

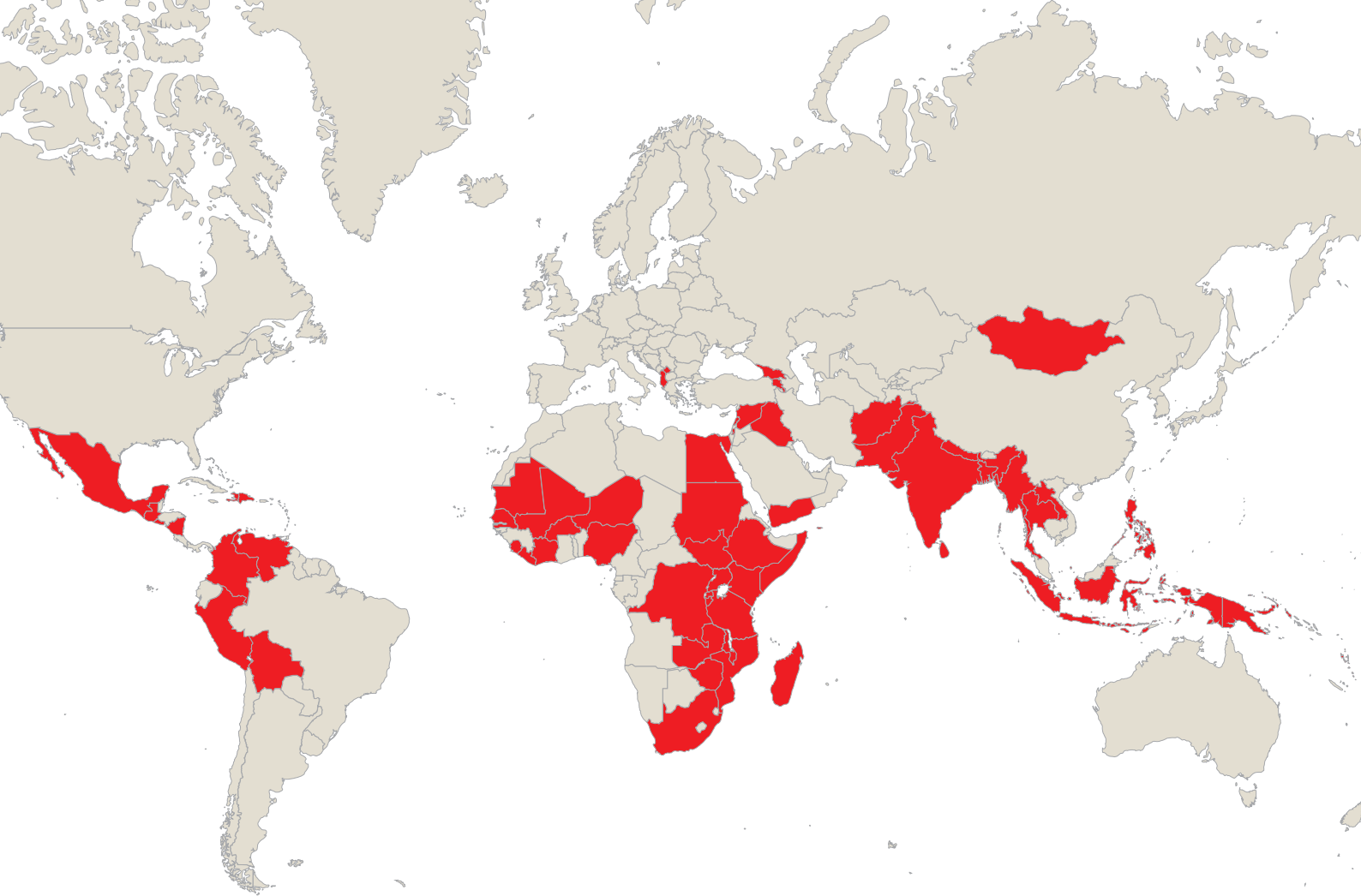


Save the Children

THE CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

2023 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

11-year-old Marah* loves learning. She was forced to flee her home in northern Syria due to conflict and then the earthquakes that hit the region in 2023. We set up temporary learning centres in the camp where she's living, allowing her to get her education back on track.



TOGETHER, WE HELPED MORE THAN 26 MILLION PEOPLE, INCLUDING 14.7 MILLION CHILDREN, THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND IN 2023

In 2023, children and families around the world were faced with many emergencies, from earthquakes, escalating conflict and climate disasters to name a few. But with your support for the Children's Emergency Fund, we were able to respond to almost every major disaster – from sudden emergencies to longer-term crises that didn't make the headlines.

Our global network of local experts were on hand to help children and communities get the lifesaving support they needed – from food, water and medicine to the essentials they couldn't carry like safe shelter, education and mental health support. After a disaster, we stayed by communities' sides, helping them rebuild and recover.

From October to December 2023, the Fund allocated **\$9.3 million** to help respond to emergencies around the world – bringing the total to **\$57 million in 2023**.

Funding went to where it was needed most, as well as helping communities anticipate and prepare for future disasters to limit their impact – **19% of funds** went to anticipatory action and preparedness.

We formed new partnerships and channelled more funds than ever before (**18% of funds**) to local and national partners, as they know their communities' needs best.

Thank you for supporting the Children's Emergency Fund. Read on to learn about our impact together from October – December 2023.

2023 in numbers:

\$65.7
million
raised

\$57
million
allocated

59
countries

41%
of funding
decisions
in 24 hours

18%
of funds
to local
partners

19%
of funds to
anticipatory
action



Omar* with his sons Ali* and Ahmed* opening a food parcel delivered by one of our partners in Western Rafah, Gaza.

ISRAEL-GAZA WAR

The Israel-Gaza war has resulted in horrendous consequences for children. In the past five months alone, more than 12,900 children in Gaza have been killed, as well as 400 children in the West Bank and 33 children in Israel. Families have lost their homes, communities and livelihoods.

The Children's Emergency Fund quickly provided **\$4 million** to our teams in the occupied Palestinian territory, as well as Egypt, Lebanon and across the region – followed by a further **\$5.2 million** by the end of 2023. This was critical to kick-start our response and start preparing emergency supplies.

Despite severely restricted humanitarian access into Gaza, our teams across the region have worked around the clock to get critical aid to children and their families. We worked with local partners in Gaza to distribute **cash, food parcels, water and hygiene products** for women and babies. Our partners in northern Gaza are also running **recreational activities** and providing **psychosocial support** when possible, giving children some respite from the violence.

Across the West Bank, we've been able to provide **emergency cash, learning kits and games** to displaced families and work with local partners to prepare essential items. In Egypt, we're supporting **ambulances and hospitals** to care for premature and newborn babies arriving with their families from Gaza. In Lebanon, where there have also been escalations of violence, we're supporting families who've fled their homes.

In 2023 alone, we supported more than 216,000 people, including **114,000 children in Gaza and the West Bank**. However, the level of humanitarian access in Gaza remains woefully inadequate and conditions to provide assistance to children are getting worse.

We continue to call for an **immediate definitive ceasefire** and unfettered humanitarian access, so we can scale up our response to this growing crisis and all children can get the support they desperately need right now. In the meantime, we will continue to do everything we can to help children caught up in this crisis, and are preparing to support families in the months and years ahead, whatever the future holds.



Edris* with his children, one-year-old Najib* and four-year-old Jawid*. The family's house collapsed in the earthquake and they are living in a temporary shelter. We provided Edris with a cash transfer, which he plans to spend on food and winter clothes for his wife and children.

EARTHQUAKES IN AFGHANISTAN

In October, four massive earthquakes and multiple aftershocks shook Herat region in western Afghanistan in the deadliest natural disaster to hit the country in decades. Entire villages were destroyed and more than 1,300 people lost their lives, many of whom were children sleeping at home. More than 20,000 people were affected in a country which was already struggling with a growing economic crisis and hunger.

In the words of Atabek Khadim, a Save the Children staff member in Afghanistan:

“Around me, I see the life of the people being turned upside down and the children here have already been through so much. More than 7,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged, leaving thousands homeless, and forced to sleep out in the open.

I've seen how locals are sharing their food with each other, but this isn't sustainable. In some communities, they simply don't have enough food to eat.”

The Children's Emergency Fund gave **\$300,000** to help our staff like Atabek to launch a full response in collaboration with local and international partners.

In the worst-impacted areas, we were one of the lead organisations responding to the damage. We provided thousands of families with **emergency cash assistance** to meet their basic needs such as food, medicine and warm clothes for winter.

We also provided **psychological support** to children, caregivers and humanitarian workers. And we set up **child friendly spaces** to provide children and young people with a safe place to play, learn and heal.



Atabek Khadim in Herat, Afghanistan.

DISEASE OUTBREAK IN NIGERIA

When cases of diphtheria skyrocketed across northeast Nigeria last August, health services quickly became overwhelmed. Diphtheria can cause severe inflammation of the nose, throat and windpipe and can be fatal, with children under 14 most at risk.

We quickly deployed our **Emergency Health Unit** – a global team of health experts, including doctors, nurses and logisticians – to work alongside local health workers to help treat children and manage the spread of disease in communities. This was possible thanks to an initial **\$100,000** from the Children’s Emergency Fund, which was complemented by additional funding from a donor.

Together with local healthcare workers, our teams **treated more than 1,200 people**, including more than 900 children, from September–November 2023. We set up contact tracing and delivered community education to help reduce the spread. We also **vaccinated more than 188,000 people** against this preventable disease to limit future outbreaks.



Yakaka vaccinates Fatima at a Save the Children supported diphtheria vaccination campaign in Nigeria.



Children affected by Hurricane Otis posing behind their artwork at one of our child-friendly spaces.

HURRICANE OTIS IN MEXICO

On 25 October, Hurricane Otis – the strongest storm to ever hit Mexico’s pacific coast – caused torrential rains and massive flooding across Guerrero state. More than 250,00 homes were damaged, 185,000 children were out of school, and many families were left without food, water or power.

Thanks to **\$500,000** from the Children’s Emergency Fund, our teams in Mexico were able to quickly provide **nutritious food, water, and hygiene and wellbeing kits** to families whose homes were destroyed. They also set up **child friendly spaces** for children to play, relax and receive psychosocial support to help them cope with their experiences.

Thanks to the flexibility of these funds, our teams could adapt their response as children and families’ needs changed and reach more children in areas where access to aid was limited. They also successfully **leveraged a further \$2.3 million** from corporate and institutional donors to scale up their response, helping many more children and families.

LOCAL PARTNERS

We would not be able to achieve our humanitarian impact without our incredible local and national partners. In 2023, we channelled approximately **\$10.1 million** – or 18% of funds – from the Children’s Emergency Fund to around **80 partners** around the world. This includes national, local and community-based organisations.

Here are some examples of our work with partners in 2023:

- In Afghanistan, where communities are facing serious risk of hunger and food insecurity, we worked with local partners to provide safe drinking water via deep wells and a solar-powered water system, also helping to reduce the risk of water-borne diseases. We also provided \$302,369 from the Children’s Emergency Fund to our partner **Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation** to support food security in Nuristan province.
- In the Philippines, when the Mayon Volcano was at risk of erupting in June, families were evacuated from the danger zone for their safety. This included more than 27,000 children. We worked with our partner **Tarabang para sa Bicol** to assess what families needed most. Then our partner, **Sining Banwa** (a youth-led art organisation) provided psychosocial support, such as visual arts, creative storytelling, theatre, and ran discussion groups for children and carers. Together with our partners, we also provided cash for families, as well as back-to-school kits for more than 300 children and teacher kits for more than 190 adults.
- In Bangladesh, we invested \$159,000 from the Children’s Emergency Fund to carry out flood anticipatory action initiatives in Gaibandha district in partnership with the **SKS Foundation**. They took forecast analysis from the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and turned this into scenario-based flood early actions. This triggered early action to help families mitigate the loss and damage of flooding. As a result, 600 families received cash through mobile transfers to buy medicines, animal feed, and food like rice and lentils.
- In Somalia, around 1.2 million women and girls don’t have access to sexual and gender-based violence services and support. We teamed up with the **Somali Women and Child Care Association** to educate and empower communities to tackle gender-based violence. This included running discussion forums between communities and government officials, and training local staff and volunteers on preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

Save the Children in the Philippines with local partners Tarabang para sa Bicol and Sining Banwa, running psychosocial support activities for children in an evacuation centre in Albay Province.



CRISES TO WATCH IN 2024

In 2024, nearly 300 million people worldwide – or 1 in 27 – will require humanitarian assistance. We're paying particular attention the humanitarian situation in the following countries, among others:

Afghanistan

Children in Afghanistan are facing a multitude of crises that continue to threaten their rights and futures. The economic crisis, severe hunger, flooding, consecutive droughts, displacement – and in recent months, earthquakes – have turned children's lives upside down across the country. In 2024, 23.7 million people need life-saving assistance – 50% are children.

Myanmar

Children in Myanmar continue to bear the brunt of the combined effects of conflict, a deep economic crisis and the collapse of national systems including health, education and social protection. Poverty has risen to levels not seen in 15 years, and 6 million children are in need of urgent support.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

The DRC continues to be home to the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. 25.4 million people already require humanitarian and food assistance. After years of conflict, the DRC now has the largest population of displaced people at around 6.5 million people.

The Central Sahel

Insecurity in the Sahel has the potential to affect the entire West African region, as seen by the escalating violence in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger. Potential escalation in northern Mali could lead to large-scale displacement. This volatility coupled with sanctions and funding cuts, will further hamper the ability of governments to deliver essential services.

Sudan and South Sudan

Sudan is now the largest child displacement crisis in the world. More than 8 million children have been forced to flee their homes. Many families are fleeing across borders into neighbouring Chad and South Sudan, triggering a regional refugee crisis. Already dire humanitarian conditions and access constraints are likely to continue through 2024.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is likely to experience a major humanitarian crisis in 2024 driven by climate shocks and conflict. About 4 million people in drought-affected locations need urgent food assistance. Meanwhile, in Somali and Oromia, heavy rainfall at the end of 2023 has caused widespread flooding, impacting over a million people.

Haiti

More than one million children in Haiti are living in areas controlled or under the influence of armed groups as violence spirals out of control, cutting them off from food and vital services. Combined with widespread poverty, growing food insecurity and a cholera outbreak, more than 3 million children need humanitarian assistance.

Latin America and the Caribbean

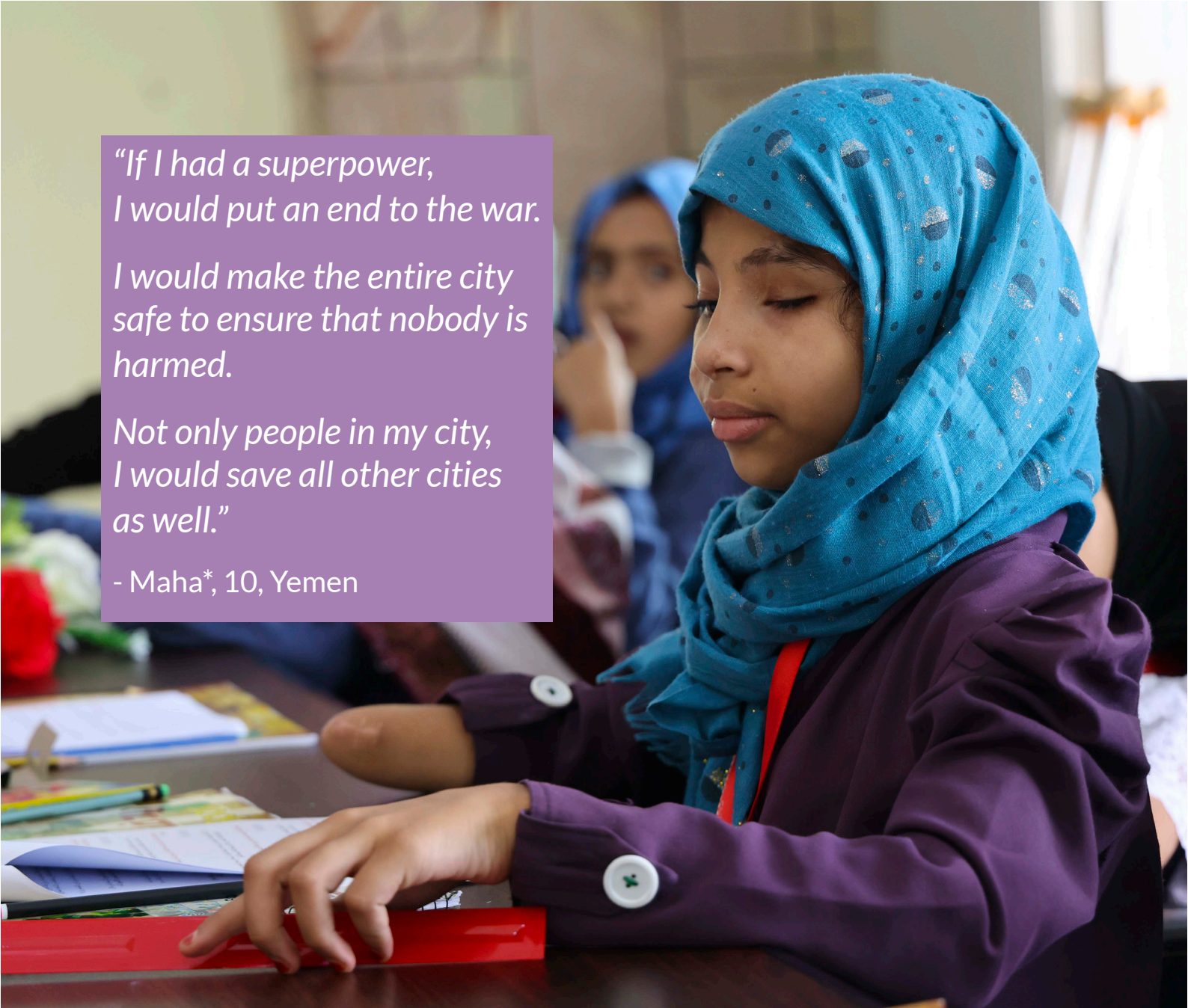
Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia will continue to see rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns, as well as associated disease outbreaks, driven by El Niño. Food insecurity is also likely to increase due to extreme weather events.



The Children's Emergency Fund will be needed more than ever in 2024. It enables us to respond quickly, support forgotten crises and help communities anticipate and prepare for future shocks.

We will continue to work side-by-side with local and national partners to ensure that children caught up in emergencies get the support they need to be safe, stay healthy, learn and recover.

Din Ali* and his 10-month-old daughter Mariam*, who is recovering from acute malnutrition, at home in Afghanistan.



*“If I had a superpower,
I would put an end to the war.*

*I would make the entire city
safe to ensure that nobody is
harmed.*

*Not only people in my city,
I would save all other cities
as well.”*

- Maha*, 10, Yemen

Thanks in part to the Children's Emergency Fund, our child protection teams in Yemen are supporting children injured by landmines, covering the costs of surgery and medication, providing psychosocial support and helping them get back to learning and following their dreams.

10-year-old Maha* was collecting firewood when she stood on a landmine and her life changed forever. Since receiving support from Save the Children, she's started going back to school. She wants to become a doctor so she can help other children who have been impacted by landmines.

THANK YOU

Your support for the Children's Emergency Fund in 2023 meant we could respond to disasters in 59 countries, helping 14.7 million children.

Thank you for helping us prepare better, respond faster and rebuild stronger.



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*names changed to protect identities
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