



**Save the Children**

# **THE CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND**

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**



## FOREWORD

*Nafeesa, 10, studies at a Temporary Learning Center set up by Save the Children after the flooding in Pakistan destroyed her school.*

Photo: Khaula Jamil/ Save the Children

## MESSAGE BY THE GLOBAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dear partners,

2022 was a year affected by severe humanitarian crises with conflicts, increasingly rising global hunger, soaring food prices and climate shocks that have considerably increased humanitarian needs around the world. Save the Children Switzerland rose to the challenge thanks to generous supporters like you contributing to the Children's Emergency Fund. Your trust and the power of flexible funds allowed us to scale-up our responses to humanitarian disasters immediately, wherever we were needed.

Last year, the Fund supported nearly 400'000 people thanks to the allocation of over 4.3 million Swiss francs, ensuring that children and families in need received humanitarian assistance in 18 humanitarian responses in 15 countries. With the world facing the biggest global hunger crisis in decades, this included over 950 thousand Swiss francs allocated to countries facing acute food insecurity like Kenya, Eswatini, Afghanistan, Yemen and Madagascar. In 2022, localization has remained an important aspect of our humanitarian work and we have worked with local partners in 8 humanitarian responses, also contributing to their capacity building.

Our focus on 'forgotten crises' has become even more important considering they were the majority of emergencies we have supported in 2022 like the devastating cyclones in Madagascar, the cholera outbreaks in Tanzania and Syria or the forgotten refugee crisis in Bangladesh as well as other terrible emergencies that were not much in the news.

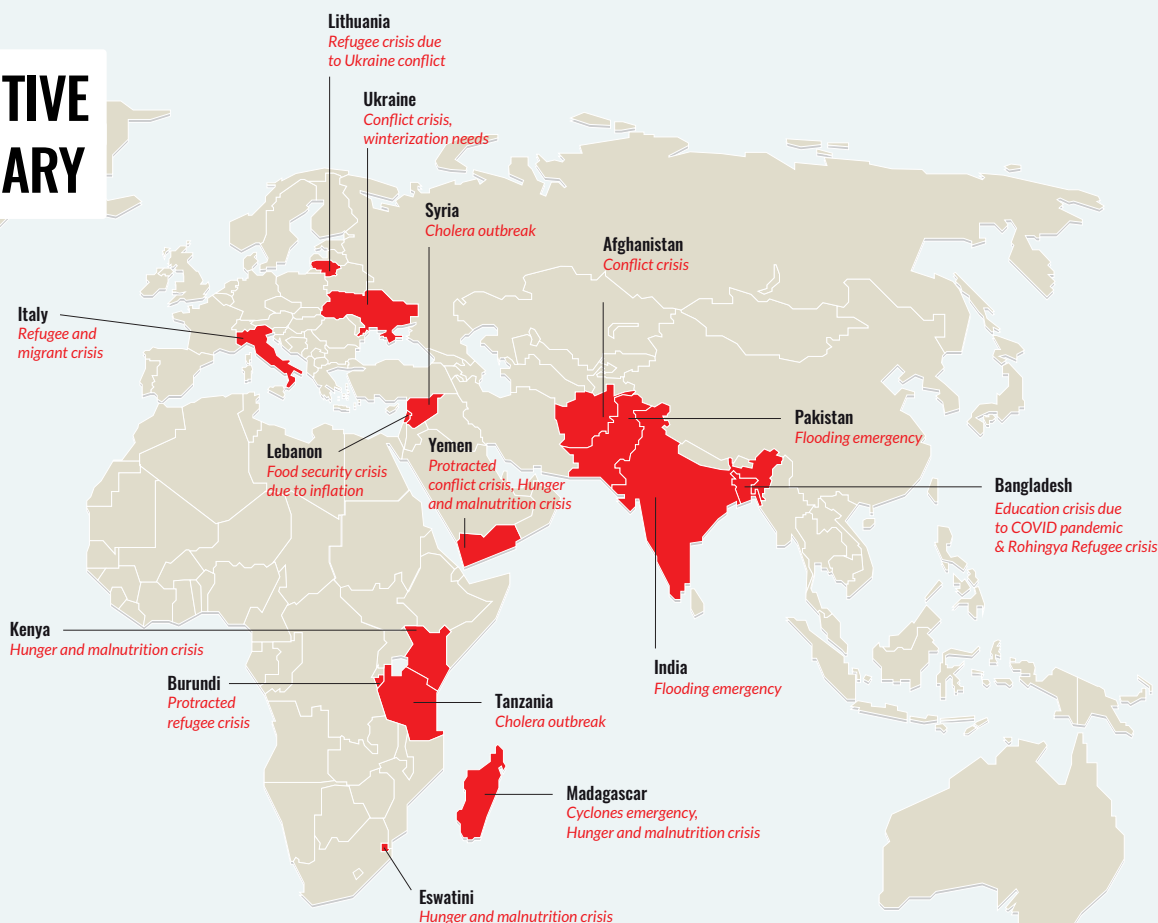
At the same time, the war in Ukraine triggered the largest and fastest refugee crisis in Europe since the Second World War. Fearing for their lives, millions fled to safer areas of Ukraine and to neighboring countries. Thanks to the Fund, we were able to step up and provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to families within days of the start of the war, both in Ukraine and throughout the region.

In 2022, the impacts of climate change spared no region. The Children's Emergency Fund supported several emergencies caused by extreme climate events, including the flooding in Pakistan. It was amazing to see the impact of flexible funding, which enabled our teams to be among the first to respond to this disaster in the country.

Thanks to your commitment to the Children's Emergency Fund, we will continue to prepare, anticipate and respond to crises, hand-in-hand with local partner organizations, for years to come.

**Alex Brans**  
Global Program Director  
Save the Children Switzerland

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## Thanks to your partnership, we reached **nearly 400'000** people through the Children's Emergency Fund in 2022

The Children's Emergency Fund has never been more important, given the increasing scale and complexity of humanitarian crises. According to a [Save the Children analysis](#), the number of children needing humanitarian assistance rose to 149 million children in 2022, and this number is only expected to rise.

Our Children's Emergency Fund was an essential resource in 2022 as we prepared for and responded to this increase in need.

**Last year, the Fund supported nearly 400'000 people with the allocation of over 4.3 million to support humanitarian responses for 18 devastating emergencies worldwide, ensuring that children and families in crisis received humanitarian assistance where and when it was needed most. Thanks to our Fund allocations, moreover, we could unlock and secure considerable additional funding - over 12 million Swiss francs - for humanitarian aid.**

The Fund enabled us to respond to the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, to destructive cyclones in Madagascar, to cholera outbreaks in Tanzania and in Syria, to extreme flooding in Pakistan and in India, to the earthquake and hunger in Afghanistan and to so many other emergencies.

**Notably, over 2 million - nearly half of all allocations in 2022 - was deployed for 13 'forgotten emergencies', supporting as many children and families as possible affected by those emergencies that are not covered by the media.**

The Children's Emergency Fund has become essential in providing fast and efficient flexible funding to our humanitarian responses. **This would not have been possible without your commitment and trust in our ability to respond to the growing needs of children around the world.**



# HIGHLIGHTS

*8-month-old twins Aule and Nawei, were found severely malnourished during a mass screening supported by Save the Children at the Nakoret outreach site in Turkana Central, Kenya, where his mother Rebekah took them for a check-up. Aule and Nawei were immediately admitted into the Outpatient Therapeutic Program and were treated with Ready to Use Therapeutic Food for 28 days.*



The Children's Emergency Fund provides the resources that make it possible to scale up our responses, delivering desperately needed aid to children and families. Here are just some examples of how the Fund was used to support children and their families after a crisis.



## HUNGER

2022 was marked by an alarming increase in hunger on a global scale. Prolonged drought, economic instability and conflicts have driven a massive food crisis, with over 345 million people facing food insecurity, of which over 222 million are facing acute hunger. In 2022, our CEF supported hunger responses by allocating nearly 1 million Swiss francs to 4 countries experiencing hunger and acute food insecurity.

This funding has helped provide families with cash assistance, screen and treat malnutrition, train parents and caregivers on good infant and young child feeding practices, as well as provide tools and materials to help support and protect people's livelihoods.



## CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN TANZANIA

When cholera developed in Tanzania at the beginning of 2022, we were able to use the Children's Emergency Fund to immediately respond in various villages in the Rukwa region.

Our Fund helped provide support to the regional government with medical and non-medical supplies, support to the sensitization of the community on raising community awareness around cholera and preventative measures and support to cholera treatment centers. Considering the high risk of contamination, our Fund contribution was essential for timely and efficient interventions and aimed at virus containment that would later save many lives in the affected communities.



## CONFLICTS

With approximately 449 million children – globally, one child out of six – living in a conflict zone in 2021, a huge number of them are in dire need of humanitarian aid. The escalation of the war in Ukraine in February brought an unprecedented level of public support and focus on children impacted by conflict. Beyond Ukraine, our Fund has continued to provide vital support to countries experiencing protracted conflicts, including Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan - all of which are chronically underfunded and many of which receive limited public attention. In the past year, the Fund allocated over 2.4 million Swiss francs – more than half of the Fund allocations in 2022 - to 5 countries affected by conflicts.

# CEF ALLOCATIONS IN 2022

**Nasreen (16)** is learning how to embroider as part of Save the Children's vocational training programme in Afghanistan. Life has always been challenging due to the family's low income, but Nasreen was still attending school and had dreams of becoming a doctor so she could help children like her baby brother, who has tuberculosis.

Country	Type of emergency	Allocation in CHF	Beneficiaries reached
Afghanistan	Conflict crisis	CHF 179'012	78'914
Tanzania	Cholera outbreak	CHF 10'967	1'503
Yemen	Protracted conflict crisis	CHF 139'606	18'093
Lithuania	Refugee crisis due to Ukraine conflict	CHF 344'242	3'116
Madagascar	Cyclones emergency	CHF 40'704	586
Burundi	Protracted refugee crisis	CHF 136'706	16'128
Ukraine	Conflict crisis	CHF 865'853	15'162
Bangladesh	Education crisis due to COVID pandemic	CHF 106'952	7'063*
India	Flooding emergency	CHF 99'000	3'046
Pakistan	Flooding emergency	CHF 80'213	13'662
Eswatini	Hunger and malnutrition crisis	CHF 70'588	5'907
Bangladesh	Rohingya Refugee crisis	CHF 235'294	1'920*
Kenya	Hunger and malnutrition crisis	CHF 194'118	6'445*
Yemen	Hunger and malnutrition crisis	CHF 72'941	109'107*
Yemen	Conflict crisis - Child protection needs	CHF 163'731	13'488*
Afghanistan	Conflict crisis	CHF 31'800	4'200*
Ukraine	Conflict crisis - Winterization needs	CHF 588'235	14'732*
Eswatini	Hunger and malnutrition crisis	CHF 176'471	33'238*
Syria	Cholera outbreak	CHF 92'941	3'305*
Lebanon	Food security crisis due to inflation	CHF 117'647	13'500*
Pakistan	Flooding emergency	CHF 105'882	25'000*
Italy	Refugee and migrant crisis	CHF 106'951	2'200*
Madagascar	Hunger and malnutrition crisis	CHF 470'588	6'788*
<b>Total</b>		<b>CHF 4'430'441</b>	<b>397'103</b>

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

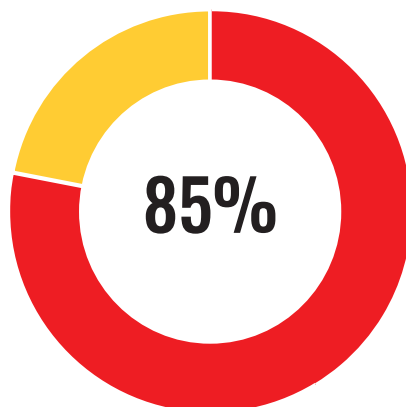
Note: Upon request, we can provide the financial report of each specific humanitarian allocation

# HOW WE ALLOCATE YOUR DONATIONS

Photo: Holly Robertson / Save the Children





**Laila, 14**, writes 'I go to school every time' during a Community-Based Education class run by Save the Children in central Afghanistan. She says the situation for girls in Afghanistan is hopeless because they are unable to attend secondary school, and she cannot see hope in the future unless that **changes**.

85% of your donations went directly to our humanitarian responses where it was needed the most to support children in need and families affected by the most terrible crises worldwide<sup>1</sup>.



15% of your donations was used for administration and management costs, including accounting and project controlling.

## Thematic allocation – CEF 2022

Theme	Amount allocated	% allocated over 2022 total allocations <sup>2</sup>
 Forgotten emergencies	2'072'886 CHF	47%
 Conflict	2'478'361 CHF	56%
 Hunger	984'706 CHF	22%
 Climate change and disasters	325'799 CHF	7%

<sup>1</sup>Depending on each crisis and on the humanitarian response needs, we might decide to allocate donations under CHF 5'000 to other similar humanitarian crises worldwide. By doing that, we are able to support humanitarian responses that are not covered by global and Swiss media and hence remain often underfunded - we call them "forgotten crises".

<sup>2</sup>The fact that a humanitarian response can be categorized at the same time under different thematic categories implies that our thematic categorization of 2022 humanitarian allocations included the same humanitarian response in max. 2 different thematic categories depending on the nature of each specific emergency.



# FORGOTTEN CRISES: HUNGER IN MADAGASCAR

*Voavalee, 6, Vinalee's sister, in their village in Southern Madagascar.*

“Before going to class, we look for “raketa mena” [cactus fruit] to eat, and then when we go home, we eat sweet potato leaves, that's what we have to eat. In the afternoon, when we don't have class, we go back to get raketa mena for dinner. **Vinalee**

## Supporting Children like Vinalee

Vinalee, 10, and her six sisters live with their grandparents in a village in Ambovombe region, southern Madagascar. They often play bungee jumping with long dry leaves collected on the ground. It is one of their favourite games. Water is a scarce resource in the region. Before the drought affected their daily lives, the family could have a meal three times a day, drink milk from their cattle farm. Today, with rain becoming scarce, farming is difficult and the family struggles to

1.31 million people in southern Madagascar are suffering from hunger and drought, partly due to climate change and poverty. The drought undermines agriculture, the main activity of the population. Finding water and food is becoming more and more difficult every day. More than 560,000 children are suffering from the effects of this food crisis. 110,000 children are in a severe state of malnutrition.

In 2022, the allocation of around 470'000 Swiss francs from the Children's Emergency Fund aimed to support vulnerable households of the commune of Andraganivo, in the district of Ambovombe, in Southern Madagascar in improving livelihoods and resilience to shocks and also in creating a more protective environment for children.

find sources of income. Vinalee's grandmother, Ndranonoe, 55, tries to make ends meet by weaving mats that she sells for USD 1.25 in town, selling firewood or even their belongings. Once all resources are exhausted, they are left to pick cactus fruits, called “raketa mena”, to appease their hunger. With the financial support that the family received from Save the Children, they could buy rice, meat, pulses, but also sandals and school supplies.

## FORGOTTEN CRISES: DISEASE OUTBREAKS

*Jessica, 18, chlorinating water in her community in the Democratic Republic of Congo*

**I would like to see the outreach activities continue in my town, as not only is cholera endemic in the area, but also to establish the practice of water chlorination in the community. I am proud to work as a community outreach worker because it is a way for me to save lives and contribute to the well-being of my community. Jessica**

### Providing support to community workers like Jessica

Every morning, Jessica goes to the water chlorination site to raise awareness but also to add chlorine to the water that the community draws from the river. Jessica and other community liaisons were trained in awareness raising, chlorine solution preparation and water chlorination techniques. After the training, they were

For the past three years, COVID-19 has dominated headlines around the world. However, other infectious diseases such as cholera, measles and Ebola have also continued to pose a serious risk to the lives of children and families. Outbreaks of these diseases are often compounded and made worse by other factors in complex contexts, such as hunger, conflict and displacement.

This year, the Children's Emergency Fund has provided funding to Tanzania and Syria to respond to cholera outbreaks. This funding was essential in improving infection prevention and control measures, in supporting cholera treatment centers, providing medical and non-medical supplies as well as engaging and sensitising communities on the dangers of the disease and how to prevent it.

deployed to different chlorination sites identified by the health zone. Since she began her work as a community liaison, Jessica says she has observed changes in her community. She added that many are becoming receptive to the messages and are coming to have their water chlorinated after drawing.



## FORGOTTEN CRISES: FLOODING IN ASSAM, INDIA

In May 2022, torrential premonsoon rains in Assam, India, brought widespread flooding and landslides, destroyed homes and crops, lost cattle, broke infrastructure and disrupted lives. This affected around 1.03 million people, of which 0.2 million were children. 3'246 villages - 17% of the total villages in the state - were under water. These floods were unprecedented in intensity and spread but not a one-off event: they're part of a series of adverse climate events that will only worsen without timely intervention.

Save the Children staff was on the ground when the flood was at its peak. With the **contribution from our Fund**, we reached 3'046 beneficiaries in the affected communities and in the relief camps where we distributed Hygiene, Food and Shelter Kits and we set-up Child Friendly Spaces for play activities, informal education and art activities so to provide children with some psycho-social support.



Photo: Save the Children

**My exam is going to start on June 24, and I am unable to concentrate on my studies. I spend my time collecting water and helping my mother with household chores. Due to COVID-19, I lost two full years, and I don't want to lose any more. This rain has disrupted our lives completely. I wish to be a doctor and help my community by providing free health care services. Asmina**

### Supporting Children like Asmina

The road to Asmina Khatun's house is submerged. The family was using a boat to fetch potable water, buy essentials and go to school. She has no time for studies, she spends her time helping her mother and fetching water from a source that's 1km away. A student of Class VI, she wants to become a doctor, but first she has to survive nature's fury. Her school had re-opened, for Asmina and many other students living in low-lying areas. She had to take a boat ride to school, till the water drained out.

# FORGOTTEN CRISES: EXTREME HUNGER IN ESWATINI

Photo: Khaula Jamil/ Save the Children

Over 347,000 people – including 180,000 children – in Eswatini are currently experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity and require urgent humanitarian assistance not to face starvation or death. Eswatini has experienced a rapid deterioration in food availability over past months due to COVID-19-related job losses, high food prices, and erratic rainfall leading to a poor harvest.

Thanks to the contribution from our Children's Emergency Fund, we could improve access to food for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children in both Hhohho and Lubombo regions in Eswatini reaching nearly 40'000 beneficiaries. The contribution by the Children's Emergency Fund was key in bridging a funding gap and be able to continue giving access to food to targeted vulnerable children and families. Without this funding, the risk of malnutrition amongst targeted children would drastically increase.

With his only 24 years of age, Mthobisi is the head of the family after they lost both parents due to a lightning incident. He dropped out of school because of financial constraints even though he would have wanted to continue education to build a better life.

My family survives under one dollar per day; hence we have been receiving assistance from Save the Children with food parcels. The food parcels only last us a month on normal occasions because the children who go to school have their lunch at school. **Mthobisi**

## Providing support to families like Mthobisi's

Mthobisi lives in a small village in the Lubombo region in Eswatini with his eight siblings and two nieces. The Lubombo region is experiencing severe food shortages. The prolonged dry spells and erratic rains have led to a reduction in food production in the region. The family lives in very harsh conditions. They live in houses made of sticks and mud and most of the mud on the structures has been depleted by heavy rainfalls. This puts them in danger of the house collapsing. All the seven girls share one room and the environment is not conducive for people to live in. Some of the children have skin problems that may be associated with health and nutrition issues. The family has a vast area of land which they can use for agricultural purposes, however, the scarcity of water makes it difficult for them to farm.



# CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

Photo: Kateryna Aleko / Save the Children

*Sisters Nataliia, Olesia and Olena, who spent the first weeks of the full-scale war in a cellar in Bucha before they managed to flee to a safer place.*

“Everyone was messaging “Leave that place, leave” - especially the people who managed to flee themselves. But they just didn’t understand what was going on. Where will I go on foot, with four children, in the cold, will I go far? **Larysa**

The Children’s Emergency Fund committed nearly 1.5 million Swiss francs to the response after the war in Ukraine escalated in February 2022, which helped us scale up operations and start delivering aid to families. Funding also helped set up operations in neighbouring Lithuania to better support children and families fleeing Ukraine. The Fund paved the way for Save the Children to scale our initial humanitarian assistance into a comprehensive response, which has included cash programming, psycho-social support and education activities.



LOCALIZATION

## Helping mothers like Larysa

On February 24th, Larysa’s, 41, family of six, was woken up by the sounds of explosions in Bucha. For safety reasons they moved to a smaller house and stayed in the basement for two weeks without electricity, gas, water or phone reception. Military planes were flying overhead, everything was on fire, the family could constantly hear the explosions and were afraid. After two weeks of hiding, the family finally managed to leave for safety in Kyiv.

The war has changed the way the family perceives life and they have decided to live in the moment, without

postponing anything, without saving for later; they understand that the most important thing is that their nearest ones are safe, their house is standing and there is no shooting. **Now back in Bucha, Nataliia (16), Olesia (13), and Olena (9) are happy to be going to school again.**

**Save the Children provided cash assistance** for the family in August, with which they bought stationary for school for the three eldest daughters, paid for kindergarten for the youngest one, bought some food and changed their damaged front door.



# GLOBAL HUNGER CRISIS

Across the globe, up to 345 million people don't have access to enough nutritious food – to the point where their lives and livelihoods are in critical danger. This number has increased by more than 150% since 2019 and reflects unprecedented levels of global hunger.

**In 2022, to support countries most impacted by hunger, the Children's Emergency Fund allocated nearly 1 million to 4 countries.**

This funding supported a range of programs, including cash and voucher assistance to vulnerable families, food distributions, prevention and treatment of malnutrition, training and awareness raising on infant and young child feeding and vocational training to support livelihoods.

## Providing support to mothers like Esther

Esther, 29, and her 20-month-old daughter Susan had just been at the emergency health outreach in Turkana Central in Kenya. Her daughter Susan was diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition during a mass screening supported by Save the Children.

The severe ongoing drought combined with the lack of milk and lack of access to food items led to severe food insecurity in their community. Esther tells us that it takes them nearly four hours to walk to and from the nearest water point that is 6km away. Also, to buy essential food, they are forced to walk to the nearby village 24 km away.



Marion Kwambai/ Save the Children

*"I have six children and most times we have had to sleep hungry because we could not find anything to eat; even the wild fruits are becoming scarce as days go by. The drought has made everything worse."*

**My daughter is sick, she has had persistent diarrhoea for four days now. I would have loved to take her to Kangirisai clinic but it is too far, it would take me a whole day's walk just to get to the clinic and back. We would be forced to sleep hungry again because I wouldn't have time to get water and mkoma. Esther**

In Turkana County, Save the Children, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, is supporting emergency health outreaches severely affected by drought. The intervention in the two areas focuses on hard-to-reach areas where children do not have access to regular health care services. Services offered in the outreach include nutrition screening and treatment, immunization, treatment of minor illnesses such as fever and diarrhoea as well as health education promotion.

# IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE: EXTREME FLOODING IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan is particularly susceptible to natural disasters and, in August 2022, the country experienced an intense monsoon spell and heavy rains that resulted in flooding and devastated lands. So, our Children's Emergency Fund contributed to launching an immediate humanitarian response. Save the Children is present in Pakistan since 1979 and this also allowed us to be the first INGO to obtain the permission from the Ministry to respond in all flood-affected districts across Pakistan. **Being fast allowed us to really meet the critical lifesaving needs of the affected population.** In Khairpur district, in Sindh, we provided quality primary healthcare services, nutrition and psychosocial support, especially to vulnerable groups, women, children, persons with disabilities and elderly people.



## Helping mothers like Hajra

Hajra, 30, is a mother of three children: 4- and 3-year old sons and a 10-month-old baby, Jaiyana. She lives with her husband and children in two tents in Khairpur district, Sindh Province, Pakistan, because their house was damaged by the heavy rain and floods in August 2022 and they still can't return as the area is surrounded by stagnant flood water. Her husband works as a daily wage labourer and barely earns enough to buy food for one meal per day for the family. Jaiyana was severely malnourished and became sick, weak and stopped breastfeeding. Her mother, Hajra, brought her to the Basic Health Care Unit, supported by Save the Children,



Photo: Khaula Jamil/ Save the Children

*The reason behind my child's illness was the absence of essential food items during the floods, when we lost everything". Jaiyana, 10-months, received medical help for Severe Acute Malnutrition in Sindh, Pakistan.*

**Our home was made from mud bricks, so it collapsed immediately during the flood. Everything that belonged to us was destroyed. Haira**

where she was diagnosed with Severe Acute Malnutrition and was provided with medicine and therapeutic food to treat her malnutrition. Jaiyana has since improved but still has malnutrition and needs to continue her treatment to recover.



*In recent years, global climate change has increased the occurrence of extreme climate events such as storms, floods and droughts. Natural hazards often have an enormous impact on people's lives, destroying homes, possessions, crops and livelihoods, disrupting children's education and leaving families vulnerable.*



# Save the Children

## **THANK YOU**

When a crisis occurs and children's futures are on the line, Save the Children needs to be ready to act fast. Your support for the Children's Emergency Fund means we can be by children's sides within hours of a disaster striking and be there for the long-term to help them and their families recover and rebuild.

**Thanks to your generous support, we're able to respond across the globe wherever and whenever there is need.**

## **Next Steps for the Children's Emergency Fund**



### **Strategic Use of Funds**

In 2023, the CEF will focus on promoting the strategic use of **flexible funds** to emphasize the added value of the CEF and enable countries to respond in ways that may not be possible through earmarked funding.



### **Localization**

In 2023, the CEF will continue to support localization and responses that are delivered through local partners or include capacity strengthening and involvement of local partners.



### **Forgotten crises**

The CEF will also continue to keep a particular focus on the 'forgotten crises' that have limited coverage in the media and where our Fund contribution can have a bigger impact for children and families.

Save the Children

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*\*Names of the people in the photos in this report have been changed to protect their identity.*