

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan Country Programme 2023-2027

Since 1994, UNICEF has been working in Kyrgyzstan to improve the wellbeing of children. Guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ratified by Kyrgyzstan in 1994, UNICEF and its partners aim to reach the most vulnerable children and adolescents. UNICEF supports and strengthens national systems, local governments and communities to ensure all children and adolescents (2,5 million or 38 per cent of the overall population in Kyrgyzstan) are protected from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation and have access to quality services to help them survive and thrive in life.

Population of Kyrgyzstan and the situation of children

In 2022, of the total population of 7 million, 38 per cent are children under the age 18, and 48 per cent are under the age of 25.



Country Programme vision

The overarching ambition of the new UNICEF country programme in Kyrgyzstan is that by 2030 every child, including children and adolescents with disabilities, survives, thrives, learns, lives in a safe environment and is protected from violence and poverty.

Key targets:

The new Country Programme articulates both a vision and achievable goals for the children of Kyrgyzstan in the next five years to accelerate progress for and address the threats to child and adolescent development.

50% reduction in children living in institutional care



90% of children vaccinated with DTP/Penta 3



Increase to **70%**



of children aged 7-14 years achieving minimum proficiency in literacy and numeracy

Reduce to **18%**



the proportion of youth (15-24) not in education, employment or training

20% of children



covered by social protection systems

To achieve this vision, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals targets, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's new Country Programme 2023-2027 builds on the strong partnership established over years between the Government of Kyrgyzstan and UNICEF Office.

The new UNICEF Country Programme is fully aligned with the 2040 National Development Strategy and the 2021–2026 National Development Programme. It also contributes to the wider results set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

Four main programmatic pillars of UNICEF 2023-2027 Country Programme

Social Policy

Protective environment for all children

Education and adolescents' development and participation

Health, nutrition, and climate-resilient environment

Social Policy

By 2027, all children benefit from systematic child rights monitoring, inclusive social protection system, and more effective public financing that increases access to benefits and services for the most disadvantaged and reduces multidimensional child poverty.



50.9%

Every second child is multidimensionally poor

60%

of poorest families with children are missed by poverty-targeted benefit

Lack of Government's capacity and mechanisms for systematic child rights monitoring

By 2027

UNICEF will work with partners to:

- improve the quality and coverage of inclusive social protection systems to reduce multidimensional poverty and address child rights deprivations. This includes a comprehensive assessment of the existing social protection systems and supporting the development of an integrated social protection strategy and management information system;
- strengthen the national mechanisms for systematic child rights monitoring, assess equity and gender disparities to inform government decision-making and effective budgeting for children;
- secure adequate investment in human capital by providing technical assistance to social sector ministries, and the Ministry of Finance to align budgets with national strategic priorities and commitments.

Protective environment for all children

By 2027, children, adolescents and their families, including children and adolescents from disadvantaged and low-income families, and those with disabilities, benefit from prevention and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, and access to justice.



74% of children affected by violence within the family



10,800 children in institutions
30% have a disability



Child and forced marriage
13% of women 20-24 married before 18



up to **60%** of marriages through abduction

By 2027

UNICEF's support aims to strengthen policies, legal frameworks, coordination mechanisms and evidence to effectively contribute to preventing and responding to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of girls, boys and women and improve social service planning and development. This includes social protection and child justice reforms, improving the protection of children without parental care, strengthening identification, referral, and reporting mechanisms for at-risk children, capacity-building of the social welfare workforce, and expansion of psychosocial support for children and families in need.

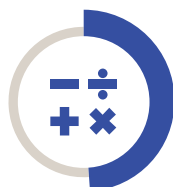
The Programme also addresses harmful social and gender norms and practices and strengthens prevention mechanisms to protect vulnerable children, with a particular focus on girls, by fostering positive and gender-responsive parenting practices, establishing safe and effective violence reporting mechanisms, increasing help-seeking behaviour, raising awareness on available support services and amplifying the voice of children and adolescents.

Education and adolescents' development and participation

By 2027, all children and adolescents, including those with disabilities, have equitable access to inclusive quality education from early years, improve learning outcomes, develop skills for life and work, and participate in decision-making.



64% of children aged 10 years are not proficient in reading



49% of children aged 7-14 years are not proficient in numeracy skills



Only **39%** of pre-school children access Early Childhood Education services

NEET

Not in employment, education or training



among girls

30%



among boys

12%



22%

of adolescents

By 2027

UNICEF work in this area is based on continuity of support from early learning to education to smooth transition to employment and active civic engagement for every child and adolescent. This includes providing support for policies and programmes, which ensure inclusive quality education from pre-school to higher secondary level; support for quality learning and acquisition of relevant, 21st-century skills, both in and beyond the formal schooling environment. It also covers meaningful adolescent and youth participation and engagement, shifting norms and attitudes to respect the voice and agency of adolescents and young people, and supporting the implementation of youth-led initiatives on peacebuilding and social cohesion.

Health, nutrition, and climate-resilient environment

By 2027, all children, adolescents and women, including the most vulnerable, have equitable access to integrated quality primary healthcare services, and live in a safe and climate-resilient environment.



Neonatal mortality currently at 13/1000,

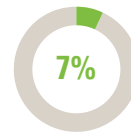
twice as high as the CEE/CIS region average



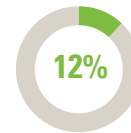
WASH standards do not meet inclusive and gender-responsive criteria and are not enforced in schools and health facilities



Triple burden of malnutrition



obesity and overweight



stunting



children under 5 with anemia

By 2027

UNICEF works to strengthen the primary health-care system to provide quality health services to mothers, newborns, children and adolescents by designing, costing and implementing an integrated essential health and nutrition services package, working both at central and decentralized level. At the local level, the Programme will reinforce the capacities of local health-care providers and will introduce early identification and intervention for children with developmental delays and disabilities.

UNICEF continues to support the provision of nationwide immunization services for all children and effectively generate demand for vaccination. The Programme has an increased focus on mitigating the impact of climate change on pregnant women, children, and adolescents, with a specific attention to environmental health issues as well as disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness. Drawing lessons from COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF is planning to strengthen Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services making them inclusive and gender responsive.

Budget

The Country Programme 2023-2027 aggregate indicative budget amounts to US\$ 42.2 million, with US\$ 7,285,000 coming from UNICEF regular resources, and US\$ 35,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions.