Venezuela
Consolidated Emergency Report 2023

Prepared by:
UNICEF Venezuela
March 2024
Expression of thanks

In expressing our heartfelt gratitude, UNICEF Venezuela would also like to emphasize the crucial role of flexible funding, particularly through Global Humanitarian Thematic contributions, in sustaining our humanitarian efforts across the country. These interventions are collaboratively planned with governments, fellow United Nations agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The significance of thematic funding lies in its adaptability to evolving challenges, allowing resources to be allocated where most urgently needed, based on dynamic circumstances on the ground, and the capabilities of partners and stakeholders.

UNICEF’s unwavering commitment to the well-being of all children is made possible through the support of individuals and the voluntary assistance from partners in government, UNICEF National Committees, civil society, and the private sector. Voluntary contributions empower UNICEF to fulfill its mandate, safeguarding children’s rights, addressing fundamental needs, and fostering opportunities for them to realize their full potential. In Venezuela, with the generous backing of the international donor community, UNICEF has been tirelessly providing life-saving assistance to meet pressing humanitarian needs, even in the face of an increasingly challenging operational environment.

It is with profound gratitude that the indispensable role played by donor partners is acknowledged. Without your generous support, UNICEF’s impactful work for the children and people of Venezuela would simply not be feasible. On behalf of all children in Venezuela, our deepest thanks!

¡Muchísimas gracias!
# Table of Contents

Abbreviations And Acronyms................................................................................................................. 4  
Executive Summary ................................................................................................................................. 5  
Humanitarian Context ............................................................................................................................. 6  
Humanitarian Results ............................................................................................................................... 9  
Results Tables............................................................................................................................................ 19  
Results Achieved from Humanitarian Thematic Funding ...................................................................... 21  
Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation ................................................................................................. 24  
Financial Analysis .................................................................................................................................... 25  
Future Work Plan ..................................................................................................................................... 29  
Humanitarian Thematic Funding Case Study ......................................................................................... 32  
Human Interest Stories and Communication Materials ........................................................................ 35
Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAP   Accountability to Affected Populations
AoR   Area of Responsibility
CCD   Care for Child Development
CEED  Climate, Environment, Energy, and Disaster Risk Reduction
C4D   Communication for Development
CPD   Country Programme Document
CSO   Civil Society Organization
DP    Disaster Preparedness
DR    Disaster Response
EPI   Expanded Programme on Immunization
GbV   Gender-based Violence
GAM   Global Acute Malnutrition
GAVI  The Vaccine Alliance
HCF   Healthcare Facilities
HCT   Humanitarian Cash Transfers
HIV   Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HWTS  Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage
INN   National Institute of Nutrition
IPC   Infection Prevention Control
IYCF  Infant and Young Child Feeding
LLECE Latin American Laboratory for the Evaluation of Quality Education
MAM   Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MHPSS Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MNCH  Maternal, Newborn, and Child
MoE   Ministry of Education
MoH   Ministry of Health
MoW   Ministry of Water
MUAC  Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
NGO   Non-Governmental Organization
PAHO  The Pan American Health
PEP   Post-exposure Prophylaxis
PLW   Pregnant and Lactating Women
PSEA  Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RCCE  Risk Communication and Community Engagement
R4V   Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela
SAM   Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBC   Social and Behavior Change
ToT   Training of Trainers
WASH  Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
In alignment with the Humanitarian Action Plan (HAC) and inter-agency appeals, UNICEF Venezuela continued its steadfast efforts to address the multifaceted challenges faced by children and vulnerable communities across the country amidst ongoing economic instability, sociopolitical tensions, and climate-related hazards. To address these dire needs, UNICEF Venezuela continued to pursue a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach, emphasizing geographic convergence to effectively reach the most vulnerable, including adolescents, children with disabilities, and indigenous communities. Strong partnerships were forged with government authorities, NGOs, CSOs, and others to enhance service delivery and community resilience.

Flexible funding mechanisms, including thematic funds, played a pivotal role in enabling UNICEF’s swift response to emergent needs, ensuring the provision of vital services to vulnerable populations. The integration of regular development programmes strengthened emergency response efforts, facilitating sustainable outcomes for children and local communities. Despite significant achievements, challenges persisted, including funding gaps and logistical hurdles. However, these challenges underscored the importance of adaptive approaches and collaboration to overcome barriers in humanitarian settings.

Throughout the year, UNICEF Venezuela provided vital support to children and communities across the country. This included facilitating pediatric consultations for children under 5, particularly reaching out to those from indigenous communities and children with disabilities. Additionally, a significant number of children and caregivers received essential case management support and were referred to specialized child protection programmes. Moreover, UNICEF contributed to life-saving Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services, benefiting a substantial number of children, and enhancing community resilience through disease-prevention practices. Lessons learned emphasized the criticality of community engagement, resilience-building, and the integration of child rights frameworks into humanitarian action. UNICEF Venezuela’s commitment to upholding the child rights normative framework remained unwavering, guiding all interventions towards ensuring the well-being and protection of every child in Venezuela.

In 2023, UNICEF appealed for a total of US$223,374,000 to address the urgent humanitarian needs in Venezuela. Thanks to generous contributions from partners, the appeal was funded at roughly 46 per cent by the end of the year. This includes flexible emergency funding from both public and private partners, which allowed UNICEF to respond to the most pressing needs of 1.2 million people in Venezuela, including over 780,000 children, from January to December 2023.
Humanitarian Context

Following a modest stabilization in 2022, Venezuela experienced a deceleration in economic growth during 2023. According to ECLAC estimates, the economic growth rate for 2023 stood at 3.0 per cent, a significant drop from the 12 per cent recorded in 2022.\(^1\) Hyperinflation surged to 189.8\(^2\) per cent, leaving the country with the highest nominal food inflation globally at 281 per cent YoY\(^3\). Consequently, as of December 2023, Venezuelans now need 154 minimum monthly wages to afford a basic food basket valued at US$555\(^4\). Local studies indicate that nearly 70 per cent of the population is grappling with multi-dimensional poverty\(^5\), and approximately 270,000 children under three years of age are living in extreme poverty\(^6\). Only 9 per cent of households enjoy food security, while 22 per cent are facing varying degrees of food insecurity\(^7\).

The repercussions of climate change have intensified the challenges faced by those most vulnerable within Venezuela. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, Venezuela ranks as the fourth most vulnerable country to climate-related disasters and crises\(^8\). The rainy season in 2023 exceeded historical averages\(^9\), with the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology reporting over 34 extreme rainstorms through the country by October 2023, impacting homes and public infrastructure. Approximately 723,000 people are at risk of flooding, while 2.2 million people face the potential impact of landslides.\(^10\) Notably, states such as Bolívar and Táchira experienced the adverse effects of flooding, affecting nearly 2,000 homes and public facilities\(^11\). Apart from heavy rains and floods, the country is highly exposed to other natural hazards such as earthquakes and droughts.

---

\(^10\) NASA, Earth Data, 2023, available at https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/learn/find-data
Public infrastructure deterioration limits access to essential supplies and the exodus of health professionals continues to strain the capacity of the healthcare system. Despite efforts, achieving optimal immunization coverage has not been feasible. Challenges such as early pregnancies, irregular antenatal consultations, infectious diseases, and complications during pregnancy or childbirth pose significant threats to the well-being of newborns and mothers, especially within indigenous communities. National estimates indicate that over 500,000 children and 150,000 pregnant women lack access to primary healthcare, including childbirth services by skilled professionals and pediatric consultations in prioritized states. The cumulative impact of these factors on children and women is escalating, with approximately 9.5 per cent of infants born with a low birthweight. Additionally, the prevalence of stunting in children is at 10.5 per cent\(^{12}\), while 24.2 per cent of women aged 15–19 are affected by anaemia\(^{13}\). Moreover, early pregnancies further jeopardize the survival of newborns and mothers, with a pregnancy rate of 82 births per every 1,000 15–19-year-old woman in 2023, more than twice the regional rate, which stands at 36.9.\(^{14}\)

Venezuelan children encounter added difficulties in terms of education and protection. A staggering 1.4 million children are out of school, with at least 1 million facing an imminent risk of dropping out\(^ {15}\). This situation significantly hampers opportunities for complete development in environments that are healthy, safe, inclusive, respectful, and free. The mental health and psychosocial well-being of children and adolescents are also increasingly threatened. In 2023, a concerning 89 per cent of victims of rape and sexual exploitation were children and adolescents\(^ {16}\), with the highest level of suicide intentions in this age group over the past seven years\(^ {17}\). Exposed to escalating levels of violence and distress, children and adolescents face growing protection risks. Notably, in 2022, 1,390 Venezuelan women, including 284 girls, were rescued from human trafficking networks\(^ {18}\). The Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) estimates indicate that over 7.7 million people have migrated in recent years\(^ {19}\), leaving numerous children and adolescents behind, who are all (particularly young


\(^{13}\) The percentage of low-weight births (less than 2500 g) increased from 8.7 per cent to 9.5 per cent between 2003 and 2017. Source: Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and WHO, Health in the Americas+, Country profile: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), available at https://hia.paho.org/en/countries-22/venezuela-country-profile

\(^{14}\) PAHO, Tablero de los indicadores básicos, 2023, available at https://.opendata.paho.org/es/indicadores-basicos/tablero-de-los-indicadores-basicos#country-profile

\(^{15}\) Statistics from ENCOVI (2022) and EHM-MPPP (2019) analyzed by the Education Cluster.


\(^{18}\) Mulier Venezuela, #LibresYSeguras, Venezolanas rescatadas de redes de trata, 2023, available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K_1docDiswv3Z9TaIbrz2ugQ9hB-6L/view

women) at risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse. Over the last two years, an estimated one million people have returned\textsuperscript{20}, necessitating substantial support for social reintegration, especially in regard to access to education and other essential services.

Despite attempts to restore social infrastructure, deficiencies persist in delivering public and social goods and services. Approximately 4.3 million individuals are in need of safe water\textsuperscript{21}, with studies indicating that merely 27 per cent of hospitals have continuous access to water\textsuperscript{22}. Furthermore, only 45 per cent of the population has access to waste collection at least twice per week\textsuperscript{23}, falling below the Pan-American Health Organization’s (PAHO) recommended frequency.

\begin{flushleft}

\textsuperscript{21} WASH Cluster estimate 2022–2023

\textsuperscript{22} Médicos por la Salud, Encuesta Nacional de Hospitales, 2023, available at https://www.encuestanacionaldehospitales.com/_files/ugd/0f3ae5_5d7ac65057db4068a090ce5373dc34e1.pdf

\textsuperscript{23} According to a survey implemented in 12 states. See https://www.observatoriovsp.org/ovsp-64-valoro-positivamente-el-aseo-urbano-pero-persisten-deficiencias-en-frecuencias-y-costos/
\end{flushleft}
Rosibel Mercado, UNICEF WASH Officer, teaches handwashing techniques to children from a school during an inspection visit to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Infrastructure Rehabilitation work carried out by UNICEF in the State’s schools.

Humanitarian results
In 2023, UNICEF expanded the accessibility of crucial lifesaving Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) services by implementing a community-based approach. UNICEF also reinforced staff capabilities and improved the availability of essential supplies and equipment, and renovated facilities to ensure an effective care pathway and referral system. These initiatives successfully improved maternal healthcare, reducing the risk of pregnancy and childbirth complications, and lowering maternal and infant mortality rates. Notably, health centers prioritized by UNICEF in Bolívar state reported a significant 47 per cent decline in maternal mortality (193 cases in 2022 compared to 102 in 2023) and a 29 per cent decrease in neonatal mortality (from 24 in 2022 to 17 until November 2023) during the period from 2022 to 2023.

UNICEF collaborated closely with the Venezuelan Government to enhance MNCH policies and regulations, alongside nutritional initiatives. A milestone achievement involved the successful update of the National Regulations for Pediatric Care, a development not seen since 2002. Simultaneously, a capacity-building strategy was crafted to standardize childcare practices across urban and rural areas. The scope of support extended to 345 healthcare facilities (253 primary care centres and 92 hospitals), impacting nearly 90% of the indigenous communities in the country (38 out of 44).

UNICEF utilized a hospital boat to reach Warao and other indigenous communities in remote areas of Delta Amacuro state. The boat facilitated evacuations and ensured that 720 indigenous patients received critical management for risk conditions. Leveraging Technology for Development (T4D), UNICEF improved the radio communication system in the region, connecting hard-to-reach communities with the hospital boat and primary healthcare systems. UNICEF Venezuela also fortified referral systems and aided logistics for outreach health teams.

An integrated approach in primary health care settings and referral hospitals was also supported by UNICEF, providing antenatal care for 86,392 pregnant women (42 per cent adolescents and 6 per cent belonging to indigenous communities) and supporting 97,926 women during both normal and complicated deliveries. UNICEF neonatology centers administered intensive care to 8,981 newborns.

Notably, in 2023, UNICEF facilitated pediatric consultations for 317,065 children under five (154,232 boys and 153,767 girls), including 27,069 children from indigenous communities and 126 children with disabilities. UNICEF also played a pivotal role in pediatric health, supplying antiretrovirals and conducting pediatric consultations for over 1,000 children and adolescents living with HIV. UNICEF Venezuela procured rapid HIV/syphilis tests for diagnosis during prenatal consultations reaching 69,005 pregnant women, as well as antiretrovirals (ARVs) for application during obstetric delivery and for exposed babies.
Additionally, UNICEF Venezuela initiated improvements in 43 health care facilities (comprising of 14 hospitals and 29 primary health care facilities) and implemented a comprehensive capacity-building strategy, in collaboration with specialized consultants, universities and other academic institutions. Through this strategy, UNICEF trained 7,312 health workers in various aspects of care, including maternal, pediatric, and neonatal care protocols; adolescent care; HIV management; cold chain maintenance; warehouse management; infection prevention and control (IPC); early childhood development; mental health and psychosocial attention in emergencies; data management; and emergency response.

In 2023, UNICEF continued supporting people affected by the 2022 flooding and landslides in Las Tejerías. In collaboration with CECODAP, (which is comprised of local Community Learning Centers focused on the rights of children and adolescents) UNICEF offered post-trauma mental health services to 494 affected individuals. The initiative reached 42 children under five (26 girls and 16 boys), 370 adolescents (177 girls and 193 boys), and 82 health personnel and teachers (54 women and 28 men). Additionally, 6,627 students (3,248 boys and 3,379 girls) benefitted from socioemotional and psychosocial activities.

In 2023, UNICEF Venezuela also intensified efforts to secure vaccine supplies, collaborating with PAHO and GAVI to secure US$ 28 million to ensure availability of the eight essential vaccines and supplies for Venezuela’s Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) for the 2023-2024 period. The initiative aimed to address critical vaccine needs, with over 1.6 million doses of essential vaccines donated and over 329,000 children (157,920 girls and 171,080 boys) and 477,000 pregnant women reached.

In its role as the leading entity responsible for managing the cold chain interventions ensuring secure storage of vaccines in Venezuela, UNICEF took charge of procuring, establishing, and maintaining 800 refrigerators, 100 freezers, 7 walk-in cold rooms, 9 electrical generators, and 14 devices for remote temperature monitoring throughout the year.

In 2023, the inconsistent data reporting from healthcare centers hindered well-informed planning and programming for effective and targeted interventions. To address this issue, UNICEF Venezuela intervened by training healthcare personnel in data collection and supplied them with the necessary technological equipment to enhance reporting capabilities. Furthermore, UNICEF offered regular opportunities for skills development, turning these training sessions into motivating incentives for healthcare staff while simultaneously enhancing the quality of maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent care services.
In 2023, UNICEF advocated for the implementation of public nutrition policies aimed at reducing maternal and child malnutrition in alignment with the “Venezuela Free of Nutritional Vulnerability Plan”, developed by the National Institute of Nutrition (INN). UNICEF also played a role in supporting the adoption and execution of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes.

Collaborating with INN and the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNICEF worked to enhance both the accessibility and quality of essential life-saving nutrition services. These services targeted the prevention, early detection, and treatment of various forms of malnutrition in early childhood, employing a community-based approach. Simultaneously, UNICEF Venezuela conducted a capacity-building strategy, reaching more than 4,983 health professionals in 245 health centers across 18 municipalities (in 10 states). This initiative also extended to 3,704 health promoters and caregivers. The training focused on the Family Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) initiative, emphasizing counseling, early detection, and referral procedures for cases of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM). UNICEF facilitated over 265,138 counseling activities for caregivers of children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women, with an emphasis on promoting exclusive breastfeeding until six months and introducing appropriate complementary feeding thereafter. Furthermore, UNICEF enhanced nutrition for antenatal care, providing iron and folic acid supplementation to 158,755 pregnant and lactating women. Counseling on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) topics was also integrated into these services to enhance overall nutritional well-being.

UNICEF, in collaboration with INN, the MoH, and its implementing partner, facilitated nutritional screening for over 431,055 children below the age of 5 (231,055 in prioritized states). This effort led to the admission of 18,725 children diagnosed with GAM for nutritional treatment, indicating an incidence rate of 8.1%, as opposed to the 6.6% recorded in 2022. INN also conducted screenings for an additional 200,000 children under five at the national level, predominantly in non-prioritized states, resulting in the admission of 247 children with undernutrition for treatment. By implementing an enhanced capacity building programme for case monitoring and reporting, UNICEF raised the nutritional recovery rate among the 15,817 children aged 6–59 months who were discharged as recovered from nutritional recovery spaces. This achievement demonstrated an efficiency of 89.3% according to the Sphere indicator, a notable improvement from the 69% recorded in 2022.

In order to enhance the quality of services provided, UNICEF Venezuela took steps to improve access to crucial life-saving supplies, specifically nutritional products. This initiative was implemented in 32 hospitals across 18 states, focusing on the inpatient treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Moreover, regular provision of nutritional products was extended to 426 outpatient services at the national level. UNICEF also rehabilitated health centers in 10 municipalities within four prioritized states (Bolívar, Miranda, Distrito Capital, and Sucre) to bolster the capacity for critical nutrition services.

Finally, in collaboration with the MoH, INN, and the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF played a pivotal role in supporting the “Nurturing with Awareness in Schools” plan. This initiative was strategically designed to enhance and promote healthy, nutritious, safe, affordable, and sustainable feeding practices for children and adolescents within communities and schools.
In 2023, UNICEF enhanced the accessibility and continuity of education for children and adolescents by creating educational models. These models were adopted by national authorities, leading to the development of public policy. UNICEF collaborated with the MoE, offering technical assistance and partnering with civil society organizations (CSOs) on initiatives like “Nos Vemos en la Escuela” (“See You at School”), a programme aimed at reintegrating 3,279 out-of-school children (1,502 girls and 1,777 boys) into formal education. Additionally, UNICEF distributed educational materials to 130,618 children (66,436 girls and 64,182 boys), enhancing overall educational access. Furthermore, UNICEF actively supported the provision and setup of technological equipment, such as computers, tablets, and videobeams, to facilitate digital education.

Leveraging its technical expertise, UNICEF Venezuela bolstered the MoE’s institutional capabilities and championed the cause of learning recovery. Consequently, the MoE endorsed a National Temporary Strategic Plan designed to enhance primary education through a catch-up programme for out-of-school children, a project previously executed by UNICEF and its partners. This plan, tailored to align with the primary education curriculum, is set to be implemented nationwide in schools from January 2024 onward, enhancing learning outcomes for over 2,700,000 students.

In partnership with the MoE, UNICEF played a key role in formulating an accelerated education curriculum designed to assist out-of-school adolescents in acquiring essential skills to successfully complete primary education. This educational initiative also aims to provide them with an official certification, paving the way for their progression to secondary education. Additionally in 2023, UNICEF actively facilitated Venezuela’s participation in the Latin American Laboratory for the Evaluation of Quality Education (LLECE). This involved the preparation and testing of an assessment tool for regional learning levels. Furthermore, UNICEF supported LLECE’s provision of technical assistance to enhance the MoE’s Venezuelan Observatory for the Quality of Education and contributed to the review of the primary education curriculum.

In the realm of early childhood education, UNICEF provided training in 2023 to over 400 frontline workers and technical staff from the the MoE, INN, Protection Councils, and the MoH in 10 states. The training focused on the Care for Child Development (CCD) approach. In adolescent development and participation, UNICEF advocated for the adoption of its Expression and Innovation Kit by the MoE. This kit emphasizes life skills development and was tailored to fit the Venezuelan context. Currently, it is being utilized in secondary schools nationwide, benefiting 398,400 adolescents (209,800 girls and 188,600 boys).

Throughout the year, UNICEF prepared a plan to enhance the skills of educators and specialists in catering to the educational needs of children with disabilities. This initiative involved training 109 teachers across six states in effective strategies for teaching, reading, and writing to children facing disabilities. Additionally, UNICEF, in collaboration with the MoE, orchestrated workshops focusing on Universal Learning Design and the Braille language. In a further effort, UNICEF supported the International Seminar on Inclusive Education, which aimed to raise awareness about this Global Framework and share success stories from the region. The seminar garnered participation from over 6,000 individuals through YouTube, with 98 people (86 women and 12 men) attending in person.

24 For more information, see https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/reports/care-child-development-ccd
25 For more information, see https://www.adolescentkit.org/
In 2023, UNICEF’s WASH initiative expanded the availability of safe, equitable, and sustainable WASH services in healthcare facilities, schools and protection centers, as well as urban and rural communities across Venezuela. This was achieved by integrating an IPC approach.

UNICEF’s WASH initiatives established a secure learning environment, leading to a rise in school attendance and retention, ultimately supporting the continuity of education. Collaborating with 19 implementing partners and coordinating effectively with authorities and the WASH and Education Clusters, UNICEF Venezuela improved access to life-saving WASH services and practices for 65,194 children (33,249 girls, 31,945 boys) across 163 schools in 11 states. These interventions encompassed integrated WASH and Climate, Environment, Energy, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CEED) services, incorporating innovations like soap production, solar-powered pumps, chlorinators, biodigesters, and rainwater harvesting. Additionally, capacity building and supply distribution were carried out to facilitate life-saving practices, thereby enhancing community resilience.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Water (MoW), UNICEF facilitated the provision of safe water access to approximately 444,243 individuals (56,651 girls, 54,430 boys, 169,973 women, and 163,289 men) across 8 states. This was accomplished through impactful decentralized water service access initiatives, specifically targeting the rehabilitation of water treatment plants, training in operation and maintenance, and the monitoring of water quality. Furthermore, UNICEF spearheaded four large-scale and three medium-scale water projects, which included five community-based safe water projects. These endeavors implemented resilient and sustainable solutions, resulting in a reduction and prevention of waterborne diseases. The projects also strengthened existing community-based structures related to WASH services management, enhanced water treatment and storage, and advocated for proper hand hygiene practices.

As for healthcare services, UNICEF Venezuela improved IPC in 26 facilities (comprising 14 main hospitals and 12 primary Healthcare Facilities) across 9 states. UNICEF’s WASH initiatives played a pivotal role in sustaining high-quality life-saving health and nutrition services. This involved implementing essential infrastructure rehabilitation, drilling boreholes, deploying electrolytic chlorinators, and repairing water supply systems. Additionally, UNICEF distributed over 1,000 cleaning and hygiene kits, established handwashing points, and provided technical assistance and IPC capacity building for management, doctors, nurses, and operational and maintenance staff. These WASH interventions facilitated over 30,000 safe births with appropriate practices, thereby contributing to the reduction and prevention of maternal and neonatal mortality.

Throughout the year, UNICEF, in collaboration with its implementing partners, provided WASH services and practices in 12 protection centers spanning three states (Bolivar, Distrito Capital, and Miranda), guaranteeing a secure and hygienic setting for 3,577 vulnerable children.
In 2023, UNICEF Venezuela carried out Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) initiatives by integrating them into the Venezuelan child protection system. UNICEF enhanced CPiE strategies in 59 selected municipalities across 9 states and revamped programming in an additional 37 municipalities and on a national scale. Specifically, UNICEF collaborated with civil society and national authorities to deliver specialized services for child protection and gender-based violence (GBV), further build the capabilities of crucial stakeholders at local and national levels, and carry out protection actions based in the community.

UNICEF extended vital support to Municipal Child Protection Councils in identifying, referring, and assisting children who have experienced or are susceptible to violence, abuse, exploitation, family separation, and similar challenges. A total of 106,182 children and caregivers (comprising 46,762 girls, 45,615 boys, 10,223 women, and 3,582 men) received case management assistance and were directed to specialized child protection programmes and alternative family care. Moreover, 60 unaccompanied children and adolescents (34 girls and 26 boys) were provided with family tracing and/or reunification services.

Individual and group psychosocial activities were accessed by 17,427 children and adolescents (comprising 9,335 girls and 8,092 boys), along with 13,805 caregivers (10,223 women and 3,582 men). Additionally, 7,522 individuals (1,826 men and 5,658 women) participated in capacity-building sessions covering topics such as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), as well as preventing family separation and the risks of trafficking. UNICEF also leveraged technology to enhance the effectiveness of the Ombudsman’s Office hotline (0800-Pueblo), making it more efficient in receiving complaints related to child protection services and other matters.

Significant strides were also made in UNICEF Venezuela’s efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to GBV in 2023. A total of 3,123 personnel from child protection, education, health, nutrition, and security sectors underwent a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme, with a particular focus on reinforcing referral pathways and advancing a gender-transformative agenda. Simultaneously, 17,138 individuals (comprising 4,415 girls, 3,591 boys, 6,373 women, and 2,759 men) participated in awareness initiatives such as reflective dialogues, workshops, and other interactive forums.
aimed at empowering girls and fostering positive masculinity among boys. Furthermore, specialized response services for GBV survivors were accessed by 1,676 girls and women, and in collaboration with UNFPA, 8 post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits were distributed, reaching 480 individuals, including children. This outreach covered 26 prioritized health centers in Distrito Capital, Apure, Bolivar, Anzoátegui, Sucre, Tachira, and Zulia.

In 2023, UNICEF also played a key role in guaranteeing the availability of secure and easily accessible avenues for reporting allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. A comprehensive total of 88,812 individuals underwent sensitization activities focused on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and all UNICEF implementing partners in Venezuela disseminated information regarding PSEA along with the corresponding reporting mechanisms.

Key child protection challenges in Venezuela at present involve expanding the reach of relevant specialized services for children and their families. This is hindered by insufficient essential conditions for operation and a decline in service quality. Additionally, the child protection system faces a significant obstacle due to high staff turnover, particularly in municipalities with the highest protection needs and among the most vulnerable populations, including indigenous people and those on the move. Moreover, the allocated funds for child protection continue to be limited.
In 2023, UNICEF enhanced the effectiveness of Social and Behavior Change (SBC) approaches to support various programmes. Active participation from staff, implementing partners, government counterparts, and frontline workers took place in reflection sessions, fostering the sharing of experiences and the acquisition of SBC fundamentals. UNICEF Venezuela facilitated capacity-building opportunities for implementing partners, with 41 individuals (32 women and 9 men) undergoing training in UNICEF’s SBC strategy at the national level. Additionally, 12 participants (9 women and 3 men) engaged in an international SBC seminar in collaboration with UNICEF’s Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office, as well as UNINORTE. Simultaneously, 55 civil society experts participated in technical roundtables focused on standardizing menstrual hygiene management practices at the community level. 670 workers from 18 health facilities also received training in optimal IPC handwashing practices.

Throughout 2023, UNICEF collaborated with implementing partners to share tailored messaging about life-saving practices within the most vulnerable communities. This collaboration complemented programmatic efforts in health, nutrition, education, child protection, and WASH.

Moreover, 577 groups of mothers were formed and participated in a reflective dialogue about antenatal and postnatal health practices. 719 adolescents (432 girls and 287 boys) strengthened their capacities as community promoters and 3,323,847 people received key messages on essential family hygiene practices, household water treatment and safe storage (HWTS), health, nutrition, protection, and education. Lastly, UNICEF Venezuela distributed 125,220 printed and digital materials on topics such as MNCH, breastfeeding, hand hygiene, children rights, and IPC.

UNICEF Venezuela’s strategy for involving community leaders in promoting children’s rights played a pivotal role in enhancing community engagement. A total of 87,907 individuals (55,890 women, 8,572 men, 12,298 girls, and 11,147 boys), which included 13,761 individuals from indigenous communities and 197 people with disabilities, were reached through the efforts of 77 community promoters (74 women and 3 men) across 22 states.
## Results Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>UNICEF and Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan – Dec 2023 target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nutrition</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>young child feeding counselling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children aged 6 to 59 months screened for wasting</td>
<td>510,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children aged 6 to 59 months with severe and moderate acute</td>
<td>35,400&lt;sup&gt;28&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>malnutrition admitted for treatment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children vaccinated against measles</td>
<td>532,627&lt;sup&gt;29&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported</td>
<td>650,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and adolescents living with HIV receiving ART</td>
<td>1,400&lt;sup&gt;32&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant women tested for HIV during prenatal consultations</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<sup>26</sup> UNICEF’s work toward the target was limited by difficulties in systematizing and reporting data, the digital gap, and staff turnover, among other barriers.

<sup>27</sup> UNICEF’s work toward the target was limited by difficulties in systematizing and reporting data, the digital gap, and staff turnover, among other barriers.

<sup>28</sup> This indicator refers to children aged 12-23 months who receive a measles vaccination through UNICEF-supported measles immunization efforts, including technical and operational support for planning and microplanning; development of guidelines; training material; information, education and communication material; capacity building of health-care personnel at various levels; social mobilization and communication; and cold chain system strengthening.

<sup>29</sup> This indicator refers to children aged 12-23 months who receive a measles vaccination through UNICEF-supported measles immunization efforts, including technical and operational support for planning and microplanning; development of guidelines; training material; information, education and communication material; capacity building of health-care personnel at various levels; social mobilization and communication; and cold chain system strengthening.

<sup>30</sup> Available data until September 2023.

<sup>31</sup> The total number represents the sum of 317,301 pediatric consultations and 86,890 birth attentions.

<sup>32</sup> This indicator refers to children and adolescents living with HIV and those exposed to HIV.
### WASH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and</td>
<td>2.3 million</td>
<td>444,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>domestic needs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children use safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>65,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in learning facilities and safe spaces</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with critical WASH supplies</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>132,192</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Child Protection, GBVIE & PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>33,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>health and psychosocial support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation,</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>22,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prevention and/or response interventions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>197,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or reunified</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>3,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children receiving individual learning materials</td>
<td>377,000</td>
<td>130,618</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

33 This indicator refers to people accessing and using new and existing drinking water sources as a result of resilient solutions such as chlorination and/or water systems’ repair/rehabilitation, rather than temporary access including water trucking or distribution of water purification tablets. UNICEF is directly targeting a total of 3,050,000 people (75 per cent of people in need). The target has decreased compared with 2022, because WASH interventions in water supply systems are being increasingly maintained by government authorities with UNICEF’s indirect support in the form of capacity building, technical assistance, and evidence-based advocacy.

34 The number of reached people is directly related to the funds received for this specific component.

35 This indicator refers to children and adolescents accessing and using new and existing drinking water sources in schools or other learning spaces supported by UNICEF. In line with education programme targets, this indicator target has been reduced to sustain assistance in currently supported schools with school feeding and adding others for the implementation of a package of integrated education interventions aimed at improving access and retention, and accelerating learning outcomes.

36 The number of reached people is directly related to the funds received for this specific component.

37 The number of reached people is directly related to the funds received for this specific component.

38 Aligned with UNICEF global standards, specific channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers have been included in all interventions since the beginning of 2022. UNICEF has also increased the efforts to disseminate information at community levels on PSEA and on the existing reporting channels. All UNICEF partners have been trained in PSEA and are currently raising awareness on the existing reporting mechanisms, including the UNICEF supported reporting line (or contact center – línea de contacto / línea de reporte in Spanish). All of these factors contributed to increase the number of people that have access to a safe and accessible SEA reporting channel.

39 This indicator refers to children and adolescents receiving a package of integrated interventions, including learning materials, to improve access to education, but also address the learning losses due to school closures related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic because this is one of the biggest global threats to medium- and long-term recovery from the pandemic. UNICEF has a particular focus on out-of-school children.

40 The complexity of working with this population requires advocacy and technical work with educational authorities, community authorities, and implementing partners for the identification and placement of out-of-school children.

41 The delivery of learning materials was prioritized in the second semester of the year, aligned with the beginning of the school year in Venezuela (October-December).
| | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Children benefitting from balanced school feeding programmes with hygiene standards | 100,000<sup>42</sup> | 8,927<sup>43</sup> |
| Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)) | | |
| People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services | 10 million<sup>44</sup> | 2.5 million |
| People who participate in engagement actions | 130,000 | 248,915<sup>45</sup> |
| People sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms | 229,000 | 28,198 |

<sup>42</sup> Includes children benefitting from balanced school feeding interventions with hygiene standards. The target decreased compared with 2022, because school feeding is increasingly supported by government authorities through the national school feeding programme (in Spanish, PAE) and WFP.

<sup>43</sup> Under the new CPD 2023-2026, school feeding has not been prioritized, thus during the first semester of the year, UNICEF accelerated efforts to discontinue the school feeding programme, while maintaining support to other sector interventions in schools, including WASH. As mentioned in the previous report, UNICEF is not reporting on this indicator during the second semester of the year.

<sup>44</sup> The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.

<sup>45</sup> This indicator target has been met and surpassed due to the effectiveness of social mobilization campaigns, particularly during the World Water Day.
Results Achieved from Humanitarian Thematic Funding
With the support of the Humanitarian Thematic Funds, UNICEF contributed to improving the supply of life-saving health services at the national level, reaching more than 140,000 children under one year of age with 3 essential vaccines that protect against 6 diseases (severe forms of TB in infants, Hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, and invasive diseases due to Hemophilus influenzae type B). This support for the EPI contributed to the increase in vaccine coverage in cases of zero doses or hard-to-reach areas. Through co-financing for logistical support, UNICEF supported the deployment of EPI staff through community outreach activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material description</th>
<th>Number of doses purchased</th>
<th>Number of beneficiaries*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCG vaccine, vial of 20 doses</td>
<td>188,000</td>
<td>150,400**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HepB vaccine, pediatric, vial of 1 dose</td>
<td>95,050</td>
<td>95,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTP-HepB-Hib-10</td>
<td>474,100</td>
<td>142,230***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>757,150</strong></td>
<td><strong>292,630</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*BBCG & Hep B for newborn and DTP-HepB-Hib to provide three doses to children under 1 year old
**20% waste  ***10% waste

UNICEF also contributed to improving the conservation of vaccines programme through:

- Support to ensure optimal storage conditions for some 100,000 vaccines doses and the renting of private additional storage, in response to an emergency situation in the national warehouse, thanks to the immediate response that could be provided with the Humanitarian Thematic Funds.

- The installation of a Cold Room in the Biological Warehouse in the state of Falcón, which ensured a storage capacity of 800,000 vaccine doses, indirectly benefiting some 570,000 people, contributing to the responsiveness of the MoH EPI for the regular storage and distribution of the vaccine programme, and to provide timely responses to emerging public health needs.

The investment from Thematic Funds also facilitated the delivery of integrated and coordinated technical assistance by UNICEF and PAHO to the Ministry of Health. This assistance aimed to restore the functional and logistical capacity of the MoH following the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on routine health programmes and services, including the national immunization programme.
With Humanitarian Thematic Funding, UNICEF Venezuela also continued to strengthen its humanitarian response efforts in order to continue to respond to the humanitarian needs of affected and vulnerable populations in 2023. This was achieved through integrated emergency response and disaster preparedness actions, in which the Humanitarian Thematic Funds played a crucial role by allowing rapid response to emergencies. Humanitarian Thematic Funds also facilitated coordinated work with key actors, especially in hard-to-reach areas, contributing to the consolidation of field presence to face the most critical needs of Venezuela children.

Beyond the sectors previously mentioned (each of which benefitted from the resources allocated via the Humanitarian Thematic Funds) UNICEF played an essential role in consolidating a common Emergency Response Protocol, as an integral component of the Inter-Agency Access and Risk Management and Preparedness Groups, supported by the Humanitarian Thematic Funding. Moreover, UNICEF provided technical assistance to first responders in education, child protection, WASH, health, nutrition, and disaster response and preparedness (DR and DP). UNICEF also strengthened DR and DP capacities in the states of Anzoátegui and Zulia. There, UNICEF implemented drills, established situation rooms and trained 138 public officers (89 men and 49 women) on the CCCs.
Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

UNICEF Venezuela uses a combination of implementing partners, internal monitoring processes, monitoring visits by UNICEF staff, third-party monitoring, results monitoring, and accountability to affected populations (AAP) feedback mechanisms for implementation and results monitoring. Some of the activities that are undertaken in this regard include:

- Implementing Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) financial spot checks and programmatic monitoring;
- Strengthening affected population participation in monitoring processes;
- Consolidating the supply monitoring of materials provided, appropriate storage, stock management and dispatch to facilities through KoBo tools;
- Strengthening reporting and monitoring capacity of implementing partners.

Regarding AAP, in 2023 UNICEF continued to co-lead and manage the Inter-Agency Contact Line, a UN mechanism created in 2021 for people receiving or in need of humanitarian assistance to provide feedback, voice complaints and concerns, and share their needs. In 2023 more than 20,000 comments, suggestions and opinions from programme beneficiaries were received through Line and other feedback mechanisms. This feedback helped improve the impact of UNICEF’s projects through response and case management in areas such as quality and delivery of educational kits; organization and recurrence of activities in communities; adapting materials for child and adolescents; and tailoring training and education to the needs and requests of the communities.

UNICEF addressed complaints through spot checks, visits, audits, and other programmatic actions.

UNICEF Venezuela is currently strengthening its performance management and monitoring systems to improve the alignment of programme implementation with the priorities and results established in the Country Programme Document 2023-2026. Key areas being reinforced include:

- Continued analysis of the national and local context, including prospective analysis, as well as the operational risk analysis, to ensure the pertinence and relevance of UNICEF cooperation in the country.
- Enhanced risk assessment system through Enterprise Risk Management, implementation of an Anti-Fraud plan, HACT, and implementation of the AAP commitment.
- Strengthen the National Statistical System to improve the regular monitoring of the situation of children and adolescents, while at the same time strengthening the mechanism to monitor their contextualized situation at the subnational level.
- Design and implement a Unique Monitoring System to ensure equity-based results monitoring and tracking the progress made, with UNICEF contributions, in addressing identified constraints within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. This Unique Monitoring System will allow UNICEF to demonstrate the range from short-, mid-, and long-term results, and the relationship between development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding interventions.
Financial Analysis

The Financial Analysis section provides a comprehensive overview of UNICEF Venezuela’s funding status against the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for the year 2023. It not only outlines the funds received and available but also highlights any existing funding gaps across various sectors. By understanding the financial landscape, stakeholders can gain better insight into how UNICEF Venezuela allocates resources to address critical issues affecting vulnerable children.

**Table 1: Funding status against the HAC appeal 2023 by sector**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Humanitarian resources received in 2023</td>
<td>Other resources used in 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>31,732,000</td>
<td>10,570,121</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>57,294,000</td>
<td>12,845,056</td>
<td>1,989,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>62,429,000</td>
<td>18,891,402</td>
<td>197,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection, GBViE and PSEA</td>
<td>22,828,000</td>
<td>8,184,183</td>
<td>463,522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>44,871,000</td>
<td>6,854,164</td>
<td>40,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)</td>
<td>4,220,000</td>
<td>1,801,376</td>
<td>48,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>223,374,000</td>
<td>59,146,303</td>
<td>3,139,534</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 delineates the financial status across different sectors, including Nutrition, Health, WASH, Child Protection, Education, and Cross-sectoral initiatives. It reveals the requirements, as well as funds available from various sources, including humanitarian resources received in 2023, other resources utilized in 2023, and carry-over resources from 2022. Notably, there’s a funding gap analysis indicating the deficit between requirements and available funds:

- **Nutrition**: Despite a 18% substantial funding gap, UNICEF managed to utilize carry-over funds effectively, ensuring a significant portion of the required resources.

- **Health**: With a notable funding gap of 63%, UNICEF heavily relied on carry-over funds, underlining the necessity for additional financial support to meet health-related requirements effectively.

- **WASH**: While there was a funding gap of 46%, the utilization of carry-over funds substantially bridged the deficit, indicating prudent resource management.

- **Child Protection**: Despite an 18% funding gap, UNICEF managed to utilize carry-over funds efficiently, emphasizing the importance of leveraging existing resources.

- **Education**: UNICEF utilized carry-over funds to cover a substantial portion of the funding gap (56%), highlighting the significance of consistent funding to sustain educational initiatives.

- **Cross-sectoral**: Despite a 44% funding gap, UNICEF utilized carry-over funds effectively, showcasing adaptability in resource allocation to address cross-cutting issues.
Table 2: Funding received and available by donor and funding type:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor Name/Type of funding</th>
<th>Programme Budget Allotment (Grant) reference</th>
<th>Overall Amount (in US$) *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. Humanitarian funds received in 2023</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global - Thematic Humanitarian Response – THEMATIC FUND</td>
<td>SM/22/9910</td>
<td>600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Thematic Humanitarian Funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>600,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>SM/22/0903</td>
<td>1,064,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIDA-Sweden</td>
<td>SM/23/0143</td>
<td>1,405,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Mission of the United States of America</td>
<td>SM/22/0058</td>
<td>25,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>SM/23/0360</td>
<td>536,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadá</td>
<td>SM/23/0349</td>
<td>853,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECHO</td>
<td>SM/22/0335</td>
<td>4,898,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>SM/23/0456</td>
<td>930,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID/BHA</td>
<td>SM/22/0502</td>
<td>45,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Committee</td>
<td>SM/23/0488</td>
<td>164,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>SM/23/0449</td>
<td>32,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain - AECID</td>
<td>SM/23/0569</td>
<td>1,312,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>SM/23/0453</td>
<td>86,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIDA-Sweden</td>
<td>SM/23/0143</td>
<td>735,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>57,546,303</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>c) Pooled Funding</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i) CERF Grants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Other Pooled funds - including Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), Humanitarian Response Funds, Emergency Response Funds, UN Trust Fund for Human Security, Country-based Pooled Funds etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOCHA</td>
<td>SM/23/0749</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>d) Other types of humanitarian funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>e) Other resources – development funding towards HAC (SH grant)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>SH/23/0001</td>
<td>509,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>f) Other resources – development funding towards HAC (SC grant)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global - HIV and AIDS THEMATIC FUND</td>
<td>SC/22/9902</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global - Child Protection THEMATIC FUND</td>
<td>SC/22/9905</td>
<td>90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global - Education THEMATIC FUND</td>
<td>SC/22/9904</td>
<td>88,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global - Water Sanitation &amp; Hygiene THEMATIC FUND</td>
<td>SC/22/9906</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAVI</td>
<td>SC/23/0147</td>
<td>1,841,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNAIDS</td>
<td>SC/22/0152</td>
<td>68,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AECID-development</td>
<td>SC/22/0885</td>
<td>421,766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2 provides a detailed breakdown of funds received from various donors and funding types, including thematic and non-thematic humanitarian funds, pooled funding, and other resources. It emphasizes the diverse sources contributing to UNICEF Venezuela’s financial pool and underscores the need for continuous donor support.

- **Humanitarian Funds Received in 2023**: A total of USD 62,485,836 was received, including thematic and non-thematic humanitarian funds, as well as pooled funding.
- **Carry-over of Humanitarian Funds Available in 2023**: A substantial amount of USD 59,114,444 was carried over from the previous year. However, it is important to note that an ECHO SM220335 top-up (USD 6.1 million) was received on 15 December 2022 and UNOCHA SM220858 funds (USD 2.7 million) were received on 28 December 2022. Additionally, a USD 57MM top-up from BHA was received in July, extending the grant’s expiry date.
Table 3: Thematic Humanitarian contributions received in 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2023 (in USD)</th>
<th>Donor:</th>
<th>Programmable Amount (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Contribution Amount (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global - Thematic Humanitarian Response THEMATIC FUND</td>
<td>SM/22/9910</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total (allocation from EMOPS/HQ):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional thematic (if any):</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total (allocation from RO):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country thematic contributions:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total (received directly at CO level):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>600,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>600,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 highlights specific contributions received under thematic humanitarian response funds. Notably, a total of $600,000 was received from global thematic funds, emphasizing targeted support for specific humanitarian needs.

In conclusion, this financial analysis underscores UNICEF Venezuela’s commitment to optimizing available resources to address critical humanitarian needs, particularly concerning vulnerable children. The utilization of carry-over funds and diverse donor contributions demonstrates UNICEF Venezuela’s adaptability and resilience in navigating funding challenges. However, persistent funding gaps underscore the need for sustained donor support and flexible funding mechanisms to ensure UNICEF’s continued effectiveness in achieving its mission and contributing to global development goals.
Future work plan
In 2024, UNICEF will increase the integration and quality of its programming for the most affected populations in the country’s most vulnerable regions, building on the geographic reach offered by its field offices in Maracaibo and Puerto Ordaz and its new office in San Fernando. A key goal is addressing underlying risks and reducing humanitarian needs by enhancing access to critical services. This will be done through an integrated package of health, nutrition, education, child protection and WASH services.

UNICEF requires $147 million to provide life-saving services for 3.1 million people, including 1.7 million children. Without sufficient support, these children will face ongoing challenges in their struggle for survival and well-being, hindering their ability to forge a better future for themselves and their families.

In 2024, UNICEF humanitarian response will aim to reach the following results:

### Health

#### US$ 25.8 million
- 531,300 children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose
- 536,200 children 0-11 months receiving pentavalent 3 vaccine
- 1,232,300 children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 112,000 live births that were delivered in health facilities in UNICEF-supported areas

---

### Nutrition

#### US$ 18.2 million
- 400,000 children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- 35,800 children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- 250,000 primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- 300,000 children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder

### Education

#### US$ 18.1 million
- 216,500 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- 516,500 children receiving individual learning materials
- 22,500 children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes
- 9,000 teachers and facilitators trained in basic pedagogy and/or mental health and psychosocial support

---

46 This indicator refers to children and adolescents receiving a package of integrated interventions under the integrated child-friendly schools model. This includes the distribution of learning materials to improve access to education and specific interventions to ensure equitable treatment for indigenous children, those with disabilities, young children and adolescents. The common denominator is addressing the learning losses due to school closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF has a particular focus on ensuring the reintegration of out-of-school children into the formal school system.

47 In addition, UNICEF will improve the working conditions of 19,500 teachers by distributing individual classroom kits.
**WASH**

**US$ 61.8 million**
- 2,200,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- 516,500 children using safe and appropriate Wash facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces
- 400,000 people reached with critical WASH supplies

**Child protection, GbsV and PSEA**

**US$ 18.15 million**
- 140,000 children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- 125,000 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- 100,000 people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse

**Cross-sectoral (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers, SBC, Risk Communication and Community Engagement and AAP)**

**US$ 4.95 million**
- 3,000,000 affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services
- 175,150 people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms
- 55,000 people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

---

48 This indicator refers to people accessing and using new and existing drinking water sources as a result of resilient solutions such as chlorination and/or water systems’ repair/rehabilitation, rather than temporary access including water trucking or distribution of water purification tablets. UNICEF is directly targeting a total of 2.2 million people (51 percent of people in need). The target is similar to 2023, considering that needs in water access are still critical for most vulnerable communities, mainly in urban and isolated rural areas. UNICEF continues to provide indirect support to government authorities in the form of capacity building and technical assistance for previously recovered water supply systems.

49 This indicator refers to children and adolescents accessing WASH services in schools or in other learning spaces supported by UNICEF in line with education programme targets. It includes the implementation of a package of integrated education interventions aimed at improving education access and retention and accelerating learning outcomes.
Emergency Workshop for UNICEF Venezuela staff held in Caracas in July 2023.

Thematic funding case study
The Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds played a significant role in enhancing the preparedness and risk-informed approach within the response capacity of the Civil Protection, WASH, and Education sectors in Venezuela at both national and state levels. This involved integrating a child-centered approach into emergency response strategies. As a result, 204 professionals (94 public servants and 110 humanitarian workers) received training for emergency response and disaster preparedness in Anzoátegui and Zulia states and the UNICEF Humanitarian Team.

Background

Disasters in Venezuela are associated with both intensive and extensive risk conditions arising from a combination of heightened vulnerability and various hazards, including natural, socio-natural, and manmade hazards. These include earthquakes, tsunamis, tropical storms, environmental degradation, and climate change, as well as epidemics, violence, and displacement. These elevated risk factors threaten to further aggravate the impact of the protracted socioeconomic crisis. Given the magnitude and urgency of the situation, it is imperative to ensure preparedness and anticipatory measures are in place, fostering resilience through comprehensive, inclusive, and sustainable processes in the most vulnerable communities.

Considering this context, UNICEF Venezuela designed a comprehensive disaster preparedness programme for children and adolescents including capacity building activities for community members, governmental institutions, and NGO staff. These initiatives aim to integrate a preparedness and risk-informed approach into response operations and advocate for targeted preparedness actions within the Civil Protection, WASH, and Education sectors at both national and state levels. This involves enhancing local capacities to effectively respond to emergencies, integrating protection activities with a focus on local actors, and producing information to generate trust within the community.

Required/allocated resources

With a total of USD $92,789.52 in funds, UNICEF successfully implemented simulation exercises as part of the capacity building emergency response plan within the Capital District, as well as in the states of Zulia and Anzoátegui. These funds facilitated logistical and administrative expenses, ensuring the participation of governmental officials. Expenses encompassed accommodation, transportation, catering, venue, audiovisual equipment, and office supplies for group activities.

Progress and results

- 53 public servants (32 women and 21 men) were trained for emergency response and disaster preparedness in Anzoátegui state.
- 41 workers (16 women and 25 men) from state institutions in Zulia state received training for emergency response and disaster preparedness.
- 110 members of the humanitarian team (52 women and 58 men) received training in emergency response and disaster preparedness in the UNICEF Central Office.
Criticality and added value

Given its geographical conditions, Venezuela faces significant exposure to natural hazards. The events recorded in recent decades reveal that several areas of the country are exposed to at least one or multiple hazards associated due to both environmental factors and human activity. The accumulation of structural, contingency, and secondary risk conditions coupled with environmental degradation, and the effects of climate change underscore the need for a comprehensive capacity-building plan. Such a plan must address all the aforementioned risk factors to inform humanitarian action and development strategies effectively.

These capacity-building initiatives have strengthened the response capacities of national authorities and humanitarian workers, including those from UN agencies and national and international NGOs.

Challenges and lessons learned

Following the implementation of simulation activities within the framework of the Emergency Preparedness project, several recommendations and lessons learned emerged, including:

- Encourage the development and frequency of these types of spaces, to disseminate knowledge and policies regarding emergency preparedness and response.
- Expand the scope of simulation events to address various socio-natural threats within each state, in order to standardize emergency preparedness and response criteria.
- Define and establish technological or inter-institutional mechanisms, to communicate the risk management plans and policies of different entities within these states.
- Consider additional socio-natural threats specific to the region when formulating comprehensive and institutional policies for emergency preparation and response.
- Incorporate new insights into emergency preparedness and response, aligning with UNICEF’s fundamental principles for childhood welfare and development.

Moving forward

Within the framework of UNICEF’s capacity-building emergency response plan for the 2024-2025 period, the following initiatives are planned:

- Continue training workshops for personnel involved in comprehensive risk management within Zulia and Anzoátegui states and the UNICEF humanitarian team.
- Further develop partnerships with other UN agencies, to continue to enhance the institutional strengthening plan in Zulia and Anzoátegui states and the UNICEF humanitarian team.
- Establish working groups to further define short-, medium-, and long-term actions aimed at enhancing emergency preparedness and response in Zulia and Anzoátegui states and the UNICEF humanitarian team.
- Define and create risk maps for socio-natural threats in these prioritized states and the UNICEF humanitarian team.
- Promote regular training workshops to foster institutional coordination among entities in Zulia and Anzoátegui states and the UNICEF humanitarian team.
- Support the implementation of supervision activities to comply with the development activities outlined in the Contingency Plans in Zulia and Anzoátegui states and the UNICEF humanitarian team, aligning with the roles and objectives of the institutions involved.
Human Interest Stories and Communication Materials:

Exclusive breastfeeding: The strongest bond between mother and her baby

“They told us about our rights, and we have been learning many things such as leadership” - UNICEF

“I go with my sister in the curiara and take a bucket. I collect water to drink and cook.”

Teachers continue to apply socio-emotional support strategies taught by UNICEF

Decretos #ParaCadaInfancia todos sus derechos

“Speaking in our own language, the community feels trust and understands the message better”

Videos:

UNICEF supports community strengthening programmes - YouTube
UNICEF contributes to improving water systems in Venezuela - YouTube
UNICEF supports strengthening programmes for Venezuelan adolescents - YouTube
UNICEF supports differentiated consultation services for adolescents - YouTube
UNICEF contributes strengthening capacities so that children with disabilities have access to their rights
UNICEF contributes so that every child and adolescent can have access to all their rights - YouTube
UNICEF, with authorities, installed a water treatment plant that works with solar energy - YouTube
UNICEF supports nutrition services in health centers in Venezuela - YouTube
Together with their families, children played and learned about their rights in the Fair

Este es el testimonio de Octavio, 13, sobre cuidado ambiental. Esto es Expresión Z #LaJuventudHabla

“They told us about our rights, and we have been learning many things such as leadership”

Photos:

Nutrition screening day supported by UNICEF in a community located in Caracas

Talk with adolescents within the framework of the World AIDS Day at a school in Caracas

UNICEF ensures water, sanitation and hygiene services and supports school continuity in Venezuela

UNICEF supports sectors such as El Peñón de Tapipa by improving their water systems, while strengthening their community water capacities

UNICEF support child protection services for children and adolescents with disabilities

UNICEF works to strengthen child protection systems at the community level and supports the Misericordia FC sports team

Differentiated Consultation Programme for Adolescents

Children rights fair
UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback: UNICEF Donor Feedback Form