Spotlight on the UNICEF Gender Equality Fund

Results achieved in 2022 to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls
UNICEF’s Gender Equality Thematic Fund is a global flexible funding pool. It enables us to strengthen systems to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls.

This offers donors an exciting opportunity to target your funding specifically to gender equality outcomes, while also giving UNICEF the flexibility to allocate funds based on where the need is greatest for children and women, including critically underfunded gender priorities at the country level, humanitarian response activities, and where funds will have the greatest impact.

Thanks to our generous donors UNICEF’s Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund income in 2022 reached $2.5 million. We are so grateful for your kind support.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner Type</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Sector</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>591,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF China Country Office</td>
<td>651,186</td>
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<td></td>
<td>French Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>United States Fund for UNICEF</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>140,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Japan Committee for UNICEF</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Philippines Country Office</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Korean Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>German Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Italian Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Spanish Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Indonesia Country Office</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Malaysia Country Office</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Thailand Country Office</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canadian UNICEF Committee</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,493,059</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chart above illustrates how thematic expenses at global, regional and country level were apportioned across UNICEF’s nine implementing strategies for gender-related programming. This includes thematic expenses for both development and humanitarian related activities. In 2022, system strengthening was the core focus of our work for gender equality, accounting for 61 per cent of all expenses. For more information on expenses, refer to the 2022 Gender Equality Global Annual Results Report.

Through this system strengthening work, we do not just respond to gender inequality. We get to the root causes of the issue, by addressing harmful gender norms, power imbalances, laws and behaviours. Working in this ‘big picture’ way is cost effective, sustainable, scalable and it works.

In this spotlight report, you will see how thematic funds enable this vital system strengthening work for the greatest impact – bringing together your passion with our mission to help create a more equal world all women and children.

What is thematic funding?

UNICEF has 11 global thematic funds. These are flexible funding pools which support specific cause areas. This enables donors to direct their funding to an area of their choice, while giving UNICEF the flexibility to distribute resources wherever they are needed most. UNICEF distributes more than three quarters of global thematic funds to our country programmes, while also making allocations at the global level and in our seven regions of operation.

The 11 global thematic funds are:

- Health
- HIV/AIDS
- Nutrition
- Education
- Child Protection
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Climate, Energy, Environment, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CEED)
- Social Policy and Social Protection
- Gender Equality
- Mental Health
- Humanitarian Action
The challenges

Thematic funding ensures that the spectrum of challenges that women and girls face are addressed at scale through strong systems.

Since UNICEF was founded, over 75 years ago, the world has made extraordinary progress for gender equality. But girls and boys still see and experience gender inequality every day – in textbooks, in the media and among the adults who care for them. And, in some countries, the progress that has been made is being rolled back.

Gender inequalities touch every area of women’s and children’s lives. But what unites these diverse challenges is that they are caused or exacerbated by weak systems.

Nearly 1 in 4 girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are neither employed nor in education or training – compared to 1 in 10 boys.

Some 1 in 20 girls between the ages of 15 and 19 – around 13 million globally – have experienced forced sex in their lifetimes.

Three quarters of new HIV infections among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa occur among girls.

9 out of 10 adolescent girls and young women are offline in low-income countries.

At least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation.

A key role of thematic funding – strengthening systems

System strengthening makes change happen at scale, creating a ripple effect across a district, country or region.

1. Every day, children and women around the world rely on local and national systems, such as health services, education systems, social services and more. If these are designed with at least a gender-responsive, if not gender-transformative, approach, they can improve equality and empower women and girls.

2. When we strengthen systems to improve their gender responsiveness, we don’t just help one child, we make large-scale changes for many children at the same time.

3. UNICEF can deliver this impact because we are uniquely placed to work with governments to incorporate and strengthen gender-transformative approaches in local and national systems for children and women across an entire country.

4. Donors to the Gender Equality Thematic Fund support this work, helping to define and build this most sustainable way for UNICEF to create impact. Thank you so much for your support.

Based on our 75 years of experience working for and with children and women, we have seen how powerful it can be to address cross cutting issues by focusing on strengthening systems.

When we strengthen systems, we do it with a ‘gender transformative approach’. This means that instead of trying to work around barriers, or have a focus simply on women and girls, our gender transformative approaches get to the root of the issues and really remove structural barriers, and constraining gender norms, laws and behaviour. Working in collaboration with governments and other influential partners in this way helps us to achieve long-lasting results at scale.
In 2022, supporters of the Gender Equality Thematic Fund enabled UNICEF to allocate resources to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in 19 countries and territories. The map shows the ten countries which received the highest allocations.

Funds were also allocated to UNICEF’s regional and global headquarters, supporting the vital work that allows thematic funding to unlock wide-scale results and impact the world over.

Regional and global programming

Thematic funds don’t only support UNICEF’s work in countries. They are also used to provide critical support for UNICEF’s programming across wider regions and globally. These vital allocations of flexible funding are what enable the Gender Equality Thematic Fund to have an impact far beyond the countries that receive direct allocations.

For instance, in 2022, resources from the Gender Equality Thematic Fund were allocated to all seven of UNICEF’s regional offices, covering East Asia and the Pacific, Eastern and Southern Africa, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, and West and Central Africa. These funds were used to support countries in the respective regions and also enabled the creation of tools and guidance on gender-responsive programming.

For example, funds to regional offices supported a global learning series on girl-intentional approaches to skills-building, and a study of girls’ access, interaction and use of digital spaces.

Resources from the Gender Equality Thematic Fund were also allocated to UNICEF’s global headquarters. The allocation helped to strengthen coordination of the Skills4Girls portfolio, a global programme which equips girls with STEM, digital technology and life skills, such as self-confidence, problem-solving and decision-making.

Flexible funds supported management, fundraising and promotion of Skills4Girls, as well as documentation of the different approaches to understand which interventions are the most effective. Thematic funds also enabled UNICEF to improve communication on good practices to our country programmes and the mobilizing of new partnerships for gender equality.
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Achieving results for system strengthening

As the world’s largest organization for children, UNICEF achieves results for gender equality on a massive scale every year, driven by the priorities in our Gender Action Plan (2022-2025). Below are some headline sector-level results, to which thematic funding, as part of an overall portfolio of funding, was a key contributor to the long-term system strengthening work.

Workforce
All systems require a strong skilled workforce. In the case of gender equality, this includes health workers, teachers, social service workers, and more. One key element of this work is investing in female frontline workers. With a stronger female workforce, we can better identify and target the barriers to access and use of services by women and girls.

› In 2022, the number of health workers receiving skills and support for delivering essential maternal, newborn and child health services through UNICEF-supported programmes reached 1.2 million, up from about 800,250 in 2021.

Infrastructure
Good infrastructure can support gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. For instance, recognizing that girls and women have different water, sanitation and hygiene needs than their male peers, UNICEF works to ensure that they have access to safe water and toilet facilities that meet their needs in homes, health centres, schools and public places.

› Through UNICEF-supported programmes, 30.6 million people gained access to safe drinking-water in 2022 (15.5 million women and girls in countries reporting sex-disaggregated data), and more than 26 million people had access to basic sanitation services (12.5 million women and girls).

Supply chains
Most systems rely on supplies. UNICEF helps to strengthen supply chains for multiple commodities related to gender equality, including menstrual health items, iron and folic acid supplements to prevent anaemia, and human papillomavirus vaccines to protect girls from cervical cancer.

› In 2022, UNICEF-supported programmes in 78 countries addressed the menstrual health and hygiene needs of 17.5 million women and girls in 2022.

Laws and policies
Influencing laws and policies can make immediate changes for women and girls across an entire country in a single moment. UNICEF is filling gender-related data gaps to strengthen the evidence base for policy change. We are also making investments in influencing family-friendly policies for parental support, accessible childcare and child benefits.

› UNICEF support to strengthen national legislative and policy frameworks to protect children and reduce the incidence of gender-based violence has contributed to some progress in 2022. For instance, 43 countries now have frameworks in place to end child sexual exploitation, 14 more than in 2021.

Social and behavioural change
Social and behavioural change is any work that aims to shift attitudes on key issues. This includes work to promote positive gender norms and discourage harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage.

› In 2022, UNICEF worked to challenge discriminatory gender norms that drive harmful practices and to promote gender equality in 53 countries. Social and behaviour change interventions included multimedia campaigns and community outreach, which engaged 31.1 million people.
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By giving UNICEF the flexibility to support work at the country, regional and global levels, thematic funding achieves wide-scale results. And, by supporting work across the four years of our Strategic Plan (2022-2025), thematic funding enables us to address the root causes of gender inequalities and achieve real, long-term results.

**Targets**

Thematic funds form a vital cornerstone of our system strengthening work, which unlocks the greatest impact for children and women. But this takes time. That is why resources from the Gender Equality Thematic Fund are spent over a four-year period, aligning with UNICEF’s Strategic Plan (2022-2025). This period also aligns with UNICEF’s Gender Action Plan (2022-2025). Thus, thematic funds contribute to key, long-term targets for system strengthening in the Gender Action Plan, as illustrated on the table below. You can see more results in the 2023 Data Companion and Scorecard to the Gender Action Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Baseline (2021)</th>
<th>Progress (2022)</th>
<th>Target for 2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Workforce</strong></td>
<td>Number of countries with at-scale capacity-development programmes for front-line workers that focus on gender equality</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supply chains</strong></td>
<td>Percentage of HIV-positive women who received antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy and/or at labour and delivery</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>82%*</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social and Behavioural Change</strong></td>
<td>Percentage of girls, boys, women and men aged 15 to 49 years who believe that female genital mutilation should be eliminated</td>
<td>69% female</td>
<td>72% female</td>
<td>77% female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>64% male</td>
<td>64% male</td>
<td>71% male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Laws and Policies</strong></td>
<td>Number of countries with social protection programmes that are gender-responsive or lead to transformative gender equality results</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*TSignificant improvements have occurred in access to and uptake of antiretrovirals since 2010, but global coverage has flattened in recent years. The overall stalled progress obscures some important country-specific trends (both positive and negative), but nevertheless clearly underscores the potential difficulties in increasing global coverage to 95 per cent by 2030.

Tanzania

The Gender Equality Thematic Fund supported a training resource for front-line workers in 2022 to help them promote gender-transformative parenting.

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Thematic funding around the world

**Bolivia**
Thanks to thematic funding through the Skills4Girls programme, UNICEF is supporting Bolivia’s Roboticas training that is teaching girls to design and build robot prototypes. We are also doing higher level system strengthening work, by collaborating with the government. Specifically, we are working with government partners to integrate the robotics training into the national education curriculum to provide digital skills and transferable skills training on a large scale. STEM for girls is promoted nationally through science camps, research on the digital gender divide and social media campaigns.

**Chad**
According to UNICEF’s Children’s Climate Risk Index, Chad is the country where children face the second-highest risks from climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses in the world. In 2022, we supported climate work in Chad through the Gender Equality Thematic Fund. These funds were used to support adolescent girls to develop a chat bot to deliver timely, adolescent-friendly information to their peers as part of national preparedness planning in case of a climate disaster.

**Jordan**
In 2022, Jordan received funds from the Gender Equality Thematic Fund to support girls’ leadership in climate action. But it also received further resources as part of the Skills4Girls programme. An example of our work in this programme is the Bridge, Outsource, Transform (B.O.T.) platform. This digital platform helps connect adolescent girls and young women with work placements, apprenticeships and freelance employment opportunities after they have received training on basic and advanced digital skills.

**Tajikistan**
In Tajikistan, the Skills4Girls programme uses 15 nationwide Innovation Labs to target adolescent girls living in rural areas who are not in school or work. A tailored curriculum offers context and age-specific lessons to equip the girls with 21st century skills and the confidence they need to explore a range of opportunities. They are trained in digital and transferable skills like problem-solving, empathy, teamwork and goal setting – thanks to supporters of the Gender Equality Thematic Fund.

**Peru**
In 2022, UNICEF allocated resources from the Gender Equality Thematic Fund to support girls’ leadership in climate action in Peru (in addition to Skills4Girls funding for MásChicasTec in Peru). Specifically, UNICEF collaborated with the National Network of Adolescents and the Adolescent Girl Climate Change Committees to integrate green skills into national learning curricula. Green skills are any skills that contribute to preserving or restoring the environment. Jobs in this sector focus on improving energy and raw materials efficiency, limiting greenhouse gas emissions, supporting adaptation to the effects of climate change, and more.

**Tanzania**
Thanks to the Gender Equality Thematic Fund, UNICEF was able to pilot a gender-transformative parenting training resource for front-line workers in eight countries in 2022. The tool includes content on positive gender socialization, equitable parenting and positive discipline, and targets families with children in early childhood through adolescence. In Tanzania, it has been integrated into the Furaha Teens programme, which addresses caregivers of at-risk adolescents and aims to tackle domestic violence.

The Gender Equality Thematic Fund supported UNICEF’s work globally, in seven regions, and in 19 countries and territories in 2022. Here are six examples of UNICEF’s work for gender equality in countries that received allocations of global thematic funding.
Miranda’s story

In Bolivia, girls and women make up only 30 per cent of students at the tertiary level in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

UNICEF envisions a world without barriers for girls who want to pursue studies and careers in STEM. And, with the help of supporters of the Gender Equality Thematic Fund, we are contributing to that vision in Bolivia.

In 2022, UNICEF allocated resources from the Gender Equality Thematic Fund to the Skills4Girl programme in Bolivia. This includes an initiative which teaches girls to design and build robot prototypes to inspire them to become scientists and changemakers. Girls participate in workshops where they are trained in robotics, electronics, programming and prototype assembly, giving them a chance to explore and develop their STEM skills.

The robotics ideas each of the young participants have developed so far encompass a remarkable diversity. For instance, Yessica, age 16, was struck by a specific problem in her community. “Life here is difficult,” she says, describing the farming community she comes from. “Our plantations are scarce because of lack of water. But that mainly occurs because we base our farming on rainfall.” Thanks to her participation in the robotics workshop, Yessica devised a scientific solution. “I have created a small prototype of an automated watering system,” she explains. “This is based on a sensor system that can detect the plant’s humidity.”

Belinda, age 16, also created a robot prototype that was inspired by a situation close to home. “I thought about how I could help my community,” she explains. “And so, I started with my grandfather. I saw the problem he had. Sometimes he forgets things.” Through the programme Belinda was able to explore her idea of a robot for her grandfather “that can tell him what day it is, what time it is, and keep him company.”

For Belinda, the programme also delivered a powerful message. “Many girls are afraid, because of gender stereotypes that only men can do it, and women can’t,” she declares. “But no, women also have potential. We must increase that potential more and more.”

One of the programme’s youngest participants agrees. “Before my cousin said that I couldn’t do anything by myself,” recalls Miranda, age 7. “Now I am convinced that I am very capable. I would like to tell other girls around the world that they are very strong and could do much greater things than other people think. May they never give up.”

Miranda took part in an online version of the robotics course and created her own robot at home. “She knows how to walk because she feeds on a small solar panel,” Miranda explains, describing her small robot, which she calls Villy Bebé.

Miranda also drew the prototype of a robot that could hug children with illnesses and teach them various subjects while they are unable to go to school. The idea for this project came to Miranda after a visit to a hospital where she saw many girls and boys who suffered from the absence and distance from their friends.

Miranda has other original ideas for her future projects. And that is what this programme is all about. It is the first seed planted that enables girls to imagine a possible future for themselves, based on STEM. Some girls will go onto pursue a career in robotics. Others will do something entirely different. But this programme gives all of them the opportunity to make that choice – with a vital contribution from supporters of the Gender Equality Thematic Fund.
One young woman takes a lead for climate and environmental action

In 2022, climate action was a key component of UNICEF’s distribution of resources from the Gender Equality Thematic Fund. We aimed to strengthen the leadership of girls in climate activism, particularly in the context of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 27.

Jordan was just one of the countries that received funds for this work through the Gender Equality Thematic Fund, as it is a country that is particularly affected by climate change.

“One of the things I experience regularly is water outages in my area,” explains Rahaf, age 20. “I’m forced to significantly reduce the amount of water I use as an individual.”

Fortunately, Rahaf has been supported to take action against the growing threat to her local environment, thanks to UNICEF. Rahaf is a participant in the UNICEF-supported ‘Sawn’ programme, which means “to protect” or “preserve” in Arabic.

“As a young person, there is a lot I can do to help protect the environment and that includes coming up with projects to help my local area,” Rahaf explains. “A group of us have come up with a recycling project that empowers local women. We work with 100 women from the southern Shuna area to teach them about the environmental consequences of dumping rubbish and how to recycle materials like paper, cardboard and tin. We help them to exchange the materials for cash, which gives them a better sense of the value of these resources.

“We started to witness such a positive impact on the area. There was a noticeable decrease in garbage build-up and we also started seeing a really positive effect on the women themselves. They now understand their role in protecting the environment. We feel like we are achieving our goals of awareness, impact and change.”

UNICEF also brought together over 100 young people from every governorate in Jordan a few weeks before COP 27. They joined decisionmakers to participate in discussions, interactive sessions and workshops with experts on youth climate activism and policy formation.

“Each individual has a big role to play to tackle climate change,” Rahaf concludes. “They should be aware of it and alter their way of thinking and acting.”

“My advice to everyone is become an agent of change,” says Rahaf, age 20. “Participate, be eager to learn and let’s work together to come up with solutions to limit the negative impacts of climate change.”
Gender Action Plan
2022-2025

UNICEF’s work for women and girls in 2022 was driven by the priorities outlined in our Gender Action Plan (2022-2025).

The Gender Action Plan incorporates both programmatic and institutional priorities. Building on past successes and lessons learned, the plan specifies three areas of commitment:

1. Integrating gender equality results across the life course of our programmes and Strategic Plan goal areas, including health and nutrition; education; child protection; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and social policy.

2. Prioritizing the leadership and well-being of adolescent girls.

3. Strengthening our policies and systems for more gender-transformative workplaces and practices.

The flexibility of thematic funds enables us to make strategic allocations to ensure all areas of the Gender Action Plan receive the resources they need across the four years of implementation.

Skills4Girls
As per the Gender Action Plan, a major priority was integrating gender quality into UNICEF programme areas. One key area, supported by thematic funds, was education. Specifically, thematic funds supported the Skills4Girls portfolio across 16 countries: including among others Peru, Bolivia, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, Vietnam, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. This wide-ranging work is tackling the gender stereotypes that limit girls in pursuing certain studies and careers, particularly in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and digital technologies.

The 2022 funding allocation built on prior investments in education and skills for adolescent girls. This includes areas such as STEM, digital technologies, and social entrepreneurship, in addition to life skills such as problem-solving, negotiation, self-esteem, and communication. Investments in girls’ skills are a critical pathway to dignified work, resulting in girls’ economic independence, and professional and personal empowerment.

Implemented with the generous support of private sector partners such as Clé de Peau Beauté, Chloé and Pandora, Skills4Girls reached in 2022 more than 2.1 million adolescent girls and young women directly and 329,000 girls indirectly.

Climate leadership
To prioritize the leadership of adolescent girls, we helped amplify their voices in climate advocacy. Thematic funds supported these efforts in seven countries: Chad, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Pakistan, Peru and Timor-Leste. But they also supported a global initiative ahead of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 27. Specifically, UNICEF helped to amplify the voices of adolescent girls through a global survey of 17,000 girls across 29 countries. This survey captured their views, experiences and recommendations on climate change in the lead-up to COP 27.

Parenting
Finally, to help normalize gender-transformative behaviours, UNICEF invested in parenting initiatives that promoted gender equality, inclusion, and positive gender norms.

In 2022, the Gender Equality Thematic Fund supported gender-transformative parenting initiatives in eight countries: Argentina, Egypt, Eritrea, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Tanzania and Türkiye. This included developing resource modules on ‘Supporting Families for Gender Transformative Parenting’, which were then piloted in programme countries. In addition, training was conducted in Budapest focused on stakeholders from countries participating in the pilot.

“Clé de Peau Beauté was our largest donor to the Gender Equality Thematic Fund in 2022, with their steadfast commitment to Skills4Girls. We are delighted our partnership is moving into an exciting second phase in the coming year.”
Hearing from our donors and partners

One company’s founder lives on through the Gender Equality Thematic Fund

Chloé is a French fashion luxury house, founded in 1952. Its founder was the renowned fashion designer Gaby Aghion, a Parisian who believed in inspiring women to dare to be themselves.

Today, Chloé continues to support initiatives that reflect the values of its founder through its ongoing partnership with UNICEF, Girls Forward.

The partnership was launched in 2019, with the aim to support girls and young women to acquire digital and entrepreneurial skills, allowing them to acquire independence, contribute to progress and participate actively in the labour force. Through the Skills4Girls programme, the Girls Forward partnership has benefited girls in Bolivia, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal and Tajikistan.

After three years of successful collaboration supporting the Skills4Girls programme, Chloé is now supporting UNICEF’s work with a new multi-year phase of support for Skills4Girls, through a contribution to the global Gender Equality Thematic Fund. This flexible support is critical for enabling us to generate greater impact for girls, as it enables UNICEF’s vital system strengthening work, which can transform government policies and social services – making wide-scale change for girls in a single moment.

A sizeable portion of the work through the Gender Equality Thematic Fund focuses on education and skills-building. In 2022, thematic funds supported the Skills4Girls portfolio, which aims to bridge the gap between what adolescent girls need to succeed and what they have traditionally been able to access.

In this way, UNICEF and Chloé work together to support female entrepreneurs and leaders of the future.

The Government of Iceland is one of the first two public sector donors to UNICEF’s Gender Equality Thematic Fund

The world often looks to Iceland as a pioneering country for gender equality. In 1980, Iceland made history as the first country to have a female elected head of state. And in 2023, Iceland topped the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report for the 14th year in a row and was recognized as the only country to have closed more than 90 per cent of its gender gap across a spectrum of indicators – from educational attainment to political empowerment.

It is therefore no surprise that the Government of Iceland was one of the top contributors to UNICEF’s Gender Equality Thematic Fund in 2022.

The importance of this support is demonstrated by the fact that the Government of Iceland was one of the only two governments to support the Gender Equality Thematic Fund in 2022. The other was the Government of Luxembourg.

Despite incremental increases over the last few years, the Gender Equality Thematic Fund remains a largely untapped vehicle for public sector donors to support the strategic allocation of resources where they are most needed to deliver results for gender equality. The commitment of partners like Iceland makes a vital contribution to some of our biggest results for women and girls, such as our engagement with 31.1 million people in reflective community dialogues on discriminatory social and gender norms and harmful practices in 2022.

UNICEF will continue to explore new partnerships to attract greater investment in gender equality from both the public and private sectors. Alongside these efforts, we will continue to rely on the critical support of countries like Iceland championing a forward-thinking approach to making the greatest impact for gender equality.