

## Statement of ChildFund Alliance: United Nation's Children Fund Executive Board Annual Session 13-16 June 2023

### Agenda item 4: UNICEF Humanitarian Action

Mr. President, Executive Director Katherine Russel, and distinguished members of the board, I would like to express ChildFund Alliance's appreciation for the opportunity to address the 2023 Annual Session of the UNICEF Executive Board.

As Secretary General of ChildFund Alliance, I speak on behalf of 11 child-focused humanitarian and development organizations, reaching nearly 32 million children and their families in 70 countries. We are grateful for UNICEF's ongoing leadership in humanitarian action and response to help affected children and families realize their rights.

At ChildFund, we are committed to providing principled humanitarian actions in order to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity. In 2022, the global community witnessed 274 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. The unprecedented combination of armed conflict, climate change impacts, various disasters and public health emergencies means this number is forecast to reach 339 million in 2023.<sup>1</sup> The impact on children and their families is only exacerbated by underfunded humanitarian response plans.

In 2022, ChildFund Alliance supported over 32 million children and their families in the areas of health, education, child protection, and WASH. Crucially, we continued to provide assistance to children and their families in some of the most dangerous and acutely affected regions that are not always a focus in the news: The so-called "forgotten crises."

In **Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar**, ChildFund Alliance member EDUCO is providing humanitarian assistance in six camps hosting Rohingya refugees and adjacent host communities in the areas of education, child protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. In 2022, Educo and ChildFund Alliance members supported nearly **96,000 program participants**, including children and young people.

In **Haiti**, two ChildFund Alliance members – **WeWorld** and **Un Enfant par la Main** – are providing integrated, life-saving services, including **WASH, regenerative agriculture, food security, education, health and cash assistance to children and the most affected**. We are also leading humanitarian projects in regions most impacted by the current multi-faceted crises, such as Nippes and Artibonite.

Specifically, we reinforced access to water – which is fundamental to fighting waterborne diseases – by building over **250 cisterns** for families in both regions, thereby contributing to eradicate typhoid fever in the entire area. ChildFund members also rehabilitated schools damaged by the August 2021 earthquake, conducted awareness-raising on menstrual hygiene in schools targeting girls, and distributed dignity kits to over **500 girls**. We have trained communities on WASH practices and disaster risk reduction in schools and created environmental clubs within the schools to promote environmentally friendly practices.

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<sup>1</sup> Global Humanitarian Overview 2023, OCHA

Moreover, WeWorld implemented a UNICEF-funded project targeting more than 18,000 people in the Municipality of Gros Morne, where cases of cholera have been detected.

Additional projects reached **over 2,000 food-insecure households**, and nearly **2,300 new households** in the Artibonite and Nippes regions thanks to additional resources from ECHO and the French Development Agency (AFD).

Despite implementation challenges and amid dangerous conditions for our staff and partners who must continuously adapt to new challenges, we continue to deliver services for children and their families in Haiti and Cox's Bazar thanks to our strong partnerships with the government, UNICEF and local organizations.

The dire humanitarian situation in both forgotten crises has recently been compounded by climate change-induced disasters, which is why ChildFund Alliance is ramping up its efforts in this area, specifically as regards **climate change as a "threat multiplier"<sup>2</sup> for violence against children**. Continued efforts by ChildFund, UNICEF and other civil society organizations are of the utmost importance to address the urgent needs to these crises. We thus urge stakeholders not to forget about them, as doing so will push millions of children and their families further into poverty and penury.

I thank you.

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<sup>2</sup> [SRSS-VAC calls for urgent climate action in her annual report to the General Assembly \(Sep. 2022\), UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children](#)