

# UNICEF Executive Board Informal briefing – 17 June 2020

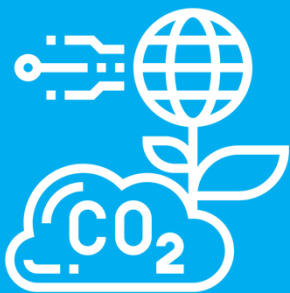
unicef   
for every child

**Update on the targets and  
corresponding efforts of  
UNICEF to make its  
global operations more  
environmentally sustainable**

**Ms. Vidhya Ganesh, Director, Division of Data,  
Analytics, Planning and Monitoring**

# Efforts to Reduce the Environmental Impact of UNICEF Operations

- Making **environmental sustainability a key consideration** in everything we do: programming, planning, partnerships and procurement
- Greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets **aligned with those of the United Nations** through 2030 and beyond
- Emissions decreased in 2019 from **three primary sources** (vehicles, grid electricity and diesel generators) as a result of eco-efficiency projects
- Exploring ways to decrease emissions from **air travel**
- Internal campaigns promoting **staff awareness and behavioural changes**



# Environmental Sustainability in the Context of COVID-19

- **Teleworking and elimination of non-essential travel** in response to the COVID-19 pandemic indirectly benefited both efficiency and greening
  - Reductions in emissions from air travel, office electricity, vehicle fuel, water and paper usage
- Closely monitoring the impacts of these new ways of working and **incorporating successful measures** in future greening plans, to **build back better** and emerge as an ever more sustainable and efficient organization.

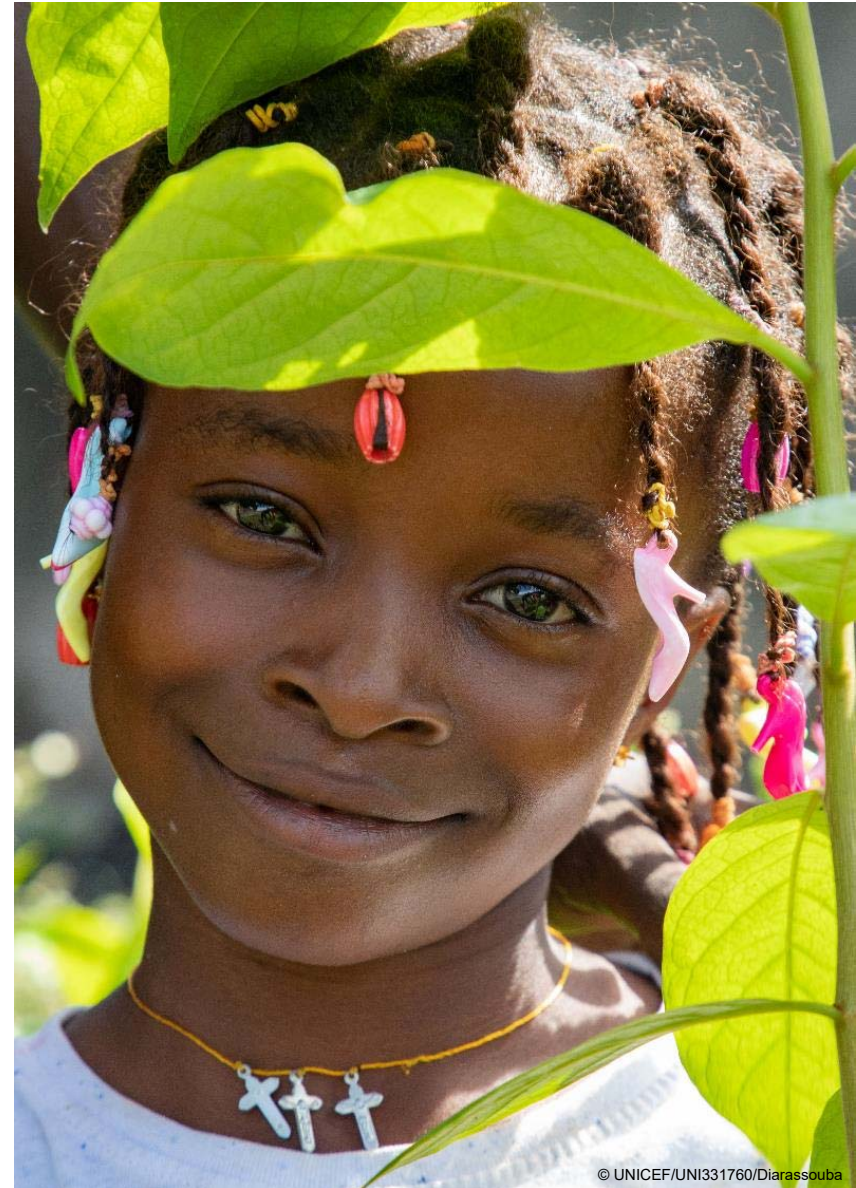


# Scaling Up the Climate Action Response

- The **midterm review (MTR)** of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021 reaffirmed the need to **mainstream climate resilience and environmental responsibility** across programmes, including WASH, health and education.
- Reducing emissions and pollution in our own programmes
  - Increasing the use of solar and other sustainable energy, for instance in schools and health facilities
  - Minimizing waste
  - Prepositioning supplies

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# Organizational Coherence

- Aligning with **UN system-wide efforts** to manage environmental impact
  - Finalizing a new policy on **environmental and social safeguards**, in line with UN Environmental Management Group's Model Approach
  - Incorporating environmental considerations in **procurement processes**, following the High-Level Committee on Management Procurement Network guidelines
- **Digitization initiatives** reducing paper use in implementation planning with partners (e.g., eTools, UN Partner Portal)

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# Looking Forward

- More **systematic, granular targets** and better **monitoring of operational targets with robust analysis** of underlying reasons for certain trends and **systematic enforcement** of corrective measures.
- Further scale-up climate and environmental action across result areas of the **next Strategic Plan**
  - Building on experience in climate-resilient WASH facilities, climate-smart health centres and green schools, including for the next Strategic Plan
  - Strengthening advocacy and addressing the impacts of environmental pollution on children's health and nutrition
  - Leveraging shock-responsive social protection systems to better serve children affected by climate change and environmental degradation
- **Learning lessons** on the pandemic response:
  - For children to **inherit a world that is better prepared** for future pandemics and other shocks linked to climate change and environmental degradation.

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# THANK YOU!