

UNICEF CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE

MAY 2022

unicef 
for every child



An 11-year-old Syrian refugee in Lebanon used to collect garbage until his mother was reached through a UNICEF-supported social behavioral change session and decided to seek support to enroll her child in school.

UNICEF/2022/FOUAD CHOUFANY/LEBANON

CONTEXT

Goal Area 3 of UNICEF's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan seeks to ensure that every child, including adolescents, is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices. To ensure every child is protected, UNICEF works in these result areas:

- Protection from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect
- Promotion of care, mental health and psychosocial well-being and justice
- Prevention of harmful practices

Though COVID-19 has abated in intensity in many parts of the world over the past months, risks for children's rights to protection continue to be elevated as services to manage those risks are still hampered and countries continue to feel the social and economic impact of the pandemic. At the same time, almost twice as many children are living in countries in complex emergencies than two years ago, which underscores the critical need for sustained prevention and preparedness in humanitarian action, including, of course, for child protection.

Within this panorama, UNICEF's work through Goal Area 3 in 2021 extended its focus on preventative strategies and approaches, emphasising scale and quality of services as foundational pillars to steer national policy decision makers to invest in a long-term vision of child protection and wellbeing. Through sustained partnerships, advocacy and support to over 150 countries, improvements in previously disrupted child protection and associated services across many countries were achieved.

It was a year in which UNICEF surpassed its previous reach in many areas of child protection. Across 129 countries in 2021,

UNICEF-supported interventions reached 4.4 million children who had experienced violence with services and programmed in 124 humanitarian situations. We provided protective services to nearly 2.3 million children on the move and supported education, communication and social mobilization platforms promoting FGM elimination which engaged 10.2 million people just last year. Another major result in 2021 was the largest-ever release of children from detention, involving over 45,000 children across 84 countries.

UNICEF has expanded access to community-based mental health and psychosocial support by integrating services into protection, health and education sectors, as well as implementing targeted awareness campaigns. These collective interventions reached over 8.4 million children and adolescents in 111 countries and nearly 3.6 million parents and caregivers in 97 countries in 2021. Gender-based violence in emergencies programming has become an implicit part of UNICEF's humanitarian action, and nearly 13.9 million people in 89 countries in humanitarian situations benefited from UNICEF-supported risk mitigation, prevention or response programmes to address gender-based violence last year.

2022 marks the first year of implementation of [UNICEF's 2022–2025 Strategic Plan](#), which supports the operationalization of [UNICEF's Child Protection Strategy \(2021–2030\)](#). This renewed strategic vision is guiding UNICEF to employ the bold and evidence-based approaches needed to confront a truly complex global context for children. Robust partnerships and magnified investments remain essential if the world is to collectively shrink the significant gaps which currently exist in the ambitions of the child protection-related SDGs.

CORNELIUS' CORNER

I have just returned from the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in South Africa. Being there has served as a strong reminder that if we are serious about the prevention of child protection violations and the SDGs, we must support governments to design and implement multi-sectoral solutions that include education; social protection; a stronger child protection workforce; working with the private sector; and ensuring adequate public financing. We must move beyond declaratory commitments to the scaling of evidence-based solutions and support Member States to achieve the child related SDGs, such as 8.7 on the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour. The young people at the conference requested that we ensure a true partnership with them and that we should work with them and not for them. "Nothing for us without us," they declared.

In the past months, international headlines have been dominated by the war in the Ukraine and the massive international child protection crisis it has provoked. Devastating impacts on children and communities continue, displacing 8 million people inside the Ukraine and over 6 million across borders. The UNICEF teams are scaling up protection for children without parental care, mental health and psychosocial support, and gender-based violence services. In addition to partnering with Ukrainian organizations across the country, UNICEF is transforming its long-standing partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs into direct investment in the social services workforce.

As this crisis continues to unfold, it is absolutely crucial that we do not forget the other pressing humanitarian situations which also need our continued attention. I remember the children I met last year on my visits to Syria and Afghanistan where ongoing violence and displacement is wreaking havoc on millions of childhoods; as well as the children living the Khokhoba informal settlement in Durban, which I just visited, who are now suffering devastating destruction

after recent floods-an example of how vulnerable populations bear the brunt of climate change. There is also the severe drought in the Horn of Africa where child marriage rates are increasing as a result and the combined complex crises in Lebanon which



Cornelius Williams
Director
UNICEF Child Protection

force more children into exploitative labour, to name just a few of the many contexts of urgent and extreme concern.

At the end June, UNICEF will launch a unique report, '25 years of children and armed conflict: Taking action to protect children in war' which illustrates how the international community has answered Graça Machel's call from 1996 to acknowledge the grave violations children are exposed to in conflict situations and to take action-but there is so much more we must do as the number of violations reported continue to grow.

Whilst immersed in such pressing demands, I am also pleased to share important developments in some of our other core areas of work. Building on our commitment to the prevention of child protection violations as a priority in our Child Protection Strategy, 2021-2030, at the end of last year we launched a [Policy Call](#) for national governments to provide universal parenting support. We have also begun to put into use our [Child Protection Systems Strengthening \(CPSS\) Benchmarks](#). With a dedicated indicator now in the 2022-2025 UNICEF Strategic Plan on CPSS, we have committed to report annually on our progress and have now collected baseline data (2021) from 155 countries using the CPSS Benchmarks. Adequate parenting support at the population level, along with strong child protection systems which can provide more targeted support for those at risk or when violations have occurred, contribute to building the strong systemic prevention foundations we are striving for.

Upcoming, we are looking forward to the [WeProtect Summit](#) in June where we will launch 'Framing the future: How the Model National Response framework is supporting national efforts to end child sexual exploitation and abuse online', a joint publication of the WeProtect Global Alliance with UNICEF. This analysis comes not a minute too soon, given the online risks for children revealed by country level studies of the [Disrupting Harm](#) initiative, led by ECPAT International, INTERPOL and the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, with support from the Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children. The latest research of this initiative published on the Philippines in April found that an alarming 20% of internet-using children aged 12-17 children had experienced online sexual exploitation and abuse in the last year alone.

And as, fortunately, a large portion of the world's children have returned to school, and as part of our continued commitment to involving other sectors in our child protection prevention and response efforts, along with the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance we published a [Technical Note on Social Service Workers in Schools: Their Role in Addressing Violence Against Children and Other Child Protection Concerns](#).

As always, we hope you find our updates from around the world informative and that you will reach out for further engagement on topics of interest. Though we profoundly value our partnerships at all times, this is particularly true currently given the especially complex context for our shared commitment to child protection.

REGIONAL RESPONSE TO UKRAINE CONFLICT: BLUE DOTS-INTEGRATED SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FLEEING THE UKRAINE

Since February, more than 6 million people have fled the Ukraine, and well over 2 million of these are children. To provide children and families with critical information and services, UNICEF and UNHCR, together with local authorities and partners, have established 'Blue Dots'.

As of the first week of May, 24 UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots are operational (7 Moldova, 7 Romania, 4 Poland, 2 Italy, 3 Bulgaria, 1 Slovakia) with a capacity to reach up to 1,000 people, including 500 children, daily.

Blue Dots are set up in locations where refugees arrive at border crossings and along anticipated routes of major refugee flows, often in conjunction with local municipalities in strategic urban areas or transport hubs (bus or train stations). They are also being embedded into refugee registration sites, reception facilities, or cash distribution points. Together with national governments, UNICEF and UNHCR are continually assessing where best to set up additional Blue Dots, taking into account the movement and needs of those on the move. The Blue Dots aim to be connected to the governments, national protection system.

Blue Dot hubs offer essential services delivered by UNICEF and other agencies, including: information and advice; child-friendly spaces; family reunification services to restore and maintain contact among family members and ensure the safety of children; counselling and psychosocial support for both children

and parents/caregivers; referral services for children and families who have suffered violence or are experiencing health conditions and other circumstances that require specialized support; shelter; emergency supplies (such as clothing, hygiene items, blankets).

Professional, trained social workers, psychologists, counsellors, and legal aid providers are on hand at Blue Dots to help identify urgent social service and protection needs for those most at risk, including survivors of gender-based violence and persons with disabilities.

A BLUE DOT AT THE BORDER CROSSING FROM UKRAINE TO ROMANIA:



HONDURAS: INTERRUPTING VIOLENCE

In Honduras, a Spotlight Initiative-supported partnership between UNICEF and Cure Violence Global is helping to identify and interrupt violence against women and girls (VAWG) through rapid response teams of 'violence interrupters' (VIs) in 25 communities of the 4 most violent cities in Honduras. The strategy focuses on strengthening the capacities of community-based organizations to identify risk factors and apply techniques to stop violence and

prevent violent deaths by changing social norms and deescalating conflicts through cooperation, youth participation and community mobilization.

Between January, 2020 and December, 2021, in 25 neighborhoods of Choloma and nearby San Pedro Sula, VIs who are part of this initiative stopped 1,770 highly violent

incidents, including more than 724 incidents against women and girls, ranging from sexual violence to trafficking and exploitation. The lives of 501 women were saved. Furthermore, VIs supported 52 displaced persons, mostly women and children, to get to safer places.

Changing social and gender norms forms the bedrock of this programme, particularly by encouraging people to reflect on the effects of gender inequality and harmful masculinity. Violence interrupters engage with their local communities to challenge negative stereotypes and confront discrimination, particularly among the younger population, including offenders. Their efforts have managed to influence many boys and girls to become agents of change within their spheres of influence.



Girls participate in violence reduction awareness activities

UNICEF HONDURAS/2019/INDRA

The team of Violence Interrupters has shown a great capacity for mobilization in times of emergency, supporting communities in the prevention of COVID-19 and in the preparedness and response to natural disasters like Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

SPOTLIGHT ON MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

IRAQ: BROADCASTING FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The General Directorate for Combatting Violence Against Women (GDCVAW) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and UNICEF, with support from USAID, launched a new radio station “Voice for Equality,” a powerful platform to advocate for women and adolescent girls’ well-being and empowerment and to address the issue of prevention of GBV and violence against girls and boys; especially among IDPs, refugees and host communities in Kurdistan region of Iraq.

UNICEF started its collaboration with GDCVAW in 2020. Through this partnership, UNICEF aims to reinforce the capacities of GDCVAW staff for improved delivery of safe and confidential services for GBV survivors and increased awareness-raising to prevent GBV.

Building on this partnership, “Voice for Equality” gives a platform to the voices of women and girls of KRI as well as to men and boys as advocates and champions of change in accelerating women’s equality. It aims to promote participatory approaches to stimulate critical reflection and strengthen voice and agency amongst girls in particular.

UNICEF Iraq reports that recent data confirmed a 125% increase in reported GBV incidents in 2021 compared to 2020, reaching over 22,000 cases. This increase in reporting of cases is linked to the resumption and scale-up of GBV-related services after COVID-19 related restrictions were eased. These cases are related to an increase of GBV cases in domestic violence, with a worrisome increase in depression and suicide among women and girls, especially among vulnerable groups such as IDPs and refugees. Girls and women suffer disproportionately from violence and abuse. Based on reported cases at least 900,000 women and girls are at risk of GBV in Iraq, though the actual number is estimated to be significantly higher.



“Voice for Equality” radio station- a powerful platform to advocate for women and girls in Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

UNICEF IRAQ/2021

UNICEF works in Iraq raising awareness against GBV and, in coordination with partners, provides holistic GBV response services (including MHPSS, medical assistance, safety and legal assistance). UNICEF also works with the Federal Government of Iraq and of the Government of the Kurdistan Region to create a safer environment for women and girls in the country, while calling for stronger government investment to prevent GBV and support women and children with access to comprehensive

response service as well as to promote girls and women well-being and empowerment (especially through improved access to girls' secondary education and skills-building, child marriage prevention, and adolescent health care).

In 2021, 356.438 women, girls and boys in Iraq accessed gender-based violence (GBV) response, prevention or risk mitigation interventions through UNICEF-supported programmes.

SPOTLIGHT ON EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

THAILAND: PRIMERO INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO SUPPORT SOCIAL SERVICE WORKFORCE FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Violence against children is widespread in Thailand, with 58 per cent of children under 14 facing physical and psychological punishment at home according to the 2019 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 6) by the National Statistical Office and UNICEF. Many cases go unreported, and the situation has only worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic with children remaining at home and isolated from support.

With only four social workers for every 100,000 people in Thailand, the urgency for supporting overworked and under-resourced social workers in their case management role is more acute than ever. In Bangkok Regional Health 8th Office, the Thai Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF launched Primero in Udon Thani Provincial hospital. With Primero, social workers will be able to better respond to cases of violence, abuse and neglect by providing timely and quality support to vulnerable children and families. Case management involves working with children and families to plan, process and monitor services and support for vulnerable children in need of care and protection. This involves navigating through a complicated and often disconnected set of services and support available within and outside of the hospital.

Primero will support social workers in the Udon Thani Provincial hospital in their case management role by moving documenting processes online and linking them with the hospital's information system on patients and services. This will ensure case management processes are more efficient than in the slower, paper-based system and can meet the needs of children more fully, so children can be better protected and families better supported.



A social worker in Lop Buri province on a family visit to connect with the community, understand their needs and refer them to services.

Thailand has taken other key steps to better protect children, including setting up One Stop Crisis Centres in every district hospital to provide treatment and support for children facing violence and abuse. UNICEF is currently working to facilitate case management processes that link these centres with other social services, including the 24-hour hotline 1300 and provincial shelters for children and families. The planned launch of Primero in other hospitals will help more children across Thailand receive efficient and comprehensive social services as well as care and protection.

In 2021, the number of places where Primero™ was in use globally increased by 24 per cent (from 41 in 2020 to 51 countries/territories in 2021).

VAILLANTE: ENGAGING AUDIENCES THROUGH A CHILD MARRIAGE TALE

UNICEF launched 'Vaillante', a fictional mini-series exploring the issue of child marriage that affects millions of girls and women across West and Central Africa and showcasing how young people, especially girls, can be part of the solution if empowered to take action.

Produced in Africa, Vaillante tells the story of the painful past of a young woman who campaigns against child marriage and whose fate intertwines with the uncertain fate of a soon-to-be-married girl. Both protagonists must overcome family and social adversity in order for their rights to be respected.

Showings of Vaillante have been organized throughout the region, and in other parts of the world, to spur discussion and reflection on child marriage amongst key stakeholders, including young people. The series was also featured across West and Central Africa on Canal+ POP primetime broadcasts to millions of viewers.

In West and Central Africa, about two in five girls are married before their 18th birthday, and one in eight is married before her 15th birthday. UNICEF works with adolescent girls, families, religious leaders and communities to shift social norms and beliefs related to child marriage (and the underlying drivers of gender inequality that lead to this practice), and to empower



adolescent girls to make their own decisions and have access to essential basic services (health, birth registration, education, child protection and social welfare and social protection).

In addition, UNICEF works with governments across the region to strengthen or put in place laws and policies to end child marriage and reinforce capacities of local governments and partners for stronger prevention and response to child marriage.

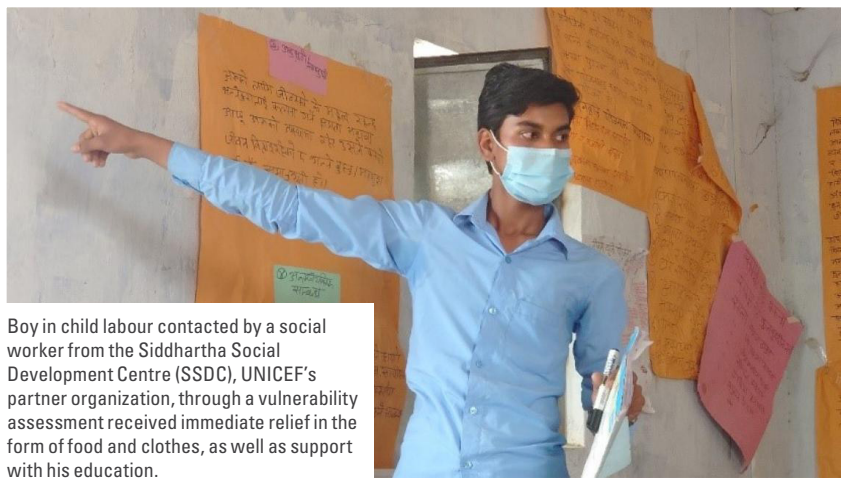
Targeted regional alliances, particularly with the African Union, and the traction gained by the UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme to End Child Marriage resulted in 7.6 million adolescent girls across 47 countries at risk of child marriage receiving prevention and care interventions supported by UNICEF in 2021.

NEPAL: CHILD PROTECTION MONITORING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

UNICEF Nepal has supported the scale-up of the Protection Monitoring system as a main 'surveillance mechanisms' to detect emerging risks and negative coping mechanisms at the community level. Scaled up monitoring and early alert mechanisms in 2021 enabled the deployment of targeted interventions reaching 6,850 children. UNICEF supported local governments and civil society organizations in vulnerability assessments to identify children at risk of neglect, abuse, and violence with a strong focus on prevention and reduction of

vulnerability. Children in situations of child labour and at risk of child marriage were amongst those identified and referred to services, as well as provided with psychosocial support.

The enhanced partnerships between civil society organizations and government at federal and sub-national levels have resulted in an increase in cases reported through both community based and formal networks, with an enhanced equity focus (18% children reached are from families with a child with a disability and 60%



Boy in child labour contacted by a social worker from the Siddhartha Social Development Centre (SSDC), UNICEF's partner organization, through a vulnerability assessment received immediate relief in the form of food and clothes, as well as support with his education.

UNICEF NEPAL/2021/MIKAWAMOTO

from marginalized communities). As the number of municipalities investing in child welfare functions has multiplied, from 12 in 2020 to 72 in 2021, this partnership model is also supporting local delivery of child protection services and helping to strengthen local regulatory frameworks and standard setting. This includes technical support to GBV one-stop centres and the scale up of psycho-social support programs through deployment of community-based counsellors and the operation of hotlines.

Through these efforts, more than 30 partner municipalities are now allocating resources to child protection services including child welfare functions; counselling; cash + care services

for vulnerable families; child labour prevention; supporting adolescent girls life skills programmes; as well as initiating the the adaption of the Primero Information Management System for child protection.

SPOTLIGHT ON EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

UGANDA: KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

The Government of Uganda, in collaboration with UNICEF, initiated efforts to handle online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA), after observing increased cases of this nature during the containment measures of COVID-19 when schools closed and online learning was introduced. Schools in Uganda remained closed for two years and increasingly more introduced on-line learning options, leading to extended use of the internet by children.

The 'Disrupting Harm' study was launched in Uganda in 2021 and provided an in-depth assessment of children's use of the internet, their experiences with online sexual exploitation and abuse, and how the national response mechanisms in Uganda were

supporting victims. According to the study's findings, 12 per cent of the female respondents said they were asked for a photo or video of their private parts and 19 per cent of these respondents had complied. Furthermore, the survey made evidence-based recommendations that included necessary legislative changes; empowering children to know how to keep themselves and others safe online; raising awareness on OCSEA; and improving the capacity of the social service workforce, education and justice sectors to respond to these risks and violations.

In 2022, the Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development (MGLSD), in partnership with UNICEF and other ministries, has integrated OCSEA in Education, Social Welfare and Justice resource materials (Case Management Handbook; Reporting, Tracking, Referral and Response Guidelines on Violence against Children in Schools; an in multi-sectoral curricular on investigation, adjudication and prosecution of gender-based violence and violence against children to prevent and respond to OCSEA).

In addition, various training of trainers have been conducted for Police officers, criminal investigators, cyber investigators and staff of the national Child Helpline, to strengthen their knowledge and practice to identify, investigate, prosecute cases and support victims of OCSEA. Trainings of relevant government staff at the district and local government level have begun as well. The MGLSD is also leading the national multi-sectoral task force to develop a national action plan on OCSEA.



Girls on devices in Uganda where Disrupting Harm study found that 40% of 12-17-year-olds were internet users in 2020

UNICEF/UN0647363/BONGYERIRWE

In 2021, UNICEF, together with partners, produced more than 350 knowledge products across the spectrum of child protection issues at country, regional and global levels, an increase of 10 percent compared to 2020. The majority, 50 per cent, were produced in national contexts, followed by 30 per cent produced at the headquarters level, and finally the remainder 20 percent which are from the regional level. Around 33 per cent of all these products were COVID-19 related. Products were produced covering all key thematic areas of child protection and are being used to advocate for improved policy and programming across regions.

Of note, in the most recent months, [‘Ending online child sexual exploitation and abuse: Lessons learned and promising practices in low- and middle-income countries’](#) takes stock of UNICEF’s work to address online child sexual exploitation and abuse. It is intended for policymakers and practitioners from the field. Based primarily on analysis of survey responses from 29 UNICEF country offices, the report sets out the current level of implementation of the WeProtect Model National Response, gaps and challenges in low- and middle-income countries, and promising practices and lessons learned.

Two more reports in this area will be released in the coming weeks. [‘Legislating for the Digital Age’](#) aims to provide guidance on how to strengthen legislative frameworks to protect children from online sexual exploitation and abuse in accordance with international and regional conventions, general comments and guidelines of treaty bodies, models laws and good practices. It is intended for use by governments, country offices of international organizations, civil society and business organizations to assist in ensuring that all aspects of online sexual exploitation and abuse of children are explained and contained in legislation.

[‘Framing the Future’](#) sets out how the WeProtect Global Alliance Model National Response framework is supporting national efforts to tackle the scourge of online sexual exploitation and abuse of children. The WeProtect Global Alliance and UNICEF worked together on this review, which captures an extensive body of experience across 42 countries. By documenting good practices and lessons learned, this report illustrates how, just over six years since its introduction, the Model National Response has become a key reference point to support the building of coordinated, comprehensive and multistakeholder national responses. It also identifies five key priorities which demand urgent action from stakeholders concerned with protecting children in the digital environment.

A new report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, [‘The role of social protection in the elimination of child labour: Evidence review and policy implications’](#), presents evidence from a number of studies conducted since 2010

that show how social protection - by helping families cope with economic or health shocks - reduces child labour and facilitates schooling. The study’s recommendations contain the importance of integrating social services provision, including child protection, for a more holistic and coordinated approach.

A series of [UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti briefs](#) draw on the findings of multi-country research based on the first-hand migration experiences of 1,634 children and young people moving between Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt to help inform decision makers when designing child-sensitive solutions for children on the move, in line with relevant objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The briefs cover the following topics: strengthening child protection systems and ending child immigration detention; access to basic services; and vulnerability, discrimination and xenophobia.

In data, [Country Child Marriage Profiles](#) draw upon nationally representative data to present an overview of the practice in each country, detailing how common the practice is across the population, describing the characteristics of unions, providing insights into the lives of child brides across key domains of well-being and illustrating trends in the practice and the acceleration required to reach the 2030 SDG target.

In terms of programming tools, [‘The CAAFAG Programme Development Toolkit’](#) was produced by the CAAFAG Task Force of the Alliance for Child protection in Humanitarian Action, co-led by Plan International and UNICEF. The development process of the Programme Development Toolkit builds on the results of a desktop review and 16 key informant interviews with researchers, government representatives, UN agencies and national and international NGOs. The CAAFAG Toolkit is also available in Arabic, French and Spanish.

UNICEF and the World Health Organization also led the development of the [‘Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Minimum Service Package’](#) (MHPSS MSP). The MSP presents the minimum MHPSS activities to be implemented in all emergency settings. An easy-to-use digital platform helps navigate and learn about the MSP and can be used to support decision making, program planning and implementation. It provides: a clear checklist of actions needed to implement activities; selection of relevant guidelines, standards and tools; a costing tool to estimate the financial resources needed to implement the activities; a gap analysis tool to identify MSP activities to initiate or strengthen as part of a humanitarian response.

In addition, UNICEF and the World Health Organization launched the [EQUIP Platform](#) which makes freely available competency assessment tools and e-learning courses to support governments, training institutions, and non-governmental organizations, both in humanitarian and

development settings, to train and supervise the workforce to deliver effective psychological support to adults and children. EQUIP guides trainers and supervisors on how to change their existing programmes into competency-based approaches. A competency-based approach uses role plays and assessments of skills to ensure that helpers not only have the knowledge but also the skills needed to deliver quality support.

UNICEF has worked in partnership with Criterion Institute and Equilo to develop another digital platform with an innovative GBV Risk Score methodology and tool that enables investors to more accurately assess the risk gender-based violence (GBV) poses to their investments and to identify strategies that both mitigate the risks and make an impact on GBV on the

ground. The tool is dynamic, powered by real-time data on GBV from a multitude of sources. It enables financing institutions and governments to understand the materiality of GBV to their investments, including the level and types of GBV risk in any given country. The methodology helps users understand the severity and potential consequences of the risk and offers advice on risk mitigation, harm reduction, and proactive strategies to address GBV.

UNICEF has now developed a Roadmap for investors to measure themselves against a set of GBV indicators that determine the degree to which financial decisions have taken GBV into consideration. Several financial institutions have already pledged to commit to this Roadmap.

COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL OUTREACH:

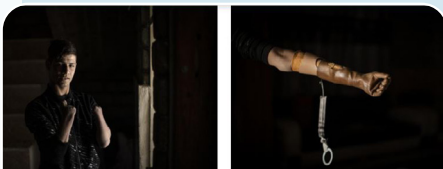
In April, UNICEF communications and advocacy activated in support of consultations in Geneva with state representatives, the United Nations and international and civil society organizations to adopt a *Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*. Ireland has been leading the consultations on a draft declaration since 2019.

EXAMPLES OF THIS ACTIVATION:

Video showing 6 ways explosive weapons threaten children and calling on States to commit to avoid using explosive weapons in populated areas.



A photo essay from Iraq showing that long after a conflict has ended – after the terrifying sounds of gunfire, mortars and rockets have gradually faded – the impact of explosive weapons can reverberate for years to come. Iraq remains among the countries most contaminated with explosive objects, which still severely injure children just trying to go about daily life – walking to school, helping with chores or playing with friends.



Ali, 17, lost both of his hands during shelling in western Mosul in 2017 when he got caught in the middle of fighting. "Life is very complicated" since the shelling, says Ali, who now uses a prosthetic arm. "I had to drop out of school because I couldn't stand being bullied." Ali says it has been difficult to find work because potential employers don't think he can do certain jobs. "I'd like to work in a store. I see myself as capable and useful, despite my disability," he says.

The new **Child Protection Learning Channel** is a curated hub for virtual learning opportunities that brings together the most relevant and up-to-date courses on child protection, organized within the framework of UNICEF's Child Protection Strategy. Another new course available on Agora (in English, French, Spanish) is *Action to End Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*. Both are available to the general public.



16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence: UNICEF took advantage of the 16 Days of of Activism against Gender Based Violence to highlight voices of women and girls through the *Voice Amplified* project; share 'Stories of Hope, Courage and Change' which documents UNICEF and Spotlight Initiative work to end violence against women and girls across in Latin America and Africa; showcase work to protect women and girls in humanitarian action including 'Making Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programming Safer and More Accountable to Women and Girls'; and share stories from the field from those involved with UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme End Child Marriage-along with much more. Season 2 of 'Coping with Covid' was also launched showing how girls around the world are standing up and reclaiming their hopes for a fair future.

UNICEF Child Protection @unicefprotects · Dec 3, 2021

Hope
Courage
Change

Seven women and girl-led programs against gender-based violence and harmful social norms in @unicefhonduras @MalawiUNICEF @UNICEFMexico @Unicefniger @UNICEF_Nigeria & @UNICEFEISalvador

@GlobalSpotlight @EU_Commission

#16days



youtube.com
Stories of Hope, Courage and Change

You Retweeted

UNICEF @UNICEF · Dec 5, 2021

Worldwide, harmful social norms and gender inequality still keep girls from thriving.

In this episode of Coping with COVID-19, Antsa in Madagascar and Trisha in Bangladesh break stereotypes and fight for equality through slam poetry and journalism. #16days #unicef75



UNICEF Child Protection @unicefprotects · Dec 10, 2021

#EndSRGBV #16Days

UN Girls' Education Initiative @UNGEI · Dec 9, 2021

New on the blog!

Find out how multiple forms of violence can be addressed through a range of interventions & pathways that are intentionally gender transformative.

Read it here → ungei.org/blog-post/awar...

#16days #EndSRGBV @SafeToLearn @UNICEFInnocenti @together4girls



UNICEF Child Protection @unicefprotects · Dec 10, 2021

We all have a role in ending gender-based violence.

Watch @UNICEFChief reaffirm @UNICEF's commitment to end gender-based violence and create a new normal.

#16Days #CallToActionGBV #EndGBVTogether

Catherine Russell @unicefchief · Jun 17, 2020

In emergencies, rates of violence against women and girls increase — #COVID19 is no exception.

Let's work together to reimagine a world where every girl and woman feels safe, no matter the circumstances. #CallToActionGBV



3,009 views · Feb 26, 2021 · 0:19 / 1:05

for groups and individuals.

Learn more in the @GBVoR1 podcast: 16 Days, Past, Present and Future

#EndGBVTogether #16Days

endgbvtogether.org/#history-podca...

Ending GBV We All Have A Role

#16Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
Past, Present and Future

30 years ago a group of international campaigners gathered for the first #16Days... Listen to our exclusive interview with Prof. Charlotte Bunch, one of the original founders of the movement, and discover the impact it has had on eliminating GBV...

#EndGBVtogether



DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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