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Country programme document

Mozambique

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Mozambique is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$83,000,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$216,300,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2027 to 2030.

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

** *Note:* The present document was processed in its entirety by UNICEF.



Programme rationale

1. Mozambique is at a critical juncture in its development trajectory. Classified as a low-income least developed country, with a gross domestic product per capita of only \$656,¹ it faces persistent structural vulnerabilities in a context of rapid population growth, constrained financing, climate shocks and conflict in the north of the country. With a population of over 34 million, half of whom are children,² and a population growth rate of around 2.5 per cent annually, the country has a unique opportunity to accelerate human capital development and realize a demographic dividend, particularly by investing in critical stages of the life cycle, namely the first 1,000 days of life and adolescence, particularly for girls. At the same time, without sustained and equitable investment, these dynamics risk outpacing system capacity to deliver quality child services, thereby missing the opportunity to realize the country's demographic potential and leaving more children behind.
2. Economic growth has slowed over the past decade, compounded by limited fiscal space, a high debt burden and reliance on external financing, constraining public investment in essential services. Fragmented delivery systems, gaps in data availability and use, uneven decentralization, limited institutional capacity and repeated shocks further disrupt service delivery and erode development gains.
3. A central driver of child deprivation, poverty has increased over the past decade, with widening inequalities. More than 70 per cent of children live below the poverty line, while multidimensional poverty affects 41 per cent of children, representing 6.8 million children, up from 6.1 million in 2015.³ Poverty is deepest in rural areas and in the northern and central provinces, but significant child deprivations continue across the country. State social protection programmes exist, but their coverage and adequacy remain limited relative to needs. Persistent inequalities between girls and boys, and between women and men, reflected in a Gender Inequality Index of 0.484, are driven by social norms and practices that constrain access to services, particularly for adolescent girls.
4. Challenges of crisis proportions persist. Mozambique is among the top three countries with children most at risk from climate and environmental hazards, scoring 7.9 or "extremely high" on the Children's Climate Risk Index.⁴ Mozambique has had 18 cyclones since 2011, together with floods and droughts. In 2024 and 2025, tropical cyclones impacted nearly 1.8 million people and destroyed or damaged 183 healthcare facilities and over 4,600 classrooms.⁵ Approximately 5.5 million children live in areas at high risk of cyclones⁶ and 70 per cent of schools are in hazard-prone areas.⁷ While national climate frameworks are advancing, the integration of social sectors with adaptation planning and financing remains limited. Moreover, the conflict in the Cabo Delgado Province has caused widespread

¹ Representing the ninth lowest globally according to World Bank Group, 'Databank: GDP per capita' World Bank Open Data (database), <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD>, accessed on 9 April 2026.

² Projections for 2025 based on National Institute of Statistics (INE), 2017 General Population and Housing Census.

³ Ministry of Planning and Development of Mozambique and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), *Multidimensional Child Poverty in Mozambique (2014/15–2022)*, Maputo, 2025; and Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE) and ICF, *Demographic and Health Survey 2022–2023 (DHS 2024)*, Maputo and Rockville, Maryland, 2024.

⁴ UNICEF, Global Child Hazard Database, New York, forthcoming in June 2026.

⁵ UNICEF, 'Situation Report', Maputo, March 2025.

⁶ UNICEF, *Children's Climate and Environment Risk Index*, 2024.

⁷ World Bank Group, *Mozambique – Country Climate and Development Report*, Washington, D.C., 2023.

insecurity and service disruptions since 2017, displacing over 1.3 million people. As of February 2026, the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix registered 661,532 displaced persons across Mozambique, 54 per cent of whom are children. In 2024, the United Nations verified 954 grave violations against 507 children, a 525 per cent increase over 2023.⁸ The Government has taken important steps to strengthen child protection in armed conflict contexts, training the Mozambique Defence Armed Forces and developing a national handover protocol.

5. Children with disabilities face persistent and intersecting barriers across sectors, compounded by limited data and visibility in national systems. While around 7.2 per cent of children have a functional disability,⁹ gaps in inclusive infrastructure, workforce capacity and tailored services constrain access to healthcare, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and protection, leading to poorer outcomes and heightened vulnerability, particularly in emergencies. Progress has been made, with UNICEF support, in strengthening data, promoting inclusive services and improving accessibility, while continued efforts are needed to ensure system-wide inclusion and equitable access and participation.

6. Mozambique has reduced under-5 mortality from 194 to 59 deaths per 1,000 live births and neonatal mortality from 52 to 25 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1997 and 2024.¹⁰ Yet these rates remain high. Maternal mortality stands at 233 deaths per 100,000 live births.¹¹ Mozambique has the third-highest HIV burden globally, affecting 2.5 million people, including 180,000 children.¹² Among adolescents and young women (aged 15–24 years) HIV prevalence is 15.4 per cent, nearly double that of young men at 8.6 per cent. Adolescent pregnancy remains high, affecting 36 per cent of girls aged 15–19 years, rising to 45 per cent in rural areas. Undernutrition is widespread, with 37 per cent of children (aged 0–5 years) stunted. Overall, 61 per cent of children (aged 2–4 years) are developmentally off track.¹³ Among school-age children and adolescents, malnutrition is increasingly complex, with persistent stunting alongside rising overweight. Around 16 per cent of adolescent girls are underweight, with high levels of anaemia. Despite a strong policy foundation, progress in health, nutrition and early childhood development (ECD), particularly for children in the first 1,000 days of life and adolescents, remains constrained by key bottlenecks. Gaps in primary healthcare coverage and quality, service disruptions, distance, costs and harmful social norms contribute to high immunization dropout, with only 27 per cent of children fully immunized,¹⁴ low antenatal care completion, high child food poverty (86 per cent) and limited maternal and adolescent nutrition interventions. Fiscal constraints, workforce and supply chain gaps, and underused data systems further limit integrated responses at scale.

⁸ United Nations, Report of the Secretary-General: Children and armed conflict, A/79/878-S/2025/247, New York, June 2025.

⁹ INE and ICF, *DHS 2024*.

¹⁰ United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, *Child Mortality Estimates: Country-specific under-five mortality rates (2026 update)*, UNICEF Data and Analytics Section, New York, March 2026.

¹¹ INE and ICF, *DHS 2024*.

¹² Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, *UNAIDS Spectrum National HIV Estimates*, version 6.42, <https://ghdx.healthdata.org/series/unaid-spectrum-national-hiv-estimates>, accessed on 15 April 2026.

¹³ INE and ICF, *DHS 2024*.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

7. Gaps in WASH services remain significant. While 47 per cent of the population has access to at least basic water services, only 13 per cent of those benefit from safely managed services. Among those without basic access, 8.7 per cent rely on limited services, 36.4 per cent use unimproved sources and 8.3 per cent depend on surface water. Only one third of the population has access to water free from faecal contamination.¹⁵ Sanitation deficits are similarly severe, with 23 per cent of the population practising open defecation and one third using unimproved facilities.¹⁶ These conditions have contributed to the deadliest cholera outbreak in Mozambique in 25 years, with over 37,000 cases reported across 76 districts since September 2022. Deficits in WASH in schools and health facilities are stark: only 40 per cent of schools have water, 26 per cent have sanitation and 4 per cent have hygiene facilities, while 52 per cent of health facilities have basic water and 43 per cent sanitation.¹⁷ These gaps disproportionately affect girls, including through menstrual health barriers linked to absenteeism and dropout, and children with disabilities facing persistent accessibility challenges. Sector performance is further constrained by uneven financing, limited decentralized capacity and sustainability challenges. Ongoing reforms provide an opportunity to strengthen governance, accountability, service sustainability and shock-responsiveness.

8. Mozambique has one of the youngest populations in the world, with the potential to generate a powerful youth dividend, yet the education system is not adequately equipping children and adolescents with the learning, skills and agency needed for productive and resilient transitions to adulthood. While enrolment has expanded with demographic growth, completion, retention and learning outcomes remain low and unequal, with rural girls disproportionately affected and increasingly exposed to child marriage and early pregnancy. Only two in three children complete primary education and one quarter complete secondary education. Around 4 million children (aged 5–17 years) do not attend school.¹⁸ Foundational learning deficits are stark, with fewer than 5 per cent of Grade 3 students demonstrating basic literacy and fewer than 8 per cent demonstrating basic numeracy.¹⁹ Gaps in infrastructure, teacher support and learning materials constrain quality. Costs, distance, poverty, early pregnancy, child marriage and unequal care responsibilities drive adolescent girls' dropout and weak transitions.

9. Children face high levels of violence, exploitation and harmful practices, driven by intergenerational poverty, inequality between girls and boys, and entrenched social norms. Violence remains widespread, with 55 per cent of children (aged 1–14 years) experiencing violent discipline, 1 in 3 boys and 1 in 4 girls experiencing physical violence and 14.3 per cent of girls experiencing sexual violence.²⁰ Birth registration rates decreased from 49 to 31 per cent²¹ between 2017 and 2022. Child marriage is prevalent, with 48 per cent of women (aged 20–24 years) married before the age of 18 years. Mental health and psychosocial support needs remain largely unmet. These vulnerabilities are more pronounced in provinces

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid., trend analysis.

¹⁷ World Health Organization and UNICEF, Joint Monitoring Programme (database), 2023 (published 2024), accessed on 21 May 2026.

¹⁸ United Nations Children's Fund, *Estudo sobre a Situação das Crianças, Adolescentes e Jovens Fora do Sistema Escolar*, Maputo, 2025.

¹⁹ World Bank, 'Service delivery indicators – Education', <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/service-delivery-indicators/education/country-reports-and-data>, accessed on 10 April 2026.

²⁰ Government of Mozambique and United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Violence Against Children and Youth Survey in Mozambique (VACS 2019)*, Maputo, 2022.

²¹ INE and ICF, *DHS 2024*.

affected by overlapping poverty, conflict, displacement and climate risks. Access to child protection services remains limited and uneven, with weak local availability, fragmented case management and referral pathways, an under-resourced social service workforce, and limited access to child-friendly justice and legal identity services.

10. In a context of persistent territorial disparities and recurrent shocks, accelerating results requires stronger investment in human capital to support economic development and empowerment, alongside expanded fiscal space, with greater focus on underserved regions, including northern provinces and rapidly growing urban areas, and on climate-resilient systems. Lessons learned from the 2022–2026 country programme highlight two priorities to sharpen focus and increase impact. First, while integrated approaches improved results as pilot initiatives, limited institutionalization and system fragmentation constrained scale and sustainability, underscoring the need to anchor integration within national systems and core service delivery platforms. Second, community-based structures proved critical to reach vulnerable populations, but uneven capacity, supervision and financing limited their effectiveness, highlighting the need for more systematic investment and stronger linkages with formal systems.

Programme priorities and partnerships

11. The Mozambique country programme 2027–2030 aligns with national priorities enshrined in the Government’s Five-Year Programme 2025–2029 (Programa Quinquenal do Governo, PQG), particularly on human development and access to quality social services and resilience. It supports progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union’s Africa’s Agenda for Children 2040 and Agenda 2063. The programme reflects recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, while contributing to the Impact Results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029. It derives from and contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2027–2030, including its focus on the demographic dividend, inclusive governance and climate-resilient economic transformation. It was developed through consultations with the Government of Mozambique, other United Nations entities and development partners, with active engagement from adolescents and young people during crucial planning phases.

12. To maximize the impact of available resources, the country programme will focus on a limited set of integrated interventions with the greatest potential to influence lifelong trajectories and break intergenerational cycles of poverty and vulnerability. While structured around sectoral priorities, it will target two critical periods that require multisectoral approaches: the first 1,000 days of life, addressing gaps in maternal and child health and nutrition services, birth registration, caregiving and WASH; and adolescence, tackling adolescent pregnancy, child marriage, HIV, violence, learning gaps and limited pathways to skills and livelihoods, while integrating climate resilience. These periods are interconnected, with adolescent pregnancy shaping outcomes in the first 1,000 days for the next generation. The pivotal bridge from early childhood to adolescence will focus on primary and foundational learning, supported by targeted digital learning to drive scale and impact.

13. Key change strategies include:

- (a) Strengthening core system functions, including the social service workforce, multisectoral coordination, data use and public financing;

- (b) Expanding partnerships, including with the private sector on innovative financing and shared-value partnerships;
- (c) Evidence-based advocacy and strategic communications to position child rights and influence policy;
- (d) Engaging adolescents, families and communities, and partnering with civil society to strengthen demand and quality of services, empowerment, positive social norms and accountabilities;
- (e) Ensuring continuity between development, humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts;
- (f) Generating and using data and evidence for prioritization, accountability and adaptive programming, including with academia;
- (g) Digitalization and innovation to scale up proven approaches and enhance efficiency and resilience;
- (h) Effective decentralized and equity programming through UNICEF field presence.

Child health, nutrition and development

14. This programme component will focus on ensuring that more children, especially in their first 1,000 days of life, and adolescent girls, equitably benefit from quality health, nutrition and nurturing care services and adopt sound practices, including in emergencies. It will contribute to UNSDCF outcomes 1 and 3 on the demographic dividend and resilient economic transition and aligns with PQG pillar 3 on social and demographic transformation.

15. First, UNICEF will help to strengthen institutional governance, financing, data, supply chain management, accountability and preparedness to enable equitable delivery of integrated maternal and child health, nutrition and nurturing care services. This includes strengthening coordination platforms, supporting priority policies and integrated district planning, and improving data systems and use for decision-making. UNICEF will help to reinforce supply chains for essential medicines, nutrition commodities and vaccines, strengthen emergency preparedness and leverage partnerships and public finance dialogue, including on innovative and blended financing.

16. Second, UNICEF will strengthen the capacity of primary healthcare facilities to deliver an integrated package of high-impact services across maternal, newborn and child health, immunization, HIV, adolescent health, nutrition and nurturing care. This includes improving access to quality, client-centred services, focusing on zero-dose and underserved populations, strengthening referral systems, expanding outreach through integrated mobile services and improving last-mile supply. Essential nutrition and adolescent-responsive platforms will be strengthened, ensuring continuity of care in emergencies.

17. Third, UNICEF will strengthen community healthcare systems, including community healthcare workers and outreach platforms, to deliver integrated maternal and child health, nutrition and parenting services, promote positive practices, and ensure continuity of care and timely referral to primary healthcare. This includes expanding community health worker platforms, strengthening community-based immunization outreach and early identification and referral, including for HIV and adolescent health, and reinforcing integrated mobile outreach, last-mile supply, emergency preparedness and response, and front-line capacities for integrated ECD and parenting services.

18. Fourth, UNICEF will strengthen multisectoral systems to improve food environments and access to affordable, nutritious diets. This includes supporting policies and regulations that promote healthy diets, strengthening multisectoral governance and accountability, improving nutrition financing tracking and use, and engaging private sector partners to promote responsible and climate-smart food systems and availability of nutritious foods.

19. Finally, UNICEF will strengthen community engagement and science-informed social and behaviour change (SBC) approaches to address social and behavioural determinants, build trust in services and increase adoption of priority practices. This includes applying human-centred design, expanding community engagement and integrated SBC platforms, including digital and adolescent-friendly channels to promote participation and social accountability, and generating and using behavioural evidence. Approaches such as the Model Family Programme will be scaled up to improve caregiving, healthy diets and positive adolescent behaviours, including in humanitarian contexts.

Learning, skills and engagement

20. This programme component will focus on ensuring that girls and boys, including the most disadvantaged adolescents, achieve foundational learning and relevant skills in safe, inclusive and shock-responsive learning environments, and actively participate in shaping their futures. It will contribute to UNSDCF outcomes 1, 2 and 3 on inclusive learning, participation and climate resilience, and aligns with the PQG priorities on human capital development, quality education, skills and digital transformation, contributing to economic transformation.

21. UNICEF will support the institutionalization and scale-up of inclusive digital learning solutions to expand equitable access, improve learning and strengthen system accountability. This includes strengthening digital platforms, developing curriculum-aligned content for foundational, life and vocational skills, building teacher capacity, and expanding access through enhanced partnerships and digital learning hubs, particularly for vulnerable children and adolescents.

22. Another priority will be strengthening school- and system-level accountability, safeguarding and preparedness to ensure safer, more inclusive and shock-responsive education services. This includes strengthening community engagement and school governance, expanding school readiness and catch-up programmes, improving teacher development and enhancing real-time data systems and coordination, including in emergencies.

23. The programme will prioritize adolescents and young people, especially vulnerable girls, by supporting access to relevant learning and skills pathways that improve school-to-work transitions and earnings, while strengthening agency, resilience and civic engagement. This includes expanding opportunities to develop foundational, life and market-relevant skills, promoting recognition of prior learning, facilitating access to earning opportunities and private sector partnerships, and expanding youth platforms for meaningful participation, including on gender equality and climate action.

Social policy for reducing multidimensional poverty

24. This programme component will focus on increasing access by vulnerable children and adolescents, especially girls, to shock-responsive social protection, sustainable financing for service delivery and more inclusive essential services. It will contribute to UNSDCF outcomes 1, 2 and 3 and align with PQG pillar 3 on social and demographic transformation.

25. First, UNICEF will strengthen national child-related data systems and knowledge management to improve the quality, governance, interoperability and use of disaggregated evidence for child rights monitoring, poverty analysis and policy dialogue. This includes strengthening the coordination and integration of statistical and administrative systems across sectors, supporting child-focused data governance frameworks and improving analytical capacities, while also promoting the generation and use of high-quality child-focused evidence with national institutions and academia.

26. Second, UNICEF will reinforce national and subnational planning and budgeting systems to improve allocation, tracking and mobilization of resources for equitable child-related services. This includes improving links between plans and budgets, enabling increased mobilization of public and private financing for service delivery and strengthening budget transparency and accountability. UNICEF will facilitate the institutionalization of adolescent and youth participation in planning, budgeting and monitoring processes.

27. Finally, UNICEF will help to strengthen inclusive and shock-responsive social protection systems to improve access to integrated support for vulnerable children and adolescents, including those with disabilities. This includes supporting adaptive cash transfers and strengthening core delivery systems, including digital payments, management information systems, grievance mechanisms, case management and referrals. UNICEF will promote the institutionalization of integrated “cash plus” approaches linking beneficiaries to health, nutrition, education, protection and livelihood opportunities, including economic inclusion for youth, especially girls. It will support the scale-up of the Social Action Services Programme and the social service workforce to provide coordinated, multisectoral support and sustainable pathways out of poverty.

Child protection

28. This programme component will focus on ensuring that more children and adolescents, especially girls, are protected from violence and child marriage, and have improved access to a legal identity, with a focus on conflict-related risks, including grave violations. It will contribute to UNSDCF outcomes 1, 2 and 3 on protection, access to justice and inclusive and resilient systems, and aligns with PQG pillar 3 on social and demographic transformation.

29. First, UNICEF will contribute to strengthening core child protection system functions, particularly the social service workforce, information management systems and sustainable financing mechanisms. This entails supporting coordinated implementation of the Third National Plan of Action for Children 2025–2034, expanding access to legal identity in high-risk areas, strengthening multisectoral coordination and aligning legal and policy frameworks with child rights standards, including on child-sensitive justice and birth registration. UNICEF will help to strengthen child protection financing, including planning, budget tagging and expenditure tracking, and support the integration of child protection into disaster risk management and climate policies, ensuring continuity of services during shocks, especially in conflict- and climate-affected areas.

30. Second, UNICEF will strengthen core service delivery functions to ensure that children at risk or affected by violence, harmful practices, grave violations and lack of legal identity are identified, referred and supported through a continuum of care. This includes institutionalizing harmonized case management and multisectoral referral pathways, strengthening specialized capacities of the social service workforce and improving digital and data systems for coordinated response. UNICEF will support expanded access to child-sensitive justice services and birth

registration through strengthened digitized civil registration systems and justice sector capacities for child-friendly and gender-responsive services, and strengthen monitoring, documentation and reporting of grave violations, particularly in conflict-affected areas and high-risk districts.

31. Third, UNICEF will support adolescents, caregivers and communities to adopt protective behaviours and gender-equitable norms to prevent violence and child marriage. This includes scaling up positive parenting, strengthening adolescent girls' empowerment, life skills and safe participation, and supporting community-based mechanisms for identifying, reporting and responding to protection risks. Social and behaviour change approaches will address harmful norms and reinforce protective practices, with linkages to education, social protection and livelihoods, focusing on high-risk and climate-affected areas.

Water, sanitation and hygiene, climate, environment and energy

32. This programme component will focus on ensuring that more children, adolescents and their families, especially in vulnerable areas, use sustainable WASH services and practise safe hygiene, while benefiting from social service systems integrating climate resilience and environmental sustainability. It will contribute to UNSDCF outcomes 1 and 3 on human capital development and climate-resilient transformation and aligns with the PQG priorities on sustainable services.

33. Working across sectors, UNICEF will strengthen climate governance and financing to support child-centred climate action and resilient social services. This will include supporting child-sensitive climate risk analysis, integrating climate priorities into policies and investment frameworks, and strengthening climate-informed planning, budgeting and expenditure tracking. UNICEF will help to develop costed climate investment pipelines and financing mobilization, while strengthening coordination, preparedness, early warning systems and response, and promoting adolescent engagement in climate action.

34. The programme will strengthen WASH governance systems to improve policy, regulation, planning, financing and accountability for equitable, sustainable and climate-resilient services. This will entail supporting sector reforms, strengthening coordination and planning, enhancing financing frameworks, institutionalizing data systems for decision-making and accountability, and strengthening sector capacity through structured training and partnerships. Climate-resilient design standards and preparedness mechanisms will be integrated across development and humanitarian contexts. This will be supported by digital systems for real-time monitoring, planning and community feedback.

35. UNICEF will reinforce WASH service delivery systems to expand and sustain equitable, climate-resilient water services in rural and urban areas. It will support risk-informed planning and investment in resilient infrastructure, including solar-powered systems, improving service delivery models and asset management systems, and enhancing functionality monitoring and rehabilitation mechanisms. UNICEF will promote inclusive service delivery models, including financing mechanisms to increase access for vulnerable households, while strengthening institutional capacity for sustainability and continuity of services.

36. Strengthening community systems and platforms will be key to promoting climate-adaptive WASH behaviours and accelerating progress towards safely managed sanitation. UNICEF will support government-led at-scale approaches to eliminate open defecation, strengthen sanitation markets and service chains, and promote climate-resilient sanitation solutions. Community engagement and SBC systems will reinforce safe hygiene and sanitation practices, using behavioural

evidence and targeted approaches to engage vulnerable populations.

37. Finally, UNICEF will support national and subnational systems to deliver climate-smart social services by integrating WASH, renewable energy and resilient infrastructure, particularly in schools and healthcare facilities. This requires strengthening planning, standards and investment for climate-resilient infrastructure, supporting operations and maintenance systems, and improving monitoring and accountability through integrated data systems. UNICEF will support SBC and institutional capacity for sustained service use and functionality while strengthening community engagement and risk-informed service delivery in climate-affected areas.

Programme effectiveness

38. Effective programme coordination to achieve results at scale will be supported by the following cross-cutting priorities:

- (a) Rights- and results-based planning, monitoring, learning and reporting, including through evaluations;
- (b) Programming for gender equality to ensure equitable outcomes for girls and boys;
- (c) Climate- and risk-informed programming to strengthen resilient systems;
- (d) Emergency preparedness and response to provide timely life-saving assistance;
- (e) Social and behaviour change approaches to promote positive practices, strengthen community systems and enhance accountability;
- (f) Communication, advocacy and partnerships to influence policies, mobilize resources and leverage public and private sector engagement;
- (g) Strengthening digitalization, data and evidence for better decision-making and accountability.

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, nutrition and development	18 800	90 000	108 800
Learning, skills and engagement	13 600	33 000	46 600
Social policy for reducing multidimensional poverty	9 800	20 900	30 700
Child protection	14 400	15 000	29 400
Water, sanitation and hygiene, climate, environment and energy	9 800	36 000	45 800
Programme effectiveness	16 600	21 400	38 000
Total	83 000	216 300	299 300

Programme and risk management

39. This country programme document summarizes UNICEF contributions to national results. It is the principal mechanism for accountability to the Executive Board for the alignment of results and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. The responsibilities and accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels are defined in the policies and procedures regarding the organization's programmes and operations.

40. To ensure quality and effectiveness, UNICEF will apply risk-informed programme management and regularly identify, monitor and assess programmatic, operational and financial risks, using its emergency preparedness platform, the harmonized approach to cash transfers and robust supply management systems. Key risks include climate shocks, conflict, civil unrest and displacement, constrained fiscal space and funding volatility, and reliance on external financing. Mitigation measures include strengthening climate resilience across programmes, improving planning, coordination, digital and data systems and public financial management, diversifying resource mobilization and partnerships, and enhancing internal stewardship of resources.

41. The programme will be implemented and monitored with the Government of Mozambique under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the Ministry of Planning and Development, and in coordination with national and provincial government partners. UNICEF will report its UNSDCF contributions using the UN INFO platform, while co-leading priority area 1 on leveraging the demographic dividend, enabling children and youth to realize their full potential through health, education, protection and equal opportunities.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning

42. Programme monitoring will be guided by the results and resources framework, using disaggregated indicators to track progress and equity. UNICEF will support the use and strengthening of national administrative and sector data systems, focusing on improving data quality, timeliness and use at national and subnational levels. Greater interoperability across systems will enable more effective targeting, service tracking and accountability.

43. To address data fragmentation and limited evidence use, UNICEF will strengthen data governance, analytical capacity and the integration of digital systems, building on national platforms. This includes promoting the routine use of disaggregated and real-time data for planning, budgeting and programme adaptation, and strengthening feedback and community-level accountability mechanisms to inform system performance.

44. The programme will promote continuous learning through evaluations, research and knowledge management to inform policy, improve implementation and scale up effective approaches. Conducting evaluations in WASH, education and digital learning, and health and nutrition, including SBC and gender aspects, UNICEF will support national evaluation capacity and contribute to monitoring progress towards national priorities and UNSDCF outcomes.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Mozambique – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2027–2030

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 1–42 National priorities: Government Five-Year Programme 2025–2029 (PQG), pillar 3 Sustainable Development Goals: 1–8, 10–11, 13, 16–17
UNSDCF outcomes involving UNICEF: 1. By 2030, more children and youth – especially girls, young women and those further behind – have enhanced multidimensional well-being and strengthened capabilities to realize their full potential through equitable and inclusive access to integrated services and supportive environments. 2. By 2030, more people – especially women, youth, those affected by conflict and those furthest behind – participate meaningfully in society and hold public institutions accountable, benefiting from protected human rights and civic space, accessible justice, and transparent management of public resources, thereby reinforcing the social contract and contributing to a more stable and inclusive society. 3. By 2030, more people – especially women, youth, those affected by climate shocks and those furthest behind – benefit from a diversified and climate-resilient economy driven by inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems, green and blue growth, and urban development, generating decent employment, safeguarding natural resources, and protecting communities.
UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029 Impact Areas: 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
1,3	1. By 2030, more children, especially in the first 1,000 days and adolescent girls, equitably benefit from quality health, nutrition and nurturing care services and the adoption of sound practices, including in emergencies.	Number of children receiving at least three doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine B: 1,394,210 T: 95% of the target group	Administrative data, Health Information System for Monitoring and Evaluation (SISMA), World Health Organization-UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization	1.1 Institutions strengthen governance, financing, data, supply chain management, accountability and preparedness for equitable maternal and child health, nutrition and nurturing care services. 1.2 Primary healthcare facilities increasingly deliver an integrated package of high-impact interventions	Ministry of Health (MISAU); National Institute of Statistics (INE); Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security; Ministry of Labour, Gender	18 800	90 000	108 800

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
			Coverage	focusing on maternal, newborn and child health, immunization, HIV, adolescent health, nutrition and nurturing care, supported by reliable supplies, including in emergencies.	and Social Action (MTGAS)			
		Number of live births attended by skilled health personnel B: 1,391,052 T: 1,550,426	SISMA	1.3 Community health systems, including community health workers and outreach platforms have enhanced capacities to deliver integrated maternal and child health, nutrition and parenting services and health promotion, strengthen timely referral to primary healthcare, and improve continuity of care for underserved and shock- affected populations.				
		Percentage of children (6–23 months) receiving a minimum number of food groups B: 14% (Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2022) T: 25% (2030)	Biannual Household Budget Survey	1.4 Multisectoral systems are increasingly able to improve food environments for affordable, nutritious diets for women, children and adolescents.				
		Percentage of children (0–5 years) who benefit from early stimulation, nurturing care, responsive parenting and inclusive childcare services to support ECD B: 39% (DHS 2022) T: 60% (2030)		1.5 Enhanced community engagement and behavioural science-informed social and behaviour change approaches are expanded to address social and behavioural determinants, strengthen trust in services and promote timely care seeking and priority health, nutrition and nurturing care practices.				
		Percentage of adolescent girls (15–19 years) with anaemia B: 54% (DHS 2022) T: 40% (2030)						

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
1,2,3	2. By 2030, more girls and boys, especially adolescents left behind, acquire foundational learning and skills, and increasingly exercise agency and participation.	Primary completion rate B: 68% (2024) T: 75%	Education Management Information System	2.1 Inclusive digital learning systems increasingly support equitable learning, participation and accountability in and out of school. 2.2 More girls and boys, especially those most left behind, learn in safer, more inclusive and shock-responsive environments, with strengthened school- and system-level accountability, safeguarding and preparedness mechanisms. 2.3 More adolescents and young people, especially vulnerable girls, access and complete relevant learning and skills pathways for transitions to work and exercise agency, including climate action, across school community and civic platforms.	Ministry of Education and Human Development (MINEDH); Radio Mozambique; National Youth Institute; Youth Parliament, MTGAS, civil society organizations (CSOs), Maza	13 600	33 000	46 600
		Percentage of children and adolescents with improved literacy/numeracy skills (Grade 3) B: 20% (2024) T: 30%	National learning assessment					
		Number of adolescents and young people returning on regular basis to available platforms B: 200,000 (2025) T: 1,000,000	Platform dashboard					
1,2,3	3. By 2030, more vulnerable children and adolescents, especially girls, increasingly benefit from shock-responsive social protection, child-responsive financing and equitable access to essential services.	Maturity of public finance for children, budgets and equitable expenditures, including in humanitarian and fragile contexts B: Score 7 (Moderate support for social sector budgets) T: Score 13 (Strong support for social sector budgets)	Budget documents; Development Observatories; Open Budget Survey; Government policies, plans and strategies	3.1 National child-related data systems and knowledge management are strengthened to improve the quality, governance, interoperability and use of disaggregated evidence for child rights monitoring and policy dialogue. 3.2 National and subnational planning and budgeting systems are strengthened, with enhanced citizen and youth participation,	Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF); Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD); MISAU; MINEDH; MTGAS; Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources (MOPHRH); CSOs;	9 800	20 900	30 700
		Proportion of population living under the poverty	Annual MTGAS reports					

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						RR	OR	Total
		line covered by social assistance programmes. B: 22% T: 25%		transparency and accountability mechanisms and more diversified financing to support services for children. 3.3 Social protection systems have the capacity to increasingly deliver integrated, inclusive and shock-responsive support and referrals for vulnerable children and adolescents.	development partners			
1,2,3	4. By 2030, more children and adolescents, especially girls, are increasingly protected from violence and child marriage and have improved access to legal identity.	Percentage of children (1–14 years) who experienced violent discipline in the last month B: 55% T: 45%	Formative research	4.1 Institutions strengthen child protection system governance, coordination and preparedness, and expand legal identity coverage in high-risk areas.	MTGAS; Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs; Ministry of the Interior; MISAU; MEF; MPD; MINEDH; Judiciary; INE; CSOs, academia, United Nations	14 400	15 000	29 400
		Percentage of children (0–5 years) whose birth was registered with a civil authority B: 31.24% T: 41%	Civil registration and vital statistics reports; INE; DHS	4.2 Timely, quality and coordinated protection, justice and legal identity services are strengthened.				
		Proportion of women (20–24 years) who were married or in a union before age 18 years B: 48.4% T: 40%	DHS, sectoral reports	4.3 Adolescents, caregivers and communities are increasingly equipped to adopt protective behaviours and gender-equitable norms to prevent violence and child marriage.				

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						RR	OR	Total
1,2,3	5. By 2030, more children, adolescents and their families, especially in vulnerable areas, use sustainable WASH services, practise safe hygiene and benefit from social service systems that increasingly integrate climate, environmental sustainability and risk reduction to deliver climate-smart social services at scale.	Percentage of population using at least basic water services B: 47% T: 55%	National Institute of Statistics Household Survey	5.1 Enhanced climate governance and financing increasingly support child-centred climate action and resilient social services. 5.2 WASH governance systems are strengthened to improve policy, regulation, planning, financing and accountability for equitable, sustainable and climate-resilient WASH services. 5.3 WASH service delivery systems are improved to expand and sustain equitable, climate-resilient and safely managed water services in rural and urban areas, including in humanitarian settings. 5.4 Community systems and platforms are increasingly leveraged to promote climate-adaptive WASH behaviours and support progress towards safely managed sanitation. 5.5 National and subnational Governments are increasingly equipped to deliver climate-smart social services integrating WASH and renewable energy.	INE, MOPHRH, Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries; MEF; MISAU, National Institute for Disaster Management; National Institute of Meteorology; MINEDH; MTGAS; District Services for Planning and Infrastructure; district administrations; community radios	9 800	36 000	45 800
		Percentage of population using at least basic sanitation services B: 32% T: 37%						
		Percentage of population with a handwashing facility with soap and water B: 17% T: 22%						
		Number of children benefiting from climate-resilient water and/or sanitation, health and education infrastructure and service B: 0 T: 32,000 (education), 60,000 (health), 156,000 (WASH)	Aquatrack, health and education sector reports					
		Number of children covered by child-sensitive disaster risk reduction strategies, or early warning or anticipatory action systems B: 0 T: 650,000	National and subnational government reports					

<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>
1,2,3	6. The country programme is effectively coordinated and managed to achieve expected programme results.	Percentage of programme outcome results on track or achieved: B: 71% T: 80%	Country office performance scorecard and dashboard	-	National Institute of Statistics (INE); MEF, CSOs; academia, United Nations	16 600	21 400	38 000
Total resources						83 000	216 300	299 300