Update on the context and situation of children

The resident child population dipped to 22.75 million (27.2% of the total) at end-2020[1]. Turkey hosts about 4 million refugees, including 3.7 million Syrians under temporary protection (not considered residents), of whom 1.7 million are children[2].

The economy (GDP) grew in the first, second and third quarters year on year by 7.4%, 22.0% and 7.4% respectively[3]. Unemployment and youth employment were 11.7% and 22.1% respectively in the third quarter[4] – down from 13.4% and 25.2% a year earlier. However, rapid lira depreciation and surging inflation (36.1% in December) clouded economic prospects for 2022 and severely eroded the purchasing power of the most vulnerable groups.

The Gini coefficient was 4.1% as of 2019 and the lowest quintile’s share in disposable income 5.9% – the worst since 2012[5]. Child poverty (below 60% of equivalised disposable household income) was 32.1% in 2020 – 0.3 points lower than in 2019[6]. Social protection expenditures for children and families were 0.5% of GDP in 2019 and 0.6% in 2020[7].

COVID-19 cases and deaths peaked for a second time in March-May 2021. Restrictions were largely lifted in July. The pandemic worsened again between August and December, daily confirmed cases and deaths averaged nearly 25,000 and 200 respectively[8]. By end-December, over 82% of adults had received two doses of vaccines[9]. Vaccination of all children over 15 began in August and over 12 in September. Vaccine hesitancy and regional disparities in vaccination are concerns.

Distance education remained the main form of education for children until the end of the 2020-2021 school year. A Ministry of National Education survey showed increased satisfaction with distance learning programmes but access to all children remained a concern. Full-time face-to-face teaching resumed with the new school year in September.

Impacted by COVID[10] net enrolment fell to 56.89% in 2020-2021 from 71.2% a year earlier among 5 year-olds and from 41.78% to 28.35% among 3-5 year-olds[11]. Enrolment among other age groups was little changed at 93.23% for 6-9 year-olds, 88.85% for 10-13 year-olds and 87.93% for 14-17 year-olds. Enrolment rates for boys were slightly higher than for girls in all age groups except 6-9.

Infant and under-five mortality were 8.6 and 10 per thousand live births respectively in 2019 (counting all live births)[12], compared to 9.0 and 11.1 in 2018.

At end-2020, there were 17,896 adopted children, 7,864 in foster care, and 13,524 in residential care [13]. The figures for foster care and residential care were 8,214 and 13,361 in September 2021[14]. June 30th was declared Foster Family Day.

There were 12,064 convictions for child sexual abuse in 2020 compared to 15,651 in 2019 and 13,894 in 2018[15]. COVID-19 probably led to fewer prosecutions and slower trials.

Turkey withdrew from the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) on 1 July 2021. The same day the Fourth National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women was launched.


Irregular migrants, including children, continued to take great risks entering and leaving Turkey in 2021. By end-November, nearly 17,000 people successfully entered the EU via Turkey by sea and land. In 2021, 162,996 were rescued or apprehended in Turkey, including 59,731 Afghans[22]. Due to fewer incidents and/or a reduced response during the pandemic, only 170,961 children were brought into security units as alleged victims of crimes in 2020 – down from 236,498 in 2019[23]. Likewise, 88,654 criminal cases were opened against children, compared to 117,001 in 2019[24]. The
proportion of children tried in dedicated child courts edged up to 52.1% [25], but the average length of trial in child courts reached 356-360 days from 230-261 in 2019. At end-October, 566 children were serving prison sentences (including some on temporary release due to COVID-19) and 1,347 in pre-trial detention. The appointment of specific courts to handle child cases in rural areas, arrangements for ensuring contact with parents for children in family disputes and child-specific secondary legislation on probation were positive developments.

Despite living in the community, with very few in camps, and having access to public services and assistance, refugees experience increased poverty and challenges with social inclusion. Refugee children face higher risks of psychosocial distress, child labour and child marriage, which remains high, especially among Syrian women.

Between the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years, the number of Syrian children enrolled in formal education in Turkey rose to 731,713 (372,138 boys; 359,575 girls), representing a gross enrolment rate of 65.1% (75% in grades 1-4, 81% in grades 5-8 and 43% in grades 9-12), but about 400,000 Syrian children remained out of school [26]. Protection Needs Assessments show that Syrian and other refugee children faced particular difficulty accessing distance learning for reasons such as lack of devices, internet and electricity in the period when face-to-face learning was curtailed.

Concerns persisted about the inclusiveness and quality of services for children with disabilities, including foster care, inclusive education and early childhood development. A family-based early identification and intervention programme was launched to address developmental risks of young children [27].

Turkey ratified the Paris Agreement on November 6th and adopted a goal of net zero emissions by 2053.

[8] https://covid19.who.int/region/euro/country/tr
[15] https://adlisicil.adalet.gov.tr/Resimler/SayfaDokuman/22420211449082020H%C4%B0ZMETE%C3%96ZELK%C4%B0TAP.pdf
Major contributions and drivers of results

2021 has been the first year of the new Turkey-UNICEF Country Programme 2021-2025. In line with national priorities and adopting a multi-sectoral approach, the programme supports the development and wellbeing of children during key stages of the life cycle from early childhood and adolescence. It emphasises improved support for integrated social protection and child protection services. Humanitarian actions, mainly related to the impact of the Syria crisis, have increasingly been integrated into development programming.

The Programme seeks to achieve results at-scale by strengthening systems and building capacity for equitable and inclusive services and opportunities. Other strategies include contributing to equitable policy-making, and promoting institutional and social norms, behaviour and practices that respect and achieve child rights. For maximum impact, UNICEF is mobilising investment for and commitment to child rights through Government, private sector and civil society.

Challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic persisted in 2021, despite vaccinations and further normalisation of economic and social activity. For the first 6-8 months, travel and face-to-face activities were still significantly curtailed, affecting the circumstances of vulnerable children, the provision of services for children and caregivers.

Consequently, the principal tasks of UNICEF Turkey in 2021, as outlined in the Annual Management Plan, included planning and implementing with partners interventions in line with the priorities set in the new Programme, operationalising and resourcing programming in the key cross-sectoral areas, and strengthening and diversifying partnerships, while simultaneously adapting to the changing impacts of the pandemic and maintaining staff well-being and full capacity to deliver.

In Early Childhood Development (ECD), progress was made with UNICEF technical support towards the development of a national inter-sectoral policy document incorporating a holistic approach to fulfilling the rights of all young children in Turkey. Meanwhile, in partnership with relevant Ministries, interventions in nutrition, immunisation, nurturing care and early learning expanded. The capacities of some 20,000 primary health care professionals to strengthen positive infant and young child feeding practices among caregivers including refugees were enhanced through 20 online training modules updated with UNICEF support. 55,815 (76%) refugee children between 0 -11 months old have been vaccinated with DPT3 vaccines[1]. UNICEF provided training and supplies for the Ministry of Health’s new early intervention programme for autism spectrum disorder. The revision of the Ministry of National Education’s formal preschool education curriculum (age 3-6) progressed, focusing on early literacy, climate change, coding and measuring child development. Home, community, and mobile-based early childhood education programmes were developed further, including for fathers. These interventions will help build sustainable and flexible ECE models in line with the government’s aims to extend ECE to 100% of age 5 children by end 2022. Moreover, a linked ECE investment case will analyse the financial implication of making ECE compulsory. EU funding and private-sector partnerships have enabled UNICEF to increase its contributions in this area (with container classrooms, 400 playgrounds designed to be inclusive for children with special needs to be
installed in 2022). The supply and procurement of books, playboxes and other materials to schools and vulnerable households, and significative in-kind contributions leveraged by the private sector, accompanied by extensive training for teachers, benefited tens of thousands of children.

The capacity of the education system to provide inclusive learning for the most vulnerable children was enhanced. The nationwide adoption of inclusive education pedagogy at preschool and primary levels progressed with the digitalization and implementation of the face-to-face teacher training modules and in-service induction programmes. The Remedial Education Programme responding to gaps in third-grade literacy and numeracy achievement levels was strengthened through the development and distribution of 1,788,495 assessment tools and 427,190 teacher books to all primary schools.

UNICEF contributed to the continuity of teaching and learning in the face of COVID-19 – including for Syrian and refugee children – by supporting 191 ‘EBA support’ centres providing facilities and support for vulnerable children accessing online learning, participating in the national Back to Learning communications campaign, which reached more than 10 million people, and providing 1,166 education institutions (257,579 children) with financial support for materials and equipment for safe, hygienic reopening. Training was provided to 38,378 school counsellors and 787,319 teachers to work with students, teachers, and families on their mental health and psycho-social well-being during the pandemic. This Mental Health Psychosocial Support Programme now also addresses peer bullying, post-trauma advanced intervention, and other psychological needs.

In social protection, the large-scale Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) Programme for Refugees, implemented by UNICEF, the Ministry of Family and Social Services, and Turkish Red Crescent, funding from the EU, BPRM and Norway again played a vital role in encouraging participation in education, providing economic support to vulnerable families and identifying children in need of protection services. The cash component, consisting of regular bi-monthly payments and semi-annual top-ups, benefitted 625,901 children at all levels of education in 2021 and has benefitted a total of 760,858 children since 2017. Child Protection component has reached 34,522 children in 2021, and 114,220 children since 2017. Synergies between the CCTE for Refugees programme and national social protection programmes were strengthened.

The capacities of the provincial units of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS) tasked with combating child labour were strengthened through workshops. Nearly 400 workplace visits were conducted by guidance and inspection teams of the MoLSS Turkish Confederation of Tradesmen and Craftsmen. Children at risk of child labour were referred to relevant services. A new private sector partnerships with Turkish and Dutch companies under UNICEF Child Rights and Business Principles framework was established to address child labour in supply chains of the garment and other industries. To improve age-appropriate, inclusive and safe workplace training, UNICEF supported updating Occupational Health and Safety Measures at Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and developed a Personal Protective Equipment Guidebook for SMEs with adolescent trainees.

The capacities of selected municipalities on child rights programming, combating child labour, child-friendly governance/budgeting, and child participation were enhanced through joint activities with the Union of Municipalities benefitting approximately 50 municipalities.

On Public Finance for Children, UNICEF works to increase resources allocated for children services. Building on its econometric impact analysis of COVID-19 on child poverty, UNICEF developed an interactive simulation tool allowing policymakers to view the budgetary and poverty-mitigation consequences of cash transfers and highlighting linkages between poverty reduction, child outcomes, and social spending/budgeting.

With UNICEF support, the Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, local authorities and NGOs ensured more opportunities for an increased number of vulnerable adolescents through their inclusion and retention in formal education, improved educational programmes, and access to innovative non-formal/informal learning and skills development. Over 1.3 million students benefited from revised technical and vocational education programmes that respond to changing job market needs and incorporate transferable skills. An early warning system was developed to prevent non-attendance and early school leaving among vulnerable adolescents attending upper secondary schools throughout Turkey. Despite COVID-19, screening and enrolment programmes led
to the inclusion of over 45,000 out-of-school girls and boys, including refugees, children with disabilities and working children in formal and non-formal education opportunities, plus many referrals to other services. Other refugee children and adolescents benefited from accelerated learning programmes, Turkish language courses and homework support. The Design and Skills Labs model, supported by the private sector, was rolled out to enhance the digital and 21st-century skills of 336,338 adolescent girls and 275,186 adolescent boys in 763 upper secondary schools. Several life skills programmes, implemented online and face-to-face, empowered vulnerable adolescents, contributed to social cohesion and generated outputs and models for use/replication on a wider scale. The multi-purpose youth centre established in a restored historic building in Kilis, where almost half of the population are refugees, is one example.

UNICEF increasingly consulted young people and championed adolescent and youth engagement. A Business Advisory Board was established to launch the GenU initiative with the vision to work closely with the private sector and youth to pursue innovative collaborations to address the challenges they face, bridging education and training to employment and entrepreneurship at-scale. For this purpose, a Youth Leadership Council was formed under the Generation Unlimited initiative. Over 244,000 young people participated in the work of the provincial child rights committees and in social entrepreneurship, leadership, girl ambassadors and empowerment-through-sport activities. The 22nd annual National Children’s Forum in November submitted a final declaration on “Being Children and Youth in a Digitalized World” to the Minister of Family and Social Services and UNICEF Representative with concrete recommendations for decision makers and development partners.

In child protection, UNICEF’s NGO and Government partners continued to provide critical community-based prevention and response services for vulnerable Turkish and refugee children, adolescents and their families, particularly gender-based violence and mental health and psychosocial support services, through community centres and mobile outreach, benefiting 304,339 individuals, including 228,314 children. Further, through MoFSS outreach efforts of both SSCs and ‘Children are Safe’ Teams, 9,269 children (4,565 girls and 4,704 boys) were reached, including in provinces with high concentration of refugee families.

Through programme development and training, progress continued on enhancing the capacity of national protection systems for family-based alternative care, family strengthening and parenting programmes, and family-based early intervention for children with disabilities and children under developmental risk. The development of a much-needed normative framework for case management and care in child protection service provision gathered pace. An assessment framework is now in use in 15 provinces, reaching more than 20,000 children so far.

Policy dialogue and system strengthening for children in contact with the law continued in line with the Reimagine Justice for Children agenda. Greater numbers of children benefited from community-based probation mechanisms and child-sensitive interview procedures. In addition to the policy decision on identifying specific courts for child cases in the rural areas, the first-ever standalone child-friendly courthouse (a ‘Child Justice Center’) was piloted in Erzurum with UNICEF’s support.

Contributions were made to child rights monitoring through technical support for the Ombudsperson Institution and the Child Rights Sub-Committee of Parliament, the initiation of a dialogue with the Human Rights and Equality Institution (HREI), and regular exchanges with civil society actors including local bar associations and rights-based NGOs. Progress was made towards producing additional data on children and addressing data gaps for the SDGs, including the estimation of child labour, together with the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), academic institutions and other UN agencies. UNICEF, the Presidency of Strategy and Budget and the Ministry of Family and Social Services embarked on a Child Research Project to improve the measurement of multi-dimensional child wellbeing.

As part of its COVID-19 response, UNICEF Turkey has conducted risk communication and community engagement for vaccination, expanded community-based psychosocial support services, provided hygiene supplies and emergency cash support, and translated and distributed materials to help children and caregivers avoid infection, cope psychologically and engage in play and learning at home. Modes of programme delivery have changed too. In 2021, remote modalities were developed and used effectively for training teachers and social service providers, outreach, feedback and other
activities. Since these modalities reach more people, are cost-effective and can be used in future emergencies, steps were taken to develop them further. Contextualising the global Reimagine Education initiative, UNICEF is collaborating with the Ministry of National Education on an Edtech strategy to leverage the effective use of technology in the education system. The EBA Support Centres established to help disadvantaged children access digital education are to be increased and adapted as multi-purpose digital centres to foster 21st century skills. An online version of the accelerated learning programme is being developed to provide a flexible learning continuity in future emergencies. All parts of the Country Programme were conducted and monitored with a gender perspective. UNICEF Turkey contributed substantially to four of the gender results defined in the UNICEF Gender Action Plan: prevention of GBV, elimination of child marriage, advancing girls’ skills and learning, and promoting positive gender socialization. UNICEF enhanced capacity of government staff working on domestic violence prevention and response systems. Through civil society partners implementing Social and Behavioral Change Programmes, UNICEF mobilized communities, including youth and men and boys, against GBV and child marriage and equipped young women and girls with soft skills. In its first three-year phase, the UNICEF-led UN Joint Programme for the Prevention of Child, Early and Forced Marriage reached over 127,000 individuals and 24,000 service providers, mobilised over 18,000 young people and engaged over 200 civil society organisations. National synergies for CEFM prevention were enhanced, awareness was raised and gender-responsive behaviour was promoted through evidence generation, support to provincial action plans, and community mobilization focusing on girls’ empowerment and male engagement. UNICEF actively contributed to UN joint advocacy for the rights of girls and women. In partnership with UNFPA, UN Women and the Aydin Dogan Foundation, the UN Day of the Girl Child was marked with a Regional Conference (“The Time is Now! Girls’ Leadership in the Digital Era”) in which UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore and Nasdaq President and CEO Adena Friedman took part. The visibility of child rights was maintained and policy dialogue, social mobilization and fundraising were supported throughout 2021 in line with the UNICEF Turkey communication and advocacy strategy. Themes included early childhood education, immunisation, positive parenting, access to education, youth engagement, social inclusion, child marriage, child labour, online child protection and the impact of climate change on children. With the support of media partners, the audiences reached for social media campaigns and high-level events expanded substantially, including 76.9 million people on World Children’s Day. UNICEF Turkey achieved 2,385 mentions in the traditional media, its social media platforms followers reached 818,855 and received 1,004,574 website visits. Staff wellbeing was enhanced through greater use of staff leave, flexible working modalities, learning plans and stretch opportunities, a new mentorship programme was launched with the support of ‘Young UNICEF’, which is also participating in UNICEF Country Management Team meetings. The average vacancy rate fell. Positive responses in the staff survey increased. A greening action plan was adopted within UNICEF Turkey for the first time. A pledge to act sustainably was included in the onboarding package for new staff. Environmental footprint and accessibility assessment performance reports showed major improvements in carbon emissions, air travel and water consumption. A desk review to enhance programming on climate change and environment will begin in 2022. UNICEF Turkey achieved greater effectiveness and efficiency by renegotiating rent agreements for its offices. Value for Money assessment of partnerships was conducted and shaped new terms of enhanced efficiency and effectiveness in programmatic delivery. An internal audit was conducted and its four recommendations implemented as per response plan. UNICEF Turkey also contributed to the rights and wellbeing of children in several other countries by facilitating and supporting the work of the UNICEF regional office in Istanbul and the MENARO and ECARO regional offices. While UNICEF Turkey procured about USD15.6 million worth of goods and services for its own needs, it also conducted procurement activities of about USD3 million for ECARO. Besides local procurement for cross-border operations, support was extended to four other UNICEF country offices.
UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

UNICEF Turkey intensified its collaboration with the Government, development partners, UN agencies (UNICEF participates in all UNSDCF Results Groups and chairs the largest on Social Inclusion), traditional donors and business in 2021. New partnerships with emerging donors (e.g. Qatar Charity) were established and cooperation expanded with the private sector. UNICEF maintained its strong partnership with critical line ministries at central and local levels as well as with the ministries of the Interior and Foreign Affairs. Negotiations for a new Host Country Agreement have progressed and strategic partnerships with the Presidency of Strategy and Budget and the Turkish Institute of Statistics were expanded.

A partnership with Koc University continued to strengthen the capacities of the public sector and civil society for monitoring and evaluation. UNICEF also maintained and expanded the range of its community-based/civil society partners, including the Southeast Anatolia Project (GAP) Regional Development Administration, the Turkish Red Crescent, ASAM and AÇEV, the Development Foundation of Turkey, the Youth Sports Foundation, and the municipalities of Gaziantep, Kilis, Sanliurfa and Yüreğir.

Developing partnerships with the private sector was a major focus in 2021. UNICEF established its first Business Advisory Board in June 2021, with the aim of working with the companies to forge innovative collaborations to address the challenges faced by young people, and bridge education and training to employment and entrepreneurship at-scale targeting to reach 2M young people (age 10-24) for the first two years. The business for results (B4R) approach is integrated into the new Country Programme - uniquely, the Country Office and the National Committee have developed new modalities of cooperation to support joint funding approaches and maximise results for children.

Partnerships with other Natcoms were reinforced to strengthen work in priority programme areas. Besides combating child labour, an emerging partnership with the Dutch Natcom is expected to strengthen key partnerships for children/adolescents with relevant private sector groups under the Children’s Rights and Business Principles framework. LEGO through partnership with the Danish and Turkish Natcoms supported early childhood education.

UNICEF Turkey continued to lead the only UN joint programme in Turkey, the Joint Programme for the Prevention of Child, Early and Forced Marriage, which also involved IOM, UNFPA, UN Women and UNHCR. The programme completed its three-year cycle with SIDA supporting a second phase of the partnership until 2024, again led by UNICEF and implemented jointly with UN Women and UNFPA. Following Turkey’s withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, UNICEF contributed to the UN Country Team’s joint statement and advocates to preserve international and national commitments to end violence against women and children.

UNICEF developed The Toolkit to Prevent and Respond to Child Labour in Humanitarian Context of Turkey. It has been presented to near 500 staff from the UN, NGOs, government, and private sector, including the Child Labour Technical Group co-chaired by UNICEF and ILO.

UNICEF cooperated with the WHO on immunisation. UNICEF fully engaged in the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for the Syria crisis, leading the education sector and co-leading a national child protection sub-group.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Accelerating results for children during COVID-19: The COVID response continued to pose challenges to programme implementation and reaching the children left furthest behind. UNICEF and its partners adjusted by conducting many activities online or through hybrid modalities. With respect to child protection risk mitigation, innovative alternatives to traditional face-to-face activities were
introduced through the provision of remote/online psycho-social counselling, case management and prevention interventions. However, it was observed that while remote modalities expanded the pool of beneficiaries reached, they also made identification of the most at risk/vulnerable groups more difficult, and potentially created challenges in access to sensitive services such as counselling and responses to gender-based violence). The importance of involving communities and families in programme implementation became more critical.

School closures and the suspension of non-formal education programmes due to the pandemic resulted in challenges for the participation of the most vulnerable children in education. Therefore, the inclusion of community members in identifying out-of-school children in outreach activities became more important. UNICEF worked with MoNE on the revision of TVET programmes based on the needs of the changing job market and to integrate transferable and digital skills. More than 1.3 million students (532,024 girls; 796,761 boys) benefited. UNICEF supported establishment of multi-purpose digital centres to implement digital learning solutions to ensure learning continuity in formal education. Teacher professional development was supported to accelerate skills in teaching basic literacy and numeracy in hybrid/blended settings. Support was also provided to equip school counsellors and teachers to support education stakeholders' mental health and psychosocial well-being. Strategic support was also provided for MoNE to procure necessary supplies and services to ensure safe school reopening during the pandemic.

Fathers, who were spending more time at home during the pandemic, needed to be engaged in supporting their young children’s early learning. The home-based early childhood education module originally targeted mothers, who are usually the primary caregivers of young children at home, so UNICEF worked to develop a Father Education Programme aimed at increasing their involvement in supporting their children’s development.

The temporary release of more than 800 convicted children in April 2020 due to the health risks caused by the pandemic was extended numerous times until December 2021. Although the reoffending rates of these children are unclear, this situation clearly demonstrated the feasibility of community-based alternatives to detention. UNICEF raised this point in discussions with Government stakeholders and presented it as a basis for the development of a comprehensive proposal on diversion, restorative justice and alternatives to detention. The experience underlined the importance of follow-up on the effects of such policy decisions and of translating them into advocacy.

Skills agenda: The acquisition of skills forms part of children’s rights to learning and can assist adolescents and young people in their socioeconomic and psychological wellbeing by providing them with future opportunities. The recently established Business Advisory Board is magnifying reach and impact of UNICEF’s work on the skills agenda and will contribute towards establishing a holistic skills policy framework in 2022. Facilitating public-private partnerships will allow for greater scalability and sustainability of programmes.

Social Protection System strengthening: UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS) in the development and use of technology platforms and innovations that will strengthen the analytical/operational backbone of its social protection systems. The Business Intelligence and Data Warehouse, which will be embedded into the MoFSS Integrated Social Assistance System (ISAIS) Mainframe, will increase analytical and operational capacity of the Ministry and empower decision-makers by providing detailed reports and data-powered dashboards that visualize all outputs/outcomes and provide real-time dataflow, and by making the ISAIS capable of running big-data analyses and forecasts.

Role-modelling approach: The role modelling approach for the elimination of child marriage was seen to provide opportunities for sustained community engagement for long-lasting change in social and gender norms. Role models shared their stories to encourage other parents and caregivers to prevent child marriage. The modality proved to be most effective when role models from the community shared similar stories and experiences with beneficiaries in terms of taking positive initiatives and safeguarding children against child marriage.

Supply chain “first”: Through its partnership with the Dutch Natcom, UNICEF Turkey is undertaking supply chain analysis for the first time and seeking out champions on child rights through partnership with the international private sector. The recent moves of EU countries to ban products involving
human rights violations added to the importance of monitoring and elimination exercises across supply chains. This partnership is expected to facilitate further deliberations on combating child labour and strengthening partnerships with the private sector. This UNICEF work is likely to be a pioneer for similar actions in Turkey and other countries.

**UNSDCF Implementation:** The process of developing the UNSDCF, including the finalisation of the Joint Work Plans in 2021, has shown that UNICEF will need to invest greater time and effort in the coordination mechanisms. UNICEF will continue engaging closely with the Office of the Resident Coordinator, particularly in leading and steering the discussion on monitoring and reporting. This will include, but will not be limited to, the simplification of the JWP's, prioritisation of strategic areas and work towards the identification of new Joint Programmes, especially in areas of climate change, environment, and economy of care, where UNICEF can bring strategic added value.

**Public finance:** Public Finance for Children (PF4C) is an emerging area under the Country Programme for 2021-2025. In this context, UNICEF’s work on the Child-Friendly City initiative has been steered in the direction of child-sensitive planning, budgeting and financing in local governance. In support of this, UNICEF is developing an online platform to monitor sub-national spending for children. Municipalities will be able to input their budget data and create scorecards. On national public finance, a PF4C taskforce has been formed at the Presidency of Strategy and Budget, and induction sessions are being carried out by UNICEF. UNICEF is also working on developing costed ECE service provision models and ECE investment cases to inform public finance and fiscal decisions at national and local levels.