



Save the Children®

# THE CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

**2024 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT**

Faduma\*, 10 years old, holds her little brother Abdi\*, 18 months, who recovered from malnutrition after receiving care at a Save the Children health center in Somaliland.



# TOGETHER, WE HELPED MORE THAN **23.8 MILLION PEOPLE**, INCLUDING ALMOST **12.8 MILLION CHILDREN** IN 2024

In 2024, children around the world were faced with long-lasting conflicts, deadly disease outbreaks and extreme weather events, including heatwaves, wildfires, drought, typhoons and flooding.

Thanks to the Children's Emergency Fund, we were able to start helping families quickly after a disaster and stay to help them rebuild and recover.

From October to December 2024, the Fund allocated almost \$15.8 million to help to respond to emergencies around the world, bringing the total allocations in 2024 to **\$73.4 million to 71 countries** – this is more countries than ever before.

The Fund continued to support **anticipatory action (AA) and risk-informed preparedness**, providing \$6.9 million (16% of fully flexible funds<sup>1</sup>) to 47 countries in 2024 to help communities mitigate the impact of approaching and future disasters.

The Fund also supported **local partner organizations**, who are often best placed to deliver timely, effective and culturally appropriate support, channeling \$11.8 million (16% of all funds) to 106 local partners in 33 countries.

**Thank you for supporting the Children's Emergency Fund and helping children in crisis around the world. Read on to learn about our impact together this year.**

1. Excludes earmarked allocations dedicated for oPt, Ukraine and Syria/Türkiye ongoing crisis responses, where AA would not be possible.

Rael\* was in bed with her four-day-old baby, Magen\*, and two-year-old son when an earthquake hit her hometown in Port Vila area, Vanuatu. The family were unharmed, but terrified. Rael has been attending a

Child Friendly Space, run by Save the Children volunteers like Etha\*, where children can engage in creative activities to help them regain a sense of normalcy, safety and social connection.

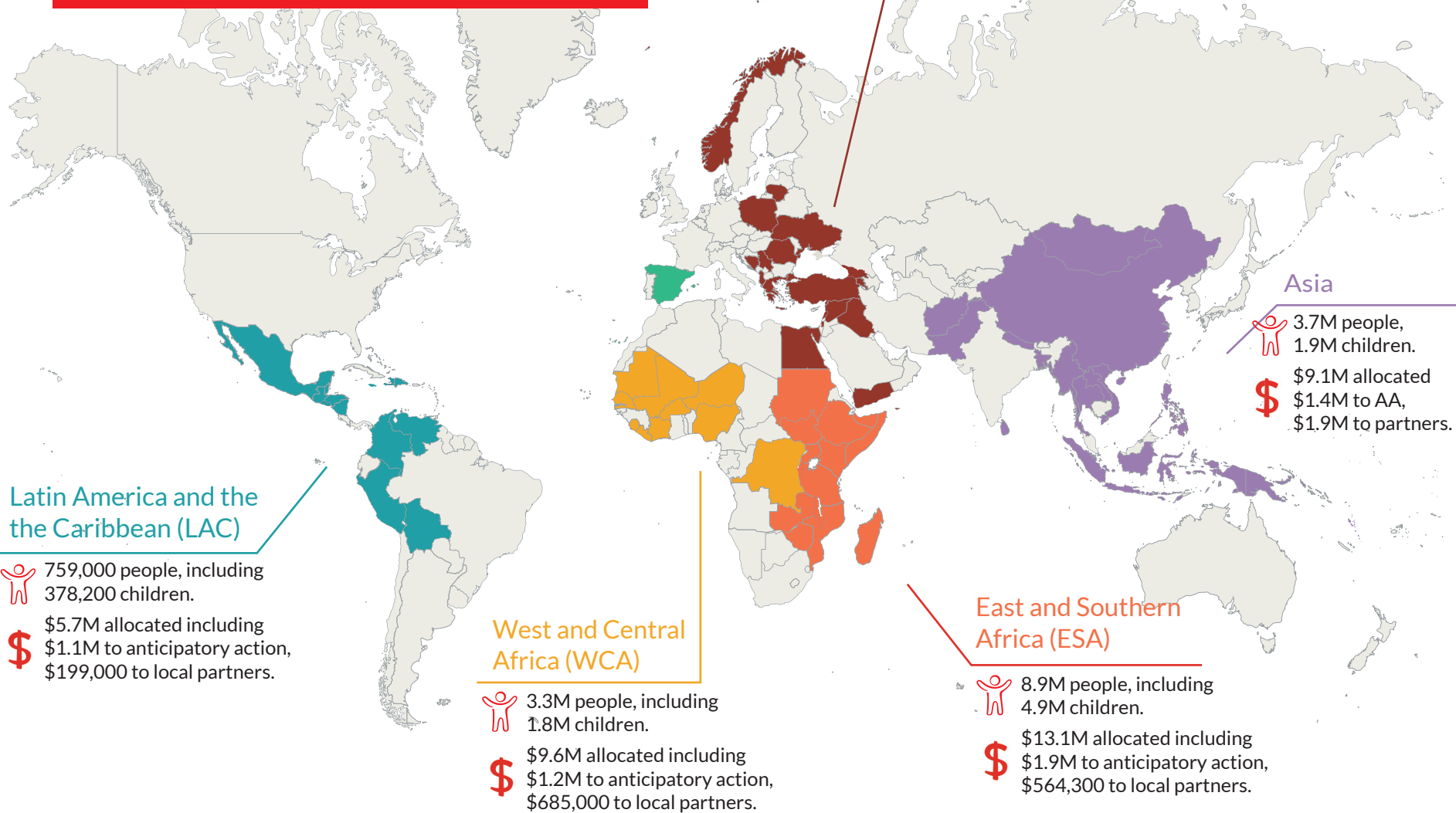


Photo: Gaëlle Meheut/Save the Children Vanuatu



# 2024 IMPACT

**THE CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND  
SUPPORTED MORE THAN 23.8M PEOPLE,  
INCLUDING ALMOST 12.8M CHILDREN  
ACROSS 71 COUNTRIES IN 2024.**



NOTE: The boundaries used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by Save the Children

## FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

**\$65.9M**  
INCOME RAISED

**\$73.4M**  
ALLOCATED<sup>2</sup>

**29%**  
of funding  
decisions in  
24 hours

**16%**  
of funds to  
local partners

**16%**  
of funds to  
anticipatory  
action (AA)

2. 2024 allocations include some funding received in 2023.

## RESPONSES BY THEME



### HEALTH

26% of program funding spent on health in 2024<sup>3</sup>

The Children's Emergency Fund helps provide emergency health and nutrition services to families in need. For example, when cyclone Chido hit **Mozambique** in December 2024, bringing heavy rains and storms, our teams already had supplies ready, thanks to effective preparedness supported by the Fund earlier that year. As a result, we were among **the first organizations to distribute survival and hygiene kits to families** in the worst affected areas after the Cyclone hit.

We also collaborated with public health institutions, building on the strong partnerships founded in the measles outbreak response a few months earlier. The Fund helped to train healthcare providers in outbreak management and community screening, implement a digital alert system and support immunization efforts – helping the health system to become more resilient. This meant that when the cyclone hit, we could **rapidly mobilize medical teams** from the public health system to support many more families with emergency healthcare.



### PROTECTION

30% of program funding spent on child protection in 2024<sup>3</sup>

The Children's Emergency Fund helps protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation in times of crisis. For example, when southern Thailand was hit by torrential rain and flooding in November 2024, our teams were well prepared to respond.

Thanks to the Children's Emergency Fund, our teams had already carried out a detailed external risk analysis using meteorological forecasting models to identify the most vulnerable communities to flooding and what support they might need. We stocked up on protection kits for babies and children, which were **delivered within 72 hours** of the floods along with key messages to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation. We also **trained 55 frontline workers in psychological first aid**, so they could recognize signs of distress in children, provide emotional support and connect families with local services.

3. In 2024, our country teams spent almost \$138 million from the Children's Emergency Fund, of which 80% was spent on thematic programs. The spend is higher than the allocations due to the multi-year nature of the Fund.



Photo: Rubina Alee/Save the Children

Midwife Razia carries out a checkup on Maimuna\*, four months, in a health center in a refugee camp supported by Save the Children in Bangladesh.





Maya\*, 12, at a school supported by Save the Children in a displacement camp in Northeast Syria.



## EDUCATION

15% of program funding spent on education in 2024<sup>3</sup>

Education is life-saving for children in crisis. The Children's Emergency Fund supports children to keep learning through disasters. For example, when tens of thousands of migrant and refugee children made the difficult crossing from south to **Central America** with their families in early 2024, the Fund helped to pilot an innovative new system to ensure their education stays on track.

To address the challenge of providing consistent education to children as they move through multiple countries, we teamed up with two partners to pilot the 'Educational Route' project. The project uses a **tool that assesses each child's educational level** and facilitates the transfer of their educational records as they travel along the route, helping them **access classes at the right level** in each country. So far, more than 1,369 children have been assessed. After a successful pilot, the tool is now fully operational and will help many more refugee and migrant children to access quality learning across Central America.

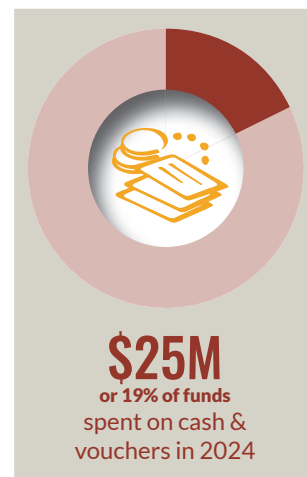


## RESILIENCE

29% of program funding spent on community resilience in 2024<sup>3</sup>

The Children's Emergency Fund helps families meet their immediate needs in a crisis and helps build resilient communities. For example, after more than a year of war, children's lives in **Gaza** have been shattered, buildings destroyed, and families pushed to the brink of extreme hunger. The Children's Emergency Fund helped provide cash transfers to families in Gaza and the West Bank to help them cope.

In a conflict as fluid and as complex as Gaza, the ability to act quickly and adapt is critical. In 2024, our teams piloted a **new online service to deliver cash transfers** to the most vulnerable families. Overall, the system was much more efficient, reduced transaction costs and meant families could purchase the items they needed from a wider range of vendors compared to traditional cash payment methods. After the success of the pilot, the project will be expanded to support many more families in Gaza, alongside financial literacy campaigns to help families use the online system. At the end of 2024, Save the Children was **the largest cash provider in the West Bank and third largest in Gaza**.





# ANTICIPATORY ACTION

The Children's Emergency Fund aims to provide at least **13%** of all funds annually to anticipatory action and emergency preparedness.

*\$1 spent in advance  
saves \$4 in response*

In 2024, the Fund allocated **\$6.9 million (16% of funds)** to anticipatory action (AA) and preparedness in **47 countries**, enabling our teams and partners to stock up on essential supplies, raise awareness within communities ahead of predicted crises, strengthen early warning systems, and trigger early action protocols to act ahead of floods, heatwaves and other emergencies.



# LOCAL PARTNERS

Local and national partners play a critical role in helping families in disasters, supporting community recovery and building resilience. The Children's Emergency Fund aims to channel **25%** of funding to local partners.

In 2024, the Fund channelled **\$11.8 million (16% of allocations)** to **106 partners in 33 countries**. This included over \$11.2 million to 96 local and national non-governmental organizations, \$524,000 to nine community-based organizations and \$12,500 to one child-led organization.

**16%**

OF FUNDING  
ALLOCATIONS  
TO PARTNERS  
IN 2024



NUMBER OF  
PARTNERSHIP  
AGREEMENTS

Community Health Workers visiting  
rural families by bike in Côte d'Ivoire.



Photo: Eve Matheson/Save the Children



# CRISES TO WATCH IN 2025

In 2025, 1 in 11 children worldwide will need lifesaving assistance. We're paying particular attention to the humanitarian situation in the following countries, among others:

**Afghanistan** – An ongoing economic crisis, severe hunger, earthquakes, consecutive droughts, flooding and limitations for women and girls mean almost 23 million people are projected to need humanitarian assistance to survive in 2025.

**DRC** – The worst escalation of violence in over a decade is exacerbating displacement, poverty and disease outbreaks, causing catastrophic levels of hunger and a severe child protection crisis, yet DRC remains one of the most forgotten crises in the world.

**Ethiopia** – Prolonged drought and flash flooding have decimated livelihoods, leaving 20 million people in need of urgent support, half of which are children.

**Haiti** – A deadly cycle of violence, poverty and hunger means two in three children need humanitarian support, the highest on record in Haiti.

**Myanmar** – Conflict combined with climate disasters, an economic crisis and severe food insecurity have forced more than 3.5 million people from their homes. Around 6.3 million children need assistance.

**Nigeria** – Killings, attacks and kidnappings by armed groups in the north threaten children's lives and families' livelihoods, as well as affecting food production. An estimated 7.7 million people need humanitarian assistance.

**occupied Palestinian territory** – After 17 months of war, aid restrictions and a tightening siege, Gaza has been reduced to rubble and families pushed to the brink of extreme hunger in one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Ongoing violence continues to shatter children's lives in Gaza and the West Bank.

**Somalia** – Extreme food and water shortages from recurrent climate shocks as well as conflict, means almost 6 million people need humanitarian support in 2025 – almost a third of the entire population.

**South Sudan** – Escalating violence in neighbouring Sudan has pushed over 1 million people into South Sudan, a country that is already battling its own conflict escalations, climate disasters, hunger and public health challenges.

**Sudan** – Two years of violent conflict, climate shocks and rising hunger means 30.4 million people need urgent support, around half of the entire population.

**Syria** – While there is a shared hope for a brighter future, the immense toll of nearly 14 years of conflict and huge uncertainty remains. Humanitarian needs are at an all-time high, with 7.5 million children in need of support.

With huge challenges to the global humanitarian financing landscape, including funding cuts and shifting priorities to aid, **the need for flexible humanitarian funding has never been greater.** This has been exacerbated by the US government's decision in January 2025 to pause all foreign aid funding and eliminate over 80% of all aid contracts, with the future of the world's largest aid donor remaining unclear. **Your support for the Children's Emergency Fund will be critical for children in crisis in 2025 and beyond.**

Sozan\* with her daughter Rohan\*, 21 months, at home in Northeast Syria. We provided Sozan with food, water, cash and essentials for her baby.



Photo: Sozdar Mohammad/Save the Children



Reyhan\*, 11, throwing a birthday party for her cat called Mizgin at a Child Friendly Space supported by Save the Children in Syria.

# THANK YOU

A message from Save the Children's  
Senior Humanitarian Director,  
Abdurahman Sharif:

*"Supporting the Children's Emergency Fund means embracing data-driven decision making, it means funding broader humanitarian strategies rather than short-term projects, it means empowering actors on the ground to adapt initiatives to address evolving needs, and it means investing in locally-led and anticipatory humanitarian action."*

*I extend my deepest gratitude to our partners, supporters and frontline responders. Your commitment and generosity makes this work possible.*

*Together, we can shape a future where humanitarian action is built for the challenges of tomorrow, giving every child the opportunity to thrive.  
Thank you."*



**Save the Children.**

Published by Save the Children  
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\*names changed to protect identities  
All \$ in USD

*Photo: Bara'a Kattab/Save the Children*