

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
REGIONAL OFFICE
CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY REPORT 2022



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Expression of Thanks

UNICEF's work is funded entirely through the support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector. Through these contributions, especially flexible thematic funds, UNICEF can deliver on its mandate to protect children's rights, to help them meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO) would like to express its utmost appreciation to public and private partners, without whom it would not have been possible to deliver results for children across Europe and Central Asia. In particular, UNICEF ECARO would like to acknowledge contributions from the European Commission (EC), United States Agency for International Development's - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID's BHA), Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration (BPRM), the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Government of Japan, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom.

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Resources received in 2022 were particularly critical to enable UNICEF to strengthen its commitment to working with Governments and partners to strengthen preparedness capacities, enhance resilience of communities and systems to reduce the impacts of disasters, and jointly respond to sudden shocks, stresses and emergencies.

We take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their commitment and trust in UNICEF and look forward to continuing our strong collaboration to ensure no child is left behind.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

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

I. Executive Summary

In 2022, children and families throughout Europe and Central Asia (ECA) continued to be exposed to multiple risks and hazards, and many were adversely impacted by consequent impacts.

Over the course of the year, disasters including floods, mudflows and civil unrest affected over 750,000 people in Central Asia, while refugee children and families from Afghanistan, had been airlifted to and are still temporarily residing in Albania and North Macedonia, continued to require support to access critical services. In 2022, 15.8 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and 75,351 deaths were also reported in the Europe and Central Asia region.¹

The aftermaths of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the escalation of war in Ukraine also impacted socioeconomic as well as political conditions regionwide, including increasing prices for fuel, food and basic commodities, increased population movements, increasing political tensions and geostrategic realignments, particularly exacerbating risks in some countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Countries in Central Asia also remained particularly prone to major earthquakes, necessitating enhanced preparedness and risk reduction efforts.

Despite countries' commitments to disaster risk management, vulnerable people, particularly children and their families, remained at risk of emergency situations, loss of lives and livelihood, requiring continued support to ensure strong preparedness and sufficient early-action capacities to deliver rapid, life-saving interventions.

Given this, UNICEF ECARO continued to focus on enhancing capacities of partners and country office teams to be operationally prepared for and respond to emergencies, including by sustaining organizational compliance to UNICEF's Procedure on Preparedness for Emergency Response and strengthening risk informed programming, as well as on providing technical support for response to sudden onset emergencies. UNICEF also ensured continued provision of critical health, education and child protection services for refugee children from Afghanistan living in Albania and North Macedonia.

In Central Asia, UNICEF continued to work with national governments as well as key partners like the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI)² and the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent (IFCR) and National Red Crescent Societies, to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities by pre-positioning critical emergency supplies, promoting shock responsive social protection and strengthening capacities on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), gender informed programming, community engagement as well as accountability to affected populations (AAP) in emergencies. This also contributed to UNICEF's wider DRR and climate change agenda for Central Asia, promoting safe schools, resilient communities and youth participation and development.

Finally, UNICEF maintained its response to COVID-19, with a focus on preventing transmission and mitigating impacts on vulnerable children and families. This included strengthening systems, services and relevant supply provision for social protection, education, health, WASH, risk communication and community engagement, education and nutrition and ensuring protection for at-risk children and adolescents in 20 countries in region³.

II. Humanitarian Context

Children and families throughout Europe and Central Asia are exposed to multiple risks, including civil unrest, disease outbreaks and natural hazards. Small-scale disasters including floods, landslides, wildfires and droughts pose additional threats regionwide. Impacts of disasters are being exacerbated by climate change and urbanization, becoming more frequent and intense. Already, 41.9 million children (57 per cent of the region's children) are exposed to more than six heatwaves per year, 32.4 million children (49 per cent of children) to water scarcity and 7.5 million children (10 per cent of children) to riverine floods.

¹ WHO COVID-19 Dashboard <https://covid19.who.int/> for Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

² CADRI is a global partnership that helps countries reduce disaster and climate risks through providing access to a unique pool of multidisciplinary expertise in various socio-economic sectors to achieve the 2030 Agenda and leave no one behind.

³ Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

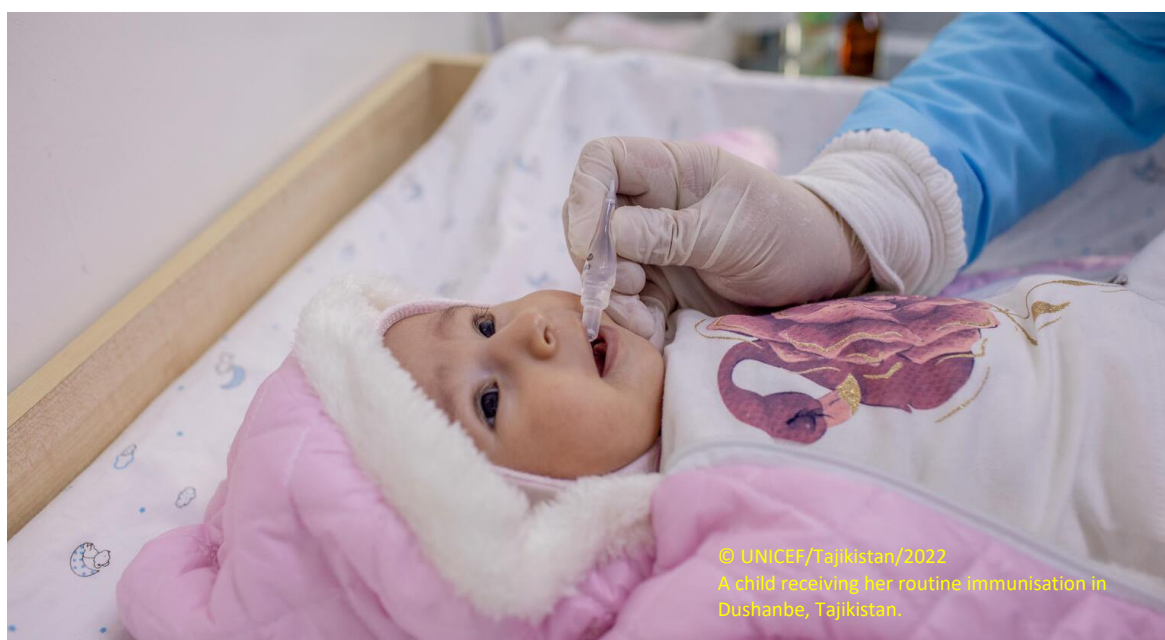
In 2022, there were 15.8 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and 75,351 deaths reported in the Europe and Central Asia region.⁴ In many countries the aftereffects of the pandemic on vulnerable children and families, particularly socio-economic and psychosocial, required continuous support for health, nutrition, routine immunisation, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and WASH services, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), blended learning and awareness on disease prevention.

Impacts of the escalation of war in Ukraine further compounded weakened socio-economic conditions of countries. Inflation increased the cost of rent and basic staples which, coupled with limited livelihood opportunities, eroded purchasing power and severely impacted vulnerable populations. The violent protest in **Kazakhstan** in January 2022, sparked by a sharp increase in price of liquid gas, led to a two-week state of emergency, followed by curfew and strict security measures, disrupting services including schools, affecting learning for around 500,000 children. In September, conflict along the border of **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan** led to destruction of houses, schools and health centres, and large-scale displacement, impacting over 250,000 people in affected areas. The South Caucasus continued to be a sub-region characterized by volatility and instability.

In 2022, floods and mudflows affected nearly 1,000 households in **Kyrgyzstan** and **Uzbekistan**. Torrential rains in April generated mudflows in Jizzakh province, **Uzbekistan** damaging settlements, arable lands and social facilities. Heavy rains in May 2022 induced mudflows and landslides in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Naryn provinces in **Kyrgyzstan** affecting homes, social infrastructures, roads, livestock and a school. Dust/sandstorms, and extreme weather were observed in Central Asia.

Governments in **Albania** and **Montenegro** required continued support to sustain critical health, education and child protection services for refugee children and families temporarily evacuated from Afghanistan in 2021.

III. Humanitarian Results



Emergency Preparedness, Response and Disaster Risk Reduction

UNICEF continued to maintain its focus on emergency preparedness and response, scale up child centred disaster risk reduction and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

In response to the civil unrest in January 2022 in **Kazakhstan**, UNICEF provided swift support to affected families in Almaty by distributing essential supplies such as food and nutrition baskets, hygiene items, and education kits benefiting 660 children.

⁴ WHO COVID-19 Dashboard <https://covid19.who.int/> for Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

UNICEF in partnership with national governments and the Red Crescent Societies of **Uzbekistan** and **Kyrgyzstan** provided humanitarian support to 880 affected people, including 425 children affected by floods, mudflow and landslides in 2022.

In response to impacts of the conflict along the border of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, 8,510 displaced people (3,923 male, 4,587 female) in Batken and Osh Provinces of **Kyrgyzstan** received family hygiene kits, while 4,200 conflict affected children from Batken and Leilek regions benefitted from educational and Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits provided to schools. UNICEF handed over 1,000 family hygiene kits to Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) to preposition in disaster prone areas. In **Tajikistan** 1,484 displaced children and women benefitted from MHPSS provided through the Red Crescent Society of **Tajikistan** (RCST) with UNICEF support. 5,000 conflict affected/displaced people in Isfara and B. Gafurov districts received 1,100 family hygiene and dignity kits. UNICEF handed over WASH, education, child protection related supplies to cover the needs of approximately 1,000 people to RCST to preposition in disaster prone areas. Activation of contingency partnerships allowed UNICEF and RCST to put in place a GBV monitoring system and accountability to affected population (AAP) mechanism in collective centers during the acute phase of the crisis.

In **Uzbekistan**, UNICEF continued replenishing and prepositioning emergency supplies (ECD kits, family hygiene kits, recreational kits, educational kits etc.) to cover the needs of over 4,000 people in disaster-prone areas. To enhance emergency preparedness in **Turkmenistan**, UNICEF entered a warehousing agreement with the National Red Crescent Society and prepositioned ECD and education supplies to reach 1,500 children.

Country level preparedness was supported by enhancing staff capacity through emergency preparedness and response trainings and simulations as well as development of operational emergency preparedness plans for **Kazakhstan, Armenia and Azerbaijan** Country Offices. The implementation of preparedness plans was further supported with leveraging financial resources as well as in-country and remote technical support.

The regional partnership with International Federation of Red Crescent Society (IFRC) and Red Crescent Societies (RCS) in Central Asia, entered a third year, enabling continued preparedness, disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities and timely response in emergencies (floods, mudflows, landslides in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, conflict along the border of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan). Emergency WASH, ECD, education and protection supplies were prepositioned, and school safety strengthened in risk prone areas. Contributions were made to strengthening national shock responsive social protection systems, developing country specific gender-based violence risk mitigation strategies, including safety audits, providing technical advice on WASH preparedness, including emergency tools and mechanisms, and developing a gender responsive accountability to affected populations mechanism.

In partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) regional offices and United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in **Kyrgyzstan**, the CADRI Capacity Diagnosis report, including the UNICEF supported Social Sector analysis, was finalised contributing to the adaptation of the Kyrgyzstan National Disaster Risk Reduction Concept.

UNICEF translated its [Core Commitments for Children | UNICEF](#) into Russian language, disseminated it to partners in Central Asia, and provided an orientation to 80 participants (government, non-government and UNICEF staff in the country offices), focused on WASH benchmarks and commitments within the framework of CCCs.

Furthermore, to sustain support to Afghan refugees in **Albania**, 315 children and 356 adolescents from Afghanistan received psychosocial, recreational, creative and sport activities at child friendly spaces. 550 parents and caregivers were supported through culturally adapted activities. In total, 42 cultural mediators are engaged in this program and 341 children are assisted with individual case management support. In addition, UNICEF also collaborated with the Center for Combating Violent Extremism to provide immediate protection to women and children repatriated from Syria, offering psychosocial support (PSS), case management, clothing, meals and access to hygiene items. In total, 37 persons (28 children and 9 women) are supported by UNICEF in a reintegration programme.

UNICEF also continued to support the Afghan refugee children and children from vulnerable communities by improving their English language skills and digital skills through the Akelius interactive digital language platform, reaching 2,988 children of whom 226 are Afghan children. The Akelius project

has been extended to 13 additional compulsory schools in various regions of Albania, such as Durres, Diber, Tirana, Kruja, Elbasan, Lezha, and Burrel. In collaboration with the Agency for the Assurance of Quality in Preuniversity Education, a training module on blended learning and the Akelius digital platform has been developed and endorsed by the Ministry of Education and Sport (MOES), resulting in **640** English teachers being trained. In addition, teachers from the Afghan community were trained to deliver non-formal education programmes to 369 children (50 per cent females). An assessment of this programme revealed that students showed progress in socio-emotional learning, literacy, and life skills. Two Day Care Centers provided services to 80 children, 124 sessions were conducted for 730 Afghani and Albanian parents (516 Female), and 300 preschool teachers were trained on how to work with children who were exposed to stress and trauma.

In **North Macedonia**, UNICEF and NGO partners supported the government in providing services for 562 evacuated Afghan families in education, health and nutrition, child protection, social protection, and legal support. In total, 20 professionals were trained in child safeguarding, 280 refugees benefited from MHPSS, and 232 children benefitted from Child Friendly Spaces. In addition, 370 beneficiaries were provided with free legal advice and 170 received individual case work concerning resettlement applications, humanitarian residence and registration of new-born babies. To ensure continuity to learning, 55 tablets and notebooks, and 55 headphones were procured to support Afghan children and adults to participate in English language courses, as classes had to be held online.

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

COVID-19 Response

Health: To reduce impact of the pandemic on national health care systems, UNICEF supported national and local authorities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and resume or sustain essential health services. UNICEF supported training for 28,712 healthcare facility staff and community health workers in infection prevention and control (IPC) in **Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan**. 63,594 caregivers and frontline professionals were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in **Albania, Kosovo*, Moldova, North Macedonia, and Uzbekistan**.

To facilitate catch up on routine immunization, UNICEF supported the vaccination of 449,244 children between 6 and 59 months against measles in **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Moldova, and Turkmenistan**. After a measles outbreak in **Tajikistan**, UNICEF and WHO provided technical support to the MoH to reach 418,365 children (99 per cent of the target group) with supplementary immunization activities. In **Kosovo***, UNICEF continued to support door-to-door campaigns to identify children who missed routine vaccination, reaching 3,156 and vaccinating 723 children.

UNICEF supported capacity building of 1,514 health professionals in telemedicine and remote counselling in **Georgia, North Macedonia and Serbia**. 3,626 health professionals were trained in immunization and communications in **Kazakhstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia and Uzbekistan**. In **Georgia**, UNICEF supported onsite and online supervision (736 online, 207 on site) with rural doctors, benefitting 35,328 children. In **Moldova**, 700 specialists improved abilities in antenatal and perinatal care, and 440 specialists in obstetrical emergency services and neonatal resuscitation.

In **Kazakhstan**, through evidence-based advocacy and technical support from UNICEF, WHO, USAID, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the MoH developed a national road map for immunization. In **North Macedonia**, UNICEF supported upgrade of the national electronic recording and reporting system “Moj termin” (My Appointment) to connect primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services.

In **Albania**, efforts to support Afghan families and children reached 291 children and 16 pregnant women with health services, while 361 individuals participated in 12 health promotion sessions. A health center was established and equipped at the residence site of the Afghan population, in collaboration

* All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

with Save the Children and the local authorities. In **North Macedonia**, UNICEF continued to support 130 Afghan evacuees with medical services and medication.

Nutrition: UNICEF continued strengthening dissemination of age-specific information promoting breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). 636,682 primary caregivers of children (0-23 months) received counselling in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia and Tajikistan.

In **Tajikistan**, 200 healthcare workers were trained on treating severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and over 12,696 children were treated with supplies procured by UNICEF. In **Uzbekistan**, 40,000 children benefited from a deworming programme which reduced prevalence of helminth infections from 12.6 to 1.7 per cent among children between 6 and 10 years. In **Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan**, 1,686 healthcare workers improved their knowledge on IYCF. In **North Macedonia**, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to collect data on the impact of pandemic-related lockdowns and school closures on children's diets, resulting in the introduction of food labelling to prevent overweight and obesity.

WASH: UNICEF continued to support children and their families with critical WASH supplies and reached 601,977 beneficiaries in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo*, Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan.

In **North Macedonia**, 80 mobile handwashing stations were delivered to 52 schools and 47 school staff were trained on hand washing and hygiene promotion, benefitting 8,260 students. In **Turkmenistan**, 215 schools were supported to conduct self-assessments of WASH conditions. In **Serbia**, an educational video game on good WASH practices for Roma and other preschool children was developed and made available to teachers.

In **Uzbekistan**, UNICEF improved WASH services in 20 healthcare facilities, benefitting 10,000 health care workers and 130,000 people, including 33,336 children and provided WASH training to 400 healthcare workers. In **Tajikistan**, WASH services in 18 healthcare facilities were built or rehabilitated, reaching 85,037 beneficiaries. In addition, 375,000 people benefitted from handwashing stations in 750 healthcare facilities.

In **Georgia**, UNICEF and partner Shalom Club Guria implemented a project to address the rights of safe drinking water for children in Guria region, where 69 per cent of household use contaminated water. 4,667 school and kindergarten students and staff as well as 146 patients and 415 hospital personnel benefited from the installation of water filtration systems.

Child Protection, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA): UNICEF supported 864,462 children with access to MHPSS, including through helplines, in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. UNICEF supported 147,706 women, girls and boys in accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Tajikistan.

In **Albania**, UNICEF and partner 'Nisma ARSIS' provided access to protection, healthcare and PSS for 34 unaccompanied and separated children. UNICEF reached 79 children at risk of abuse with emergency response services and 386 children who encountered with the police, received specialized child protection support and immediate counselling in the police stations. 52 children and 15 adults were supported through emergency outreach services and 137 children received case management services. In **North Macedonia**, social work centres were supported during lockdowns to reach over 200 families, who received social protection services or referral by seven mobile teams with lawyers and social workers. 42 social work professionals were trained on foster care support and a data base and website for (potential) foster families was supported.

In **Serbia**, 25 national trainers and mentors were trained on MHPSS and started a large-scale accredited capacity building programme for over 150 specialists from the education, health, and social sectors. In partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and five cantonal ministries in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNICEF supported development of child safeguarding guidelines, referral mechanisms and safeguarding procedure trainings for Social Welfare and residential care institutions. In **North Macedonia**, In **Turkmenistan**, 30 professionals were trained on social work, referral procedures, and identification of child abuse cases in family and residential care settings. In **Uzbekistan**, in partnership with the State Committee for Family and Women's Affairs, UNICEF trained

community-based paraprofessional social workers from 200 communities on child protection case management.

UNICEF supported mental health platforms in **Serbia**, reaching 57,142 people with activities, webinars, and online counselling. In **Albania**, UNICEF supported the national helpline, developed a reporting platform and mobile application for a data repository and trained 900 parents and caregivers on online risks for children. In **North Macedonia**, UNICEF and UNHCR supported the establishment of a Digital Learning Platform for the social service workforce, offering online trainings for licensing processes. 100 families and their pre-school children benefited from the Mellow parenting programme.

In **Kazakhstan**, UNICEF and UN Women successfully advocated for introduction of a minimum age of consent for sexual relations and a provision on statutory rape in the Criminal Code, as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence.

Education: With schools reopened, UNICEF focused on back to school and quality learning. UNICEF supported 1,800,488 children to access formal or non-formal education, including early learning, in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, and Serbia. UNICEF supported the provision of counselling and/or parenting support to 95,986 parents and caregivers of children under 5 in Armenia, Kosovo*, Moldova, North Macedonia and Serbia. In Armenia, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, 54,403 schools were supported in implementing safe school protocols (infection, prevention and control). Additionally, 70,496 teachers were trained in delivering digital, distance and blended learning in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, while UNICEF also supported the development of learning content for television programmes and online learning platforms.

In **Kazakhstan**, UNICEF and the Education Foundation IQanat supported the development of a peer support approach to help children catch up with pandemic-related learning loss, which is being tested in 12 schools. In **Azerbaijan**, the learning recover programme reached 882 primary and secondary school students.

In **Azerbaijan**, over 2,000 teachers enhanced their capacities to support children's social and emotional learning and 200 school psychologists developed their competencies in Psychological First Aid. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities enhanced capacities of 1,003 teachers and 36,000 children with EORE knowledge and education materials.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNICEF and UNESCO provided technical support to the government to develop a statement of commitment for the Transforming Education Summit and guidelines for online and blended Learning. In **North Macedonia**, UNICEF supported the government in developing a cross-sectoral Parenting Strategy and action plan as well as a concept for early intervention services focused on supporting children with disabilities and developmental delays.

Social Protection and Cash Transfers: To address the economic impacts of COVID-19 and other emergencies, UNICEF continued to support governments in supporting the preparedness of social protection systems to deliver cash transfers and critical services to vulnerable populations. In 2022, UNICEF provided technical assistance and funding to reach 2,252,447 households with cash transfers through existing government systems in **Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan**. In **Serbia**, UNICEF continued its partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs (MoLEVSA) and the Red Cross to deliver multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers to households with children, reaching 702 households (2,653 beneficiaries, including 1,580 children).

In **Kyrgyzstan**, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour, Social Welfare and Migration (MoLSWM) to improve normative framework for humanitarian cash transfer and related humanitarian assistance with clear SOPs. Draft regulation and SOPs were developed and validated and are awaiting approval from the Cabinet of Ministers. In **Tajikistan**, UNICEF provided technical and financial support in designing and drafting a Social Protection Strategy, which is linking social protection with emergency preparedness and response and was endorsed by the Government.

In **Uzbekistan**, a programme on community-level social services was launched in 187 local communities to digitalize, and thus, streamline processes for needs assessments, social service planning, delivery, monitoring and case referral. The programme will be expanded to cover the whole

country and complimenting completed programmes on emergency cash transfers and shock responsive transfers.

Social and Behavioural Change (SCB), Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP), Community Engagement and AAP: UNICEF engaged 2,573,007 people in Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) in **Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*** and **Tajikistan** through a variety of activities, including online and print media campaigns, targeted trainings, and youth engagement. UNICEF also reached 21,452,290 beneficiaries through messaging on prevention and access to services in **Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**.

UNICEF supported social listening and media monitoring related to COVID-19 and routine vaccination in **Moldova, North Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo*** and **Uzbekistan**. UNICEF also supported the implementation of demand generation communication campaigns and events in **Albania, Moldova, North Macedonia, Kosovo*, Kazakhstan** with messages on the importance of COVID-19 and routine vaccinations and available services to get vaccinated.

In **Albania**, UNICEF supported the training of 134 social administrators in three municipalities, strengthening their communication skills and knowledge about COVID-19 risks, prevention, and vaccines. In **Moldova** and **North Macedonia**, UNICEF conducted capacity building trainings for journalists and journalism students on COVID-19 communication and fact checking. In **Kyrgyzstan**, UNICEF continued to build skills of adolescents on media literacy and to engage the affected population in identification of concerns and search for solutions, reaching about 110,000 people through online and offline media. In **Azerbaijan**, UNICEF supported the training of 500 trainers on interpersonal communication skills for immunization, who are expected to reach 50,000 health workers across the country with IPC training. To institutionalize the intervention, an 18-hour training module on IPC, promoting COVID-19 vaccination and routine immunization, became part of a mandatory course for health worker qualification enhancement.

In **Kazakhstan**, in partnership with National Volunteers Network, over 934 parents/caregivers and expecting parents were informed about childhood vaccination. In addition, educational sessions on immunization and management of children with diabetes after the COVID-19 infection were provided for targeted parents/caregivers. In **North Macedonia**, UNICEF launched the Bebbi mobile application with critical information on parenting and so far over 7,000 users registered.

The summer camps organized by UNICEF in **Moldova** and **Kazakhstan**, reached over 1,000 children and youth, who learned about how to prevent COVID-19, safe online behavior, emotional health, and children’s rights. In **Moldova**, UNICEF supported U-Report in informing over 10,000 users on relevant topics such as mental health, COVID-19 and distant learning, as well as launching interactive chatbots. In **Georgia**, UNICEF and the Civil Society Development Centre reached 4,050 adolescents with hygiene promotion activities against COVID-19, out of which 1,150 adolescents engaged in training and workshops on healthy lifestyle, peer education and team building.

Summary of Programme Results for the COVID-19 response: UNICEF’s actions to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 in 2022 were undertaken in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kosovo*, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) results against key high frequency indicators are provided below:

Summary of Results	2022 Target	Total UNICEF Results in 2022
EC-01 - ECAR - Health		
1. Number of caregivers and frontline professionals (healthcare, social workers, teachers) provided with PPE	40,239	63,594 ⁱ
2. Number of children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	343,600	106,056 ⁱⁱ
3. Number of children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles	610,000	449,244
4. Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in IPC	10,618	28,712 ⁱⁱⁱ
EC-02 - ECAR - Nutrition		
1. Number of primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling	887,000	636,682
EC-03 - ECAR - Water, Sanitation and hygiene (WASH)		

1. Number of children use safe, appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	273,800	32,060 ⁱⁱ
2. Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies	667,530	604,977
EC-04 - ECAR – Child Protection, GBV & PSEA^{iv}		
1. Number of children [and caregivers] accessing MHPSS	869,200	864,462
2. Number of people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers	672,000	637,239
3. Number of women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	58,000	148,529
EC-05 - ECAR – Education		
1. Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	4,963,205	1,802,851
2. Number of parents/caregivers of children under 5 receiving ECD counselling and/or parenting support	186,500	95,986 ⁱⁱ
3. Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)	43,155	54,403
4. Number of teachers trained in delivering digital, distance, and blended learning	62,900	70,496
EC-06 - ECAR – Social Protection & Cash Transfers		
1. Number of households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and funding	462,000	2,252,447 ⁱ
EC-07 - ECAR – SBC, Community Engagement & Accountability		
1. Number of people engaged in RCCE actions	11,699,800	2,867,074 ⁱⁱ
2. Number of people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	23,780,000	21,732,178

i) In Uzbekistan, results for Health, exceeded through the procurement of PPE for immunization staff to address increased need and for Social Protection result exceeded as children in low-income families received one-off cash transfer to protect them from the shock caused by the liberalisation of prices of wheat and flour in May 2022

ii) Results remained low against targets due to limited funding received as well as changes in COVID-19-related needs as the situation normalized and many national measures and restrictions were lifted during the second quarter.

iii) Result exceeded Georgia through the establishment of youth hygiene clubs who are reaching peers on IPC.

iv) Result exceeded in Child Protection services with the use of online modality of intervention.

IV. Results achieved from Humanitarian Thematic Funding



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

The humanitarian thematic funding was instrumental in responding to the emergency situation in **Kyrgyzstan**, following the displacement of people including about 80,000 children during the conflict along the border of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in September 2022. UNICEF trained 145 social pedagogues of affected districts in Batken, Leilek and Kadakmjai districts to provide psychosocial support to children and adolescents. In addition, UNICEF improved the water supply and washing points in 5 education institutions providing WASH services to 6,700 students and approximately 100 internally displaced people still residing in two of those institutions.

In **Armenia**, global humanitarian thematic funding was used to equip the country office with measures to provide timely emergency response. This included enhancing staff capacity on emergency preparedness and response, prepositioning critical supplies, establishing contingency partnerships, as per regular UNICEF procedures and respond to occurring emergency situations. In September, UNICEF equipped safe rooms (temporary shelters) in 20 border villages in Syunik and Gegharkunik regions with generators, first aid kits, blankets, sleeping bags and mats, hygiene kits and recreational kits, including ECD kits. UNICEF also continued to support the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) in developing its in-depth needs assessment tool for affected populations and to operationalize this assessment in affected communities. UNICEF prioritized addressing high-risk cases to avoid long term consequences on children's psychological and personal wellbeing. In particular, immediate case management and direct support for urgent child protection cases, including psycho-social support, was provided to approximately 100 families in extremely vulnerable situations. In December, UNICEF provided school and ECD kits, school bags with learning materials and vouchers for warm clothing for approximately 300 school children and 600 preschool age children, who extended their stay in Armenia as a result of the situation in the Lachin corridor. UNICEF was the first responder for management of child protection cases and support for winter clothing.

In **Kazakhstan**, the thematic funding was used to provide response to vulnerable children and families affected by the civil unrest in January 2022. UNICEF, in partnership with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Akimat of Almaty city, provided 500 food and hygiene kits to affected families with children in Almaty city. Kits with groceries and hygiene essentials were provided to large and low-income families including those who had family members with disabilities. 380 children benefitted from school kits, which were provided to pre-school and school age children large and low-income families, children with disabilities, children left without parental care and children affected by migration in Almaty city.

UNICEF in partnership with civil society organization "Kenes" in Almaty city reached over 300 women and children through individual case management services. 600 women and children were provided with domestic violence prevention support through social patronage. More than 800 women and children benefitted from health, social and economic protection services and discrimination and violence prevention interventions and approximately 1,700 women and children accessed protective services. With the Human Rights Commissioner, UNICEF also trained 114 experts in closed-facility child rights monitoring and 20 justice professionals in protecting children's rights after contact with law enforcement during crisis. In parallel, with UNICEF support, a study analysing the legal framework regarding the protection of children in contact with the law in case of state of emergency was done and provides recommendations to address gaps and improve child protection system in civil unrest situations, crisis and emergencies.

UNICEF and the Scientific Practical Institute for Paediatrics and Child Surgery strengthened capacities of 30 trainers in Almaty city on the Universal Progressive Model of the Home-Visiting services and of 40 doctors, nurses and social workers working in Primary Health Care level in Turkestan region on emergency preparedness and identification of the family vulnerabilities to crisis. UNICEF in partnership with WHO, Magnificent Mei and Friends Comic 1, rolled out the Helping Adolescents Thrive (HAT) initiative to promote social and emotional learning among adolescents aged 10-14. The HAT package was elaborated to equip 1,540 school psychologists from 1,392 schools of seven regions with dedicated tools, and materials to promote adolescent mental health and wellbeing, and resilience. UNICEF has also supported the analysis of legislation on children in emergencies to provide the recommendations on strengthening the child protection system in civil unrest situations, crisis and emergencies.

In **Azerbaijan**, the thematic funding was used to enhance capacity on emergency preparedness and response with dedicated technical capacity to support the emergency preparedness and an Explosive Ordinance Risk Education Programme (EORE), which continues to be a priority life-saving activities for children in coordination with the Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Science and Education

and The National Mina Action Agency of Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA). In addition, preparations are ongoing to conduct risk analysis, enhancing national local capacities on provision of child protection services and assessment of social protection readiness for humanitarian cash transfer.

Humanitarian Thematic Funding Case Studies

CASE STUDY: KAZAKHSTAN — Universal Progressive Home Visiting System

Top-level results: With global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF and the Scientific Practical Institute for Paediatrics and Child Surgery assessed and updated the Universal Progressive Home Visiting System (UPHVS) in Almaty City for emergency preparedness and response, to better identify and respond to specific vulnerabilities of families with young children to crises and emergency situations. Seventy health and social welfare workers from Almaty city and Turkestan region were trained on the updated UPHVS. A total of 350 families in the impoverished and crisis-affected Turkestan region were identified as eligible for emergency supplies procured with UNICEF's support.

Issue/background: The universal progressive model of patronage (home-visiting) services for pregnant women and early childhood is a blended model that combines the advantages of a universal model where all pregnant women and young children are visited, and a targeted model that focuses on high-risk population groups with special needs due to medical or psychosocial risks. Although in 2019, it was introduced at the primary health care (PHC) level in all regions of Kazakhstan with UNICEF support, and is regulated by the standard for the organization of paediatric care adopted by the Ministry of Health, not all PHC facilities could adhere to the national standards due to an insufficient level of comprehensive per capita standard and the lack of capacity building, which was limited during the COVID-19 pandemic. There was no up-to-date information and data on the overall capacity of patronage nurses to identify and provide adequate support to vulnerable families, in particular during emergencies.

The 2022 January protests in Kazakhstan resulted in the declaration of a state of emergency in the country, and together with the escalation of war in Ukraine, demonstrated the increased vulnerability of some families with children to crises caused by internal and external conflicts. UPHVS includes an assessment of the socio-economic situation of families with the subsequent solution to identified problems based on an intersectoral approach. Considering the January events and given the likelihood of natural disasters and emergency situations, patronage nurses are well placed to help identify families with increased vulnerability in crisis situations, strengthen the resilience of families with young children in crisis situations, including by providing the necessary knowledge and skills, and provide direct assistance to vulnerable families when a crisis strikes.

Resources required/allocated: Global thematic funding of US\$68,000 was used to achieve results for vulnerable families and children under the UPHVS strengthening intervention.

Progress and results: Using the global thematic humanitarian funds, UNICEF partnered with the Scientific Practical Institute for Paediatrics and Child Surgery to assess and update the UPHVS in Turkestan region and Almaty City, with particular attention given to emergency preparedness and response. Considering January's civil unrest and its impact on vulnerable families, UPHVS capacities to strengthen the resilience of families with young children to emergencies was assessed. The results and recommendation of the study are available and will be validated by the Ministry of Health and all regional Health Departments by April 2023.

In January 2022, in Almaty, 30 trainers were trained on UPHVS by UNICEF and the National Institute for Paediatrics and Child Surgery. Particular attention in the training was paid to the readiness of the UPHVS for crises and emergency situations. Participants improved their knowledge on early childhood development, child complementary feeding and nutrition, healthy attachment development between the parents and the child, fathers' involvement in the care and upbringing of children, child well-being, creating a safe environment for children in emergency situations, and preventing injuries and violence. In addition, participants developed and improved communication skills, learned how to reduce stigma and discrimination against families in difficult life situations, as well as the timely involvement of specialists from education, emergencies, internal affairs and other sectors to assist families with children. The trainers were able to support the capacity building of PHC workers in Almaty region along

with enhanced supervision and monitoring, with a new focus on emergency preparedness and response.

In February 2023, UNICEF supported the Public Health Department in Turkestan region to train 40 doctors, nurses and social workers working in PHC on the overall patronage and care of pregnant women and young children. Participants were equipped with approaches to support the work of patronage nurses in emergency situations to assess and respond to child and family vulnerabilities.

Following that training, 150 families were provided with counselling on child safety in emergencies in Turkestan region. In addition, 350 families with approximately 1,225 children in Turkestan region received sanitary and hygiene kits.

Criticality and value addition: Considering that only health workers can visit households on a routine basis, UPHVS is a strategic entry point to strengthen family resilience to shocks, crises, and emergencies. By reviewing the UPHVS package of interventions to include emergency preparedness and response, and by training trainers and frontline workers, UNICEF contributed to stronger national capacities to better identify and support vulnerable families in case of an emergency, along with direct provision of emergency supplies.

Challenges and lessons learned: The advantages of the UPHVS model are its universality (coverage of all pregnant women and young children) and additional attention to high-risk groups. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the system worked intermittently, which negatively affected young child survival and development. Taking into account the risks of natural disasters, economic and other crises, strengthening the patronage system in terms of preparing families for emergencies is a key element of society's resilience in crises and emergencies.

The proactive intersectoral approach promoted by UPHVS raised some concerns. The issue of family vulnerability and poverty is politically very sensitive for local authorities who fear punitive measures if seen to be performing poorly. In addition, vulnerable families fear being stigmatized. Clear algorithms of intersectoral work with families need to be strengthened and endorsed by all government sectors involved.

Moving forward: Outcomes of the UPHVS assessment and integration of emergency preparedness and response into the UPHVS model at the national level is under validation process by the Ministry of Health. UNICEF will pursue dialogue and provide technical support at national level to ensure sustainable integration of emergency preparedness and response into the UPHVS, along with enhanced cross-sectoral business process for the benefit of vulnerable families and children.

V. Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

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

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

UNICEF ensured that progress in emergency response was achieved through a systematic and coherent organization-wide approach that is embedded in existing organizational processes and systems. UNICEF invested in capacity development for AAP and made it an integral part of good quality programming in development and humanitarian situations.

VI. Financial Analysis

At the end of December 2022, UNICEF's programme response was funded at US\$ 27 million (42 percent) against the regional 2022 Humanitarian Action for children (HAC) of US\$ 64.6 million (US\$ 58.6 million for COVID-19 response and US\$ 6 million for emergency preparedness and DRR support).

Generous, important contributions were received from the European Commission (EC), United States Agency for International Development's - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID's BHA), Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration (BPRM), the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), the Central

Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Government of Japan, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom. The UNICEF National Committees in France, Sweden, Slovakia, Switzerland and the Netherlands provided invaluable, flexible thematic contributions. This enabled UNICEF to support children and families affected by COVID-19 as well as other emergencies occurring in the ECA region.

At country level, UNICEF coordinated closely with other UN agencies, particularly the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the IFRC, national Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, government partners and line ministries, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and civil society organisations (CSOs) to address the impact of emergencies on children and their families. Together with its partners, UNICEF worked to develop and implement strategic actions to alleviate the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies.

In 2023, UNICEF will need to sustain efforts to address and alleviate the direct impacts of emergencies on vulnerable children and families as well as to enhance emergency preparedness, response and DRR capacities of government and partners in the ECA region.

The table below shows the funding status against HAC 2022 appeal by sectors/areas. The “Funds Received” and “Carry-Over” columns reflects overall amounts including cost recovery.

Table 1: Funding status against the appeal by sector⁵

Sector	Total Requirements 2022	Humanitarian Received in 2022	Other Resources Received in 2022	Carry-Forward from 2021	Funding Gap in 2022	Funding Gap in 2022 (%)
Nutrition	4,150,880	-	17,182	85,810	4,047,888	98%
Health	11,751,800	91,871	2,716,365	4,746,718	4,196,847	36%
WASH	9,791,000	272,290	208,537	862,776	8,447,397	86%
Child Protection, GBVie & PSEA	7,250,000	270,000	1,002,452	1,042,162	4,935,386	68%
Education	8,409,000	303,000	2,991,781	4,734,255	379,964	5%
Cross Sectoral (C4D, ECD, specialised GBVie)	9,940,000	267,498	529,753	2,970,644	6,172,105	62%
Social Protection	7,339,000	340,000	813,414	768,955	5,416,631	74%
Preparedness, Response and DRR	5,350,000	532,071	220,439	738,629	3,858,861	72%
RO Technical Support	650,000	268,540	-	381,460	-	-
Total	64,631,680	2,345,270	8,499,923	16,331,408	37,455,079	58%

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

Recipient Office	Donor	Grant	Programmable Amount (US \$)*
I. Humanitarian Funds received in 2022			
a. Thematic Humanitarian Funds – See details in Table 3			
		SM 189910	428,815
		SM 229910	956,000
Total Thematic Humanitarian Funds			1,384,815
b. Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds			
Albania	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	SM220236	168,000
Albania	Global Support Germany	SM220816	59,000
Croatia	Slovenska Fundacija za UNICEF	SM220294	27,196
Georgia	International On-line Donations	SM220898	36,871

⁵ The funding information presented in table 1 is adjusted in line to the resources used by countries in 2022 and differs from the Europe and Central Asia end year situation report 2022.

Kazakhstan	International On-line Donations	SM220899	12,498
Kyrgyzstan	UNOCHA	SM220761	157,290
Republic of Montenegro	French Committee for UNICEF	KM220042	2,000
Romania	UNICEF-Romania	SM220251	5,065
ECARO, Switzerland	FCDO	SM170463	354,555
ECARO, Switzerland	USA USAID	SM210664	190,133
Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds			1,012,608
c. Pooled Funding			
Total Pooled Funding			
d. Other Types of Humanitarian Funds			
Total Other Types of Humanitarian Funds			N/A
Total Humanitarian Funds received in 2022 (a+b+c+d)			2,207,290
II. Carry-over of Humanitarian Funds available in 2021			
e. Carry-over of Thematic Humanitarian Funds			
Total carry-over of Thematic Humanitarian Funds			
Serbia	Global Thematic	SM189910	8,367
Total:			8,367
f. Carry-over of Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds			
Albania	USA USAID	SM210696	671,082
Armenia	UK CSSF (through UNDP)	SM210579	20,353
Armenia	USA (State) BPRM	SM210608	664,830
Armenia	Swiss Committee for UNICEF	SM210633	12,437
Armenia	Government of Japan	SM210056	51,425
Georgia	USA USAID	SM210695	733,009
Georgia	USA USAID	SM210749	386,047
Bosnia and Herzegovina	USA USAID	SM210744	1,046,166
Kazakhstan	USA USAID	SM210386	135,500
Kosovo	Netherlands	SM210788	81,570
Serbia	UNICEF Serbia	SM210875	165,932
Moldova	USA USAID	SM210694	1,047,068
N.Macedonia	USA USAID	SM210699	1,087,888
N.Macedonia	United Nations Multi Partner Trust	SM210034	142,165
Tajikistan	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance	SM210664	160,646
Turkmenistan	UNDP USA	SM210852	462,963
Uzbekistan	USA USAID	SM210757	1,266,000
Total carry-over of Humanitarian Funds available in 2022 (e+f)			5,584,785
III. Other Sources			
g. Other Regular Resources			
Albania	USA USAID	SC220058	1,854,207
Albania	SDG Earthquake Romania	SC190784	49,063
Azerbaijan	Global Thematic Education	SC189904	55,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	USA USAID	SC210152	3,488,271
Bosnia and Herzegovina	European Commission	SC210010	435,050
Kyrgyzstan	Thematic WASH	SC189906	55,000

Moldova	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	SC210611	146,798
Tajikistan	Global – Water Sanitation & Hygiene THEMATIC FUND	SC189906	39,000
ECARO, Switzerland	Global – Water Sanitation & Hygiene THEMATIC FUND	SC189906	274,496
Total Other Regular Resources			6,149,835
h. Regular Resources			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Non-grant (GC)	Non grant (GC)	19,185
Kyrgyzstan	Non grant (GC)	Non grant (GC)	27,069
Uzbekistan	Non-grant (GC)	Non grant (GC)	15,000
Total Regular Resources			61,254
IV. Carry-over of Other Sources			
i. Carry-over of Other Regular Resources			
Albania	European Commission	SC210010	193,440
Albania	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	SC190784	311,696
Serbia	European Commission	SC210010	541,297
North Macedonia	European Commission	SC210010	383,497
Tajikistan	European Commission	SC200928	392,631
Tajikistan	European Commission	SC200911	3,435,054
Tajikistan	Global WASH Thematic Fund	SC189906	397,000
Turkmenistan	Global WASH Thematic Fund	SC189906	123,610
Total carry-over of Other Regular Resources			5,584,785
Total Other Sources (g+h+i)			11,038,126

Table 3 · Thematic humanitarian contributions received in 2022

Donor	Grant	Programmable Amount (US \$)	Overall Amount (US \$)
Allocation from Global Thematic Humanitarian	SM189910	428,815	458,832
Allocation from Global Thematic Humanitarian	SM229910	956,000	1,022,920
Total		1,384,815	1,481,752

* Programmable amounts of donor contributions, excluding recovery cost.

VII. Future Workplan

In 2023, UNICEF will continue working with country offices, governments and partners to enhance emergency preparedness and response capacities, provide technical assistance and strengthen systems for inclusive, child-sensitive humanitarian action.

The focus will be on scaling up national preparedness for sudden and slow onset emergencies, including disasters triggered by natural and climate-induced hazards, conflict, displacements and epidemics/pandemics; and on delivering life-saving interventions in health, nutrition, education, WASH, child protection, social protection and social and behavioural change. UNICEF will work with authorities and communities to enhance local capacities on DRR and climate change adaptation, mitigate the impacts of disasters, and reinforce linkages between humanitarian and development programmes.

In Central Asia and other subregions, UNICEF will sustain and expand its partnership with the IFRC and Red Crescent Societies, further building the capacities of government and front-line actors through pre-positioning supplies; improving capacities in AAP, WASH and gender in emergencies programming; and promoting school safety and youth engagement. Inter-agency collaboration on preparedness and resilience will continue through co-facilitation of the CADRI regional partnership.

UNICEF will also support national shock responsive social protection systems in Central Asia (including for cash programmes) by strengthening capacities and providing technical assistance for the development of coordination, management, programming, and finance structures to support government social protection responses in emergencies. UNICEF shock responsive social protection capacity development will build on the findings of cash and social protection preparedness assessments, identifying lessons and tools for reforms to the legal, regulatory, policy/strategy, coordination, leadership, staffing, and financing features of the existing social protection system as well as the design features and administrative processes of existing programmes.

Regional surge mechanisms, supply procurement support and early action emergency funds will be supported to enable immediate response to sudden-onset disasters. Interventions will connect resilience and humanitarian efforts within the broader programme areas, integrating GBV risk mitigation, addressing the needs of adolescents, women, girls and children with disabilities in humanitarian settings and enhancing knowledge management and sharing.

UNICEF will engage with Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR)⁶ to advocate for child centred DRR, emergency preparedness and response based on the CCCs. CESDRR will be supported to organize sub regional lessons learned and knowledge management events for UNICEF, the IFRC and partners focusing on child centered emergency preparedness planning, WASH and gender in emergency, AAP and shock responsive social protection.

VIII - Communication and Media

Human Interest Stories:

Albania: [An administrator's office where you can now also address your COVID-19 issues!](#)

Kazakhstan: ["We've got a ticking time bomb right under our belt"](#) How the MedSupport Community of scientists and doctors promotes a responsible approach to health among Kazakh citizens

Kazakhstan: ["Psychological aid in emergencies: A new perspective"](#). About the routine of the psychological service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the importance of a new approach to providing emergency assistance to people with psychoneurological challenges

Kazakhstan: ["We have to be more flexible and cross-functional"](#). The spokesperson for the Almaty Region Health

Press Release:

Bosnia Herzegovina : [Donation of another 20 LCD devices to healthcare facilities and institutions in FBiH](#)

Bosnia Herzegovina: [The youth of Novi Travnik attended professional lecture on COVID-19](#)

Bosnia Herzegovina: [Breastfeeding is optimal for children's growth and development](#)

Azerbaijan: [Protecting communities with life-saving information](#)

Azerbaijan: [No one left behind after the pandemic](#)

Azerbaijan: [Initiative to kick start "Mine and Unexploded Ordnance Awareness" month](#)

Kazakhstan: [UNICEF to provide 500 food kits and school kits for preschool and school age children in Almaty](#)

Department on working with misinformation, acquiring new skills, and the importance of personal development.

Georgia: [Integrating media literacy in formal education.](#)

Georgia: [Youth-led public health campaign launched with UNICEF and USAID support](#)

Uzbekistan: [Expanded access to inclusive education, social services and legal aid in the Surkhandarya region](#)

Uzbekistan [Children need to be at the center of all emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts](#)

⁶ CESDDR is a permanent intergovernmental body, an international organization established to ensure effective mechanisms to decrease the risk of emergencies, to mitigate the consequences, to organize a joint response through agreed measures of the Parties and to stimulate regional and international cooperation. The Center is accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.