

Update on the context and situation of children

'Of all the priorities of development, none has the acceptance, or the power to mobilize, as does the cause of children - as children are a nation's future'. Spoken decades ago at a meeting about 'Keeping the Promise' of the World Summit for Children, those words may find a new echo in Somalia as the country sets out on a new, ambitious, National Development Plan 2020-2024. 'Keeping the promise' has two meanings for what it is to be child in Somalia today. On the one hand, that child is owed a promise that her survival, her growth, her hopes and her aspirations are put at the centre of efforts for development. On the other, that child's future, if made to be bright, is a promise in itself, and one with a rare and powerful might for the future of Somalia as a whole. Keeping the promise is an imperative, but by no means will it be easy. If a Somali child today were to be asked to hold its elder generations accountable for what has been delivered and what has been missed, the picture she would paint would be mixed.

More than likely, she will ask some tough questions. Why is it that I am less likely, as a girl, to spend time in school compared to my brothers? Should I expect to be working by fifteen, be married by eighteen, and like all of my female friends overwhelmingly have to undergo female genital mutilation? Why has my mother carried and given birth to six or more children over her lifetime, having risked her life each time in the process - before during and after pregnancy? Why should it be that one in seven of my siblings will not live to see their fifth birthday? Why are the classrooms that I need to learn so few and far between, so that only one in three of my friends and peers enjoys access to learning? Why should it be worse for children from rural and nomadic communities? Why is it that still today the threat of drought, the devastation of floods and the fear of conflict risks seeing me and my family displaced or separated, sometimes for the second or third time? Should my sisters just accept to be exposed to gender-based and intimate partner violence, and my brothers among those most heavily at risk of being forcibly recruited into armed forces and groups (SG CAAC Report CAAC, 2019)? Why should I see my brothers and sisters more and more drawn into perilous migration journeys that only bring more risk, more violence and little reward? Should I accept to go to sleep hungry every other night, and why do so many children around me each year cycle through chronic to severe malnutrition with one million acutely malnourished this year, including 178,000 severely? Can my country truly grow if so many children see their lives and potential stunted? Why are some diseases still afflicting the communities me and my friends live in - with more than 2,000 suspected measles cases and over 115,000 cases of acute watery diarrhoea in 2019 (WHO, 2019)? Is it acceptable that I do not even have half a chance to get the full range of immunizations I need to be protected from these and other illnesses? Why do three out of ten people I know still have no proper access to sanitation, and close to seven million people still struggle to even have basic access to water (WHO/UNICEF, 2019)? Why is it that seventy per cent of my peers among youth face no prospect but unemployment? Why do children, who are no different to me, but who come from minorities or happen to be living with disabilities have to suffer these plights even more? And why have so few of you bothered to ask me what I think and may want to do about this?

Facing these questions, the policy maker finds himself humbled. Yet, building on progress from 2018, Somalia is carving out a path towards recovery. Growth has slightly accelerated at 2.8 per cent, with the state able to raise more resources (World Bank, 2019) and spend more (5.7 per cent of GDP), including in the social sector, an encouraging sign when for long most expenditures focused on security. Growth is not yet poverty reducing in Somalia - i.e. GDP growth at 2.8 per cent still is outstripped by population growth at 2.9 per cent - but future World Bank projections for 2019 place growth in the 3.5 per cent range, which would be a first important step for government to further drive the ambitious agenda it has for development. Tectonic shifts are on the horizon with Somalia inching closer to the Decision Point under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative which would mean releasing some of the US\$ 4.7 billion the country is shouldering in debt. Some of the burdens weighing on those most vulnerable have lightened - the number of polio cases has dropped, cholera has remained somewhat contained, malnutrition levels have not reached or exceeded those seen in 2017, and Somalia's development partners have kept commitments steady - yet more could be done to convert short term funding into solid long-term investment in the country's future. Similarly, the situation of child rights in Somalia remains characterized by significant challenges, but this year's submission by the Government of its first ever State Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child is an encouraging development on which to build momentum and strengthen the framework to protect children's rights throughout the nation.

Progress, albeit partial, is visible. Risks, however, are omnipresent. Next year sees Somalia going through its first universal suffrage elections. Much is expected from a new Constitution. But momentum can build just as easily as it can be derailed - with climate shocks, conflicts and the gridlock in the relationship between Federal Government and Member States. By delivering a bold and forward-looking National Development Plan, Somalia put down solid foundations to renew the promise for the future of the country. To keep that promise is a matter of keeping that future in focus - and here, again, no other priority has more power to mobilize to deliver on that promise, as does the cause of children.

Major contributions and drivers of results

Somalia

In **Health and Nutrition** in 2019 UNICEF provided 1,411,969 people, including 774,666 women and 638,631 children, with emergency and regular access to essential health services, working hand in hand with the Ministries of Health in supporting eight hospitals and a constellation of 152 health centres, maternal and child health centres, and primary health units, complemented by twenty mobile clinics. With support from DFID, KfW, GAVI, CERF and others UNICEF coverage increased from 154 health facilities in fourteen regions to 283 facilities in sixteen regions - with a 20 per cent increase in service utilization. Some 45 basic and emergency obstetric and neonatal care units served 178,760 pregnant women, with 45,987 deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendants and 76,090 new mothers and new-borns benefiting from post-natal care. Some 44 per cent of births were also assisted with a skilled birth attendant present, while 1146 Community Health Workers were trained to enhance their capacity in service delivery. Immunization coverage increased, with 205,311 children under-1 reached with Pentavalent-3 (rising from 69 per cent in 2018 to 74 per cent in 2019), while a total 455,004 children were vaccinated against measles. Some 423 cold chain facilities remained fully functional throughout 2019. UNICEF ran an aggressive polio eradication effort so that when three cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis were identified an immediate round zero response as well three large-scale outbreak responses and preventative supplementary immunization targeted 6,306,172 under-five children achieving 94 per cent coverage.

At the same time UNICEF with government, civil society partners and with donor supported from KfW, USAID/FFP, OFDA, DFID, CERF, SIDA and others enabled the treatment of 165,820 children (58 per cent girls) suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition, achieving 127 per cent of its yearly planned target and covering 93 per cent of the national burden. All SPHERE standards were met, with a cure rate of 94.5 per cent, default rate of 3.1 per cent and death rate of only 0.3 per cent and 95.3 per cent of districts experienced zero stock-outs of essential ready-to-use therapeutic foods. These results were achieved through a network of 45 partners working with UNICEF - most of them local - who operated upwards of 650 mobile and static sites, while UNICEF overall also continued to ensure the coordination of the Nutrition Cluster across Somalia. Other components of the basic nutrition services package included 434,844 mothers and caregivers reached with counselling on infant and young child feeding, while 140,330 children aged 6 to 23 months received micronutrient supplementation. A further 139,673 children aged 6-59 months received vitamin A, while 286,646 pregnant and lactating women received multiple micronutrients. Working in partnership with WFP, UNICEF continued in 2019 to implement the innovative Expanded Admissions Criteria whereby children affected by moderate acute malnutrition were also admitted and treated according to a specific protocol- an intervention that has now reached over 25,000 children. Furthermore in some hard-to-reach communities, UNICEF's nutrition programme was an entry-point for an innovative cash programme which targets households with malnourished children, with 1,700 households enrolled so far.

UNICEF's investment in health systems strengthening included efforts in supporting the day-to-day management of the District Health Information System, with 91 per cent of public health facilities increasing the availability of administrative data. UNICEF continued provision of incentives for health staff and transitioned to a mobile money system channelled through the Ministries for stronger government ownership and establishment of a payment by-result approach. Moreover, UNICEF focused on continued strengthening and reinforced ownership by the government of its data and reporting systems through investments designed to expand the District Health Information System 2 to incorporate nutrition data. In 2019 the Government through the Ministry of Health made a commitment to end pneumonia-related deaths and to be a 'Beacon Country' under the global UNICEF-Save the Children partnership and call to action to stop children dying from pneumonia. Meanwhile, the Scale-Up Nutrition movement was supported in the Office of the Prime Minister in Mogadishu, and in the Offices of the Vice-Presidents in Puntland and Somaliland, while 2019 saw the development of a multi-sectoral nutrition strategy scheduled to be the blueprint for addressing malnutrition under the National Development Plan and Agenda 2030. The past year also saw the endorsement of the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition guidelines, which now also look at gender-disparities engrained in current access to services, in order to curb negative practices and promote helpful behaviours. A further major milestone was the completion of the first micro-nutrient survey, conducted in partnerships with the Ministries of Health at Federal Government and Federal Member State levels. The survey will provide updated information on micronutrient status of women of reproductive age, and children aged 6-59 months and will help measure gender differentials in care and nutritional status.

Finally, as a Principal Recipient of the Global Fund, UNICEF worked with partners to screen 277,505 people for malaria, of which 21,859 received treatment. Some 63,947 long-lasting insecticide treated nets were distributed to pregnant women, and 490,593 to the general population. Through the Global Fund and the different national AIDS commissions 190,958 people were tested for HIV (85 per cent against 2019 target); including 152,691 pregnant women counselled and tested for HIV, of which 89 (0.06 per cent) tested positive; 86 pregnant women (97 per cent) were placed on ART to prevent transmission from mother-to-child; 3405 persons living with HIV were on treatment (80 per cent against end 2019 target) and 18,289 persons belonging to key populations were reached with outreach services (83 per cent against end 2019 target).

In **Education**, with support from KfW, USAID, the Global Partnership for Education, the Education Cannot Wait Fund, Sweden, CERF and others, UNICEF supported a total of 242,690 children (44 per cent or 105,828 girls) to take part in formal and alternative primary education and focused on the generation of data on learning outcomes which informed the

Somalia

delivery of teacher training programmes. Assistance to the national examination system resulted in 11,907 children participating in end of primary examinations. Over 2019, UNICEF supported pre-service/in-service teacher education to increase the proportion of qualified primary teachers. In central and south Somalia, 447 (121 female) teachers from 96 Alternative Basic Education centres for pastoralist and IDP communities were trained and for improved capacity to teach 20,107 children (8,744 girls). This was accompanied by training for 672 Community Education Committees members. Additionally, 250 trainers were trained on the new curriculum standards for their subsequent support to primary teachers. In Puntland, 806 teachers (14 per cent female) participated in pre-service and in-service training programmes. The low number of female teachers impacts on the inequities experienced by girls within schools, so UNICEF continues to advocate with the Ministries of Education to recruit and train more female teachers. As a means of addressing the slow pace of change in relation to teacher qualification, a pilot initiative for a blended teacher education course was developed in 2019 and will be initiated as of 2020. A key feature of this initiative is the use of technology to deliver a two-year certification programme for an initial cohort of 3,000 unqualified primary school teachers. Moreover, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) was provided with support by UNICEF to respond to the educational needs of 25,491 children (11,580 girls) affected by crisis and conflict. A Safe School Declaration Task Force was established and will develop guidelines to ensure that schools remain safe havens for teachers, female and male students, and boys and girls in/around the community during times of conflicts or other emergencies. With education a bridge between humanitarian and development programmes, in Somaliland, UNICEF was selected as the Grantee for the 3-year USD 6.6 million Education Cannot Wait Multi-Year Resilience Programme aimed to improve the educational attainment and safety of girls and boys affected by crisis, contributing to resilience building within an increasingly peaceful, secure and democratic environment. . The year 2019 ended on a good note for Puntland in that UNICEF successfully supported the Ministry of Education to secure USD 8,830,000 in additional GPE financing for the implementation of the Puntland's Education Sector Plan.

In Puntland, the Monitoring Learning Achievement assessment at Grades 2 and 6 informed the development of student textbooks and teacher guidebooks. In Somaliland, UNICEF and partners jointly implemented the Early Grade Reading Assessment. The findings will be disaggregated by gender and will inform interventions which will improve teaching and learning processes in schools. Finally, in both Somaliland and Central South Regions, UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance to the review and harmonization of Community Education Committee Policy Frameworks and Training Manuals, which also have a gender module to support the prioritization of girls' participation in schooling. These materials were rolled out in Somaliland through a School-based Management Model intervention for 305 primary schools reaching 68,863 students (27,745 girls). UNICEF continued to support 2,650 children (50 per cent female) from marginalized and poor households for financial assistance across all the nine regions of Puntland in 370 schools. Several challenges however persisted during 2019, including limited access to insecure areas, limited availability of comprehensive national education data, coordination challenges between different education administrative levels, highly decentralised education sector service provision, unclear data disaggregation between Federal and Member States of Somalia, as well as shortfalls in funding and commitment by development partners to invest in education for the longer term in Somalia.

In **Child Protection** in 2019 important strides were made towards strengthening Somalia's legal framework with the submission of the first State report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The report highlights progress made by the Federal Government of Somalia in drafting key legislation such as the child rights bill, the FGM bill and the Sexual Offences Bill. In addition the CRC report, in November, the Child Rights and Juvenile Justice Bills were submitted to the Prime Minister, the Council of Ministers and the State Council for approval. In Somaliland, the Cabinet endorsed the revised Child Rights Act presented with the support of UNICEF. In Puntland, progress was registered in the implementation of the juvenile justice law, with the establishment of juvenile courts in several cities. There were further efforts to ensure an improved legal framework on birth registration, but consultations will need to continue given the current fragmentation of the system for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. For child protection systems in Somalia to be underpinned by strong and qualified staff and managers, in 2019 the UNICEF-supported social workforce strengthening programme continued, with a total 576 students (300 males and 276 females) enrolled and taking social worker courses in six universities in Hargeisa, Garowe and Mogadishu.

Beyond matters of policies and systems, the impact of conflict continues to ripple through society and communities, leading UNICEF to focus significant efforts on Child Protection in Emergencies. Substantial progress was made in 2019 in responding to the situation of children affected by conflict as during the reporting period, Director Generals of Ministries in charge of Women and Human Rights Development, Justice, Defence and Internal Security adopted the National Strategy to prevent child recruitment and facilitate the reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups. The strategy constitutes the main reference for government, UN agencies and civil society organizations involved in the protection of children in armed conflict. Furthermore, through an improved system for monitoring and reporting grave violations against children, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting verified and documented grave violations affecting 2,364 children (346 girls and 2,018 boys).

On the ground a total of 415,558 people accessed a range of different services designed to address and prevent family separation, prevent and respond to gender-based violence survivors, recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups, and bring an end to exploitation of children on the move, while ensuring psychosocial support and preventing

Somalia

distress among children in humanitarian settings. Some 224,071 children (116,858 girls and 107,213 boys), and 191,487 adults (102,561 women and 88,926 men) were reached by these different interventions. Across these different efforts, some 226,301 community members (89,571 women, 38,043 girls, 28,532 boys and 70,355 men) were reached through community dialogue to prevent child marriage, violence against children and women, and FGM through the flagship 'Communities Care' programme which rolled out in 11 sites across the country (with anti-FGM efforts also supported under the UN Joint Programme to accelerate action against FGM); some 49,747 children (24,998 girls and 24,749 boys) under 5 years were registered in Puntland and Somaliland while 66,230 beneficiaries (6673 women, 22,670 girls, 33,247 boys and 3640 men) accessed psychosocial support, including 6,109 children on the move (3299 boys and 2810 girls). In turn, 6,007 unaccompanied and separated children (2,674 girls and 3,329 boys) were provided with interim care services in IDP sites; 3,990 Gender-Based Violence survivors (2,047 women, 1,387 girls, 261 boys and 295 men) had access to age and gender-appropriate multisectoral services (medical, material, psychosocial support and legal assistance) and 1,171 children affected by armed conflict had access to interim care and reintegration services. They include 970 children (193 girls and 777 boys) formerly associated with armed forces and groups and 201 (111 boys & 90 girls) other vulnerable children at risk of child recruitment. UNICEF meanwhile continued to carry-out safety audits in internal displacement sites, working with the Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management and GBV Clusters/Sub-Cluster. Some 58 sites were assessed 18 districts (with coverage expanded compared to 2017 and 2018, with findings discussed at Inter-Cluster level to maintain a strong focus on the centrality of protection across all actors in the humanitarian response in Somalia. Finally, in December 2019, UNICEF and partners established community-based case management for cases of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, including a hotline, with efforts slated for the first quarter of 2020 to raise community awareness on the system and the availability of the hotline. Support from Denmark, OFDA, ECHO, Sweden, Canada, the Peacebuilding Fund, CERF and others were instrumental in achieving these results.

In **WASH** through UNICEF and partners, and with support from donors including OFDA, DFID, The Netherlands, ECHO, KfW, CERF, Sweden, Belgium, Canada and others, cumulatively since 2018, 1,782,025 people were reached with emergency water supply and 1,434,603 with sustainable access. This includes 61,276 pupils (31,956 boys, 29,320 girls) in 138 schools and 136,520 patients in 98 health facilities. In the provision of life-saving emergency services, 1,723,545 people were reached with hygiene promotion on safe water, latrine use and handwashing. Of these, 878,696 received hygiene kits while some 28,849 women and school-going girls received menstrual hygiene management kits. Sanitation and hygiene promotion efforts using the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach reached some 163,877 people including 37,339 living in 76 'Open Defecation Free' communities, alongside some 38,170 pupils (19,900 boys, 18,270 girls) in 86 schools and 88,368 patients visiting 89 health facilities. Latest data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme shows progress with only 28 per cent of communities still practicing open defecation. Moreover, the WASH programme was particularly sensitive to the needs of women and girls ensuring emergency water services were delivered closer to homes, and combined these efforts with hygiene promotion, recognizing how women and girls are the main custodians of hygiene with a multiplier effect for the household. There also was a specific focus on youth, with an employment project targeted at disadvantaged and displaced youth through which some 262 (195 male, 67 female) were trained and constructed or de-sludged 154 latrines to benefit 5,646 people and rehabilitated 8 wells and 5 solar-powered water systems benefiting 23,850 people. UNICEF also continued to ensure the leadership of the WASH Cluster, managing regional supply hubs while maintaining a network of standby response partnerships, which included leveraging the know-how of the private sector - e.g. for water supply - for accelerated response times and economies of scale.

As part of regular development investments, the EU-funded "Four towns" project in Somaliland was completed in 2019, with an estimated 500,000 people accessing safe water through 'Public/Private Partnership' (PPP) water companies. A total of 189 water sources were improved including 51 permanent shallow-wells, 34 motorized boreholes supported with drilling and rehabilitation, while 11 shallow-wells and seven strategic boreholes were upgraded with solar powered pumping systems, while 86 existing water system were connected to communities and schools. Moreover, through collaboration with the Somaliland Ministry of Water Development, in Tog-Wajaale an entirely new water-supply system was built, benefiting 70,000 residents. Throughout these investments, UNICEF is factoring the impact of climate change by spearheading efforts to support sustainable solar water-supply schemes with zero-carbon footprints.

Finally, at the policy level, 2019 saw the Baidoa Water Master Plan launched as a matrix to guide systematic investments to improve WASH services in southern Somalia's second largest city. UNICEF also continued collaboration with the PPP company in Boroma, with joint investments in 2019 allowing for an increase in water supply benefitting 42,000 people, including 24,000 IDPs. In addition, UNICEF worked with partners in Somalia to develop a framework for WASH in Health Care Facilities, with the effort leading to the completion of a comprehensive assessment of 49 facilities across all regions. UNICEF's continued support to government in systems strengthening and capacity building at the national level also saw a national WASH Policy, developed and completed this year, with the policy now awaiting Cabinet approval. Overall funding constraints were a however constant challenge, hampering UNICEF's ability to work with partners on long-term solutions. Nevertheless, successful advocacy in 2019 untied some purse strings and initial funding was made available for drilling of new strategic boreholes. Should these investments grow, a concrete opportunity may open to transition the water sector as a whole in Somalia towards more sustainable approaches.

Somalia

Two key advances on the **social protection agenda** took place, with the development of the first national social protection policy, and the design of the Somalia Shock-Responsive Safety Net Project as the first nation-wide scheme for social protection, funded through the World Bank. Developed in partnership with WFP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and with support from Italy through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Somalia, the national social protection policy sets a long-term vision and defines short and medium-to-long term priorities towards gradually establishing an inclusive social protection system that promotes social cohesion and links to human capital development. UNICEF contributed to the policy to ensure that children, women and vulnerable groups were given due consideration, and worked to reinforce national technical and institutional capacity. In parallel, UNICEF was requested to support the Government as main implementer of this effort, and is in the final stages of negotiation with both the World Bank and the Government for "Component 2" of the Shock Responsive Safety Net Project - also known under its Somali name as "BAXNAANO" - to assist in setting up nationally-owned social protection delivery systems.

Finally, under the banner of the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Service Delivery, UNICEF continued working with UN-Habitat, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, and the International Labour Organization to strengthen local capacity and local participation in the design and delivery of key social sector services. A total 17 districts were supported, with a number of them increasing their social sector budget allocations - some by 900 per cent, such as Berbera in Somaliland. Overall these expanded allocations benefitted 77,800 students (40 per cent girls) to access improved learning in 305 primary schools (increasing enrolment by 18 per cent), while 75 health centres, water points in Somaliland and 14 primary schools and 15 health centres and four water points in Puntland received increased local government budget support, benefiting 128,000 of women and children. Moreover, UNICEF in collaboration with UN-Habitat and the Municipality of Hargeisa organized a participative "Community-based Urban Visioning Week" where for the first-time children (47 in total, with 14 girls 33 boys) provided their views on how they envision their future city. A space for this exercise to move from theory to practice was allocated by the municipality and this will be the first public space designed by children in Hargeisa - a success story that was shared in Cologne (Germany) at the "First International Child Friendly Cities Summit".

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Lessons from implementation, engagement with partners, and from challenges faced in delivering for children in one of the world's most complex environment were manifold, and frequently required innovative thinking. In **health**, one lesson was that the acute flaccid paralysis and malaria outbreaks showed that cross-border coordination between Somaliland, Puntland and Ethiopia was important. Quick deployment of mobile teams for active case detection, and immediately activating polio mobilizers proved instrumental in ensuring no deaths were recorded. A further innovation was leveraging of the private sector: working with private sector health facilities created synergies for uptake of malaria guidelines and improved the use and impact of drugs channelled through the health system. A further lesson was the multiplier impact of mobile and outreach services, including house-to-house visits and community mobilization. These investments paid off in promoting early health seeking behaviour with an uptick registered in primary health, maternal and neonatal services. One area remains to see progress though, with home births without a skilled attendant remaining the social norm in Somalia, meaning far more awareness, demand creation and innovative approaches will be needed. In **Nutrition**, a significant achievement, which bore several optimistic lessons about the possibility to run complex surveys in Somalia, was the successful completion of the national micronutrient survey - a first in more than a decade and involving complex data collection. Among the key lessons were the need for strong government oversight and engagement at all stages of survey implementation, including ownership and buy-in from Federal Member State levels, good team selection, efficient training and a centralized and robust data management system that allowed for both routine and real time data quality checks.

Over the year in **WASH**, a lesson and innovation stems from UNICEF's role in operating and managing nine Regional Supply Hubs and the work done in pre-positioning stocks at government warehouses, which proved a lifeline for partners engaging in rapid responses. Working with the private sector was a further innovation, with the use of Long-term Agreements for water access and delivery services, which positioned UNICEF as a key player in the drought response in recognition of its unique capacity to respond quickly and to scale across the country. Furthermore, in surveying girls' experiences in schools in an exercise that revealed common challenges, UNICEF embarked on an 'MHM in schools' initiative to support MHM hygiene learning for adolescent girls through Community in Education Committees, female teachers and child-to-child peer support groups. Finally, lessons from working on Public Private Partnerships highlighted the need to concentrate investments on resilient Urban WASH through engaging and helping cities manage more PPP-based water schemes. The 25-year Baidoa Town Master Plan is an example of an ambitious vision articulated around these principles and will require investments that break from the traditional limitations of short-term funding and transition Somalia's water sector for the longer-term.

In **education**, a review undertaken by the Puntland State Ministry of Education and Higher Education on the efficiency and effectiveness of the individual student scholarship scheme led to a recommendation for a programmatic shift towards an emphasis on systematization of primary school grants. Another lesson learned relates to the design of teacher education

Somalia

programmes, which require a greater proportion of resources for coaching and monitoring. Starting in 2020, UNICEF will be supporting the delivery of a blended teacher training programme, which will use technology as a cost-effective means of reaching unqualified teachers in remote, rural primary schools with a focus on female teachers' trainees. Meanwhile in the field of **child protection** a key innovation was the UPSHIFT programme rolled out under the global banner of the Generation Unlimited initiative. Through UPSHIFT, UNICEF, NGOs and private sector partners provided youth with space to design targeted solutions to solve problems that affect them and their communities. In 2019, the programme reached 300 young people (50 per cent female) from Borama, Burao, Hargeisa, Garowe, and Mogadishu. Empowered to unlock their potential, youth in the programme proposed a range of social innovation projects and learned transferrable skills which together with mentoring they will receive from private sector partners is readying them to soon launch their ideas onto the market. A further innovation was the roll-out of the CPIMS+ Primero case management and data system to Puntland and Somaliland to ensure case management services can reach children along migratory routes, which allowed for a total of 6,109 children (3299 boys and 2810 girls) on the move to have access to protection services (1622 Ethiopians, 416 Djiboutian, 41 Yemenis and 1 Kenyan).

Meanwhile, under efforts for **social protection** the past year saw significant lessons and innovations which are scheduled to shape the future delivery of UNICEF programmes. First, a clear focus on support to Government has given UNICEF a unique position to be the implementer for building the future social protection payment system of government through the 'BAXNAANO' project. Second, the Joint Programme on Local Governance and Service Delivery innovated in associating children in the shaping of local community development plans - notably in partnership with the Municipality of Hargeisa. In the field of **C4D** a key new approach was joint community engagement between UNICEF, WFP and FAO with uniform trainings, reporting and supportive supervision under the inter-agency Joint Resilience Action and the KfW supported resilience programmes. Under the **emergency** programme meanwhile an innovative partnership with African Voices Foundation led to rolling out a voice messaging system and service feedback loops around UNICEF's humanitarian cash programme. A further lesson was the need to emphasize durable approaches and **resilience** to avoid seeing progress rolled back and undermined by droughts, floods and other shocks. In turn, to improve **programme effectiveness and efficiency** UNICEF championed new tools and systems, chief among which the United Nations Partnerships Portal, which enhanced UNICEF's ability to drive value for money from its work for children with implementing partners, leveraged together with other key corporate platforms such as eTools. The office meanwhile rolled-out a number of management culture change initiatives in line with global corporate initiatives, with more staff making use of flexible working arrangement, set-up of an Office Improvement Committee which helped develop and run an office-wide management feedback survey, whose key findings were reviewed and will be followed-up on through the coming year. At the same time, an office-wide Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse internal reporting system was rolled out, with internal focal points designated and trained in all offices (including Zonal offices). **Mobilizing and leveraging resources** remained a key priority in 2019, with the office mobilizing 61 per cent of resources needed against the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, a result below the overall funding level for the 2019 inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan (which was 82 per cent funded). This highlighted the need to continue strong advocacy with partners to mobilize resources for humanitarian response - in a way also that better links to development and resilience programming, which requires continued and multi-year investment, as the level of development-focused contributions in 2019 also declined compared to 2018. **Research and evaluation** were finally among the areas of focus in 2019, with the piloting of a new Gender Study, the conducting of a high-quality rated evaluation on the SIDA-funded WASH programme and the publication of several research pieces over the year, for example in nutrition, as well as in partnership with the Office of Research - Innocenti around children on the move, testifying to UNICEF's role in driving the conversation on data, research and evidence for better programmes and lasting results for every child.

Finally, lessons, challenges and results from 2019 will be put towards the final year of the 2018-2020 UNICEF Country Programme in Somalia. The coming year moreover will be designed not only to deliver on the ambitions set-out in the current plan - the first to be delivered working back from inside Somalia after twenty-five years of remote operations - but also to lay the foundations for UNICEF next Country Programme from 2021 onwards, accompanying Somalia's new and ambitious National Development Plan 2020-2024..