

Statement of ChildFund Alliance: Regular Session of the UNICEF Executive Board

12 February 2020

Agenda Item 7: Update on Humanitarian Action: A focus on water, sanitation and hygiene in emergencies

Ms. President, Executive Director Fore, Distinguished Members of the Board:

I begin by offering a warm welcome to UNICEF's new Executive Board Members and President.

As Secretary General of [ChildFund Alliance](#), I speak on behalf of a coalition of 11 child rights and development organizations around the world. The Alliance, and our humanitarian partner [Terre des Hommes](#), thank UNICEF for organizing the NGO Consultation for Partnership in Humanitarian Settings held in Geneva in November 2019.

We think the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action appropriately reflect the diversity of humanitarian crises, align with global humanitarian policy and architecture, and emphasize the importance of collaborative partnerships in fulfilling and protecting children's rights.

These partnerships will be of the utmost importance as we work to address the dire situation of those living in conflict or natural disaster settings. We are deeply troubled by the ever-increasing number of complex emergencies and humanitarian situations that represent a considerable challenge for states, UN agencies and NGOs. We are particularly concerned about three acute situations:

- **[The Middle East](#)**: More than 4,600 children who traveled to Iraq or Syria—alone or with their families—to join the so-called Islamic State, are living in displacement camps under deplorable conditions. They are victims of recruitment and trafficking, and they witness extreme violence and are subject to indoctrination. We call on State authorities for an urgent response to guarantee their rights set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to demobilize children recruited by these groups and assume their reintegration into society.
- **[Latin America and Caribbean](#)**: The Venezuelan crisis has hugely affected the sub-region, and the support provided to tackle this crisis, which is impacting millions of migrants and refugees is insufficient. NGOs present in this region witness the daily deterioration of this alarming situation and call for increasing financial support, dialogue with authorities, and training.
- **[Sahel and Great Lake Regions](#)**: The security situation is worsening daily, displacing millions of people, including many children. Despite efforts from aid organizations (including Tdh and ChildFund member Educo), the needs of the affected populations are not being met, and their rights are being violated. We are deeply concerned in 2020 we will see similar incidents resulting in the displacement and or deaths of many more adults and children.

Further action is warranted if we are to help these populations meet their basic needs and realize their rights. In closing, we thank you for your consideration of our concerns and remain grateful for our collaborative work to improve the lives of children in these settings.