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COVER:

Vanco Christella Irakoze, 11, loves knitting during her leisure time at home in Rwanda's Bugesera district.

Rwanda, December 2024 © UNICEF/UNI725194/Iyakaremye

UNICEF Annual Report

2024

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2024

Young U-Reporters meet with children at the UNICEF-supported Mount Carmel Institute for the Blind in Anyama, Abidjan, southern Côte d'Ivoire.

Côte d'Ivoire, October 2024 ©UNICEF/UNI668760/Dejongh





For World Children's Day, children take over the National Assembly, in Abidjan, southern Côte d'Ivoire.

Côte d'Ivoire, 20 November 2024

© UNICEF/UNI677394



Foreword



Catherine RussellUNICEF Executive Director

It was a difficult time to be a child in 2024. With deepening violent conflict, climate shocks and poverty, children faced skyrocketing needs while the resources to respond continued to shrink.

But as this year's Annual Report shows, across more than 190 countries and territories, UNICEF was there, saving and uplifting the lives of millions of children – even in the hardest-to-reach places. Together with our partners, we delivered clean water and sanitation, protection and psychosocial support, health, nutrition, and immunization services, and education and skills development.

The world in 2025 continues to be one of significant political shifts and volatility, economic uncertainty and deepening humanitarian crises. To succeed, UNICEF must be at its best.

But announced and anticipated funding cuts are limiting UNICEF's ability to reach millions of children in dire need. These new cuts are creating a global funding crisis that will put the lives of millions of additional children at risk.

In today's world, everything is interconnected, and aid cuts anywhere threaten security and economic prosperity everywhere.

As needs continue to outpace funding, we must always be the best stewards for the precious resources entrusted to us. We are constantly evaluating our operations and resources to become more agile, efficient and responsive to diverse situations.

For example, we have enhanced our data and analytics capabilities, capitalizing on new tools to capture the rapidly evolving situation of children and enable the timely delivery of information to decision makers, and invested in digital solutions to better reach underserved children. We have streamlined our operations while deepening local partnerships and strengthening resilient national systems.

Every dollar invested in humanitarian and development aid creates long-term benefits and a more stable and secure world. Aid ensures infectious diseases do not spread across borders and mitigates the risks of instability and violence.

Millions of children are alive today because of the global commitment to proven interventions such as vaccines, nutrition and access to safe water and basic sanitation. With our partners, we have made historic progress. Since 2000, global under-5 mortality has dropped by 50 per cent. Millions more have been protected with improved health and brighter futures.

Without the right policy choices and adequate investment, we risk reversing these hard-earned gains, with millions more children dying from preventable causes. We cannot allow that to happen.

I have seen firsthand how UNICEF is the bulwark against threats to children's rights and their well-being – especially during these challenging and unpredictable times.

With our global footprint and strong partnerships, UNICEF does what few others can: Respond to crises quickly while building long-term resilience.

Just as we have for almost 80 years, we are determined to stay and deliver for the world's children. But we can't do it without your support.

UNICEF implores all donors to continue to fund critical aid programmes for the world's children. We cannot fail them now.



Staying and delivering for children

Imagine a world where investments of a small fraction of national budgets can transform millions of lives and create a more stable and secure world. That's the incredible power of humanitarian and development aid.

Over decades, the world has made remarkable progress for children. Since 2000, global child mortality rates have dropped by over 50 per cent, and child stunting has declined by over a quarter. Since 2010, expanded access to HIV prevention services has helped halve the number of adolescent girls acquiring HIV. More children are now registered at birth, enabling better access to services such as education and healthcare. Today, more than half the world's population is covered by at least one social protection benefit.

This progress proves that a large-scale, meaningful change to improve children's lives is possible with the right leadership, partnerships, policies and financial commitments.

Promedi, 3, receives his polio vaccine in Kikwit, Kwilu province. UNICEF collaborates with partners to conduct large-scale polio vaccination campaigns throughout the region, with local volunteers and health workers playing a key role in reaching marginalized populations.

Democratic Republic of the Congo, 5 December 2024

© UNICEF/UNI766163/Ndomba Mbikayi

Still, progress has been uneven. Children in low-income countries are seven times more likely to live in a country requiring accelerated efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) compared to their peers in high-income countries. Across all income levels, specific groups of children – including girls, children with disabilities, migrant, refugee and displaced children, Indigenous children, and those living in poor households or marginalized communities – continue to be left behind.

Cuts in traditional donors' aid budgets, along with a continued decline in flexible funding for UNICEF and its United Nations partners, are constraining our ability to reach children through both development programmes and humanitarian action.



UNICEF is dedicated to the well-being of all children, but our unparalleled reach is now at risk:

- UNICEF is active in more than 190 countries and territories, drawing on a vast network of skilled and committed staff and partners. Proven approaches are adapted and scaled to meet challenges in diverse contexts around the world.
- UNICEF runs the world's largest humanitarian warehouse – storing essential supplies for safe water, sanitation and hygiene, education, health and nutrition – including medical products and pharmaceuticals. This type of scale, reach, and expertise enables us to save lives and help prevent emergencies from escalating into fullscale crises.
- UNICEF supports health centres where 1 in 4 babies worldwide are born.

- UNICEF is the world's largest buyer of life-saving vaccines and supplier of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), ensuring children suffering from severe malnutrition can be treated.
- UNICEF is the largest provider of water, sanitation and hygiene services, with programmes in more than 100 countries, providing over 35 million people with safe water access every year.

With continued support, we are determined to stay and deliver for the world's children.

Who is going to stand up and defend children's rights?

We are.





"If the world could integrate every child into society it would be prettier, more carefree and more smiley, just like children are. All young people should take action and understand that every child should have equal rights and opportunities. Young people and children are the future of the world and the continuity of the planet."

Panos, 13, Greece © UNICEF/UNI487025/Pantelia

UNICEF's TOP 10 achievements in 2024

IMMUNIZATION

Over 1.5 billion polio vaccine doses

were delivered to 87 countries, contributing to the reduction of global polio cases by nearly 25 per cent between 2023 and 2024



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Humanitarian assistance was delivered to millions of children across 448 emergencies

in 104 countries





NUTRITION

251 million children under 5

were reached with early detection services for wasting, and 9.3 million with treatment for severe wasting and other forms of severe acute malnutrition

CLIMATE

102 countries

implemented climate programmes (from 68 countries in 2022)





EDUCATION

26 million out-of-school

children and adolescents gained access to education, including 9 million in humanitarian settings and 3.7 million children on the move





CLIMATE

6.7 million people used climate-resilient water systems (from 5.4 million in 2022)

PARENTING PROGRAMMES

18.5 millionparents and caregivers accessed UNICEF-supported parenting programmes (from 11.8 million in 2022)



ADVOCACY

Across 110 countries,

6.2 million children

who experienced violence received health, social work, legal or law enforcement services, a 36 per cent increase from 2023



WASH

Over 18 million people gained access to basic sanitation services, more than 33 million to safe water, and over 21 million to basic hygiene services



91 countries

were supported for more effective investments in children through advocacy and engagement with partners (from 78 in 2022)





Part 1

Goal areas

UNICEF aims to achieve long-term results in five interconnected Goal Areas linked to children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This will help to ensure that, in all contexts, including humanitarian crises and fragile settings, every child, including adolescents: (1) survives and thrives with access to nutritious diets, quality primary healthcare, nurturing practices and essential supplies; (2) learns and acquires skills for the future; (3) is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices; (4) has access to safe and equitable WASH services and supplies, and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment; and (5) has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty.

Goal Area 1:

Every child survives and thrives

KEY RESULTS

- ▶ 35.6 million births in 89 countries were supported, benefiting 63.4 million children by managing neonatal and childhood illnesses, and training 1.2 million health workers.
- Adolescent health initiatives were expanded from 27 countries in 2021 to 44 in 2024, serving over 9.7 million adolescents.

 Mental health and psychosocial services were provided in 45 countries, through primary healthcare, schools and digital platforms, benefiting over 5.3 million children, adolescents and families.
- ▶ 441 million children under 5 benefited from programmes to prevent stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity; and 9.3 million children were treated for severe wasting and other forms of severe acute malnutrition.
- 2.8 billion vaccine doses were delivered to 99 countries and 110.4 million children immunized against measles, including 24.6 million in emergencies. Over 25 million adolescent girls received the HPV vaccine, and a new malaria vaccine was introduced in 17 countries.

Forced displacement, climate change, environmental degradation, disaster risks, conflict, inequitable access to health services, and increased disease outbreaks threaten children's survival and development globally. The number of zero-dose children (those who have not received a single vaccine) has risen by 600,000 since 2022, totaling 14.5 million – 1.7 million more than in 2019. Food poverty (inability to access and consume a nutritious and diverse diet in early childhood) affects 181 million children under 5 and around 193 million suffer from stunting or wasting.

To overcome these challenges, in 2024 UNICEF focused its efforts on enhancing primary healthcare and strengthening health systems, supporting governments in expanding coverage and workforce capacity.

UNICEF's support led to 87 countries integrating early childhood development services into primary healthcare, up from 61 in 2021 and supported child nutrition and development programmes in 130 countries.

During 2024, 158 countries implemented programmes under Goal Area 1, with total expenses of \$2.4 billion globally, including \$0.7 billion for humanitarian efforts.

Children show their fingers marked with ink to signify they have received their polio vaccination.

Madagascar, 15 May 2024 © UNICEF/UNI587855/Ramasomanana





Every child learns and acquires skills for the future

KEY RESULTS

- ≥ 26 million out-of-school children, including 9 million in humanitarian settings and 3.7 million on the move, gained access to education. Learning materials reached 17.5 million children, 27 per cent in crisis-affected areas.
- The UPSHIFT skills development initiative was expanded to 56 countries, engaging 2.1 million young people, with 1.1 million completing the full learning journey and earning certification.
- More than 18 million children accessed education through digital platforms, including nearly 10 million through the Learning Passport. The Accessible Digital Textbooks initiative, developed with OpenAI, provided 2 million children in 11 countries with inclusive digital learning materials in 63 languages.
- ➤ In partnership with UNESCO, ECW and GPE, the percentage of countries institutionalizing holistic skills development – to support learning, personal empowerment, environmental sustainability, active citizenship, social cohesion, employability, and entrepreneurship – nearly doubled to 42 per cent.

Worldwide, 251 million children and youth are out of school. Half of these children and youth are in sub-Saharan Africa and 33 per cent are in low-income countries. In addition, long-term climate shifts and extreme weather events affected at least 242 million students through school closures in 2024.

UNICEF's efforts increased access to quality learning opportunities, transformed education systems, improved learning outcomes and strengthened resilience in education.

Children attend an e-learning session at Abdullah Naj internally displaced people's gathering point.

Sudan, 25 June 2024 © UNICEF/UNI599906/Elfatih





"I envision a future in which every girl gets an education, feels empowered to dream and reaches her full potential... We are heroines in our own way. We are ready to take on the challenges of the future. But we cannot do so without your support."

Tupokigwe, 16, United Republic of Tanzania
© UNICEF/UNI731335/Znidarcic

unicef of for every child

Through policy advocacy, incentive programmes and digital inclusion strategies, UNICEF worked to expand equitable access to education for marginalized children and youth – especially girls and learners with disabilities.

In 2024, UNICEF worked on Goal Area 2 in 142 countries, with total expenses of \$1.6 billion, including \$922 million in humanitarian contexts, to enhance education access, transform systems and bolster resilience.

Goal Area 3:

Every child is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices

Isatou Sanneh, 15,

KEY RESULTS

- ♦ 6.2 million children who experienced violence received health, social work, legal or law enforcement services across 110 countries, a 36 per cent increase from 2023.
- Nearly 759,000 girls and women across 19 countries received prevention and protection services against female genital mutilation (FGM). Nearly 10.7 million adolescent girls in 50 countries benefited from prevention and care interventions addressing child marriage.
- ➤ In 119 countries, UNICEF supported programmes to improve legal and policy frameworks addressing child sexual abuse and exploitation, including online violence.
- ➤ UNICEF convened with partners at the first Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, which resulted in new commitments from 113 governments to renew policies and funding to prevent violence against children.

Despite notable progress since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, most child protection-related SDGs remain off track. While rates of both child marriage and FGM have fallen, progress has been insufficient to eliminate these harmful practices. Violence against children remains widespread, with 2 in 3 frequently subjected to violent punishment at home. In 2024, 1 in 6 adolescent girls ages 15–19 experienced physical or sexual violence committed by a husband or partner, and nearly 1 in 4 children lived with mothers who were victims of intimate partner violence.







Protection risks are also heightened for children living in countries affected by fragility and conflict, children on the move, children living without family care and children in conflict with the law.

In 2024, UNICEF continued to champion the child protection system strengthening approach, a holistic and comprehensive strategy protecting all children across humanitarian and development contexts.

UNICEF continued its child protection programmes in 157 countries while facing a decline in funding for this Goal Area. Expenses for Goal Area 3 in 2024 totaled \$0.93 billion, including \$0.45 billion for humanitarian action.

Goal Area 4.

Every child has access to safe and equitable WASH services and supplies, and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment

KEY RESULTS

- Over 18 million people gained access to basic sanitation services, more than 33 million to safe water, and over 21 million to basic hygiene services.
- WASH services in humanitarian emergencies were provided to 41 million people across more than 30 countries.
- Nearly 9,000 schools and almost 4,000 healthcare facilities were supported to achieve a basic level of WASH service provision, and UNICEF-supported programmes addressed the menstrual health and hygiene needs of nearly 12 million women and adolescent girls.
- Renewable energy solutions were deployed in healthcare facilities across 66 countries
- to reshape energy access for children, while 6.7 million people used climate-resilient water systems and 3 million used climate-resilient sanitation facilities.
- Through the Green Rising initiative, 11 million young people in 30 countries planted 19 million trees, conserved 600 million liters of water, and recycled over 75,000 kilograms of waste.





Ahmed, 8, takes a big gulp of cold water, trying to cool down in the hot weather. It was a scorching 47°C day in Faisalabad, Punjab.

Pakistan, 28 May 2024

© UNICEF/UNI585292/Ahmed



Between 2015 and 2024, the proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water increased from 69 to 77 per cent, the proportion using safely managed sanitation rose from 49 to 63 per cent, and access to basic handwashing facilities with soap and water available rose from 67 to 75 per cent.

Still, 2.2 billion people lack safely managed drinking water, 3.4 billion lack safely managed sanitation, and 2 billion lack basic hygiene services – resulting in an unacceptably high disease burden on children and a disproportionate water-carrying burden on women and girls.

Multiple overlapping challenges hamper progress towards the WASH-related SDGs, including conflict, public health emergencies, financial crises and climate change.

UNICEF worked to ensure service delivery and strengthen WASH systems to reach the most vulnerable populations, making strong progress in direct support for safe WASH services.

Guided by the Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan (2023–2030), UNICEF expanded its support for children's climate and disaster resilience from 68 countries in 2023 to 119 in 2024, integrating sustainability and climate action into programming, research, policy development, advocacy and government budgeting.

UNICEF collaborated with 69 countries to update their environmental and disaster management policies, ensuring better integration of child-focused disaster risk reduction activities across social sectors.

In 2024, UNICEF worked on Goal Area 4 in 154 countries, with total expenses of over \$1 billion, including \$500 million on humanitarian WASH response.

Goal Area 5:

Every child has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty

KEY RESULTS

- Over 102 million households across both development and humanitarian contexts were reached with UNICEF-supported cash transfers.
- UNICEF supported 91 countries to strengthen social sector budgets for greater and better investments in children, up from 84 in 2023 and exceeding the target of 69.
- ➤ Measurement, analysis or policy advice contributed to the development of policies and programmes to reduce child poverty in 43 countries, up from 32 in 2021.
- ➤ UNICEF supported 77 countries to implement disability-inclusive social protection, up from 67 in 2023.
- ➤ UNICEF enhanced urban policies and planning standards for children in 18 countries (up from 15 in 2023) to address structural barriers to child wellbeing in urban settings, slums and informal settlements.

Progress on child poverty reduction has slowed in recent years, leaving nearly 1 billion children worldwide living in multidimensional poverty. While more than half of the world's people are now covered by at least one social protection benefit, only 1 in 4 children receives any form of support. In many countries, rising debt payments are constraining spending on social sectors.



"When we commit to tackling poverty, it's like taking a big step towards making the world a better and fairer place for everyone.

Every child, no matter where they're from, deserves a chance to dream big."

Lova, 14, Madagascar, 6 March 2024 © UNICEF/UNI586562/Andriantsoarana





In 2024, UNICEF efforts led to significant investments to reinforce sustainable, inclusive and shock-responsive social protection systems in all contexts and catalyse public and private sector commitments to child-sensitive policies.

UNICEF partners with governments on poverty measurement, increased social protection financing, and cash assistance harmonization with other services.

In 2024, UNICEF worked on Goal Area 5 in 155 countries, with total expenses of \$0.82 billion, including \$574 million for humanitarian action. UNICEF-funded cash assistance to families in fragile and humanitarian settings grew in 2024, reaching 3.6 million families.

Humanitarian response

In conflict and disaster, children suffer first and suffer most. During emergencies and humanitarian contexts, children are especially vulnerable to disease, malnutrition and violence.

UNICEF focuses on these children and their families to provide them with the essential interventions and save their lives, ensuring the rights of all children, everywhere.

UNICEF also works to strengthen the links between humanitarian action and development efforts. Our presence in many countries before, during and after emergencies, ensures a continuum of support. For example, the rehabilitation and upgrade of water and sanitation systems serve vulnerable

households both during immediate crises and over the long term.

But funding for humanitarian action is increasingly constrained, with cuts to traditional donors' aid budgets, and a continued decline in flexible funding for UNICEF and its United Nations partners. Geopolitical and economic fragmentation are posing growing threats to children's rights, as violent conflicts and climate change continue to drive humanitarian needs.

In 2024, UNICEF leveraged its global field presence, dedicated staff and partners to drive progress towards the child-related SDGs, including in humanitarian crises.

 Together with its partners, UNICEF delivered humanitarian assistance in 448 emergencies in 104 countries.

- UNICEF worked to enhance locally-led humanitarian responses and ensure more effective and sustainable collaboration with local actors by improving and simplifying its internal guidance to countries.
- In humanitarian settings, UNICEF provided child protection services to over 40.4 million people. More than 124,000 children separated from their families due to conflict, displacement or natural disasters received alternative care or reunification support. More than 16,482 children formerly associated with armed forces or groups received protection or reintegration support, and over 7.5 million children affected by landmines and other explosive weapons benefited from prevention or victim assistance interventions.





"Children are the first victims of conflicts, even though these situations are created by adults."

Adonis, 16, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 25 March 2024

© UNICEF/UNI550564/Ntabala

Part 2

Change strategies

Advocating and communicating for change

Advocacy and communication for children, in all its diverse forms, are fundamental to UNICEF's mission – supporting and urging governments to fulfill the rights of children.

In 2024, UNICEF's advocacy and communication efforts achieved notable results, including:

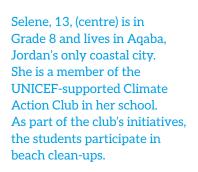
- contributing to vaccine affordability, accessibility and equity in 90 countries;
- addressing learning challenges in 110 countries;
- enhancing mental health support for children and young people in 60 countries;
- increasing access to clean water, and tackling environmental degradation and climate change in 90 countries; and
- advancing social protection in 110 countries.

Advocacy efforts secured 21 political commitments for polio eradication and mobilized public support through campaigns like World Polio Day. The Humanly Possible campaign helped raise \$3 billion in pledges for routine immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, while \$600 million was raised for HPV vaccination in the Cervical Cancer Elimination Forum, which has already led to an improvement in HPV global vaccination rates.

Nutrition advocacy saw significant advancements through the Child Nutrition Fund, securing multi-million-dollar commitments including \$34.4 million for multiple micronutrient supplements.

Climate advocacy ensured that children's rights and voices were placed at the heart of global climate discussions. Climate advocacy reached new milestones at COP29, where child-sensitive language was successfully included in the final text. At COP29, UNICEF advocacy achieved key policy commitments, integrating child-specific indicators into global goals for adaptation and climate finance, and establishing a 'Group of Friends' to promote children's rights in climate negotiations. Sixty-six countries supported the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action.

In 36 countries, advocacy contributed to improved laws, policies and industry standards addressing business practices that affect children's rights. UNICEF's advocacy led the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive to strengthen protection of children's rights and include an explicit reference to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Jordan, January 2024 © UNICEF/UNI574356/Al-Safadi





A global network for essential supplies

In 2024, UNICEF procured \$5.6 billion worth of supplies and services for children in 160 countries and areas, including 2.8 billion vaccine doses, enough to reach almost half of the world's children under age 5. In support of humanitarian action, UNICEF delivered \$1.2 billion worth of emergency supplies in 68 countries and areas in 2024.

Through its extensive global supply network, UNICEF coordinates, procures and delivers essential supplies and services for children in both humanitarian and development settings. This includes life-saving vaccines, health and nutrition supplies, water, sanitation and hygiene products, education materials, and construction services among others.

In 2024, UNICEF's supplier base totaled 12,154 suppliers across 183 countries, with procurement from suppliers registered in programme countries reaching 57 per cent of UNICEF's total procurement. This trend towards increased localization reflects the organization's commitment to enhancing sustainability, strengthening national systems and delivering greater impact for children.

Engaging youth

Working for young people means working with them. And with on-the-ground teams in over 190 countries, and online, UNICEF engages more young people on global issues than any child rights organization in the world.

In 2024, UNICEF supported national systems for adolescent and youth participation in 67 countries, up from 22 in 2021, fostering engagement with adolescents

and platforms they can use to contribute to shaping policies. Ninety-nine UNICEF offices consulted adolescents to inform key country programme cycle milestones, far exceeding the target of 60 to ensure programmes meet adolescents' needs.

UNICEF engaged the Global Girl Leaders Advisory Group in setting priorities for the organization's work with and for adolescent girls. Launched in 2023, the group is already making great strides, and as of 2024, brought in a new cohort of adolescent girls and young women

connected to UNICEF's work in their respective countries. The group guided the development and launch of a global poll through which over half a million girls, boys and young people voiced their policy priorities for girls' rights.

U-Report, UNICEF's digital platform for youth engagement, expanded to 105 platforms, with 1.9 million U-Reporters participating in coordinated actions across 74 countries to drive awareness and advocate for change.





"I want people to see that when we talk about inclusion, it's not just a word. It's a world where every child, no matter their background or the challenges they may face, gets an equal chance to shine. Every child should have the opportunity to chase their dreams without any limitations."

Gauranshi, 17, India
© UNICEF/UNI570268/Vishwanathan

Youth Advocates (front row, from left) Kartik Verma, Gauranshi Sharma, Nahid Afrin and Vinisha Umashankar pose with UNICEF staff members in Delhi.

India, 3 May 2024 © UNICEF/UNI570268/Vishwanathan

Community engagement, social and behaviour change

In 2024, UNICEF led data generation initiatives across 99 countries to better understand the behavioural, cognitive, and social drivers that influence people's practices and use of services. Through capacity-building activities in 113 countries, UNICEF strengthened the skills of government officials, community actors and academic institutions.

UNICEF supported social and behavioral change interventions to address barriers faced by children with disabilities and their families in 115 countries. This included strengthening disability-inclusive humanitarian action in 28 of the 40 countries with a Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal in 2024, such as Somalia and Yemen.

Ensuring gender equality

Societies that uphold equal rights for girls and boys create benefits for everyone. However, adolescent girls are often exposed to discriminatory practices that cause both physical and mental harm. Globally, twice as many girls as boys are not in any form of education, employment or training by late adolescence.

In 2024, gender-based violence (GBV) response, prevention and risk mitigation programming in emergencies reached over 17.6 million people across 79 countries – an increase from 13.9 million in 2021. UNICEF made significant progress in implementing the minimum set of GBV risk mitigation actions, with 43 per cent of countries achieving full compliance. Additionally, more than half a million women and girls had access to Laaha, a Virtual Safe Space platform offering information and support related to sexual and reproductive health and GBV.

In 2024, 90 per cent of 129 country offices financed child rights policies and programmes promoting gender equality, up from 66 per cent in 2021.

UNICEF supported at-scale programmes addressing gender-discriminatory roles, norms and practices among children in 86 countries.

In 74 countries, UNICEF supported at-scale capacity-development programmes on gender equality for frontline workers across sectors, up from 50 in 2021.

Harnessing innovation

UNICEF believes in harnessing innovation to unlock new ways to deliver for every child.

In 2024, UNICEF employed digital transformation to improve and speed up the delivery of education, child protection, social policy and fundraising, including through digital skills enhancement, digital safety and adoption of AI.

UNICEF leveraged technology and innovation to improve the speed and quality of its programmes, operations and response, notably in humanitarian contexts. Since 2014, Global Innovation Portfolios have accelerated 238 programme innovations in 138 countries.

In 2024, UNICEF supported the use of the 5-Dimensional (5D) Innovation Framework – identifying, validating, and scaling innovative solutions that can drive impact for children. By assessing initiatives across five key dimensions (Innovation, Business Model, Impact, Scalability and Risk), the framework ensures that only the most effective and sustainable solutions progress.

UNICEF's Venture Fund, a collaboration with innovators in emerging economies to build and test new solutions, reached 128.6 million people, supporting 153 solutions to date across 87 countries.

Part 3

Regional highlights

East Asia and the Pacific



June Kunugi, Regional Director

Children across East Asia and the Pacific faced an extraordinary year of challenges in 2024, from intensifying climate disasters to conflict and rising inequality. In the face of overlapping crises, UNICEF stood alongside children, young people, governments, and partners to ensure every child has the support and opportunities to shape the future they deserve.

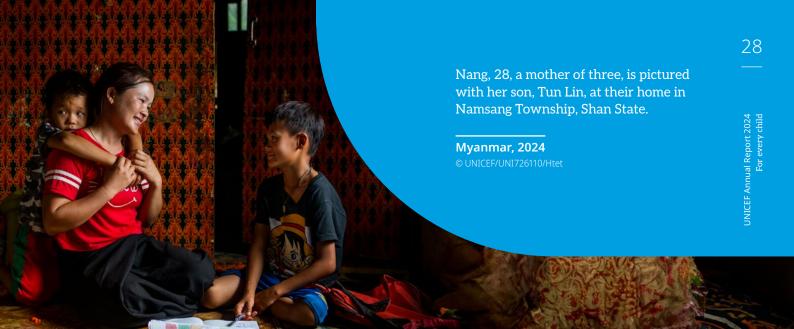
The impacts of climate change hit hard. Record heatwaves, flooding, landslides and droughts disrupted the education of nearly 50 million children. Typhoon Yagi – one of the strongest typhoons to hit Southeast Asia in decades – upended the lives of over 5.6 million people, including 1.6 million children. Throughout, UNICEF was on the ground, coordinating and deploying vital support for children experiencing disasters.

Thuy, 4, with her father, Bay. Typhoon Yagi devastated their home and farmland. With UNICEF's cash assistance, Bay plans to restore his land and replace the essential items lost to the storm.

Viet Nam, 28 October 2024 © UNICEF/UNI674211/Le Lijour Myanmar became the world's deadliest country for landmines. Violence and instability pushed the number of displaced people to a staggering 3.5 million, with 6 million children needing humanitarian assistance. Despite major access, security and funding challenges, UNICEF and its partners delivered life-saving support – protecting children from disease, restoring access to education and providing safe water for families who have endured years of conflict and instability.

UNICEF also mobilized major new funding to help communities prepare for extreme weather, strengthen climate resilience in schools and clinics and expand clean energy access. As I write, our Solar Hub 2.0 is providing hands-on solar energy training for schools, health centres, and water systems, while equipping young people with green skills.





Nearly one in two children in East Asia and the Pacific are unable to read and understand a simple text by the age of 10 – a situation known as learning poverty. In response, UNICEF supported assessments to address gaps in skills such as reading and math in seven countries. In Cambodia and Viet Nam, transformative programming in gender and education advanced more equal, inclusive systems. Regionally, momentum continued to grow for education that challenges harmful gender norms and empowers every child.

In nutrition, UNICEF partnered with the ASEAN Secretariat to launch six regional guidelines and standards, while supporting governments to improve maternal nutrition, regulate unhealthy food marketing, and expand treatment for children suffering from wasting.

Child protection systems became more inclusive and better prepared for emergencies. The Primero system, a digital tool that helps social workers track and respond to child protection cases, expanded to three more countries. Meanwhile, 37.5 million people across 15 countries can now access safe channels to report sexual exploitation or abuse – a 35 per cent increase from 2023.

Young people were not only supported – they were empowered. Through the Youth-Led Action Initiative, more than 3,000 boys and girls in seven countries were trained and mentored to lead change in their communities and help shape policies and programmes that affect them. Regional initiatives to end child marriage and female genital mutilation launched in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Philippines, ensuring adolescent voices guided the way forward.

In one of the world's most connected regions, UNICEF supported governments with digital tools to expand solar energy, advance climate action, and strengthen child protection. In education, digital and AI skills guidance for teachers was introduced in countries such as Viet Nam. At the ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection, UNICEF brought together governments, tech leaders, and youth to promote a safer, more inclusive digital world.

Philanthropic partnerships further strengthened UNICEF's impact by supporting emergency response, early childhood development, and programmes for adolescent girls. Through regional collaborations, the Philanthropy Asia Summit, and participation in donor field visits, partners played a vital role in delivering timely and innovative support to children.

In a region home to over 40 per cent of the world's social media users, UNICEF amplified its voice for children through stepped up media engagement and digital growth. Over 95 international media stories helped boost regional advocacy efforts, while social media engagement soared by 162 per cent and visits to UNICEF EAPRO's improved audience-centred website climbed to 135,000.

The region is undergoing profound shifts – from climate shocks and digital transformation to demographic trends. UNICEF will continue working with governments, civil society, and young people to scale innovative, inclusive, and sustainable solutions, so that every child in East Asia and the Pacific can thrive in a changing world.

Eastern and Southern Africa



Etleva Kadilli, Regional Director

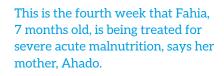
Eastern and Southern Africa is home to one of the largest and fastest growing cohorts of children and young people in the world. With the right investments, in the early and adolescent years, the potential demographic dividend is huge. However, the pace of poverty reduction is slowing, food prices remain high and national debt has reached crisis levels.

This region has the second highest child mortality rate in the world and hosts two thirds of all AIDS cases, despite a 70 per cent reduction in new infections among children since 2010. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest number of victims of sexual violence worldwide. Many adolescent girls face high risks of child marriage, pregnancy, gender-based violence, a disproportionate risk of HIV transmission, and are at high risk of dropping out of school.

Public health emergencies, including Ebola, Marburg, cholera, mpox, measles and polio, have dominated the humanitarian context. Children are on the frontlines of climate change, enduring extreme drought, crop failures and severe floods. In total, 45 million children required humanitarian assistance and 26 million children are affected by stunting.

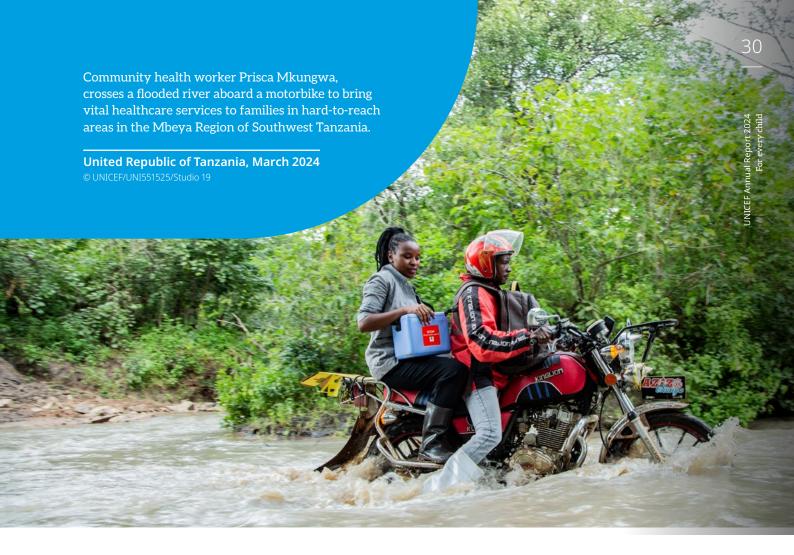
Our priority has been to increase public financing, supplying evidence for data-driven improvements to national budgets, and our support to national social protection systems supported 26 million households.

 We responded to cholera and polio outbreaks in 13 countries, strengthened national responses to mpox and Marburg, and assisted emergency responses in 14 countries.



Somalia, 30 January 2024 © UNICEF/UNI534995/Hill





- All 21 countries in the region were supported to strengthen emergency preparedness, climate policymaking, financing and climatesmart programming – including sustainable energy for education, health and WASH services. Our innovative groundwater mapping enabled drilling of some of the deepest wells in Angola, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. UNICEF's First Foods Africa programme was launched in 2024, promoting local production and consumption of nutritious, safe and affordable 'first' foods.
- We supported the training of 690,000 community health workers, 66 per cent of the regional target. Through the 'Big Catch-Up' initiative, we reached 31 per cent of the targeted 9.1 million zero-dose children across six high-priority countries. The number of polio cases fell from 208 cases in 13 countries in 2023 to 76 in 8 countries in 2024. We also supported the roll-out of the malaria vaccine.
- Our knowledge management around peer providers for eliminating the vertical transmission of HIV contributed to Namibia being certified by WHO as on track to eliminating mother-to-child transmission.

 Only 24 per cent of children aged 3 to 5 in the region have access to early learning, and 47 million children and young people remain out of school. In response, we built the capacity of 3,000 government officials, and 17 countries have now adopted Early Childhood Development (ECD) policies. A total of 6 million parents took part in our parenting classes and we improved foundational learning in 16 countries, through digital tools and catch-up classes.

Strategic partnerships are key to UNICEF's results for children across Eastern and Southern Africa. Germany, one of our strongest and most strategic partners in the region, has been instrumental in advancing child rights. We also forged new and diversified partnerships, including a multi-year collaboration with the African Development Bank, and the first-ever contribution from an African philanthropist to the global Child Nutrition Fund.

Despite the challenges, we know that progress is possible. Young people are already transforming and uplifting their communities, and we have ambitious and evidence-led plans to help unlock the region's enormous potential.

South Asia



Sanjay Wijesekera, Regional Director

In South Asia, 2024 was another difficult year for children and young people.

Floods, cyclones, heatwaves and air pollution disrupted lives in the region: girls in Bangladesh lost days of learning; boys in Pakistan struggled to breathe; and children's homes were swept away as waters rose in Afghanistan.

Girls' rights continued to be threatened in a region with harmful practices and gender injustice – where 290 million child brides have been deprived of their right to complete their education. In Afghanistan, girls are still denied the right to learn, even as we persevere in our efforts to change this terrible injustice.

But 2024 also brought signs of hope. Children and young people took centre stage, raising their voices and advocating for their rights – becoming the heart of UNICEF South Asia's work in the region.

In Bangladesh, courageous children and young people called for political change, exercising their right to freedom of association and assembly. The protests succeeded in changing the course of history in Bangladesh. But tragically, they turned violent – and over 100 children lost their lives.

What a terrible loss. When I spoke with the (former) government, my message was clear: Children must be protected when they speak up.

Zunaira, a 14-year-old from Pakistan, spoke with passion from the stage of the United Nations Climate Conference in Baku (COP29):



VOICES OF UNICEF
Climate champions

"I stand here on behalf of all children around the globe who need and deserve a safe, stable, and sustainable future. It is our right to be heard, and it is our future that is at stake. I call on leaders here at COP29 to remember that we are the ones who will inherit this planet."

Zunaira, 14, Pakistan, 2024 © UNICEF/UNI686760/Ahmed



In Maldives – where uprooted trees, rising seas and plastic waste suffocating swimming areas are symbols of climate change – I was inspired by a dynamic group of children and young people: The Climate Guardians. Partnering with UNICEF and local NGOs, they are finding solutions to save their island home.

This is UNICEF at its best: working alongside young people as they realize their agency and potential.

And that agency is especially powerful – and essential – for girls.

In Nepal, the Rupantaran training programme builds girls' confidence by fostering their social and craft skills. This confidence empowers girls to speak out and shape their futures. For example, 15-year-old Anita was able to explain the risks of early marriage to her parents, and escape it.

UNICEF-supported programmes provided nearly 10 million adolescent girls with tools to prevent child marriage. Nearly 20 million community members took part in reflective dialogues on ending discriminatory social and gender norms and harmful practices.

Indeed, 2024 was a challenging year for child rights in South Asia. But UNICEF – reinvigorated in its mission to realize the rights of all children – supported millions more children on the path to a healthier and more productive future.

The work continues. We will not give up.

West and Central Africa



Gilles Fagninou, Regional Director

West and Central Africa is undergoing major shifts – from evolving political, economic and humanitarian landscapes to the growing impacts of climate change. Amid these changes, adolescent girls are emerging as powerful forces for change, driving solutions in their communities.

Under the shade of a towering mango tree in Djibalo, Central African Republic, 15-year-old Lydie sits with quiet determination. Just a year ago, her path seemed set – married at 14 and pregnant, she had to abandon school. But today, with support from UNICEF and local women's organizations, she is back in class, reclaiming her

future. "I want to study so I can give my child a better life," she says.

For Lydie, school is about more than lessons – it offers hope, opportunities, and the chance to continue dreaming.

Her story is not unique. Across the region, adolescent girls are challenging norms, fighting harmful practices, advocating for their rights and driving change in their communities.

In 2024, conflict and insecurity continued to disrupt education across the region, forcing more than 13,000 schools to close. Yet, access to education overall improved, with 12.8 million children – including 5.5 million girls – benefiting from UNICEF-supported initiatives, such as innovative digital education solutions. Multisectoral strategies helped improve equity and learning outcomes.

In December 2024, UNICEF supported the African Union Continental Education Conference, which resulted in the Nouakchott Declaration – a landmark commitment that sets the vision for the next decade of education in Africa, including the eradication of learning poverty by 2035.



Hadassah, 8, believes that every girl should have the chance to lead change, that nothing is impossible for them.

Republic of the Congo, October 2024 © UNICEF/UNI757133/



UNICEF's advocacy also played a pivotal role in driving health sector reforms, ensuring immunization remain a top priority – with the 'No More Zero-Dose' campaign mobilizing millions – and empowering youth leaders to drive climate action. One of them, 18-year-old Sarah from Gabon, traveled to Baku to attend COP29 and speak up for her future. While malnutrition remained a critical concern, exacerbated by food insecurity and rising humanitarian needs, we continued expanding the First Foods Africa initiative, fostering private-sector engagement in producing local, affordable, nutrient-rich food.

Through collaboration with adolescent girls, child protection practitioners developed interventions that empowered them to protect themselves and others within a more supportive community environment. Esther, from Kinshasa, received child protection services during a difficult time in her life, when she and her family were temporarily homeless. Attending the Democratic Republic of the Congo Girls' Forum in 2022 helped her realize that, just like her, many girls across the country face similar challenges and need support. Inspired, she decided to become a qualified parasocial worker through a programme established by the Ministry of Social Affairs, with support from UNICEF. Today, Esther works at one of the Toyokana safe spaces in Kinshasa, guiding and assisting young girls and women in need.

This year, 19 governments in the region pledged concrete actions to end violence against children – including gender-based violence and harmful practices that disproportionately affect girls – following the First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children in Bogotá. Strategic advocacy efforts helped prevent the repeal of the Gambia's anti-FGM law, while UNICEF's leadership in birth registration supported governments in accelerating progress, making West Africa the fastest-advancing region in sub-Saharan Africa for legal identity rights.

Looking ahead to 2025, the focus is shifting – from a narrative of crises to one of opportunities. A central priority will be the Year of Hope and Transformation for Girls in West and Central Africa, leveraging the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action to advance gender equality. In partnership with governments, UNICEF will support adolescent girls in shaping a regional agenda on girls' rights and will convene a regional summit on girls' rights in October – to ensure that their voices are heard, their needs prioritized and their leadership elevated.

2025 will be a year of transformation – a year to act, innovate and accelerate change.

Because when adolescent girls take the lead, they don't just change their own futures. They transform entire societies.

Middle East and North Africa



Edouard Beigbeder,

Regional Director

The MENA region is facing immense challenges to the child rights agenda, with seismic geopolitical shifts and some of the world's most protracted and deadly conflicts affecting children. In response, UNICEF is actively advocating for child protection, humanitarian access, and essential services – while delivering on the ground in crisis-affected areas.

One of the most sobering trends of 2024 was the widening gap between humanitarian needs and available resources. Conflicts in Lebanon, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen led to a dramatic increase in violations of children's rights, displacement and vulnerability – demanding an expanded and simultaneous response from UNICEF across multiple escalating crises.

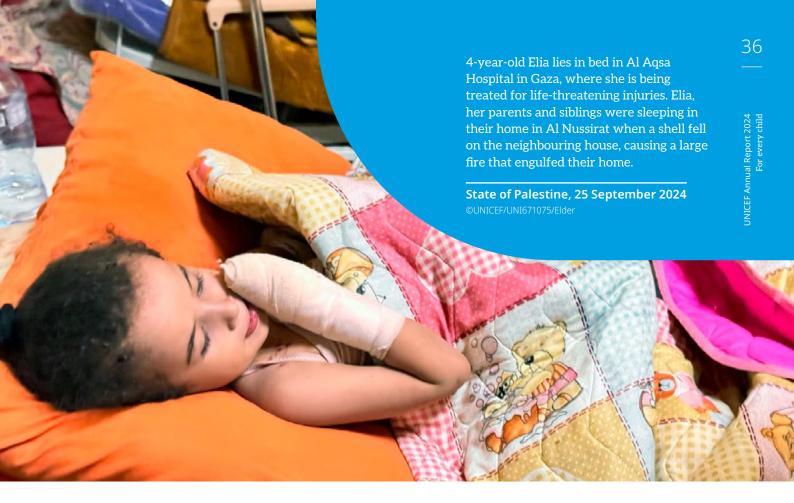
Ahmad and Mahmoud cannot attend school and instead work in their local market. UNICEF is working tirelessly across Syria to address the urgent needs of children and families, focusing on essential services like education, water, sanitation, child protection, health and nutrition, and social protection.

Syrian Arab Republic, 14 December 2024 © UNICEF/UNI712081/Asmar Amidst this backdrop, UNICEF's role in providing urgent humanitarian assistance and supporting long-term recovery remains critical to the survival and well-being of millions of children.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, despite challenging operating conditions in a protracted conflict, we reached more than 7 million children – supporting education for nearly 900,000 children and providing access to safe drinking water to 2.5 million children.

In the Sudan, where conflict led to large-scale displacement and food insecurity, UNICEF and its partners delivered nutrition services to more than 4.2 million children and pregnant or lactating women, provided critical child protection services to 2.8 million children, and reached 9.8 million people with improved water, sanitation, and hygiene services.





UNICEF's rapid response in the Gaza Strip was pivotal in alleviating some of the immediate suffering. We reached over 588,000 children with humanitarian cash transfers, provided 1.4 million people with nutrition programme services and supplies, and delivered safe water to an average of 700,000 children each month – all while advocating for safe and unrestricted humanitarian access in an increasingly challenging environment.

To advance child rights across the region, we are partnering with OHCHR and aligning our efforts with the UNICEF Human Rights Roadmap, the SDGs, and the United Nations Secretary-General's call for child rights mainstreaming. Through capacity-building, evidence-based advocacy, and policy reforms, we are ensuring that children's rights remain a priority on both regional and global agendas.

A key focus area is our Children on the Move portfolio, which addresses complex migration dynamics across MENA and beyond. Since 2023, we have strengthened cross-regional coordination, developed impactful advocacy tools, and fostered partnerships to ensure that migrant and displaced children are protected and have access to essential services.

From the Child Rights Law in Jordan to the CRC Review in Egypt, high-level advocacy in Morocco, and academic partnerships in Oman, UNICEF is driving policy reform and strategic alliances to protect children and uphold their rights across the MENA region.

These achievements, realized under the most challenging conditions, stand as a testament to the unwavering dedication of UNICEF staff, who continue to go above and beyond in their commitment to the region's children and their fundamental rights.

As we move into 2025, humanitarian crises in the region persist, alongside mounting pressures against the child rights agenda. The year ahead is expected to bring further difficulties, making the need for sustained funding and international solidarity more urgent than ever. UNICEF's role has never been more critical.

To secure the future of children in the MENA region, we must continue to demonstrate the tangible and measurable impact of our work. UNICEF must remain visibly present and actively engaged in delivering lifesaving programmes. Our ability to mobilize resources for children depends on the trust and confidence of our donors and partners in our unwavering commitment to those who need us most.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Roberto Benes, **Regional Director**

More than 30 years ago, I began my professional journey as a researcher in Lima, Peru - eager to learn and contribute to children's lives and their communities. In 2025, I return to the region as Regional Director with pride in the progress UNICEF has helped shape for children across Latin America and the Caribbean.

I also return with a deep sense of responsibility – to protect what we've built, to secure the resources needed to sustain and scale our impact, and to confront the threats that risk undoing hard-won gains and stalling the promises to children that remain unmet.

In 2024, Latin America and the Caribbean continued to build on decades of progress for children and their rights. With support from UNICEF and partners, governments across the region developed child-focused laws, policies and programmes. Two countries passed landmark legislation prohibiting child marriage. Five countries submitted updated Nationally Determined Contributions that consider children and youth in climate actions. And yet, 2024 was also a year that reminded us just how precarious progress can be if the region fails to end violence against children.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, two in three children grow up with violent discipline. Homicide is the leading cause of death among adolescents, with rates four times the global average. Millions of girls experience sexual violence, and the region has the second-highest adolescent birth rate globally.



Haiti is my country, I love each day I pass here. One day I wish to hear no more gunshots."

> Chris Jordan, 8, Haiti, February 2024 © UNICEF/UNI546815/Joseph



Violence not only harms children, but also undermines the care and investments in their futures. It amplifies the region's inequalities, with Afro-descendant, Indigenous and poor communities among the most affected.

Last year we saw how violence, along with poverty and climate change, continued to push millions of people – 1 in 4 of them children – to flee their homes in search of a better life. We saw children killed and injured on the way to school. We saw how governments, faced with rising organized crime, prioritized security and risked rolling back juvenile justice reforms.

But we also saw unprecedented commitment to building a safer Latin America and the Caribbean. At the first Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, hosted in Colombia, 20 governments from the region made pledges to protect children through better data, policies and services. UNICEF and partners are now working with governments to put pledges into action.

While leveraging political will and policy change, UNICEF responded to humanitarian crises across the region. In Haiti, we reached almost 1 million people with life-saving support. In 18 countries, we worked with partners to help ensure that children on the move can thrive wherever they set foot. On the eve of COP29, we raised international alarm on record-breaking Amazon droughts.

The region's most urgent challenges cross borders and cannot be overcome alone. In 2024, we forged transformational partnerships, including with the Inter-American Development Bank and the Development Bank of Latin America, to leverage new resources for children. Regionally, we reached 1 million pledge donors, who contribute to results for children in the region and beyond.

In 2025, the stakes for children in Latin America and the Caribbean are higher than ever. Violence, inequality, climate change and growing pushback against child rights threaten past progress and the futures of millions. I return to this region with renewed resolve and unwavering hope. UNICEF will stand firm with partners to defend progress – and to advance the work still left to do.

Europe and Central Asia



Regina De Dominicis,

Regional Director

Many children in Europe and Central Asia faced overlapping challenges in 2024, with conflict, climate change, poverty and inequality combining to disrupt their lives. They included the millions affected by the war in Ukraine – now in its fourth year – and those who arrived in Europe through the Mediterranean or Balkan migration routes.

In response, UNICEF worked to accelerate results at scale. Our 22 country offices and four refugee and migration response offices expanded access to essential services, strengthened national systems and advanced policies to improve the well-being of every child, especially the most vulnerable.

We continued to push for the best start in life for every child, addressing gaps in early childhood development (ECD) services. In 2024, we helped integrate ECD into health services in 20 countries, exceeding our targets and reaching over

Children attend preschool in a renovated shelter that enables them to continue learning even during air raids in Popilnia, a village in Ukraine's Zhytomyrska region.

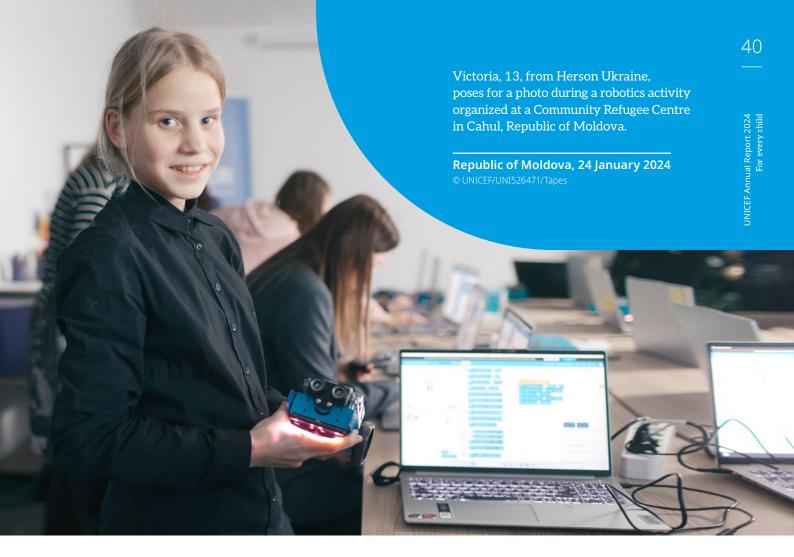
Ukraine, 25 March 2024 © UNICEF/UNI614253/Vashkiv 2.2 million young children and their parents with care and support they need to thrive.

With measles cases doubling in 2024, immunization remained a top priority. With UNICEF support, over 3 million children were reached with measles vaccines across 15 countries and are now protected against this disease.

In education, we championed inclusion by supporting countries such as Albania, Armenia, North Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova in strengthening policies, teacher training, and assistive technology – ensuring that children with disabilities have access to quality learning.

Child protection remained a priority in a region where the share of children in residential care is twice the global average. In 2024, 16 governments pledged to accelerate deinstitutionalization, recognizing UNICEF as a regional leader and key partner in care reform.





Through strong partnerships and strategic leveraging, we supported care system reforms in Moldova, North Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan – countries that are home to a total of more than 20 million children – helping to ensure that more children grow up in safe, nurturing family environments instead of institutions.

Around half of all children in the region face violent discipline at home. In 2024, our advocacy helped Tajikistan join the growing list of countries banning corporal punishment – a key step to protecting the country's more than 4 million children from violence. In Kazakhstan, a country with almost 7 million children, we supported the development of a national plan to prevent sexual violence.

We worked throughout the year to shield children from poverty, including those caught up in crises. As a result, seven countries improved their Humanitarian Cash Transfer response in 2024, distributing around US\$66 million to over 170,000 households. With our support, 14 countries enhanced their preparedness for shock-responsive social protection.

Various national efforts strengthened gender equality with our support, from integrating gender-responsive policies into social protection to expanding opportunities for girls in STEM and digital education in 15 countries.

Together with and for young people, we amplified their voices influence on policies and programming. Our region-wide study with the European Training Foundation gathered insights from more than 40,000 young people in 21 countries to shape recommendations for policy makers. In total, almost 1 million young people in the region either took part in or led civic engagement initiatives supported by UNICEF to drive change in their communities.

We focused on both immediate response and long-term resilience so that children's lives are protected during and after a crisis. We also further strengthened our programmatic focus, our public-private partnerships, our joint approaches with UN sister agencies and pioneered innovative ways of working and sharing expertise, to ensure we remain agile and ready to meet the evolving needs of children in our region.

Part 4

Financials

Financial results, 2024

Donor support has already changed the world. But now is not the time to step back. UNICEF thanks our donors and partners who contributed so generously in 2024 to our work for children around the world including through National Committees. We want to specifically thank donors who contributed flexibly to Core Resources (RR) and thematic funds. Flexible, sustained investment has delivered extraordinary results for children and proven what's possible when the world shows up.

This hard-won progress is under threat from the unprecedented cuts in international aid funding. Saving and protecting millions of children's lives is a collective endeavor. That's why UNICEF is calling for United Nations Member States to fulfill their Funding Compact commitment and for all donors to prioritize flexible funding within their overall portfolio of giving to UNICEF.

Revenue by source and funding type, 2024

(US\$ millions)

Core or Regular Resources - RR

Unearmarked funds that are foundational to all UNICEF efforts on behalf of children, including the delivery of results across the Strategic Plan and UNICEF's contributions to the SDGs.

Other Resources - OR

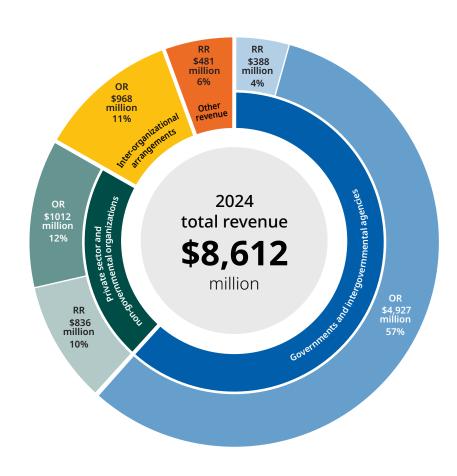
Earmarked contributions for programmes; these are supplementary to RR contributions and are made for a specific purpose such as an emergency response or a specific programme in a country/region.

Other Resources, Regular

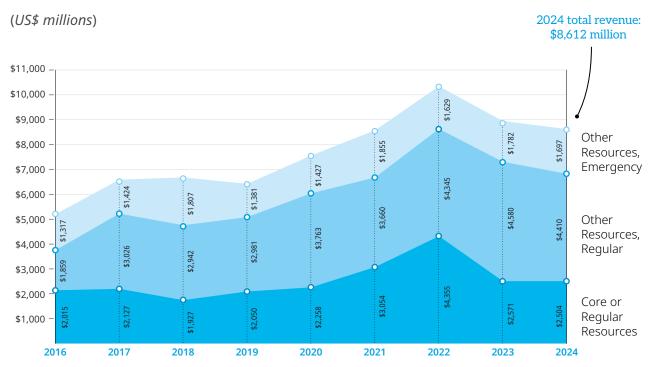
Earmarked funds for specific, non-emergency programme purposes and strategic priorities.

Other Resources, Emergency

Earmarked funds for specific humanitarian action and post-crisis recovery activities.



Revenue by type of funding (RR, ORR, ORE), 2016–2024



UNICEF Expenditure, 2024

(US\$ millions)

This report presents information on both expenditures and expenses incurred by UNICEF in the course of its operations and programme delivery.

Expenses are presented on an accrual basis and reflect operating and programmatic costs.

Expenditure are presented on a modified cash basis and represent the use of allocated budgetary resources, including capital expenditures.

91% of UNICEF expenditure in 2024 was in programmes*

BUDGET CATEGORY	Expenditure
Development	\$7,381
Programme	\$7,178
Development effectiveness	\$203
Management	\$407
United Nations development coordination	\$10
Independent oversight and assurance	\$29
Special purpose (including capital investment)	\$33
Private fundraising and partnerships	\$239
Total expenditure	\$8,099

^{*}This figure reflects the share of combined expenditure of Programmes and Development Effectiveness. **Programmes** refers to direct programmes for children at the country, regional and global level. **Development Effectiveness** refers to UNICEF's technical excellence and results-based management for high-quality programmes.

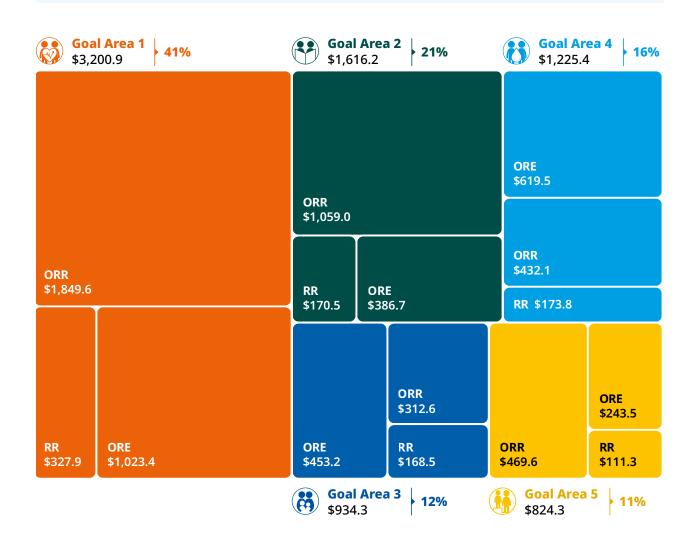
Direct programme expenses, 2024 by goal area

(US\$ millions)

RR = Core or Regular Resources

ORR= Other Resources, Regular

ORE = Other Resources, Emergency



Goal Area 1

Every child survives and thrives with access to nutritious diets, quality primary healthcare, nurturing practices and essential supplies.

Goal Area 2

Every child learns and acquires skills for the future with safe and supportive school environments.

Goal Area 3

Every child is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices with access to response services and empowerment of families, parents and caregivers.

Goal Area 4

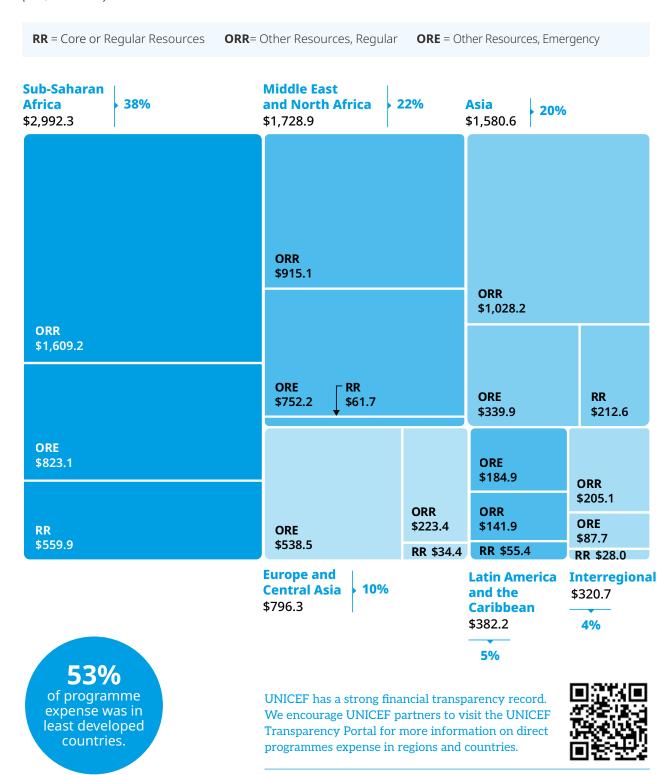
Every child has access to safe and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies, and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment.

Goal Area 5

Every child has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty. This includes supporting governments in measuring and monitoring child poverty, implementing public finance solutions, strengthening social protection systems, and expanding access to cash transfers, particularly in humanitarian contexts.

Direct programme expenses, 2024 by region

(US\$ millions)



Scan the QR code to visit the Transparency Portal website

Top 10 countries, contributions received by donor and funding type, 2024

(US\$)

	Core or Regu	lar Resources	Other R	esources	
COUNTRY	Government	Private sector	Government	Private sector	Total
United States	\$137,000,000	\$14,804,446	\$981,093,119	\$273,388,079	\$1,406,285,645
Germany	\$65,550,169	\$69,355,573	\$613,107,095	\$60,213,401	\$808,226,238
United Kingdom	\$20,408,163	\$33,090,486	\$392,403,583	\$81,136,475	\$527,038,707
Japan	\$11,252,885	\$144,980,354	\$98,344,268	\$28,291,993	\$282,869,500
Republic of Korea	\$14,568,981	\$84,595,742	\$127,244,843	\$14,259,034	\$240,668,600
Sweden	\$56,529,556	\$33,655,050	\$126,244,741	\$21,437,978	\$237,867,325
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	\$47,124,136	\$48,440,925	\$124,299,208	\$12,360,273	\$232,224,541
Canada	\$11,464,968	\$12,640,271	\$92,832,737	\$67,622,421	\$184,560,396
Norway	\$45,464,005	\$10,707,137	\$90,316,519	\$7,067,242	\$153,554,903
France	\$2,195,325	\$57,856,079	\$55,309,672	\$17,204,303	\$132,565,379



Top 30 resource partners by contributions received, 2024

(US\$ millions)

PARTNER	Core or	Other Resources		
	Regular Resources	Regular	Emergency	Total
United States	\$137	\$114	\$867	\$1,118
Germany	\$66	\$503	\$110	\$679
European Commission	-	\$302	\$248	\$550
World Bank - Washington D.C.	-	\$439	-	\$439
United Kingdom	\$20	\$82	\$310	\$413
United States Fund for UNICEF	\$15	\$230	\$44	\$288
European Investment Bank	-	\$248	-	\$248
Global Partnership for Education	-	\$221	-	\$221
GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance	-	\$162	\$23	\$185
Sweden	\$57	\$50	\$76	\$183
UNOCHA	-	-	\$174	\$174
Japan Committee for UNICEF	\$145	\$14	\$15	\$173
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	\$47	\$90	\$34	\$171
Republic of Korea	\$15	\$39	\$88	\$142
Norway	\$45	\$38	\$52	\$136
German Committee for UNICEF	\$69	\$26	\$35	\$130
United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	\$33	\$57	\$24	\$114
Japan	\$11	\$17	\$81	\$110
Canada	\$11	\$66	\$27	\$104
Korean Committee for UNICEF	\$85	\$8	\$6	\$99
Asian Development Bank	-	\$98	-	\$98
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS	-	\$91	\$3	\$94
Denmark	\$15	\$43	\$30	\$88
Spanish Committee for UNICEF	\$66	\$10	\$8	\$84
United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund	\$0	\$71	\$10	\$81
Canadian UNICEF Committee	\$13	\$27	\$41	\$80
French Committee for UNICEF	\$58	\$10	\$8	\$75
Dutch Committee for UNICEF	\$48	\$5	\$7	\$61
France	\$2	\$40	\$15	\$58
United Nations Joint Programmes	-	\$55	-	\$56

Private-sector partners contributing \$100,000 or more to UNICEF programmes in 2024

(\$100k +)

Private foundations, major donors, partnerships with subregional governments, and membership and faith-based organizations

organizations	
A/S D/S Orient's Fond	Fundação José Luiz Egydio Setubal
Abdulla Al Abdulla	Fundación Carlos Slim
Abram and Ray Kaplan Foundation	Fundación La Margarita Zemborain – Grondona
Advanced Remarketing Services	G. Barrie Landry, Landry Family Foundation
Afeyan Foundation	Gates Foundation
Al Ghurair	Gates Philanthropy Partners
Al Waleed Philanthropies	George and Danielle Boutros
Alvin Sandefur	George Newell
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The LEGO Group		
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Orbea	Viet Nam

Top 20 partners to core or regular resources by contributions received, 2024

(US\$ millions)

PARTNER	Total
Japan Committee for UNICEF	145
United States	137
Korean Committee for UNICEF	84.6
German Committee for UNICEF	69.4
Spanish Committee for UNICEF	65.8
Germany	65.6
French Committee for UNICEF	57.9
Sweden	56.5
Dutch Committee for UNICEF	48.4
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	47.1
Norway	45.5
Italian Committee for UNICEF	38.4
Swedish Committee for UNICEF	33.7
United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	33.1
Switzerland	25.0
United Kingdom	20.4
Belgian Committee for UNICEF	16.1
Belgium	16.1
Denmark	15.4
Polish National Committee for UNICEF	14.8

Top 10 partners to thematic funding by contributions received, 2024

(US\$ millions)

PARTNER	Thematic other resources (regular)	Thematic other resources (emergency)	Total thematic resources
Sweden	37.1	10.5	47.6
Denmark	14.5	24.0	38.6
United States Fund for UNICEF	4.8	27.8	32.5
United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	1.3	20.9	22.2
Germany	1.6	17.9	19.5
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	-	18.6	18.6
German Committee for UNICEF	3.2	14.1	17.3
Norway	14.7	-	14.7
Canadian UNICEF Committee	9.0	5.5	14.5
UNICEF Ireland	0.3	14.2	14.5

for every child

Whoever she is.

Wherever he lives.

Every child deserves a childhood.

A future.

A fair chance.

That's why UNICEF is there.

For each and every child.

Working day in and day out.

In more than 190 countries and territories.

Reaching the hardest to reach.

The furthest from help.

The most excluded.

It's why we stay to the end.

And never give up.



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