

Pakistan

Part 1: Situation update in the country

In 2018, Pakistan had its second successful democratic transfer of power in its history, following general elections in July. The change of Government shifted administrative structures and national priorities, which affected programme delivery in several areas.

The incoming Government commenced talks to revisit the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor agreement, the country's largest collection of infrastructure and economic development schemes. Its aim is to increase emphasis on social and human resource development in addition to indigenous economic activity. Pakistan's challenging fiscal situation caused the new Government to reduce its development budget for 2018–2019 from US\$ 7.1 billion to US\$ 5.4 billion, and rely on heavy borrowing.

Political and economic analyses indicate that the country may require its thirteenth International Monetary Fund bailout since the 1980s. This will have implications for children as the population is poorly positioned to withstand economic shock, and social sector budgets are already below recommended percentages of gross domestic product (GDP). One in four Pakistanis lives in extreme poverty. According to the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2018, Pakistan has the highest intensity of child poverty in South Asia, at 53 per cent. Girls and women are particularly at risk: Pakistan ranked 148th out of 149 countries for gender parity on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2018. Gender issues include limited mobility for women, a lack of access to resources and decision-making, and restrictions on adolescent girls that limit their education and options to work outside the home.

Promisingly, the incoming administration has signalled the political will to act on areas of concern for children, offering opportunities for UNICEF programming. In his first speech, the newly-elected Prime Minister highlighted nutrition deficiency as a priority. Strong political commitment to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and climate change was augmented through the launch of a Clean & Green Pakistan initiative. Decreasing the number of out-of-school children and improving the quality of education were also prioritized.

In 2018, an administrative development was the passage of the 25th Amendment in May, which merged the Federally Administered Tribal Areas into the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Now known as the Tribal Districts of KP, the area is no longer subject to the punitive colonial-era Frontier Crimes Regulation. Moreover, the Government has committed to allocating US\$ 865 million to a 10 year plan to rehabilitate infrastructure in the tribal districts. This demonstrates Government and donor commitment to improving basic services in one of the most historically marginalized parts of the country.

The findings of the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2017–2018 revealed improvements of indicators related to child survival since 2012–2013. Neonatal mortality fell

from 54 deaths per 1,000 live births to 42. Maternal health indicators, highlighted in the Gender Action Plan (2018–2021), also improved, with skilled antenatal care increasing from 73 to 83 per cent and skilled birth attendance from 52 to 69 per cent. However, postnatal care within two days of birth showed only slight improvement, from 60 to 62 per cent. There was varied progress on two major contributors to child death: the percentage of children with acute respiratory infections who received treatment increased from 65 to 84 per cent, while the administration of oral rehydration salts to children with diarrhoea fell slightly, from 38 to 37 per cent. UNICEF advocacy strives to ensure that all health data is disaggregated by sex.

Routine immunization coverage experienced a slow but steady rise based on several years of consolidated action. As a result, the ratio of fully immunized children in Pakistan rose from 54 to 66 per cent between 2012 and 2018. The immense, coordinated fight against polio brought the country closer to completely eradicating the disease. With eight cases reported in 2018 however, there are still reservoirs. The porous border with neighbouring Afghanistan requires concerted action despite challenges posed by growing regional insecurity.

The PDHS 2017–2018 suggests that certain aspects of Pakistan’s alarming nutritional situation may be gradually abating. A more accurate picture will emerge once the National Nutrition Survey is completed and analysed for gender differentials in 2019. The percentage of children who suffer from stunting fell from 44 per cent in 2011 to 38 per cent in 2018, while the rates of exclusive breastfeeding rose from 37 to 48 per cent. On the other hand, wasting among children under five, at 15 per cent, still exceeds international emergency thresholds. Infant and young child feeding practices remain inadequate, and the proportion of girls and boys who receive a minimally acceptable diet dropped from 15 to 13 per cent. Geographical disparities are substantial; for instance, 40 per cent of children in rural Sindh are severely stunted compared to 11 per cent in neighbouring rural Punjab. New research from UNICEF Pakistan’s nationwide ‘cost of the diet’ analysis in 2018 showed that in some areas even families from higher wealth quintiles are unable to afford a nutritious diet.

Federal and provincial governments worked to contextualize the education agenda in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4, including an ambitious plan to reshape the Federal Ministry of Education and align it along access, standards, quality and skill development. Despite discontinuities between federal and provincial planning, the provinces undertook gender-responsive education sector planning exercises to set medium- and long-term goals in support of Sustainable Development Goal 4. Nevertheless, access to quality education was affected by factors including weak school infrastructure, poor learning environments and ineffective teaching.

Although gaps remain, education policy frameworks were strengthened. In 2010, Article 25-A of the Constitution recognized free and compulsory education as a fundamental right for all girls and boys between five and 16 years old. Subsequently, sub-national governments devised legislation to enshrine this right within their jurisdictions. While the age group of three and four year olds falls outside this constitutional obligation, legislation and rules of business in Punjab, Sindh and Islamabad also now cover free pre-primary education.

Education budgets in Pakistan have gradually increased in recent years. Nevertheless, at 2.8 per cent of GDP in 2018, they continue to fall short of the 4 per cent recommended by Education 2030 and lag behind the budgets of most other South Asian countries. Enrolment and retention rates are improving, although progress is slow. While the number of out-of-school children fell by 1.7 million over the last five years, Pakistan still has the world’s second-highest

number of out-of-school children at the primary level. As the Pakistan Education Statistics 2016–2017 reveal, five million children are out of school, 60 per cent of whom are girls.

The number of out-of-school children increases drastically after the primary level, with 17.7 million adolescents aged 10 to 16, of whom 51 per cent are girls, outside formal education. As in all matters related to children in Pakistan, national averages continue to mask substantial variations by gender, region, socioeconomic status and other factors. In rural Sindh, for instance, 65 per cent of the poorest children have never attended school. Similarly, while 10.7 million out-of-school children nationwide are boys, over 12.1 million (53 per cent) are girls according to the 2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey and the Pakistan Education Statistics 2016–2017.

Gendered cultural and social norms posed continuing challenges for the protection of girls and boys from violence and exploitation. Weak institutions and services with poor quality exacerbate protection issues, including child marriage, corporal punishment and child labour. Policy advances in Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) provided a basis for developing protection systems aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. While five million children are born in Pakistan annually, only one-third of children under the age of five are registered, according to the PDHS 2012–2013. This increases protection risks and renders children invisible to government institutions, including in humanitarian situations.

The Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation, developed and implemented by the Government with UNICEF support, reduced the proportion of children in communities where open defecation remains prevalent and access to safe drinking water is limited. Nevertheless, millions of children continue to live in unsafe WASH environments, especially in rapidly-growing urban centres. Institutional arrangements and public spending to address WASH issues vary across Pakistan. For instance, there has been considerable progress has been made in Punjab; but virtually no advances in Balochistan.

A lack of knowledge and harmful cultural norms around menstruation, combined with the lack of WASH facilities in schools, deter adolescent girls' attendance. Recent policies offer the potential for significant progress. These include a Drinking Water Policy that recognizes water as a human right, in keeping with Sustainable Development Goal 6, and gender-responsive provincial 'WASH in schools' strategies. There has been a gradual increase in public spending on WASH, although it remains inadequate for ensuring that Pakistan achieves its WASH-related development goals.

The humanitarian situation in KP's Tribal Districts improved in 2018. Almost all of the temporarily displaced persons identified by the Federally Administered Tribal Areas vulnerability assessment 2017 returned home during 2018, totalling 4.4 million people including 2.5 million children. As part of the transition to development assistance, UNICEF Pakistan and its partners provided residual humanitarian support to returning families, helping them to resettle and rebuild their lives. As only 16,000 people remained displaced in 2018, support focused on returnees. However, sporadic violence led to insecurity, limited access and interrupted services, while growing insecurity in Afghanistan had implications for children in border regions.

This year provided an opportunity to consolidate disaster risk reduction and preparedness in planning under the leadership of the National Disaster Management Authority. This is critically important as Pakistan is the seventh most vulnerable country in the world to climate change,

according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2018. This means that girls and boys are at risk of the effects of drought, extreme temperatures, flooding and other climate-related hazards. In 2018, drought-like conditions persisted in parts of Sindh and Balochistan, requiring multi-sector nutrition and WASH support. Eight districts of Sindh were notified as drought-affected in September, impacting about 877,000 children. A nutrition emergency was declared in Balochistan in November, affecting approximately 1.05 million children.

This was the first year of UNICEF new Country Programme 2018–2022, as agreed with the Government of Pakistan and its provincial administrations. Synchronicity with the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021 led to the Country Programme's alignment, from the very outset, with corporate strategic priorities and global commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Its strong focus on equity and evidence-based support for children reflects the priorities of the No Child Left Behind agenda. Its results framework is reflected in 'One UN' work plans to prevent the duplication of efforts in accordance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) 2018–2022 for Pakistan.

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

Goal area 1: Every child survives and thrives

The global launch of the 'Every child alive' campaign in February captured the attention of the media, Government, policymakers, healthcare providers and public. It was the backdrop to growing support for UNICEF Pakistan's target on health care quality and the strategic alignment between UNICEF and Government's health priorities. UNICEF Pakistan supported the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination to develop strategic and accountability frameworks on the quality of care at birth, reflecting the issue's importance for attaining health goals and the Gender Action Plan's focus on dignified maternal care. These frameworks were disseminated for discussion among the media, universities, health facilities and health care commissions in Punjab, Sindh and KP, where provincial frameworks were drafted with a gender lens. The Punjab Health Commission registered nearly 51,700 healthcare establishments and licensed 34,400 for accreditation from 2019, including 2,627 that had already met service delivery standards.

With UNICEF and the World Health Organization technical support, the Government finalized a national reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition strategy and its costed plan, based on a gender-responsive national vision. Using this as a reference and incorporating new evidence, Punjab, Sindh and KP endorsed newborn survival strategies and costed plans which include a policy on home visits for new-borns in Punjab based on a UNICEF-supported pilot. The initiative was successful and expanded from one to four districts.

Thirty-five UNICEF-supported sick newborn care units treated 44,100 sick newborns, with a 90 per cent cure rate. Following UNICEF Pakistan capacity building and advocacy, kangaroo care was provided in five hospitals in Punjab and Sindh, benefitting 727 pre-term babies. The use of chlorhexidine protected 350,000 new-borns from umbilical cord infections in 21 districts of Punjab, Balochistan, KP including the KP Tribal Districts. In addition to saving lives, the interventions supported the Government-endorsed policy brief on the quality of care at the time of birth. An integrated approach to tackling gender-specific barriers will be adopted in 2019.

With UNICEF Pakistan assistance, the Governments of Sindh (all districts) and Punjab (five districts) strengthened health facilities by localizing the Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhoea. The management of these diseases was enhanced in 2,421 facilities (exceeding the target of 2,000) by using the integrated management of childhood illness protocols. Together, these facilities treated 1.8 million girls and boys. They were among 2.8 million children reached with supplies procured with UNICEF support. UNICEF advocacy with 15 local manufacturers will enhance the availability of key commodities in the future.

Biannual, UNICEF-supported mother and child weeks in three provinces and three administrative areas provided high-impact, low-cost interventions. For instance, deworming 1.4 million adolescent girls and 5.2 million children two to five years old protected them against ill-health, malnutrition and the risk of dropping out of school. The first evaluation of this programme in 10 years was conducted with UNICEF Pakistan backing, providing evidence for improved design and implementation and informing decision-making on future course corrections.

UNICEF support for immunization in Pakistan addressed both supply (planning and procurement to ensure quality vaccines reach all children, everywhere) and demand (advocacy, communication and partnerships to increase community awareness). With measles vaccine coverage estimates by World Health Organization/UNICEF was 76 per cent in 2017, Pakistan experienced widespread outbreaks with 60,100 cases and 420 deaths reported in 2017 and 2018. In response, a 12-day measles campaign was conducted in October 2018, reaching 37 million children aged nine to 59 months, exceeding initial targets with 105 per cent coverage. Despite issues with cascade training and quality assurance, high coverage can be partly attributed to real-time micro-planning, successful social mobilization and rigorous monitoring utilizing innovative tools, such as RapidPro.

UNICEF Pakistan strengthened immunization-related advocacy, communication and social mobilization structures, deploying personnel, providing training and supplying tools. Support was provided for World Immunization Week, introduction of the rotavirus vaccine and the measles campaign. Informative text messages and calls reached 19.5 million mobile phone users, while social media outreach received 15.6 million impressions from 13.5 million users. UNICEF also aided the Government's rollout of national and provincial immunization strategies, seven advocacy, communication and social mobilization committees at the national and provincial levels, and 35 district communication committees in Balochistan.

UNICEF Pakistan backed efforts to profile eight megacities, home to 53 per cent of Pakistan's population. The profiles – which identified 4,287 slums and 667 high-risk areas – generated evidence to inform strategies for the delivery of integrated health and immunization services, with a focus on missed and under-served children. For instance, data was incorporated into the national measles campaign micro-plans, improving targeting and enhancing coverage. Granular data collected through third-party monitoring in Karachi and other parts of Sindh was used to update micro-plans for 78 per cent of union councils in the province by September, up from 38 per cent in March.

Links between routine immunization and polio eradication were strengthened through a federal taskforce, multiplying benefits for children. In 11 districts with the lowest immunization coverage, 18,900 UNICEF-supported polio community health workers devoted one-quarter of their time to mobilizing communities for routine immunization, identifying and referring zero-dose children, and vaccinating 36 per cent of such children. During five annual polio

immunization campaigns, 260,000 volunteer social mobilizers identified zero-dose children and referred them for routine immunization. However, immense variations in vaccination were evident under this initiative, from 99 per cent in Punjab districts to as low as four to 16 per cent in Sindh, where an expanded programme for immunization infrastructure is often missing and poor coordination between polio and programme initiatives meant that lists of missed children were not consistently shared.

Under the Polio Eradication Initiative, UNICEF procured 349 million doses of oral and injectable polio vaccine, while assisting scheduled and response activities. Each of the five national polio campaigns vaccinated 38 million children, while five sub-national campaigns vaccinated an additional 20 million children. Within the framework of the Emergency Operations Centre, UNICEF Pakistan worked with the Government, the World Health Organization, the National Stop Polio Transmission Programme, Rotary International, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to expand community-based vaccination approach from 490 union councils to all 594 union councils in core polio reservoirs, deploying 24,500 locally-recruited, trusted frontline workers (87 per cent women). The workers reduced the proportion of children who had never received vaccines, while reducing wild poliovirus cases from four in core reservoirs in 2017 to two in 2018.

The Government allocated much-needed cold chain equipment based on gaps identified in a UNICEF supported system design study (2017). As recommendations from a temperature monitoring study were implemented in 2017–2018, UNICEF Pakistan arranged the procurement of 3,200 temperature monitoring devices for equipment and procured 5,832 new items fitted with the devices. By the end of 2018, 75 per cent of Pakistan's cold chain equipment had the temperature monitoring devices, ensuring potent, high-quality vaccines at many new or previously inactive vaccination sites.

In collaboration with United Nations agencies, UNICEF Pakistan supported high-level advocacy with the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform to position stunting reduction on the national agenda. In October, the prime minister's office notified a high-level taskforce on health and nutrition, making line ministries accountable for tackling stunting using a multisectoral approach.

Advocacy to end stunting was supported by UNICEF-backed research, including the first-ever national complementary feeding assessment and the national nutrition survey, whose key findings will be published in early 2019. The national complementary feeding assessment studies provide gender-responsive and equity-focused evidence on infant and young child feeding, examining the roles of men and women in decision-making and identifying avenues for support. UNICEF Pakistan developed advocacy tools for policy-makers. Building on assessment findings on the role of fathers in infant and young child feeding practices, UNICEF formulated communications for development frameworks in Punjab and Sindh to ensure that communications materials reach both parents.

With UNICEF support, the Government defined a strategic and programmatic infant and young child feeding framework, including national strategies, guidelines, legislation and enhanced stakeholder capacities to support breastfeeding. UNICEF Pakistan engaged senior medical professionals to address unregulated formula milk prescriptions. Provincial and federal workshops trained 636 doctors on their role in implementing the Breastmilk Substitutes Code, leading to written commitments from parastatal hospitals to curb unregulated prescriptions of formula milk. Strategic communication to promote breastfeeding reached 50 million people

through theatre, seminars, social media and corporate social responsibility television spots. UNICEF Pakistan reached out to government health care providers and enhanced health system capacity to deliver maternal and infant and young child feeding messages to 297,400 women. These enhanced women's knowledge to improve child feeding practices. UNICEF supported the participation of government representatives at a 2018 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation conference on stunting and maternal nutrition in Nepal, an opportunity to identify action and renew commitment to address maternal malnutrition.

UNICEF assisted the development of multisectoral nutrition strategies at the federal level, in all provinces and in GB and Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PAK). These were guiding documents for nutrition interventions. Strengthening technical capacity at the federal level, in the KP Tribal Districts, PAK and GB, helped multisectoral coordination and advocacy for nutrition investment. UNICEF supported training 20 officials to track public finance, which fostered capacity of Scaling Up Nutrition units in KP, PAK and GB, laying the groundwork to advocate on increased domestic resources for nutrition.

In Sindh, UNICEF Pakistan strengthened government capacity to oversee multisectoral stunting reduction interventions by developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the accelerated action plan for nutrition. Thirty government officials were trained to use the action plan to track progress. A budget analysis of the Public Sector Development Programme 2016/2017 reviewed nutrition-related interventions in Balochistan, pointing to bottlenecks in local financing. Building on this, the provincial government reviewed increased resource allocations for nutrition. To ensure timely availability of nutrition supplies, UNICEF Pakistan provided procurement services worth US\$ 4.8 million to the Government. This improved access to treatment for severe acute malnutrition in all four provinces. The 1,962 nutrition sites established in 2018 alone treated 155,300 severely malnourished children.

With UNICEF support, the Government delivered quality nutrition services to vulnerable children through programmes in 19 vulnerable districts of KP, the KP Tribal Districts, Balochistan and Sindh. Technical support and procurement strengthened health systems in these high-risk areas. As a result, 291,200 children (including 146,900 girls) were screened for acute malnutrition and 17,900 children (including 9,337 girls) were treated for severe acute malnutrition, with over 90 per cent cure rate. Vitamin A supplements and polio vaccinations reached 33 million children aged six to 59 months across Pakistan. Multi-micronutrient supplements were provided for 115,600 children (including 57,800 girls) and 231,400 pregnant and lactating women in UNICEF target districts.

In keeping with the country programme's focus on capacity building, UNICEF strengthened communication for development capacities in Punjab's and Sindh's planning departments. Technical support for multisector, gender-responsive communication strategies and action plans enhanced government capacity to design and implement nutrition communication for development initiatives, including a campaign to involve fathers in their children's nutrition. The role of fathers in infant and young child feeding practices was incorporated in communication for development action plans and strengthened by a gender specialist who built capacity for communication for development. Messages were incorporated into all 36 district malnutrition interventions in Punjab. Honing the capacities of 4,735 health and nutrition workers in health departments equipped them to deliver infant and young child feeding counselling nationwide.

Goal area 2: Every child learns

In 2018, UNICEF Pakistan expanded its role in education sector planning to facilitate systemic change and sustainable service delivery in the face of challenges. As co-chair of the National Education Development Partner Group, alongside the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, UNICEF Pakistan supported the new Government in allocating US\$100 million Global Partnership for Education for Pakistan. An analysis by the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia on the cost of inaction informed the Government's investment case on out-of-school children.

Gender-responsive Education Sector Plan processes advanced following UNICEF coordination, capacity development and technical support. As coordinating agency in Punjab and Sindh, UNICEF worked with the Government, DFID, the World Bank, local education groups and UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP-UNESCO) as the lead technical partner.

In Punjab and Sindh, education sector analyses and prioritizations were finalized as the basis for costed Education Sector Plans in 2019. As the coordinating and grant agent in Balochistan, UNICEF supported the Government to submit an Education Sector Plan proposal, resulting in US\$0.5 million. In KP, UNICEF and DFID, as coordinating and grant agencies respectively, supported the Government's Education Sector Plan grant application that included the newly-incorporated KP Tribal Districts. These were milestones in developing Education Sector Plans that will translate government commitment into action: contextualize the Sustainable Development Goal 4 in keeping with United Nations Sustainable Development Framework outcome 7; help development partners to coordinate; and aid in resource mobilization.

Technical and financial support for governance reforms included improved data systems. In Balochistan, UNICEF Pakistan expanded a performance management system with a complaint management system. Real-time school monitoring coverage of 88 per cent of 14,000 schools improved transparency and accountability in the province. Absent teachers received 3,120 warnings, while salaries were reduced or withheld 5,933 chronically absent teachers. The measures contributed to reopening 381 schools as teachers returned to duty. UNICEF Pakistan supported capacity development for the Balochistan Assessment and Examinations Commission through the Aga Khan University Examination Commission, with UNICEF Regional Office of South Asia support.

In collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development, which led the development of a framework for Sindh's Non-Formal Education Policy, UNICEF technical assistance helped produce a comprehensive costing model. This aims to bring 600,000 out-of-school children and adolescents into school over the next five years. Punjab's first-ever gender-responsive non-formal education policy was finalized, as was a communication strategy. KP's first of such policy will be endorsed in 2019. These policies help ensure that children excluded from education have opportunities to learn and develop skills through alternative learning pathways. This is especially important for adolescent girls and boys who are over-age for formal education.

In 2018, 550 alternative learning pathway centres in all four provinces received UNICEF Pakistan support, reaching 17,500 children (44 per cent girls), against a target of 13,142 children. Balochistan approved the non-formal education policy in 2016 and allocated US\$ 4.3 million to alternative learning pathways in 2017/2018. This year, the first batch of alternative learning pathways students completed a three-year UNICEF supported programme, with a 98.6 per cent pass rate on the Government's grade five test, demonstrating the success of this

approach.

UNICEF assisted the Government's education enrolment campaigns in all provinces, enrolling 1.2 million children (47 per cent girls) in target districts. Between 10 to 15 per cent of these children might otherwise have had no access to education; gender-responsive social mobilization encouraged them to enrol. In Sindh, UNICEF Pakistan catalysed enrolment and retention drives by assisting campaign planning, roll-out, communication and monitoring. Political leaders, education officials and school-community platforms in 36 target districts across all provinces actively participated in enrolment drives, facilitating community responsibility to enrol and retain students.

UNICEF positioned early learning as a key component of its country programme, aligned with the government emphasis on early childhood development. With UNICEF support, 2,784 early childhood education centres enabled 99,400 children (58 per cent girls) to access high quality early childhood education. Enrolment campaigns in Punjab included a focus on early learning. To share the benefits of early learning, orientation sessions were arranged for 1,990 community and school council members (including 725 women), conducted by the Quaid-e-Azam Academy for Educational Development which coordinates teacher development in Punjab.

In KP, UNICEF Pakistan was part of a new technical working group for early childhood education coordination. A situation analysis was endorsed by the provincial government and will be used to form an early childhood education policy in 2019. UNICEF supported development of age-appropriate supplementary reading materials for early childhood education in English and Urdu, to enrich the quality of pre-primary learning across Pakistan.

Goal area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

In 2018, UNICEF Pakistan generated evidence, strengthened systems and promoted positive behaviours to overcome the challenges of weak governance structures and limited community awareness of child protection issues, particularly for girls.

UNICEF facilitated scaling-up birth registration systems using an innovative digital/paper model through a public-private partnership with the Government and the telecommunications company, Telenor. The Government then made a commitment to achieve universal birth registration by 2024, the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework outcome 9, and a prerequisite to address child protection issues. Piloted in 2015, the model was scaled up in 2018 to five additional districts and two cities in Punjab and Sindh. A similar model will be replicated in GB and PAK in 2019. Responding to the need for context-based solutions, paper-based versions were used in one district of KP, two KP Tribal Districts and four districts of Balochistan. Scale up of these initiatives is planned.

With UNICEF support, the births of 382,664 children presently under 17 years old were registered. Of this number, information for 237,961 children was entered into the national database and registration authority system, providing the unique identification necessary for issuing birth certificates. To deliver these results, UNICEF trained local government staff in Punjab, Sindh and KP on birth registration; and supported social welfare departments to undertake social mobilization drives to increase demand. In response to the gender gaps noted in birth registration processes during 2018, solutions will be prioritized in 2019.

UNICEF advocacy and efforts to strengthen national and sub-national technical capacity on civil registration led to the establishment of the civil registration and vital statistics technical support unit in the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform. Provincial civil registration and vital statistics committees and focal points were notified, and a national framework developed with Punjab's first-ever comprehensive civil registration and vital statistics assessment.

Provincial symposiums engaged stakeholders in PAK, Punjab, KP, Sindh and Balochistan. In partnership with DFID, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Governments of Punjab and KP. Sindh and Balochistan are also developing contextualized civil registration strategies, led by their planning departments. The first international civil registration and vital statistics Summit of South Asian countries enhanced south-south cooperation. Convened in Islamabad with Government and UNICEF support, the event evoked commitments from partners to support civil registration, including the World Bank and DFID. A South Asia civil registrars' meeting – attended by international delegations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka – yielded a proposed action plan to enhance regional knowledge-sharing on civil registration.

Support for the first national child labour survey since 1996 was a major feature of UNICEF cooperation in 2018. The survey, which will provide disaggregated data on the gendered aspects of child labour, will be done in partnership with the International Labour Organization, using methodology developed by the Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour. Household listing began in Sindh and GB; pilots completed in Punjab, Sindh, KP and GB; and inception workshops covered the rest of the country. GB approved US\$ 400,000 for its child labour survey, while other funding and roll-out approvals were delayed by elections and staff turnover.

To ensure that survey data is effectively used, UNICEF and the International Labour Organization's International Training Centre (ITC-ILO) collaborated to build the capacity of 40 provincial counterparts. These stakeholders were trained in data analysis through a customized course at the ITC-ILO's headquarters in Turin, Italy. In addition to laying the groundwork for evidence-based policies, this strengthened collaboration between the ILO and UNICEF on developing a tool to support sub-national gender-responsive policymaking on child labour.

With UNICEF assistance, Balochistan (2016) and GB (2018) passed Convention on the Rights of the Child-aligned legislation to protect girls and boys from violence, exploitation and abuse. To translate legislation into systems, UNICEF Pakistan provided technical support to establish a model child protection case management and referral system in Balochistan, including stakeholder mapping and assistance for the child protection commission working group. In collaboration with UNICEF Pakistan, Balochistan hosted a national workshop on countering child abuse in 2018. The event recommended a systems approach, offering a roadmap for responsive and coordinated protection systems.

A partnership with the National Commission for Human Rights galvanized policy-maker commitment to align child protection laws in Sindh and KP with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNICEF provided technical assistance to strengthen protection laws, alongside limited support for existing services, such as child protection units in KP and the Sindh Child Helpline. UNICEF also signed a letter of intent to provide technical support to the Government, through the National Commission and the Ministry of Human Rights, to conduct a gender-responsive survey on violence against children and assessments of juvenile detention. In

Punjab, UNICEF supported establishment of a cell in the Social Welfare Department to map organizations that provide alternative/institutional care for girls and boys and review licensing processes. These efforts will inform policymaking in 2019.

UNICEF Pakistan supported the KP Department of Health to draft a mental health and psychosocial support strategy, encompassing a framework developed through a two-year pilot in Peshawar following WHO's 'stepped care' approach. By the end of 2018, family counselling centres were active in 10 secondary health care facilities, providing mental health services to 1,881 people (699 women, 583 men, 336 girls and 263 boys) and delivering 62 outreach sessions. Training materials were prepared to engage teachers and 'lady health workers' in the programme from 2019 onward. A total of 24,916 children (11,828 girls) benefited from psychosocial support.

Life skills training in Sindh and Punjab helped adolescents, particularly girls, learn about their rights and build confidence. Training sessions directly reached 4,024 adolescents, including 2,430 girls, who participated in life skills training addressing child marriage and gender social norms. The adolescents, in turn, were peer educators to reach a further 36,255 adolescents, including 15,095 girls. Training equipped them to articulate new visions of the future and reduce the risk of child marriage. Engaging with community influencers on improving life skills and protection of adolescents reached 46,700 people and prompted 1,959 out-of-school adolescents to enrol in alternative learning programmes.

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

The Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation was a ground-breaking approach to enhance demand for sanitation towards achieving an open defecation-free environment. Developed and implemented with UNICEF support, Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation reached nearly 10 million people in 2018 through civil society organizations and provincial departments' WASH interventions. As a result of improvements in water quality and monitoring systems, 9.7 million people, including 4.9 million women, gained access to safer drinking water. Two million more people, including 1.02 million women, now live in open defecation-free communities, while 514,000 people gained access to basic sanitation.

The UNICEF Pakistan Country Programme added a focus to prevent habits from regressing in communities declared free of open defecation. Targeted communication reached 2.7 million people to ensure that children remain protected from poor sanitation in all four provinces. South-South dialogue at the UNICEF-supported seventh South Asian Conference on Sanitation in Islamabad maintained policy momentum and yielded renewed commitments to Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Recognizing that an increasing proportion of Pakistani children live in cities, particularly in slums, the UNICEF Country Programme added focus on urban WASH programming. In Sindh, 200,000 under-served people gained access to safe drinking water following collaboration with the Karachi Water Sewerage Board on water treatment in targeted localities and small-scale water safety planning. Water quality improved for Hyderabad's 2.8 million inhabitants in the wake of UNICEF support, including the procurement of hardware. These gains will be consolidated in 2019 through water safety planning and improved capacity for sustainability.

As part of urban WASH support in KP, UNICEF engaged Peshawar's water and sanitation services and the University of Engineering and Technology to improve water quality

surveillance. This will involve routine water testing and the publication of water quality data for the two million residents. A mobile-based urban survey will be piloted in 2019, with a focus on union councils at risk of polio outbreaks. UNICEF also supported the pre-positioning of household water treatment options with three water providers able to quickly respond to rapid-onset quality issues. By the end of 2018, 9,500 households benefited from treatment options in Abbottabad, KP, which addressed short-term lapses in water quality. Remaining stocks are being maintained by the provider for use, as and when required.

In Punjab, UNICEF assisted a landscape study to restructure the province's water and sanitation agencies. The study included a gap analysis, a review of legislation and a roadmap for reform. Its findings were approved by the Government at the end of 2018. In Balochistan, the first-ever country-led evaluation of the provincial 'clean drinking water for all' programme was completed as the drought-like situation in the province causes water levels to drastically decline. As the programme's budget and scope are increased by the Government, UNICEF evaluation support proved timely and useful. UNICEF supported the National Disaster Management Authority to formulate the national drought mitigation strategy, with integrated short- medium- and long-term mitigation measures, categorized by sector.

At the national level, UNICEF supported the Pakistan Water Operators Network, helping to draft a five-year strategy and action plan. Collaboration was strengthened with urban WASH partners including the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and Agence Française de Développement. This promoted alignment and complementarity of sector investments to ensure that large-scale WASH investments consider the needs of the country's poorest urban populations, and particularly of children in these communities.

UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, undertook a major child-sensitive social sector budget analysis, using a gender lens. This analysed trends, proposed allocations and assessed whether current allocations meet legal, regulatory and policy requirements. A budget analysis and mapping of sub-district and district-level WASH inequities revealed correlations between limited resource allocations and poor services; and high rates of diarrhoea and stunting. The analysis supported advocacy for increased allocations and the integration of WASH in other initiatives. UNICEF used evidence from these studies to organize consultations with the Sustainable Development Goal's Parliamentary Secretariat, while drawing on an expenditure management review to mobilize support for increased allocations. At the provincial level, UNICEF aided the development of manuals to improve planning and budgeting and lobbied for increased allocations to districts with poor WASH indicators.

The availability of clean water and sanitation increased as UNICEF supported the implementation of WASH in schools strategies in Pakistan's provinces. These integrated, inclusive and gender-responsive approaches delivered WASH facilities in primary schools, benefiting 9,192 children, including 4,688 girls. The three-star approach promoted the integration of healthy habits into school routines, and will be scaled up in all four provinces and Islamabad Capital Territory through the Government's Clean & Green Campaign. In 2018, WASH-related indicators were incorporated into provincial education management information systems, in keeping with Sustainable Development Goal indicators. This will facilitate efforts to monitor and improve WASH facilities and hygiene practices, including menstrual hygiene management.

Sanitation and safe water for all was a major component of WASH support, with UNICEF-backed social and behaviour change initiatives reaching 1.6 million people. In Sindh, an

integrated WASH and nutrition campaign at the end of 2018 reinforced early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding and handwashing with soap, reaching 11,450 women who were pregnant or lactating through participatory, gender-responsive approaches. Approaches enhanced knowledge on positive hygiene behaviours, catalysed change through community dialogue and worked with influencers such as religious leaders and community champions. Menstrual hygiene management became a growing component of WASH initiatives, especially in schools – a major step towards overcoming challenges to adolescent girls in education, health and participation.

Gender

In line with the Gender Action Plan 2018–2022, UNICEF developed gender strategies for all of its programmes in Pakistan. Gender results will be included in rolling work plans from 2019 onward. A focus on promoting girls' education and empowerment, especially for adolescents, is now mainstreamed in upstream policy and advocacy work, in addition to programme implementation.

In 2018, UNICEF advocated for a focus on quality education and skills for out-of-school adolescents. Targeted efforts to enrol out-of-school girls, including community mobilization, brought an additional 900,000 girls into primary schools, representing 53 per cent of newly-enrolled children. Government buy-in was achieved in KP, Sindh and Balochistan to introduce a middle-school alternative learning programme in 2019, with a focus on girls. UNICEF provided direct and indirect life skills training to 36,000 adolescents (60 per cent girls), encouraging them to confidently express their life goals. This reduced the risk of early marriage via a cross-sectoral collaboration in Sindh and Punjab, with discussions underway to expand the initiative.

While UNICEF health and nutrition programmes supported women who were pregnant or lactating, communication for development initiatives paid attention to fathers, such as the creation of father-to-father support groups for nutrition. UNICEF efforts enhanced health care for women, including support for a national framework on the quality of care around the time of birth and training for 33,000 health care providers, 98 per cent women. An in-depth evaluation of the 'lady health worker' programme will enable outreach to more women at their doorsteps, while promoting the visibility of professional, mobile women as community role models.

Nutrition research focused on the norms that underpin different outcomes for girls and boys. UNICEF National Complementary Feeding Assessment studies, for instance, included questions on gender-differentiated nutritional approaches. Gender and age were also considered to understand the different needs and roles of family members. These will inform targeted communication, supporting mothers and fathers to make the best decisions about family nutrition. The National Complementary Feeding Assessment findings will be triangulated with the national nutrition survey, informing evidence-based policy and programming.

Strengthening access to drinking water has particular benefit for girls and women, who are widely responsible for household water collection. By expanding access to clean water, UNICEF initiatives reduced time spent on this arduous task. Similarly, improved sanitation reduces gender-related health and protection risks. Efforts to enhance girls' agency through improved menstrual hygiene management anecdotally improved school attendance and retention. In 2018, UNICEF supported menstrual hygiene management in 2,314 schools, reaching over 89,900 adolescent girls, teachers and mothers. Targeted schools reported

improved attendance. Achievements were spearheaded by the WASH in schools framework, developed with government counterparts, creating a model that the Government of Punjab committed to scaling up across its 54,000 schools.

UNICEF Pakistan's No Chutti ('No break') campaign inspired young Pakistani women to feel strong during their periods and refuted myths around physical and dietary restrictions. A two-month social media campaign reached over one million young people. Through the Women Empowerment Group, UNICEF held a consultation with 45 prayer leaders on religious attitudes towards menstruation. As a result, the Council of Islamic Ideology, a constitutional advisory body, published a positive religious stance on menstrual hygiene management.

UNICEF innovations in Pakistan on menstrual hygiene management platforms informed global initiatives. For example, a helpline was contextualized for a global audience and launched on UNICEF worldwide U-Report platform, engaging 75,000 adolescent girls with menstrual hygiene management messages. Pakistan was selected as one of 16 countries to participate in the Generation Unlimited Youth Challenge. Through its partner, the School of Leadership, UNICEF invited girls and boys to design innovative ideas on managing menstruation with dignity. Five young Pakistani teams were each awarded US\$ 1,000 in seed funding. They stand to win US\$ 20,000 in a global competition in March 2019.

Humanitarian assistance

While no major rapid onset emergency occurred in 2018, recovery in KP and its Tribal Districts continued as displaced families returned home. Humanitarian assistance began the transition to development support for formerly displaced households. A three-year interagency transition framework was developed to address socioeconomic challenges and vulnerabilities, including the need for girls' and women's voices to be heard. UNICEF supported its implementation as lead of the WASH and nutrition clusters, the sub-cluster lead for child protection, and co-lead of the education cluster in KP and worked with United Nations agencies to support resilience and recovery.

UNICEF received no funding under its Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for health, WASH and child protection. This reflects continuing humanitarian needs for residual response in the KP Tribal Districts, as support transitions to early recovery. Instead, UNICEF leveraged regular resources, residual funds and resources from partners. Although less than two per cent of the measles immunization target was achieved through humanitarian funding, by including the region in the national measles campaign, over 840,000 children were vaccinated.

Nonetheless, in most other programme areas, the achievement of results against targets was limited. With only half of the requested funding received in 2018, UNICEF Pakistan supported the provision of multi-micronutrient supplements to 80,000 mothers, 63 per cent of the target. Similarly, 55,000 people received access to safe water and 76,000 were sensitized on safe hygiene practices. The education response, which was only half-funded, nevertheless contributed to the enrolment of 68,000 children under the European Union-funded Federally Administer Tribal Areas' Transition and Recovery Programme, 85 per cent of the target. Approximately 40 per cent of children enrolled were girls.

UNICEF also cooperated with the United Nations Development Programme, the Government and non-governmental organizations to facilitate education recovery for over 80,000 children (39 per cent girls) through provision of pre-fabricated schools designed to be accessible for

children with disabilities, coupled with teacher training, education supplies, social mobilization and support for school committees. With the integration of the Tribal Districts into KP, such assistance became part of development support for the province as a whole.

UNICEF leveraged its regular resources to enhance awareness of child protection issues among 25,000 children and caregivers, reaching 87 per cent of its target. However, protective services could only be provided to 7,028 children, about 45 per cent of the target. To provide mobile protection services to returning families in remote areas, UNICEF piloted a child protection van in two Tribal Districts, in partnership with the Government of KP. This reached 41,000 children (12,800 girls) and 7,877 caregivers (2,957 women) via structured recreational, social and behavioural change interventions. Such initiatives enhanced personal safety by protecting girls, boys, women and men from abuse and physical harm, including risks from mines and unexploded ordinances.

Following the notification of drought in eight districts of Sindh, UNICEF formed part of an inter-agency consortium that conducted a multisectoral assessment in October. A similar assessment was undertaken in Balochistan in December. These assessments will form the basis of gender-responsive interagency response planning to address identified gaps in government response, including directed interventions for food, livelihoods, WASH and nutrition.

The Pakistan School Safety Framework, developed by the National Disaster Management Authority with UNICEF support, was finalized and approved by the Prime Minister in March, with instructions to incorporate it into the National Education Policy. This framework is already ensuring that 400,000 children, including 150,000 girls, in 500 Islamabad public schools benefit from gender-responsive safety measures and risk education. In KP, Balochistan, PAK and GB, the approach was adopted in 30 schools per region. In Sindh and Punjab, the framework was integrated into Education Sector Plan's as a prerequisite for roll-out, making it integral to school management.

UNICEF supported National Disaster Management Authority to develop a communication for development strategy for its school safety programme, empowering schools and communities with preventive education on major risks. In KP, Sindh and Balochistan, 55,797 children (half of them girls), received instruction on preparedness and response.

Despite work to improve preparedness and response capacities, further efforts are required to streamline strategic work on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into provincial and district-level WASH budgets. UNICEF initiated a partnership with the University of Engineering and Technology in Peshawar, KP, and developed a WASH in Emergencies master's level course, the first of its kind in Pakistan. This will strengthen systems for WASH interventions during emergencies, offered from 2019. Another growing focus area was water-use efficiency and increased engagement with regulatory frameworks to alleviate stress caused by climate change and water scarcity.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

At the end of the first year of the new country programme, UNICEF Pakistan reflected on the evidence of how its theories of change helped to achieve concrete results for children. Across all programmes, the theories of change in the strategy notes generally were credible and valid.

Strengthening institutional structures at the national and subnational levels is a major aspect of UNICEF Pakistan theories of change, given the relevance in the context of the fairly slow development of subnational structures to support children following devolution in 2010. Against this backdrop, UNICEF contributed to creating a conducive environment for achieving results for children through vertical coordination (between the centre and the provinces/districts) and horizontal coordination (between ministries).

Thus, UNICEF supported the translation of federal policies and strategies on health and nutrition to the provincial levels. It also facilitated Balochistan in sharing lessons learned from its experience of developing Pakistan's first Convention on the Rights of the Child-aligned child protection legislation. In tandem, UNICEF supported research on the links between WASH, poverty alleviation and other development indicators. Such efforts were accompanied by capacity-building interventions for government counterparts which focused on, for example, enhancing capacities for budget analysis correlated with local deprivations. Programming workshops mainstreamed risk reduction strategies into sectoral work plans, engaging both line ministries and provincial authorities.

In 2018, Pakistan's first-ever parliamentary resolution on child rights was passed unanimously – a major achievement brought in no small part through UNICEF work with parliamentarians during celebrations for World Children's Day and Human Rights Day. This promises to break new ground for the child rights agenda in the country. However, such progress will require sustained, serious engagement with parliamentarians. Strengthening the Government for evidence-based decision-making for children also reaped rewards: the Governments of Balochistan and Punjab drafted monitoring and evaluation policies following rigorous, wide-ranging debates on implementation, regulatory measures and institutional frameworks. This was a historic transformation in public sector learning and accountability processes. Long-running support and capacity development contributed to a nationally-coordinated Multiple Indicator Survey Cluster, comprised of provincial surveys completed or underway as of the end of 2018. Full provincial ownership was reflected in the fact that over 80 per cent of the survey's funding was provided by provincial governments.

However, complicated vertical structures posed challenges for planning and implementation. This was exacerbated in 2018 by the change of government, with delays in approvals – for example, for the child labour survey – and a high staff turnover and changes in programme/department leadership. This also created opportunities; for instance, strengthened federal support for nutrition and WASH. In 2019, UNICEF will support provincial action to meet sectoral goals and expand the focus on urban children.

Multisectoral nutrition and WASH initiatives through the stunting reduction programme in Sindh showed that working between UNICEF goal areas can deliver results. Using a lifecycle approach, this initiative utilized the service delivery platforms of both sectors to deliver at-scale results. A multisector monitoring and evaluation framework for the Accelerated Action Plan to reduce stunting in Sindh, jointly led by UNICEF nutrition programme and monitoring, evaluation and research programme, built understanding, capacities and appetite for mechanisms to track and evaluate progress. Similar benefits came about through collaborations between UNICEF education programme and WASH to reduce dropout rates and support the health and hygiene needs of adolescent girls through menstruation hygiene management in schools. Recognizing that cross-sector partnerships provide efficient social services, UNICEF Pakistan works with a range of government departments on child protective case management and referral processes.

By working across sectors, UNICEF leveraged existing platforms to reach previously unreached children. This is exemplified by the synergies of efforts to eradicate polio and strengthen routine immunization. The Polio Eradication Initiative's team of social mobilizers reached children at their doorstep in high-risk communities, often in insecure areas or regions characterized by low levels of trust in immunization services. UNICEF leveraged its access to identify and target zero-dose children. In areas where coordination was successful, previously unreached groups of children received routine immunization. The polio programme was simultaneously enhanced, reducing the impact of vaccination fatigue. Nonetheless, sustaining gains – such as maintaining vitamin A coverage after polio is eradicated – will require careful planning. It will also require efforts to ensure that the immense knowledge base of Pakistan's vulnerable districts is not lost when the programme winds down.

Following the development of gender strategies in 2018, the next year will focus on gender results across all UNICEF programming areas, including gender-responsive evaluation and strengthening the gender component of UNICEF advocacy and communications strategy.

While UNICEF theories of change for education are valid overall, the skills-development component of the strategic plan was not adequately reflected in the strategy note. This occurred despite emphasis on the second decade of life, especially for girls. Drawing on the global Generation Unlimited initiative, in 2019 UNICEF will partner with government departments, civil society groups, social enterprises and United Nations agencies to ensure that adolescents have opportunities to access education, training and employment.

In 2018, initial efforts gauged entry points, engaged with stakeholders and youth-led institutions, and looked at existing models, including Edtech. Support for an enabling policy environment in education, through coordinated Education Sector Plans, was validated through UNICEF's role as the Global Partnership for Education coordinating agency in all four provinces. UNICEF will continue to facilitate connections between the new Government's education agenda and provincial Education Sector Plans, using the shared development vision for Pakistan and its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, UNICEF will advocate for efforts to address disconnects between plans and budgets.

UNICEF WASH programme leveraged South-South partnerships to elicit renewed commitments, strengthen national and provincial mechanisms, build capacity in schools and at local level for service delivery, and promote changes in social norms. These approaches reduced open defecation and improved water provision, both issues which disproportionately impact women. The approaches enhanced community understandings of hygiene practices, including among adolescent girls. Social and behavioural change initiatives grounded in communication for development increased knowledge of, and demand for, services among girls and boys, critical to achieving sustainable results.

UNICEF invested in a multi-channel approach to communication for development, which reached out to entire communities, and combined outreach through innovation, social media and interpersonal communication. This was exemplified in social mobilization campaigns to promote open defecation-free communities and the high coverage of the measles campaign. Such an approach amplified families' and communities' voices for change, while expanding the reach of the approach itself. Innovations such as the Generation Unlimited platform will offer new opportunities to reach adolescent girls, co-create solutions and amplify their voices.

UNICEF public-private collaboration with Telenor and the Government illustrates the value of public-private partnerships that leverage innovations within the private sector to effectively and sustainably deliver results. Following the success of a 2015 birth registration pilot, UNICEF technical expertise and advocacy contributed to adapting the digital registration system into a hybrid system, which utilizes both mobile phone-based methods and conventional paper registration to register children's births. Government's limited technical capacity and coordination challenges caused delays, addressed through capacity building, particularly on the use of technology. As analysis revealed significant disparities in registration – since more boys and older children were registered than girls or younger children – communication strategies addressed these issues.

UNICEF Pakistan's focus on evidence-based advocacy for legislation and policy experienced gains in 2018, achieved by strengthening systems, planning and fluid communication. For example, the National Complementary Feeding Assessment findings are already influencing nutrition planning and communication for development efforts in Punjab and Sindh. Gains also include data dashboards to improve education planning in Balochistan, alongside campaign planning for polio and other health interventions nationwide.

As funding streams diminish and a fiscal crisis cuts into government budgets, public-private partnerships and other fundraising modalities – including domestic funding and south-south cooperation in overseas assistance – are essential to ensure that services are maintained and children's rights are protected. In 2018, UNICEF worked with private sector partners to develop in-country sources of supplies for diarrhoea and pneumonia. The baby-food industry now leverages the '1,000 days' approach for marketing, and it is essential that UNICEF work with the industry to ensure the approach is used to deliver positive results for children.

Based on lessons learned in 2018, UNICEF will continue to follow the change pathways outlined in its country programme and strategy note, while sharpening its focus on key areas such as early childhood development, gender equality, adolescents, resilience and social policy. It will maintain a focus on communication for development, on developing partnerships (particularly with the private sector) and evidence-based advocacy and innovation. At the same time, UNICEF Pakistan will continue to support the development of strong, effective institutions that respond to the demands of informed and empowered communities to realize the rights of all children in Pakistan.

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