



Save the Children

CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Thank you
for your Support

Executive summary

In 2023, we reached over
360 000 beneficiaries

CEF Allocations

In 2023, we allocated over
nearly 3 million Swiss francs



CEF 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2023, conflicts, hunger, political crises, floods, droughts, earthquakes and disease outbreaks affected millions of people, including children, increasing the need for humanitarian assistance.

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The overwhelming impact on the lives of people facing protracted crises and new emergencies continues to highlight the need and difference flexible funding can make in humanitarian responses.

With the support of flexible funding from the Children's Emergency Fund (CEF), Save the Children Switzerland has played a key role in responding to many crises worldwide, reaching communities that are most in need of help.

Your continued support and commitment to the Children's Emergency Fund has ensured that children and families receive critical funding where and when it's most needed.

Children in their tent at a displacement camp in North East Syria, where they are struggling to make ends meet.



Executive Summary



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WE REACHED OVER 360 000 PEOPLE

In 2023, thanks to your support, we helped over 360 000 people with the allocation of nearly 3 million of Swiss francs from our Children's Emergency Fund.

Throughout 2023, the world was struck with numerous humanitarian emergencies, including recurrent and cyclical climatic shocks, armed conflict and insecurity, and disease outbreaks. The year began with the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, and, more recently, there has been a catastrophic escalation of the situation in Gaza. Concurrently, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated significantly, resulting in record high levels of hunger and displacement. In such a context, the CEF operated effectively, ensuring that children and families in dire need of support received lifesaving humanitarian aid where and when it was needed most.

The CEF enabled us to respond to earthquakes, to the escalation of conflict in Gaza, to protracted crises, to the East-African hunger crisis, and to many other crises.

In 2023, the Fund also lived up to one of its strategic objectives and allocated nearly **1 million to forgotten emergencies**, that are underfunded or not covered by the media. Thanks to the CEF initial allocations to humanitarian responses, we have also been able to secure an **additional funding of nearly 19 million Swiss francs**.

Moving into 2024, the world continues to face a deteriorating humanitarian situation worsened by the prospect of reduced humanitarian funding. **Your support to our Fund is a key enabler in ensuring the timely provision of high-quality humanitarian aid to children and affected families across the globe.**

CEF allocations in 2023



Country	Type of emergency	Allocation in CHF	Beneficiaries reached
Afghanistan	Protracted conflict crisis	32 673	3070
Bangladesh	Protracted Rohingya refugee crisis	34 118	2327
Bangladesh	Protracted Rohingya refugee crisis - education needs	58 824	400*
Pakistan	Flood emergency and recovery	80 214	23 998*
Kenya	Hunger and malnutrition crisis	80 214	1 491
Eswatini	Hunger and malnutrition crisis	88 235	17 651
Somalia	Climate emergency - drought	3 050	1 642
Sudan	Conflict crisis	3 000	704
Sri Lanka	Climate emergencies	150	18
Mexico	Climate emergency - hurricane	9 875	1 037
Ukraine	Ukraine conflict crisis	569 611	9 835*
Türkiye	Earthquake emergency	267 380	4 560*
Türkiye	Earthquake emergency	80 214	11 869
Türkiye	Earthquake emergency	267 380	6 910*
Syria	Earthquake emergency	267 380	42 000*
Syria	Earthquake emergency	203 062	10 739
Syria	Earthquake emergency	80 214	1 522*
oPt Gaza	Conflict crisis	218 878	5 625*
Yemen	Protracted conflict crisis - child protection needs	143 529	73 338*
Yemen	Protracted conflict crisis	244 706	125 007*
Ethiopia	Hunger and malnutrition crisis	213 904	19 564
Total		2 946 610	363 307

*Target number of beneficiaries as it is an ongoing response

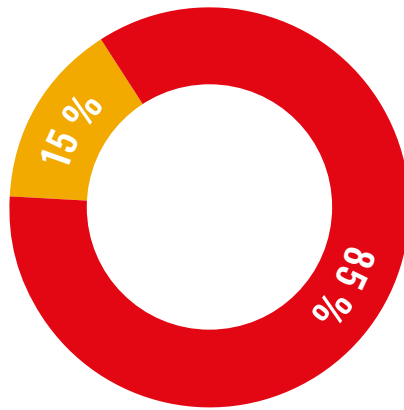
NB Upon request, we can provide the financial report of each specific humanitarian allocation



How we allocate your donations

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 worldwide¹.



15% of your donations

was used for administration and management costs, including accounting and project controlling.

Thematic allocations in 2023

Theme	Amount allocated in CHF	% allocated over 2023 total allocations ²
Forgotten emergencies	959819	33%
Conflict	1212398	41%
Hunger	382353	13%
Climate change related disasters	1553036	53%

¹ Depending on each crisis and on the humanitarian response needs, we might decide to allocate donations under CHF 5000 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'.

² The fact that a humanitarian response can be categorized at the same time under different thematic categories implies that our thematic categorization of 2023 humanitarian allocations included the same humanitarian response in different thematic categories depending on the nature of each specific emergency.

FORGOTTEN EMERGENCIES

In 2023, our Fund allocated nearly 1 million to 'forgotten emergencies'. The CEF will 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.

Nuri (15), smiles with a Save the Children exercise book near her home in a Rohingya camp in Bangladesh.*



Supporting Rohingya girls with their education with a peer approach

More than seven years ago, the Rohingya were forcibly expelled from Myanmar to Bangladesh. In the Cox's Bazar refugee camp, one in three school-age children still has no access to education. Girls in particular are almost completely excluded from learning due to social norms. They therefore have little contact with their peers and are exposed to an increased risk of child marriage.

Among Rohingya refugee adolescents in Bangladesh, around 97% are not attending any type of education service. Girls are much more disadvantaged in their access to education due to social norms which restrict their mobility after puberty, safety concerns and widespread occurrence of child marriage and teenage pregnancies.

Considering the limitations in extending formal education services and the gendered barriers, Save the Children implemented an innovative child-led peer education approach to extend non formal education services. The girls are the focus of our project: on the one hand as beneficiaries, on the other hand, as multipliers who

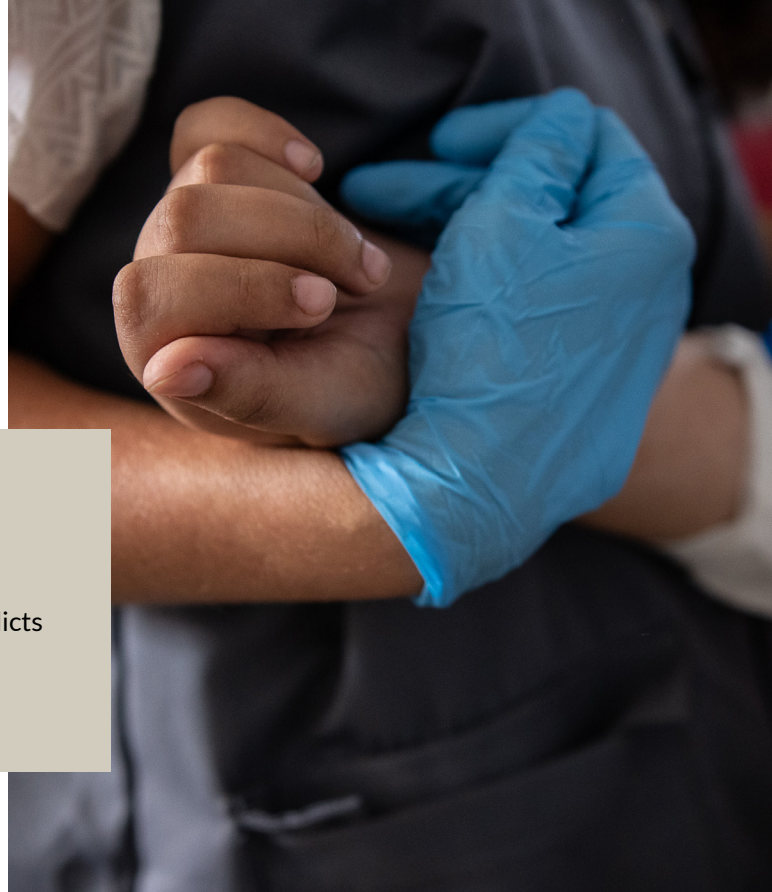
share their knowledge with their peers. Over 800 girls visit our learning rooms and each of them, voluntarily, passes on the reading and arithmetic skills they have learned to two to three peers who cannot attend school. They are supported by carers from their community and Save the Children.

Thanks to the allocation from our Children's Emergency Fund, therefore, we have been able to help many adolescent girls in the Rohingya Camps in Bangladesh in continuing their studies through an innovative peer-to-peer approach.

CONFLICTS

The past two years have seen a concerning increase in the severity and prevalence of armed conflicts around the world. According to Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, one in six people are estimated to have been exposed to conflicts in 2023, while multitudes of people continue living in dire need of humanitarian assistance due to continued violence.

Save the Children's nurse, Becky, comforts Solave* (13) who lost her right leg when a bomb dropped in Gaza*



Addressing the children's invisible needs in the Occupied Palestine Territories

On October 7th 2023, armed violence broke out between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups. The conflict escalated quickly, affecting thousands of civilians, particularly in the occupied Palestinian territory. The number of people killed in Gaza has since risen to over 30 000, including 12 400 children.

The conflict has disrupted the lives of children and left them with limited access to necessities including food, shelter, education, and health and WASH facilities, as 1,9 million people are reported to have been displaced. Thanks to our CEF allocation, we have been able to start providing psycho-social support to children in southern Gaza to improve their emotional wellbeing and address such important invisible needs.

Children and their families are no longer able to access water, food and medical care, at a time when they most need humanitarian aid to survive. We now need a permanent ceasefire to save the lives of children in the Gaza Strip.

Through 2023, our Fund committed funding to support conflict-related responses across the globe and we allocated over 1,2 million Swiss francs – 41% of the allocations in 2023 - to conflict crises, such as Afghanistan, Ukraine, Yemen and the occupied Palestinian territory.

CLIMATE EMERGENCIES

In 2023, countries across every region experienced destructive **seismic and extreme weather events**, which caused significant damage and losses of both life and property. Many of these disasters were driven by accelerating climate change. These events have affected millions of people, causing huge casualties and economic hardship.

Asli (9) had her house destroyed in the earthquakes in Türkiye.*



Supporting a Locally-led Response to the earthquake in northern Syria

On Tuesday 6th February 2023, a massive earthquake and multiple aftershocks struck southern Türkiye and northern Syria. More than 56 000 people were killed.

Children lost their lives, family members, homes, schools and communities. More than 18 million people were affected, including 6,2 million children. Almost a year after, thousands of families in Türkiye are still living in temporary accommodation, after more than 307 000 buildings were destroyed beyond repair. Access to healthcare, education and other services are also limited.

The CEF played a crucial role in enabling our colleagues on the ground in both Türkiye and Syria to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the earthquake survivors.

In this devastating emergency we have been particularly thankful to be able to count on the essential work and expertise of our local partners to deliver effectively our humanitarian support in Syria. So, thanks to 3 different local partner organizations we collaborated with in Syria, such as Social Development International, Ihsan Relief and Development and Violet, we could provide immediate relief aid to over 54 000* earthquake survivors.

* target number of beneficiaries as it is an ongoing response.

Investing in Partnerships and Localisation

In humanitarian emergencies, local organisations are in a unique position to respond to crises in their own communities with speed and agility. As such, it is essential for humanitarian funding to reach local organisations working on the frontlines to ensure the needs of affected people are met quickly. In line with

international commitments, such as the Grand Bargain, Save the Children is dedicated to better supporting locally-led humanitarian action, including channelling funding directly to local and national actors. **In 2023, the CEF worked with local partners in 16 responses out of 21.**

Looking Ahead to 2024

Much has been possible in 2023 thanks to your support, and we expect that 2024 will also be a challenging year where support to humanitarian crises will be more needed than ever.



In addition to predicted humanitarian needs, the funding gap between resources available for humanitarian action and how much is required to meet humanitarian needs has grown to a historic \$43 billion. This places further strain on countries responding to crises and highlights the importance of flexible funding, and mechanisms such as the CEF, in helping funding get to where it is needed the most.

The trends below are a selection of some of the key themes that are expected to shape humanitarian needs and action in 2024, as outlined by Save the Children's Context Analysis and Foresight Unit.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Accelerating Climate Crisis

Forecasts indicate that the El Niño event that began in the summer of 2023 is expected to continue to unfold over the first half of 2024. Recent research by a team of development economists forecasts that this year's El Niño, accelerated by warming sea temperature, will drive crop failures resulting in at least 3.5 million children worldwide experiencing undernourishment. This could signify a need for more funding towards food security and malnutrition, especially in contexts that have multiple disasters which compounds the adverse impacts of climatic shocks.

CONFLICTS

Proliferation of Armed Conflicts

Armed conflicts are increasing in frequency, duration and intensity. Around one in six children worldwide live in conflict zones, and the total number of children living in conflict zones has jumped 30% since 2015. It is expected that 2024 will continue to see a proliferation of civil and interstate wars, similar to 2023. Increased attacks on schools and education in conflict contexts are also continuing to have a severe impact on children. Ongoing conflicts particularly in the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe region are predicted to further drive humanitarian needs in 2024.



Girls play the Mine Danger board game during a mine awareness session in Kyiv Ukraine.

HUNGER CRISIS

Continuous Food Insecurity

The global food supply architecture remains vulnerable to a number of risks, including armed conflicts. Considering that the occurrence of conflicts and climatic shocks are expected to be on the rise in the coming year, food insecurity will continue to be a major concern in 2024. Women and girls will be the most affected as it has been the trend, hence the need to develop gender-sensitive solutions to close the gaps that exist between women and men.

«Flexible humanitarian funding is allowing humanitarian responses to have a much greater impact on children.»

Alex Brans

Director Global Programmes,
Save the Children Switzerland

PROTRACTED CRISES

Long term crises

Protracted crises will continue to be more and more prevalent, and more than four in five people in need live in countries that have had UN emergency response appeals for at least five consecutive years. In long-term crises, countries are increasingly dependent on humanitarian aid and in turn are receiving less development aid. All regions are likely to see this trend of prolonged crises with multiple complex needs continue in 2024.

DEMOCRACY CRISIS

Erosion of Human Rights

The increasing influence of illiberal regimes is leading to shrinking civic space and restricting civil society organizations in addressing social issues and holding governments accountable, reflecting a trend of diminishing commitments to liberal democracy, human and children's rights, and the rule of law.

Thank you

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. This would not be possible without your commitment and trust.



In a remote village in North-West Kenya, Saadia, faced a severe drought and her daughter, Aisha* (2), fell ill due to malnutrition.*

About the Children's Emergency Fund

Founded in 2018, the Children's Emergency Fund aims to ensure fast and efficient distribution of flexible money to our humanitarian responses across the world. This Fund will enable our responses to deliver high quality humanitarian action for the children and communities we serve during crises.

The power of the CEF lies not only in its ability to distribute funds quickly and efficiently to respond to crises, but also to shape the culture of the organization, investing in initiatives to advance our global priorities. Recognizing the unique value of local actors to respond to humanitarian needs in their own communities, the CEF worked with local partners in 16 responses out of 21 in 2023.

At the close of 2023, over 360 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance but the gap between the funding required to meet this need and the funding

available has continued to widen significantly. In this context, it is imperative that we make every penny count to continue the life-saving work Save the Children is doing across the world. The Children's Emergency Fund has become essential in providing fast and efficient flexible funding to our humanitarian responses.

For more information or to provide your feedback on this report, please contact the CEF Lead.



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FOR CHILDREN. IN SWITZERLAND AND WORLDWIDE.



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PC 80-15233-8
IBAN CH88 0900 0000 8001 5233 8

IMPRINT: EDITOR Save the Children, Sihlquai 253, 8005 Zurich, Tel. 044 267 74 70, www.savethechildren.ch; EDITING Adriana Bellini; DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION Katharina Hefti; COVER IMAGE CREDITS Roni Ahmed; PHOTO CREDITS INSIDE Roni Ahmed, Bonyan, Albaraa Mansoor, Rubina Hoque Alee, Sacha Myers, Ayse Nur Gençalp, Tommy Trenchard, Oleksandr Khomenko, Esther Mbabazi, Luisa Dörr, Save the Children; ILLUSTRATIONS Katharina Hefti; CEF Annual Report is published electronically once a year in German, English, French and Italian. It is shared with Save the Children donors. To protect the children and families in our programs, the names of the people portrayed have been changed.



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