GOAL AREA 3

Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

Global Annual Results Report 2019
Ma July Moe (2 weeks) at a launching ceremony on mobile birth and death registration services in Mawlamyine District, Mon State, Myanmar. In 2019, the first ever electronic birth registration took place in Mon State as part of the Mobile Birth and Death Registration project developed through a partnership between the Government of Myanmar, UNICEF and Telenor Group.

Expression of thanks: © UNICEF/UNI212972/Prinsloo
Children play traditional drums at a UNICEF-supported recreational space in the Buterere district of Bujumbura, Burundi. UNICEF focuses its humanitarian response in Burundi on meeting the needs of displaced women and children and their communities and provides interventions such as child protection services and life skills training.
Expression of thanks

UNICEF expresses its deep appreciation to all resource partners who contribute to its work on child protection, enabling UNICEF to support countries in all regions to deliver child protection interventions to marginalized children, their families and communities. This includes, but is not limited to, the governments of Canada, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America, and the European Commission.

UNICEF would like to extend particular thanks to its partners who provided thematic funding for child protection, notably the governments of Denmark, Norway, Spain and Sweden, the Flanders International Cooperation Agency and all National Committees for UNICEF, particularly the National Committees for Finland, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Thematic funds are critical in allowing for greater flexibility, long-term planning and innovative programming. Thematic contributions reflect the trust resource partners have in UNICEF and its capacity and ability to deliver high quality support. These funds have contributed significantly to the results described in this report.
Seventy-three years after UNICEF was established and 30 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the organization’s mission to promote the full attainment of the rights of all children is as urgent as ever.

The UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 is anchored in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and charts a course towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the realization of a future in which every child has a fair chance in life. It sets out measurable results for children, especially the most disadvantaged, including in humanitarian situations, and defines the change strategies and enablers that support their achievement.

Working together with governments, United Nations partners, the private sector, civil society and with the full participation of children, UNICEF remains steadfast in its commitment to realize the rights of all children, everywhere, and to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a world in which no child is left behind.

The following report summarizes how UNICEF and its partners contributed to Goal Area 3 in 2019 and reviews the impact of these accomplishments on children and the communities where they live. This is one of eight reports on the results of efforts during the past year, encompassing gender equality and humanitarian action as well as each of the five Strategic Plan goal areas – ‘Every child survives and thrives’, ‘Every child learns’, ‘Every child is protected from violence and exploitation’, ‘Every child lives in a safe and clean environment’ and ‘Every child has an equitable chance in life’ – and a supplementary report on Communication for Development (C4D, also referred to as social and behaviour change communication, SBCC). It supplements the 2019 Executive Director Annual Report, UNICEF’s official accountability document for the past year.
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Executive summary

A young child draws while her parents, immigrants from sub-Saharan African countries, attend an information session on the rights of immigrants, supported by UNICEF, in Tangier, Morocco.
Goal Area 3 aims to ensure that every girl and boy is protected from violence, exploitation and abuse, in keeping with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goals 5, 8 and 16. The commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2019 offered an opportunity to take stock of progress since its adoption. There has been a rise in birth registration levels globally, with about 3 in 4 children under age 5 registered today, compared to 6 in 10 in around 2000. The prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) has dropped by a quarter in the last 20 years, and child marriage has declined, largely driven by progress in South Asia. Today, around one in five young women were married in childhood compared to around one in four a decade ago.

Yet, despite these and other advances, around 237 million children under 5 do not have a birth certificate – with 87 per cent living in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. At least 200 million girls and women have been subjected to FGM, an estimated 650 million women and girls today were married before their eighteenth birthday, and around 115 million boys and men around the world were married as children. Every year, approximately 1 billion children experience some form of emotional, physical or sexual violence. An estimated three in four children aged 2–4 regularly experience violent discipline by their caregivers, one in two students are subjected to peer-to-peer violence, and 15 million adolescent girls aged 15–19 have experienced forced sex in their lifetime. Further, recent years have brought forth increased challenges in the form of, inter alia, protracted conflict and humanitarian crises, forced displacement, statelessness of millions of children, and digitalization and mass connectivity, which are profoundly impacting children’s rights and well-being.

Now, as we close out the year, the world faces an unprecedented global crisis in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. The devastating socio-economic impacts of the pandemic will have severe and lasting consequences for children and women, including their care, protection and well-being. The United Nations Secretary-General’s 2019 call for a Decade of Action to dramatically scale up transformative action towards achievement of the SDGs is now more relevant than ever.

Without further acceleration, none of the SDGs related to Goal Area 3 – particularly targets 5.3, 8.7, 16.2, 16.3 and 16.9 – are on track to be met by 2030. This is further compounded by data challenges, with only 23 per cent of countries having sufficient data to assess progress towards child protection-related SDGs, in particular SDG 16. To address data challenges, UNICEF continues to ramp up efforts to mainstream data on children and adolescents into national systems and plans, develop universal indicators and measurement tools, build consensus on operational definitions and standard protocols for the collection of reliable and ethically sound data on child protection and support national capacities to monitor and use SDG indicators.

**Key results in 2019**

The Goal Area 3 theory of change places systems-building across development, peacebuilding and humanitarian contexts (including multisectoral capacity-building) as a key approach to preventing and responding to violence against children and harmful practices. A strategic emphasis is put on strengthening the social service workforce – the most important element of every well-functioning child protection system; alongside supporting social and behavioural change programmes and measurement, including gender transformation and norms.

This report summarizes the annual progress against the second year of the targets for Goal Area 3 in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, across its three output (result) areas (see Figure 1). Two years into implementation of the Strategic Plan, Goal Area 3 had progress rates of over 90 per cent for two of the three result areas. Progress was slowest in the result area on access to justice, with respect to outputs on legal aid and birth registration (see Figure 2). In 2019, UNICEF worked in over 150 countries at an expense of nearly US$708 million in its efforts to protect children against violence and exploitation.
**Goal Area 3**

**Outcome**

Girls and boys, especially the most vulnerable across development and humanitarian contexts, are protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices.

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**Output 3.1**

Strengthened child protection systems for prevention and response services to address violence against children.

**Output 3.2**

Strengthened prevention and protection services to address harmful practices (child marriage and female genital mutilation).

**Output 3.3**

Improved justice systems to protect children that come in contact with the law and to treat them in accordance with international standards.

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**Figure 1:** Overview of Goal Area 3 outcome and outputs

**Figure 2:** Goal Area 3 output area rate of progress, 2019

- **Violence against children:** 97%
- **Harmful practices:** 140%
- **Access to justice:** 78%

Progress rate by output area:

- ≥90%
- 60–89%
- ≤59%
UNICEF intensified efforts to scale up evidence-based violence prevention interventions and institutionalize response services to child victims of violence in 141 countries, a 5 per cent increase from the 134 countries reporting in 2018. This included supporting countries to successfully strengthen the coordination and delivery of services, by increasing capacity in the justice, social welfare, education and health sectors to assist a greater number of child victims of violence. UNICEF continued to expand the use of evidence-based communication and behaviour change programmes to promote norms that do not accept violence against women and children, including support to positive parenting programmes to challenge harmful behaviours. UNICEF actively built evidence and advocated for increased public expenditure on prevention and response programmes, with several countries successfully seeing increased allocations.

In 2019, UNICEF-supported interventions provided health, social work or justice and law enforcement services to 2.7 million children who experienced violence – 17 per cent more than the 2.3 million children reached in 2018, with a roughly even split between girls and boys (based on data from 81 countries). The year 2019 also saw 2.3 million parents and caregivers reached with parenting programmes to prevent violence – 10 per cent more than those reached in 2018 (based on data from 79 countries). To target violence in and around schools, UNICEF and partners launched a powerful global coalition, the Safe to Learn programme, with 14 countries endorsing a call to action. To end the trend of online child sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), UNICEF also supported 24 countries to implement the WePROTECT National Model Response to tackle online child SEA and is continuing to strengthen its engagement with the information and communication technology industries. Further, in the drive to strengthen the social service workforce, 35 countries reported having a strong quality assurance system for their social service workforce in place – a 9 per cent increase from the number in 2018. To support these national efforts, UNICEF rolled out the first ever global Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection.1

As a contribution to SDG 5.3 to eliminate harmful practices, UNICEF and partners supported 58 countries across all regions to implement interventions aimed at ending child marriage, including the 12 countries that are part of the United Nations Population Fund and UNICEF (UNFPA–UNICEF) Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. UNICEF assisted more than 5.7 million adolescent girls to receive prevention and care interventions in 45 countries – representing a 16 per cent increase compared to the 4.9 million reached in 2018. Forty-two countries have put in place national action plans to end child marriage, a 27 per cent increase compared to 2018, including 24 with national budgets allocated to the action plans. UNICEF contributed to important successes to eliminate FGM in 21 countries, including in 17 countries that participate in the UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme on the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation. Around 8.5 million individuals participated in education, communication discussions; and social mobilization platforms to promote the elimination of FGM, supported by UNICEF – a 22 per cent increase compared to the 7 million reached in 2018.

Strengthening justice systems for children protects children who are in contact with the law, protects the rights of children without parental care and ensures legal identity for all, including birth registration, across development, peacebuilding and humanitarian contexts. UNICEF supported 80 countries to advance action to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration, in 2019. Across 47 countries with data, the number of birth registrations increased by 35 per cent to 21.7 million, and the number of children receiving birth certificates increased by 46 per cent compared with 2018, to 19.3 million. However, the number of UNICEF-supported countries reporting free and universal birth registration remains low (19 countries) – well below the 2019 milestone.

The year 2019 saw an unprecedented consensus across United Nations agencies, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the World Bank ID4D programme on one common approach to civil registration and vital statistics and identity management, including birth registration. UNICEF is leveraging its leadership role within the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda to increase birth registration, particularly in 13 priority countries in Africa, home to one in three unregistered children worldwide. In the lead-up to the 2019 landmark United Nations General Assembly Resolution on children without parental care, UNICEF joined forces with civil society partners to build a coalition of over 250 organizations to advance the care reform agenda globally, including organizations in the disability sector. Programmatically, UNICEF supported 106 countries across all regions to drive forward their national care reform agenda. Further, UNICEF supported 128 countries to implement a range of interventions to improve children’s access to justice, with 22 countries reporting specialized justice systems for children in place. To meet 2021 targets, UNICEF is reinvigorating its global leadership on children’s access to justice, including, notably, with the United Nations Global Focal Point on Rule of Law, and as part of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies SDG16+ that endorsed a Justice for Children Call to Action which aims to provide a strategic vision that actively places children at the centre of an emerging global movement for children’s access to justice.

For many critical areas of child protection in humanitarian action, across 74 humanitarian situations, 2019 was a breakthrough year. UNICEF provided an important, leading voice to global momentum for greater attention to mental health and psychosocial well-being, including a plan for integrating mental health and psychosocial support across the humanitarian and development sectors in partnership with the World Health Organization. Around 3.7 million children received community-based mental health care and psychosocial support in 60 countries, exceeding the 2019
milestone. Protective services were provided to 1.75 million children (split fairly evenly between girls and boys) who were on the move, whether migrants, internally displaced persons or refugees, including through UNICEF-supported programmes in 61 countries.

Efforts to scale up protection from SEA in humanitarian situations saw the number of priority countries increase to 32 in 2019 (from 16 in 2018). Overall, more than 8.9 million adults and children had access to a channel to report SEA in 2019 – a 27 per cent increase compared to 2018. Around 3.3 million women and girls received gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions in humanitarian situations, representing a 150 per cent increase compared to 2018. To set global standards, UNICEF co-led the development and launch of the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards on Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming.

In mine action, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education was prioritized for the first time in 20 years in the Oslo Action Plan and Declaration. UNICEF supported around 4.4 million girls and boys in 22 countries in areas affected by landmines and other explosive weapons to receive relevant prevention and survivor assistance interventions (89 per cent of the target population). Critically, UNICEF recorded the exit or release of nearly 13,200 children (18 per cent girls) from armed forces or armed groups in 17 countries across 6 regions in 2019, and provided care and services to 14,400 children who had exited armed forces or armed groups over the course of several years (53 per cent of the target), reintegrating over 8,500 of these children into their families and communities.

To strengthen case management, UNICEF rolled out an upgraded version of the digital Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism information management system (‘MRMIMS+’) to five countries, putting UNICEF on track to ensure all MRM countries use the standardized IMS by 2021. Overall investment in information management system (IMS) for case management in both humanitarian and development contexts is growing, particularly through investment in Primero – an inter-agency digital IMS for case management for the child protection sector. As of April 2020, there are currently 33 active applications (‘instances’) of Primero implemented in 26 countries, managing around 90,000 cases of vulnerable children safely and confidentially, compared to 40,000 cases in March 2019.

To reach vulnerable children with the services they need, UNICEF and partners use and advocate for data-driven approaches that require the collection, transmission, storage and sharing of personal data. Mitigating the mishandling of data is imperative to protect children in today’s increasingly digitized world. To this end, UNICEF launched the Responsible Data for Children (RD4C) initiative to strengthen data privacy and promote best practice in data responsibility.

Looking ahead
In 2019, UNICEF undertook a midterm review of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, to review the key strategies, risks and assumptions across the three result areas of Goal Area 3 to meet Strategic Plan targets, and more broadly in the context of the SDGs. The review identified several key accelerators instrumental to maximizing progress over the remaining period of the Strategic Plan (2020–2021). The overarching goal of Goal Area 3 is the prevention of and response to violence against children. To achieve this goal, UNICEF will scale up parenting for prevention and school-based interventions and strengthen the child protection system response. It will also expand child online protection against all forms of violence. UNICEF will strengthen its emphasis on social and behaviour change programmes and measurement, including gender transformation and norms, especially as they relate to violence and harmful practices.

Based on data and evaluation findings, the UNICEF–UNFPA joint programmes on FGM and child marriage will extend learning and technical support to additional countries.

Evidence from 2019 evaluations has necessitated some adjustments to the Goal Area 3 theory of change, including modifying one assumption to reflect the importance of gender-transformative strategies; as well as identifying the need to reinforce programming across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus; enhancing work around public finance, data, monitoring and case management; and deepening engagement with partners, communities and children.

Given the evolving threat from the COVID-19 pandemic, the ambition of accelerating results in Goal Area 3 will be adapted in the context of mitigating the impact of the pandemic. Children who are already the most vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and neglect will be made even more vulnerable by the direct and collateral effects of COVID-19. Looking forward, UNICEF will assess its approach, with a focus on protecting gains made, preventing deceleration, and maintaining sharp attention on the most vulnerable children. The findings of the midterm review, alongside these emerging dynamics, will inform the development of the planned Child Protection Strategy 2020–2030.
Strategic context

Mothers from the Wayuu community of Uribe, La Guajira (border with Venezuela), Colombia, receive education on behavioural practices through the UNICEF-supported programme Seres de Cuidado ('Beings of Care'). UNICEF works with partners to provide migrant children and children in host communities with a range of multisectoral services, including birth registration, child-friendly spaces for psychosocial support, and social and behaviour change interventions to prevent violence.
The year 2019 saw the world gather to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which sets the vision for UNICEF Goal Area 3. It was also a year to advance commitments to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are mutually reinforcing. The Convention on the Rights of the Child puts forth all the rights that governments must respect, protect and fulfil for all children, while Agenda 2030 is a time-bound call to action. The two frameworks have strong potential for improving children’s lives, particularly if SDG plans are aligned with the standards of international human rights instruments.

The global situation for children

Three decades after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the world has witnessed progress for children on many fronts. Since then, there has been a rise in birth registration levels globally, with about 3 in 4 children under age 5 registered today, compared to 6 in 10 in around 2000. In the 31 countries with nationally representative prevalence data on female genital mutilation (FGM), the prevalence of the practice has dropped by a quarter in the last 20 years. Child marriage has declined, largely driven by progress in South Asia. Today, around one in five young women were married in childhood, compared to around one in four a decade ago. The issue of boys and child marriage is also receiving greater attention, including through UNICEF’s release of the first ever analysis on the number of child grooms.

Despite gains, every year an estimated 1 billion children around the world experience some form of emotional, physical or sexual violence. Three in four children aged 2-4 regularly experience violent discipline by their caregivers. One in two students are subjected to peer-to-peer violence. The year 2019 also concluded a ‘deadly decade’ for children in conflict. There has been a three-fold rise in verified attacks on children since 2010 – an average of 45 violations a day. Indeed, the number of countries experiencing conflict is the highest it has been since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Recent data trends suggest that a considerable scale-up of action is necessary, as the pace of progress remains insufficient in many key areas – clearly pointing to the need for significant programming acceleration to meet the ambitious targets of the SDGs and live up to the universal promises of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Without hastening action, none of the SDGs related to Goal Area 3 – particularly targets 5.3, 8.7, 16.2, 16.3 and 16.9 – are on track.

As we move into the fifth year of SDG implementation, countries are putting policies, plans and, in some cases, budgets in place to meet the ambitions of Agenda 2030. Yet tracking progress on the SDGs remains a major challenge. With only 10 years left to achieve the very ambitious global targets – and to put systems or mechanisms in place necessary to protect millions of children in need of services – it is essential that countries around the globe come together to speed up the pace of progress. To date only around 23 per cent of countries have sufficient data to assess progress towards child protection-related SDGs (see Figure 4) – necessitating an urgent need for increased action and investments in supporting national governments to collect data on child protection-related SDG indicators.
**FIGURE 3: Summary of Goal Area 3 data trends and tracking Sustainable Development Goal progress**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENDER EQUALITY</th>
<th>DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</th>
<th>PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without further acceleration over 120 million girls are likely to marry by 2030 (SDG 5.3)</td>
<td>2019 marked 20 years since the adoption of the International Labour Organization's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and it is almost universally accepted</td>
<td>To date no country is on track to eliminate violent discipline by 2030 (SDG 16.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Even in countries in which FGM has become less common, progress would need to be at least 10 times faster to eliminate the practice by 2030 (SDG 5.3)</td>
<td>Ending child labour will require strong action to address the root causes and determinants of these human rights violations (SDG 8.7)</td>
<td>Even with the progress seen over the last two decades, the world is not on track to meet the 2030 target of providing legal identity for all, including birth registration (SDG 16.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*based on data from 30 countries **based on a UNICEF study in 30 countries

### 5. GENDER EQUALITY

A girl’s risk of marrying in childhood has decreased by 15 per cent in the last decade, yet still an estimated 650 million girls and women today were married before their 18th birthday.

At least 200 million girls and women have been subjected to FGM*

FGM has become increasingly medicalized. Around one in four girls and women who have undergone it (26 per cent or 52 million) were cut by health personnel.

### 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Almost 73 million children are performing hazardous work that puts their health, safety, moral development and, in extreme cases, even their lives at risk.

Child labour in countries affected by armed conflict is 77% higher than global averages.

The incidence of hazardous work is 50% higher.

### 16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

3 in 4 children aged 2–4 experience violent discipline by their caregivers on a regular basis.

15 million adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 have experienced forced sex in their lifetime.

237 million children under 5 do not have a birth certificate, with 87% living in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Globally, the births of about 166 million children under 5 years of age have never been recorded.

Only 1% of adolescent girls who have experienced forced sex sought professional help**

### Source:

As we close out 2019, the world is facing an unprecedented global crisis in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. The full impact and long-term socio-economic fallout for children, families and communities remains unclear, but they are likely to be devastating and significant. Children who are already the most vulnerable to violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect will be made even more vulnerable by the direct and collateral effects of the pandemic. This evolving situation, alongside several existing shifts, is dramatically shaping the protection landscape and has the potential to curtail progress for children’s rights and well-being as we enter the new Decade of Action.

Climatic shocks, public health emergencies and the impact of protracted and often intensifying conflicts have combined to drive needs to unprecedented levels. The year saw more people forcibly displaced than at any other time in history, and children continue to be disproportionately affected by armed conflict. Efforts to uphold the right of children to protection and to provide care for children who have come out of armed groups, including groups designated by the United Nations as terrorist, are increasingly being challenged by the growing application of counter-terrorism approaches in States that detain children on the grounds of national security. Building on the work of the Global Coalition for Reintegration, UNICEF is using its long-standing experience to develop a global programme for child reintegration that will incorporate critical interventions necessary in contemporary conflicts.

Children continue to be severely affected by the use of explosive weapons, making up over half of civilian casualties from landmines and explosive remnants of war – a 12 per cent increase compared to 2016. To reverse casualty trends and provide stronger victim assistance, UNICEF continues to expand its mine action programmes, and critically saw Explosive Ordnance Risk Education prioritized – for the first time – in the five-year Oslo Action Plan adopted by 164 countries.

There are a record number of displaced people in the world. Given current demographic trends, migration (from economic migration to forced displacement) will affect a fast-growing number of children globally – disproportionally those from Africa and Asia. Already today, one in four African migrants is a child – twice the global average – one in two African refugees is a child, and more than 7 million children in Africa are internally displaced. Further, there were 12 million new displacements of children, more than ever before, in 2019: around 3.8 million of them caused by conflict and violence, and 8.2 million due to disasters linked mostly to weather-related events.

Migrant, refugee or displaced children face a persistent lack of access to basic services, discrimination, immigration detention, exploitation, abuse and trafficking, as well as family separation and lack of opportunities, which will be further compounded as a result of COVID-19. Two critical platforms were established to strengthen coordination and policy coherence for migrant and refugee populations: the United Nations Network on Migration, which aims to coordinate system-wide support to Member States; and the Global Refugee Forum, which aims to identify concrete commitments on implementation of the monitoring framework for the Global Compact on Refugees. Both collectively provide a vehicle to leverage partnerships, resources and coordination to prevent and respond to protection concerns facing migrant and refugee children – and mainstream child rights across sectors.

FIGURE 4: Country progress towards tracking Goal Area 3-related SDG indicators

Very ambitious global targets and a relatively immature monitoring framework for this dimension means that a very small number of countries are on track to achieve only a few of the indicators. Mostly, data are insufficient to uncover trends.

The 10 indicators include sexual and intimate partner violence against girls, child labour, female genital mutilation, child marriage and birth registration.

It is estimated that approximately one third of the estimated 10 million people who are stateless are children, and over 200 million children worldwide do not have a birth certificate. Statelessness can result in exclusion and leave children vulnerable to multiple forms of violence, exploitation and abuse; recruitment into armed forces; forced labour; and child marriage. Statelessness is often caused by the lack of birth registration of children born to undocumented parents and the lack of legal safeguards in nationality laws that help to prevent statelessness. It is estimated that approximately one third of the estimated 10 million people who are stateless are children. 18 Statelessness can result in exclusion and leave children vulnerable to multiple forms of violence, exploitation and abuse; recruitment into armed forces; forced labour; and child marriage. Statelessness is often caused by the lack of birth registration of children born to undocumented parents and the lack of legal safeguards in nationality laws that help to prevent statelessness. 20 UNICEF and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continue to lead the Coalition on the Child’s Right to Nationality, working with countries to implement joint strategies to prevent and end childhood statelessness.

Mental health conditions affect one in four people over a lifetime and are responsible for more than 10 per cent of the global burden of disease. The risk of mental health conditions and psychosocial problems among children and adolescents is exacerbated when they are exposed to poverty, violence, disease or humanitarian crises. Further, prolonged conflict, mass displacement, violence, exploitation, terrorism, disease outbreaks, intensifying natural disasters and climate change all increase instability and create more difficult conditions for children’s mental health and psychosocial well-being. However, there is an increasing understanding of the ways in which social conditions – where we are born, grow, live, play, learn, work and age – determine mental health outcomes. As such, responses to mental health and psychosocial problems need to be multilayered and multisectoral. There is a growing recognition of the importance of ensuring access to mental health and psychosocial support for children, adolescents, primary caregivers and families, and expanding community-based approaches to address and prevent common mental health conditions. UNICEF is providing an important, leading voice for children, adolescents and caregivers to the increasing global momentum for greater attention to mental health and psychosocial well-being. Specifically, in 2019, UNICEF met the call for investment of the United Nations Secretary-General and concerned Member States with technical guidance for UNICEF country offices and a plan for integrating mental health and psychosocial support across sectors in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO).

The World Wide Web was born in the same year as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Today, more than one in three children globally are thought to be regular users of the Internet. While digital solutions provide huge opportunities, these same tools may also increase children’s exposure to online risks such as sexual exploitation, harassment and cyberbullying. The scale and severity of online child sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) continues to grow at alarming rates – with a record 45 million illegal images flagged last year alone. 21 A 2019 U-Report suggests one in three young people (polled from 30 countries) said they had been subjected to online bullying. These trends create an urgent need for governments, law enforcement organizations, the technology industry and third sector organizations to work together to step up their collective response. 22 UNICEF works closely with partners to address these trends, including with the WePROTECT Global Alliance to end online child SEA, the Safe to Learn initiative to end violence in and around schools and increasingly with the technology industry to identify sustainable solutions.

Finally, an area of additional concern for children’s rights and their protection is the increasing momentum around the issue of surrogacy, which in recent years has become a growing industry, driven largely by international demand. Children face becoming commodities for sale as surrogacy arrangements become more prevalent. 23 To this end, UNICEF supports the development of International Principles for the Protection of the Rights of Children in the context of Surrogacy, and a new Hague Convention on Legal Recognition of Parentage.

These changes to the child protection landscape reinforce the critical need for coherent and coordinated global dialogue, commitments and adherence to international standards, alongside the development of multilateral responses to identify sustainable solutions. UNICEF continues to forge public and private partnerships to secure policy commitment and coordinated action, including, for example, through its leadership role in the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence). Mechanisms such as the global pacts on migration and refugees, and the One United Nations approach, as exemplified through the joint programmes with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on ending child marriage and eliminating FGM, are also valuable vehicles to solidify action, providing essential political, policy and programmatic leverage at all levels to identify and implement collective solutions to achieve the SDGs.

Addressing the challenges
Although great progress has been made in bringing a clearer child protection focus to the global development agenda, more work must be done if the SDG targets are to be met. As we move to the Decade of Action, we need to strengthen data collection and measurement of child-related SDGs to build evidence to increase the universality of the issues and strengthen quality programming for at-scale results for children. UNICEF will continue to galvanize global commitments, including forging new (and building on existing) partnerships with the aim to mobilize governments, donors and other partners at all levels to accelerate action. UNICEF responses must be cognizant of emerging trends and anticipated changes in the global landscape.
Kiran Bauri, 18, is an advocate for girls’ right to education in Purulia, India. Last year, she prevented her friend from getting married at an early age by reporting the case to local authorities. Kiran’s dream is to become a lawyer and solve challenges specific to girls.
Goal Area 3 of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, sets out the concrete results to achieve, together with partners, across all regions and in all contexts. It charts a four-year course towards the longer-term attainment of the 2030 SDGs – and the realization of a better world for every child. The following section reports on annual progress against the second year of the targets for Goal Area 3 in the Strategic Plan, across its three output (result) areas (see Figure 5). Results achieved against humanitarian action targets are consolidated into a separate section for clarity in reporting. Each result area narrative concludes with a short summary of the key challenges. Goal Area 3 programming priorities for 2020 are outlined in the final chapter.

FIGURE 5: UNICEF Goal Area 3 Strategic Framework, 2018–2021

Highlights of 2019 results

Working in close collaboration with government counterparts, civil society organizations and other partners, UNICEF child protection (Goal Area 3) teams around the world were able to deliver a wide array of results across 152 countries (for a summary of key results, see Figure 6) and drive forward the international child rights agenda.

At the global level, 2019 was marked by several normative milestones reinforcing global commitments to ensure no child is left behind. A High-level Political Forum on the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council was convened to review progress of six of the SDGs, including most specifically for Goal Area 3, SDG 16. The first United Nations summit on the SDGs since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda was held, leading to the Secretary-General’s call for a Decade of Action to dramatically scale up ‘transformative action’ towards attainment of the SDGs. The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution on the Rights of the Child with unparalleled commitments for children without parental care.
152 countries engaged in Goal Area 3 in 2019

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Countries engaged by region</th>
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<td>LAC</td>
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**CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

- **3.7m ▲3%** children provided with community-based MHPSS in 60 countries
- **1.75m ▲4%** children on the move received protective services in 61 countries
- **3.3m ▲150%** women and children reached with gender-based violence interventions in 46 countries
- **4.4m ▲15%** children affected by landmines and other explosive weapons reached by prevention and survivor assistance in 22 countries
- **52k ▲75%** unaccompanied and separated children reunified or put in appropriate care in 46 countries

**VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

- **2.3m ▲10%** mothers, fathers and caregivers reached through parenting programmes in 79 countries
- **2.7m ▲17%** children who have experienced violence reached by services in 115 countries

**PREVENTION OF HARMFUL PRACTICES**

- **+ 9 countries** implementing a costed action plan or strategy to end child marriage
- **5.7m ▲16%** adolescent girls received prevention and care interventions to address child marriage in 45 countries
- **158k ▲59%** girls and women received FGM-related prevention and protection services in 15 countries
- **8.5m ▲22%** participated in education, communication and social mobilization platforms promoting FGM elimination

**CHILDREN’S ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

- **278k** children have benefited from access to justice interventions in 65 countries
- **73k** children were subject to an alternative to detention and/or diversion scheme in 66 countries

**Birth registrations of children aged 0-17**

- **6.8m ▲72%** births notified in 2018, **11.8m ▲72%** in 2019
- **16.1m ▲35%** births registered in 2018, **21.7m ▲35%** in 2019
- **13.2m ▲46%** birth certificates issued in 2018, **19.3m ▲46%** in 2019

**Birth certificates issued**

- **13.2m ▲46%** in 2018, **19.3m ▲46%** in 2019

**Births notified**

- **6.8m ▲72%** in 2018, **11.8m ▲72%** in 2019

**Births registered**

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Abbreviations: MHPSS - mental health and psychosocial support, FGM - female genital mutilation

Region abbreviations: EAP - East Asia and the Pacific, ECA - Europe and Central Asia, ESA - East and Southern Africa, LAC - Latin America and the Caribbean, MENA - Middle East and North Africa, SA - South Asia, WCA - West and Central Africa

Note: Changes are since 2018 unless otherwise specified. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
To bring about lasting solutions that realize justice for children in all its forms, an area that has been lagging behind in recent years, UNICEF, as part of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies SDG16+, endorsed a Justice for Children Call to Action that provides a strategic vision that actively puts children at the centre of an emerging global movement for justice.


Efforts to drive the global agenda for child protection in humanitarian action brought about several notable achievements. To uphold the rights of children affected by humanitarian crisis, UNICEF’s Core Commitments for Children are currently undergoing a revision to better reflect and align with changes in the humanitarian landscape, including, for example, the need to operate in increasingly complex and high threat environments, and the need to engage with non-state actors for access to the most vulnerable children.

In 2019, UNICEF had 888 child protection staff located across 152 countries – a 10 per cent increase from 2018 levels. The highest proportion of staff (21 per cent) work in the West and Central Africa region, followed by 20 per cent in East and Southern Africa region and 15 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa region. This strong country presence allows UNICEF to foster close relationships with key partners, including relevant government ministries, other United Nations agencies, donors, civil society and, increasingly, the private sector. At the global level, headquarters staff provide technical oversight and advice, drive the development of evidence-based public goods and best practices, and contribute to shaping global child protection normative frameworks, policies and partnerships. Headquarters staff represent 6 per cent of total staff – a 2 per cent increase from the 2018 level.

In 2019, Goal Area 3 expenses amounted to US$708 million, representing a moderate increase (8 per cent) from 2018 levels (US$658 million) (see Figure 7). Goal Area 3 expenses represented 13 per cent of total UNICEF expenses, comparable with 2018 levels. This share of expenses has been largely consistent since 2014. Programming to support improved prevention and response services for violence against children (VAC) across humanitarian and development contexts (Output 3.1) accounted for the largest share of Goal Area 3 expenses (US$593 million), representing 84 per cent of total spending (see Annex 1: Financial analysis).

In 2019, UNICEF allocated US$12.53 million of global thematic funds to Goal Area 3 to country and regional offices and for global programming at headquarters. Overall, 78 per cent of global thematic funds were allocated to 49 UNICEF country offices (US$9.77 million), including 6 countries in West and Central Africa (17.8 per cent of total country allocation), 7 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa (15.2 per cent), 8 countries in the Middle East and North Africa (15 per cent), 5 countries in South Asia (14 per cent), 6 countries in East Asia and the Pacific (12.7 per cent), 9 countries in Europe and Central Asia (12.7 per cent) and 8 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (12.5 per cent) (see Figure 8). Additionally, 12 per cent (US$1.50 million) of overall global thematic funds were allocated across seven regional offices, and 10 per cent (US$1.25 million) to UNICEF headquarters. The flexibility of thematic funding allows UNICEF to respond more effectively and facilitates longer-term planning, sustainability and savings in transaction costs.
FIGURE 8: Country highlights: The value of Goal Area 3 thematic investments, 2019

Haiti: UNICEF and partners supported efforts to address the disparities in infant birth registration by deploying check-in points in 20 hospitals and catch-up campaigns in 120 schools. In addition, more than 20 registrars and 100 clerics will be specially trained to serve the most remote areas to address geographical and financial barriers to birth registration.

Senegal: UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to integrate routine reporting for violence against children and female genital mutilation into health registries, and for development of a national handbook for health staff to better detect and provide care to child victims of maltreatment and sexual abuse.

The Dominican Republic: UNICEF assisted around 950 children on the move: around 330 children were reunited with their families in the Dominican Republic (11 per cent girls, 89 per cent boys), and 620 children (32 per cent girls, 68 per cent boys) were referred to authorities for family reunification purposes. UNICEF and partners also held workshops on due process of law for migrant children at the four official border points for 44 military officers and 75 government authorities.

Côte d’Ivoire: UNICEF supported 79 frontline government social centres and provided material support and training to 11 judicial child protection services, which reached around 12,800 children through child-friendly justice services (73 per cent) and social services (27 per cent). Over 4,000 of these children were affected by violence.
Montenegro: UNICEF supported the Council on Child Rights in their analysis of existing gaps and barriers in the cross-sectoral system for quality health, education and services for children with disabilities. The Council on Child Rights will monitor implementation of the findings and recommendations.

North Macedonia: UNICEF supported the government to implement childcare reform, including commitments to end institutional care for children under 3 by 2020. As a result, by the end of 2019, there are no more children in large scale institutions in the country. UNICEF also supported strengthening the foster care system and the development of Early Intervention Centres with an outreach component that includes home visits for children with disabilities.

Kenya: UNICEF supported the government to develop the National Framework for Strengthening Child Protection Workforce (2020–2025), and a child protection curriculum for professional and para-professional child protection workforce. UNICEF also piloted a child protection workforce curriculum through training of 45 trainers.

Malawi: Advocacy by UNICEF resulted in a 36 per cent increase in budgeting for child protection by several district councils in 2019. UNICEF also supported development of the draft of a social work bill and establishment of an Association of Social Workers: around 250 social workers had registered for Association membership by the end of 2019.

Egypt: UNICEF supported establishment of Child Protection Units and strengthened the Child Help Line, which contributed to an increase in the number of children being supported by case management from 2018 (see case study 1). UNICEF also supported development of a costed proposal for an accreditation scheme for social workforce and a capacity-building package for the scheme.

Indonesia: Primero, a web-based platform for child protection case management and monitoring, was fully launched following the configuration of Primero to suit the Indonesian context. Integrated Child Welfare Service Centres (PKSAI) are currently being piloted in five districts and cities; the number of users will be gradually expanded to 111 districts and cities across Indonesia in which PKSAI replication is under way.

State of Palestine: In Gaza, around 10,600 children benefited from structured child protection interventions through 12 community-level Family Centres and 30 outreach sites. Around 2,000 children (34 per cent girls) received urgent case management support, and around 4,400 caregivers (76 per cent women) were reached through awareness-raising activities on positive parenting.

Cambodia: UNICEF continues to support efforts to implement the Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children (2017–2021). Around 4,300 girls and boys who experienced violence received services from social/welfare, health and law enforcement workers and around 185,000 girls and boys benefited from the training of parents/caregivers, teachers and monks on parenting skills and positive discipline.

Sri Lanka: UNICEF and partners provided support to the Attorney General’s Department to develop case discharge criteria and methodology, provision of ICT equipment and training, which resulted in indictment or discharge of 7,140 cases (70 per cent related to girls) of alleged child sexual abuse and rape in 2019. A National Child Protection Policy was approved after several years of review, and a National Policy for Alternative Care of Children was adopted to prevent institutionalization of children.

The Maldives: Advocacy from UNICEF resulted in enactment of the Child Rights Protection Act and Juvenile Justice Act, which had been pending for over 10 years. These two acts represent a major transformation for children and young people: marriage of any child (under the age of 18 years) is prohibited, the minimum age of criminal responsibility has increased to 15 years of age and the death penalty is prohibited for children.
“Violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse of children affect the emotional, social, cognitive and physical development of children, thus violating children’s fundamental human rights. Children living in conflict-affected areas and within fragile contexts are particularly vulnerable.

Sweden’s International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has, as a main priority, increased respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights, including the rights of the child. As the UN organization with an operational mandate to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF is uniquely positioned to use the Swedish contribution in long-term human rights-based development cooperation and humanitarian action for children. Sida’s strategic partnership with UNICEF under the thematic area of child protection strives to provide children with the right to live and develop in a world free from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practice. UNICEF’s work within the area of child protection includes critical work on several sustainable development goal indicators as part of the framework of Agenda 2030.

Sweden provides long-term global non-earmarked thematic funding to Goal Area 3 of UNICEF’s Strategic Plan. This funding modality enhances effectiveness, promotes sustainability as well as innovation, facilitates better coordination and reduces transaction costs. Sida recognises that thematic funding is instrumental for UNICEF to strengthen the ability to deliver on long-term strategic activities, such as cooperation with duty-bearers to build sustainable national child protection systems and promote justice for children. Over the years, Sida’s support to UNICEF has increasingly been channelled as thematic funding, reflecting Sida’s confidence in UNICEF as an efficient and effective partner and strong advocate for the implementation of children’s human rights.”

— Cecilia Scharp, Assistant Director General, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
Output 3.1: Strengthening child protection systems for prevention and response services to reduce violence against children

There is increasing recognition that VAC places a long-term burden on health and social services, undermines investment by and development in other sectors (such as health, early childhood development, nutrition and education) and constrains economic development. Conversely, investment in ending violence against children can be an accelerator for development across all the SDGs, particularly SDGs 5, 8 and 16. Ending VAC is an organizational priority under the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021.

UNICEF is a major global actor in ending VAC, with the profile, reach, expertise and mandate to achieve impact at scale. Guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF is mandated to protect children from all forms of violence. In programme countries, UNICEF typically plays a key role in supporting national coordination on VAC and in strengthening national child protection systems.

Accelerating national progress to reduce all forms of violence

In 2019, UNICEF intensified efforts to scale up evidence-based violence prevention interventions and institutionalize response services to child victims of violence in 141 countries – a 5 per cent increase from the 134 countries reporting in 2018 (see Figure 9).

UNICEF recognizes that without tackling violence in the lives of children, the achievement of other key development goals will be negatively impacted. There is a recognition that effective prevention and response requires a multisectoral approach that extends beyond the child protection sector and involves the health, education, early childhood development, nutrition, social inclusion, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and HIV/AIDS sectors, as well as actors engaged in Communication for Development (C4D), and programming, policy development and advocacy on gender, disability, adolescents and emergencies.

In 2019, UNICEF continued to support countries to successfully strengthen sector coordination to provide response and prevention services, including increasing capacities in the justice, social welfare, education and health sectors to support more child victims of violence. UNICEF used scaled-up evidence-based communication and social and behaviour change programmes to promote norms that do not accept violence against women and children, including positive parenting programmes. Further, UNICEF actively built evidence and advocated for increased public expenditure on prevention and response programmes, with several countries successfully seeing increased allocations.

UNICEF achieved significant progress in scaling up interventions to address VAC in 2019, providing health, social work or justice and law enforcement services to 17 per cent more children who experienced violence (2.7 million children) than in 2018 (2.3 million children), with a roughly even split between girls and boys. This expansion of service provision was particularly noted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Rwanda, Somalia and South Sudan.

UNICEF’s programming approach builds on ‘INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children’ – a multisectoral programme package of evidence-based strategies for ending VAC. The INSPIRE strategies include implementation and enforcement of laws; norms and values; safe environments; parent and caregiver support; income and economic strengthening; response and support services; and education and life skills. UNICEF programming is closely aligned to INSPIRE, notably the INSPIRE pillars related to prevention – including parenting and caregiver support and social norms/values, and response and support services – including strengthening the social service workforce – a vital element for an effective child protection system (for results, see ‘Strengthening the social service workforce’).

In 2019, UNICEF continued to provide leadership to galvanize partnerships at global, regional and country levels to end VAC. With the UNICEF Executive Director as Chair of the Executive Board of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence), UNICEF is well positioned to catalyse the highest political commitment to end VAC and to translate this political will into concrete, time-bound, coordinated national policy agendas. End Violence was launched by the United Nations Secretary-General
General in 2016. It is a unique public–private collaboration that includes United Nations agencies, governments, industry, regional bodies, civil society, young people, advocates and champions. End Violence provides a platform for collaboration with other major collaborators, including WHO, UNHCR and UN Women, key donors and foundations, the private sector and civil society.

UNICEF participates in other coalitions to end VAC, such as the Safe to Learn coalition, the WePROTECT Global Alliance to end child sexual exploitation online, and the INSPIRE Working Group (IWG). The IWG provides leadership in the implementation of INSPIRE-related interventions. In 2019, UNICEF launched an INSPIRE masterclass for policymakers and practitioners from eight countries in Asia and conducted an INSPIRE training of trainers in Indonesia. Also, to build evidence of what works, the UNICEF Asia and Pacific Regional Office produced the first ever INSPIRE regional compendium showcasing evidence-based prevention and response initiatives.
Result highlights: Scaling up and accelerating results, 2019

There is growing evidence of programming at scale across regions as a result of targeted investments and national commitment to strengthen violence prevention and response services.

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<th>Afghanistan</th>
<th>The Dominican Republic</th>
<th>The Maldives</th>
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<td>There was a 47 per cent increase in government budget allocation for child protection services in 2019, compared to allocation levels in 2018.</td>
<td>UNICEF worked closely with 132 private businesses. As a result, 6 additional companies signed the Code of Conduct to Prevent Sexual Exploitation, resulting in a total of 75 commitments by national companies.</td>
<td>Increased investment in systems-strengthening has led to a tripling in reported cases of SEA over the last three years; services are now available across a third of the island territory.</td>
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<th>Montenegro</th>
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<td>UNICEF supported the scale-up of an early warning system to identify children at risk of violence, which has grown from an initial 20 pilot schools in 2018 to being implemented in all schools nationwide.</td>
<td>As a result of child protection systems strengthening, including capacity development of frontline workers, reported cases of rape, child marriage and domestic violence increased by 50 per cent compared to 2017–2018 data.</td>
<td>As a result of improved case management systems, protection services were provided to 92 per cent of the children identified in need (26 per cent girls, 74 per cent boys), compared to 46 per cent of targeted children in 2018.</td>
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Strengthening policy frameworks, including adoption of time-bound and costed national plans to end violence against children

In 2019, UNICEF supported 39 countries to develop national plans and policies to protect children against VAC. UNICEF continued to work with End Violence and other partners to turn national commitment into concrete, coordinated policy agendas to prevent violence. The governments of Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, France, Honduras and Zimbabwe, confirmed their commitment to becoming Pathfinder countries as part of End Violence, increasing the global number of Pathfinder countries to 29 (from 23 in 2018).

Once Pathfinder status is confirmed, country governments are expected to develop an evidence-based and costed national action plan. In 2019, UNICEF supported 16 countries to adopt specific violence prevention national action plans. In addition, UNICEF supported governments to prioritize violence prevention within wider child protection national policies. For example, Senegal adopted a National Health and Social Development Plan (2019–2024), making violence prevention a national priority. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mauritania and Sao Tome and Principe adopted general national child protection policies, and Sierra Leone developed a Human Resources Strategic Plan (2019–2023) prioritizing an increase in human resources qualified in child protection. UNICEF Mexico provided technical advice to the Ministry of Finance to formulate the 2020–2025 National Development Plan, which includes prevention of VAC as a national priority. In Armenia, the adoption of a Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan (2020–2022) maps out actions to restructure the child protection system to address VAC.

Strengthening legislation to fully prohibit all forms of violence

UNICEF continued to engage with national parliaments to strengthen the protective legal framework for children across regions. In some countries, efforts focus on supporting overall child protection legislative and policy reform processes (such as a Children’s Act in Bangladesh and Somalia, a Child’s Rights Act in Benin, Egypt and Myanmar, and a Child Protection Law in Kosovo). Four new countries (France, Georgia, the Republic of Kosovo and South Africa) prohibited corporal punishment in all settings in 2019, increasing the overall number of countries from 54 to 58 to achieve full prohibition. At least 29 other governments expressed a commitment to enacting full prohibition. For example, the Sri Lankan Cabinet drafted legal text on the prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings. In the Eastern Caribbean States, a regional commitment was made to progressively abolish corporal punishment from state settings. In 2019, the Government of Saint Lucia banned corporal punishment in schools, and in Barbados, a Child Justice Bill was approved that removes the use of corporal punishment as a sentence and in detention centres.
Strengthening parenting programmes to reduce violence against children in the home

A cornerstone of the current Goal Area 3 programming is strengthening efforts to work with mothers, fathers and caregivers to reduce VAC in the home. Programmes that help parents and caregivers understand the importance of positive, non-violent discipline in child development and of close, effective parent–child communication can reduce harsh treatment of children, strengthen positive parent–child interactions and increase bonding between parents or other caregivers and children – all factors that help prevent VAC. Parenting programmes are one of the seven strategies outlined in INSPIRE.

In 2019, UNICEF-supported parenting programmes reached over 2.3 million mothers, fathers and caregivers in 79 countries – a 10 per cent increase in reach compared to 2018. To take programming to scale, UNICEF supports a multisectoral approach to prevent violence and abuse by reducing the factors that make families vulnerable to violent behaviour, with a focus on strengthening parents’ and caregivers’ child-rearing skills.

UNICEF continues to be a knowledge leader of evidence-based research to advocate for and promote accelerated programming. Two critical regional studies on parenting were published in 2019. In the Middle East and North Africa region, findings of a study to take stock of existing initiatives in the region (Algeria, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic) informed the development of a regional strategic framework for parenting. In East Asia and the Pacific, a review of parenting programmes was undertaken in seven countries to inform strategies (Cambodia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam).

Result highlights: Strengthening parenting programmes, 2019

- Across country offices, violence prevention is increasingly being integrated as a component of holistic early childhood development programmes, including in Belize, Chile, Islamic Republic of Iran and Nicaragua. In Nicaragua, for example, UNICEF supported a Care for Child Development package used to train around 4,000 fathers, mothers and caregivers to develop parenting skills.
- UNICEF is increasingly supporting countries to integrate parenting programmes as part of a broader violence prevention strategy for children and adolescents. In Costa Rica, for example, the Families in Action model created a critical mass of approximately 2,000 trainers nationwide to support community-based interventions. In Montenegro, the Philippines and Thailand, the evidence-based Parenting for Lifelong Health is being adapted to local contexts.
- Parenting programmes are being adapted to support families living in specific cultural contexts or geographical settings, as evidenced in Egypt (with programmes adapted for migrant and refugee populations) and Viet Nam (with targeted programmes for ethnic groups in rural communities and factory workers in the capital city).
- Mass media campaigns and community mobilization continue to be frequently used to promote public dialogue on positive parenting and increase service demand, including in Argentina, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia and Uruguay. In Kazakhstan, for example, a positive parenting campaign reached more than 1.5 million people and leveraged the support of social media influencers. In other countries, C4D and behaviour change initiatives were informed by Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices surveys on parenting practices, including in Belarus, North Macedonia, Oman, Serbia, State of Palestine and Tunisia.
- Parenting initiatives that specifically target fathers were implemented in Angola, Cuba, Malawi and Timor Leste. The Father from the Beginning programme in Cuba engaged men as change agents to prevent VAC. UNICEF Cuba also launched a digital app to gather essential information about the rights, responsibilities and benefits of fathers, and facilitate the participation of fathers.
- Digital platforms are increasingly being used to impart information and engage parents, with online parenting hubs and other digital resources being established with UNICEF support in Armenia, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Cuba and North Macedonia. In Armenia, for example, UNICEF supported the first parenting platform (<www.babycef.am>), which provides reliable and user-friendly information on all aspects of child health, immunization, care, development, nutrition, injury prevention and supportive parenting.
- Parenting in a digital environment received specific attention in a number of countries, including Belarus and Malaysia. In Malaysia, for example, a forum on parenting and child online protection was held in June 2019 to commemorate Parenting Month.
In 2019, UNICEF supported the development of relevant legislation and policies focusing on sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV) against children and women, including in Albania, Armenia, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Eswatini, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. The United Arab Emirates approved a Family Protection Policy with provisions to prevent domestic violence. Several countries also report specific action to address the growing complexities of child online protection, including Albania, China, the Philippines and Zimbabwe. In China, for example, a revision to the Law on Protection of Minors includes a provision on child online protection.

In 2019, UNICEF supported 54 countries to work on child labour, and 28 of those countries report that legal frameworks are in place – a 17 per cent increase on the number reporting in 2018. This includes, for example, Burkina Faso, where the National Strategy to End the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2019–2023), with a costed operational action plan for 2019–2021, was validated in 2019. Increasingly, UNICEF is adopting an integrated approach to tackling child labour, as part of broader strategies to strengthen national child protection systems.

### Ensuring public financial investment to prevent and respond to violence

In 2019, at least 16 UNICEF country offices advocated and supported governments to increase public allocations to child protection services. This includes undertaking evidence-based research to equip countries with an understanding of public expenditure requirements for prevention and response services and programmes. For example, in Peru, a UNICEF-supported financial benchmarking study informed a policy directive, resulting in the Ministry of Education increasing 2020 resource allocations for VAC prevention and response by 32 per cent. Following a 2018 UNICEF-supported assessment of public expenditure for VAC in Nigeria, UNICEF is providing ongoing technical assistance to line ministries of education, health, women’s affairs and justice for their annual budget submissions; in 2019, three states received a budget allocation to implement VAC programmes. In Benin, in contrast to previous years when public financial allocations to child protection services were either not available or not released in a timely manner, 85 child protection structures received a budgetary increase in 2019.

### Strengthening engagement to end online child sexual exploitation and abuse

UNICEF is a member of the WePROTECT Global Alliance to end online child SEA – a global coalition dedicated to national and global action. The WePROTECT Global Alliance has unprecedented reach: over 90 countries are members, together with major international organizations, 20 of the biggest names in the global information and communication technology (ICT) industry and 24 leading civil society organizations.

In 2019, as part of the WePROTECT Alliance, UNICEF took important steps to strengthen engagement with the ICT industry to seek sustainable and long-term solutions to mitigate the growing trend of online child SEA. UNICEF continued its strong collaboration with Microsoft and other ICT actors to produce an innovative technology solution, Artemis, which can detect and report online grooming of children, especially in online chat rooms. In 2019, UNICEF promoted the use of the tool with governments and ICT actors in Jordan, the Philippines and Zimbabwe. In addition, UNICEF continues to advocate for tools such as PhotoDNA, which helps in the detection and removal of known child sexual abuse materials and partners with telecom operators in Namibia and Zimbabwe to support its implementation.

To build global standards, a set of voluntary principles for the ICT industry was launched by the governments of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The principles were developed in close consultation with UNICEF, six leading technology companies and a broad range of experts from industry, civil society and academia.

Regionally, UNICEF supported the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Dialogue on child online protection, which resulted in a formal commitment across ASEAN sectoral bodies to work on prevention of online child SEA. In follow-up, UNICEF supported the drafting of the ASEAN minimum legal standards and an ASEAN Declaration on online child SEA endorsed by the 10 ASEAN member States.

Programmatically, UNICEF supported countries across regions to tackle online child SEA, including 24 countries to specifically implement the WePROTECT Global Alliance’s Model National Response—a framework that provides a road map of six key intervention pillars to integrate prevention and response to online child SEA within broader interventions combating VAC.
Case study 1: Egypt: Addressing violence against children

Growing inequality, violence and limited access to quality social services represent the major obstacles to the realization of children’s protection rights in Egypt; 93 per cent of children across all socio-economic groups are exposed to some form of violent disciplinary practice at home, and corporal punishment is common practice in schools.

Ending all forms of VAC is a priority for both UNICEF and the Government of Egypt. This priority is reflected in the Egypt Vision 2030 national development strategy, which highlights the necessity for children to grow up in safe environments, free from violence and exploitation. Against this background, Egypt took an important step in 2018 to adopt a National Strategic Framework on Ending Violence Against Children to provide a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to ending VAC.

The framework was complemented by a National Plan of Action, prepared in 2019, which spells out the roles and responsibilities of all actors and identifies the actions between now and 2030 to meet Egypt’s vision. UNICEF is actively supporting the government to meet this goal and is working across sectors, prioritizing issues such as strengthening governance structures, building the capacities of the social service workforce to improve service provision, promoting social and behaviour change and improving the availability and management of data.

Further, in an effort to mainstream ending VAC in schools, a comprehensive model (linked to the global Safe to Learn campaign) was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education. UNICEF worked with partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to integrate child safeguarding mechanisms in over 200 schools nationwide in 2019. Further, UNICEF is leading the design and implementation of a National Social and Behaviour Change Model focusing on positive parenting and girls’ empowerment. In addition, the Awладنا (‘our children’) multimedia campaign on the negative consequences of violent discipline on adolescent children reached around 84 million people on digital platforms, complementing on-the-ground activities in large national retail entities (such as supermarkets and cinemas) that reached an estimated 6.2 million people.
Strengthening systems to prevent and respond to violence

UNICEF intensified efforts to support governments to take essential services to national scale, including strengthening multisectoral services and prioritizing the strengthening of social welfare services to prevent and respond to violence33 (see also ‘Strengthening the social service workforce’).

At least 33 countries made important gains to strengthen identification and referral systems in schools and implement prevention programmes.34 In Honduras, the Safe to Learn Call to Action was endorsed to accelerate action through policy change, resource mobilization and increased prevention mechanisms.

At least 22 countries demonstrated progress in strengthening the role of health systems to prevent and respond to VAC and provide integrated services for child survivors.35 In the Islamic Republic of Iran, a pilot of specialized referral health centres in four provinces was set up, and healthcare professionals were trained on related protocols and guidelines.

At least 41 countries reported scaling up action to enhance programmes that strengthen services for child victims of violence in judicial and criminal proceedings and within the overall justice sector.36 In Armenia, 43 additional judges and prosecutors successfully passed a distance learning course developed with UNICEF support by the Justice Academy of Armenia, resulting in 80 per cent of criminal judges and 62 per cent of prosecutors in the country receiving relevant training since 2017 (see also ‘Access to justice for children’).

Additionally, community-based services and systems were also strengthened, including in Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, China, Egypt, Mauritania, Myanmar, the Niger and Oman; multi-service one stop centres were strengthened in Bulgaria, the Comoros, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi and Papua New Guinea; and national child helplines expanded (or extended their reach) in Albania, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Egypt, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Panama, the Republic of Moldova, Thailand, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

UNICEF also supported efforts to strengthen the continuum of service provision across the humanitarian–development nexus. In Burkina Faso, for example, a system was set up to link village-based mechanisms with child protection units through seven ‘continuum of care mechanisms’ in five regions with high rates of children on the move. These ‘linked’ services reached around 355,200 children (61 per cent girls) in 2019.
Safe to Learn: Ending violence in and around schools

The scale-up of actions to shift social and behaviour change and policies to address violence of all forms in and around schools was bolstered by the launch of the Safe to Learn initiative, which calls on countries to end violence in schools by 2024. Safe to Learn was inspired by the voices of young people around the world who know that violence in schools stands as a sizeable obstacle to a better future.

UNICEF is a key member of the growing coalition behind Safe to Learn. UNICEF supports countries across regions to develop and implement strategies to end violence in schools, including 14 countries that have endorsed the Safe to Learn Call to Action. The year 2019 saw increased momentum to strengthen countries’ accelerated action around the intervention areas. To this end, UNICEF developed a Global Programmatic Framework to provide practical guidance. A handbook on school-based violence prevention was launched by the WHO, together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNICEF. To measure the quality of national efforts to prevent and respond to violence in and around schools, UNICEF is also piloting a diagnostic tool in Jordan, Nepal, Pakistan, South Sudan and Uganda.

Across regions, countries are scaling up action to address violence in and around schools. Significant attention has been placed on shifting social norms and behaviour change:

- At a global level, UNICEF leveraged Safer Internet Day to call for concerted action to tackle and prevent violence against children and young people online that built on the #ENDviolence Youth Manifesto and encouraged young people to be kind online, generating almost 16 million impressions, 7.5 million views and half a million engagements in 2019.
- The subsequent online kindness activation was one of the biggest user-generated activations by UNICEF, with 1.4 million mentions of the kindness call to action and 5.2 million engagements online. In the first two days there were 191 mentions of the campaign in the media.
- UNICEF collaborated with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children to undertake a U-Report poll about online bullying, with participation from 170,000+ U-Reporters from more than 30 countries.
- At the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, UNICEF hosted a child-led art, advocacy and action event to end violence in schools, including the launch of the winning comic book on ending bullying from the School Superhero Comic Contest (see also Case study 2).

Result highlights: National action to end violence in schools, 2019

- **The Plurinational State of Bolivia**: UNICEF supported the government to develop a comprehensive set of policy directives, including a ministerial resolution and protocol on reducing violence in schools and special education centres and guidance to develop education department plans.

- **Cambodia**: A positive discipline programme is being implemented by around 1,150 primary schools – an increase of 27 per cent from the number in 2018.

- **The Democratic Republic of the Congo**: A national study on GBV and online violence in schools analysed the impact of GBV on the education system to inform plans.

- **Ecuador**: UNICEF helped the Ministry of Education develop a policy and improved procedures to prevent and identify sexual violence in schools, alongside guidelines for victim support.

- **El Salvador**: A GBV prevention strategy was implemented in 42 schools located in 6 municipalities with high incidences of child and adolescent sexual violence.

- **Indonesia**: An evidence-based, adolescent-driven anti-bullying intervention model (Roots Indonesia) reached around 4,400 students in 2019. The impact of the model is now being evaluated for broader replication in the country.

- **Libya**: Capacity initiatives that strengthened the role of community and school-based psychosocial workers reached around 89,300 children with support (50 per cent girls, 50 per cent boys).

- **Peru**: UNICEF supported the design of the National Survey on School Climate and Violence to overcome the lack of data on VAC in schools. This initiative was piloted in 9 regions, reaching 108 schools, with plans to implement nationally in 2020.

- **State of Palestine**: UNICEF facilitated safe (physical) access to school for almost 6,900 children (40 per cent girls) and their teachers in the West Bank.
“As we mark the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, I have no doubt that young people around the world, including Rizka, will inspire world leaders to take action for the rights of every child…. Cipta is a powerful metaphor for the young superheroes all over the world taking action against violence and bullying in and around school.”

— UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore, United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, July 2019

**Case study 2: Can superhero Cipta help stop the violence and bullying that children face in and around schools every day?**

Rizka was the winner of the UNICEF and Comics Uniting Nations’ School Superhero Comic Contest. The contest, launched in October 2018, called on children and young people to create a comic superhero to keep students safe from violence, including bullying, in and around schools. Over 3,600 submissions were entered by young people from more than 130 countries, and more than 23,000 votes were cast on the contest website to determine the winner. Rizka’s winning comic will be distributed to students in more than 100,000 schools globally.

Rizka presented her comic book, *Cipta*, to leaders from government, business, civil society and United Nations agencies, as well 100 children and young people, at the annual United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Since winning the worldwide contest in 2019, Rizka has been working with a team of comic book professionals in the United States to produce a 10-page comic book named after her winning superhero.

Rizka was one of the many children and young people who took centre stage. The meeting brought together governments and other stakeholders, to discuss how to accelerate progress towards the 2030 SDGs, with a focus on education (SDG 4) and peaceful societies, including ending violence in schools (SDG 16).
Social mobilization, education programmes and communication campaigns to challenge harmful behaviours and prevent violence

Across regions, social and behaviour change strategies are increasingly being used to promote norms that do not accept violence against women and children. Interventions include the use of social media, community radio and television, and social mobilization activities which serve as effective platforms for youth engagement (see Figure 10). UNICEF continues to invest in strengthening interventions and strategies to address VAC, including creating tools to improve the quality of C4D research and practical interventions. This includes launching a road map and

FIGURE 10: Result highlights: C4D interventions to challenge harmful behaviours and prevent violence, 2019

Bulgaria: An integrated end violence in school campaign using traditional and digital media reached 3 million people and engaged adolescents as agents of change and solution-holders via a series of Youth Talks that helped design a national programme for a whole school response.

Kyrgyzstan: Public outreach and a series of communication activities aimed at raising awareness on children’s rights and on the harmful effect of violence was channelled through the ‘Tumar’ campaign, which led to a petition to ban corporal punishment signed by more than 10,000 people.

Ghana: Two years into the campaign, the ‘Ghanaians Against Child Abuse’ continues to gather momentum – with an active social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. In 2019 there were over 12.9 million impressions recorded (up from 5 million in 2018). UNICEF-supported community mobilization and engagement activities were also implemented in 72 districts in 16 regions, reaching more than 2,057 communities nationwide.

Bulgaria: An integrated end violence in school campaign using traditional and digital media reached 3 million people and engaged adolescents as agents of change and solution-holders via a series of Youth Talks that helped design a national programme for a whole school response.

Bangladesh: An online safety campaign, in partnership with the country’s largest telecommunications company, reached 500,000 students with messages on appropriate online behaviour and support services and built capacity of almost 1,100 call centre agents and child welfare boards.

Colombia: UNICEF partnered with MILLICOM-Tigo (mobile Internet provider) on a ‘school of influencers’ initiative to promote safe, responsible and creative Internet use that reached almost 4,500 adolescents (52 per cent girls, 48 per cent boys).

Thailand: UNICEF promoted digital engagement through the ‘Toolmorrow’ partnership as part of its #ENDViolence campaign, with over 9 million reaches. A fundraising TV show reached 15.5 million viewers, engaged almost 300,000 people on social media and generated 650 pieces of media coverage.

Zimbabwe: UNICEF supported a ‘Champions of Child Protection’ initiative reaching some 15,000 adolescents (75 per cent girls, 25 per cent boys) with skills including how to be assertive and say no to violence, and information on where to seek help.

Lebanon: A new evidence-based social behavioural change communication plan with a focus on parenting practices known as “Qudwa” (i.e. role model in Arabic) was developed. Qudwa will apply a range of C4D approaches to take forward the plan, including use of theatre, TEDx Talks, TV and radio soap opera, and social and traditional media.

Botswana: An ongoing campaign on sexual exploitation and abuse used various social media platforms, radio and other sources, which generated condemnation by public figures and identified champions such as the First Lady of Botswana to promote community-based discussions.

Madagascar: A national life skills training programme for adolescents enabled around 3,600 adolescents (60 per cent girls, 40 per cent boys) to participate in weekly life skills sessions for two months; and 134 middle school children’s clubs across six regions comprising around 6,700 adolescent members (57 per cent girls, 43 per cent boys) participated in activities on children’s rights, prevention and reporting of violence against children, child marriage and online exploitation.
accompanying technical guidance\textsuperscript{41} for developing C4D for VAC strategies and country-level action plans, which were developed by UNICEF, together with Drexel University, and disseminated across programming countries in 2019.\textsuperscript{42}

**Challenges**

To effectively measure progress, particularly in the context of the SDGs, there needs to be regular population-level data collection on the prevalence of and attitudes to VAC. The United Nations Statistical Commission has set global standards for the measurement of these indicators within the framework of the SDGs. However, in the majority of countries, there are no data or insufficient trend data on six of the key VAC indicators. To address data gaps, UNICEF has established the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Violence against Children, which brings together 55 representatives from national statistical offices and line ministries with the aim of improving the overall quality and availability of data on VAC (see also ‘Strengthening data and evidence on child protection’).
“Child rights are part of UNICEF’s DNA, and why so many of us are here today working at UNICEF….”

— Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director, Update to UNICEF Global Management Team meeting (June 2019)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the most complete statement of children’s rights ever produced and the most widely ratified human rights treaty, underpins the UNICEF mandate. More specifically, the human rights-based approach followed by UNICEF is guided by the principles laid down in the CRC, including universality, non-discrimination, the right to survival and development, the best interests of the child, the indivisibility and interdependence of human rights, accountability and respect for the voice of the child. Furthermore, analysis of inequalities and abuses, and aims to redress discriminatory practices that impede progress and translation of children’s rights into realities, are particularly important for child protection, which by its nature, focuses on the most marginalized and vulnerable populations.

A number of child protection normative milestones were attained in 2019, reinforcing global commitments to ensure that no child is left behind. The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Rights of the Child Resolution with unparalleled commitments for children without parental care. Global action on the thirtieth anniversary of the CRC saw 110 countries recommit to the CRC by aligning to A global pledge: For every child, every right.

The Dominican Republic: UNICEF and the Government signed an Inter-Institutional Agreement for Timely and Late Birth Registration as part of follow-up on the recommendations and concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on birth registration.

Uruguay: Child safeguarding policies and procedures for the military were adopted and a child protection manual for peacekeepers developed. UNICEF also supported the aim of the National School of Peace Operations to become a regional training centre for national, regional and worldwide military and peacekeeping forces on child protection issues.

Guinea: The Children’s Code was revised, taking into account the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child related to prohibition of child marriage, especially for girls, judicial protection of children in conflict with the law, and protection of children against violence.

Morocco: A law was adopted to enable the National Human Rights Council to establish an independent child rights monitoring/appeal mechanism – the first of its kind in the region. The new mechanism can receive complaints directly from child victims of violations, their legal representatives or third parties.
Rwanda: A costed Strategic Plan for an Integrated Child Rights Policy was adopted. To strengthen operationalization, 30 social workers and almost 30,000 community-based child protection workers were trained to improve coordination and monitoring and address the social norms that drive violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Eswatini: Several key national laws and strategies were adopted to strengthen child rights including regulations for the implementation of the Children’s Protection and Welfare Act; charge sheets for the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act; and the Violence Prevention and Response Strategy.

Libya: UNICEF and partners finalized a mapping of civil society organizations working in child and human rights to inform the establishment of a child rights network across the country aimed at enhancing, promoting and advocating for child rights and child protection, and monitoring grave violations.

The Niger: The Government of the Niger publicly renewed and symbolically signed its commitment to the full implementation of the CRC in honour of its thirtieth anniversary.

Moldova: A mandatory probation programme for children in conflict with the law was piloted in five districts, as part of a Joint United Nations Project to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region (2019–2022), in accordance with recommendations from Article 40 of the CRC.

Armenia: A Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan (2020–2022) was adopted and includes actions to end violence, restructure the child protection system, strengthen violence prevention, ensure the best interests of the child, prohibit corporal punishment and protect victims of sexual violence.

Pakistan: The enactment of the milestone Child Rights Law represents a significant advance, including the unconditional right to birth registration for all children born in the country, minimum ages for marriage and employment, and the protection of children against all forms of violence.

Armenia: A Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan (2020–2022) was adopted and includes actions to end violence, restructure the child protection system, strengthen violence prevention, ensure the best interests of the child, prohibit corporal punishment and protect victims of sexual violence.

The Maldives: Two critical pieces of legislation represent a major transformation and advancement of child and adolescent rights in the country – the Child Rights Protection Act, which defines children as persons under the age of 18 years, and prohibits marriage for boys and girls, and the Juvenile Justice Act, which set the minimum age of criminal responsibility at 15 years, and prohibits capital punishment for children.

Papua New Guinea: The first 28 of a required 415 Child Protection Officers responsible for handling cases of children in need of care and protection were officially appointed – an important step towards building a solid child protection system and a sign of the commitment of the government to prioritize children’s rights.
Strengthening the social service workforce

The UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, identifies strengthening the social service workforce as a cornerstone to strengthening prevention and response services to protect all children from violence and exploitation and to achieve SDGs 5, 8 and 16.

UNICEF continues to foster strong global and regional partnerships. UNICEF hosted a regional consultation to develop and strengthen action plans and key messages in the Middle East and North Africa region, which brought together around 50 participants from 11 countries. UNICEF works closely with the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance (GSSWA). In 2019, UNICEF and GSSWA facilitated a kick-off regional meeting in advance of the ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion of Social Work, which is a critical advance for the region. Further, UNICEF provided technical leadership on strengthening the social service workforce as part of the Social Protection and Social Security and African Union Social Agenda 2063, both of which represent important breakthroughs for the region and the entire continent. Further, UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa supported the establishment and operationalization of social work councils in the region by forging new partnerships with the International Federation of Social Workers Africa and academia at regional and country levels.

UNICEF issued its first ever global Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection to accelerate UNICEF regional and country offices’ programming to strengthen social service workforce with partners (see Figure 11). The guidelines were developed in consultation with the GSSWA and are informed by evidence of what works and lessons learned in the field. There continues to be a moderate yet steady increase in the number of countries reporting progress to strengthen their social service workforce – from 114 countries reporting in 2017 to 137 countries in 2019. Of note, 35 countries reported improvements over the last year to put in place a strong quality assurance system for the social service workforce – a 9 per cent increase from the number in 2018 (see Figure 9). In particular, 2019 saw significant progress made by countries to develop the normative framework for the social service workforce, with an additional 19 per cent of reporting countries (81 countries) reporting advances (compared to 68 countries in 2018), including notably Iraq, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan, Tajikistan and Viet Nam. Of these 81 countries, 21 countries reported that their normative, legal or policy frameworks were at final drafting stages, including Belarus, Burundi, Malaysia, Morocco, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey – a 24 per cent increase from the 17 countries reporting such advancements in 2018.

“The workforce is now recognized as the single most important ‘element’ of any child protection system. No system can work effectively without the people that day-in and day-out work with the most vulnerable children and families and make that system come to life.”

— Ted Chaiban, Regional Director, UNICEF Middle East and North Africa (former UNICEF Programme Director) – keynote address at the 2019 sixth Annual Global Social Service Workforce Alliance Symposium, Washington, D.C.

Mahery, 8, was repeatedly physically abused by his mother. Thanks to the support of social workers, he has received care from the child care centre run by an essential Child Protection Network partner CDEF (the collective on the rights of children and the family) in Mahajanga, Madagascar. The Ministry of Population, UNICEF and other child protection actors, including CDEF, are working together to put in place a functioning child protection system to prevent and respond to violence against children in Madagascar.
FIGURE 11: Strategic Framework for Strengthening the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection

Strategic Framework for Strengthening the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection

UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021

Goal Area 3: Girls and boys, especially the most vulnerable and those affected by humanitarian crisis, are protected from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices.

Promotive Work
- Strengthen policies, laws, and budgets for child protection
- Conduct National assessments and programme reviews
- Promote citizen engagement
- Set accountability and ethics frameworks
- Establish standards for services

Preventive Work
- Support at-risk children and their families
- Organize parenting programmes
- Provide gatekeeping to prevent unnecessary family separation
- Provide social protection support, including Cash Plus
- Organize community groups to protect children and promote positive social norms

Response Services
- Provide support and services to UNICEF, ensure justice, and quality care
- Ensure child participation and best interests of the child during interventions
- Undertake assessments for long-term therapeutic, e.g., medical and psychosocial interventions
- Deliver rehabilitative and reintegration services

Plan the Social Service Workforce
- Enact policy and legislation for social service work
- Define types, functions, ratios of social service workers (incl. para-professionals)
- Undertake costing and financing for social service work
- Establish regulatory framework for education, accreditation, and licensing
- Set human resource policies, and practice and organizational standards

Develop the Social Service Workforce
- Establish multisector collaboration for education and training
- Align education and training to national priorities and standards
- Integrate fieldwork and indigenous knowledge in education and training
- Offer ongoing and continuing opportunities for training and professional development

Support the Social Service Workforce
- Improve recruitment and retention of workers
- Support social service work associations and councils
- Invest in quality supervision of social service workers
- Promote career development and progression
- Invest in promoting the image of social service workers
- Provide support and services to VAC, secure justice, and quality care
- Ensure child participation and best interests of the child during interventions
- Undertake assessments for long-term therapeutic, e.g., medical and psychosocial interventions
- Deliver rehabilitative and reintegration services

The social service workforce at the national and subnational levels is well planned, developed, and supported to perform a range of functions to provide a continuum of child protection services

UNICEF Country Offices can play an important role in advocating for and providing technical support to plan, develop, and support the social service workforce for child protection

Bottlenecks to workforce strengthening: the Social Service Workforce
- Absence of normative framework
- Limited opportunities for career enrichment
- Lack of professional standards and codes
- Limited opportunities for career enrichment
- Inadequate resource allocation
- Poor professional image and poor retention rates
- Undefined roles and responsibilities and poor HR policies
- Absence of support structures, coalitions and associations
- Inadequate standards, provisions for training and certification

Geretilda Basesake (centre) is one of Rwanda’s almost 30,000 Inshuti z’Umuryango (“Friends of the Family”), who are some of Rwanda’s most dedicated volunteers, specifically tasked with preventing and responding to child protection concerns in their communities.
Increasingly, UNICEF supports countries to take the next steps to define the functions, roles and responsibilities and develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for social service workers at the national and/or subnational level. In all, 84 countries (a 12 per cent increase compared to 2018) reported establishing SOPs. Notably, 16 countries developed integrated SOPs to strengthen cross-sector referral pathways – a 23 per cent increase from the 13 countries reporting in 2018. In Ghana, for example, intersectoral SOPs were drafted covering all aspects of social services, and in Yemen, as a result of strengthened case management services, 46 per cent in 2018 to 59 in 2019.

UNICEF has shifted its focus to more comprehensively support governments, partners and academia to initiate and institutionalize workforce development. Across all regions, UNICEF is stepping up support to governments to scale up this work, with notable progress in 2019 in Afghanistan, Argentina, Bhutan, the Comoros, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Somalia, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. In Afghanistan, for example, the number of government-funded social worker positions doubled to 245 in 2019. Further, to institutionalize professional development, a Master’s Programme for Social Work was launched at Kabul University. Similarly, the Royal University of Bhutan launched the country’s first Bachelor of Arts in Social Work programme in 2019, with 36 students (69 per cent female) enrolled in its first intake. In Somalia, a university curriculum on social work was customized to fit local cultural contexts, and around 580 students (48 per cent female, 52 per cent male) completed the first year of a social work university degree course across three universities. Further, there are a growing number of countries strengthening administrative systems to assess the number of social workers formally certified to provide child protection services, rising from 54 countries reporting in 2018 to 59 in 2019.

In 2019, 51 countries (an 11 per cent increase from 2018) reported progress towards establishing formal systems of supervision for social workers, with marked gains in Armenia, China, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman and State of Palestine. For example, UNICEF supported the institutionalization of supervision mechanisms in Armenia and built the capacity of social workers in the Maldives to more effectively manage protection cases, enabling around 1,200 vulnerable children (56 per cent girls, 44 per cent boys) to receive support services.

**Challenges**

Although progress has been made in many countries to set out the normative frameworks for social service work, and multiple initiatives to strengthen the workforce are either being conceptualized or piloted, challenges remain.

This hampers the ability of countries to scale up services and build the cadre of social service workers required to meet the needs of children and families. Many countries continue to have a low ratio of social workers to children. At the same time, there is a lack of common understanding of the optimum number of social workers required to meet the needs of children and families. Institutionalizing comprehensive supportive supervision systems for the social service workforce remains a challenge, in part because of the absence or inadequacy of normative frameworks. Even in countries where legal and policy frameworks have established supervision standards and job descriptions, delivery of quality supervision remains difficult because of limited funding, human resources and technical capacities. Many countries also lack adequate interoperable case management systems. UNICEF continues to overcome these challenges, including by strengthening digital information management systems for case management (see ‘Strengthening information management systems’). While progress is observed in the adoption of SOPs for case management, the inadequate numbers of social service workers and absence of quality services can make referrals ineffective. Further, while UNICEF offices continue to engage with academia and governments to set up licensing and accreditation systems, several prerequisites, including the development of the criteria for licensing and accreditation, are lagging behind.

Further in many contexts, governments cannot find the fiscal space to allocate adequate public financing. Humanitarian contexts also add complexity, in terms of the availability of social service workers and their access to clients, requiring the need to revisit planning assumptions and increase/redirect budget allocations, further compounding existing challenges.

**Strengthening information management systems**

The UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, recognizes integrated information management systems (IMS) as a critical component of strengthening child protection systems. Protection-related data require a very high duty of care. UNICEF and partners manage three types of protection-related data: case management, incident monitoring and programme monitoring. These data are interrelated and essential to the success of any child protection strategy; however, they are rarely connected by data systems. Case management – an approach used to provide targeted services to individual children – may not be adequately linked with incident monitoring, which focuses on gathering and validating data about violations and risk factors to inform programming. Programme monitoring data, which help programme managers understand the effectiveness of their interventions, are often treated as a separate data practice.
In 2019, 108 countries reported strengthening IMS for child protection, including 23 countries reporting an interoperable IMS to support and track case management and incident and programme monitoring in place – an increase of 53 per cent compared to 2018. Of note is the progress reported in seven countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa region (Burundi, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe), four countries in the West and Central Africa region (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Niger, Nigeria and Sierra Leone) and four countries in the Middle East and North Africa region (Iraq, Morocco, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic). UNICEF is working with a further 25 countries currently in the planning phase of establishing an interoperable IMS.

Highlights of achievements can be seen in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. A child protection information management system (‘CPIMS+) went live in 2019, enabling 6 agencies, including the General Directorate of Care and Social Development (comprising more than 80 case management actors), to manage cases of vulnerable children. This work was prefaced by significant investment in strengthening the child protection system and updating the case management SOP supported by the National Case Management Working Group under the Child Protection Sub-Cluster. The roll-out of the IMS brings a uniform inter-agency approach to case management, including referrals for services.

Further, over the period of the Strategic Plan, demand for and investment in Primero – a centrally supported and managed inter-agency digital IMS for case management for the child protection sector – has increased. Since March 2019, 13 additional applications (‘instances’) of Primero have been implemented – a 65 per cent increase in its use compared to 2018. In total, there are currently 33 active instances of Primero in 26 countries, supporting around 2,600 users to manage data from more than 200 organizations; this equates to 1.4 times more users and 2.6 times more organizations using Primero compared to 2018. Across these implementations, practitioners are managing the cases of almost 90,000 vulnerable children safely and confidentially – over double the number (40,000 cases) supported in March 2019.

Examples of progress include the successful launch of Primero/CPIMS+ in Bangladesh, which aims to support the registration and case management of vulnerable children in refugee settlements in Cox’s Bazar District. The system is also used to conduct family tracing and reunification. As a result of the launch of Primero/CPIMS+, the data of approximately 16,000 cases stored in various database systems from 11 agencies were merged and harmonized. Primero is now helping 520 users from 13 organizations to manage the care of 21,600 vulnerable Rohingya children in a coordinated and confidential manner.
UNICEF and partners launch the Responsible Data for Children initiative

In an age of changing technology and data linkage, UNICEF is providing thought leadership and public goods to harness the potential of data while mitigating risks for children. The right data in the right hands at the right time can significantly improve outcomes for children. The challenge is to understand the potential risks and ensure that the collection, analysis and use of data on children do not undermine these benefits and children’s rights.

The Responsible Data for Children (RD4C) initiative is a joint endeavour between UNICEF and the GovLab at New York University. It aims to highlight and support best practice in data responsibility and develop dynamic resources, tools and a community hub to unite frontline workers who manage children’s personal data behind a common set of principles and approaches.

RD4C aims to build a community of practice and to engage with governments, communities and development actors to use a child rights approach, including placing the best interests of children at the centre of data activities. RD4C highlights and supports best practice data responsibility while identifying challenges from the field level and identifying solutions. In 2019, a web-based hub for community and resources was launched to encourage a broader discussion on actionable principles, insights and approaches for responsible data management.

Challenges

Moving into the Decade of Action, there is increased demand for data to support monitoring and reporting for the SDGs, and at an operational level, to strengthen case management systems to better connect children to services and provide support. The greatest challenge in modernizing data management in the child protection sector is the lack of a sustainable, easy-to-use and cost-effective technology solution. For this reason, UNICEF invested significantly in the Primero platform in 2019 to meet the demand of country offices and national partners. Increasingly, demand for Primero is coming from development contexts, including middle-income countries. Primero is seen as a go-to best practice solution that can meet the requirements of most child protection programmes. UNICEF has invested in taking Primero to global scale via its Innovations for Scale initiative, which will make the application easier to deploy and more cost-effective for the sector.

Furthermore, beyond the technology solution, privacy and data agency considerations are emerging as critical to protection work. Data collection is an essential component of successful programming, but a culture of responsible data practice must be prioritized. Policies, practices and systems must ensure children have a voice in how and when their data are managed and used.
A young boy, who was evacuated in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, participates in activities at a UNICEF-supported, government-led shelter in Nassau, Bahamas, which provides a range of services, including psychosocial support to children affected by the natural disaster.
UNICEF strives to protect every girl and boy from violence, abuse and exploitation in humanitarian situations, by mobilizing cross-sectoral action to monitor and report violations, provide services and ensure all children’s well-being. UNICEF achieved breakthrough results in 2019 on many critical fronts, providing protective services to millions of children affected by armed conflict, natural disasters and public health emergencies in 74 humanitarian situations (see Figure 12). The organization provided technical support for all Level 3 (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen) and Level 2 (Burkina Faso, Central Sahel, East Africa/Ebola, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) emergencies in 2019. In addition, UNICEF deployed an emergency response team to Afghanistan, the Bahamas, Burkina Faso and the Syrian Arab Republic.

FIGURE 12: Summary of results in child protection in humanitarian action, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tracking outputs against 2019 milestones</th>
<th>Country engagement by area of work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✅ 5 on-track</td>
<td>Children on the move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Grave violations</td>
<td>MHPSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- MHPSS</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- UASC</td>
<td>GBViE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mine action</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- GBViE</td>
<td>UASC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Children recruited and used by armed forces and groups</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Children on the move</td>
<td>Mine action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CAAFAG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✗ 2 off-track</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Children recruited and used by armed forces and groups</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Children on the move</td>
<td>CAAFAG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>517k</th>
<th>13k</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>primary care-givers benefited from community-based MHPSS support interventions in 41 countries</td>
<td>professionals trained to deliver risk education about landmines and other explosive weapons in 18 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87% of target population provided with community-based MHPSS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7m children 60 countries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.75m children received protective services in 61 countries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116% of target population reached with gender-based violence interventions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3m women and children 46 countries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: MHPSS - mental health and psychosocial support, GBViE - gender-based violence in emergencies, UASC - unaccompanied and separated children, CAAFAG - children associated with armed forces and groups

Note: Changes are since 2018 unless otherwise specified. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Mental health and psychosocial support

In 2019, UNICEF took major steps to prioritize mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for children, adolescents, mothers, fathers and caregivers. On World Mental Health Day, Executive Director Fore launched a UNICEF Technical Note that, for the first time, defines the organization’s MHPSS work in humanitarian and development settings to increase the universality of the issue. To meet the call for investment in MHPSS of the United Nations Secretary-General and concerned Member States, UNICEF, in partnership with the WHO, developed guidance and a plan for integrating MHPSS across sectors.

Programmatically, UNICEF deepened its commitment to deliver MHPSS in 2019 by providing community-based MHPSS to more than 3.7 million children and adolescents (up 3 per cent compared to 2018) across 60 countries and almost 517,000 caregivers in 41 countries. The organization increasingly prioritizes strengthening humanitarian-development-peace nexus, working across all sectors, and investing in localization efforts, notably frontline responders.

In Brazil, around 27,600 children and adolescents were reached with MHPSS interventions in 2019. More than 760 children affected by violence, exploitation and abuse were identified, supported and referred to relevant services. UNICEF and partners supported 23 integrated spaces known as Super Panas to provide non-formal education opportunities and MHPSS to children on the move. In State of Palestine, 12 community-level family centres and 30 outreach sites provided structured interventions, including individual and group counselling, life skills and child–parent interaction sessions, benefiting nearly 10,300 children. Additionally, almost 5,000 caregivers attended awareness-raising activities on positive parenting, and around 900 injured children were reached through home visits, resulting in 58 per cent receiving structured MHPSS, and 37 per cent receiving individual case management support.

Specifically, in Kazakhstan, to prepare for the return of 420 Kazakhstani children from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF supported the training of 47 psychologists and guardianship specialists. Further, working with the Kazakhstan Committee on Children’s Rights, UNICEF developed standards on provision of tailored social services for children with mental health and psychosocial issues. In Lebanon, MHPSS was mainstreamed in 12 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees schools located in the most disadvantaged camps.

To strengthen global assets, UNICEF and WHO continued close collaboration, including development of the UNICEF-led costed Minimum Services Package on MHPSS and an innovative e-mental health intervention, ‘Scalable Technology for Adolescents to Reduce Stress’ (STARS).

Community-based MHPSS operational guidelines for children and families were rolled out to 21 key countries to strengthen programmatic interventions and enhance technical expertise. Further, UNICEF created a dedicated MHPSS community of practice for its staff, providing resources and technical support for over 120 staff in over 40 countries across 7 regions.

Monitoring grave violations

UNICEF engages with United Nations partners to monitor and report grave violations of children’s rights in armed conflict, including killing and maiming, recruitment and use, abduction and sexual violence. Together with partners, UNICEF documents incidents, prioritizes efforts against impunity and strengthens protective services and support. As a member of the Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMRs), UNICEF engages with parties to conflict to advocate for adoption and implementation of concrete measures to prevent grave violations and protect children from the impact of armed conflicts. In the first half of 2019, over 10,000 grave violations were documented across 20 countries through the monitoring and reporting mechanism co-chaired by UNICEF. At year end, 16 of 66 parties to conflict (24 per cent) listed in the Annex to the United Nations Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict had signed an action plan to prevent and end grave violations against children.

In 2019, UNICEF recorded nearly 13,200 children (18 per cent girls) having exited armed forces or armed groups across 17 countries across 6 regions. In Nigeria, the CTFMR supported the release of 461 children from the ranks of the Civilian Joint Task Force. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the CTFMR’s engagement with the commanders of 16 non-state armed groups to sign declarations and road maps on the protection of children led directly to the release of more than 2,200 children. CTFMR engagement also resulted in several parties to conflict adopting and implementing concrete measures in at least 11 situations. This included the signing of three new action plans with non-state armed groups in the Central African Republic (two) and the Syrian Arab Republic (one). In the Philippines, the CTFMR played a critical role in developing a law on children in situations of armed conflict (enacted in 2019), which will strengthen coordination mechanisms, provide resources to local and national agencies and hold perpetrators accountable for violations.

Five countries (India, Mali, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen) rolled out an upgraded version of the digital Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism information management system (‘MRMIMS+’) to strengthen tracking, security and analysis of data on children’s rights violations. This achievement puts UNICEF on track to meet the strategic goal of ensuring that all MRM countries use the standardized IMS to provide for the safety and protection of the data (see also ‘Strengthening information management systems’).
Reintegrating children associated with armed forces and armed groups

Throughout 2019, UNICEF and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict jointly led the Global Coalition for Reintegration (launched in 2018) to bring the world’s attention to the specific needs of these children.

UNICEF works jointly with governments and other stakeholders to prevent the recruitment of children by armed forces and groups and aid their release and reintegration. Establishing strategic links with country development agendas is essential, including notably to contribute to the achievement of SDGs 8.7 and 16.2.

UNICEF provided a range of care and services across 19 countries in 2019 including specialized family tracing, psychosocial support, recreational activities and economic reintegration, education and life skills training, to more than 14,400 children (53 per cent of the target population) who had exited armed forces or armed groups over the course of several years. More than 80 per cent of these children who received care and services were in countries located in Central, East and West Africa, including 3,400 (23 per cent girls) in South Sudan, 3,000 (21 per cent girls) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and 2,500 (17 per cent girls) in Nigeria.

Reintegration is a long-term process, often taking place over years, intended to enable children to transition from armed forces and groups to their families and communities. Of the 14,400 children receiving care and services in 2019, around 8,500 were successfully reintegrated with their families or communities. This included about 4,000 children who had exited armed groups in previous years, underscoring the ongoing nature of the reunification and reintegration process.

UNICEF advocates for the formal and informal release of children who may have been recruited and used by armed forces and armed groups. In South Sudan, UNICEF collaborated with the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission and the United Nations Mission to secure the release of 300 children from armed groups and enrolled them in family tracing and reunification services. In Uzbekistan, UNICEF supported the government to provide reintegration services to 220 women and children returning from conflict zones in the Middle East, including 64 unaccompanied children. Eighty per cent of the 64 unaccompanied children were reintegrated by the end of 2019. In the Central African
Republic, 1,200 children (21 per cent girls) associated with armed groups were registered or documented as having exited those groups – a 31 per cent increase from 2018. Around 960 of these children (23 per cent girls) received socio-economic assistance.

Upholding the rights of, and providing care for, children who have exited armed groups is also complicated by the increasing tendency of some States to detain children on national security grounds. In Somalia, a total of 1,450 children (15 per cent girls, 85 per cent boys) were detained by the police or National Security and Intelligence Agency for a variety of offences. UNICEF and partners are supporting ongoing efforts to build a legal framework to protect children who have been detained, including through the adoption of a national strategy. By the end of the year, 43 per cent (approximately 620 children) had been released from detention facilities.

Together with partners, UNICEF continues to lead in setting global programming standards and guidance. Key assets include an updated version of Child Protection Minimum Standard 11 on Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups and production of two modules of the Inter-Agency Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Standards – one on children and DDR; and one on youth and DDR.

**Mine action and explosive weapons**

The year 2019 marked a turning point for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE). On the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty, EORE was, for the first time, prioritized in the five-year Oslo Action Plan adopted by 164 countries at the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Additionally, a new EORE Advisory Group, co-chaired by UNICEF and comprising 15 leading organizations in the sector, was formed to steer EORE efforts within and beyond mine action.

Children represent more than half the civilian casualties of landmines and explosive remnants of war – a 12 per cent rise from 2016. To reverse casualty trends and strengthen victim assistance, UNICEF prioritizes risk education, emphasizes child-focused victim assistance, promotes universal acceptance of the Mine Ban Treaty and advocates against the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

UNICEF scaled up its mine action programming to 23 countries in 2019 (from 20 in 2018), including in Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Libya. Around 4.4 million children received EORE in 22 countries (exceeding the Goal Area 3 strategic milestone by 9 per cent), and almost 12,900 frontline community-level workers (e.g., teachers, religious and inter-faith leaders, police) were trained – 24 per cent more than in 2018. In the Syrian Arab Republic, EORE was integrated with other interventions such as immunization, polio campaigns and school curricula, reaching over 1.6 million people in all 14 governorates. In Yemen, over 1.7 million community members (of whom 82 per cent were children, evenly split between girls and boys) received EORE, exceeding the UNICEF 2019 target by 29 per cent (see also Case study 3).

Additionally, UNICEF assisted almost 1,400 child victims with support services in 8 countries – a fivefold increase compared to 2018. In Afghanistan, around 700 children injured by explosive weapons received prosthetics and assistive devices. In Ukraine, to lay the building blocks for a comprehensive mine action approach, UNICEF, in partnership with the Danish Demining Group, published a needs assessment report on child mine victims. Programmatically, 500,000 children were reached with mine safety messages via online comic cartoons, while 37,000 participated in direct training sessions on mine safety.

To strengthen capacity and learning, UNICEF annual globally-certified courses on ‘Integrated Mine Action’ and ‘Effective EORE’ remained a primary source of learning for risk education and mine action experts, with 45 professionals (26 female and 19 male) from 15 national organizations trained.

**Gender-based violence in emergencies**

Increased investment in and commitment to programming for gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE) resulted in significant gains in 2019. Across 46 countries, UNICEF supported 3.3 million women, girls and boys with GBV response, prevention and risk mitigation activities, reaching over 150 per cent more people than in 2018. In 2019, UNICEF made an institutional commitment, championed by Executive Director Fore, to address GBViE in at least half of the 2020 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeals. By year end, 71 per cent of the 2020 HACs integrated GBViE programming, successfully exceeding the commitment. Several global assets to strengthen the quality of GBViE programming across sectors were launched in 2019. These include the UNICEF GBViE Operational Guide and Resource Pack and the Inter-Agency GBViE Minimum Standards.

GBViE programming focuses on a three-pillar approach: comprehensive quality and age-appropriate services for survivors; mitigating the risks of GBV across humanitarian sectors; and addressing underlying conditions and drivers of GBV, including entrenched social norms and policies that accept and even condone such violence. Improved coordination and systems-strengthening efforts underpin the success of each pillar. UNICEF invests in all elements to strengthen service delivery systems: social workers, their skills and their tools.

In crisis contexts, women and girls access services through safe spaces (mobile or static) because they provide a safe entry-point. In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNICEF supported GBV skills training to better
Case study 3: Yemen: Developing a disability-inclusive approach to Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

Between January and October 2019, the Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) documented approximately 750 incidents of grave violations against children in Yemen, 88 per cent of which were verified, including the killing or maiming of around 560 children (73 per cent boys).

In Yemen, landmines and explosive remnants of war affect 20 of the country’s 22 governorates and are cited by the CTFMR as one of the main causes of killing and maiming in the country. Children with hearing impairments (deaf or hard of hearing) are one of the more vulnerable groups likely to be excluded from traditional Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) messaging, according to an April 2019 review by UNICEF partner, the Srooh Foundation for Social Development Yemen.

These findings prompted UNICEF and the Srooh Foundation to advocate with the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster to develop new inclusive and disability-accessible EORE materials. As a result, a package of sign language materials and messages was developed, a team of 27 sign language speakers formed to train EORE facilitators, and a targeted pilot campaign launched in 6 governorates.

The interventions proved successful, reaching around 22,400 children and young people across the targeted areas. This included around 4,000 deaf children and young people in camps for internally displaced persons (18 per cent of the 4,000) and in host communities (82 per cent of the 4,000), and a further 18,300 children and young people from surrounding communities. The campaign’s reach was greater than expected. Follow-up revealed that these children and young people had a formidable appetite for EORE and began to play an important role as EORE advocates within their own communities, acting as agents of change to widely disseminate the messaging.

UNICEF and partners plan to expand this ‘inclusive’ EORE approach beyond the six governorates in the country and adapt the pilot model to reach other vulnerable groups affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war – both in Yemen and in other countries.
integrate such services into the national child helpline service. In the Central African Republic, UNICEF focused on building the capacity of health, psychosocial and legal actors who provide services in communities of internally displaced persons and hosts. In total, about 1,300 child survivors of GBV received services and follow-up. In Iraq, UNICEF supported almost 15,200 girls and women with essential GBV services, including case management and psychosocial support. Capacity-building initiatives trained 580 case workers on GBV case management in 2019 – compared to 325 in 2018. As part of ongoing efforts to explore innovative ways to scale up prevention and response services, the organization rolled out the Primero/ GBVIMS+ information management system, a technology-based tool designed to support GBV case management, to Cox’s Bazar District in Bangladesh, Lebanon, Libya and Nigeria (see also ‘Strengthening information management systems’).

Risk mitigation activities, including large-scale safety audits in Lebanon, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan, took place across such sectors as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, C4D and education. In Somalia, the number of safety audits increased to cover 58 sites, resulting in the implementation of key GBV risk mitigation actions across the humanitarian system, benefiting 1.2 million people. In South Sudan, more than half of all nutrition sites rolled out GBVIE safety audits – an unprecedented scale for the sector. This resulted in key learning on how to ensure nutrition programmes are safe, accessible, acceptable and of good quality. In Lebanon, findings from 139 safety audits and subsequent GBV risk mitigation activities resulted in 83 per cent of women and girls reporting feeling safer at a six-month follow-up.

UNICEF and partners activated a range of interventions to prevent GBVIE in 2019. Joint efforts reached approximately 81,000 people in Bangladesh, more than 210,000 in Burkina Faso and almost 104,000 in Ethiopia. UNICEF continued to implement its evidence-based primary prevention programme to reduce harmful beliefs around sexual violence, Communities Care: Transforming Lives and Preventing Violence in Somalia and South Sudan. Evaluations conducted in both countries showed significant impact sustained over time from programming interventions.

To generate evidence around GBVIE and develop innovative ways of reaching girls and women in need of support, UNICEF developed a pilot virtual safe space for adolescent girls to access accurate information on a series of topics. This was designed in collaboration with girls, and a first pilot was held in Iraq and Lebanon. In addition, UNICEF started a multi-year process to measure the effectiveness of integrating GBVIE into other sectors.
Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Children and women are disproportionately at risk of sexual abuse and exploitation (SEA) in humanitarian settings, making the expansion and strengthening of protection responses to SEA an organizational priority. In 2019, UNICEF doubled the organization’s protection efforts to reach 32 countries across 6 regions – up from 16 countries in 2018.

A major milestone in 2019 was the collective effort of UNICEF, United Nations Peacekeeping and the United Nations Victims’ Rights Advocate to finalize the United Nations Protocol on Assistance to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, which was fully endorsed by the United Nations High Level Steering Group. The Protocol outlines the core principles, standards, roles and responsibilities of United Nations system entities and their partners to promptly refer and assist victims of SEA.

To accelerate results on PSEA across countries with a humanitarian response, UNICEF integrated the IASC PSEA Acceleration Plan into an internal results-monitoring framework to track progress. UNICEF investment, together with the implementation of the Acceleration Plan, has resulted in more effective SEA prevention and response at country level. In 2019, 8.9 million children and adults could access a UNICEF-supported SEA reporting channel – a 27 per cent increase from 2018. In the Central African Republic, UNICEF supported community-based complaint channels in 17 of 28 planned localities, reaching more than 100,000 children, 18,000 adults and 1,500 community leaders. In 90 per cent of all cases, assistance to child survivors of SEA was provided within 48 hours of receiving reports.

In 2019, partnerships to strengthen capacity- and systems-building to prevent and respond to SEA increased by 135 per cent across 54 countries, compared to 23 countries in 2018. Capacity development of inter-agency PSEA Network members and partners was scaled up in the Central African Republic, Iraq, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic. As a contribution to the PSEA Network in Jordan, UNICEF developed guidelines and forms for safe referrals and is piloting the use of U-Report, a mobile phone-based platform to expand the reach of reporting channels for affected children and their communities.

More than 90 per cent of UNICEF partners have drafted PSEA workplans, codes of conduct and policies. To support the integration of PSEA across partnerships, UNICEF developed a PSEA toolkit and training package, which was field-tested with NGO partners in Uganda. In response to Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, PSEA, GBV and child protection became top priorities in the Mozambique Inter-Agency Standing Committee Champion on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

UNICEF Executive Director Fore served as Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Champion on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Sexual Harassment from 2018 to 2019, leading efforts to unify the humanitarian system around accelerating PSEA work in crisis-affected communities. Under her leadership, the IASC articulated three priority outcomes for every Humanitarian Response Plan or Refugee Response Plan, endorsing an IASC Plan for Accelerating PSEA in Humanitarian Response at Country Level (‘the IASC Acceleration Plan’).

During 2018–2019, UNICEF invested US$21.6 million in internal resources to support country-level PSEA systems, services and technical expertise to advance the IASC Acceleration Plan. UNICEF and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) conducted a global mapping of PSEA in humanitarian response with the support of Humanitarian Coordinators, and Executive Director Fore called on IASC members to step up to fill gaps identified across 35 countries. UNICEF worked closely with the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA, UNHCR, the World Food Programme and WHO to increase the number of PSEA Coordinators, resulting in a doubling of the total number by the end of 2019.

Executive Director Fore concluded her Championship in October 2019, leaving in place a clear results framework and structure for PSEA to track progress and engage government, civil society and all partners to achieve priority outcomes. UNICEF now jointly leads and contributes to the IASC Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion, which is taking the PSEA work forward through a dedicated technical expert group.
The expanding role of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

In 2019, UNICEF welcomed Plan International as the rotating NGO co-lead (2019–2021) of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, a global network of organizations aimed at strengthening effective child protection interventions in humanitarian contexts. The Alliance provides thought leadership to drive standards, best practice and guidance for the sector. Several critical global assets were launched in 2019, including the new edition of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, which is more applicable to a wider range of humanitarian contexts.

The Alliance also developed a three-part Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Definition Series to explore core terms and concepts related to child protection in humanitarian settings. The Alliance also worked with Save the Children, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility to launch the report, Unprotected: Crisis in Humanitarian Funding for Child Protection, which provides critical analysis on current funding for child protection in humanitarian settings.

Humanitarian Response Plan as a result of swift action by the PSEA Network in establishing inter-agency complaints-handling, alongside strong collaboration with the GBV and Child Protection sub-clusters.

Unaccompanied and separated girls and boys

UNICEF prioritizes swift family reunification of separated children, minimizing the risks of prolonged exposure to violence, abuse and exploitation. In 2019, UNICEF and partners registered around 94,500 unaccompanied and separated children in humanitarian situations across 50 countries. Nearly 52,000 children received services such as tracing, alternative care or other supportive services. This figure includes around 28,000 children who received family-based or other appropriate alternative care support (while in the process of family tracing), and almost 16,000 children were reunited with their primary caregivers.

Overall, 58 per cent of unaccompanied and separated girls and boys targeted and registered for UNICEF support were reunited with their families or received family-based care or appropriate alternative services.

UNICEF continues to accelerate efforts to prevent family separation, in collaboration with communities, governments and partners, as well as to look for innovative solutions to improve family tracing and reunification services, while negotiating obstacles from ongoing crises that can hinder or delay reunification between children and caregivers.

In Chad, UNICEF provided family tracing and reunification support to 531 unaccompanied and separated children, resulting in the successful reunification of 396 minors (19 per cent girls). Another 135 children were placed in temporary alternative care arrangements with foster families during ongoing family tracing. In Mali, about 1,300 unaccompanied and separated children received interim care; 336 were reunited with their families and communities. In Cameroon, almost 2,000 unaccompanied and separated children were identified, receiving alternative care or individual follow-up as needed. Only 69 of those children were ultimately reunited with their families because of insecurity and access issues in several localities.
Children on the move

In 2019, UNICEF-supported programmes reached more than 1.75 million children on the move – either as migrants, internally displaced persons or refugees – in 61 countries with protective services, including MHPSS, legal aid to enhance access to justice and asylum procedures, alternative care arrangements in response to child immigration detention, and reintegration assistance.

Increasingly, UNICEF lobbies and supports national authorities to mainstream policy and programming for children on the move into national child protection systems-strengthening frameworks. In 2019, in coordination with UNHCR, UNICEF renewed its commitment to strengthen national child protection systems to prevent and respond to protection concerns. Specifically, UNICEF pledged to work strategically with UNHCR to support the professionalization of the social service workforce, advocate for the expansion of birth registration systems in refugee-hosting areas and, in partnership with WHO and UNHCR, develop and disseminate a minimum services package on MHPSS in humanitarian settings and support GBV prevention, mitigation and response.

At the global level, two critical platforms were established to strengthen coordination and policy coherence for migrant and refugee populations: the United Nations Network on Migration, which aims to coordinate system-wide support to Member States, and the Global Refugee Forum, which looks to identify concrete commitments on implementation of the monitoring framework for the Global Compact on Refugees. Both collectively provide a vehicle to leverage partnerships, resources and coordination to prevent and respond to protection concerns facing migrant and refugee children and to mainstream children’s rights across sectors.

At country level, UNICEF promotes an integrated child protection approach through its six-point Agenda for Action to protect all refugee and migrant children in affected countries across the world (see Figure 13).
FIGURE 13: Six-point Agenda for Action to protect all refugee and migrant children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION 1</th>
<th>ACTION 2</th>
<th>ACTION 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![Protect Uprooted Children from Exploitation and Violence](hand()][circle()]</td>
<td>![End the Detention of Refugee and Migrant Children by Creating Practical Alternatives](hand()][circle()]</td>
<td>![Keep Families Together and Give Children Legal Status](hand()][circle()]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION 4</th>
<th>ACTION 5</th>
<th>ACTION 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="book()" alt="Help Uprooted Children to Stay in School and Stay Healthy" />[circle()]</td>
<td><img src="hand()" alt="Press for Action on the Causes that Uproot Children from Their Homes" />[circle()]</td>
<td><img src="hand()" alt="Combat Xenophobia and Discrimination" />[circle()]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Together with national authorities and other partners, UNICEF provided protective and response services to migrant, refugee and internally displaced children in 76 countries (Action 1). This included strengthening SOPs and national referral mechanisms for children and adolescents affected by irregular migration (e.g., Trinidad and Tobago), strengthening the capacity of social workers (e.g., Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d’Ivoire and Serbia) and improving the availability of services (e.g., Afghanistan, Honduras and Libya) (see also ‘Strengthening the social service workforce’).

UNICEF supported 33 countries to end the immigration detention of children in law, policy and practice (Action 2). UNICEF spearheaded the development and adoption of the Protocol for the Comprehensive Protection of Migrant, Asylum-Seeking and Refugee Children and the implementation of a Model on Alternative Care in Mexico (see also ‘Improving children’s access to justice’). The Protocol creates best practice alternatives to end child immigration detention. Additionally, UNICEF, together with partners, is coordinating a multi-country programme in Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan that will assist national authorities to develop protocols to promote the continuity of care for children as they migrate.

At least 33 countries focused on developing and implementing policies and programmes to keep families together, end the separation of children from their families, reunite children with their families and caregivers and provide children with a legal identity and birth registration (Action 3). UNICEF-supported programmes assisted around 31,000 migrant, refugee and internally displaced children, providing alternative care and reuniting them with their caregivers (including around 3,400 children in Jordan, 2,800 in Uganda, 1,200 in Burkina Faso and 850 in Costa Rica). In Guyana, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Protection and the Department of Citizenship to deploy mobile teams to strengthen frontline outreach services. The mobile teams boosted service delivery in border regions, covering the needs of 8,700 migrants and host community members (including almost 3,500 children) (see also ‘Improving birth registration’ and ‘Children without parental care’).

UNICEF implements an integrated service approach to promote access to social, health care, education and other services regardless of the migration status of children or their parents (Action 4). Progress is noted in, for example, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Gambia, Mexico, Peru and Turkey. Turkey increased the gross enrolment of refugee children in formal education by 63 per cent (700,000 refugee children) – a 28 per cent increase compared to the 2016 enrolment rate. Almost all (96 per cent) refugee children attended public schools instead of refugee-only temporary education centres in 2019.

UNICEF promotes strategies to address the causes that uproot children from their homes, such as expanding income-generating and livelihood opportunities and strengthening social safety nets (Action 5). An initiative in Tajikistan enabled 87 young adolescents (80 per cent girls) to obtain jobs in the digital outsourcing industry. The success of the partnership led the government to begin the development of a national strategy with the potential to create 17,000 jobs for migrants.

UNICEF supports action to combat xenophobia and discrimination and promote inclusivity for children on the move, and legal safeguards (Action 6). In Bulgaria, legislation was passed that facilitates strengthened access to services for migrant and refugee children and legally protects them from forced return.
Challenges

Child protection interventions in humanitarian situations remain underfunded, represent a fraction (0.5 per cent) of overall funding for humanitarian relief and fall short of meeting the growing costs and needs of protection.

The widespread disregard for international human rights and humanitarian law by parties to conflict around the world continues to directly violate and negatively impact children, families and service providers. Responses to children are increasingly being managed from a security perspective, which compounds challenges, particularly when responding to the complex needs of children exiting armed forces and groups. Providing protection and care for children who have come out of armed groups, including groups designated by the United Nations as terrorist, is increasingly challenged by the growing application of counter-terrorism approaches that detain children on the grounds of national security. Community acceptance and reintegration are essential for these children to reclaim their childhoods and futures. Delaying that process extends exposure to abuse and makes it more difficult for children to thrive.

Protracted displacement has increased around the world, lasting on average 5–20 years. New and recurrent displacement is on the rise, constraining technical capacity and resources to respond at the national level and shift the focus from long-running situations. Against this intensifying backdrop of prolonged conflict, insecurity and uncertainty, child protection actors are tasked with delivering MHPSS and services that address the complex and varied needs of children and adolescents in emergency settings, to safeguard their protection, development, learning and overall mental health and psychosocial well-being.

National government and development actors’ responses, where available, are focused on immediate humanitarian needs, which can delay long-term solutions, and the mainstreaming of migration policy and services into whole-of-system child protection systems. Further, children and families with irregular immigration status bear the brunt of a lack of service provision, xenophobia, discrimination and the risk of violence and exploitation.
Output 3.2: Strengthening prevention and delivery of protection services to reduce harmful practices (child marriage and female genital mutilation)

Despite the significant decline in recent years in the prevalence of child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), the overall numbers remain high. To eliminate harmful practices by 2030 (SDG 5.3), progress needs to accelerate dramatically.

The year 2019 saw the conclusion of independent joint evaluations of the UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage\(^\text{a}\) and the UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme on the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation.\(^\text{b}\) Findings from these evaluations reinforced their standing as proven examples of how joined-up United Nations action can provide essential political, policy and programmatic leverage to identify and implement collective solutions to achieve the SDGs.
Child marriage

In 2019, UNICEF and partners supported 58 countries across all regions to implement rights-based interventions aimed at ending child marriage, including the 12 countries that are part of the UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage and 8 countries in the European Union–United Nations Spotlight Initiative impacted by child marriage (Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe) (see Figure 14).

Overall UNICEF and partners focus on enhancing governments’ capacity for legal and policy responses to end child marriage; supporting adolescent girls’ empowerment; promoting girls’ equal rights to education, and alternative opportunities; supporting multisectoral coordination and stakeholder engagement to strengthen the accessibility, quality and responsiveness of services to adolescent girls; and supporting social and behaviour change communication to influence social and gender norms.

UNICEF and partners provide global leadership to advocate for action. A high-level side event on ‘Accelerating the elimination of harmful practices to reap the demographic dividend in Africa’, convened by UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women at the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women, provided a platform for renewing partnerships to accelerate progress towards ending harmful practices. An important regional milestone was a renewed commitment made by the coalition of the First Ladies from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) by signing the Niamey Declaration of ECOWAS First Ladies: Call to End Child Marriage. The Declaration will promote the education and empowerment of girls in the region. To shape continental policy, UNICEF supported the assessment of Phase I of the African Union campaign to end child marriage, with findings feeding into the development of a five-year Phase II campaign strategy.

UNICEF continues to be a knowledge hub for child marriage. In 2019, UNICEF released journal articles on the global and regional prevalence of child grooms.

Abbreviations: FGM - female genital mutilation

Note: Changes are since 2018 unless otherwise specified. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Four thematic webinars were hosted, a monthly newsletter was disseminated to almost 650 subscribers in over 95 countries, and information was shared regularly across social media/web platforms (including almost 8,000 unique views on the webpage). Additionally, 49 studies were produced and disseminated across 4 UNICEF regions.

Developing national and subnational action plans and legislation to protect and promote the rights of adolescent girls

An increasing number of countries are developing national strategies and action plans to end child marriage. In 2019, 42 countries had action plans in place – a 27 per cent increase compared to 2018. This includes 24 countries with costed action plans (up from 15 in 2018) and 12 countries with national budgets allocated to the action plans (up from 10 in 2018). Where possible, UNICEF promotes the integration of child marriage prevention and mitigation into national development policies and budgets under the overall framework of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

Belize became the first country in Latin America to develop a national road map to end child marriage and early unions. In the Niger – the country with the highest rates of child marriage globally – the first (budgeted) national strategy and action plan to end child marriage was launched.

Increasingly, UNICEF and partners are supporting the development of subnational action plans, which represents a positive shift from planning to implementation. Six states in India developed costed action plans for adolescent empowerment, and programming interventions were scaled up in an additional 64 districts (from 16 districts in 2018 to 80 in 2019). Additionally, UNICEF and partners successfully advocated for increased district-level budget allocations, which resulted in almost 1.7 million frontline workers across 13 states receiving training on Tarunya, a gender-responsive social and behaviour change communication package for family and community mobilization. Seven states in Nepal earmarked budget allocations for child marriage interventions in 2019–2020 budgets, and 15 districts in Uganda allocated funds in 2019 budgets for related interventions.

UNICEF and partners advocate for amendments or enactments of laws to end child marriage. In 2019, the law in Indonesia was revised to increase the legal minimum age of marriage for girls from 16 to 19 years, in line with the legal minimum age for boys. The Marriage Act in the United Republic of Tanzania amended the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years. A Children’s Rights Law was adopted in Myanmar that sets the minimum age of marriage at 18 years. The Marriage Act in India amended the minimum age of marriage to 19 years with parental consent (from 16 years).

FIGURE 15: Supporting national action plans to end child marriage, 2019

Note: India has 3 states with action plans, but no national action plan.
Case study 4: Bangladesh: Budget analysis of national budget allocations to end child marriage

Child marriage remains a common practice in Bangladesh, with young girls the most affected. Child marriage disrupts their educational and economic opportunities, raises their exposure to violence and abuse, and threatens their own health and the health of their children. The Government of Bangladesh has placed a strong focus on the problem at the highest political levels and developed a national plan of action to end marriage for children under age 15 by 2021, and all girls under age 18 by 2041.

Despite these strong commitments, fiscal space remains limited. The country also has one of the lowest revenue-to-GDP rates in the world, which translates into very low social spending. During 2010–2016, these expenditures averaged just 15.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) – around 28 per cent of which included education, health and social welfare.

UNICEF supported the Government of Bangladesh to undertake an analysis of its public budget to gain a better understanding of how much – and how well – existing resources contribute to or can be effectively targeted to accelerate progress to end child marriage. The outcome of the analysis exercise aimed to better inform and assist line ministries and other stakeholders in budget allocation decision-making to end child marriage. The analysis, which was specifically tailored as a first-of-its-kind methodology for the Bangladesh context, used a five-step approach to identify potential investments. However, the methodology and ensuing policy implications have the potential for wider relevance and replicability. The design of the methodology will enable the government to easily update the data. This flexibility in the design will also support the future scale-up of programmes and/or targeting of allocations to a specific geographical area and/or other beneficiary groups.

The findings revealed that projects and programme budgets aiming to end child marriage represented, on average, 1.2 per cent of the total government budget. The largest proportion of the budget (40.2 per cent) was allocated to safety net programmes, with 35.6 per cent allocated to adolescent health, and 20.7 per cent to secondary education. A negligible amount was allocated to community awareness initiatives or interventions to protect girls from harmful practices and GBV.

These findings prompted the government to conduct further analysis of spending flows to end child marriage and identify a mechanism to strengthen the monitoring of ongoing public investments at the subnational level. The results of the assessment are forming a baseline to determine an implementation budget for the national plan of action to end child marriage and enable better monitoring of budgetary allocations.

In Bangladesh, mobilization activities to engage families, communities and other key influencers to act as allies to end child marriage reached over 320,000 community members and local leaders in four targeted districts in 2019. These interventions contributed to 93 unions (local councils) to declare themselves ‘child marriage-free’.
Girls’ empowerment: Integrating life skills and improving access to services for adolescent girls

Around 5.7 million adolescent girls received prevention and care interventions from UNICEF-supported programming on child marriage across 45 countries in 2019 – a notable increase from the 4.9 million adolescent girls reached in 2018 (see Figure 16). Approximately 65 per cent of the adolescent girls reached in 2019 (3.8 million) come from the 12 countries that are part of the Global Programme.68 UNICEF promotes gender equality and empowerment of adolescent girls by establishing and supporting safe spaces and clubs in communities and in schools; developing real-time platforms for girls to voice their opinions; and providing financial and educational support for girls identified as being at risk and most vulnerable, to enrol and/or remain in formal and non-formal schools.

In Ethiopia, the government scaled up the availability of integrated interventions, including safe spaces, mentoring, peer education, coaching and economic empowerment benefiting around 260,000 girls. In the Sudan, the creation of almost 1,200 adolescent clubs providing life skills and financial literacy training reached around 115,500 girls. In Afghanistan, the establishment of five provincial-level adolescent and youth networks and 176 multipurpose adolescent groups reached around 52,000 adolescents. Advocacy opportunities were created at the national level for young people to meet with selected government officials to discuss issues such as girls’ education, child marriage, and access to skills and employment. In Burkina Faso, the use of doorto-door visits to households in targeted communities and camps for internally displaced persons resulted in the identification of over 310,000 adolescent girls at risk of child marriage.

**FIGURE 16: Adolescent girls receiving prevention and care interventions to address child marriage through UNICEF-supported programmes, by region, 2018-2019**

“Behaviour change is a process and we are in the first phase. Now we can talk about it openly and this has been accepted. Then you come to the adoption and the practice changes and then the norm has changed. [These steps] have to be understood in the cycle of behaviour change.”

— Key informant interview for the UNFPA–UNICEF evaluation of the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, United Nations staff, the Niger

Notes: EAP, East Asia and Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.
Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms change

UNICEF targets interventions to address the specific gender dynamics and social and cultural influences that prescribe the roles of girls and boys, men and women, and the power they hold. In response to the shift in strategy towards transformation, UNICEF and partners developed guidance on gender-transformative approaches to end child marriage and on common concepts and guidance to promote change in gender norms. To drive global awareness, UNICEF launched a social media (video) campaign in 2019 – ‘A Storybook Proposal… Except for One Thing’ – targeting individuals aged 18–34 years, which received over 13.8 million views within the first month of the campaign.

In Pakistan, social mobilization activities including the use of street theatre reached around 234,500 people (41 per cent females, 59 per cent males) in 2019. The government also launched a campaign called #WeTheFuture to inspire adolescents to believe they can contribute to national development. Within 6 months, the television and social media campaign reached 78 million people (21 per cent of whom were adolescents). In Bangladesh, the international award-winning #RaiseTheBeat4ECM campaign was viewed an estimated 186 million times, and a related education-entertainment drama series has reached an estimated 50 million viewers since its 2018 launch. In Chad, interventions reached almost 43,000 people, and led to 34 communities in the targeted provinces publicly declaring their commitment to end child marriage and FGM.

Partnering with boys and men in gender equality is crucial to ending child marriage. In Mozambique, for example, around 400 boys were trained as agents of change and subsequently shared their knowledge and skills with almost 50,000 boys (aged 10–17 years) through a network of boys’ clubs across 28 districts. In Cambodia, around 1,500 boys (aged 10–19 years) from 137 adolescent clubs were engaged as social agents of change and participated in life skills training. In Sierra Leone, the creation of 60 boys’ clubs to provide recreation and life skills benefited almost 3,400 boys.

Female genital mutilation

In 2019, UNICEF contributed to important successes to eliminate FGM in 21 countries where FGM programmes are being implemented, including 16 countries that participate in the UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme on the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation, and the 5 countries impacted by FGM that are part of the Spotlight Initiative (Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and Uganda). In 2019, UNICEF targeted and empowered around 12,300 communities in 16 countries to declare the abandonment of FGM. With the proportion of girls and women in high-prevalence countries who oppose the harmful practice doubling in the last two decades, UNICEF seeks to enhance their assets, capabilities and agency so that they know, claim and achieve their rights.

UNICEF supports interventions such as building girls’ and women’s agency to claim their rights, advancing gender equality by engaging men and boys, improving community surveillance and response mechanisms following public declarations of FGM abandonment, and empowering and creating opportunities for young people to champion the elimination of FGM in their countries and communities. UNICEF also focuses on reversing trends such as cross-border cutting and the medicalization of FGM.

Several critical breakthroughs were achieved in 2019. The first was the launch of the African Union (AU) Initiative to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation, which will act as a ‘force multiplier’ that enhances and complements local and national efforts to hold governments accountable for meeting their commitment to end FGM. The AU initiative marked a critical step towards reaffirming political commitments and strengthening accountability by systematically monitoring national-level progress in the elimination of FGM. It calls on governments to implement strong legislative frameworks, allocate domestic financial resources, promote the use of evidence and data, ensure the engagement of civil society and community groups in ending FGM, and report through existing AU instruments and platforms. The initiative also launched a continental social marketing campaign adopting UNICEF’s Saleema model, which has proven successful in the Sudan at shifting social and gender norms that perpetuate FGM.

Second, following the first inter-ministerial meeting in 2019 in Mombasa, Kenya, government ministers from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania adopted a declaration and action plan that call for improving regional coordination related to policies and legislation, communications and advocacy, data collection and implementing programmes that specifically target vulnerable communities along international borders. The landmark agreement highlights the importance of national ownership and regional accountability and resulted in a formal commitment to ending FGM as a practice that transcends borders (see Case study 5). Furthermore, the President of Kenya declared an ambitious goal of eliminating FGM in the country by 2022 – eight years ahead of the SDG target.

“I have seen with my own eyes the pain women endure, and I have personally lived through that pain through the birth of my three children … I want to tell everyone that there are no benefits to being cut. Only pain and discomfort.”

— Hawa Affa (35 years), a former circumciser from the Nara ethnic group, Eritrea
Case study 5: East Africa: Landmark collaboration to end cross-border female genital mutilation

A breakthrough to eliminate female genital mutilation (FGM) in East Africa came in 2019 with the convening of an inter-ministerial meeting to end cross-border FGM – the first of its kind – held between Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The meeting discussed ways to increase collaboration between governments and strengthen action to support border communities most vulnerable to cross-border FGM. The outcome of the meeting was a historic declaration and action plan to end cross-border FGM. Critically, the five countries signing collectively account for almost a quarter – an estimated 48.5 million38 – of the girls and women who have undergone FGM globally.

The declaration sets out eight commitments to strengthen regional coordination and cross-border cooperation, such as the development of a costed multisectoral action plan at the national level which integrates cross-border dimensions into the elimination of FGM, including clear outcomes, targets, budget lines and a monitoring framework. Importantly, each country also agreed to develop programmes to address emerging trends in FGM practice such as medicalization, a lowering of the age of cutting, and religious justifications for FGM.

UNICEF will continue to work with governments in the region to ensure they meet their national commitments. This will include implementing strong legislative frameworks, allocating domestic financial resources, promoting the use of evidence and data, improving systems for regular monitoring and reporting, and engaging civil society, communities and local leaders in facilitating human rights-based education sessions.

Bila’ali Ahmed (right) is a member of a community surveillance group to generate community discussions to challenge harmful social norms in Yialu Kebele, Chifra Woreda, Afar region, Ethiopia. Bila’ali struggled during birth: “Even though I had prolonged labor due to FGM, I still thought I would have to have Halima circumcised because of the tradition in my community. But the group was very helpful and I was convinced that it is a harmful practice.”
Transforming social norms to end female genital mutilation

UNICEF and partners worked with 21 countries to change social norms, including through interventions that target and empower communities to explore the benefits of abandoning FGM. Community and religious leaders play a pivotal role in catalysing changes in norms. In 2019, 8.5 million individuals (compared to 7 million in 2018) participated in education, communication discussions and social mobilization platforms to promote the elimination of FGM, supported by UNICEF (see Figure 17). Eliminating FGM requires shifting social norms by addressing inequitable gender norms, discrimination and girls’ and women’s lack of power and control. Working in 16 countries, UNICEF prioritizes understanding the intersection of gender with other inequalities as a way to ensure no one is left behind. Through community-led dialogues and education sessions, community members are given the opportunity to critically reflect on harmful social and gender norms and practices, build their leadership skills and enhance their participation. In around 7,000 communities, almost 52,600 girls benefited from capacity development packages to increase their knowledge about harmful practices, build their leadership skills and enhance their participation.

UNICEF uses a ‘social norms marketing’ approach, which involves adopting private sector marketing tools, techniques and channels and has proven effective in changing social and gender norms that perpetuate FGM. Social norms marketing content often uses an entertainment format, including pop songs, music videos and soap operas, often called edutainment. In 2019, social norms marketing reached almost 12 million social media users and around 10.3 million radio and television viewers.

Traditional and religious leaders are often key decision makers and the custodians of tradition, culture and rights. As community influencers, they can be role models who persuade community members to adopt new norms such as the abandonment of FGM. In 2019, almost 3,500 religious leaders made public statements delinking FGM from religious requirements. The release by UNFPA and UNICEF of the ACT Framework in 2019 represented an important milestone for measuring and tracking changes in social norms related to FGM.75 Developed in partnership with Drexel University’s Dornsife School of Public Health and in consultation with leading global experts, the Framework was validated in Ethiopia and Guinea in 2019. Several assessments were also undertaken to strengthen the evidence base. They include identification of effective strategies for community and youth engagement in eliminating FGM and child marriage in Burkina Faso, research to develop an effective social norms strategy in Senegal and a review of community surveillance approaches and one-on-one strategies for accelerating the abandonment of FGM in the two countries. Additionally, UNICEF regional offices in the Middle East and North Africa, West and Central Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa developed a practical guide to tracking and leveraging social norms in behaviour change programming.

FIGURE 17: Number of individuals participating in education, communication discussions and social mobilization platforms to promote the elimination of female genital mutilation, supported by UNICEF; 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>6.6 million</td>
<td>6.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>6.8 million</td>
<td>7.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>7.5 million</td>
<td>7.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>8.5 million</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GOAL AREA 3 | Every Child is Protected from Violence and Exploitation
UNICEF is increasingly establishing or strengthening post-declaration mechanisms such as community-level surveillance systems, child protection committees and support networks for vulnerable girls. In Nigeria, 135 communities made public declarations of support for the abandonment of FGM, and community-based child protection committees were established to provide ongoing surveillance and a support system to ensure that families and communities follow through on their commitment. In Egypt, more than 3.3 million people were reached through a national door-to-door outreach campaign in 15 governorates, which also led to a spike in calls to the national child helpline seeking related counselling and services (more than 1,500 calls in 2019). In Burkina Faso, community dialogue activities were carried out in around 170 villages in 7 provinces, and just over 1,000 villages made public declarations to end FGM and child marriage. In Uganda, 28 community protection structures in 12 targeted counties with high FGM prevalence provided protection to around 6,350 girls at risk of FGM and reached almost 940,000 people (55 per cent female, 45 per cent male) through community mobilization interventions such as community dialogues, education sessions and advocacy networks.

Establishing or strengthening post-declaration mechanisms that serve as community level surveillance systems, such as community-based child protection committees or community watch groups, are critical for sustaining a commitment to the abandonment of FGM. In around 2,800 communities, systems and strategies for preventing and reporting cases of FGM were developed following public declarations of abandonment of FGM. The number of communities providing community surveillance doubled in 2019 compared to 2018, and almost 212,000 girls were saved from FGM through community surveillance in 2019, compared to around 16,300 girls in 2018.

In Burkina Faso, around 175,700 girls were saved from FGM through community watch groups that identified all girls aged 0–14 at risk of or affected by FGM in a target community. The identification and monitoring of vulnerable girls is carried out by community facilitators called techniciens d’appui aux communautés. The community facilitators manage adolescent clubs that enrol both girls and boys aged 10–19. The clubs provide life skills training and information about harmful practices and VAC through interactive sessions. In 2019, there were around 372,000 participants in the adolescent clubs. The community facilitators also facilitate education sessions and community dialogues, work with religious leaders, and provide parenting education through monthly home visits. The community surveillance model is also being developed in countries such as Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya and the Sudan.

Empowering children and youth as change agents

Youth civic engagement interventions supported by UNICEF provide young people with opportunities to acquire new skills and to learn responsibility and accountability – all while contributing to the elimination of FGM in their communities and protecting future generations at risk. UNICEF works with governments, civil society and youth groups to ensure opportunities for the meaningful participation of youth in decision-making processes. Such participation also forms a foundation for active citizenship, enabling and empowering youth to increasingly participate in, and contribute to, the elimination of FGM in their communities and countries.

In Egypt, UNICEF supported the Government to launch Dawwie (or ‘echoed voice’ in Arabic) – an initiative that seeks to empower adolescent girls through activities to express their aspirations and struggles. The initiative increases girls’ awareness about the negative consequences of harmful practices using digital literacy, self-expression, storytelling, intergenerational dialogue and community theatre. In Eritrea, the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students provided training on civic education and inter-generational dialogue for eliminating FGM to 134 youth representatives (50 per cent girls) from 67 community-based children’s rights committees. In 2019, the Children’s National Assembly of the Gambia (CNAG) was established to promote the meaningful participation of children in decision-making on issues that affect them. The CNAG, which has 105 members (58 girls and 47 boys), drafted a call to action titled The Gambia We Want, advocating for the government to implement legislation banning FGM. It also met with the Vice President of Gambia to discuss the call to action, which was broadcast on national television.

A community-wide approach that includes engaging men and boys as change agents can transform gender relations, social norms and systems that sustain gender inequality and support the elimination of harmful practices such as FGM. UNICEF supports men and boys in facilitating discussions and campaigns around gender, masculinities and FGM to transform social and gender norms. Networks/coalitions of men and boys in 340 communities facilitated discussions about their role in ending FGM – three times as many as in 2018. Men and boys are also being actively engaged in programming, including through a partnership with the Men Engage Alliance networks across 14 countries. In Nigeria, 81 new coalitions, as part of the Men Engage Alliance, were created in 4 states. These networks provided outreach and advocacy to around 14,500 people (96 per cent male) across the community, including at workplaces, markets and places of workshop. In Eritrea, children’s rights committees provided community sensitization and advocacy to end FGM, GBV and other forms of VAC to more than 163,000 people. Around 380 children’s rights committee members became ‘Champions for FGM elimination’, of whom 74 per cent were men or boys.
Ensuring access to prevention, protection and care services

To ensure girls and women at risk of or affected by FGM receive the prevention, protection and care support they need, they must have access to comprehensive (and integrated) services such as health care, education, social protection and the legal sector. UNICEF, together with partners, supported interventions that have enabled close to 1.2 million girls and women from 21 countries to receive prevention and protection services on FGM since 2016 (including over 150,000 in 2019 – a 59 per cent increase on the number reached in 2018) (see Figure 18).

In Nigeria, UNICEF and partners provided social and legal services to around 4,600 girls through outreach in 19 schools in 8 targeted communities and 15 secondary schools in 3 states. In Ethiopia, several schools established mini-media clubs that play a vital role in disseminating FGM messages to the school community. Targeted schools also provided anonymous boxes to encourage students to share information regarding cases of FGM and child marriage. As a result, messages related to harmful practices reached around 5,000 students and school communities.

Evidence also points to the rising prevalence of medicalized FGM. UNICEF and partners support action to reverse this trend, including through the development of national policies and guidelines to prohibit medicalization and by conducting outreach campaigns. In 2019, FGM was mainstreamed in medical and paramedical school curricula in 13 countries. In Kenya, for example, 730 professionals (41 per cent female), including social workers, teachers, midwives, nurses and doctors, received training on counselling skills, the medicalization of FGM, FGM legislation and referral mechanisms. UNICEF also supported the collection of data across 150 primary schools and 112 health-care facilities. In Somalia, UNICEF and partners implemented an outreach campaign and trained 81 midwives as advocates to end FGM who will work with new mothers to discourage them from cutting their newborns.

Developing national action plans and strengthening legal and policy frameworks

UNICEF continued to promote national ownership and accountability in the elimination of FGM by supporting governments to develop costed national action plans and evaluate progress in implementation. In 2019, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea and Senegal developed costed national action plans for the abandonment of FGM, bringing the total number of countries with national action plans on FGM to 109 out of the 17 joint programme countries.

FIGURE 18: Number of girls and women reached with prevention and protection services on female genital mutilation, 2018–2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Numbers reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1,178,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>1,240,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Target and result figures are cumulative.
In Eritrea, the finalization of the integrated five-year costed National Strategic Plan to Ensure Children and Women’s Rights, Abandon Female Genital Mutilation, Underage Marriage and other Harmful Practices (2020–2024) presents a major milestone for the country and a turning point to guide all partners towards eliminating FGM by 2030.

In Ethiopia, the National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (2020–2024) was launched; it applies across all national contexts, including humanitarian situations. These situations can exacerbate risks of child marriage and FGM for girls, reduce access to protective services and have cross-border dimensions. In Nigeria, a consultative validation process took place for the development of a national strategic plan on FGM and a new five-year roadmap (2019–2023) that attached growing importance to address the medicalization of FGM and cross-border dynamics.

Strengthening enforcement

Legislation that criminalizes FGM not only contributes to ending the practice but also provides a framework for a national response. In most countries, despite having legislation prohibiting FGM, enforcement remains weak, or a fear of punishment results in the practice going underground. UNICEF works with governments, civil society and communities to introduce and implement legislation in ways that contribute to social change. This is achieved by ensuring the enactment of laws works side-by-side with community education. In the case of FGM specifically, a single arrest or conviction has far-reaching consequences (including saving girls and women from being cut) and often sets a legal precedent for the practice beyond the community where the arrest is made or conviction obtained.

In Ethiopia, for example, training was provided to around 530 (22 per cent female) law enforcement professionals, including police, prosecutors and judges working at regional and woreda level in the two target regions (a significant increase from 191 professionals trained in 2018) and contributed to an almost threefold increase in the number of convictions compared to 2018 (35 compared to 13). The training of trainers approach resulted in the trained law enforcement professionals reaching more than 12,000 people to improve their legal literacy regarding Ethiopia’s legislation banning FGM. Support was also provided by improving justice coalitions with members from law enforcement, the Attorney General’s office, the Supreme Court and the Bureau of Women, Children and Youth. In Burkina Faso, the introduction of three mobile trial courts in rural and remote locations resulted in 115 arrests and 34 convictions. In Uganda, UNICEF supported community policing involving around 1,100 people in 16 ‘hot spot’ communities where girls and women are vulnerable to FGM. Community policing has become a critical approach in building bridges and relationships between community and law enforcement.

Challenges

Bridging work across the humanitarian–development divide presents a complex working environment to safeguard the rights of children, including protecting girls from the risks of child marriage and FGM. Yet it also brings useful intervention entry-points to support the strengthening of broader national and sub-national child protection systems. These contexts also provide an opportunity to promote gender equality and empowerment of girls and women through long-term support to governments, civil society, religious groups and local communities. UNICEF emphasizes local leadership to ensure community-level systems take responsibility for legislative implementation, provide essential and comprehensive services across education, health, social protection and justice sectors, and support community-wide social norm change.

Data collection continues to be a key challenge for programmes on harmful practices, with many UNICEF programming countries lacking comprehensive national data collection systems to inform programming. UNICEF continues to support the development of sustainable systems-strengthening by integrating FGM and child marriage indicators into national government databases.
Trésor, 30 months, sits on a caregiver’s back at a UNICEF-supported nursery. His mother died of Ebola following the birth of his sister, Victorine, in Mangina, North Kivu province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. All caregivers, including the one carrying Trésor in this photograph, are survivors of Ebola.
Output 3.3: Improving children’s access to justice

Access to justice is a fundamental right, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and critical to achieving of the SDGs, particularly Goal 16. Promoting children’s access to justice is a foundational pillar of the UNICEF Goal Area 3 strategic approach. Strengthening justice systems for children contributes to ending VAC and harmful practices, protecting children in contact with the law, protecting the rights of children without parental care and ensuring legal identity for all, including birth registration, across development, peacebuilding and humanitarian contexts (see Figure 19).

Access to justice for children

UNICEF supports children’s access to justice by strengthening national justice systems to ensure that every child who comes into contact with the law – whether as an alleged offender, victim or witness, or as part of civil or administrative matters – can claim their rights. This includes strengthening diversion and alternatives to detention, improving support for child survivors or witnesses of crimes, and supporting reform of laws and policies in criminal and civil justice systems.

FIGURE 19: Summary of results in improving children’s access to justice, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of areas of work</th>
<th>Children were subject to an alternative to detention and/or diversion scheme in 66 countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<td>4</td>
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</table>

278k children have benefited from access to justice interventions in 65 countries

73k children were subject to an alternative to detention and/or diversion scheme in 66 countries

22 countries with specialist children’s justice systems

+2 countries have free and universal birth registration

+3 countries with policies in line with 2009 Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to justice</th>
<th>Children without parental care</th>
<th>Birth registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Changes are since 2018 unless otherwise specified. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
At a global level, UNICEF focused its efforts in 2019 on reinvigorating its leadership on children's access to justice. UNICEF re-engaged with global rule of law mechanisms. This included notably, the United Nations Global Focal Point on Rule of Law and the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies SDG 16+ (a leading group of 33 United Nations Member States, international organizations, global partnerships, civil society and the private sector), which led to endorsement by UNICEF of the global Call to Action on Justice for Children. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child clarified its recommended minimum age of criminal responsibility as 14 years, providing further advocacy leverage for UNICEF to redouble its support to countries to meet international standards. Importantly, the findings of the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty were submitted to the United Nations General Assembly in 2019. The findings and subsequent recommendations provide new opportunities to leverage increased action to end the deprivation of liberty of children. Further, to prevent and end childhood statelessness, UNICEF continued its strong partnership with UNHCR in the Coalition on Every Child’s Right to a Nationality (see box in ‘Improving birth registration’).

Programmatically, 128 countries reported progress on implementing a range of interventions to improve children’s access to justice, reaching around 278,000 children (data from 65 countries) – a marked (44 per cent) increase over previous years. There are 22 UNICEF-supported countries with comprehensive specialized justice systems for children in place (see Figure 19). Countries are making steady progress to strengthen specific elements of access to justice systems for children, including improving the capacity of justice professionals and service standards. The number of justice professionals who are certified to support child offenders continued to rise as a result of advancing system development, increasing from 44 per cent in 2018 to 51 percent in 2019. The number of justice professionals certified to support child victims increased from 59 per cent in 2018 to 72 per cent in 2019 (see Figure 20).

FIGURE 20: Progress on strengthening justice systems for children, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Indicators</th>
<th>Reporting countries: 65</th>
<th>Reporting countries: 66</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of girls and boys in contact with justice and administrative bodies who benefited from interventions to improve children's access to justice</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 target: 48% (under review)</td>
<td>2021 target: New indicator / data collection underway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output Indicators</th>
<th>Reporting countries: 42</th>
<th>Reporting countries: 44</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of justice professionals certified in and dealing with child victims</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 milestone: 68%</td>
<td>2019 milestone: 57%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strengthening the capacity of justice systems to serve children

UNICEF supported 66 countries to strengthen their national justice systems, including the security and social welfare sectors, particularly in the Middle East and South Asia. Over 8,000 justice actors were trained on child-friendly and gender-sensitive procedures. Around 20 countries institutionalized training on justice for children in national training institutes. UNICEF also supported over 20 national statistical offices to collect and use accurate data. These include, for example, data on child offending in Armenia, the Gambia and Malawi, and on crimes against children in Argentina, Kyrgyzstan and North Macedonia. In the Gambia, for example, a new and improved SMS reporting system through Rapid Pro was launched in all police stations across the country, providing monthly reports via SMS on VAC, including GBV and children in conflict with the law.

UNICEF also supported the development of guidelines, protocols and SOPs, including, for example, a child-friendly policing textbook in Afghanistan, guidelines on child-friendly and gender-sensitive prosecution in Bhutan and an inter-agency police protocol in Nigeria. New children’s courts were established or expanded in at least 10 countries, with national scale-up under way in the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. Several other countries adapted courts to be more child- and gender-sensitive (as in the case of Azerbaijan, Jordan and Zimbabwe), while others implemented innovative service delivery options. These include, for instance, a sexual offences court established in Guyana, mobile courts operationalized in Burundi and a specialized treatment service for adolescent offenders with mental health and substance abuse issues set up in Serbia.

Alternatives to detention and diversion schemes for children in contact with the law

A number of countries are increasingly putting in place non-custodial response mechanisms, particularly diversion schemes for children in conflict with the law. In 2019, 55 countries, particularly in the Middle East, West and East Africa and Latin American and the Caribbean, prioritized
diversion and alternatives to detention for children. For example, in Iraq, the use of diversion and alternatives to detention resulted in 74 per cent of children in conflict with the law being diverted or given alternatives to detention, representing a 45 per cent reduction against UNICEF Iraq’s baseline target. In Uruguay, the number of children serving non-custodial sentences has risen considerably since 2016 (see Case study 6). Countries including Jamaica and Gabon improved the ability of justice professionals such as judges, police officers, prosecutors and social workers to understand and use diversion as a first choice and use alternative measures other than detention. Other countries focused on supporting specialized personnel to be in place at courts and in the community. For example, in Uganda, the placement of Justice for Children Coordinators in courts contributed to the diversion of 76 per cent of eligible cases in 2019. UNICEF also conducted and supported the regular monitoring of children in detention, including in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Nepal and Uruguay. Further, UNICEF directly advocated for the release of children detained on the basis of national security, including, for example, around 800 adolescents in Somalia (35 per cent girls, 65 per cent boys) and around 150 boys in Mali.

Improving support for child survivors and witnesses of crime

UNICEF worked across all regions to improve support for child survivors and witnesses of crime, including as part of the Spotlight Initiative in six countries. UNICEF supported the delivery of direct child-friendly and gender-sensitive support. Several countries, including Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, strengthened the capacity of justice professionals, including police officers, to interact with girls and boys through gender-sensitive and child-friendly skills training. In Ecuador, a protocol to interview child survivors of sexual violence in judicial procedures was institutionalized. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 23 ‘victim support providers’ underwent mentoring and coaching on conducting child-friendly and gender-sensitive interviewing of children and psychosocial counselling of children and their parents. In Uzbekistan, 31 child-friendly interview rooms for survivors and witnesses across pre-trial facilities were established, and the first ever child-friendly interview room was established in the Supreme Court. Institutional referral processes, including GBV SOP and GBV case management training, were advanced in Angola, the Caribbean, Eswatini and Uganda.

Case study 6: Uruguay: What does it take to reduce the detention of children?

UNICEF and the Government of Uruguay launched a strategy to reduce detention and improve the system of non-custodial sanctions for adolescents who break the law. Three years on, the number of adolescents detained has decreased remarkably.

To initiate the strategy, UNICEF commissioned a nationwide study on public perceptions of the effectiveness of non-custodial sanctions. These findings were presented at an inter-institutional round table and informed the design of the Modelo de intervención para sanciones no privativas de libertad para adolescentes en Uruguay (Intervention Model for Non-Custodial Sanctions for Adolescents in Uruguay).

UNICEF plays a key role in supporting implementation of the intervention model and coordinates the monitoring bodies and institutions involved. UNICEF partnered with the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture to establish a qualified team to monitor conditions of children and adolescents in detention centres and residential care institutions. This national mechanism is an independent body established following Uruguay’s ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. Following UNICEF support and advocacy, the mechanism has also incorporated the monitoring of mental health institutions and police stations into its work. The monitoring mechanism has proved useful to alert the government to address unnecessary detention of children.

Parallel actions to strengthen the justice system for children are also continuing, including reforming the Children’s Code to include new child justice measures, such as preventing re-victimization and guaranteeing support for victims. Additionally, UNICEF and partners trained lawyers to better represent children in judicial proceedings and supported the generation of evidence on the experience of children survivors of violence accessing justice.

As a result of these joint actions, the reduction in the use of detention and the commensurate increase in the use of non-custodial sentencing have been considerable. Between August 2016 and August 2019, the proportion of children sentenced to detention decreased from 67 per cent to 46 per cent, and the proportion serving a non-custodial sentence increased from 33 per cent to 54 per cent.
Strengthening legislative and policy frameworks

UNICEF supported over 60 countries, notably in the East Asia and Pacific and the Europe and Central Asia regions, to bring legislative and policy frameworks in line with international children’s rights norms and standards. Major pieces of legislation on children’s rights and access to justice were passed in Azerbaijan, Gabon, Maldives and the Philippines. Azerbaijan, Gabon and Viet Nam ratified the Hague Conventions on adoption, abduction and family law.

Around 30 countries focused on legislative and policy reform specific to children’s access to justice. Increasingly UNICEF provides technical support on civil law issues, including advising on family law, as in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Guinea-Bissau, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, and Zimbabwe, and on gender discrimination in nationality laws in Kiribati. Children’s access to justice was mainstreamed in national law and justice system reforms in India, Kazakhstan, Maldives, North Macedonia and the Sudan. Further, child justice reform was integrated into the SDG and youth development work agenda of the East Caribbean Development Partner Group.

Legal empowerment of children

UNICEF and partners continued their long-term promotion and support of strengthening children’s access to legal aid by supporting laws, policies and services in at least 40 countries. UNICEF and UNDP supported the drafting of a legal aid bill in Benin aimed at expanding coverage for children, and a law on the protection of children’s rights in Afghanistan that mandates free legal aid to all children in conflict with the law. In East and Central Asia, UNICEF developed child-friendly legal aid guidelines that were rolled out across the region, and provided technical support to Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Montenegro to implement legal aid policies. Legal aid services were supported in 11 countries, reaching approximately 29,300 children through local partners, including NGOs, bar associations and lawyers. In Mozambique, legal aid awareness messaging reached more than 1.7 million people. In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, a community-based legal aid service for women and children was expanded to a further two provinces, providing legal aid to around 500 girls and 430 boys.

Challenges

Countries are increasingly addressing some of the longer-standing challenges the sector faces through increased use of diversion, and advocacy to change policies and laws. However, emerging issues bring new challenges. The denial of children’s right to access to justice in matters of national security/counter-terrorism and irregular migration, and the detention of children while exercising their civil and political rights poses significant risks. A further emerging need is concerns to children’s legal empowerment, including increasing children’s awareness of and information on legal rights, improving legal representation and services, and strengthening alternative mechanisms for children to seek justice and claim their rights. UNICEF continues to extend its legal and justice capacity and is more explicitly using and explaining the nexus between the international humanitarian and human rights legal frameworks. UNICEF will continue to invest in re-engaging in global justice partnerships and repositioning the organization to place children at the heart of the United Nations rule of law agenda.

Improving birth registration

The right of a child to be registered and have a legal identity is enshrined in Articles 7 and 8 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and SDG 16.9. UNICEF supports governments to close the birth registration and legal identity gap and increase the availability of data derived from civil registration systems.

In support of national progress, UNICEF recommends a number of specific actions to fulfil the promise of birth registration for every child. These include linking civil registration to other systems, including identity management, health, social protection and education, as entry-points for identifying and registering children; undertaking legal and policy framework reviews and establishing legislation and policies that provide for free and universal registration; investing in safe and innovative technology to facilitate birth registration and obtain timely, accurate and permanent records; and engaging communities to demand registration for every child and make them understand how and why birth registration benefits their families. At a global level, UNICEF provides leadership, together with UNDESA and UNDP as part of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda.

In 2019, UNICEF supported 80 countries – with over half (51 per cent) located in Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa – to improve birth registration and strengthen their civil registration and vital statistics systems (CRVS) (see Figure 21).
The year 2019 saw a marked improvement in the number of children reached by birth registration and CRVS services compared to the previous year (see Figure 22). Several countries, including Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Nigeria, Pakistan and the United Republic of Tanzania, made significant progress. Notably, Nigeria and Bangladesh accounted for 50 per cent of total registration numbers in 2019 (8 million and 3.4 million, respectively). An increasing number of countries are also reporting on the number of people being issued legal identity documents other than a birth certificate, rising from 7 countries in 2018 to 13 in 2019. This has resulted in UNICEF recording a sevenfold increase in the number of people receiving such documents (2.6 million in 2019). Improvements are attributable, in part, to the growing number of countries improving the integration (or ‘interoperability’) of civil registration and identity management systems, such as, for example, Zambia (see Case study 7).
Strengthening cross-sectoral linkages to improve birth registration

Linking civil registration to other systems – such as identity management, health, social protection and education – increases the chances of unregistered children being identified and registered. Countries reporting advancements in 2019 include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Iraq and Nigeria – with most pronounced progress focused on strengthening (or ‘twinning’) registration services with health services. For example, a new government regulation in Afghanistan making birth registration mandatory for all children receiving immunization in health-care facilities (i.e., 80 per cent of all children) resulted in almost 554,000 children (48 per cent girls, 52 per cent boys) being registered – a 30 per cent increase compared to 2018. In Liberia, to extend the reach of services, 14 additional birth registration centres were established in hospitals and district offices in 4 rural counties, resulting in around 112,000 birth registrations, a four-fold increase compared to 2018. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the government capitalized on the 81.5 per cent rate of delivery in healthcare facilities to strengthen links with registration services, resulting in 1.3 million births being registered – a 20 per cent increase from 2018.

Accelerating the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda

To ensure coordinated interventions at global, regional and country levels, the UN Legal Identity Agenda (UN LIA) was established with UNICEF as co-chair of the Task Force together with UNDESA and UNDP. The Task Force, comprising 14 United Nations agencies and the World Bank ID4D programme, represents an unprecedented level of United Nations collaboration in this critical area of work. The aim of the UN LIA is to accelerate progress towards achieving SDG 16.9 – legal identity for all, including birth registration – through a coherent approach across the United Nations Development System and the World Bank.

In 2019, the UN LIA and the World Bank achieved consensus on ‘one approach’ to reaching legal identity for all and agreed on an operational definition of legal identity, with a clear focus on strengthening the civil registration system as a foundation. The UN LIA was launched at the fifth Conference of African Ministers’ Responsible for Civil Registration. Thirteen priority countries were selected for acceleration of the LIA in Africa. Collectively, these countries account for around 60 million (slightly more than one in three) of all unregistered children under age 5 worldwide. In December 2019, the first country mission to Kenya took place to assess the linkage between CRVS and identity management, the legal and policy frameworks and service delivery systems.

**FIGURE 22: Number of births notified, registered and birth certificates received through UNICEF support, 2019**

- Nearly 12 million birth notifications were received in 42 countries, representing a 72% increase.
- Almost 22 million births were registered in 47 countries, representing a 35% increase.
- Over 19 million birth certificates were received in 47 countries, representing a 46% increase.
Case study 7: Zambia: Birth registration reforms

Birth registration is a key to ensuring every child has legal status to claim his or her rights and access to services. For children, a birth certificate provides proof of age needed to, for example, prevent child labour, child marriage, underage recruitment into the armed forces and prosecution as an adult.

At 14 per cent, Zambia has one of the lowest birth registration rates in sub-Saharan Africa. UNICEF has been supporting and working with the Ministry of Home Affairs and other stakeholders to improve the national civil registration system. Birth registration is a legal requirement in the country under the Births and Deaths Registration Act (1973), yet implementation is weak, mainly because of its centralized provisions (only the Registrar-General can issue and manually sign a birth certificate), the lack of linkages with the national identity management system and the absence of services at the community level. Further, the demand for birth registration is low, as people can obtain a national identity card at 16 years of age without first obtaining a birth certificate.

For the past 10 years, UNICEF has been working with the government to rectify this situation. In 2016, a legal amendment allowed district and provincial civil registrars to issue and sign birth certificates. After a decade-long legal reform process, Zambia reached a critical milestone in 2019. The new system now provides a unique identifier number to a person at the point of birth registration to be used on all subsequent registrations – thus making birth registration the foundation of an integrated birth-to-death system. In December 2019, the National Registration Act was amended to incorporate this provision. Moreover, the identity management system now has an improved monitoring and reporting system to enable data to be fed from the district level and allow the national office to access, compile and disaggregate data in real time.

Ireen Mwiinga is registering her son Clinton Mushimba (10 months) at the Mayawa Urban Health Centre, Kodoma, Zambia. UNICEF is supporting a large-scale birth registration drive in Zambia, where mothers are being encouraged to register their babies for birth certificates at their local health clinics during routine check-ups.
Scaling up through innovation

UNICEF works to apply innovative solutions to scale up birth registration services, including the use of technology and extending mobile services to increase access to and strengthen the quality of services, particularly in hard-to-reach locations. Significant progress has been seen in Benin, Cameroon, India, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda. In Cameroon, RapidPro – an innovative real-time data collection and monitoring tool using mobile phones – was launched, resulting in twice as many births registered in 2019 as in 2018. Innovative steps at state level in India saw the linkage of a unique ID number to birth registration, which has led to increasing demand for birth registration in rural communities. Rwanda has transformed its civil registration system by introducing a digital birth registration system with immediate connectivity to the civil registrar.

Engaging communities and increasing demand for birth registration

To address low demand for birth registration, UNICEF supported interventions aimed at creating awareness at community level to build greater understanding of how and why birth registration benefits children. Countries supporting demand creation initiatives in 2019 include Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, Tonga and Zimbabwe. In Burkina Faso, a mix of community engagement strategies at community level, coupled with a C4D media campaign, reached around 3.1 million people (33 per cent women) in 7 regions. In Mozambique, a multi-layered C4D campaign on free birth registration benefited from the engagement and messaging push of religious and community leaders, theatre groups and national media. This resulted in an estimated 5 million people being reached, and a subsequent increase recorded in the number of newborns being registered for free.

Strengthening legislative and policy frameworks

Although birth registration is a legal requirement in 75 out of 80 UNICEF-supported countries, legal barriers remain. Action to strengthen legislative and policy frameworks includes, for example, the work of UNICEF Iraq to assess legal barriers facing internally displaced persons to inform the country’s legal framework review process. In the Niger, the government revised the civil registration law to provide for universal and free birth registration by removing fees. In Myanmar, UNICEF supported the development of a new law on children’s rights that establishes free, universal and non-discriminatory birth registration for all children born in the country. In Namibia, UNICEF advocacy contributed to the government agreeing to a new bill to integrate civil registration and identity management.

Challenges

Functioning civil registration systems are the main way to achieve a legal identity for all. Civil registration systems that are operating effectively compile vital statistics that are used to compare the estimated total number of births in a country with the absolute number of registered births during a given period. However, the systematic recording of births in many countries remains a challenge, highlighting the continued need to improve and strengthen civil registration and vital statistics. While data coverage has improved over time, this has largely been the result of investment in collecting data on birth registration in low- and middle-income countries through household surveys. In fact, in the absence of reliable administrative records, household surveys have become a key source of data to monitor levels and trends in birth registration.85
Additionally, legal barriers and costs remain key challenges to establishing free and universal birth registration services within a civil registration system. In some countries, although a law provides for free birth registration, in practice many registration centres continue to charge for the service. Mitigating these issues requires a country to undertake legal and policy framework reviews to remove such barriers. Further, in many countries, civil registration and identity management systems are not integrated. Citizens can often obtain a national identity without first getting a birth certificate, which can undermine efforts to strengthen civil registration systems and set up comprehensive (universal) birth registration services. UNICEF works to support countries to integrate these systems and make birth registration a prerequisite for obtaining a national ID. Leaving children out through a lack of access to services, especially in rural locations, also remains a concern, and is often associated with travel impediments (and cost) to reach civil registration offices, alongside a lack of demand for services. UNICEF continues to invest in prioritizing support to governments to decentralize services, strengthen linkages with decentralized services in other sectors, identify innovative solutions and strengthen community engagement initiatives.

Children without parental care

In 2019, UNICEF supported 106 countries across all regions to drive forward their national care reform agenda to prevent the separation of children from families, reduce the number of children living in institutions and promote family-based alternative care options in the community (see Figure 23).

Importantly, 30 countries made gains in instituting comprehensive policies and programmes in line with the 2009 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.86 –

“To address the problem of family separation and protection of the rights of children without parental care, what we need is leadership at the highest level.”
— Peter Kamau Muthui, a young care leaver and Director, Child in Family Focus, Kenya

FIGURE 23: Progress on strengthening alternative care systems for children, 2017-2019
Sixty-eight countries (64 per cent of all reporting countries) report the availability of services to prevent unnecessary family separation, pointing to moderate but steady progress, compared to the 58 reporting countries in 2018. Countries reporting for the first time in 2019 include, among others, Cambodia, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Egypt, Mexico, Sierra Leone and Zambia. As part of Cambodia’s National Action Plan for Improving Childcare, the number of residential care institutions at the end of 2019 had decreased by 36 per cent from 2015 levels, and around 1,300 children (38 per cent of children living in residential care institutions) were reintegrated into family and community-based care (surpassing the annual 30 per cent target). Additionally, at least 11 countries launched deinstitutionalization programmes. In Romania, for example, UNICEF successfully advocated to prohibit the institutionalization of children under the age of seven. In Chile, 2 of the country’s 11 largest institutions closed in 2019. In Mozambique, an ongoing deinstitutionalization process resulted in 5 centres closing, enabling the reintegration of almost 1,200 children with their families, and almost 300 children with foster families – a 39 per cent increase from the number of children reintegrated in 2018.

Eighty-nine countries (84 per cent of all reporting countries) reported progress on strengthening alternative care options such as family-based care (foster care, kinship care), residential care and supervised independent living arrangements. In Burundi, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Social Affairs to train a network of 245 voluntary foster families that supported around 2,700 children (48 per cent girls, 52 per cent boys) in 11 provinces. To increase coverage, UNICEF advocated for the use of community-based child protection structures to increase the number of foster families nationwide. So far around 1,100 members of community solidarity groups have been identified as voluntary foster families and are currently receiving training through the Ministry of Social Affairs and partner NGOs. UNICEF Burundi is also working with the International Rescue Committee and the Ministry of Social Affairs to develop a national alternative care policy.

UNICEF is increasingly engaging with countries to strengthen review mechanisms, as evidenced by the number of countries reporting on this in 2019 (74 countries) compared to 2018 (64 countries). At least 47 countries report a periodic review mechanism in place to ensure that the needs of children living in alternative care continue to be met and sustainable solutions are sought, an increase of 8 countries compared to those reporting in 2018. In Sri Lanka, for example, the government allocated funding to

Landmark United Nations General Assembly Resolution focusing specifically on children without parental care

In December 2019, the United Nations General Assembly, for the first time, unanimously adopted a Resolution on the Rights of the Child dedicated to the issue of children without parental care and created an unprecedented opportunity to advance the care reform agenda globally, including for children with disabilities.

In the build-up to its adoption, UNICEF engaged in extensive advocacy with Member States, including the co-sponsors of the Resolution, to ensure that its text reflected the realities on the ground, calling for the ending of institutionalization, greater investment in families to prevent unnecessary separation of children, and the promotion of quality family-based alternative care. UNICEF contributed to the inclusion of ground-breaking aspects of the Resolution by preparing the Secretary-General’s Report on the Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, conducting targeted advocacy with Member States and galvanizing the collective efforts of an unprecedented coalition of over 250 organizations to agree on the key recommendations.

The key recommendations include, *inter alia*, recognizing and prioritizing the role of families; supporting families and preventing unnecessary separation of children from their families; protecting children without parental care and ensuring high quality, appropriate alternative care; recognizing the harm of institutional care for children and preventing institutionalization; strengthening child welfare and protection systems and services by assuring adequate financial and human resources; improving data collection and regular reporting; and guaranteeing the full participation of children without parental or family care. In addition to the language adopted in the Resolution, Member States reaffirmed key international human and children’s rights documents such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.
conduct individual assessments to develop care plans for each child residing in institutional care. Further, in recent years, there have been marked improvements in the number of countries reporting inspection and monitoring systems in place for alternative care providers and facilities; rising from 38 countries reporting in 2017 to 56 in 2019. In Argentina, for example, a Public Foster Care Monitoring Programme (Programa Provincial de Monitoreo de Hogares) was developed in the province of Entre Ríos to provide support to the provincial children’s protection agency to strengthen monitoring skills in frontline work.

Challenges
Fragmented efforts that lack whole-of-government approaches, commitment and leadership by national governments continue to result in poor investments in care reform, particularly prevention measures. Gatekeeping as a critical element is often overlooked, or not strengthened as a core function within the care/child protection system. Services are also often under-resourced or there is a lack of a qualified social service workforce to support parenting and effective case management and coordination. The lack of coordination, regulation, oversight and monitoring of alternative care provision creates barriers to comprehensive care reform. Further, limited knowledge among government officials, decision makers and the public about the harm to children of institutional care and unnecessary separation from families greatly challenges care reform efforts.

Public funding for care reform remains inadequate, including for data collection to assess accurate numbers of children living in all types of alternative care. Further, ‘voluntourism’, at least in some cases, can lead to the active recruitment of children into residential facilities. Private funding, particularly from individual donors or faith-based organizations, can also be directed to institutional care programmes rather than to families, family-based care alternatives or other care reform initiatives.

Mohamed Kone and Eric Nissa, both 18, are working as mechanics, in San Pedro, in the Southwest of Côte d’Ivoire. They became friends in a centre supported by UNICEF, which aims to reintegrate vulnerable teenagers and young adults into community life and provide vocational training.
Mainstreaming programming for children with disabilities: Country highlights, 2019

Worldwide, it is estimated that one in every 10 children has a disability – and the proportion is even higher in areas with armed conflict and/or disasters. Children and adolescents with disabilities are one of the most marginalized and excluded groups in society, experiencing widespread violations of their rights. Negative attitudes, stereotypes, stigma, violence, abuse, isolation, as well as lack of adequate policies and legislation, and educational and economic opportunities are experienced daily. Protecting the rights of children with disabilities has been an integral part of the UNICEF mandate since the advent of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In 2019, Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action were launched. As the first of their kind, the timely Guidelines coincided with an increasing momentum on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

Across Goal Area 3 areas of work, UNICEF supports interventions across regions to mainstream programming to support children with disabilities.

**Syria:** Around 12,000 children benefited from individualized care plans and were referred to specialized services; 7,230 children (39 per cent girls) with disabilities received social protection (cash assistance) support.

**Turkey:** A scoring system to allow social workers to prioritize cases and a messaging system to provide relevant information to families are now operational. Around 2,800 children with disabilities (34 per cent girls) benefited from multidisciplinary services in safe spaces.

**Bhutan:** UNICEF supported provision of the Special Educational Needs (SEN) programme in two additional schools; at least one SEN programme is now available in 16 out of 20 districts. The implementation of a C4D strategy and an action plan to address knowledge gaps and social norms around disability is planned for 2020.

**Paraguay:** Families with children with disabilities were trained in positive parenting practices and stimulation as part of the communication strategy ‘Toys for Lifelong Learning’. Around 175 parents and caregivers, 120 local community leaders and 32 Early Care Services educators attended workshops and training.

**Zambia:** UNICEF supported the availability of birth registration information in Braille: 200 birth registration booklets and 200 copies of Frequently Asked Questions on birth registration were printed and distributed to all 10 provinces.

**Burkina Faso:** The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa was signed by the government following UNICEF advocacy, reinforcing the commitment to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, especially children.

**Myanmar:** UNICEF supported the training of trainers for more than 180 participants in three pilot regions to improve coordinated approaches for birth registration and certification process or persons with disabilities, especially children.
Strengthening data and evidence on child protection

As sole data custodian for 7 SDG indicators and joint custodian for a further 10, UNICEF continues to support efforts to improve the availability and quality of child protection data and evidence. Efforts include mainstreaming data on children and adolescents into national systems and plans, developing universal indicators and measurement tools, and supporting national capacities to monitor and use SDG indicators.

In 2019, UNICEF supported 125 countries to improve the availability and quality of data on VAC – an increase of 9 per cent from 2018. This included developing guidance, standards, tools and resources, alongside building national capacity. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, UNICEF supported the development of an early warning and humanitarian surveillance system that was extended from 12 to 17 provinces in 2019, and in Kenya, routine reporting of child protection data is now undertaken by 39 counties – covering 83 per cent of the country. Increasingly, countries are strengthening national information systems to collect disaggregated child protection data. In Bulgaria, for example, the Automated Information System for Prevention of Child Crime and Child Protection became fully operational nationwide in 2019 (see also ‘Strengthening information management systems’).

To strengthen data related to child protection, particularly in the context of SDG target 16.2, UNICEF continued to chair the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Violence against Children (IAEG-VAC), which aims to improve the measurement of data related to VAC. Key activities in 2019 included work to: refine guidelines on the production of data on VAC; develop a statistical classification/codebook (and operational definition of VAC); and draft a diagnostic toolkit to strengthen administrative data on VAC. In 2019, an IAEG-VAC sub-working group was established to identify possible countries to test the implementation of the toolkit. UNICEF also supported Jordan, Montenegro, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay to conduct reviews of administrative data on justice for children, including children’s involvement in the justice system as offenders, victims and witnesses.

At the country level, UNICEF strengthens and endorses data collection tools that can produce internationally comparable data by providing technical and/or financial assistance to countries implementing national surveys covering child protection issues. In 2019, UNICEF supported the implementation of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) in 33 countries. Four VAC surveys were completed in Botswana, El Salvador, Honduras and Zimbabwe. Importantly, in El Salvador, the survey provided, for the first time, national data on the prevalence, nature and consequences of sexual violence against children and mental, emotional and physical health (see also ‘Output 3.1’).

Protocol to collect data on children in residential care

In 2019, UNICEF and partners developed a methodology and accompanying tools to conduct a census and mapping of all residential care facilities in a country; enumerate children living in these facilities, including children with disabilities, who are known to constitute a significant proportion of the population of children in residential care; and collect data on selected measures of well-being for a representative sample of those children. The standard protocol document outlines the recommended steps for conducting this type of data collection (in 2 phases) and is accompanied by 23 annexes and 12 data collection tools and questionnaires. Field-testing of the methodology was initiated in Ghana in 2019.
Voluntary national reviews are a critical tool for monitoring national progress towards the SDGs, including data improvements. In 2019, over 83 per cent of countries participated in the review process. UNICEF support to these efforts included the development of a national indicators framework in Myanmar and the development of a national sustainable development indicators list of 55 child-focused SDG indicators in Viet Nam. Additionally, several voluntary national reviews emphasized the establishment of a juvenile judicial system – including in Eswatini, Guyana, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Turkmenistan – and several others highlighted commitments to accelerate the implementation of a national agenda to end VAC.

To strengthen evidence-based policy and planning, UNICEF, together with partners, produced at least 177 knowledge products across the spectrum of child protection issues at global, regional and country levels (see Figure 24). Around 33 per cent of all products were produced at the headquarters level, with 18 per cent produced in the West and Central Africa region, 13 per cent in Eastern and Southern Africa, 11 per cent in South Asia, 9 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean, 9 per cent in East and Central Asia, 3 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa and 3 per cent in East Asia and the Pacific (see Annex 2 for an illustrative list of knowledge products produced). Key global evidence-driven publications released in 2019 included the release of a major global report on birth registration, *Birth Registration for Every Child by 2030: Are we on track?*; country profiles on child marriage, including progress in Ethiopia, India, Latin America and the Caribbean; and a global overview of child marriage among boys.

*Child protection cross-cutting themes include, among others, children with disabilities, human rights, innovation and systems-strengthening
In 2019, UNICEF began the process of developing a new child protection strategy with a forward-looking vision for the next 10 years, underpinned by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and aligned with the child protection-related SDGs (5, 8, 16) of Agenda 2030. Findings from several evaluations of key Goal Area 3 result areas that were undertaken in 2019 are proving invaluable to inform this process (see Figure 25). The findings from these independent evaluations provided important data to identity strengths and gaps in Goal Area 3 strategic and programme approach and are informing the development of the planned Child Protection Strategy, 2020–2030.

To strengthen planning, monitoring and evaluation practices and document good practices and lessons learned, UNICEF developed an online Results-Based Management (RBM) training package, Child Protection RBM Resource Pack – How to Plan, Monitor and Evaluate Child Protection Programmes, for UNICEF staff worldwide. UNICEF also developed an online Child Protection Programme Strategy Note Development Tool for all UNICEF staff to improve the quality of child protection programme planning, in line with the most up-to-date child protection guidelines, standards and programme guidance. This Tool also supports countries to improve rights-based approaches to programme development, using the most recently available data and evidence.

**FIGURE 25: Corporate evaluations summarized by Goal Area 3 output area, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Output 3.1 / Cross-cutting</td>
<td>Evaluability Assessment of Child Protection in Humanitarian Action</td>
<td>Evaluability Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 3.2</td>
<td>UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage</td>
<td>Joint Evaluation (with UNFPA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 3.2</td>
<td>Joint Evaluation of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change</td>
<td>Joint Evaluation (with UNFPA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Highlights from the Office of Research – Innocenti, 2019**

The UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti plays a critical role in convening partners, identifying evidence gaps, and developing guidance to strengthen the quality of evidence and ensure its subsequent translation into programming action.

Selected highlights in 2019

**Research on the vulnerability of children on the move in the Horn of Africa:** UNICEF Innocenti, together with UNICEF country offices in the region, embarked on a series of studies on children’s pathways and experiences of migration in the Horn of Africa. This research aims to better understand why children move and what risks and harms they face. The report *No Mother Wants Her Child to Migrate* was published in 2019 as part of a larger study that draws on interviews conducted in Somalia with children on the move and their families. The report looks at the systems designed to protect children – whether they reach intended beneficiaries and whether systems can sufficiently respond to the threats faced by children on the move. Insights from this research inspired Somalia’s University of Hargeisa’s School of Social Work to initiate its first research programme.

**Global consultation on the challenges and complexities of addressing child sexual abuse and exploitation:** In September 2019, UNICEF Innocenti convened a major global meeting on the emerging challenges and new complexities in the field of child sexual abuse and exploitation, as part of a series of consultations to inform the United Nations Special Rapporteur’s final report to the Human Rights Council in 2020.

**Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum 2019:** UNICEF Innocenti had a solid presence at the SVRI Forum 2019, by providing opening remarks, presenting findings of the Evidence Gap Map on Violence against Children, chairing sessions and leading side meetings to advance evidence-driven solutions to end violence.
Challenges

Despite progress, many gaps in data (not least around the disaggregation of data) and evidence remain. There is a severe lack of nationally representative data on certain child protection issues, significantly hindering the monitoring of the SDGs, in particular SDG 16.2. Furthermore, there remains a lack of high quality disaggregated data and institutional planning capacity, particularly at decentralized levels. The SDGs recognize the critical importance of disaggregated data in identifying those left behind. Specifically, data gaps are around children with disabilities, migrant or indigenous children, trafficked children, children who have been sexually abused, children without parental care and children in conflict with the law. Weak data management systems result in insufficient reliability of data to support the identification of children and young people in need of support and those being assisted by child protection services. As such, increased investment in data collection and analysis on all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices is necessary to fill information gaps and improve the evidence base for informed policymaking, planning and programming.

Maria, 17, living with cerebral palsy, is an advocate for other adolescents with disabilities in Bulgaria. Children and adolescents with disabilities are one of the most marginalized and excluded groups in society. UNICEF works across contexts to advocate for the rights of children with disabilities.
High-level priorities

Maksim, 3, attends kindergarten in Novotoshkivske, Ukraine. In 2019, UNICEF-supported child protection programmes reached more than 45,000 girls and boys and their caregivers with protection services, including psychosocial support. In Ukraine, UNICEF continues to advance the End Violence Against Children agenda by promoting new programmes aiming to prevent and address violence against children in all settings.
The year 2020 marks the seventy-fourth anniversary of UNICEF – normally a time to celebrate all the progress made in advancing the rights of children, including in the area of protection. Instead, the world is grappling with one of the worst pandemics ever known, which has the potential to undo what years of investment in child protection systems have achieved.

The devastating socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 will have severe and lasting consequences for children and women, including their care, protection and well-being. Millions of children who are separated from parents or caregivers face acute protection risks that will be exacerbated by the current crisis. They include the most vulnerable groups such as refugee and migrant children, children in acute poverty, especially those living in urban slums, those in residential care or in need of alternative care arrangements, particularly children with disabilities, and those in detention.

Moreover, the impact on the household will be great. As millions of parents and caregivers lose their sources of income due to the economic fallout of COVID-19, children are being subjected to immediate and rapidly increasing levels of poverty and associated stress. This will influence how families and caregivers make decisions and the type of coping strategies they use and investments they make. The home is already the primary setting for most forms of physical and emotional abuse of children. Extended quarantine and other physical distancing measures will exacerbate VAC and GBV and increase child sexual exploitation, child labour, child marriage, migration and trafficking. Further, with the majority of the world’s student population affected by school closures, digital solutions are being deployed now more than ever. While bringing huge learning continuity for many, digital access may also increase children’s exposure to online risks, particularly at younger ages.

At the macro level, the economic shock is anticipated to be significant, far-reaching and long-lasting. This will lead to reduced fiscal space for child protection services and inevitably place a huge investment strain on the public sector. Frontline social services are likely to be the first and hardest hit by reduced public sector investment, which will stifle social service workforce capacity and the adequate delivery and reach of quality protection and response services. Children and women who are already in need of protection services will find themselves at even greater risk as social services are disrupted or suspended entirely. Moreover, children living in humanitarian contexts will now find themselves in a double crisis, with already fragile and depleted services unable to respond to the global pandemic.

As we move into the new Decade of Action, and in light of the devastating impact of COVID-19, meeting the ambition of the Agenda 2030 will now require a significant acceleration to scale up the quality and coverage of responses to achieve true impact and sustainability of results for children. The year 2019 ended at the mid-point of the cycle of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, enabling the organization to undertake a mid-term review to evaluate the key strategies, risks and assumptions across the three result areas of Goal Area 3, with the aim to achieve Strategic Plan targets and, more broadly, address advances in the context of the SDGs.

Evidence from 2019 evaluations has necessitated some minor adjustments to the Goal Area 3 theory of change. While the logic between outputs and outcomes still holds, UNICEF has modified one assumption to reflect the importance of gender-transformative strategies, and identified a number of approaches to be further reinforced to strengthen programming across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus; enhance public finance, data, monitoring and case management; and deepen engagement with partners, communities and children. These assumptions remain valid as UNICEF moves forward in adapting programming to address the impact on children resulting from COVID-19.

Overarching priorities for 2019 across Goal Area 3 result areas to meet 2021 strategic targets and contribute towards meeting the 2030 SDG targets include:

**Output 3.1: Strengthening child protection systems for prevention and response services to reduce violence against children**

UNICEF will continue to provide leadership to galvanize partnerships at all levels to address VAC. With the UNICEF Executive Director as Chair of the Executive Board of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, UNICEF is well positioned to catalyse the highest political commitment to end VAC and to translate this political will into concrete, time-bound, coordinated national policy agendas, including increasing the number of ‘pathfinder’ countries. Programmatically, UNICEF will accelerate efforts to end all forms of VAC by strengthening national capacities to scale up evidence-based violence prevention; consolidating national child protection systems; and supporting broad social mobilization to end all forms of VAC.

To this end, UNICEF will focus on a number of key accelerators: scaling up parenting programmes that address VAC by disseminating the evidence base and working across sectors to ensure violence prevention is an element in integrated parenting programmes; increasing the number of countries that have comprehensive policies to prevent and respond to violence in schools through the Safe to Learn Initiative; and developing and expanding the child online protection agenda, through strengthened implementation of the WePROTECT Alliance Model National Response and its integration in national child protection systems, and increased engagement with private sector technology companies.
To address social and behavioural barriers and increase service uptake, UNICEF will strengthen C4D integration into Goal Area 3 VAC programming. Underpinning these efforts is a continued push to improve child protection systems, with a focus on strengthening the social service workforce. UNICEF will prioritize the uptake of the 2019 Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection in national programming.

**Output 3.2: Strengthening prevention and delivery of protection services to reduce harmful practices (child marriage and female genital mutilation)**

UNICEF and partners will increase the ambition of their targets over the next two years to prevent harmful practices, including by leveraging the partnerships, platforms and learnings from the Global Programme to End Child Marriage and the Joint Programme on the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation with UNFPA to support the expansion of progress in more countries.

The launch of Phase II of the Global Programme to End Child Marriage will be an opportunity to build a multi-stakeholder movement to drive change and secure strong commitments from key stakeholders, including Heads of States and Governments, donors and advocacy champions, to end child marriage. UNICEF and partners will galvanize a call to action for increased financing to end child marriage. UNICEF will further strengthen the evidence base for preventing and responding to ending child marriage, and disseminate related programme guidance and technical guidance notes.

UNICEF and partners will continue to provide policy direction for FGM across countries and prioritize country action to take C4D interventions to scale, working closely with partners, notably the African Union. To strengthen country programming and technical support to governments and partners, UNICEF will disseminate products completed in 2019, including the ACT Framework for measuring changes in social norms in FGM programmes; and implement a technical assistance plan for country offices to operationalize C4D strategies to effect changes in social norms. Further, building on the declaration and action plan to end cross-border FGM in the East Africa region in 2019, UNICEF and partners will focus attention to strengthen cross-border collaboration between governments in the Sahel region of West Africa.

**Output 3.3: Improving children’s access to justice**

UNICEF will continue to strengthen its role as a key interlocutor on issues relating to children’s access to justice, building existing and new rule of law partnerships. The organization is working to articulate a bold and clear vision of its comparative advantage in this area. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the linkage between the social welfare and justice systems to support children in matters such as civil and family law (care and custody), criminal law (VAC and child offenders) and administrative law (migration, birth registration and legal identity). UNICEF will pursue its repositioning as the leading United Nations agency on children’s access to justice, including steering the revision of the Secretary-General’s Guidance Note on the United Nations Approach to Justice for Children.

To ensure sustained service delivery and improve birth registration and CRVS systems, UNICEF will collaborate on programmatic priorities across sectors, with partners at global, regional and country levels. To accelerate action, UNICEF will continue to provide strategic, technical and logistical support as part of the Legal Identity Agenda Task Force, including to the 13 priority countries identified for legal identity acceleration in Africa.

In the context of children without parental care, UNICEF will work to support and operationalize at the country level the key programmatic interventions stemming from the recommendations of the 2019 United Nations General Assembly Resolution. Country-level support will focus on recognizing and prioritizing the role of families, including supporting families and preventing unnecessary separation of children from their families; protecting children without parental care and ensuring appropriate alternative care; recognizing the harm of institutional care for children and preventing institutionalization; strengthening child welfare and protection systems and services and assuring adequate financial and human resources; improving data collection and regular reporting; and ensuring the full participation of children without parental or family care.

**Child protection and humanitarian action**

To adapt to the complex humanitarian landscape, UNICEF is redefining its humanitarian programming to improve the reach, impact and sustainability of its contributions to help children in humanitarian situations around the world. Key strategies to maximize results include systems-strengthening in humanitarian settings; expanding case management practice and tools (including in sudden-onset emergencies); expanding prevention, risk mitigation and response programming; and promoting evidence generation and knowledge management. UNICEF will continue to monitor how girls and boys are affected by crises and advocate for their safety and well-being, and for their voices to be heard.

UNICEF will scale up MHPSS multisectoral programming in 2020 to equip practitioners with tools to support the well-being of children and caregivers. To advance the GBV/E agenda, UNICEF will continue to identify innovative solutions to address access gaps and promote risk mitigation across all UNICEF sectors. The organization will continue to advance efforts to accelerate country-led efforts to ensure protection from SEA.
UNICEF work on the Children and Armed Conflict agenda will continue to strengthen the monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children, prevention of and response to the use of children by armed forces and groups, and educating children and their communities on the risks of explosive ordnance and how to avoid them. UNICEF programming is adapting with the changing nature of armed conflicts and their consequences for children, with a focus on addressing the detention of children on grounds of national security, and the growing prevalence of counter-terrorism policy, legislation and approaches. Building on the work of the Global Coalition for Reintegration, chaired by UNICEF and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC), UNICEF is developing a global programme for child reintegration that will incorporate critical interventions necessary in contemporary conflicts, such as access to justice, and contribute directly to achievement of SDGs 5, 8 and 16. Further, UNICEF will continue to lead critical partnerships in the child protection sector, which include its role in the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and as co-lead of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. In the context of children on the move, UNICEF will continue to prioritize a route-based approach to strengthening protection and support for children on the move, aimed at responding to their needs while they are still in their country of origin, along transit routes and on arrival at their destination.

Looking forward, Goal Area 3 programming must be agile, flexible, innovative, scalable and adaptive. This is especially critical in light of the evolving dynamics resulting from the impact of COVID-19. UNICEF will work with government and civil society partners to bolster and adapt protection services, and programming needs to respond to a specific context in countries and regions that are at different stages of the pandemic response, with attention to the most vulnerable and at risk. The capacities of national service delivery systems in countries and regions may be very different, and the impact of the crisis may increase rapidly over time. UNICEF will invest in real-time learning to share data on child protection impacts, including on service access and evidence on response strategies, and will promote knowledge management across sectors. In conflict-affected and fragile settings, UNICEF must ensure that its response adopts a conflict-sensitive approach to mitigate unintended harm and maximize positive impacts.

In the context of mitigating the impact of COVID-19, it is important to protect gains made and prevent deceleration. As such, UNICEF will review and adapt the ambition of the Goal Area 3 midterm review as necessary. This learning will be reflected and built on in the planned Child Protection Strategy 2020–2030, which will provide a guiding directive to address the protection realities of the twenty-first century child, aligned to achievement of Agenda 2030 and rooted in the foundational principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Fatoumata and Aichata (names changed), both 12, hold hands at a newly created displacement site in Sevare, Mali. The girls fled together when their village was attacked; Fatoumata was separated from her parents. UNICEF has been working with local authorities and partners to provide medical and psychosocial care for conflict-affected children, reunite separated children with their families, and provide care for survivors of violence, including sexual violence.
### Abbreviations and acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPIMS+</td>
<td>child protection information management system</td>
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<td>CRVS</td>
<td>civil registration and vital statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECM</td>
<td>End(ing) Child Marriage</td>
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<tr>
<td>End Violence</td>
<td>Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>FGM</td>
<td>female genital mutilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBV</td>
<td>gender-based violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>GBVie</td>
<td>gender-based violence in emergencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHPSS</td>
<td>mental health and psychosocial support</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>non-governmental organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEA</td>
<td>sexual exploitation and abuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOP</td>
<td>standard operating procedure</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAC</td>
<td>Violence against children</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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</table>
UNICEF income in 2019

In 2019, total income to UNICEF reached US$6,400 million. This was an increase of 6 per cent compared with 2018, due to an increase in earmarked funds to specific programmes (other resources). Un-earmarked funds (regular resources) income decreased to US$1,371 million in 2019 compared to US$1,422 million in 2018. Regular resources also decreased as a proportion of total income to UNICEF to 21 per cent, down from 23 per cent in 2018. However, other resources income increased by 8 per cent, up from US$4,638 million in 2018 to US$5,029 million in 2019 (Figure A1-1).

FIGURE A1-1: Income by funding type, 2014–2019*

* Figures are based on ‘income’, which here represents contributions received from the public sector and revenue from the private sector.
‘Other resources’ contributions increased by 8 per cent compared to 2018, while contributions to the 10 thematic funding pools decreased by 10 per cent, from US$386 million in 2018 to US$346 million in 2019. Thematic funding also decreased as a percentage of all ‘other resources’, from 8 per cent in 2018 to 7 per cent in 2019. This is 6 per cent below the milestone target set out in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2020, of thematic funding being 13 per cent of all ‘other resources’ in 2019. The trend of decreasing overall amount of thematic funding as well as decreasing ratio of thematic funding as a percentage of the total is concerning and goes against Funding Compact commitments. In the Funding Compact between governments and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, United Nations Member States have committed to double the share of non-core contributions that are provided through single-agency thematic funding, such as UNICEF thematic funding pools. In alignment with this commitment, UNICEF aims to double thematic funding as a share of all ‘other resources’ to 15 per cent by 2021. To reach this goal, UNICEF encourages partners to channel more contributions through these softly earmarked funds.

Definitions of terminology

‘Income’ refers to the total amount committed in the year that the agreement was signed, plus any adjustments, for funds received from private sector partners and disbursements received in a particular year from public sector partners, while ‘contributions’ refers to disbursements received in a particular year, exclusive of adjustments, from both private and public partners.

Regular resources (RR): Un-earmarked funds which are foundational to deliver results across the Strategic Plan

Other resources (OR): Earmarked funds for programmes; supplementary to RR and intended for a specific purpose, such as an emergency response or a specific programme in a country or region

Other resources – regular (ORR): Funds for specific, non-emergency programme purposes and strategic priorities

Other resources – emergency (ORE): Earmarked funds for specific humanitarian action and post-crisis recovery activities

Figure A1-2. Other resources contributions 2014–2019: Share of thematic funding*

*2014–2016 contributions restated to reflect change in accounting policy for comparison with 2017–2019
Goal Area 3 income in 2019

In 2019, partners contributed US$175 million ‘other resources – regular’ for Goal Area 3 – a 7 per cent increase over the previous year. Public sector partners contributed the largest share of ‘other resources – regular’ to Goal Area 3, at 80 per cent. The top five resource partners to Goal Area 3 in 2019 were the governments of Germany and the Netherlands, the European Commission, the Government of Sweden and the United Nations Joint Programme (see Table A1-1). The largest contributions were received from the Government of the Netherlands for ‘PROSPECTS – responding to forced displacement crisis’, the Government of Germany for support to internally displaced persons in Yemen, and from the United Nations Joint Programme for the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (see Table A1-2 and the body of the report for results on these programmes).

Thematic funding remains a critical source of income for UNICEF programme delivery. Through thematic funding contributions at global, regional and/or country levels, partners support UNICEF-delivered results at the highest programme level in each of those contexts for the greatest impact. They act as an ideal complement to regular resources, as they can be allocated on a needs basis. The flexibility of thematic funding allows UNICEF to respond more effectively. It facilitates longer-term planning, sustainability and savings in transaction costs, leaving more resources for UNICEF programmes.
For partners, contributions to the 10 UNICEF thematic funding pools are in keeping with the principles of good multilateral resource partnerships. Thematic contributions have the greatest potential of ‘other resources’ to produce high-level results directly aligned to the Strategic Plan, as endorsed by the UNICEF Executive Board, and support the aims of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. They yield a higher return on investment than more tightly earmarked contributions, as lower management and reporting costs result in a larger proportion of funds going towards programming. They also simplify renewal and allocation procedures and reduce the administrative monitoring burden for partners.

Regrettably, overall contributions to the thematic funding pools decreased from US$386 million in 2018 to US$346 million in 2019. The largest public sector contributors to the thematic funding pools in 2019 were the governments of Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands, while the largest private sector contributions were facilitated by the German Committee for UNICEF, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF.***

### TABLE A1-1: Top 20 resource partners to Goal Area 3 by total contributions, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Resource partners</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Germany*</td>
<td>64,197,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Netherlands*</td>
<td>60,888,984</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>European Commission*</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>United Nations Joint Programme†</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>United States*</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Canada*</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration*</td>
<td>8,644,087</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>UNFPA-managed UN Partnerships and Joint Programmes†</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>United States Fund for UNICEF</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>End Violence Fund</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>3,988,290</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>UNDP-managed UN Partnerships and Joint Programmes**</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Spanish Committee for UNICEF</td>
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† Includes Austria, European Union, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

** Includes pass-through funding from European Commission and United Kingdom.

*** For more information on thematic funding and how it works, please visit: <www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/66662_66851.html>
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<td>50,109,393</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Support to Internally Displaced in Yemen (Phase IV)*</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>18,952,390</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage</td>
<td>United Nations Joint Programme</td>
<td>13,284,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Education and Child Protection, Egypt*</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>13,130,661</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rebuilding a Resilient Service Delivery System for Children, Iraq*</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>10,892,178</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Global Thematic Child Protection Programme 2018-2021</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>10,283,834</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Strengthening Community Resilience in South Sudan Urban Settings*</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>10,102,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Child Protection Programme in Somalia with the Objective to Prevent FGM</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>9,530,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>FGM Joint Programme</td>
<td>UNFPA-managed UN Partnerships and Joint Programmes</td>
<td>8,439,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Child Protection, Libya</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>7,343,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Building Resilience, Bangladesh *</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>6,849,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Multi-Sector, Greece*</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
<td>5,736,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Building Post-conflict Resilience for Children in Iraq*</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>5,681,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Accelerating Action to End Child Marriage</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>5,574,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Child Protection, Afghanistan and Iran</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>5,555,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Combatting Female Genital Mutilation Programmes</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>4,250,000</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Birth Registration and Justice for Children in Angola</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>3,752,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Addressing Child Domestic Work in Haiti</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3,667,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Thematic Funding for Child Protection, Iraq and Lebanon</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>3,581,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Strengthening of Services Provision for Children in Iraq*</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3,306,818</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNICEF thematic funds maintain a four-year funding period that covers the entire Strategic Plan period (2018–2021). In the first two years of the Strategic Plan, thematic funding contributions for Goal Area 3 reached US$63 million, with US$34.3 million received in 2019, of which more than 77 per cent came from government partners. The Government of Sweden was the largest thematic resources partner in 2019, providing almost 57 per cent of all thematic Goal Area 3 contributions received (see Table A1-3).

Of all thematic Goal Area 3 contributions that UNICEF received in 2018 and 2019, 43 per cent were global-level contributions. These are the most flexible sources of funding to UNICEF after regular resources and can be allocated across regions to individual country programmes, according to priority needs (see Figure A1-5).

In 2019, 31 partners contributed thematic funding to Goal Area 3, compared to 22 partners contributing in 2018. Sizeable thematic contributions were received from the governments of Sweden and Norway for global Goal Area 3 thematic funding, and from the Government of Denmark for child protection activities in Iraq and Lebanon.

The allocation and expenditure of all thematic funding contributions can be monitored on the UNICEF transparency portal,* and the results achieved with the

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**Partner testimonial**

*Spain has traditionally considered the defence of children’s rights and their integral promotion as a cornerstone for sustainable development. Investing now in our children and defending their rights is the best way to guarantee a better future for humanity and our planet.*

*To promote children’s future, Spanish Cooperation has kept a long-standing strategic partnership with UNICEF, as it is uniquely positioned to lead a global response in favour of children’s protection and development.*

*In respect to social protection of children, and in compliance with the Childhood Strategy of the Spanish Cooperation, Spain supports UNICEF’s work within the area of child protection to foster children’s right to live and develop free from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices. Our government is particularly concerned with the defence of girls from this type of abuses.*

*In this area, and in line with the Funding Compact of the UN development system reform, Spain provides long-term global non-earmarked thematic funding to Goal Area 3 of UNICEF’s Strategic Plan. This modality of support is particularly valued both by the Spanish Cooperation and UNICEF, as it enhances effectiveness, facilitates better coordination and reduces transaction cost. Thematic funding is, in consequence, pivotal to support long-term strategic activities, which are crucial for UNICEF’s mission and to this Goal Area.*

— Ángeles Moreno Bau, Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Spain

---

*Partner testimonial*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Partner Type</th>
<th>Resource Partner</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>19,395,170</td>
<td>56.52%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>3,581,021</td>
<td>10.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>2,307,870</td>
<td>6.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>770,077</td>
<td>2.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flanders International Cooperation Agency</td>
<td>550,055</td>
<td>1.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>Korean Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>2,149,585</td>
<td>6.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finnish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>1,398,985</td>
<td>4.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swedish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>586,771</td>
<td>1.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>534,121</td>
<td>1.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swiss Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>509,403</td>
<td>1.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United States Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>471,382</td>
<td>1.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>German Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>467,594</td>
<td>1.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>310,017</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norwegian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>202,244</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belgian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>169,554</td>
<td>0.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andorran Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>165,017</td>
<td>0.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kofi and Nane Annan</td>
<td>143,534</td>
<td>0.42%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Ireland</td>
<td>111,001</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Bangladesh</td>
<td>109,146</td>
<td>0.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>93,072</td>
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<td>Czech Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td>Italian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>60,816</td>
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<td>38,994</td>
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<td>Japan Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>23,770</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
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<td>Canadian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>22,227</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>16,422</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited</td>
<td>13,285</td>
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<td>UNICEF United Arab Emirates</td>
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<td>0.02%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luxembourg Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>4,862</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hungarian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>4,615</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Polish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>3,726</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand total 34,313,181 100.00%

funds, assessed against Executive Board-approved targets and indicators at country, regional and global levels, are consolidated and reported across the suite of Global Annual Results Reports. Specific reporting for country and regional thematic funding contributions is provided separately for partners giving at those levels.


UNICEF developed a robust set of equity-based criteria for allocating global thematic funds in 2019. The focus of the global thematic funding allocations for Goal Area 3 continued to be in the area of strengthening the social service workforce that works towards preventing and responding to violence against children (for country results using global thematic funds, see ‘Result overview and summary’ in the body of the report).

Specific criteria and indicators are used for allocation, including: birth registration (percentage of children younger than 5 years who were registered); physical violence (percentage of girls and boys who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers); sexual violence (percentage of girls aged 15–17 years who have ever experienced sexual violence); rate of children in residential care per 100,000; population (thousands) under 18; and number of country offices covered by the region. These criteria are used to calculate the allocation for the regions for further disbursement to country offices (to be determined by the respective regional office) and the allocation for the regional offices. Allocations for New York headquarters are capped at 10 per cent.

In 2019, UNICEF Goal Area 3 allocated US$12.53 million of global thematic funds to country and regional offices and for global programming at headquarters. Overall, 78 per cent of global thematic funds were allocated to 49 UNICEF country offices (US$9.77 million), including 6 countries in West and Central Africa (17.8 per cent of total country allocation), 7 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa (15.2 per cent), 8 countries in the Middle East and North Africa (15 per cent), 5 countries in South Asia (14 per cent), 6 countries in East Asia and the Pacific (12.7 per cent), 9 countries in Europe and Central Asia (12.7 per cent) and 8 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (12.5 per cent) (see Figure A1-6). Additionally, 12 per cent (US$1.50 million) was allocated across seven regional offices, and 10 per cent (US$1.25 million) to UNICEF headquarters.90

FIGURE A1-6: Allocation of Goal Area 3 global thematic funding to country offices: US$9.77 million, 2019
Transparency

Follow the flow of funds from contribution to programming by visiting <http://open.unicef.org>

Goal Area 3 expenses in 2019

Expenses versus expenditure

‘Expenses’ are recorded according to International Public Sector Accounting Standards and are accrual based. These are used for official financial reporting. ‘Expenditures’ are recorded on a modified cash basis. They are used for budget reporting, since they are aligned with cash disbursements and goods receipts (the way budgets are consumed).

UNICEF spending for Goal Area 3 in 2019 was US$708 million – 8 per cent higher than in 2018 (US$658.2 million). The 2019 Goal Area 3 expenses represent 13 per cent of the organization’s total programme expenses (see Figure A1-7). This expense ratio has been largely consistent since 2014.

Of the total expenditure, 37 per cent (US$264 million) was other resources – emergency (ORE), 38 per cent (US$266 million) other resources – regular (ORR) and 25 per cent (US$178 million) regular resources (RR) funds (see Figure A1-8). While the proportion of spending for RR remains similar to 2018 (26 per cent in 2018), there was a moderate increase in spending for ORE funds (+2 per cent from 2018) and ORR funds (+3 per cent from 2018).

Given the strategic prioritization to accelerate and scale-up programming to reduce violence in all its forms and across development and humanitarian contexts in the Strategic Plan, the majority of 2019 Goal Area 3 global expenses (84 per cent) were spent on Output Area 3.1: Strengthening prevention and response services for violence against children (VAC) (see Figure A1-9; and for results, see ‘Output

Note: Expenses are higher than the income received because expenses comprise total allotments from regular resources and other resources (including balances carried over from previous years), whereas income reflects only earmarked contributions to child protection in 2019. In 2019, total expenses for UNICEF programmes amounted to US$5.65 billion.

3.1’ and ‘Child protection and humanitarian action’). Within this result area, expenses specifically earmarked to support programming in humanitarian contexts accounted for US$264 million (other resources – emergency). It should also be noted that though emergency-related programming expense is mainly captured by Output 3.1, due to the integrated and cross-cutting dimension to humanitarian programming, expenses are also captured across spending categories and by other fund type. In 2019, additional humanitarian expenses included US$72 million of expenses drawn from ORR and US$39 million drawn from RR.
FIGURE A1-7: Total expenses by strategic outcome area, 2019

FIGURE A1-8: Expense trend for Goal Area 3 by year and fund type, 2014–2019 (US$ millions)
Expenses for programming towards targets in Output 3.2: Strengthening prevention and delivery of protection services to reduce harmful practices (child marriage and FGM) accounted for 4 per cent of total expenses (for results see ‘Output 3.2’). Additional expenses to support programming to reduce harmful practices are also captured across other spending categories (such as VAC, birth registration/CRVS, gender, health and education) and cannot be discernibly disaggregated. Recognizing the necessary accountability to specific donors to report on contributions received, comprehensive financial reporting is also separately provided in specific donor reports, including UNFPA–UNICEF joint programme donor reports.

Expenses to strengthen justice systems (Output 3.3) amounted to US$84 million (representing 12 per cent of total spending). Within this result area, UNICEF support to strengthen birth registration/CRVS systems represents the largest share of expenses (30 per cent) – a marginal increase compared to 2018.

Of the total expenses for Output Area 3.1, some 43 per cent (US$255 million) was ORE, 34 per cent (US$203 million) ORR, and 23 per cent (US$136 million) RR funds.

Of the total expenses for Output Area 3.2, some 10 per cent (US$3 million) was ORE, 64 per cent (US$19 million) ORR, and 26 per cent (US$8 million) RR funds.

Of the total expenses for Output Area 3.3, some 8 per cent (US$7 million) was ORE, 51 per cent (US$43 million) ORR, and 41 per cent (US$34 million) RR funds (see Figure A1-10).

*Due to rounding, the totals may differ slightly.
In 2018, the Middle East and North Africa region accounted for 23 per cent of the global Goal Area 3 expenses. This is a moderate 1 per cent increase in the region’s share of total expenses from 2018. Yemen, Lebanon and Iraq (in order of expenses) were the top three programme countries in the region. Next is the Eastern and Southern Africa region, with 21 per cent of total expenses. This is a marginal 1 per cent reduction in the region’s share of total expenses from 2018. South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia reported the greatest expenses in the region. The West and Central Africa region accounted for the third highest share of expenses, at 19 per cent, up by 1 per cent from 2018, with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria reporting the greatest expenses in that region.

Together, these three regions accounted for 63 per cent of total expenses in 2019, consistent with the share of expenses in 2018 (62 per cent), and also 72 per cent of ORE expenses for Goal Area 3 – a 3 per cent increase in total ORE expenses from 2018. Expenses at headquarters for global and regional initiatives, advocacy, monitoring and strategic support to regions and countries represented 4 per cent of total expenses for Goal Area 3, consistent with 2018 (see Figure A1-11).

Overall, the top 20 countries accounted for 56 per cent of total Goal Area 3 spending for 2019 (US$396 million) (see Figure A1-12), with Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon and Iraq the top four in order of total programme expenses. Expenses in Yemen increased significantly from US$19 million in 2018 to US$38 million in 2019, accounting for 5 per cent of total Goal Area 3 expenses. In 2019, Yemen entered the fifth year of armed conflict in the country, and children continue to carry a heavy burden. UNICEF Yemen continues to strengthen child protection programming, including sector integration for improved impact and service coverage. Just over half (52 per cent – US$205 million) of the total expenditure for these 20 countries was ORE, 29 per cent (US$116 million) ORR, and 19 per cent (US$74 million) RR funds.

Thematic funds are a critical component of the UNICEF programme portfolio. Thematic expenses accounted for 7 per cent of total Goal Area 3 expenses in 2019 – a reduction of 4 percentage points compared to 2018. However, the overall proportion of thematic expenses dropped significantly over the reporting period. Total thematic expenses totalled US$47 million in 2019, compared to US$75 million in 2018 – a 59 per cent decrease (see Table A1-4).

**FIGURE A1-11: Expenses for Goal Area 3 by fund type and region, 2019 (%)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>ORE - Emergency</th>
<th>ORE - Regular</th>
<th>Regular Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; HQ, headquarters; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.
FIGURE A1-12: Expenses for Goal Area 3 by top 20 countries and fund type, 2019 (US$ millions)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Metro</th>
<th>Other resources - emergency</th>
<th>Other resources - regular</th>
<th>Regular resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>MENARO, Jordan</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Mozambique</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECARO, Switzerland</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td>5.3</td>
<td>6.4</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>5.3</td>
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<td>Iraq</td>
<td>23.8</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>17.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Due to rounding, the totals may differ slightly from the sum of the rows.

Notes: ECARO, Europe and Central Asia Regional Office; MENARO, Middle East and North Africa Regional Office.
The Middle East and North Africa region accounted for 31 per cent (US$14.4 million) of total thematic expenses for the year. The Eastern and Southern Africa and the West and Central Africa regions both accounted for the next largest share of 2019 expenses, at 14 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively – approximately US$6 million each. In Europe and Central Asia, the majority of thematic expenses (69 per cent) comprised ORE funds, while in Latin America and the Caribbean and the East Asia and Pacific regions, expenses were largely drawn from ORR funds – 73 per cent and 68 per cent, respectively. UNICEF headquarters accounted for 7 per cent (US$3 million) of total thematic expenses for 2019, comprising 36 per cent ORE and 64 per cent ORR funds – 1 per cent less than in 2018 (see Table A1-4).

In 2019, ‘transfers and grants to counterparts’ accounted for 48 per cent (US$338 million) of UNICEF Goal Area 3 expenses – representing a 2 per cent increase from 2018 (US$304 million). Staff and other personnel costs accounted for 23 per cent (US$162 million), which remains consistent with 2018. Expenses related to ‘contractual services’ marginally increased by 1 percentage point to represent 10 per cent (US$68 million) of total expenses in 2019. Travel expenses amounted to 3 per cent of the child protection expenses for 2019 – consistent with 2018 levels – while miscellaneous costs reduced by approximately half over the reporting period (from 2 per cent in 2018 to 1 per cent in 2019) (see Table A1-5).

UNICEF is seeking to broaden and diversify its funding base (including thematic contributions) and encourages all partners to give as flexibly as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Other resources - emergency</th>
<th>Other resources - regular</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>7,189,677</td>
<td>7,219,448</td>
<td>14,409,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>2,976,502</td>
<td>3,387,031</td>
<td>6,363,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCA</td>
<td>1,406,598</td>
<td>4,740,423</td>
<td>6,147,021</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>1,332,218</td>
<td>3,682,360</td>
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<td>EAP</td>
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<td>4,465,853</td>
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<td>ECA</td>
<td>2,493,602</td>
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<td>4,215,943</td>
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<td>SA</td>
<td>1,564,631</td>
<td>1,885,206</td>
<td>3,449,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ</td>
<td>1,093,010</td>
<td>1,974,455</td>
<td>3,067,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>19,473,919</td>
<td>27,659,436</td>
<td>47,133,355</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Due to rounding, the totals may differ slightly from the sum of the columns.

Notes: EAP, East Asia and Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; HQ, headquarters; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.
### TABLE A1-5: Expense for Goal Area 3 by cost category and fund type, 2019 (US$) *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost category</th>
<th>Other resources - emergency</th>
<th>Other resources - regular</th>
<th>Regular resources</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contractual services</td>
<td>14,922,276</td>
<td>35,278,595</td>
<td>18,034,597</td>
<td>68,235,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment, vehicles and furniture</td>
<td>340,508</td>
<td>310,317</td>
<td>803,057</td>
<td>1,453,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General operating and other direct costs</td>
<td>12,816,428</td>
<td>10,881,356</td>
<td>18,144,404</td>
<td>41,842,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incremental indirect costs</td>
<td>18,724,536</td>
<td>18,172,038</td>
<td></td>
<td>36,896,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff and other personnel costs</td>
<td>36,332,462</td>
<td>56,970,414</td>
<td>68,213,572</td>
<td>161,516,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies and commodities</td>
<td>14,027,185</td>
<td>10,643,697</td>
<td>5,425,073</td>
<td>30,095,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers and grants to counterparts</td>
<td>159,446,671</td>
<td>123,600,714</td>
<td>54,627,255</td>
<td>337,674,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>5,569,224</td>
<td>8,095,739</td>
<td>9,836,562</td>
<td>23,501,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1,955,522</td>
<td>1,566,943</td>
<td>3,252,454</td>
<td>6,774,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>264,134,812</td>
<td>265,519,814</td>
<td>178,336,973</td>
<td>707,991,599</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Due to rounding, the totals may differ slightly from the sum of the columns.*
A practical guide for the socio-economic reintegration of girls formerly associated with armed forces and groups provides guidelines to child protection actors involved in release and reintegration activities.106

Notes: EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.
Regional highlight–MENA

The guidance note ‘Everyone Wants to Belong: A practical guide to tackling and leveraging social norms in behaviour change programming’ provides a toolkit and guide for social norms and behaviour change programming and for measurement of results.¹⁹

Regional highlight–SA

A regional report on child marriage in South Asia synthesizes the latest evidence and its implications for effective programme interventions.¹⁴

Regional highlight–ECA

A report on the assistance needs of mine victims presents the current situation of child survivors of landmines and explosive remnants of war, and their families, in terms of their path from accident to recovery, and identifies the outstanding needs. In parallel, the report shows the capacity of governmental and non-governmental structures to provide support to such survivors.¹⁰²

Regional highlight–EAP

UNICEF report reflects on achievements towards the realization of children’s rights in ASEAN member countries over the 30 years since adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹⁰⁶

China: An evaluation of the Child Friendly Spaces project (2008–2017) determines the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of the child-friendly spaces model in development and post-emergency settings as a community-based child protection and welfare mechanism, as well as its impact on children and families.¹⁰⁸

Cambodia: A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation strategy and technical paper for child protection information management systems (CPIMS+) includes overarching guidance for the implementation of the CPIMS+.¹⁰⁷

Sri Lanka: A study on children’s rights in transitional justice documents the work and expertise of the family tracing and reunification unit to inform the broader agenda of reconciliation and recovery for affected children and families.¹⁰⁶

Malawi: A study examines levels and trends in government budget allocations to child protection in Malawi from fiscal year 2012/13 to 2018/19. The study is part of UNICEF work on public finance for children, which aims to ensure that public spending on child-focused sectors and programmes – including child protection – is adequate, equitable and effective.¹⁰⁴

Jordan: An evaluation of the UNICEF–UNFPA Joint Programme, Hemayati: Promoting women and girls’ health and well-being, assesses the integrated approach towards gender-based violence as well as its cost-effectiveness and efficiency.¹⁵

The Sudan: An evaluation of Justice for Children Programming with focus on the Family and Child Protection Units assesses the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coverage, impact and sustainability of the Justice for Children system reform.¹⁰¹

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Afghanistan: An assessment of prevention of child recruitment interventions examines the effectiveness and impacts of UNICEF child protection interventions and actions on reducing child recruitment, and identifies causes, determinants and prevalence of child recruitment.¹⁰⁶

Jordan: An evaluation of the UNICEF–UNFPA Joint Programme, Hemayati: Promoting women and girls’ health and well-being, assesses the integrated approach towards gender-based violence as well as its cost-effectiveness and efficiency.¹⁵

The Sudan: An evaluation of Justice for Children Programming with focus on the Family and Child Protection Units assesses the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coverage, impact and sustainability of the Justice for Children system reform.¹⁰¹
Annex 3: List of partners, 2019

### Academia
- Academia
- Columbia University
- Dalhousie University
- Drexel University
- George Washington University
- Harvard University (Brigham and Women's Physicians Organization)
- Johns Hopkins University
- The Governance Lab (The GovLab)
- The Washington University in St. Louis
- University of California San Diego

### Bilateral
- Australia
- Belgium
- Canada
- Denmark
- Estonia
- European Commission
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland

### Republic of Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America

### Global
- Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action
- Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies
- Child Health Initiative
- Child Helpline International
- Child Protection Area of Responsibility
- Child Protection Information Management System Steering Committee
- Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Centre of Excellence
- Donors Working Group on Female Genital Mutilation
- Education Cannot Wait
- End Child Prostitution and Trafficking
- Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group
- Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility
- Global Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Group
- Global Coalition on Reintegration of Child Soldiers
- Global Coalition to End Child Poverty
- Global Financing Facility
- Global Movement for Children
- Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence)
- Global Social Service Workforce Alliance
- INSPIRE: seven strategies for ending violence against children
<p>| Inter-Agency Expert Group on Violence Against Children |
| Inter-Agency Group for Unaccompanied and Separated Children |
| Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings |
| Inter-Agency Standing Committee Results Group 2: Accountability and Inclusion |
| Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration |
| International Campaign to Ban Landmines |
| International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children |
| Men Engage Alliance |
| Paris Principles Steering Group |
| Partner Advisory Group for the UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage |
| Pathfinders for Peace, Just and Inclusive Societies SDG 16+ |
| Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat |
| Steering Committee for the UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage |
| Steering Committee for the UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change |
| The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism |
| Together for Girls |
| UN ACTION against Sexual Violence in Conflict |
| United Nations Coordination Action on Small Arms |
| United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNICEF Coalition on Every Child’s Right to a Nationality |
| United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action |
| United Nations Road Collaboration |
| WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation Online |
| <strong>Faith-based organizations</strong> |
| Global Network of Religions |
| Religions for Peace |
| World Council of Churches |
| <strong>Non-governmental, regional and international organizations</strong> |
| African Programme for the Acceleration of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics |
| African Union |
| Asia Foundation |
| Better Care Network |
| CARE USA |
| CPC Learning Network |
| Danish Church Aid |
| Danish Demining Group |
| Economic Community of West African States |
| Geneva Call |
| Girls Not Brides |
| Halo Trust |
| Humanity and Inclusion |
| International Federation of Social Workers |
| International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement |
| International Rescue Committee |
| Oxfam GB |
| Plan International |
| Regional Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Core Group |
| Save the Children |
| SOS Children's Villages International |
| Terre des Hommes |
| United for Global Mental Health |
| VOICE Amplified |
| War Child |
| Women's Refugee Commission |
| World Vision |
| <strong>United Nations and multilateral agencies</strong> |
| African Union |
| Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting |
| European Union–United Nations Spotlight Initiative |
| International Labour Organization |
| International Organization for Migration |
| International Telegraph Union |
| International Telecommunications Union |
| Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| Organization for Islamic Cooperation |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Africa and the Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Entity for the Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Girls Education Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Global Focal Point on Rule of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Joint Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Legal Identity Agenda</td>
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<td>United Nations Mine Action Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs</td>
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<td>United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime</td>
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<td>United Nations Office for Project Services</td>
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<td>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
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<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security</td>
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<td>United Nations University Centre for Policy Research</td>
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<td>UN Women</td>
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<td>World Bank Group</td>
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<td>World Food Programme</td>
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<td>World Health Programme</td>
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<td><strong>United Nations special representatives</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Coordinator on improving the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Rapporteur of the Secretary-General on the sale and sexual exploitation of children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the rights of Internally Displaced Persons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Private sector, foundations, think tanks and individuals</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kofi and Nane Annan</td>
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<td>Microsoft Corporation</td>
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<td>The Criterion Institute</td>
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<td><strong>UNICEF National Committees</strong></td>
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<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States Fund for UNICEF</td>
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</table>
Endnotes


3. In addition to complementary international human rights instruments, which include, inter alia, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). For more information on the link between international human rights tools and the SDGs, see also <https://sdg.humanrights.dk/>.


22. WePROTECT Global Alliance, *WeProtect Global Alliance – Global Threat Assessment 2019*, [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5630f48de4b00a75476ecf0a/t/5deecb0fc45ef23016423cf/1575930642519/FINAL+-+Global+Threat+Assessment+pdf.pdf], accessed 20 May 2020.


24. 1) Figures may vary due to rounding. 2) As per the Guidelines for the Allocation and Management of Thematic Funds for the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, 1 per cent of the total programmable amount (i.e., 1 per cent of US$12.91 million) was allocated for evaluations with the aim of strengthening the evidence base of what works and what does not within child protection. Next, a proportion also contributed to amplifying partnerships with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. The remaining US$12.53 million was allocated to UNICEF country and regional offices and headquarters.


26. Pathfinder countries commit to three to five years of accelerated action to achieve End Violence goals and adhere to the End Violence principles. This means that their actions will be rights-focused, child-centred, universal, gender-sensitive, inclusive, transparent, evidence-based and results-focused.

27. The 16 countries are the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Egypt, Eswatini, Georgia, Honduras, Jamaica, Libya, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Peru, Serbia, State of Palestine, Turkey and Ukraine.

28. In addition to the countries reporting having developed violence prevention-specific national action plans, the following countries also included violence within wider child protection policies: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.


31. The Model National Response provides a road map covering six focus areas to integrate prevention and response to online child SEA within broader interventions combating VAC: policy/legislation, criminal justice, victim support, industry and technology, societal engagement and research. These pillars align with the well-established priorities of UNICEF to address VAC, and UNICEF has played a leading role in convening and supporting governments, civil society and industry in their efforts to prevent and respond to online child SEA.
32. Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Benin, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, El Salvador, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, South Africa and Thailand.

33. This includes progress noted in Angola, Armenia, Barbados, Bhutan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mexico, Myanmar, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and Tunisia.

34. This includes work UNICEF supported in Angola, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Georgia, the Gulf area, Honduras, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, Ukraine and Uruguay.

35. Reporting countries include Angola, Argentina, Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Senegal, Thailand, Uganda and Uruguay.

36. As in the case of Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Comoros, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Suriname, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Viet Nam.


38. In 2019, current members of Safe to Learn include the Civil Society Forum to End Violence against Children, Education Cannot Wait (ECW), Global Affairs Canada, the Global Business Coalition for Education, the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI), UNESCO, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, the World Bank and the WHO.

39. Safe to Learn is an initiative dedicated to ending violence in and through schools so that children are free to learn, thrive and pursue their dreams. Safe to Learn presents an opportunity to unlock the multiple wins of ending violence in schools, improving learning outcomes, better leveraging investments in education, and raising awareness and changing attitudes towards VAC. Intervention areas are: 1) implement policy and legislation; 2) strengthen prevention and response at the school level; 3) shift social norms and behaviour change; 4) invest resources effectively; and 5) generate and use evidence, <https://www.end-violence.org/safe-to-learn>, accessed 2 June 2020.


43. The Global Social Service Workforce Alliance defines the social service workforce as paid and unpaid, governmental and non-governmental, professionals and para-professionals working to ensure the healthy development and well-being of children and families. The social service workforce focuses on preventive, responsive and promotive programmes that support families and children in communities by alleviating poverty, reducing discrimination, facilitating access to services, promoting social justice and preventing and responding to violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and family separation, <http://www.socialserviceworkforce.org/>, accessed 2 June 2020.


45. UNICEF uses a set of criteria to assess the quality assurance system for social service work in a country. This includes establishment of a comprehensive normative framework, supervision, accreditation and licensing systems, and the availability of human resource information management systems for social service work.
Case management is a process practised by social service workers that supports or guides the delivery of social service support to vulnerable children and families and other populations in need. The primary objective of a child protection case management system is to ensure that children and their families receive quality protection services in an organized, efficient and effective manner, in line with their assessed needs.

The inter-agency partners are the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Rescue Committee, Save the Children, the United Nations Department for Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Terre des Hommes-Lausanne and the International Medical Corps.

Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Somaliland, South Sudan, the Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Tajikistan.

Afghanistan, Bahamas, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cox’s Bazar District, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Mexico, Mozambique, Samoa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States–Mexico border, Uzbekistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Yemen.


This includes participants from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Yemen.

Safety audits are a common methodology/monitoring tool used to assess potential GBV-related safety risks through observation and consultation with affected communities.


Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
62. The EU–UN Spotlight Initiative is a multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). UNICEF is among the key implementing agencies at the country and regional levels. The Initiative brings focused attention to VAWG, moving it into the spotlight and placing it at the centre of efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.


65. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nepal, the Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, the Sudan, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

66. Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nepal, the Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, the Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia.

67. Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, the Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia.

68. Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, the Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.


71. Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Togo and Uganda.

72. Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, the Sudan, Uganda and Yemen. In 2019, the programme was not implemented in Yemen due to insecurity.


76. Preliminary data (March 2020).


78. Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda.


80. UNICEF identified six elements necessary for an effective and fully enforced child-friendly justice system: 1) the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the country is set above 12 years; 2) children have access to justice and legal aid – both by law and in practice; 3) the country provides child-friendly investigation, police and court procedures; 4) the country has specialized trained professionals, including for interviewing; 5) the country has a multidisciplinary approach; and 6) the country has special measures for child victims and witnesses of crime.
This includes for judges in Montenegro, Nicaragua and Viet Nam, for the police in Iraq, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Ukraine, for prosecutors in Armenia and Bosnia Herzegovina and, more broadly, for justice professionals in Kyrgyzstan, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Argentina, Côte d’Ivoire, Jamaica, the Niger, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Zambia.

Zambia Demographic Health Survey, 2018.


In line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 2009 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children catalyse the protection and well-being of children who are deprived of parental care or who are at risk of being separated from their families. The 2009 Guidelines call for supporting and strengthening families to prevent unnecessary separation of children and identifying the most appropriate form of alternative care for children who need such care.


The UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, Goal Area 3 ‘Every Child is Protected from Violence’ identifies three output areas: strengthening child protection systems to address VAC; eliminating harmful practices; and improving access to justice for children. No corporate evaluation was conducted for Output Area 3 (access to justice) during the 2018–2019 period.

(1) Figures may vary due to rounding. (2) As per the Guidelines for the Allocation and Management of Thematic Funds for the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, 1 per cent of the total programmable amount (i.e., 1 per cent of US$12.91 million) was allocated for evaluations with the aim of strengthening the evidence base of what works and what does not within child protection. Next, a proportion also contributed to amplifying partnerships with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. The remaining US$12.53 million was allocated to UNICEF country and regional offices and headquarters.


112. Academic institutions directly collaborating with UNICEF Child Protection Section at headquarters level in 2019.

113. Bilateral financial and operational partners at headquarters level in 2019.

114. Including through the Flanders International Cooperation Agency.

115. Including through the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

116. Including funding from Andalucía.

117. Including through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

118. Including through the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office; the Department for International Development; the UK Home Office.

119. Including through the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration; the United States Agency for International Development; the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance; the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; the US Departments of State and Labor; the Office of the United States Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan.


Faith-based organizations directly collaborating with UNICEF Child Protection Section at headquarters level in 2019.

Non-governmental organizations include those that have directly partnered with UNICEF Child Protection Section at headquarters level in two or more countries and/or have given a financial contribution to UNICEF Child Protection Section, in 2019.