



GOAL AREA 5

Every child has an equitable
chance in life

Global Annual
Results Report 2019

unicef 
for every child

Cover image: © UNICEF/Zambia/2020/Schernbrucker
Nola, a six-year-old living in Zambia, whose grandmother, Albertina, is the recipient of a UNICEF-supported cash transfer programme. In 2019, Zambia experienced below-normal rainfall, leading to widespread crop failure and food insecurity across four of 10 provinces. During such shocks, women and girls are more likely to absorb the economic shock to the household by reducing their food intake. In addition to the ongoing in-kind food relief, the Government – with UNICEF support – introduced a supplementary social protection package to stabilize chronically food-insecure households and reduce the risk of them resorting to negative coping strategies. This Emergency Cash Transfer programme benefited 90,202 households in 22 districts and was implemented by UNICEF and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), with financial support from the governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Expression of thanks

UNICEF is funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector. Voluntary contributions enable UNICEF to deliver on its mandate to protect children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF takes this opportunity to thank all partners for their commitment and trust.



Thematic Funding
Highlight

The Goal Area 5 team would like to highlight the flexibility that thematic funding provides for long-term planning and sustainability of programmes. These funds ensure ongoing strategic, technical and operational support for the rights of the most marginalized. We would like to especially thank key thematic donors. In 2019, Norway and Spain provided global thematic funding to Goal Area 5; Sweden, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and the Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited provided country-level thematic funding.

UNICEF also thanks the European Union and the governments of Australia, Canada, Ireland, Luxembourg, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, as well as to the Alana Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Charles Engelhard Foundation, the David Drummond Fund, ING, the International Monetary Fund, Marimo Berk, the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), the World Bank and all sister United Nations agencies for supporting Goal Area 5 work towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfilling the rights of children and adolescents.

As the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic pushes humanity to its limits, flexible resources like thematic funds and regular resources are more important than ever. These funds will allow UNICEF to move swiftly to address the rights and well-being of the most vulnerable and marginalized first, leverage ongoing investments, and address specific unmet needs.

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

In order 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.

The Spanish Cooperation, in compliance with our Childhood Strategy, has supported UNICEF's work in the area of social inclusion in order to promote children's equitable chance in life through flexible thematic funding. This modality is particularly appreciated in order to support the long-term processes needed to make a lasting impact and the UN Development system reform.

Our Government has seen a significant impact in this area which is essential to our common commitment of not leaving anyone, and particularly any child, behind and fulfilling the 2030 Agenda.

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

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 5 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 (EDAR/MTR), UNICEF's official accountability document for the past year.

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Executive Summary

Pictured above: After participating in activities at the UNICEF-supported early childhood centre of San Juan Jilotepeque, Jalapa, Guatemala, Emily Samantha López Agustín, 12, and Joel Eduardo Agustín López, 8, play in their house with their brother, Luis Francisco Agustín López, 6, who has a disability. Luis is loved by his siblings who protect him, play with him and teach him.

UNICEF has a universal mandate, anchored in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to safeguard the rights of all children and this mandate is as critical as ever. Building on the principle of *leaving no one behind*, results under UNICEF Goal Area 5 focus on tackling key dimensions of discrimination and inequity that prevent the realization of children's rights, while contributing to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Goal Area 5 efforts apply cross-cutting strategies that impact all Strategic Plan results. These work to reduce child poverty by influencing fiscal policies and social protection

mechanisms; address discrimination on the basis of gender, age and disability; increase the participation, voice and agency of children, adolescents and young people in civic life; and amplify child rights in human rights mechanisms.

UNICEF supported 154 countries and invested over US\$497.11 million in Goal Area 5 in 2019 to help give children an equitable chance in life. This includes humanitarian action in 60 countries, with related expenses of US\$270 million.

Key results achieved in 2019

At output level, UNICEF had progress rates of over 90 per cent for three of the five results areas under this goal area, and met or came close to meeting 82 per cent of its output milestones.

UNICEF continued its work to encourage governments to monitor child poverty and adapt social and economic policies to address it. As of 2019, sixty-five countries have established routine measurement and reporting on multidimensional child poverty, and 73 on monetary child poverty, surpassing the 2019 milestones of 52 and 65, respectively. Specific policies and programmes addressed child poverty in 28 countries, up from 22 in 2018 and exceeding the milestone of 23.

In 2019, child poverty measurements helped direct focus and resources into areas and sectors with the highest number of deprived children, as in Ghana, Panama and Zambia. These also influenced national poverty-reduction efforts, including increasing social protection coverage for children, as in Malaysia, where the flagship social protection scheme increased child benefits.

UNICEF-supported cash transfer programmes reached over 51 million children in 78 countries in 2019, including almost 8.5 million in humanitarian settings in 30 countries. These numbers include nearly 14 million girls and 10.9 million boys in 36 countries, and almost 700,000 children with disabilities in 21 countries. As of 2019, forty-seven countries had strong or moderately strong social protection systems, up from 38 in 2018, and 9 had national cash transfer programmes ready to respond to a crisis, up from 6 in 2018.

Programming on positive gender norms and socialization – a flagship area of work that contributes to meeting SDG 5 and United Nations Common Chapter results on gender equality – took place in 120 countries in all regions. This covered development of gender-responsive school curricula; parenting practices, including fathers' engagement in caregiving; training for front-line workers; and multisectoral interventions addressing gender norms linked to child marriage and female genital mutilation.

In 2019, UNICEF scaled up disability-inclusive programmes to support 1.7 million children with disabilities across 142 countries, up from 1.4 million across 123 countries in 2018. A total of 36 per cent of UNICEF humanitarian responses (21 of 59 countries) systematically provided disability-inclusive programmes and services, such as 48 accessible classrooms constructed in two refugee camps in Kenya. Over 138,000 children with disabilities received assistive devices and products through emergency kits.

Over 4 million adolescents (61 per cent girls) across 113 countries participated in or led civic-engagement activities through UNICEF-supported programmes, with India accounting for 2.6 million; this significantly surpassed the target of 3.2 million. Thirty-one per cent of UNICEF country offices routinely engaged adolescents in planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of programmes, exceeding the 2019 milestone of 30 per cent. UNICEF continued to play a key role in supporting the operationalization of the Generation Unlimited (GenU) partnership and its localization in countries. This was achieved through technical and knowledge leadership in three of the six priority areas: formal and informal secondary education; skills development; and young people's participation and civic engagement.

UNICEF faced challenges linked to assessing progress at the impact and outcome levels in Goal Area 5 owing to the lack of comparable data, for example, in adolescent empowerment and measuring change in attitudes on disability. Data indicate progress on impact- and outcome-level indicators of child poverty and social protection access, with progress slowest in the public finance for children output in the child poverty result area. The Gender Action Plan II evaluation identified challenges and lessons related to UNICEF performance on gender, which were integrated into the Strategic Plan midterm review.

Midterm review findings identified the need to prioritize continued support to countries in child poverty measurement, one of the biggest issues affecting the human rights of children, and to address challenges in measuring the equity of social-sector spending. Also identified was the

need to support the use of data for strategic policymaking and reform. Finally, UNICEF will accelerate the promotion of shock-responsive social protection systems. This includes

enhancing organizational capacity to address the immediate risks posed by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and inclusive economic recovery.

Looking ahead

It is now clear that the global crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented. The effects are not limited to health, but extend across the full range of children's rights. Measures taken by governments to contain and mitigate the pandemic have persistent and far-reaching impacts, especially for the most disadvantaged, who are least able to access or practise risk mitigation measures and are disproportionately impacted by the socioeconomic ramifications and disruptions to basic and protective services.

Given these evolving threats, efforts to accelerate Goal Area 5 results in 2020 are being adapted to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. UNICEF is assessing its approach, with a focus on protecting gains made and preventing de-acceleration, while ensuring all programming is 'risk-informed' and integrates a 'triple nexus' approach – humanitarian, development and sustaining peace.

The organization's capacity and global presence places UNICEF at the centre of the international response to the COVID-19 crisis. As a lead agency on strengthening social protection systems, which is a fundamental response to the socioeconomic shocks of the crisis, UNICEF is working to remove financial barriers to accessing services while helping establish and strengthen intersectoral linkages to achieve multisectoral results for children. UNICEF is also leveraging the power of strong partnerships, including within the United Nations system, to support practical programming on positive parenting and child protection, considering the specific rights and needs of the most vulnerable children, including children living in areas affected by conflict, children on the move and those with disabilities. By supporting the building of social protection systems and strengthening of existing systems, UNICEF contributes durable solutions to addressing similar future crises.

At the same time, UNICEF will kick off the Decade for Action by expanding efforts to leverage public investments for children. As governments face resource constraints, the organization will demonstrate how improving the efficiency and effectiveness of budget execution and service delivery can contribute to fulfilling children's rights.

It has been a year since the Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board called for greater action to promote gender equality in all social protection work. UNICEF has made progress by supporting the development of new gender-responsive focused programmes, policies and research in collaboration with national governments and other partners, and is deepening ongoing programming and advocacy for disability-sensitive social protection.

UNICEF will continue to address harmful gender norms by translating conceptual and normative frameworks into practical strategies and by focusing on measurement and evidence generation on 'what works'. The organization will also support capacity development and strategic scale-up of promising programmes across countries.

Disability-inclusive programming in humanitarian and development contexts will be a priority in 2020, as will investment in community workers' capacities and accelerating access to assistive devices and technologies, such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, tablets and accessible software. UNICEF will conduct a scoping of health, education and social protection ecosystems to support the provision of assistive technology for children and adults with disabilities and produce models that can be adopted for countries globally.

UNICEF will deepen the comprehensive approach to adolescent programming across the five Strategic Plan goal areas. Through civic engagement, which cuts across all goal areas, UNICEF will broaden its network of partnerships and platforms to amplify the voices of adolescents in the promotion and protection of their own rights. These spaces are critical to ensuring adolescents can make decisions that shape their own lives while helping to address challenges that will impact our collective future – such as climate change and public health.

In 2020, UNICEF will improve the collection of gender-, age- and disability-disaggregated data and evidence to support programming across all goal areas. A global tool to measure adolescent participation outcomes is undergoing cognitive testing; gender norms monitoring and measurement methodologies are being developed; and the Child Functioning Module is being scaled up and increasingly integrated into household surveys, ensuring more accurate and internationally comparable data on children with disabilities.

UNICEF will also continue to strengthen advocacy and engagement with national and international human rights mechanisms, governments and other partners in 2020 to raise awareness within national and global forums of the critical issues affecting the achievement of children's rights.

It is critical for Member States to renew their commitments to address the pre-existing and new threats to the realization of children's rights, if the world is to collectively realize the ambitious vision put forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



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Strategic Context

Pictured above: In 2019, the Spanish Committee for UNICEF visited a school in Odienné, in the north-east of Côte d'Ivoire, where students, young reporters and U-Reporters held a talk show about girls' right to go to school.

Global developments and trends in the situation of children

The year 2019 marked the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. All over the globe, celebrations hailed this milestone and the progress achieved towards upholding and fulfilling children's rights. At the same time, political, environmental and economic realities tested the world's commitment to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of all children.

Children and adolescents took action at global, national and grass-roots levels to counter detrimental trends. Together, they stood up against discrimination, rights violations, inequality and inaction on key issues. In this environment, child and adolescent activists claimed their right to be heard and are contributing to solutions to some of today's most daunting challenges.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child recognizes that growing up in poverty undermines children's well-being, survival and development, and reduces opportunities for learning. Today, one in five children – 385 million¹ – struggle to survive on less than the purchasing power parity (PPP) of US\$1.90 a day, and almost one in three children – 663 million – are living in households that are 'multidimensionally poor'² or facing various human rights violations and deprivations at once.

The profile of world poverty, measured by the PPP standard, is changing dramatically. It is increasingly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, where an estimated 305 million children will still be living in extreme poverty by 2030. These children will account for 55 per cent of world poverty in 2030 (compared with 43 per cent in 2018).³

Fragility, conflict, violence and climate-related risks threaten efforts to end poverty and achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere) in low- and middle-income countries. Children living in countries that experience conflict and fragility are particularly vulnerable to poverty and nearly 58 per cent of them live in extremely poor households, compared with 17 per cent of children in non-fragile countries.⁴ The World Bank estimates that by 2030 up to two thirds of the world's extreme poor – an estimated 342 million people – will live in fragile and conflict-affected countries.⁵

Climate change is one of the drivers of fragility, conflict and violence. Based on current trends, 100 million more people will be pushed into extreme poverty by 2030 as a result of climate change.⁶ Globally, nearly 160 million children live in areas of high or extremely high drought severity and over half a billion children live in extremely high flood occurrence zones.⁷ To make matters worse, early indications suggest that the economic fallout

from the global coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic could increase global poverty by as much as half a billion people.⁸

The Convention on the Rights of the Child calls Member States to guarantee the right of every child to social security and "a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development". Social protection helps children realize these rights and shields them from shocks. Globally, the coverage of social protection remains low. Only one in three children receive social protection support.⁹ However, there is global recognition of this fact and growing support from international bodies and United Nations Member States for universal social protection.

Among many forms of gender inequality, entrenched discriminatory gender norms are the most persistent and challenging. These norms and modes of behaviour govern every aspect of a child's growing years – from how they dress, what they eat, how much girls are fed compared to boys, to what subjects they study in school. These norms ultimately play an important role in determining lifelong inequalities in the way the rights of girls and boys are realized, and act as the root cause of an inequitable society, perpetuating multiple rights violations over time.

In 2019, a defining moment in the global dialogue on gender norms was the publication of a pioneering series by *The Lancet* on 'Gender Equality, Norms, and Health' that presented strong evidence on the linkages between rigid gender norms and poor health outcomes.¹⁰ The importance of addressing discriminatory norms was further emphasized by the SDG 5 progress update (2019)¹¹ and the Human Development Report (2019)¹². The SDG 5 progress report emphasized the insufficient progress on addressing "structural issues at the root of gender inequality, such as legal discrimination and unfair social norms and attitudes."¹³ Recent evidence suggested that progress in achieving gender equality has flattened out. The Human Development Report's Gender Inequality Index showed a declining rate of progress, confirming that, at the current rate, countries would require 257 years to close the gender gap in economic opportunity and not a single country would achieve the 2030 goals.¹⁴

Around 1 in 10 children have a disability and four fifths of them live in low-income countries. Children with disabilities are first and foremost children and have the same rights as all children to develop, play, learn and thrive, whether in development or humanitarian contexts. Stigma, discrimination and negative attitudes within communities and institutions – such as schools and health-care facilities – and even within families,

limit their access to services, education opportunities and participation in society. For instance, there are 93 million children with disabilities¹⁵ around the world and half of them are not in school.¹⁶ Addressing stigma and discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities allows children with disabilities to reach their fullest potential and to contribute to their communities.



Around 1.2 billion people, or one in six of the world's population, are adolescents aged 10 to 19 years. The rapid physical and cognitive development that marks adolescence creates a

critical window of opportunity. The right of children and adolescents to have their views taken into account on all matters affecting their lives is recognized not only as an end in itself, but as a principle that must be considered in attaining all other rights for children. When adolescents are civically engaged, they individually or collectively

also contribute to improving their school, community, city or country. In turn, participation allows and supports adolescents to develop, build their confidence, negotiate decisions and influence critical issues within their communities or more widely.

In humanitarian settings, children and adolescents are among those who suffer the worst impacts. Some 149 million children and adolescents are living in high-intensity conflict zones across the world¹⁷ and many more are living in areas affected by climate change. Often in these settings, adolescents and young people are perceived as threats and their rights are neglected and violated, or their contributions are trivialized. Ensuring that adolescents, including those with disabilities, have space to voice their concerns, provide feedback, and engage in the entirety of humanitarian and peacebuilding programmes – design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation – remains a challenge requiring collective advocacy and continued focused efforts.

Goal Area 5 theory of change

UNICEF programming is systematically guided by the human rights-based approach and the provisions and principles in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments. UNICEF Goal Area 5 programming aims to ensure that every child has a fair chance in life, by reducing child poverty, combating discrimination and ensuring inclusion.

Figure 1 shows the theory of change UNICEF uses to reach Goal Area 5 results through programming in the areas of multidimensional poverty, social protection, gender equality, children with disabilities, and adolescents.

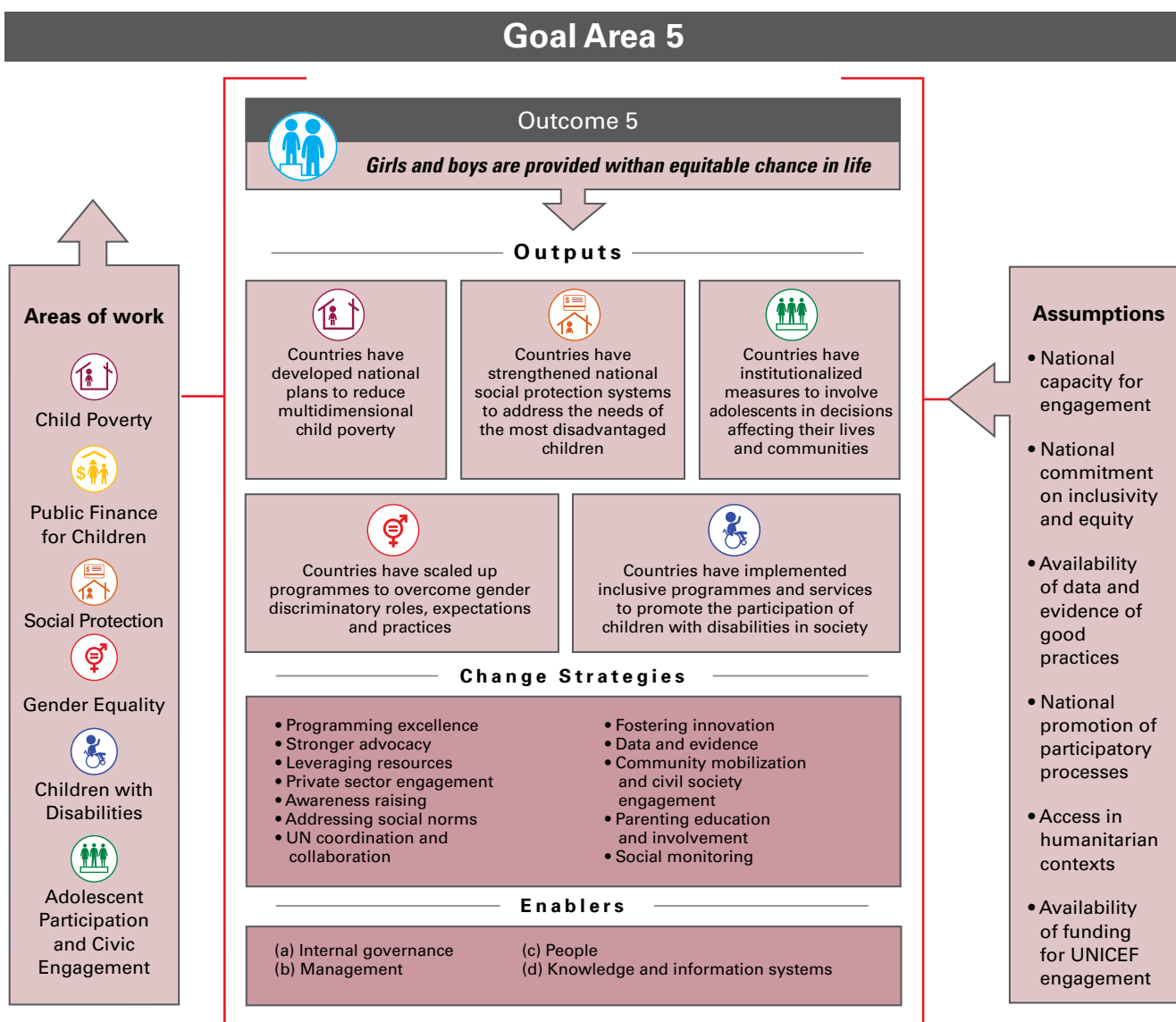
The midterm review noted that the logic between outputs and outcomes still holds for Goal Area 5 – that is, there is no need to change it in the next two years of implementation of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. The next section provides a synopsis of strategic shifts that relate to Goal Area 5 approaches for the remainder of the Strategic Plan period.



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The grandchild of Clement Chuungu, an Emergency Cash Transfer beneficiary from Tusenke village, Gwembe districts, in Zambia's Southern province.

FIGURE 1: Goal Area 5 theory of change



UNICEF Strategic Plan midterm review: Reflections and strategic shifts

This section provides highlights of midterm review strategic shifts. There were no significant changes to the results framework for Goal Area 5. Therefore, the review focused on emerging streams of work, where UNICEF will strengthen the evidence base and approaches that offer the potential to accelerate progress in results under Goal Area 5 during the remainder of the Strategic Plan period. These midterm review findings, along with the emerging lessons and implications of COVID-19, will feed into the development of the new Strategic Plan.



Strengthening our normative approach to promoting and protecting children's rights

The UNICEF Strategic Plan reaffirms and reinforces the organization's universal mandate and normative role to protect and promote the rights of all

children everywhere. This was reiterated during the midterm review. During the remainder of the Strategic Plan period, UNICEF will ensure organization-wide investment in supporting and strengthening child rights accountability mechanisms; children’s access to justice and a right to remedy; child rights education and capacity-building of staff; and the reassertion of a rights-based approach to UNICEF programming.

Building the evidence base on climate change and children

UNICEF is already working with children, adolescents and young people to elevate their voices on climate change through creative platforms, advocacy and participation at major United Nations summits, but more can and should be done. Children, adolescents and young people can play a bigger role in addressing climate-related risks such as those featured in Figure 2. Governments should create more opportunities to ensure that children, and the protection of children’s rights, are at the centre of climate change strategies and response plans. UNICEF is working to strengthen the evidence base on the impact of climate change on children. This evidence will inform the organization’s prioritization and approach for the remainder of the Strategic Plan period.

Some of the ways UNICEF works to support child rights

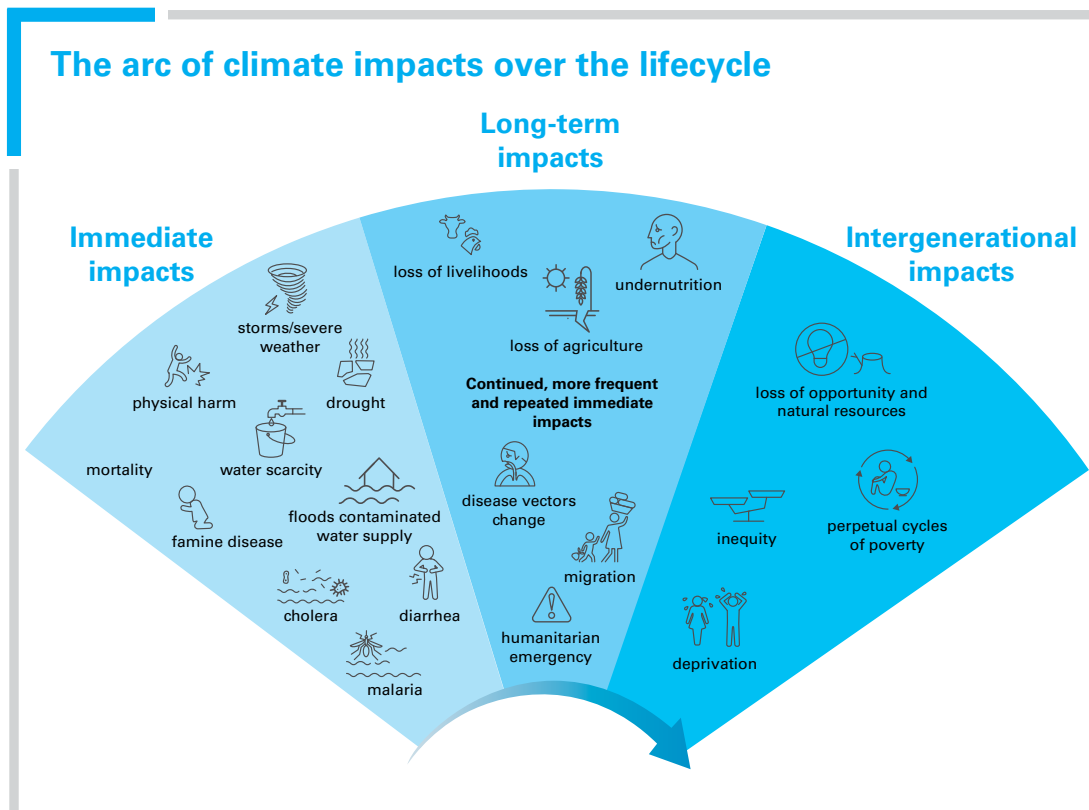
1. Engaging with international human rights mechanisms at the global level through reporting and advocacy on child rights, and working to support and strengthen national independent human rights institutions for children by UNICEF country offices.



2. Strengthening integration of the human rights-based approach and child rights approach into programmes; revising institutional policies, procedures and training (including at United Nations-wide level); and promoting child rights education.

3. Contributing to non-discrimination by highlighting the situation of particularly vulnerable groups and supporting an operational approach to *leaving no one behind*.

FIGURE 2: What is climate change and what does it mean for children?



Reinforcing linkages between humanitarian, development and sustaining peace – The ‘triple nexus’



For Goal Area 5, the systematic integration of shock-responsive social protection in humanitarian action was identified as a key area of focus. In addition to building and strengthening existing social protection systems, UNICEF also works to respond to crises by extending support to families during a shock. For example, UNICEF helps extend the use of social transfers in emergency contexts and link them with complementary services to achieve multisector outcomes for children. Further emphasis will be given to ‘risk informed’ programming through strategies that mitigate risks, build resilience and strengthen social cohesion for children in their communities. When possible, UNICEF invests in building, strengthening and, at times, rebuilding social protection systems to increase sustainability before, during and after shocks and crises hit.

Cash plus – Integrating wider outcomes to cash transfers

Evidence generated by UNICEF and partners is clear in the broad range of impacts generated by national cash transfer programmes. However, this evidence also shows that to sustain these impacts, social protection must be integrated into broader sectoral strategies while promoting strategic synergies with additional components – such as referrals to health services or provision of nutrition information. The latter is referred to as ‘cash plus’, when focusing on linkages between cash and sector programmes. UNICEF will increase use of the cash-plus approach in designing social protection programmes, including humanitarian cash transfers, by linking cash grants to the provision of complementary services and information, to address context-specific needs of children in a rights-based and holistic manner.

Promoting positive gender norms and socialization



Evaluation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021 conducted in 2019 identified the urgent need to accelerate the development of methodologies for measuring gender norms and monitoring progress. UNICEF will accelerate work to distil practical approaches on ‘what works’ to help translate conceptual frameworks into norms-focused programming strategies across sectors. UNICEF will also continue to strengthen partnerships to advance

evidence generation and advocacy efforts to challenge gender stereotypes and transform future generations.

Leveraging economies of scale for children with disabilities



The midterm review highlighted the good progress made to help children and adults with disabilities improve the way they function and participate in society through the provision of assistive devices, such as glasses, hearing aids, wheelchairs, tablets and prosthetics. It further noted this as an area with immense potential for UNICEF and its partners to make a difference in the lives of children with disabilities. UNICEF Supply Division is well positioned to leverage economies of scale and to shape markets to better address the rights of people with disabilities.

Promoting an integrated approach to capacity-building of front-line workers

Many systems – including health, education, child protection and social protection systems – rely on front-line workers for implementation. Home visits and direct contact with front-line workers are crucial to programme success.



UNICEF has a child-centred approach to programming and therefore understands the need to cut across themes and bring holistic information and services. UNICEF will work to strengthen cross-cutting elements, including disability- and gender-responsive approaches to technical instruction modules in all training provided to front-line workers (e.g., those working in health or nutrition), social workers, teachers and other people working with children and adolescents. UNICEF will also support work from the top levels of government down to individual schools and hospitals to ensure this kind of cross-cutting approach is promoted and funded.

Deepening the Communication for Development approach

Of the change strategies underpinning Goal Area 5, Communication for Development (C4D), also referred to as social and behaviour change communication (SBCC), contributes in particular to gathering data and evidence on key individual practices and their drivers; raising awareness about social influences and norms to address any that are harmful and promote those that are positive; and engaging and mobilizing individuals, families and communities – especially adolescents – as agents of change on issues that affect them. C4D interventions range from policy advocacy

and large-scale entertainment all the way to grass-root outreach and community-led action, leveraging diverse tools including community engagement techniques, mass media and digital platforms such as U-Report.

For the remainder of the Strategic Plan period, C4D will continue to be a key component of Goal Area 5 programming and a major part of some of the aforementioned ‘accelerator’ approaches proposed in the midterm review, such as ‘cash plus’, ‘increasing adolescent participation’ and the ‘integrated approach to capacity-building of front-line workers’. C4D will be more deeply integrated into programming linked to supporting parenting and early detection of children’s disabilities.

During this period, UNICEF C4D will also spearhead a participatory organizational change process to craft a new vision for social and behaviour change. A group of champions and trailblazers will be looking at the positioning of this function, its value-added, flagship results and the operational modalities necessary to achieve them, in order to suggest a new business model for the next Strategic Plan.

Communication for Development (C4D), also referred to as social and behaviour change communication (SBCC), promotes the social and behaviour changes required to break down stigma and discrimination, whether based on gender, disability, age or other forms of marginalization, to strive for inclusion and equality for all.

Deepening the Business for Results initiative



‘Business for Results’ (B4R) is a UNICEF-wide initiative launched in 2019 aimed at (re)positioning business as a key stakeholder in upholding and helping to fulfil the rights of children. It is linked to Strategic Plan change strategies 4, ‘Develop and leverage resources and partnerships for children’, and 5, ‘Harness the power of business and markets for children’.

This shift was introduced in the current Strategic Plan and is now being systematically implemented. The midterm review identified a set of priority areas for enhanced collaboration with businesses. The following are the most relevant to results under Goal Area 5.

- Working with businesses and governments to promote family-friendly policies and workplaces.
- Enhancing the organization’s understanding of (and collaboration with) private service providers in the delivery of primary health care and maximizing shared-value partnerships with business for health system strengthening.
- Market-shaping (i.e., assistive technologies).
- Promoting positive gender portrayals in marketing, advertising and media.

Progress towards the SDGs



Result highlights

The Strategic Plan outlines the contribution UNICEF is making towards fulfilment of the SDGs. Goal Area 5 contributes to many SDG goals and targets. More specifically, work in the goal area focuses on SDG 1, End poverty in all its forms everywhere; SDG 5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and SDG 10, Reduce inequality within and among countries.

At the midterm juncture of the Strategic Plan, UNICEF had met or come close to meeting 82 per cent of its output milestones and had output-level progress rates of over 9 per cent for three of the five result areas under Goal Area 5.

Progress was slowest in the public finance for children output of the child poverty result area.

FIGURE 3: Goal Area 5 result highlights

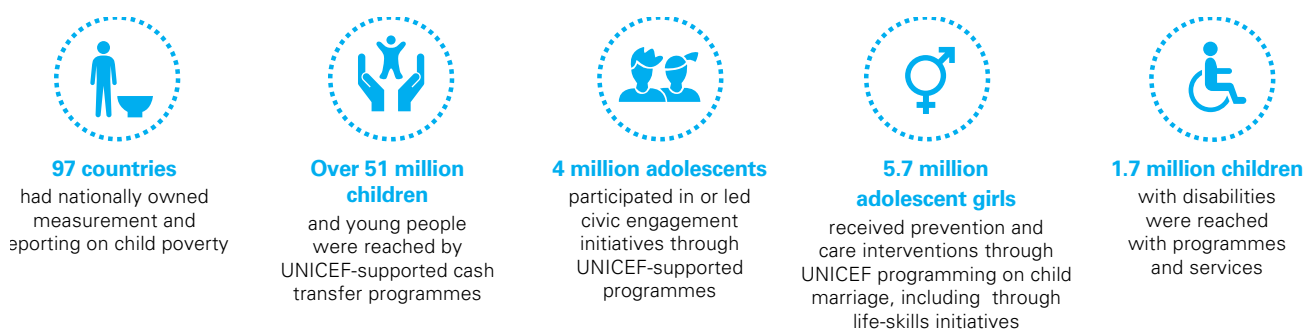
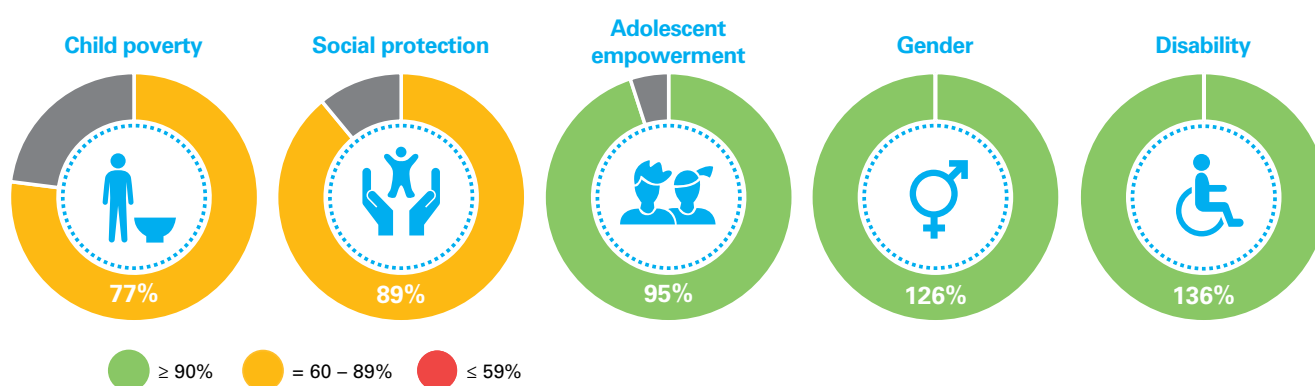


FIGURE 4: Progress rate by result area



Progress at the impact and outcome levels has been difficult to assess in Goal Area 5 owing to the lack of comparable data. While data indicate progress on impact- and outcome-level indicators of child poverty and social protection access, it has not been fast enough to achieve SDG targets.

Despite significant progress in outcome indicators for adolescent empowerment, the lack of global data makes it hard to gauge progress towards related SDGs. Indicators suggest progress in political commitment towards gender equality has not broadly translated into gender norms changes within communities. Meanwhile, with the outcome indicator measuring change in attitudes on disability still under development, progress for this indicator is difficult to assess.

Meeting the SDGs with partners

An important component of the overall Financing for Development Agenda (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) is the alignment of domestic public finance with SDG outcomes and allocation of resources to fulfil children’s rights. In 2019, UNICEF worked with the United Nations Joint Fund for the SDGs to shape and launch the second call for proposals on SDG financing for social protection. UNICEF country

offices worked together with the United Nations system to submit proposals to the SDG Fund. UNICEF is now leading implementation in more than half of the 36 countries selected to receive funding.

The organization also partnered with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to negotiate a global programme funded by the European Union (EU) that links social protection and public finance in eight countries.¹⁸ The programme, inspired by the SDG targets, promotes child rights focused, equity-based and inclusive social protection that caters to the rights of women and girls, people with disabilities, and children and families affected by humanitarian situations.



Partnerships Highlight

At the global level, UNICEF continued to chair the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty and collaborate with the World Bank in the routinization of monetary child poverty estimates. Other strategic partnerships included work with the International Budget Partnership around immunization, budget credibility and budget transparency, and with the World Health Organization (WHO) on the nexus of public finance and health. UNICEF also partnered with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) to develop an approach to resolving public finance bottlenecks in the health sector, currently being piloted in the United Republic of Tanzania.



UN Collaboration Highlight

UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) have agreed to align tools to assess the readiness of social protection systems in ensuring coordinated support to governments working on building and strengthening shock-responsive social protection systems. In addition, as members of the Inter-agency Task Force on Integrated National Financing Frameworks, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women conducted joint webinars to share public finance approaches and encourage closer joint work in the context of the second call for proposals under the Joint SDG Fund.

UNICEF forged new partnerships to support inclusive social protection, including for example with the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) to strengthen social protection systems to work for persons living with disabilities. The organization further strengthened existing partnerships with the European Commission, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the World Bank Group and ILO to deliver results for children. On gender-responsive social protection, UNICEF set up a new knowledge and learning partnership on gender-responsive social protection with DFID and the World Bank, to support

knowledge exchange, thematic learning and, where appropriate, greater coordination and joint work.

UNICEF strengthened its partnership with the Unstereotype Alliance, a thought and action platform convened by UN Women, to promote positive gender portrayals in advertising and marketing in the private sector. UNICEF is an implementing partner of the EU–United Nations Spotlight Initiative, which is making targeted, large-scale investments to respond to and prevent gender-based violence. UNICEF also collaborated with the International Finance Corporation, ILO and other public and private partners to launch efforts to support family-friendly policies and women’s economic empowerment.

The most significant driver of change within the disability inclusion sector this year was the launch of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) in June at the Conference of States Parties for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNDIS sets out a policy, action plan and accountability framework to strengthen the inclusion of persons with disabilities across the United Nations system in programmes and in internal operations (e.g., employment and accessibility). UNICEF was actively engaged in the development of UNDIS and is closely supporting its dissemination and implementation.

Addressing challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic is of a scale most people alive today have never seen. Worldwide, the outbreak is claiming lives and livelihoods as health systems buckle, borders close and families struggle to stay afloat.¹⁹ UNICEF, together with the wider United Nations system, will advocate for the prompt implementation of long-overdue measures to reset the world on a sustainable development path, fully aligned with human rights standards and principles, and support the global economy to be more resilient to future shocks (see the High-Level Priorities section of this report for more details on organizational priorities for COVID-19 that relate to Goal Area 5).

Reducing child poverty is essential to realizing a range of children’s rights, achieving global goals and fulfilling the principle of *leaving no one behind*. UNICEF will reinforce evidence on policies and programmes that address both monetary and multidimensional child poverty. In partnership with the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, UNICEF will capitalize on high-level opportunities related to SDG reporting to encourage countries to measure, monitor and address this issue.

Despite worldwide political commitment to addressing gender discrimination, there is limited translation into practical changes on the ground and the everyday realities experienced by girls and boys, women and men. Development programmes addressing gender inequalities

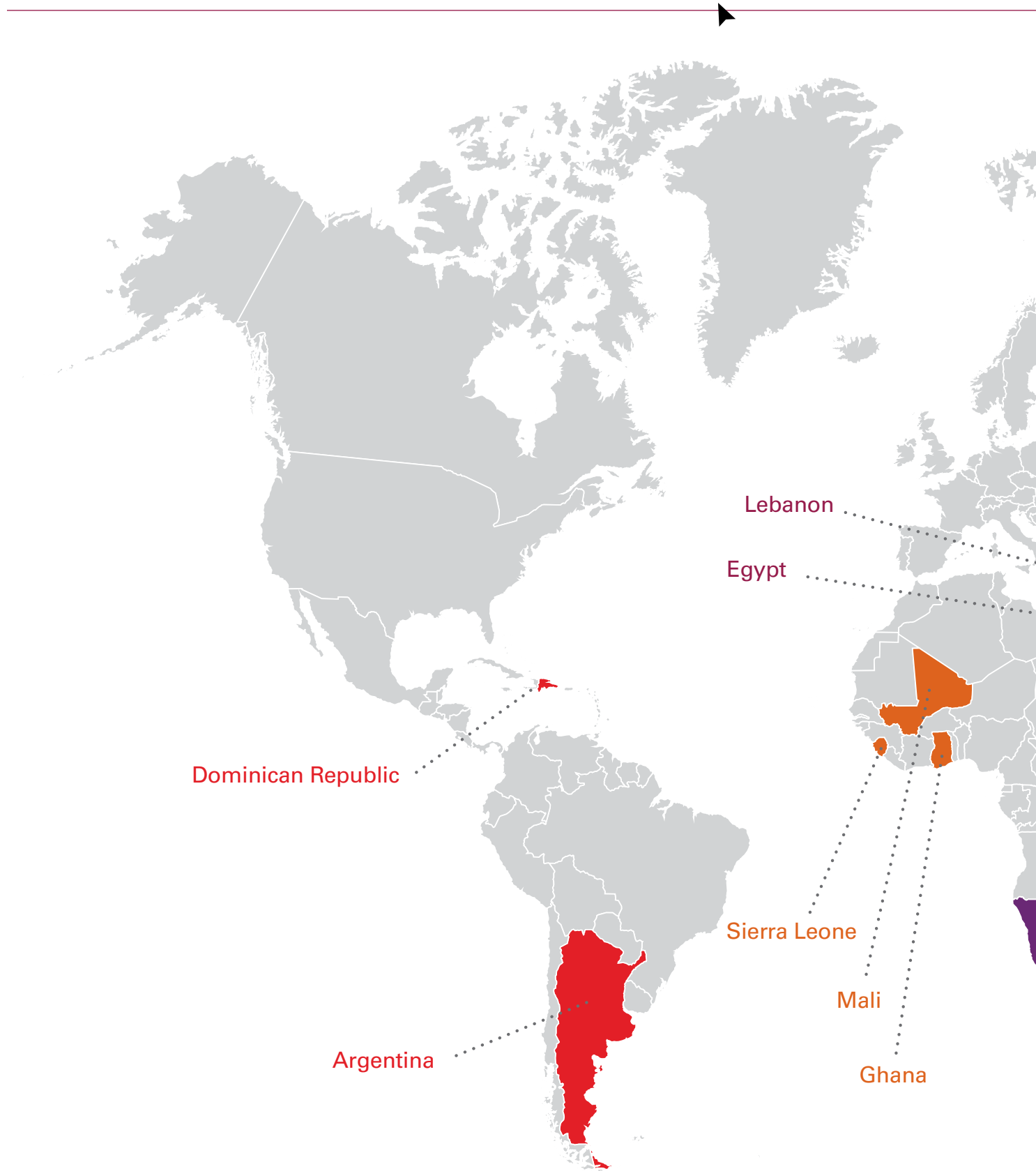
are often piecemeal, short term and not implemented at scale. Moreover, there is an urgent need to accelerate development of methodologies for measuring gender norms and monitoring progress of interventions. Academic research continues to be foundational, with limited availability of global data that measure gender norms and stereotypes. UNICEF will also take action on the Gender Action Plan evaluation findings to accelerate gender equality results.

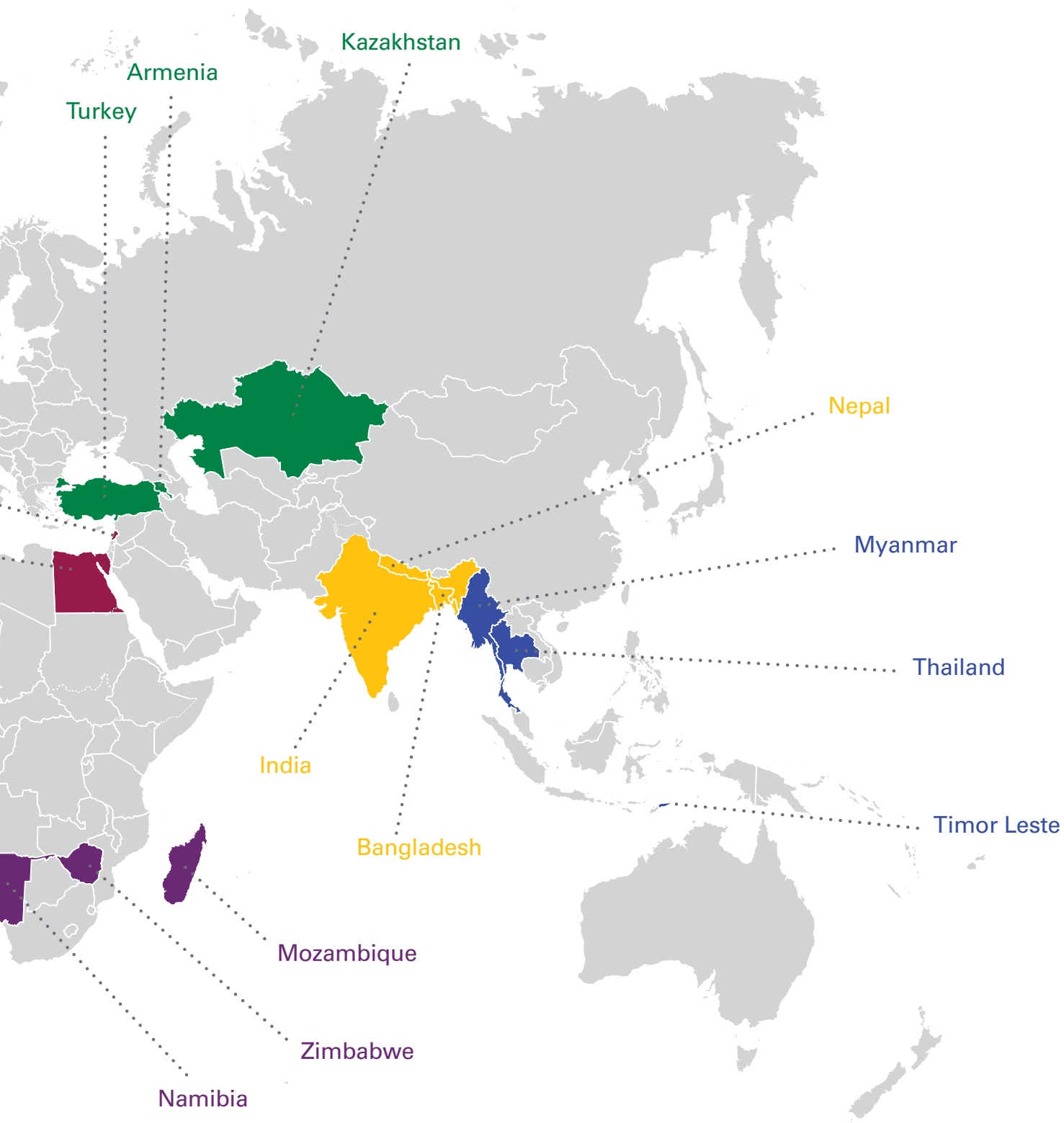
One of the biggest drivers of exclusion for children with disabilities is stigma and discrimination. Negative attitudes create barriers to attending school, accessing services and participating in communities. UNICEF is working with partners on behaviour change approaches in communities to empower, protect and include children with disabilities. This work can be transformative, changing individual attitudes, and impacting community services and national policies for more inclusive societies for all.

To address the main challenges in programming for and with adolescents, UNICEF aims to further institutionalize adolescent participation and civic engagement across all of the Strategic Plan goal areas, strengthen collaboration with adolescent- and youth-led networks and global organizations, and improve the availability of disaggregated data and evidence.

FIGURE 5: Map of Selected Results

(Click on Country Names for additional information)





Map of selected results - information by country

East Asia and the Pacific:

Myanmar:

- The Myanmar SDGs Action Plan for Children included indicators on child poverty for the first time – ensuring not only routine nationally owned measurement but also coordination and a governance mechanism for measurement
- Social model tools were endorsed for registration of persons with disabilities, a critical step towards the Government's commitment to implement universal disability grant for children (to start in Kayin State in 2022–2023)

Thailand:

- The first ever multidimensional child poverty findings were used to inform high-level national discussions on the importance of investing in children to achieve the 20-year national strategy goals
- UNICEF support helped expand the Child Support Grant to reach 1 million children. It is expected to cover an additional 0.8 million children, half the population under age 6, by 2024

Timor Leste:

- Gender-responsive parenting education was launched through Fathers Networks, engaging 4,329 fathers who subsequently demonstrated positive behaviour change such as increased sharing of care work and household chores with partners
- UNICEF and other United Nations agencies mapped education services provided to children with disabilities to help develop an action plan for implementation of the National Inclusive Education Policy

Europe and Central Asia:

Armenia:

- UNICEF launched research on root causes of parental attitudes and perceptions causing gender-biased sex selection
- UNICEF is developing a television-based 'edutainment' programme to address and transform the underlying discriminatory gender norms and biases in the community
- Social inclusion advocacy was integrated into key campaigns and digital activations, raising the voices of girls and boys with disabilities; as part of this, UNICEF produced C4D materials for community outreach and advocacy

Kazakhstan:

Based on UNICEF recommendations, the Government raised the eligibility threshold for the targeted social assistance scheme, leading to a 10% increase in the benefit amount and significant expansion of programme coverage

Turkey:

94,024 adolescents and young people, including 49,094 girls, participated in the social cohesion programme (a partnership between UNICEF, the Government and NGOs) to promote the meaningful engagement of young people and enhance positive peer-to-peer interactions between Turkish and Syrian adolescents

Eastern and Southern Africa:

Mozambique:

- UNICEF helped set up a joint fund linked to a sector-wide multi-donor financing platform for the Government's rural WASH programme; it promotes equity by using need-based targeting, performance-based disbursements and conditions/rules for sectoral prioritization
- After cyclones Idai and Kenneth, UNICEF, the Government and partners mobilized US\$50 million so the national social protection system could reach a total of 105,000 households in three provinces; UNICEF is working closely with WFP and the Government to provide social behaviour change communication support to cash transfer beneficiaries
- 43,623 adolescents participated in and led the peer-to-peer counselling and dialogue programmes on sexual and reproductive health, HIV and gender-based violence

Namibia:

- Disability mainstreaming was promoted in different government programmes, with a strong focus on addressing the right to access early childhood development, education, health, WASH and protection services
- UNICEF supported the development of the Disability Communication and Advocacy Strategy, which included specific C4D target groups and communication platforms; the strategy will be implemented by UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and key government counterparts

Zimbabwe:

- Implementation of the UNICEF-supported Decentralized Budget Monitoring and Tracking System significantly improved the budgeting process and increased transparency; 83 of the 92 local authorities are using this system

- A joint UNICEF–Parliament of Zimbabwe High Level Forum on the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child called upon Parliament to address multidimensional poverty by instituting adequate social protection, nutrition, health, education and other social services measures
- The Spotlight Initiative enabled UNICEF to work more collaboratively with other United Nations agencies on sexual and gender-based violence and disability-related services and reforms for women and girls with disabilities
- The Rural WASH Project reached 1,003 people with disabilities with safe water and 8,522 were reached as part of the emergency programme
- The Dawwie initiative addressed discriminatory gender norms and promoted girls' empowerment – 5,000 youth were trained on digital literacy, 7,000 engaged through storytelling circles and roadshows, and 46,700 children reached through schools

Lebanon:

- Through collaboration with UNDP, the IMF and ILO, UNICEF analysed the impact of national capital investments anticipated from donors on economic growth, which was used in high-level advocacy to promote pro-poor growth
- Inclusion of children with disabilities was part of a C4D strategy that focused on the most disadvantaged, promoting children's rights, positive discipline and partnership with religious leaders to achieve programme targets

Latin America and the Caribbean:

Argentina:

- The UNICEF methodology to quantify child-sensitive social expenditure helped generate evidence that contributed to the Government's decision to increase budget allocations for the Universal Child Grant scheme by 46 per cent and introduce a cross-sectoral child-sensitive perspective into the National Budget System
- Efforts continued to identify and reach children with disabilities; 381 people (half children) were identified and granted the Disability Certificate
- 120 companies joined the Corporate Promotion Group, established by UNICEF, to promote family-friendly policies related to parental leave, breastfeeding spaces, telecommuting and diversity programmes

Dominican Republic:

- The National Plan for Inclusive Education was launched by the Ministry of Education
- UNICEF strengthened the early childhood development government policy through C4D training to 150 home-visitors and 70 national trainers for scaling up; a communication campaign reinforcing fathers' role in positive parenting; and advocacy contributing to legislation extending paid paternity leave

Middle East and North Africa:

Egypt:

- A new agreement with OPHI, the regional office of Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) and the ministries of Social Solidarity and Planning was established, with the objective of generating estimates on national and child multidimensional poverty indices

South Asia:

Bangladesh:

- The Mothers@Work programme expanded to 92 garment factories, reaching 160,000 female workers and 2,865 children with standardized tools and facilities to create family-friendly environments, including breastfeeding spaces, crèches and counselling services
- Seventy-two health workers/assistants and social workers received training on disability detection tools, and 3,000 children were screened; susceptible children were referred to *upazila* health complexes for diagnosis

India:

- Multiple interventions were launched to address discriminatory gender norms and roles in the community: the Safe Gaadi initiative on gender sensitization training for 9,558 bus drivers and conductors; school-based sessions to increase awareness of gender equitable attitudes and promote positive behaviours, reaching 10,576 children, 1,300 school staff and 21,152 parents; and gender-sensitive programming guidelines for the national public television broadcaster reaching 99 per cent of the population
- Around 2.6 million adolescents participated in life-skills, volunteering and civic-engagement programmes
- UNICEF and 32 partners launched YuWaah, a national partnership ensuring access to learning and active citizenship for adolescents

Nepal:

- UNICEF supported the preparedness of the social protection system by working closely with eight highly flood-prone *palikas* (local governments) to pre-identify and register households living in areas at risk of flooding; this resulted in the development of a nascent social registry at local government level
- A gender-responsive parenting education programme established 16 fathers' groups reaching 4,329 fathers; 'edutainment' radio programme reaching 77 districts; and C4D materials addressing social norms on the role of fathers in childcare
- Fifty-two episodes of the life skills-based radio programme 'Sathi Sanga Manka Kura' were produced using behaviour-change messaging to reach 50 per cent of 16–35-year-olds; it is available on two national and 92 local radio stations in two languages
- In disability-inclusive education, UNICEF launched activities in 327 schools covering 16 municipalities, targeting over 30,000 children

- UNICEF-supported child poverty measurements helped move resources into sectors with higher numbers of children experiencing multiple deprivations
- A UNICEF analysis highlighted resource allocation inequities for social service delivery and recommended policy measures to ensure greater equity in public spending across districts
- UNICEF supported the Ghana Education Service to improve coordination of civil society actors implementing and monitoring disability-inclusive education initiatives and coordinated finalization, printing and dissemination of the harmonized Ghanaian Sign Language Dictionary

Mali:

20,496 adolescents became active agents of positive change by engaging in their communities to strengthen resilience and peace, and promote social cohesion and conflict prevention – these actions were supported by UNICEF, the Peacebuilding Fund, ILO, UNESCO and FAO

West and Central Africa:

Ghana:

- The U-Report was launched, registering 75,000 users, while related offline activities engaged 20,000 youth in discussions around participation barriers and opportunities

Sierra Leone:

New district vulnerability and equity profiles enabled the Government and UNICEF to better target multisectoral pro-poor initiatives and address geographic disparities in poverty distribution



Malak, 7, attends English classes at her local Makani centre. Supported by UNICEF, Makani Centres in Jordan provide integrated education, child protection and youth services to children from marginalized families of diverse ethnic backgrounds.



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Results: Child Poverty – “Ending child poverty by 2030”

Pictured above: Playtime for preschool children at Baan Wanaluang School in the northern province of Mae Hong Son, Thailand. In 2019, for the first time, Thailand conducted child multidimensional poverty measurement, revealing high rates of deprivation among children living in the north and among younger groups. UNICEF works with the Thai Government to expand the child grants coverage to reduce poverty in all its dimensions. The grant now covers over 1 million children under the age of 6 years, and is expected to cover 1.8 million children, or nearly half of all Thai children under 6, by 2024 – a strategic investment to ensuring the well-being of vulnerable children and families in the future.

“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.”

Nelson Mandela

Living in poverty profoundly impacts the full range of children’s rights, diminishing their life chances and ability to realize their potential. The lack of investment in addressing this has devastating effects, with lifelong consequences and serious implications for future generations and societies. Early interventions and investment in children and their families are central to breaking cycles of poverty.

Multidimensional child poverty measures complement income-based poverty measures by capturing the critical deprivations each child faces at the same time across a range of critical rights, such as access to nutrition, water and education.

The multiple deprivations children living in poverty suffer affect the development of their bodies and their minds. The social and economic inequalities and disadvantages in early childhood increase the risk of having lower earnings, lower standards of health and lower skills in adulthood. This, in turn, can perpetuate disadvantages across generations.

Child poverty is not restricted to low-income countries. In the EU, one in four children are at risk of poverty and social exclusion, and children under 18 are the age group at highest risk of poverty and social exclusion.²⁰ Around 62 per cent²¹ of the world’s extreme poor live in middle-income countries, with women and children disproportionately represented. In almost every country, children are more likely to be living in poverty than adults and more vulnerable to its effects. About half of all children suffer from multidimensional poverty.

These numbers guide UNICEF as it works to position child poverty as a central issue in national development plans, national agendas, policies and programmes. This includes encouraging governments to measure and monitor child poverty and to address, reduce and ultimately end child poverty through social and economic policies.

The UNICEF approach includes:

- Supporting universal national measurement of child poverty in all its dimensions
- Advocating using child poverty measurement to place child poverty high on national agendas
- Using policy analysis and engagement to influence policies and programmes to reduce child poverty
- Placing child poverty as the highest priority in national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.



“Given that most of those living in poverty are children and that poverty in childhood is a root cause of poverty in adulthood, children’s rights must be accorded priority. Even short periods of deprivation and exclusion can dramatically and irreversibly harm a child’s right to survival and development. To eradicate poverty, States must take immediate action to combat childhood poverty.”

Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, 2012, p. 7.

Results achieved in 2019 towards ending child poverty by 2030

Summary of global results

In 2019, UNICEF invested over US\$20 million in interventions supporting countries to measure and address child poverty. The organization continued its work to encourage governments to monitor child poverty and adapt social and economic policies to address it. As of 2019,

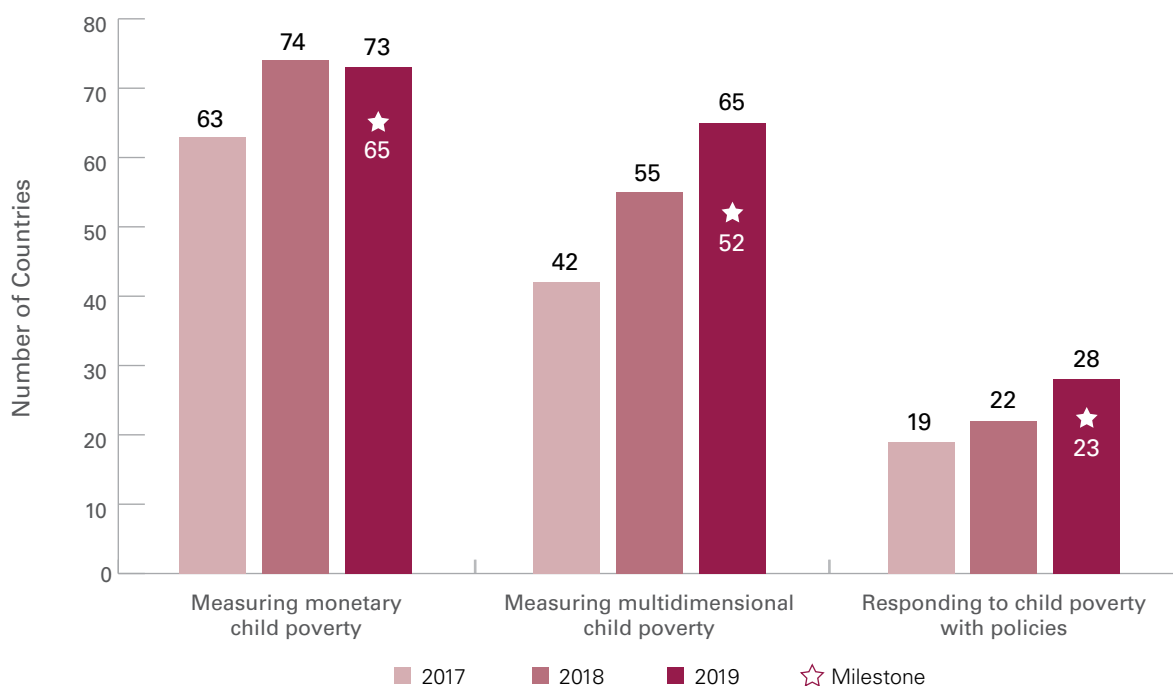
sixty-five countries have established routine measurement and reporting on multidimensional child poverty, and 73 on monetary child poverty, surpassing the 2019 milestones of 52 and 65, respectively. Child poverty was addressed by specific policies and programmes in 28 countries, up from 22 in 2018 and exceeding the milestone of 23.

As shown in Figures 6 and 7, by the end of 2019 UNICEF advocacy, technical assistance and support to national governments contributed to the growing number of countries measuring and addressing child poverty.

UNICEF-supported national analyses in 2019 consistently highlighted how children are the most vulnerable and

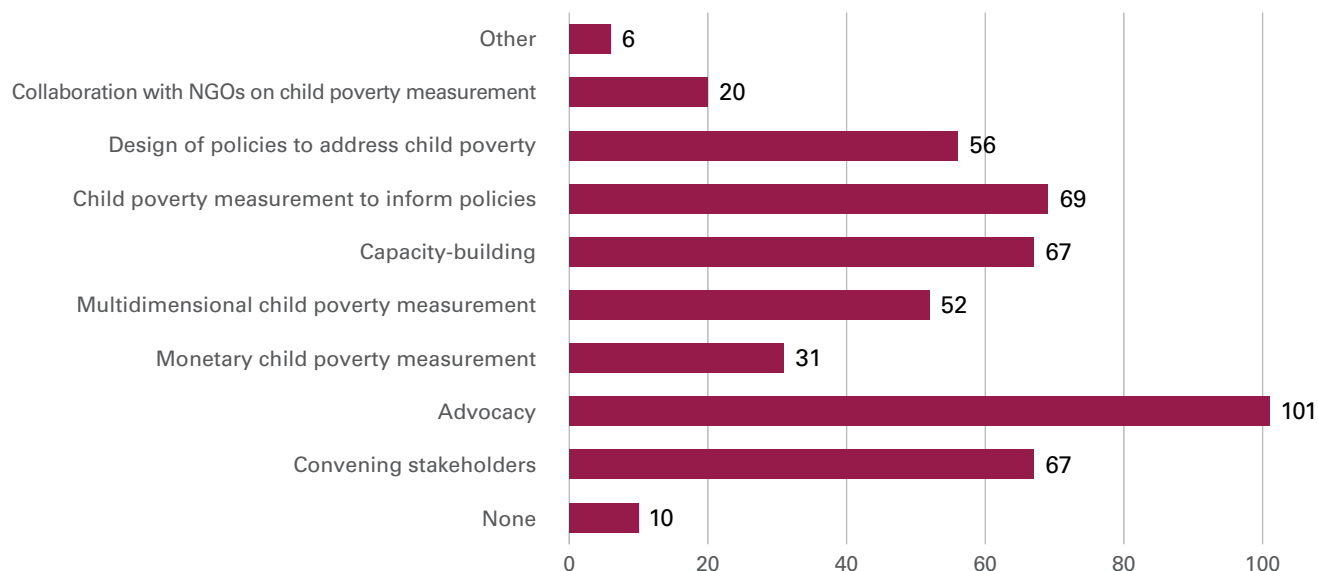
hardest hit by poverty. In Mongolia, for example, the monetary poverty rate is 28 per cent of the total population, while the child poverty rate is 37 per cent. Similarly, in Armenia, 24 per cent of the population and 29 per cent of the child population are in poverty. This evidence helps substantiate the need for an explicit child rights focus on poverty reduction efforts.

FIGURE 6: Global progress in measuring and responding to child poverty, 2017–2019



Source: UNICEF Strategic Monitoring Questions (SMQs) 2018–2019.²²

FIGURE 7: UNICEF support on child poverty, 2019



Source: UNICEF SMQs 2019.²³ NGO, non-governmental organization.

FIGURE 8: UNICEF-supported child poverty studies published in 2019



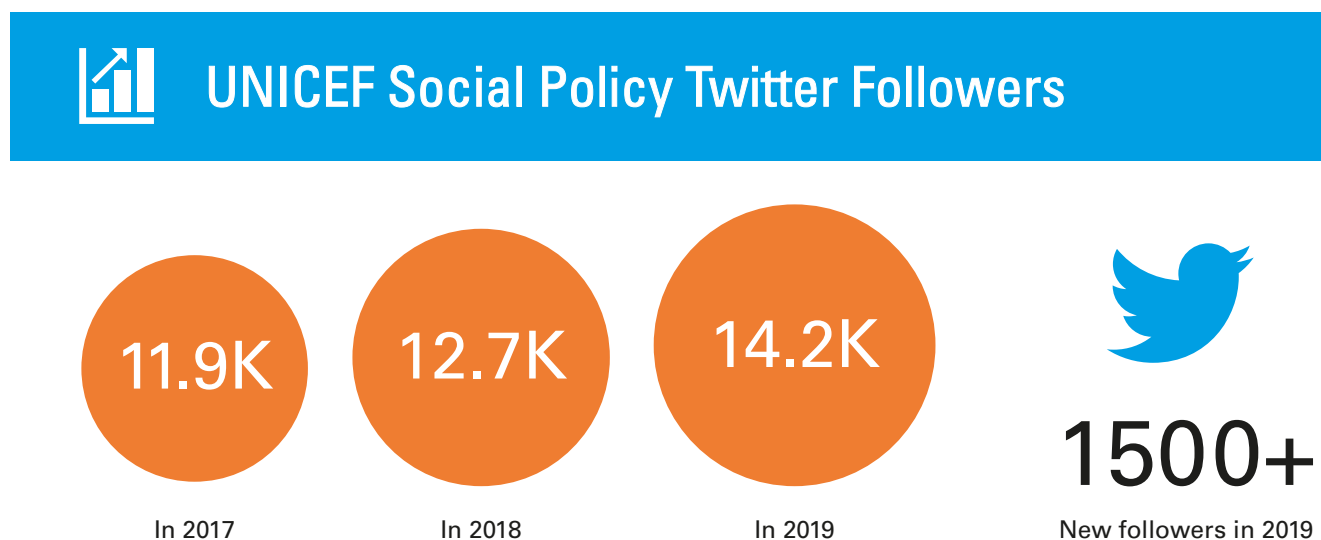
UNICEF collaborated with national governments and statistical offices to produce eight child poverty studies in 2019 (see Figure 8), many driven by government demand to obtain baselines for SDG indicators and targets. These studies provide a comprehensive overview, going beyond monetary poverty to explore how children are deprived, often simultaneously, in critical dimensions such as nutrition, health, education, water and sanitation. The findings in these studies have highlighted that children are multidimensionally poor: 21.5 per cent in Thailand, 60 per cent in the Comoros, 66 per cent in Sierra Leone, 73 per cent in Ghana, and 88 per cent in both Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Several innovative child poverty analyses were carried out in 2019. In India, a UNICEF-supported micro-analysis found that urban poor children are worse off than average children living in rural areas. In Nigeria, going beyond national child poverty analysis, state child poverty reports are being generated to highlight the disparities between states for the first time. In Belize, adolescent and youth perspectives were gathered through a qualitative exercise and a U-Report poll. In Chad, a UNICEF-supported analysis revealed that an additional 628,427 children under 18 years of age fell into poverty in 2018 due to the economic crisis.

UNICEF support, advocacy and partnerships have contributed to a greater focus on children and on children's rights in international monitoring and reporting on poverty. The Oxford Policy and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), a member of the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, now routinely disaggregates data on children in its high-profile global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The MPI consistently shows that half the people in the world experiencing multidimensional poverty are children. In addition, UNICEF continues to collaborate with the World Bank for the global and regional disaggregation of poverty estimates of children, with new estimates expected in 2020.

These global statistics on child poverty provide powerful support for continuing UNICEF work to ensure that ending child poverty is among the highest global, regional and national priorities. To further this agenda, UNICEF Headquarters' social policy team increased its social media presence in 2019. With 14,300 followers and an average monthly reach of 37,000, Twitter is one of the primary communication channels UNICEF uses to share work on social policy and to reach and engage with the public, policymakers, donors and other stakeholders (see Figure 9). Despite social policy issues not being easily marketable to a wide audience, @UNICEFSocPolicy is among the most followed of UNICEF Headquarters' Twitter accounts.

FIGURE 9: @UNICEFSocPolicy Twitter account



The push of the SDGs – Routine child poverty measurement

Quality, routine, nationally supported measurement of child poverty builds knowledge and understanding of its impact on child rights, its scale, scope and equity dimensions, and sets a foundation for creating policies and programmes to reduce it (*see Case Study 1*). In a number of countries, child poverty measurements fed into national frameworks and SDG reporting processes.

Tajikistan adopted a comprehensive, costed National Programme for Children to accelerate the achievement of SDGs for children and thus child rights, with 33 targets – including a target to halve child poverty – based on the child poverty measurement conducted in 2019 (*see Case Study 3, p.36*). To monitor SDG 1, the National Economic and Social Development Council of Thailand also launched the child multidimensional poverty index. Algeria, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Sierra Leone were among the countries that reported on multidimensional child poverty as part of their SDG voluntary national reviews (VNRs) presented at the High-level Political Forum in 2019.

Building on this SDG momentum, an increasing number of countries are now routinely conducting monetary and multidimensional child poverty analysis with UNICEF support. In 2019, UNICEF supported the SDG child poverty baseline estimates for the following countries: Albania, Ghana, Mali, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Many of these countries have established and strengthened national mechanisms to measure child poverty. For instance, as part of the Tanzania Household Budget Survey, the monetary child poverty rate is being

regularly calculated and reported by the national statistical agency. In Rwanda, multidimensional child poverty is now routinely reported as part of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey thematic reports.

Similarly, owing to strong leadership by the Office of the Prime Minister, the Uganda National Household Survey now includes a module on multidimensional child poverty, ensuring regular measurement and availability of critical information to guide policies and programmes to address child poverty. Going beyond measurement, Uganda also started using multidimensional child poverty markers to evaluate and monitor poverty reduction programmes.

In South Africa, UNICEF collaborated with Statistics South Africa for the official adoption of the Multidimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analyses (MODA) tool, so that multidimensional child poverty will be analysed routinely every three years as part of poverty and inequality surveys. In Paraguay, the National Statistical Development Strategy established a regular mechanism to monitor social indicators, including on multidimensional child poverty, with UNICEF support. The Sierra Leone Multidimensional Child Poverty Report 2019 was launched by the Minister of Planning and Economic Development with a commitment to tracking the indicator on reducing child poverty.

Several other countries have demonstrated increased efforts to routinize child poverty measurement. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, a UNICEF-supported pilot measurement of multidimensional child poverty provided the stepping stone for the establishment of national measurement. Albania is also exploring new ways and methodologies to measure and monitor child poverty, releasing its first-ever ‘at-risk-of-poverty’ rate for children.

Case Study 1: Argentina: A debt to children living in poverty

In Argentina, multidimensional child poverty measurement was at the core of evidence that led to a highly impactful advocacy campaign run during the 2019 presidential and gubernatorial elections. Using evidence generated through a series of quantitative and qualitative analyses – which unpacked the scale of child rights violations, depth and lived experience of poverty among children – the campaign aimed to position child poverty at the centre of the public and political agenda, advocating for increased, better and sustained public investment to realize the rights of the poorest and most vulnerable children.

The campaign ran in two stages: the first part called #YoElijoVotar (#IChooseToVote) aimed to empower and mobilize adolescents and youth through social media, calling them to raise their voices and exercise their rights to vote. Using digital and traditional media, and boost from Goodwill Ambassadors and social media influencers, the campaign reached an audience of 20 million people.



The second part of the campaign, #LaDeudaEsConLaNiñez (#TheDebtIsToChildren), highlighted progress achieved and gaps remaining in multidimensional child poverty reduction since the country ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child three decades ago. As part of the campaign, UNICEF Argentina developed a policy brief that outlined key child poverty statistics, quotes from children explaining what poverty means to them, and proposals for a way forward.

In a country where external debt issues were at the centre of public and media

attention, the campaign called for an increased focus on the debt that matters the most – “a debt to children living in poverty.” The #LaDeudaEsConLaNiñez video was viewed an impressive 227 million times, and generated over 240 news, feature articles and opinion pieces in print and digital media.

In addition to the public outreach, UNICEF also organized widely publicised face-to-face meetings with the presidential candidates Mauricio Macri and Alberto Fernandez to discuss solutions to address multidimensional child poverty, based on the proposals put forward on the policy brief.

The campaign results show the power of high-quality child poverty analyses – both quantitative and qualitative – and how, presented during strategic moments, such analyses can bring much needed media and political spotlight to children living in poverty, setting the groundwork for political commitments, policy change and real results for children.



Building capacity to address child poverty

It is only when states routinely measure child poverty that they can begin to define and implement measures to address and mitigate its negative effects. UNICEF aims to ensure child poverty measurement is embedded nationally in every country and becomes an integral part of national statistical processes. In 2019, the organization provided significant support to all regions of the world to increase countries' capacities to measure and report on child poverty, encouraging a greater sense of national ownership of child poverty analysis and policy recommendations. The goal of this work is to make the effects of child poverty visible to be able to address these and improve the situation of children in poverty.

Below are a few illustrations of UNICEF support to strengthen national efforts and capacity in the measurement of monetary and/or multidimensional child poverty in 2019.

- For the first time, the measurement of multidimensional poverty (both general and child specific) was the topic of a Further Analysis Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Workshop in Bangkok, where government statisticians from 15 countries received training on the analysis of multidimensional poverty.
- In West and Central Africa, UNICEF conducted a regional workshop on the analysis of multidimensional child poverty. Participants from Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Senegal and Togo created a pool of regional experts that other countries can call upon for technical assistance.
- In Ethiopia, the Policy Studies Institute was established through UNICEF support. It focuses on assessing how children's needs are reflected in national policies and development plans. The Institute, UNICEF, the Young Lives Project and the University of Oxford (United Kingdom) collaborated on longitudinal research to explore the effects of poverty from birth to adulthood.
- In Afghanistan, the Comoros, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Suriname and Togo, UNICEF supported capacity-building of government statisticians for multidimensional poverty analysis.
- UNICEF and the Secretariat General of Government Coordination in Honduras raised awareness on use of the multidimensional poverty measurement among 55 decision makers at government institutions, including ministers and the President of the Republic; 83 staff from government institutions also received training.
- In Pakistan, UNICEF became a member of National Poverty Metrics Committee, with a role to influence child-centred poverty measurement and policies to address child poverty.

- UNICEF Belize provided technical expertise and capacity-building for the Participative Poverty Assessments with a specific focus on children, resulting in a specific methodology to consult children on poverty.
- With support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Development in Paraguay led the second multidimensional poverty seminar, including a focus on multidimensional child poverty.

South–South collaboration

UNICEF further supported the strengthening of national capacities to address child poverty in 2019 through South–South collaboration. The UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office and the Chinese Leading Group Office for Poverty Reduction agreed to cooperate on increasing human capital (investment in key child sectors, such as health and education) in selected countries in Africa that are lagging behind in the achievement of the SDGs. The potential of this partnership to benefit vulnerable populations, including children, is promising.

Other examples of South–South collaboration around child poverty include the following:

- UNICEF and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean organized a panel of experts on good practices on how to measure and monitor multidimensional child poverty, with government officials from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay.
- UNICEF supported 'Measure What You Treasure: Child Poverty and Deprivations in Sri Lanka', the first national conference on child poverty, organized together with the Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution, the Centre for Poverty Analysis and OPHI. The conference brought together the governments of Chile, Mexico and Thailand to share good practices from their respective countries.
- In collaboration with the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the Mexican Embassy, the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (Consejo Nacional de Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social [CONEVAL]) and UNICEF Mexico, UNICEF Jamaica led the process of cooperation between the two governments, focusing on the use of multidimensional poverty measurement to drive policy changes.

Child poverty in fragile contexts



Fragility, conflict and violence in many low- and middle-income countries threaten to reverse the gains and compromise the potential of these countries to end extreme poverty. Children

living in countries that experience conflict and fragility are particularly vulnerable to poverty and a range of rights violations. This is especially worrisome given the growing numbers of countries affected by both recurring disasters, caused by natural hazards, and protracted crises associated with fragility, conflict and violence.

Even in these precarious situations, UNICEF works hard to measure and highlight the plight of children living in poverty. For example, in Yemen, UNICEF supported training for 50 staff members of the Central Statistics Office on data collection and analysis of poverty, including monetary child poverty.

In the Afghanistan MPI, report findings were instrumental to reinvigorating the social protection programme. Current discussions between UNICEF and partners are focusing on how MPI can be linked with a wider set of activities focusing on public finance for children.

In Ecuador, UNICEF and the World Bank – in alliance with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Organization for Migration, WFP and UNDP – conducted a Living Conditions Survey on Venezuelan migrants and host communities in Ecuador. The goal of this survey was to provide evidence-based data about the situation and deprivations that Venezuelan and Ecuadorian households are facing in the country, to inform the foundations of a policy agenda that addresses their social and economic inclusion.

Advocacy to address child poverty

In 2019, UNICEF-supported child poverty measurements and analyses helped generate novel and in-depth information on children living in poverty, bringing increased attention to their rights deprivations in a situation of poverty, and guiding solutions to address it. Child poverty data and evidence have served as the basis for various public and policy advocacy campaigns across countries (see, for example, *Case Study 1*).

In Mozambique, a UNICEF-led advocacy campaign based on multidimensional child poverty analysis led all major political parties running for general elections to highlight child poverty in their party manifestos, setting the groundwork for greater investment in realizing children's rights in the Government's new Five-Year-Plan.

Panama witnessed increased public attention on child poverty in 2019 as a result of multidimensional child poverty analysis. The results were covered extensively by the media, with some reports receiving prestigious journalism awards. Most importantly, the analysis informed the Strategic Government Plan for the period 2019–2024.



A joint UNICEF–Parliament of Zimbabwe High-level Forum was held on the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Forum called

upon Parliament to pledge and commit to increasing budget allocations for education, health, social protection and other basic social services in line with regional and global commitments. It also called on Parliament to address multidimensional child poverty by instituting adequate social protection, nutrition, health, education and other services focused on children's rights.

National planning processes – and influencing policies and programmes

Integrating child poverty into key development frameworks of a country, such as national development plans or poverty reduction strategies, is important, either as indicators to evaluate progress or as a key consideration in the inclusion of specific policies and programmes. Doing so creates high-level political commitment at the national level, thus laying the groundwork for increased and better coordinated actions to combat child poverty, and funding to ensure sustained implementation and further realization of children's rights.

Among the countries that included child poverty as progress indicators in their national development plans are the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Panama and Togo. Many more countries are also working towards full integration following the release of child poverty measurement reports.

For instance, Myanmar's SDGs Action Plan for Children includes – for the first time – indicators on child poverty, ensuring not only routine, nationally owned measurement, but also coordination and governance mechanism for the measurement. Likewise, in El Salvador, UNICEF developed a comprehensive multidimensional child poverty reduction strategy and a costed plan for the Government, based on extensive poverty data and impact simulations of various interventions.

In some countries, such as Ghana, Panama and Zambia, child poverty measurements have helped direct focus and resources into areas and sectors with the highest

number of children experiencing multiple deprivations. In Ghana, UNICEF partnered with the University of Ghana's Centre for Social Policy Studies to review the geographical resource allocation formula and propose recommendations to better reflect child poverty rates when disbursing funds to local governments. In Panama, the Child MPI was the key tool used to determine priority districts for the national poverty reduction plan, *Plan Colmena*.

In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, MODA, with a focus on stunting, reinforced national dialogue on the need for multisectoral collaboration to address the determinants of malnutrition. MODA results were used as an entry-point for engagement with selected provincial stakeholders to influence subnational planning, budgeting, coordination and monitoring of results in the social subsector.

In Mexico, in partnership with CONEVAL – an independent institution that oversees evaluation of social policies – UNICEF continued advocating for policies to address child poverty. Dialogues were set up with the new government authorities to highlight data and evidence generated by child poverty measurement and analysis.

UNICEF also supported child poverty analyses and advocacy efforts that directly influenced poverty reduction efforts in a number of countries in 2019. In Kazakhstan, based on UNICEF recommendations, the Government raised the eligibility threshold for the targeted social assistance (TSA) scheme, leading to a 10 per cent increase in the benefit amount. In addition to the increase in benefit amount, there was a significant expansion of programme coverage: from 363,000 children benefiting from the TSA in 2018 to 1.5 million by the end of November 2019.

Malaysia was another trailblazer in demonstrating the power of evidence to impact policy. To address child poverty, the Malaysian Government raised the benefit amount of its flagship social protection scheme – Malaysia People's Aid – by US\$30 per child per year, introduced new tax credits for women returning to the labour market, and released additional public funding amounting to US\$7.3 million to childcare services.

United Nations cooperation and stakeholder partnerships to address multidimensional poverty

UNICEF continued to chair the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, a 20-member organization of key stakeholders and global advocates for ending child poverty. The Coalition highlighted critical child poverty issues in 2019 by launching a brief on the importance

of capturing data on children currently missing from poverty statistics. It also published an advocacy brief to prompt countries to reflect on their efforts to measure and address child poverty in their SDG VNRs (*see Box 'Voluntary national reviews: Are countries committed to ending extreme child poverty?'*).

In line with the commitments of the common chapters of the UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women strategic plans – where the four agencies have committed to working together towards poverty eradication through joint planning, implementation of initiatives, strengthened partnerships and resources efficiency – multiple significant activities were carried out at national level. For example, to increase evidence-based advocacy for efficient and effective use of national resources, a report on the 'Voices of Children on Poverty in Trinidad' was launched in 2019, supported by UNICEF and UNDP and in partnership with the Government, capturing the opinions of children across Trinidad.

Through collaboration with UNDP, ILO and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in Lebanon, UNICEF analysed the impact on economic growth of national capital investments anticipated from donors for use in high-level advocacy to promote pro-poor growth in the country. In Myanmar, UNICEF, UNDP and the World Bank collaborated on monetary child poverty analysis, and UNICEF will disseminate the results at subnational levels in partnership with UNDP.

In Guinea-Bissau, UNICEF and UNDP jointly disseminated the results of the first measurement of multidimensional child poverty along with the SDG agenda. In Burundi, UNICEF supported the establishment of a child poverty working group, chaired by the ministry in charge of finance, and bringing together representatives from relevant line ministries, the Burundi Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, academics, civil society and United Nations agencies – providing an opportunity to strengthen national dialogue and attention on monetary and multidimensional child poverty.

In Afghanistan, Maldives and Thailand, the governments partnered with UNICEF and OPHI to support the analysis of multidimensional child poverty. In Egypt, a new agreement between UNICEF with OPHI, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Egypt's Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, and the ministries of Social Solidarity and Planning was established in 2019, with the objective of generating estimates on national and child multidimensional poverty indices. In addition, UNICEF Belize is working together with the World Bank, ILO and WFP on a series of consultations, including one on multidimensional child poverty, to strengthen the country's social protection system.

Voluntary national reviews: Are countries committed to ending extreme child poverty?



Voluntary National Reviews for the Sustainable Development Goals:

ARE COUNTRIES COMMITTED TO ENDING CHILD POVERTY BY 2030?

The 2030 Agenda sets targets to reduce child poverty by half in all its dimensions, providing a historic opportunity for countries to put children at the centre of poverty reduction policies and protect future generations from the devastating and brutal impacts of poverty.

Since 2016, some 141 countries – including 46 in 2019 – have presented their SDG voluntary national reviews (VNRs) to the United Nations, outlining progress and plans to achieve the global Goals. In 2019, UNICEF and the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty conducted a thorough review of past VNRs to gauge the obligation of countries to address child poverty.

The analysis shows that, of the 46 countries that presented their VNRs in 2019, only 9 referred to their multidimensional child poverty rate, while 17 mentioned monetary child poverty in their reporting.

On a positive note, 19 countries explicitly highlighted their national policies and programmes to address child poverty. For instance, New Zealand provided a comprehensive overview of its plans to halve child poverty by

2030 through a multipronged approach that includes the adoption of a Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018, the Families Package programme, and the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. Ghana and Sierra Leone were among countries that provided comprehensive SDG baselines for both monetary and multidimensional child poverty.

The briefing paper 'Voluntary National Reviews for the Sustainable Development Goals: Are countries committed to ending child poverty by 2030?'²⁴ was launched on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. UNICEF, Save the Children and the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty invited national missions to the United Nations to share their results and celebrate best practices; 2020 VNR countries were urged to prioritize child poverty in their VNR reporting and SDG actions.

Realizing children's rights, and achieving the SDG targets of ending extreme child poverty and halving child poverty as nationally defined will take extraordinary global and national efforts and commitment. In the analytical paper and during the event, UNICEF emphasized that four years into the implementation of the Goals and with only 11 years remaining, governments must take accelerated actions to address child poverty, including establishing national baselines and targets on child poverty.

Challenges and looking ahead

More governments than ever are now measuring, monitoring and addressing child poverty, yet gaps remain and the challenges are increasing. Despite remarkable progress in poverty reduction globally in the past two decades, child poverty has increased in many parts of the world, particularly in regions plagued by fragility, conflict or unstable governance. As UNICEF addresses additional challenges linked to the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 and climate change in 2020 and beyond, risk-informing and strengthening gender-responsive and disability-inclusive social protection systems will be a central part of the organization's response. UNICEF will also increase its efforts to programme across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus (see Box "Strengthening linkages between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding – the 'triple nexus'"). This includes climate change mitigation and adaptation of its effects on the rights of children living in poverty, including work on shock-responsive social protection and building nascent systems in fragile contexts.

This year marks the beginning of the Decade of Action to Achieve the SDGs. There are only 10 years remaining to achieve the SDG targets of ending extreme child poverty and halving child poverty according to national definitions. Accelerating progress towards SDG 1 requires explicit attention to the specific vulnerabilities and added challenges of children living in extreme poverty, including those hardest to reach, and in fragile contexts. Reducing child poverty will be essential to achieving many of the SDGs and to fulfilling the principle of *leaving no one behind* and the ambition of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to improve the living conditions of all children everywhere.

UNICEF will reinforce its efforts to provide evidence on how to further enhance and adjust policies and programmes to effectively and specifically address both monetary and multidimensional child poverty. In addition, UNICEF will – in partnership with the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty – capitalize on high-level opportunities related to SDG reporting to encourage countries to measure, monitor and address child poverty, in line with the SDG objectives of ending child poverty and leaving no child behind.

Strengthening linkages between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding – the 'triple nexus'

In accordance with the organization's new 'Procedure on Linking Humanitarian and Development Programming', child poverty programming will incorporate seven main programme and operational strategies to strengthen the link between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding programming. These include strengthening systems and localizing humanitarian and development programming; risk-informed programming; strengthening participation of affected populations; strengthening social protection systems to scale up cash transfers in emergencies; emergency preparedness; inter-agency, system-wide strategies; and galvanizing partnerships to mobilize quality resources.



Children at the playground of a Community Based School in Kandahar, in the Southern region of Afghanistan.

International day of poverty eradication – The focus on children living in poverty

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was commemorated on Thursday, 17 October 2019, and for the first time the focus of the day was on children living in poverty. The theme of the day was 'Acting Together to Empower Children, their Families and Communities to End Poverty'.

Together with ATD (All Together in Dignity) Fourth World and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNICEF organized coordinated social media outreach to bring global and national attention to children living in poverty and to call for policy actions to address child poverty in all its forms. As a result, child poverty received unprecedented social media coverage, with global leaders, United Nations agencies, and multiple key partners and stakeholders sending unified messages on the scale and importance of reducing child poverty and actions needed to address it.

On this important day, children living in poverty took centre stage at the United Nations, urging governments and the Organization to take urgent action to end child poverty once and for all.



Alma, Paula and Raquel from Spain during their speech at the United Nations.



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Results: Public Finance for Children – “Protecting the rights of children through greater and more equitable investments”

Pictured above: Alina Daniel with her children (from left, Tadala, Bridget, Shadreck and Benard) are the beneficiaries of the Malawi Social Cash Transfer, *Mtukula Pakhomo* – an unconditional transfer targeted to ultra-poor, labour-constrained households. In Malawi, UNICEF-led public finance for children efforts helped bring about a 61 per cent increase in the Government’s contribution to the social cash transfer programme and a 282 per cent increase in the budget allocation to the Expanded Programme on Immunization. The robust UNICEF budget analysis and strategic advocacy also contributed to notable increases in budgets for social sector interventions that contribute to the realization of children’s rights.

Children’s rights can only be realized if states enact effective policies, legislation and programmes, and use public budgets to support implementation. Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child obligates states to support economic, social and cultural rights “to the maximum extent of their available resources.” General Comment No. 19 on public budgeting for the realization of children’s rights further specifies how basic principles of efficiency, effectiveness, equity, transparency and sustainability in public budgeting should be applied if states are to meet their budgetary obligations to realize the rights of children.



The work UNICEF has done on public finance for children (PF4C) supports countries to meet their obligations under Article 4 of the Convention. By influencing governments to prepare national budgets with a child rights perspective and to increase the transparency of allocations to and expenditures on

services for children, the organization has contributed to translating rights into tangible results. However, in 2019 prospects for domestic public spending on services for children were adversely affected by lower global growth (which fell from 3 per cent in 2018 to an estimated 2.4 per cent in 2019²⁵) and by the rising cost of debt servicing, particularly for many low-income countries.²⁶

The specific objectives of UNICEF PF4C programming are to help countries to:

- allocate sufficient public resources for sectors and services that are critical for children, including education, health, social and child protection, water and sanitation
- improve the efficiency of use of these resources to ensure funds are spent rationally, that goods and services are procured at the lowest cost without sacrificing their quality, and that funds reach their intended user on time
- ensure the effective use of public resources – that is, that they are spent on programmes, services and commodities that matter most to children
- distribute resources equitably, to ensure that children with greatest needs receive additional support, to overcome discrimination and to help to achieve more equal societies
- strengthen the transparency and accountability of their budget processes, allowing children and citizens in general to have a say in the way resources are planned and spent.

The organization’s practical focus on finding ways to improve the availability of finance and public financial management to improve sector service delivery and results is complementary to the approach of leading public financial management partners and has resulted in growing partnerships with World Bank, the IMF, the EU and bilateral agencies.

Results achieved in 2019 towards protecting the rights of children through greater and equitable investments

Summary of global results

In 2019, more than 120 UNICEF country offices worked on public finance, and the organization in total invested over US\$30 million in PF4C programming (see Figure 10). The majority of interventions supported achieving adequate or sufficient budget allocations, followed by interventions to promote greater transparency and public participation. Interventions to improve the quality of spending (efficiency, effectiveness and equity) are the largest when combined together. While progress was slow in PF4C, the midterm review recognized current monitoring does not effectively capture public finance results and proposed the development of a broader indicator.

Internal capacity-building continued in 2019, with 230 staff trained in PF4C, adding to the 375 staff trained over the previous three years. This UNICEF priority has better

equipped staff with PF4C programming expertise and thus progressively improved public allocations for children. In 2018, around 106 countries implemented PF4C advocacy plans, compared with only 89 countries in 2017.



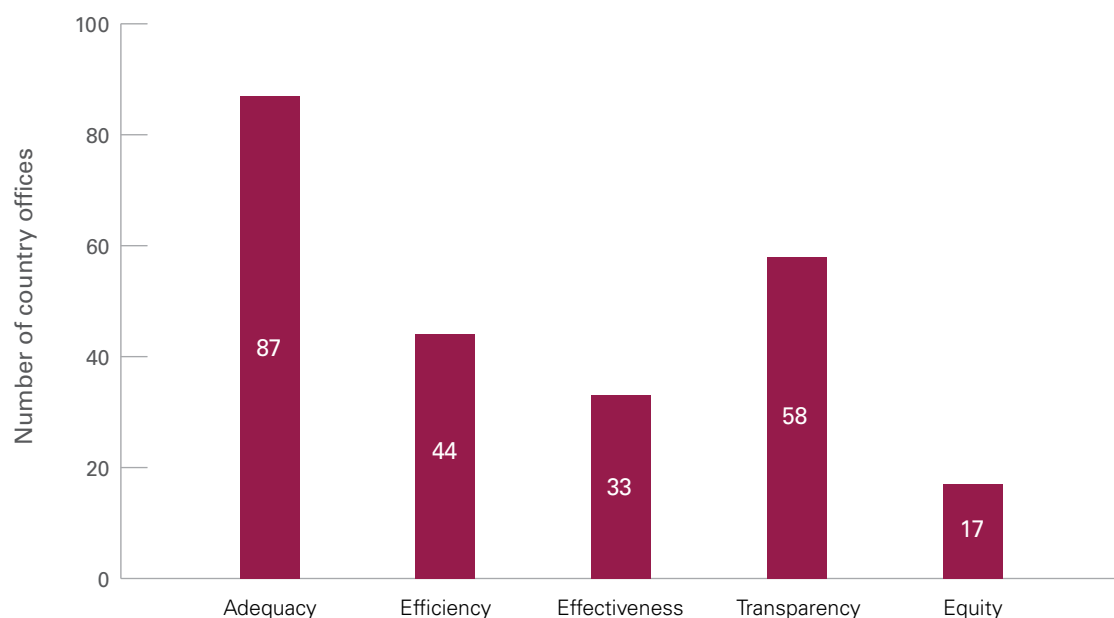
Data Highlight

Data and evidence generation around social spending are central to PF4C work and was carried out extensively in 2019 to assist in improved budget decisions to support children’s rights, with special attention to the most marginalized. Social sector budget analyses were conducted in 59

countries, providing data on the level, efficiency and distribution of social spending relevant to children.

In many cases this information was used to improve allocation and prioritization of budgets. In Argentina, the UNICEF methodology to quantify child-sensitive social expenditure²⁷ helped generate evidence that contributed to

FIGURE 10: Number of UNICEF country offices seeking to improve various aspects of public budgets for children



Source: UNICEF SMOs 2019.²⁸

the Government’s decision to increase budget allocations for the Universal Child Grant scheme by 46 per cent, and to introduce a cross-sectoral child-sensitive perspective into the national budget system.

In Burundi, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Youth and UNFPA to develop an Adolescent Investment Case showing that for every US\$1 invested in this age group, the country will see a return of US\$16.4 for interventions in health, US\$10 for investments in formal education interventions and US\$15.3 for non-formal education interventions. This evidence helped influence the national Government to prioritize social expenditure in preparation for the forthcoming 2020 budget.

In 38 countries, UNICEF built capacity of national and subnational government partners and civil society organizations, including citizen groups, in budget planning, formulation, execution, monitoring and reporting. By making children’s rights more visible in budget processes, governments are better able to link budget allocations to outcomes for children and to identify gaps and additional resource needs.

In Côte d’Ivoire, for example, UNICEF supported the inclusion of priority health-care components into the Midterm Expenditure Framework and strengthened the health sector’s capacities for programme budgeting and results-based budgeting. This resulted in Government commitment to increase health sector allocations by 10 per cent annually.



The organization’s deepened partnership with the IMF during 2019 is a promising development. Given the IMF’s considerable influence on governments’ fiscal decisions – especially in countries experiencing economic difficulties – this collaboration has the potential to make a significant difference in realizing children’s rights, particularly with respect to effective use of domestic resources in health, education and social protection, and thus contributing to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10.

A critical catalyst to this increased collaboration was the IMF’s new Social Spending Strategy,²⁹ released in June 2019. The strategy places greater emphasis on supporting countries to ensure their social spending plans are adequate, efficient and sustainable, focusing particularly on the health, education and social protection sectors. UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore met with the IMF Executive Board in 2019 and collaboration is under way in seven countries. Plans are in place to ensure more systematic interaction.

Case Study 2: Tunisia: UNICEF and the IMF jointly support fiscal reforms to benefit children

Public finance for children results are frequently products of multi-year interventions and collaboration among multiple stakeholders with converging interests. One such example is Tunisia, where the Government, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and UNICEF began a dialogue around supporting the Government in fiscal reforms and their impact on the most vulnerable.

UNICEF advocated with the Tunisian Government to establish a Universal Child Grant, while the IMF was advocating for energy subsidy reforms which would have created additional fiscal space that could be leveraged to finance the Universal Child Grant.

UNICEF conducted a benefit incidence analysis³⁰ of three existing social policy measures – energy subsidies, food subsidies and the National Aid Programme for Needy Families – as well as the newly proposed Universal Child Grant. The analysis demonstrated that energy subsidies were not only regressive, but also extremely costly (absorbing over 16 per cent of gross domestic product [GDP] over the period 2012–2018), and comparably less effective in reducing poverty rates and inequality. This evidence, along with a functional review in the health and education sectors designed to identify areas for improved effectiveness and efficiency, was instrumental in supporting the fiscal reform process supported through an IMF programme, which also aimed at improved service delivery.

Another major milestone on the road to reform and complete achievement of the aims of the UNICEF–IMF partnership was the draft law submitted to the newly elected Parliament for review and approval of the first social protection floor.³¹ It includes a dedicated pillar for a Universal Child Grant.



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A girl child smiles while reciting a poem in grade 1 at Boufaroua Primary School on the outskirts of Sbeitla in Tunisia.

Promoting adequate investment for children's rights

UNICEF works to ensure adequate expenditure on sectors and services that contribute to the realization of children's rights in 84 countries. In situations where public resources are insufficient to cover the cost of basic services for all children, it is essential to focus on increasing overall social sector financing, including complementary or blended private sector finance. UNICEF uses evidence-based approaches to identify potential areas of flexibility so that funds can be directed towards social spending without jeopardizing the sustainability of current and future budgets.

In Angola, UNICEF generated evidence through budget briefs and analyses of social spending, and used it to successfully advocate for greater investment in early childhood education. Influenced in part by these efforts, the Government increased investments in early childhood education by over 213 per cent in the proposed 2020 State Budget.

In Malawi, robust UNICEF budget analysis and strategic advocacy contributed to notable increases in budgets for social sector interventions for children. This includes a 282 per cent increase in the budget allocation to the Expanded Programme on Immunization, and a 61 per cent increase in the Government's contribution to the social cash transfer programme.

In El Salvador, UNICEF worked closely with the Inter-American Development Bank and World Bank to support the Government to increase investments in early childhood development. This joint advocacy was informed by the analysis undertaken by UNICEF in 2018, together with New York University's Global TIES for Children, 'Investing in Our Children: The common goal'. The analysis estimated that El Salvador invested only 0.03 per cent of GDP in early childhood development, while losses from not investing in early childhood could amount to as much as 6 per cent of GDP annually. The analysis recommended a progressive increase in early childhood development investments over a 10-year period. Initial progress towards this goal was made in the budget allocation for early childhood development in the 2020 budget, amounting to an increase of US\$83.6 million.

In Uganda, UNICEF successfully advocated for structural – and sustainable – change vis-à-vis domestic financing of traditional vaccines. These endeavours led to doubling of the budget allocated to traditional vaccines to US\$5.5 million between financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20, demonstrating real investment in children's health and overall well-being. [\(See UNICEF Annual Results Report 2019 – Goal Area 1 for more information.\)](#)

Making public spending on children's rights more efficient and effective

It is not always possible for governments to allocate additional funds to priority programmes for children. Ensuring that existing budgets are used in the most efficient and effective way possible increases the benefits that can be achieved for a given level of finance, and may yield savings that can be reallocated for developing other programmes or to increase coverage of existing ones. Additionally, as resources are frequently scarce, they should be spent on programmes and policies that generate the highest positive social returns for the most vulnerable and marginalized people.

Analysis of the cost-efficiency and cost-effectiveness of existing and alternative public services can help countries determine which interventions are most worth the investment. In addition, many governments are not able to make good use of funds planned in their budget due to bottlenecks in budget implementation, such as complex procurement processes or challenges in the allocation of funds between national and subnational governments.

In 2019, UNICEF undertook work to support budget efficiency improvements in 40 countries and budget effectiveness in 29 countries.

In Uzbekistan, a UNICEF-commissioned analysis of public finance for early childhood education identified bottlenecks in translating the strategic goal of improving coverage of early childhood education to budget commitments. Both the Ministry of Education and Science and local authorities have responsibilities for contributing to financing of early childhood education programmes. However, their budget planning processes are different: the ministry uses programme budgeting while local planning remains inputs based, making it difficult for local authorities to translate national policy commitments into local budget allocations. The analysis identified policy and administrative reforms to address these budget inefficiencies, which would allow local funding to flow to early childhood education programmes.



Data Highlight

In Guatemala, UNICEF and the World Bank improved the efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditures on social protection by strengthening the management information system, the Social Bond Information System. This work improved prioritization and selection of beneficiaries and use of cutting-edge technology for data collection and management. It also helped prevent double payments and delays.



In Botswana, UNICEF commissioned a value-for-money study to establish a convincing argument for economically feasible stunting reduction. An evaluation of the decades-old Vulnerable Group Feeding Programme was critical of the way it was addressing the triple burden of malnutrition

Case Study 3: Tajikistan: Nationalizing SDGs for children

To accelerate the achievement of SDGs for children, UNICEF supported Tajikistan to develop the National Programme for Children to align the country's obligations to children under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the SDGs and its National Development Strategy 2015–2030. It was a participatory process under the leadership of the Commission on Child Rights and in consultation with non-governmental partners and the development community. Based on a rigorous situation analysis, the National Programme for Children encapsulates the key priorities for children in Tajikistan, expressed through a set of SDG-based targets and indicators.

The final programme is awaiting formal approval by the Government. It sets 33 targets, which include the reduction of under-five mortality by one third; halving the number of children and adolescents 'not in education, employment and training' in the country; halving the stunting rate; increasing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Education in Schools and immunization coverage to 100 per cent; reducing child labour to zero; and reducing child poverty by half. The National Programme for Children is backed by a comprehensive costing analysis, allowing for a complete assessment of the level of financing necessary to achieve the SDGs for all children in Tajikistan.

Both the National Programme for Children and its financial analysis were presented at the high-level National Summit for Children in November 2019, marking the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The financing gap to achieve the SDGs for children was announced – US\$16.75 billion, an average of US\$1.5 billion per year, or US\$1 per child per day.

The summit was followed by a discussion with the Ministry of Finance, the State Investment Committee, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), KfW and the European Union. This led to the identification of four key elements to addressing the financing gap: (1) increasing state budget allocations for children; (2) finding efficiency gains within line ministries; (3) finding efficiencies and/or increasing official development assistance; and (4) identifying innovative financing partnerships at a scale not currently utilized by Tajikistan, such as blended financing or social impact bonds.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Finance agreed to co-convene a working group with key partners, such as International Financial Institutions. The working group will be tasked with creating a financing plan tackling each of those four components, with clear financial targets, and with each actor taking responsibility for various aspects based on their mandate and competency.



Mohjabin Davlatqadamova, 17, is a 10th grade student from school #11 in Porshnev Jamoat in the Shugnan District, Tajikistan. This year she will become a member of the Tajik Junior Academy of Sciences. In September 2019, Mohjabin took part in the UNICEF-supported social entrepreneurship programme UPSHIFT implemented with Accelerate Prosperity.

in Botswana – undernutrition, obesity and micronutrient deficiencies. The study revealed that, as a child nutrition strategy, the Feeding Programme is inefficient, with gaps in supplies, wastage and diversion from the intended beneficiaries. A phased approach was recommended towards a more targeted and appropriate mix of nutrition-specific interventions and nutrition-sensitive strategies. The evidence contributed to the ongoing policy discussion on efficient public spending and budget decisions for children. The Government of Botswana committed to revisit the design and implementation of social welfare schemes, including feeding programmes, to ensure maximum benefit to the targeted beneficiaries over the next three years.

Making public social spending more equitable



One of the primary objectives of the organization's PF4C work, in line with the Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment recommendation on equity of spending, is to ensure that public resources are spent on services for those that need them the most. Even where total

budgets appear sufficient, funding is often directed towards services that benefit the better off more than the poor. UNICEF supports initiatives to improve equity in the use of public resources in 36 countries.



In Belarus, UNICEF conducted an in-depth child rights-focused equity analysis, building on the methodology for assessing fiscal equity developed by the Commitment to Equity Project (Tulane University).³² The report led the Ministry of Finance for the first time to prepare and report preliminary

budget estimates for children's rights. Based on this work, UNICEF and the Ministry of Finance agreed to expand this work in 2020 by designing budgeting tools to measure child-related budget allocations at the local level, bringing the country a step closer to having a system to support more equitable public social budgeting.

In Ghana, UNICEF supported work on a District League Table, which assesses and ranks social development in all 216 districts, highlighting levels of disparity across the regions and districts. The report informs priorities and helps promote more equitable and efficient resource allocation and expenditures. UNICEF further supported equity of public finance by analysing the District Assemblies Common Fund formula for distribution. The Fund is a key policy instrument to ensure equitable distribution of resources across Ghana. The analysis showed that resource allocation for social service delivery was inequitable; policy measures were recommended to increase the weighting given to factors that would lead to greater equity in the distribution of public spending across districts.

Transparency and accountability

Greater public awareness of and contributions to how public funds are allocated and used can help support better decisions, improve public oversight, and ultimately ensure better services and outcomes for children. UNICEF supports partners in their efforts to make child rights-related spending easier to calculate and report, and to leverage this data to improve how much and how equitably funds are invested in children.

In 2019, UNICEF supported work to improve budget transparency and accountability in 58 countries. This was achieved through the establishment and strengthening of budget participation mechanisms at all levels to ensure that citizens (including children), civil society and other relevant institutions influence the way resources are allocated and spent.

In Rwanda, further efforts were made to enhance the role of children, adolescents and young people in decision-making, through capacity-building in national planning and budget processes, allowing them to voice their priorities. As a result, adolescent and youth participation in the budget process was formalized at all levels of government. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning also issued guidelines on how local government should engage children in planning and budgeting.

In Botswana, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Economics, Finance and Development to implement an action plan to address the country's declining budget transparency score on the Open Budget Index,³³ which is based on the amount and timeliness of publicly available budget information. As a result, the ministry pioneered the publication of budget-related documents and all supporting tables on its official website. Further efforts to address other aspects of budget transparency are planned for 2020.

UNICEF collaborated with Senegal's Social Budget Monitoring Observatory (which the organization helped set up in 2015 to monitor public spending on social sectors) to build the capacity of 50 planners and managers in monitoring and evaluating the budgets of social sector ministries using the lenses of child rights sensitivity and gender equality. Moreover, over 550 stakeholders at the subnational level improved their capacity in planning and results-based management. These included adolescents from municipal children's councils (43 per cent girls) who were trained to participate fully in discussions and debates, with the objective of children's views being meaningfully taken into account in municipal plans and actions.

Noteworthy and innovative PF4C approaches

UNICEF develops tailored solutions to challenges related to PF4C that fit specific country contexts, leveraging its global coverage through country and field offices; strong partnerships with governments and key stakeholders at

all levels; and flexible programme tools and approaches. Solutions range from specific service models that reflect a country's level of preparedness (which require financial resources for scaling up) to interventions that provide direct support to budget management and programme implementation.

In Angola, UNICEF supported a pilot project to implement the country's first unconditional social cash transfer programme. This programme was an opportunity to form an innovative partnership with three commercial banks (contracted through transparent public bidding) to administer payments to beneficiaries. The social nature of the project, which targeted the most vulnerable children, motivated the banks to waive or reduce transaction costs for each payment. This results in considerable savings, which are reinvested in programmes for children.

In Mozambique, UNICEF helped set up a joint fund linked to a sector-wide multi-donor financing platform for the Government's rural WASH programme, National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Program (PRONASAR). It receives funding from multiple donors and partners – including the governments of Austria, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, as well as from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and UNICEF – to finance initiatives to improve WASH in rural areas. The joint fund will promote equity by addressing gaps in service delivery, performance-based disbursements and conditions/rules for sectoral prioritization (such as minimum disbursements for sanitation). A memorandum of understanding was signed in 2019 and is expected to become operational in 2020.

In Indonesia and Malaysia, UNICEF is conducting studies and engaging in dialogue with ministries of finance and other stakeholders to determine the viability of using *zakat* – an Islamic obligation to donate a proportion of one's wealth to charity – as an alternative financing option for reducing inequality in access to sustainable and affordable WASH services (Indonesia) and expanding child-sensitive social protection (Malaysia). In addition, in Indonesia, UNICEF is working on the establishment of the first development impact bond for child protection.

Working in partnership



Partnerships Highlight

As shown in many of the examples above, UNICEF always engages in PF4C in partnership with governments, civil society or development partners. Building strong alliances with multiple partners is essential to addressing the complex challenges that public financial management systems face in almost all countries.

The organization has continued to benefit from its extensive field presence, knowledge of social sector issues affecting the most vulnerable, as well as access to national decision makers and influencers. Partnerships that share its

vision, values and goals are particularly salient when they pursue similar objectives in several countries and regions, facilitating mutual learning and sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

An example of an effective partnership is the collaboration between UNICEF and the International Budget Partnership (IBP). In several countries, especially in Eastern and Southern Africa, UNICEF works with IBP to improve budget transparency and accountability. IBP is well known for its Open Budget Index, which ranks countries in accordance with the level of budget transparency of the central government. This ranking is conducted through a nationally implemented Open Budget Survey and is frequently carried out in partnership with UNICEF country offices.

In addition to ranking the countries, UNICEF and IBP work closely with national governments to strengthen budget transparency initiatives and improve budget processes – for instance, making budget data and key documents available to the public, introducing mechanisms for public participation in budget planning and allocations, and strengthening overall government accountability. In Madagascar, for example, the Ministry of Economy and Finance produced a Citizens Budget in French and English with support from UNICEF.³⁴

In another multi-country initiative, UNICEF partnered with ILO on an EU-funded programme to support public finance and social protection. The partnership covers eight countries – Angola, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Paraguay, Senegal and Uganda. It aims to connect work on social protection systems with public finance management by strengthening existing EU budget support or improving the overall management of social protection expenditures. The inception phase commenced in 2019 and programming will start in 2020.

UNICEF also continued its strong working relationship with the Joint United Nations SDG Fund, an inter-agency, pooled mechanism that supports policy acceleration and strengthens national financing architectures for implementing the SDGs.

Public finance for children in fragile and humanitarian contexts

Natural disasters, political instability, conflicts, epidemics and other shocks may lead to or exacerbate existing macroeconomic imbalances or public financial management challenges. This, in turn, can lead to large-scale disruptions in the capacity of national governments to provide and finance basic social services as well as humanitarian response to the most affected populations.

Fragility impedes states' abilities to raise revenue through taxation and borrowing, thus increasing their reliance on development partners and, more importantly, on humanitarian funding, to finance basic social services, including health and education, as well as social protection programmes. The organization's strong presence and experience at field level as a key partner to support the realization of children's rights in humanitarian contexts have been enabling factors to tackling public finance challenges. This includes working with development partners and International Financial Institutions to bridge the gap in financing basic social services and social protection programmes; as well as to finance relief measures to the most affected populations, while keeping the focus on national systems-strengthening.

In Yemen, as the humanitarian crisis continued for its fifth year, the right of children to access basic social services was greatly impacted, including the right to health, protection and education. UNICEF advocated for the payment of teachers' salaries and initiated a 'Cash Incentives to Support Teachers and School-based Staff' project reaching 128,216 teachers and school-based staff (and 3.54 million students in 11 northern governorates), whose salaries had been suspended after the war started as the Government was not able to allocate sufficient resources. Meanwhile, UNICEF is advocating with the

Government and local authorities to resume payment of teachers' salaries from the national budget when budgetary allocations are possible.

Maintaining teachers' salaries ensures the right of children to education, but also prevents the collapse of the education system. PF4C analysis was also used in Yemen to draw attention to the economic impact of the war on the education sector, and to advocate for cessation of hostilities. The analysis undertaken by UNICEF estimated that low enrolment and completion rates were the direct result of war, including the inability of the Government and authorities to fund the education sector. As a result of lower educational attainment, it is estimated that in total children who dropped out of school will earn US\$7 billion less than if they had continued their education.

In South Sudan, UNICEF supported the process of rebuilding the budget and financial management system and capabilities. This included a public financial management self-assessment and capacity-building for 300 practitioners from 32 states to launch budget preparation processes, as a starting point for longer-term investment. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to publish budget briefs and citizens budgets, highlighting the low level of allocations to social sectors.

Challenges and looking ahead

Based on the midterm review recommendations of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, monitoring and measuring the organization's work in public finance management will be strengthened to reflect its multiple dimensions and better track changes in financing of services for children.

In 2020, the organization's PF4C work will focus on supporting governments to respond to the short- and long-term impacts of COVID-19 and the measures to contain its spread. As a result of the economic

disruption, many countries will see reduced revenue from tax and other economic activity, which, in turn, will lead to reduced fiscal space and require adjustment to spending plans. At the same time, governments' policy responses and fiscal stimuli may increase resources for critical basic social services and social protection measures that contribute to realizing children's rights. *(See 'High-Level Priorities' for more details on 2020 priorities, including on PF4C, which are focused on responding to the immediate and longer-term impacts of COVID-19.)*



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Results: Social Protection – “Strengthening social protection systems”

Pictured above: Arina, age 13, holds her little brother Daniil. Together with their mother, stepfather and two sisters, they share a small two-room house in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. Over the last decade, Kazakhstan has made considerable progress in reducing poverty levels. However, many vulnerable families are still falling through the cracks of a highly bureaucratic social protection system. Children are particularly vulnerable. Being born into poverty diminishes one’s chances to break out of it, as access to healthcare and quality education are also affected.

In Kazakhstan, based on UNICEF recommendations, the Government raised the eligibility threshold for the targeted social assistance (TSA) scheme, leading to a 10 per cent increase in the benefit amount. In addition to the increase in benefit amount, there was a significant expansion of programme coverage: from 363,000 children benefiting from the TSA in 2018 to 1.5 million by the end of November 2019. In 2019, UNICEF also initiated a ‘cash plus’ model, where cash transfer programming is linked with appropriate information and knowledge, working jointly with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to enhance the impact of cash transfer on child poverty and other child-related outcomes. This model will address poverty in a multidimensional way, improving the lives of over 700,000 children and their families.



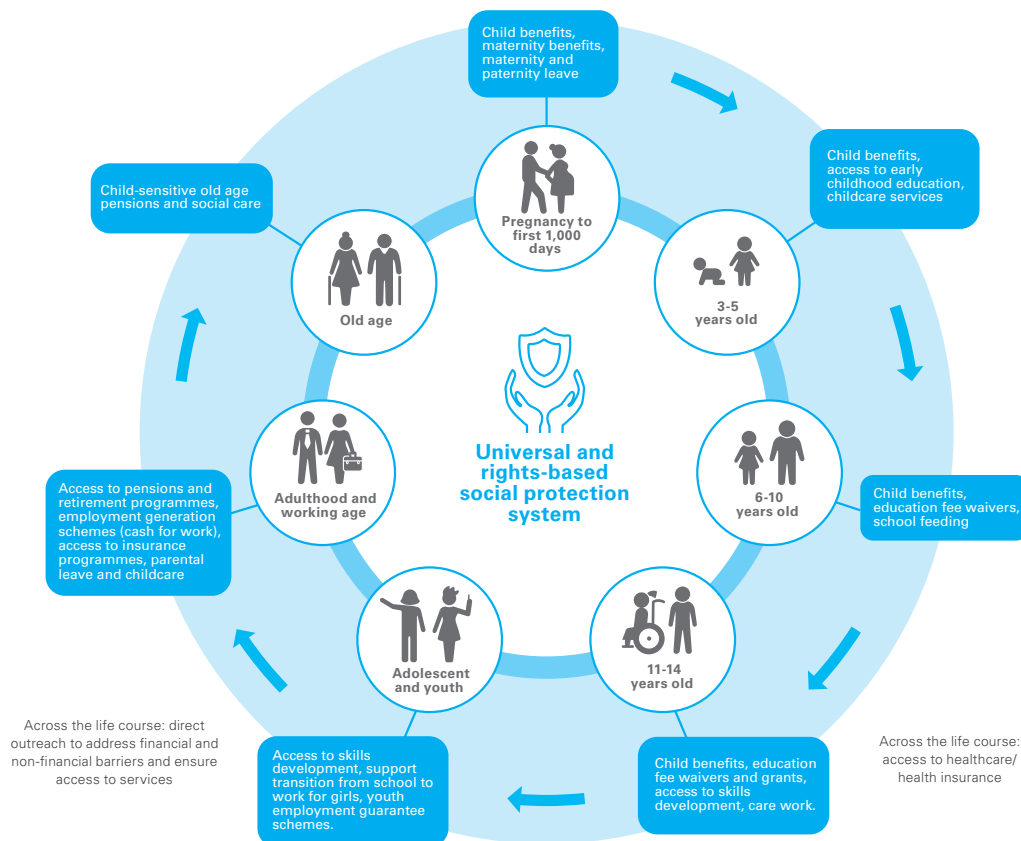
In a world where 385 million children are struggling on less than US\$1.90 a day and child poverty rates are significant even in the world's richest countries, children and families are facing financial barriers that make it harder to access quality services. In addition, families and children face structural barriers because of social exclusion and discrimination (explicit and implicit) linked to social characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, race, disability, geographic location or migratory status, to name but a few. Such exclusion and discrimination further exacerbate poverty and inequality, compounding the impacts associated with a lack of adequate income.

A systems approach to social protection not only takes into account removing financial barriers but more fundamentally promotes the realization of human rights and responds to people's experiences of multiple deprivations and multidimensional poverty to a decent living, further strengthening the social contract between the state and the citizens.

Figure 11 shows the varied needs of children and their families across the life course that an effective social protection system should be able to respond to. The organization's approach is to support the development of social protection systems that include a holistic and evidence-based policy, strategy and legal framework that responds to needs across the life cycle. This strategy ultimately works towards the progressive realization of rights-based and universal social protection, supported by strong implementation of programmatic and administrative elements, alongside case management, social workforce strengthening and other sectoral linkages. The ultimate goal is to build and further strengthen multisectoral social protection systems to provide support to families and their children. This includes nutritional support and access to maternal care from an early age; removing financial barriers to accessing health care; education, skills development and employment; and case management support to children and families in need.

While evidence links national cash transfer programmes with reductions in monetary poverty, increased school enrolment, improved dietary diversity and increased health-seeking behaviour, the organization's approach further strengthens the intersectoral links to achieve results for not only income poverty but education, health, nutrition, protection and gender-equality outcomes.

FIGURE 11: Social protection across the life course



Source: UNICEF's Global Social Protection Programme Framework³⁵

As threats to children increase – not least those caused by the compounding nature of crises as well as the more immediate and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic – the critical role of social protection is evident. While the impacts of social protection are felt across areas of child deprivation, children remain woefully underserved – with two out of every three children around the world receiving no child or family benefit.³⁶

Following the action areas of the organization's recent social protection framework, UNICEF supports the expansion of inclusive and quality social protection systems for children, including through:

- Child poverty analysis, impact evaluations and systems assessments

- Policy and strategy development, coordination and financing
- Strengthening national shock-responsive social protection systems
- Expanding and improving cash transfers for children
- Cash plus – connecting cash transfers to information, knowledge and services
- Expanding and improving health insurance
- Strengthening integrated administrative systems
- Increasing gender-responsive, disability-inclusive social protection.

Results achieved in 2019 towards strengthening social protection systems

Summary of global results

UNICEF works to support governments to strengthen national social protection systems. As of 2019, forty-seven countries had strong or moderately strong social protection systems, up from 38 in 2018 (see *Figures 12 and 13*); and 9 had national cash transfer programmes ready to respond to a crisis, up from 6 in 2018. UNICEF-supported cash transfer programmes reached more than 51.1 million children in 78 countries in 2019, including almost 8.5 million in humanitarian settings in 30 countries. These numbers include 14 million girls and 10.9 million boys, based on data from 36 countries, and almost 700,000 children with disabilities, based on data from 21 countries. Moreover, in 2019 UNICEF led implementation in more than half of the 36 countries selected to receive funding from the Joint SDG Fund for Social Protection (see *Box 'The Sustainable Development Goal Fund', p.49*).

UNICEF and ILO are also co-implementing the EU's Global Programme on Developing Synergies between Social Protection and Public Financial Management. This focuses on eight countries: Angola, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Paraguay, Senegal and Uganda.

The organization's social protection work is particularly focused on addressing financial barriers to children's rights to education, health, nutrition and income security, and in supporting social protection system design to ensure it is inclusive and responds to protection risks and opportunities.

UNICEF social protection expenditure in 2019 was over US\$375 million, with the largest share spent on the delivery of cash transfers – US\$60 million through national systems and US\$163 million through a new and/or parallel system. Considerable investments were also made in national social protection strategies and coordination (US\$21 million) and supporting countries to develop and expand cash transfer programmes (US\$21 million). Areas of work that saw increased investment were strengthening the shock-responsiveness of social protection systems (US\$3.5 million in 2019, up from US\$1.3 million in 2018), and data management, such as management information systems, monitoring and evaluation systems, and beneficiary registries (from US\$990,000 in 2018 to US\$3.5 million in 2019).

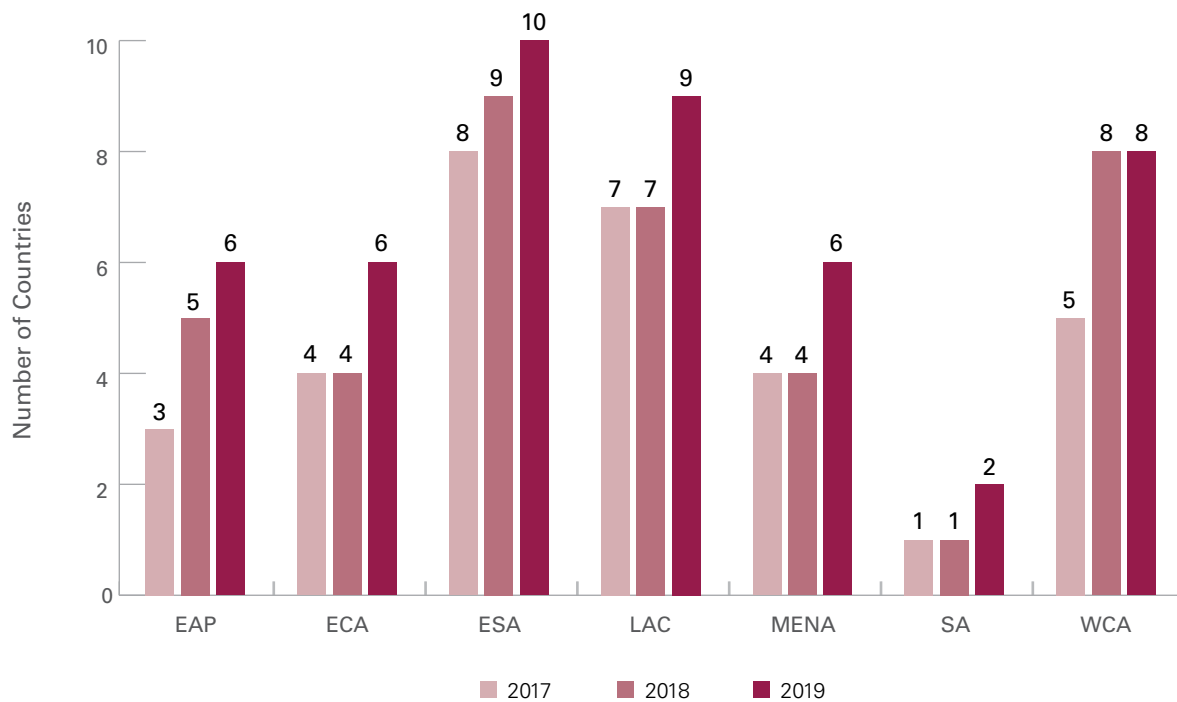
Child poverty analysis, impact evaluations and systems assessments



Data Highlight

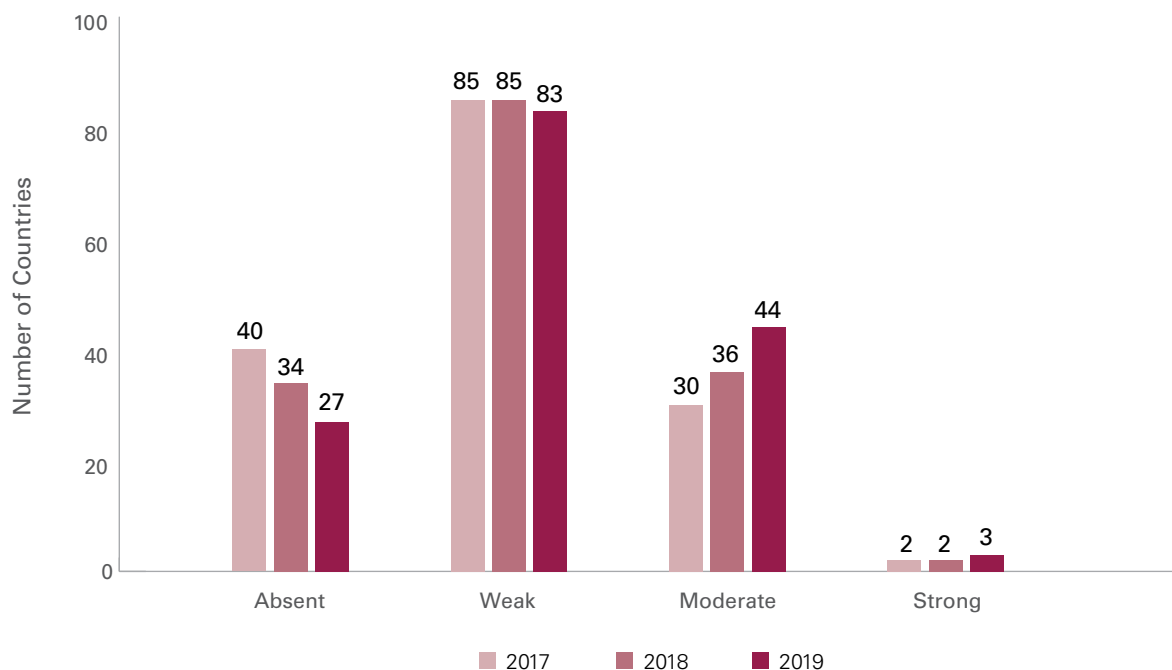
Evidence generation is one of the strongest features of UNICEF support to social protection reform processes. This includes conducting multidimensional child poverty analysis to better understand child rights deprivations; social protection systems assessments to identify gaps and bottlenecks in delivering social protection services; and impact evaluations to understand the impact of specific programmes and adaptations needed to achieve the best possible results for children and their families. In 2019, this work took place in 87 countries across all continents, and in partnership with other United Nations agencies and the World Bank.

FIGURE 12: Number of countries that have moderately strong or strong social protection systems, 2017–2019



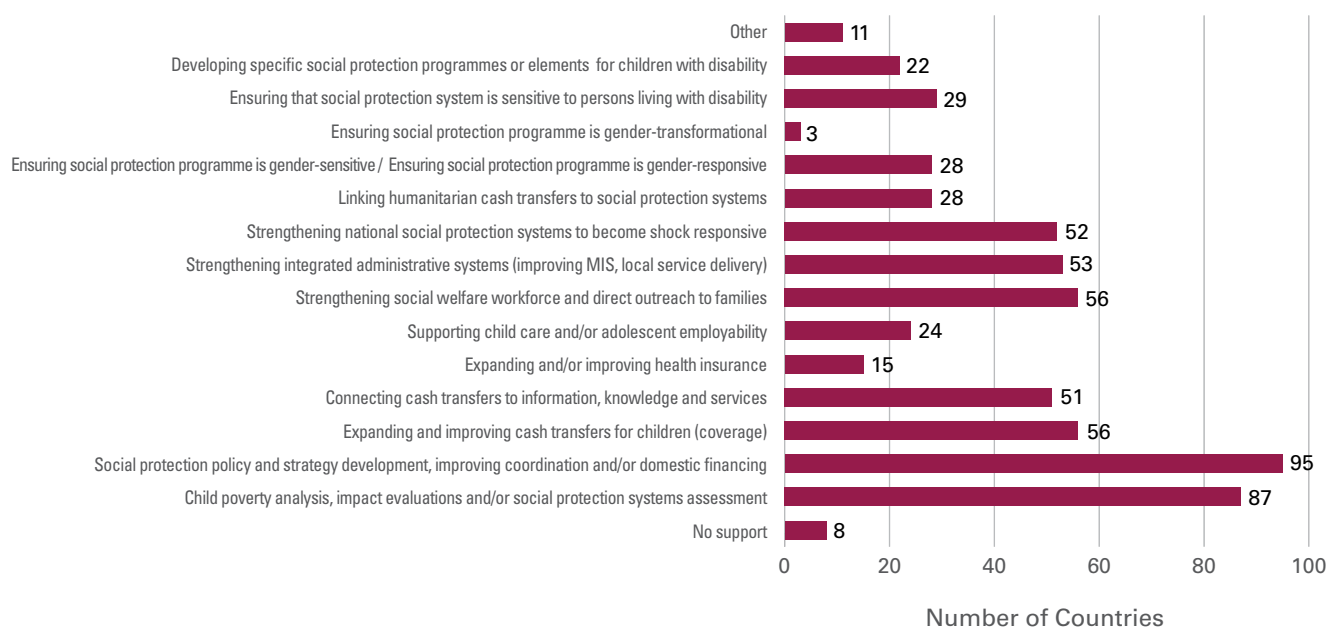
Source: UNICEF SMQs.³⁷ Notes: EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA: Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.

FIGURE 13: Numbers of countries with strong or moderately strong social protection systems, 2017–2019



Source: UNICEF SMQs 2019.³⁸

FIGURE 14: Number of countries where UNICEF provides support to social protection system strengthening, by action area



Source: UNICEF SMQs 2019.³⁹ Notes: MIS, management information system.

For example, in Uzbekistan, UNICEF advocated for child benefit reform and introduction of a universal child benefit, making use of evidence and analytical work generated through microsimulations. Parliament, the Cabinet of Ministers, the ministries of Finance and of Employment and Labour Relations, national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the public were all engaged by UNICEF in this effort through expert meetings as well as advocacy in local media. The participation of senior public officials from Uzbekistan’s Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations at the International Conference on Universal Child Grants organized by ILO and UNICEF in Geneva, Switzerland, in February 2019 also contributed to this work. UNICEF is now working with the Government to expand coverage following this dialogue.

Policy and strategy development, coordination and financing

UNICEF frequently helps countries strengthen social protection strategies and legal frameworks, including financing and coordination mechanisms. In 2019, this work was undertaken in 95 countries.

For example, Lebanon held its first-ever national dialogue on social protection in January 2019, involving participants from civil society, academia and development partners. The national dialogue was informed by a full analysis of the country’s social safety nets and a social protection

road map that was developed by UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Affairs and ODI in 2018. The resulting discussions succeeded in initiating a national process to support the Government to develop a National Social Protection Policy, with support from the President, Prime Minister and social ministries.

With the onset of the current political and economic crisis, social protection is now even higher on the agenda and an even greater priority within national discourse. In light of this, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Social Affairs to design a cash assistance programme for 15,000 Lebanese families through the Government’s National Poverty Targeting Programme, which was transferred to Government in January 2020.

Expanding and improving cash transfers for children

In 2019, UNICEF continued supporting countries to improve and expand national cash transfer programmes to reach more children and their families. As a result, 51.1 million children from 78 countries (an increase from 38.4 million children in 2018) in both humanitarian and development contexts were covered by UNICEF-supported social protection programmes. In 2020, UNICEF will expand this work through programmes such as ‘NICHE II’ in Kenya (see Case Study 5).

Case Study 4: Universal child benefits

Despite clear evidence of the effectiveness of well-designed social protection, including child benefits, in tackling child poverty, coverage of children remains comparatively low⁴⁰ – globally, only around one in three children have access to social protection, and access is much lower in the poorer regions.

To address this challenge, UNICEF partnered with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Overseas Development Institute (ODI) on a project to assess the pros and cons of universal child benefits to rapidly and sustainably increase coverage. In February 2019, UNICEF hosted academics, civil society organizations, policymakers and practitioners from over 40 governments to discuss experiences and possibilities in universal child benefits.

At the conference, UNICEF and ILO launched a joint report, *Towards Universal Social Protection for Children: Achieving SDG 1.3*.⁴¹ The report provides an overview of child and family cash benefits around the world, identifying 21 countries that pay child grants to all families, 14 countries with near universal coverage, and 73 countries with other types of child grant programmes. This is being followed by an in-depth research study led by ODI assessing global experience and evidence, due to be released in 2020.

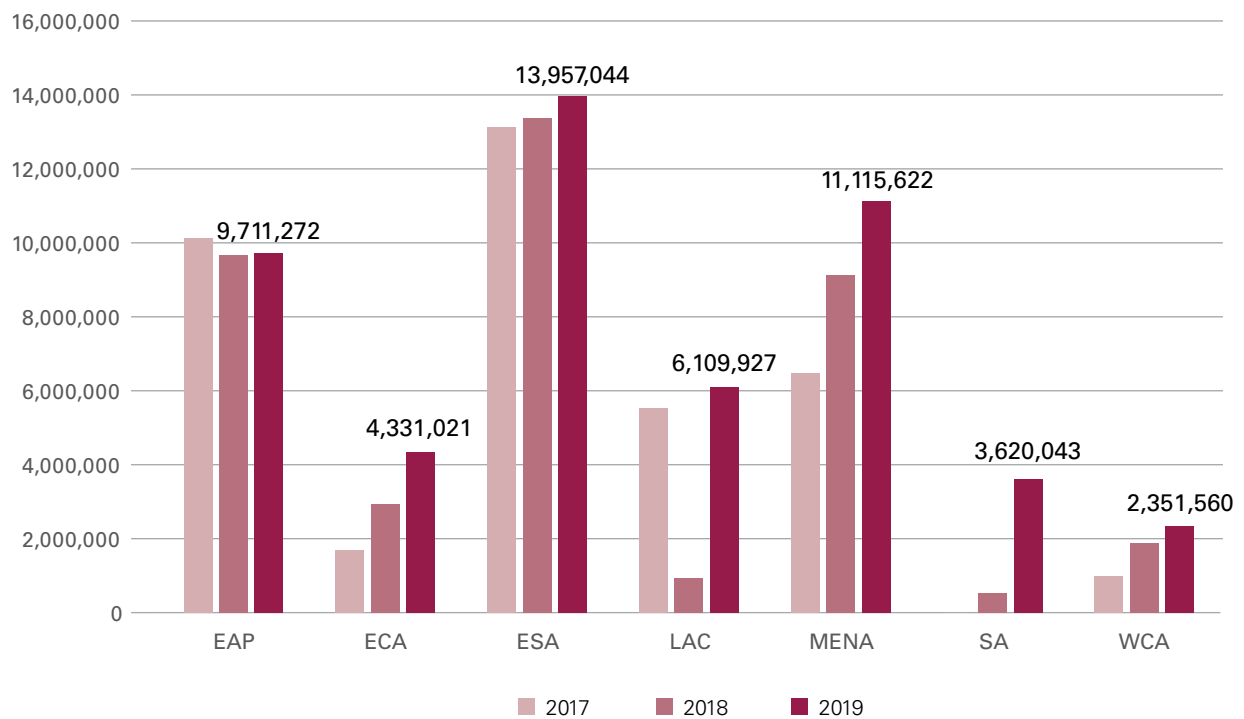
Initial conclusions suggest significant potential in addressing children's rights and reducing child poverty through universal child benefits, including by avoiding exclusion errors from targeted programmes and addressing issues of dignity affecting recipients who are 'singled out' for receiving payments. However, despite their impacts, costs can be prohibitive even when administrative costs are lower, particularly in poorer countries with limited fiscal space and a higher population of children.

A number of countries have been making concerted steps towards universal benefits for children. For example, Thailand announced an expansion of its programme for children under 6 years of age; over 80 per cent of children in Mongolia are covered in its programme; and Argentina has an innovative mixed system that is being expanded to cover all children. The full report will be launched in 2020 and UNICEF will continue to push to expand child benefits across countries to move towards achieving universal social protection.



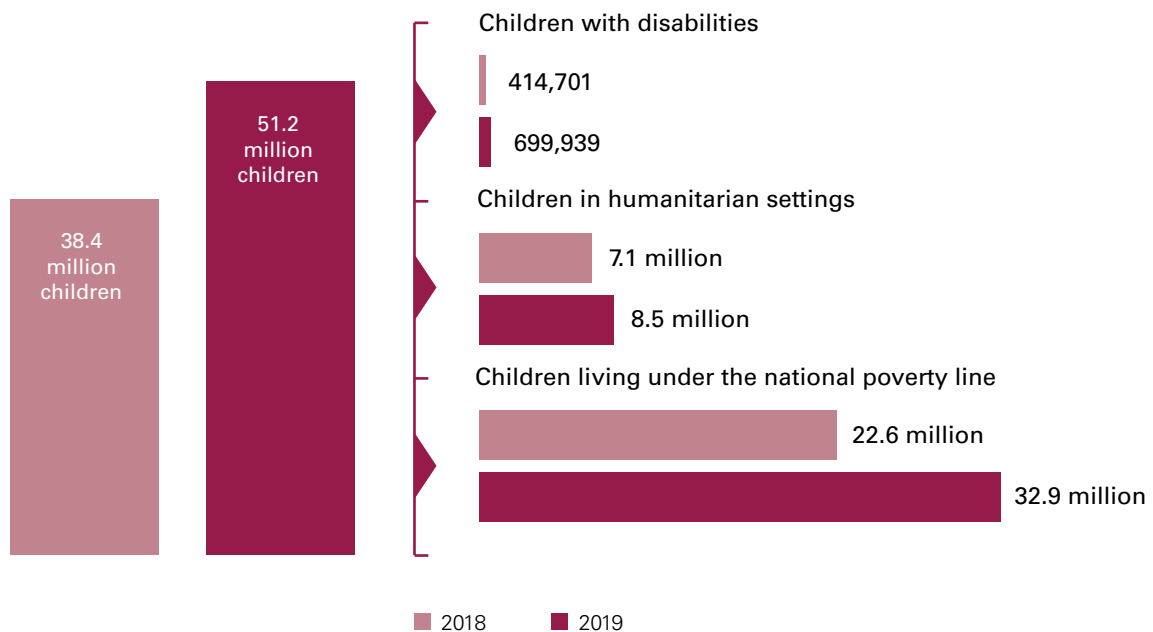
In Angola, 74.4 per cent of children are poor and suffer three to seven deprivations simultaneously. A UNICEF-supported pilot cash transfer programme was developed and approved by the Government in 2019, financed by the European Union. In this pilot phase, over 6,000 families with 11,473 children under the age of five benefited across six municipalities. They received child grants and new information on how to use the contributions to invest in education, positive health, nutrition and hygiene behaviours. UNICEF is engaged in dialogue with key development partners and institutions to scale up this initiative and support the Government to create a solid social protection system and increase investments in key sectors for children.

FIGURE 15: Number of girls and boys reached by cash transfer programmes through UNICEF-supported programmes



Source: UNICEF SMQs 2019.⁴² 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.

FIGURE 16: Number of children benefiting from UNICEF-supported cash transfers in 2019, global



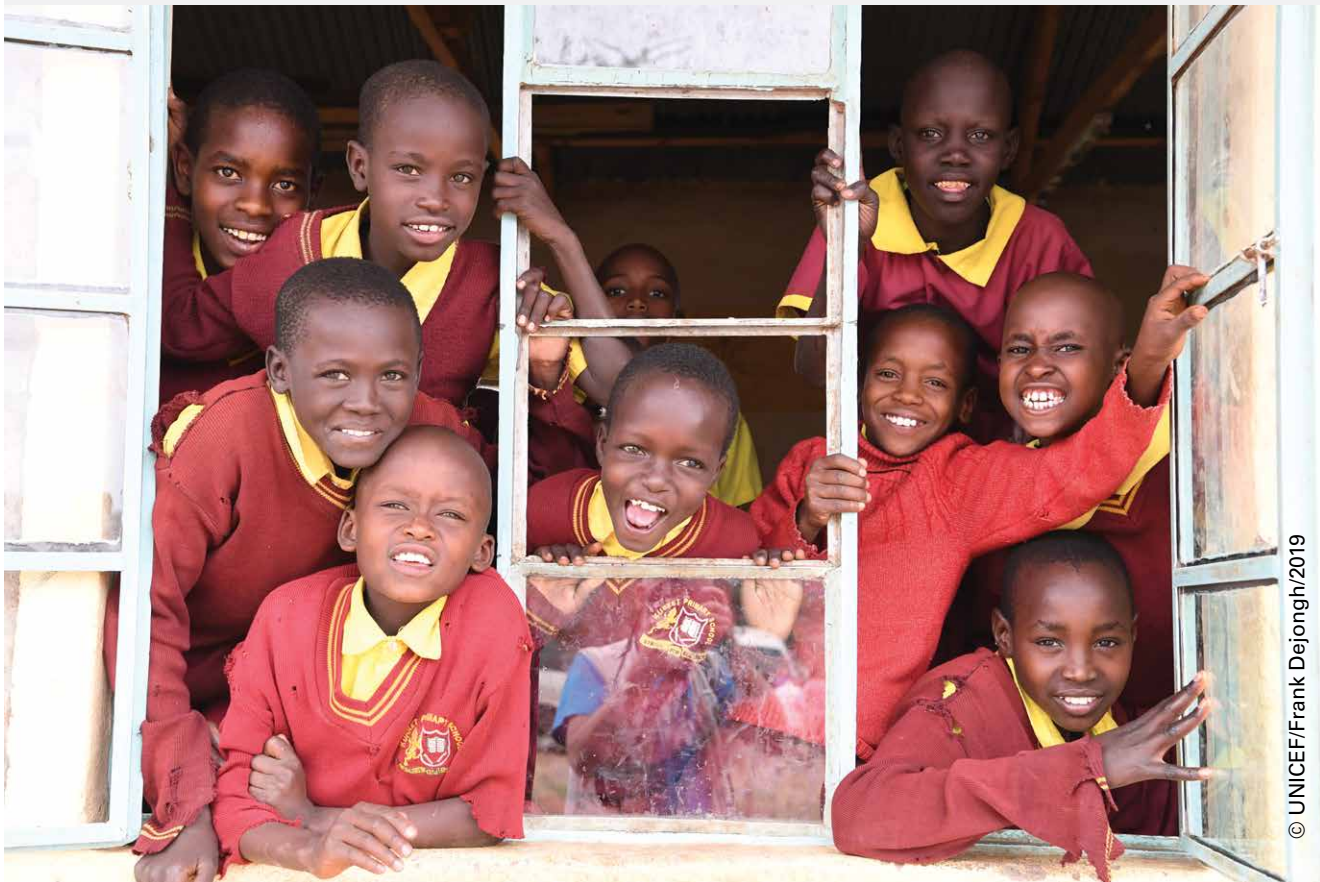
Source: UNICEF SMQs 2019.⁴³

Case Study 5: Kenya: Scaling up inclusive social protection for the most vulnerable

In November 2019, UNICEF scaled up support for vulnerable households through an expansion of the innovative NICHE pilot programme in Kitui County. The Technical Assistance Agreement on Nutrition Improvement for Children through Cash and Health Education (NICHE II) aims to test whether providing additional cash assistance and nutrition counselling for the most vulnerable households can improve children's nutrition and well-being. It also includes components on parenting and child protection. Through NICHE II, the Government of Kenya will expand the NICHE approach to Kilifi, Kitui, Marsabit, Turkana and West Pokot counties and UNICEF will support coordination among different sectors and monitor and evaluate the programme.

NICHE II adopts an integrated approach to social protection, strengthening linkages between social protection and the nutrition and health sectors. For example, by supporting parenting sessions to prevent and respond to violence in the home, training and regular follow-up for foster parents, and strengthening community-based child protection mechanisms. At the same time, community health volunteers reach vulnerable households and provide basic health services for communities of around 5,000 people. The volunteers also provide targeted messages for different types of households through biweekly counselling visits with families.

Through NICHE II, recipients receive an additional top-up amount based on the number of children they are caring for: 500 Kenyan shillings/month (US\$5) for one child or 1,000 shillings/month (US\$10) for two or more children.



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Happy students in a Maasai community school in Kenya.

Cash plus: Connecting cash transfers to information, knowledge and services to increase the impact of social protection



In 2019, UNICEF supported 51 countries to connect cash transfer beneficiaries to information, knowledge and other services critical to children's health, development, protection

and well-being. For example, in Kenya UNICEF modelled effective linkages between cash transfer beneficiaries and off-grid solar energy solutions in the Inua Jamii programme in two counties to improve children's learning and health outcomes. A regular cash top-up to the monthly Inua Jamii payment enabled beneficiaries to reimburse the funds for the received solar device. The repayment rate in both counties stands at 75 per cent, while remaining challenges are being addressed on a case-to-case basis by identified community champions.

The baseline report of the impact evaluation has been completed, while the end-line survey of the evaluation will be conducted in early 2020. It will provide evidence to support consideration of the potential for national scale-up across Kenya. UNICEF negotiated an expansion of the programme to 3,500 more participants (from a baseline of 1,628 participants), which will extend the programme to early 2021.

Value for money highlight: Cash plus

Cash plus offers an opportunity to leverage existing platforms for referral of information and service provision. In addition to improved outcomes, empirical evidence suggests that by leveraging existing cash transfer platforms to provide additional services and information to those that need it the most, cost savings are realized by reducing transaction costs associated with separate outreach activities. Cash plus offers some promising opportunities and UNICEF will work to strengthen its evidence base.

Expanding and improving health insurance

Expanding and improving health insurance is one of the newer areas of UNICEF engagement that is quickly evolving. It currently focuses on linking social protection participants to non-contributory health insurance and

helping governments define a minimum package of health services under universal health coverage. This requires working with the health sector and other sectors to strengthen intersectoral links. In 2019, work was under way in 16 countries⁴⁴ to support governments to expand and improve health insurance coverage for children and their families. This includes connecting existing cash transfer beneficiaries to health insurance, thereby contributing to universal health coverage.

In Osun State in Nigeria, for example, UNICEF helped the Government expand state health insurance to 65,000 previously uncovered poor women and children. All fees and health-care costs for these vulnerable people are covered through equity grants, which provide fee waivers for the poorest households who can then access health-care services at the closest approved primary, secondary and private health-care facilities. This was made possible through UNICEF advocacy at the state level with the governor's office, state legislators and key stakeholders around the importance of protecting poor households from risks.

Supporting childcare and adolescent employability

In 2019, twenty-three UNICEF country offices⁴⁵ supported childcare and adolescent employability, two vital new areas of social protection engagement for UNICEF, in partnership with sectoral teams working on family-friendly policies and GenU. Efforts focus on expanding quality childcare services, particularly for working mothers, and improving access to employment, job-placement and skills-development programmes for adolescents and youth.



Partnerships Highlight

For example, in Uganda UNICEF supported the first urban social protection programme focused on ensuring adolescent girls' right to social protection. Girls Empowering Girls is a mentoring programme, complemented by a cash transfer, that aims to ensure that girls transition safely into adulthood. UNICEF was instrumental in the design and development of the programme and will continue working closely with the Kampala Capital City Authority throughout its implementation.

Strengthening the social welfare workforce and direct outreach to families

While social protection often focuses first on economic challenges faced by children and families, children and families often have a complex range of needs and face significant barriers to accessing services. As such they require a strong social welfare workforce to provide support, as well as referrals and linkages with specific support for individual cases, which requires

close collaboration between social protection and child protection expertise. In 2019, UNICEF worked to improve this support in 22 countries and territories.⁴⁶

For example, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in Iraq to strengthen implementation of a pilot cash transfer programme to improve children's educational and health outcomes. The programme was piloted in Sadr City 2, Baghdad, and officially launched in June 2018, beginning implementation and disbursement in 2019. To promote a comprehensive approach to the provision of services to poor children and their families in this cash transfer programme, UNICEF provided training to 43 social workers from the ministry on the basics of case management – an approach UNICEF adopts in child protection work. The participants also learned to use the online information, communication and technology system that was developed as part of the pilot programme, which enables social workers to identify and refer cases to specialized services. The training helped social workers perform their functions in a more professional way and will be scaled up with World Bank and UNICEF support to all governorates.

Strengthening integrated administrative systems

Integrated administrative systems are the backbone of a strong social protection system and help social protection mechanisms to include vulnerable populations, identify rights violations and design a tailored response to address them. In 2019, UNICEF worked in 53 countries and territories to support integration of administrative systems.

For example, with the financial backing of the EU and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations in Lesotho, UNICEF supported the Government to establish a national social registry – the National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA). NISSA is a web-based single database that stores socioeconomic information of households. Around 332,000 households of a total 537,000 in the country are now registered in NISSA. Information on each household includes about 40 socioeconomic variables ranging from family assets to access to services such as education. This allows the Government to effectively identify vulnerable populations and target beneficiaries who are eligible for different social protection programmes.

In 2019, during the humanitarian response to the drought, NISSA was used to identify households that were food insecure and faced added stresses. This allowed 29,000 households to be targeted with food and cash 'top-ups', while an additional 10,000 poor households received cash support.

The Sustainable Development Goal Fund



UN Collaboration Highlight

The Joint SDG Fund was established as a crucial instrument for the SDGs and United Nations reform. The Fund supports countries in accelerating progress towards the SDGs by integrating economic, social and environmental policies, and applying a multidimensional and cross-sectoral approach to complex social challenges.

The first funding window was directed towards social protection as one of the crucial SDG accelerators. Of a total of 114 countries, 36 joint programmes on social protection were approved by the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat. The total funding is US\$72 million for two years. Each joint programme is a transformative initiative supporting SDG acceleration.

UNICEF Headquarters Social Policy Section and Public Partnership Division worked closely with the Fund Secretariat to provide technical and operational support to develop the first call for proposals for funding. UNICEF also participated in the United Nations system's technical expert group from the initial phase of concept development through the final phase of proposal submission, review and finalization.

UNICEF is now part of 33 of the 36 accepted proposals and is leading the joint programmes in more than half of the countries. UNICEF country offices in all regions have received around US\$25 million from the Fund. These countries are now moving into the implementation phase of the joint programmes.

Gender-responsive social protection

Last year was a promising year for UNICEF work on social protection and gender equality. In March 2019, UNICEF joined the Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board Joint Statement on the role of social protection in promoting gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, and called for greater action to promote gender equality in all social protection work.

Subsequently, together with DFID and ODI, UNICEF organized a side event on gender and social protection during the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women⁴⁷ (CSW 63): 'Social protection systems,

access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls'. UNICEF also co-hosted a side event with the Doha International Family Institute on 'Gender-responsive Social Protection for Adolescent Girls to Enable Aspirations and Reach the SDGs in the Arab Region'.

In 2019, UNICEF-supported cash transfer programmes reached nearly 14 million girls and 10.9 million boys across seven regions. A strong gender-responsive focus on cash transfer programmes enables UNICEF to pursue gender-transformative programming objectives such as ensuring gender-equitable food access, keeping girls in school, and addressing harmful gender norms and behaviours, including intimate partner violence. In September 2019, the organization also introduced new monitoring tools to assess the portfolio of over 140 country office programmes working on social protection. UNICEF found that 20 per cent of country offices are already explicitly aiming to support gender-sensitive, gender-responsive and gender-transformative social protection work. This is a strong foundation from which there is much to learn and build upon.

UNICEF has developed a new workplan on gender-responsive social protection to intentionally step up further on this agenda, with new workstreams, including:

- Direct additional technical support to country offices, through access to a new technical assistance facility
- Creation and promotion of accessible tools and guidance on gender-responsive social protection
- New work on knowledge exchange and learning from existing programming, including a partnership with the World Bank and DFID
- UNICEF, Innocenti, Office of Research, is working to finalize the inception phase of the new Gender-responsive and Age-sensitive Research Programme,⁴⁸ which will fill some vital evidence gaps in social protection programming. This research programme will build on 'what works' and the change pathways involved in better meeting girls' and women's needs and delivering on gender equality outcomes. It will evaluate the impacts and assess the role of specific design and implementation features in social protection programmes to contribute to gender equality, and better understand the political economy and public policy reform processes involved in building national gender-responsive social protection systems. A knowledge exchange and learning strategy was incorporated to ensure new evidence will feed directly into the organization's programmatic practice.



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Yahya El Asker (in yellow), 13, is a Syrian refugee who goes to school in Turkey. Her father has a disability, her mother is unemployed, and she lost her brother as a result of bombings. Yahya is a beneficiary of the conditional cash programme, which allows her to finish her education.

Recognizing the links between gender-responsive social protection and changes in gender norms, a new UNICEF Global Social Protection Framework was launched in 2019. It explicitly references the transformational potential of inclusive, gender-responsive social protection programming.

For example, in Turkey – which remains home to the highest refugee population in the world – the Conditional Cash Transfer in Education Programme for Refugees reached 562,016 in 2019, with higher cash payments for girls. It aims to help combat patriarchal norms – that fundamentally undervalue and disempower girls – and reinforce the importance of girls' education. Evidence suggests that a range of norms and practices can prevent girls from accessing education, particularly the most marginalized. The higher cash payment for girls is designed to reduce financial barriers for families in sending girls to school and reinforce messaging that girls' education is valuable. It is complemented with linkages to a child protection component designed to address violence at home, child marriage and child labour.

An expanded public infrastructure social protection scheme in Rwanda, developed with UNICEF support, was scaled up from 2 to all 30 districts between 2015 and 2019. The scheme expanded access to jobs for extremely vulnerable households with limited access to livelihoods – especially single mothers, and those with young children. This went beyond the existing national public works employment programme to offer longer-term employment, flexible working hours and closer work sites, with tasks that are less physically demanding. In 2019, the programme reached nearly 30,000 households, almost 67 per cent of which were headed by women.

In Cambodia, a major milestone was reached in 2019 as the Government was supported to roll out the national cash transfer programme. This is expected to benefit 100,000 pregnant women and children annually with the Government's progressive budget allocations scaling up to US\$10.45 million by 2021.

Strengthening national shock-responsive social protection systems

Since 2017, UNICEF has made steady progress in strengthening the shock-responsiveness of social protection systems (see Figure 17). This indicates a keen interest among governments to risk-inform and enhance the preparedness of their social protection systems to respond better to crises. However, strengthening shock-responsiveness of social protection systems is an incremental process that requires systematic gathering of evidence, utilizing it to develop and strengthen policy, financing, coordination, programmes and administrative systems over a period of time. This explains the sharp progress and higher concentration of countries reporting 'moderate' shock-responsive social protection systems and a relatively slower progress towards 'strong' systems.

Disability-inclusive social protection

In 2019, UNICEF strengthened its partnership with United Nations Partnership on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNPRPD) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to expand work on inclusive social protection that responds to gender and disability rights. UNICEF, ILO and International Disability Alliance are currently implementing a UNPRPD-funded three-year programme to develop global tools and guidance on disability and social protection.

The objective of the programme is to develop global guidance and document the best country experiences for knowledge-sharing. The knowledge products include a discussion paper on 'Social protection and children with disabilities' led by UNICEF. In addition, UNICEF supported Jordan, Mexico and Montenegro to document best practices in social protection and disability at the country level. Globally, around 16 per cent of UNICEF country offices are explicitly working on strengthening social protection programmes for disability. This work will grow over the next few years.

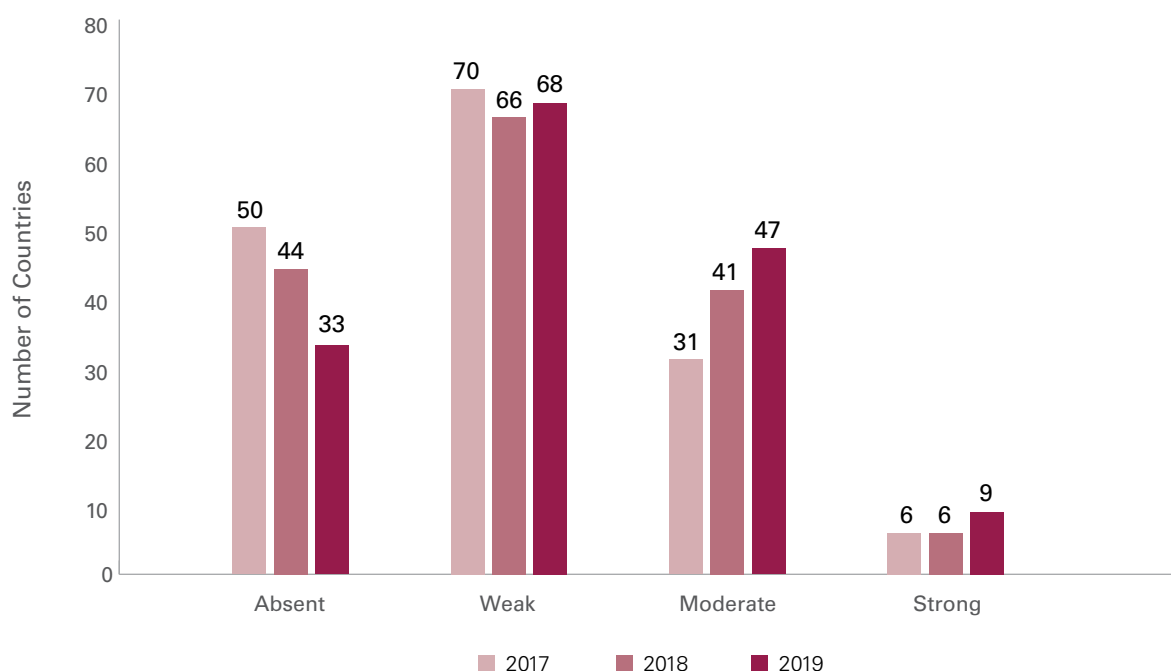
UNICEF released the updated Social Protection Programme Framework and Guidance in 2019, which reflects the UNICEF rights-based approach and commitment to achieving universal social protection.

In the coming years, UNICEF will continue to support governments to move towards 'strong'⁴⁹ shock-responsive social protection systems. This includes working on different components of the social protection system. Such efforts are growing, with 52 countries reporting that they worked on shock-responsive social protection in 2019, up from 36 in 2018.

This work received a fillip this year with the finalization of programme guidance, which elaborates the detailed actions needed to ensure a risk-informed social protection system. It builds on the existing literature and the experiences of UNICEF and its partners in implementing shock-responsive social protection in a range of crisis contexts.

In addition, UNICEF started to develop a tool to assess the readiness of social protection systems. The draft tool was piloted in four countries that present different crisis contexts: India, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Nigeria.

FIGURE 17: Strengthening shock-responsiveness of social protection systems, 2017–2019, number of countries



Source: UNICEF SMQs 2019.⁵⁰

Some examples of how UNICEF is strengthening the shock-responsiveness of social protection systems in various countries follow.

- In Sierra Leone, UNICEF supported the development of the Social Transfer Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, which includes processes and provisions for leveraging the existing social transfer programme for responding to shocks, such as the Emergency Trust Fund.
- In Tajikistan, UNICEF helped enhance the Government’s emergency preparedness capacity for predictable early action, including supporting the development of the Tajikistan Emergency Social Protection Model/Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programme.
- In Mexico, UNICEF conducted a study to explore ways to strengthen social protection response in emergencies and presented its recommendations to the Ministry of Wellbeing. This included specific improvements to the operational guidelines of the recently created Programa para el Bienestar de las Personas en Emergencia Social o Natural [programme for the well-being of people affected by social or natural emergencies], a cash transfer programme for emergency-affected populations.
- In Nepal, UNICEF supported the preparedness of the social protection system by working closely with

eight highly flood-prone *palikas* (local governments) to pre-identify and register households living in areas at risk of flooding. This resulted in the development of a nascent social registry at local government level.

- In Kenya, UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to improve the scalability and flexibility of social protection delivery and targeting. The organization also supported associated monitoring and evaluation systems.

In targeted countries, UNICEF contributed to shock-responsive national social safety net programmes. This was achieved through the development of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework and tailored monitoring information system components for different ongoing social protection programmes. Support was also provided to institutionalize governments’ learning and development on social protection.

The organization’s contribution to building shock-responsive social protection systems in fragile contexts took an important steps forward.

- In Somalia, consistent UNICEF efforts over the years on social protection came to fruition with the endorsement of the first national social protection policy by the Federal Government of Somalia. This was developed in partnership with WFP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and with support from

Italy through the Multi-partner Trust Fund for Somalia. Somalia's national social protection policy sets a long-term vision and defines short- and medium- to long-term priorities to gradually establish an inclusive social protection system that promotes social cohesion and links to human capital development. Through its engagement with the process, UNICEF ensured that the policy responds specifically to the rights of children and women in Somalia.

Building on this, the organization partnered with the World Bank and WFP to embark on an ambitious project to support Somalia's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to develop a shock-responsive Safety Net for Human Capital Development (*Baxnaano* in Somali). As a part of this project, UNICEF will support the ministry to establish the basic building blocks of a social protection system, including a unified social registry and an information system.

- In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) of the Philippines, UNICEF provided technical assistance to a landscape analysis on shock-responsive social protection by the BARMM Government. This helped identify potential entry-points for strengthening social protection, disaster risk reduction, and broader resilience-building in a region characterized by high deprivations, armed conflict and natural disasters. Working in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNICEF also developed a project to strengthen inclusive and risk-informed shock-responsive social protection for resilient communities in BARMM, which has successfully leveraged resources from the SDG Fund on Social Protection.

Linking humanitarian cash transfers to social protection systems

The use of humanitarian cash transfers (HCTs) is growing steadily within the organization's humanitarian action. In 2019, thirty countries provided HCTs in response to a crisis, 31 per cent of the countries where UNICEF embarked on any kind of a humanitarian response.

Overall, UNICEF reached 2.8 million households, covering 8.5 million children through HCT programmes in 2019. Of these, 90 per cent of households (2.6 million) and children (7.6 million) were reached by HCT programmes funded by UNICEF; the rest were reached via technical support to governments to scale up social transfers that were government funded.

UNICEF is committed to designing and implementing HCTs in ways that build on or form the basis for sustainable social protection systems for children. The overall aim is to strengthen preparedness of social protection systems so that the existing systems can be adjusted, scaled up or leveraged in emergencies to support children and their families affected

by crises. In 2019, nearly half of the organization's HCT programmes (14 countries) worked towards meeting this commitment. Of these, eight countries leveraged the existing social protection systems fully, and two countries leveraged them partially by utilizing some components of the social protection system (e.g., beneficiary list but delivering the cash transfers through a parallel system). Technical assistance alone was provided in four countries to support the governments to scale up their existing social protection programme. Figure 18 gives an idea of the numbers of beneficiaries supported through different systems, including social protection systems, parallel systems and mixed systems.

Some examples of UNICEF-supported humanitarian cash transfers that are linked to social protection systems follow.

- In Zambia, below-normal rainfall and prolonged drought conditions in 2019 left approximately 2.3 million people in need of food assistance during the lean season. These vulnerabilities were further exacerbated as a result of severe delays in the routine payments of the existing social cash transfers (SCTs). In partnership with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit of the Government of Zambia, and with the financial support from the governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom, UNICEF embarked on the emergency cash transfer (ECT) programme. This entailed provision of top-up cash transfers to the existing SCT programme to cover a six-month period in the 22 most affected districts.

The payments were accompanied by a clear communication strategy to ensure that communities understood the temporary nature of the payments and to clarify that this payment was not covering the arrears of the delayed SCT programme. As an essential component, training on prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation was provided to all payment agents and district staff who were involved in the cash distribution process and directly in contact with the beneficiaries. This was included as a preventive measure to mitigate the risk of abuse of power by the payment agents. The programme reached 81,066 children from 95,961 households, of which 70,320 (42 per cent) were headed by women.

- In Mozambique, in response to the cyclones Idai and Kenneth, UNICEF worked with the Government, WFP, ILO and the World Bank on a shock-responsive social protection strategy note, which was presented before heads of cooperation of donor partners in April 2019. This contributed towards the mobilization of US\$45 million for the country to support a social protection response, resulting in the national social protection system reaching a total of 105,000 households in three provinces.

While the immediate support to Cyclone Idai-affected communities was in the form of in-kind humanitarian assistance, multipurpose vouchers that enable households to purchase a range of commodities were soon introduced as part of the government

Case Study 6: Mongolia: Risk-informed social protection systems to address climate change challenges

Climate change is affecting Mongolia's weather conditions. For example, it is leading to increased frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events, such as severe winters with excessive snowfall, intensification of drought and aridity, and rapid melting of permafrost and glaciers.

In the past, the Government's response to such events focused on ensuring support for the mainstay of the economy such as livestock protection and their survival. In 2018–2019, however, a study pointed out that such drastic changes in weather conditions resulted in incremental impacts on children's development, especially on their nutrition status. It suggested concrete measures were needed to protect children's rights and ensure their well-being is maintained at all times.

UNICEF worked closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in 2019 to address this challenge. As a first step, partners conducted a feasibility study to determine whether the existing social protection (child money) programme could be scaled up. Based on the findings, a pilot shock-responsive social transfer programme was developed to protect children from *dzuds* (harsh winters) and to test the scale-up ahead of the onset of the winter season.

The pilot was designed to cover all children under 5 years of age and included a one-off top-up to the routine child grant provided by the Government. As a part of this pilot, 2,728 children in four remote *soums* (villages) of Zavkhan Province received an additional MNT40,000 (US\$15) in December, just before the onset of winter.



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Mongolian children dressed warmly during the 'dzud' (harsh winter).

The pilot exercise was initiated with a dual purpose:

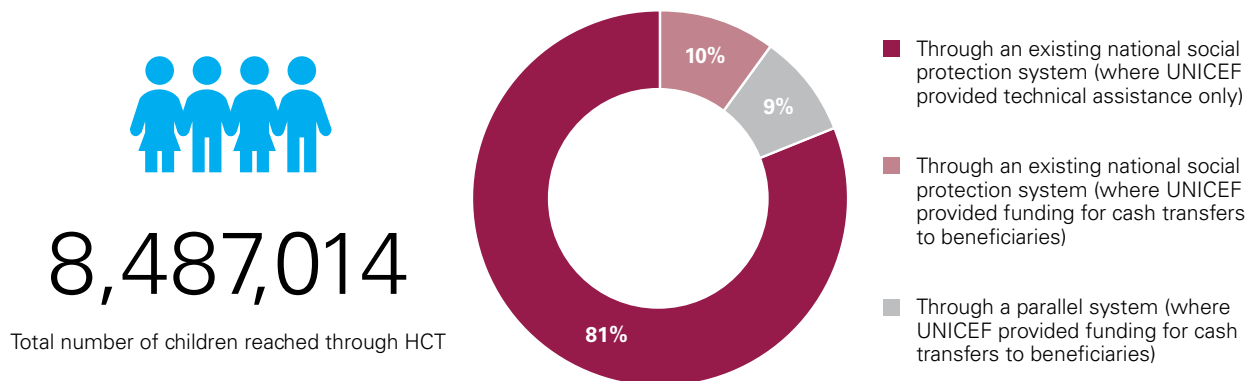
- To test whether the existing social protection system can be scaled up efficiently in response to seasonal climate-related shocks
- To assess the effectiveness of the scale-up in protecting children by helping herder families to avoid negative coping strategies during *dzuds*.

The pilot was co-funded by UNICEF, the Korean International Cooperation Agency, Women Unlimited through UNICEF Canada, and the Joint SDG Fund. It is expected also to contribute lessons learned on cooperation among development partners working on social protection and humanitarian cash transfers.

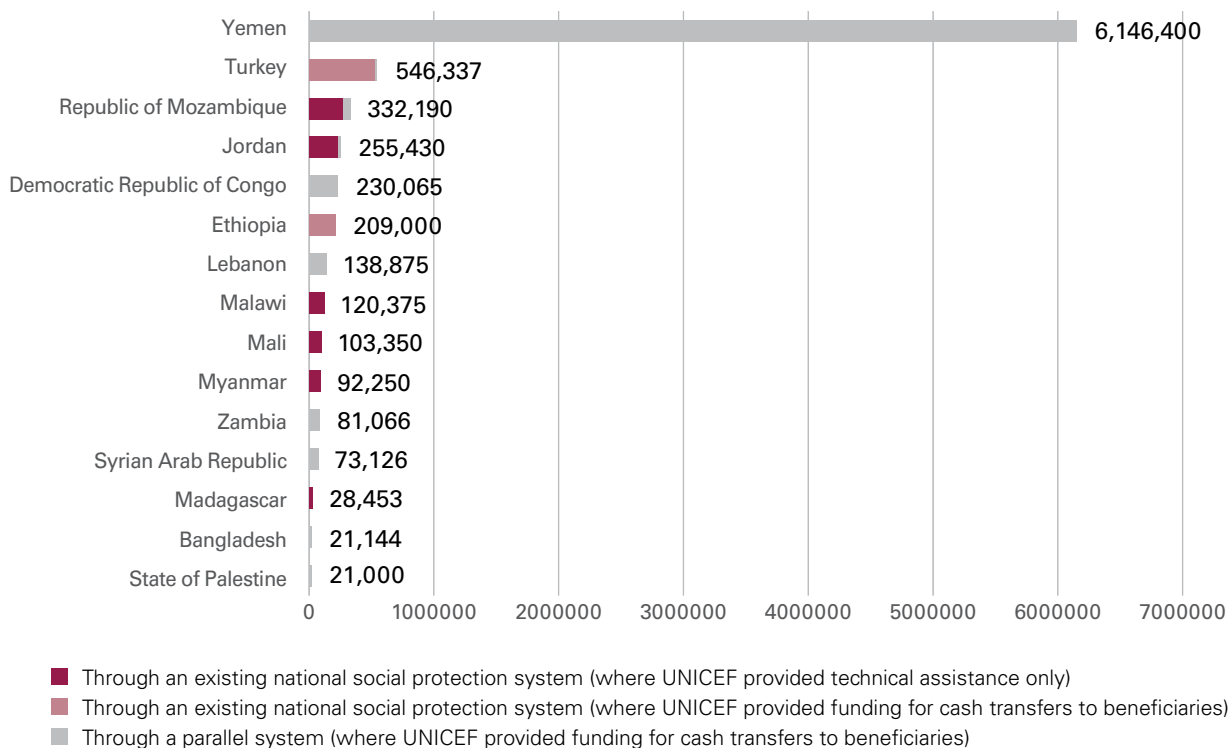
Monitoring data from the pilot are being analysed and the results will be available in early 2020. Based on the findings, UNICEF will work towards strengthening the design and supporting the Government of Mongolia to scale up the existing child money programme as and when needed to respond to *dzuds* in the future.

FIGURE 18: UNICEF humanitarian cash transfer programming in 2019

HCT beneficiaries reached by type of assistance



HCT beneficiaries by country (top 15 recipient countries)



Source: UNICEF SMQs.⁵¹ Note: The figures are as of end December 2019 and may not reflect the final figures, as reported in the countries' consolidated emergency reports.

post-emergency cash grant in the central regions of Mozambique. A total of 22,167 households in Dondo and Nhamatanda districts of Sofala province benefited from this in the initial phase that leveraged WFP's voucher platform, including 57,000 children (36,248 girls and 33,229 boys). In Cabo Delgado, UNICEF supported the government to operationalize post-emergency child grants to children (0–5 years old) in Quissanga district affected by Cyclone Kenneth.

By the end of 2019, some 2,608 children were registered with the social protection programme and a government system was established to deliver emergency child grants starting from January 2020.

- In Yemen, UNICEF successfully implemented three cash payment cycles in 2019, reaching over 1.4 million poor and vulnerable families in all governorates and districts, despite access constraints and the current political and security situation in the country. This benefited almost a third of the country's population. About 48 per cent of those who collected the payment were women. The payment reached about 89 per cent of the targeted population, which translates to around 9 million people nationwide.

Findings from post-distribution monitoring activities in Yemen across the three cycles showed that cash was mostly used by the families to meet immediate urgent needs, such as food, medical care, transportation and

debt repayment. In addition, the cash plus initiative was launched for piloting in Amanat Al-Asimah governorate with 8,000 ECT beneficiary households. As a part of this initiative, the ECT programme was combined with provision and referral to basic social services and accompanied by awareness messages.

- In response to the earthquake on Lombok island, and the earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi which struck Indonesia in late 2018, UNICEF delivered HCTs to a total of 6,144 affected households (including nearly 14,000 children) in two of the most affected districts, to meet their most immediate needs. The organization partnered with Catholic Relief Services to deliver cash assistance to 4,469 households in North Lombok District through the national post office. In Sigi District, UNICEF – together with World Vision International – delivered cash to 1,675 crisis-affected households (including 10,000 children) through a local bank.

UNICEF collaborated with Indonesia's Ministry of Social Affairs throughout programme implementation, which has resulted in lessons from the programme being applied to the national standards and regulations of the country's existing social protection programme. With the support of the United Nations SDG Fund, adaptive social protection in Indonesia will be further developed and strengthened in 2020.

Challenges and looking ahead

On gender and social protection, in 2019 UNICEF built on a body of existing work and developed a new organisational plan of action to address critical evidence gaps, build capacity, innovate, and increase the gender-responsiveness of programmatic practice – with the goal of increasing gender-responsiveness and transformational capacity of social protection systems. This strategic shift is a priority area that UNICEF is working on together with partners in national governments, other United Nations agencies, International Financial Institutions, NGOs and bilateral donors. However, it is critical to recognize that this is a very significant challenge: the global, systemic and patriarchal norms and barriers underpinning gender inequality also lead to gender-blind or discriminatory social protection systems, policies and programmes. In other words, this is not an isolated or sector-specific issue. The organization therefore needs deliberate, consistent and concerted action to ensure social protection systems adequately respond to the needs of girls and women and prioritize gender equality.

This is a previously underfunded and under-prioritized area. However, it is receiving increased recognition as a critical part of the social protection agenda, including with recent generous investments from DFID to support this international shift. UNICEF is at the forefront of efforts to integrate gender effectively into social protection programming: in 2020,

the organization will generate and share new evidence and learning, contribute new policy work and technical guidance, and support new programmes and adaptations of existing programmes to further this agenda.

There is slow but steady movement towards strengthening the shock-responsiveness of social protection systems in countries. This is an iterative and long-term change process that requires consistent efforts. Lack of long-term funding commitment to this creates barriers in upholding children's rights in times of crisis.

Building on current disability-sensitive social protection work and in collaboration with ILO, United Nations Partnership on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNPRPD) and International Disability Alliance, UNICEF will convene a global workshop to share and disseminate knowledge and experiences. At the same time, UNICEF will polish the way it uses a systems approach to social protection, working in a multisectoral way to leverage social protection systems to address multidimensional poverty. Finally, UNICEF will help narrow the gap between research and practice by working with the UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti and other partners to identify research gaps and encourage deeper use of existing research to inform programmes.



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Results: Gender Equality – “Promoting positive gender norms and socialization”

Pictured above: Jamal Hossain, 26, plays with his daughter Jui, 1, at a garment factory in Bangladesh. The family-friendly policies adopted by the factory, including day-care centres and early childhood education, allow Jamal to care for Jui through the workday.

A critical barrier standing in the way of greater equality is entrenched discriminatory gender norms. These norms and modes of behaviour govern every aspect of a child's growing years – from how they dress, what they eat, how much girls are fed compared to boys, what subjects they study – and ultimately play an important role in determining lifelong inequalities in the realization of the rights of girls and boys.

While discriminatory gender norms can lead to negative outcomes for all children, the inherent power imbalance in most societies and the lower value attached to girls leads to poorer outcomes for girls, with lifelong consequences. For example, families which value girls less than boys often invest less in girls' development, preventing them from completing school or participating in vocational training, civic engagement or social networking opportunities, while encouraging child marriage and early unions. Consequently, these young girls will be far less prepared than boys for a productive and fulfilling future. Such discriminatory norms passed along generations act as the root cause of an inequitable society.

Discriminatory gender norms take various forms in different societies – reflected in everyday words, thoughts and actions, and sometimes codified in legal frameworks and community practices. The UNICEF report, *A New Era for Girls: Taking stock of 25 years of progress*,⁵² highlights that in five out of six countries with available data, girls aged 10–14 years are more likely than boys of the same age to spend 21 or more hours on household chores per week. This is a manifestation of the gender norm that deems domestic responsibilities as girls' or women's work – a reality that is experienced by girls worldwide. This disproportionate burden of chores can limit girls' opportunities to enjoy the pleasures of childhood, such as time to learn, play and build social networks. The same report estimates that at least 60 per cent of countries continue to discriminate against daughters' rights to inherit land and non-land assets in either law or practice, therefore restricting their financial independence – a key enabler of empowerment.

Restrictive social constructs of masculinity also prevent boys from achieving their full potential. Boys and men are often pressured to display traditionally accepted 'male' attributes of physical toughness, financial independence, protecting and providing, and emotional stoicism – often leading to limited career opportunities, dropping out to earn rather than learn, heightened financial pressure, substance abuse, and risk of violence.

Media and advertising act as another channel of gender socialization. An Ipsos study across 28 countries found that 7 in 10 women and men say most advertising does not reflect reality, three in five do not see themselves represented in advertisements, and almost half find advertising sexist and offensive.⁵³ In the same study, 76 per cent of consumers confirmed that advertising has immense power to shape society's perceptions – children, adolescents and youth being most vulnerable to accepting such messages without question. Clearly, gender norms continue to be taught and learned, consciously and subconsciously, from one generation

to the next, creating unequal and unfair societies where rights are violated, and people of any gender are unable to achieve their full potential.

Significant progress has been achieved in the last decade in addressing gender inequities in areas such as health, education, protection against child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), among others. Over the past 25 years, women and girls are living eight years longer on average, the number of out-of-school girls dropped by 79 million between 1998 and 2008, and since 1995 the incidence of child marriage has declined globally from one in four to one in five girls.⁵⁴ However, recent evidence suggests that progress in achieving gender equality has now flattened, with the limited progress in addressing underlying gender discrimination identified as a determining factor.



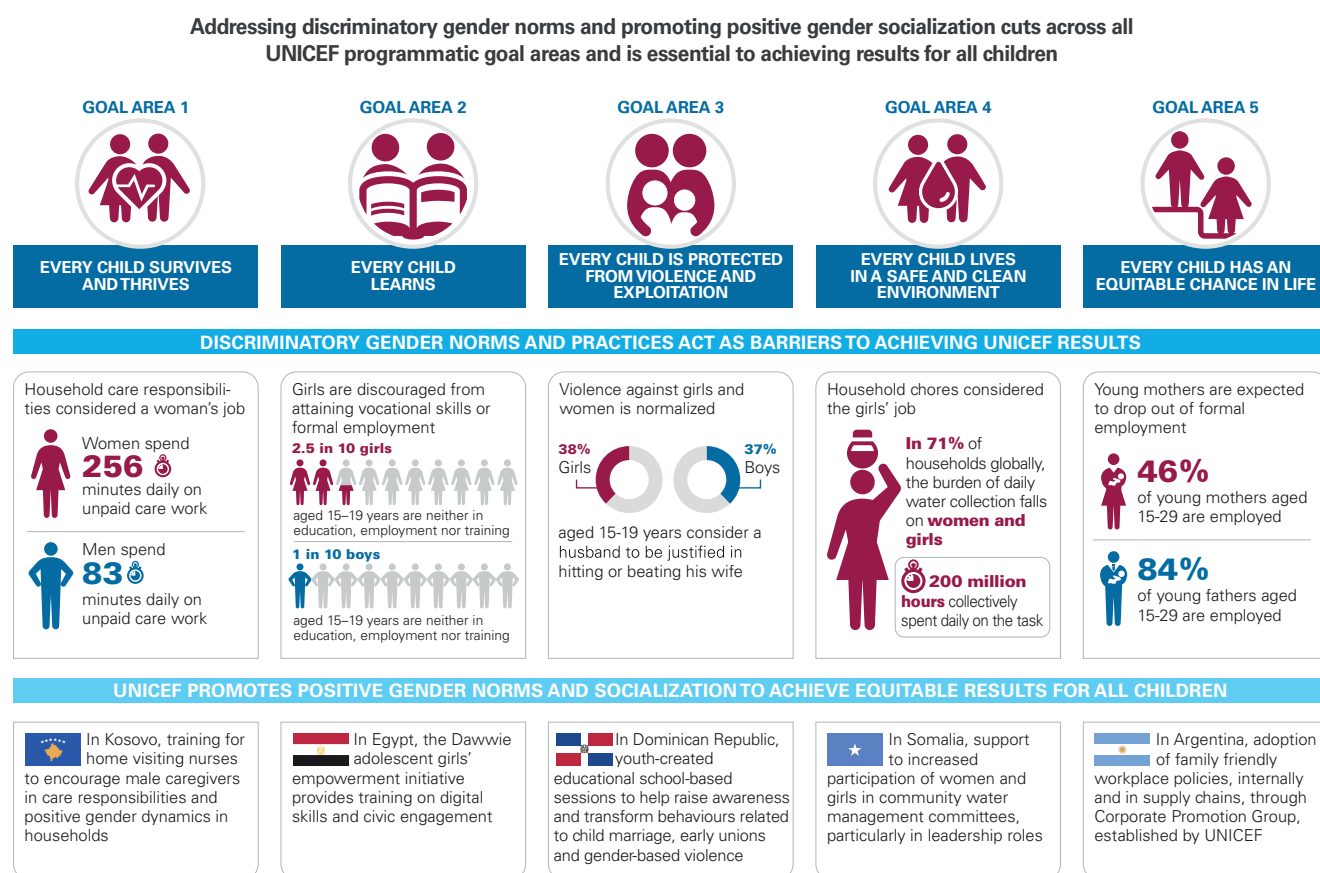
The Human Development Report 2019 states that "societies often tell their girls that they can become anything they want and are capable of, while investing in their education. But the same societies tend to block their access to power positions without giving them a fair chance."⁵⁵ Clearly, addressing gender-discriminatory norms and stereotypes is a key accelerator in achieving gender equality across all sectors, and an obligation enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

UNICEF approach to transforming gender norms

UNICEF seeks to address harmful, discriminatory gender norms, roles, stereotypes and practices to unlock the full potential of our future generations by promoting positive gender norms and socialization. In 2018, the organization defined 'positive gender norms and socialization' as a flagship area of work, to achieve equitable outcomes across all UNICEF goal areas, as well as directly contribute to meeting SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and the United Nations Common Chapter results on gender equality.

Gender socialization is a complex and ongoing process, which begins at birth, continues through childhood, and intensifies during adolescence, until individuals have internalized gender identities and begun to perpetuate them to future generations. For example, in some societies girls are encouraged to play with dolls while boys are encouraged to play outdoors, girls are complimented for their looks while boys are complimented for their physical strength, boys are more likely to experience violent disciplining from parents compared to girls, and so on. 'Agents of socialization' are present in all aspects of a child's life – school, home, playground, places of faith, media and peer groups.⁵⁶

FIGURE 19: Addressing discriminatory gender norms across UNICEF goal areas



Source: 'A New Era for Girls: Taking Stock of 25 Years of Progress', UNICEF 2020; 'Care Work and Care Jobs: The Future of Decent Work', International Labour Organization 2018; 'Women at Work: Trends 2016', International Labour Organization 2016; 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: A Pathway to Realizing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls', WaterAid Canada 2019; 'Collecting water is often a colossal waste of time for women and girls', UNICEF 2016, <https://www.unicef.org/media/media_92690.html>

The household environment, particularly parents and caregivers, act as the primary agent of socialization from early childhood through active teaching as well as modelling gendered behaviours. Through school curricula, children actively learn gender perceptions and secondary education schools play an active role in determining the successful transition of adolescents to fulfilling and productive work and life. Others such as peers, media and faith leaders form the wider sphere of influence during the developmental ages of a child. Such deep-rooted gender norms are 'sticky' and require sustained effort and time to change. Evidence shows that interventions for promoting positive gender socialization are most effective during childhood and adolescence.

UNICEF endeavours to ensure that all programming across sectors is gender responsive or gender transformative and therefore takes a norms-based approach to core programme design. Many development interventions can be classified as 'gender aware' or 'gender sensitive', which simply acknowledges gender inequalities but does not address them. In contrast, UNICEF attempts to be 'gender responsive' or 'gender transformative', with programming that acknowledges and categorically addresses gender-

specific needs and explicitly tries to transform harmful gender norms, roles and power relations. Communication for Development offers important opportunities for developing and scaling up programmatic models for positive gender socialization, by helping to identify, understand and address norms and practices.

The organization seeks to work with multiple agents of socialization across the life course of a child to create an enabling environment that can allow sustainable and at-scale, gender-transformative results. The following programming principles lie at the core of the UNICEF approach.

- Programme design based on evidence of prevailing norms
- Interventions tailored to context-specific needs
- Holistic, cross-sectoral programmes that engage individuals, families, communities and the legal or policy environment
- Clear methodology for monitoring progress on gender norms change.

Results achieved in 2019 in promoting positive gender norms and socialization



Thematic Funding Highlight

In 2019, targeted support was provided to promising interventions in prioritized thematic areas to explicitly integrate positive gender socialization principles.

The Global Thematic Fund for Gender Equality, with contributions from the governments of Canada and Luxembourg, was instrumental in catalysing targeted programming to address harmful gender norms and socialization in Armenia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Kosovo,⁵⁷ Nepal, Sri Lanka, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, and the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, and South Asia.

The thematic fund contributions to gender socialization in 2018–2019 helped to establish a repository of technical products, build organizational capacity, and pilot dedicated programmatic interventions in targeted countries. These efforts had a ripple effect, influencing a wide range of field offices where ongoing interventions have been strengthened to address underlying norms. In 2019, positive gender socialization programmes were being implemented in 120 UNICEF country offices in all regions, particularly focused on gender-responsive school curricula, positive parenting that encourages fathers' engagement in caregiving, institutionalized gender equality training for front-line workers, and multisectoral interventions addressing gender norms linked to harmful practices.

Thirty country programmes identified gender socialization as a priority gender result, an increase from 25 in 2018 and 22 in 2017. However, eight fewer country offices than in 2018 (36) reported implementation of at-scale programmes addressing gender-discriminatory roles and practices among children. The downward trend points to two implementation challenges: lack of data and measurement methodologies to generate evidence and assess norms change over time, and limited sustained funding to adequately resource multisectoral efforts over longer periods. Further, programming on gender norms and socialization needs to be integrated across all programmatic sectors.

In response, UNICEF is investing in developing stronger data generation and analysis methodologies to measure gender norms change. The organization also seeks to strengthen efforts to mobilize flexible resources and partnerships to achieve long-term transformation in discriminatory gender norms, including with the private sector. Building on lessons learned and evidence generated from ongoing programmes, UNICEF will strengthen integration of gender norms across all sectors. The following sections discuss the results achieved in promoting positive gender socialization across the most important programming strategies.

FIGURE 20: Countries that received Gender Thematic Fund 2019 for promoting positive gender norms and socialization

Country programmes promoting positive gender socialization with support of Gender Thematic Fund, 2019

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ARMENIA

Addressing discriminatory norms underlying harmful practices such as child marriage and gender-biased sex selection through mass media and school-based interventions

SRI LANKA, GHANA, VIET NAM

Establishing gender-responsive school curriculum to promote positive gender portrayals from early years of education

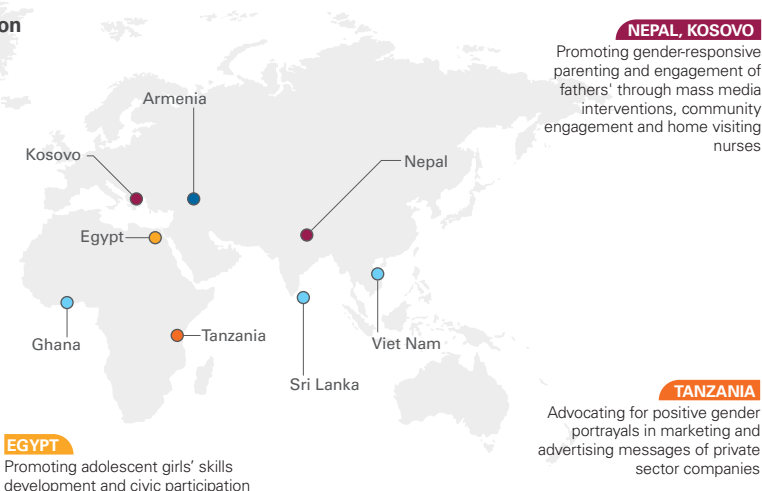
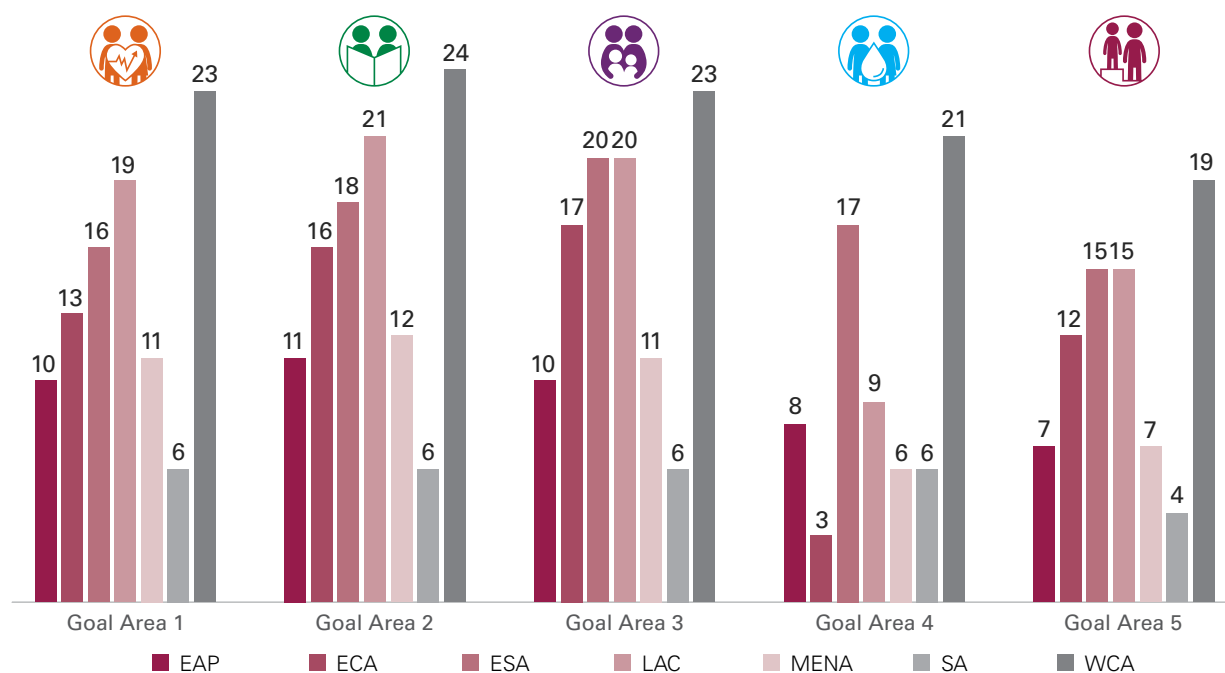


FIGURE 21: Number of country offices addressing gender-discriminatory norms, roles and practices through programmes across goal areas



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.

Value for money highlight: Catalytic funding for gender-responsive programming

Through focused catalytic funding towards achieving gender-responsive programmes, UNICEF quickly and efficiently scales up interventions by taking advantage of its wide programmatic and partnership networks, both regionally and globally. The organization targets limited thematic funding received for gender equality to catalyse ongoing programmes or strengthen existing systems. For example, in 2019, UNICEF targeted thematic funds on strengthening capacity-building modules for home-visiting nurses in eastern Europe – an existing, effective and widespread health delivery model – thereby converting a small investment into a much wider impact on achieving gender-responsive health delivery to a large number of families across the country.

Positive parenting and family-friendly policies

Gender socialization begins at birth. Parents, caregivers and families, often inadvertently, perpetuate discriminatory gender norms to future generations through differentiated messages and methods of care for girls and boys. Fathers are limited by traditional concepts of masculinity from fully participating in care work, while women are disproportionately burdened by household chores and face economic barriers of inequitable workplace policies and national legislations. UNICEF programming addresses the entire spectrum of gender-based barriers, including encouraging fathers' engagement in care work, positive and gender-responsive parenting practices, prevention of violence in homes, balanced distribution of household chores and family-friendly workplace policies.

In 2019, twenty-eight UNICEF country offices implemented programming and conducted advocacy on equitable distribution of household work and promotion of fathers' engagement in childcare. In Nepal and Timor-Leste, fathers' groups have effectively engaged fathers and communities (see *Case Study 7*). In Cuba, the Fathers from the Beginning initiative launched a parenting app, the first of its kind in the country, to share essential information on rights, responsibilities and benefits of fatherhood, and to facilitate community-building. The app was downloaded more than 2,000 times in 2019, with 90 per cent of downloads by fathers or male caregivers, and received a score of 4.9 in CubaApk and Google Play Store.⁵⁸ UNICEF-supported advocacy around family-friendly policies contributed to legislation extending paid maternity leave in the Philippines, and paternity leave in the Dominican Republic.

UNICEF collaborated with the International Finance Corporation, ILO, and other public and private partners to launch guidance for employer-supported childcare at a summit held in July 2019 focused on the theme of redesigning the workplace. The summit marked the beginning of long-term collaboration across regions, including through private-public partnerships, and presented a series of six evidence briefs on family-friendly policies and women's economic empowerment. For example, at least 120 companies in Argentina have joined the Corporate Promotion Group established by UNICEF to promote family-friendly policies both internally and among their clients and suppliers. The companies collaborate on improving policies on parental leave, breastfeeding spaces, telecommuting and diversity programmes. The Mothers@Work programme in Bangladesh expanded to 92 ready-made garment factories, reaching about 160,000 female workers and 2,865 of their young children with standardized tools and facilities for creating enabling environments for maternity rights and breastfeeding for working mothers. Moreover, UNICEF undertook several internal measures to be a more gender-equal workplace, including extending equal parental leave to all non-gestational caregivers, regardless of their gender.



Jisha, 3, plays with a medical kit at an early childhood development centre in a clothing factory in Bangladesh, where both her parents work.

Gender-responsive training for front-line workers

Workers at the front lines of health, nutrition, education, child protection and early childhood development are key agents for socialization of children, parents and caregivers, particularly during children's early developmental years. In 2019, UNICEF implemented 35 at-scale gender-responsive capacity development programmes for front-line workers, up from 32 in 2018 and 18 in 2017. In 56 countries such training has been institutionalized in national gender policies, and in 29 countries codified in national-level strategies.

In Kosovo, nurses of the Home Visiting Nurses Programme were trained in two new modules – promoting gender equality in family dynamics, and engaging fathers in caring for children. The training supported nurses to identify gender inequalities in parenting practices, gender-based violence at home, and disproportionate burden of household responsibilities, and equipped them with the knowledge and communication tools to help transform household behaviours. The new training modules were accredited by the Ministry of Health, conducted for 205 health professionals and 26 family doctors in 15 municipalities, and reached 1,869 newborn children. In Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, similar training was conducted and extended to address signs of domestic violence and educate fathers on the human papillomavirus vaccine introduction.

Case Study 7: Nepal and Timor-Leste: Learning to share the joys of parenthood

“We used to think that taking care of children was a woman’s job,” says Jhim Bahadur Bhandari, as he proceeds with the morning’s housework – picking pieces of husk out of a batch of millet grains. His daughters, Sarina and Man Devi, are getting ready for school. Sarina studies business in a college nearby. Jhim continues, “Now we understand that as fathers, it’s our responsibility to share the burden.”

Across Nepal, 28 fathers’ groups or *baba samuhas* have been established (16 in Mugu District). Each month a range of topics are discussed, such as feeding practices, vaccination schedules, caring for pregnant women and new mothers, redistributing household chores and, of course, learning to share the joys of parenthood.

The group members are fathers of all age groups. Bijaya Bham, chair of *Bham Bada* fathers’ group, accepts the challenges of transforming deep-rooted gender norms and beliefs in the community that strictly define notions of masculinity and fatherhood. The consequent gender disparities in the distribution of household responsibilities and discriminatory parenting practices are considered root causes of the country’s poor results in achieving maternal and child mortality goals.

Echoes of change can be heard across the world. Ermera municipality of Timor-Leste has introduced parenting education through Fathers Network. As a result, in 2019, some 4,329 fathers were engaged in parenting education, accounting for 47 per cent of participants – a jump from 33 per cent in 2018. Participating fathers demonstrated positive behavioural changes such as increased sharing of household chores with partners. Because of its success, the Fathers Network will be permanently integrated into the community parenting sessions and scaled up to other municipalities.

Beyond fathers’ groups, Nepal is also leveraging multiple methods to influence parenting. ‘*Rope Guna Fal*’, a new radio drama series in Nepal – developed with support from the UNICEF Global Thematic Fund – is educating caregivers on positive parenting practices and the importance of fathers’ engagement.



Uday Ghimire, one of the many listeners of the show recalls, “The other day, when I scolded my son to do his homework, he reminded me that I shouldn’t be doing that. He told me, ‘Daddy, remember what they said on the radio?’”

Through 40 radio stations, the show reaches all 77 districts of Nepal and broadcasts twice a week in three languages. By leveraging multiple modes of communication and engagement, UNICEF is collaborating with governments, local partners and online platforms to break discriminatory gender norms and effect positive change for future generations.

But this is just the beginning. “It’s not going to happen [all] at once, especially when it comes to the older generation of fathers,” says Jhim. “But I have hope for the younger ones.”



Shankar Bitalu, member of a Nepalese fathers’ group, feeds some porridge to his daughter Suhana.

Gender-responsive school curriculum

Beyond the family, children's development is largely dependent on their school curriculum and environment. UNICEF programmes develop and disseminate gender-responsive pedagogy, providing training to children, particularly adolescent girls, on topics such as employability, entrepreneurship, and digital and life skills. These programmes aim to create enabling gender-equal environments in schools. In 2019, thirty-seven countries with UNICEF-supported programmes had gender-responsive teaching and learning systems that integrated gender equality principles into education programming, training and measurement activities. This represents 40 per cent of the reporting countries, compared to 31 per cent in 2018 and 18 per cent in 2017. Both indicators have exceeded their 2021 targets.

UNICEF support to national partners in Kyrgyzstan resulted in system-wide integration of gender and anti-discrimination methodologies across teaching and learning materials to ensure that all new primary and secondary school textbooks are free of gender stereotypes and promote positive gender norms.

Revisions by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board of Bangladesh, with UNICEF support, led to the first comprehensive curriculum framework – spanning pre-primary to secondary education – which specifically incorporates teaching and learning around gender equality.

In Egypt, collaborating closely with the Government, the innovative Dawwie initiative was launched to create an ecosystem that empowers girls and tackles harmful practices through a mix of norms-focused interventions targeted at the individual, community and policy levels. Dawwie amplifies the voices of girls and boys to facilitate change in social expectations, employing social and behaviour change communication / C4D strategies, including interactive community theatre, intergenerational dialogues, digital platforms, edutainment, campaigning, Goodwill Ambassadors and more. In 2019, UNICEF supported training of 5,000 adolescents and youth, particularly girls, on digital literacy to reduce the digital gender divide and engaged 7,000 adolescents and youth through Dawwie storytelling circles and road show community engagements. Formally endorsed by the Minister of Education, the Dawwie package was rolled out in 3,603 schools, reaching 33,732 girls, 12,968 boys and 4,877 parents. Complementary Dawwie messages also reached 2 million people on social media platforms.

Addressing gender norms linked to violence and harmful practices

The UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage technical note on gender norms (2019) explicitly established that “child marriage is perpetuated by gender norms that prescribe when and why adolescent girls and boys should marry.”⁵⁹ Similarly, most forms of gender-based violence are predicated on the belief that girls and women do not have the right or



Puteri Nur Larissa, a Girl Guide from Malaysia, holds a poster on ending child marriage. A total of 130,000 Girl Guides joined forces with UNICEF to reflect on critical challenges of child rights and gender equality.

agency over their own bodies and sexuality, while boys and men are allowed to display violence as an expression of their masculinity.⁶⁰ UNICEF seeks to integrate norms-based thinking with the aim of developing a preventive and transformative approach to programming on gender-based violence and harmful practices.

UNICEF has targeted traditional and religious leaders as key sociocultural influencers to step up engagement with boys and men to shift dominant narratives around gender norms. The organization is partnering with two Islamic faith-based organizations in Indonesia, Muslimat NU and Aisyiyah, with over 32 million members combined, to develop gender-responsive religious decisions and policies about child marriage, and a model for women's prayer groups that encourages mothers to communicate with their children about reproductive health, healthy relationships and marriage. In the Niger, UNICEF involved traditional leaders in social mobilization and community dialogue, resulting in more than 260,000 parents in 67 communities being engaged on changing harmful gender stereotypes. Similarly, in Afghanistan, close to 700 religious leaders of the Ministry of Hajji and Religious Affairs were trained with UNICEF support to preach on ending child marriage, reaching an estimated 247,900 mosque-goers.



Girls from St Francis of Assisi School, the Philippines, check their phones after class. UNICEF supports programmes on digital literacy and cyber safety to guide and train adolescents on the power and risks of online media.

Gender-sensitization training of key community influencers is another strategy effectively used to increase awareness and promote positive behaviours (see *Case Study 8*). UNICEF is an implementing partner of the EU–United Nations Spotlight Initiative, which is making targeted, large-scale investments to respond to and prevent gender-based violence. In 2019, UNICEF began implementation in 13 countries in Africa and Latin America with a total budget of US\$36 million for 2019–2020, while implementation in 12 countries across the Pacific, the Caribbean and Central Asia will begin in 2020, mobilizing US\$14.5 million. Approximately 40 per cent of the programme activity budget is targeted at addressing underlying social and gender norms linked to gender-based violence.

Positive gender portrayals in media and advertising

Children and adolescents are exposed to a barrage of media and marketing messages daily, which have the power to shape their perceptions on gender equality. It is estimated that, in 2019, US\$4.2 billion was spent on children’s advertising, of which one third was online.⁶¹ Marketers often use stereotypical tropes to communicate quickly, and the expansion of the globalized digital world and the invasion of gadgets into the lives of children, adolescents and youth have magnified the impact of communication, with potential negative effects on their rights.

Evidence shows that children and adolescents are more likely than adults to believe advertising messages are true and to conform to perpetuated social norms and expectations. For example, promotion of stereotypical notions of beauty can lead to nutritional or mental health challenges for girls; the depiction of fathers as irresponsible can perpetuate traditional social barriers preventing men from caregiving as well as aggravating mental health issues. UNICEF believes that the power of media and advertising can also be used as a force of good to positively influence and transform perceptions for future generations.

In 2019, in partnership with the Government of India, UNICEF supported the development of gender-sensitive guidelines for India’s free national public television broadcaster, Doordarshan, which reaches 99 per cent of the population. The guidelines translate gender equality principles into practical actions for all forms of programming. UNICEF launched a partnership with Dove in 2019 which aims to reach 10 million adolescents and young people in Brazil, India and Indonesia with self-esteem and body confidence training.

UNICEF has been an active advocate of positive gender portrayals in advertising and media, delivering workshops and presentations on platforms such as the Unstereotype Alliance Global Members Summit, International Day of the Girl celebrations at the United Nations Secretariat (see *Case Study 9*), World Federation of Advertisers sessions on responsible advertising for children, and International Public Service Advertising Summit in Beijing.

Voices of partners



Partnerships Highlight

“The Unstereotype Alliance recognizes the power of partnerships in achieving our vision of a world free from deep-rooted stereotypes that limit who we are and what we can achieve. The Alliance has a valuable partner in UNICEF, with whom we share our vision, ideas and expertise. Together we are working towards a gender-equal world where, through the portrayal of progressive role models and eradication of destructive stereotypes, we can support future generations by shaping a world of possibilities and lasting cultural change. We look forward to strengthening our partnership in order to drive that change, advancing on our vision of an ‘unstereotyped’ world together.”

Sara Denby, Head of the Unstereotype Alliance Secretariat, UN Women

Case Study 8: India: Gender-sensitization training – Fighting harmful practices and creating safer communities

Freedom of movement is a human right. Yet millions of girls and women in India are unable to travel freely on a daily basis due to the risk of gender-based violence and harassment on public transport. Recent studies reported that over 51 per cent of Indian women and girls are harassed while using public transport and 80 per cent while waiting at bus stops. This has had an impact on their ability to attend school, go to work, and participate in social and public life. In 2012, the devastating Nirbhaya gang rape on a bus in the country's capital shook the world, focusing attention on the right to safe mobility as an enabler of women's empowerment.

In 2019, the Safe Gaadi initiative was launched in 22 districts of Haryana state in partnership with the Government, the Manas Foundation and UNICEF. While Haryana is one of India's richest states, it ranks poorly across several gender equality indicators and records the highest sexual assault rate in the country. Safe Gaadi is seeking to improve women's safe access to public transport by challenging social norms and attitudes that condone disrespect for women and girls and justify gender-based violence. Activities focus on directly engaging with the bus drivers and conductors of the Haryana Roadways transport system on issues of gender equality and gender justice.

To date, more than 9,500 drivers and conductors (all male) have undergone gender-sensitization training, which helped promote positive and professional behaviour, stress management, and increased understanding about women's right to safety. Participants at the training initially expressed hesitation, relying on traditional notions of how men and women should behave – "Let the society run the way it has been running since the beginning of time," said one participant.

Issues raised in the training included: What are the root causes of violence against women and girls in public transport? How would you like your daughter to be treated on a bus? What is the ideal environment on a bus that guarantees safety? What is the responsibility of a bus driver or conductor to achieve this?



Above: The sticker that transport workers receive after completing Safe Gaadi programme, implemented by the Manas Foundation and supported by UNICEF. Below: An e-rickshaw driver shows off the sticker on his vehicle which says "My duty is the respect of women."

Discussions helped ground the concept of gender-based violence in everyday life and offered different perspectives and ways of responding in participants' personal and professional lives. Importantly, the programme avoided casting men as perpetrators of violence, instead emphasizing that drivers and conductors could be change-makers to ensure a safe transport system for all.

The training was positively received and is now being extended to e-rickshaw drivers, with plans for scale up. Many participants offered suggestions themselves, such as more frequent sessions, integration with orientation sessions, and wider training for communities and schools. One bus driver even brought his son along to a training session. "It is important for my son to learn about these issues from an early age," he said.

After their training, all transport workers received additional material, certificates, stickers and access to a mobile app for ongoing engagement. Many buses and e-rickshaws in the streets of Haryana now proudly sport stickers that say – "My duty is the respect of women."

Case Study 9: Re-writing her story

In films, 27 per cent of female characters are shown as leaders, compared with 42 per cent of male characters; 30 per cent of female leaders are shown in revealing clothing, compared with 7 per cent of male leaders; and 15 per cent of female leaders are sexually objectified, compared with 4 per cent of male leaders. Behind the scenes, among the top 250 films of 2018, only 8 per cent had female directors and only 1 per cent of films employed 10 or more women.

These startling statistics are from the *ReWrite Her Story*⁶² report, developed by Plan International, Girls Get Equal and the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, that was launched on International Day of the Girl celebrations at the United Nations Secretariat, in partnership with UNICEF and the Unstereotype Alliance.

It is critical to recognize the power of media and advertising in positively influencing social concepts of gender stereotypes that eventually, often unconsciously, contribute to progress towards the SDGs. Children, adolescents and youth often unconsciously grow up to mimic what they see. They dress like actors, speak like actors, act like actors. Girls may even derive their ambitions and approach to leadership from the stories they see on big and small screens. Evidence shows that children, adolescents and youth are less critical than adults of messages of media and advertising and often accept these without question.

To create a world where all genders are equal and leadership and agency transcend all boundaries, we must provide the future generation with a vision of leadership that is empowering and all-inclusive. Keeping this in mind, UNICEF is an ally of the Unstereotype Alliance – a thought and action platform convened by UN Women that brings together industry leaders from the private sector and research institutes around the world to end harmful gender portrayals in advertising and marketing.

Recognizing the importance of evidence and the lack thereof, UNICEF is partnering with Alliance members to launch new research on the impact of photoshopping in beauty industry advertising on body confidence and self-image of young girls and boys. UNICEF China has also launched a research initiative with Tencent Research Institute, the world's largest video game company, to similarly explore the impact of stereotypical advertising on adolescents and youth.

UNICEF is committed to strengthening partnerships, particularly with private sector companies around the world, to enhance advocacy efforts, generate evidence, and transform business practices as it seeks to end gender stereotypes.

The time has come to rewrite the story of women and girls.



Girl advocates take over the United National General Assembly at the International Day of the Girl celebrations 2019.

Challenges and looking ahead

UNICEF will continue strengthen efforts, in collaboration with academic and development partners, to enhance gender norms measurement and monitoring methodologies.

In response to the evaluation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan conducted in 2019, UNICEF will accelerate development of practical approaches on 'what works' for translating strategies to practical programmatic actions to promote positive gender norms and socialization. UNICEF is committed to increased focus on partnerships, particularly with the

private sector, to advance work on family-friendly policies and positive gender portrayals in marketing and advertising, both are especially critical in the COVID-19 context.

Sustainable resources are critical for programming on gender norms that inherently require continuous long-term programmatic work. UNICEF is strengthening efforts to mobilize flexible resources and partnerships to achieve long-term transformation in discriminatory gender norms, including with the private sector.

Case Study 10: Senegal: Addressing gender norms with Communication for Development

In Senegal, one in three girls are married before the age of 18, and one in four young women have been subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM). Communication for Development (C4D), also known as social and behaviour change communication strategies can be pivotal in ending harmful practices and promoting gender equality, by transforming attitudes and norms that perpetuate violence against girls and gender-based discrimination. By integrating gender-responsive C4D in its approach, UNICEF empowers communities to prevent child marriage and eliminate FGM.

With support from UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Ministry for Women, the Family, Gender Equality and the Protection of Children launched an inclusive process to develop a multisector national strategy and five-year action plan for eliminating FGM. South-South cooperation was supported with a Senegalese delegation visit to Burkina Faso to better understand their experience of effective FGM law enforcement strategies. Jointly with the ministry and UNFPA, UNICEF established a strategic partnership with Georgetown University to review innovative community approaches to FGM abandonment. This included a formative study on the sociocultural determinants of FGM and the development of a national guide for communities and tools to address underlying factors (e.g., gender imbalances and power relations).



In Senegal, social and behaviour change communication strategies address harmful social norms and behaviours in the gender socialization process, such as FGM.

Child Protection District Committees, aimed at coordinating and monitoring child protection interventions at decentralized level, were supported in 11 districts. UNICEF engaged 688,143 people in outreach sessions at community level and strengthened their capacity to prevent and respond to violence, including FGM and child marriage risks. Young female leaders were engaged and mobilized along with elders (grandmothers), as well as religious and traditional leaders, reaching 103,028 girls, 106,962 boys and 466,359 men and women. More religious leaders are now speaking out against FGM, clearly dissociating it from Muslim prescriptions, and 40 communities officially committed to abandoning FGM.

The Family Directorate, in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA, assessed these community declarations of FGM abandonment, with recommendations to strengthen mechanisms. In addition, through UNICEF support all health staff and community health workers in the targeted regions of Matam and Ziguinchor are trained on FGM prevention and response.



Results: Children with Disabilities – “Supporting children with disabilities to reach their full potential”

Pictured above: Eleven year-old Jorge at school with his friends. Jorge, born with Down Syndrome, is in Grade 5 at the Estado de Israel public school in San Miguelito, Panama. Jorge was the first child with a disability to begin kindergarten at Estado de Israel without first attending a special education school.



The year 2019 marked a new era for persons with disabilities in the United Nations context. In line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the SDGs' call to *leave no one behind*, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres launched the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) in June to raise standards and performance on disability inclusion across the organization's work globally. UNICEF contributed to the development of UNDIS and has subsequently seconded a staff member to the United Nations Secretariat of UNDIS under the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.



Globally, at least 10 per cent of all children have disabilities. Children with disabilities are one of the most excluded and marginalized groups, and often face multiple challenges in realizing their human rights. Guided by the SDGs and aligned to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to the CRPD, UNICEF is working to include children with disabilities in all facets of its programming.

While disability cuts across all goal areas of the Strategic Plan, there is a specific result in Goal Area 5: "Girls and boys with disabilities are reached by accessible and inclusive programmes and services to participate in society." The Strategic Plan provides a clear framework to scale up disability-inclusive programming at country level.

Results achieved in 2019 towards supporting children with disabilities to reach their full potential

In 2019, UNICEF reached 1.7 million children with disabilities across 142 countries through disability-inclusive development and humanitarian programmes – an increase from 1.4 million in 2018.

The organization works with partners to include children with disabilities across all sectors, strives to change negative attitudes towards children and adults with disabilities, and advocates for equal opportunities for all children. This chapter covers results related to disability-targeted and disability-inclusive interventions such as in education, WASH and child protection. Further information can also be found in the *Annual Results Reports* for other goal areas.

Strengthening data on children with disabilities



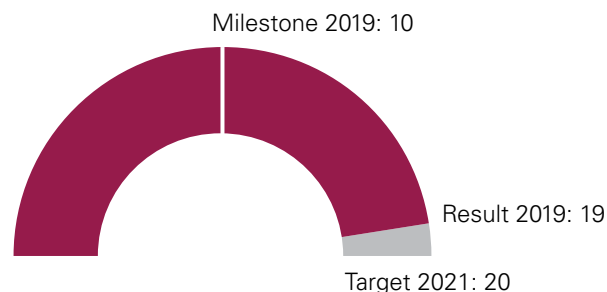
Data Highlight
The SDGs explicitly highlight the importance of disaggregated data to ensure that no child is left behind. Data disaggregation is also critical in identifying vulnerable and marginalized groups that may be subject to discrimination, which is forbidden under international law. This is especially critical to inform planning and implementation of inclusive programmes and services for children with disabilities across national systems, in both development and humanitarian settings.

UNICEF is working to strengthen the collection of disability data through the development and use of tools that produce reliable statistics on persons with disabilities and that strengthen national systems to ensure persons

with disabilities are counted. A significant milestone was the launch of the Child Functioning Module (CFM) survey questionnaire in 2016, developed by UNICEF and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. CFM is now used to identify children with disabilities (*see Box 'The Child Functioning Module'*). The questionnaire can be incorporated into existing data collection efforts,⁶³ addressing the need for nationally comparable and internationally harmonized data.

As of 2019, nineteen countries⁶⁴ have released survey reports with data on children with disabilities from the use of the CFM, almost achieving the target of 20 countries by 2021 (*see Figure 22*). The reports produce data on child well-being that are disaggregated by disability, helping to make children with disabilities more visible, including to policymakers.

FIGURE 22: Number of countries implementing UNICEF–Washington Group data module on child functioning



Source: UNICEF output indicator 5.e.2. data⁶⁵

The Child Functioning Module

The CFM is a shift in the way data on children with disabilities are collected. Based on the framework outlined in the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and incorporating the biopsychosocial model of disability as per the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the CFM goes beyond labels and body structure/conditions to explore children's actual experiences and the difficulties they encounter in performing daily activities.

In particular, the CFM provides a standard way to identify, at the population level, the proportion of children aged 2 to 17 years with functional difficulties in different domains including hearing, vision, communication/comprehension, learning, mobility and emotions. This information can be used to monitor participation (e.g., access to education) in accordance to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the CRPD. The data will help countries and governments plan and develop better practices to improve the living conditions and well-being of children with disabilities around the world.

In Thailand, UNICEF supported the National Statistical Office to collect data on children with disabilities in the fourth National Disability Survey. The results indicated that only half of the 139,000 children with disabilities in the country receive a disability allowance, while a third are not attending school. UNICEF also supported efforts to strengthen the national Education Management and Information System (EMIS) in Senegal, integrating new questions on violence, enhancing civil registration and producing national data on students with disabilities. The EMIS data will support the development of school profiles, which in 2020 will inform strengthened education planning, programming for equity, and learning outcomes throughout the system.

UNICEF worked with partners, including the Washington Group, to build capacity on disability data. These initiatives included: training organizations of persons with disabilities on disability measurement; releasing a series of videos on disability statistics and data collection tools;⁶⁶ and developing a paper with Humanity & Inclusion and the International Disability Alliance on disability data in humanitarian contexts.⁶⁷

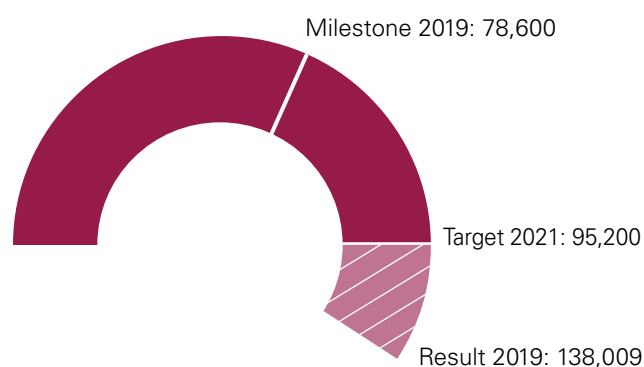
Providing assistive devices and products to facilitate inclusion

A critical component for enabling inclusion and full participation of children with disabilities in society is the availability of assistive devices and products. Assistive devices maintain or improve an individual's functioning and independence and facilitate participation to enhance overall well-being. Examples include wheelchairs, hearing aids and glasses. They can also help prevent impairments and secondary health conditions. However, in many low-income countries only between 5 and 15 per cent of those who need assistive technology are able to obtain it. Recognizing the importance of increasing investment, not only in products but also in systems that can effectively reach the ones who need them, UNICEF is working with partners to support policy development and procurement strategies to scale up provision of assistive devices worldwide.

Integrating supplies into regular programmes through market-shaping and procurement mechanisms, UNICEF has rapidly scaled up provision of assistive devices and products, reaching 138,000 children with disabilities globally, surpassing the target of 95,200 by 2021 (see Figure 23). This includes 13,722 children with disabilities provided with assistive devices such as hearing aids, walking sticks, wheelchairs and braille equipment (see Figure 24).

UNICEF is scaling up the provision of assistive devices and technology for children with disabilities through engagement in global partnerships. During 2019, working closely with partners – including WHO, USAID, DFID, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Global Disability Innovation Hub and the International Disability Alliance – Kenya and China UNICEF, as a board member and a key implementer, played a central role in operationalization of ATscale, a Global Partnership for Assistive Technology.⁶⁹ ATscale aims to provide assistive technology to 500 million people by 2030.

FIGURE 23: Number of children with disabilities provided with assistive devices and products through UNICEF-supported programmes



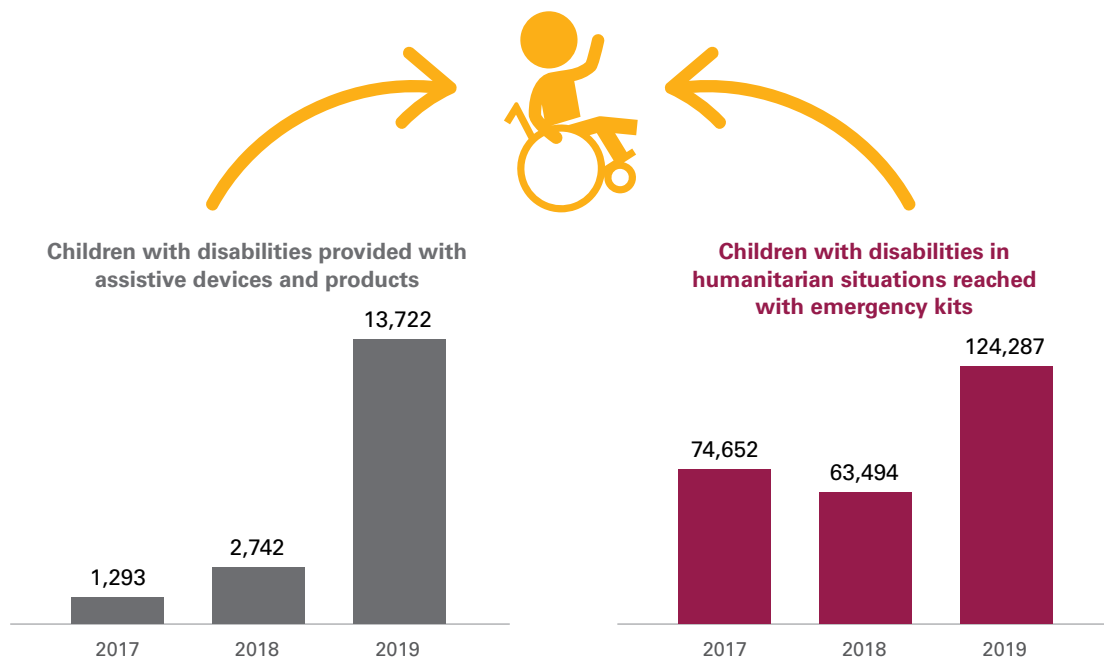
Source: UNICEF output indicator 5.e.1. data.⁶⁸

In addition, UNICEF is co-leading with WHO on the development of procurement guidance on assistive technology; publication of 30 assistive technology specifications for the most commonly used products; and convening of global workshops on the procurement of assistive technology.

In collaboration with WHO and CHAI, UNICEF organized two workshops on procurement of assistive technology – one in Tajikistan (covering the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Region) and the other in South Africa (covering the Eastern and Southern Africa Region). The workshops

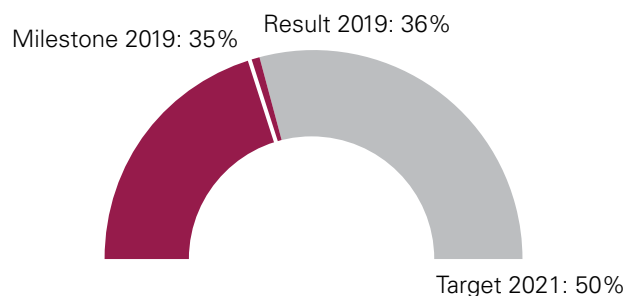
brought together government officials and implementing partners from 22 countries. A few highlights following this workshop included the establishment of a Technical Working Group under the leadership of the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia to develop an Assistive Product List for disabilities and specifications for priority products. In addition, Tajikistan initiated efforts to assess standards and specifications, and is using insights from the workshop to demonstrate the need for revising assistive technology financing in the country.

FIGURE 24: In 2019, some 13,722 children with disabilities were provided with assistive devices and 124,287 were reached through accessible emergency kits



Source: UNICEF output indicator 5.e.1. data.⁷⁰

FIGURE 25: Percentage of countries providing disability-inclusive humanitarian programmes and services



Source: UNICEF SMQs 2019.⁷¹

Value for money highlight: Market shaping to improve access and reduce costs for assistive devices

For years, UNICEF has been at the forefront of 'market shaping' to decrease the cost of vaccines and supplies. Market shaping – in particular, mobilizing collective purchasing power – has clearly demonstrated its potential to enhance donor or national governments' value for money, diversify the supply base, increase shipment reliability, and ultimately increase access to affordable products.

Currently, UNICEF Supply Division is starting to use this expertise while engaging with the ATscale Global Partnership for Assistive Technology and other partners. Together, they are developing new market shaping methodologies and service delivery models for assistive technology and devices to improve access, optimize production, and drive down prices to get children and adolescents with disabilities the wheelchairs, hearing aids and other assistive devices they need to reach their full potential.

Children with disabilities in emergencies

In humanitarian contexts, UNICEF works to ensure that children and adolescents with disabilities have equal access to assistance and opportunities to participate in the response.

In 2019, the new Inter-agency Standing Committee 'Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action' were released following a three-year development process co-led by UNICEF, International Disability Alliance and Humanity & Inclusion. The guidelines set out essential actions, in line with a rights-based approach, that humanitarian actors must take to effectively identify and respond to the rights violations of persons with disabilities who are most at risk of being left behind in humanitarian settings. These are the first humanitarian guidelines to be developed with and by persons with disabilities.

At the country level, UNICEF continued to prioritize disability-inclusive humanitarian action. In 2019, fifty-three country offices reported conducting specific work on children with disabilities in humanitarian action (see Figure 25). This included improving the physical accessibility of premises and facilities in humanitarian contexts; strengthening processes for identification

of children with disabilities; and supporting the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in humanitarian response.

For example, in Afghanistan, UNICEF led a task force to develop an education-in-emergencies teacher training manual that is designed to better equip teachers to work with children with disabilities. In Jordan, UNICEF constructed five disability-inclusive and accessible playgrounds in refugee camps, allowing children with and without disabilities to play together. The organization also supported inclusive education services in over 100 schools, enabling over 800 children with disabilities to enter and remain in school. In Indonesia, UNICEF provided accessible temporary learning spaces for nearly 1,400 children and adolescents with disabilities; and in Kenya, 48 disability-accessible classrooms were constructed in two refugee camps.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour continued to implement an innovative HCT programme reaching 7,500 children with disabilities in 2019 and more than 15,000 since the project began in 2016. The programme combines cash transfers with case management services to address the violations of social and economic rights. In January 2019, forty per cent of the households receiving cash assistance reported that the assistance helped them fulfil the rights of their children with disabilities. Other benefits of the programme reported in 2019 included the decrease in negative coping strategies among beneficiary households; decreases in school dropout rates (by 68 percentage points); and high levels of satisfaction (98 per cent).⁷²

Identifying and supporting young children with developmental delays and disabilities

The first three years of a child's life are a critical period, as it is when the essential building blocks for future growth, development and progress are established. If children with disabilities are to survive, thrive, learn, be empowered and participate, attention to early childhood development is essential. UNICEF works to identify developmental delays and disabilities early in life and to build the capacity of health systems, parents, caregivers and community workers to stimulate, strengthen and support the development of young children with disabilities.

Examples of 2019 results include UNICEF support to the Early Childhood Development Unit of the Ministry of Health in the Plurinational State of Bolivia to strengthen the capacity of 197 health workers as well as staff from childcare and rehabilitation centres. They were trained on the timely detection and referral of young children with developmental delays or disabilities.

Case Study 11: Mozambique: Including persons with disabilities in cyclone response

Following two tropical cyclones in 2019, UNICEF response in Mozambique demonstrated effective approaches to addressing barriers faced by persons with disabilities and strengthening their inclusion in an emergency.

The UNICEF humanitarian response included support to more than 3,200 persons with disabilities, including around 1,000 children with disabilities benefiting from interventions such as psychosocial support, replacement of assistive devices and community-based rehabilitation.

After the cyclones, people with disabilities faced a lack of access to humanitarian assistance; inaccessible emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities; difficulties in reaching emergency accommodation centres; and barriers to accessing information about the response.⁷³



Ilídio, 11, is attending school where he can now read and write and, just as important, he has friends to play with. For a long time, he stayed at home with his mother or by himself. With the help of Orientation and Social Support Service outreach workers and a physiotherapist who visited him at home, Ilídio is making great progress, including starting school. UNICEF and Humanity & Inclusion have partnered with the Government to make sure that children can get the support they need within their families and to go to school with their peers. Orientation and Social Support Service is a component of the City and Disability project, embedded in government services and working with the families of children with disabilities in the poorest districts of Maputo and Matola, two of the most populous urban centres in Mozambique.

UNICEF focused on strengthening the humanitarian coordination system to ensure that the response was disability inclusive. The organization provided training to coordination clusters and 20 humanitarian organizations on disability-inclusive humanitarian assistance. The training was delivered by a person with a hearing impairment, emphasizing the importance of persons with disabilities as actors in humanitarian response, not just as beneficiaries. UNICEF also provided training to 175 teachers on inclusive education in humanitarian settings.

In addition, the organization built the capacity of WASH partners – both government and civil society – on conducting consultations with people with disabilities and developing specific WASH solutions tailored to their situation. Partners then worked with local artisans to ensure that people with disabilities in resettlement sites had accessible sanitation solutions.

While substantial gains were made through the humanitarian response, it was recognized that dedicated disability expertise and mechanisms for coordination on inclusion are key to sustaining progress. As part of the Mozambique response to the cyclones, a disability sub-cluster was established under the Protection Cluster with active participation of organizations of persons with disabilities. The newly established sub-cluster worked across the coordination system to strengthen disability inclusion, contributing to the work of the Gender-based Violence and Child Protection sub-clusters. To continue advancing disability-inclusive programming in UNICEF Mozambique, the office created a staff position (Disability Inclusion Programme Specialist) to promote inclusion across all areas of programming, from the humanitarian context through recovery and development.

In Uganda, UNICEF supported sensitization of communities on disability-inclusive early childhood development for children with disabilities in Mubende and Kassanda districts, reaching 573 villages and 10,900 people. This resulted in an increased awareness of the importance of early identification of delays and disabilities in children.

In 2019, the Bhutan Child Development Screening Tool – a tool designed to screen for developmental delays and disabilities – was introduced to the routine Mother and Child Health handbook in the country. Following the training of 274 health workers, the tool is being used in 139 health centres across nine districts to screen children aged 10 weeks to 60 months for developmental delays and disabilities, and to ensure early intervention through established referral mechanisms. [For more information go to https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-1](https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-1)

Furthering inclusive education



UNICEF has made considerable advancements advocating for and implementing inclusive education programmes to ensure children with disabilities enjoy the same rights as their peers learning in regular classrooms. UNICEF spent about US\$21 million directly on inclusive education for children with disabilities in 2019, with US\$13 million (62 per cent) spent on system-strengthening activities such as ensuring that countries have disability-responsive EMIS and laws and policies that establish the right of all children to receive an education. Some US\$8 million (38 per cent) was spent on service delivery. In addition, UNICEF spent almost US\$57 million in 2019 on activities that indirectly or partially addressed support for the education of children with disabilities.

During 2019, eighty-four countries improved the accessibility of schools for children with disabilities – an increase from 61 countries in 2018. UNICEF supported 111 countries to strengthen laws, policies and plans to support children with disabilities in education. For example, in Lesotho, UNICEF partnered with the Lesotho National Federation of Organizations of the Disabled to promote the Inclusive Education Policy, launched in August 2019. A total of 87 community leaders, 43 community councillors and 44 chiefs in Lesotho were sensitized on their role in inclusive education as per the national policy and assisted with the enrolment of children with disabilities in inclusive primary schools.

UNICEF leadership to improve access for children with disabilities to learning materials continued in 2019, with technical support to the Accessible Digital Textbooks for

All (ADT) initiative, an innovative programme in Kenya, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Rwanda, Uganda and Uruguay. This innovation is a Universal Design for Learning approach that allows children with and without disabilities to learn from the same book.

In addition to private sector support,⁷⁴ UNPRPD provided funding to the ADT initiative for a multi-country project jointly launched by UNICEF and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in July in Nairobi, bringing ministries of education of Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda together to share knowledge and advance the local development of accessible digital textbooks for learners with and without disabilities. In Uganda, after two years of implementation of ADT in 20 schools across 16 districts, the project has created awareness and engaged 477 government stakeholders (186 men and 291 women), organizations of persons with disabilities, parents and school communities, including children with disabilities. Fifty-four teachers (27 men and 27 women) were trained and 600 learners (78 with disability – 46 girls and 32 boys) were reached. Finally, in December 2019, UNICEF launched a global portal to promote knowledge-sharing and to support development and implementation of the ADT initiative globally.⁷⁵ [For more information go to https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-2](https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-2)

“Our children are going to read further, are going to benefit, are going to be good citizens, are going to be teachers, are going to be doctors, are going to be lawyers because of this new technology.”

Joy Wadimo, head teacher in a disability-inclusive school, Uganda

Protecting the rights of children with disabilities from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation

UNICEF has a mandate to protect the rights of all children in all settings, supporting measures to ensure every child has a supportive family environment, access to justice, and is protected from violence, abuse and exploitation. Children, adolescents and young persons with disabilities are significantly more likely to be victims of all forms of abuse, and more likely to be separated from their families and institutionalized, than their peers without disabilities. UNICEF works with governments to support national child protection systems to adopt policies and programmes informed by children’s rights and by reliable data and evidence, including on children with disabilities.

In 2019, across 42 countries, a total of 16,030 girls and boys with disabilities who have experienced violence were reached by health, social work or justice/law enforcement services through UNICEF-supported programmes.

Approximately 29,000 children with disabilities were reached with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces in humanitarian situations across 27 countries, a significant increase from 8,863 children with disabilities reached in 2018.

For example, in Lebanon, 2,082 children with disabilities were reached with community-based psychosocial support and case management during 2019. In Kosovo, 975 children with disabilities were reached through UNICEF-supported psychosocial services and prevented from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Over 28,000 children with disabilities in areas affected by landmines or other explosive weapons received prevention and survivor-assistance interventions. In Yemen, children who are deaf were identified as being excluded from education on explosive ordnance risk education. A targeted and disability-accessible campaign was launched, reaching 4,045 children and young people who are deaf with messages in sign language in both camps and host communities. [For more information go to https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-3](https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-3)

As a result of UNICEF advocacy in North Macedonia, the Government pledged to end the institutional placement of all children, including those with disabilities. In line with this commitment, there are no more children under the age of 18 years in institutional care. Former institutions are now being transformed into resource centres and community support services. [For more information go to https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-3](https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-3)

Improving access to water and sanitation for children and adults with disabilities

About 11 per cent of the estimated 1 billion children and adults with disabilities worldwide do not have access to improved WASH services. This impacts access to health care, education, work and other rights. Based on estimates, approximately 390,000 persons with disabilities globally were reached with safe water and 280,000 with basic sanitation in 2019.⁷⁶ For example, in Cambodia, 11,217 people with disabilities gained access to sanitation and 6,731 accessed basic drinking-water; the rural WASH management information system was also strengthened to disaggregate data by gender, disability and wealth quintiles.

Children with disabilities are denied their right to education when accessible WASH facilities are unavailable or inadequate in schools. The organization worked with partners on the construction of disability-accessible toilets and hand-washing facilities in schools in Belize, Chad, Fiji, Iraq, Lesotho, Ukraine and other countries.



Rajuma, 6, born with a physical impairment that keeps her from walking far or standing for too long, attends a learning centre in Camp 16 of the Balukhali refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. An accessible latrine was installed nearby, which is a relief for her as she does not have to painfully squat to use a regular latrine.

UNICEF worked with WASH and humanitarian partners during some of the largest emergency responses to ensure that persons with disabilities had access to quality drinking-water, hand-washing and sanitation facilities. As part of the response to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, UNICEF partnered with CARE on a field trial of a disability-accessible emergency toilet unit. During the trial, 84 per cent of persons with disabilities in one sub-camp were able to reach the accessible latrine within 5 minutes, saving long hours spent queuing to use the standard camp latrines. UNICEF has made these accessible latrines available in the 'Supply Catalogue',^{77,78} – a critical precursor for scaling disability-inclusive emergency WASH responses in the future.

Access to accessible and hygienic latrines, as well as menstruation supplies, during emergencies is a challenge for women and adolescent girls with disabilities. In 2019, some 24,232 girls and women with disabilities in humanitarian situations were provided with menstrual hygiene management services in 12 countries, including large-scale programmes in Bangladesh, Mozambique, Nigeria and the Syrian Arab Republic. [For more information go to https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-4](https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-4)

Strengthening social protection mechanisms for children with disabilities

Children with disabilities face greater exposure to risks and violations of other rights as they have significantly lower access to health care and education, and greater exposure to violence. Often, disability leads to poverty and vice versa, in a vicious cycle that puts persons with disabilities and their families in an irreversible situation of exclusion. Effective and inclusive social protection mechanisms, such as cash grants, are crucial in addressing these challenges, including addressing extra costs – for example, for health care and assistive devices, and additional financial barriers faced by children and adults with disabilities.

UNICEF provided support to 29 countries to ensure the social protection systems are inclusive of or targeting persons with disabilities. A total of 699,939 children with disabilities were reached with UNICEF-supported cash transfer programmes – an increase from 11 countries in 2018 and just 7 countries in 2017. For example, in Egypt, through Karama – a poverty-targeted national cash transfer scheme of the Government – over 530,000 children with disabilities benefited in 2019.

Reducing stigma and invisibility through advocacy and communication

Children and adolescents with disabilities experience exclusion in every aspect of their lives. It is a consequence of the discrimination which manifests in many forms, including stereotyping, stigmatizing, harassment, ridicule, bullying, prejudice, abandonment and isolation. Many women and girls with disabilities face compounded discrimination based on both disability and gender, experiencing multiple barriers to accessing their rights and to full and equal inclusion in society in both development and humanitarian contexts.

Communication for Development (C4D) plays a major role in identifying, understanding and addressing the complex sociocultural practices and social norms that influence negative attitudes and discriminatory behaviours. UNICEF has a strong track record of amplifying the voices of children and communities and is working in many countries to reduce stigma towards children with disabilities. Importantly, the organization works to transform attitudes and social norms around disability so that the abilities and potential of children with disabilities are illuminated.

UNICEF worked in 23 countries on social and behaviour change communication and disability in 2019. Programmes included awareness-raising campaigns on disability inclusion, supporting inclusive education reform, as well as

empowering parents of children with disabilities to increase demand for quality disability-inclusive services and changing the way children with disabilities are viewed in their communities.

For example, in Georgia, UNICEF supported an awareness campaign to mobilize community support for a disability assessment tool, based on the WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health⁷⁹ and the CRPD. Following this, 400 health professionals and community leaders were educated on how to support the inclusion of people with disabilities. Public perceptions and attitudes around disability were improved; children with disabilities and their families were empowered and the demand for quality inclusive services for children with disabilities increased. The campaign reached around 800,000 people.

“Parents shouldn’t hide their children with disabilities at home as it is now, they should take them to school.”

Vincent, 16-year-old adolescent with a disability, United Republic of Tanzania

Supporting national laws and policies

Disability rights are human rights. Given that 181 countries have ratified the CRPD, UNICEF supports national governments to ensure that legislative reforms and developments include full and effective participation of persons with disabilities and are compliant with the CRPD. Disability-inclusive national laws and policies are fundamental to promoting community-based inclusive programmes and services and combating stigma and discrimination.

UNICEF supported the Government of Bhutan on its first National Policy for Persons with Disabilities. It was developed through multisectoral cooperation, involving the Gross National Happiness Commission, relevant ministries, civil society organizations, development partners and people with disabilities. In Burkina Faso, with support from UNICEF the Government signed the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, reinforcing the State’s commitment to protection of the rights of people with disabilities, especially children. In January 2019, Malaysia announced a Zero Reject Policy granting access to mainstream public education for all children, including children with disabilities and undocumented children with at least one Malaysian parent.

Case Study 12: Montenegro: Amplifying children's rights by engaging with human rights mechanisms

UNICEF Montenegro regularly engages with United Nations human rights mechanisms, especially treaty bodies, to promote and protect children's rights. Policy recommendations via alternative reports have influenced the treaty bodies' concluding observations and UNICEF worked with the Government to support the effective implementation of the resulting recommendations.



In particular, UNICEF inputs relating to social and child protection system reform were fully translated into the Committee on the Rights of the Child's concluding observations of 2010 and had great influence on the overall reform of this sector. To accelerate the de-institutionalization process – one of the core elements of this reform – UNICEF also liaised with other human rights mechanisms, such as the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). UNICEF highlighted the risks posed to 25 children residing with more than 160 adults with intellectual disabilities in the Komanski Most Institution for People with Special Needs. The CPT Report (2008), the UNICEF report, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations (2010) all called for an end to this practice.

Once the Concluding Observations were issued, UNICEF worked closely with the Government and other stakeholders to support implementation of the recommendations. The admission of children to the Komanski Most Institution was prohibited from 2010 onwards, and children were removed from the institution. This triggered a comprehensive reform of the social and child protection system in the country, accelerated by the Committee's concluding observations and intensified with extensive political and financial support from the European Union at a later stage.

With UNICEF support, a new law on social and child protection was adopted forbidding the institutionalization of children under 3 years old and establishing institutionalization of children as a last resort. UNICEF has also supported capacity-building of social workers, transformation of childcare institutions, and provision of family- and community-based alternative services for children without parental care, including through public campaigns.

This work has had a direct impact on Montenegro's children. Between 2010 and 2019, the number of children under 18 placed in institutional care declined by 50 per cent, and for children under 3 the decrease was of 96.43 per cent. Over the same period, with UNICEF support, the number of day-care centres for children with disabilities grew from 2 to 15. The number of children placed in foster care rose by 15 per cent in the same period, with placements in non-kinship foster care increasing more than fivefold. UNICEF continues to support the Government in the expansion of family support services and fostering as primary alternative care options.

Leveraging United Nations mechanisms and inter-agency collaboration and engaging in partnerships



In 2019, fifteen UNICEF country offices implemented programmes funded by UNPRPD, working in partnership with other United Nations agencies. UNICEF also received UNPRPD funding for two new global multi-country programmes: the ADT initiative in partnership with UNESCO and the inclusive social protection work with ILO.

During 2019, UNICEF extended its collaboration with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and CRPD to support alignment of the two conventions around the rights of children with disabilities. The first result of this process was the submission of the report *The Rights of Children with Disabilities: An analysis of the doctrine*

and work of CRC and CRPD to the Joint Working Group in September 2019. Work will continue in 2020 with an anticipated adoption of a Joint Statement by the two committees in 2021.

As a follow-up to the 2018 United Kingdom Global Disability Summit, in 2019 UNICEF engaged with DFID, Norway, the World Bank and other partners to formally establish and launch the Inclusive Education Initiative, with the aim of supporting countries in strengthening disability-inclusive education planning, implementation and monitoring of learning outcomes for children with disabilities.

As a member of the Global Action and Disability Network – a global donor coordination mechanism to promote disability-inclusive development – UNICEF was actively engaged during 2019 in setting global agendas and supporting joint efforts for global advocacy, particularly for inclusive education, humanitarian action and social protection.

Fortifying UNICEF as an inclusive organization and the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy

UNICEF was actively engaged in the development of UNDIS and is supporting its dissemination and implementation. Building on progress over the years leading up to UNDIS, UNICEF has worked on triggering organizational change towards increased disability inclusion. In 2019, a Network of Staff with Children with Disabilities, a Network of Staff with Disabilities, and a Disability Inclusion Working Group were established in UNICEF to jointly improve existing policies and procedures and to develop new internal policies and procedures aligned with UNDIS.

UNICEF has made funding available for its offices around the world to make accessibility improvements. To date, 30 UNICEF offices have reached level

“The UNDIS ... is not a strategy of words – it is a strategy of action – action to raise the standards of the [United Nations’] performance on disability inclusion across the board – and action to bring about the unified and transformative change we need.”

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

one⁸⁰ of accessibility through the Greening and Accessibility Fund, a mechanism created in 2015 to support accessibility of premises. The Information Communication Technology Division has also enhanced accessibility of all information and communication technology systems.

Challenges and looking ahead



Thematic Funding Highlight

In 2019, flexible resources, such as thematic funds, provided an opportunity to leverage ongoing programmes and strengthen existing systems to incorporate disability-inclusive components. As a result, UNICEF demonstrated substantial growth in the number and scale of disability-inclusive programmes. However, further scale-up is required to ensure that all children with disabilities have access to services, assistive devices, education and opportunities.

Persistent capacity gaps remain at the national level to systematically design, implement and monitor quality disability-inclusive programmes. Furthermore, the capacity to deliver services that are disability inclusive and accessible is limited. Much of this is related to the fact that investments in disability are still not considered a priority for all governments.

In 2020, UNICEF will continue to work with governments and other partners to increase the uptake of the CFM to ensure the availability of accurate and internationally comparable data on children with disabilities. The organization will also continue to invest in building the capacity of front-line workers on early detection of disability, addressing stigma and building knowledge on disability across all sectors. Finally, UNICEF – together with partners, including ATscale – will accelerate access to assistive devices, technologies and products (such as accessible emergency latrines) for children with disabilities.

UNICEF has already demonstrated its global capacity to promote and address the rights of children with disabilities – with 1.7 million children reached in 2019 across 142 countries. If more flexible funding is made available in 2020, UNICEF and partners will reach many more children with disabilities, their families and communities with inclusive programmes and services.

Case Study 13: Pacific: Scaling up programmes for children with disabilities through data and partnership

UNICEF supported the governments of Pacific Island countries and territories and built strategic partnerships with organizations of people with disabilities. The Pacific region has systematically worked to strengthen disability data and evidence to inform programming that is multisectoral and spans the life cycle, from early childhood development to supporting adolescents with disabilities.

UNICEF – working with the Pacific Disability Forum, the Pacific Community’s Statistics for Development Division and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics – has supported the skills-building of a cadre of statistical officers in disability data collection and analysis. As a result, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tonga and Solomon Islands integrated questions on disability⁸¹ in their population censuses or household surveys conducted in 2019. Data collected on children with disabilities will inform policies and enhance the quality of disability-inclusive services. Following a pilot in the Marshall Islands, a disability module was adopted for inclusion in household income and expenditure surveys conducted in the Pacific, which will contribute to a greater understanding of the link between poverty and disability.

The organization is also working with partners to strengthen disability-inclusive early childhood development as well as to build parenting skills for parents of children with disabilities. In October 2019, UNICEF organized the Pacific Early Childhood Development Forum, a high-level gathering of ministries of finance, education, health and social welfare from 15 Pacific Island countries. The [outcome statement](#) from the Forum, endorsed by all 15 countries and territories, recognizes that data on early childhood development need to be disaggregated by disability, and that parents, communities and children with disabilities need to be adequately supported.

UNICEF in the Pacific is also working to strengthen disability-inclusive education policies and programmes. To leverage partnerships and resources for children with disabilities, a regional inclusive education task force has been formed by UNICEF and partners, including representatives from Pacific Island countries and territories. The task force aims to strengthen inclusive education frameworks, policies and programmes through alignment and coherence across 17 Pacific Island countries and territories.



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A father holding his daughter, Flora, who has a disability, at Vanuatu Society for People with Disabilities in Port Vila, Vanuatu.



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Results: Adolescent Participation and Civic Engagement – “Supporting adolescents to engage in shaping their future”

Pictured above: Lojain and Yara created a football activity for Syrian and Egyptian girls in the cities of Gamasa and New Damietta located in the North of Egypt. UNICEF supports the sports activity to help Syrian girls mingle with the Egyptian society through sports. The activity is part of the “Ta’ziz” (Empowerment) project which aims at strengthening protection and psychosocial support for Syrian children and their families.

“We showed that we are united and that we, young people, are unstoppable.”

Greta Thunberg, United Nations Youth Climate Summit, New York City, 21 September 2019



UNICEF/UN1207493/Pak, UN Photo

On 23 September 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters, youth climate activist Greta Thunberg, 16, from Sweden speaks at the youth dialogue with the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

Adolescents – defined as those between the ages of 10 and 19 years – number 1.2 billion in the world today, making up 16 per cent of the world’s population. Adolescent participation allows and supports adolescents to develop, build their confidence, negotiate decisions and influence critical issues that affect themselves and their communities. When adolescents are civically engaged, they (individually or collectively) also contribute to improve their school, community, city or country. Adolescent participation and civic engagement presents an extraordinary opportunity to make a difference in the lives of today’s adolescents and their communities.



Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child enshrines the right of every child to express their views freely in matters affecting them, and for these views to be taken seriously. The principle of participation is much more than

having a voice. It is about being informed and involved, and having an influence in decisions and matters that affect one’s life – in private and public spheres, in the home, in alternative care settings, at school, in the workplace, in the community, on social media, and in broader governance processes.



While the principle of participation applies to every child capable of forming a view, its nature and scope inevitably changes as individuals reach the second decade of life.⁸²

During adolescence, girls and boys begin to interact with the world in new ways and to form powerful connections with peers. They search for ways to stand out and belong, to find their place in society, and to make a difference as young humanitarians. Throughout history, civically engaged adolescents and young people have proven to be a powerful force for change; and in recent years, the world has witnessed child- and youth-led movements that have gained international attention and challenged established practices.

Around the world, UNICEF works to empower and protect adolescents as rights-holders and change agents, and helps them to understand and exercise their full range of rights, supporting programmes that build their confidence and decision-making skills, and working with young influencers to raise awareness of the issues that concern them. UNICEF also recognizes the diversity within adolescents and aspires to provide equal opportunities for all boys and girls, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity or any other status. UNICEF promotes adolescents’ involvement in accountability and decision-making mechanisms, including on issues that pertain to health, education, protection, humanitarian action, peacebuilding and climate change,⁸³ and advocates for schools, health-care facilities and justice systems to adopt policies that give adolescents a seat at the table.



Engaging adolescents as rights-holders and change agents first and foremost requires a mindset shift where adults and adolescents are considered as *equals* – youth belong to a demographic that can offer valuable perspectives and insights alongside adult practitioners, policymakers and researchers.

Reframing adolescents as equals and making space for their meaningful participation and engagement will ensure that their unique body of knowledge, ideas and views – deriving from their direct experiences – contributes to more effective and sustainable decisions on policies and services. UNICEF continues to support and advocate that adolescent participation and civic engagement takes places in line with the do-no-harm principle, and in a safe and secure manner with all due protections these adolescents are entitled to.

The UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 recognizes and advances the realization of adolescents’ rights *across every goal area* – including health and well-being, learning and skills

development, safety and protection, nutrition and WASH, and civic engagement and participation. UNICEF promotes adolescent participation and civic engagement as a goal in its own right, as demonstrated under Goal Area 5 in the Strategic Plan, as a principle of rights-based programming and as a means to achieve specific sectoral results.

In 2019, efforts were accelerated to strengthen partnerships with adolescents as change agents across the five goal areas of the Strategic Plan. For example, young people were actively engaged to influence national

health policies to be more child responsive, others were advocates for girls' education and ending child marriage, many provided peer-to-peer psychosocial support in humanitarian settings, and many more acted as educators on water and sanitation within their societies. This section provides examples of adolescent civic engagement across sectors and demonstrates how UNICEF is elevating this approach to deliver on its results towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Results achieved in 2019 towards supporting adolescents to engage in shaping their future

Over 4 million adolescents (61 per cent girls) across 113 countries participated in or led civic engagement activities through UNICEF-supported programmes, with India accounting for 2.6 million. This significantly surpassed the target of 3.2 million. Of the 4 million adolescents, 440,000 were from 24 countries impacted by conflict or disaster. Thirty-four countries reported the establishment of 41 'appropriate' policies – 30 multisectoral and 11 sectoral – that support the development of adolescents (see Figure 26).⁸⁴

Adolescents participated in UNICEF programme planning, monitoring and evaluation in a myriad of exciting ways at global, regional and country levels. Thirty-one per cent of the 128 UNICEF country offices reported routinely engaging adolescents in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UNICEF country programmes. Involvement ranged from engagement with adolescent and youth mental health leaders for the Leading Minds for Children and Young People inaugural event (see Box *Adolescent and youth engagement in Leading Minds Symposium*); engaging adolescents in human-centred design processes in the development of the UNICEF Malawi Country Programme Document; adolescent and youth involvement in MICS data collection in Guyana; and consultations with adolescents – including those living in alternative care, those with disabilities, the urban poor, and refugee adolescents and youth – during the development of the situational analysis in Malaysia.



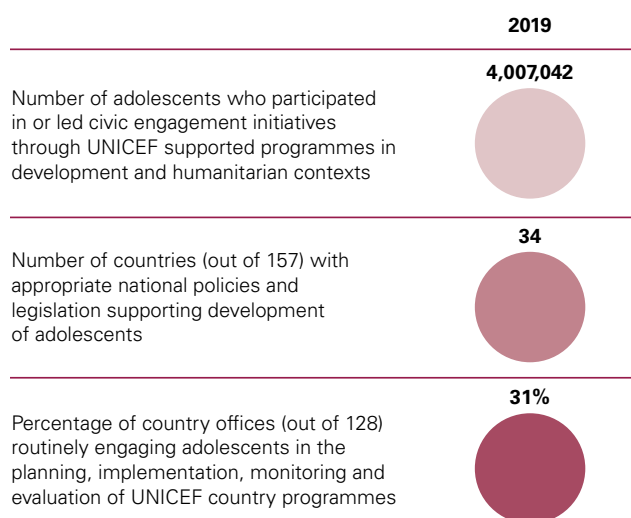
Partnerships Highlight

The organization continued to play a key role in the operationalization of Generation Unlimited (GenU) partnership and its localization in countries, providing technical and knowledge leadership and support on secondary education, skills development,

and young people's participation and civic engagement. In 2019, UNICEF, together with GenU, led the development of key knowledge and advocacy products. These resources are being used by GenU partners to leverage

commitment and action on young people's learning and transition to work. Additionally, UNICEF is supporting the 23 front-runner countries where partnership and advocacy platforms are being developed to accelerate action for and with young people. Innovation continues to be a key strand in GenU, with a youth challenge being organized by UNICEF and other GenU partners in 40 countries where young people shared their ideas and solutions to problems they face in their daily lives. Selection of the most promising solutions will be completed in 2020 and supported for implementation.

FIGURE 26: Number of adolescents participating in UNICEF-supported initiatives



Source: UNICEF SMQs 2019.⁸⁵

Adolescent and youth engagement in Leading Minds Symposium

In a joint effort to put children's and adolescents' mental health higher on the global health agenda, UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) co-hosted a symposium in Florence, Italy, from 7 to 9 November 2019. The event was part of Leading Minds for Children and Young People, UNICEF-Innocenti's new annual conference series on issues affecting children and adolescents in the twenty-first century.

With UNICEF support, an extraordinary group of adolescents and young people brought their lived and learned experiences on mental health to all aspects of the symposium, engaging in the planning, implementation and follow-up of the conference alongside adult researchers, practitioners, donors and policymakers. The adolescents and youth leaders helped shape the agenda, opened the conference, facilitated and co-facilitated sessions and panels, and led conversations throughout, right up to the final sessions calling for global action. Today, they continue to be involved in follow-up actions.

Heralded as a model for meaningful adolescent and youth participation by adolescents, youth and adults alike, UNICEF continues its work to support adolescents' and young people's meaningful and safe engagement in global, regional and country mental health initiatives.

(For more information on adolescent participation in mental health and psychological interventions, go to <https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-3> and <https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-1>)



Young mental health advocates participating in the Leading Minds 2019 conference recount lived and learned experiences in coping with mental ill-health challenges and mobilizing action to promote young people's well-being.

During 2019, UNICEF accelerated efforts to advance adolescent participation and civic engagement across sectors by promoting investments in four strategic areas:

- Influencing legislation and policies that create an enabling environment
- Building skills and capacities of both adolescents and adults
- Addressing social norms that hinder participation
- Creating and institutionalizing sustainable mechanisms and opportunities for systematic participation.

Concurrently, UNICEF worked to create opportunities for adolescent participation in humanitarian and peacebuilding contexts and to strengthen partnerships with adolescents as change agents in the four strategic areas mentioned above. To achieve results across these areas, UNICEF supports the integration of meaningful adolescent participation and civic engagement across all Strategic Plan goal areas.

The following sections present a selection of examples of adolescent participation and civic engagement programming across the five UNICEF goal areas.

Influencing legislation, policies and budgets

UNICEF works with governments to influence legislation, policy formulation and budget allocations that are responsive to children's and adolescents' rights. The organization facilitates the intentional and meaningful engagement of adolescents in these processes.

For example, UNICEF Bolivia (Plurinational State of) supported adolescents and youth to form a nationwide adolescent and youth climate organization, Consejo Juvenil por la Madre Tierra. The organization's achievements received national and international coverage and include drafting legislation and organizing a nationwide awareness campaign for the reduction of plastic bag use; organizing marches and media campaigns; and hosting public-awareness Friday for Future marches in municipalities and schools. Bolivian adolescents and youth now have a collective national youth agenda which leverages local voices and ensures adolescents and youth engage alongside policymakers domestically and internationally. [\(For more information on adolescent participation in climate change and environmental advocacy and mitigation, refer to UNICEF Annual Results Report 2019 – Goal Area 4.\)](#)

UNICEF Bangladesh launched Generation Parliament, an innovative online platform that enables child representatives to meet twice a year with parliamentarians and engage in policy dialogue. To date, the platform has attracted over 530,000 adolescents aged 13–17 years who are helping to shape a strong policy environment for children.

In Rwanda, as the country continues to build systems to ensure participation and feedback from its citizens through social accountability mechanisms, UNICEF is supporting capacity-building work with child, adolescent and youth committees to ensure they can effectively participate in budget planning processes.

In Kosovo, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport to produce an amendment to the Law on Youth Empowerment and Participation to make it more comprehensive, with considerations for increased participation of adolescent girls and boys with disabilities, and from minority communities.

Building skills and capacities of adolescents

To navigate the social, economic and political challenges of the twenty-first century and to meaningfully participate and engage within their societies, adolescents must have the skills to think critically, influence, participate politically, live peaceful and healthy lives, create and pursue economic opportunities, and use new technologies. UNICEF approaches skills-building by strengthening systems to integrate life skills into education systems, using community platforms to reach the most disadvantaged (especially out-of-school adolescents), working with adults to support adolescents and young people, and applying experiential and innovative approaches. In 2019, ninety-two UNICEF country offices supported skills training, reaching nearly 4 million adolescents aged 10–19 years. Approximately 655,324 of these adolescents were in humanitarian settings.⁸⁶ The organization also supports countries to institutionalize gender-equitable approaches to skills development within training systems to ensure all children have equal opportunities; in 2019, UNICEF supported 97 countries to develop such systems.

For example, in Jordan, UNICEF developed a comprehensive skills-building programme involving private sector stakeholders, humanitarian organizations and the Government. The programme provides vulnerable adolescents with access to training programmes and opportunities to apply skills in the real world. This programme reached 184,528 adolescents and young people in 2019. The programme aims to increase transferable skills, including communication, self-awareness, problem-solving and leadership; and experiential learning skills that foster social innovation and confidence. The uniqueness of the programme lies not only in its design, but also its integration across the Ministry of Education, schools and Ministry of Youth centres. This means that the skills-building opportunities are available through multiple pathways, including both formal and non-formal education channels.

In Kenya, with support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Education launched the Competency-based Curriculum national policy, which has been rolled out to all 32,713 primary schools (typically for children aged 6–14 years), with the goal of ensuring children and adolescents have the skills they need to thrive in the twenty-first century.

In the Philippines, UNICEF supported the integration of life skills for civic engagement into the curriculum of the Government's Alternative Learning System (ALS) programme in Zamboanga del Norte, one of the country's most vulnerable provinces. ALS is a learning modality that targets out-of-school adolescents and youth. UNICEF trained 130 local ALS implementers to customize 180 'worksheets' (customized learning resources) for the specific needs of diverse groups, including indigenous peoples. Approximately 2,713 ALS learners are currently using the customized worksheets on civic engagement, communication skills, scientific literacy and critical thinking, life and career skills, and understanding self and society. UNICEF will measure the impact of the initiative in 2020.

The organization's global UPSHIFT programme aims to empower a generation of adolescents and young change-makers by fostering transferable skills and creating opportunities for social entrepreneurship. It focuses on empowering the most disadvantaged adolescents and young people – for example, youth with disabilities – as social innovators and entrepreneurs in their communities. UNICEF supported UPSHIFT across nine new countries – Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Burundi, India, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Somalia and Uruguay – to reach a total of 21 countries at the end of 2019. The UPSHIFT model includes social innovation workshops, mentorships, and seed funding to adolescents and young people so they can identify community problems and design solutions. The approach informed the development of the GenU Youth Challenge. [For more information go to https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-2](https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-2)

Addressing social norms

Even when positive policies and legislation are in place and skills have been developed, adolescents often encounter social norms that hinder their ability to participate and engage. UNICEF works to foster enabling environments for adolescent engagement by identifying and addressing social norms that impede them from being heard and making choices about their own lives. Key to this work is reducing stigma and discrimination, encouraging adolescent girls and boys to become more engaged in challenging culturally sensitive topics, and explicitly targeting discriminatory gender norms around issues such as child marriage, girls' education, and HIV and AIDS.

In India, UNICEF, in partnership with the Government and civil society, focused efforts on ending child marriage, reaching 5.4 million adolescent girls and 2.4 million adolescent boys in 13 states with information, services and life-skills training. Empowering adolescents to realize their rights, negotiate and influence decisions relating to their own lives – including ending child marriage – is a key strategy of the programme. UNICEF also reached 33 million parents and community members with C4D to generate

awareness on the harmful impact of child marriage and to promote parenting as a protective factor. In 2019, the organization supported the development of six costed state-level action plans for adolescent empowerment related to ending child marriage, and expansion of community engagement from 16 to 80 districts, reaching millions of parents and adolescents. [For more information go to https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-3](https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-3)

In northern Nigeria, education deprivation is driven by various factors, including sociocultural norms and practices that discourage school attendance, especially for girls. The Girl for Girl (G4G) initiative, implemented in collaboration with the federal Government, seeks to empower girls between 9 and 15 years of age with information and knowledge to build their capacity to stand up for themselves, return to and stay in school, and improve their learning achievements. Partnerships with local and regional Nigerian advocacy groups help to drive a broader advocacy agenda to promote G4G goals. In 2019, some 67,540 girls participated in G4G groups and 67,540 boys participated in HeForShe groups in 1,326 schools – aimed at promoting equitable gender norms, including promoting positive masculinity in boys and men.

In Belarus, UNICEF supported the training of trainers of a youth leadership group to mobilize adolescents and youth living with HIV to speak out on their rights, engage within their societies, and offer peer-to-peer outreach on topics that included reproductive health, HIV testing and treatment, and tackling stigma towards people living with HIV. Young activists then moderated dialogues with 130 health-care managers and specialists, representatives of civil society, and adolescents and young people, resulting in changing their attitudes towards adolescents living with HIV.

Fostering sustainable mechanisms and platforms for adolescent participation and civic engagement



Evidence shows that the most effective approach for adolescents to acquire the skills and values of active citizenship and civic engagement is through the social and interactive process of participation itself. UNICEF works with partners to institutionalize systematic adolescent participation in decision-making processes in their daily lives in schools, communities, governance processes and digitally. Considering that adolescents are not a homogeneous group, UNICEF also contributed to ensuring that participation processes are inclusive of and accessible for all boys and girls, including those with disabilities, as

well as minority and other marginalized groups. Some examples of UNICEF results linked to various types of platforms follow.

- **Platforms in schools:** Schools offer systematic opportunities for adolescents to practise participation, influence decisions and become civically engaged. UNICEF broadens these opportunities by influencing the by-laws and guidelines governing the work of student councils; supporting capacity-building for school officials and adolescents themselves; and strengthening social action in schools.

In Madagascar, with UNICEF support, 6,703 adolescents across 134 clubs in lower secondary schools participated in awareness-raising activities pertaining to the realization of children's rights, including the prevention of child marriage and violence in schools, in the community and online. As a result, codes of conduct against violence in schools have been adopted in six regions.

In Timor-Leste, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to develop and approve guidelines for student councils to help expand these bodies to all public basic education schools in an additional two municipalities.

In Egypt, with UNICEF support, the Civic Education and Student Unions Programmes, implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Education and Technical Education, helped train 12,732 (50 per cent girls) adolescents and youth in active citizenship and civic engagement, including student union governance.

- **Platforms in communities:** After-school clubs, youth centres and other community spaces provide an important platform for civic engagement among adolescents. In 2019, adolescent and youth volunteerism emerged as a leading mechanism to empower adolescents and young people as role models and advocates and to engage with children in new ways.

In India, the country office, with support of the UNICEF Global Volunteering Office, partnered with the National Service Scheme (NSS) to unlock the potential of adolescent and youth volunteers. With a network of nearly 3.8 million volunteers, the NSS has huge potential to enhance reach and access to child-friendly services. UNICEF supports the NSS in various ways, including helping to define the role of volunteers, building the capacity of NSS officers to engage on children's issues, and using the volunteer platform to promote children's rights. In the state of Chhattisgarh alone, over 5,000 trained volunteers reached more than 100,000 children and 250,000 community members in 13 districts with children's rights messages. The campaign has been widely celebrated by parents, teachers and NSS management for enabling protection for

children, skills development and a sense of purpose for adolescents and young volunteers, as well as promoting intergenerational dialogues on topics such as violence against children.

In Jordan, UNICEF supported the Government to launch the National Youth Engagement and Volunteering Movement, Nahno ('we' in Arabic). Nahno aims to institutionalize mechanisms to encourage adolescent and youth social and civic engagement, support platforms to connect adolescents and youth, and facilitate civic and social initiatives, particularly among girls and young people with disabilities. To date, 27,994 adolescents and young people have signed up as volunteers, and 190 companies, NGOs and public institutions have agreed to host volunteers in their respective organizations. So far, 56,000 volunteering and engagement opportunities have been made available.

To empower adolescents to bring about positive change in their own lives and their communities, UNICEF developed the *Adolescent Kit for Expression and Innovation*,⁸⁷ used in humanitarian contexts (including natural disasters and protracted crises, and in fragile and vulnerable development contexts). Since its 2017 launch, the kit has been used in 21 countries around the world, providing opportunities for 160,000 adolescent girls and boys to build their skills and civically engage in their societies.

Value for money highlight: The Adolescent Kit for Expression and Innovation

This global package of guidance, tools, activities and supplies is offered in several languages and supports adolescents aged 10–18 years, especially those who are affected by humanitarian crises. It aims to bring about positive change in their lives through arts and innovation. The comprehensive kit facilitates work with adolescents, having been tested with good results documented. It comes with all the necessary materials in one package.

The kit draws from good programmatic approaches in psychosocial support, life-skills education, child protection, social cohesion and peacebuilding. The activities offer participants the chance to express themselves, experiment, solve real problems, and explore new ideas in a safe space on a regular basis – to have fun, cope with difficult experiences, learn and work together.

In South Sudan, UNICEF utilized the kit to reach over 36,000 adolescents and youth with programming to better cope with challenges, build self-esteem, engage within their communities and protect themselves by expressing their views without violence or aggression. In Indonesia, the kit helped adolescents build skills on disaster preparedness and resilience. Adolescents developed their own innovative initiatives and offered solutions through participation in community-level disaster risk reduction planning and management.

- **Platforms in media and digital spaces:** Social media platforms and digital communication channels are a powerful way to reach adolescents quickly and in large numbers. One example of UNICEF digital engagement is the U-Report, a free open-source mobile platform reaching over 9 million users in 65 countries via SMS, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and Viber. In 2019, U-Report conducted 851 polls that received responses from 1.3 million adolescents aged 10–19 years who answered 5.3 million questions. Topics ranged from Ebola and hurricane response to cyberbullying, health and education.

One example is the response to Cyclone Idai in Malawi. The Malawi Government used U-Report to conduct an immediate community needs assessment and gather feedback from beneficiaries on the humanitarian response. U-Report also expanded the platform for refugees, migrants and internally displaced adolescents and youth with U-Report On The Move, used in Brazil, Iraq, Jordan and Uganda. Additional countries will join in 2020.

- **Platforms in local governance:** For many years, UNICEF has supported meaningful adolescent participation and engagement in local governance, including by influencing by-laws to be inclusive of the voices of children and adolescents, supporting mechanisms for children to influence local plans and budgets, and building capacity of children and adolescents to meaningfully engage. This work is highlighted in Case Study 14. [For more information go to https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-4](https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-4)

Opportunities for adolescent participation in humanitarian and peacebuilding contexts

UNICEF, in close coordination with United Nations partners and organizations, focuses on strengthening and institutionalizing country-led efforts on adolescent programming and participation in humanitarian and peacebuilding contexts. In 2019, UNICEF, together with the Norwegian Refugee Council, led an extensive inter-agency process – under the umbrella of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action⁸⁸ – to develop

Guidelines on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian Settings and Protracted Crises.⁸⁹ These guidelines are an easy-to-use field programming tool with principles, tips and examples for how to plan, design, implement and monitor interventions with and for adolescents and young people across the humanitarian programme cycle. This global advocacy effort will help ensure adolescents and youth are consulted, engaged and receive appropriate services during times of displacement and conflict.

UNICEF puts participation at the heart of programming with and for adolescents and young people in humanitarian and peacebuilding contexts. For example, in Turkey, 94,024 adolescents and young people, including 49,094 girls, participated in a programme to enhance positive peer-to-peer interactions between Turkish and Syrian adolescents. Run in conjunction with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and other partners, activities focus on peer-to-peer training on mediation, communication, respect for differences, project design and peer learning, with activities led by adolescents themselves. Activities bring adolescents and their families together to develop the adolescents' leadership capacity and to enhance mutual understanding and tolerance between cultures. [For more information go to https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-4](https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-4)

Planning and developing appropriate interventions for crisis-affected adolescents remains challenging due to lack of consistent and growing investment in ensuring meaningful participation and programming with and for adolescents in humanitarian situations. This includes limited capacity-building efforts for youth organizations to sustain and implement programmes at scale. UNICEF is working with partners to deliver capacity development, advocacy and joint action to fulfil the rights of all adolescents, including ensuring that they have a space to voice their concerns, strengthening accountability to adolescents, and engaging in emergency responses in all phases of the humanitarian programme cycle.

Strategic partnerships



Partnerships Highlight

Throughout 2019, UNICEF collaborated closely with a range of partners to support adolescent participation and civic engagement. At the country level, key partners included adolescent and youth networks and organizations, local and national governments, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and media companies. Some key partners in 2019 were the Girl Guides (e.g., in Burundi, Chad and Malaysia), the Scouts (e.g., in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, the Niger and Nigeria), school management committees (e.g., in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Namibia) and children's parliaments (e.g., in Belize and Namibia).

Case Study 14: Brazil, Tajikistan and Viet Nam: Adolescent participation in local governance

UNICEF supports meaningful adolescent participation and engagement in local and national governance. While initiatives vary across countries, the common themes remain the same: empowering adolescents as agents of change and supporting the institutionalization of mechanisms for adolescent participation and engagement, so that these systems remain beyond the life of UNICEF support.

In Brazil, UNICEF continued supporting local governance structures to create formal mechanisms and platforms for adolescent participation in priority settings, policymaking and budget allocation. In 2019, the programme was scaled up to reach vulnerable indigenous adolescents living in the semi-arid and Amazon regions to build their capacities to engage in formal governmental processes.

As a result, approximately 39,102 adolescents and youth participated in life-skills workshops and joined advocacy activities to lobby local authorities for improved public policies on education, health, protection and girls' empowerment. The programme was further supported by the voices of 78,808 U-Reporters, who expressed their opinions on various topics that were presented at national and international forums.

In Viet Nam, UNICEF supported over 31,000 adolescents to engage with local authorities throughout the country to highlight and address key issues such as air pollution, climate change and violence against children. The adolescents engaged through multiple innovative platforms, such as the U-Report, Children's Councils and Youth Challenges, to express their opinions and connect with peers to develop solutions and adolescent-led initiatives.

For example, in Ho Chi Minh City, the Children's Council collected opinions from nearly 2 million children and adolescents and presented their views in dialogue with the municipal people's councils. UNICEF Viet Nam and partners are now scaling up efforts to establish Children's Councils in additional cities to engage adolescents in systematically sharing their perspectives to inform decision-making processes – with the aim of making Vietnamese cities more child friendly.

In Tajikistan, UNICEF supported 15,081 adolescents – including 5,789 girls and 182 adolescents with disabilities – to engage in dialogues with local authorities, lead and participate in civic initiatives promoting tolerance and social cohesion, and influence policymaking and community development. Through these activities, local authorities appreciated the contributions from adolescents and requested that those who had participated in a peacebuilding programme assist with mediating cross-border community conflicts and help promote social cohesion among adolescents and youth. Furthermore, following capacity development workshops, volunteerism provided an entry-point for the engagement of 600 adolescents with local authorities. These adolescents contributed to the development of local action plans to operationalize the National Programme for Youth Social Development.



Leticia Gomes, a 15-year-old girl from a small community in north-east Brazil, speaks with a group of teenagers as part of her peer-to-peer education work through UNICEF Brazil's Selo programme, an initiative focused on encouraging municipalities to implement public policies focused on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Case Study 15: Iraq: Fostering resilience and social cohesion through adolescent participation

Iraq remains a fragile country due to political instability, protracted violence and internal displacement, with 3.3 million children and adolescents facing insecurity. In a 2019 consultation with adolescents and young Iraqis, participants expressed their frustration about the lack of opportunities to have their voices heard: “Nobody hears adolescents and youth, especially those under 18 years, although we have many creative ideas.” They noted that social norms and lack of confidence hinder participation by adolescents and young people.

To address these concerns, UNICEF Iraq accelerated efforts to position adolescents and young people as agents of change. Skills-building activities were integrated into cross-sectoral programmes to support adolescents to develop decision-making and problem-solving skills, with approximately 14,968 adolescent girls receiving empowerment, citizenship, leadership and creativity skills training. An additional 26,889 adolescents – 48 per cent of them girls – participated in or led nearly 3,000 social, economic and civic initiatives. Over 1,000 adolescent girls conducted initiatives to reduce child marriage and promote equitable gender roles with the aim to change harmful social norms.

UNICEF Iraq’s Back to School campaign supported 500 adolescents and young people to engage in participatory action research, enabling consultations and dialogues with parents and community leaders in camps for internally displaced persons to identify child protection issues and root causes of school dropouts. Participating adolescents and young people used their findings to engage with local authorities, helping to develop action plans which resulted in 1,000 boys and girls returning to school.

In late 2019, UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council worked with partners, adolescents and young Iraqis to determine how best to apply and adapt the inter-agency *Guidelines on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian Crises* to the Iraqi context. During this process, adolescents and youth participants used the guidelines to raise community awareness on the need to build and promote social cohesion and supported their peers in developing these skills. The experiences and feedback from the participating adolescents and youth were used to finalize the guidelines.

UNICEF and its partners will continue to strengthen and scale up opportunities for civic engagement and programmes for adolescents and young people in Iraq, with a focus on scaling social cohesion programmes, youth-led participatory action research and technology-based platforms for engagement.



Children and adolescents in the child-friendly spaces in Baharka Camp attend language courses, sports, art, dancing and other skills-building activities. These are important spaces in camp settings to provide children space to access supplementary educational activities as well as have a chance to play and just be kids.

At the global level, UNICEF coordinates closely with governments and multilateral agencies committed to the adolescent agenda. For example, UNICEF is an active member of the Inter-agency Network on Youth Development, which coordinates efforts by different United Nations organizations to support implementation of the United Nations Youth Strategy. UNICEF also supported the global conference, where ministries responsible for youth from 50 countries agreed on a final declaration on youth policies and programmes.

Additionally, UNICEF supported the United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth through a UNICEF staff secondment who facilitated the development of a dashboard for monitoring the operationalization of the Youth Strategy together with the different United Nations organizations, and supported the launch of front-runner countries for implementation of the Youth Strategy. As noted earlier (see 'Opportunities for adolescent participation in humanitarian and peacebuilding contexts'), UNICEF is a key member in the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action. The organization has also supported United Nations Security Council resolutions 2250 and 2419 on Youth Peace and Security, and the United Nations-commissioned independent study, *The Missing Peace: Independent progress study on youth, peace and security*⁸⁰ – all of which emphasized the importance of supporting adolescents and youth as promoters of peace and social cohesion.

In 2019, the shared value partnership between UNICEF and ING bank, Power for Youth, engaged over 60,000 adolescent boys and girls in China, Kosovo, Montenegro, the Philippines and Viet Nam in addressing issues affecting their lives and communities. Beyond the traditional skills of literacy and mathematics, adolescents require social, emotional and cognitive skills that are often absent in traditional classrooms. The Power for Youth focus on innovation helps adolescents develop into problem-solvers, decision makers and critical thinkers in both local and global contexts, which contributes to a nation's strength and progress. UNICEF also supported the scale-up of adolescent participation and civic engagement through policy work and capacity-building. Key highlights of the partnership in Kosovo, the Philippines and Viet Nam are noted throughout this chapter and in the *Annual Results Report 2019 – Every child learns*. <https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2019-goal-area-2>

UNICEF continued to work closely with GenU, a strategic partnership with the shared purpose of working with and for adolescents and young people to bring about positive and sustainable change in their lives. The GenU partnership brings together the private sector, governments, multilateral organizations, civil society and young people. It helps to identify scalable initiatives for better education, skills, entrepreneurship and employment for young people; scale innovations in areas such as digital connectivity, remote learning and work, entrepreneurship, job-matching platforms, mental health and the green economy; and co-create solutions with youth.

Voices of partners



Partnerships
Highlight

"The Power for Youth partnership with UNICEF gives ING, its staff and its clients, the possibility to make a difference by empowering young people. Adolescents are an incredibly talented demographic that have the ideas and determination to become the next generation of change-makers. We are proud to contribute to grow young people's potential as part of our Sustainability Direction."

Erich Suni Melgar, Global Sustainability Manager at ING



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Gayatri Tassa, age 16, speaks in a weekly session of the Prerona Adolescent Girls Club, which she is a member of at the Muttock Tea Estate, Assam, India. Through the club, she has learned that early marriage is harmful and prohibited by law, and she was empowered to politely refuse a marriage proposal with the support of her family. In the future she wants to become a nurse and help the communities.

In 2019, the GenU partnership led to the development of an advocacy brief and programmatic guide on adolescent participation and civic engagement, which will be used to mobilize commitment and action. Also, under the GenU partnership, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, Scouts and Plan International organized a second round of 'Youth

Challenges' across 40 countries, to enable young people to design solutions to improve education, employment and civic engagement. Teams of adolescents and young people with the most promising solutions will receive seed funding and mentorship.

Challenges and looking ahead

UNICEF offers a unique comparative advantage to programming for health, nutrition, HIV, education, child protection and WASH sectoral responses along the life cycle. Adolescent participation and civic engagement is a programme strategy across all programming, with specific methods, tools, data sets, partners, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.



Fourteen-year-old Baurzhan lives in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. He became infected with HIV through blood transfusions at a local hospital when he was nine months old and is the first teenager in Kazakhstan to live openly with HIV. He is a passionate advocate for the rights of other young people living with virus and has formed self-help groups with peers aimed at helping others with HIV, especially those who live in fear that they will not be accepted. It also includes siblings, other relatives and friends of children with HIV.

"I would like other people to know that people living with HIV infection are no different and there is no need to be afraid of them. HIV does not interfere with normal life and people with HIV-positive status are not dangerous to society."

In 2020, UNICEF will scale up adolescent participation and civic engagement by institutionalizing civic engagement within existing systems at school, community, local governance and national levels. For example, the organization will work with partners to make student councils more effective and more inclusive, and to ensure that adolescent participation becomes more systematic in local governance structures and national volunteering schemes and programmes.

To strengthen collaboration with youth-led networks and organizations at global, regional and country levels, specific attention will be given to strategic partnerships that create innovative and safe spaces (including digital) for adolescents to participate in and civically engage. This includes spaces in humanitarian settings, such as the ones involved in the COVID-19 response.

To improve the availability of data on adolescents, an Adolescent Data Portal will be launched in 2020 that contains data on more than 20 indicators of adolescent well-being. Additionally, UNICEF will continue its efforts to develop and roll out a measurement instrument that captures adolescent girls' and boys' participation across cultures and socioeconomic contexts. Cognitive testing is already under way for this instrument and that will be followed by field-testing. Once launched, this instrument can be used by all countries to collect internationally comparable, nationally representative and statistically sound data.

UNICEF will continue to support the GenU partnership, with a particular focus on providing technical and knowledge leadership in the areas of secondary education, skills development and young people's participation and civic engagement.

Ultimately, the participation of adolescents requires a cultural shift in the organization, perceiving and treating adolescents as equals, and working with, rather than for, them. This shift is an internal and external challenge. UNICEF will continue to build the capacity of staff and partners to effectively create and execute programmes for adolescent participation and civic engagement. This includes the development of online learning modules and a Human Resource Talent Pool made up of inspired and skilled adolescent programmers who can lead on this agenda. At country level, UNICEF needs to invest in supporting youth organizations and youth-led initiatives as a long-term commitment, rather than a sporadic event. This is essential to building scalable programmes.



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High-Level Priorities

Pictured above: UNICEF Chief of Field Office, Margaret Gwada assists a mother who has just received a birth certificate for her child at the Birth and Deaths Registry in Tamale in Ghana. During the COVID-19 global pandemic, UNICEF is supporting procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure children continue to receive birth certificates and are not left behind or denied their rights in the future.

On 12 March 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. The measures taken by governments in a bid to contain the spread of the virus impact directly and indirectly on the full range of children's rights as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including social, economic, cultural, civil and political rights. The poorest and most vulnerable children are disproportionately affected.

UNICEF is prioritizing support to governments in their response to the pandemic, both in terms of the immediate and longer-term impacts, as well as monitoring the impact of the pandemic on children's rights.

In terms of the organization's social policy work, UNICEF is prioritizing the critical role that social protection plays in the immediate COVID-19 response, as well as in the economic recovery phase, ensuring that policies are inclusive and sensitive. There is a specific focus on designing effective social programmes that take into account multiple risks and shocks such as climate change, economic crisis, and conflict. At the same time, UNICEF is making sure that fiscal stimulus packages and strategies explicitly prioritize and protect social investments. Moreover, the organization will continue to innovate across its child poverty, social protection and financing interventions to make explicit efforts to accelerate progress towards SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere) and effectively reach the most vulnerable children and their families, including in fragile contexts.

UNICEF and partners will ensure routine cash transfer programmes are not disrupted and that they are adjusted or rapidly scaled up to respond to the increasing needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes ensuring that adaptation and scale-up are gender-responsive and disability inclusive, so the most marginalized are not left behind as systems and programmes adapt (e.g., in changing to new delivery mechanisms and in managing gender-based violence risks) and that linkages to essential services are maintained or created to respond to their specific needs.

Alongside cash transfers, other components of social protection systems – such as in-kind assistance, social insurance and employment-guarantee programmes – will help respond to the economic, social and health needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable. UNICEF will advocate for continued financial support for child-focused services and programmes such as child benefits and subsidies for childcare.

UNICEF will support governments as they prepare budgets and implementation plans for priority response measures. These will include the identification of additional domestic resources for response, through budget reprioritization to provide space for priority spending, while protecting resources for routine services for children. UNICEF will also support countries to gain access to additional finance such as grants or concessional loans and, together with other development partners, ensure that children's rights are considered in social and economic measures undertaken at all levels. UNICEF will also support governments as they

engage with International Financial Institutions and other partners to request restructuring of existing programmes and increase access to grants or concessional finance.

The COVID-19 pandemic is accelerating efforts to strengthen the linkages between humanitarian, development and peace (triple nexus). Anchored in the updated Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies, UNICEF will strengthen efforts to prepare social protection systems (that are gender and disability responsive) in advance of crises by rolling out programme guidance on strengthening shock-responsive social protection and the Social Protection System Readiness Assessment Tool. This will ensure that development gains do not bypass children living in risk-prone areas and that their rights are protected at all times. UNICEF will also finalize an ongoing evaluation of its social protection work in humanitarian contexts, including cash transfers, and act on the basis of the evaluation's recommendations. The organization will also build on efforts to include the most marginalized in social protection work, from girls and women to children with disabilities.

UNICEF will strengthen collaboration with adolescents, youth and women, mobilizing and engaging them as well as their networks (including migrant or displaced people and people with disabilities) in COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts as educators and change agents among their peers and in their communities. Specific attention will be given to strategic partnerships that create innovative and safe spaces (including digital) for children with disabilities and adolescents (especially girls) to participate and civically engage, including in humanitarian settings such as the COVID-19 response.

Finally, 2020 will be a crucial year for UNICEF to begin to define its next Strategic Plan. It is already clear that the organization's comparative advantage lies in the integration of cross-cutting strategies such as those highlighted in this report and in building collaboration between sectors and programme areas. While the results in Goal Area 5 are important in and of themselves, their contribution is greatest when they are systemically integrated across results areas. To fortify this approach, current strategies require strengthening while new themes emerge that need holistic approaches – such as the impact of the socioeconomic downturn linked to COVID-19 on children, climate change, and increasing mental health problems and other non-communicable diseases. UNICEF will welcome the challenge to define these areas together in the upcoming two years with key partners, including adolescents, to ensure the best path forward to realizing the rights of all children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADT	Accessible Digital Textbooks for All	HCT	humanitarian cash transfer
ALS	Alternative Learning System (the Philippines)	IBP	International Budget Partnership
B4R	Business for Results	ILO	International Labour Organization
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (the Philippines)	IMF	International Monetary Fund
C4D	Communication for Development	LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics	MCDSS	Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (Zambia)
CFM	Child Functioning Module	MENA	Middle East and North Africa
CHAI	Clinton Health Access Initiative	MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
CONEVAL	Consejo Nacional de Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social (Mexico)	MODA	Multidimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analyses
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019	MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
CPT	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	NGO	non-governmental organization
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	NISSA	National Information System for Social Assistance (Lesotho)
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development	NSS	National Service Scheme (India)
EAP	East Asia and Pacific	ODI	Overseas Development Institute
ECA	Europe and Central Asia	OPHI	Oxford Policy and Human Development Initiative
EMIS	Education Management Information System(s)	PF4C	public finance for children
ESA	Eastern and Southern Africa	PPP	purchasing power parity
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	SA	South Asia
EU	European Union	SBCC	social and behaviour change communication
FGM	female genital mutilation	SCT	social cash transfer
G4G	Girl for Girl (Nigeria)	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
GDP	gross domestic product	SMQ	Strategic Monitoring Question
GenU	Generation Unlimited	SMS	short message service
		TSA	targeted social assistance (Kazakhstan)
		UNDIS	United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	VNR	voluntary national review
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund	WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	WCA	West and Central Africa
UNPRPD	United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	WFP	World Food Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	WHO	World Health Organization

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Annex: Financial Report*

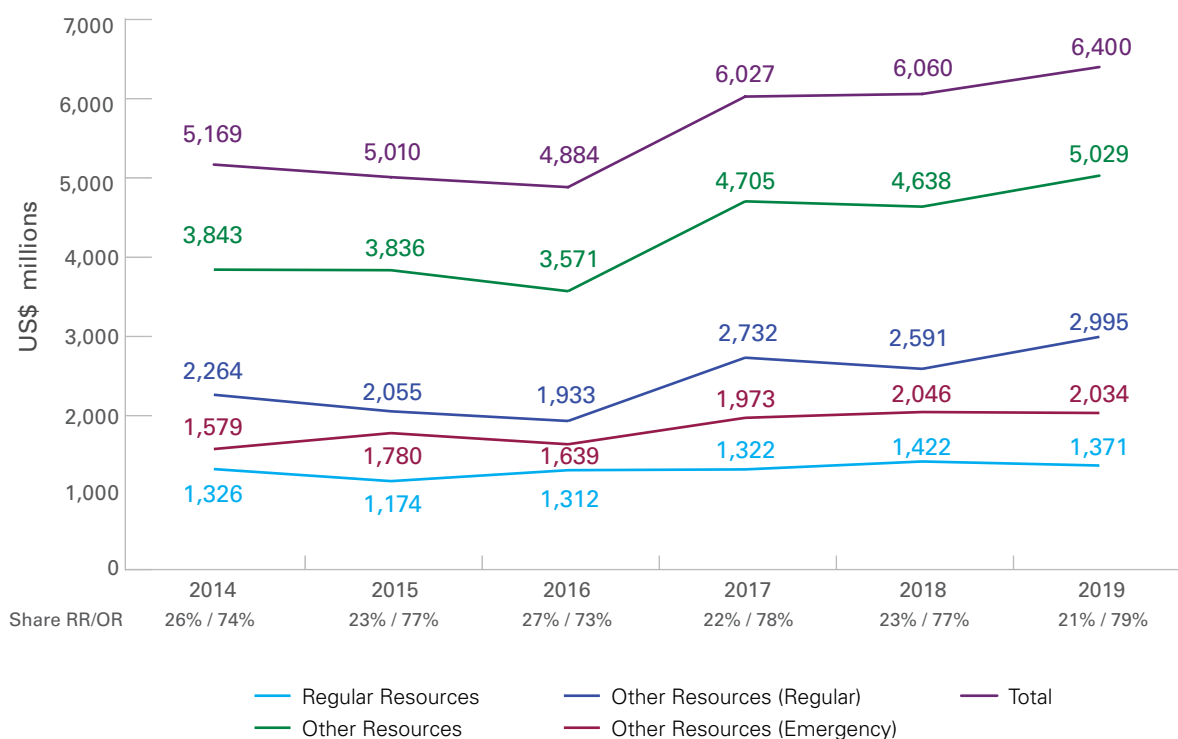
*All funding data as of 6 April 2020, pending audit and certification.

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 with 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. Other resources income increased by 8 per cent, up from US\$4,638 million in 2018 to US\$5,029 million in 2019 (see Figure A1-1).

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



Note: **Figures are based on 'income', which here represents contributions received from public sector and revenue from private sector.

'Other resources' contributions increased 8 per cent compared with 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 (see Figure A1-2). 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, 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.

'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.

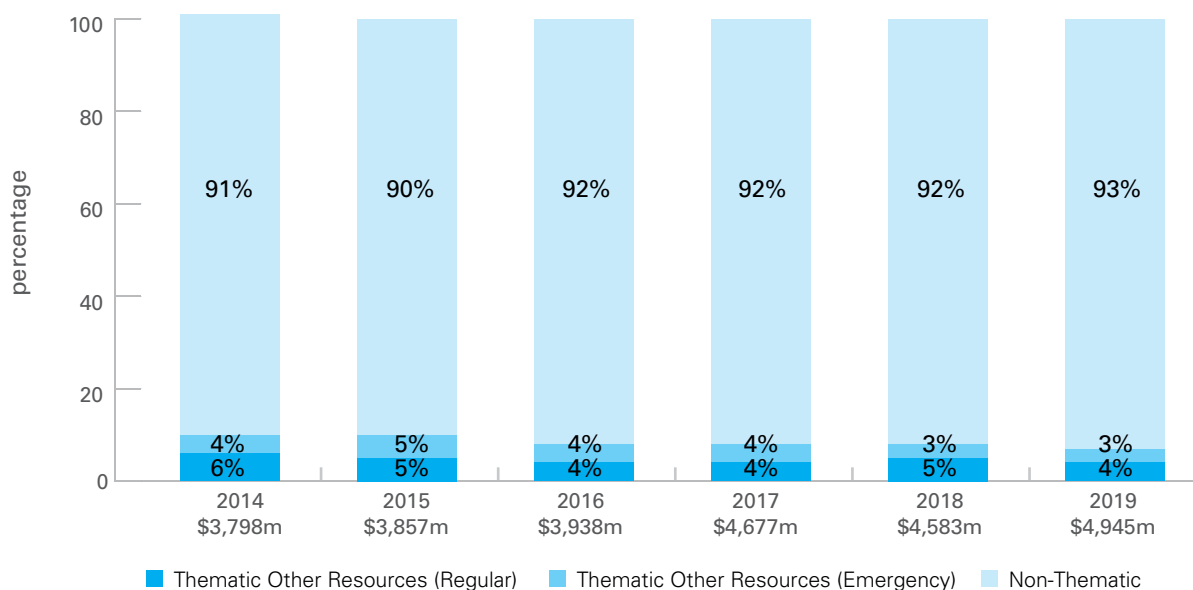
Regular resources (RR): Un-earmarked funds that are foundational to deliver results across the Strategic Plan.

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*



Note: *2014–2016 contributions restated to reflect change in accounting policy for comparison with 2017–2019

Goal Area 5 Income in 2019

In 2019, partners contributed US\$67 million 'other resources – regular' for Goal Area 5, a 12 per cent increase over the previous year (see Figure A1-3). Public sector partners contributed the largest share of 'other resources – regular' to Goal Area 5, at 97 per cent (Figure A1-4). The top five resource partners to Goal Area 5 in 2019 were the World Bank, the European Commission, the Government of Sweden, United Nations Joint Programmes,

and the Government of the United States of America (see Figure A1-5). The largest contributions were received from the World Bank for the Emergency Crisis Response Project in Yemen, from the European Commission for social protection activities in Angola, and from United Nations Joint Programmes for social protection activities in Zambia. (See body of the report for details on these programmes.)

FIGURE A1-3: Goal Area 5 'other resources – regular' contributions, 2014–2019

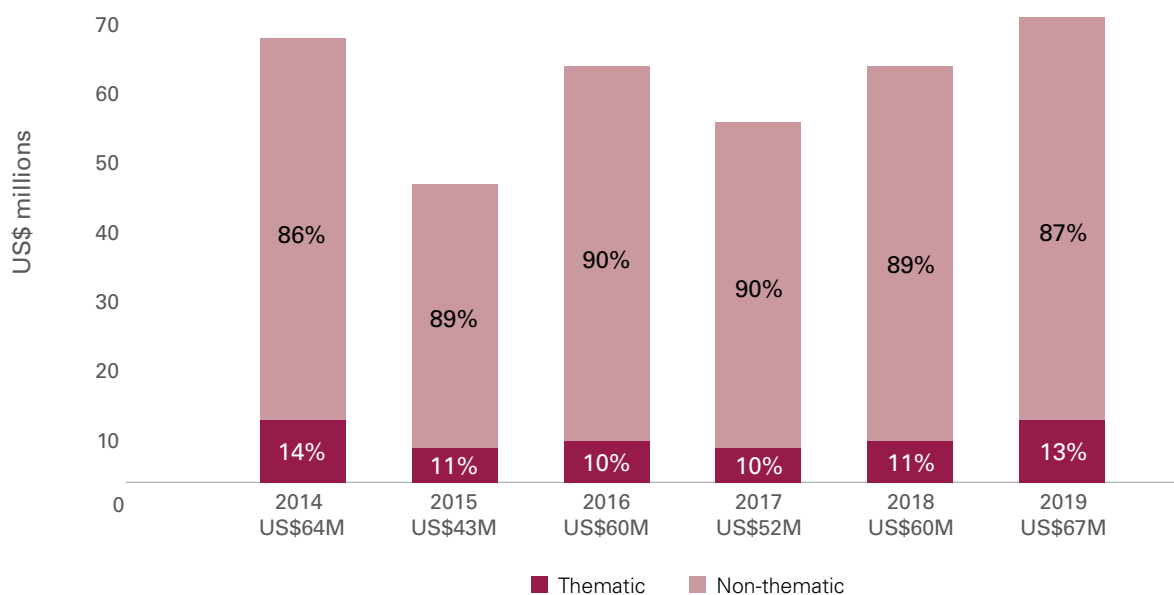


FIGURE A1-4: Total Goal Area 5 funds received by type of resource partner, 2019: US\$67 million

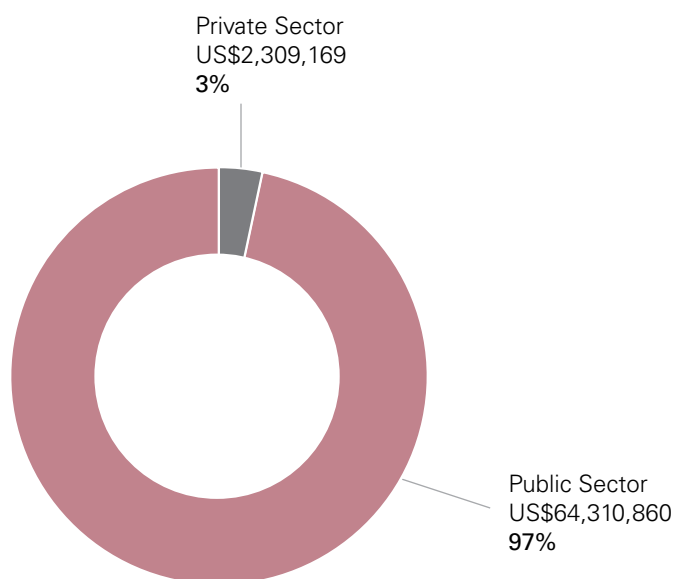


FIGURE A1-5: Top 20 resource partners to Goal Area 5 by total contributions, 2019

Rank	Resource partners	Total (US\$)
1	World Bank*	238,043,738
2	European Commission	14,739,403
3	Sweden*	14,162,275
4	United Nations Joint Programmes	7,483,613
5	United States*	6,588,489
6	Germany*	6,274,855
7	UNDP-managed UN Partnerships and Joint Programmes*	6,240,486
8	Canada	5,813,070
9	ILO	3,076,923
10	WFP	2,531,592
11	Norway	2,307,870
12	United Kingdom	1,665,910
13	Swiss Committee for UNICEF	1,064,846
14	Spain	770,077
15	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	681,954
16	Council of Europe Development Bank	497,788
17	Ireland	468,227
18	United Arab Emirates	300,000
19	U.S. Fund for UNICEF**	176,400
20	Sweden	155,577

Notes: *Includes cross-sectoral grants SC190217, SC181068 (Child Protection, Social Inclusion), SC181116, SC190305, SC170314 (Health, Nutrition, Social Inclusion), SC190632, SC180805 (Education, Social Inclusion), SC160635 (Education, Child Protection, Social Inclusion, WASH);

**Contributions received for 'ART-IN-A-BOX – Adolescent kit for expression and innovation' under Goal Area 3; ILO, International Labour Organization; UN, United Nations; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; WFP, World Food Programme.

FIGURE A1-6: Top 20 grants to Goal Area 5, 2019

Rank	Grant Description	Resource Partner	Total (US\$)
1	Third Additional Financing for Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project*	World Bank	139,182,077
2	Fourth Additional Financing for the Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project*	World Bank	67,941,375
3	Second Additional Financing for Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project*	World Bank	30,920,286
4	Social Protection, Angola	European Commission	8,978,676
5	Joint Program on Social Protection in Zambia	United Nations Joint Programme	7,483,613
6	Scaling Up Birth Registration, Tanzania	Canada	5,813,070
7	Tackling Child Poverty and Vulnerabilities through Child-sensitive Social Protection, Burkina Faso	Sweden	4,857,743
8	Emergency Reactivation of the Social Welfare Fund Cash Transfer Programme, Yemen	United States	4,039,923
9	Social Protection, Lesotho	European Commission	3,640,501
10	Joint Programme on Local Governance Phase III, Somalia*	UNDP-managed UN Partnerships and Joint Programmes	3,491,596
11	Strengthening of Services Provision for Children in Iraq*	Germany	3,306,818
12	Global Programme to Improving Synergies between Social Protection and PFM	ILO	3,076,923
13	Social Infrastructure for Internally Displaced Families (Phase IV), Ukraine*	Germany	2,968,037
14	Child Sensitive Social Protection in Refugee Hosting Districts, Uganda	WFP	2,531,592
15	2018-2021 Social Inclusion Thematic Pool	Norway	2,307,870
16	Power for Youth Phase II - PD-ING**	Dutch Committee for UNICEF	2,274,929
17	Advancing Social Welfare Systems for Vulnerable Children and Adolescents	United States	2,178,072
18	Integrated Social Protection, Education Program for Vulnerable Children, Jordan*	Sweden	2,085,288
19	Thematic Social Inclusion Support to Country Programme, DRC	Sweden	1,573,152
20	Social Inclusion, Ukraine	European Commission	1,539,239

Notes: *Cross-sectoral grants SC181068, SC190217 (Child Protection, Social Inclusion), SC181116, SC190305, SC170314 (Health, Nutrition, Social Inclusion), SC180805, SC190632 (Education, Social Inclusion), SC160635 (Education, Child Protection, WASH, Social Inclusion);

**Contribution received for activities for adolescents in Goal Area 2

Thematic funding remains a critical source of income for UNICEF programme delivery. Through thematic funding contributions at global, regional and 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.

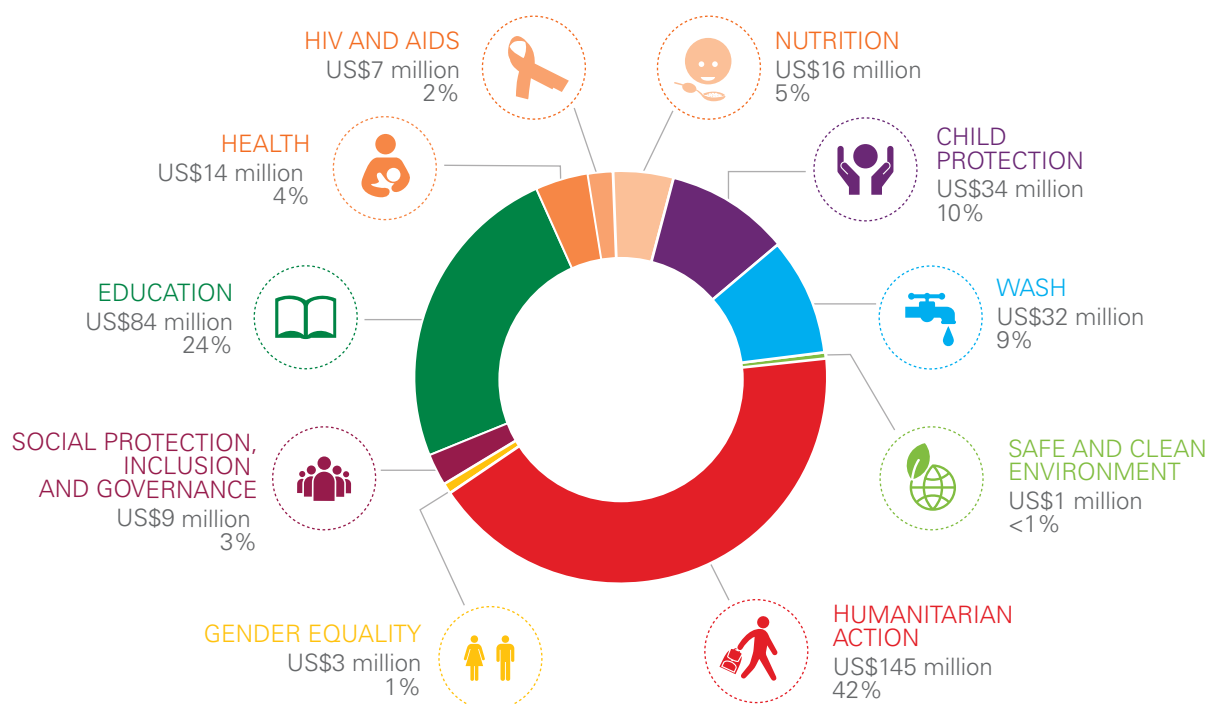
For partners, contributions to UNICEF’s 10 thematic funding pools are in keeping with the principles of good multilateral resource partnerships. Thematic contributions have the greatest potential of ‘other resources’ to produce high-level results directly aligned to the Strategic Plan, as endorsed by the UNICEF Executive Board, and supported by 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 percentage 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 (see Figure A1-7).

For more information on thematic funding and how it works, please visit: www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/66662_66851.html.

FIGURE A1-7: Thematic contributions by thematic pool, 2019: US\$346 million



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 social protection, inclusion and governance reached US\$15 million with US\$9 million received in 2019, out of which almost 99 per cent came from government partners. The Government of Sweden was the largest thematic resources partner in 2019, providing more than 63 per cent of all thematic social protection, inclusion and governance contributions received (see Figures A1-8 and A1-9).

Of all thematic social protection, inclusion and governance contributions that UNICEF received in 2018 and 2019, forty-three per cent comprised 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.

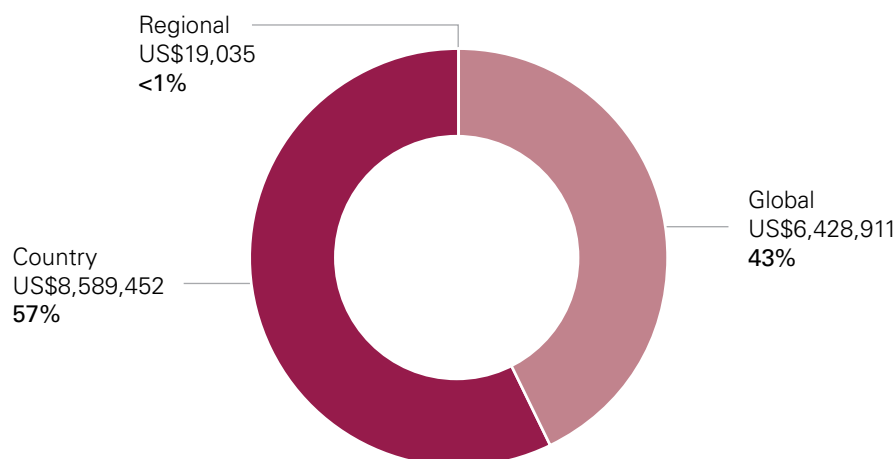
UNICEF is seeking to broaden and diversify its funding base (including thematic contributions) and encourages all partners to give as flexibly as possible. In 2019, five partners contributed thematic funding to social protection, inclusion and governance. Sizeable thematic contributions were received from the governments of Norway and Spain for global social protection, inclusion and governance thematic funding, while the Government of Sweden provided country-level thematic funding for social protection, inclusion and governance activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

FIGURE A1-8: Thematic contributions by resource partners to social protection, inclusion and governance thematic pool, 2019

Resource Partner Type	Resource Partner	Total (US\$)	Percentage of Total
Governments	Sweden	5,442,463	63.01%
	Norway	2,307,870	26.72%
	Spain	770,077	8.92%
Private sector	U.S. Fund for UNICEF	98,000	1.13%
	Australian Committee for UNICEF	19,035	0.22%
Grand total		8,637,444	100.00%

Grant numbers are provided for IATI compliance: SC1899080003, SC1899080004, SC1899080005, SC1899080006, SC1899080007, SC1899080008, SC1899080009, SC1899080010, SC1899080011, SC1899080012.

FIGURE A1-9: Social protection, inclusion and governance thematic contributions at country, regional and global levels, 2018–2019



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

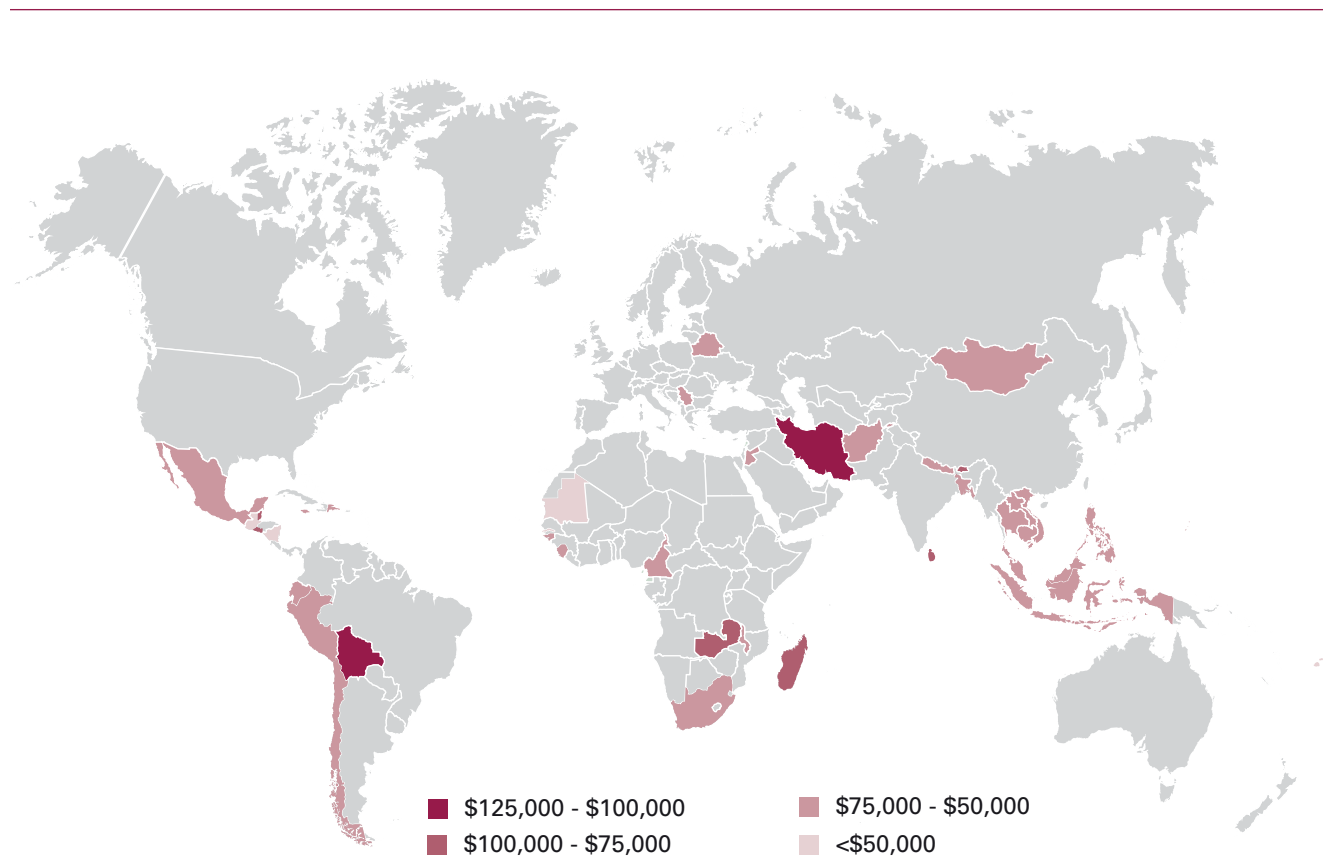
Specific reporting for country and regional thematic funding contributions is provided separately for partners giving at those levels.

The 2019 allocations of global thematic social protection, inclusion and governance funds were made on a needs-based formula for country offices' regional allocations and for regional office allocations, based on country offices'

stated intention/commitment to meet one or more relevant Strategic Plan targets on child poverty, social protection, Public Finance for Children (PF4C) or local governance (see *Figure A1-10*). Further prioritization criteria were:

- Least-developed countries
- If a country office had the opportunity and a plan to make tangible progress towards one or more of the Strategic Plan targets for social policy
- If steps had been taken to incorporate attention to adolescents, disability and gender into the social policy work
- If a country office had demonstrated a capacity to absorb funds and had a funding shortfall for its planned social policy activities.

FIGURE A1-10: Allocation of global social protection, inclusion and governance thematic funding to offices and programmes, 2019



Transparency:

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

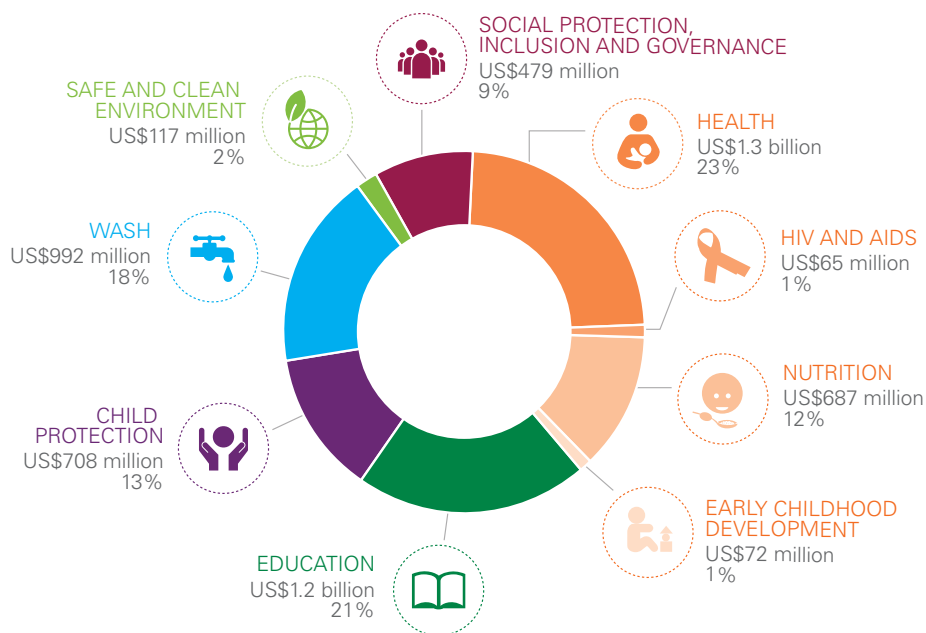


Goal Area 5 Expenses in 2019

Note: Expenses are higher than the income received because expenses are comprised of total allotments from regular resources and other resources (including balances carried over from previous years), whereas income reflects only earmarked contributions to Goal Area 5 in 2019. In 2019, total expenses for UNICEF programmes amounted to US\$5,650 million.

'Expenses' are recorded according to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) 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).

FIGURE A1-11: Total expenses by strategic outcome area, 2019



In 2019, global expenses for Goal Area 5 programming totalled US\$497 million, including funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs. This constitutes an increase from US\$427 million in 2018

(see Figures A1-12 and A1-13). The highest expenditure took place in Yemen (US\$147 million), Turkey (US\$ 61.8 million), Jordan (US\$ 23.9 million) and the Syrian Arab Republic (US\$21.5 million) (see Figure A1-17).

FIGURE A1-12: Expense trend for Goal Area 5 by year and fund type, 2014-2019

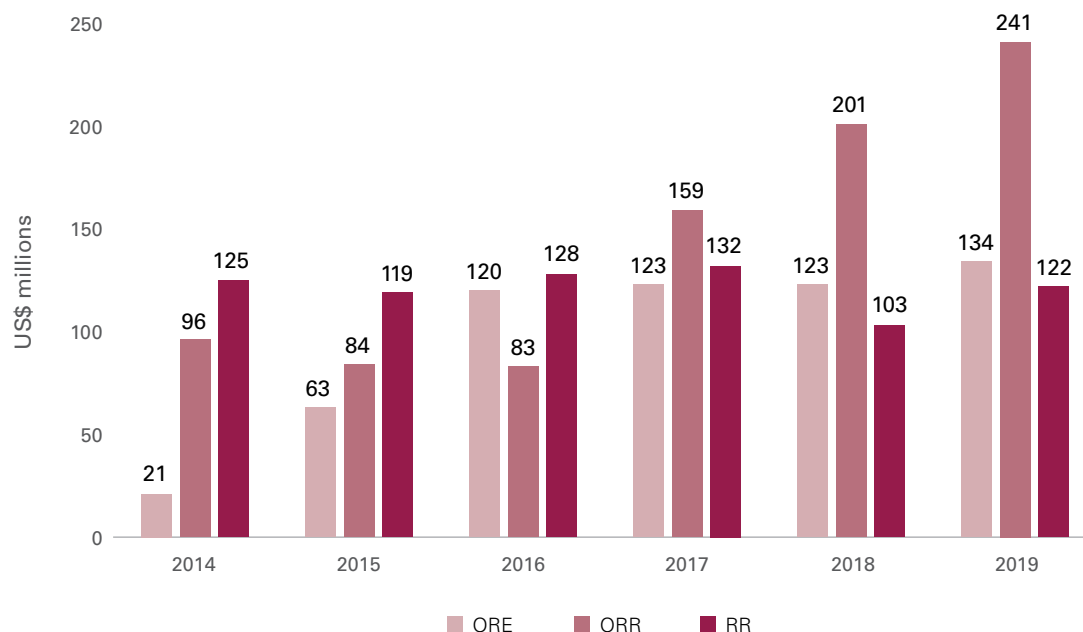


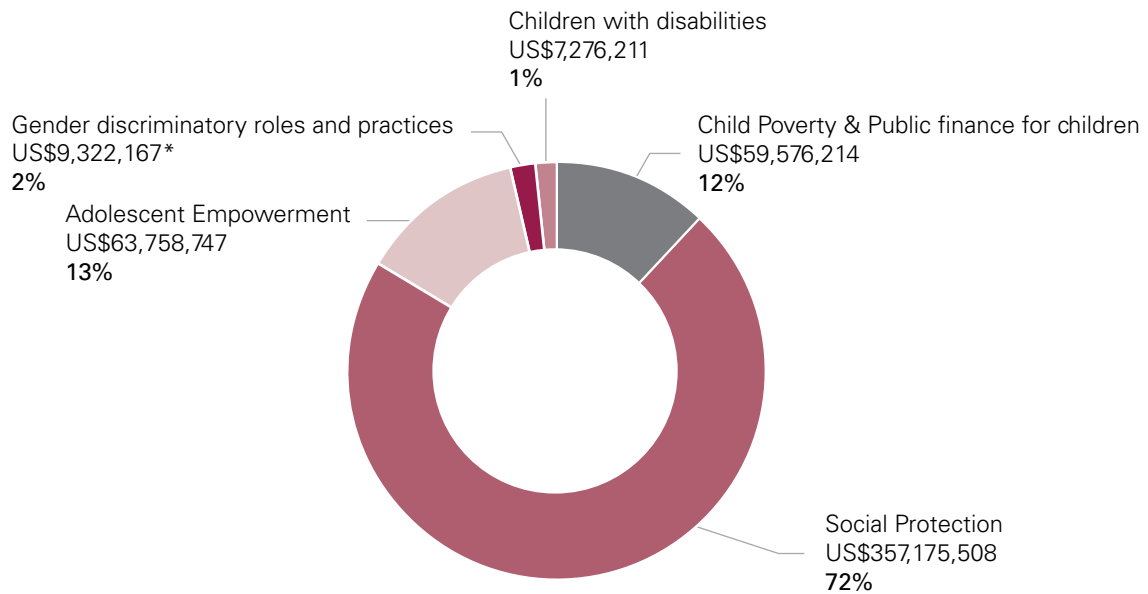
FIGURE A1-13: Goal Area 5 expenses in 2019

Results area	Other resources – emergency	Other resources – regular	Regular resources	Total
Child poverty and public finance for children	2,959,434	14,778,518	41,838,263	59,576,214
Social protection	113,141,465	190,600,555	53,433,488	357,175,508
Adolescent empowerment	14,602,644	28,980,216	20,175,888	63,758,747
Gender discriminatory roles and practices*	864,598	5,160,363	3,297,206	9,322,167
Children with disabilities**	2,449,143	1,552,648	3,274,421	7,276,211
Grand total	134,017,283	241,072,299	122,019,265	497,108,848

Notes: *The expenditure of US\$9.3 million on 'gender discriminatory roles and practices' only refers to the programme expenditure tagged against the positive gender socialization work under Goal Area 5. This value does not reflect the positive gender socialization work under other goal areas. Furthermore, this value does not reflect the complete UNICEF gender expenditure in 2019. UNICEF expenditure on gender transformative programming in 2019 was US\$799 million, which is 14.2 per cent of total 2019 expenditure. For the consolidated financial report on income and expenditure related to gender equality in 2019, please refer to UNICEF Annual Results Report 2019 – Gender equality.

**Global disability-related expenses are calculated on the basis of disability-specific budget codes and activities tagged using the disability tag, which is applied to all activities globally. The disability tag has multiple levels, and a methodology has been established that includes different proportions of expenditure tagged based on the tag rating (principal/significant). The amount reported here for global disability-related expenses is a portion of expenses reported in each goal and results area.

FIGURE A1-14: Expenses for Goal Area 5 by results area, 2019



Note: *The expenditure of US\$9.3 million on 'gender discriminatory roles and practices' only refers to the programme expenditure tagged against the positive gender socialization work under Goal Area 5. This value does not reflect the positive gender socialization work under other goal areas. Furthermore, this value does not reflect the complete UNICEF gender expenditure in 2019. UNICEF expenditure on gender transformative programming in 2019 was US\$799 million, which is 14.2 per cent of total 2019 expenditure. For the consolidated financial report on income and expenditure related to gender equality in 2019, please refer to UNICEF Annual Results Report 2019 – Gender equality.

FIGURE A1-15: Thematic expenses for Social Protection, Inclusion and Governance by region and results area, 2019

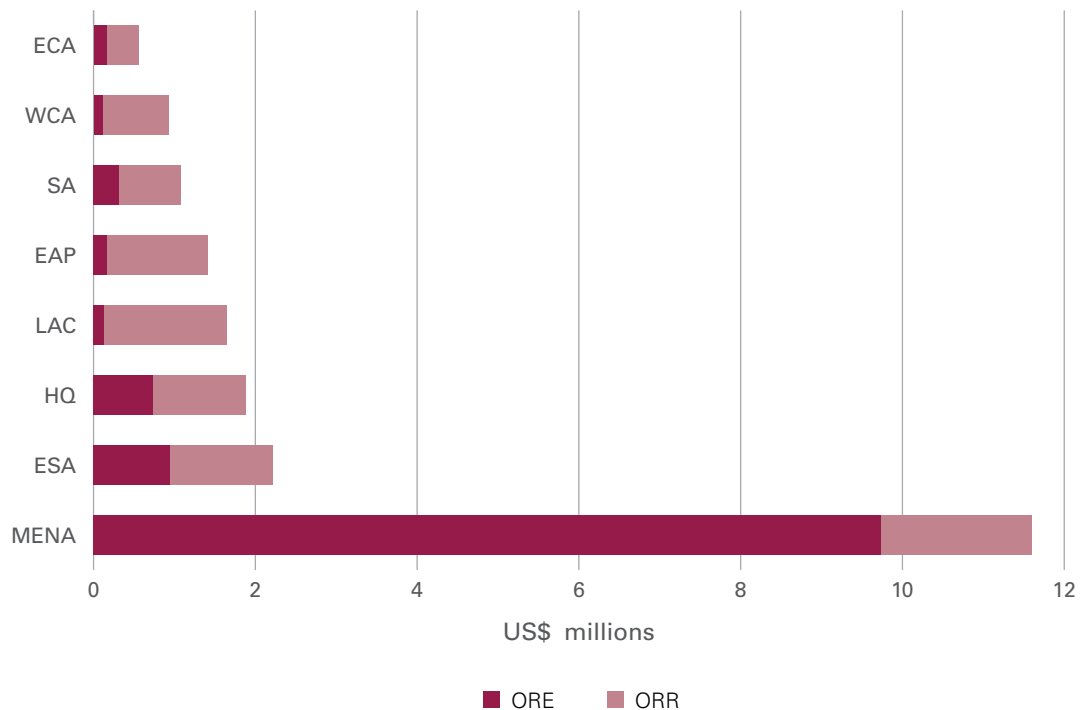


FIGURE A1-16: Expenses for Goal Area 5 by region and funding source, 2019 (US\$)

Region	Other resources – emergency	Other resources – regular	Regular resources	Total
MENA	63,173,538	152,743,084	13,892,330	229,808,952
ECA	61,486,851	7,728,466	7,308,780	76,524,097
ESA	2,635,104	28,678,840	26,480,589	57,794,533
HQ	2,895,628	14,253,731	18,839,044	35,988,403
WCA	1,533,400	9,685,709	23,725,099	34,944,208
LAC	1,434,861	12,912,240	7,663,547	22,010,648
SA	581,901	5,407,327	14,263,932	20,253,161
EAP	276,000	9,662,902	9,845,944	19,784,845
Total	134,017,283	241,072,299	122,019,265	497,108,848

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 A1-17: Top 10 expenses for Goal Area 5 by country/regional programme/headquarters division, 2019, US\$

Country office	2019 expense (US\$)
Yemen	147,824,382
Turkey	61,830,946
Jordan	23,948,068
Syrian Arab Republic	21,523,834
Lebanon	10,347,501
Zambia	8,603,645
India	8,533,175
Nigeria	6,639,712
Mozambique	6,190,766
Iraq	5,460,508

FIGURE A1-18: Expenses for Goal Area 5 by cost category and fund type, 2019

Cost category	Other resources – emergency	Other resources – regular	Regular resources	Total
Contractual services	11,483,130	27,116,728	19,788,533	58,388,391
Equipment, vehicles and furniture	122,856	179,480	519,898	822,233
General operating + other direct costs	6,565,666	4,865,040	11,946,831	23,377,536
Incremental indirect cost	11,127,540	10,402,742		21,530,281
Staff and other personnel costs	12,125,761	29,129,037	54,730,246	95,985,044
Supplies and commodities	13,443,425	2,610,122	3,772,156	19,825,703
Transfers and grants to counterparts	79,347,370	159,431,683	21,878,183	260,657,235
Travel	1,172,160	4,443,628	7,533,040	13,148,829
Other	-1,370,624	2,893,840	1,850,379	3,373,595
Total	134,017,283	241,072,299	122,019,265	497,108,848

Additional information by result area

Social protection, child poverty and public finance for children

Within Goal Area 5, the highest proportion of expenses in 2019 took place under the social protection results area and constituted US\$375 million. This sentence is incomplete. Here is the complete one: The largest proportion of these funds was spent on the delivery of cash transfers: through new or parallel systems (US\$163 million) or government systems (US\$60,8 million). UNICEF invested over US\$21.2 million to provide governments with technical support to develop or expand national cash transfer programmes, and US\$3.5 million to help strengthen social protection systems to become more shock responsive.

Strengthening of social welfare workforce saw the investment of US\$4.4 million, and US\$1.7 million was spent to improve the linkages between cash transfer programmes with other services and information (including on essential family practices, livelihoods, psychosocial support). US\$21.7 million was spent to help develop or improve national social protection strategies, policies and legislation.

Globally, UNICEF spent US\$59 million on child poverty and public finance interventions in 2019. Of these funds, about US\$4.6 million was invested in child poverty measurement and a similar amount in child poverty analysis, including profiling, mapping and identifying drivers of children's multidimensional and monetary poverty, as well as modelling and simulating policy options. Over US\$3 million contributed to the development or strengthening national policies to address child poverty. Over US\$9.8 million was invested in interventions aimed at improving budget allocation, the effectiveness and efficiency of expenditure, and transparency, accountability and participation.

Disability

UNICEF global expenses on disability inclusion can be measured across the whole Strategic Plan. Inclusion of children with disabilities in programmes and services is not only reflected in the expenses of targeted activities captured under Goal Area 5, rather it cuts across all goal areas, including education, child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS and early childhood development.

In addition to the disability-specific budget codes, UNICEF uses a 'disability tag', which is mandatory for UNICEF offices to assess all activities in terms of disability inclusion, making it possible to measure expenses on disability across all goal areas of the Strategic Plan. As such, global expenses on the inclusion of children with disabilities in UNICEF 2019 programmes and services was US\$213.85 million, reaching over 1.7 million children with disabilities in 142 countries.

Adolescents

The total global spending on adolescent participation and engagement, appropriate policy development, and routine engagement of adolescents in UNICEF programme planning and the programme cycle was US\$39.9 million in 2019. A total of US\$32.2 million was spent on adolescent participation in civic engagement initiatives, including US\$18.8 million in humanitarian contexts – resulting in over 4 million adolescents participating in or leading civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF-supported programmes. The amount spent on developing multisectoral policies supporting the development and participation of adolescents was US\$6 million in 2019, and US\$1.6 million was spent on routine adolescent engagement in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UNICEF programmes.



Published by UNICEF
3 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

www.unicef.org

June 2020

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