, however the office was able to ensure it was used to strategically enhance initiatives in health and child protection.

With humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF was able to ensure quality assurance monitoring of key health partners to provide confidence in the quality of services provided during the COVID-19 pandemic. The quality assurance monitoring covered the roll out of Paediatric (Pfizer) and feedback mechanisms for COVID-19 vaccinations. This was a critical element in the vaccination programme for children. Additional work covered by the quality assurance monitoring included the mapping of Village Health Volunteers in 12 districts and the development of Village Health Volunteer toolkits. The feedback from the quality assurance monitoring was used to refine the COVID-19 vaccination programme to make targeting more effective and efficient.

Humanitarian thematic funding also enabled UNICEF to act and respond immediately to child protection vulnerabilities. The funding was used to complement other resources to support the operation of Lao Women's Union 24/7 helpline services. As a direct result of this support, 708 (438 female) survivors of violence were provided support through the Counselling and Protection Centres and helpline services.

Sustaining Essential Protection Services During the Pandemic in Lao PDR

Background:

The acute financial and fuel crises significantly slowed COVID-19 recovery in Lao PDR. The psychosocial and mental health impacts placed acute stress on many families, creating further child protection risks including domestic violence, GBV, mental health, cyberbullying, online abuse, exploitation and child marriage. UNICEF supported the Lao Women's Union with funds to operate the national 24/7 toll-free helpline counselling services and Counselling and Protection Centers in Vientiane Capital and Luang Namtha Provinces. However, increased demand during this stressful period, combined with the need to ensure the safety of social workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, threatened to undermine delivery of these critical services.

Progress and Results:

UNICEF has worked collaboratively with the Lao Women's Union to provide multi-sectoral services to women and children victims of violence. A combination of regular and emergency funds had already been committed to establish and grow the services offered by the helpline and Counselling and Protection Centers. However, the additional strain on the system and the need to re-establish face-to-face support presented significant challenges. A total of USD 19,280 from humanitarian thematic funding was used to address the critical resourcing gaps to maintain frontline social support services.

With the provision of the humanitarian thematic funding, fifty participants (49 female) from Lao Women's Union offices in two provinces were trained on the Hotline Guideline for counselling service, and based on feedback from this workshop, the Guideline was revised and finalized. The Hotline Guideline serves as reference document for staff to deliver services in a more efficient manner. The social workers trained testified increased knowledge and skills to assist people in need of support through case management, mental health and psychosocial counselling and referrals.

The flexible humanitarian thematic funding also provided small, but critical top-up funds to facilitate the payment of overtime for staff on the helplines and to provide facemasks, sanitizer and soap for 600 frontline workers to ensure COVID-19 infection prevention and control protocols could be followed while transitioning from remote support to in-person service delivery. Without these funds the helplines would have needed to either shutdown or operate with skeleton staff for periods of high demand. Similarly, the outreach workers would not have been able to provide face-to-face support without the provided hygiene items and PPE. It was anticipated that the provision of these funds over a period of six to nine months would enable the helpline to be maintained 24/7 even during high demand periods and that face-to-face social work could recommence. Both results were achieved. In total, 103 (80 female) survivors of violence, 72 of which were children, received assistance through the Counselling and Protection Centres. Additionally, 605 (358 female) survivors of violence, including GBV and violence against children, sought help through the helpline. The number of cases demonstrated that there was an acute need for mental health and psychosocial support to children and adolescents in the aftermath of COVID-19 in Lao PDR.



LWU staff providing hotline counselling
© Lao Women's Union Lao PDR/2022



LWU staff providing in-person counselling at the
Counselling and Protection Centre in Vientiane Capital
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Lesson Learned:

The integrated services provided by Lao Women's Union and the engagement of different sectors including social welfare, justice, health, and education, has led to holistic mental health and wellbeing services for children and caregivers. The rights and needs of all vulnerable children should be addressed across multiple sectors rather than through vertical structures and institutional frameworks which often target only specific groups or categories of children.

Moving Forward:

UNICEF will work with the Government to continue strengthening capacities of the social service workforce and counsellors as essential service providers. The helpline services for mental health and psychosocial counselling will be expanded and further training will be conducted for sub-national social workers to target vulnerable people living in remote areas.

3.4. Malaysia

With the limited humanitarian thematic funding available, UNICEF supported research by the MoH into the effectiveness of public health communications in influencing COVID-19 vaccination intentions. The findings provided insights on which framing elements are effective and useful to be included in future health messages. The research is completed, and the manuscript is being reviewed for publication.

3.5. Papua New Guinea

UNICEF worked in partnership with the Government and civil society organizations – Save the Children, Touching the Untouchables, and the Catholic Church Health Services – to address misinformation and rumours impacting negatively on the demand for COVID-19 vaccination and routine immunization. As a result, the number of people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 rose from 223,476 in December 2021 to 310,717 in December 2022, while the number of fully vaccinated health workers increased from 8,972 to 11,753 in the same period. UNICEF recruited and deployed 15 Provincial Health Promotion Officers and six international Social Behaviour Change consultants to provide technical and coordination support for the implementation and coordination of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout and routine immunization at the national, regional and provincial levels. The humanitarian thematic funding facilitated essential inter-personal communication training for the partners and these provincial staff, supporting quality programme delivery.

Humanitarian thematic funding also supported the partnership with Catholic Church Health Services for the earthquake response activities, including the provision of integrated health facility outreach for nutrition, maternal and child health, routine immunization and COVID-19 vaccination services to affected populations in Enga, Hela, Southern Highland Provinces. In addition, 10 Interagency Emergency Health Kits were delivered to the provinces to support access to essential healthcare for the affected population.

Humanitarian thematic funding enabled UNICEF to provide a rapid WASH response to families displaced or affected by election related violence. Eleven family hygiene kits were provided to displaced families in Port Moresby through a partnership with IOM; while 301 family hygiene kits were distributed to families displaced by election related violence in the highland's region of the country. The latter was implemented in partnership with a local NGO partner, Touching The Untouchables, and included hygiene promotion activities. These activities are estimated to have reached 1,510 vulnerable people displaced by election related violence with safe hygiene behaviour training together with essential hygiene supplies.

Using humanitarian thematic funding, the country office has been able to strengthen its readiness to respond to emergencies, putting standby transport arrangements in place for nutrition supplies to support implementation of emergency related activities in 2023.

3.6. Thailand

Humanitarian thematic funding enabled UNICEF Thailand to recruit an Emergency Coordinator to manage officewide response efforts to COVID-19 and to displacement resulting from the conflict in neighbouring Myanmar. The Emergency Coordinator has strengthened Thailand country office preparedness by developing eight standby partnerships with NGO partners based on their experience working with child rights and migrants' issues, as well as their experience working throughout the country to reach vulnerable populations. Five partnerships (World Vision, Save the Children, Help Without Frontiers, ChildLine, TLSDF) cover emergency response nationwide in a variety of scenarios, while the remaining three partnerships (DISAC, One Sky, Terre des

Hommes) were developed to respond specifically to the needs of the influx communities along the Thai Myanmar border. Through the Emergency Coordinator, UNICEF has also strengthened participation in the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) structure coordinated and chaired by UNHCR, as well as the NGO-led sector groups under this structure including Education, WASH, Child Protection, Non-Food Items, and Field ISWGs.

Due to the ongoing conflict in neighbouring Myanmar, children are missing out on routine immunization, raising the risk of disease outbreaks in already vulnerable populations along the Thai Myanmar border. In addition, adults in vulnerable migrant population groups are unable to access regular COVID-19 vaccinations. A portion of humanitarian thematic funding has been used to support UNICEF's partnership with Shoklo Malaria Research Unit of the Border Health Foundation to provide routine immunizations for 2,000 children and COVID-19 vaccinations for 10,000 adults in hard-to-reach population groups to reduce the risk of outbreaks of preventable diseases affecting Thailand and Myanmar. Preparatory activities have been conducted in 2022 and the immunization programme will begin in 2023.

UNICEF Thailand does not have a regular WASH programme but with technical assistance from the Regional Office and the recruitment of a WASH consultant, the office has been able to support the WASH ISWG (chaired by IRC) to assess the needs of the influx population along the Thai Myanmar border and to design a response for vulnerable populations on the move and in temporary safety areas. With humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF was able to reach 2,934 children (1,484 boys, 1,450 girls) and 2,587 adults (1,167 men and 1,420 women) with hygiene items (soap, alcohol gel, masks). Beneficiaries included people in communities outside of designated temporary safety areas living within local communities. In coordination with Thai authorities, ten new toilets with handwashing facilities were installed in two temporary safety areas identified as having the highest needs by the WASH ISWG.

A feasibility study on the usefulness of humanitarian cash transfers in the context of influx populations along the Thai Myanmar border was commissioned by UNICEF Thailand to inform future programming and target support in the most effective way to meet the ongoing needs of this vulnerable population on the move. The study findings will be available in 2023 and will be used to design further programming, pending funding availability.

3.7. Timor Leste

Humanitarian thematic funding has greatly helped Timor Leste country office to maintain several staff functioning as emergency focal persons in their respective sections, allowing technical support to be provided for humanitarian programme delivery and capacity building initiatives with government and implementing partners. The humanitarian thematic funding has also supported field visits to vulnerable municipalities to monitor the situation of women and children, and ensure quality assurance of programme implementation.

Recognizing that persons with disabilities have been particularly affected by COVID-19 and the 2021 floods, UNICEF was able to utilize humanitarian thematic funding to support an inclusive camp focused on capacity building and networking of 100 youth with disabilities from across the country. The camp, organized by a partner OPD, included sessions by UNICEF staff on good nutrition, access to education, and prevention of and response to violence, among other learning activities. A child-friendly version of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was also distributed to the youth and their carers, as a reference document to raise their awareness about human rights. This collaboration was part of a larger office-wide effort to operationalize the Leave No One Behind approach, and the flexible humanitarian thematic funding provided a key opportunity to advance this agenda in the context of humanitarian action. This work was included in the gender and disability programmatic

review that UNICEF Timor-Leste initiated in late 2022, to identify lessons learnt and further advance the integration of these two cross-sectoral themes in both humanitarian and development work.

The humanitarian thematic funding allowed UNICEF to implement strategic capacity building initiatives in key areas of Child Protection. In partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, a training was conducted on Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action with the inter-institutional taskforce. This was to advance understanding of the Minimum Standard for Child Protection framework and its importance for the Timorese context, the importance of child protection interventions in emergencies, and enhancing knowledge and capacities to prepare and respond to child protection needs arising in emergency. The training was attended by 42 child protection staff from more than 30 institutions (all members of the Gender and Protection Sector).

Mental health referral coordination mechanisms were also strengthened through continued technical support. This ensured that the mental health hotline remained functional. Moreover, technical assistance provided facilitated the introduction of a computerized data tracking system and establishment of guidelines for community-based mental health and psychosocial support services. A mental health guideline manual for mental health and psychosocial interventions for children in detention facilities was also developed. The relevant government and other stakeholder staff have been trained on how to use the guideline and manual.

Humanitarian thematic funding was used to purchase hygiene kits and recreational materials for conducting structured play activities with children for 22 community-based child friendly spaces in Dili, ensuring that investments with other donor funding to establish and train partners was maximized in the delivery of services.

UNICEF also supported the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination scale-up in 2022 with humanitarian thematic funding, in combination with other funding sources. In total, 1,902,103 doses had been administered by 31st December 2022 reaching 88.9% of above 18 age group with the first dose, 79.3% with the second dose and 34.9% with a booster. For the adolescents aged 12 –17 years, 96.3% received the first dose and 82.5% the second dose. This national level achievement of COVID-19 vaccination at 79.9% is one of the highest in EAP, although still slightly below the national target of 90% due to low coverage in three municipalities. UNICEF supported the establishment of four regional warehouses with cold chain capacity to store routine antigen and Pfizer vaccine as well as the expansion of the national warehouse capacity to store at least one million doses of routine antigen and 700,000 Pfizer doses with backup generators. In addition to funds received under the HAC-ACT-A appeal, the country offices also received funds from other donors for COVID-19 response including the vaccination. Approximately 9% of the COVID-19 vaccination results can be attributed to the thematic humanitarian funding.

3.8. Viet Nam

With the very limited humanitarian thematic funding available, Viet Nam country office complemented ongoing humanitarian activities being supported through regular and non-thematic humanitarian funding.

The humanitarian thematic funding contributed to regional workshops for COVID-19 vaccination planning and implementation, with attendance of approximately 100 representatives from national and provincial level. At these workshops the progress and challenges of COVID-19 vaccination campaigns were discussed, and appropriate solutions were identified. Considering that COVID-19 is an unprecedented occurrence affecting the health and lives of people across the country, it was critical for the health system at all levels to work together in responding to this crisis. The regional workshops provided the necessary platforms for health leaders at regional and provincial levels to discuss and coordinate, ensure effective implementation of the COVID-19

vaccination campaigns, which have resulted in 85.6 million people aged five years and above, equivalent to 92.4% of the population, having received their primary doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Enhancing WASH Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity in Viet Nam

Background:

According to the Global Climate Risk Index (German Watch, 2022), Vietnam is considered one of the 13 countries most affected by natural disasters and climate change, putting Viet Nam's 27 million children at risk. No WASH emergency training has been held for national and provincial agencies in the last five years, representing a critical gap in capacity building for WASH in emergencies.

Progress and Results:

In June 2022, a WASH Emergency Response training was co-organized by the National Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation and UNICEF. Thirty-two participants (11 females) responsible for WASH emergency preparedness and response from national agencies and 11 provinces highly vulnerable to climate change participated. The comprehensive training program was arranged around the humanitarian response cycle with sessions covering different aspects of preparation and response. In a post-training survey, participants identified a number of areas they felt able to apply in their work, including components of a WASH response, information management, monitoring, reporting, emergency preparedness and response planning.

As follow-up to the training, humanitarian thematic funds were used to provide technical support to develop a national WASH emergency plan and three (Soc Trang, Ca Mau and Bac Lieu) of the total seven provincial plans supported, and these will be integrated into the overall national and provincial Natural Disaster Prevention Plans. Furthermore, UNICEF has connected Viet Nam to international forums relating to issues on child survival and development and WASH to learn from good international practices, especially concerning behaviour change on WASH practices.

Criticality and value addition:

The flexible humanitarian thematic funding enabled UNICEF to support this much-needed capacity building initiative, which was the first WASH in emergencies training for national and provincial agencies in the last five years. Given the vital role played by these national and provincial agencies in risk reduction efforts, WASH emergency preparedness, response and recovery, it provided a critical opportunity to equip these key government officials with knowledge and skills to manage emergencies and contribute to the overall resilience of the WASH system and the communities they serve.

Challenges and Ways Forward:

Challenges remain to ensuring robust WASH risk reduction, preparedness and emergency response plans and capacities are in place. The government's approach to disaster management primarily focuses on emergency response and much less on long-term risk reduction and preparedness. Furthermore, the current systems have very limited opportunities for participation of civil society organizations and vulnerable populations in decision-making processes. This underscores the need for more robust coordination mechanisms to support WASH emergency preparedness and response planning, monitoring and evaluation at the community and local government levels.

4. Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Regional Office provided technical support and quality assurance to country office emergency response plans and ensured the quality of reporting and monitoring mechanisms, developing quarterly regional situation reports. EAPRO maintained the regional COVID-19 humanitarian performance monitoring system established in 2021 until the end of 2022. EAPRO continued to implement risk monitoring and horizon scanning for countries in the region in order to trigger early actions and prioritize support for practical preparedness interventions. Based on the risk calendar, quarterly risk monitoring and preparedness calls were conducted with country offices to discuss preparedness measures to be strengthened and any support required from the regional office. The Regional Office provided inputs into two country-led evaluation exercises relating to humanitarian programming. Both the 'After Action Review of UNICEF's Preparedness and Response to Super Typhoon Rai (Odette)' in the Philippines and the 'Evaluation of UNICEF's Response to the L2 Crisis in Myanmar' have generated strong learning for future preparedness and response efforts to similar crises, while also generating recommendations for further strengthening risk-informed programming as part of on-going recovery and longer-term development.

Within the EAP country offices, continual monitoring of the situation related to COVID-19, natural hazards and other risks fed into the design of programme responses, contingency planning and advocacy. Regular HACT (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers) field monitoring was conducted in all offices to monitor utilization of UNICEF resources by partners and to ensure quality of programme delivery. Country offices used supportive supervision approaches to mentor government and implementing partners, while monitoring the quality of training and outreach activities. Annual reviews were conducted with concerned stakeholders, to review implementation and key achievements as well as exchange lessons learned, best practices and challenges.

A number of country offices established new tools and guidelines and tested new approaches to monitoring. In UNICEF Cambodia, a digital rapid coverage assessment tool was developed and used to: a) collect data on barriers to COVID-19 vaccination uptake among hard-to-reach and vulnerable groups; and b) as a feedback mechanism from affected communities (covering 1,234 residents). UNICEF in Lao PDR used quality assurance monitoring visits to also map Village Health Volunteers in 12 districts and to collect feedback on adjustments needed to make the COVID-19 vaccination programme more effective and efficient. In PNG, new approaches for child-sensitive data collection were developed. For example, an emotional well-being assessment was conducted for 104,000 students for ongoing monitoring and support by Guidance and Counselling teachers. The UNICEF Thailand office developed a Post Distribution Monitoring Guidance document that establishes minimum requirements when designing and planning post-distribution monitoring, that can be adapted for the specific assistance and/or supplies provided. UNICEF Timor Leste sought to advance the Leaving No One Behind agenda during emergencies through collaboration with an Organization of Persons with Disabilities. A gender and disability programmatic review was initiated in late 2022 to identify lessons learnt and further advance the integration of these two cross-sectoral themes in both humanitarian and development work.

5. Financial Analysis

By the end of 2022, UNICEF had USD 32.1 million available - including just under USD 18 million carried forward from the previous year - against the USD 80.3 million appeal. Funds available were used to support national and regional efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, protracted humanitarian crises, and ensuring readiness and capacity to respond to small- and medium- scale sudden-onset emergencies. As of December 2022, the funding gap for the EAP HAC stood at 60 per cent. There is a continued need for predictable, flexible funding for humanitarian programme delivery, technical support and capacity building to link humanitarian efforts with development programmes in the region.

To avoid duplication in financial reporting, the analysis below covers the funds available against the EAP HAC 2022 with the exception of funds available for the DPRK, Indonesia and the Pacific, as these three country offices will prepare their own consolidated emergency reports.

Table 1: 2022 Funding Status against the Appeal by Sector (USD)

Table 1a: 2022 Funding Status against the Appeal by Sector (USD)*

Sector	2022 Requirements (US\$)	Funds Available	Funding Gap	
			\$	%
Nutrition	\$ 5,428,857	\$ 615,036	\$ 4,813,821	89%
Health	\$ 15,542,857	\$ 10,861,644	\$ 4,681,213	30%
WASH	\$ 9,848,425	\$ 5,322,616	\$ 4,525,809	46%
Child Protection, GBViE and PSE	\$ 5,706,051	\$ 481,597	\$ 5,224,454	92%
Education	\$ 12,458,760	\$ 7,452,088	\$ 5,006,672	40%
Social Protection	\$ 4,251,857	\$ 257,055	\$ 3,994,802	0%
Cross-Sectoral, C4D	\$ 7,867,519	\$ 4,739,183	\$ 3,128,336	40%
EPR	\$ 19,182,193	\$ 2,385,623	\$ 16,796,570	88%
Total	\$ 80,286,519	\$ 32,114,842	\$ 48,171,677	60%

Table 1b: 2022 Funding Status against the Appeal by Office (USD)*

Country	2022 Requirements (US\$)	Funds Available		Funding Gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Forward	\$	%
Cambodia	\$ 5,755,368	\$ 2,872,323	\$ 2,212,033	\$ 671,012	12%
Lao PDR	\$ 14,306,000	\$ 2,123,316	\$ 4,128,187	\$ 8,054,497	56%
Malaysia	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 357,770	\$ 642,230	64%
Mongolia	\$ 3,870,000	\$ 623,673	\$ 721,415	\$ 2,524,911	65%
PNG	\$ 16,432,758	\$ 4,336,060	\$ 3,787,296	\$ 8,309,402	51%
Thailand	\$ 4,700,000	\$ 131,717	\$ 1,223,200	\$ 3,345,084	71%
Timor-Leste	\$ 8,525,000	\$ 551,200	\$ 2,819,407	\$ 5,154,393	60%
Viet Nam	\$ 6,515,200	\$ 2,727,868	\$ 929,749	\$ 2,857,583	44%
Regional EPR	\$ 19,182,193	\$ 773,189	\$ 1,796,438	\$ 16,612,566	87%
Total	\$ 80,286,519	\$ 14,139,346	\$ 17,975,496	\$ 48,171,677	60%

**Funds available includes funds received against current appeal and carry-forward from previous year. The fund available amounts do not include cost recovery.*

Table 2: Funding received and available by 31 December 2022 by donor and funding type

Humanitarian Funds Received in 2022

Type of Funding	Country	Donor	Grant Reference	Overall Amount (USD)*	
a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds					
	Cambodia	Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM229910	30,000.00	
	EAPR	Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM189910	100,000.00	
		Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM229910	600,000.00	
		United States Fund for UNICEF	SM229920-0195	16,851.43	
	PNG	Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM189910	30,733.85	
		Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM229910	40,371.15	
	Thailand	Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM189910	75,000.00	
		Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM229910	44,019.82	
		UNICEF-Viet Nam	SM229920-0046	28,095.24	
Thematic Total				965,071.49	
b) Non-Thematic					
	Cambodia	Irish Aid	SC220732	376,573.98	
		Government of Japan	SM220125	226,000.00	
		International Organization for Migration	SM220471	96,421.00	
		Government of Japan	SM220493	2,143,328.00	
	EAPR	Government of Japan	SM220125	56,337.96	
	Laos PDR	Government of Japan	SM220125	575,000.00	
		Government of Japan	SM220494	1,548,316.00	
	Mongolia	Government of Japan	SM220495	623,673.42	
	PNG	Government of Japan	SM220127	888,237.15	
		Japan Committee for UNICEF	KM210023	64,400.00	
		Papua New Guinea	SM200247	2,961,752.93	
		Australian Committee for UNICEF	SM200288	27,698.79	
		Government of Japan	SM210105	319,803.96	
		New Zealand	SM220798	3,061.95	
	Thailand	UNICEF-THAILAND	SM210313	12,696.83	
	Timor-Leste	Government of Japan	SM220120	551,199.78	
	Vietnam	New Zealand	SM220357	635,501.67	
		Government of Japan	SM220498	2,064,271.17	
	Non-thematic Total				13,174,274.59
	c) Pooled Funding				-
d) Other types of humanitarian funds				-	
Total humanitarian funds received in 2022				14,139,346.08	

Carry-over of Humanitarian Funds Available in 2022

Type of Funding	Country	Donor	Grant Reference	Overall Amount (USD)*
g) Thematic				
	Cambodia	Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM189910	80,944.47
	EAPR	Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM189910	956,066.00
	Laos PDR	Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM189910	29,184.00
	Malaysia	Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM189910	8,555.00
		Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM209910	137.36
	Timor-Leste	Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM189910	146,954.32
	Vietnam	Global Humanitarian Thematic Fund	SM189910	11,536.00
		UNICEF-Viet Nam	SM229920-0046	28,095.24
Thematic Total				1,233,377.15
h) Non-thematic				
	Cambodia	Global Partnership for Education	SC200510	351,682.00
		GAVI The Vaccine Alliance	SC200764	17,425.00
		Ireland	SM210272	135,260.99
		United States Agency for International Development	SM210692	1,626,720.48
	EAPR	United States Fund for UNICEF	SM190476	17,134.00
		Asian Development Bank	SM200437	340,476.00
		WHO GSC, Global Procurement Services	SM210140	20,000.00
		German Committee for UNICEF	SM210933	107,666.00
		Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Government of the United Kingdom	SM170463	355,095.88
	Laos PDR	Global Partnership for Education	SC200368	2,828,219.32
		US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration	SM190230	1,270,784.00
	Malaysia	UNICEF-Malaysia	SM210026	8,800.00
		Norwegian Committee for UNICEF	SM210870	340,278.00
	Mongolia	GAVI The Vaccine Alliance	SC200764	62,035.47
		Asian Development Bank	SM200437	93,556.52
		United States Agency for International Development	SM210586	565,823.20
	PNG	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Government of the United Kingdom	SM200202	131,126.37
		Global Partnership for Education	SC200311	3,441,447.41
		Papua New Guinea	SM200247	-295,253.18
		Australian Committee for UNICEF	SM200288	29,914.69
		GAVI The Vaccine Alliance	SM200764	7,608.00
		Government of Japan	SM210105	472,453.13
	Thailand	UNICEF-THAILAND	SM210313	44,683.00

Type of Funding	Country	Donor	Grant Reference	Overall Amount (USD)*
		US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration	SM210610	124,336.70
		United States Agency for International Development	SM210700	1,054,179.95
	Timor-Leste	New Zealand	KM210138	304,340.54
		Global Partnership for Education	SC200329	888,253.29
		GAVI The Vaccine Alliance	SC200764	68,224.70
		Asian Development Bank	SM200127	69.62
		New Zealand	SM210325	100,615.18
		United States Agency for International Development	SM210701	1,310,949.70
	Vietnam	GAVI The Vaccine Alliance	SC200764	58,058.00
		UNFPA-USA	SM210290	39,392.00
		United States Agency for International Development	SM210684	480,485.76
		Norwegian Committee for UNICEF	SM210869	340,277.00
Non-thematic Total				16,742,118.72
Total carry-over of humanitarian funds available in 2022				17,975,495.87

Table 3: Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2022

Donor Name/Type of funding	Grant Reference	Total Contribution Amount (in USD)
GHTF received by RO and countries covered by this appeal (if any):		
n/a*	SM189910	100,000.00
n/a*	SM229910	600,000.00
Sub-total (received from EMOPS/HQ):		700,000.00
Regional thematic contributions:		
Norway	SM229920-0195	16,851.43
US Fund	SM229920-0046	28,095.24
Sub-total (received directly at RO level):		44,946.67
Total:		744,946.67

*Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding contributions are pooled and then allocated to country and regional offices by UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programmes. A detailed list of grants will be available in the 2022 Humanitarian Action Global Annual Results Report.

Additional summary of distribution of regional thematic contributions to countries:

Details of allocation to COs from Regional thematic (SM229920):	Grant reference/thematic pool	Programmable amount (in USD)
Viet Nam	SM229920-0046	28,095.24
Total (allocated to COs):		28,095.24

Details of allocation to COs from Global Thematic (SM189910/SM229910):	Grant reference/thematic pool	Programmable amount (in USD)
Cambodia	SM229910	30,000
Pacific	SM189910	100,000
Philippines	SM189910	200,000
PNG	SM189910	30,000
Thailand	SM189910	75,000
Total (allocated to COs):		435,000

6. Future Work Plan

The Regional Office will continue to work with country offices and Governments to facilitate adequate and swift emergency responses to humanitarian disasters in the region in line with the Core Commitments for Children, particularly in the areas of coordination, WASH, health, nutrition, child protection, education, and social protection, with a focus on programme integration and cross-sectoral programming in gender, disability inclusion, gender-based violence, early childhood development and adolescence. In cases of major disasters that surpass country capacities, the Regional Office will complement national capacity by providing surge capacity and support, both directly and through the Regional Rapid Response Mechanism.

Capacity building to strengthen EPR and DRR systems within UNICEF country offices and with government and implementing partners will continue, to build the resilience of children, families, communities, and governments to withstand and respond to shocks. Opportunities to strengthen the linkages between humanitarian action and development programmes in policy, planning and implementation will be pursued, including through technical support to country offices developing new country programmes. Support will be provided to country offices to improve the quality of their emergency preparedness planning and to conduct trainings and simulation exercises at country and field level.

Specific efforts will move forward in 2023 to strengthen country office capacities to deliver against the cross-sector and cross-cutting CCCs. The guidance on disability inclusive preparedness will be finalised and rolled out across the region to support country offices to further strengthen the inclusion of children with disabilities in preparedness activities. To improve application of a gender lens in humanitarian responses in the region, the Regional Office will focus on building capacity to undertake gender analysis. The Regional Office will also undertake a mapping of women's rights organizations who can partner with UNICEF to provide additional support for this. A learning assessment on the inclusion of UNICEF's CCCs on ADAP in country office preparedness and response plans will be undertaken. This will inform capacity-building needs to be addressed in 2023. With increased capacity, country offices will be able to deliver humanitarian action that is responsive to adolescent needs, especially the most vulnerable, ensuring they are not only left behind during an emergency, but are also seen as assets in their communities. An AAP regional roadmap will be developed, and support will continue to be provided to country offices to strengthen delivery against the AAP CCCs.

The Regional Office will also continue to strengthen technical cooperation partnerships with regional and sub-regional partners and coordination platforms. The collaboration with the Regional Emergency Preparedness Working Group, chaired by OCHA, will continue, along with coordination with UNHCR on the UNICEF-UNHCR strategic collaboration framework promoting inclusion for refugee children and their families.

Cambodia

UNICEF will continue to expand its support to the MoH on SBC, T4D and environmental health initiatives. With ongoing support from donors (GAVI, Governments of Australia and Japan), UNICEF will be able to continue to utilise the digital rapid coverage assessment tool, social listening and community feedback mechanism, and support investment in the Immunization Information System. Nutrition will adapt simplified approaches for SAM treatment, expanding SAM treatment services from 5 to 11 provinces in 2023, and will capacitate mothers and care givers to identify SAM using low literacy-low numeracy tools. UNICEF's own preparedness for emergency response, and strengthening of national capacities for emergency coordination, preparedness and response across the sectors, will also continue into 2023.

Laos

Strengthening of essential services for nutrition, health, WASH, child protection and education will continue, along with building a systems approach to preparedness and response to emergencies. UNICEF will continue to support the government in strengthening capacity of social sector workforce and counsellors as essential service providers in the COVID-19 aftermath and to provide adequate support for them to ensure safe and continuous service delivery. UNICEF will also continue to strengthen national community-based disaster risk reduction approaches, including through support to implement in demonstration villages. UNICEF will continue to strengthen catch up and remedial learning opportunities for face to face and online learning, as well as strengthening the education sector capacity on disaster risk reduction and provision of mental health and psychosocial support.

Malaysia

Building on the Emergency Preparedness Planning workshop in 2022, UNICEF will continue to strengthen the country office's readiness and to build office-wide capacity to respond to various types of emergencies. A joint workplan on building capacity and decentralizing mental health services to the community will be developed with the National Centre of Excellence for Mental Health. As the focus shifts from humanitarian action, UNICEF will embed ongoing COVID-19 recovery strategies into its ongoing work with the Government of Malaysia and will ensure achievements from the COVID-19 response are used for advocacy and system strengthening, particularly related to MHPSS, nutrition, and education.

Mongolia

Looking ahead to 2023, UNICEF will continue to collaborate with key stakeholders including, but not limited to, the MoH, the National Emergency Management Agency, the State Energy Commission and the Mongolian Red Cross Society in preparing for, responding to, and building capacity of systems for emergencies. COVID-19 response will be continued, focusing on the COVID-19 booster vaccine communication campaign, promotion of seasonal flu vaccine and behaviour change communication. UNICEF will also continue to respond to the ongoing dzud conditions. Among the already activated clusters for dzud early action and response in Mongolia, UNICEF leads Nutrition and WASH and co-leads Education and Child Protection clusters, and contributes to Health. Additionally, preparedness and capacity building for earthquakes, due to its more frequently occurring nature, will be prioritized. UNICEF Mongolia will coordinate with the Regional Office to implement EPR training for UNICEF staff as well as for the National Emergency Management Agency.

PNG

UNICEF is committed to working on humanitarian response and emergency preparedness, focusing on building back better to support continued early recovery, peacebuilding and creating an enabling environment for sustainable development in collaboration with National Authorities, implementing partners, civil society, the UN Country Team, and communities. Particular efforts will be made to strengthen the community-facing aspects of PSEA related to Accountability to Affected Population (AAP).

Thailand

The Thailand country office is part of the Inter Agency Appeal for the Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan 2023 which will target 24,000 people in need displaced because of the ongoing violence in Myanmar. In that context, UNICEF will use a multi-pronged approach to ensure effective coordination of assistance, provide emergency relief, and reinforce the capacity of local staff to support the needs of migrant families and children in a sustainable way while advocating for better access to services for migrant children.

Timor Leste

UNICEF will continue co-leading emergency preparedness and response in Nutrition, Education and WASH Sectors while taking part in other sectors through participation in the Humanitarian Partners' Group. UNICEF will maintain minimum prepositioned stocks of life saving supplies by sector depending on the available resources. Supporting development of WASH in Emergencies Standards will continue while also building the capacity of the National Water and Sanitation Authority as the lead agency in WASH humanitarian coordination. UNICEF will continue engaging OPDs and other stakeholders, and will disseminate the 2022 report which provides concrete, fit-for-context guidance on right to participation of adolescents and youth with disabilities. This will help integrate inclusion in both development and emergency contexts. Moreover, school based DRR activities will continue as well as implementation of Child Protection Minimum Standard in emergency responses.

Viet Nam

As part of applying the Climate Resilient WASH framework, UNICEF will continue to support the government for both mitigation and adaptation. Capacity building in WASH in emergency, risk assessment and appraisals for the WASH sector will be continued in 2023 and beyond. Within the framework of the Cooperation Programme between UNICEF and the MoH on COVID-19 vaccination, UNICEF will continue to provide technical and funding support to the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology for the safe, effective rollout of COVID-19 vaccination. Activities to strengthen the capacity of the health and immunization systems to improve preparedness for future outbreaks will also be implemented.



Three-year old Mg Thu Wai Htut is screened for acute malnutrition using a MUAC tape during an out-patient visit.

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Annex A: Human Interest Stories and Communication Materials

UNICEF Papua New Guinea: Ensuring Equality and Inclusion as Girl's Head Back to School



Girls are more confident to discuss openly around menstrual hygiene compared to the past. With hand washing facilities installed, students are more conscious of their hygiene and health practices whilst at school.

©UNICEF PNG/2022

Lorraine Loddy is the current head girl at Limana Vocational Centre of 600 students. She is in grade 9 and studies all subjects including a skill of either, computing, cookery, housekeeping, food and beverage or sewing. She among other female students including female teachers, received a Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kit. This was made possible through the funding support of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the Australian Government through the PNGAus Partnership during the COVID-19 Education in Emergencies Response and Recovery Plan (EERRP). Each pack contained hygiene products such as a toothbrush and paste, comb, soap, shampoo, conditioner and a face towel as well as a pack of sanitary pads.

Lorraine shared, “The girls thought they received the same backpack and contents with the male students but were so excited when they opened their bags and saw the MHM kits. The students have improved in their personal grooming and since all girls received the same pack, we talk openly about menstrual hygiene compared to the past where girls felt shy and reserved. Girls now use the small towel and soap in the school bathroom to manage their menstrual flow when needed”. Such initiatives supported under the PNGAus partnership helps ensure that students, especially girls can continue to attend school and progress in their education journey.

All students including boys received a backpack with stationery, a maths set, calculator, exercise books, safety goggles and a safety vest. Hand washing facilities were also installed to ensure students practice hygiene safety measures whilst at school. Through this partnership, teachers have received capacity building in the area of psycho-social support and are able to identify students in need for further support. To date 5,778 (2,839 female) teachers have been trained across 5 key locations to provide support to students through having guided conversations on trauma or difficulties that hinder their educational progress.

UNICEF Papua New Guinea: Assistive devices strengthen learning outcomes for children with disabilities in PNG



Allan has taught his classmates to sign the alphabet in the past in order to communicate. He is now confident among peers and teachers as he progresses in his studies with the help of the hearing aid assistive device.

©UNICEF PNG/2022

Meet 15-year-old Allan Joseph. Upon first glance, it may not appear that he has a disability. However, this grade 7 student of Philip Aravure Primary School was the recipient of a hearing aid to help him with his hearing impairment, which is also supporting him in his studies. Allan is completely deaf in one ear and has partial hearing in the other ear where he wears the hearing aid. Such assistive devices including eyeglasses, wheelchairs, white canes and crutches, to list a few, were procured through the funding support of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the Australian Government through the PNGAus Partnership during the COVID-19 Education in Emergencies Response and Recovery Plan (EERRP).

Since receiving the assistive device through UNICEF's implementing partners ChildFund and Callan Services Gerehu, Allan mentioned that he does not need to rely on lip reading and sign language to communicate but can hear clearly in the classroom. Allan has helped his peers learn basic sign language in the past to communicate including the alphabet which they used to spell out words. He no longer relies on this as he can hear and communicate better. Allan loves all subjects but says he used to struggle with Math's concepts. He is now confident in sitting for his exams as he says he has gained confidence in his studies and in social settings among his peers. He hopes to advance to university and study architecture or building design as he has a talent for drawing. A total of 206 students with different types of disabilities have received assistive devices throughout 8 Inclusive Education Resource Centres (IERCs) under the EERRP.

UNICEF Timor Leste: Preventing violence and child abuse through play in Timor-Leste

In the suburbs of Timor-Leste's capital, Dili, the sounds of children singing echoes across the Tasi Tolu neighbourhood. Children, ranging in age from two to fourteen years, are participating in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities under the Child Friendly Space (CFS) initiative.

In 2021, the neighbourhood was hit by devastating floods and gang-related violence, leaving children traumatized. COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions also prevented children from meeting friends outside of their communities.

The CFS programme, organized by the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, UNICEF, and their implementing partner, Ba Futuro, plays an essential protective role for children in adverse circumstances, ensuring their mental health and psychosocial wellbeing and providing a safe place for children to gather for play, self-expression, and learning. UNICEF has supported the establishment of 22 CFS across Dili Municipality, with over 2,381 children participating in the community-based activities. The children perform daily psychosocial activities like breathing, grounding, expressing with art, dancing, singing, and playing, learning how to cope with difficult situations, to be thankful, and feel safe.

Parents have expressed their gratitude for the CFS initiative, with Angelina Menes saying, "During the COVID-19 pandemic, they could not go far, and we had to escape the floods too, but now, my children look forward to the CFS activities. They sing, dance, are safe, and happier."

The CFS also serve as platforms to raise awareness on actions to prevent violence against children and women. Special parenting sessions are held for adults so they can better understand children's emotional needs and ensure children are live in safe environments, while also learning about positive parenting skills.

UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Health to develop SOP for integrated mental health and psychosocial referral services for community-based and non-medical MHPSS actions. These were incorporated into wider guidelines on all aspects of MHPSS guidelines developed by the Partnership for Human Development (PHD) and other partners. The combined guidelines were launched on 7 February 2023 by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion.

The CFS programme is being supported through the European Union – United Nations Spotlight Initiative, which seeks to prevent and end domestic and intimate partner violence in Timor-Leste. The program is implemented with the Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion and by five UN Agencies, in collaboration with a number of other implementing partners. Through the CFS programme, children in Timor-Leste are finding hope, joy, and healing amidst difficult circumstances. The programme is providing a vital lifeline for vulnerable children and their families in the country.



Neighbours and friends Cristina Zaveira and Angelina Menes watch as their children take part in CFS activities in Dili, Timor-Leste.



Children draw as they take part in Child Friendly Space activities in Dili, Timor-Leste. CFS Animator, Aurelia dos Santos, helps children draw on balloons. Drawing and creative expression helps improve creativity for children, opportunities that may not always be available for children in schools or in after-school activities.

Photo credits: UNICEF Timor/2022/BBenevides

Links to additional human-interest stories

UNICEF Cambodia: [COVID vaccination campaigns reach the most vulnerable](#)

UNICEF Lao PDR: [School's Back!](#)

UNICEF Malaysia: [Reducing Digital Inequality For All](#) (video)

UNICEF Mongolia: [Overcoming COVID-19 through healthy lifestyle](#)

UNICEF Mongolia: [UNICEF leads ground-breaking campaign addressing vaccine hesitancy](#)

UNICEF Mongolia: [Let's collaborate to protect our children from the Dzud](#) (video)

UNICEF Papua New Guinea: ["I am glad to be finally vaccinated!"](#)

UNICEF Papua New Guinea: [Sustainable and inclusive learning during COVID-19](#)

UNICEF Papua New Guinea: [Sevese Morea Primary School in Papua New Guinea welcomes GPE visitors](#)

UNICEF Papua New Guinea: [Distribution of 10 IA Emergency Health Kits](#)

UNICEF Papua New Guinea: [10,000 school children impacted by recent conflicts in highlands region](#)

UNICEF Thailand: [Helping hard-to-reach families in crowded camps during COVID-19](#)

UNICEF Thailand: [Migrant health volunteers trained to help the most vulnerable during COVID-19](#)

UNICEF Thailand: [How vaccine supplies save lives in Nonthaburi](#)

Annex B: Donor Feedback Forms

Please use this: [UNICEF Donor Feedback Form](#)