

Embarking into the New Year 2023 – embracing opportunities and new horizons for scaling up our WASH, Climate & Environment work!

Dear WASH & Climate Champions, Colleagues, Friends, and Partners,

Wishing you & your families a very Happy New Year 2023!!

As we embark into the new year, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your tremendous contributions and support in jointly achieving results for children globally.

2022 was the first year of implementation of [UNICEF's Strategic Plan \(SP\) 2022-2025](#) with WASH and Climate, Energy, Environment and DRR (CEED) housed together within Goal Area 4 aiming to ensure “**Every child, including adolescents, has access to safe and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies, and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment**”. This Plan includes a much stronger focus on “**System Strengthening**” programming approaches to ensure “strengthened and resourced WASH systems and empowered communities for gender-equal, inclusive, affordable and sustainable services to meet the rights of all children and adolescents.” We believe that the recent release of the [new Sanitation Game Plan 2022-2030](#) will make significant contribution in making the global shift in achieving safely managed sanitation services, also ending open defecation for the last mile. We have also garnered strength and harnessed partners support in strengthening sustainability of results by supporting countries to improve national monitoring systems and reporting, including with WHO through [JMP](#) and [GLAAS](#). As the climate crisis unfolds, CEED is an elevated cross-sectoral priority with dedicated results within Goal Area 4 as well as results embedded across all of UNICEF’s global programmes (including WASH), advocacy, and internal sustainability.

In 2022 we consolidated our achievements from our previous Strategic Plan 2018-2021 in the [2021 Goal Area 4 Global Annual Results report](#) which outlines the total results achieved over the period 2018-2021 across some 13 countries. Some of the topline achievements which we jointly achieved with your support included reaching almost 70 million people with water and almost 60 million with sanitation services in their communities through direct support. Significant progress was also made in all other UNICEF WASH programming areas including hand-hygiene promotion, WASH in schools and health centres, menstrual hygiene health (in almost 59,000 schools), the elimination of open defecation and making the shift towards climate resilient WASH systems. In all its programming, UNICEF provided direct support while also working with governments and other partners to strengthen sectoral systems. UNICEF developed the [‘Guidance Note on Leaving No One Behind’](#) in 2021. UNICEF’s CEED global programming advocated & supported climate, environment and disaster-resilient solutions in WASH, health, social protection, education and other sectors in over 80 countries and worked with governments to prioritize children in national climate and disaster resilience plans and strategies in 83 countries while supporting young people to become climate and environmental champions in over 100 countries.

As we compile our 2022 results, we continued last year to respond to the unprecedented scale and scope of humanitarian crises, both through direct relief, and by strengthening sector humanitarian response capacity and by coordinating the overall response as lead agency of the global WASH cluster. CEED have been working to inform the design and delivery of child sensitive climate resilient programmes across all UNICEF programming sectors – Health, Nutrition, Education, Child Protection, Social Protection and WASH, while also empowering young people as agents of change to meaningfully address the global climate and

environmental crisis with an expanded UNICEF action plan to respond to this planetary crisis under finalization in the coming months. UNICEF continues as cluster lead for disaster response and risk reduction in multiple sectors.

Looking forward, we firmly believe that results for 2023 can only be achieved through strong partnerships and collaborations. No one organization or even sector alone, can tackle the complexity and scale of the current global climate crisis, environmental threats and WASH challenges. We are deeply grateful to have an extraordinary network of partners, that share the same commitment and vision as UNICEF. We will see this in action as we see a huge opportunity for the WASH sector with [UN 2023 Water Conference](#) in March, the first UN conference on water in almost 50 years.

We look forward to advocating together for our shared vision that every child realizes their human right to safe water, dignified sanitation and the right to grow up in a safe and sustainable climate and environment and we look forward to working together more closely than ever with you in 2023.

WASH & CEED team

UNICEF

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