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## United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

### Draft country programme document

#### China

#### *Summary*

The draft country programme document (CPD) for China is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comment. The draft CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$25,346,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$116,613,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 1 March 2021 to 31 December 2025.

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\* E/ICEF/2021/1.

\*\* In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, country programme documents (CPDs) are considered and approved in one session, on a no-objection basis. This draft CPD, and a costed evaluation plan, will be presented to the Executive Board for review from 17 November to 7 December 2020. The final CPD will be posted to the Executive Board web page in English six weeks in advance of the 2021 first regular session and in the other designated languages four weeks in advance.

## Programme rationale

1. Over the 40 years since the country started its reform policy, China has achieved extraordinary economic and social development progress. The 1.4 billion Chinese people — around 20 per cent of the world’s population — are living significantly longer, are better educated and enjoy a higher standard of living than ever before.
2. Although China is the world’s second largest economy, it ranks eighty-fifth on the Human Development Index worldwide (2019) and continues to have the needs of a developing country, such as ensuring equitable development from an interregional and urban-rural perspective for all its citizens.
3. In response to changing economic conditions, environmental risks and ongoing inequities emerging from rapid growth, the priorities of the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan of China place greater emphasis on moving from “high-speed” to “high-quality” development.
4. Among the key challenges identified by the United Nations common country analysis are structural inequality and exclusion from access to basic public services that negatively impact the opportunity for the most vulnerable populations of China to lead healthy, full and rewarding lives. This includes meeting the ever-growing needs of the country’s 271 million children (in 2015), the world’s second-largest child population. While the overall status of children has improved, regional disparities and gender inequities persist, as evidenced by the under-5 mortality rate, which is twice as high in rural areas as urban areas (2018),<sup>1</sup> and a skewed sex ratio at birth (112 male to 100 female births in 2017).<sup>2</sup>
5. Internal migration has been an important stimulating factor for economic growth, yet it has also impacted access to basic public services for some migrants. Children are left behind with grandparents or relatives in rural areas or migrate with their parents, which in both cases impacts their care, development and protection. An estimated 103 million children are affected by migration, of whom 69 million are children left behind by one or both migrating parents (2015).<sup>3</sup>
6. Poverty disproportionately affects the children of China, with the poverty rate higher among rural children (2.2 per cent, or 4.5 million) than that of the total rural population, at 1.7 per cent (2018). China has committed to eradicating extreme poverty by 2020. It is important to prevent a relapse into poverty given the impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and address multidimensional poverty, as obliged by Sustainable Development Goal 1. The social safety net of China needs to be more child-sensitive and staffed with qualified social workers and better address geographic and urban-rural disparities.
7. It is important to enable all children under the age of 5 years to reach their full potential. For this, such risk factors as child poverty, malnutrition, lack of psychosocial stimulation and inadequate parenting practices need to be addressed. Additionally, children under 3 years of age are at risk of developmental delays in poverty-stricken areas.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> National Health Commission, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), *Population Status of Children in China*, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Q.W. Wei and others. “High prevalence of developmental delay among children under three years of age in poverty-stricken areas of China”, *Public Health*, Vol. 129, No. 12 (2015) pp. 1610–1617.

8. There are children facing the triple burden of undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency and overweight, posing challenges for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2. While the prevalence of underweight and wasting has dropped, stunting and anaemia remain a problem, with significant urban-rural and regional differences. Child and adolescent overweight and obesity rates have grown rapidly, particularly among boys.

9. Notable progress in improving child and maternal health is seen by the decline in under-five mortality from 61 per 1,000 live births (1991) to 8.4 per 1,000 (2018). However, with almost half the deaths in the neonatal period,<sup>5</sup> there is a clear need to improve service quality and decrease access barriers, particularly in the western and comparatively poor areas and among migrant populations.

10. Children's health is impacted by environmental factors, including air pollution and inadequate sanitation services. Progress in improving basic water supply and sanitation notwithstanding, there are still 215 million people without access to basic sanitation services (2017).<sup>6</sup> A 2014 national survey revealed that about 27 per cent of all children are exposed to indoor air pollution through the burning of solid fuel for cooking and heating.

11. There are adolescents who experience challenges in seeking health care, and services are not always tailored to meet their physical and mental-health needs. Overall, more than 30 million children and adolescents under the age of 17 years have behavioural and emotional problems.<sup>7</sup>

12. China has achieved universal access to nine-year compulsory education and eliminated gender differences in enrolment at all levels of compulsory education. Key policy measures and investments in education notwithstanding, further improvements in equitable and inclusive access and quality are needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4, including for children affected by migration. Half of children with disabilities attend mainstream schools (2018) and about 41 per cent of children with disabilities are enrolled in special-education schools.<sup>8</sup> In 2019, the gross enrolment ratio in three-year pre-primary education reached 83.4 per cent, with coverage for affordable kindergarten at 76.01 per cent. However, there are still challenges, such as insufficient resources for affordable pre-primary education and low levels of universal access and affordability in rural areas. In many poverty-stricken areas of central and western China, the gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education is below 75 per cent, with poor conditions of operation and low quality of childcare and education.<sup>9</sup>

13. The gross enrolment ratio in senior secondary education (89.5 per cent in 2019) is lower than in primary education. There has been improvement, but there are still urban-rural and interprovincial differences. A notable proportion of adolescents (4.8 per cent in 2018)<sup>10</sup> fail to transition from junior to senior secondary education. Consequently, many adolescents are unable to acquire transferrable skills through formal education to prepare for the challenges of life and work, which is exacerbated by the limited availability of alternative learning pathways.

<sup>5</sup> National Health Commission, 2019.

<sup>6</sup> World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2019.

<sup>7</sup> National Project on Mental Health (2002–2010), "China Department for Disease Control and Prevention, Ministry of Health, 2002", China Health Information Profile, WHO, 2010.

<sup>8</sup> Ministry of Education, 2019.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

14. An integrated child protection system with an adequate and qualified social-service workforce and a monitoring system will contribute to both preventing and responding to abuse and violence against children as well as the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16. Additionally, 169 million children aged 6 to 17 years in China have access to the internet,<sup>11</sup> making online safety for children and adolescents another area for action.

15. An estimated 85 million people are living with various types of disabilities (2010), of whom five million are children. Up to 90 per cent of children in some child welfare institutions have some form of disability.<sup>12</sup> This underlines the need to ensure that children and families have access to specialized support services. Inclusive access to health insurance and mainstream schools, early identification and rehabilitation services and advocacy to eliminate discrimination are necessary for children with disabilities to realize their rights equally.

16. The 2019 gender programmatic review revealed that, despite high levels of women's education and rates of female labour-force participation, the talent pipeline of China is not optimized. Social norms and practices discourage and impede girls and women from acquiring science, technology, engineering or mathematics expertise and taking on related technical occupations.<sup>13</sup> Some labour practices and maternity policies also increase women's care burden and further disadvantage them in the job market and at home.

17. Prone to floods, typhoons, earthquakes and epidemics, China ranks high among countries suffering great losses from natural disasters and public-health emergencies. The psychosocial, social and economic shocks caused by natural disasters and epidemics can have profound impacts on children, as evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. The current emergency management system, including for public-health emergencies, needs to be further strengthened to help children and their families respond, cope and recover.

18. Key lessons from the 2016–2020 country programme have informed the design of the new country programme. The “pilots to policy to results at scale” approach, reflected on as part of the midterm review, has been shown to be appropriate. Pilots have provided evidence and insights into innovative solutions to development challenges and informed the Government's programmes and policies. UNICEF will leverage its resources and network to provide more advice on government pilots, concentrate efforts in underserved counties, expand upstream support on policy development and disseminate the best practices in child development of China to other developing countries under the framework of South-South cooperation.

19. Lessons have also been drawn from UNICEF engagement in South-South cooperation and private sector partnerships. China is increasingly promoting cooperation with other developing countries under the framework of South-South cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Better advocacy of the UNICEF value proposition for South-South cooperation and private sector partnerships in development programmes is needed among policymakers and influencers in China. Experience has demonstrated that more investment is required

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<sup>11</sup> Report on children's Internet use, Communist Youth League and the China Internet Network Information Centre (2018).

<sup>12</sup> Shang Xiaoyan, Wang Xiaolin and Tao Chuan Jing, “Survival Children, Discovery Report: Emerging Issues and Findings for Child Welfare and Protection in China: Research on the Reform of State Child Welfare Institutions”, *Social Science Academic Press* (China), 2010.

<sup>13</sup> Yang, X., Gao, C. Missing Women in STEM in China: an Empirical Study from the Viewpoint of Achievement Motivation and Gender Socialization, *Research in Science Education* (March 2019).

to forge public and private awareness and engagement in China in cooperation with the Government.

20. The 2021–2025 programme priorities are based on an analysis of persistent disparities, outlined in the common country analysis, that are most relevant to the UNICEF mandate. These include addressing the unrealized rights of vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities, migrant families and children left behind; addressing disparities in access to quality social services; reducing violence against women and children; ensuring the relevance of education for life and work; enhancing adolescent physical and mental health; and optimizing the potential of the public and private sectors to influence the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in China and other countries.

21. The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the period 2021–2025 is designed to accelerate action towards the achievement of integrated social, environmental and economic development under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNICEF country programme will contribute to all six outcomes of the UNSDCF, strategically focussing on ensuring that:

(a) **More children survive and thrive**, through improved quality of care and support for child health and development, addressing the triple burden of malnutrition (undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency and overweight); inadequate sanitation; emerging environmental health issues; adolescent health; and preventing deaths and injuries;

(b) **Quality and inclusive learning is enhanced** through improved child care and education in kindergarten, strengthened quality and relevance of education, with a focus on girls, and the promotion of learning and skills opportunities for out-of-school children;

(c) **Children live in a more protective environment** with reduced levels of violence and abuse and improved care and protection, including protection from bullying, violence and online exploitation;

(d) **Child-centred social policy** addresses multidimensional child poverty, with social protection and affordable, specialized and integrated essential social services for all;

(e) **Strengthened partnerships and investments benefit children in China and around the world** through the enhanced sharing of best practices under the framework of South-South cooperation, innovative financing investment, public and private partnerships, including the leveraging of resources, and the increased availability of high-quality supplies from China to benefit child development elsewhere.

## Programme priorities and partnership

22. The country programme is closely aligned with the priority areas for acceleration of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. It is aimed at supporting the Government to realize the rights of all children in China, particularly the most disadvantaged, by improving the quality of programme and policy design and implementation and leveraging support for child development. As part of the UNSDCF, it will contribute to the Government's Fourteenth Five Year Plan and National Programme of Action for Women and Children (2021–2030), which are under development, all aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

23. The overarching theory of change for the country programme is that if the quality, accessibility and inclusiveness of essential social services for children and

their families are improved; if fewer children are exposed to risks posed by environmental health hazards, obesity and online activities; if fewer children are multidimensionally poor and at risk of or experiencing violence and exploitation; if more children, adolescents, parents and caregivers have enhanced knowledge and skills to practice caring and protective behaviours; if the Government has enhanced capacities to develop and implement child development policies; and if the Government, financial institutions, the private sector and the general public expand investment and action towards child development, then by 2025, the rights of more girls and boys, particularly the most disadvantaged, will be realized so that they survive, live in a safer and healthier environment and develop to their full potential.

24. The underlying assumption is that the Government will prioritize child-centred human development, politically and financially, in China and beyond. The major risk is that the development trajectory will be interrupted by a global or China-specific economic downturn or large-scale emergency.

25. UNICEF will employ five key strategic approaches:

(a) Provide high-quality technical assistance at the national and subnational levels and generate data, research and evidence, including on social norms, to inform policy and programme design and implementation, sustainable financing and advocacy;

(b) Support innovative service-delivery models at the subnational level that generate evidence and can be taken to scale;

(c) Enhance multi-stakeholder partnerships with government departments, other United Nations agencies and, when appropriate, with the private sector and the general public to promote child development and protection in China and share the country's best practices with other countries;

(d) Expand media, particularly social media presence, that advocates for child rights in China and globally;

(e) Facilitate the global engagement and commitments of China to child-centred development cooperation.

26. Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF will work with the Government of China to strengthen preparedness for emergencies, and will work in health, education and child protection sectors to ensure that all children, especially the most vulnerable, remain safe during emergencies and to address the possible adverse effects on child development, including on poverty reduction, education and physical and mental health in the worst-hit areas, including Hubei Province.

27. Early childhood (0–6 years) and adolescence (10–19 years) will be prioritized to ensure accelerated results. UNICEF will promote intersectoral approaches to early childhood development (ECD) to ensure nurturing care; neonatal, infant and young child health and nutrition; environmental health; protection from violence; and the sustainable financing of early childhood care services. Stronger emphasis will be placed on integrated programming around the second decade of life. The focus will be on strengthening the quality and relevance of education, life-skills development, especially for girls, adolescent nutrition, mental health, the prevention of child injuries and accidents and protection from all forms of violence, including online.

28. Three cross-cutting elements underpin the country programme: gender-responsiveness, disability inclusiveness and urbanization.

29. Gender-responsive approaches, embedded across programmes to address norms, behaviours and inequalities, will be aimed at supporting girls to better acquire science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills, removing gender stereotypes in

occupational choices for girls and boys and tailoring interventions to address adolescent health challenges in a gender-responsive way.

30. Disability inclusiveness will be promoted, including the early detection of developmental delays, to encourage inclusive education, positive behaviours among caregivers, protection and ECD services.

31. The Child-Friendly City/Community Initiative will be used as a framework to influence participatory, sustainable, equitable and protective urban planning and management from a child rights perspective.

32. The six programme components contributing to the UNSDCF pillars are: (a) child health and development; (b) quality and inclusive education; (c) child-centred social policy; (d) child protection; (e) partnerships and engagement; and (f) programme effectiveness.

33. **Child health and development** will focus on healthy pregnancy, child health, nutrition and development, and sanitation and hygiene. It is aimed at ensuring that more newborns, children and adolescents, particularly the most disadvantaged, survive and thrive and are better able to achieve their developmental potential. Technical support will strengthen the quality of care and the capacities of the health system. Evidence and international best practices will be brought to bear on policy and programme design.

34. Aligned with the national priorities of Healthy China 2030, UNICEF will cooperate with the National Health Commission and its technical institutions to address remaining challenges, shifting the focus from child survival to optimal development. While continuing to address neonatal mortality, UNICEF will tackle child injuries, including road accidents, delayed development and inadequate services to address congenital or early-life disabilities and adolescent mental health, with increased engagement to understand adolescents' needs.

35. To reduce the triple burden of malnutrition, UNICEF will support policy and legislative actions, create positive social norms for healthy lifestyles, scale up nutrition counselling and information to caregivers and promote a healthy school food environment. This will involve collaboration with multiple partners, including the ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture. Expanded relationships with the private sector will also help to address the underlying factors that drive poor nutrition, including establishing family-friendly workplace policies and access to nutritious foods.

36. To tackle remaining and emerging challenges related to the environment, including sanitation, climate change and air pollution, and their impact on child health, UNICEF will collaborate with the ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Health and Education and their technical institutes to tap into data for policy change, explore innovative financing for environmental health and sanitation and support operations research and legislative action.

37. **Quality and inclusive education** will support the Ministry of Education to ensure that more girls and boys, especially the most disadvantaged, are adequately prepared to start school and are learning and acquiring skills in an inclusive, healthy and safe environment. The focus will be on improving equity and access to quality education, from early learning opportunities, including pre-primary education, that lay the groundwork for success in school, to secondary education, including secondary vocational schooling, and the transition beyond. This will involve a renewed focus on national policy engagement and its operationalization at the provincial level, including field testing innovative models. To capitalize on the large-

scale education reform of China, UNICEF will support the generation of data, engage in policy analysis and advocacy, and share international best practices.

38. UNICEF will strengthen national and selected provincial education policies, capacities and monitoring and supervision systems, popularize excellent pre-primary education models, improve the quality of child care and education in kindergarten as well as in community-based nursery and parenting support services to deliver quality early childhood education, including pre-primary education, for children aged 3 to 6 years. A shift will be made from child-friendly schools to child-friendly education systems, especially at the provincial level, through the inclusion of learning assessments, school standards, governance and high-quality teaching. Integrating holistic and gender-responsive skills development across the education life course, with a focus on girls, mainstreaming life skills into secondary vocational education and expanding alternative learning pathways for out-of-school adolescents will equip children and adolescents with skills for life and work.

39. **Child-centred social policy** is aimed at ensuring that children and their families have increased access to equitable, adequate and affordable essential social services and social protection. This programme component will leverage strong partnerships with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development. Evidence and knowledge on child poverty, social protection, basic public services for children and public financial management and an understanding of the model of decentralization and governance of China will be used to inform policy direction that enables children inside and outside China to reach their full potential.

40. UNICEF will work at the national level on legislation, policy and fiscal analysis, research and evidence generation and at the subnational level on localized policy analysis, capacity development and the demonstration of child-sensitive approaches to social protection, including health insurance and social service provision. This work will inform government efforts to prioritize the deprivations of children and their families in policies and frameworks; improve policy design and implementation for the social protection system and the package of essential social services for children; and increase sustainable public spending on children.

41. **Child protection** will focus on prevention and addressing the needs of children at risk of or experiencing abuse, violence and exploitation. To further systematize and accelerate the work of previous country programmes, UNICEF will support the Government to build an integrated child protection system with quality services that both prevents and responds to abuse and violence against children. This system comprises four interlinked elements: integrated child protection services covering all children, including those with disabilities and children affected by migration; a skilled and knowledgeable child protection and allied workforce; increased family, school and community awareness to promote positive behaviours and norms and provide early protection; an enabling legal and policy framework and child protection mechanism, programmes and facilities. The programme component will cover prevention and response to violence and exploitation, including online and encompass working with information and communications technology authorities and companies. Major partners will be the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Public Security, the National Working Committee on Women and Children and the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

42. UNICEF will help to strengthen (a) laws and standards; (b) the professionalization of the social service workforce; (c) governance and accountability systems; (d) community-based and statutory services; and (e) case management and

monitoring at the national level, including by means of demonstration sites in selected provinces. Positive norms will be promoted to end harmful practices that result in violence and abuse. Strengthened intersectoral programming, particularly with health and education systems, will be pursued.

43. **Partnerships and engagement** are aimed at enhancing progress towards child-centred Sustainable Development Goals in China and beyond through strengthened partnerships, knowledge and best-practice exchange and increased public and private sector support and involvement.

44. UNICEF will collaborate with relevant government institutions in intergovernmental platforms at the global, regional and subregional levels to increase knowledge exchange for children between China and other countries. Policy dialogue through international forums will be promoted to share development experience and amplify best practices for children in China and beyond.

45. In pursuing these priorities and strategies, UNICEF will collaborate in programming, research and advocacy with relevant United Nations agencies as indicated in the summary results matrix and as part of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) results groups. UNICEF will also provide leadership for a coordinated approach as co-chair of the United Nations Programme Group and co-chair of the United Nations Poverty Group.

46. Through technical expertise and experience sharing, UNICEF will influence and assist financial institutions and the private sector to develop viable business models and financial instruments to make more child-friendly investments that are sustainable and scalable and do not inadvertently neglect or hurt children.

47. UNICEF will leverage support from individuals and the private sector to influence stakeholders' role in contributing to children's rights in China and beyond in close communication and consultation with and consent of the Government. Private sector partnerships will be strengthened to leverage expertise, technologies, global presence and reach to develop, test and scale up solutions for children. UNICEF will also continue to expand the promotion of cards and other gifts.

48. Using external communication and public advocacy, UNICEF will promote child-rights development, advocate with decision makers to act for the benefit of children and expand the network of committed ambassadors and key influencers. The digital landscape of China will be optimized to increase knowledge about children and UNICEF and promote opportunities to become friends and followers of UNICEF.

49. **Programme effectiveness** will enhance the delivery of programme results through planning, monitoring and reporting; research and evaluation and the publication of data to inform evidence-based decision making; mainstreaming gender equality and disability-inclusive programming across sectors; supply procurement and operational support; and other key areas.

## Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Child health and development	3 435	43 617	47 052
Quality and inclusive education	3 422	26 677	30 099
Child protection	3 786	25 340	29 126
Child-centred social policy	3 799	9 049	12 848
Partnerships and engagement	2 129	2 560	4 689
Programme effectiveness	8 775	9 370	18 145
<b>Total</b>	<b>25 346</b>	<b>116 613</b>	<b>141 959</b>

*Note:* The budget does not include \$15 million in investment funds for UNICEF work in South-South cooperation.

## Programme and risk management

50. This country programme document outlines the UNICEF contributions to national priorities and results for children and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

51. The United Nations country team will establish results groups aligned with the three UNSDCF pillars and coordination mechanisms for each outcome. The United Nations Programme Group will monitor progress and improve coordination with support from technical groups.

52. UNICEF will identify and mitigate risks to achieving programme outcomes. One major risk is the country's vulnerability to natural disasters and epidemics. These pose serious threats to the lives of children and challenge the achievement of planned results, as experienced with the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF will mitigate this risk by strengthening its technical assistance to support the Government in response and recovery, investing further efforts as part of the United Nations country team on preparedness and risk reduction as part of regular programming and mobilize resources for emergency preparedness and response.

53. UNICEF will use the harmonized approach to cash transfers as the mechanism for the management of programme financial resources, mainly through the reimbursement modality. The National Audit Office will be engaged to support programme and financial assurance activities.

## Monitoring and evaluation

54. Programme monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in close communication and consultation with the Government based on the results and resources framework, which has been aligned with global, regional and national priority indicators. Outcome indicators will be monitored as possible through national administrative systems or surveys. Output indicators will be assessed during mid- and end-year reviews with implementing partners, benefiting from joint field visits and frequent communication and consultation. UNICEF will work jointly with other

United Nations agencies to monitor the progress of the UNSDCF and demonstrate the UNICEF contribution.

55. UNICEF will collaborate with national statistical systems to improve the coverage and quality of disaggregated data, including supporting data collection and analysis. Examples include the population census and mini-census, national health services survey and the database on vulnerable children and children left behind in rural areas. National statistical systems and capacities, such as the Education Information Management System, will be strengthened to facilitate situation monitoring and National Programme of Action and Sustainable Development Goal monitoring.

56. The integrated monitoring, evaluation and research plan will guide programming. Six major evaluations, including one country programme evaluation, outlined in the costed evaluation plan, will be used to improve the delivery of results and the strategic positioning of UNICEF. Government engagement in the evaluations will be enhanced with UNICEF support to national capacity-building for partners.

## Annex

### Results and resources framework

#### China – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2021–2025

**Convention on the Rights of the Child:** Articles 1–7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16–20, 23–31, 34–37, 39, 40 and 42.

**National priorities:** Sustainable Development Goals, Fourteenth Five Year Plan and National Programme of Action for Children and Women (2021–2030)

#### United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework outcomes involving UNICEF:

**Outcome 1:** Relative poverty and multi-dimensional poverty are reduced, and more coordinated development leads to reduction in gaps between rural and urban areas and among regions, as more people in China, including left-behind groups, benefit from sustainable, innovation-driven and shared high-quality economic development, with enhanced access to economic opportunities arising through innovation, entrepreneurship and rural revitalization, enjoying decent work, sustainable livelihoods, and the right to development equally for both women and men.

**Outcome 2:** People’s lives in China are improved further as headway is made in ensuring access to childcare, education, healthcare services, elderly care, housing, and social assistance, and more people in China, including left-behind groups, benefit from equitable and high-quality public services and social protection systems as well as accelerated efforts to reduce gender inequality and other forms of social inequality throughout the life-course.

**Outcome 3:** People in China and the region benefit from a healthier and more resilient environment.

**Outcome 4:** China accelerates its transition to a people-centred, inclusive, low carbon and circular economy.

**Outcome 5:** China’s international financing, investments and business engagements, including through connectivity initiatives, programmes and projects, contribute to SDG attainment in partner countries.

**Outcome 6:** Through South-South cooperation and humanitarian cooperation, China makes greater contributions to SDG attainment and the principles of the 2030 Agenda, including leaving no one behind.

#### Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 Goal Areas: 1–5

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
1. By 2025, more children, particularly newborns, adolescents and other vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, survive, thrive and are	Neonatal mortality rate B: 3.9‰ (2018) T: 3.4‰ (2025)	Official statistics	1. The health-care system is better able to accelerate the delivery of services and address social and behavioural barriers to reduce preventable deaths.	National Health Commission,  National Development and Reform Commission,	3 435	43 617	47 052
	Child overweight and obesity rates	Official statistics					

<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
					<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
better able to achieve their developmental potential.	<p>Children under five years</p> <p>B: Overweight: 6.9% (2017) B: Obesity: 5.0% (2017) T: TBC (2025)</p> <p>Children aged 6–17 years</p> <p>B: Overweight: 11.1% (2017) B: Obesity: 9.1% (2017) T: TBC (2025)</p>		<p>2. Health policymakers have enhanced capacities to deliver services.</p> <p>3. The health system has strengthened capacities to deliver quality early childhood nutrition and development services and address developmental delays and disabilities.</p> <p>4. There is strengthened evidence and an enabling environment to promote nutritious, affordable and sustainable diets and healthy lifestyles that protect children against the triple burden of malnutrition.</p> <p>5. The national Government and selected subnational governments and the private sector have strengthened capacities to deliver and promote climate-resilient and gender-responsive sanitation and environment programmes.</p> <p>6. Government health agencies and their partners in the private sector and academia share China’s experiences and practices with other developing countries on clean environment and child health.</p>	<p>State Administration for Market Regulation, Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs,</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Ecology,</p> <p>Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS</p>			
2. By 2025, more children, especially the most disadvantaged, are adequately	<p>Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education</p> <p>B: 81.7% (2018) T: 90% (2025)</p>	Official statistics	1. The national Government and selected provincial governments and partners have strengthened capacities to	National Development and Reform Commission,	3 422	26 677	30 099

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
prepared to start school and are learning and acquiring skills in an inclusive, healthy and safe environment.	Transition rate of junior secondary to senior secondary education B: 95.2 % (2018) T: 98% (2025)	Official statistics	<p>deliver quality early childhood education services.</p> <p>2. The national Government and selected provincial governments demonstrate strengthened policy, management capacities to provide equitable, quality learning and skills in general and vocational education.</p> <p>3. The national Government and selected provincial governments and partners demonstrate a strengthened commitment to ensure that out-of-school adolescents, especially girls, acquire foundational and life skills/transferable skills through alternative/flexible learning programmes.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, National Health Commission,</p> <p>China Association for Science and Technology,</p> <p>All China Women's Federation,</p> <p>National Centre for Educational Technology,</p> <p>China National Children's Centre.</p>			
3. By 2025, more children are safe and better protected from all forms of violence.	Improved data on violence and exploitation in the country (including one-off surveys) B: No (2020) T: Yes (2025)	Official statistics, national survey	<p>1. The child protection legal, institutional and administrative framework is strengthened to prevent and respond to violence against children.</p> <p>2. Models of integrated child protection services are developed in selected provinces to prevent and respond to violence against children and support children and their caregivers.</p> <p>3. Strengthened institutionalized approach and resources to improve skills for and knowledge of child protection and the allied workforce to deliver preventive and responsive</p>	<p>The Legislative Affairs Commission of National People's Congress,</p> <p>Supreme People's Procuratorate, Supreme People's Court,</p> <p>Ministry of Civil Affairs,</p> <p>National Working Committee on Children and Women,</p> <p>All-China Women's</p>	3 786	25 340	29 126
	Increased percentage of reported cases of violence against children receiving services provided by the integrated child protection system B: 0 (2020) T: 100% (2025)	Annual reviews					

<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
					<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
			<p>services to children and caregivers.</p> <p>4. Children, parents and other caregivers have increased awareness to prevent violence against children.</p> <p>5. Children's safety and well-being online is enhanced.</p>	<p>Federation, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Justice, Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, China Disabled Persons' Federation, Cyberspace Administration of China</p>			
<p>4. By 2025, children and their families have increased access to essential social services and nationally appropriate social protection system.</p>	<p>Increased numbers of local governments (county level) that adopt implementation plans and budgets for social-assistance reform</p> <p>B: 35 (2020) T: 1,000 (2025)</p>	<p>Official statistics</p>	<p>1. National and selected subnational authorities (including in urban settings) have enhanced knowledge and capacity to measure and use evidence to inform strategies, policies, and programs to provide nationally appropriate social protection to children.</p> <p>2. National and selected subnational authorities have strengthened capacity to develop and implement a nationally appropriate, child-sensitive social protection system with wide coverage.</p> <p>3. National and selected subnational authorities have enhanced capacities to provide essential social services for children to enable them to grow up in a child-friendly environment</p>	<p>Ministry of Commerce, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Civil Affairs, State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development</p>	<p>3 799</p>	<p>9 049</p>	<p>12 848</p>

<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
					<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
			4. National and selected subnational authorities have enhanced capacities to increase quality outcomes for children.				
5. By 2025, progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for children in China is enhanced by strengthened support of the public and private sector, media, academia, financial and technical institutions, knowledge and exchange between countries.	Increased multi-stakeholder public and private sector support for UNICEF work  B: No (2020) T: Yes (2025)	Annual reviews	1. Selected China-based multilateral development banks, financial institutions and corporations have strengthened knowledge, tools and innovative financing modalities to integrate child-related Sustainable Development Goals in investment decisions.  2. UNICEF has expanded private sector support towards the Sustainable Development Goals.  3. There is more public engagement in promoting children's rights.	China International Development Cooperation Agency, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Emergency Management, CCTV, Xinhua News, China Development Bank,  China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges, United Nations Development Programme,  Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	2 129	2 560	4 689
6. Enhanced programme effectiveness	Number of planned evaluations completed  B: 0 (2020) T: 6 (2025)	Evaluation reports	Programme coordination; planning, monitoring and evaluation; cross-cutting operations support	National Bureau of Statistics, National Audit Office	8 775	9 370	18 145
<b>Total resources</b>					<b>25 346</b>	<b>116 613</b>	<b>141 959</b>