

UNICEF experience in high-income countries

Progress update

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UNICEF Executive Board
Informal briefing
18 August 2021

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.



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



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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



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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



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Programme focus



Social Policy
(child poverty)



Child rights and
SDG monitoring



Migrant and refugee
children



Child Protection (system
strengthening and new
and emerging issues)



Child rights and
business



Climate change



Education (addressing
inequalities and the
digital divide)



Health (equitable
access and mental
health)



Emergency preparedness
and response



Nutrition (breastfeeding
and diet-related non-
communicable diseases)



Access to quality early
childhood development
for all

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Modalities of engagement



Country programmes



Multi-country programmes



National Committees



No National Committee or country programme



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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



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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

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Thank you



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