

Burkina Faso

Part 1: Situation update in the country

Burkina Faso is a low-income, landlocked country in West Africa. In 2017, gross per capita income was US\$615. The population, growing at an average annual rate of 3 per cent, was estimated at 18.11 million inhabitants. The economy is heavily reliant on agricultural production, with close to 80 per cent of the population employed in that sector. Cotton is the country's most important cash crop, but gold exports have gained importance in recent years. Acute poverty and social exclusion are extensive and structurally ingrained.

In 2018 the country's economic development continued to be affected by socio-political crises, persistent insecurity and low international market prices of gold and cotton. According to a 2018 International Monetary Fund report, economic growth dropped to 6.0 per cent of GDP compared to 6.3 per cent in 2017, despite expansion of the gold mining sector and increased investments in infrastructure. This reflects the strain on the economy from the security situation, the adverse impact of public sector strikes on private sector economic activity and fiscal consolidation.

Although often considered an extension of insecurity in neighbouring Mali, jihadist attacks have become increasingly local in origin and aim to disrupt the social order. The situation remained unpredictable in 2018 as security risks related to armed groups in the Sahel Region became more frequent, rapidly expanding to other regions such as the Est and Nord. Various attacks were carried out in those areas, ranging from targeted killings, assassination attempts and invasions of villages and schools to complex attacks against army or police posts, leading to multiple negative repercussions. For example, risks have been building up, as evidenced by the March 2018 attacks against the General Command Office of armed forces and the French embassy in Ouagadougou. The number of security incidents in 2018 almost doubled compared to 2017. As of 20 December 2018, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported 193 security incidents resulting in more than 180 deaths. Fifty-nine per cent of incidents were in the Sahel Region.

Persistent insecurity in neighbouring countries continued to hamper national efforts toward sustainable peace and also called for robust early warning mechanisms and coordinated responses. Sporadic terrorist attacks and armed confrontations in northern Mali were a major barrier to repatriation of 24,066 Malian refugees, particularly those based in Goudebou and Mentao camps and host communities in the Sahel Region. Intimidation of individuals, kidnappings, and targeted killings of people suspected of collaborating with the Security Defense Forces continued to pose threats in border areas. The Sahel, and more recently the Est, remained the most affected regions. This has caused massive internal displacement of people, including children. As of 20 December, 2018, 47,029 internally displaced persons were registered in the Sahel Region.

As a result, socio-economic balances at the community level in those regions were further weakened. The deteriorating security situation had a greater impact on women and girls. Surveys showed that men and community leaders were targets for armed groups, which resulted in increased responsibilities for livelihood mobilization for women and girls. Women,

girls and young children were more prone to internal displacement and were most often the main victims of extreme violence such as separation, deprivation of liberty, rape, abduction and sexual exploitation/abuse, including child marriage. In a sample of 214 households (1,600 internally displaced persons) profiled in October 2018 by the IOM, 98 per cent (52 per cent of women and 62 per cent of children) said they had fled growing insecurity.

With the establishment of the group of the G5 Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) in 2014, Burkina Faso assumed an increasingly prominent role in the regional military contingent engaged in northern Mali. The launch of the Sahel Alliance in 2017, propelled by Sahelian countries with donor support, provided the country with a platform to assert its leadership as a stronghold against terrorism in the Sahel, but also heightened its security risk. Since the first quarter of 2018, attacks from armed groups in the Sahel region have become more frequent, despite efforts made by the Government and its partners, including the G5 Sahel.

Schools closed in regions affected by widespread fear. As of 8 May 2018, 473 schools in the Sahel and Nord regions were closed, affecting 64,659 children and 2,138 teachers. As of 24 December 2018, 779 schools had closed, depriving 95,742 children from their right to education. To mitigate losses for students in the 2017-2018 school year, the Government decided to initiate an emergency operation for children who had to take national exams in June 2018, including 4,983 children (2,239 girls) affected by school closures in Sahel and Nord regions. This operation established study camps in secured cities to provide children with a 2.5-month preparation course in advance of examinations. UNICEF provided logistics support, along with the World Food Programme and NGOs.

UNICEF supported the education of 869 Malian refugee children in schools located in camps and host communities. Since 2017, the Safe School approach has been mainstreamed into the Quality Child Friendly Schools programme, reaching 729 schools in six Mali-Burkina Faso border regions and benefiting 132,317 children (60,368 girls). UNICEF ultimately aims to integrate this approach into the national teachers' training curriculum. UNICEF also adopted new strategies, such as education through radio in French and five national languages.

More investments in post-primary/secondary education, improved and relevant curricula and staffing are urgently required to better align human development responses to the country's economic needs and labour market and to address gender inequalities. The Government's new Education Sector Plan for 2017-2030 was launched in 2018 and includes strategies for increasing access to and improving the quality of education at all levels, in line with the transformative needs of the economy. The plan also recognizes problems with the low quality of education and training provision, underscoring key constraints to the education service delivery system. To address those constraints, the plan provides a framework for achieving priority education outcomes by 2030, in line with ODD 4.7.

Burkina Faso faced a severe food security crisis in 2018. Severe drought, caterpillar invasion, and granivorous birds led to a 12 per cent decrease in cereal crops nationwide. An estimated 2.5 million people found themselves in a situation of Phases 2 to 5 of food insecurity and another 950,000 found themselves in Phases 3 and 4, in dire need of food support. The Government launched the Response and Support Plan for people vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity. Multiple partners responded to the plan, including the Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme, with a multi-pronged approach including cash transfers, food for work, subsidized food, seed distribution, livestock feed and food distribution.

More than 1 million children under age five are affected by malnutrition in Burkina Faso each year. The nutrition situation is always very fragile, and rates of malnutrition, including micronutrients deficiencies, are high. Since 2009, a National Nutrition Survey using the SMART method has been in place. According to the results of 2016 and 2017 surveys, the rate of global acute malnutrition (GAM) increased from 7.6 per cent in 2016 to 8.6 per cent in 2017.

According to preliminary results from the 2018 National Nutrition Survey, that number remains high, at 8.5 per cent. Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rose from 1.4 per cent to 2 per cent in 2017 and decreased slightly to 1.7 per cent in 2018. Stunting is affecting almost one-fourth of the children under 5 years. National statistics mask geographic disparities. For example, acute and chronic malnutrition in the Sahel Region were significantly higher than the national average, at 12.6 per cent global acute malnutrition and 42.2 per cent stunting in 2018. (World Health Organization emergency thresholds are 10 per cent for global acute malnutrition and 30 per cent for stunting).

Given the deteriorating food security and the potential for a negative impact on malnutrition, in 2018, systematic screenings were organized nationwide during the two annual Vitamin A campaigns and four rounds of seasonal malaria chemoprophylaxis distribution for early detection and referral of affected children. In a six month period from June to December, an average of 3.2 million children under five years were screened monthly for malnutrition, resulting in more than 31,346 cases of severe acute malnutrition referred to health structures.

The absence or lack of optimal nutrition care and feeding practices for women and children is one of the key drivers of the high level of malnutrition in Burkina Faso. According to the 2017 National Nutrition Survey, approximately half of infants under the age of 6 months (47.8 per cent) were exclusively breastfed. The mediocre quality and insufficient quantity of complementary foods given to infants and young children aged 6-23 months further demonstrate the sub-optimal care practices. Only 17.5 per cent of them received the minimum acceptable diet.

Burkina Faso has a low national HIV prevalence, at 0.9 per cent. A relatively high rate of antenatal care led to a reasonably good prevention of mother to child transmission programme countrywide. There is a national goal of elimination by 2020. The low coverage of antiretroviral treatment (approximately 50 per cent) among HIV-positive infants remains a challenge.

Persisting insecurity, primarily in the Sahel, Nord, and Est regions, resulted in the temporary closure of 10 health facilities, and many others were at high risk of closure. This led to reduced access to health services, including severe acute malnutrition screening and treatment.

According to the draft report of the 2018 study on violence against children (VAC), 15.6 per cent of children aged 12 to 17 were physically abused, compared to 24.9 per cent for children aged 0 to 11. Those rates hide disparities between regions (25 per cent to 2.6 per cent) and provinces (53.3 per cent to 0.4 per cent). The regions of Centre Est (35 per cent) and Plateau Central (34.8 per cent) and the provinces of Oubritenga (54.5 per cent) and Kouritenga (47.5 per cent) recorded the highest rates of physical abuse among children aged 0 to 11. Urban areas experienced more violence than rural areas (19.9 per cent compared to 14.3 per cent).

According to the 2018 Violence Against Children report, most physical violence occurred in the home (89.9 per cent of cases for children aged under 11 months and 65.7 per cent for children

aged 12 to 17 years). Parents were the first perpetrators of violence against children: male parents (66.7 per cent) for children aged 12 to 17 years and mothers (44.4 per cent) for children aged under 11 months. The school was the second most common place for physical violence against children to occur: 21.9 per cent (12 to 17 years) and 5.9 per cent (0 to 11 years). Some 8.4 per cent of children aged 12 to 17 years and 3.3 per cent of children aged 0 to 11 months experienced physical violence in the street.

Among children aged 5 to 18 years, 34 per cent of girls and 47.7 per cent of boys were working, and 37 per cent of them carried out hazardous activities, including 20,000 who were working in artisanal gold mines. According to EMC 2015, 77.8 per cent of children were registered at birth, but 33 per cent did not have a birth certificate (whether they were registered or not). Every year, approximately 1,000 minors in conflict with the law (25 per cent of whom are girls) are deprived of justice services compliant with international standards. Because of negative social norms and cultural practices, 67.6 per cent of women (11.3 per cent of girls under 15) have undergone female genital mutilation, and 51.3 per cent of girls were married before their eighteenth birthday.

Nearly half of the schools (45.3 per cent) did not have access to safe water in 2016. (Only 6,640 primary schools out of 14,655 had such access.) Approximately 26 per cent of primary schools still did not have latrines. A total of 75.3 per cent of school sanitation facilities were single sex toilets and inappropriate for girls to use, especially during menstruation. Rural schools faced enormous challenges in establishing and maintaining WASH infrastructures. Girls attending school need adequate water, hygiene, and sanitation services to properly manage their menstruation. However, most latrines were poorly maintained and/or did not meet girls' needs. As a result, adolescent girls were uncomfortable attending school while menstruating, which directly impacted their education. Research conducted in Burkina Faso in 2013 showed that 83 per cent of girls had limited participation and 21 per cent were absent from school while menstruating. The gender parity index increased slightly in UNICEF's two priority regions, but gender equity at post-primary level was only attained in the Est region (increasing from 0.97 in 2017 to 1.01 in 2018).

Discussions about menstruation at school or at home are rare because of the stigma and taboo surrounding it, limiting girls' access to proper information on menstruation management. Problems associated with menstruation management go beyond school, as adolescent girls not in school also are affected. Many girls do not have access to safe menstrual management products. To address some of these challenges, UNICEF is working to create an enabling environment in schools and communities for girls to manage their menstruation with dignity and safety.

Moving forward, Burkina Faso must strategically shift from attracting mineral investments to leveraging the mining sector for sustained socio-economic development. The Government set the following objectives for the mining sector to further boost the economy: leveraging the mining sector for economic inclusion and diversification; formalizing artisanal mining to enable the estimated 1 million artisanal miners to adopt better practices; and, improving governance and environmental and social sustainability. UNICEF explored partnership opportunities to engage further in the field of corporate social responsibility (CSR). UNICEF also continued its advocacy to leverage the Mining Fund for Local Development to finance municipal development plans and establish child-friendly municipalities. Opportunities for the efficient use of revenues earmarked for local communities and joint investment projects in infrastructure with the private sector also were promoted.

Burkina Faso is a low carbon-emitting country but is nevertheless highly vulnerable to climate change. The country is confronted with the degradation of ecosystems, the recurrence of food security crises and adverse impacts of climate change on the environment, the population, and livestock. Building on an earlier National Action Programme for adaptation to climate change, the Government launched a new comprehensive approach, The National Adaptation Plan.

Part 2: Major results including in humanitarian action and gender, against the results in the Country Programme Documents

In the first year of the Country Programme Document (CPD) 2018-2020 and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2020, results contributed to the National Socio-Economic Development Plan through the development of human capital. Achievements were measured against the Integrated Results and Resources Framework of the Country Programme Document 2018-2020. Guided by the UNICEF Strategic Plan, UNICEF Burkina Faso contributed to the Key Results for Children of the West and Central Africa Region on prevention of stunting, abandonment of child marriage and ending open defecation. UNICEF Burkina Faso's efforts on those results were accelerated through incorporating them in the Annual Management Plan; fostering multi-sectoral approaches through joint planning and reviews; and strengthening accountability of the zonal office and enhancing operations' functions to support programmes.

Goal area 1. Every child survives and thrives

Throughout 2018, UNICEF Burkina Faso contributed to Strategic Plan priorities geared toward improving newborn and child health, strengthening community health services, fighting all forms of malnutrition, and elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. UNICEF Burkina Faso's interventions targeted five regions (Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord and Sahel) with low attainment in key indicators.

Improved maternal and neonatal health

In the five regions targeted by UNICEF, by September 2018, only 27.5 per cent of pregnant women attended the recommended four antenatal care visits, according to the Ministry of Health. The Strategic Plan target is 65 per cent by 2021. The low coverage is largely due to the fact that only 40 per cent of women initiated antenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy. Bottlenecks included the lack of accessibility to health facilities, the quality of services offered during antenatal care, and social norms that prohibit announcing a pregnancy before certain traditional rituals have been carried out. To address those barriers, UNICEF's interventions focused on strengthening the capacity of health workers and community health workers to improve the quality of care and on community mobilization activities for behavioural change. UNICEF and its partners strengthened their relationships and their networking with traditional leaders, who were engaged in delivering key messages to reduce the influence of negative social norms. Between January and September, 2018, 47,967 pregnant women (out of 423,050 expected pregnant women) and 32,991 newborns (out of 406,881 expected live births) received home visits by trained community health workers in four out of five UNICEF priority regions. Among those, 13,974 pregnant women and 1,044 newborns with danger signs were referred to health facilities, and 1,250 newborns received additional visits by community health workers because of low birth weight.

As of September 2018, the percentage of live births attended by skilled birth attendants increased slightly, from 60.55 per cent in 2017 to 63.97 per cent in UNICEF's priority regions. That percentage is far below the Country Programme Document target of 80 per cent by 2020 and below the national average of 66.7 per cent. To tackle this gap, UNICEF focused on improving quality of maternal and neonatal interventions at facility and community levels through training and supervision of health workers and community health workers and provision of critical supplies for obstetric care and neonatal resuscitation.

Immunization

As of September 2018, Burkina Faso maintained an exemplary coverage for Penta3 and RR1 vaccines among children under-5 years old, at 85 per cent. UNICEF procured vaccines and vaccine-derivatives (reducing the gap in the national cold chain equipment needs by 30 per cent) and supported capacity development in cold chain management. During the immunization campaign against the measles outbreak in 30 affected health districts, UNICEF sensitized communities to attain the optimal immunization coverage through a campaign that included radio programmes, community dialogues and home visits by community relays. UNICEF also supported capacity building of 110 health agents from districts and regional directorates on communication for development (C4D) strategies with a focus on immunization. As a trusted partner of the Ministry of Health and the GAVI Alliance, UNICEF Burkina Faso facilitated supply, logistic and procurement services for the expanded programme on immunization (EPI) and scaled up an equity analysis in immunization. UNICEF managed GAVI Alliance grants of US\$6 million that were awarded to the Government for procurement of cold chain equipment and construction of the national EPI warehouse.

Community health

UNICEF Burkina Faso strengthened its support to scale up community-based care in five priority regions for three major preventable childhood diseases: pneumonia (attributable to 24 per cent of child deaths), malaria (attributable to 21 per cent) and diarrhoea (attributable to 19 per cent). With UNICEF's support, as of September 2018, 90 per cent of community health workers were trained and equipped to offer integrated community case management (iCCM) services to 169,394 children affected by those preventable diseases (malaria: 64,024 children, diarrhea: 41,770, pneumonia: 63,600).

To tackle bottlenecks related to timeliness and quality of reporting and drug stock management by community health workers, UNICEF introduced the mHealth initiative in December 2017 in the Nord region. This innovation strengthened the community-based reporting system, allowing all community health workers in targeted zones to greatly increase the number of cases of child illnesses reported. That number increased to 66,940 cases by the end of September, compared to 26,651 in 2017.

Following the scaling up of the free healthcare policy at the facility level, UNICEF Burkina Faso's advocacy efforts led to the Ministry of Health's decision on expanding that policy to the community level starting 2019. UNICEF supported the preparation of this new strategy, including the development of tools and the training and provision of starter kits to community health workers. UNICEF also provided dedicated support to the Ministry of Health to ensure effective utilization of the Global Fund's contribution for health system strengthening by facilitating timely procurement and distribution of supplies for community health workers. With UNICEF's technical and financial support, the National Community Health Strategy was finalized, along with a corresponding investment case, to help the Ministry of Health make a

significant and efficient investment in community health, a crucial step to attain universal health coverage.

UNICEF provided support to implement behaviour change communication activities in four regions (Est, Sahel, Centre Nord, and Nord) to address negative social norms related to maternal and newborn health. Those interventions directly reached 184,191 people, including 71,358 women and 56,748 children. Interpersonal communication strategies through theatres, homes visits, peer education and radio programmes reached nearly 1.2 million people with key messages on newborn health. Real-time dialogues between authorities and the population through radio programmes on community health issues provided an opportunity for communities to demand strengthened social accountability to improve maternal and newborn health.

HIV and AIDS

In 2017 the Burkinabe Government committed to the ambitious goal of eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV (eMTCT) by 2020. At the national level, the percentage of pregnant women who were tested for HIV and received results increased from 83.3 per cent in 2015 to 90.93 per cent by October 2018. The percentage of HIV-infected pregnant women receiving full prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) treatment was at 112.7 per cent in 2018, compared to 109 per cent in 2017 (Data for breastfeeding women is not available). A steady increase in the rate was observed in the five UNICEF-supported regions. UNICEF's contribution targeted the Nord region as a 'quick win' to eliminate mother to child transmission. The percentage of male partners of pregnant women who were tested for HIV increased from less than 10 per cent in 2017 to 40 per cent in 2018. UNICEF contributed to promoting male participation by using radio programmes, theatres and videos, and actively engaged traditional and religious leaders. UNICEF supported all districts in the Nord region by training health workers and community agents in follow-up of pregnant women and promoted lifelong antiretroviral treatment in two districts in HautsBassins region with high HIV prevalence.

Slow progress was recorded for antiretroviral treatment among HIV-positive infants. Between January and June 2018, 2,583 infants (49 per cent girls, 51 per cent boys) were under antiretroviral treatment (representing 34 per cent coverage). UNICEF supported capacity building of health care providers on differentiated approaches to accelerate the UNAIDS's 3*90 target, with a focus on recruiting high-risk (malnourished or hospitalized) children for HIV screening.

Prevention of stunting

The prevalence of stunting decreased from 2016 to 2017 (from 27.3 per cent to 21.2 per cent) but rose again in 2018, to 25 per cent. UNICEF Burkina Faso contributed to prevention of stunting by supporting high impact nutrition interventions such as vitamin A supplementation, deworming, promotion of exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months and timely and appropriate complementary feeding for children aged 6-24 months. UNICEF expanded the community-based infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling services to six regions through cooperation agreements signed with NGOs, reaching 234,703 pregnant and lactating mothers of children under 24 months. Those women participated in 9,938 peer support groups supervised by 3,990 trained community health workers in 1,662 villages (17 per cent of the coverage). UNICEF's communication for development (C4D) and capacity development activities created a synergy in actions among 40 mothers' groups, 16 media actors, community health workers and 65 'model husbands' to promote optimum infant and young children feeding.

Between 2017 and 2018, national nutrition surveys showed an improvement in exclusive breastfeeding, from 47.8 per cent to 55.8 per cent, against a target of 63 per cent by 2018, and an increase in food diversity among children aged 6-23 months, from 17.9 to 24.6 per cent. The first and second rounds of vitamin A supplementation reached 2,915,880 (91.17 per cent) and 3,150,697 (99.6 per cent) children aged 6-59 months, respectively, approaching the target of 3,163,563 in 2018.

UNICEF Burkina Faso served as the lead agency for the technical and financial partners' group in nutrition and as the vice chair of the UN Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) network. Through these roles, UNICEF continued to ensure coordination of the nutrition sector and successfully advocated for the Government's resource allocation for nutrition, which increased from US\$1.5 in 2017 to US\$2.5 in 2018.

Humanitarian responses in health/nutrition

In anticipation of a nutrition and food security crisis in Burkina Faso, UNICEF, in partnership with the World Food Programme and Food and Agriculture Organization, developed a funding proposal for the Central Emergency Response Fund and mobilized US\$9 million for emergency nutrition responses (US\$3 million for UNICEF). Although the effect of the nutrition crisis proved to be less than what was expected, according to the 2018 National Nutrition Survey, the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition exceeded the humanitarian threshold of 2 per cent in the Sahel region (at 3.1 per cent) and the Plateau Central region (at 2.8 per cent). As of mid-December 2018, UNICEF supported treatment of 94,630 children under 5 years old with severe acute malnutrition (including 38,244 from the four regions affected by emergency), corresponding to 50.5 per cent of the estimated caseload. UNICEF supported resource mobilization, procurement of therapeutic products, active screening of malnourished children, and capacity development and supervisions of health workers. The low coverage indicates the less-severe effects of the food insecurity, and insufficient numbers of community health workers to ensure full coverage of in communities, and limited access to health services due to the ongoing security crisis.

Goal area 2. Every child learns

UNICEF Burkina Faso aimed to ensure equitable and inclusive access to quality education for children aged 3 to 16 years, particularly in the Sahel and Est regions. Based on the Strategic Plan's priorities, UNICEF Burkina Faso focused on the increased demand for education, especially for girls, as well as on strengthening the education system to ensure improved learning outcomes. UNICEF Burkina Faso also made progress building resilience to respond to the risk of disaster, conflict and other shocks. Inter-sectoral collaboration between education and child protection at community level contributed to developing skills of both in-school and out-of-school adolescents to promote empowerment and gender equality.

Access to quality education

In the Est region, between 2017 and 2018, the gross enrolment rate (GER) increased from 60.5 per cent to 63.8 per cent (from 59.7 per cent to 62.4 per cent for girls). In the Sahel region it increased from 52.4 per cent to 53.4 per cent (from 51.2 per cent to 52.2 per cent for girls). UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education in expanding the National Quality Child-Friendly School (QCFS) programme. Despite the security situation and persisting social norms harmful to education (e.g. child marriage and child labour), 53,265 children (47 per cent of them girls) were newly enrolled in the Quality Child-Friendly School programme. To date, the programme

has benefited 295,088 children (including 141,070 girls) in 1,226 schools, including those newly reached in 2018. UNICEF also promoted quality and inclusive education through integration of 1,020 out-of-school children (469 girls) in schools; strengthened capacity of 20,000 teachers in quality child-friendly schools and the safe school strategy; and supported creation of thematic students' clubs such as menstrual hygiene clubs to promote positive behavioural changes. UNICEF also continued to expand the speed reading strategy, reaching more than 7,000 children in 88 schools. UNICEF Burkina Faso also supported ongoing curriculum reform to incorporate emerging themes such as climate change and the development of a plan for effective mathematics teaching. UNICEF's contributions were complemented by NGOs working in girls' education, school governance and WASH in schools, and by other donors' financial contributions through the education sector's basket funds to support the Ministry of Education's work plan.

These interventions collectively contributed to an increase in primary completion rate (PCR) in the Est region, from 39.5 per cent (41.1 per cent for girls) in 2017 to 43 per cent (44.8 per cent for girls) in 2018. The primary completion rate decreased slightly in the Sahel region, from 28.3 per cent to 27.8 per cent (from 27.1 to 26.9 per cent for girls) due to massive school closures linked to insecurity.

UNICEF's advocacy, through the elaboration of the Education Country Status Report and high-level meetings with Ministry of Education, contributed to an increase in the domestic resource allocation to pre-primary education, from 0.4 per cent in 2017 to 1.4 per cent for 2018. A total of 29,251 children (15,192 girls) were enrolled in UNICEF-supported early childhood development centres (against the target of 40,000 by 2020), through provision of learning kits, training of pre-school teachers and parental education.

Gender equality in education

Based on the gross enrolment rate, in 2018 the national gender parity index was 1.14 at post-primary level and at 0.96 at primary level. The national post-primary completion rate remained extremely low, especially for girls (39.2 per cent, vs. 42.1 per cent for boys), and there were also significant regional gaps (6.8 per cent for girls and 10.4 per cent for boys in the Sahel region). Based on gross enrolment rates, gender parity at post-primary level was attained in the Est region in 2018, while a significant gap still existed in the Sahel region. To address those gaps, UNICEF supported the Government to increase access to formal or informal education, with a focus on gender equity. Through UNICEF's direct support, 26,102 adolescents (including 16,523 girls) obtained access to post-primary or secondary education or informal education in target regions (Sahel, Central Plateau, Est and Nord). UNICEF's contributions centred on the Quality Child Friendly Schools initiatives, vocational training for vulnerable girls, including those at risk for child marriage, and study camps for children affected by school closures. UNICEF also supported attendance and retention of 15,710 girls (5,450 at post-primary and 10,000 at primary level) through social mobilization, improved school environments and provision of scholarships.

UNICEF also supported the expansion of the Menstrual Hygiene Management initiative to 110 schools to remove the bottleneck related to girls' attendance and participation. UNICEF Burkina Faso, along with the Ministry of Education and NGO partners, implemented communication activities for parents, local authorities, teachers and children to create an environment favourable to menstrual hygiene management. Trained teachers provided puberty education to 14,646 girls (66 per cent at primary and 34 per cent at post-primary level) and 3,879 boys, including 1,000 adolescents in emergency settings. The menstrual hygiene management

project attracted other partners to replicate a similar initiative in other regions with their own funds. To accelerate the scaling up of the project, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to harmonize the menstrual hygiene management communication tools and introduce menstrual hygiene management into the basic education curricula. Through a new partnership with professional training schools in the Sahel region, adolescents were trained as local manufacturers of reusable sanitary pads, meeting growing local demands with low-cost products.

Education in humanitarian-development nexus

Following recurrent attacks and threats by violent extremist groups targeting schools in northern and eastern parts of the country, 779 schools were closed as of 24 December 2018, depriving almost 100,000 students of their right to education. UNICEF Burkina Faso advocated with the Government and other partners to mitigate the impact of school closures on children's right to education. One of the main results of this advocacy was the successful organization of study camps attended by 4,983 children affected by prolonged school closures in the Sahel and Nord regions, which enabled them to take catch-up courses for two months and sit for the end of section exams. A total of 13,785 children (6,828 girls) affected by humanitarian situations (against a target of 15,000) gained access to formal or non-formal education through UNICEF's support, including 3,250 refugee children (1,517 girls) and 4,767 internally displaced children (2,240 girls).

To strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus, UNICEF continued support to the Ministry of Education to scale up the Safe School initiative as part of the National Quality Child Friendly Schools programme. The Safe School initiative operated in 1,400 schools, including in emergency-affected areas, reaching 293,357 students (128,010 girls) and teachers with risk mitigation and resilience building. UNICEF Burkina Faso, with technical support from the West and Central Africa Regional Office, measured the effectiveness of the pilot Radio Education programme as an alternative learning platform for children affected by school closures. EduTrac, an SMS-based data collection system, connected 1,149 school directors and 967 community members in the Sahel region with national authorities to provide real-time data for continuous monitoring of schools and better programming, including emergency responses.

Goal area 3. Every child is protected against violence and exploitation

In 2018, UNICEF Burkina Faso contributed to a strengthened legal framework for child protection, setting up decentralized child protection networks to provide holistic child protection services for the most vulnerable children and communication for social changes. Results in these areas were aligned with the overarching strategy on strengthening the national child protection systems to accelerate the contribution toward the Strategic Plan's results.

Prevention and responses to violence against children

UNICEF provided technical and financial contributions and advocated with the Government to adopt the Penal Code to reinforce the criminalization of perpetrators and accomplices of violence against children, female genital mutilation, and child marriage. To strengthen the decentralized child protection systems, UNICEF supported the establishment of four child protection provincial networks and activation of 41 existing networks, thus improving access to holistic child protection services in the country's 45 provinces. UNICEF Burkina Faso also contributed to the establishment and/or operationalization of 23 municipal social welfare services and the child protection networks (out of 60 targeted in the country programme document). Through the decentralized child protection networks, UNICEF-supported violence

against children prevention and response in five focus regions reached 66,802 children (32,059 girls), with specific attention to 5,313 children with disabilities (2,823 girls), 5,900 victims of violence (2,821 girls), 9,036 children affected by the humanitarian context (4,985 girls). Those numbers included 3,621 Malian refugee children (1,769 girls) and 5,000 children affected by school closures, 2,403 children working in artisanal gold mines (1,143 girls) and 258 child migrants (135 girls). Among the 38,011 children (19,356 girls) identified as at risk of violence against children in the Sahel region, 5,900 children (2,866 girls) received home visits and case management through UNICEF's support.

UNICEF Burkina Faso provided advocacy, financial, and technical support to the directorate in charge of civil registration in the development of the national action plan to increase the number of secondary civil registration centres in health facilities by 20 per cent by 2021. A service delivery model piloted in the Sahel region led to the operationalization of 29 new such centres in 33 per cent of health facilities. UNICEF also supported the Government with the provision of birth certificates to 28,468 children, including 18,393 girls.

Through UNICEF Burkina Faso's contribution to the capacity building of juvenile justice actors, 495 minors (including 91 girls) in conflict with the law benefited from alternative measures to detention, including psycho-social and judicial supports and vocational training. UNICEF also was involved in a sub-regional protocol with GS5 Sahel, aimed at supporting children associated with violent extremist groups.

Abandonment of harmful practices

UNICEF Burkina Faso contributed significantly to the key results for children in West and Central Africa on ending child marriage by rapidly extending its support, from 300 villages in 2017 to 850 villages in the Sahel, Nord, and Est regions in 2018. This led to the full achievement and surpassing of the target, reaching 122,337 adolescent girls (101,021 targeted). Through UNICEF's partnerships with NGOs, a social norm-based approach was implemented in the 850 villages with the objective of ending female genital mutilation, child marriage and violence against children. Community-based interventions supported the identification and protection of 101,854 girls at risk or victims of female genital mutilation (53,678) and child marriage (48,176). A total of 69,584 adolescents (21,408 boys and 48,176 girls, including out-of-school adolescents) improved their knowledge on life skills, gender, sexual and reproductive health, human rights and leadership through sessions organized by 2,550 adolescent clubs. Those adolescents are now acting as social change agents for their communities to support the abandonment of harmful practices such as child marriage. Through UNICEF-supported communication interventions, more than 1.2 million people learned about the negative consequences of harmful practices. In early 2019, 850 villages plan to bring forward public declarations of the abandonment of child marriage and female genital mutilation.

UNICEF and UNFPA, in partnership with the African Union, organized the International Conference on Female Genital Mutilation in Ouagadougou in October 2018. More than 300 participants from 34 countries made an appeal to galvanize political efforts, strengthen legislative frameworks and mobilize partnerships and community actions to accelerate the elimination of female genital mutilation.

Humanitarian responses in child protection

As a part of UNICEF Burkina Faso's humanitarian response, the capacity was strengthened of 735 teachers and members of the defense and security forces (including 143 women) who were involved in the study camps with children affected by school closures. The capacity

building sessions focused on child rights and child protection, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, psychological first aid, prevention of gender-based violence, and contributing to protective and conducive environments for students. UNICEF also provided psychosocial support to 9,036 children (4,985 girls) affected by emergencies, including 7,922 children from refugee camps (4,171 girls) and host communities in the Sahel region. UNICEF's advocacy with the Government and partners led to the creation of a sub-group in child protection in emergencies. Given the growing number of internally displaced people and unaccompanied children, ongoing efforts to set up a new online Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS)+, accompanied by capacity development of social workers on application of the case management approach, will greatly benefit child protection emergency preparedness.

Goal area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

UNICEF Burkina Faso supported a safe and clean environment for children in communities, schools and health centres, with a focus on creating demand for ending open defecation. UNICEF's interventions centred on the supply side (access and availability of WASH services), the demand side (behavioural change for ending open defecation, safe water use and improved hygiene) and the enabling environment (capacity strengthening, evidence generation and innovative financing).

Safe and sustainable drinking water

UNICEF supported the Government to identify, develop and implement low-cost technologies and new partnerships to ensure increased and equitable access to safely managed drinking water in rural areas. Approximately 36,000 people (including 20,650 school children) gained access to clean and safe water in three of UNICEF's priority regions (Centre Ouest, Est, and Sahel). The country programme document annual target is 200,000 people. Construction of boreholes launched in 2018 will be completed in early 2019 and should contribute to improving the results.

UNICEF's advocacy and capacity building led to the Government Water Directorates's decision to promote professional drilling techniques and specialized enterprises in construction or rehabilitation of water points and opt for new partnerships with the private sector to ensure the quality and sustainability of water services.

Ending open defecation

According to the Annual Sector Performance Report 2017, as of the end of 2017, 48 per cent of the population was still practicing open defecation (against the country programme document target of 40 per cent) Data for 2018 is not available. In line with the Sustainable Development Goal 6, UNICEF supported the Government's post-2015 strategic document aimed at ending open defecation by 2030. UNICEF Burkina Faso was among the engagement countries for the West and Central Africa Region's key results for children 8. While Burkina Faso benefits from the existence of a national open defecation free (ODF) roadmap, challenges remain with regard to lack of demand for sanitation in communities and institutional and political support for the community-approach to total sanitation. To overcome these challenges, UNICEF advocated for building a national sanitation policy more conducive to the community approach to total sanitation and for scaling up of the community-led total sanitation initiative. As a direct result of UNICEF-supported community-led total sanitation efforts, 90,000 additional people are living in certified open defecation-free communities in three priority regions (Centre-Ouest, Est, and Sahel). This figure is however, below the target of 130,000 for 2018 (69 per cent) due to rigorous certification criteria put in place by the Government. An additional 190,000

people live in communities declared open defecation free but not yet certified. Seventy schools were equipped with improved, gender-segregated latrines and handwashing facilities.

UNICEF-supported communication for development in two regions (Centre Ouest and Est) continued to be a vital strategy to scale up the Community Led Total Sanitation initiative and helped ensure sustained open defecation free status in communities. At least 32,400 people, including 8,650 children, received messages on community approach to total sanitation through home visits and radio programmes. Theatre fora and community dialogues allowed people to exchange opinions related to WASH. These interventions helped maintain open defecation free status in 86 per cent of the villages in theregions that had been certified in 2017.

Innovative financing

UNICEF played a key role in evidence generation, knowledge management and sectoral learning. UNICEF supported documenting and sharing lessons from the action research on innovative service delivery models for rural water supply through a public-private partnership. The research results indicated that the public-private partnership model could ensure lasting functionality of handpumps in rural villages if clear performance indicators were established, with an accountability framework involving all actors. Promising results triggered a discussion between the Government, Vergnet and AFD (Agence Française de Développement) to scale-up the model to 3,000 handpumps in the Nord region.

Humanitarian WASH

UNICEF Burkina Faso continued to lead humanitarian coordination in the WASH sector by engaging partners in emergency preparedness and response activities. UNICEF's technical support was fundamental to updating strategic documents such as the 4W (Who-What-Where-When) and WASH contingency plans, and the creation of a dedicated WASH in emergency web portal for knowledge sharing. UNICEF Burkina Faso partnered with the West and Central Africa Regional Office, 2iE (engineering university) and Bioforce to strengthen humanitarian actors' capacity through training sessions on WASH in emergency and cholera. Partnerships with NGOs and UNHCR enabled UNICEF to reach 7,992 people (against UNICEF's target of 55,000) with humanitarian assistance in WASH. At the sector-level, 31,571 emergency-affected people gained access to adequate WASH. UNICEF's focus in 2019 will be to strengthen fundraising efforts to close the funding gap for WASH in emergency.

Goal area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

Child-sensitive social protection

In line with the Agenda 2030 and to identify key dimensions of inequities in child rights in line with the Strategic Plan, UNICEF Burkina Faso expanded the multi-dimensional child poverty study piloted in 2017 to three additional regions (Est, Nord, and Centre-Nord). Building on this evidence and in consultation with the National Social Protection Council, UNICEF designed a child-sensitive social protection project and mobilized US\$17.3 million from the Swedish Government to implement it in four regions over a five-year period. The project uses an innovative approach grounded in cash transfer to vulnerable households, coupled with interventions in WASH and nutrition, to tackle child deprivations and build household resilience, while strengthening capacity at national level. The project, which is fully aligned with the National Social Protection Policy, will begin in 2019 and will contribute to the development of the national single registry of poor and vulnerable populations. With UNICEF's Office of Research, a rigorous impact assessment was integrated to inform the future course of the national social protection system in Burkina Faso.

Equitable public spending

The analysis of tax burden and fiscal space supported by UNICEF in 2016 and the implementation of the action plan by the Ministry of Finance and Development resulted in a progressive increase of the tax burden for small and medium-size enterprises (from 15.1 per cent in 2016 to 21 per cent by 2022). UNICEF pursued its partnership with the Ministry to conduct a trend analysis of the State's budget allocations and expenditures (2005-2018). The findings were used to produce a policy brief to feed into evidence-based advocacy with the Government and the Parliament to influence the 2019 budget cycle to better prioritize expenditures for children. These actions ultimately contributed to a 33 per cent increase in the budget allocation for the education sector and a 13.65 per cent increase for the health and nutrition sector for 2019.

Partnership with the mining industry and municipalities

Building on lessons learned in 2017, UNICEF Burkina Faso continued developing the strategic tripartite partnership with the mining sector and municipal governments, with the aim to promote child rights through the local development lenses. UNICEF's priority in 2018 was to support the Government to finalize an innovative approach to develop community-led municipal development plans by piloting new methodologies in two municipalities. UNICEF also conducted an analysis of the new Mining Fund for Local Development (based on the revised mining code), which provides an opportunity for governments to leverage resources for their municipal development plans. Building on the analysis, UNICEF met with the Prime Ministry and line ministers to obtain buy-in to start a pilot project to test the feasibility of the tripartite partnership to build a child-friendly municipality. The UNICEF-supported 'citizen-led social accountability for children' initiative was successfully expanded from 70 to 85 municipalities, and now covers all municipalities in the country. The initiative is key to the successful implementation of municipal development plans to support the most marginalized children and women and to promote participation of adolescents and youth in strengthening social accountability.

Gender-sensitive budgeting

Recent studies revealed weak integration of gender dimensions into the state's budget allocations, hampering adequate responses to gender-specific needs. (To address this gap, UNICEF and GiZ, together with the gender consultation group, strengthened the capacity of parliamentarians and line ministries in gender-sensitive budgeting, combined with advocacy with the Ministry of Social Action and the MINEFID. As a result, the 2018 budget circular recommends that six pilot ministries spanning all social sectors incorporate gender-sensitive budgeting and a gradual expansion of this approach to 10 additional ministries by 2021. This structural change will trigger a systematic incorporation of gender lenses in sectoral budgets. UNICEF, along with national trainers on gender-sensitive budgeting, will provide technical assistance to ensure effective implementation of this pilot initiative, including documentation of lessons learned.

National evaluation capacity development

UNICEF continued to provide financial and technical support for implementation of the National Evaluation Capacity Development Strategy. This resulted in a better positioning of evaluation in the national agenda and of Burkina Faso in the international evaluation community. Building on strong commitments from the Government, UNICEF and the Burkinabè network of monitoring and evaluation will host the Francophone Forum of Evaluation and the fifth general assembly of the African parliamentarians' network on evaluation in 2019. UNICEF also supported the

Government with incorporating a questionnaire on disabilities into the upcoming census and with capacity development of data collection agents on the module, based on the Washington group's recommendations. The Census will generate evidence on the most marginalized children, including those with disabilities, to improve the country's programming and policy and advocacy interventions.

Change strategy 3: Winning support for the cause of children

UNICEF produced high quality videos with character-driven stories to showcase the positive impacts of UNICEF's work in the field and to make children and young people's voices heard. As of December 2018, UNICEF Burkina Faso engaged more than 65,000 people and gained 420,000 video views across social media channels. UNICEF also developed a national multi-media campaign "Ne m'appelez pas Madame" to support the Government's efforts in accelerating the abandonment of child marriage, which will be launched early 2019.

Change strategy 6: United Nations working together

UNICEF Burkina Faso's strategic contribution to the UN common chapter was three-fold. UNICEF and UNFPA, through the joint programme, organized a major international conference on female genital mutilation. UNICEF's contribution as the chair of the nutrition, education and WASH sectors was crucial in advancing the joint analysis and emergency preparedness and planning, including UNICEF's technical contribution to the development of the Emergency Food Security Response Plan (led by the Government) and the Emergency and Resilience Plan (OCHA) in coordination with other UN agencies. UNICEF, as the chair of the inter-agency operations management team, contributed to the operationalization of the business operating strategy. More than 15 long term agreements were finalized, which will significantly contribute to the efficiency gain under the Strategic Plan's enabler 2: results oriented, efficient and effective management.

As the lead agency for pillar 2 of the UNDevelopment Assistance Framework, UNICEF contributed to improved access to quality education; development of an investment case in community health; and improved access to quality water and sanitation to rural population in two target regions (Est and Sahel).

Change strategy 8: Harnessing the power of evidence

In 2018, UNICEF Burkina Faso conducted eight studies, two research programmes and two evaluations, based on the Integrated Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Plan. Eleven reports were finalized and three were ongoing at year end, including an evaluation of interventions in early childhood development within the Country Programme Document 2011-2017. Major studies commissioned by UNICEF included the study on violence against children and a survey on children in urban settings. As UNICEF Burkina Faso embarks on the midterm review of the Country Programme Document in 2019, it is imperative to consolidate and exploit this evidence, including the results from the ongoing evaluations.

Enabler 4: Information systems

The upgrade to Vision Hana version drastically improved UNICEF Burkina Faso's transaction speeds. The migration to Skype for Business on Prem also led to a significant improvement in communication, accessibility and mobility, leading to savings in telephone bills and maintenance costs. With Global Greening funding of US\$30,000 received in 2017, UNICEF Burkina Faso set up a solar-based energy system, which increased the stability of the power supply for the Zonal office in Dori, which also contributed to emergency preparedness.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

Leveraging domestic resources for effective programme management

In the context of the increased need for domestic financing of programmes, effective management of available resources is vital. In 2018, UNICEF, in collaboration with other partners in the nutrition sector, successfully advocated with the Ministry of Health to incorporate malnutrition screening with routine seasonal malaria chemoprophylaxis (SMC) campaigns. This strategy reached 3,170,116 children 6-59 months old nationwide, and allowed identification of 29,356 children with moderate acute malnutrition and referral of 6,019 children with severe acute malnutrition for appropriate treatment. UNICEF provided technical and financial support for training of community health workers and health workers and contributed to the operational costs for supervision of active screening. Other partners co-funded costs for campaigns and supervisions. In 2018, the utilization of community health workers for distribution of vitamin A capsules to children in rural areas was introduced (instead of organizing large, costly mass campaigns). These strategies of mainstreaming new interventions into routine work of health personnel brought a substantial savings of US\$1,678,000 to the Ministry of Health in 2018, and should be applied for the years to come.

Sound, evidence-based emergency preparedness

The results of the National Nutrition Survey 2018 and the total number of children with severe acute malnutrition who were admitted for treatment proved that the scale of the nutrition crisis in Burkina Faso was not as large as expected. Advance preparation for the anticipated nutrition crisis, close monitoring of the situation and mobilizing emergency response funds were top priorities for UNICEF Burkina Faso. Thanks to UNICEF's strengthened resource mobilization capacity linked to the Sahel nutrition crisis and increased domestic resource allocation by the Ministry of Health, the nationwide nutritional screening of children under age five years of age and supply requirements were fully funded in 2018.

In the case of school closures associated with violent extremism, preparedness was carried out through combining the Safe School Initiative and peace education. Even so, all schools threatened in the Sahel region eventually closed. It is worth analyzing what the Safe School Initiative really changed in the context of prevailing insecurity.

Coordination in humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons

Throughout the year, and especially during the last quarter of 2018, the number of internally displaced persons significantly increased due to ongoing insecurity in the northern and eastern parts of the country. As of the end 2018, more than 47,000 internally displaced persons were registered, mainly in the Sahel region. Despite the rapidly growing number of internally displaced persons, weak coordination within the humanitarian community and with the Government were barriers to grasping a clear and updated picture of the crisis and the needs of the affected population. Lack of clear definition of the 4Ws (who, what, where, when) among humanitarian actors, and little cross-sectoral coordination has affected a timely response to the internally displaced person crisis. UNICEF, other UN agencies and a few NGOs provided humanitarian assistance starting in the last quarter of 2018. UNICEF, through a partnership with the Red Cross Burkina Faso and Danish Refugee Council, started implementing protection

services for internally displaced persons, including preventive activities and psycho-social support to 6,000 internally displaced children (50 per cent girls) in the Nord and Sahel regions. The security crisis was a rapidly evolving situation and the number of internally displaced persons reached more than 54,000 at year end. On 31 December 2018, the Government declared a 'state of emergency' in 6 of 13 regions. Based on the lessons learned in 2018, the humanitarian community strives to improve timeliness and quality of coordinated response based on humanitarian principles to meet the growing humanitarian needs. UNICEF, as the lead agency for nutrition, child protection, WASH and education, continues to play a crucial role in this national effort.

Study camps to support students affected by school closure

Many schools were closed due to repeated attacks or threats by violent extremist groups, depriving thousands of children of their right to education. In response, the Ministry of Education decided to organize 'study camps' during the summer vacation in Nord and Sahel regions, targeting primary and secondary students who could not attend school for the full school year but had to sit for end-of-section exams. This effort aimed to establish camps in school compounds in safer cities (Djibo and Ouahigouya) to provide students with two months of intensive catch-up courses so that they could prepare to take the end-of-section exams. UNICEF played a leading role in coordinating this emergency operation, along with other partners, donors and NGOs. The operation was co-funded by UNICEF and the education sector-wide basket fund.

A total of 4,983 children (2,239 girls) attended the study camps (90.1 per cent of those who received an invitation), demonstrating strong motivation of parents for their children to pursue their education. UNICEF supported provision of school kits, tents, mats and mosquito nets, and, in collaboration with NGO partners and the World Food Programme, implemented holistic, gender-sensitive interventions in WASH and protection, health and nutrition to create a favourable environment for participating students. Inter-ministerial collaboration between the Ministries of Education and of Interior and support from local authorities were key to ensuring security for successful implementation of this innovative strategy.

The success rate for the Primary Education Certificate among the students who attended the study camps in the Sahel region was 65.60 per cent, 1.43 points above the national rate and more than 5.0 points above the average for the region. In the Nord region, the success rate for participants in the study camps was 54.74 per cent, or 10.08 and 3.99 percentage points below the national and the regional rates, respectively. This may have been due to the longer period (by several months) of school closures compared to those in the Sahel region. Catch-up courses for two months might not have been sufficient. The cost for this operation was US\$2.7 million (or US\$550 per student), which is considered very high. Based on the after-action-review sessions with local actors and Ministry of Education, it was concluded that replicating a similar operation needs to be carefully examined, balancing the security risk and costs over the benefits. Given the substantial number of schools closed (nearly 100,000 students affected by the end of 2018), the Ministry of Education and the partners' group led by UNICEF are developing a National Education in Emergency Strategy to explore alternative, cost-effective, sustainable strategies.

Water quality surveillance in rural areas

With support from UNICEF in 2018, water quality tests on 200 handpumps carried out by the Government revealed a bacteriological contamination of water for half of them at the end of the rainy season. In an immediate mitigation action, all the contaminated water points were

disinfected and tested again, and most of them were providing clean drinking water. Two water points in proximity to artisanal gold mining sites showed an elevated level of arsenic contamination and were closed immediately. In rural areas in Burkina Faso, water quality is tested only for newly drilled boreholes. The quality test results in 2018 suggest that contamination can become a problem in the years following the drilling, especially during the rainy season. Moving forward, UNICEF will engage with partners to advocate for a permanent, government-led water quality control system. In the Cascade region, the water directorate initiated a regional water quality surveillance system that includes the selection of high-risk water points in each municipality to be regularly tested and monitored; training of the provincial water quality focal points; and setting up of a dedicated regional team to compile data and generate regular water quality situation reports. This initiative might become an interesting model to feed into developing the national water quality surveillance system in 2019.

Harnessing the power of business for building child-friendly municipalities

Since 2017, UNICEF Burkina Faso has built a strategic tripartite partnership with municipal governments and the mining industry, taking advantage of the revised Mining Code (2017), which generates further opportunities to leverage funds from the mining industry to support the implementation of the Municipality Development Plans (MDPs). UNICEF continued to support the Government to pilot new methodologies to develop the MDPs using child rights and a gender lens. The plans in two municipalities will be validated in 2019. UNICEF conducted an analysis on the potential impact of the Mining Funds for Local Development (based on the revised Mining Code) with technical support from a young volunteer, to identify strategies to strengthen the capacity of municipalities to budget and absorb additional resources, based on results-based management. The results of the analysis were used during high-level advocacy meetings with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, the Minister of Economics, Finance and Development, and the Minister of Mines to influence the prompt operationalization of the Mining Code. This positioned UNICEF as a key partner to technically support the municipal governments in this new financing landscape for local development.

In 2017, UNICEF, in partnership with the Corporate Social Responsibility Forum, spearheaded a workshop on child rights and business principles with the mining industry. This provided an excellent opportunity to encourage the mining companies to be more child-sensitive in their operations. In 2018, at least two mining companies requested UNICEF Burkina Faso's technical advice on the integration of child rights in their corporate social responsibility strategies. UNICEF also developed a funding proposal to pilot the development of new Municipal Development Plans, using the Municipal Fund for Local Development, and including a package of child-friendly interventions in the municipalities where mining companies are operating. This pilot project will formulate a model of a public-private partnership geared toward child-sensitive municipalities.

C4D as a strategy to fight persistent harmful social norms

Persistent negative social norms constituted a great bottleneck to achieving results in social and behavioural change. Communication for Development (C4D) interventions unveiled strong social barriers to demanding and accessing social services. Advocacy and negotiation at local and community levels, including the involvement of community leaders, are key strategies to engage and mobilize communities. In 2019, UNICEF will continue to scale-up C4D approaches with the aim of further addressing negative behaviours and social norms based on findings from a knowledge, attitudes and practice study and will perform an impact evaluation of C4D interventions in the Est region. UNICEF will continue to engage children and adolescents as

change-makers and use the community radio networks for more dialogue to increase community engagement and participation.

Reflection on the theory of change (CPD 2018-2020)

The humanitarian crisis in the northeastern part of Burkina Faso intensified throughout 2018, with repeated attacks by violent extremist groups and increasing numbers of internally displaced persons. This constituted a major barrier to ensuring the access of children and women to quality social services, notably in education and health, but also in child protection and WASH services. The ongoing security crisis is significantly reducing the geographic access of humanitarian actors to reach the most affected populations.

Burkina Faso is one of the pilot countries for the UN Sustaining Peace initiative. In this context, UNICEF is supporting the Burkinabè Government to advance the humanitarian-development nexus through its niche in fostering child rights in enhancing community resilience, particularly through community-based interventions in education, nutrition and WASH. These community-based approaches are gradually affected by the access constraints, especially in the Sahel, Nord and Est regions. UNICEF is exploring alternative strategies to ensure the community-level interventions in emergency-affected zones through involving community-based structures and organizations, religious leaders and inter-religious associations.

The theory of change needs to be readjusted in terms of strategies, targets and resources. The radio-based education programme launched by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education in late 2018 is an excellent example of an innovative strategy that will allow students affected by school closures to continue their learning at home. A new focus on children on the move was incorporated in the country programme, expanding its scope to internally displaced persons, refugees and child migrants in transit. There is growing concern for children, adolescents or youth who are at risk of being recruited or associated with armed groups. UNICEF is strengthening its strategies to promote participation, capacity strengthening and formal/non-formal education of adolescents and youth to build their resilience and empower them to auto-protect from underlying risks. UNICEF Burkina Faso and the Ministry of Justice, together with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and UNICEF-Niger, began a joint reflection to develop a juvenile justice model specifically targeting children and adolescents associated with armed groups. In 2019, the Government will increase its resource allocation to the security and defense sectors, which could have an impact on budget allocation to social sectors. In that context, UNICEF's advocacy with decision makers on child-sensitive social budgeting becomes extremely relevant.

The increased scale of the humanitarian crisis also has attracted donors' interest in supporting the emergency responses. UNICEF Burkina Faso is fully funded for 2019 against the Country Programme Document's Other Resources ceiling budget and will request an increased Other Resources ceiling for the Country Programme cycle as more donors commit to fund the programme, especially for education in emergency and social protection. The increased funding has operational implications and has led UNICEF Burkina Faso to create several temporary posts to ensure delivery of quality results for children.