

## Ethiopia

### Update on the context and situation of children

In 2022, children and their families across Ethiopia faced multiple and complex emergencies, including the conflict in northern Ethiopia affecting Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions, sporadic inter-ethnic conflicts in Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia, Gambella and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) regions, and the worst drought in forty years in Afar, Oromia, SNNP and Somali regions. This resulted in 29.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 15.7 million children. Among them, 24.1 million people required lifesaving support due to the drought, including 12.8 million children. At least 4.5 million people were internally displaced throughout the country.

After two years of conflict in northern Ethiopia, a peace agreement between the Government of Ethiopia (GOE) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front was signed on November 2, 2022. Since early December 2022, UNICEF was able to send essential supplies to children and their families in Tigray region, overcoming previous operational and security challenges. To date, 56 trucks carrying supplies worth US\$3.5 million entered Mekelle, capital city of Tigray region, and this lifesaving support was delivered to the most vulnerable communities. As of October 1, 2022, UNICEF also delivered humanitarian aid and supplies worth over US\$3.86 million to Afar and Amhara regions impacted by the conflict.

From a socio-economic perspective, Ethiopia faced a confluence of shocks due to ongoing emergencies, which led to slowed growth and development. The ripple effects of the war in Ukraine tipped more families over the edge and exacerbated the food insecurity crisis in Ethiopia, with increased fuel prices and reduced availability of wheat imports. Ethiopia is dependent on imported grains, sunflower oil and seed from Russia and Ukraine. This meant prices of cooking oil, bread and wheat flour reached new record highs. Even families not living in areas affected by humanitarian crises could not meet their daily food needs.

The federal budget for the fiscal year 2022/23 highlighted that Ethiopia's economy is facing multiple challenges, including high inflation, foreign exchange shortage, high debt burden, and low domestic resource mobilization, affecting the country's macro-economic stability. In June 2022, the rate of inflation peaked at 37.2 per cent, ranked third highest in Africa and eighth highest globally. Food price inflation also increased from 23.9 per cent in May 2021 to 42 per cent in October 2022.

There was notable progress on gender in the country. Ethiopia's ranking in the 2022 Global Gender Gap Index showed a significant leap, moving from the 97th position to the 74th position. The index measures parity across the domains of economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. Ethiopia showed improvements on all sub-indexes, except health and survival.

The malnutrition situation of women and children across the country deteriorated, and the caseload of severely malnourished children increased by 21 per cent from 2021. The key drivers for this change were associated with conflict, drought, high inflation and food prices. Due to the drought, over 689,000 children needed treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and nearly 700,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women needed urgent nutrition support. In response, UNICEF supported health facilities and Find and Treat campaigns that treated over 626,000 under-five children for SAM with a cure rate of 88.39 per cent in 2022, a 33 per cent increase from 2021.

Although Ethiopia made major strides in reducing the under-five mortality rate, there was no recent improvement in the neonatal mortality rate. About 110,000 newborns in Ethiopia die from neonatal

causes every year, and an estimated 1.11 million children have not received the lifesaving Pentavalent-3 vaccine according to World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF. However, the recent delivery of over 1.4 million doses of routine vaccinations to Tigray region reached 50,000 children and mothers.

From a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) perspective, over 4.5 million people had access to safe water in Ethiopia through direct support from UNICEF. Around 18 million people (17 per cent) still practiced open defecation, particularly common in rural areas. To mitigate the impact of drought and build community resilience, UNICEF and partners invested in climate-resilient water systems to provide long-term sustainable solutions, so that children have access to clean water and hygiene services in times of drought or other climatic shocks.

Safeguarding children's education remained a significant challenge, with an estimated 13 million children out-of-school across the country (6 million in pre-primary education, 4.5 million in primary education, and 2.7 million in junior secondary education as of December 2022). In the conflict affected regions, an estimated 8,700 schools were destroyed or damaged, resulting in over 3.4 million children missing out on an education. To get children back to learning, UNICEF established temporary learning spaces and rehabilitated partially damaged schools. Back to School campaigns were conducted, and the My Home/Bete approach was scaled up to integrate accelerated learning, child protection services and life-skills training.

The humanitarian emergencies also resulted in a child protection crisis, with a drastic increase in child marriages in drought-affected areas. According to local government sources, between April and June 2022, child marriages increased by 156 per cent in Somali region and 18 per cent in SNNP region compared to the same period in 2021.

Recent analysis of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey and the Welfare Monitoring Survey suggested that poverty has risen in Ethiopia due to socio-economic shocks and the rising cost of living, especially in urban areas and conflict-affected areas. The analysis showed that the poverty headcount ratio increased in all regions. In Tigray, the poverty headcount ratio increased from 27 per cent in 2016 to 45 per cent in 2022, significantly above the national average (26%) in the pre-conflict period. An estimated 36 million children experienced multidimensional poverty. With support from UNICEF and partners, the social protection system in Ethiopia covered over 14.6 million children this year.

While responding to significant humanitarian needs in the country, UNICEF continued to invest in long-term development programming and promote gender and disability inclusion. With the signing of the peace agreement, UNICEF plans to work closely with the GOE towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Major contributions and drivers of results

### Every Child Survives and Thrives

To safeguard the health of newborns, UNICEF supported the procurement and installment of equipment for neonatal intensive care units (NICU), updated NICU technical guidelines, and supported 130 health workers on NICU through training, mentorship, and coaching. Improvements were evident in the number of hospitals with NICU, increasing from 196 in 2021 to 326 in 2022 (84% of all hospitals). Around 64,000 newborns were treated in the NICU, with a recovery rate of 79 per cent. The proportion of children under-five treated for two major causes of mortality, namely sepsis and pneumonia, increased from 40 per cent and 57 per cent in 2021 to 44 per cent and 64 per cent in 2022, respectively.

The lack of recent surveys on Pentavalent-3 vaccine coverage contributed to overreporting on immunization coverage. UNICEF, GAVI, and WHO supported the GOE on the development of an

immunization catch-up plan to be implemented in 2023. Moreover, *as part of GAVI's full portfolio planning*, UNICEF supported a situational analysis for gender transformative interventions around immunization practices.

Integrated preventive nutrition services reached over 10 million children and caregivers, which ensured vitamin A supplementation (74%) and deworming (79%) in children, and iron and folic acid (IFA) supplementation among women (62%). Over eight million adolescent girls also received IFA. Multiple micronutrient supplements were introduced for pregnant women in Gambella, Oromia, SNNP, Sidama and Somali regions. The joint resilience programming initiated in conflict-affected regions linked infant and young child feeding with cash transfers and context-specific complementary food recipes.

The social behavior change (SBC) capacity of 8,283 community stakeholders were enhanced to enable meaningful engagement on health, nutrition, and WASH. In partnership with Girl Effect, UNICEF targeted adolescents in-school and out-of-school with comprehensive messages on nutrition, education, child marriage, menstrual hygiene and health (MHH), and gender-based violence (GBV) via edutainment disseminated through television, social media, and outreach. Sixteen additional episodes of edutainment are under development, expected to reach over 10 million people.

UNICEF's engagement with the private sector and GOE in food fortification, ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), and egg powder resulted in improved coverage of iodized salt (95%) and food fortification standards. Moreover, 30 per cent of RUTF was locally produced, with egg powder production transitioning to scale. UNICEF also supported the development of multisectoral nutrition workplans in five regions. Through UNICEF advocacy, the GOE allocated US\$1.3 million of domestic resources to procure RUTF.

The treatment for wasting had a significant impact, with 61,437 children's lives saved. In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), UNICEF supported training of caregivers to identify early signs of malnutrition in children using the mid-upper arm circumference tape. Moreover, the use of RUTF-only treatment for SAM is being tested, and a reduced dosage of RUTF is being evaluated for the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition programme.

To ensure continued access to essential health and nutrition services, UNICEF supported 86 Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) and procured 1,067 emergency drug kits. Over 1.9 million mothers and children in conflict- and drought-affected areas in Afar, Somali, Amhara, and Tigray regions received medical consultations and treatment through the MHNTs. UNICEF provided 23 cholera treatment kits that benefitted 383 patients in Somali and Oromia regions. To increase COVID-19 vaccination, UNICEF supported demand generation, cold chain strengthening and vaccine logistics. The COVID-19 full vaccination rate increased from 14 per cent in 2021 to 55 per cent in 2022. Among the 23.2 million people vaccinated this year, over 11.3 million were women and girls (49.2%).

### **Every Child Learns**

To promote quality education for school-age children, UNICEF provided technical and financial resources towards continuing investments of the Ministry of Education (MOE) and regional education bureaus. In its upstream engagement with MOE, UNICEF supported the development, piloting, and roll-out of pre-primary and primary education curriculum, piloting of secondary education curriculum, and updating of the Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) policy framework using a gender-responsive lens. As a result of UNICEF advocacy, the ECDE policy framework was designed to support free and compulsory two-year pre-primary education, and this was included in the draft Education Act under review. UNICEF also supported a successful national consultation at the Transforming Education Summit 2022.

As part of its downstream support, UNICEF invested in development and humanitarian interventions

that delivered quality pre-primary education to 132,856 children (48% girls) through formal and non-formal programmes, including school readiness interventions focusing on internally displaced children, refugee children, and children in host communities. Service delivery was strengthened by launching extensive social mobilization and community awareness initiatives to emphasize the importance of pre-primary education.

UNICEF invested towards timely resumption and continuity of education services for 342,293 emergency-affected children (50% girls), including 12,398 children (57% girls) from refugee and host communities in Gambella and Benishangul Gumuz regions, and 24,902 children (48% girls) of pastoralists through the Alternative Basic Education programme. Around 78,000 children (49% girls) were reached through the My Home/Bete approach in Afar, Amhara, Benishagul Gumuz, Oromia, and Somali regions. The approach focused on the provision of accelerated learning opportunities and life skills education linked with child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support. UNICEF provided essential learning materials to over 300,000 children, including school kits, early childhood development kits, and recreational kits. In addition, 89,200 adolescents (75% girls) aged 10-14 were empowered with life skills education, including 39,096 internally displaced adolescents affected by conflict and drought.

To ensure the development of quality teaching and learning materials, the capacity of 3,266 developers and reviewers (2,701 men and 565 women) from five universities was strengthened, along with curriculum experts from 11 regional education bureaus and the MOE. The Assessment for Learning (AfL) programme, an effective strategy to improve teaching and learning outcomes in early primary education, achieved buy-in in eight regions (except Tigray and Gambella regions), which contributed to the institutionalization of AfL in 449 primary schools.

UNICEF's work on prevention and response to school-related GBV culminated in the finalization of the national Code of Conduct for schools in 2022, being adapted by regional education bureaus. UNICEFs also played an instrumental role in enhancing 304 school gender clubs in Amhara, Afar, and Oromia regions, empowering adolescent girls to share their referrals needs and MHH demands. Life skills education was delivered to over 89,000 adolescents (75% girls), which enhanced their capacity to confront GBV and utilize reporting mechanisms for child marriage.

To access Global Partnership for Education (GPE) funding, especially the System Transformation Grant that aims to alleviate structural and systemic obstacles, UNICEF strategically assisted the MOE in developing an Enabling Factor Analysis, one of the fundamental requirements for countries to undertake inclusive dialogue on the key bottlenecks and barriers in education. UNICEF is also supporting the development of the Partnership Compact for GPE funding to accelerate inclusive and equitable access to quality education. UNICEF advocated for gender equity among teaching staff and leadership. As a result, Oromia and Somali regions devised guidelines to promote women's participation in education leadership.

### **Every Child Protected from Violence and Exploitation**

In 2022, the child protection system in Ethiopia was strengthened, with interventions on birth registration, prevention of violence against children, and ending child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) adapted to humanitarian situations. UNICEF supported development-humanitarian nexus programming and leveraged its technical expertise to tailor protection interventions that build resilient systems and solutions. Moreover, the GOE and UNICEF jointly supported capacity building of the social service workforce to deliver case management services in development and humanitarian settings. A total of 69,738 children (33,175 boys and 36,563 girls) received comprehensive case management in health, psychosocial, and legal services.

In conflict and drought affected areas, UNICEF scaled up partnerships with the GOE and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to diversify partnerships and programme strategies. While the

drought required a rapid, multi-sector response, the conflict in northern Ethiopia necessitated frequent shifts in partners and modalities given the changing security, access and operability contexts. In the humanitarian response, a total of 1,117,948 children and community members were reached with various services, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), child protection case management, alternative care or family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children, GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response, dignity kits provision, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

In collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MOWSA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF supported the development of strategic documents for the Ending Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation programme, including the community conversation toolkits (for development and humanitarian contexts), engagement manual for boys and men, and the national empowerment manual for out-of-school adolescent girls. These strategic documents emphasized a gender-transformative approach, challenged discriminatory gender norms in families and communities, empowered adolescent girls, and promoted positive masculinities among men and boys. Translated into local languages and validated at the regional levels, the documents will be roll-out in February 2023.

UNICEF, MOWSA, Ministry of Justice and their regional counterparts engaged 1,492,204 community members (1,163,645 women and 328,559 men) through various interventions to address child marriage and FGM. This created an empowering environment for girls at risk to receive protection, response, and mitigation services. As a result, a total of 1,218 child marriage cases and 1,328 FGM cases were reported by community members, which led to the cancellation of 615 child marriage cases and 785 FGM cases.

UNICEF continued to contribute towards improving the efficiency of the civil registration system. In 2022, there was a notable increase in the birth registration rates in Ethiopia, including refugee children. Between July 2021 and June 2022, 36 percent (683,781) of children under one were registered among the 1.9 million expected births. In addition, 43 per cent of refugee children under one were registered (9,301 of the 21,840 expected births), an increase of 18 per cent from the previous year.

### **Every Child Lives in a Safe and Clean Environment**

Through rehabilitation and extension of broken water schemes, water trucking operations, and sanitation and hygiene promotion activities, around 4.5 million people gained access to safe water, over 1.8 million people received sanitation services, and over 11 million people were reached with key messages on the prevention of communicable diseases and adequate MHH.

The satellite groundwater mapping initiated by UNICEF resulted in a significantly increased success rate of 92 per cent in borehole drilling. This approach has the potential to reach unserved populations in drought-prone arid and semi-arid areas, while ensuring cost efficiencies in drilling. The GOE plans to scale-up the model in 53 districts, and the UNICEF Office of Innovation also provided funding to replicate the approach in Angola, Kenya, Somalia and other regions of Ethiopia, expected to reach a total of 8.7 million children.

In 2022, a South-South exchange between Ethiopia and Brazil was supported by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office. Officials from FMOH and the Ministry of Water and Energy visited Brazil to learn about water and sanitation regulations and decentralized wastewater treatment, and pilot similar efforts in Ethiopia.

The Conflict Sensitivity, Peace Building, and Social Cohesion Guideline for WASH programming in Ethiopia was published by UNICEF in 2022 to leverage opportunities to promote peace and strengthen social cohesion. The guideline formed the basis for the development of UNICEF's global guidance on WASH for Peace.

**Progress on ending open defecation in Ethiopia slowed in 2022 due to the lack of funding for household sanitation. Despite challenges,** 912 communities (Kebeles) became Open Defecation Free (ODF) through direct UNICEF support, benefiting 1,648,000 people living in an ODF environment. UNICEF also supported the social and behaviour change strategy development for the ODF campaign. The developed strategy was validated and finalized by relevant WASH sector ministries at the national and regional levels. UNICEF will continue to support its implementation with government ministries and partners in the coming years.

A partnership with Stockholm International Water Institute was established to support the development of a national WASH regulatory framework. Trainings were delivered to UNICEF staff and stakeholders on City Wide Inclusive Sanitation through a collaboration with African Water Association. The REACH and Oxford University partnership was created to support research on equitable water access and water safety management. Additionally, UNICEF worked in partnership with the Ethiopian Water Technology Institute and other partners on capacity building for water and sanitation utilities. In October 2022, UNICEF also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ethiopian Federation of Water Utilities to develop monitoring systems.

### **Every Child has an Equitable Chance at Life**

To ensure every child, including adolescents, has access to inclusive social protection and lives free of poverty, UNICEF, GOE and partners maintained technical and financial support to the Productive Safety Net Programme, and reached 6.8 million people through the core safety net programme, with additional one-off cash transfers provided to drought-affected areas (40% of total caseload). Specifically, UNICEF financed cash transfers to over 321,000 drought-affected people in Amhara, Oromia, and SNNP regions (with an estimated 1 million children).

In partnership with the GOE, UNICEF and MOWSA responded to massive internal displacement caused by conflict, drought, and floods, which in turn resulted in a proliferation of camps for internally displaced peoples (IDP) and an increase in the number of IDPs in host communities. UNICEF supported the establishment of a shock-responsive cash transfer programme targeting IDP populations, and reached over 233,000 IDPs (with an estimated 650,000 children) with lifesaving and recovery-promoting cash transfers in six regions.

Despite the clear global evidence on the importance of investing in children, public spending on social sectors in Ethiopia stagnated or declined between 2021 and 2022. UNICEF continued to engage and advocate through analyses and partnerships for enhanced and quality public spending in the social sectors, including the successful advocacy that led to the GOE allocating US\$1.3 million for the procurement of RUTF.

Throughout 2022, UNICEF technically and financially supported the GOE to routinely monitor child poverty to enhance the quality and scope of existing surveys (e.g., Demographic and Health Survey, Labour Force Survey, Household Consumption and Expenditure survey), and commissioned research and updates on child poverty measurement and its critical drivers. UNICEF aimed to influence policies, legislation, budget allocation, and development of socioeconomic and sectoral strategies during humanitarian crises and in fragile contexts. To mobilize financing for child poverty reduction, UNICEF advocated for social spending protection; enhancement of government capacity to use domestic resources efficiently, effectively and equitably; and identification of new and innovative financing options towards sustainable, child-sensitive and inclusive fiscal spending.

In terms of disability inclusion, UNICEF established multisectoral partnerships to promote purposeful inclusion of persons and children with disabilities within all UNICEF programming. To this end, a multisectoral partnership cooperation agreement was signed with the National Federation on Disability to support persons and children with disabilities who were displaced due to conflict. In addition, UNICEF commissioned a pilot to provide cash top-ups to persons and children with disabilities in IDP camps of conflict-affected Amhara and Afar regions. UNICEF also partnered with the Ethiopian

Human Rights Commission and the Ethiopian Institute of Ombudsman to promote monitoring of child rights, gender equality, and disability inclusion, which will inform law and policy reforms.

## UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

*The GOE remains UNICEF's main implementing partner, with UNICEF working with 119 government ministries (22 federal and 97 regional). UNICEF has 83 current Partnership Cooperation Agreements, of which 11 are associated to development programming and 72 are associated to humanitarian programming. Notably, UNICEF scaled up its response to the two L3 emergencies by improving its partnerships with international NGOs that provided life-saving health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, education and other services for children.*

*UNICEF played an active role in the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in 2022, supporting Ethiopia on its journey to sustainable development, in line with Ethiopia 2030: The Pathway to Prosperity. In the UNCT, UNICEF co-chairs the Programme Management Team and chairs Action Group 1 on social services. Notably, UNICEF contributed to the UNCT-SWAP gender equality scorecard, and the roadmap development for gender equality programming in emergencies.*

*In 2022, UNICEF continued to work closely with the Humanitarian Country Team, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on inter-cluster coordination. UNICEF led key Clusters, including WASH, Nutrition, Education, as well as the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. UNICEF worked with the International Labour Organization and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to facilitate skills development, school-to-work transition, and meaningful youth engagement and participation. Aligned with Ethiopia's Multi-Year Resilience Programme (2020-2023), UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) supported joint education and school feeding in Amhara region to improve learning and food security for emergency-affected children. With financial support from the European Commission, UNICEF and WHO are jointly strengthening national nutrition information systems. To strengthen legislative and institutional frameworks, UNICEF continued to partner with UNFPA to end FGM, with UNWOMEN to support the national coordination body. In increasingly fragile contexts, UNICEF partnered with UNHCR to provide lifesaving support under the Global Compact for Refugees, and entered into a new partnership with UNHABITAT to strengthen the capacity of water and sanitation service providers in Ethiopia through the Global Water Operator Partnership.*

*Leveraging global partnerships, UNICEF strived to amplify results for children and women in Ethiopia. UNICEF and the Ministry of Labour and Skills Development jointly established a network of youth-led organizations in Ethiopia as part of Generation Unlimited, the first global public-private youth partnership. Through Education Cannot Wait (ECW), a global fund that leverages private and public funding, UNICEF supported education in emergencies interventions to help children access education.*

*In total, 24 bilateral partners provided critical support to the Country Programme and the Humanitarian Action for Children in 2022, including: Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America.*

*Additional funds were received through global and specialized funds, including the Central Emergency Response Fund, ECW, End Violence Against Children Fund, Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund, GAVI, Global Financing Facility, GPE, Nutrition International, and the Global Fund. In 2022, UNICEF also received funding from 17 UNICEF National Committees.*

## Lessons Learned and Innovations

### Lessons Learned

Joint planning and coordination with the GOE, UN agencies, international development agencies, and implementing partners proved to be an efficient approach to leverage financial and technical support and ensure effectiveness of programming. Notably, collaboration between UNICEF and other UN agencies led to joint funding and implementation to support maternal, newborn and child health projects. UNICEF cooperation with the Clinton Health Access Initiative supported cold chain maintenance and capacity development initiatives. Moreover, UNICEF signed cooperation agreements with NGO partners that resulted in the equitable access to quality education for hard-to-reach children.

UNICEF leveraged innovative financing for RUTF from the Supply Division and a loan from Programme Division, totaling US\$30 million, to frontload procurement of the life-saving supply and ensure availability throughout the year. The weekly infographic published by UNICEF on the nutrition situation maintained visibility of the critical situation, and shared the response progress and key gaps.

**Close collaboration with international and local partners ensured community participation and results integration to improve the quality of SBC interventions. Internally, UNICEF thoroughly integrated participation, information and communication, feedback, and PSEA in all programme documents as part of Accountability to Affected Populations. Targeted population now have mechanisms to provide and receive feedback on services. In 2022, over 894,213 people provided feedback via community sessions, focus group discussions, and hotlines. Community dialogue proved to be the most effective approach in community engagement. For example, the dialogue on COVID-19 vaccination dramatically increased vaccine uptake during the third round of the national campaign.** Moreover, in Tigray where transportation was a major challenge during the measles supplemental immunization activity, UNICEF engaged women's development groups and grassroot community structures that mobilized locally available resources and ensured service access.

UNICEF also identified specific lessons in programming that will inform future actions. In WASH, the solarization of 24 water supply systems in Afar, Somali, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP regions proved to be effective in sustaining the operations of water supply schemes and reducing tariffs whilst improving service continuity for over 150,000 people. In education, investment on capacity development of local suppliers to manufacture play-based indoor and outdoor early learning materials was necessary due to insufficient play-based pedagogical skills of early childhood education personnel and a lack of age-appropriate curriculum materials jeopardized progress toward improving foundational literacy and numeracy skills of learners. In child protection, in light of the increased pressure on government systems to administer payments in more remote, insecure, and hard-to-reach areas, there is a need to assess the potential to scale-up more efficient and secure payment options for the shock-responsive cash transfer, including mobile payment. In social policy, UNICEF learned that generating awareness amongst senior regional government officials is a necessary precondition to ensure prioritization of child-focused expenditure, and this requires consistent high-level engagement. For example, the high-level engagement in the Somali region led to joint implementation with UNICEF on the child expenditure assessment. Internally, to strengthen UNICEF programming and response, systems, procedures, and processes need to be reoriented towards an accountability framework on disability inclusion for all staff members.

### Innovations

UNICEF employed different innovative strategies to strengthen programme implementation and expand results for children and women. UNICEF leveraged innovative financing of the Supply Division and a loan from Headquarters to ensure the availability of the lifesaving RUTF in Ethiopia. The Find and Treat campaign, conducted in the most inaccessible areas of Tigray, Amhara



and Afar regions and drought-affected areas of Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions, successfully integrated rapid nutrition assessment with multisectoral rapid response. The implementation of the My Home/Bete approach allowed UNICEF to address interrelated needs on accelerated learning, skills development, and child protection. The use of satellite data for groundwater mapping to tap deep aquifers and improve the construction of multi-village water supply schemes disrupted the vicious cycle of recurrent displacements and loss of livelihoods due to the exposure to droughts. As Ethiopia is experiencing one of the most severe droughts in recent history, this climate-resilient solution supported over 50,000 people in hard-to-reach areas of Somali region to access reliable water supply.

In terms of humanitarian and resilience programming, innovations focused on reaching the most at-need communities. UNICEF and WFP are developing a joint framework for building nutrition resilience, with integration of preventative and multisectoral direct and indirect nutrition interventions to ameliorate the impact of climate and economic shocks among the most vulnerable. The integrated host community-refugee WASH service delivery approach implemented in Gambella region was successful in building social cohesion between refugees and host communities, and significantly reduced the cost of producing water. The model is being replicated in the Somali region, and in Uganda, Somalia, and Sudan where an estimated 800,000 refugee and host communities will have access to improved water supply. Moreover, UNICEF supported the contextualization of the mobile-based technology for civil registration in refugee settings, and this is expected to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of the civil registration system in all refugee settings. The CPIMS+ web-based case management system was piloted to capture data for service provision, referrals, follow-ups, reporting and information sharing in refugee settings. Lastly, the interactive voice response messaging to women and girls was used to deliver life skills training to internally displaced girls and those in challenging situations.

The preparatory work with the GOE was concluded to start the African Drone and Data Academy (ADDA) in Ethiopia in partnership with Ethiopian Airlines, Virginia Tech University, Ministry of Peace, and Ministry of Agriculture. With limited infrastructure and lack of local capacity, the ADDA will address these challenges, and effectively utilize the drone technology for development and humanitarian interventions. The ADDA, to be based in the Ethiopian Airlines Aviation Academy, will train young people on drone basics, logistics and planning, as well as drone data and geographic information system analytics. Government partners are planning to use the technology to monitor the drought situation, and improve humanitarian preparedness and response.

UNICEF Ethiopia implemented a 0.25% allocation of incoming Other Resources funds to support evaluation priorities. This contributed to better service delivery for children and improved learning and accountability.