

# CORE COMMITMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## What's new?



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The new **Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs)** represent UNICEF's core policy framework for humanitarian action. They describe UNICEF's commitments to the most disadvantaged children in every country and **should be used by every UNICEF Country Office to monitor the situation of children and take preparedness and response measures.**

### WITH THIS NEW EDITION

1. **Organizational and managerial commitments are established for all UNICEF personnel and managers,** and the performance of every office and staff member can be assessed against them. Organizational accountability to deliver on the CCCs is reinforced by placing them at the center of our Strategic Plan alongside the SDGs.
2. **Every Country Office is required to use the CCCs as a framework for preparedness and response and tools are provided to embed the CCCs across UNICEF's workplans, country programme documents, emergency response plans, appeals and partnerships in every Country Office.**
3. The CCCs are supported by a **performance monitoring system** – including on partnerships, supply and logistics etc. Progress will be systematically reviewed by humanitarian evaluations and audits.
4. Programme Commitments are cross benchmarked across all sectors, including for gender, disability, early childhood development, adolescents, health emergencies, and the response to the needs of refugees, migrants and internally displaced people. The CCCs also **focus on the quality of the programmes** and reflect UNICEF engagement on key issues like **linking humanitarian and development, national systems' strengthening, community engagement, and accountability to affected populations.**

### ALSO

1. The CCCs describe in details UNICEF commitments to its operational partners. The CCCs will be **proactively promoted and rolled out with governments and UNICEF's partners**, and a new website [corecommitments.unicef.org](https://corecommitments.unicef.org) will be launched and accessible to all.
2. The CCCs provide a **"one-stop-shop"** of updated humanitarian policies, guidance, handbooks and results frameworks available to all UNICEF personnel and partners – and easily accessible from handheld smartphones for field practitioners.

FUNCTION	WHAT IS NEW?
UNICEF core Policy and Framework for Humanitarian Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CCCs are to be used by every UNICEF Country Office as a framework to monitor the situation of women and children and take preparedness and response measures. They describe UNICEF commitments to the most disadvantaged children and their families, regardless of the kind of crisis, and irrespective of the income level of the country.</li> </ul>
Planning Reference for every UNICEF Country Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CCC commitments and benchmarks are aligned with and supported by existing Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation systems. Tools are provided to help the Country Offices to embed the CCCs in their Annual Workplans (AWP), Country Programme Documents (CPD), Emergency Response Plans, Humanitarian appeals (HAC) and Partnerships.</li> </ul>
Mandatory policy for all UNICEF personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizational and Managerial Commitments are established for all UNICEF personnel and managers. The CCCs describe the role and responsibilities of Country Offices, Regional Offices, Headquarters and National Committees (organizational commitments) and the obligations of all staff to deliver on the CCCs (managerial commitments). Tools are provided to facilitate the inclusion of the CCCs in the work plans and performance reports (PER) of team members.</li> </ul>
Accountability to results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational commitments are strengthened with the establishment of measurable benchmarks, aligned with Emergency Procedures and monitored in the UNICEF internal monitoring system (VISION), allowing to track UNICEF performance.</li> </ul>
Tool for UNICEF partners and for the design of partnership agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CCCs describe UNICEF accountabilities to its operational partners. The rollout will proactively target UNICEF operational partners to ensure they know and use the CCCs to discuss mutual accountabilities with UNICEF at country level.</li> <li>The rollout targets governments, CSOs and all partners. A new website <a href="https://corecommitments.unicef.org">corecommitments.unicef.org</a> is launched and accessible to all, with resources and tools for the implementation of the CCCs.</li> <li>The new CCCs provide a one-stop shop on the most up-to-date humanitarian policies, handbooks and guidance on programmes and operations – through hyperlinks regularly updated. Standards and results frameworks can be used by UNICEF personnel and partners to design Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and associated Programme Documents signed at country level.</li> </ul>
Quality of UNICEF humanitarian response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New commitments focus on the quality of the programmes and reflect UNICEF engagement on key issues like linking humanitarian and development, national systems' strengthening, community engagement, and accountability to affected populations. Multi and cross-sectoral programme commitments are established with benchmarks applicable to all Country Offices, and reflect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The progress made in the last decade: on preparedness, coordination, humanitarian cash transfers;</li> <li>The focus on the quality of the response: inclusion of gender, disabilities and considerations for early childhood development and adolescents, community engagement, accountability to affected populations, localization;</li> <li>The evolution of UNICEF scope of action: in public health emergencies, and in the response to large movements of refugees, migrants, internally displaced people;</li> <li>The new challenges: Protection from sexual abuse &amp; exploitation (PSEA), humanitarian access, climate change and environment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Policies are updated and aligned with new global humanitarian standards (including Sphere, Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies Minimum Standards, Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action), Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), Child Safeguarding, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Data Protection. Guidance is provided on the application of humanitarian principles in UNICEF operations, engagement with Non-State Actors etc.</li> </ul>

**For more information:**

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