

Sustainable Procurement:

Building Sustainable Supply Chains at UNICEF to ensure a live-able planet for every child

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The Sustainability Imperative

OUR CHALLENGE IS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN **TODAY** WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE WELLBEING OF CHILDREN **TOMORROW**



Every child is already affected by at least one climate or environmental disaster or shock, and **over one billion are at extremely high risk.**



Children bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change. Close to **90 per cent** of the **burden of disease attributable to climate change** is borne by children under 5.



Nearly **a third of** the world's children are affected by **lead poisoning.**



Around 600,000 children under 5 die each year from **respiratory infections** related to indoor and outdoor air pollution.



Over **186 million children** have **no access to electricity** at their primary schools.



Only 20 per cent of global investment in renewable energy is **reaching the least-developed countries.**

The **triple planetary crisis** of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is already affecting children.

Children's rights in supply chains globally remain vulnerable and children are affected by economic, governance and ethical challenges in global supply chains.

Children are uniquely vulnerable and at a significantly higher risk of harm than adults.

These are impacts already today – with significant implications for their futures.

UNICEF SEES IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN OPERATIONS

UNICEF

responded to

442

HUMANITARIAN SITUATIONS

in

128

COUNTRIES REPORTING

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN 2022



187 HEALTH EMERGENCY
(epidemic, influenza-human pandemic, Covid-19)



94 NATURAL DISASTERS
(hydro-meteorological)



62 SOCIO-POLITICAL CRISIS
(acute economic crisis, conflict/civil unrest, human rights crisis)



54 OTHER HUMANITARIAN SITUATIONS



33 NUTRITION CRISIS



12 NATURAL DISASTERS
(geo-physical)

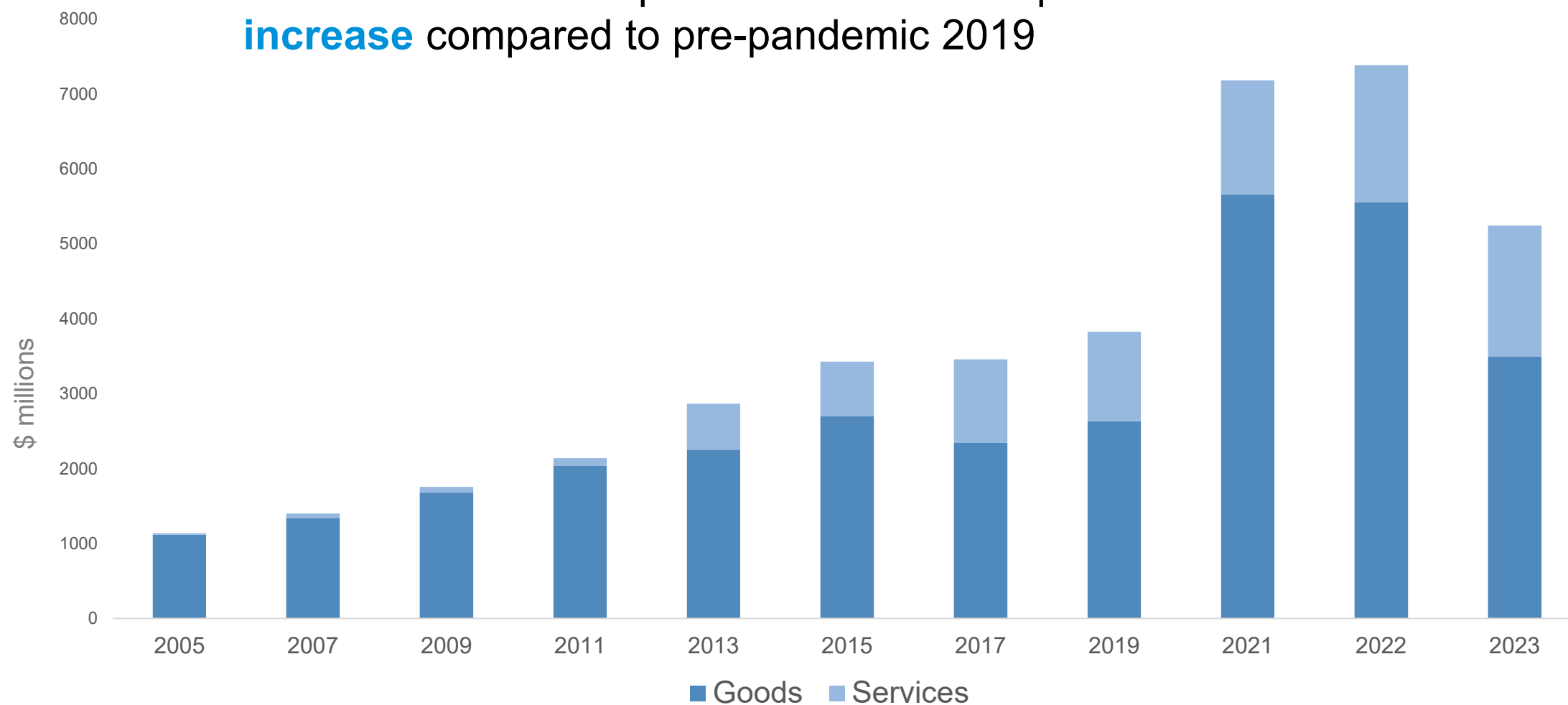


By 2023, **339 million people** – 1 in 23 – in need of humanitarian assistance

This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control agreed by India and Pakistan. The final status of jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed by the Parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

SUPPLY NEEDS ARE LARGE AND GROWING

UNICEF's total 2023 procurement value represents a **37% increase** compared to pre-pandemic 2019



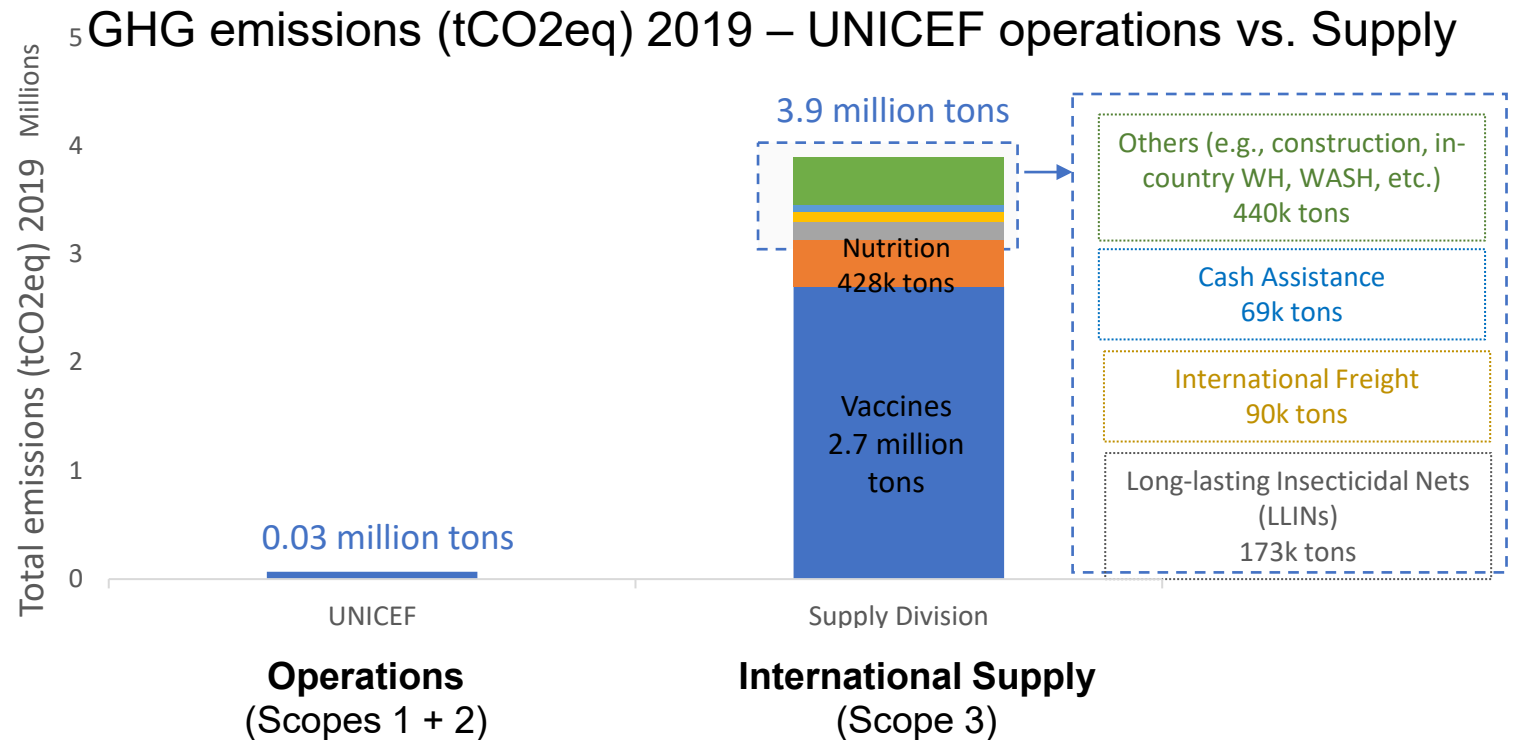
OUR SUPPLY CHAIN HAS THE LARGEST OPPORTUNITY FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Example: UNICEF is leading UN agencies by quantifying GHG emissions from our supply chain, known as Scope 3 emissions. We found that **more than 98% of UNICEF's total measured emissions** come from our supply chain

Targets

SD is working to set evidence-based targets for key sustainability hotspots in our supply chains.

[UNICEF Supply Scope 3 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Baseline | UNICEF Supply Division](#)



Sustainability Governance & Requirements

UNICEF HAS ALREADY BEEN ON A JOURNEY TO EMBED SUSTAINABILITY IN SUPPLY

Inclusive & Sustainable Operations Team (ISO) in DFAM created

Supply Plan (OMP) elevates Sustainability to core Strategy

Supply is working toward foundational elements:

UNICEF's Environmental Footprint and Accessibility Assessment Tool released

First Scope 3 GHG baseline measured

➤ **Capacity development**, esp. learning-by-doing

2018-2021 Strategic Plan establishes GHG reduction target for operations

First **mandatory Procedure on Sustainable Procurement** issued

➤ Sustainability **data tracking systems** – for products/ services and vendors

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

Procedure on Eco-Efficiency & Inclusive Access for Premises

First Procedure on Sustainable Procurement issued



Corporate Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan published (2023 – 2030)

First approved Supply Division **Sustainability Roadmap**

➤ Sustainability **targets / KPIs** – for procurement strategies, centers, and SD

➤ **Funding** for improved or alternative sustainable products and services (add. marginal cost for the switch)

UN Sustainability Governance Structure

UN System Wide

- Climate Neutral UN (CEB 2007, 2015)
- **UN Strategy for Sustainability Management Phase I & II** (CEB, 2021)
- **Model Environmental and Social Standards** (2019)
- **UN Sustainable Procurement Statement (2009, update 2025) & Indicators (2021)**
- **UN Code of Conduct for suppliers**

The vision: The UN System is a leader in integrating environmental and social sustainability considerations across its work in a systematic and coherent way, practicing the principles that it promotes and leaving a positive legacy

UN priority sustainability topics include human rights, labour rights, gender equality, conflict prevention, biodiversity, pollution, climate change and partnership

UN Sustainability Governance Structure – UNICEF translation

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UNICEF

- **Sustainability & Climate Action Plan** (2023)
- **UNICEF Environmental & Social Standards** (2025). *For vendors directly engaged in programme activities.*

Supply

- UN Code of Conduct
- OMP 2022-2025: Sustainability a cross-cutting priority.
- Internal SD Sustainability Roadmap (2024)
- **Sustainable Procurement Procedure & Guidance** (2023, update in 2025). *For vendors providing goods & services to UNICEF.*

How does this translate into practical action and implications for suppliers in the future?

Sustainable Procurement Procedure

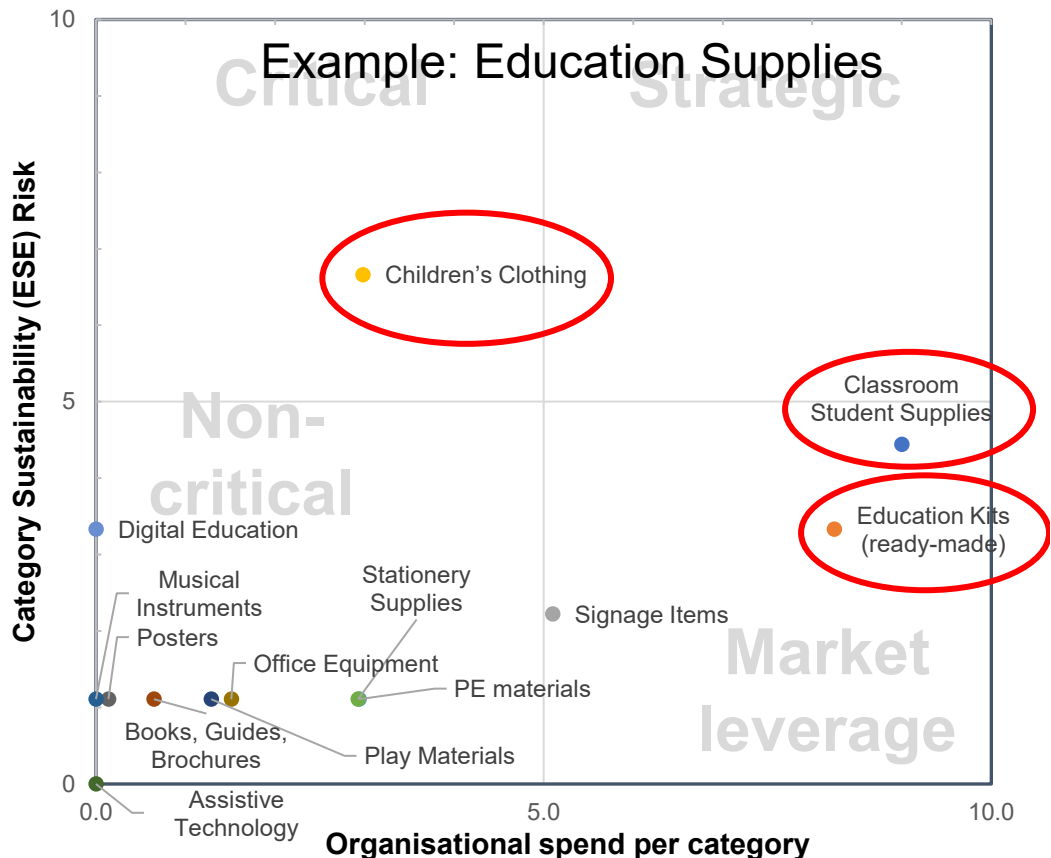
- *Requires each UNICEF office to define how their supply strategies will address and respond to priorities, risks, and opportunities for impact through sustainable procurement.*
- *Lays out the considerations to be made at each stage of the supply cycle, with an emphasis on programme/supply collaboration at earliest planning stages.*
- *Introduces flexibility in implementation through a risk-based, phased approach, accounting for market readiness.*
- *Acknowledges that trade-offs between timely availability of affordable essential supplies and/or services and sustainability considerations may be necessary.*

- **Transitional measures:**
Effective from 21 August 2023
(Any procurement activities already underway remain governed by previous Supply Procedures and Guidance)
- **Emergencies:**
Implementation of sustainable procurement during emergency response may not be feasible and emphasizes sustainability considerations to be built into preparedness activities

TO MAXIMIZE IMPACT, WE'RE IDENTIFYING THE GREATEST RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

To **prioritize** and **focus** on where we have the biggest impact and where we can make a difference, we're drawing from the private sector, using hotspot analysis and materiality assessments.

Indicative Examples:



Product Group	Vaccines	Nutrition	Pharmaceuticals	Medical Supplies	Bednets / Insecticides	Cold-chain Equipment	Construction Services	International Freight
Environmental Aspects								
Raw Material Use	6	15	6	12	12	9	11	2
Water Use	8	10	4	4	5	4	10	0
Land Use (Conversion & Land Degradation)	2	6	1	4	5	4	8	0
GHG Emissions (incl Energy Intensity)	17	19	16	12	14	17	11	19
Waste & Pollution	14	15	19	18	16	14	10	11
Hazardous Waste & Toxicity	20	0	15	7	5	11	2	5
Social Aspects								
Human rights (incl. D&I, Rights of indigenous people, and general HR)	1	11	2	3	3	3	4	4
Employment Conditions (Wages, working hours, social security etc.)	1	13	2	3	6	3	8	4
Occupational Health & Safety	4	8	7	4	4	4	7	5
Product Quality, Safety & Durability	2	7	6	8	6	8	9	1
Economic Aspects								
Compliance & corruption	4	7	3	11	4	3	11	11
Local Production & Employment	4	10	4	13	2	0	4	4
Inequality	4	7	0	0	2	0	4	4

Hotspots, Trends, Vision



GHG Hotspots & Environmental Adverse Impacts

(PG study, BCG GHG emission estimate assessment, lifecycle assessment, SD sust. Risk assessment)

Energy consumption (operational)

Transport (GTC)

Waste Mgmt (landfill in most cases)

Raw Material sourcing (extraction, electrical boards raw materials, hazardous mat.)



Low Hanging Fruits

ISO 14001 certification

UN Global Compact Membership

Packaging optimization, recycled content, ecolabels

Social & labor, working env. aspects



Medium-long term vision

Increased lifespan for all products (surveys, long term)

Service/maintenance opportunities, longer warranty, leasing options, reusable items instead of single use)

WE'RE ENGAGING OUR SUPPLIERS AND PARTNERS TO MOVE MARKETS

SD regularly engages with suppliers and coordinates with industry and UN groups to learn best practices, identify opportunities, share lessons, and leverage market power to shape and influence markets toward sustainable solutions

Collaborate with governments, suppliers
donors and development partners



Deepen private–sector partnerships

Adapted from USAID, HEALTHY MARKETS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH:
A Market Shaping Primer

Aim to

- Encourage existing and new suppliers to proactively drive more sustainable solutions in global and local markets relevant to UNICEF.
- Address challenges in key market determinants (i.e., availability, access, affordability, competition, quality, acceptability, sustainability, etc.)
- Offer incentives to accelerate product development and investment to ensure products required through UNICEF are fit for purpose and available.
- **Ultimately, to create healthy markets that will improve the lives of all children.**

SUSTAINABILITY TRIPLE WIN: REDUCTION OF PLASTIC WASTE IN UNICEF DELIVERIES OF ITNs



UNICEF's initiative for reduction of plastic waste in deliveries of ITNs (2021 – ongoing) nominated for UN Procurement Awards in category 'Sustainable Procurement' in 2023.



525,329 KG
of single-use plastic avoided



\$1,338,645
savings generated



753,058 ITNs
reprogramming opportunities

Clarifications on the shipment and storage regulations for dangerous goods are still ongoing.

unicef® for every child Reduction of the plastic waste in ITNs procurement

753,058 ITNs
reprogramming opportunities

Data released: none
 Last refresh:
 21/11/20

ITNs are crucial for preventing mosquito-borne diseases and UNICEF is one of the world's



Thank You!

Contact us:
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