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## United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

### **Draft country programme document\*\***

#### **Tajikistan**

##### *Summary*

The draft country programme document (CPD) for Tajikistan is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comment. The draft CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$10,308,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$25,830,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2027 to 2030.

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\* [E/ICEF/2026/25](#).

\*\* 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 9 to 29 June 2026. The final CPD will be posted to the Executive Board web page in English six weeks in advance of the 2026 second regular session and in the other designated languages four weeks in advance.

## Programme rationale

1. Tajikistan is a lower-middle-income country in Central Asia with a rapidly growing and young population, with 40 per cent under 18 years of age.<sup>1</sup> The country has seen steady population growth of about 2 per cent annually through high fertility rates (3.5 children per woman in 2023) along with declining mortality rates.<sup>2</sup> About three quarters of the population live in rural areas.
2. While Tajikistan has made steady progress over recent decades, it continues to face challenges and inequalities, ranking 128th out of 193 countries on the 2025 Human Development Index. Between 1993 and 2023, life expectancy at birth increased by 16.3 years, the mean years of schooling increased by 1.4 years and gross national income (GNI) per capita increased by 137 per cent.<sup>3</sup> Overall, significant barriers remain for the equitable realization of the rights of all children.
3. In 2023, Tajikistan ranked 68th out of 172 countries included in the Gender Inequality Index. While gradual progress has been made in reducing gender inequalities, significant disparities persist, especially in women's participation in decision-making and the formal labour force.
4. Despite average gross domestic product (GDP) growth exceeding 7 per cent in recent years, the economy remains heavily reliant on remittances and agriculture, with limited job creation and income growth. Labour migration remains a major dynamic, with remittances accounting for 48 per cent of GDP in 2024 and an increasing trend of family relocation abroad.<sup>4</sup>
5. Monetary child poverty declined to 20.4 per cent in 2023, while multidimensional child poverty remains high at 36 per cent, with significant regional disparities. Beyond income-based measures, data reveal that a significant proportion of children experience overlapping deprivations, directly impacting their health, development and well-being.<sup>5</sup>
6. The Government's Medium-Term Development Programme (2026–2030) prioritizes digital transformation, green growth and human capital, yet social-sector spending declined from 13.8 to 12.6 per cent of GDP from 2019 to 2023, with health, education and social protection allocations remaining constrained.<sup>6</sup>
7. While neonatal and under-5 mortality declined to 10 and 24 per 1,000 live births respectively from 2017 to 2023, preventable deaths persist due to gaps in care quality, referral systems and postnatal services. Immunization coverage remains high, although 6 per cent of children aged 12–23 months received no vaccinations, with remote areas facing workforce shortages and high out-of-pocket costs.
8. Stunting (13.7 per cent) and wasting (6.4 per cent) among children under 5 years of age remain prevalent, particularly in rural areas, alongside high anaemia rates among children and women.<sup>7</sup> Bottlenecks include weak institutional capacity for

<sup>1</sup> Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT), Statistical Yearbook, Republic of Tajikistan, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> TAJSTAT, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MoHSPP) and ICF, Tajikistan Demographic and Health Survey 2023, Dushanbe, Tajikistan and Rockville, Maryland, United States of America, 2025.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2025*: UNDP, New York, 2025.

<sup>4</sup> World Bank, Personal remittances, received (% of GDP) – Tajikistan. World Development Indicators, 2026.

<sup>5</sup> World Bank, Listening 2 Tajikistan: Survey of Wellbeing, 2024.

<sup>6</sup> World Bank, Tajikistan Economic Update, 2024.

<sup>7</sup> TAJSTAT, MoHSPP and ICF, Tajikistan Demographic and Health Survey 2023, Dushanbe, Tajikistan and Rockville, Maryland, United States of America, 2025.

nutrition programming, commodity stock-outs and limited caregiver knowledge of optimal feeding practices.

9. Nationally, the proportion of the population using safely managed water services increased from 52 per cent in 2015 to 55 per cent in 2022.<sup>8</sup> Despite progress, 1 in 4 households and many health and education facilities lack sufficient safe water. Rural areas face inadequate sanitation and dysfunctional sewage systems, disproportionately affecting girls' menstrual hygiene and children with disabilities.

10. Tajikistan ranks as the most climate-vulnerable country for children in Europe and Central Asia, according to the UNICEF Children's Climate Risk Index, with 3.9 million children exposed to ambient air pollution, 2.8 million to heatwaves and over 360,000 to riverine flooding. Gaps in early warning, anticipatory action and subnational preparedness undermine service continuity during climate shocks.

11. Despite legislative progress, children with disabilities continue to face stigma and a weak early identification system, so only one third are enrolled in school.<sup>9</sup> Recent government commitments to intersectoral case management and assistive technologies face significant financing and implementation constraints.

12. While primary and lower secondary enrolment is near universal, foundational learning remains low, with significant urban-rural and gender disparities. Transition to upper secondary level remains unequal for girls and children with disabilities, particularly in rural areas.<sup>10</sup> Despite an increasing number of children attending mainstream school, the number of children with disabilities in residential childcare institutions remains the same. Access to early childhood education (ECE) in Tajikistan remains low, at 30 per cent of children aged 3–6 years enrolled in ECE programmes, with significant rural and income-based disparities.<sup>11</sup>

13. One in three 15–24-year-olds is not in employment, education or training, with the rate nine times higher for girls, while youth unemployment stands at 27 per cent.<sup>12</sup> While digital skills are critical, limited connectivity, low school internet access and minimal teacher training in information and communications technology (ICT) constrain progress. Internet access in secondary schools for conducting online classes remains limited, ranging from 56 per cent in Dushanbe to less than 25 per cent in other regions, while teacher digital readiness is low, with only 3 per cent of teachers having received any ICT training in the past five years.<sup>13</sup>

14. Despite legislative reforms, violence against children remains widespread, with 56 per cent of children aged 1–14 years experiencing physical discipline in 2023.<sup>14</sup> Weak referral pathways, low reporting and persistent harmful norms, including acceptance of gender-based violence, undermine protection. Expanding digital access has also increased exposure to cyberbullying and harmful content, with underdeveloped legal safeguards.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>8</sup> UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO) *Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000–2022: special focus on gender*: UNDP and WHO, New York, 2023.

<sup>9</sup> TransMonEE (database) available at [www.transmonee.org/](http://www.transmonee.org/), 2024.

<sup>10</sup> Ministry of Education and Science, Tajikistan, Education Management Information System (EMIS), 2025.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> International Labour Organization, Unemployment, youth total (% of total labour force ages 15–24) – Tajikistan [ILO Modelled Estimates and Projections database]. World Bank Data Bank, 2025.

<sup>13</sup> Global Partnership for Education, *Going the distance: Readiness for digitalization and distance education in Tajikistan*: GPE, Washington, D.C., 2024.

<sup>14</sup> TAJSTAT, MoHSPP and ICF, Tajikistan Demographic and Health Survey 2023, Dushanbe, Tajikistan and Rockville, Maryland, United States of America, 2025.

<sup>15</sup> UNICEF, *Situation Analysis of Children in Tajikistan*: UNICEF, New York, 2025.

15. Adolescent mental health is an increasing concern. Limited data and reported self-harm cases highlight the need for improved prevention, confidential services and adolescent-friendly psychosocial support, especially outside urban areas.

16. Social protection expenditure as a share of GDP has been declining gradually over recent years, with social insurance and protection constituting only 3.5 per cent of GDP in 2023. About 80 per cent of social protection spending is absorbed by social insurance and pensions, leaving minimal resources for child-focused social assistance, social support and services. Social assistance spending is only 0.8 per cent of GDP, significantly lower than the regional average of 1.8 per cent. Furthermore, social benefits per month remain insufficient relative to the national poverty line.<sup>16</sup> There is a shortage of qualified social protection professionals and limited awareness of rights and services.

17. Tajikistan continues to strengthen national data systems as it implements the 2021–2030 National Strategy for the Development of Statistics and uses the data from surveys such as the comprehensive Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2023 for policymaking. However, significant gaps remain in the availability, disaggregation and interoperability of child-related data. Not all child-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators are regularly monitored and administrative systems across sectors remain fragmented. Limited integration and use of data at subnational level constrain evidence-based planning and targeting of vulnerable children.

18. The country programme is informed by lessons learned from the previous programme cycle, recent evaluations, the 2025 Situation Analysis of Children in Tajikistan and consultations with Government, civil society organizations, children and adolescents. Given demographic pressures, fiscal constraints and persistent regional disparities in Tajikistan, and based on lessons from the 2023–2026 country programme, the 2027–2030 programme will prioritize a deliberately sequenced and focused set of high-impact, equity-driven interventions designed to achieve scale through system strengthening. UNICEF will leverage its convening role to strengthen national and subnational institutional capacities, promote integrated and multisectoral approaches, and mobilize partnerships with development partners and the private sector. Through strategic use of evidence, innovation and partnerships, the programme will aim to accelerate human capital development and deliver sustainable results for the most vulnerable children.

## **Programme priorities and partnerships**

19. The country programme is aligned with the Tajikistan National Development Strategy 2030, as well as sectoral strategies, and is fully derived from and contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). It responds to recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the universal periodic review and other human rights mechanisms, as well as national child rights priorities. The programme aims to strengthen human capital, accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and advance child rights, with a focus on equity and inclusion.

20. The overarching vision of the country programme is that all boys and girls in Tajikistan, especially girls and the most vulnerable, children with disabilities and those living in rural and hard-to-reach areas grow up healthy and well-nourished, protected from all forms of violence, poverty and the impact of climate change, and with the knowledge and skills to realize their full potential.

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<sup>16</sup> UNICEF, *Republic of Tajikistan Brief description of state expenditures on social protection of the population and children*: UNICEF, New York, 2025.

21. The country programme will leverage the comparative advantage of UNICEF as a trusted partner, technical adviser and advocate for child rights to support the Government in translating reforms into sustainable, system-wide results. The programme will focus on strengthening primary health care and nutrition systems, expanding inclusive and cost-efficient ECE, improving competency-based learning and school-to-work transitions, professionalizing the child and social protection workforce, and advancing child-sensitive climate resilience across social sectors. UNICEF will support equitable implementation of reforms through evidence, financing, innovation and partnerships.

22. UNICEF will adopt a twin-track approach at the national and subnational levels to ensure that policy reforms translate into tangible improvements for children. At the national level, the programme will support policy, financing and system reforms aligned with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals. At the subnational level, it will strengthen the capacity of regional and district authorities to integrate child rights priorities into planning, budgeting and service delivery, supporting more equitable services for children and families, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

23. The country programme will apply a prioritized and mutually reinforcing set of strategies, intentionally designed to work in combination to drive systemic change and scale, including: (i) advocate for children's rights and well-being and expand partnerships across government, civil society, development partners and the private sector; (ii) provide policy and programme advice aligned with international standards and national priorities; (iii) leverage and influence public, private and innovative financing to increase the adequacy, efficiency and equity of investments in children; (iv) generate, strengthen and utilize evidence and data to inform policy dialogue, planning, budgeting and programme design; (v) engage front-line workers, families and communities to promote positive social norms and behaviour change; and (vi) coordinate and harmonize efforts across development, humanitarian and peacebuilding actors to ensure coherent, risk-informed and sustainable results for children.

24. Across all components, the programme will apply approaches designed to be disability-inclusive, climate-resilient and responding to barriers affecting adolescent girls while promoting positive social norms through education, social protection and social and behaviour change interventions. UNICEF will support the development and implementation of parenting approaches that address social norms that are harmful to girls and women, promoting equitable caregiving, non-violent discipline and gender equality from early childhood. The programme will increasingly prioritize upstream engagement through evidence-based advocacy, public expenditure reviews and co-financing partnerships to scale systemic reforms, while maintaining targeted downstream support where critical gaps persist or to demonstrate scalable models.

25. As a respected voice for children's rights in Tajikistan, UNICEF will build on its long-standing partnerships with the Government, civil society, the private sector, academia, media and youth to deepen collaboration with international financial institutions (IFIs) and strengthen engagement with decentralized authorities to promote innovation, mobilize and leverage domestic and external resources, and support integrated investments that generate high-impact and sustainable results for children.

### **Health and nutrition**

26. This programme component will contribute to children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, having improved health and nutrition through a focused set of system-level interventions designed for national scale and

sustainability. This area of work contributes directly to achieving UNSDCF outcome 1.

27. UNICEF will leverage partnerships and provide technical assistance to strengthen data use and climate-resilient health system governance, services and demand for maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and immunization. This will include technical support to the Government for the development of relevant digital health tools and capacity development to ensure MNCH interventions are evidence-based and adequately costed. UNICEF will also support the strengthening of shock-responsive and risk-informed health systems, including anticipatory action for climate-related hazards and improved use of early warning information to inform timely public health interventions at national and subnational levels.

28. UNICEF will advocate for and support the integration of health-seeking practices among young women and pregnant women into national and subnational policies, strategies and plans. Targeted social and behavioural change interventions will be deployed to counter vaccine misinformation and build caregiver trust. Structural gaps in the immunization data system will be addressed by providing technical expertise to upgrade immunization, climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facility data modules in the health management information system (HMIS) and full integration of the electronic immunization registry. In parallel, UNICEF will support strengthening policies, standards, financing and capacities related to environmental health and climate-resilient WASH in healthcare facilities to improve service quality and safety.

29. To promote optimal feeding practices and healthier food environments for children, UNICEF will support the development of regulatory and financing frameworks for nutrition programmes, leveraging key partners and resources. This will include technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MoHSPP) to operationalize the new guideline on prevention and management of wasting and nutritional oedema, integrate severe acute malnutrition management and breastfeeding counselling in pre-service medical education, and improve regulations for better school food environments for school-age children. To strengthen programme-based budgeting and expenditure accountability, UNICEF will support MoHSPP in advocating for a dedicated budget line for nutrition programmes for vulnerable women, children and families.

30. Early childhood development (ECD) systems will be strengthened through improving coordinated intersectoral governance by the National ECD Council, financing and policy implementation. UNICEF will strengthen early identification and early childhood intervention (ECI) systems and support inclusive service and learning environments, including financing frameworks for assistive technologies and disability-inclusive social services. ECI services will be institutionalized through integrated screening, developmental monitoring, timely referrals and family support, including for children with developmental delays and disabilities. To advance integrated ECD services, emphasis will be placed on improving operational collaboration across the health, social protection and education sectors to institutionalize a digital child development monitoring system, ensure systematic early detection of developmental risks and disabilities, and establish clear referral pathways for timely, coordinated early intervention and family support.

31. UNICEF will support MoHSPP in scaling up the new home-visiting model at primary health care (PHC) level and integrate early childhood development, nutrition, mental health and disability-inclusive approaches into pre- and in-service training curricula for health professionals, ensuring family-centred care and improved communication with caregivers. Positive parenting practices will be promoted by

supporting the National Parenting Programme and a consolidated social and behavioural change strategy focused on intersectionality (gender, age, geographical locations and ethnicity), father engagement and the empowerment of young caregivers.

### **Learning and skills**

32. This programme component will contribute to children and adolescents benefiting from inclusive, accessible, high-quality and future-ready learning and skills, and enabling a successful transition to earning and income opportunities. This area of work contributes directly to achieving UNSDCF outcomes 2 and 3.

33. UNICEF will support the Government to expand ECE through leveraging data and evidence, operationalizing national quality and inclusion standards, and adopting cost-effective delivery models. Partnerships with the private sector will be facilitated to leverage resources for affordable, equitable and high-quality ECE expansion, including through public-private partnerships and innovative blended financing mechanisms. UNICEF will also support improving regulations and quality assurance for all models of ECE provision.

34. UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) to strengthen the quality of competency-based education, national coordination mechanisms and monitoring systems. The programme will support the development of teaching and learning materials, strengthen pre- and in-service teacher development and learning assessments, and promote scalable blended professional development systems. UNICEF will also support efforts to improve school connectivity through the Giga initiative.

35. UNICEF will provide technical expertise to strengthen national learning assessment systems and the integration of assessment data into the education management information system (EMIS) to enhance evidence-informed decision-making and more equitable targeting of support to underperforming regions and schools. UNICEF will strengthen artificial intelligence literacy and use of digital technologies to improve teaching and learning.

36. The programme will support adolescents' and young people's safe transition from learning to earning by strengthening national systems for skills development, including integration of digital, green and transferable skills into secondary education and community platforms. Partnerships with the private sector will be expanded to align skills training with labour market demand, with a particular focus on girls, rural youth and young people not in education, employment or training.

37. UNICEF will also support the integration of safe, gender-responsive, climate-adaptive, WASH-inclusive and risk-informed learning environments that promote positive gender norm resilience and ensure continuity of learning across the education system. This includes strengthening school safety and disaster risk reduction standards, promoting climate-resilient WASH and energy-efficient infrastructure, and embedding climate change education and green skills within curricula. UNICEF will also support capacity development of teachers and school leaders to implement climate-informed practices and emergency preparedness measures, ensuring continuity of learning in the face of climate-related shocks, particularly in vulnerable rural and mountainous regions.

### **Child and social protection**

38. This programme component will contribute to children and adolescents, especially girls and the most vulnerable, benefiting from inclusive, transparent and accountable child protection, social protection and justice systems that prevent and

respond to violence, exploitation and abuse through strengthened cross-sectoral coordination, including with the social protection and education systems. Interventions will address social norms that are discriminatory and harmful to women and girls. This area of work contributes directly to achieving UNSDCF outcome 4.

39. UNICEF will support the Government to strengthen integrated, adaptive and shock-responsive child protection, social protection and justice systems to prevent and respond to violence against children. This will be done through technical assistance to improve legislation and policies, strengthen referral pathways and enhance data and monitoring systems for efficient case management, data collection and analysis. UNICEF will also support the development of a parenting support package and services to prevent and reduce violence against children, and will support strengthening system responsiveness and integration, ensuring vulnerable children and families are effectively supported, particularly in the context of shocks and vulnerabilities, including climate-related hazards and disaster risks, to further strengthen shock-responsive and preventive social protection systems.

40. UNICEF will support the institutionalization of the social work function within child protection and social protection systems through clear child protection mandates, standardized job descriptions, methodologies, professional standards and quality assurance and supervision mechanisms. UNICEF will also support continuous pre- and in-service capacity development to build competencies on violence against children prevention and response, case management and emergency response. Support will be provided for workload analysis, human resource planning and developing costed investment scenarios to inform sustainable financing of the social work function across sectors.

41. UNICEF will strengthen collaboration with IFIs to advance sustainable financing and system reforms in child and social protection. The programme will provide technical support to integrate child protection and social service components into broader social sector investment programmes, ensuring that violence prevention, case management systems and social workforce development are embedded within nationally financed reform agendas.

42. UNICEF will provide support to authorities at the national and subnational levels to strengthen their capacity to design, finance, implement and monitor child-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection programmes and services that address child poverty, exclusion and environmental vulnerabilities. This includes supporting policy options, helping to modernize the social protection management information system and ensuring interoperability with other data systems. UNICEF will also provide support to design and promote 'cash-plus' approaches, linking cash transfers with complementary services, such as nutrition, ECE, disability services, parenting support and alternative care.

### **Programme effectiveness**

43. This component will ensure effective programme management, quality assurance and strategic coordination to deliver results at scale and maximize impact for children. It will strengthen integrated planning, monitoring, evaluation, risk management and risk-informed programming systems; reinforce external relations and strategic partnerships; and enhance advocacy, communication and resource mobilization efforts. It will also strengthen coordination and harmonization with development partners and IFIs to leverage resources, ensuring efficient, accountable and sustainable implementation of the country programme.

44. Evidence-informed advocacy will be central to influencing public policy, strengthening accountability and mobilizing increased domestic and external

resources for children. UNICEF will leverage data, research, public expenditure analysis and programme evidence to shape policy dialogue, promote child-responsive budgeting and advance reforms that deliver equitable and sustainable results.

45. UNICEF will strategically leverage its programme presence, partnerships and brand to deepen engagement with the private sector, media and influential stakeholders in support of advocacy priorities, innovation and resource mobilization. To institutionalize this engagement, UNICEF will establish a senior-level business advisory platform, bringing together private-sector leaders to co-invest in solutions for children and champion child rights in the business community.

46. The Government of Tajikistan will support UNICEF efforts to mobilize resources and expertise from the private sector in support of UNICEF programmes in Tajikistan, ensuring that donations to UNICEF are tax exempt and eligible for applicable tax benefits, and that UNICEF is not subject to registration requirements applicable to national charitable organizations.

47. UNICEF will continue to strengthen governance, risk management and oversight systems to ensure efficient, transparent and accountable use of financial and human resources. Continuous improvement of internal management systems, compliance mechanisms and results-based management practices will support high-quality implementation and delivery of the country programme.

### 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>
Health and nutrition	1 512	7 191	8 703
Learning and skills	3 233	14 205	17 438
Child and social protection	1 928	3 637	5 565
Programme effectiveness	3 635	797	4 432
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 308</b>	<b>25 830</b>	<b>36 138</b>

### Programme and risk management

48. This country programme document outlines UNICEF contributions to national development priorities and the UNSDCF and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results achieved and resources allocated at country level. Managerial accountability at country, regional and headquarters levels are governed by UNICEF policies and procedures, ensuring alignment with corporate standards on quality assurance, risk management and results-based management.

49. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates engagement with the United Nations system in Tajikistan. The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and the United Nations Resident Coordinator co-chair the UNSDCF Steering Committee, under which results groups guide joint planning, implementation and monitoring. Sectoral coordination mechanisms led by relevant line ministries, including health, education and social protection, will serve as key platforms for programme alignment, policy dialogue and multisectoral collaboration.

50. UNICEF chairs and co-chairs several Development Coordination Council Human Capital groups (including education and social protection), contributes to four

UNSDCF outcomes and actively participates in the National Development Council, established in 2019 to advance implementation of the National Development Strategy 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals in Tajikistan.

51. The Government's ongoing reforms in the health, education, social protection and child protection sectors offer key opportunities for UNICEF to support systemic change for high-impact results for children, especially the most vulnerable. The major risk is that fiscal constraints may delay or derail reform efforts. Through fiscal and budgetary analysis, UNICEF will advocate for allocating resources to priority areas. It will also leverage resource mobilization opportunities with the Government, IFIs and the private sector.

52. The UNICEF country office will work towards strengthening the internal capacities and systems of government and non-government partners, with a particular focus on the use of the harmonized approach to cash transfers. Office performance will be monitored through relevant indicators, while regular joint reviews will serve to steer any necessary programme adjustments and improvements.

53. Tajikistan is highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters, including floods, droughts, landslides and extreme weather events, as well as seismic risks and public health emergencies. Considering these risks, UNICEF will work closely with the Government and United Nations partners to strengthen emergency preparedness and response systems, early warning and anticipatory action mechanisms and shock-responsive social protection services, ensuring continuity of essential services for children during crises. Other risks include the ongoing geopolitical tensions in the region, all of which have a significant economic and social impact on Tajikistan.

## **Monitoring, learning and evaluation**

54. The country programme is informed by the 2025 Situation Analysis of Children, findings from national surveys, including the DHS 2023, and previous cycle evaluations providing critical baselines. These sources will guide prioritization, targeting and results tracking. Additional evaluations under the costed evaluation plan will generate strategic learning, assess results chain progress and support adaptive management and course correction.

55. Programme monitoring will be aligned with UNICEF corporate indicators (Global Monitoring Framework) and the Sustainable Development Goals, with a deliberate focus on outcome-level monitoring to capture sustained changes in children's lives and systems. Reflecting the strategic direction of the new country programme, monitoring will emphasize leveraging by tracking how UNICEF investments catalyse additional resources, policy reforms and multi-stakeholder action. UNICEF will employ innovative, fit-for-purpose monitoring methods enabling robust, agile evidence use across programming, advocacy and resource mobilization. Progress will be tracked through strengthened national data systems and sectoral platforms, spanning health, education and social protection databases. UNICEF will support the Government to improve data disaggregation, interoperability and use at subnational level to better target vulnerable children. Joint monitoring with line ministries and partners will be conducted through regular midyear and annual reviews.

56. UNICEF will contribute to United Nations-wide monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and national priorities, focusing on child-related indicators. Partnerships with the national statistical system, academia and research centres will be strengthened to close evidence gaps and generate policy-relevant research. Meaningful youth participation will be institutionalized across monitoring and learning, ensuring young people contribute to indicator refinement, co-design

feedback mechanisms and validate findings through youth-led research and digital platforms. The programme will support public finance analysis and tracking of child-related expenditures to strengthen accountability, inform advocacy and promote equitable resource allocation to social sectors.

## Annex

## Results and resources framework

## Tajikistan – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2027–2030

<b>Convention on the Rights of the Child:</b> Articles 2–7, 9, 12, 17–20, 23–29, 32–34, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42
<b>National priorities:</b> Sustainable Development Goals: 1–6, 7–13, 13, 16, 17; Tajikistan National Development Strategy 2030
<b>United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF:</b> Outcomes 1–4
<b>Related Impact Results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029:</b> 1–5

UNSDCF outcomes	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
Outcome 1: By 2030, people in Tajikistan – especially women and the most vulnerable – have improved health, food security and nutrition, and are protected from shocks	1. By 2030, children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, have improved health and nutrition, and are developmentally on-track	Number of live births attended by skilled health personnel (home and facilities)* B: 186,668 (2025) Girls: 94,024 Boys: 92,644 T: 198,904 (2030) Girls: 100,187 Boys: 98,717	Government report	1.1 Improved data systems, planning and financing, climate-resilient capacity for strengthening health system governance, services and demand for MNCH, MHPSS and immunization.	MoHSPP, Committee for Environmental Protection (CoEP), Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (CoES), Committee of Housing and Communal Services (CoHCS), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government of the Russian Federation, WHO, United Nations Population Fund, World Bank, Asian Development	1 512	7 191	8 703
		Number of children under 5 years of age who benefit from a minimum package of nutrition interventions for the early detection and treatment of the more severe forms of child wasting and other forms of acute malnutrition* B: 38,331 (2025) Girls: 19,549 Boys: 18,782 T: 40,840 (2030) Girls: 20,828 Boys: 20,012	Government report	1.2 Strengthened nutrition governance, financing and regulatory frameworks, and enhanced institutional and human				

UNSDCF outcomes	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
		<p>Number of children under 5 years of age who benefit from early stimulation, nurturing care, responsive parenting and inclusive childcare services to support ECD B: 900,000 (2025) Girls: 459,000 Boys: 441,000 T: 1,500,000 (2030) Girls: 765,000 Boys: 735,000</p>	Government report	<p>resource capacity to promote healthier food environments and optimal feeding practices.</p> <p>1.3 Strengthened ECD systems through improved, coordinated intersectoral governance, financing and PHC capacity to promote positive parenting and child development.</p>	Bank, civil society representatives, private sector			
		<p>Number of children reached with climate-resilient health infrastructure and services B: 14,451 (2025) Girls: 7,370 Boys: 7,081 T: 20,000 (2030) Girls: 10,200 Boys: 9,800</p>	Government report, HMIS data, healthcare facility catchment population records, UNICEF programme documentation					
Outcome 2: By 2030, people in Tajikistan – especially youth, women, and the most vulnerable – benefit from inclusive, accessible, high-quality and future-ready learning, skills and diverse income opportunities	2. By 2030, children and adolescents benefit from inclusive, accessible, high-quality and future-ready learning and skills, enabling a successful transition to earning and income opportunities	<p>Out-of-school rate (one year before the official primary entry age, primary school age and secondary school age)* B: 6-year-olds: 55% (girls 55%, boys 56%); 7-year-olds: 2% (girls 1.9%, boys 1.8–2.0%); 11-year-olds: 6% (girls 9.1%, boys 2.4%) (2025) T: 6-year-olds: 35% (girls 34%, boys 35%); 7-year-olds: 1% (girls 1%, boys 1%); 11-year-olds: 2% (girls 1%, boys 2%)</p>	EMIS	<p>2.1 Expanded early childhood education through leveraging data and evidence, adopting cost-effective delivery models and increasing public and blended innovative financing.</p> <p>2.2 Enhanced quality of competency-</p>	MoES, Centre for Additional Education, Committee of Youth and Sports, local governments, Agency of Innovation and Digital Technologies, civil society, Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment (MoLME), Ministry of	3 233	14 205	17 438

UNSDCF outcomes	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
Outcome 3: By 2030, people in Tajikistan – especially women and the most vulnerable – are more resilient to climate change and disaster risks and benefit from inclusive, sustainable management of natural resources and food systems.		(2030)			Industry and New Technology, CoES, CoEP, MoHSPP, CoHCS, MoF, European Union, Global Partnership for Education, IFIs, private sector			
		Participation rate of youth in technical and vocational education and training B: 30.7% (2025) Girls: 41.8% Boys: 21.0%  T: 35% (2030) Girls: 45% Boys: 25%	Government report	based education through strengthened curricula, improved teacher professional development, and better use of learning assessments and evidence for decision-making.				
		Number of children reached with education services adapted to climate, environmental or disaster risks* B: 35,000 (2025) Girls: 17,780 Boys: 17,220 T: 2,300,000 (2030) Girls: 1,168,400 Boys: 1,131,600	Government report	2.3 Expanded and quality-assured pathways enabling adolescents, especially girls and vulnerable youth, to access and complete transferable, digital, green skills programmes through different platforms within Learning to Earning approaches.  2.4 Strengthened education facilities systems to provide safe, gender-responsive,				

UNSDCF outcomes	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
				climate-adaptive, WASH-inclusive and risk-informed learning environments that promote resilience and ensure continuity of learning.				
Outcome 4: By 2030, people in Tajikistan – especially women, youth and the most vulnerable – benefit from more inclusive, transparent and accountable governance, rule of law and justice systems	3. By 2030, children and adolescents, especially girls and the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, transparent and accountable child protection, social protection and justice systems that prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse	Rate per 100,000 children accessing specialized social services to address child protection risks B: 10.7 (2024) T: 35.3 (2030)	TransMonEE	3.1 Integrated, adaptive and shock-responsive child protection, social protection and justice systems are strengthened to prevent and respond to violence against children, including through improved legislation and policies; strengthened referral pathways and effective case management; child-friendly justice procedures; sustainable financing;	National Committee on Child Rights (NCCR), Child Rights Unit (CRU), MoHSPP, MoES Ministry of Justice (MoJ), MoF, MoLME, Academy of Public Administration, Parliament, Agency on Statistics, Prosecutor’s Office, Supreme Court, law enforcement	1 928	3 637	5 565
		Percentage of mothers or primary caregivers who think that physical punishment is necessary to raise/educate children B: 4% (2023) T: 3% (2030)	DHS, multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS)					
		Percentage of children (aged 1-14 years) who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers B: 56% (2023) T: 45% (2030)	DHS, MICS					

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<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>robust data and monitoring systems.</p> <p>3.2 The social service workforce within child protection and social protection is strengthened through clear mandates and standards; enhanced pre- and in-service capacity development and supervision; and sustainable financing and coordinated governance mechanisms to deliver quality, child-friendly and gender-responsive services.</p> <p>3.3 Authorities at national and subnational levels have strengthened capacity to design, finance, implement and monitor integrated, child-sensitive and shock-</p>				

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<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>
				responsive social protection systems that reduce child poverty and exclusion; prevent and respond to violence against children through strengthened family and parenting support; address climate and other shocks; and ensure equitable access to a continuum of cash and family support services.				
	4. Enhanced programme effectiveness	Standard performance indicators	UNICEF Results Assessment Module	Programme coordination: public relations; planning, monitoring and evaluation; advocacy and partnerships.		3 635	797	4 432
<b>Total resources</b>						<b>10 308</b>	<b>25 830</b>	<b>36 138</b>

\* Outcome indicator aligned with the UNSDCF indicators.