UNICEF experience in high-income countries
Progress update

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Item 9: Progress update on UNICEF experience in high-income countries and in countries transitioning from upper-middle-income to high-income status within the framework of the UNICEF universal agenda for child rights.

Reference document: E/ICEF/2021/26
Background

Building on the review presented to the Executive Board in 2016, which:

- Recognized that inequities among children exist in all countries
- Reiterated the focus of UNICEF support to the least developed countries
- Emphasized the value added by UNICEF in a variety of contexts working through different operational modalities
Since 2016, UNICEF has increased its experience in high-income countries by:

- Investing in preparedness for sudden onset emergencies
- Analysing case studies and synthesizing lessons learned
- Defining scope and strategies for programmatic engagement and financing
Core functions and strategies

UNICEF has demonstrated a significant capacity to contribute to the fulfilment of child rights in high-income countries, particularly through four main strategies:

- Evidence generation
- Advocacy for better policies and programmes
- Social and behaviour change
- Technical assistance for system strengthening
Programme focus

Social Policy (child poverty)
Child Protection (system strengthening and new and emerging issues)
Education (addressing inequalities and the digital divide)
Nutrition (breastfeeding and diet-related non-communicable diseases)
Child rights and SDG monitoring
Child rights and business
Health (equitable access and mental health)
Access to quality early childhood development for all
Migrant and refugee children
Climate change
Emergency preparedness and response
Modalities of engagement

- Country programmes
- Multi-country programmes
- National Committees
- No National Committee or country programme
Financial sustainability

- Investments made in advocacy activities by National Committees were funded by non-competing resources (non-ODA) and an average of 2% of total private sector income raised, while their contribution to regular resources grew by 39% in the period analysed.

- Executive Board-approved policies for countries with UNICEF programmes are adhered to, while total contributions from country offices with structured private sector fundraising programmes increased.
Conclusions

- Programming for children in low-income countries remains our top priority

- Deliberate cross-country learning equips UNICEF to achieve better results for every child, in the spirit of our universal agenda

- UNICEF will enhance programming in high-income countries within agreed and existing priority settings and current policies, rules and regulations

- Enhanced fundraising capability and leveraging opportunities will be realized and tracked in high-income countries
Thank you