



**Save the Children**

# **CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND**

**Annual Report 2021**



## Dear partners and supporters,

I am happy to say we have come a long way together since we started our Children's Emergency Fund in 2018.

In these last years, we all witnessed major changes worldwide and rising humanitarian needs. To meet such ever-increasing humanitarian necessities, we had to change the way we work. Now crises are more frequent, longer and more severe, with more entrenched factors like climate change, conflict, forced migration and infectious diseases affecting children. Thanks to the provision of fast and flexible funds, we have been able to respond to this shifting landscape while focusing on the increased humanitarian needs and on the most vulnerable children.

I am proud to say that the **Children's Emergency Fund has continued to support responses with the highest needs in 2021.** In line with our humanitarian strategy, we have continued to respond to the so-called forgotten crises like the hunger emergency in Eswatini or the refugee crisis in Burundi. We kept collaborating and supporting local grass-root organizations like Sabuj Sangha, an Indian NGO with which we partnered to provide humanitarian aid during the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in the Sundarbans Delta area in India. Localization and forgotten crises will remain a focus in 2022.

As dramatic as it may sound, **the next humanitarian emergency isn't days away. It's already happening.**

Therefore, we need ready-to-use funds that will allow us to respond to the increased demands of helping the world's most vulnerable children today and in the years ahead. The Children's Emergency Fund will continue to aim at ensuring fast and efficient distribution of flexible money to our humanitarian responses across the world, where it matters most and at scale.

**But we can't do it without your support.**

In this annual report we would like to show you what – thanks to your trust and contribution - we have been able to achieve in 2021, the third year of the fund's existence. Your contribution has enabled our teams and local partners to provide supplies and bring immediate relief wherever the need was greatest.

**Thank you very much for your important and necessary support. Together we can be there for the children that need our help now and tomorrow. Children cannot wait.**



Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alex Brans'.

**Alex Brans**

Global Program Director,  
Save the Children Switzerland



## Executive Summary

The 2021 Annual Report of the Children's Emergency Fund's of Save the Children Switzerland covers all the allocations made in the Fund's third year of operation to humanitarian responses worldwide. In 2021, we have been able to help **over 110'000 people** with life-saving aid supporting 15 humanitarian responses in 13 countries. In 2021 we have allocated nearly 1.5 million Swiss francs from our Fund and, thanks to such initial contributions, we have been able to leverage an additional 16 millions of Swiss francs from other donors.

We supported children and families affected by conflict and human rights violations in contexts like Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan, as well as those affected by natural disasters, like the earthquake in Haiti. We were able to support those crises that hit the front lines, but also some chronic and underfunded ones, like the food security emergency in Eswatini.

On the following pages you will find lists of all the allocations made within 2021. Please note that the numbers of beneficiaries vary greatly according to the type of intervention and its context. In certain cases, data on beneficiaries was not available at the time of writing this report. If you need more information about any of the allocations, please don't hesitate to contact us.



## CEF allocations

The map below illustrates all the humanitarian responses we have supported in 2021 thanks to our CEF Fund. In 2021, Save the Children Switzerland responded to 15 crises in 13 countries.



## Children's Emergency Fund 2021

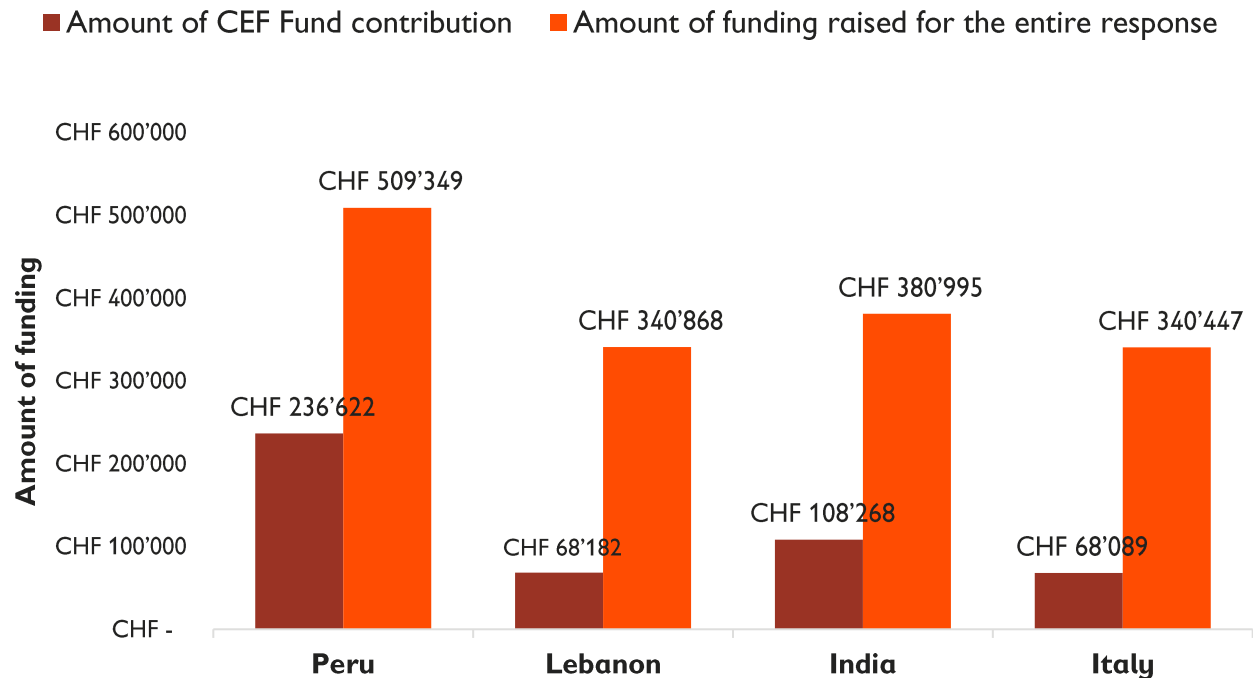
Country	Type of emergency	Allocation in CHF	Beneficiaries reached
Lebanon / Beirut	Beirut explosion and economic collapse in Lebanon	68'182	569
Bosnia	Refugee crisis	113'005	659
Peru	Covid-19 emergency	236'622	67'872
Yemen	Conflict / Protracted crisis	232'518	12'974
Eswatini	Food insecurity	20'703	1'823
Syria	Conflict / Protracted crisis	5'758	489
India/ Patna and Kolkata*	Covid-19 emergency	44'685	600
India / Sundarbans Delta*	Covid-19 emergency	108.268	10'300**
Haiti*	Earthquake	303'182	8'184**
Afghanistan	Conflict / Protracted crisis	100'000	3'292
Somalia	Drought crisis	50'000	697
Burundi*	Refugee crisis	100'000	3'719
Lithuania / Belarus*	Refugee crisis	46'139	430**
Italy*	Refugee crisis	68'089	2'200**
<b>Total</b>		<b>1'498'239</b>	<b>113'807</b>

\*Ongoing response. Final number of reached beneficiaries not yet available.

\*\*Target number of beneficiaries as it is an ongoing response.



## Examples of additional funding unlocked by our contributions



## Unlocking additional funds with initial CEF allocations allowed to help more beneficiaries

Thanks to our Fund contribution to several humanitarian responses, we were able to unlock and attract additional funding that allowed us to deliver more humanitarian aid and help more beneficiaries. The graph shows examples of the additional amount of funding that we were able to raise for some responses compared with the amount of CEF contributions alone.





## Forgotten emergency: Hunger crisis in Eswatini

The CEF also supports emergencies that capture less public attention so we can help children who remain voiceless and invisible when the world isn't watching. An example of this is our support in 2021 to children and families affected by the severe hunger crisis in Eswatini. This allocation to Eswatini follows our CEF humanitarian strategy and reflects our commitment to support the so-called "forgotten crises" as they are not in the news and struggle to receive enough funding.

With the allocation of 20'703 Swiss francs from our Children's Emergency Fund, we were able to improve access to food and non-food items for 618 vulnerable households in the Lubombo region for 1'823 beneficiaries.

*Samkelisiwe lives in Gilgali, in the Lubombo region, in Eswatini. The Lubombo region is notorious for its high level of poverty and the family also survives with less than one dollar a day. Samkelisiwe is 20 years old and the head of her family.*

**«The intervention has been very helpful and it came at a time when we needed it the most. We live in the COVID-19 era where it is not easy to even get a job. With schools closed, it was very difficult to even get food that would last us a month because we had to cook twice a day just to ensure that our younger siblings have something to eat which made everything worse»**

**Samkelisiwe**





## Forgotten emergency: in Burundi

Burundi is the midst of one of the most under-reported crises globally. The country is also one of the poorest in the world and faces huge challenges in terms of population displacement. Burundi counts some 122,500 internally displaced people. 84% of them are displaced because of natural disasters, whose frequency and intensity are increasing as a direct result of climate change. Since 2017, over 174,990 Burundians in exile (56% of whom are children) have returned to their country and struggle to access decent livelihoods and shelter, facing increasing protection challenges, which in turn lead to secondary displacements. On top of this, Burundi currently hosts 105,000 refugees and asylum seekers, who fled violence and armed conflicts from their countries of origin, especially from Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Displacements and natural shocks, combined with reintegration and protection challenges, and the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, have left 2.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021.

Thanks to the allocation of 100'000 Swiss francs from the Children's Emergency Fund, we were able to provide child protection and livelihoods services as well as non-food kits for vulnerable women, boys and girls of the refugee and Internally Displaced communities in Burundi.

Noella (17) and Diana (13) live with their mother Marie (47) and sister Noamie (4) in a tent shared with other families, in a displacement camp in Western Burundi. Noella and Diana's family had to leave their home in April 2020 when Lake Tanganyika broke its banks and flooded their house and farm. Since that time the waters have not receded and now the family are concerned about their future housing and income options.

Since being displaced to the camp, they have not been able to earn money and have lost all their belongings. This has made things very challenging for the family. The biggest challenge is the lack of food, as having no regular income makes it very difficult for the girls and the family to afford food to eat. This means that they often will only eat a single meal per day.

Save the Children has provided Noella and Diana with dignity kits, including sanitary pads, soap, and towels. We have also provided the girls with education materials, including copybooks and pens.

**«I really want to go back to school but I'm not able to because I don't have the right school materials. I was in grade three beforehand, before the flood. When our father passed away, it was difficult for us to go to school because he was the one keeping things going. I would like to be a doctor.»**

**Diana**





## Localization: Covid-19 Response in India

Save the Children recognises that **local and national actors are essential in supporting children's rights and humanitarian needs in all contexts**. As such, Save the Children is committed to shifting power, strengthen capacity and ownership to national and local actors where possible, and reinforcing, not replacing, existing national and local capacities.

In India, for example, we allocated over 100'000 CHF from the CEF to address the second big wave of COVID-19 cases that hit the vulnerable communities in the Sundarbans Delta area where we work with our trusted partner, the local NGO "Sabuj Sangha". Our aim is to collaborate together in increasing the resilience against COVID-19 of vulnerable households and reducing the gap in the existing local healthcare system. Most importantly, thanks to this fruitful collaboration, while working together, we are also strengthening the capacity and ownership of our local partner in the implementation of emergency responses.



## In focus:

### Haiti Earthquake

**The first hours are critical in any humanitarian response as children need help as soon as possible.** That's why we created our Children's Emergency Fund in 2018, to provide immediate support to children and their families hit by emergencies, like the Haiti Earthquake.

This allowed us to immediately respond when a major earthquake hit Haiti on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 affecting more than 800'000 people, destroying and damaging houses and leaving many families homeless. With more than 900 schools damaged or destroyed, 300'000 children could not go back to school.

With the support of the Fund, we were able to support the rehabilitation of the damaged water and sanitation facilities in several schools and to promote hygiene practices among students providing them with the necessary items, reaching almost 5'000 children so far and our work continues. The response is still ongoing and we are helping an increasing number of children.



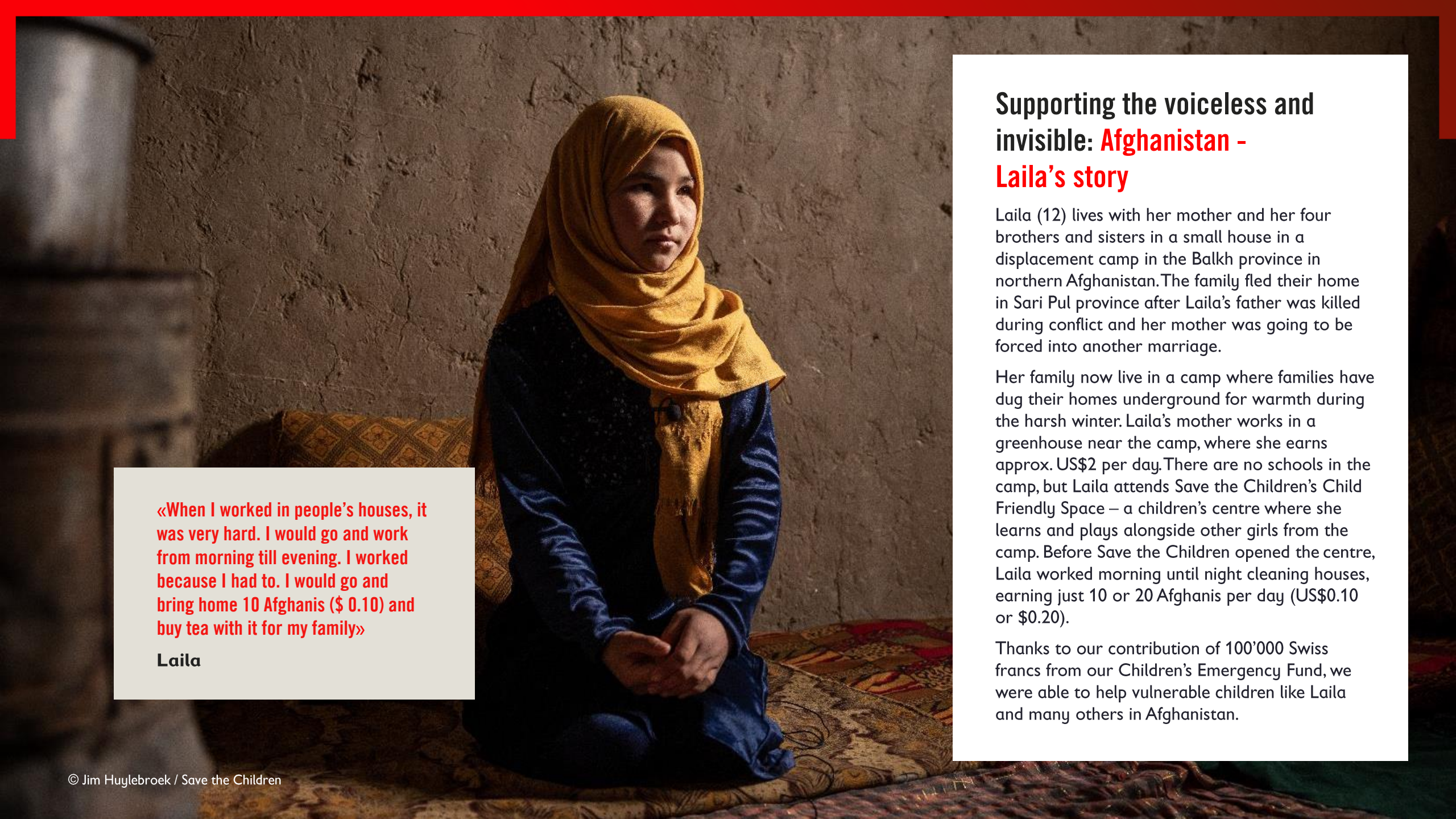
**«With Save the Children, medical services have really improved in terms of patient care, more medical staff, availability, etc. I bring my child to the health centre every month to be vaccinated.»**

Wood was just 6 months old when the recent earthquake devastated Haiti.

**«During the last earthquake, my baby was saved by his grandmother's quick thinking when a wall collapsed and was in danger of falling on him»**

her mother explained. Wood managed to survive but thousands of people were killed and tens of thousands more were left without access to a safe place to live, clean water, food and access to quality health services.





«When I worked in people's houses, it was very hard. I would go and work from morning till evening. I worked because I had to. I would go and bring home 10 Afghanis (\$ 0.10) and buy tea with it for my family»

**Laila**

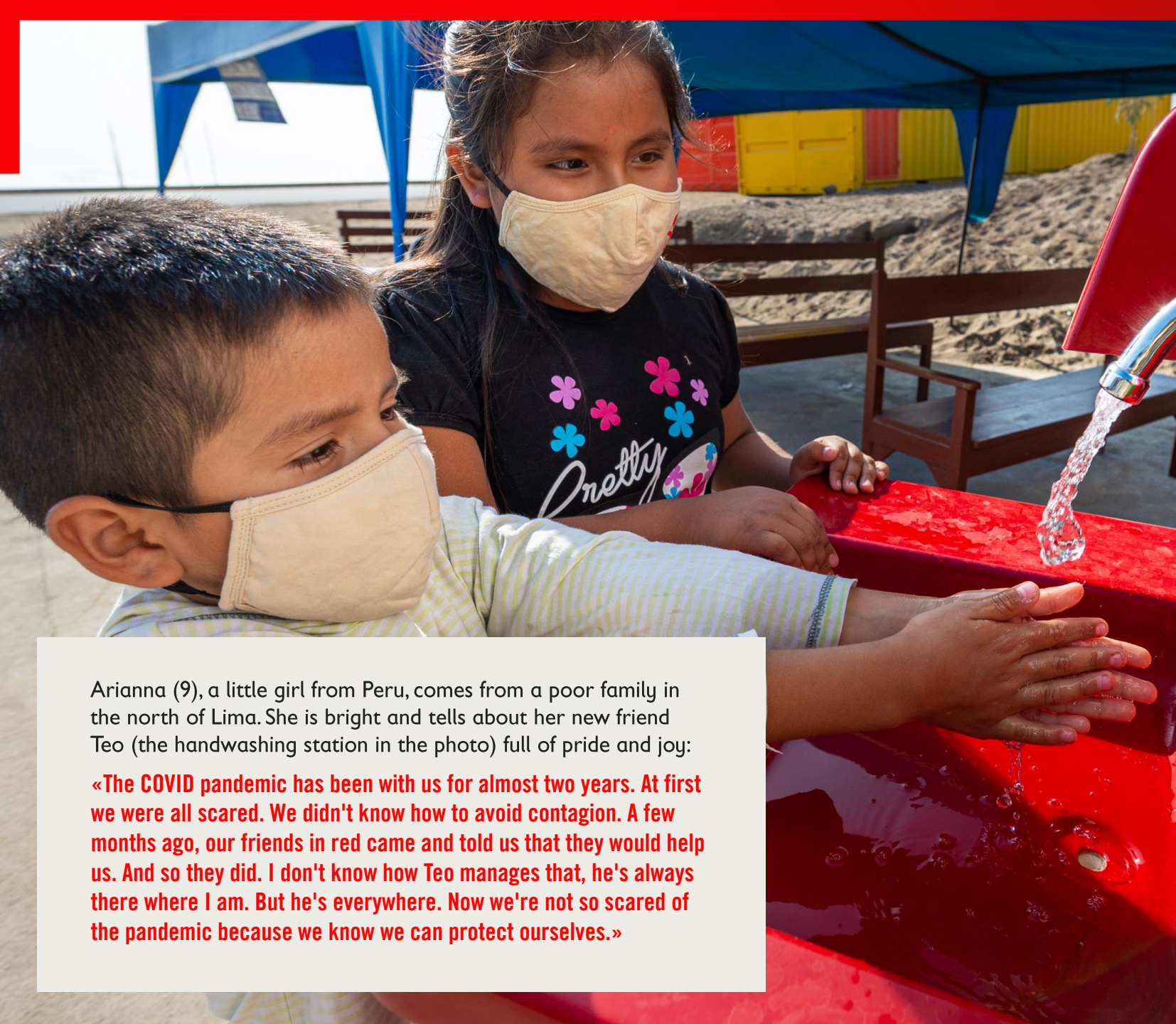
## Supporting the voiceless and invisible: **Afghanistan** - **Laila's story**

Laila (12) lives with her mother and her four brothers and sisters in a small house in a displacement camp in the Balkh province in northern Afghanistan. The family fled their home in Sari Pul province after Laila's father was killed during conflict and her mother was going to be forced into another marriage.

Her family now live in a camp where families have dug their homes underground for warmth during the harsh winter. Laila's mother works in a greenhouse near the camp, where she earns approx. US\$2 per day. There are no schools in the camp, but Laila attends Save the Children's Child Friendly Space – a children's centre where she learns and plays alongside other girls from the camp. Before Save the Children opened the centre, Laila worked morning until night cleaning houses, earning just 10 or 20 Afghanis per day (US\$0.10 or \$0.20).

Thanks to our contribution of 100'000 Swiss francs from our Children's Emergency Fund, we were able to help vulnerable children like Laila and many others in Afghanistan.





Arianna (9), a little girl from Peru, comes from a poor family in the north of Lima. She is bright and tells about her new friend Teo (the handwashing station in the photo) full of pride and joy:

**«The COVID pandemic has been with us for almost two years. At first we were all scared. We didn't know how to avoid contagion. A few months ago, our friends in red came and told us that they would help us. And so they did. I don't know how Teo manages that, he's always there where I am. But he's everywhere. Now we're not so scared of the pandemic because we know we can protect ourselves.»**

## Protection against Covid-19:

### Peru - Arianna's story

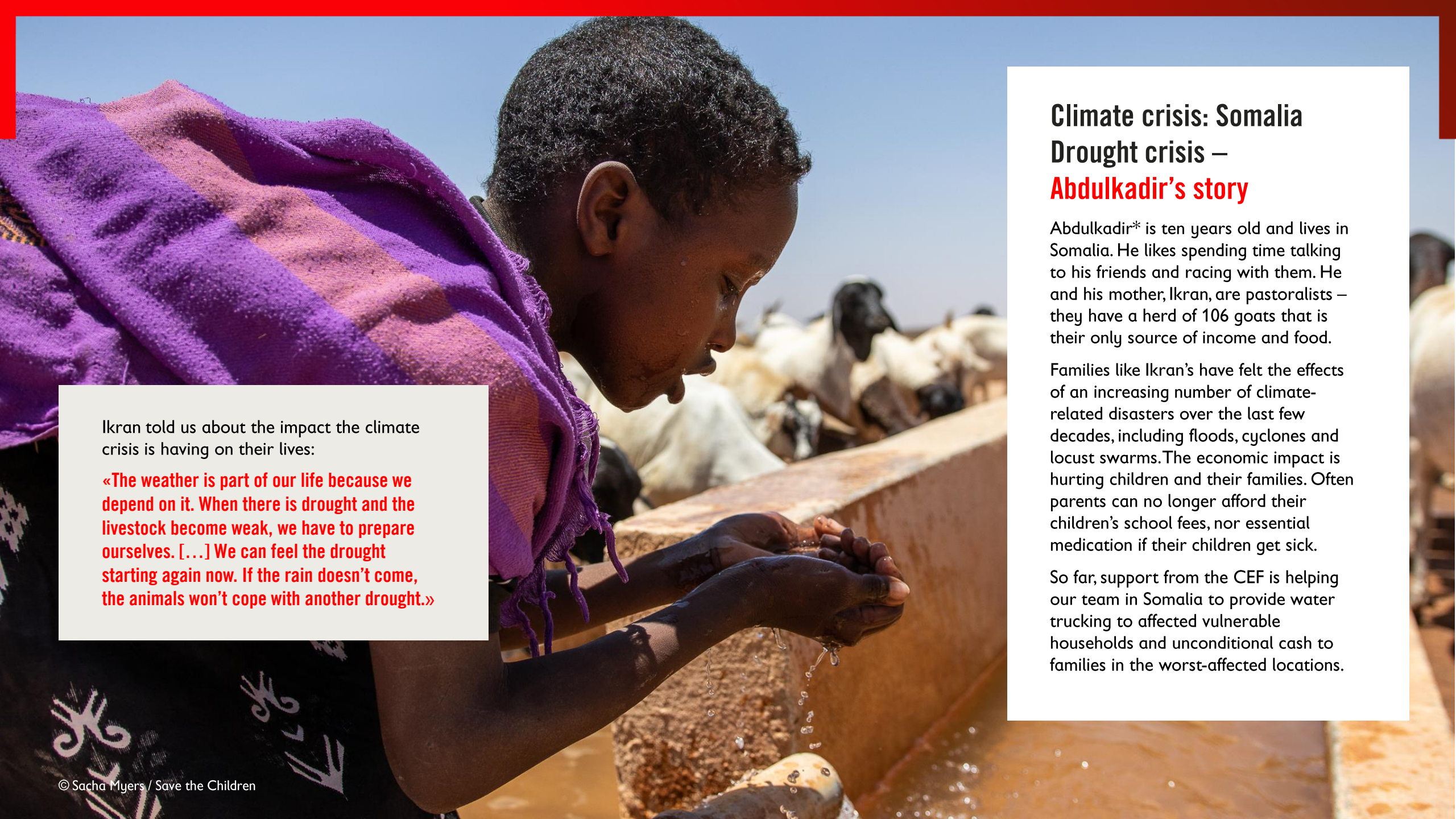
Teo is a child-friendly handwashing station that the «Friends in Red», as Arianna affectionately calls Save the Children staff, have placed in the most important public places in the community: local markets, health facilities, police stations, etc. Teo is one of many measures implemented in northern Lima over the past year to protect the most disadvantaged children from COVID.

Thanks to the allocation from the Children's Emergency Fund and the additional support of Swiss Solidarity as well as the cooperation with the local population and the authorities, Save the Children was able to directly support almost 50,000 people on site over a period of eight months.

In her own words, Arianna will show you in [this video](#) how we helped vulnerable children and families to be informed and protected from COVID-19.







Ikran told us about the impact the climate crisis is having on their lives:

«The weather is part of our life because we depend on it. When there is drought and the livestock become weak, we have to prepare ourselves. [...] We can feel the drought starting again now. If the rain doesn't come, the animals won't cope with another drought.»

## Climate crisis: Somalia

### Drought crisis – Abdulkadir's story

Abdulkadir\* is ten years old and lives in Somalia. He likes spending time talking to his friends and racing with them. He and his mother, Ikran, are pastoralists – they have a herd of 106 goats that is their only source of income and food.

Families like Ikran's have felt the effects of an increasing number of climate-related disasters over the last few decades, including floods, cyclones and locust swarms. The economic impact is hurting children and their families. Often parents can no longer afford their children's school fees, nor essential medication if their children get sick.

So far, support from the CEF is helping our team in Somalia to provide water trucking to affected vulnerable households and unconditional cash to families in the worst-affected locations.





## Thank you!

In humanitarian disasters and emergencies, nowhere is the impact felt as deeply as in the lives of children. It's children who miss meals, miss school, lose loved ones and face injury or death. The rapid and flexible nature of the CEF means we can find and support the child who is lost, alone and needs it most. We can reach them with the life-saving aid, food and shelter they need, helping them reunite with their family and resume their learning so to build a better future.

We would not be able to do this without our valued partners and supporters, likeminded organisations that share our commitment to the humanitarian mission of saving lives and alleviating suffering in times of crisis.

♥ **For your generous support, we are deeply grateful. Thank you!**







# Save the Children

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