



Save the Children

# 2021: OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Reporting results against our Humanitarian Plan



Andrea\*, 18, and her baby Malú\*, 6 months, have walked from Venezuela to Piura, Peru, with the father Robins\*, 26. The family has received cash assistance from Save the Children.

Photo: Hanz Plenge / Save the Children

## Impact that saves lives

### Supporting children in humanitarian crisis

When we published, [Children Cannot Wait: Save the Children's Humanitarian Plan for 2021](#) in the latter part of 2020, we'd just come through one of the most challenging years for children living in crisis in recent memory.

At the time, our Humanitarian Plan for 2021 was the first of its kind for Save the Children. The outlook for children for the year ahead was bleak with the UN predicting 235 million people projected to need humanitarian assistance globally. We were still feeling the constraints of a pandemic, seeing overburdened health systems in numerous countries, experiencing inhibited humanitarian access and witnessing multiple conflicts, all of which combined, drove up humanitarian need to truly unprecedented levels.

We knew that 2021 was shaping up to be one of the most demanding and intense years in our then 102-year history. To meet our ambitions and respond to the scale of need laid out in the humanitarian plan, we were going to need to significantly upscale our funding and advocacy, and get used to the idea that innovation and adaptation was a day-to-day reality for delivering what children most need in humanitarian contexts.

The expertise of our staff, and the generous, record-breaking funding given to us to meet ever-increasing humanitarian need meant we were able to reach a total of 31.1 million people in 80 countries with our humanitarian programming and 26 million people in the 37 countries prioritised in our 2021 Humanitarian Plan, including 15.6 million children. In total, we saw 72 of our responses (out of 103 total) happen in the countries highlighted within the plan.

Looking back, the scale and pace at which we were able to provide humanitarian assistance, in spite of the numerous challenges faced, is nothing short of remarkable. For us, 2021 had many challenges and an equal amount of highlights. We launched the Humanitarian Fund, which, whilst still in its first year, exceeded its \$40 million target by nearly \$14.8 million in funds pledged. The Emergency Health Unit (EHU) provided life-saving assistance to 1,135,574 people. We emerged from the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic a more agile, focused and collaborative organisation, committed to contributing towards a world where children are protected and supported during crisis.

We cannot do a summary of the successes of the last year justice without acknowledging our supporters. It simply would not be possible for Save the Children to do what we do every day for children without you. For this, we give special thanks. In 2022, we know the challenges continue to be many, but we remain committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure that we uphold and protect the rights of children in humanitarian crises before it's too late.



**26 million**

people reached in countries highlighted in our Humanitarian Plan



**72**

out of 103 of our responses in 2021 happened in the countries highlighted in our Humanitarian Plan



**31.1 million**  
people reached through all humanitarian programming



**37**  
countries



**15.6 million**  
children reached in countries highlighted in our Humanitarian Plan

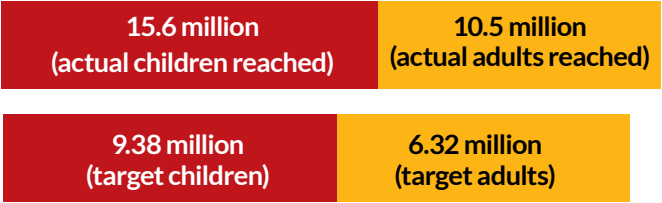


# Exceeding targets and breaking records

In our 2021 Humanitarian Plan, we estimated that in order to reach our target of 26 million people (including 15.6 million children) in over 37 countries, we were going to need \$769.20 million in funding. Despite raising roughly 85% of our target (or \$656,035,701), we were able to reach more people than targeted, in every region, who were in need of humanitarian assistance. Organisation-wide, we also broke our previous spend record and reported a figure of \$1,203,000,000 billion, of which \$576,629,031 million (or just under 50%) was for humanitarian-specific interventions, meaning in 2021, Save the Children did more for children than in any other year in our history.



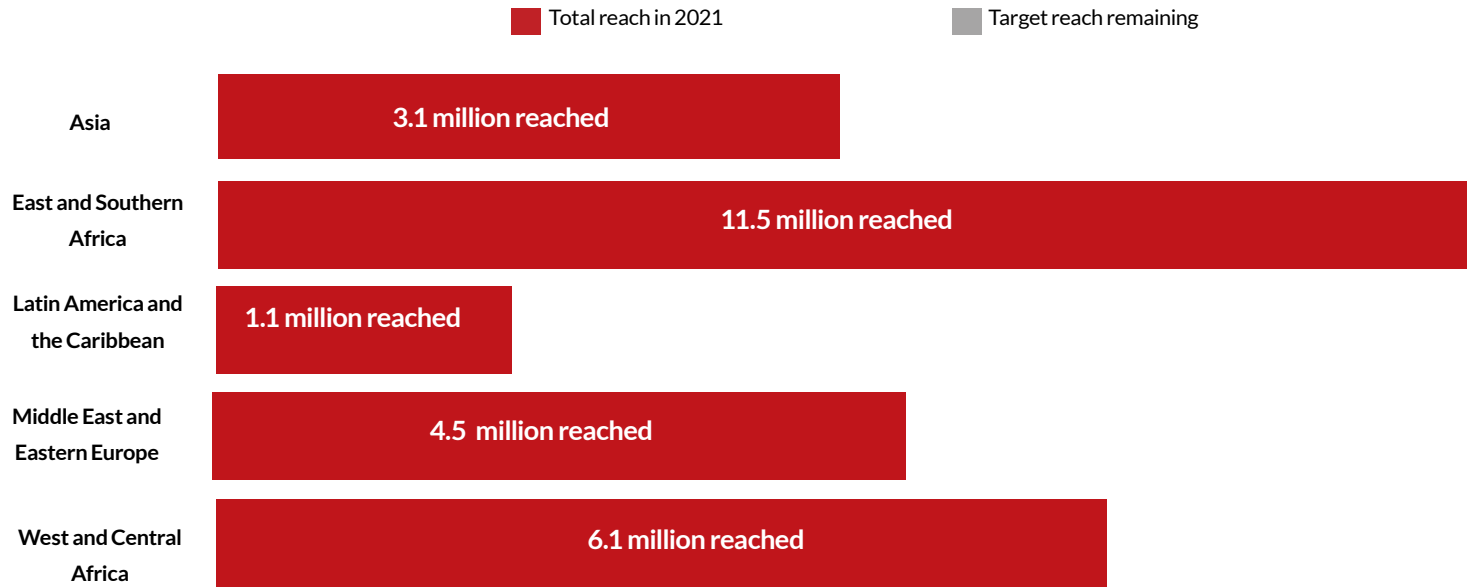
2021 Target and Actual Reach (adults and children)



Funds Received vs. Funds Required



2021 Target and Actual Reach (per region)



Afrah\*, 11, at home in Hajjah, Yemen. Two years ago she was swept away by a flash flood whilst collecting water.

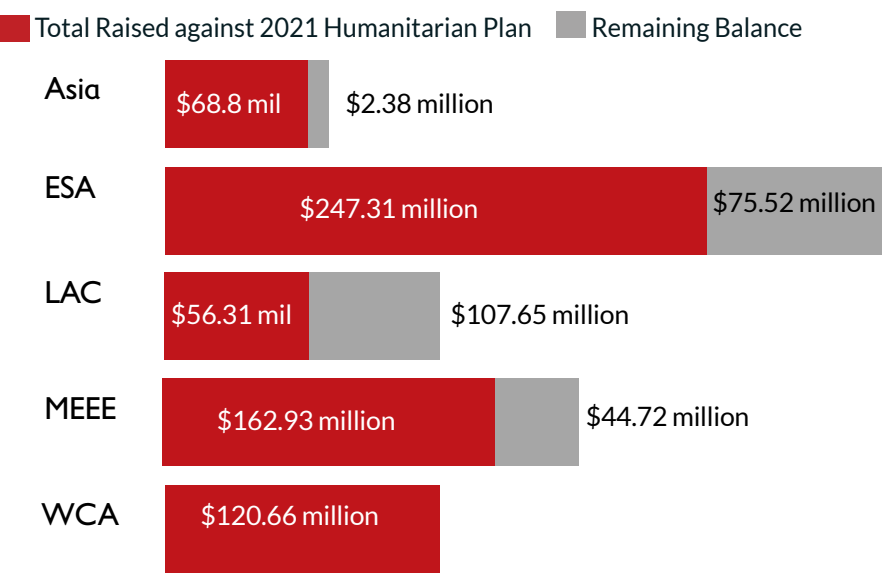
Photo: Sami Jassar / Save the Children



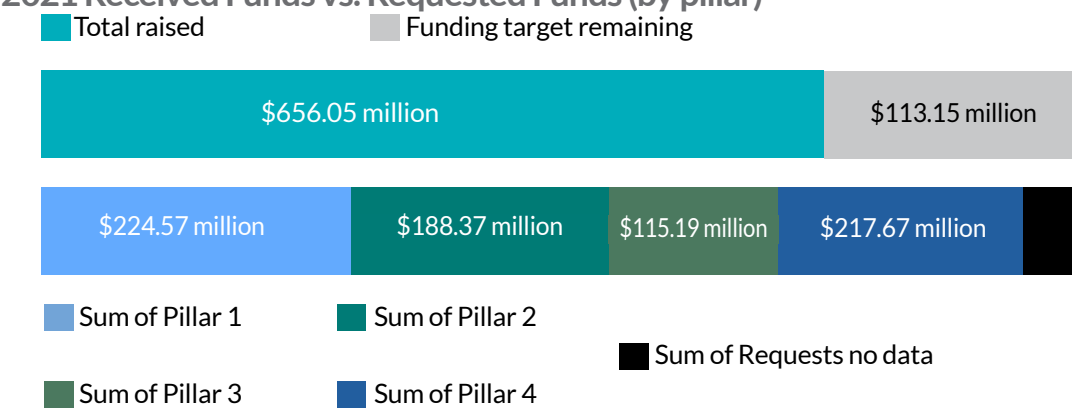
Banna\*, 11, sits in the wheelchair given to him by Save the Children in Bangladesh  
Photo: Habiba Ummay / Save the Children

# Breakdown of financial contributions and allocations

## 2021 Total Funds Secured vs. Requested (by region)

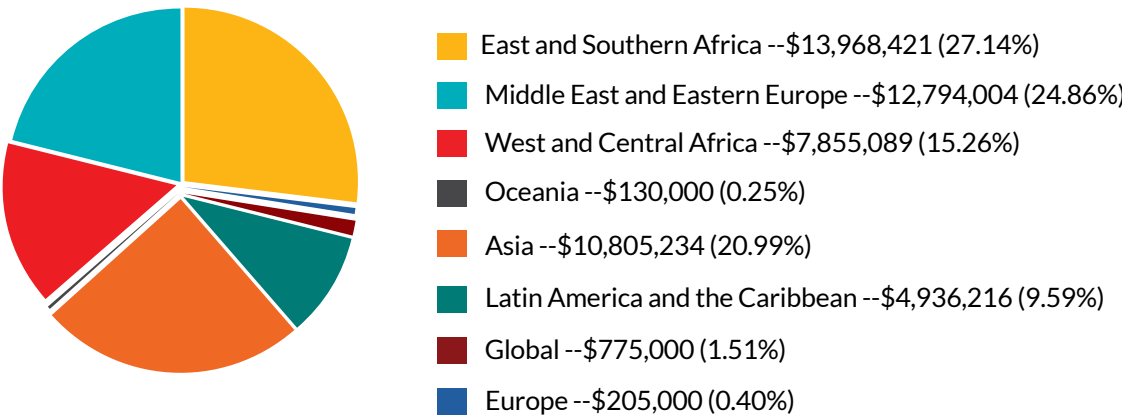


## 2021 Received Funds vs. Requested Funds (by pillar)



## SPOTLIGHT: Save the Children's Humanitarian Fund

In its very first year, the Humanitarian Fund smashed its 2021 target of \$40 million and ended the year with a total of \$54.8 million in total pledges received, and allocated nearly \$51.5 million in funding. This means that 53 Country Offices, 10 Members, and 3 Regional Offices received flexible funds so they could help change the lives of 10 million people.



67  
countries/regions/members that  
received funding\*

\* 66 countries/regions/members plus an allocation to the SCI Centre covering the Humanitarian Fund's fund management costs





## Pillar 1: Child Survival



### Shaida's story

#### Supporting children's survival

Shaida\*, nine months old, lives with her parents and three siblings (aged 12, six and three years old) in the Balkh province, Afghanistan.

The family originally comes from a remote rural area in Kunduz province, they migrated to Mazar Sharif in search of a better life, but due to the lack of income and high cost of living, they struggled to make ends meet so went back to Kunduz.

Shaida\*'s parents kept struggling to feed the family, and her four-month-old sister developed symptoms of a bad cold and wasn't treated, which resulted in her death. Shaida\*'s father says he blames himself for going back to Kunduz and his daughter's death.

Shaida\* is being treated for moderate malnutrition by Save the Children's mobile health teams. Shaida\*'s family was also provided with hygiene kits, toys for the children, and psychosocial counselling.

Shaida\*, nine months old, is being treated for malnutrition by Save the Children's mobile health team in Balkh province, Afghanistan

Photo: Michal Przedlacki / Save the Children



## Pillar 2: Access to Education

### Amal's story

#### Enabling education through partnership

Amal\*, 7, and her family had to leave their hometown in Deir Ezzor governorate due to the conflict four years ago, and were displaced multiple times across Syria before ending up in Al Raqqa city in North East Syria. The family has been living in Raqqa for three years now, sharing a house with three other families, including Amal's uncle's family.

Along with her cousin Amina, Amal\* was enrolled in a school located in another neighbourhood, as the one in theirs was destroyed due to the conflict. According to her mother, Sarin, Amal\* and her cousin were walking to school, when strange men attempted to kidnap her. She told Save the Children that incidents like this occurred frequently in the city, and as such, her father stopped sending her to school.

Sarin tried to educate Amal\* at home as best she could. Save the Children, through a local partner, started a DANIDA-supported education programme in Amal's\* neighbourhood. The programme included rehabilitation work that allowed the school to open its doors to students. Amal's\* family was contacted by the community outreach teams, and Amal\*, along with her cousin Amina, were enrolled. Amal's\* mother walked the two girls to and from the school every day.

When Amina's father decided to return to his hometown in Deir Ezzor governorate along with his family, Amina's education was interrupted yet again as there were no schools located there. Amal\* started sharing the lessons and the homework with Amina over her mother's phone so that she could continue her lessons. Currently, both girls who want to be teachers themselves, continue their education; Amal\* by attending the school and Amina remotely with the support of Amal\* and her favourite teacher, Sundus.



Amal\*, 7, attending a lesson in a school.

Photo: Save the Children





## Pillar 3: Child Protection



Kibrom\* (13) is receiving psychosocial support from the Emergency Health Unit in Ethiopia

Photo: Sacha Myers / Save the Children

### Kibrom's story

#### Providing psychosocial support in crisis

Kibrom\*, 13, and his mother Mihret\*, 38, are living in a camp for people who have fled the conflict in the north of Ethiopia. They have witnessed unimaginable horrors. Kibrom\* says he saw people having their heads cut off and others who were "slaughtered like sheep." Mihret\* does not know where her husband is and fears he might be dead, just like their neighbours.

Mihret\* fled her home with her six children. They travelled for a month on foot and lived in caves along the way. Kibrom\* has struggled to cope with the violence he has witnessed. He has vivid nightmares and is anxious the violence and killing will return. To seek help for Kibrom\*, Mihret\* left five of her children with her mother in her village and travelled with Kibrom\* to the camp where they now live.

Save the Children's Emergency Health Unit runs a mobile clinic in the camp providing primary healthcare for children and their families. Kibrom\* is now accessing regular psychosocial support with Ruhus\*, a social worker from the Emergency Health Unit with whom he has formed a special bond. Kibrom says his sleeping has improved and he's feeling better.

The conflict in north of the country, which erupted on the 4th of November 2020, is having a devastating impact on children. Many children have witnessed things no child should ever see, lost or become separated from loved ones and have been forced to flee their homes. Health facilities have been damaged and medical supplies and drugs looted, leaving

children, pregnant women and those who have suffered sexual violence without access to vital healthcare. Children have also been out of school for over a year now due to COVID-19 and now the conflict puts them at risk of exploitation, sexual violence, early marriage and child labour.

Across northern Ethiopia, more than 1.7 million children and adults are displaced as a result of the conflict and need urgent support with access to food – including therapeutic food for malnourished children – shelter, healthcare, mental health support, clean water and sanitation services.

Save the Children is continuing to scale up its response to meet the growing needs of children and their families. The Emergency Health Unit is running mobile clinics providing primary healthcare such as vaccinations, treatment for diseases and malnutrition, care for pregnant and breastfeeding women and mental health services.

We are distributing emergency supplies, such as shelter materials, essential food items and hygiene kits, and have set up Child Friendly Spaces, which provide a safe place for children to play, learn and recover from the violence they have experienced. Our social workers are identifying separated and unaccompanied children and ensuring they are provided with care and support to keep them safe and to reunite them with their family if possible.



## Pillar 4: Resilience and Safety Nets



Fawzia\* (12) lives with her grandmother Mariam\* (60) in a camp for displaced people in Somalia

Photo: Sacha Myers / Save the Children

### Mariam and Fawzia's story

#### Supporting families with cash and voucher assistance

Twelve-year-old Fawzia\* lives with her mother, grandmother and siblings in a camp for displaced people in Somalia. Fawzia's\* grandmother, Mariam\*, first arrived in the camp in 1991 when the conflict drove them from their home in Mogadishu.

Fawzia's\* family recently moved to the camp because her mother was unwell and couldn't look after Fawzia and her siblings. Although there are often food and water shortages in the camp due to the drought, Fawzia\* says life is better because she can attend school.

Mariam\* supports her extended family with the income she generates from a shop she runs in the camp. Last year, she received a \$USD 700 grant from Save the Children through our income generation project – which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) – and used the money to expand the shop. Fawzia\* helps her grandmother in the shop each day after she has finished school.

Now Mariam\* says the shop produces a larger income and she has been able to use the money from the business to pay for medical treatment for Fawzia's\* mother.

Although the current drought in Somalia is impacting on the family's access to clean water, Mariam\* says the drought is yet to affect the business.

Families in Somalia have experienced conflict and an increasing

number of climate-related disasters over the past few decades, ranging from long-lasting droughts to devastating floods, locust infestations and even cyclones, sometimes all experienced in the same region within months.

In 2021, Somalia faced yet another drought, which is pushing the number of children and adults who need critical support to 5.9 million – a third of the population and an increase of 700,000 people compared to 2020.

In the communities where we work, Save the Children is seeing shallow wells drying up, families rationing their water, crops and pastures dying and people moving away from their communities in search of water and food for their livestock. Families who lose their livestock often move to towns or camps, like the one where Fawzia lives, to access food and water. However, it's difficult for them to find jobs to support their families.

Alongside our humanitarian response where we're delivering water to drought-stricken communities, treating malnourished children and providing cash assistance to families, we're also working with local governments to build the long-term resilience of communities to cope with climate shocks. We're also helping families like Fawzia's\* to find alternative sources of income so they can support themselves and survive the multiple crises they face.

*\*Names have been changed throughout to protect identities*





Irene (34), holds her son Gloire (3) after she has received her measles vaccination in DRC.

Photo: Trésor LWANGO / Save the Children

## Irene's story

### Our Emergency Health Unit in action

Irene, 34, is a teacher and a mother of two who lives in the Kinshasa Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As a child, Irene lived in a remote area without access to healthcare. When she was infected with measles – a deadly disease that can also cause life-long disability – her mother used traditional medicine to treat her symptoms, and it took her a long time to recover.

When measles recently broke out in the Kinshasa Province – where Irene now lives with her children – Save the Children deployed its Emergency Health Unit to support with the measles vaccination campaign.

Irene heard about the campaign via one of Save the Children's community mobilisers and she didn't hesitate to get her three-year-old son, Gloire, vaccinated so he would be protected from the disease and wouldn't have to suffer the same fate as her.

*"The vaccine is a way to prevent the disease. I will tell parents who are still hesitant about taking their children to be vaccinated that it is the best solution and, above all, it is free. My thanks go straight to Save the Children who supported this campaign and it means we have a free vaccination site not far from our homes."*

The Emergency Health Unit worked with the Ministry of Health in DRC to vaccinate more than 273,000 children across 315 vaccination sites.



## SPOTLIGHT: Emergency Health Unit Highlights in 2021

In 2021, Save the Children's Emergency Health Unit (EHU) responded to conflict, natural disasters and disease outbreaks in Latin America and Africa. We reached more than 1.1 million children and adults with public health information, life-saving medical treatment and vaccinations against deadly diseases including COVID-19 and cholera. We also delivered training for more than 3,100 health workers and support staff to improve their capacity to provide safe and effective medical care. In 2021, the EHU deployed full response teams to Ethiopia, DRC, Haiti and Malawi and deployed individuals to Rwanda, Somalia, PNG, Mozambique and Ethiopia. We also provided remote support for Peru, Panama (LAC RO) and Syria and completed our first COVID-19 technical support, mentorship and training response.



**275,490** reached through the measles vaccination campaign  
**401,068** reached through the COVID-19 vaccination campaign

### DRC: MEASLES and COVID-19

In September 2021, measles was detected in a primary school in the Kinshasa City Province in the DRC. Soon after, a measles outbreak was declared in several health zones. Save the Children deployed the Emergency Health Unit to support the government to run a large-scale measles vaccination campaign. The team helped to vaccinate more than 273,000 children in five health zones over a two-week period. Following the measles vaccination campaign, the Emergency Health Unit stayed on to support Save the Children's Country Office and the Ministry of Health with an ongoing COVID-19 vaccination campaign. The Emergency Health Unit provided technical support, training, logistics and supervision. Due to the very low vaccine uptake, the team also significantly increased Community Engagement activities, providing more than 389,000 people with information about COVID-19 and the importance of the vaccination.



**2,471**  
 reached during the earthquake response with primary healthcare

### HAITI: EARTHQUAKE

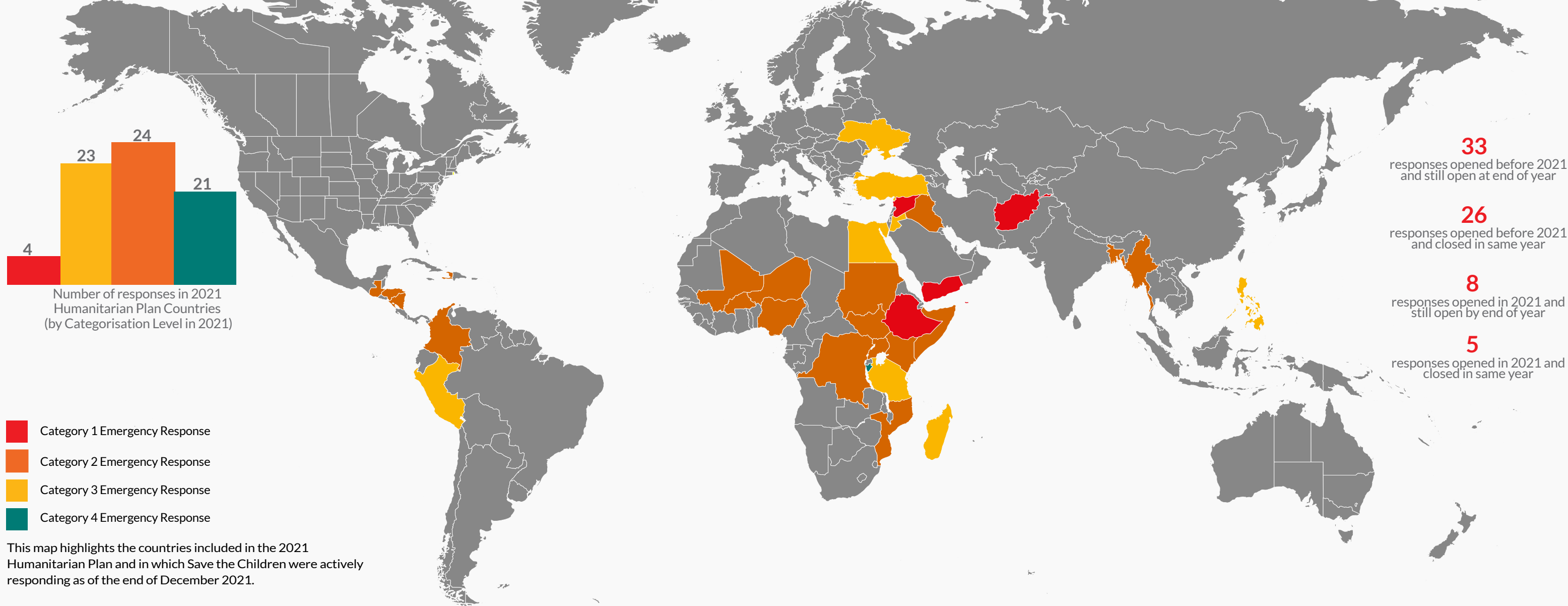
Following a devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Haiti on 14 August 2021, thousands of people were killed and tens of thousands were left without access to a safe place to live, clean water, food and healthcare. Tropical Storm Grace struck the region a few days later causing flooding and landslides. The Emergency Health Unit deployed in the days following the earthquake and set up operations in Jeremie. The team worked with several clinics damaged during the earthquake to re-start essential healthcare services for children and adults. The team focused on vaccinations, care for mothers, pregnant women and babies, mental health and psychosocial support, outpatient treatment for malnourished children and care for survivors of gender-based violence.



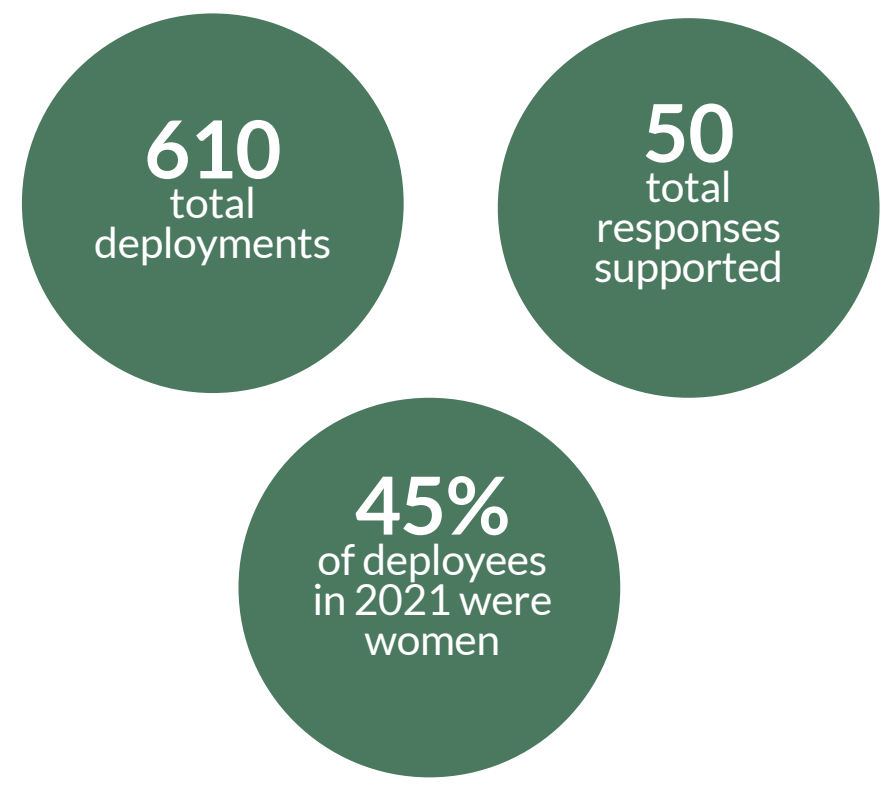
**455,831**  
 reached, providing primary healthcare during a conflict response

### ETHIOPIA: CONFLICT

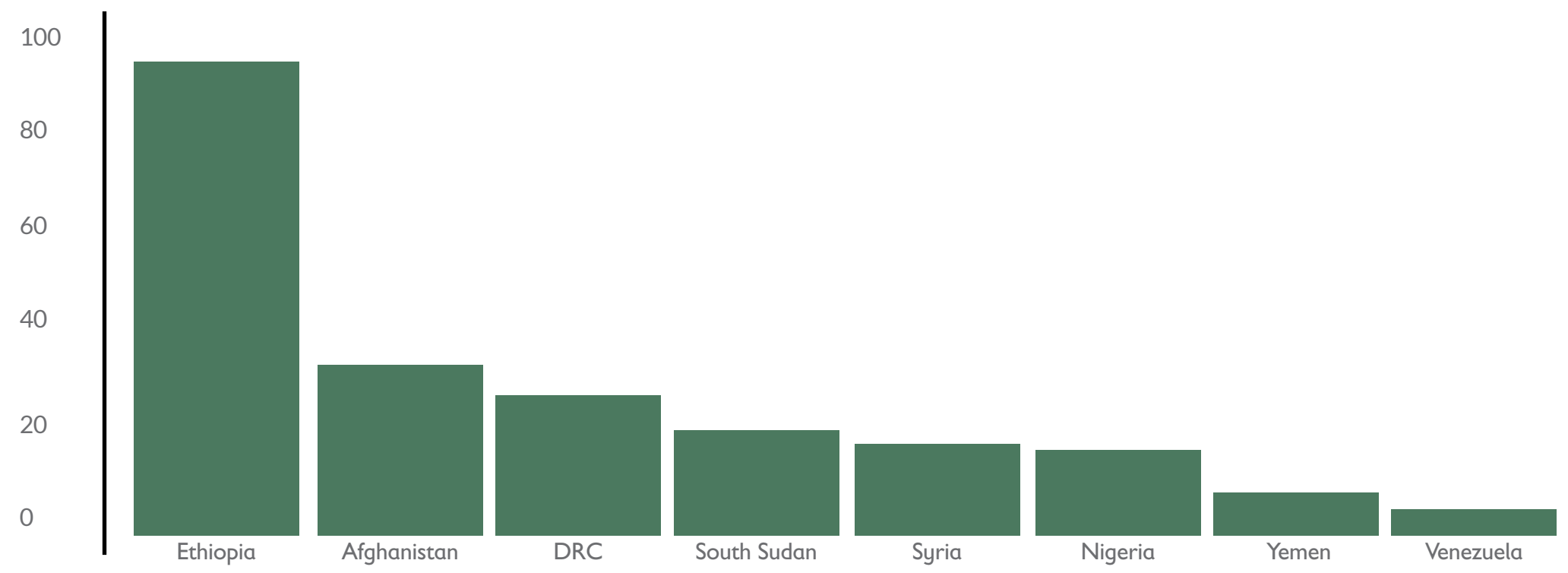
The Emergency Health Unit deployed to Ethiopia in December 2020 following the outbreak of conflict in the north of the country. After gaining access to Tigray in January 2021, the Emergency Health Unit set up six mobile health teams operating in 15 sites across eastern and central Tigray. The teams provided primary healthcare services and conducted mass vaccinations campaigns. The mobile teams provided more than 36,800 consultations and vaccinated more than 418,700 children and adults against cholera. In early September, the Emergency Health Unit handed over activities to the Save the Children Ethiopia Country Office.



## SPOTLIGHT: Our Deployments in 2021



## 2021 Number of Deployments per Prioritised Response





Cover image: A portrait of Ousmane\*, aged 11, inside an abandoned mill in his village in Mopti region, Mali.

Photo: Seyba Keita / Save the Children