

**Agenda item 6: Update on UNICEF humanitarian action  
(UNICEF/2026/EB/3)**

**Mr. President, Madam Executive Director, distinguished Members of the Board,**

I am honored to speak on behalf of ChildFund Alliance, a global network of ten child-focused development and humanitarian organizations supporting 36 million children and families in 66 countries to end violence and exploitation, deliver child-sensitive humanitarian action in crises, and advance climate policies that elevate the voices of children and youth.

We deeply value our longstanding partnership with UNICEF and our shared commitment to protecting children living through conflict, disaster, and displacement. At a time of extraordinary global upheaval, we wish to express our profound appreciation for the dedication of UNICEF staff who continue to uphold the rights and dignity of every child.

Today, I wish to draw attention to two urgent contexts: the ongoing humanitarian response in Ukraine, and the escalating, yet increasingly overlooked, crisis in Haiti.

Under our Strategic Plan, [\*Championing Child Rights in a Changing World\*](#), ChildFund Alliance's pillar on child-sensitive humanitarian action has strengthened protection systems and ensured essential services for children in fragile and crisis-affected settings. This has enabled our members to deliver life-saving assistance in Ukraine, Haiti, and other emergencies.

As the war in Ukraine nears its fourth year, children remain at the epicenter of violence and instability. Millions have been displaced, separated from loved ones, and exposed to trauma with lifelong consequences. Our members—**WeWorld** and **ChildFund Deutschland**—together with local partners, are providing coordinated support including child protection and psychosocial services, education in emergencies, cash assistance, WASH interventions, and emergency relief in both Ukraine and Moldova. More than 75,000 children and family members have been reached, yet the scale of need continues to outpace available resources.

In Haiti, children are enduring a convergence of violence, displacement, hunger, and the collapse of essential services. Schools and health facilities are under attack, and families are trapped in cycles of fear and deprivation. Our member, **Un Enfant Par La Main**, continues to operate under extremely challenging conditions, supporting community-based protection, education, livelihoods, and emergency relief. However, humanitarian access is shrinking, and funding is increasingly insufficient.

We welcome the renewal of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti's mandate and its strengthened focus on security stabilization—an essential step toward improving humanitarian access. The children of Haiti deserve the same visibility, urgency, and solidarity afforded to children in any other crisis.

Ukraine and Haiti reflect a broader global reality: emergencies are multiplying, but attention and resources are not keeping pace. Children in Ethiopia, South Sudan, the Sahel, Myanmar, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip and many other fragile contexts are experiencing profound and preventable suffering.

ChildFund Alliance calls for:

- **Predictable, flexible humanitarian financing** enables rapid response and sustained support.
- **Greater investment in local and community-based organizations**, who are the first—and often the only—responders.
- **Integrated child protection, education, and mental health programming** as core components of all humanitarian action.
- **Stronger global advocacy** to ensure that forgotten crises do not mean forgotten children, and to make visible the direct, life-changing impact of the funding crisis on children and families.

We commend UNICEF’s leadership in placing children at the center of humanitarian response. Our collaboration—from child protection to education to emergency programming—remains indispensable.

ChildFund Alliance stands ready to work alongside UNICEF, Member States, and civil society partners to ensure that every child, in every crisis, receives the protection, care, and hope they deserve.

**Thank you.**

**Meg Gardinier**  
**Secretary General**  
**ChildFund Alliance**  
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