

Annual Results Report 2015

Child Protection

HEALTH
HIV AND AIDS
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE
NUTRITION
EDUCATION
CHILD PROTECTION
SOCIAL INCLUSION
GENDER
HUMANITARIAN ACTION



UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2014–2017 guides the organization's work in support of the realization of the rights of every child, especially the most disadvantaged. At the core of the Strategic Plan, UNICEF's equity strategy – emphasizing the most disadvantaged and excluded children, caregivers and families – translates UNICEF's commitment to children's rights into action. What follows is a report summarizing how UNICEF and its partners contributed to the protection of children from violence, exploitation and abuse in 2015 and the impact of these accomplishments on the lives of children, caregivers and families.

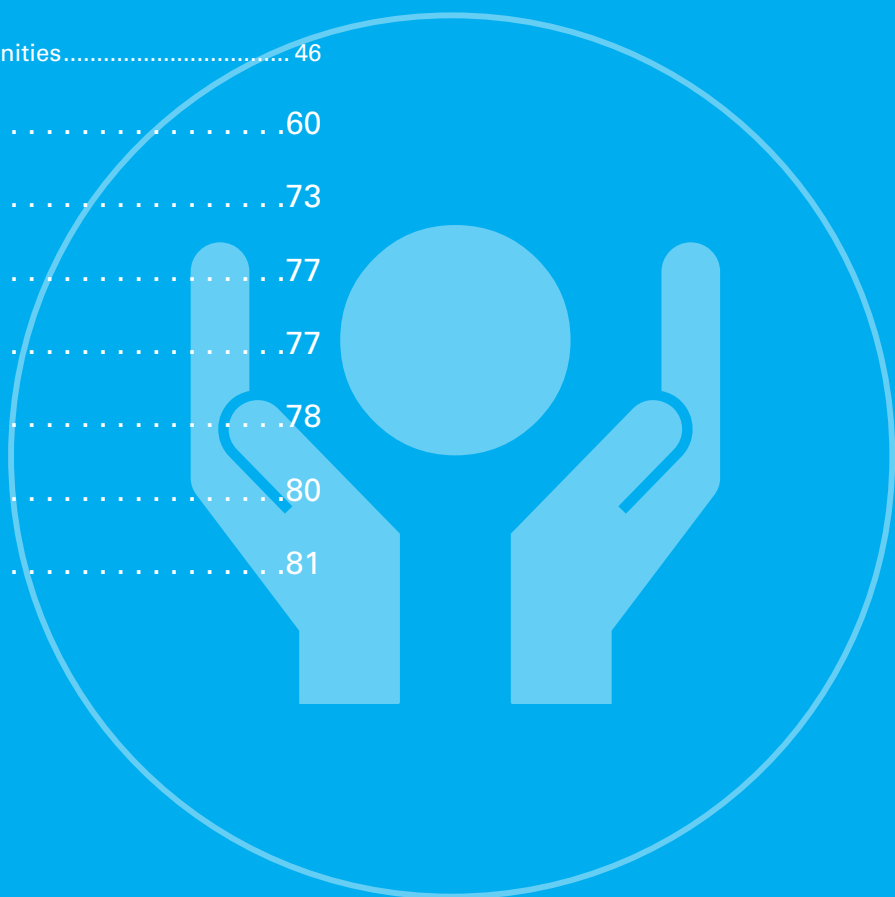
This report is one of nine on the results of UNICEF's efforts this past year, one on each of the seven outcome areas of the Strategic Plan, one on gender and one on humanitarian action. It is an annex to the 'Report on the midterm review of the Strategic Plan, 2014–2017 and annual report of the Executive Director, 2015', UNICEF's official accountability document for the past year. An additional results report on the UNICEF Gender Action Plan 2014–2017 has also been prepared as an official UNICEF Executive Board document.

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On 26 August, (foreground) Lamar, 4, squeezes a blanket, in a reception centre near the town of Gevgelija, on the border with Greece. Lamar travelled with her mother for just over two months from the Syrian Arab Republic to the Gevgelija border crossing. They are heading to Germany to reunite with Lamar's father, who managed to reach that country four months ago. Her mother says that their house was burned to the ground and that they have nothing left. The hope of reuniting their family and having a better life gives them the courage to keep moving.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNICEF's commitment to achieving equitable and improved prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect is central to realizing the organization's universal mandate to promote the rights of every child and every woman, as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

UNICEF's child protection programming continues to expand its scale and reach, with notable results achieved in 2015. More than 9.7 million children's births were registered with the support of UNICEF programmes in 54 countries. UNICEF interventions around the world on preventing armed violence reached more than 3.6 million children and adolescents 10–24 years old, compared with 2.2 million in 2014. More than 5.6 million children at risk were prevented and/or withdrawn from child labour through one or more education, social protection or child protection interventions in 30 countries, which marks a 24 per cent increase from 4.5 million children reached in 2014. More than 2,000 communities across 14 countries, covering 5 million people, declared abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) in 2015, compared with 1,000 communities across 9 countries in 2014.

Significant progress and achievement were attained in each of UNICEF's seven programme areas for child protection. Key achievements in 2015 include the completion of the inception phase of the UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage programme that has the potential to directly reach, by the end of 2019, 2.5 million girls in 12 target countries who are at risk of child marriage or already in union. This past year also saw UNICEF establish a ground-breaking Global Programme – the 2015 #WeProtect initiative – to build capacity of government, civil society and private-sector actors to tackle online sexual exploitation, spanning 17 core countries across six regions.

UNICEF provided vital child protection support in all major humanitarian crises, including a significant focus on supporting the massive population movements to Europe with the large influx of child refugees (including unaccompanied and separated children) arriving from the Middle East and North Africa. UNICEF country offices in the western Balkans supported the establishment of child-friendly spaces in six reception facilities and transit locations, where, by the end of 2015, some 81,000 children had received emotional, stress management and psychosocial support, family reunification services, as well as recreational and basic education activities. While more must be done to address gender-based violence in the context of the European crisis, a foundation was laid

to expand these efforts. UNICEF and partners reached 57,515 children at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse (including trafficking) through provision of safe spaces and messaging about risks associated with trafficking in Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

More broadly in humanitarian contexts, UNICEF's psychosocial interventions aided about 3.1 million girls and boys in 68 countries, including through the provision of child-friendly spaces and community- and school-based interventions. Almost 2 million girls, women and boys in 39 countries received elements of an expanded package of risk mitigation, prevention and response interventions around gender-based violence in emergencies. More than 2.8 million girls and boys in 15 countries received mine risk education. About 32,000 unaccompanied or separated children received appropriate alternative care services, and at least 25 per cent of children in 30 crisis-affected countries were reunited with families and caregivers. Almost 10,000 children were released from armed forces or armed groups, with at least 70 per cent receiving reintegration assistance.

A significant breakthrough in combatting the concerning rise in reported abductions of children in fragile states and humanitarian situations came with the 2015 adoption of Security Council Resolution 2225, which will hold parties to armed conflict that engage in patterns of abduction of children to greater accountability. Efforts to accelerate progress towards the universal ratification and effective implementation of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child continued. In 2015, two countries ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and four countries signed or ratified the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. UNICEF continues to support the ongoing implementation of Action Plans to prevent and end grave violations, with all seven remaining governments signing Action Plans (although progress was hindered in South Sudan and Yemen).

In response to the sharp increase in reports of alleged sexual exploitation and abuse in the Central African Republic by United Nations personnel or by foreign military personnel associated with a United Nations mandate, UNICEF developed a Notification Alert to report such incidents. Designed for UNICEF offices globally, the protocol can be of use more broadly to the United Nations.

This past year was a major milestone, marking the end of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) period and the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that – for the first time – include global child protection

indicators. UNICEF, together with partners, played a significant strategic role in negotiating and driving forward the child protection agenda in the formulation and finalization of the SDGs. To build consensus, UNICEF convened technical consultations among the key stakeholders, most notably for child marriage, FGM/C and violence against women and children. A significant review of metadata and other analyses was undertaken to inform UNICEF's submission for proposed child protection-related targets, culminating in the inclusion of SDG targets on birth registration (Goal 16), child marriage (Goal 5), FGM/C (Goal 5), and violent discipline and sexual violence against children and women (Goal 8). For the proposed indicator for child labour, the submission was made jointly by the International Labour Organization and UNICEF. UNICEF child protection continues to work with the United Nations Inter-agency and Expert Group to develop related measurement indicators for these targets. UNICEF was also instrumental in laying the foundations for a Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children, which offers an innovative mechanism for translating the high level of global attention into increased resources for results at scale.

UNICEF's work and results for 2015

UNICEF works with national governments, other United Nations agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies, philanthropic foundations, civil society, the private sector and academic institutions. UNICEF, with its partners, promoted, funded and facilitated improved child protection outcomes with equity, covering 126 country programmes, through a wide range of interventions carried out by at least 711 dedicated child protection staff members in 2015. Guided by the Strategic Plan 2014–2017, UNICEF continued to combine upstream policy support and systems strengthening work with complementary development of improved child protection prevention and response services and creating demand for services that reach the most marginalized children. Increasingly, UNICEF is building a body of evidence to support results-based programming, including identifying countries with high prevalence, and applying the learning into the development of result-based programming frameworks.

Improved **data, planning, monitoring and evaluation for child protection** are crucial. Efforts to strengthen capacity for results-based programming were aided with the launch in 2015 of a Child Protection Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Resource Pack. Capacity-building initiatives took place across multiple countries in all regions in each of the seven programme areas, with at least 25 countries participating in South-South learning activities. UNICEF contributed significantly to building the global evidence base, either leading or co-leading on major research, studies and publications. UNICEF produced its first data trends and projections of child marriage in Africa. Together with the World Health

Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Together for Girls and other partners, UNICEF commenced development of a multi-sectoral package of evidence-based interventions to prevent and respond to violence against children. Despite persistent challenges, an increase in the quality and rigour of data around violence against children, including sexual violence, was noted in 2015, with 32 data-driven studies produced globally.

Strengthening child protection systems is increasingly seen as a core foundation to build a protective environment to address the multiple risk factors that children face. UNICEF supported systems development in about 122 countries through the development or implementation of legislation, policies and standards, alongside strengthening direct service provision. Increasingly, focus is on building cross-sectoral linkages with health, education and social protection to ensure that no child falls through the cracks. Each year, a steady number of countries is improving the functioning of their prevention and response services. At least 40 countries reported strengthened child protection systems in 2015, and at least 35 countries reported having child protection legislation consistent with or better than international standards. Building the capacity of the child protection workforce is critical to improving delivery of child protection services. Through UNICEF support, at least 30,000 people in 33 countries, and 600 community groups such as child protection committees, received direct training during 2015. UNICEF's partnership with the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance continues its joint efforts to strengthen the social sector workforce as part of broader national child protection systems development. The partnership was bolstered in 2015 by the release of a multi-country review of the social service workforce, which provides a critical body of evidence for countries, including showcasing innovative and effective workforce strengthening initiatives.

The 2015 evaluation of UNICEF's **violence against children** programming is enabling UNICEF to sharpen its approach to address the bottlenecks in combatting violence against children (VAC) in all its forms. The evaluation noted that UNICEF is recognized globally as a leader on VAC-related issues, playing a significant role in global advocacy and partnership building, alongside increased institutional capacities to implement VAC prevention and response services (as part of systems strengthening). However, challenges remain in terms of coverage and scale. While progress on the collection of VAC data has improved in recent years, monitoring, research, evaluation and use of data still need to be significantly strengthened. UNICEF is currently developing a plan to address the challenges identified in the evaluation.

During 2015, at least 124 countries carried out programming to prevent and respond to VAC through a combination of interventions focusing on prevention and on improving the quality and access of services for

victims, alongside supporting interventions such as legal and policy reforms, data collection and research. At least 88 countries prioritized actions to prevent and respond to sexual abuse and exploitation, including through the launch of the 2015 #WeProtect initiative. At least 64 countries addressed school violence, particularly peer-to-peer violence, and violence perpetrated by school staff. UNICEF's advocacy against corporal punishment of children contributed towards the prohibition of corporal punishment of children in the home in 48 countries; in alternative care and day-care settings in 55 countries; in schools in 127 countries; in penal institutions in 136 countries; and as a sentence for crime in 162 countries.

In terms of **justice for children**, advancements continue in strengthening services and procedures for children in contact with the law, with 31 countries reporting improved systems in line with international standards in 2015. At least 125 countries now report national legislation and policy in their country recognizing children's right to be heard in judicial and administrative proceedings (both criminal and non-criminal), either directly or through a representative or an appropriate body, which is in line with article 12, paragraph 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Additionally, 78 per cent of country programmes are working on expanding children's access to justice and the use of child-friendly procedures and approaches for dealing with justice for children.

Significant progress was noted in improving **birth registration** within civil registration and vital statistics systems, with 123 countries reporting systems that are free, universal and continuous. During 2015, 52 per cent of UNICEF programme countries worked consistently on birth registration, focusing on overcoming key bottlenecks, such as the lack of public awareness about the importance of registration or the appropriate channels to do so, especially among socially excluded groups such as refugees, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples and disabled children; geographical inaccessibility and distance to the nearest registry office. An additional three countries passed legislative acts around national identity and birth registration.

The mainstreaming of **child protection in emergency programming** was further reinforced in 2015 through the development of guidance for risk-informed programming (to be issued in 2016), which includes a module on child protection. This is critical in linking humanitarian response with development programming for more sustainable results. During 2015, UNICEF engaged in a child protection response in 82 countries, including in all major countries in crisis. Though child-friendly spaces continue to be an important vehicle to address issues of child protection, gender-based violence and psychosocial support during emergencies, 2015 saw concerted effort to shift to a more community-based approach, which seeks to build on existing resources and capacities and reinforces the resilience of families and communities,

particularly in the longer term. Increased attention to preventing and responding to gender-based violence was also further leveraged globally through the launch of a five-year road map for the Call to Action on protection from gender-based violence in emergencies, which is driving change and fostering greater accountability among all humanitarian actors for responding to gender-based violence in emergencies. The growing scale and complexity of humanitarian crises is creating momentum to forge new and diverse partnerships and changes within existing ones. For example, in response to the mass population movement in Europe, UNICEF worked programmatically for the first time in some countries with no prior UNICEF country programming.

UNICEF's commitment to **empowering families and communities** to care for their children in ways that promote their well-being from their early childhood years through to their adolescence is at the heart of the organization's programming. UNICEF was especially active in supporting efforts to include targets in the SDGs on ending child marriage and FGM/C, UNICEF was especially active in supporting efforts to include targets in the SDGs on ending child marriage and FGM/C. Child marriage is one of the four targeted programme pillars of UNICEF's 2014-2017 Gender Action Plan. In 2015, UNICEF directly supported 30 countries to strengthen national plans or strategies to end child marriage, with 9 countries developing costed action plans (compared with 18 and 5, respectively, in 2014). Alongside increased number of countries declaring abandonment of FGM/C, encouraging evidence is also emerging that within communities that have collectively committed to abandon the practice, some 70 per cent of uncut girls remain intact. UNICEF also engaged in improving child-rearing practices, with activities focused on strengthening the capacity of caregivers to improve parenting skills in more than 29 countries during 2015. In terms of alternative care reform, such as deinstitutionalization, 61 countries reported having a policy in line with the Alternative Care Guidelines, 3 more than in 2014.

UNICEF continues to expand and deepen partnerships and coalitions for effective programme implementation and advocacy. Multi-sectoral responses to reach the most vulnerable, marginalized and at-risk communities are also expanding. One example for 2015 was the recognition in the Global Financing Facility that civil registration and vital statistics systems (including birth registration) have direct impacts on maternal and child health. National-level commitment and action on a number of issues progressed in partnership through several high-level events and products. The First African Girl's Summit on Ending Child Marriage in Africa (Lusaka, November 2015) resulted in the commitment of more than 1,100 delegates from some 30 African Union countries to accelerate actions to end the practice in Africa. The #WeProtect Summit for online child sexual exploitation (Abu Dhabi, November 2015) resulted in signed statements of action from all stakeholders, including governments

and intergovernmental bodies, international non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, international organizations and industry companies. Together with the Government of the Netherlands, practitioners and academics, a global symposium, *Growing up in Conflict: The impact on children's health and psychosocial well-being* (May 2015), resulted in six key messages to strengthen research, programmes and evaluation to contribute to advocacy for the World Humanitarian Summit planned in 2016.

UNICEF's total expenditure for child protection in 2015 was US\$644 million. Regular resources accounted for 24 per cent of expenditure (US\$156 million). The remaining expenditure (US\$487 million) is drawn from earmarked or other resources, which include thematic funding. Of note is the US\$15 million contribution of the Government of the United Kingdom to build capacity to tackle online child sexual exploitation, and the thematic contribution of the Government of Sweden to support achievement of UNICEF's child protection strategic targets. Sustained investment is critical if UNICEF is to maintain its current momentum to reach child protection targets, and overcome the structural bottlenecks impeding acceleration of progress.

Looking ahead

Despite progress, much work remains to be done. Worldwide, almost 1 billion children (2–14 years old) are still subjected to physical (corporal) punishment by their caregivers on a regular basis. About 120 million girls worldwide have experienced forced sexual intercourse or other forced sexual acts.¹ Some 700 million girls and women are married before the age of 18.² The births of 230 million children under the age of 5 have not been registered.³ At least 200 million girls/women alive today in 30 countries have undergone FGM/C.⁴

A number of challenges continue to hinder full achievement of UNICEF's strategic targets: lack of programming at scale; the limited national fiscal space for investments in prevention and response to violence; poor investments in the workforce; and underutilized administrative data. Further, the demands placed on the

global community to respond to humanitarian crises are at an unprecedented high. Lessons learned include the need to continue to strengthen coordinated responses, build up sector capacity and bridge the humanitarian and development divide in order to secure sustainable solutions for children.

The new global agenda presents a critical opportunity for UNICEF and its partners to refocus collaborative programming efforts towards achievement of globally agreed targets over the next 15 years. It also presents UNICEF with an opportunity to reflect on its current strategic strengths in child protection, identify gaps in programme achievement and review its comparative advantage – all of which will inform ongoing discussions on prioritization of child protection outputs in the Strategic Plan. Among the key considerations that will shape the next two years, including priority actions, will be evidence of results achieved to date, and the final SDG goals, targets and indicators and their alignment with UNICEF's results frameworks and Strategic Plan Theory of Change.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Global and regional commitments to address child protection and ending violence against children, including the rights of the most disadvantaged, are at an all-time high with the integration of global targets, for the first time, built into the new development agenda. The new agenda provides a sharper focus on protecting the rights of children; it also brings with it a greater global accountability than ever before.

Within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targets to address child protection are explicitly embedded in Goals 5, 8 and 16. At the same time, protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse also impacts on other global targets, most notably those within the SDGs related to poverty, health, gender equality and education. There is now a greater universality of the issues affecting children and a global imperative recognizing that protection risks for children transcend all contexts.

“We will measure our progress, yes, through statistics. But the true measure will be in every child lifted out of poverty; through every mother who survives childbirth; every girl who does not lose her childhood to early marriage. By helping the most disadvantaged children today – by giving them a fair chance in life – we can help break the bonds of extreme poverty tomorrow.”

Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake on the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, 25 September 2015

Strengthening global monitoring to achieve the SDGs

As the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) era came to a close, a broad coalition of child-focused agencies,⁵ together with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, United Nations agencies and key Member States, played a strategic role in negotiating and driving forward the child protection agenda. These efforts included a high-level round-table discussion in December 2014 alongside thematic consultations and advocacy documents.

In 2015, the SDGs were launched with targets on birth registration, child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), violent discipline and sexual violence. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators is tasked with setting a global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the new development agenda. To truly progress towards achievement of the SDG indicators, it will be critical to build a solid framework to monitor and measure progress, requiring agencies to work in unison to agree on internationally recognized measurement indicators that can be used cross-culturally and over time in various survey settings.⁶

Just as the new global agenda presents a critical opportunity to realign and refocus collaborative efforts towards achievement of globally agreed targets, it also provides the international community with a timely opportunity for internal reflection to assess the lessons of the MDGs – what worked, and what did not. Certain programme areas already have a stronger evidence base of high-impact interventions and results frameworks to achieve the global goals (as noted in target 16.9 on birth registration and target 5.3 on harmful practices), while others require more focused attention to identify evidence-based programme interventions and develop results frameworks (such as 16.2 on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children).

Rooting action in coalitions and partnerships

In 2015, UNICEF continued to expand and deepen partnerships and coalitions for effective programme implementation and advocacy. UNICEF was instrumental in laying the foundations for a Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children, which offers an innovative mechanism for translating the high level of global attention into increased resources for results at scale. UNICEF is the co-chair or provides leadership and coordination support to various global and regional initiatives, such as the ones on civil registration and vital statistics (including birth registration), violence, child marriage and FGM/C. UNICEF is also a founding partner of the Know Violence in Childhood joint learning initiative, which aims to consolidate the latest evidence to prevent and address violence in childhood to inform programming and policy work.

Cross-sector coalitions reinforce the multi-dimensional aspect of child protection, for example, through the Global Financing Facility (GFF) recognition that weaknesses in civil registry and vital statistics (CRVS) systems have

a direct impact on accelerating progress in maternal and child health. Regional initiatives such as the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics are creating a strong platform to reform and improve national CRVS systems.

The Global Social Service Workforce Alliance will be crucial to strengthening the social sector workforce as part of broader national child protection systems development. Integrating justice of children in mainstream sector-wide Rule of Law work was advanced through ongoing partnerships with UNDP on rule of law and UNODC around criminal justice. Strong links are in place within the European Union (EU) to strengthen children's equitable access to justice both within the EU, and in countries where the EU prioritizes its development assistance. The emergence of new trends and the rise of humanitarian crises are also creating the need to forge new and diverse partnerships, and strengthen existing ones. The urgency to respond to the mass population movement in Europe has opened up channels to work programmatically for the first time in countries such as Germany. Efforts to combat online sexual exploitation are leading to a growing relationship with Interpol, among others.

Building multi-country programming around global priorities

UNICEF Child Protection increasingly notes the critical importance of cross-sectoral approaches and programming to accelerate child protection. A key milestone in 2015 was the completion of the inception phase of the joint United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, which recognizes the implicit need for multi-sectoral mobilization, including education, communication for development (C4D), health, HIV and social protection to achieve the collective goal. Similarly, 2015 marked the first year of the second phase of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change, which has had a significant impact in yielding results. Further in 2015, a results framework was developed for the Global Programme to build capacity to tackle online child sexual exploitation involving 17 countries. Advocacy and increased awareness are driving multi-country programming. The #EndViolence Against Children Initiative has significantly raised global consciousness in more than 50 countries and triggered a grass-roots movement prompting action across the world. The

TABLE 1

Child Protection-Related Targets in the SDGs	
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <p>Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.</p> <p>Target 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.</p> <p>Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.</p>
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</p> <p>Target 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour and, by 2025, end child labour in all its forms, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers.</p>
 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p> <p>Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.</p> <p>Target 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.</p> <p>Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.</p> <p>Target 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.</p>

launch of the Children, Not Soldiers campaign has been instrumental in pushing forward collaborative efforts to end child recruitment by state forces. Campaigns such as the Bring Back Our Girls campaign are increasingly being used by many varied and diverse groups. Serious child protection violations, such as those in India, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, are becoming more visible through mass media. All act as visual reminders to maintain momentum, provoke dialogue, stimulate policy commitments and increasingly lead to plans of action.

Strengthening accountability

Within the normative framework – the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Optional Protocols and Security Council resolutions – work with partners at all levels is necessary to advance the rights of the child, including reaching the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Technical expertise and guidance is needed so that national laws, standards and protocols are in compliance with international and regional instruments of accountability. This extends across all programming areas – development, fragile states and humanitarian contexts. One such example is the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) for grave violations committed against children in armed conflict, which provides the systematic gathering of accurate, timely and objective information, all of which is used to foster accountability and compliance of parties to conflict with international child protection standards.

The launch of the 2015 road map for the Call to Action on protection from gender-based violence in emergencies presents the humanitarian sector with a clear path to drive change and foster accountability so that the measures necessary to mitigate risks to women and girls are built in from the earliest phases of a crisis and provide safe and comprehensive services for survivors of gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE). The road map reflects multi-agency-level commitments to prioritize GBViE and address gaps and challenges in prevention and response.

As a result of the sharp increase in reports of sexual exploitation and abuse by elements of Operation Sangaris and peacekeepers for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), UNICEF developed a Notification Alert to report to senior management alleged incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse against children by United Nations personnel (both civilian and military), or by foreign military personnel associated with a United Nations mandate. Designed for UNICEF offices globally for reporting such cases, the protocol can be of use more broadly by the United Nations. It outlines immediate actions for the delivery of assistance to victims, including medical care, psychosocial support and legal assistance, as well as follow-up actions for monitoring the quality of victim assistance services provided by partners and counterparts, and the overall well-being of victims.

Changing global development landscape

The strategic context for child protection is being significantly defined by the changing development landscape, which both compounds risks to children and also provides opportunities to broaden approaches to better reach vulnerable and marginalized children with equity. Alongside the SDGs, a number of wide-ranging global accords were reached in 2015 on disaster risk reduction (Sendai), climate change (COP21) and financing for development (Addis), to be complemented by agreements on humanitarian issues (World Humanitarian Summit) and urbanization (Habitat III) scheduled to take place in 2016.

There is an emerging imperative to bridge the division between humanitarian and development efforts in order to more realistically secure sustainable solutions for children. As the world witnesses the increasing scale and complexity of humanitarian situations, it is critical that evidence is used to identify potential hazards and risks so that governments and partners, including communities, can more effectively prepare for the risks. This would save valuable time in the event of an emergency, and increase the likelihood that children, including the most vulnerable, will be protected. By strengthening the nexus between programming for child protection in humanitarian and development contexts, this approach also builds resilience

2015 was a critical year for strategic reflection –back-dropped against one of the most devastating years on record for children. Almost 250 million children live in countries affected by armed conflict: children make up more than half of the 60 million people displaced by conflict, and more than 50 million children are affected by natural disasters such as the earthquake in Nepal, or were left orphaned and out of school as a result of the devastating Ebola epidemic. Beyond emergencies, children are also at serious risk – more than 700 million girls and women alive today were married before their 18th birthday, 200 million girls have been subjected to some form of female genital mutilation and cutting, 1 in 5 homicide victims is a child, 1 in 10 children (almost 1 billion) have experienced physical violence and around 1 in 10 girls (120 million) have been subjected to sexual violence.

of affected populations to withstand future shocks. Taking these efforts to scale is vital for reaching the ambitious development goals by 2030.

Coupled with this are the increased demands required to address the challenges to children caused by climate change. Currently, nearly 160 million children live in high or extremely high drought-risk zones and about 500 million children live in flood-prone zones in countries where more than half of the population already lives in poverty.⁷ The regions with the highest number of children, Africa and Asia, also bear the greatest brunt of the impacts of climate change. The likelihood of displacement due to climate change is 60 per cent higher than it was four years ago, all of which may increase the risks for girls and boys in multiple ways.⁸ This includes separation from families, trafficking, detention, discrimination and statelessness, which requires renewed attention to strengthening the capacities and resilience of populations on the move.

The outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease during 2014–2015 was unprecedented in scope and intensity, and hit some of the most vulnerable communities in some of the world's poorest countries. As the number of victims of Ebola has declined in West Africa, the immediate challenges are to re-establish basic social services and design longer-term sustainable social welfare systems as part of child protection systems. A central component is the strengthening of the social service workforce, using the Ebola recovery phase as an entry point. A global evaluation of UNICEF's response to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in West Africa will serve to inform future planning, programming and response for such health emergencies, including how to address their child protection dimensions. A regional UNICEF lessons-learned study in 2015 on the child protection response to the disease may also inform all aspects of child protection planning, response, deployment and monitoring for future emergencies of a similar nature.

This dynamic context brings to the fore the priority to sharpen key components of child protection programming, including strengthening the social service workforce as part of child protection systems, and scaling up support services (including referral mechanisms) for all children and their families.

Global funding to meet the global challenges

Just as the global development and programming landscape is evolving, so too is the funding context for child protection. To attract the needed resources to achieve the SDG targets for child protection, clear investment portfolios are needed. Whereas the global results frameworks for FGM/C, child marriage and birth registration have been costed, similar efforts are required for violence prevention and response. Financial

resources are also required to step up global and national investments in data collection tools and methodologies, including for national statistical bodies to track and report progress against these targets.

Multi-donor partnerships are increasingly investing in priority issues, such as child marriage and FGM/C, to reach global targets. For instance, the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change has already secured multi-year commitments to take forward its ambitious agenda. Similarly, in 2015, approximately US\$59 million was contributed or committed for the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, bringing the total resources received to date to US\$94.5 million since 2014. The Government of the United Kingdom has ignited global efforts to respond to online child sexual exploitation with commitments of initial funding.

Despite the emergence of multi-donor and global fund commitments, the implicit importance of flexible funding mechanisms and sources must not be undermined, as they provide a vital safety net for hard-to-fund programmes. They afforded the flexibility to nurture new areas of programming and innovative approaches in recent years – notably the work around violence against children. Thematic funds created the space to build up the momentum leading to the #EndViolence Against Children Initiative. Thematic funds also enabled the initial global programming around birth registration and child marriage, and supported efforts to strengthening data-driven programming. Equally thematic funding was instrumental in its ability to convene partners to shape the direction of VAC in the SDGs.

The Fund, to be launched in 2016 in support of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, will also provide catalytic funding to address the lack of investment in the systems, programmes and people needed to deliver measurable reductions in levels of violence and work towards achieving SDG 16.2 and other related targets that cover all forms of violence against children.

RESULTS BY PROGRAMME AREA

To achieve the improved and equitable prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children (UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014–2017, outcome 6), UNICEF emphasizes strengthening of child protection systems and support for social change for the improved protection of children. UNICEF implements an integrated approach to child protection that addresses the full spectrum of risk factors and underlying vulnerabilities in the lives of children and their families, extending to all development, fragile states and humanitarian contexts. To deliver results against its strategic commitments, Child Protection focuses action in seven core programme areas: (1) data; (2) child protection systems; (3) violence, exploitation and abuse; (4) justice for children; (5) birth registration; (6) child protection and emergencies; and (7) strengthening families and communities.

It is important to note that although, for reporting purposes, 2015 results by programme area are presented separately in the following section, in practice, UNICEF child protection action is integrated and forms part of a holistic 'systems' approach.

Drawing on the theory of change, the following section outlines the key actions undertaken and results achieved for children in 2015 in each programme area, which contribute towards delivering against six strategic plan outputs (and indicators): increasing demand (output a); strengthening supply led services (output b); creating an enabling environment (output c); increasing capacity and delivery of services in humanitarian situations (output d); increasing capacity to respond to gender equality and human rights (output e); and enhancing global and regional-level capacity (output f). Within each programme area, the underlying challenges and constraints hindering progress, cross-sectoral linkages, strategic alliances and partnerships, and evidence-building results are outlined. Action and progress on key cross-cutting interventions, notably gender equality, South-South cooperation and the promotion of innovation, are also reviewed.

For ease of reference, table 2 provides a summary of the linkages between each programme area and its contribution towards achievement of the six strategic plan outputs, and corresponding indicators. For detailed elaboration of programme results and global, regional and country action refer to each programme area, as noted below.

PROGRAMME AREA 1: DATA AND CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF and other partners played a strategic role in driving forward the global and regional commitments to address child protection globally, culminating in the first-time inclusion of child protection targets in the SDGs that will guide global action and investments for results-based programmes and policies for children, set baselines and track progress. This past year saw an increase in the number of data-driven research products and use of data (both periodic and administrative data) to inform programme priorities, direction and focus to meet the needs in countries and regions where the burdens, including equity considerations, are high. Similarly, there was an expansion of global results frameworks and tools – and increased buy-in for them – which is indicative of a growing impetus to build the capacity of the child protection community to more effectively plan, monitor and evaluate results.

As part of the overall effort to strengthen Results-Based Programme Management in UNICEF, in 2015 financial expenditure data for 2014 by programme area and intervention code were triangulated with the analysis of narrative results reported in the country office annual reports to identify priority areas for follow-up and focus in three regions: Middle Eastern and Northern Africa, East and Southern Africa, and Western and Central Africa. In addition to illustrating UNICEF's investments against identified priority areas to inform future programme investment decisions, the findings will inform the drafting process of the next Strategic Plan and revision to the intervention codes. Similar compendiums reviewing 2015 expenditures in all regions will be completed in 2016.

In 2015, expenditure for this programme area totalled US\$6.4 million, excluding cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs (*see Figure 1*).

Child protection global targets in the new development agenda

To build consensus around the proposed global SDG targets and indicators, UNICEF convened technical consultations among the key stakeholders for child marriage, FGM/C and violence against women and children. A review of metadata and other analyses informed UNICEF's submission to the Inter-agency and Expert Group on the SDGs for proposed indicators for birth registration, child marriage, FGM/C, violent

TABLE 2
Strategic plan output and indicator and programme area results linkages

Strategic Plan Outputs	Strategic Plan Indicators	Link to Programme Area (PA) and Results
OUTPUT A – DEMAND (Enhanced support and increased capacity of children and families to protect themselves and to eliminate practices and behaviours harmful to children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries in which UNICEF-supported programmes aimed at increasing children’s capacity to identify, prevent and/or report sexual violence reach at least 75 per cent of the target population at risk. • Countries in which UNICEF-supported programmes aimed at increasing children’s capacity to identify, prevent and/or report physical violence reach at least 75 per cent of the target population at risk. • Countries in which UNICEF-supported programmes aimed at increasing children’s capacity to identify, prevent and/or report more than one form of violence reach at least 75 per cent of the target population at risk. • Countries with 75 per cent of targeted parents reached by programmes addressing child-rearing practices. 	PA 2: System strengthening PA 3: Violence against children PA 4: Justice for children PA 5: Birth registration PA 7: Strengthening families and communities
OUTPUT B – SUPPLY (Increased national capacity to provide access to child protection systems that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries with functioning child protection systems offering preventive and response services. • Countries with availability of free and universal birth registration. • Countries in which procedures and services for children in contact with law are applied and delivered in line with international norms. • Countries (of those in which child marriage prevalence is 25 per cent or higher) with national strategies or plans on child marriage with a budget. • Countries with comprehensive national approaches on early childhood development that include budgets and functioning coordination mechanisms. 	PA 2: System strengthening PA 3: Violence against children PA 4: Justice for children PA 5: Birth registration PA 7: Strengthening families and communities
OUTPUT C – ENABLING ENVIRONMENT (Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for the scaling up of interventions that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries with legislation on child protection consistent with or better than international standards. • Countries with legislation in place that recognize children’s right to be heard in civil and administrative proceedings that affect them (in line with article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child). 	PA 2: Child protection systems PA 3: Violence against children PA 4: Justice for children PA 5: Birth registration PA 7: Strengthening families and communities
OUTPUT D – HUMANITARIAN (Increased country capacity and delivery of services to ensure that children’s right to protection from violence, abuse and exploitation is sustained and promoted in humanitarian situations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF-targeted children in humanitarian situations benefiting from psychosocial support. • UNICEF-targeted children in humanitarian situations who were registered as unaccompanied or separated and reunified with families or caregivers or received appropriate alternative care services. • UNICEF-targeted children released from armed forces and groups who were reintegrated. • Country situations with UNICEF-supported mechanisms to monitor and report on grave violations against children. • Countries in humanitarian action in which the country sub-cluster coordination mechanism for (a) child protection and (b) gender-based violence meets Core Commitments for Children standards for coordination. 	PA 6: Child protection and emergencies
OUTPUT E – GENDER AND RIGHTS (Increased capacity of Governments and communities to identify and respond to human-rights and gender-equality dimensions of child protection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries that collect and publish routine administrative data on violence, exploitation and abuse of children, including violent deaths and injuries. • Countries that have revised or improved child protection policies on the basis of a gender review supported by UNICEF. 	All Programme Area sections Cross-cutting interventions
OUTPUT F – GLOBAL AND REGIONAL (Enhanced global and regional capacity to accelerate progress in child protection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer-reviewed journal or research publications by UNICEF on child protection. • Key global and regional child protection initiatives/partnerships in which UNICEF is the co-chair or provides coordination support. 	All Programme Area sections

discipline and sexual violence against children and women. For the proposed indicator for child labour, the submission was made jointly by the International Labour Organization and UNICEF. During 2015, UNICEF actively engaged in the process of setting global baselines and targets as the basis for an enhanced accountability. UNICEF's extensive advocacy work to prevent child marriages included a New York meeting in February 2015, which resulted in an agreement to endorse and advocate for a common global indicator on child marriage under goal 5, target 5.3 that was eventually adopted as part of the SDG framework (see *Programme Area 7 for further details*). UNICEF consistently advocated for the inclusion of birth registration in the SDGs, which is the only form of legal identity that receives specific mention within target 16.9. UNICEF, together with the International Labour Organization and other partners, was involved in discussions on the targets and indicators for goal 8, target 8.7 concerning the worst forms of child labour, including child soldiers. Currently, UNICEF is working with the Inter-agency and Expert Group to develop measurement indicators.

Strengthening global results frameworks and national monitoring systems

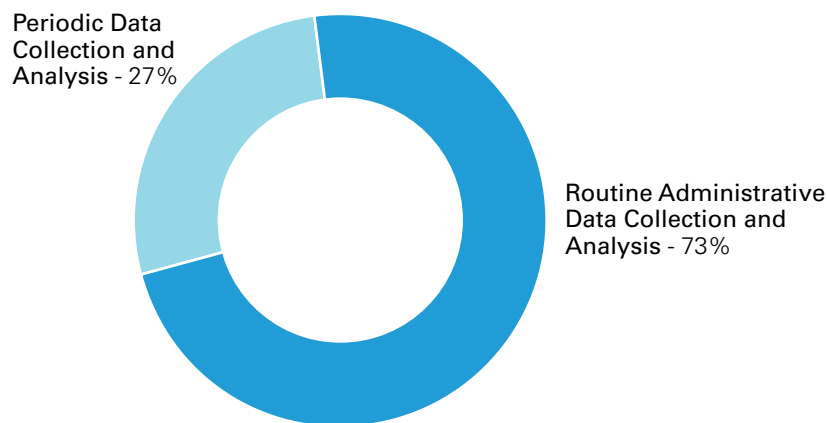
As a result of UNFPA and UNICEF collaboration, management plans were developed for the respective joint programmes to end FGM/C and child marriage, including global results frameworks and indicators for tracking and reporting. Strengthened data analysis, including the use of trend data, is also informing

programming and advocacy. Lessons learned from developing a global programme to end child marriage are being applied to the development of a global multi-sectoral programme and results framework for GBViE. A global evaluation of UNICEF's programmes on GBViE started in 2015, which will identify effective interventions to further refine the global Child Protection theory of change as well as the one specific to GBViE. A results framework was also developed for the Global Programme to build capacity to tackle online child sexual exploitation involving 17 countries. As part of the development of the three results frameworks, theories of change were developed and/or revised. Further, an inter-agency monitoring and evaluation framework is being developed (finalization due in 2016) to measure the effectiveness of interventions related to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). The collective learning from these experiences is being applied to the development of results frameworks for other areas, specifically those for which there are SDG targets.

Indicative of the growing attention to strengthening results frameworks, analyses of national-level programming shows progress, with a number of countries reporting actions in 2015. In South Africa, for example, a mapping and analysis of administrative data on violence against children and women that was collected by key government authorities in partnership with the Medical Research Council led to recommendations to improve the capacity of different systems to capture patterns and trends. A Diagnostic Review and the Study on the Structural Determinants of Violence Against Children and Women completed by UNICEF, in collaboration with the Office of the

FIGURE 1

Global expenditure for data and child protection, 2015: US\$6.4 million



Note: Global expenditure data in this graph exclude cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs. Total 2015 programme area expenditure data inclusive of these additional costs can be found in the Financial Analysis section.

Presidency and the University of Cape Town, provides a clear navigation chart for guiding a more effective and informed government response to the crimes. Findings from the study confirmed the need to invest in family strengthening interventions (with a focus on home visitation and parenting) to prevent and mitigate factors that continue to place children at risk of becoming victims and/or perpetrators of violence. The completion of a three-year Safer South Africa Programme funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development significantly contributed to strengthening the national response for the prevention of GBV through the support to a range of national-level policy and legislative changes, and capacity building at national, provincial and community levels. Additionally, the programme provides demonstrative evidence of the attitudinal change that is possible at the local level.

Strengthening data-driven programming and policy advocacy

UNICEF continued to work in partnership with the Together for Girls initiative, which brings together United Nations agencies, civil society and private-sector institutions and the Governments of Canada and the United States to improve data collection, programme response and global advocacy on violence against children (VAC). A global meeting on Priorities for Research, Monitoring and Evaluation: Building the new agenda for VAC convened in Washington, D.C., in October 2015 brought together key partners working to combat VAC with experts from the fields of human rights, HIV/AIDS and violence against women. Discussions focused on the state of the field and how to improve data collection efforts. This resulted in an agreement to standardize definitions and harmonize efforts related to data collection across VAC and GBV; establish an academic advisory committee to provide ongoing guidance to the Together for Girls initiative; improve the gender analysis of VAC survey data; and integrate greater attention to building the national capacity of local partners in VAC data collection and analysis. At present, 10 national household surveys have been carried out and five are in progress.

A statistical brochure, 'A Profile of Child Marriage in Africa',⁹ was produced for the African Girls' Summit on Ending Child Marriage held in Zambia in November 2015, which showed that although the proportion of child brides has generally decreased over the past 30 years, in some regions, child marriage remains common, even among the youngest generations, particularly in rural areas and among the poorest. Without accelerating efforts, the number of child brides in Africa will double by 2050, to 310 million girls. The data were successful in influencing commitments made by African leaders and other participants to redouble efforts to eliminate child marriage as well as other harmful traditional practices, including FGM/C.

The balance and quality of reports produced for monitoring grave violations also saw notable action in 2015 (*see also Programme Area 6: Child protection and emergencies*). Subregional architecture was put in place to improve monitoring of grave violations against children in the Syrian Arab Republic. In the Middle East and North Africa region, strengthened attention to information management, including quality assurance and verification standards, has contributed to the establishment of a two-year dataset, with 2015 data indicating that more than 3,000 cases documented and about 2,000 cases are verified each year, against which analysis of trends and patterns in violations is possible.

Building capacity

Global capacity-building tools for results-based programming were strengthened with the launch of the Child Protection Resource Pack: How to plan, monitor and evaluate child protection programmes (November 2015), which provides practical guidance and resources to strengthen planning, monitoring and evaluation of child protection programmes, integrating the Monitoring Results for Equity System approach. As a living resource, the Pack will be updated periodically to reflect the latest developments in UNICEF policies and procedures and in the child protection sector. While the main audience is UNICEF staff, elements of the resource pack can be of use to partners.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, a regional training (January 2015) involved stakeholders from five countries (Costa Rica, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay and Peru) learning how to analyse violence data. As a result, two user-friendly guides were developed. *Understanding the Drivers of Violence: A step-by-step guide to conducting preliminary research around what drives violence* guides research practitioners to investigate the drivers of violence using existing data and research studies. *Why Do People Do What They Do? A social norms field manual for Zimbabwe and Swaziland* summarizes the introductory training on social norms. The manual was recently noted as an example of innovative applied field practice by the National Academy of Sciences.

Other tools developed to support research implementation are also being adopted in other learning initiatives. For example, *Know Violence in Childhood*¹⁰ is considering employing the study's analytical framework on age and gender to frame its learning approach. As part of the Multi-Country Study, approximately 20 statisticians/demographers from government statistical offices and related agencies in the four countries were trained in advanced secondary data analysis techniques, and 8 national social scientists were trained in conducting systematic literature reviews. Eight UNICEF country offices and national counterparts in Cambodia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Malawi, Paraguay, the Philippines, Serbia and Swaziland were supported with guided methodology,

Highlights of 2015 collaborative data-driven publications

In 2015, a number of data-driven publications were authored/co-authored and/or supported by UNICEF Child Protection at global, regional and national levels, together with the UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti and other partners. The following section highlights a number of key areas of work. (*Also see supplementary examples in Annex 1*).

Multi-country study on drivers of violence affecting children

A Multi-Country Study on the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children, led by UNICEF (Office of Research-Innocenti) is analysing how structural factors interact to affect everyday violence in children's homes and communities, and aims to better inform national strategies for violence prevention, with a focus on Italy, Peru, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, but also fostering regional collaborations in seven additional research countries. In Viet Nam, initial findings are informing design of a national child protection evaluation, new violence against children legislation and a multi-year national behaviour change strategy. In Peru, study data led to a decision by the Government to postpone a costly new national survey on VAC, refocusing instead on calculating the burden of violence.

Findings on adolescent experiences of violence

An additional four-country (Ethiopia, India, Peru and Viet Nam) analysis with Oxford University's Young Lives Longitudinal Study on Childhood Poverty is building evidence on the drivers of violence, to deepen understanding of adolescents' experiences of violence, including corporal punishment and bullying in schools and the home; children's experiences of violence and outcomes later in life; and children's access to social support services addressing violence. The data demonstrates how violence experienced in early childhood is directly related to an adolescent's self-efficacy and their relationships. The findings reinforce the need for important policy reforms for schools, and support for teachers such as training in non-violent discipline techniques, as well as the need to break cycles of violence normalization. Findings were used to help facilitate informed parliamentary debate on corporal punishment in Peru. (*For further results, see also Programme Area 3: Violence against children*).

Family and parenting support

In partnership with University of Oxford and University College London, three key areas of 2015 research activity were undertaken. A literature review of parenting, family care and adolescence (as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO)) looked at how parenting is understood and practiced in six countries (Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe). Analyses in Malawi and South Africa reviewed the social, economic and community-level factors impacting parenting practices in highly vulnerable families and the impact for adolescents, which are informing a forthcoming paper: *Parenting Against the Odds: Pathways from family deprivation to adolescent health risks*. An evaluation of the Sinovuyo Teen Parenting Programme in Eastern Cape, South Africa, took place, with results aimed at making the programme available for other countries to use (*see also Programme Area 7: Strengthening families and communities*).

Children's use of the Internet

In collaboration with the London School of Economics, a global research consortium – Global Kids Online – involving key actors and universities from the Global North and the South was launched (February 2015). The research partnership draws on and expands the achievements of the EU Kids Online network – an innovative cross-national initiative funded by the European Commission's Better Internet for Kids (originally, Safer Internet) programme. The partnership has begun work with four UNICEF country offices: Argentina, the Philippines, Serbia and South Africa to collaboratively design a research toolkit. UNICEF's global presence facilitates this multi-national partnership by enabling the project to conduct research across multiple contexts. (*For further details on UNICEF's work around online sexual exploitation, see also Programme Area 3: Violence against children*).

using Italy, Peru, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe as regional knowledge hubs. In conjunction with the University of Edinburgh and the University of Pennsylvania, social norms training (including a focus on age, gender and power dynamics) was conducted with Swaziland and Zimbabwe stakeholders in June 2015; and with key stakeholders from Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam (August 2015, Viet Nam).

Challenges and constraints

Despite the notable achievements, particularly the adoption of SDG goals and targets, there are a number of challenges and constraints that remain. Data availability and investments need to increase. Data for areas such as FGM/C, birth registration and child marriage – which allow for undertaking trend analysis and projections – need to be expanded for other areas of work, including VAC (and including GBViE), justice for children, and children affected by conflict. Weak and under-utilized administrative data, including on VAC, continues to hamper the ability to routinely track results for children of programming and policy-related investments. There is a need for significant leadership and investment to strengthen both prevalence and routine administrative data. The SDGs present a timely opportunity to make this case for strengthened investments for each of the specific targets and other child protection areas.

PROGRAMME AREA 2: CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Since the launch of UNICEF's 2008 Child Protection Strategy, strengthening child protection systems is increasingly seen as a core foundation to build a protective environment to address the multiple, and often interconnected, risk factors and vulnerabilities faced by children. Well-functioning child protection systems are critical if the priorities are to be achieved in the SDGs: SDG 5, eliminating all harmful practices; SDG 8, child labour and child soldiers; and SDG 16, protection against violence, abuse, trafficking and exploitation; and in birth registration. In particular, the contribution of the social service workforce in helping children access child protection services as well as those provided by other sectors (such as health, education and social protection) can contribute significantly to these three goals and others, such as SDG 1 (poverty reduction), SDG 3 (health) and SDG 4 (education).

In 2015, total global expenditure for child protection systems strengthening amounted to US\$67.5 million, excluding cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs (see Figure 2). The majority of expenditure is allocated to a broad child protection systems strengthening budget line, which supports intervention costs across the spectrum of systems development,

including laws and standards, national planning and budgeting as part of the enabling environment, and capacity building and service delivery to strengthen the supply side of the results framework. Mapping and assessments represent 4 per cent of total expenditure (see Figure 2).

Triggering action through mapping and assessments

In 2015, UNICEF supported at least 37 countries in strengthening child protection systems, with 13 country offices supporting the mapping and assessment of their child protection system, or parts of it such as the social services system. In total, 137 countries have now carried out a mapping and assessment.

A mapping and assessment is the starting point for many governments to identify the scale and scope of the action required, which often leads to the design of action plans in specific child protection-related ministries and departments as part of a longer-term process of reform. Mapping can trigger actions, such as the 2015 mapping in Albania, which is feeding into a revision of the 2010 Law on Child Rights Protection, and informing the development of the country's vision for an integrated

Results highlights

In 2015, a total of 129 UNICEF country offices reported that their country had child protection systems that provided both preventive and responsive child protection services. Of these:

- **88 countries** (79 in 2014) stated that the preventive and responsive services did not work well together. These include Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Libya and Sri Lanka, among others.
- **39 countries** (37 in 2014) stated that they had both preventive and responsive services, with a framework for coordination, including Brazil, El Salvador, Jordan, Micronesia, Senegal and Thailand.
- **2 countries** (1 in 2014) said that preventive and responsive services were well aligned with each other.
- **26 countries** reported that their child protection system had either preventive or responsive services (thus lacking the other part of services response) – a reduction from the 38 countries reporting in 2014.

child protection system, including mainstreaming child protection in all social sectors, combining social transfers with services, establishing governance mechanisms, and strengthening the child protection workforce. Mapping can also trigger pilot exercises that are tested and then taken to a wider scale, as in the case of the United Republic of Tanzania, where recommendations from the 2009 mapping led to a pilot to establish a child protection system in four Local Government Authorities, which by 2015 have now significantly extended to a further six.

Budgeting for child protection systems strengthening

Overall, 27 countries (50 in 2014) report specific activities relating to budgeting for children – a prerequisite to translate plans to strengthen child protection systems into practical action.

In Cambodia, as part of a process of social service decentralization, UNICEF supported commune councils to better identify and target social service delivery to vulnerable women and children, including those living with disability, resulting in commune funds spent on social services targeting the poor increasing to 11 per cent, compared with 0 per cent in 2011. In Costa Rica, the promotion of local level child protection policies led to over 60 per cent of the participating cantons adopting policies on children and adolescents, alongside allocating funding for developing an action plan. Overall, the total budget allocated to children and adolescents in the

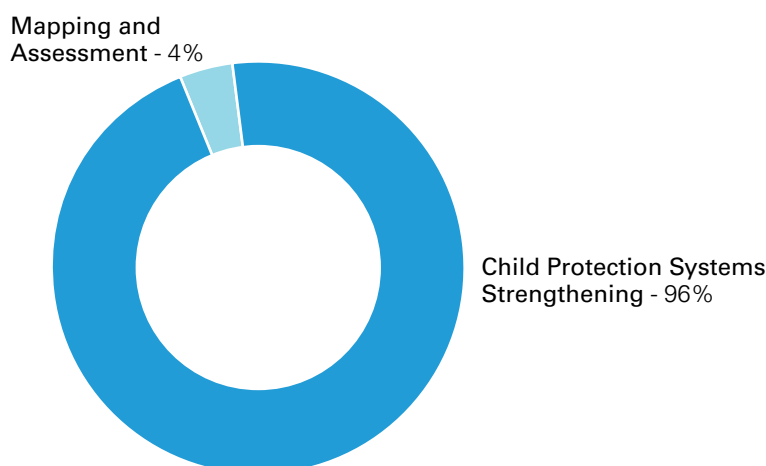
32 municipalities increased nine times since the 2013 initial budget. In Ghana, the Government strengthened its knowledge of child protection budgeting and costing with a 2015 analysis, identifying the limited national and district level financial allocations made for child protection, in stark contrast to the projected annual cost of child abuse (direct and indirect costs) estimated at approximately US\$25 million a year. In Mozambique, UNICEF successfully advocated for social worker costs at the district and community level to be integrated into the costed operational plan for social action, as part of a revised social security strategy. As part of a Pacific Island Public Finance for Children initiative, a study to explore ways to establish a fiscal monitoring system for children is informing the region's child-related public expenditure planning, monitoring and evaluation. To encourage the development of community-based social care services in Ukraine, UNICEF continues to work on a new social service funding model, developing a methodology for costing social services, which was tested in two regions in 2015.

Financial benchmarking for child protection systems

UNICEF is currently developing a financial benchmarking tool to help plan and budget for child protection. Following the development of a methodology to measure government expenditure on child protection in 2014, an initial pilot was conducted in Indonesia in 2015 that found

FIGURE 2

Global expenditure for child protection systems, 2015: US\$67.5 million



Note: Global expenditure data in this graph exclude cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs. Total 2015 programme area expenditure data inclusive of these additional costs can be found in the Financial Analysis section.

limited levels of national expenditure for child protection. Findings are informing UNICEF Indonesia's ongoing advocacy to strengthen national child protection systems development, and also informing the development of the global financial benchmarking tool. A second pilot in Côte d'Ivoire is planned for January 2016.

Results highlights

In 2015, at least 122 UNICEF country offices worked on various aspects to strengthen child protection systems, including:

- 71 countries supported the development or implementations of legislation, policies or standards.
- 27 countries strengthened aspects around budgeting for children, and at least 36 country offices supported activities around wider child protection systems strengthening.
- 64 countries strengthened the provision of a range of services.
- 66 countries focused on strengthening the capacity of their countries to plan, budget and deliver services.
- 25 countries built capacity through South-South cooperation.
- 14 countries strengthened cross-sectoral linkages between government and other partners.
- 35 countries strengthened monitoring and evaluation or carried out studies on specific issue.

Strengthening laws, policies and standards

In 2015, at least 71 countries supported the development or implementation of legislation, policies and standards (77 in 2014).

In Albania, UNICEF contributed towards the development and adoption of an operational Protocol on Child Protection, outlining the details of cooperation between various central and sub-national entities in following up on specific cases requiring special protection measures. The Protocol is intended to act as a mechanism to regulate complex multi-sectoral accountabilities and operational relationships in social policy issues. It has already been used to identify children in street situations in four

districts, and provided targeted support to approximately 45 per cent of these children in order to bring them either back to school or for those children 16 years or older – the minimum working age in Albania – to regular employment. In Iraq, UNICEF supported the drafting and endorsement of the National Child Rights Based Child Protection Policy, which aims to address gaps in existing legislation, service delivery and child protection issues affecting marginalized and disadvantaged children in host, internally displaced and refugee communities. In Montenegro, milestone legislation for social and child protection system reform came into force in 2013, and subsequent bylaws and quality standards for child protection services, including three in 2015 on minimum standards of counselling and therapeutic and socio-educational services, licensing of professionals; and accreditation of programmes. In Peru, UNICEF provided technical assistance to review the draft Code (Law) of Children and Adolescents, with a focus on juvenile criminal justice, children and adolescents deprived of parental care, adoptions, and the national protection system – ensuring that all are in line with the international standards.

Expanding service provision

In Afghanistan, the Child Protection Action Network is now functional in 31 provinces and 100 districts, and conducts regular monitoring, reporting and case management. In 2015, the Network responded to 6,331 cases of child protection violations (4,393 boys, 1,938 girls), which were all referred to appropriate services. In Georgia, as part of the revision of the Targeted Social Assistance Programme, UNICEF supported the Social Service Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs in developing a child assessment screening instrument that will be used by the social agents. By October 2015, the social agents had visited around 50 percent of all families in Georgia, and assessed around 35 percent of the child population below 18 years. In Kenya, the capacity of duty bearers to provide quality children protection services with a mix of psychosocial support, recreational, referral and reintegration services was strengthened, resulting in the Garissa Child Protection Centre reaching 420 children, the Malindi Child Protection Centre reaching 1,351 children and Nakuru Child Protection Centre reaching 1,098 children. In Mongolia, UNICEF supported all 34 multidisciplinary child protection teams to provide prevention and referral services for children at risk of and victims of violence, resulting in the follow-up of more than 1,800 cases of child maltreatment. In the State of Palestine, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other partners, UNICEF played a key role in strengthening national capacity to provide child protection services, with the introduction of a case management and referral system linked to service delivery partners in Gaza. The

programme reached 1,013 children (395 girls and 618 boys) who benefited from specialized mental health support services. In Viet Nam, case management of abused, trafficked and exploited children and other children in need of special protection led to improved access to relevant social and protection services including emergency protection services, counselling, birth registration, social assistance, health care, education, legal aid and alternative care. Each year about 2,800 children are referred to relevant services.

Results highlights

In 2015, at least 64 UNICEF country offices supported service provision, reaching at least 650,000 vulnerable children worldwide (excluding support in humanitarian settings). Increasingly, this work is upstream, through the provision of technical assistance to improve the enabling environment, and the supply of services, rather than downstream by directly contracting with service providers for these activities – although direct contracts continue to exist, particularly in situations where new service models are being tested or in countries in fragile situations or in humanitarian settings.

in establishing effective coordination mechanisms in the child protection sector, by assisting the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion and the National Children's Council to establish a Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), an overall coordination body comprising key child protection stakeholders. This led to the development of a one-year action plan. In Sri Lanka, an integrated communications programme targeting parents, caregivers, children and youth draws on the strength of a multi-sector partnership involving the Ministries of Health, Education, Mass Media and Justice, National Child Protection Authority, Police, College of Paediatricians and Judicial Medical Officers. As part of this programme, standard operating procedures (involving hospitals and police) for the prevention of and response to child victims are being developed.

Results highlights

During 2015, 14 UNICEF country offices worked on strengthening linkages between social service sectors that impact on child protection welfare. Such linkages are critical to ensure that no child falls 'between the cracks' and that child protection issues are followed up on wherever they occur, and that appropriate preventive and responsive services are available.

Strengthening cross-sectoral linkages

Given that child protection issues often require the input of more than one ministry, cross-sectoral collaboration is an imperative, for example, the collaboration between Ministries of Finance, Education and Health. In Belarus, to overcome the lack of inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation among social sector services (health care, social protection, child protection and education), priority was given to formalizing protocols of cooperation regulating referral mechanisms and multidisciplinary work. UNICEF was able to influence the National Commission on the Rights of the Child in improving the regulation on cross-sectoral collaboration to identify vulnerable children, the assessment process of the child's situation and the development of inter-agency rehabilitation plans. In Colombia, the collaboration with the commissions on early childhood development and on the prevention of recruitment and use of children by armed forces and associated groups, produced valuable workable programmes like Seres de Cuidado ("Caregivers"), which were initially conducted in targeted municipalities, and are now being taken to scale by local and national authorities. UNICEF trained 8,200 community orienteers as part of the Caregivers programme, who in turn were able to support 12,800 families and 61,000 children under 6 years old. In Rwanda, UNICEF assisted the Government

Building capacity of the child protection workforce

UNICEF's focus in terms of training relates both to increasing deeper understanding of child protection issues alongside improving skills and knowledge on budgeting and costing for child protection. UNICEF is often involved in supporting the development of materials or curricula, and is increasingly forging strong partnerships with national training institutions such as universities, especially around social work. Capacity-building efforts focus in particular on the social service workforce, given the global lack of professional social workers. Key actions in 2015 are noted across regions, including in Egypt, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. In Malawi, UNICEF sponsored 77 students to study for a Social Work Degree Programme at Magomero College (a college affiliated with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare). Thirty-eight students successfully progressed to their second academic year of the programme and 39 began their first year in 2015. In Mexico, guidance documents on procedures for the Federal Child Protection Authority were developed and used at 44 workshops UNICEF supported that reached 2,022 participants:

social workers, lawyers, psychologists, doctors and state procurators. In Turkmenistan, a training course on child-centred budgeting and strategic planning was developed and rolled out nationally, strengthening the capacity of more than 200 local-level officials. In Abkhazia, Georgia, UNICEF strengthened quality health, education and child protection services via training courses for 200 doctors and nurses, 280 teachers, 30 militia/police inspectors and 20 psychologists. In Myanmar, 78 Department of Social Welfare case managers completed a three-week comprehensive training course in case management, and 2–3 full-time social work case managers were deployed, marking the first time in Myanmar's history that statutory social workers were deployed by the government.

Results highlights

In 2015, a total of 66 UNICEF country offices supported capacity building relating to child protection. At least 30,000 people in 33 countries, and 600 community groups such as child protection committees, received direct training, including 13,000 community representatives, 11,000 child protection professionals, 2,500 social workers, 1,100 persons involved with financial resource management both at community and government levels, and 140 trainers of trainers.

Using knowledge and evidence to inform policy and practice

Illustrative examples of studies undertaken in 2015 include those in Argentina, Chile, Iran, St. Lucia and Viet Nam. A study in Iran on child protection priorities, covering 11 provinces, is informing policy and programming. In St. Lucia, three reports from a budget analysis study provided evidence on child well-being, a fiscal space study on social protection and a budget analysis for investment in children. In Viet Nam, an assessment of the social welfare service delivery system informed the successful development of the National Project on Reforming the Social Care Service Delivery System 2016–2025.

UNICEF collaborated closely with the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance, including the publication of the 'State of the Social Service Workforce 2015: A multi-country review', which shed light on key social service workforce data and trends, showcasing innovative and effective workforce strengthening initiatives, and highlighting the need for more data and focus in this area. The review explored the diversity of the social service

workforce, recognizing the variety of functions, titles, and types of education and training in both government and non-government work settings. By covering a variety of countries, it captured unique elements specific to certain countries and also identified some common challenges and trends evident across locations. It identified key limitations, such as the lack of central bodies that collect data on this workforce, which is at least partly linked to the wide range of job descriptions and job titles in many countries.

Results highlights

Some 35 country offices supported governments to strengthen their knowledge and evidence base, including through support for monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in 7 countries, strengthening statistical data collection in two countries, by carrying out studies on specific topics in 26 countries or strengthening the country's evidence base by other means to inform decision-making.

Challenges and constraints

Despite progress, weak spots in the understanding of public financial policies, costs of national child protection system development and the underlying costs of strengthening child protection services for countries were constraints. Contributory factors include: structural weaknesses in public financial institutions; inadequate budgetary processes; disconnect between national allocation decisions and local-level disbursement procedures, especially in highly decentralized systems; lack of knowledge by key decision makers on how to cost national policies; and the hidden, unaccounted costs of child protection services, such as those provided through NGOs and other civil society partners. All of these contribute to the urgent need for more work to identify the real cost to scale up financial commitments in each of the countries. UNICEF's work around financial benchmarking will contribute towards a deeper understanding of the complexities of these issues.

Countries face additional challenges related to the passage of legislation, including when the agreement of several ministries is needed. This points to the obvious value in including all relevant partners in child protection systems reform, starting from the mapping and assessment process. Countries also face constraints around sector coordination. Many governments face pressure, not least fiscally, both in low-income as well as in middle-income settings, to appreciate the range of issues addressed by child protection systems, and

indeed to agree on the boundaries of what constitutes a child protection system. Although annual results are noted (as above) as a result of UNICEF's investment in strengthening child protection systems, the overall impact of child protection systems reform can take time to emerge. This in itself presents challenges, as it requires significant sustained investment (time, funding and human resources). Vital to ensure this long-term outcome is the 'buy-in' of all actors, especially political leaders, to ensure that child protection is realistically merged into long-term, costed national development plans with the necessary budget allocated to effectively roll out plans. UNICEF is uniquely placed to facilitate this process, as it collaborates with many ministries in each country on various aspects of systems reform. The breadth and scope of UNICEF's involvement enables it to identify key entry points for system strengthening which can then be taken to scale into broader, more 'holistic' child protection systems-wide reform.

PROGRAMME AREA 3: VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

During 2015, attention to violence against children remained high on the global agenda – culminating with the passage of a specific target in the SDGs to address all forms of violence and exploitation of children (16.2) and additional targets related to violence and exploitation more broadly, including homicide (16.1), violence against women and girls and gender equality (5.3/5.4), violence in schools (4.7 and 4.a), and child labour (8.7). In 2015, the total expenditure for UNICEF global interventions to combat violence, exploitation and abuse amounted to US\$51.2 million, excluding cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs (see Figure 3).

In 2015, 124 countries carried out programming to prevent and respond to violence against children through a combination of interventions, including multi-sectoral service delivery to children victims, early detection and referrals for prevention of violence and large-scale media and C4D efforts.

Strategic partnerships and alliances

In 2015, significant focus was placed on building consensus around the proposed global targets and indicators for the SDG agenda. In addition to advocacy related to the SDGs, the SRSB and UNICEF joined efforts in the promotion of the ratification process of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including engaging with member states at the regional level. In 2015, the Office of the SRSB on VAC conducted more than 40 field missions to 25 countries, in close cooperation with UNICEF regional and country offices. Support for evidence-based national implementation efforts in Malawi and Nigeria followed the

launch of national surveys on violence against children. The SRSB supported the development of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children, adopted by the 27th ASEAN Summit of Heads of State and Government in November 2015. The SRSB joined UNICEF, other UN agencies and civil society representatives in a conference of the Pacific Islands Countries in May 2015, resulting in national commitments to end violence against children. Subsequently, legal reform advanced in Cook Islands (Family Law Bill), Kiribati (Juvenile Justice Act), the Republic of Marshall Islands (Disability Act), and Samoa (Child Care and Protection Bill). In Fiji, a high-level campaign combating sexual abuse was launched. Country action plans on ending violence against children were developed in Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Data snapshot: Violence against children

In 2012 alone, almost **1 in 5 of all homicide victims was a child**.

Around **6 in 10 children** (between 2–14 years old – almost 1 billion) are subjected to physical punishment by their caregivers on a regular basis.

Close to **1 in 3 students** (13–15 years old) experience bullying on a regular basis.

Almost **one quarter of girls** (15–19 years old – almost 70 million) worldwide report being victims of some form of physical violence since age 15.

About **120 million girls** (younger than 20 years old – 1 in 10 girls) have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives.

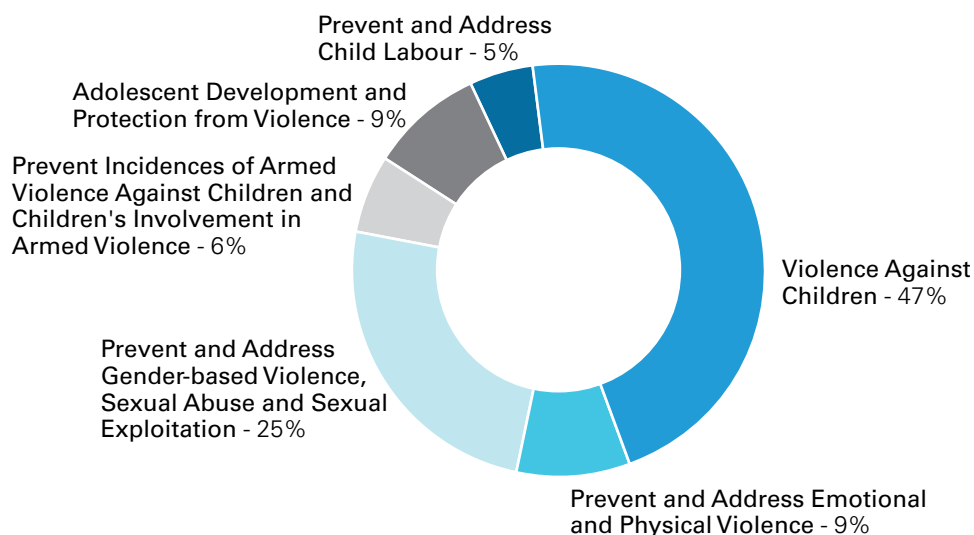
1 in 3 adolescent girls (15–19 years old – 84 million) have been victims of emotional, physical or sexual violence committed by their husbands or partners at some point in their lives.

About **3 in 10 adults** believe physical punishment is necessary to properly raise or educate children.

Source: United Nations Children's Fund, Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children, UNICEF, New York, 2014.

FIGURE 3

Global expenditure for violence against children, 2015: US\$51.2 million



Note: Global expenditure data in this graph exclude cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs. Total 2015 programme area expenditure data inclusive of these additional costs can be found in the Financial Analysis section.

UNICEF provided the foundation work for a Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence Against Children, mobilizing partners to establish and develop a governance structure, fund host and mechanism. To broaden the support base, a number of strategy building sessions were undertaken, including a session during the 3rd Financing for Development Conference and a side event hosted during the United Nations General Assembly, alongside planning and engagement discussions with countries taking a lead in addressing violence against children. UNICEF is a founding partner of the Know Violence in Childhood joint learning initiative. The initiative is consolidating the latest evidence of efforts to prevent and address violence in childhood for its application to programming and policy work. The findings of the learning initiative will be presented in a flagship report in October 2016, in time to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the first-ever Secretary-General's report on VAC, and amplify attention and resources to violence prevention and reduction.

In addition to consolidating existing partnerships, UNICEF established new partnerships to address sexual abuse and exploitation, including online. For example, in collaboration with ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) and other partners, UNICEF contributed to a global study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and the development of guidelines on terminology in relation to sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

#EndViolence Against Children: Global support, local design and ownership

The #EndViolence Against Children Initiative acts as a visual catalyst to bring to the public eye information about harmful practices, previously not part of public discourse and has contributed significantly to positioning the universality of the issue and triggering action by a range of stakeholders in the home, in schools, within communities and online. The campaign was also bolstered by high-profile advocacy from a number of UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors. Results of country-level action are exemplified through collaborative efforts in Indonesia, between UNICEF, the Government, with technical support from the creative agency Ogilvy to launch the Pelindung Anak (Child Protector) campaign

Result highlights

A principle advocacy vehicle is UNICEF's corporate flagship campaign #EndViolence Against Children. Building on the successful 2013 launch, more than 52 country offices in 2015 initiated or continued to carry out national communication efforts with messages against corporal punishment and harsh discipline, sexual violence, peer violence and bullying.

Protecting children from violence: A comprehensive evaluation of UNICEF's strategies and programme performance

During 2015, the Evaluation Office concluded the first-ever comprehensive evaluation of UNICEF's work to protect children from violence. Entitled 'Protecting Children from Violence: An evaluation of UNICEF's strategies and programme performance', it assesses UNICEF's performance over the period 2009–2014. The report sheds important light on progress and achievements as well as areas where work needs to be strengthened, reviewing efforts with systems strengthening, social norms change and data use/knowledge management, UNICEF's advocacy and leadership role, as well as addressing gender equality and equity in VAC programming. It also gauges the relevance of UNICEF's strategies to address VAC, the efficiency of resource use and the sustainability of results achieved.

Key findings: The global objectives on VAC and in the child protection strategy were largely coherent and aligned within national contexts on VAC. However, there is still a need for clearer country programme logic and agreed common indicators to measure progress. Results on system strengthening have been partially achieved but are often limited in geographic coverage and scale. Of the 70 countries surveyed for the evaluation, 50 had conducted a mapping or gap analysis on systems strengthening to address VAC, but only 20 had done a substantial mapping using a comprehensive toolkit that allows countries to undertake a thorough review of their child protection systems, and to obtain a much clearer picture of the strengths and gaps in those systems. The limits on success were largely related to underfunded relevant ministries, alongside enforcement and implementation of legal and policy frameworks. While numerous initiatives to change social norms to prevent and respond to violence against children have been developed, many gaps remain.

Though progress was noted during the evaluation period on data collection and use, monitoring, research, evaluation and use of data still need to be significantly strengthened, particularly in relation to collection of administrative data and tracking programme results. These current programming gaps, coupled with the need for greater investment to effectively respond to the recommendations in the evaluation, present a challenge.

Action: The evaluation comes at timely juncture for Child Protection. The inclusion of multiple targets related to violence against children in the SDGs has helped to marshal global attention to this issue. The evaluation conclusions and recommendations will contribute to shaping UNICEF's global agenda on how to end violence against children, and in particular in supporting governments and other partners to achieve the violence-related targets under SDG Goal 16.2. These efforts will also contribute to results against other SDG goals and targets, notably 4.a on violence in schools, 5.2 on violence against women and girls, 5.3 on ending harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM/C, which are also associated with violence, as well as 16.1, which is about reducing all forms of violence and related deaths.

At the country level, the evaluation can help to inform country-level programme development with a focus on addressing VAC. The evaluation findings will also inform the Mid-Term Review of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014–2017, including global leadership and guidance on the most optimal strategies to address VAC, and development of the next Strategic Plan. Overall, the evaluation report provides a welcome opportunity to build a comprehensive, coordinated and accelerated response to address VAC, a universal challenge facing the global community.

that enables children, parents and others to obtain information on how to access child protection services (and report incidents). In the first three months, almost 6 million people were reached on Facebook and more than 50,000 visitors were actively engaged. Similarly, the Break the Silence initiative in the Eastern Caribbean is continuing through multimedia efforts (social media/print/TV/radio). In Jamaica, which has a population of 2.7 million people, more than 500,000 people were reached in 2015. In the Southern Cone in Latin America, UNICEF country offices in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay joined together with a co-funded campaign

calling for an end to corporal punishment, which has reached more than 2 million people to date via social media. National communication efforts are often linked to on-going programme activities, using knowledge to inform concrete actions for children. Building on the #EndViolence Against Children momentum, a multi-sectoral (Ministries of Education, Health, Solidarity, Interior, and Justice) referral system around violence against children was established in Algeria. In Central America, the Dominican Republic became the first country to adopt a multi-sectoral national roadmap against child violence, including a campaign directed at

adolescents on the prevention of armed violence, using social media and an innovative digital platform. In its first four months, the campaign reached around 1.1 million of the 10 million people living there.

Building evidence: Strengthening data and programme responses

Around 70 countries have improved data via large-scale national household surveys (Multiple Indicator Clusters Surveys (MICs), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and the VAC surveys), although these data sets still only capture information on some forms of violence against children. In 2015, 32 VAC data-driven studies were produced, and in Malawi and Nigeria, the results from the VAC surveys were launched. The Malawi VAC surveys (launched March 2015) aimed to break the invisibility of violence against girls and boys, with high-level ministerial representatives (Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare) plus the police, the office of the SRSG on VAC and others marching together with children to demonstrate solidarity towards ending VAC. In Nigeria, the VAC survey revealed that 60 per cent of children younger than 18 years old experienced one or more types of violence; one in two experienced physical violence, one in four girls and one in ten boys experienced sexual violence, and one in five boys and one in six girls experienced emotional violence. In February, the Multi-Sectoral Task Force convened a 'data to action' workshop to analyse the VAC survey findings and discuss responses to be taken by different sectors – including Social Welfare, Justice, Education, Health, civil society stakeholders and bilateral and multilateral agencies, including UNICEF. The findings provided a catalyst for the President to launch a national campaign to end VAC, and a nine State Child Protection Systems Strengthening Learning Group convened to develop a model national child protection system, including operationalizing the Child Rights Act.

Preventing and addressing violence in schools

In the 2015 Multi-Country Study on the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children, violence in schools is the foremost reason children give for disliking school. Similarly, VAC surveys reveal that anywhere between 15 per cent and 50 per cent of self-reported VAC, including sexual violence and physical violence, takes place on school premises or while travelling to or from school.¹¹ As noted in the Young Lives Longitudinal Study on Childhood Poverty in India, Peru and Viet Nam, corporal punishment experienced by 8 year-old children is linked with lower math scores when the same children reach the age of 12, as compared with

their peers who did not report being hit. The research also revealed that boys and poorer children were the most likely to report being struck by their teachers. The steady trends, as noted in the Multi-Country Study, demonstrated a growing awareness that violence prevention and response requires multiple entry points – working with policymakers, teachers, administrators, parents and students themselves and addressing multiple types of violence, including corporal punishment/physical violence, sexual violence/GBV, bullying and emotional violence.

In 2015, UNICEF continued to expand its reach to support countries to strengthen policy frameworks for the prevention of violence in schools and the roll-out of the interventions of the policy. In Uganda, the national policy on violence in schools was rolled out to 560 schools across 28 districts by the end of 2015, and in Namibia, school policies that hold teachers and administrators more accountable, including regarding anti-bullying, have reached 148 schools, impacting 57,503 children (28,947 girls and 28,556 boys). This action helped launch the Safe Schools programme (with WHO) that links school-related violence prevention to school health initiatives. Similar programmes were carried out in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and South Africa. In Jordan, the well-established Ma'an programme integrated greater attention to gender-based violence in schools, with attention to sexual violence, scaling up actions in 2015 to include 50 schools (11,000 students). An estimated 653,000 children benefited from UNICEF's community awareness-raising and mobilization activities in child protection, with coverage extended to 66 districts (up from 45 districts in 2014). Forty child protection platforms were operational, including ten aligned with standards developed in 2015; 15,200 teachers and school community actors were mobilized on child protection, including a new Code of Conduct; 4,760 teachers were trained on protective teaching methods; and 1,500 female teachers were trained as girls' protection focal points.

Result highlights

In 2015, more than 64 countries addressed school violence, particularly peer-to-peer violence, and violence perpetrated by school staff (up from 55 in 2014) – with every region in the world represented. As a result of global and national advocacy, in 2015 corporal punishment of children was prohibited in schools in 127 countries (122 in 2014).

Bullying in schools

Close to one in three students between the ages of 13 and 15 worldwide experiences bullying on a regular basis. In 2015, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on Bullying in Schools, which is being coordinated by the SRSG on VAC. UNICEF submitted coordinated inputs from 17 country offices¹² and a regional office as part of its contribution to the report. UNICEF child protection and education sectors coordinate closely around efforts to combat bullying in schools, with many activities undertaken by the education sector as part of larger programmes addressing violence against children in and around schools. *(For additional details, see the 2015 Annual Results Report on Education.)*

Many efforts have also gone towards building the evidence – having a better understanding of the nature, extent and determinants of the phenomenon and how to address it effectively. In Jamaica, the first-ever country study on bullying resulted in the establishment of a multi-sectoral anti-bullying initiative Technical Advisory Committee to develop policies and interventions to reduce bullying in schools. Building the capacity of relevant stakeholders to prevent and address the issue is critical. In Papua New Guinea, 56 guidance and standards officers were trained to support children and young people at risk of dropping out to draw on support services to keep them in school – a significant action given the increased incidence of bullying and violence in many schools. There is growing evidence of the engagement of children and youth as agents of change, in particular in on-line platforms to promote social change, in some cases under the broader #EndViolence platform. In the Republic of Moldova, more than 1,000 teachers and school managers were trained to identify and address cases of violence. Close to 1,236,000 children, parents and professionals were informed and sensitized about violence against children and its prevention methods, and 205,000 informative materials (guides, leaflets, brochures) on different forms of abuse, including emotional abuse in schools and bullying distributed.

Sexual abuse and exploitation of children

In Afghanistan, a draft Child Act was completed, which included provisions to protect children from sexual exploitation. In Guatemala, the Cybercrime Investigation Unit of the Police has dismantled two networks producing online child sexual materials, in coordination with the National Prosecutor's Office. In India, a partnership with the Indian Medical Association has resulted in the development of a training module for doctors on how to handle child sexual abuse. In South Africa, the National Strategic Plan for the re-establishment of the Sexual

Offences Courts was finalized with UNICEF support. To date, a total of 37 Sexual Offences Courts have been established in the country. From March 2014 to April 2015, the Courts registered a total of 8,457 new cases (of which 7,240 were rape cases), a 22 per cent decrease from those registered in 2013–2014. In Timor-Leste, a total of 339 children benefited from protective services provided by the Ministry of Social Solidarity, of which 173 were criminal cases, and 73 of the cases related to sexual abuse of girls.

In Nicaragua, 87.5 per cent of adolescents who were trained in the prevention of sexual abuse in five prioritized municipalities in the Northern and Southern Autonomous Regions in the Caribbean Coast, and could identify at least one sign of sexual abuse as a result of the training and at least one institution to which sexual abuse should be reported. In Myanmar, UNICEF partnered with the Tourism and Hotel industry to prevent sexual exploitation of children in relation to orphanages. More than 50,000 materials were distributed to hotels, tour operators, tour guides, and at key tourist sites, and key messages were printed in inflight magazines of two domestic airlines. More than 250 travel and tourism professionals, including the Myanmar Tour Guides Association were reached by awareness-raising activities.

Result highlights

In 2015, Bahamas and Kiribati ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, resulting in a total of 172 ratifications, representing 89 per cent of all United Nations Member States. In 2015, UNICEF supported government and civil society actors to prevent and respond to sexual abuse and exploitation in 88 countries, spanning across development and emergency contexts, in all settings – homes, schools, community and online.

Online sexual abuse and exploitation

With the support of the Government of the United Kingdom, UNICEF established a ground-breaking Global Programme to build capacity of government, civil society and private-sector actors to tackle online sexual exploitation. The Programme will focus on 17 core countries across six regions, one with support of global and regional advocacy, partnerships, evidence building and research. The #WeProtect Children Online Global Summit held in the United Arab Emirates in November 2015 was a critical strategic moment to provoke deeper

Result highlights

Seventy countries have signed up to global commitments to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation online through the Global Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Online and the Statements of Action under the #WeProtect initiative.

global commitments to the issue which is gaining increased attention in national policy agendas. The Summit brought together leaders from government, the private sector, law enforcement, international organizations and United Nations agencies to establish coordinated national responses to protect children from online sexual exploitation.

Within a broader agenda of protecting children from information and communication technology (ICT)-related violence, exploitation and abuse and promotion of children's digital citizenship, UNICEF is supporting countries to take immediate steps to protect children from online child sexual exploitation, ensuring cases of online child sexual exploitation are investigated and prosecuted, and setting up helplines and services to support victims. A key component of this support is to work with children, families and teachers to take protective messages to mitigate risks and prevent online sexual exploitation and violence, and works alongside companies such as Google to make sure online violence is prevented. UNICEF's child protection global programme is working closely with the Office of Research-Innocenti in developing methods for comparable research on children's use of information and communication technologies, and their risks in relation to online child sexual exploitation and violence. At national, regional and global levels, UNICEF is supporting various efforts to generate evidence and data to inform policy and practice. For example, in the Philippines, a national study on online child protection

is under way to improve support services for children who have experienced online child sexual exploitation. Moreover, in Asia, the Middle East and Northern Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean, studies are under way to map the capacity of national stakeholders to protect children from online sexual exploitation.

Armed violence

In 2015, UNICEF interventions around the world on preventing armed violence reached more than 3.6 million children and adolescents 10–24 years old.

A regional consultative meeting of experts on the protection of children from armed violence in communities affected by organized crime was held in Honduras in 2015 to push forward the drive to combat armed violence. Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have all recently emerged with various models of armed violence prevention and reduction programmes.¹³ In 2015 Guatemala tightened its local policies on the possession of firearms. UNICEF advocated with policy makers in Mexico for the broader integration of armed violence programmes into sectoral studies, policies, laws and budget allocations, and a 2015 assessment on adolescents in conflict with the law is expected to guide the government in developing a more comprehensive social reintegration policy.¹⁴

An implicit part of armed violence prevention and reduction programmes is to foster behaviour change and encourage greater community participation. Action in Nicaragua is an illustrative example, where UNICEF facilitated the reintegration of youths in gangs into schools and gainful employment. Behaviour change messages were integrated into school counsellors' lesson guides in 29 secondary schools, reaching 598 students, and leading to 184 adolescents abandoning criminal gangs.

Data snapshot: Armed violence

Every year, armed violence kills around 526,000 people, more than three-quarters of whom die in non-conflict settings. In 2012, intentional homicide caused the deaths of almost half a million people (437,000) across the world, with the greatest burden affecting the Americas (36 per cent). Given the increasing trend in adolescents' homicide in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNICEF's support for armed violence prevention and reduction has shifted focus to concentrate on eleven countries within the region, including post-conflict states. Each is characterized by a number of socioeconomic, geopolitical and demographic conditions such as economic inequality, weak rule of law and impunity to crime, and easy access to firearms.

Building evidence: Strengthening data and programme responses

Three major regional research studies were concluded in 2015 relating information system mapping to effective practices on armed violence prevention and reduction. At country level, a number of notable actions took place. The Government of Brazil launched the fifth edition of the Index on Adolescent Homicides, with data trends indicating that approximately 42,000 adolescents are expected to die as victims of homicide by 2019. In Mexico, lessons learned are increasingly being documented, with the most recent publication, 'Rights of Children and Adolescents in Mexico: A present day agenda', revealing homicide rates among adolescents (15–24 years old) is 14.9 per cent per 100,000 people, significantly higher than the national average rate of 9.8 per cent.

Challenges and constraints

Despite the increased data, as noted above, there remains a large research deficit and insufficient investment in armed violence prevention and reduction programming. UNICEF will continue to invest in sustaining the emerging alliances with global partners, including United Nations agencies, universities, civil society, media and research centres of excellence to strengthen knowledge, build evidence and common understanding among practitioners. Other challenges still remain in addressing government capacities, convergence of conflict, with underdevelopment and criminal violence, as well as the impact of urbanization on youth. To address this, UNICEF is investing in significant advocacy, which is contributing to building a regional political momentum – with many countries from Latin America and the Caribbean increasing their commitment in taking measures to reduce the high rates of homicides among children.

Child labour

Understanding the underlying causes of child labour and addressing their inter-connectedness is the key premise behind UNICEF's prevention and response approach. Working to enhance programming, particularly in high burden countries (those with a child labour prevalence of greater than 10 per cent), strategies focus on targeting the structural drivers of child labour by strengthening legal and policy frameworks, enhancing government and community-based structures and services, engaging with communities to promote positive social change, addressing poverty and inequity, and improving access to and quality of education.

Data snapshot: Child labour

Child labour is largely driven by vulnerabilities caused by poverty and deprivation. Depriving children of the right to go to school exposes them to violence and reinforces intergenerational cycles of poverty. While trends between 2000 and 2012 indicate a decline in child labour from 246 million to 168 million children, it remains a serious child protection concern. The adoption of SDG 8, target 8.7 presents the international community with an ambitious target to end child labour in all its forms by 2025.

Child labour targets are also implicitly linked to the achievement of other targets in the goals for education (Goal 4), gender equality (Goal 5) and the elimination of violence against children (Goal 16). To achieve this end, the current rate of reduction of worst forms of child labour (estimated at 85 million children) must be maintained and the rate of reduction for children under the minimum working age (estimated at 83 million children) must be significantly increased. It is therefore critical not only to capitalize on progress to date but also to accelerate collaborative efforts.

Result highlights

Approximately 5.7 million children at risk and/or withdrawn from child labour were reached through a combination of interventions in 30 countries (66 per cent of the 30 countries have a prevalence rate of children involved in child labour of 10 per cent or higher), which marks a 24 per cent increase from 4.5 million children reached in 2014.

In 2015, 57 country offices directly supported a combination of interventions to combat child labour (55 in 2014) through policy and legislation reforms; service delivery; social assistance programming, improving access to informal and formal education, increasing advocacy and awareness raising for prevention and withdrawal; capacity building of labour inspectors and employers' associations for better detection and prevention of child labour; and assessments and research to inform policy change and strengthen programming.

Cross-sector collaboration yields results for child labour practice in India

Fifteen years of multi-sectoral collaborative action against child labour in India through eight projects in six states culminated in 2015 with significant results. The collective work has reached almost three times more children than originally planned, including twice as many adolescent girls. In the cotton areas of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan alone the programme reached more than 8,000 villages in 11 districts – significantly reducing child labour rates from 15 per cent to 0.8 per cent in Gujarat, 7.9 per cent to half a per cent in Maharashtra and from 7 per cent to 3 per cent in Rajasthan.

In all, almost 15.5 million children were reached through the collaborative efforts of child protection, education and C4D that aimed to coordinate the roll-out of the Right to Education Act, alongside the Government's Integrated Child Protection Scheme. UNICEF plans to scale up the results of this programming, by broadening partnerships and ensuring that child labour is addressed as a governance issue at community, block and district levels, rather than stand-alone projects. Working with the government to strengthen local administration structures and ensure that all children are in school, UNICEF will build greater links with rural development and women's income generation and empowerment, and connect its work to national livelihoods programmes and other development schemes.

UNICEF's interventions to combat child labour

Country action in 2015 include efforts in Afghanistan through the innovative multi-partner Street Working Children project in Kabul to reintegrate children into formal education and accelerated learning, and offer vocational, life skills training. In 2015, 300 children and their families benefited from either reintegration into formal education classes, and/or accelerated learning programmes to support their reintegration to high school. The families of the 300 children received small business and vocational trainings in skills/trades such as tailoring, mobile repairing and hairdressing. In Burkina Faso, following advocacy with UNICEF partners, 2015 saw the Ministers Council adopt a road map for 2015–2020 to prevent the presence of children in small-scale gold mines, the installation of a Corporate Social Responsibility Forum with the presence of international mining companies and a revised mining code banning the presence of children in gold-mining sites.

Strategic partnerships and alliances to combat child labour

UNICEF has intensified its collaboration with the International Labour Organization, and is developing a joint cooperation framework for supporting high-burden countries in achieving accelerated child labour reduction to attain SDG target 8.7. Significant private sector partnerships in a number of high-burden countries are in place or under discussion, including with global companies with supply chains in countries of high burden, such as IKEA in India, H&M and Marks & Spencer in Bangladesh, and the Walt Disney Company in Viet Nam.

Strengthening knowledge and evidence-based research for child labour

In 2015, UNICEF supported a number of surveys and rapid assessments to inform advocacy and programming in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ecuador, Ghana, Haiti, Iraq, Mexico, Rwanda and Tunisia. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, for example, four rapid assessments on child labour in mines, sugar cane harvesting, hazardous work, and 'self-employed' children are informing the implementation of the multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial public policy. A Study on Children Domestic Workers in Haiti, revealing about 407,000 children were engaged in domestic child labour, with over half in unacceptable forms of domestic child labour, is informing the development of a multi-sector road map for policy/legal development, coordination, advocacy and service delivery.

PROGRAMME AREA 4: JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

The Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards mandate that a child should only be imprisoned as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. It is estimated that around 1.1 million children are detained through justice systems at any one time throughout the world, though this is believed to be an underestimation. Around 59 per cent of the children in detention are awaiting trial or sentencing; ultimately only a few of these children end up receiving custodial sentences.¹⁵ Data is limited on the numbers of child victims and witnesses in juvenile justice, which remains a challenge for the sector. The United Nations Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child

Result highlights

The number of programming countries carrying out justice for children (J4C) activities has remained relatively stable since the commencement of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, with around two-thirds of all country offices reporting continued activities from 2014.

98 countries report activities to improve juvenile justice systems in 2015, with most noting on-going work from previous years, highlighting the long-term commitment required by UNICEF, and others to support juvenile justice reform.

125 countries report legislation and policy in their country recognizes children's right to be heard in judicial and administrative proceedings, (both criminal and non-criminal), either directly or through a representative or an appropriate body, which is in line with Article 12, Paragraph 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

31 countries report services and procedures for children in contact with the law are delivered in line with international standards (26 in 2014).

Around a **third of country offices** continue to address the rights of children who are deprived of their liberty (either at pre-trial or as part of a custodial sentence) in juvenile justice facilities or in adult prisons, including through the monitoring of detention conditions: around **25 per cent** also report work specifically addressing increased access to legal aid for children involved in criminal cases.

51 per cent of countries noted a systemic bias towards detention and other custodial remedies (rather than diversion and non-custodial options). This gradual decrease in the use of detention reflects the continued investment of UNICEF in supporting alternatives and diversion.

78 per cent of countries worked on expanding children's access to justice and the use of child-friendly procedures and approaches for dealing with justice for children (both the criminal and administrative justice activities, including investigative and court procedures).

As a result of global and national advocacy, in 2015, corporal punishment of children was prohibited in penal institutions in **136 countries** (130 in 2014); and as a sentence for crime in **162 countries** (160 in 2014).

Victims and Witnesses (2005) outline specific measures governments should take to ensure that justice systems treat child victims and witnesses in a sensitive and appropriate manner, but their implementation in criminal justice systems throughout the world continues to be limited.

In 2015, total expenditure for justice for children amounted to US\$29.1 million, excluding cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs (*see Figure 4*). The greatest focus of programmatic expenditure are interventions to strengthen juvenile justice systems in countries, with noted progress on improved legislation and policy, including greater compliance with international standards, and children's right to be heard in legal proceedings. However, countries are now recognising an 'implementation gap' between legislation and practice.

Strengthening enabling environment: Legislative reform

In Croatia, new amendments to the Criminal Code, lowering sentencing for several categories of crime,

are making it possible to use diversion measures for these offences and creating a space for wider use of diversion measures for youth in conflict with the law. In Sri Lanka, UNICEF made important contributions to national policy debates around the minimum age of criminal responsibility, which resulted in a critical recommendation to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 8 to 12 years of age. In Viet Nam, the revised Penal Code substantially shifts national criminal policy for child offenders by introducing new diversion measures, broadening alternatives to detention, limiting criminal records for child offenders to facilitate better

Result highlights

In total 57 programme countries specifically focused efforts on advocacy and technical assistance to improve legal frameworks, with a major emphasis on adopting either new laws or amendments to existing criminal procedure codes.

reintegration, and introducing parole as a new mechanism for early release of child offenders. These reforms will significantly impact vulnerable adolescent boys in Viet Nam, where 96.7 per cent of child offenders are boys 16–18 years old.

In Guatemala, Montenegro and Paraguay, support was provided to assess and align legislation in accordance with international standards. In Albania, El Salvador, Jordan, Madagascar and Namibia, UNICEF supported legal reform in relation to online child sexual exploitation, as part of efforts under the UNICEF Global Programme to build capacity to tackle online child sexual exploitation (see also Programme Area 2: Violence against children). In at least 14 countries, amendments and new provisions were incorporated into wider legal reform and/or child protection legislation, highlighting the increased linkage between UNICEF's justice for children work and other programme areas. These countries include: Angola, Azerbaijan, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Kiribati, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, South Sudan and Sudan. For example, in Angola, following many years of advocacy, the overall legal framework related to children in conflict with the law, child victims of rights violations, child witnesses and third parties is currently being thoroughly revised, and will result in amendments and changes to a number of laws ensuring Angola's legal framework is

better aligned to international standards and protecting the rights of the child.

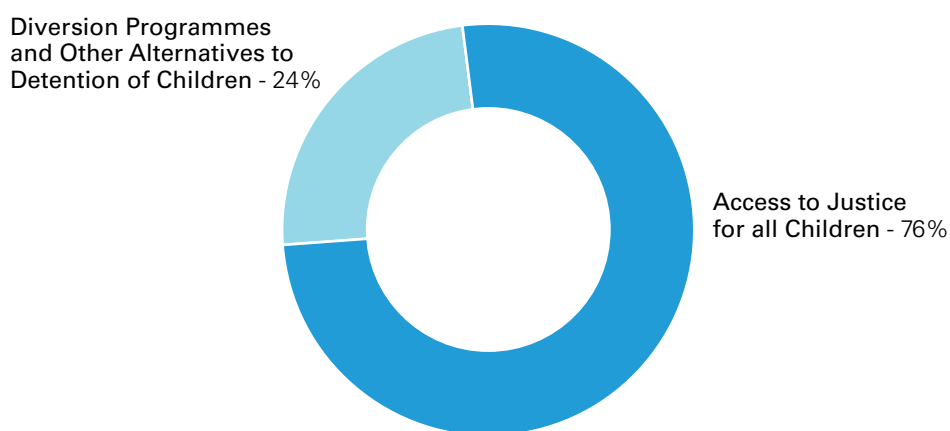
Improving access to services

UNICEF supported improved service provision in 84 countries in 2015, including through measures to increase and/or improve the coverage of child-friendly and specialized appropriate services and their accessibility.

The increased focus on service provision reflects, in part, the success that UNICEF has had in recent years in improving the legislative and administrative frameworks and in supporting the passage of laws and by-laws that allow for alternatives and diversion. Now these are in place, UNICEF is increasingly being asked to support the piloting and establishment of services for the implementation of the laws. Of the 84 countries working on service provision in 2015, 53 were continuing work undertaken in 2014 and 2013, through scaling up of pilot initiatives in areas such as child-targeted legal aid and assistance, psychological support, child friendly institutional and community-based sanction schemes. In Georgia, for example, UNICEF support was central to seeing state provided legal aid being expanded to civil and administrative cases concerning children, meaning that

FIGURE 4

Global expenditure for justice for children, 2015: US\$29.1 million



Note: Global expenditure data in this graph exclude cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs. Total 2015 programme area expenditure data inclusive of these additional costs can be found in the Financial Analysis section..

children who come into contact with law for any reason – including, for example, care proceedings, have the benefit of legal counsel to help them, in line with the United Nations approach on Justice for Children.

Supporting victims of sexual violence within the justice system

A major factor in responding effectively to sexual violence and exploitation is the existence of specially trained law enforcement officials who are able to investigate and interview claims of child sexual abuse in a manner that is child friendly and prevents re-traumatization of the children concerned, which, aside from the benefits to the child, also increases the chances of obtaining effective, reliable testimony. For example, to improve the equitable access to services for child victims of violence, exploitation and abuse in Timor-Leste, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity to roll out the 2012 Child and Family Welfare Policy, including establishing policy implementation teams at national level and in three key districts. Capacity building of law enforcement and the justice sector to ensure that cases of online child sexual exploitation are investigated and prosecuted and that children are treated appropriately in this process is critical. In at least 13 countries – Brazil, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Montenegro, Namibia, Paraguay, the Philippines, Uganda and Viet Nam – UNICEF supported efforts to establish functioning specialized units within the police and the prosecutor's office for the investigation and prosecution of crimes of online child sexual exploitation. In Jordan, the newly established police unit for online crimes against children received specialized training, and social workers supported the unit so that victims would receive the right services and follow-up. In the Dominican Republic, 30 social workers and psychologists from the Department of Children and Adolescents Office of the Supreme Court have been trained on how to conduct forensic interviews with sexually exploited children, with the support of the National Judiciary School and UNICEF (*see also Programme Area 2: Violence against children*).

Result highlights

Improvements to the treatment of children as victims, witnesses and offenders are noted in 28 countries. In 2015, progress continued to be made in expanding the coverage and access of specialized courts for children, with 167 specialized courts for children established across the globe in 2015.

Knowledge, behaviour change, participation

Measures such as restorative justice, diversion, family counselling and community-based sanctions engage children in understanding the impact of their behaviour and involves family and support networks in helping children to identify constructive responses to 'trigger' behaviours and situations, as well as proving means of making amends that involve the participation of the child, community and family together. In the Middle East and North Africa region, UNICEF Jordan, Sudan and Tunisia documented and disseminated best practices on diversion and alternative measures to detention, as part of a region-wide initiative. In Albania, NGO partnerships diversified the mosaic of alternative and diversion services for children, including in mediation and reconciliation as part of restorative justice. In 2015, 25 out of 26 case were resolved positively. Programmes for abusive parents and family members of children in conflict with the law were established for the first time. Support was also given to the Probation Service (35 cases) and specialised legal assistance to children (22 cases in process). Together, this provided a significant shift from a punitive response to one which responds to anti-social behaviour by children as a social care and family support issue. A review of practices in Egypt led to concrete opportunities for community-based alternatives ranging from reconciliation, delivery to parents/guardians, judicial probation, community-services and early release were identified, and development of an action plan (2016–2019) to pilot diversion and alternative measures for future scaling up.

Result highlights

Increasing the use of these forms of diversion and alternatives is one of the main strands of the efforts in many countries to reform the justice for children system, with almost two thirds (62 per cent) of country offices working on the reduction of the use of detention and increased use of alternatives and diversion in 2015.

Capacity building

Increasingly, focus was placed on capacity building of justice sector professionals, including through a gradual move to up-stream interventions in standardised curricula development with national training institutions and schools for law enforcement and legal professionals and the provision of in-service training for existing professionals. In Bulgaria, training curricula in judicial procedures were developed,

with more than 70 professionals in the Sliven region trained on international standards, good practices and national legislation. In Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Police University College and the Federal Justice Professionals Training Centre led the training of approximately 6,900 professionals and developed police training curriculum materials. In Tunisia, 890 Justice Sector professionals were trained on a range of general and job-specific issues, as part of a large-scale justice for children programme. In Viet Nam, in preparation for the establishment of the country's first Family and Juvenile Courts, in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, 40 judges were trained on justice for children principles (national and international) and how to adapt court proceedings to be more child- and gender-sensitive.

Result highlights

In 2015, 78 programme countries reported capacity-building actions, largely at the national level. In 35 countries, UNICEF supported national police and judicial academies, bar associations or law faculties in integrating justice for children components into pre-service and qualification-related curricula. More than 40,000 judges, prosecutors, lawyers, law students, police officers, probation officers, social workers and psychologists received UNICEF-supported in-service training.

in 2016. At country level, UNICEF supported 17 countries to undertake studies of Justice for Children Systems. The Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname offices jointly initiated a situational review of juvenile justice legislation and administrative data on children in conflict with the law in those countries, with the results being used to identify and map the data-collection and training needs. In South Africa, a justice component was incorporated into wider studies and modelling for evidence-generation, through the Diagnostic Review and the Study on the Structural Determinants of Violence against Children and Women, which is intended to guide more effective and informed government response to violence against children and women, including in the justice sector. A number of countries, such as India, also demonstrated action to improve data management systems in 2015 with progress accelerating in rolling out of a district-level tracking tool in eight states and 15 districts, as well as the development of an innovative dashboard to measure quarterly progress of local Juvenile Justice Boards.

Result highlights

In 2015, UNICEF worked with the national authorities in 32 countries to improve the data and statistical information capacities of Ministries of Justice, Prosecutorial divisions or National Statistical offices for reporting on justice for children-related indicators.

Evidence generation and evidence-based policy dialogue and advocacy

An initial scoping and planning exercise for the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty was taken forward in 2015, pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 69/157, and submitted to the Secretary-General. UNICEF contributed to a Global Study on Legal Aid, an initiative led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to ensure that children's access to legal aid built into the study's methodology and survey instruments. In the Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) region, findings of the regional multi-country evaluation of justice for children work,¹⁶ which demonstrated a significant increase in the use of diversion and alternatives in the region resulted in the development of a regional results framework to take forward a regional approach to improving children's equitable access to justice. Work also continued on a regional study of children's inheritance rights on sub-Saharan Africa, in partnership with the law firm DLA Piper, which will document valuable analysis of legislation and practice in 11 countries in a forthcoming report due

Strategic partnerships and alliances

UNICEF works to mainstream juvenile justice into wider Rule of Law and Security Sector reform initiatives, collaborating with United Nations-wide coordination mechanisms such as the Global Focal Point arrangement – an arrangement for Police, Justice and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict and other Crisis Situations. UNICEF, in collaboration with the training unit of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), helped design and participated in the pre-deployment training on children's rights and Justice for Children of DPKO Police officers. UNICEF partnered with UNODC on joint programmes in 14 countries in 2015, including in Thailand where 110 selected judges received training on the UN Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (the UN Model Strategies), and alongside 40 government and non-governmental agencies also agreed with the Central Juvenile and Family Court to strengthen and promote closer coordination in handling the cases of children.

Challenges and constraints

While continued investment in the development of legal and regulatory frameworks for justice for children is essential groundwork to introduce diversion and alternatives, it also means that the pace of change is constrained by bottlenecks impeding national criminal justice sector reform. Progress has been made in aligning and mainstreaming justice for children with wider reforms. However, greater effort is still needed to advocate with partners such as the EU, World Bank and other United Nations entities to include justice for children in their reform programmes. One notable observation that can be drawn from the Multiple-Country CEE/CIS evaluation of Justice for Children programmes (2015) that noted significant increases in the use of diversion and alternatives were recorded in countries that were undertaking large-scale reform of their criminal justice sectors as a whole. A significant challenge – but also an opportunity – for UNICEF is to advocate with actors in the area of law reform to mainstream children's rights into their programming in the same manner that gender considerations have been mainstreamed. Measuring improvements in justice for children that allows for more coherent regional and global analysis of trends is also a challenge necessitating increased investment in and support to improve administrative data.

PROGRAMME AREA 5: BIRTH REGISTRATION

Increasing the rate of birth registration is a strategic priority for UNICEF and one of three core child protection impact indicators of its 2014-2017 Strategic Plan. This commitment is aligned with the broader global commitment in the SDGs under target 16.9 to provide a legal identity for all, including birth registration by 2030. UNICEF is working towards not only universal coverage of birth registration of children, but also to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized children, as part of its equity agenda. Birth registration is the only form of legal identity that receives specific mention within the SDG target 16.9. UNICEF continues to work with the Inter-agency Expert Group on the SDGs developing the indicators to measure progress on this goal. However, it is encouraging to note that the momentum and commitment observed through strong regional initiatives and national strategies suggest many countries are aiming for universal registration as part of CRVS sooner than 2030.

Global birth registration levels rose from 58 per cent to 65 per cent between 2000–2010, with South Asia and Eastern and Southern Africa making significant gains in the percentage of children registered.¹⁷ The region with the highest absolute number of unregistered children under age five is still Asia, followed by sub-Saharan Africa. Even in countries where rates are improved and reaching high percentages of overall registration, there are pockets

of children such as Roma children in CEE/CIS, indigenous children in Latin America and the Caribbean, and stateless children in many regions such as Europe and Africa, not being registered. The challenges to registering these children need to be addressed as part of UNICEF's equity agenda to ensure no child is left behind. In 2015, total expenditure for birth registration was US\$23.8 million, excluding cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs.

Improving the enabling environment by ensuring legal frameworks are in place to make registration sustainable sets in motion a process of improved birth registration services. However, despite progress, many countries lack the infrastructure to reach every child, and compounded by the need to ensure that people move along the continuum of awareness of birth registration, in order to change their behaviour and use legal documents to access services. To increase both the supply and demand for birth registration, a combination of proven interventions are applied, including the interoperability with health systems to register newborns, and using technology and increasing the capacity of the civil registry system to extend service reach to the most vulnerable

Result highlights

Of the 155 country offices reporting in 2015, 81 programme countries reported on birth registration activities. Results include:

More than 9.6 million children were registered with the support of UNICEF programmes in 54 countries.

Registration rates still vary considerably, from highs of 100 per cent to as low as 5 per cent, but the average rate of registration has increased since 2014, and stands at 79 per cent.

During 2015, 52 per cent of UNICEF programme countries worked consistently on birth registration, focusing on overcoming key bottlenecks, such as the lack of public awareness about the importance of registration or the appropriate channels to do so, especially among socially excluded groups such as refugees, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples and disabled children; geographical inaccessibility and distance to the nearest registry office.

Thirty-two countries reported that data on registration rates and trends are incomplete or unavailable, highlighting the importance of sustained efforts to improve the data management capacity of civil registration systems.

and marginalized. Such actions are paying dividends, as more countries have the capacity to register their children. In 2015, UNICEF global expenditure for birth registration totalled US\$17.3 million, with the majority of expenditure linked to interventions focused on building national capacity, laws and developing service infrastructure. Given the inter-sectoral link, the interoperability with other sectors such as health in integrated service provision and programming, it is important to note that additional programming expenditure may also be subsumed within other UNICEF sector budgets.

Improving legal frameworks

New legislative acts passed in 2015 include those in Ethiopia, Malawi and Uganda. In Ethiopia, UNICEF contributed to the establishment of coordination mechanisms and a strategic framework for vital events registration at national level and in selected regions. UNICEF advocacy efforts yielded results with the enactment of vital events registration laws in five Ethiopian administrative regions. In Malawi, the National Registration Act, which came into effect in August 2015, marked birth registration compulsory. In Uganda, the Registration of Persons Act was passed, providing for integration of civil registration and national identification under one body. In Namibia, the National Strategic Plan for CRVS Systems was finalized, outlining strategies to address remaining bottlenecks, including the pending adoption of the National Population Registration Bill.

Scaling up infrastructure

Working collaboratively with ministries and other partners, UNICEF employs a variety of strategies to scale up infrastructure so services are more accessible, especially for newborn children. Actions include placing registration

services in health facilities, as in the case of Angola, with a 2015 agreement to open birth registration offices in 60 maternity wards in seven provinces. In Cambodia, local level action is demonstrating results through the piloting of a village record book to monthly births in 101 communes, which led to registration increasing to 94 per cent in 2015, compared with 88 per cent in 2014. In Uganda, the use of a mobile vital-records system was scaled up to 62 districts, alongside capacity-building actions in the Uganda Registration Services Bureau, in districts and in hospitals, resulting in 1,171,552 births (50 per cent girls) of children under 5 being registered in the 62 districts and 135 hospitals in 2015.

Interoperability and cross-sectoral linkages to improve results for children

UNICEF's theory of change is to harness capacity and resources in a multi-sectoral approach across services such as health, education and the civil registry in order to scale up birth registration. The increased interoperability to strengthen birth registration through Maternal and Newborn Child Health (MNCH) interventions is a key example as the health service in most countries can reach a majority of the population. UNICEF has been leading on a Canadian government-sponsored programme, BR4MNCH, in target areas in Ethiopia, Mali, Senegal and South Sudan that aims to improve health and civil registry collaboration so that from delivery, a baby's birth can be notified, registered and a legal certificate issued. The data generated through this process are then fed back to health systems to make adjustments and improvements. Outputs and knowledge from this project will in turn be used to replicate project successes in other countries. Similarly, the EU multi-action grant (2013–2014) aimed to increase birth registration by 20 per cent in Burkina Faso, Kiribati, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Solomon Islands, Uganda and Vanuatu over the two-year period, using service models that harnessed the interoperability across sectors. In the Solomon Islands, baseline indicators noted 0.01 per cent registration rates for children under 5. Despite implementation delays due to natural disaster, measles outbreak and a national election, 30 new registration points were established in health facilities, resulting in registration rates rising to 15 per cent by the end of the programme. It is planned to extend civil registration services to a further 68 clinics, health centres and hospitals.

Reaching marginalized communities

As part of UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2014–2017, the importance of equity is central to birth registration work, aiming to leave no child behind. UNICEF is working to improve service access to vulnerable and marginalized children, including those with a disability, suffering from discrimination by virtue of being an indigenous minority

Result highlights

In 2015, 123 countries (79 per cent) have improved birth registration within civil registration and vital statistics systems, which is free, continuous/permanent and accessible, universal in coverage, timely and accurate – an increase from 114 reporting in 2014.

UNICEF programming contributed to the registration of more than 9.6 million children in 54 countries – a marked reduction from the 14.6 million children registered in 2014, and an encouraging signal that more countries now have the capacity to register children via their own improved infrastructure.

Working cross-sector to strengthen birth registration in Mozambique

An estimated 48 per cent of births are currently registered in Mozambique, though accurate data is hampered by the lack of a functioning civil registration and vital statistics system, and difficulties for many rural communities to access civil registration services located in district capitals.

Each year Mozambique conducts two National Health Weeks (NHWs), an integrated campaign providing preventative health and nutrition services, including immunization, vitamin A distribution and deworming to every community in the country. The take-up of these services, commencing in 2013, is high, especially in terms of vaccinating children under 5. To capitalize on this success, the NHWs were seen as a useful entry point to expand access to birth registration services for hard to reach communities.

Coordinating civil registration and health services has proved both effective and cost efficient through, for example, the sharing of transport and other logistical aspects. In 2015, both services worked hand-in-hand to conduct mobilization activities. Communication campaigns were carried out to mobilize people to participate in the NHWs, through TV, radio announcements, and door-to-door mobilization through megaphones. To enable registration services, at least 1,200 volunteers are hired to carry out birth registration activities nationally during the two weeks.

During 2015, more than 4 million children under 5 were reached through the two rounds of NHWs cumulatively, including 300,000 children who had their births registered.

Moving forward, integrating birth registration with health services will continue, but to meet the demand of parents unable to register their children during the two week events due to its popularity, plans are under way to extend the timeframe of the NHW. Consideration is also being given to improve the accessibility of services through the use of mobile registration, as well as extend the partnership to the education sector to ensure all children are registered by the time they start first grade: a prerequisite to school enrolment.

or being displaced, stateless or having refugee status. In Botswana, national efforts continue to focus on reaching remote areas where communities are often nomadic, including in 2015, a mobile birth registration campaign in the Okavango region, which resulted in just over 2,300 births registered and around 1,000 birth certificates issued. In Uganda, efforts to extend coverage to vulnerable children led to the registration of almost 1,500 South Sudanese refugee children born in Uganda. To stimulate demand for services in Yemen, civil registration authorities in Taiz issued and waived off cost of national ID cards for parents and child birth registration certificates for Muhamasheen communities. In Ethiopia, where only 3 per cent of the Somali region (compared to the national coverage of 80 per cent) is covered by the community health information system (CHIS), 23 master trainers were trained for the region.

Improving services through innovation and use of ICT

UNICEF is increasingly harnessing the use of ICT information and communications technology to improve access to birth registration services. Twenty-eight out of a total of 34 provinces in Afghanistan are now connected to the main server in Kabul through the Internet, and

have started real time data entry using the database, leading to 326,706 newborn children (53.76 per cent boys and 46.34 per cent girls) registered through the system between January and October 2015: a 3 per cent increase in the registration of newborn children compared with 2014. As part of India's aim to achieve 100 per cent birth registration by 2020, UNICEF supported the Government in developing comprehensive software for digitizing birth and death registration and a database of medical institutions for improving the reporting of vital events. Mozambique served as a model for the CRVS Digitization Handbook, highlighted at the Third Conference of African Ministers on CRVS in Côte d'Ivoire (February 2015), and at the African Conference on a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics in Gabon (November 2015). The development of a full information management system for civil registration has been developed, with the system primarily designed to focus on the registration of births and deaths. In Thailand, UNICEF continues to monitor the developments in online birth registration following the completion of the two-year project by the National Health Security Office to implement the hospital-based online birth registration system nationally. By the end of 2015, a total of 681 hospitals (representing 76 per cent of all hospitals) used online birth registration, a slight increase from 650 (73 per cent) in 2014.

Strategic partnerships and inter-agency collaboration

UNICEF contributed to the global architecture to achieve universal civil registration as part of the GFF that aims to accelerate progress in maternal and child health (including civil registration), through inter-sectoral (notably health sector), as well as its engagement in regional initiatives such as the Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics programme in Africa and the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The GFF has set in motion an unprecedented movement among countries, United Nations agencies and multilateral agencies, public and private sector partners and civil society organizations, to increase and align funding in support of countries' health priorities and plans, and drive transformative improvements in the health of women, children and adolescents. The GFF recognizes that weaknesses in CRVS have direct effects on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, and presents an opportunity for all partners, including national entities responsible for registration to work in partnership on CRVS and health interoperability. Action in 2015 includes in Senegal, where a child protection focus was built into the GFF work through the training of a wide range of national actors involved in the registration of births, including government officers, mayors, and secretaries of the civil state to health workers, delegates from districts, village heads and their assistants.

By 2015, as part of the AI-CRVS, 25 countries had completed their comprehensive assessment of CRVS systems and a further 10 (Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda, Senegal and Zimbabwe) were in progress. Following completion of the assessments, a detailed action plan for investment and capacity building in CRVS is being developed, with UNICEF in many countries providing direct technical assistance for the implementation and monitoring of these plans, as was the case, for example in Burundi in 2015.

Using knowledge and evidence to inform policy and practice

A joint UNICEF-Inter-American Development Bank report was published, 'Toward Universal Birth Registration: A systemic approach to the application of ICT', in 2015, providing a critical set of guidelines and recommendations for civil registry agencies in those countries that are considering the introduction of ICT, as well as those that already have the system in place, laying out the legal, administrative, and technological requirements for the use of ICT for birth registration.

At country level, UNICEF's birth registration work is critically informed by a combination of surveys,

bottleneck analyses and analyses of DHS and MICS data as they become available, to generate the evidence necessary to inform governments to strategically improve CRVS programmes and practice. For example, a key achievement this year in Lao People's Democratic Republic was the completion of an ICT Landscape Survey for Digital Birth Registration to inform a future implementation plan. A birth registration bottleneck analysis for the Eastern Caribbean region is generating important evidence for advocacy on universal registration of births with a focus on the most vulnerable groups.

Challenges and constraints

Many countries, particularly fragile states face massive operational challenges, from instability of government, to natural disasters such as cyclones or outbreaks of disease: all of which lead to the destruction of systems and infrastructures. UNICEF has a critical role to play in supporting the stability of service strengthening, particularly in these contexts. For example, the humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic was accompanied by destruction of civil registration offices throughout the country, resulting in no registration of new births occurring since December 2013, with the exception of five districts which received office supplies, equipment and 117 registries from UNICEF. In Vanuatu, action to ensure continued access to services after Tropical Cyclone Pam (2015) led to the training of more than 650 registration officers in four provinces. Overall, such action enabled almost 70,000 people (approximately 22,000 children) to benefit from a mobile registration campaign, exceeding the target of 6,400 children. Over a six-month period, the campaign was successful in registering approximately one quarter of the country's population. Even without disasters, challenges remain; weak systems and infrastructure to reach people with registration services; poor supply of physical necessities such as birth certificates, civil register stationery; and lack of trained civil servants: all of which need to be addressed.

PROGRAMME AREA 6: CHILD PROTECTION AND EMERGENCIES

The mainstreaming of emergency response in UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2014–2017 was further reinforced in 2015 through the development of guidance for risk-informed programming which includes a module on child protection. The guidance, which will be issued in 2016, is essential in linking humanitarian response with development programming, for more sustainable results. Identifying potential hazards and risks – on the basis of evidence - and supporting government and partners, including communities, to prepare for these risks saves valuable time for emergency response and strengthens the link between emergency and development

Data snapshot: Child protection and emergencies

Nearly 246 million children – 1 in 10 – live in countries and areas affected by conflicts.

As many as 15 million children were caught up in violent conflicts in the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine.

Children make up more than 30 million (over 50 per cent) of the nearly 60 million people displaced by war today.

Almost 1 million refugees and migrants primarily from the Syrian Arab Republic and conflict zones in the Middle East entered Europe by the sea. It is estimated that a quarter of these refugees were children in 2015.

Source: See various – <www.unicef.org/media> and UNICEF Humanitarian in Action Report 2016.

programming, while also building the resilience of affected populations to withstand future risks.

The 2013 *Global Evaluation of UNICEF Programmes to Protect Children in Emergencies* found that investment in systems strengthening and preparedness measures can reduce risks and provide a foundation for successful scale-up of child protection interventions in emergencies, and lead to early recovery. As seen in Nepal in the aftermath of the earthquake, existing structures were used as a platform for emergency response, with airport and border staff trained in early detection to help prevent child trafficking through the airports and across borders. Increasingly, the sector of protection and child protection is at the core of humanitarian action, as set out in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) 'Statement on the Centrality of Protection' (December 2014). This means that the protection of all persons affected and at risk – in particular, children – must inform humanitarian decision-making and response, and is central to preparedness efforts, as part of immediate and life-saving activities, and throughout the duration of humanitarian response. The 2015 IASC 'Whole of System Review of Protection in Humanitarian Action' spells out the challenges and also recommends concrete actions to strengthen the protection of affected populations, complementing the United Nations 2013 Human Rights Up Front Action Plan, which promotes early and effective action to prevent or respond to large-scale violations of human rights or international humanitarian law.

In 2015, global expenditure for child protection interventions in emergencies amounted to US\$189.1 million, excluding cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs (see Figure 5). Expenditure increased by more than 42 per cent from 2014 levels (US\$132.6 million) as a result of the increased number of Level 3 and Level 2 emergencies, including subregional emergencies, which affected an unprecedented number of children and families during 2015. Overall, more than 30 million children were displaced due to conflict and other emergencies. In the Syrian Arab Republic, alone, the number of refugees is estimated at almost 5 million, more than half of whom are children. The Ebola Virus Disease response and recovery has also significantly contributed to the increased expenditure costs in 2015 (see Figure 5).

Forty-four per cent of Programme Area 6 expenditure is targeted to psychosocial support services, accessed through child-friendly spaces and community-based interventions – such services reached more than 3 million children in fragile and conflict-affected settings in 2015. UNICEF has a comparative advantage in extending outreach, including through mobile teams, to hard-to-reach groups, in particular isolated and displaced populations, ethnic and religious minorities, and children with disabilities. The cost per capita of such services is relatively low, amounting to \$10 to \$45 per person over a period of several months. However, the cumulative costs to field operations, at scale across multiple humanitarian situations, leads to high total expenditure. Twenty per cent of programme area expenditure was focused on interventions to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse, with targeted interventions reaching more than 2 million women, girls, men and boys in 2015. Strengthening global coordination through the child protection sub-cluster coordination accounted

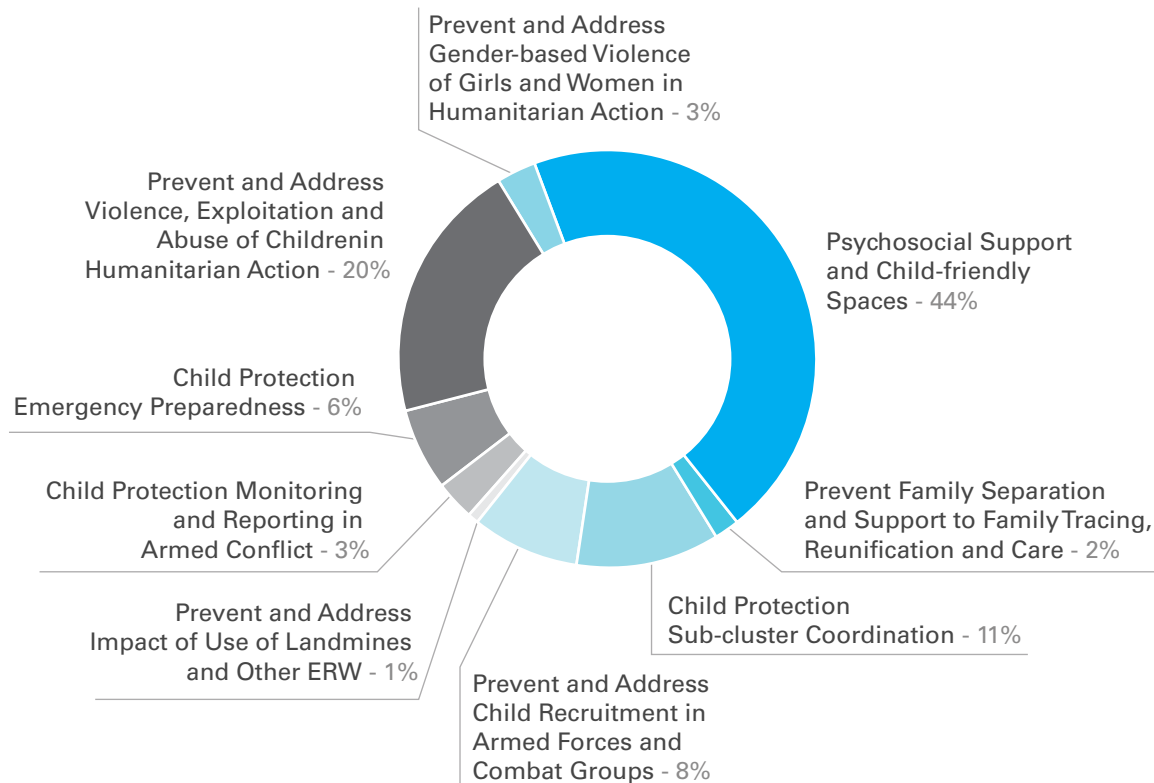
Results highlights

In 2015, UNICEF responded to the protection needs of children in 82 countries affected by armed conflict and natural disasters (73 in 2014), including,

- Six large-scale Level 3 emergencies (the Central African Republic, Ebola-affected countries [Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone], Iraq, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic+ (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey) and Yemen (which moved from a Level 2 to Level 3 in 2015), and
- Four Level 2 emergencies (the Central African Republic [from Level 3 to Level 2 in 2015], Nepal, Nigeria+ [Cameroon, Chad and the Niger] and Yemen).

FIGURE 5

Global expenditure for child protection and emergencies, 2015: US\$189.1 million



Note: Global expenditure data in this graph exclude cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs. Total 2015 programme area expenditure data inclusive of these additional costs can be found in the Financial Analysis section.

for 11 per cent of the total expenditure, which included dedicated support to field-based coordination in 31 countries and 11 Task Forces, including, for example, the Task Forces on Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Capacity Building and Assessment & Measurement. Work around preparedness and early recovery accounts for 6 per cent of total expenditure.

psychosocial support during emergencies, concerted efforts to shift to a more community-based approach are emerging, which seeks to build on existing resources and capacities and reinforces the resilience of families and communities, particularly in the longer term. This shift in approach is reinforced by findings of a number of recent studies: a 2015 collaborative study by UNICEF, World Vision, Columbia University and Save the Children found

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

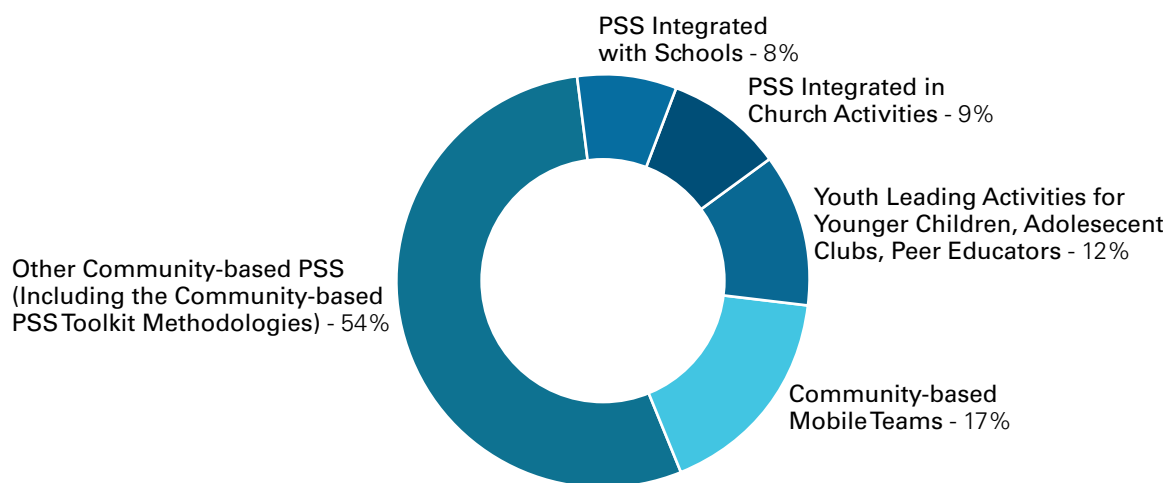
Countries with a specific focus on MHPSS in 2015 included, amongst others, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Yemen. UNICEF and partners also set up child-friendly spaces (CFS) at different hubs in response to the Europe refugee crisis. Though CFS (or Safe Spaces) continue to be an important vehicle to address issues of child protection, gender-based violence and

Results highlights

Overall, approximately 3.1 million boys and girls in 68 countries received mental health and psychosocial support, including community and school-based interventions. Among these countries, four Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies reported a proportionate increase in numbers of children receiving psychosocial support since 2014, whereas numbers from other countries dropped.

FIGURE 6

Community-based psychosocial support disaggregated by type of activity (November 2015)



Source: South Sudan Information Sheet, November 2015.

that while CFS are instrumental in promoting children's well-being, they are weaker in engaging communities, limiting community ownership and resilience, alongside sustainable longer term impacts of psychosocial interventions.¹⁸ A 2015 evaluation of UNICEF's psychosocial support for Syrian children noted that to capitalize on the immediate gains for children's well-being in the first phases of the emergency, it is necessary to translate this into longer term benefits by transforming CFS into community centres, which can better address the evolving needs of children and the larger community and provide a wider range of services.¹⁹

Scaling up community-based psychosocial support action

Countries like Jordan, Lebanon, Nepal, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic, among others, have put in place stronger community-based programmes. Lebanon, in particular, was able to demonstrate substantial increase in their coverage by changes in strategy, with coverage increasing from 8,000 children in 2012 to 354,000 children in 2015. In Lebanon, UNICEF and partners have gone beyond the traditional CFS approach to strengthen resilience of boys, girls, women, families and communities through strengthening institutions and communities. A multi-layered programme is available through the social development centres, public health centres, and other gateways, resulting in improved access to services in the midst of the protracted crisis, and with the flexibility to scale up in the event of a new emergency.

In South Sudan, the number of interventions based on CFS programming dropped from 95 per cent in 2014 to 35 per cent in 2015, as interventions shifted to a more community-based approach. With UNICEF and partner support, interventions focus on community-based alternatives, such as integrating support through schools, community and youth clubs/groups and in church activities, which have expanded outreach and resulted in higher impact of affected children and communities.²⁰ This shift expanded overall psychosocial support coverage to 189,010 children and 91,544 caregivers, exceeding the established target by 116 per cent.

Advocacy and global partnerships for MHPSS

The global symposium, Growing up in Conflict: The impact on children's mental health and psychosocial well-being²¹ (May 2015, The Hague) was convened by UNICEF, the Government of the Netherlands, the United States Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and other stakeholders and attended by more than 140 researchers, MHPSS practitioners, child protection specialists, governments, United Nations agencies and civil society actors. The symposium was a milestone event, providing new impetus to ongoing MHPSS efforts, including the development of the global monitoring and evaluation framework, Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies-level work on guidance on MHPSS for the Education system, WHO-led work on low-intensity psychological interventions for children and efforts at generating stronger evidence and guidance on community-based MHPSS, including UNICEF-specific operational guidance. The symposium

Moving towards recovery in Ebola-affected countries

In 2015, the response to the Ebola crisis shifted to the recovery phase and resulted in significant gains, though the effects of the crisis have amplified existing vulnerabilities. UNICEF worked closely with the Governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone – at the central and district levels as well as directly with local communities and community-based organizations – to address child protection concerns.

In **Guinea**, 6,220 children orphaned by Ebola received services, including reunification with families, extended families or foster carers. Nearly 132,600 children affected by the disease were provided with community-based psychosocial support and more than 154,400 received material assistance. Nearly 6,600 social workers, health workers and community leaders were trained in psychosocial support and case management; 18,000 girls and boys were sensitized on ways to prevent Ebola and fight stigma and discrimination.

In **Liberia**, more than 8,500 children orphaned or survivors of Ebola received services through a case management system. 220 social workers and health workers have been recruited and trained, and 1,240 Ebola survivors were trained to become child advocates or to work as caregivers for children in contact with the disease. Care and support was provided to almost 500 child survivors of sexual violence and other forms of GBV.

In **Sierra Leone**, more than 260 supervisors and 780 outreach workers were trained to provide psychosocial support, to prevent stigma and to promote social reintegration – reaching nearly 58,600 children. Of the 3,684 children registered as separated or unaccompanied, nearly 2,500 were reunited with their parents or extended families; nearly 1,090 children who lost parents or caregivers were placed with foster families and received livelihood support. A national case management system was established and a Child Protection Information Management System was rolled out in all 14 districts, with more than 600 case workers trained to use the new system. Around 1,400 girls and women received services to address sexual violence and around 988 girls were reached with life-skills training.

resulted in six key messages to strengthen research, programmes and evaluation to contribute to advocacy for the World Humanitarian Summit (2016). UNICEF continues to co-chair the IASC Reference Group on MHPSS, who provided immediate support for key emergency responses during the year, including technical guidance for the Ebola response and coordination during the response to the Nepal earthquake that led to timely coverage of the areas most affected. The IASC MHPSS Guidelines implementation review was also disseminated to partners, resource partners and academic institutions in 2015.

the Congo, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the European and Balkan countries impacted by the mass population movements to Europe.

In the the Central African Republic, collaboration between child protection and WASH colleagues helped ensure that 71,936 women and 35,968 girls had access to safe sanitation facilities. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 18,047 adolescent girls and 13,611 adolescent boys (including 4,021 girls and 2,506 boys

Gender-based violence in emergencies

GBV is a pervasive and life-threatening health, human rights and protection issue exacerbated in emergency contexts. UNICEF's efforts to respond to gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE) lie at the heart of the agency's mission to protect the health and well-being of children and women, and is one of four corporate targeted priorities set out in the Gender Action Plan (*see also cross-cutting interventions: gender equality for additional results*). Significant response efforts were required to address GBV in an unprecedented number of humanitarian contexts in 2015, including among others, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of

Results highlights

In 2015, almost 2 million girls, women and boys across 39 countries received elements of an expanded package to reduce risk, promote resilience and response interventions, including safe spaces with a range of asset-building supports, dignity kits and other multi-sectoral services (health, psychosocial, livelihood support, justice) to address different forms of gender-based violence in emergencies.

that were formerly recruited and used by armed forces/ groups) were reached in youth clubs to promote gender equity and prevention of GBV, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and advice on how to access services on GBV prevention and response. In the wake of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, UNICEF supported the mobilization of more than 20,670 women by establishing 3,445 Women's Groups in 14 earthquake-affected districts, plus strengthened 86 police checkpoints where 1,472 women and children were intercepted from traffickers. An additional 325,874 girls, boys, women and men were reached with information about prevention and how and where to address services for GBV. In Gaza, State of Palestine, 28 family centres providing integrated child protection services reached 27,262 children (13,710 girls and 13,552 boys) and 44,228 caregivers (32,464 females and 11,764 males).

More than 2,000 women and girls who sought refuge in a stadium in Freetown, Sierra Leone during the 2015 floods had access to separate water and sanitation facilities. In South Sudan, UNICEF GBV programming doubled its presence to 20 counties across 8 of 10 states, reaching 85,257 children and women with services related to sexual violence in humanitarian contexts, and more than 8,850 women and girls through safe spaces. Further, 580 service providers were trained on survivor-centred GBV response and a mobile training team for the clinical management of rape was set up, reaching 117 participants from more than 50 health facilities in the last quarter of 2015.

In 2015, the Central African Republic saw an increase in the number of reported cases of sexual exploitation and abuse involving children by United Nations personnel or

Communities care: Transforming lives and preventing violence programme (CC Programme)

UNICEF initiated the CC Programme in two districts in Mogadishu, Somalia and in two counties in South Sudan to test effective strategies to prevent sexual violence against women and girls in conflict-affected communities and promote healthier, safer and more peaceful communities for women and girls by transforming harmful social norms that promote sexual violence into actions that promote dignity, equality and non-violence.

While programme implementation and data collection are ongoing, the 2015 results of the randomized control trials demonstrate positive change. For example, in the Somalia pilot sites, there are promising trends, compared to control communities on personal beliefs, community behaviour and some of the dimensions of social norms measured (in particular, beliefs and norms around protecting family honor in cases of sexual violence and in a husband's right to use violence). People in the intervention communities see fewer husbands using violence against their wives; more people in the intervention communities think it is wrong for a husband to use violence against their wives; and fewer men in the intervention communities think people in their community expect them to use violence against their wives. Emerging evidence is also showing that 'community discussion dialogues' are promoting community action and trainers are demonstrating increased awareness and understanding of the negative impact GBV can have on community cohesion. Service providers are also demonstrating improved awareness and understanding of the specific needs of survivors, as well as the positive impact they can make as service providers and role models in their communities.

To date, the programme has trained a total of 211 community responders (including police/law enforcement, education actors, community health workers, health care providers, and psychosocial providers) in Somalia (96 female and 115 male) and 388 in South Sudan (205 female and 183 male), as part of efforts to improve community-based care. Efforts to increase community engagement and action resulted in the training of 36 community discussion leaders [trainers] (12 in Somalia and 24 in South Sudan) and the formation of 51 community discussion groups (26 in Somalia and 25 in South Sudan), reaching a total of 945 people (325 in Somalia and 620 in South Sudan). Further, the programme has also reached 17,000 people through radio awareness in the target communities and engaged 42,918 people in community action and engagement events including large public dialogues on gender equality and human rights; consultative workshops with religious leaders on promoting the respect and dignity of women and girls, house to house sensitization and street theatre for sensitizations and awareness raising about the benefits of nonviolent relationships and the importance of promoting the safety and dignity of women and girls.

Though final end line data analysis is still underway, results are promising. UNICEF is currently undertaking a review of the Communities Care Programme toolkit to assess its broader adaptation for wider applicability beyond the target communities.

by foreign military personnel associated with a United Nations mandate, rising to 28 cases from 9 reported cases in 2014. In response, UNICEF implemented a Notification Alert to senior management to strengthen the reporting of those allegations and incidents. The alert has not only contributed to improving timely reporting, but also management and monitoring of cases. UNICEF has taken steps to increase and scale up assistance and support to victims, which includes medical care, psychosocial support, and legal assistance as needed to address the needs of the victims. To avoid overexposure to the media, stigmatization within communities, and also to promote safety, UNICEF has made extensive efforts, through partnership with NGOs, to relocate the victims to different neighbourhoods when needed and deemed in the best interest of the child. This is complemented with provision of food, clothing and hygiene kits to victims. UNICEF has also provided training to partners from the Ministry of Social Affairs and the NGOs providing care to victims, which is an important step in expanding response capacity within the country. This work has been critical not only for providing support to child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, but also as an entry point for strengthening a broader programmatic approach to prevention and response to gender-based violence in emergencies.

Call to Action Road Map on Protection from GBViE

2015 was also significant in the advancements in driving forward the global agenda through coordinated action and the release of the Call to Action Road Map on Protection from GBViE, which lays out strategies to meet the commitments made by humanitarian actors as part of the global Call to Action, initially launched by the United Kingdom Government in 2013. The Call to Action commits to drive change and foster accountability within the humanitarian system, ensuring coordinated approaches are implemented so that each response includes the measures necessary to mitigate risks to women and girls from the earliest phases of a crisis and provide safe and comprehensive services for survivors. Core partners attending the launch included representatives for 15 governments, ten international organizations, including United Nations agencies, and 25 civil society organizations. UNICEF made ten commitments under the initial Call to Action, addressing all aspects of GBViE programming, including programme and strategy development, tools, supplies, data management and human resources, which are in line with the objectives of the new Call to Action Road Map.

Revision and launch of the GBV Guidelines and Implementation and Accountability Strategy

In 2015, UNICEF and UNFPA completed a two-year revision of the Inter-agency Standing Committee's Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action ('GBV Guidelines'). Widely disseminated, along with 13 Thematic Area Guides and a detailed Implementation and Accountability Strategy, the GBV Guidelines are a practical, easy-to-use tool to assist humanitarian actors and affected communities to coordinate, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate essential actions for the prevention of and response to GBV across all sectors of humanitarian response. The GBV Guidelines are one of UNICEF's key commitments under the Call the Action,²² and one of the main tools to be operationalized to achieve the Call of Action's targets. The GBV Guidelines are being used to define emergency preparedness actions and being utilized by major multilateral and bilateral donors such as the World Bank to influence their policy frameworks in contexts of fragility.

Children associated with armed forces and armed groups

Globally, it is estimated that more than 15 million children are growing up in the midst of violent and protracted conflicts and tens of thousands are associated with armed forces and armed groups in 22 countries. Children associated with non-State armed groups are at additional risk when they are apprehended or released to national authorities, because they can be detained under national security and counter-terrorism laws. These children can be deprived of their liberty and have been treated as a security threat in several countries without respecting the international standards of juvenile justice. In the Secretary-General's Report on Children and Armed Conflict of 2015, 49 of the 57 parties to armed conflict that are listed as perpetrators of grave violations against

Results highlights

In 2015, 9,955 children were released from armed forces or armed groups (10,204 in 2014), and 6,896 children (8,390 in 2014), and reintegrated into their communities through proven strategic interventions, including medical screening, psychosocial support and counselling, upon release, together with family tracing and reunification, and longer-term education and vocational training, and livelihoods support.

children are non-State armed groups, some of which may be difficult to approach, due to political or security reasons. The diversity in groups and structures means that specific incentives or sanctions are not universally applicable, therefore UNICEF is taking contextually specific actions to prevent and end violations based on the particular group and/or structure.

UNICEF also actively engages with governments and other parties to promote: national legislation that criminalizes the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups; the effective monitoring and reporting of child recruitment and their use, the endorsement and implementation of age assessment protocols to effectively screen during recruitment processes in order to prevent children from being recruited; and the strengthening of national birth registration so that children's age is established. Country examples of action in 2015 include the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, the Philippines, Somalia and South Sudan. Just over 2,500 children from anti-Balaka and ex-Seleka armed groups in the Central African Republic were released. About 1,755 children associated with the South Sudan Defense Army (SSDA) Cobra Faction armed group released and reintegrated with their families and communities. More than 60 children alleged to have been associated with the non-State armed group Al-Shabaab in Somalia who were detained with adult detainees were released as a result of multilateral negotiations in 2015 and reunited with their families or provided with interim care, and received reintegration services.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG CAAC), supported governments in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen to review and assess the implementation status of Action Plans, using standardized benchmarks to promote consistency in tracking results. Chad has been delisted from the annexes of the Secretary-General's Annual Report on CAAC. Progress has been made in securing commitment for age assessment in the recruitment processes in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar and South Sudan (*see also MRM CAAC below*). UNICEF also engaged non-State actors in those countries and other conflict-affected countries such as the Central African Republic, Colombia, Iraq, the Philippines and Syrian Arab Republic.

UNICEF continues to partner with the OSRSG CAAC, the Department of Peace and Security of the African Union Commission (AUC) to mainstream child protection in the AUC's peace and security agenda. In 2015, an agreement between UNICEF and the Child Soldiers Initiative was reached to second a child protection adviser to the African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom). The success of the Somalia deployment will serve as a basis to expand to

other country situations where AU troops are deployed. Further, as part of a new cooperation arrangement forged with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), UNICEF participated in the training in Zaragoza, Spain (October 2015), which resulted in a pre-deployment training of 32,000 NATO troops and civilians on practical field-oriented measures in preventing, monitoring and responding to violations against children. The training also included the integration of child protection in NATO-led operations, and establishing a violations alert mechanism when deployed in peace-keeping operations. UNICEF also convened a three-day technical validation workshop, in collaboration with the Paris Principles Steering Group (PPSG) in New York (July 2015), to validate the draft Inter-agency Operational Field Handbook on Child Recruitment, Release and Reintegration.

The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Children and Armed Conflict

This past year marked the 10th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) that established the MRM. This year also witnessed the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2225 (2015) requesting the Secretary-General to additionally list in the annexes of his Report on Children and Armed Conflict those parties to armed conflict that engage in patterns of abduction of children.

Critically, this resolution recognizes that abduction often precedes or follows other abuses and violations of applicable international law against children, including recruitment and use, killing and maiming, as well as rape and other forms of sexual violence. The resolution calls on Member States to hold perpetrators of abductions accountable and for the concerned parties to conflict to develop action plans in collaboration with the United Nations to end and prevent the violation.

During 2015, UNICEF supported the documentation of grave violations committed against children in fourteen countries (Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen). UNICEF supported the review of 64 MRM CAAC Global Horizontal Notes from 16 countries for the attention of the Security Council Working Group on CAAC, and supported the drafting of five Secretary-General country-specific reports on children and armed conflict. Specifically, in the Central African Republic UNICEF supported the expansion of partnerships to increase the MRM monitoring networks, and expand the geographic MRM coverage. In Nigeria, the MRM was strengthened through expanded networks of civil society organizations and child rights monitors, with Working Groups on Children and Armed Conflict set up in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe

states. A total of 132 country and state-level members were trained to monitor, verify and report grave violations committed against children by all parties to conflict.

As noted, UNICEF supported the ongoing implementation of action plans to prevent and end grave violations in seven countries (Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, the Philippines and Yemen). Of significance is the firm political will expressed by all of the governments included within the Children, Not Soldiers campaign, and the concrete action taken by six of them to implement action plans to end and prevent the recruitment and use of under-18s within their state forces. In Myanmar, UNICEF facilitated the visit of the SRSG CAAC (July 2015) to build momentum for engagement to end and prevent grave violations of child rights with the Government and non-State armed groups. In September 2015, the Government of Myanmar signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. In Yemen, evidence and analysis generated by the MRM was used to inform the development of an advocacy strategy targeting all parties to conflict for the immediate cessation and prevention of grave violations.

Progress as a result of the MRM was also seen in relation to non-State armed groups. In Myanmar, one of the seven armed groups listed by the Secretary-General's Report on CAAC for recruitment and use of children took concrete steps towards preparing an Action Plan. In the Central African Republic, while a joint UNICEF-OSRSG CAAC mission (Bangui, August 2015) supported the drafting of the SRSG CAAC report on the country (for the period 2011–2015), three technical missions also supported prevention and response interventions for child recruitment and use. Additionally, UNICEF met and advocated with leading members of ten armed groups to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children and the signing of action plans with the United Nations. All of these armed groups committed to the elimination of child recruitment and use and signed the Bangui Forum Declaration in May 2015.

In the Philippines, a joint UNICEF-OSRSG CAAC technical field mission (November 2015) supported the strengthening of MRM CAAC procedures, and provided guidance towards full implementation of the United Nations-Moro Islamic Liberation Front Action Plan to prevent and end the recruitment and/or use of children, including articulation of concrete time-bound actions needed to reach compliance. In the Philippines, missions were conducted to monitor incidents of killing, abduction, rape and attacks on schools in indigenous communities. Reports from these missions prompted response by the Government-led Monitoring, Reporting and Response System, including action to enhance the prevention of further violations. This work also provided a foundation to establish a strategic partnership with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

In addition, UNICEF supported the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack in its advocacy towards ending and preventing attacks against schools, and the military use of schools.

Unaccompanied and separated children

UNICEF worked to protect unaccompanied or separated children and provide family tracing and reunification services in six Level 3 emergencies, including the Central African Republic, Ebola-affected countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), Iraq, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, alongside in new and ongoing situations of unaccompanied and separated children on the move in the Mediterranean (*see Programme Area 7: Strengthening families and communities for further details*), in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, in Central America and in the Nigeria and Burundi crisis. It is important to note that while the numbers of cases of family separation and number of countries were high in 2015 compared to the previous year, the humanitarian response rate was low and attributed largely to restricted humanitarian access and high security risk in a number of countries due to conflict, alongside the high cost of case management systems, particularly in Nigeria+, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In response to the serious impact on children, UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and partners revised the Regional Framework for the Protection of South Sudanese and Sudanese Refugee Children, setting out a common vision and coordinated response for the protection of South Sudanese and Sudanese refugee children in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. In 2015, 2,700 South Sudanese children out of a total 9,300 children were reunified with families and/or caregivers. This is a caseload increase of about 34 per cent from 2014, and due, in part, to strengthened family tracing and reunification systems. In Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda, more than 34,000 children displaced by the South Sudan crisis were registered as unaccompanied or separated children.

Building and strengthening national child protection systems that address the vulnerabilities of children

Results highlights

In 2015, about 32,000 unaccompanied or separated children received appropriate alternative care services (33,000 in 2014), and just over 24,000 children in 30 crisis-affected countries were reunified with families and caregivers (12,000 children in 27 crisis-affected countries in 2014).

separated from their parents/caregivers and build (or strengthen) national systems for referral and case management is of critical importance, helping to build resilience with communities. Action in 2015 includes work undertaken, for example in Burundi, Lebanon, Myanmar, Rwanda, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Ebola Virus Disease-affected countries. Standard operating procedures for child protection case management are being piloted in 13 locations in Lebanon, enabling the relevant ministries to strengthen their response and their oversight of services delivered by local partner organizations and the engagement with national and local partners has strengthened the resilience of host communities which has been critical in responding to the influx of refugees due to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Preventing the impact of use of landmines and other explosive remnants of war

Globally children account for more than one third (39 per cent) of all civilian casualties from ERW and landmines.²³ UNICEF prioritizes programmes in 18 countries through three core mine action strategies – mine risk education (MRE), victim assistance, and advocacy for ratification and compliance with International Humanitarian Law, including through support for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Arms Trade Treaty and in efforts to reduce the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.²⁴ In several countries this links to UNICEF's work on the MRM in monitoring and responding to patterns of killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals and, often, denial of humanitarian access. This past year, 2015, saw a clear shift of focus, moving from MRE programming in countries moderately affected (Mauritania, Nepal, Senegal) or with a strong capacity (Bosnia and Herzegovina) to larger emergency MRE campaigns targeting children directly affected by ongoing and persistent conflicts (Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Libya, South Sudan, Lake Chad Basin Region).

In Eritrea, UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare and the Ministry of Education, supported 186 children with disabilities (47 per cent female), including landmines and ERW survivors, to facilitate their access to education through the 'donkey for school' initiative with special emphasis on hard-to-reach communities. UNICEF formally led (or played a prominent role in) the support to national MRE coordination activities in ten countries. For example, in Myanmar, three Mine Risk Working Groups at National and State Levels are now operational and co-chaired by

UNICEF and the Government. In 2015, these working groups coordinated the field testing of MRE material in five States and Regions and finalized a common toolkit (roll-out due 2016).

In 2015, ten countries acceded to, or ratified, the Convention on Cluster Munition and 18 countries ratified the Arms Trade Treaty in 2015. As part of advocacy actions to encourage governments to join the conventions or to comply with their provisions, UNICEF Nepal organized an event inviting key government officials, including the Minister of Peace and Reconstruction, and journalists to speak to 15 survivors of landmines and explosive remnants of war who are advocating for Nepal to sign and ratify the relevant conventions and to support efforts to prevent further casualties.

More countries than before are applying more robust research and monitoring and evaluation tools, including in 2015 field testing of MRE material and rapid assessments (Lebanon, Myanmar, Ukraine), injury surveillance (Cambodia, Mali and Sri Lanka) and new monitoring and evaluation mechanisms such as the nine UNICEF country offices participating in a global monitoring mechanism for mine action that twice a year takes stock of mine action progress against strategic objectives reflected in the global United Nations Strategy on Mine Action.²⁵ Action in northeast Nigeria was geared towards integrating landmines and ERW in the assessment conducted by the Government and the Humanitarian Country Team in the context of returning internally displaced people, alongside a more in-depth assessment by UNICEF and partners on the impact of indiscriminate weapons on children and communities, including an MRE assessment in the northeast.

Results highlights

More than 2.8 million girls and boys in 15 countries were reached in 2015 with MRE (2.2 million in 2014), including focus on Libya (550,000 children), the Syrian Arab Republic (850,000), Yemen (442,835), Ukraine (273,900), Mali (125,000), while the Lake Chad Basin Region (Nigeria, Chad, the Niger, Cameroon) affected by Boko Haram emerged as a new region requiring support.

Additionally, UNICEF supported child survivors of landmine and ERW incidents in at least 11 countries.

Innovative approaches to information management to protect children

The Primero project was conceived to bring coherence to information management in emergencies, and to provide a centrally supported software for managing data related to gender-based violence (the GBV Information Management System (IMS)+ module), the monitoring and reporting of grave child rights violations (the MRMIMS+ module), and case management and referral to needed services (the Child Protection IMS (CPIMS)+ module).

Since its inception, Primero has been rolled out in two countries, covering more than 8,000 beneficiaries. In 2015, results are focused on action in Sierra Leone, and Lebanon, with additional implementation planning taking place in Jordan, Kenya, Nepal and the Philippines.

Developed in collaboration with a diverse group of implementing partners, Primero is the globally endorsed inter-agency platform for protection-related information management. Feedback and testing by 30 organizations in 2015 identified Primero as meeting the needs of protection practitioners and the social welfare workforce, and it is now in a position to be taken to scale. Broad buy-in was observed throughout 2015, with more humanitarian and development partners in more than twenty countries expressing interest in Primero deployments. The second annual Primero Global Workshop and Technical Meeting were convened in September, with more than 40 participants from 12 organizations attending.

In 2015, Primero's CPIMS+ module in Sierra Leone's social welfare data platform helped more than 90 users from 15 organizations to manage the cases of more than 8,000 vulnerable children, tracking day-to-day registrations and service provision. Improved data and the emerging needs identified contributed towards the government decision to increase investments in building the capacity of its social welfare workforce. The case of Sierra Leone demonstrates PRIMERO can be applied in large-scale emergencies, convening significant number of partners around a single, integrated and data-secure platform, which can be applied to longer term, post-recovery systems.

This past year, 2015, also saw preparation to prepare for the transition to CPIMS+/Primero system in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, which will require the migration of data of more than 10,000 vulnerable children to the new system, and the GBVIMS+ module was piloted in Lebanon by three partner agencies to track and document incidents of GBV. Roll-out of the MRMIMS+ has begun in the Philippines, where UNICEF is engaging with parties to conflict to prevent grave violations of children's rights.

Building capacity for child protection and emergencies

UNICEF and partners continue to strengthen the workforce for child protection and emergencies, most notably through UNICEF's leadership of the Global Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), the capacity-building taskforce within the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. A post-graduate diploma in Child Protection and Emergencies at the University of KwaZulu Natal University, South Africa, was launched in 2015, enrolling 22 students (from 12 different countries) into the first year of the course, five more than planned. Around 600 practitioners from more than 30 countries (all Level 3 countries encompassed) were also supported throughout 2015 either directly and/or remotely to implement Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. The CPWG is also scaling up its capacity building action across different regions, including the preparation of two 2016 initiatives, namely, the Child Protection and Emergencies Professional Development Programme for Asia and the Certificate in Child Protection and Emergencies project manager training for French speakers.

Growing significantly since its start in 2008, the CPWG sub-cluster has made significant progress including the development and implementation of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and professionalizing child protection in humanitarian settings. After a 2015 review of the CPWG's scope of work as an Area of Responsibility under the Global Protection Cluster, recommendations were made for its restructuring to assume formal responsibility for work including advocacy, developing child protection minimum standards, learning and development (led by UNICEF), and the assessment, measurement and evidence that falls outside the Child Protection Area of Responsibility's core remit. A global inter-agency body to take forward these functions, which will be led by UNICEF, is being developed.

To further strengthen its capacity to respond to humanitarian needs in Level 3 emergencies, UNICEF also continues as a steering committee member on the Inter-agency Protection Standby Capacity Project (ProCap), aimed at strengthening the collaborative response between protection and non-protection mandated organizations, and supports the objectives of the Humanitarian Reform Agenda through the deployment of ProCap senior protection officers. In 2015, deployment to coordinate child protection response encompassed missions to the Central African Republic, Iraq, Jordan, Nepal, Nigeria, South Sudan and Ukraine.

Challenges and constraints

There is a need to bolster and strengthen the sector as a whole, including the need for specialist skill sets to respond to the changing landscape of emergencies, including for health emergencies and migration. The demand to build capacity for child protection and emergencies has increased with the increasing scale and complexity of emergencies, yet due to funding constraints the demand has not been fully met. To build capacity of those who are already responding to emergencies is a challenge due to the urgency of humanitarian response. It would be valuable to invest in capacity building as a preparedness activity including increasing the breath of capacity building options, including the use of new technologies, strengthening partnerships with national academic institutions and the promotion of on the job learning opportunities (experiential learning). Making the curriculum and related content available as online courses and through CPWG member organizations' initiatives will increase child protection curricular options and enable a larger audience to access and benefit from the scholarship, research, and practices that are developing.

The cadres of MRE experts still need to be strengthened as mine action continues to work in a silo. MRE evaluation is still a weak component as evaluation is not fully reflected in the planning stage, and the logic of intervention unclear or a comparison between what actually happened and what would have happened in the absence of the intervention²⁶ is not explored. In affected countries, not everyone is at equal risk – and therefore in equal need, and generally it is not possible to deliver universal MRE service to the whole at-risk population. Thus the need for priority-setting mechanisms that will ensure the most-in-need are the first targeted, and that MRE and mine clearance promotes equity and protects the most vulnerable. Additionally, strengthening knowledge of weapons-related issues is a gap that will be targeted in 2016.

A further challenge is the increased number of children in need of psychosocial support and the limitation of conventional approaches focusing on CFS that reach only a small percentage of those children. New and innovative approaches are needed to scale up coverage including the use of online technologies and involvement of religious and community leaders for psychosocial support. Other key challenges include generating more operational evidence for community-based psychosocial support. Though the shift to a more community-based approach to psychosocial support allows for better targeting of the adolescent age group, for example through peer-to-peer support and school-based interventions, increasing the reach to greater numbers of adolescents is still required. New MHPSS operational guidance that will be rolled out in 2016 focuses on peer-to-peer support and the mobilization of community networks, which should contribute towards addressing this concern in the long

run. The guidance will also help in shifting the ongoing narrative on PSS from a CFS-focused approach to a more community-based approach, with CFS being just one of the platforms for service delivery.

Information management systems such as Primero need to be integrated into a package of programming services, not implemented separately and retroactively. Emphasis should focus less on speed and efficiency in providing registration data and move towards more emphasis on quality of care and timely service provision. This requires improved methods, which must be dynamic and based on appropriate benchmarks, for defining and identifying vulnerable children. In order to maximize the benefits of better data systems, they should be integrated into programme designs from the onset, including capacity building for users and contingency planning for emergencies.

PROGRAMME AREA 7: STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

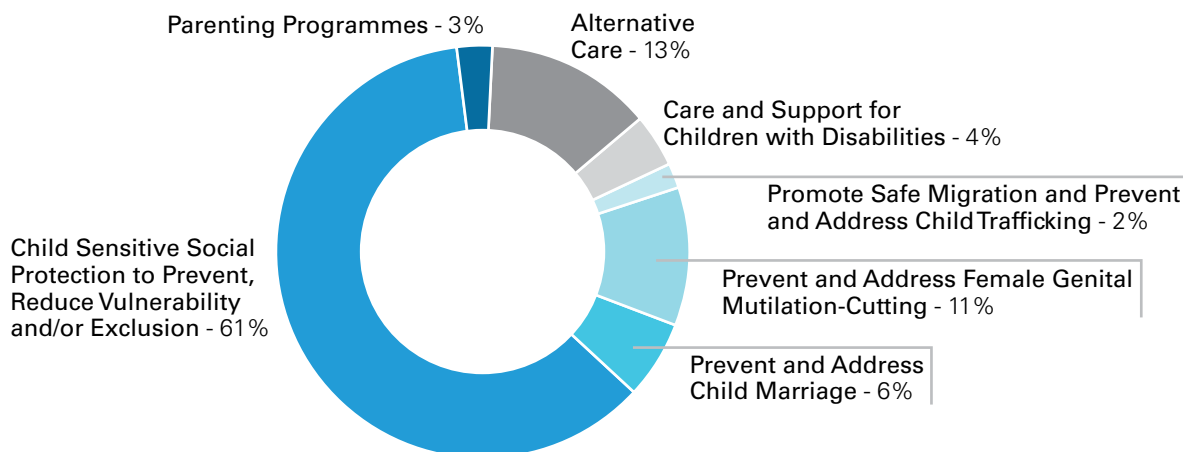
UNICEF's commitment to empowering families and communities to care for their children in ways that promote their well-being from their early childhood years through to their adolescence is at the heart of meeting the SDGs; goal 5, in particular, as it relates to gender equality with its calls for an end to discrimination (target 5.1), eliminating all forms of violence against women, including trafficking (target 5.2) and eliminating harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation (target 5.3). However, enhancing support and increasing capacities of children and families to protect themselves and eliminate practices and behaviour harmful to children are also implicit in reaching other targets, for example UNICEF's work on social protection and children with disabilities directly supports achievement of SDG 1 (poverty), SDG 4 (equal and accessible education) and SDG 10 (reduce inequality within and among countries).

In many instances, families and communities are unaware that prevalent sociocultural beliefs and practices – such as certain child-rearing practices, attitudes towards physical violence or other forms of violence towards children, child marriage or FGM/C – cause significant harm to children.

In 2015, UNICEF expenditure in Programme Area 7 totalled US\$51.6 million, excluding cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs (*see box*). The largest proportion of programme area expenditure is for child protection-related interventions for social protection, accounting for 61 per cent of total programme area expenditure. In 2015, 70 per cent of these funds supported social protection programming (most notably cash transfer programmes) in six countries²⁷ (including three in emergency situations). The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe collectively accounted

FIGURE 7

Global expenditure for strengthening families and communities, 2015: US\$51.6 million



Note: Global expenditure data in this graph exclude cross-thematic funds and operational or other costs. Total 2015 programme area expenditure data inclusive of these additional costs can be found in the Financial Analysis section.

for 32 per cent of total social protection expenditure. In Zimbabwe, for example, significant expenditure is linked to the Harmonized Social Cash Transfer – which is designed as a ‘cash plus’ intervention where social assistance also acts as an entry point to address child protection and welfare concerns. Community Child Care Workers, who are the focal persons for Harmonized Social Cash Transfer community mobilization, are also responsible for case management of vulnerable children, providing a community surveillance system for identification, reporting and a follow-up support for protection violations (see Figure 7).

Female genital mutilation and cutting

In 2015, 18 of the 20 programme countries with a prevalence of FGM/C in excess of 25 per cent reported interventions toward ending the practice.²⁸ Three additional countries,²⁹ with lower prevalence rates also reported interventions, bringing the total to 21 countries.

Joint FGM/C programming yields results

The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating change focuses on 16 high-prevalence countries in Africa³⁰ and Yemen. Following on from a positive joint evaluation of Phase 1 in 2013

Data snapshot

FGM/C reaches well beyond Africa and the Middle East, where the practice has been most prevalent, reaching into communities in Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. Recent global estimates reveal that at least 200 million girls and women in 30 countries have been subjected to some form of FGM/C. The numbers keep growing as more countries acknowledge FGM/C as a harmful practice, as data collection improves, and as population growth outpaces progress in ending the practice.

Despite overall advancements, high fertility rates and youthful populations in a number of countries with high prevalence play a significant factor. Current predications suggest that if trends continue, the number of girls and women cut every year by 2030 will be significantly higher than current rates. FGM/C both reflects and reinforces the discrimination against women and girls, perpetuating a vicious cycle of discrimination and harmful practice.

that helped sharpen programme effectiveness, the programme embarked on Phase 2 in 2014. During 2015, there was progress in all countries except Yemen, where operations are on hold in view of the humanitarian emergency there. Gambia and Nigeria joined the list of countries passing legislation to criminalize FGM/C, bringing the total number of countries to pass legislation to 13 out of the 17 focus countries. In 2015, UNICEF country offices reported more than 200 convictions, mostly in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia, and with Djibouti and Egypt witnessing their country's first convictions. The number of people who are directly participating in educational dialogues informing on health and promoting abandonment of FGM/C is also rising. By 2015, 840,000 people, (compared with approximately 700,000 in 2014) had participated in an increased number of outreach events, consensus-building activities with traditional and religious leaders supported by the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme.

Media coverage of FGM/C elimination efforts has also increased, with approximately 44,000 media references in 2015, compared to 25,000 in 2014 across 16 countries. The devastating impact of the Ebola emergency has also had an impact. To prevent the transmission of the virus, government and leaders in all three Ebola-affected countries, with UNICEF support, brought FGM/C into the public discourse. Traditional cutters introduced a ban in Sierra Leone and in Guinea; religious authorities included appeals in sermons throughout the country to abandon the practice. Now that the Ebola emergency has ended, efforts continue to maintain this momentum, with optimism that these factors may contribute towards a first-time decrease in prevalence in the next national household survey.

Results highlights

Overall efforts to end FGM/C resulted in more than 2,000 communities across 14 countries, covering 5 million people, declaring abandonment of FGM/C in 2015 (1,000 communities across 9 countries in 2014). There are also indications that the population covered is increasing and that some of the communities now span entire sub-districts. Programmatic evidence indicates that within communities that have collectively committed to abandon FGM/C, some 70 per cent of uncut girls remain intact.

Improving FGM/C data collection to strengthen action

UNICEF advocates with countries for the inclusion of the FGM/C module of MICS, when existence of FGM/C is documented through previous surveys or other studies. In 2015, a major national survey was undertaken by the Government of Indonesia, which generated first time national data on FGM/C in the country and contributed towards generating new global estimates. In 2015, UNICEF and UNFPA rolled out a major capacity building initiative to enable key government and NGO partners to complete country monitoring frameworks to monitor progress in ending FGM/C, utilizing the DevInfo Monitoring Platform, which led to six participating countries (Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Guinea, Mali,

2015 brings national legitimacy to the Gambia's community efforts towards abandonment of FGM/C

Despite the 2005 Children's Act, providing a legal framework to address harmful traditional practices such as early marriage and FGM/C, the practice persists in the Gambia, with as many as with 75 per cent of girls and women (15–49) having undergone FGM/C (DHS 2013). To address this challenge, UNICEF and UNFPA increased programmatic efforts toward ending FGM/C in 2009, working at the community level, alongside the Government's Women Bureau and with civil society, to generate support through advocacy and educational activities that call for the ending of the practice.

Six years on in 2015, this had led to more than 740 public declarations of commitment by villages to abandon the practice, which are increasingly being reported in the media, and raising greater national awareness of the growing movement under way to end the practice. National legitimacy was ignited in 2015 by a Presidential Decree banning FGM/C and very quickly thereafter, the passing of a bill stating that any person engaging in the practice could now face up to three years in prison or a fine of \$1,250 or life imprisonment if the act results in death.

Though much work is still needed to support communities moving forward, many groups and individuals are now coming forth manifesting their support for ending the practice, and it is expected that this will bring about a significant decrease in prevalence in the next few years.

Mauritania and Senegal) completing a monitoring framework, inclusive of most – and in some cases all – baselines and targets.

Trend data from DHS and MICs indicate that overall prevalence rate of FGM/C is declining but the decrease is not quick enough to keep up with the pace of demographic growth. Generally, the rates are declining more slowly in countries of high prevalence. However, in a number of very high prevalence countries, such as Guinea, there are an increasing number of communities making declarations – resulting in 2015 with approximately 10 per cent of the total population having now declared a common agreement to end FGM/C.

Challenges and constraints for FGM/C

In countries of high FGM/C prevalence, it takes time to reach the point where a sufficiently large group of people visibly commit to abandon the practice and can influence others to do the same. Lessons learned indicate that once this point is reached, increased resources are required to make this change more visible to larger groups, including facilitating interaction among communities, and through the use of media. Further research is under way, in collaboration with academic partners, to draw additional lessons from current programmatic experiences. A different challenge has emerged in countries with lower prevalence, concentrated in specific geographic areas. Here, the movement toward abandonment of the practice has at times generated strengthened resistance to change. Similarly, the rise in the absolute number of girls at risk of undergoing FGM/C because of population growth, in spite of overall decreases in prevalence, presents a major challenge. UNICEF reiterated this point at the Girls Summit in 2014, with a call for accelerated commitment and action: since then there have been hopeful signs. The inclusion of FGM/C in the SDGs is the major milestone, manifesting increased global commitment, but much more needs to be done for it to be translated into accelerated global action. While it is noted that there are great improvements in the collection of FGM/C data, notably through the inclusion of an FGM/C indicator in national household surveys, the full scale and scope of the practice is still not known. Thus, efforts to support data collection in countries where no such data currently exist will need to continue in order to present a more reliable and complete picture of the practice.

Child marriage

UNICEF's commitment to end child marriage is a corporate priority, as reflected in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2014–2017, at both the impact level and at the outcome level, and also one of four targeted priorities in UNICEF's Gender Action Plan, 2014-2017.

The UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage has the potential to directly reach 2.5 million girls in 12 target countries³¹ who are at risk of child marriage or already in union by end of 2019. In 2015, UNICEF country offices conducted a mapping of their strategic partners including UN agencies, government partners, CSOs, research partners, resulting in a partnerships matrix for the 12 countries that are part for the Global Programme.

Data snapshot

While the practice of child marriage is slowly declining, particularly for girls under age 15, up to 280 million more girls alive today are at risk of becoming brides before they turn 18, and if population rates grow as projected, this figure may reach 320 million by 2050. The global profile of child marriage is changing. New estimates show that a growing child population combined with a slow decline in the practice of child marriage in Africa will put millions more girls at risk.

If current trends continue, almost half of the world's child brides in 2050 will be African. Child marriage is strongly linked to poverty and lack of other coping mechanisms and the outcome of fewer choices. Girls who miss out or drop out of school are especially vulnerable, while the more exposure a girl has to formal education and the wealthier her family is the more likely that any marriage for her is postponed to a later age.

Joint programming to end child marriage

The inception phase of the joint UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme Framework to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage was completed in 2015. The joint programme focuses on 12 key countries; however, results and lessons learned from these countries will also be leveraged to inform programming in other countries where prevalence rates of child marriage are 25 per cent or more. Of these countries, 21 are in sub-Saharan Africa, where, without further investments, the burden is expected to be the highest by 2050. To mitigate this, as part of partnership building, UNICEF offices in those countries will be linked to the regional initiative of the African Union to end child marriage. Central to the programming approach is the implicit need for multi-sectoral mobilization, including education C4D, health, HIV and social protection, to achieve this end. The UNICEF refocus on equity draws further attention to the link between child marriage and issues of poverty, discrimination and exclusion. The programme involves shaping existing and emerging

First African Girls Summit: Setting a momentum to end child marriage

The Government of Zambia hosted the first African Girls Summit on 26–27 November 2015 in Lusaka, as part of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa which was first launched in May 2014 with support from UNICEF, bringing together more than 1,000 partners working across Africa to end child marriage.

During the Summit, UNICEF launched the statistical report, *A Profile of Child Marriage in Africa* that shows that a rapidly growing child population, countered only by a slow rate of decline in the practice of child marriage, will put millions more girls at risk. If current trends continue, the total number of child brides in Africa will rise from 125 million to 310 million by 2050, representing almost half of the world's child brides. Africa will surpass South Asia as the region with the highest number of women aged 20 to 24 who were married as children. The Summit and accompanying publication generated significant media coverage; for instance, UNICEF key messaging on Twitter alone reached over 1.8 million users.

Based on this evidence and on the experiences and good practices shared during the Summit, stakeholders (particularly governments) secured or renewed commitments in an Outcome Statement and an updated African Union Plan of Action to accelerate ending child marriage. A number of clear outcomes were agreed, including redoubling efforts to eliminate child marriage by 2030; facilitating a social movement in countries at local, regional and national levels; and ensuring focused interventions and measures are taken to keep girl children in school up to the age of 18.

The momentum also translated into progress and reforms at the country level. For example, in Mozambique, shortly after the Summit, the Council of Ministers approved the National Strategy on Prevention and Elimination of Child Marriage on 1 December 2015. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, the implementation of the National Strategy will involve ministries from different sectors, including Health, Education, Youth and Sport, Culture, Justice and Interior, as well as civil society organizations, religious groups and community structures.

sectoral plans and service delivery platforms, making them more responsive to the rights and needs of adolescent girls. Key global partners include UN agencies, such as UNFPA, UN Women, WHO and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and international financial institutions, such as the World Bank. Regional partners include the African Union and the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children. Beyond the United Nations, Girls Not Brides – the Global Partnership to End Child Marriage remains a key global and country level partner.

Results highlights

Through increased political attention and advocacy around the issue, UNICEF supported 30 countries to strengthen national plans or strategies to end child marriage, and 9 countries have costed action plans (compared with 18 and 5, respectively, in 2014). These countries include Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Chad, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Paraguay and Uganda.

Multi-sector action to scale up results for children

The scaling up of multi-sectoral collaboration, including health, education and social protection interventions, enable programmes to reach adolescent girls at the levels necessary to effect meaningful changes in child marriage rates. For example, more than 262,000 adolescent girls and boys and 260,000 parents and community members in India were reached in 2015 through UNICEF programming on child marriage. In Ghana, UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection to establish a Child Marriage Unit to coordinate national efforts, and 10 new NGO/international NGO partners were identified to support efforts, including around life skills education and girls' empowerment, community and traditional leadership sensitization, improved access to services, and promotion of positive social norms supportive of investment in the girl child. To increase adolescent girls' access to safe, appropriate and hygienic facilities and encourage their increased school attendance, UNICEF Bangladesh supported the provision of WASH facilities to an additional 100 secondary schools, benefiting 47,500 students. About 15,000 adolescent girls were engaged as peer volunteers to disseminate key WASH messages with a priority focus given to out-of-school adolescent girls in 12 locations, resulting in 35,419 adolescent girls and boys (15–19 years old) completing a life skills based education course.

Framing the issue of child marriage in the broader context of strengthening families and communities requires the need to ensure constructive dialogue and broad support in strengthening the value of girls. Methods employed include the use of media and awareness campaigns to stimulate dialogue. Indicative of this approach is the work with Radio Mozambique to produce the first national entertainment-education radio drama, *Ouro Negro*, reaching more than 1.2 million people in 2015. In Niger, a musical series on girls' rights, *Haske Magani Duku* broadcast by the national radio station *Voix du Sahel* was taken to scale through partnerships with 10 local radio stations, extending coverage to an estimated 85 per cent of the population.

Challenges and constraints for child marriage

Reforming national child marriage legal frameworks remain a challenge. At times, marriage legislation can contradict international obligations, reinforcing and/or legitimizing a social norm harmful to girls. Maintaining momentum is also a factor in fragile states. For example, political unrest and security situations in Yemen hampered UNICEF programming and led the country office to redefine its deliverables and potentially re-programme funds as needed to still meet the objectives of the programme. Similarly, during humanitarian contexts, as in the case of Ebola-affected countries, or Nepal due to the earthquake, UNICEF country offices may need to temporarily shift to emergency response in affected regions. Programme activities in unaffected regions continued, and child marriage programme activities have been reactivated in most affected regions. Further, a human resources capacity mapping showed that capacity varies across UNICEF country offices. Though resources are already in place to provide a foundation for strengthening technical capacity and expertise, critical elements remain to be strengthened, particularly technical capacity and expertise in gender programming; gender norms in relation to child marriage and community engagement; and dedicated monitoring and evaluation capacity.

Migration*

The number of programming countries carrying out activities related to the protection of child migrants or children engaged in migratory processes was mapped for the first time in 2015, as the issue became a programmatic and advocacy priority, particularly within the CEE/CIS region, but also globally.

**Within UNICEF's 2014–2017 Strategic Plan, migration results reporting is integrated into the child protection programme area 7 on strengthening families and communities, however, given the scale of the response and multi-sectoral interventions required to support the migrant crisis in Europe and the Balkans, and beyond in 2015, UNICEF actions (and expenditures) cross over many programme areas, notably programme area 6: child protection and emergencies.*

Results highlights

Thirty-eight countries report work in 2015 to protect the rights of migrant children, with a particular focus on the protection of unaccompanied and separated children who are an especially vulnerable group among migrants, especially those who migrate through irregular channels.

In the past year, irregular migration³² has increased in visibility and unaccompanied and separated children have been identified in all of these flows, as well as children traveling with their families. More than 1 million migrants and refugees³³ in 2015 crossed the Mediterranean Sea attempting to enter the EU via Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain, and transiting through countries in the Balkans – a quarter of whom were children. The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic has sent migrant numbers spiralling in Jordan and other neighbouring countries, with more than 4 million Syrians being displaced outside of their country. Chad, one of the world's least developed nations has seen a flood of migrants, including 420,000 children as of June 2015, as conflict rages in surrounding nations. In 2014–2015, United States border officials apprehended more than half a million migrants at the border, the vast majority from Central America and Mexico.³⁴

Significant efforts in 2015 centred on responding to the large number of migrants and refugees transiting through Central Europe and the Balkans, while at the same time contributing to policy dialogue with national authorities and regional bodies to ensure that states complied with their obligations to provide protection and assistance to child refugees and migrants. At the same time, UNICEF country offices in other regions continue to support government to conduct 'Best Interest Determinations' for unaccompanied and separated migrant children, to support the reintegration of migrant children to their communities of origin if they were returned, and to provide short-term material and psychosocial assistance to refugee and migrant children. Child Protection worked closely with colleagues in other UNICEF divisions at global and regional levels to develop advocacy and policy messages focusing on the rights of all children, and maintained UNICEF involvement and contribution to a variety of inter-agency initiatives related to the promotion of the rights of migrant children and their families.

Response to the refugees and migrants in Europe

The flow of migrants and refugees into Europe is characterized by the speed of population movements, the number of countries affected, and rapidly changing routes, as refugees and migrants responded to border closures by countries within the region. The majority of those entering during this period were from the Syrian Arab Republic – for example, in September 2015, the vast majority of arrivals were Syrians (71 per cent), followed by Afghans (18 per cent) and Iraqis (4 per cent). In 2015, Germany alone received an estimated 300,000 child asylum applications, and in Sweden, 35,369 unaccompanied children registered for asylum in 2015, which is more than one and a half times the total number for all EU Member States in 2014. Statistics also suggested that more than two thirds (70 per cent) of children arriving in Italy – which receives a large number of children from sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the Middle East, are unaccompanied and separated children.

UNICEF's initial response focused programmatic operations in Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia, where large numbers of migrants transitioned for a short period before continuing their journey to other countries such as Germany, Sweden or Austria, providing fast, flexible forms of assistance. Collaborative relationships with National Committees for UNICEF were also developed in those countries where UNICEF had not previously had a programmatic presence, including Germany and Slovenia. A 'One UNICEF' response was established, with UNICEF staff working with National Governments, UNICEF National Committees and NGO and civil society to improve the care and protection standards of refugee and migrant children, and increase compliance with the use of the joint UNICEF–UNHCR Guidance on Best Interest Determinations for Unaccompanied and Separated Refugee children, Safe and Sound, and to develop uniform child protection standards for reception, transit and accommodation centres in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Germany. Additionally, UNICEF worked alongside UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration, on a joint inter-agency Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan, which covers Turkey, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia.

UNICEF country offices in the western Balkans supported the establishment of child-friendly spaces in six reception facilities and transit locations, where, by the end of 2015, 81,000 children had received emotional, stress management and psychosocial support, family reunification services, as well as recreational and basic education activities. The child friendly spaces were designed to be easily accessible for short periods of time and allow for free movement of the refugees and migrants. UNICEF recognizes that much more must be done to address gender-based violence in the context of the European crisis. In 2015, a foundation was laid to expand these efforts. For example, in Croatia, Macedonia, and Serbia, UNICEF and partners reached 57,515 children at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, including trafficking through provision of safe spaces and messaging about risks associated with trafficking (Croatia: 11,500; Macedonia: 22,000 and Serbia: 24,015).

By the end of 2015, UNICEF was fully operational in eight locations in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia, with plans for imminent expansion of integrated family service hubs in 20 locations in the first months of 2016. UNICEF also worked with government partners to ensure that border and immigration officials, as well as partners from international and local civil society organizations, were trained in child protection and child rights safeguarding, thus combining humanitarian and long-term system strengthening activities. The end of 2015 saw 344 frontline workers trained in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia.

Protection and services for unaccompanied and separated migrant children in Central America

As a result of collaboration with UNHCR, UNICEF Mexico, and the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the capacity of the Honduran consulates in the United States, Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador was strengthened to protect child migrants detained in those countries, with consular officials receiving orientation on key migrant protection issues, the application of a consular protocol

for interviewing unaccompanied children, and identifying cases where children require special protection upon their return to Honduras. With the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a specialized protocol and a toolkit emphasizing the psychosocial aspects of consular assistance for UASC was developed. By the end of 2015, UNICEF contributed to the training of 250 Mexican, 15 El Salvadorian, 15 Guatemalan and 15 Honduran Consular staff on the detection of child protection needs for sensitive case-management and swift referral.

A 2015 Regional Conference on Migration, comprising 11 countries of North and Central America, included consideration of the adoption of harmonized standards for consular assistance to child migrants, deriving from the Mexican and Guatemalan supported work of UNICEF. Furthermore, UNICEF is co-chair of the World Bank's Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development³⁵ Thematic Working Group 7 on Migrant Rights and Social Dimensions of Migration, which produced a proposed set of indicators on the human rights of migrants and their families, particularly in relation to the rights to health, education, and decent work. Used at a workshop with 25 Mexican government and civil society participants, the set of indicators was adapted for the Mexican context and is now being incorporated for use as part of national statistical information collected by Mexico.

Strategic partnerships and alliances around migration

UNICEF is a member of the Global Migration Group (GMG)³⁶ that encourages more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. In 2015, the GMG produced a series of papers designed to influence the dialogue around the development of the SDGs, with the objective of ensuring that migrants were recognised in the SDGs, and that migratory status was included as one of the forms of disaggregation necessary to guarantee that the goals were inclusive.

UNICEF remains an active member of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, an initiative of the United Nations member states to address the migration and development interconnections through non-binding, voluntary and government-led processes. In 2015, UNICEF contributed to the development of Forum position papers, including on Migration Policy Coherence and Migrant's rights. In 2015, UNICEF obtained the observer status at the Regional Conference on Migration, a regional platform for advocacy and discussions on migration issues in the Americas, and participated in dialogue with the Ad Hoc Regional Conference on Migration Group on children and technical assistance to other countries in the Northern Triangle to share experiences on unaccompanied migrant children. UNICEF is also an active steering board member of the group formed by the SRSG Violence against Children to take forward the development of the Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty, pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 69/157. The Group assisted the SRSG VAC in conducting the initial scoping and planning exercise for the study, which has now been submitted to the Secretary-General, and has joined other partners in ensuring that children held in detention for reasons of immigration control are included in the scope of the report.

At regional and country level, UNICEF works on matters related to migration in close collaboration with a range of partners, perhaps most notably with UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In 2015, 26 country offices reported collaboration with IOM and/or UNHCR, either through direct collaboration on programmatic work and technical assistance, as in Central America and Eastern Europe, or as important partners in advocacy and policy dialogue on the rights of migrant children.

Positive parenting: supporting families to address violence against children and improve child well-being

There is increased evidence from neuroscience on the importance of protecting children from violence and neglect, especially in the early years. UNICEF works to translate this knowledge and evidence into concrete actions to improve results for children, working with governments and partners to integrate attention to violence prevention into existing early childhood programmes and establish targeted parenting programmes aimed at building parents/caregivers skills to promote general child well-being.

For example, China and Indonesia both have long-standing early childhood development programmes in the health and nutrition sectors, but recently introduced a violence prevention component to their integrated early childhood development programmes. In South Africa, an innovative parenting programme called the Sinovuyo Caring Families Programme, in partnership with the Government of South Africa, academic institutions, WHO and national NGOs, targets at-risk families. The programme aims to develop a more robust evidence base for parenting programmes in low resource settings. This is an important contribution not only to violence prevention in South Africa but also

Results highlights

In 2015, 68 countries had an early childhood development policy or strategy including both budgets and functioning coordination mechanisms (as compared with 56 in 2014). Additionally, UNICEF worked in 29 countries (up from 25 in 2014) to support parenting and home-visiting initiatives through capacity building of care workers to strengthen parents' child-care skills. In 2015, as a result of global and national advocacy, corporal punishment of children was prohibited in the home in 48 countries (44 in 2014); and in alternative care and day-care settings in 55 countries (compared with 50 in 2014).

will contribute to violence prevention work at the global level. The programme will also be tested in at least two more countries (the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania).

efforts to reach 3,572 families and caregivers of an estimated 6,748 children (0–8 years old) through parenting sessions implemented by Jordan River Foundation, Islamic Charity Centre Society, and the Ministry of Education.

Community-led interventions to shift social norms on violence

During 2015, many country programmes engaged directly with the community, including religious organizations, to address violence against children and share information on positive parenting as an alternative to corporal punishment and harmful disciplinary practices. In Cambodia, UNICEF supported inter-faith dialogue on positive parenting and the role of faith-based members for guiding families to protect children from violence and abuse, resulting in the mobilization of approximately 529,436 religious leaders and their congregations and 136,614 children (48 per cent female) in 4,428 religious settings (59 per cent of the total religious settings overall). This effort included religious leaders from the Buddhist, Christian and Muslim faiths, government, NGOs, children and youth. In Jordan, UNICEF supported community

Challenges and constraints around positive parenting

Though the number and scope of parenting programmes continues to increase each year, there is a need to systematize and standardize the programme designs. Efforts like the Sinovuyo programme in South Africa and similar efforts under way at the regional level to build learning in the area of parenting and support to parents/families are essential to implement interventions at provincial and national levels. Increased investment in planning, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes under development to build the evidence for what works is required, with steps being taken to address this bottleneck. The Know Violence in Childhood initiative has a specific pillar dedicated to supporting families to address violence and harmful practices, including GBV. The Latin

FIGURE 8

Community-led interventions to shift social norms on violence



*Children in crisis-contexts are more vulnerable to violence.

America and the Caribbean region and the East Asia and Pacific region will host 2016 regional workshops to bring together the evidence and knowledge in the area of interventions that address violence across the life cycle. Parenting is also one of the seven key strategies being supported by the leading agencies at the global level via a common technical programme package to address VAC. This alignment will help to contribute to more robust and quantifiable results.

Alternative care

Poverty and social exclusion are the main driving forces behind the numbers of children being placed in residential care, as well as a lack of political and financial commitment of governments to seek other alternative care options. While some residential care facilities are well managed and rooted in good practice, linking with broader child care systems that actively seek to provide other forms of alternative care, or prevent the separation of families in the first place, there are others that are not. Alternative care reform, such as deinstitutionalization, must be situated within wider child protection systems strengthening, to ensure that services are available to both prevent institutionalization as well as to support children who return to the community after being institutionalized.

Data snapshot: Alternative care

It is estimated that at least 2 million children around the world are living in residential care, sometimes referred to as 'institutions', however, the majority of these children have at least one living parent. Children who do not live with their parents are often in need of alternative care, such as living with members of their extended families, in informal or formal foster care, in residential care or in other settings.

In the Oromia Region of Ethiopia, an assessment was conducted on 64 child care institutions, identifying 15 that were operating below the standards, which were subsequently closed and 87 children from these institutions were placed in family-based alternative care. Romania saw an 18 per cent drop in the number of children under three years of age placed in institutions after a 2014 ruling prohibiting it. In Rwanda, as a result of a strong alternative care reform policy, the number

of children in residential care reduced by more than 50 per cent between 2012 and 2015. Cross-sectoral linkages are critical in relation to alternative care. For instance, many children access residential care due to poverty so working with social protection sector to strengthen cash transfer mechanisms is critical as are linkages with the education sector as many children, with or without disabilities, may be placed in residential care facilities because they cannot access education in any other way. A high-level forum in 2015 – 'The Child Has the Right to Live in a Family: Taking stock and accelerating actions' – involving four Ministries (Social Development, Education, Health and Interior) in Kyrgyzstan has led to a commitment to reform the childcare system.

Results highlights

In 2015, 61 countries reported having a policy in line with the Alternative Care Guidelines, 3 more than the year before.

In 2015, at least 52 UNICEF country offices worked on different aspects relating to alternative care. At least three countries (Azerbaijan, Egypt and Kenya) developed standards for child-care facilities, while others used existing standards to assess residential care centres and/or improved services to support children.

Strategic partnerships and alliances for alternative care

UNICEF is a founding member and on the steering committee of the Better Care Network, an inter-agency collaboration aiming to prevent separation and to strengthen alternative care provision. UNICEF, in partnership with the Better Care Network, published a working paper on gatekeeping in relation to alternative care,³⁷ which aims to ensure that children are only placed in alternative care if this is necessary, and that then the placement is appropriate to their needs, alongside three country care profiles outlining the care reform processes in Ghana, Liberia and Rwanda.³⁸

An innovative collaboration in Cambodia to track unregistered childcare facilities

Since 2006, UNICEF has been supporting the Royal Government in Cambodia to reform its alternative care system to promote family and community-based care and better regulate all forms of alternative care. Despite the best efforts, residential care in Cambodia has become increasingly common and many children have been unnecessarily separated from their families and placed in institutions, as a result of poverty, parental separation or because institutions are perceived to offer access to education or better care. However, a number of these facilities are not registered, let alone regulated.

In 2015, using the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority's GPS modeling system and database, a unique multi-sector collaboration was formed to map out the scale of unregistered childcare facilities in five key provinces. Results found almost double the number of facilities than those registered with the Ministry for Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth, housing almost 12,000 children – 64 per cent more children than previously known to the Ministry. Additionally, the GPS tracking identified 20 transitional homes and temporary emergency accommodation facilities, 57 group homes, 11 pagodas and other faith-based/religious buildings and 46 boarding schools were also noted. In total, more than 26,000 children previously unregistered were identified (45 per cent girls).

As a result of these findings, Cambodia has recently promulgated a decree requiring all childcare facilities be formally registered. This is seen as a first step towards ensuring these facilities meet national standards, which in turn will feed into a longer-term strategy of deinstitutionalization, and improved alternative care options for children.

Challenges and constraints for alternative care

In some instances, the number of children reported to live in residential care has increased, in some cases considerably. This may be at least partially linked to improved surveillance and registration of facilities. While this may be disappointing, in terms of the numbers of children in residential care facilities, it indicates an improvement in terms of data collection, which will feed into aiding governments to efforts to deinstitutionalize and strengthen alternative care options. Deinstitutionalization is directly dependent on strong child protection systems being in place in order to ensure that children who return home to their family, or find a place in a foster family, continue to be supported. Despite the fact that surveillance systems are improving, there still remains overall a lack of data. A number of countries do not have a complete set of data on all their children in alternative care settings. More troubling is the fact that limited data exists on formal foster care.

Social protection

County actions related to social protection services that were supported by UNICEF child protection in 2015 include, among others, Angola, Bangladesh, Botswana, Comoros, Nigeria, and Zambia. In Angola, UNICEF Social Policy and the Child Protection sections worked closely to support the Ministry of Assistance and Social

Reinsertion to develop a new model of integrated social protection services at the decentralized level, which will be tested in three provinces early 2016 and focus on providing social assistance to vulnerable families while facilitating their access to other social services.

In Nigeria, technical assistance was provided to the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development for the development of a comprehensive Social Welfare Policy that establishes clear mandates, roles and responsibilities at federal, state and local government levels and between state and non-State actors. The Policy aims to provide preventive community-based child and family welfare programmes, in coordination with health, education and social protection programmes. In Zambia, the Social Cash Transfer coverage recorded a 35 per cent increase from 130,000 to 200,000 households in 2015. To effectively reach these households, UNICEF contributed to the strengthening of government targeting and cash delivery systems, improving advocacy and coordination efforts, resulting in an increase in budgetary allocations of more than 100 per cent between 2014/15 and 2016.

The provision of social protection, and especially cash transfers, links closely to the Public Finance for Children agenda, as setting up or increasing coverage of social protection programmes at times requires considerable investment. Given the importance of achieving SDG 1 on poverty reduction, these are key partnerships to help push this agenda forward. For example in Malaysia, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Finance to host study

tours for high level government officials from Ministries of Planning, Finance, Education, Social Welfare from Lao People's Democratic Republic and Timor-Leste to learn from Malaysia's experiences in outcome-based budgeting. These study tours were part of a south-south cooperation initiative on public finance management supported by the Public Expenditures Management Network Asia Pacific. Malaysia also hosted the network meeting in 2015 with participation from 12 countries in East Asia and the Pacific, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and UNICEF.

Results highlights

Overall, 132 UNICEF country offices reported a functioning social protection system in 2015, up from 124 in 2014. In 2015, UNICEF child protection supported 13 countries to undertake activities related to child protection activities, the same number of countries as in the previous year.

(Results for social protection can also be found in UNICEF's Annual Results Report 2015 on social inclusion.)

Challenges and constraints for social protection

One of the main challenges for child protection-related social protection remains around the lack of social workers globally, as well as lack of clarity on their roles. In some countries they carry out social work-related activities only, such as case management or counselling, while in other countries, social workers also have a responsibility for administering cash transfers. Sometimes the social service workforce is situated under different ministries, which create challenges in terms of consistency of job descriptions, salary scales, and the tasks they are required to carry out. Increasing the overall supply of social service workforce, and having consistent job requirements and protocols will work towards addressing this. A data gap also continues to exist in relation to child protection outcomes resulting from social protection interventions, particularly around violence against children.

Children with disabilities

UNICEF's work relating to children with disabilities is guided both by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Children with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and to child protection concerns, such as violence. In addition, they tend to be considerably over-represented in institutional care. Child protection activities need to address the needs of all children, including children with disabilities, who are disproportionately affected by placement in 'institutions'.

In 2015, UNICEF supported at least 10 countries in work relating to protection for children with disabilities.³⁹

In Azerbaijan, a new Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was drafted with UNICEF support, which received positive feedback from the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities Committee in Geneva. In Bhutan, UNICEF's work with the Ability Bhutan Society, a civil society partner, resulted in finalizing a training manual on protection of children with disabilities, used to train more than 100 professionals and service providers to identify, report and address protection concerns of children with disabilities. In partnership with the China Disabled Persons Federation, work was completed on a study on social welfare services and family support to children with disabilities. UNICEF China is also supporting the Government to prepare the 13th Five Year Plan for the Development of Disabled Persons. In Mozambique, UNICEF, in partnership with Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative, International Child Development Programme and Give a Child a Family, trained 712 caregivers, 380 families and 21 adoptive parents leading to support and improve quality of care, interaction and stimulation to 9,613 children, including children with disabilities. In Nepal, UNICEF and civil society partners' advocacy supported the inclusion of progressive provisions relating to child protection under the fundamental rights article of the new Constitution (September 2015), including provisions on special protection and benefits for children with disabilities or children without parental care, and children affected by conflict, displaced or vulnerable.

Cross-sectoral coordination is essential to allow children with disabilities to participate fully in the social and cultural life of their society. This includes collaboration with the health sector to provide access to required interventions, the education sector to provide inclusive schooling, and the water and sanitation sector to enable children to fully use public buildings such as schools. In the Republic of Moldova, UNICEF is involved in a partnership to prevent early childhood abandonment, through strengthening cooperation between the health and social sectors for identification of and support to vulnerable parents. In Rwanda, to ensure full and equitable inclusion of children with disabilities into social systems, UNICEF strengthened the Disability Coordination Forum through collaboration with the National Council of Persons with Disabilities, and the development of the Africa Disability Trust Fund.

Strategic partnerships and alliances for children with disabilities

UNICEF is represented in the Child Protection Taskforce of the Global Partnership for Children with Disabilities, which focuses especially on reducing the risk of institutionalization of children with disabilities, as well as advocating for the inclusion of data on children with disabilities in research, including violence against children studies. The Taskforce was a critical advocate during the development of the SDG indicators for the inclusion of children (and adults) with disabilities in the specific goals, including SDG 1 on poverty, SDG 3 on health and SDG 16.2 on violence, among others.

Challenges and constraints for children with disabilities

A major challenge remains around data on children with disabilities, not only in relation to their alternative care arrangements, but also in terms of their experience of violence, their access to other services and their general social inclusion. Often, sample sizes of children with disabilities in general household surveys are so small as to make any results statistically less than valid. Children with disabilities are also affected by stigma and therefore kept invisible, by their families or their institutions, reinforcing societal discrimination against children with disabilities.

Cross-cutting interventions

Gender equality

To address structural disadvantage and discrimination against girls and women (Strategic Plan Output E), the SDG goals and targets for gender equality, girls' empowerment and concerning harmful practices are ambitious and robust. As noted, UNICEF was especially active in supporting efforts to include targets on ending child marriage, which is one of the four targeted programme pillars of UNICEF's 2014–2017 Gender Action Plan. A major 2015 milestone was the completion of the inception phase of UNFPA-UNICEF Global Joint Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, which focuses on 12 key countries; however, results and lessons learned from these countries will also be leveraged to inform programming on countries outside the Global Programme with prevalence rates of child marriage of 25 per cent or more. Thirty countries collected and published routine administrative data on violence, exploitation and abuse of children, including violent deaths and injuries (25 in 2014). Attention to preventing and responding to GBViE was leveraged globally as a result of the *Call to Action on protection from gender-based*

violence in emergencies. In 2015, a five-year road map and milestones were developed, alongside the release of the Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery. More broadly, strengthened capacities related to gender issues are also manifest in broader child protection results. As of 2015, 33 countries revised their child protection-related policy based on a gender analysis supported by UNICEF (see *Programme Area 6: Child protection and emergencies and Programme Area 7: Strengthening families and communities for further country action and 2015 results*).

In terms of violence against women and girls, a 2015 review of 18 UNICEF country office annual reports reveals that more explicit and regular programming is emerging that integrates attention to domestic violence/violence against women/violence against children. Focus is being placed on policy and implementation of legal protections for women and children in terms of violence in the home but there is also an emphasis on efforts to improve data and coordination between sectors on violence prevention of children and also women is being supported. For example, in South Africa, in collaboration with the Office of the Presidency and the University of Cape Town, UNICEF completed a study on the structural determinants of violence against women and children, and a diagnostic review of the Government's response to violence against women and children across 10 government departments and national, provincial and local levels, the results of which are informing the basis for an improvement plan to strengthen the state's response (see *Programme Area 1:*

Data and child protection and Programme Area 3: Violence against children). Similar examples of joint efforts to address VAC and violence against women are noted in Argentina, Belarus, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Myanmar, Namibia, Pacific Islands, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Tajikistan and Viet Nam. This is a promising trend that could help to strengthen the prevention and response to violence experienced by both women and children.

In terms of school-related gender-based violence, a new global partners working group was established in 2014 under the leadership of United Nations Girls' Education Initiative and UNESCO to bring together a wide range of partners committed to ending gender-based violence in and around schools. Under the leadership of UNESCO and UN Women, together with an advisory group of key stakeholders (including UNICEF) drawn from the global partners group, a 2015 global guidance to provide a crucial school-related gender-based violence resource aimed specifically at ministries of education and education stakeholders was produced. This guidance complements other existing tools and materials for specific bilateral, multilateral and NGO audiences on violence against

women and girls, and violence in schools. UNICEF education and child protection teams play an active role within the partnership, and will collaborate in a pilot programme in four countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Togo and Zambia) focusing on GBV in schools with an aim to building stronger evidence on effective responses.

Innovation and innovative approaches

UNICEF works to identify promising innovations and support partners to adopt, adapt and scale up the most useful and promising new approaches to long standing issues. UNICEF is increasingly harnessing the use of information and communications technology (ICT) to improve access to birth registration services. UNICEF continues to lead the development of the inter-agency child protection and emergencies information management platform (Primer), which completed its first phase in 2015, and is supporting a broader body of work to develop a case management and incident monitoring system for humanitarian and development contexts. Evidence in 2015 indicates that a number of countries are also modelling innovative approaches to strengthen various aspects of child protection systems. UNICEF Cambodia, for example, supported the innovative use of GPS tracking adapted from the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Authority's GPS system to map child residential care institutions in five provinces, leading to the identification of 267 facilities previously unknown and led to changes in national policy. In Sri Lanka, as part of an initiative to address the long pre-trial delays in the criminal justice system, UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Justice in supporting the Attorney General's Department to develop an innovative web-based case tracking system to track child abuse cases. Mine risk education is increasingly applying the use of innovative and multi-component approaches to optimize coverage and behaviour change impact. In Lebanon, UNICEF collaborated with academic partners to develop a national MRE curriculum and a solid logic of intervention based on health behaviour research, alongside the use of non-traditional approaches, such as a national cyclist rally for MRE.

South-South and triangular cooperation

South-South and triangular cooperation cuts across much work in child protection, encompassing approaches to partnerships for leveraging results (including among others, regional political bodies, NGOs and faith-based organizations) and capacity building. UNICEF facilitated South-South exchanges in 2015, using its global reach to bring together key actors from countries in the Gulf area and in at least 24 other countries in 2015 (Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Kazakhstan, Mali, Malaysia, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

The emergence of solid regional partnerships is accelerating progress in critical areas of work like birth registration through initiatives such as the Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics programme in Africa and the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. Similarly, triangular cooperation such as the Multi-Country Study on the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children, involving Italy, Peru, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, is driving forward result-based evidence around violence, with demonstrable evidence of its practical application to affect national action. UNICEF mobilized the EU and the Spanish Agency for Cooperation to jointly support Nicaragua's National Police and the Ministry of Family, Adolescents and Children to host the First Regional Conference for the Prevention and Attention to Children at Social Risk, enabling policy makers from Cuba, Chile, Panama, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, to exchange knowledge and good practices for the prevention of armed violence.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The year 2015 saw unprecedented political and public resolve – including the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – to address some of the greatest global challenges. Also known as Agenda 2030, the SDGs are of great importance to children and the work of UNICEF for the coming 15 years. They set multiple, ambitious, child-centred targets that demand significant and sustained investment for the long term. To be fit for purpose in this evolving context, UNICEF revised its Strategic Plan 2014–2017 resource requirements by outcome area from the US\$14.8 billion originally planned to US\$17 billion.

Of the two main types of resources, ‘regular resources’ are un-earmarked, unrestricted funds that help UNICEF respond rapidly to emergencies, maintain programme continuity, identify and address the root causes of inequity, and deliver services in the most remote and

fragile contexts. Because regular resources are not earmarked for a specific programme, they can also provide seed capital to develop innovative approaches to some of the world’s most challenging issues and ensure a credible reach and specialized expertise on the ground.

Thanks to these foundational resources, UNICEF and partners can bring solutions to scale and contextually replicate them through additional and complementary earmarked funds or ‘other resources’, which include pooled funding modalities such as thematic funding for UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome and cross-cutting areas. These other resources are restricted to a particular programme, geographical area, strategic priority or emergency response. Flexible and predictable other resources should complement a sound level of regular resources for UNICEF to deliver its mandate.

TABLE 3

Strategic Plan integrated results and resources framework by outcome area, 2014–2017: Updated planned amounts (US\$ millions)

Outcome	Planned 2014–2017		
	Regular resources	Other resources	Total resources
Health	1,023	3,760	4,783
HIV and AIDS	183	671	854
WASH	548	2,014	2,562
Nutrition	365	1,343	1,708
Education	730	2,686	3,416
Child protection	438	1,611	2,050
Social inclusion	365	1,343	1,708
Totals	3,652	13,429	17,081

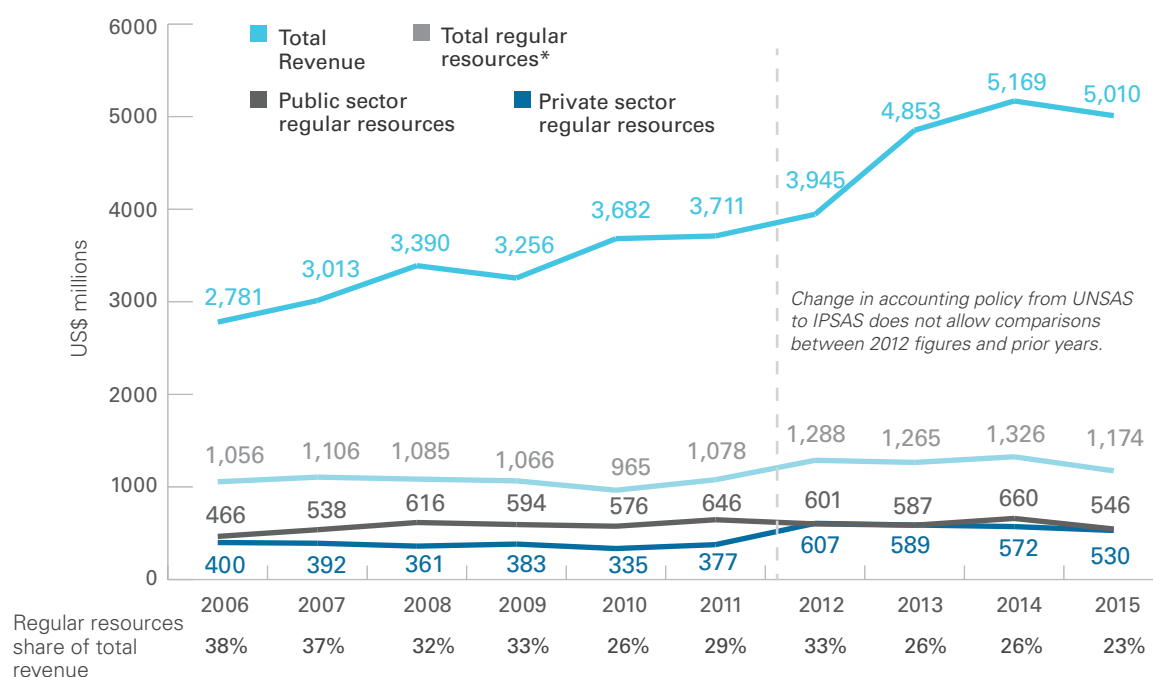
*Data as of 1 April 2016.

In 2015, funding to UNICEF was more than \$5 billion for the second year in a row, thanks to the organization's loyal and new resource partners. At the same time, slowing economic growth and currency fluctuations – particularly of major European currencies and the Japanese Yen vis-à-vis the US dollar – resulted in an overall decrease of 11 per cent of regular resources compared with 2014. Totalling US\$1,174 million, this was the lowest level of

regular resources in four years. At 23 per cent of overall revenue, this was the lowest level of regular resources in UNICEF's history, down from 50 per cent at the turn of the new millennium. Un-earmarked contributions from public-sector resource partners decreased by 17 per cent. As a result, UNICEF relied more heavily on softly earmarked funding streams for delivery of critical and otherwise underfunded programmes and activities.

FIGURE 9

Regular resource share by resource partner category, 2006–2015*



The value of thematic funding (OR+)

While regular resources remain the most flexible contributions for UNICEF, thematic other resources (OR+) are the second-most efficient and effective contributions to the organization and act as ideal complementary funding. Thematic funding is allocated on a needs basis, and allows for longer-term planning and sustainability of programmes. A funding pool has been established for each of the Strategic Plan 2014-17 outcome areas as well as for humanitarian action and gender. Resource partners can contribute thematic funding at the global, regional or country level.

Contributions from all resource partners to the same outcome area are combined into one pooled-fund account with the same duration, which simplifies financial management and reporting for UNICEF. A single annual consolidated narrative and financial report is provided that is the same for all resource partners. Due to reduced administrative costs, thematic contributions are subject to a lower cost recovery rate, to the benefit of UNICEF and resource partners alike. For more information on thematic funding, and how it works, please visit www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/66662_66851.html.

UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-17 Thematic Windows:



PARTNER TESTIMONIAL

Children are a priority on Sweden's international agenda. Sweden has a long tradition of standing up for children's rights. UNICEF has been working for children for almost 70 years, and is a key partner to Sweden in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

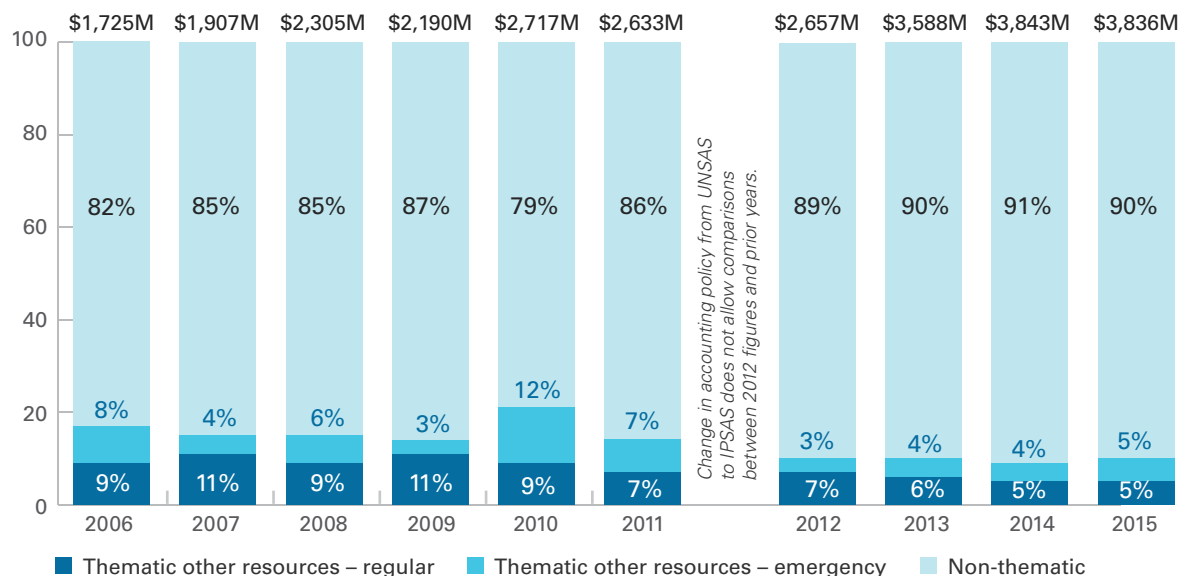
The most excluded and most vulnerable children are reached by UNICEF's thematic funding. As a form of un-earmarked programme support, Sida believes that this financing modality enhances effectiveness since it provides greater flexibility and the possibility to plan activities over the long term, while still being able to act quickly in the event of a crisis. Over the years, Sida's support to UNICEF has moved away from earmarked support towards fewer and larger contributions and increased thematic funding. This trend reflects Sida's confidence in UNICEF as an effective actor and a strong advocate for the implementation of children's rights.

Sida shares UNICEF's belief that all children have a right to survive, thrive and fulfill their potential - to the benefit of a better world. This means equal access to services and care that can make all the difference in children's lives. Children are the next generation who will help build the future. It is our mutual responsibility to give them the best possible conditions. Effectiveness should be the foundation of such an engagement.

Ms. Charlotte Petri Gornitzka -
Director-General, Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)

FIGURE 10

Other resources, 2006–2015: Thematic vs. non-thematic



Of the US\$5,010 million of UNICEF’s revenue in 2015, US\$3,836 million was earmarked. Of these other resources, US\$390 million was softly earmarked as thematic, marking a 14 per cent increase from the US\$341 million in 2014. UNICEF’s Strategic Plan 2014–2017 called for partners to enhance funding aligned to the organization’s strategic mandate. The flexibility

and potential predictability of thematic funding makes these pools an important complement to regular resources for both development and humanitarian programming and the links between the two. This is in line with the universal mandate of UNICEF and in support of country-specific priorities.

Supporting UNICEF’s ability to deliver results for children

UNICEF’s [Cases for Support](#) make the case for investing in children, while also spotlighting how UNICEF is able to deliver robust returns on such investments – for children and for society at large.

Investments in the most vulnerable children not only improve their lives and fulfil the obligation to realize their rights, they also yield benefits for everyone. Improving children’s well-being – from providing essential health care and adequate nutrition and securing access to quality education, to protecting children from violence and exploitation – helps to break intergenerational cycles of deprivation that hamper economic development and erode social cohesion.

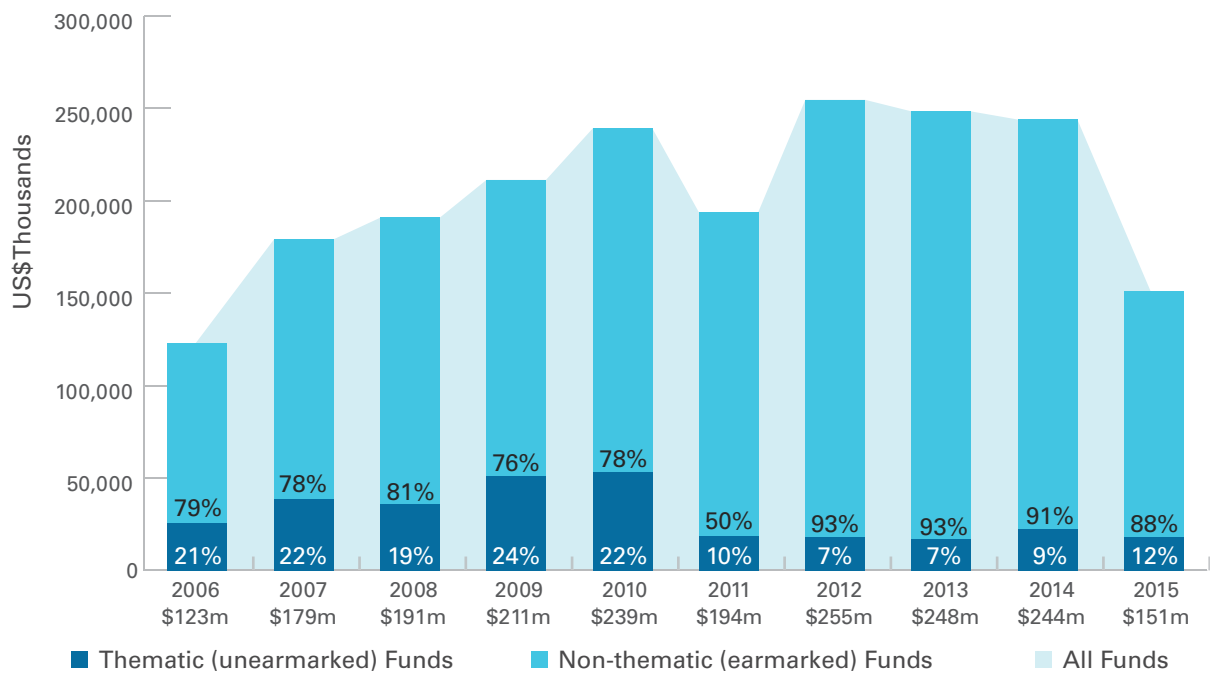
For each area, the Cases describe the key results that UNICEF works to achieve, and outlines the theory of change behind them. This starts with an analysis of the situation of the world’s children, focusing on the challenges facing the most deprived, and an overview of the evidence-based solutions that UNICEF promotes. The Cases also highlight lessons learned from UNICEF’s experience across the world, and draw attention to current risks and the measures needed to mitigate them. Finally, they detail the resources needed to achieve results, and highlight current gaps in funding.

www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/files/ChildProtectionTheCaseForSupport.pdf



FIGURE 11

Child protection other resources funding trend, 2006–2015*



* Regular resources are not included since they are not linked to any outcome or cross-cutting area at the time of contribution by a partner.
 * Change in accounting policy to IPSAS on 1 January 2012 does not allow for comparisons between 2012 figures and prior years.

In 2015, UNICEF received US\$151 million total other resources for child protection (see Figure 11), a sharp drop compared with the previous three years. The top four

resource partners in this area of UNICEF’s work included the United Kingdom, Sweden, Canada and the United States of America (see Table 4).

FIGURE 12

Thematic revenue share by outcome area and humanitarian action, 2015: US\$390 million

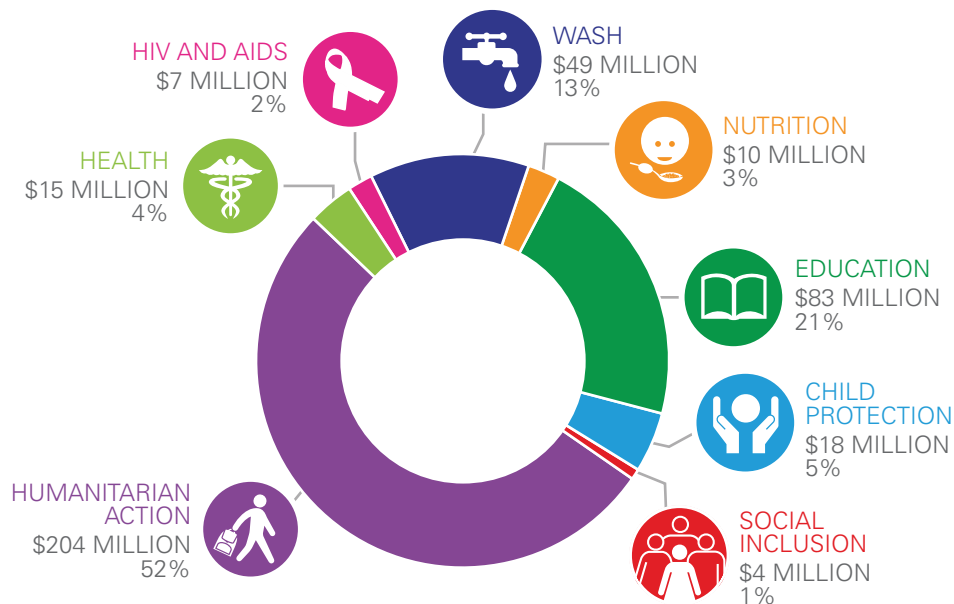


TABLE 4

Top 20 resource partners to child protection, 2015*

Rank	Resource partners	Total (US\$)
1	The United Kingdom	32,014,340
2	Sweden	18,256,922
3	Canada	13,339,341
4	United States of America	11,557,817
5	Netherlands	6,585,049
6	Australia	5,967,719
7	One UN Fund (Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office)	5,358,801
8	European Commission	4,808,822
9	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	4,122,292
10	Norway	4,059,530
11	Swiss Committee for UNICEF	3,752,570
12	United States Fund for UNICEF	3,071,300
13	Pooled Fund contributions (UNFPA)	2,844,463
14	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	2,797,390
15	Spanish Committee for UNICEF	2,456,446
16	Country - Rapid Response Fund in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office)	2,100,000
17	Luxembourg Committee for UNICEF	1,784,597
18	French Committee for UNICEF	1,781,028
19	Switzerland	1,610,606
20	Pooled Fund contributions (UNDP)	1,554,003

*Figures do not include financial adjustments.

In 2015, UNICEF Child Protection received 10 notable (grant) contributions from five core resource partners (see Table 5), including significant resources to support the building of capacity to tackle online child sexual exploitation in 17 countries from the Government of the United Kingdom, and the achievement of UNICEF's child protection strategic targets across all regions, including around birth registration, child marriage, violence against children and data-driven programming from the Government of Sweden. In addition to significant contributions to the sector from the Government of

Canada in previous years, there was significant investment by the Government of Canada in strengthening child protection programming in Ghana in 2015. Specific grant contributions were also secured to support strengthening of the child justice system in the Somali region of Ethiopia.

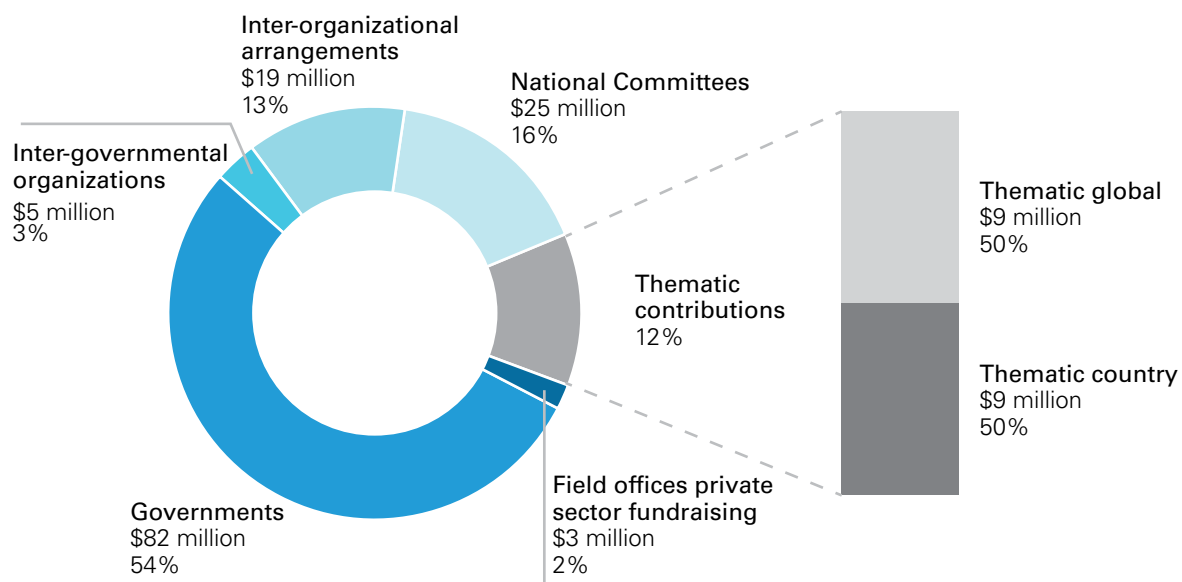
In 2015, UNICEF received US\$18 million in thematic contributions for child protection (see Figure 12), a 19 per cent drop compared to 2014, in part due to currency fluctuations and the strengthening of the US dollar.

TABLE 5
Top 10 contributions to child protection, 2015*

Rank	Resource partners	Grant description	Total (US\$)
1	United Kingdom	Global Programme to build capacity to tackle online child sexual exploitation	15,314,510
2	Sweden	Global thematic funding to child protection, SP 2014–2017	6,448,489
3	United Kingdom	Child Justice Project in the Somali region of Ethiopia	6,205,171
4	United Kingdom	CPF For NAPII – orphans and vulnerable children, Zimbabwe	5,740,412
5	Canada	Child protection programme, Ghana	5,091,075
6	Netherlands	Accelerating the action to end child marriage, global	4,197,064
7	Canada	Together for girls, global	3,933,910
8	One UN Fund (Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office)	PNG/UNDP, Papua New Guinea	2,832,846
9	Sweden	Country thematic funding to child protection in Sudan, SP 2014–2017	2,773,630
10	United Kingdom	Improving structural stability in Kyrgyzstan/Tajikistan	2,439,030

* Figures do not include financial adjustments.

FIGURE 13
Other resources by funding modality and partner group, child protection, 2015:
US\$151 million*



*Figures do not include US\$1 million adjustments.

Thematic contributions were 12 per cent of total other resources for child protection. Of thematic contributions to the sector, 50 per cent was given most flexibly as global thematic funding (see Figure 13).

Close to 77 per cent of thematic contributions received for child protection came from the Governments of Sweden and Norway (see Table 6). Sweden was the largest thematic resource partner, providing 65 per cent of all thematic contributions received, the majority at the global level, as well as contributing at the country level for activities in Mali and the Sudan, while Norway provided all of its contribution most flexibly at the global level.

Sizeable thematic contributions were received from UNICEF Ireland for child protection activities in Rwanda and South Africa, while the Korean Committee for UNICEF provided thematic support to activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal and Swaziland.

UNICEF is seeking to broaden and diversify its funding base (including thematic contributions). The number of partners contributing thematic funding to child protection dropped to 21, one less than 2014.

TABLE 6

Thematic revenue to child protection by resource partner, 2015*

Resource partner type	Resource partner	Total (US\$)	Percentage
Governments 78%	Sweden	11,739,199	64.81%
	Norway	2,190,374	12.09%
	Hungary	150,000	0.83%
	Flanders International Cooperation (Belgium)	9,535	0.05%
National Committees 21%	UNICEF Ireland	1,257,136	6.94%
	Korean Committee for UNICEF	1,000,000	5.52%
	Netherlands Committee for UNICEF	312,174	1.72%
	Norwegian Committee for UNICEF	308,303	1.70%
	Czech Committee for UNICEF	207,720	1.15%
	Spanish Committee for UNICEF	197,697	1.09%
	Andorran Committee for UNICEF	193,407	1.07%
	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	93,515	0.52%
	Polish Committee for UNICEF	90,000	0.50%
	Canadian Committee for UNICEF	79,639	0.44%
	Luxembourg Committee for UNICEF	57,001	0.31%
	Danish Committee for UNICEF	37,767	0.21%
	United States Fund for UNICEF	9,800	0.05%
Field office private sector fundraising >1%	UNICEF-Thailand	100,000	0.55%
	UNICEF-Paraguay	37,287	0.21%
	UNICEF-Brazil	28,965	0.16%
	UNICEF-Yemen	13,200	0.07%
Grand total		18,112,720	100.00%

* Figures do not include financial adjustments.

UNICEF expenditure for child protection was US\$643.6 million in 2015 (a 25 per cent increase from 2014), representing 13 per cent of the organization's total programme expenditure. This translated into increased expenses in all fund types, noting in particular emergency

expenditures (ORE) for child protection programming in emergencies (Programme Area 6), which increased by 43 per cent in 2015 as a result of the growing scale and complexity of humanitarian crises globally.

FIGURE 14
Expenses by outcome area, 2015

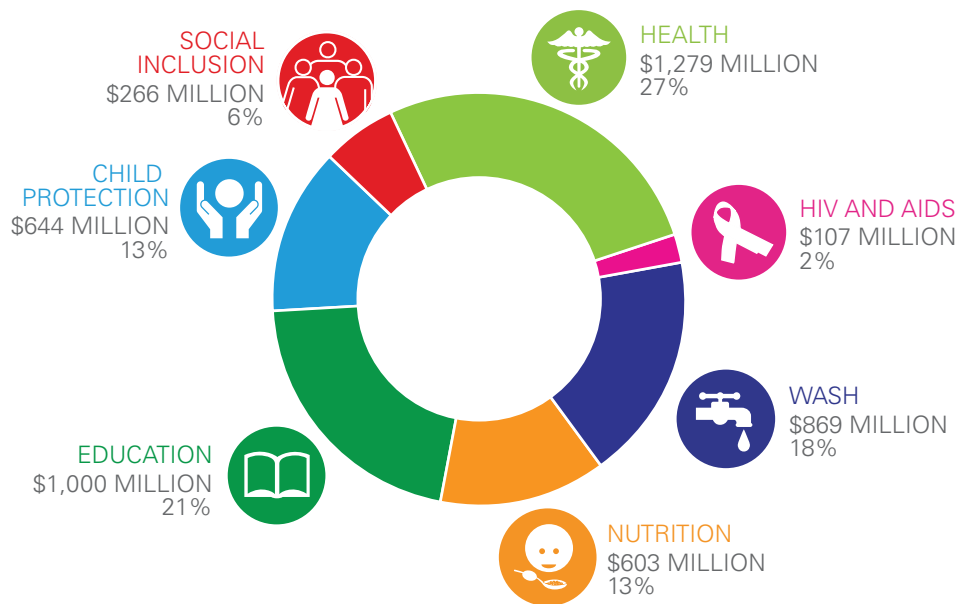
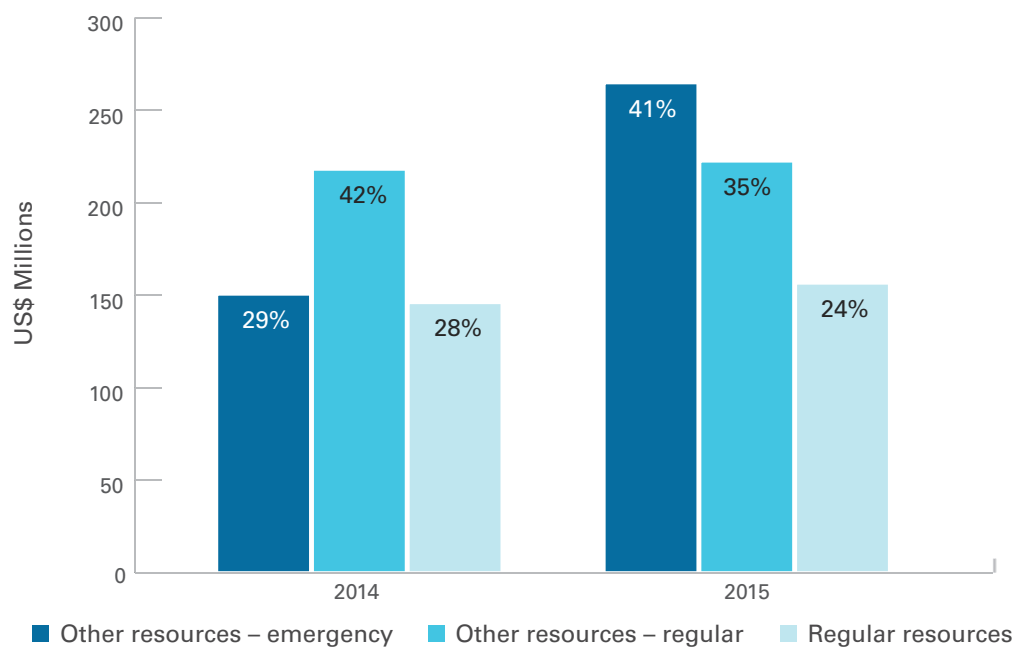


FIGURE 15
Expenses trend for child protection by funding type, 2014-2015



In 2015, the largest expense for child protection was in the Middle East and North Africa region, followed by the West and Central Africa region and the Eastern and Southern Africa region. Together these three regions accounted for 72 per cent of total expenses for child protection and 86 per cent of the outcome area's expenditure of 'other resources – emergency'. Expenses at headquarters for global and regional initiatives, advocacy, monitoring and strategic support to regions and countries accounted for 2 per cent of total expenses.

Note: Expenses are higher than the income received because expenses are comprised of total allotments from regular resources and other resources (including balances carried over from prior years) to the outcome areas, while income reflects only earmarked contributions from 2015 to the same.

FIGURE 16

Total expenses by region for child protection, 2015 (US\$)

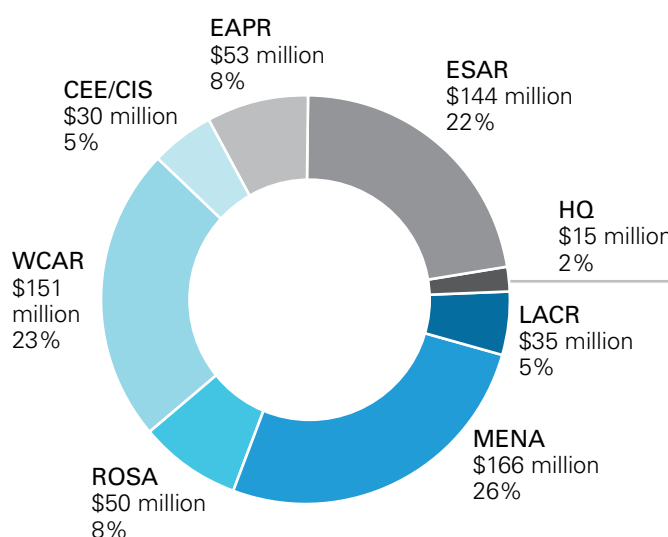


TABLE 7

Expenses by region for child protection, 2015 (US\$)

Region	Other resources – emergency	Other resources – regular	Regular resources	Total	Total expenses (%)
CEE/CIS	8,778,674	13,541,992	7,968,927	30,289,593	5%
EAPR	16,260,933	22,899,631	14,002,394	53,162,959	8%
ESAR	32,824,895	73,212,684	37,988,311	144,025,890	22%
HQ	1,411,339	8,243,877	4,959,771	14,614,987	2%
LACR	3,737,418	20,306,716	10,581,489	34,625,623	5%
MENA	127,784,439	23,590,821	14,435,740	165,811,000	26%
ROSA	6,503,929	18,712,682	24,701,486	49,918,097	8%
WCAR	67,451,905	41,930,907	41,782,755	151,165,567	23%
Grand total	264,753,532	222,439,310	156,420,873	643,613,715	100%

At country level, three of the five largest child protection country programmes are in the Middle East and North Africa region (Lebanon, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic), with their combined 2015 expenses amounting to almost 33 per cent of total expenditure for the top 20 country expenses for child protection. Ten of the top 20 countries spent around 50 per cent or more on the child protection and emergencies programme area (the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Philippines, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic). Six of the top 20 countries spent 25 per cent or more in the programme area on violence, exploitation and abuse. These countries include the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and Somali. Fifteen of the 20 countries invested in justice for children.

Seventeen of the 20 countries invested in strengthening child protection systems with Afghanistan, India and Zimbabwe spending more than 25 per cent in that programme area. Fourteen of the top 20 countries invested in strengthening families and communities with Zimbabwe spending more than 58 per cent of its child protection expenses in that programme area. Ten of the top 20 countries invested in birth registration with Nigeria spending the highest proportion of its child protection expenses (37 per cent) in that programme area. Eight of the top 20 countries spent between 1 and 8 per cent of their overall child protection expenses on data and child protection, reinforcing the overall lack of investment applied to this critical area of work.

TABLE 8

Top 20 country expenses for child protection, 2015 (US\$)

Country	Other resources – emergency	Other resources – regular	Regular resources	Grand total
Lebanon	35,729,10	7,897,223	998,119	44,624,449
Iraq	26,590,583	2,165,402	1,703,519	30,459,504
Zimbabwe	74,621	29,234,203	518,765	29,827,589
Democratic Republic of the Congo	8,741,168	10,554,302	6,495,730	25,791,201
Syrian Arab Republic	24,668,753	49,847	320,740	25,039,340
South Sudan	18,493,653	4,453,535	1,754,091	24,701,279
Jordan	22,643,259	1,200,229	798,715	24,642,203
Liberia	16,495,482	3,023,175	2,066,558	21,585,216
Ethiopia	3,745,066	7,813,679	7,441,801	19,000,545
Philippines	13,801,416	2,132,667	1,139,317	17,073,400
Guinea	11,440,222	2,672,591	2,184,332	16,297,145
India	(1,911)	6,070,980	7,395,938	13,465,007
Somalia	5,290,322	3,310,762	4,252,133	12,853,217
Sierra Leone	10,052,534	1,378,744	1,398,870	12,830,148
Central African Republic	8,650,884	664,129	2,069,591	11,384,604
Sudan	2,596,248	5,365,719	2,419,738	10,381,705
Nigeria	1,201,888	2,507,173	5,438,563	9,147,625
Myanmar	1,411,930	3,589,476	4,109,894	9,111,300
Yemen	5,876,475	1,170,856	1,444,147	8,491,477
Afghanistan	1,044,437	1,338,772	5,963,154	8,346,363
Total top 20	218,546,139	96,593,463	59,913,717	375,053,318

Within child protection, the greatest expense was on UNICEF's work to support interventions in emergencies, accounting for 39 per cent of the total; followed by general expenses on child protection (17 per cent); child protection systems (14 per cent); prevention and

response to violence, exploitation and abuse (10 per cent); strengthening families and communities (9 per cent); justice for children (6 per cent); birth registration (4 per cent); and data and child protection (1 per cent).

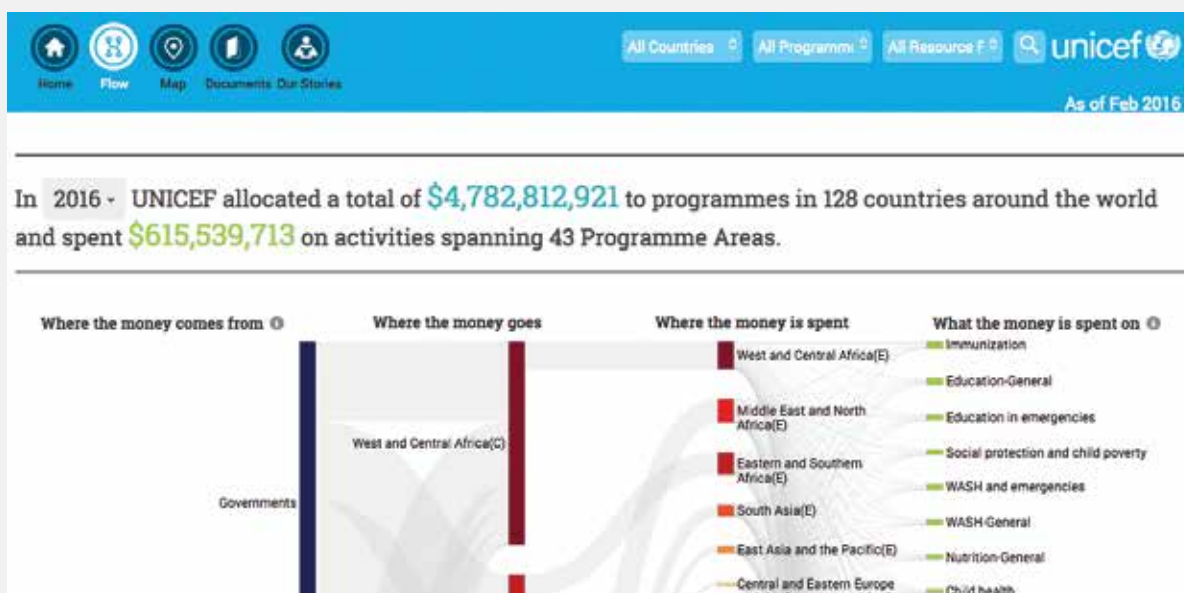
TABLE 9

Child protection programme area expenses by fund type, 2015 (US\$)

Programme area	Other resources – emergency	Other resources – regular	Regular resources	Total	Total expenses (%)
Data and child protection	934,631	4,154,845	4,051,662	9,141,138	1%
Child protection systems	11,229,113	43,891,348	32,232,100	87,352,560	14%
Violence, exploitation and abuse	9,688,216	33,398,360	24,373,170	67,459,746	10%
Justice for children	8,011,761	17,561,100	11,660,469	37,233,329	6%
Birth registration	1,544,143	11,595,107	10,706,281	23,845,531	4%
Child protection and emergencies	203,082,498	27,676,574	17,476,884	248,235,956	39%
Strengthen families and communities	5,722,027	40,725,312	13,663,123	60,110,462	9%
Child protection general	24,541,144	43,436,665	42,257,184	110,234,993	17%
Grand total	264,753,532	222,439,310	156,420,873	643,613,715	100%

**Figure includes funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational costs. Without such cross-thematic and operational usage, outcome area results would often be compromised or not achieved.*

Follow the flow of funds from contribution to programming by visiting <http://open.unicef.org>.



At the half point of the current Strategic Plan, by the end of 2015, expenses reached close to 50 per cent of the revised planned amounts by outcome area. By using expenses as a proxy for revenue, the Strategic Plan remains 50 per cent unfunded. Specifically, for child

protection, the gap is 44 per cent up to the end of 2015 for the 2014–2017 planned period. UNICEF looks forward to working closely with its partners to meet these funding needs and fulfil the shared commitments and results towards Agenda 2030.

TABLE 10

Strategic Plan integrated results and resources framework by outcome area, 2014–2017: Updated planned amounts, actual expenses and funding gap (US\$ millions)*

Outcome	Planned 2014–2017			Actual expenses 2014–2015			Funding gap		
	Regular resources	Other resources	Total resources	Regular resources	Other resources	Total resources	Regular resources	Other resources	Total resources
Health	1,023	3,760	4,783	473	2,035	2,508	550	1,725	2,275
HIV and AIDS	183	671	854	73	141	214	109	530	640
WASH	548	2,014	2,562	211	1,385	1,596	336	630	966
Nutrition	365	1,343	1,708	196	892	1,088	170	451	620
Education	730	2,686	3,416	293	1,533	1,827	437	1,153	1,590
Child protection	438	1,611	2,050	302	856	1,158	136	756	892
Social inclusion	365	1,343	1,708	244	265	509	121	1,078	1,199
Total	3,652	13,429	17,081	1,792	7,107	8,899	1,860	6,322	8,182

* Expenses as a proxy for revenue received.

FUTURE WORKPLAN

The new global agenda presents a critical opportunity for UNICEF and partners to realign child protection efforts towards achievements of the targets, necessitating discussions on prioritization of 2014–2017 Strategic Plan outputs.

Building upon existing achievements and lessons learned during 2014 and 2015, UNICEF will undertake a Mid-Term Review in 2016. Among the key considerations that will shape the next two years, including priority actions, will be evidence of results achieved to-date; the final SDG goals, targets and indicators and their alignment with UNICEF's results frameworks and Strategic Plan Theory of Change. Applying lessons from the global results frameworks developed and refined in 2015, other programme areas will develop and refine their respective programme theories of change and results frameworks in 2016 (notably GBViE, MHPSS and VAC). This will be accompanied by an analysis of data showing prevalence rates and trends to inform the prioritization of efforts. The roll-out of the Child Protection Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation Resource Pack will be advanced, noting opportunities through increased organization-wide attention to results-based management and opportunities to align the capacity building efforts.

Programme area 1 – Data on child protection:

Investments are required to significantly step up global and national data collection tools and methodologies, including for national statistical bodies to track and report progress against the SDG targets. UNICEF will lead on an in-depth review of administrative data sources for birth registration, marriage registration, juvenile justice and violence against children. It will also include an overview of the investments (human and financial) required to strengthen administrative data.

As part of UNICEF's contribution to the monitoring of target 16.2, UNICEF will develop a new survey module on sexual violence, including a 2016 scoping exercise and preparatory development phase of guidelines on the production of statistics on VAC. A partnership mapping and analysis will be undertaken related to child protection and emergencies and prevention and response to violence against children (notably related to target 16.2).

To address gaps in social welfare services in order to prevent and respond to VAC as part of systems strengthening, UNICEF will support the development of an integrated case management information system for child protection in development and humanitarian settings. This system will be informed by experiences across a range of contexts, including from other key sectors such as health and education.

Programme area 2 – Child protection systems: In relation to child protection systems strengthening, a further testing of the financial benchmarking guidance manual will take place in Côte d'Ivoire to refine the methodology and generate comparable indicators, prior to developing a globally applicable tool. This links to wider work, in collaboration with UNICEF's section for social inclusion and external partners, on public finance management, and public expenditure measurement, for children. Focus will also be placed on the continued identification of actions to strengthen national social service workforces. It is planned to collaborate with external partners to develop a typology of social service workforce approaches across middle and low-income, through partnership with the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance and other relevant partners. The aim is to help countries to find which social work approach, or a combination of several, best fits their unique social, economic and cultural environment. This work will feed into the future development of a basic training package for the workforce on the prevention of and response to VAC to address gaps in social welfare services.

Programme area 3 – Violence against children: UNICEF will capitalize on the opportunity presented by the SDGs to continue to position the work on violence prevention and response as a key global issue. An important vehicle will be UNICEF support for the development of a multi-sectoral programme package with key partners for the prevention of and response to VAC. The package will identify key strategies and interventions for addressing VAC. A results framework aligned with the package and indicators to track related targets in the SDGs will be developed. Linkages with early childhood development, education and social protection will be made and experiences and evidence from cross-sectoral work on child marriage and gender will be drawn upon to strengthen attitudinal and normative change in favour of preventing violence. To support the roll-out and update of the package and results framework, UNICEF will partner with leading agencies and experts to develop a global strategy to address violence in schools and in community and online settings. This work will align with the next phase of the #EndViolence initiative, which will entail development of a global advocacy plan and region-specific advocacy strategies on VAC, linked to achieving the SDGs and targets relating to VAC. A mapping of existing partnerships will be undertaken to inform the advocacy strategies and to maximize advocacy and policy efforts.

Specific to sexual abuse and exploitation of children in and out of emergency contexts and on ICT-related violence, exploitation and abuse, UNICEF will publish and disseminate an evidence review and guidance.

UNICEF will also provide guidance to country offices and partners in the area of programme communication and violence prevention.

In addition, 2016 will mark the 10th Anniversary of the release of the Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children – providing an important opportunity to call attention to progress and challenges that remain to address the recommendations made in the first-ever report. 2016 also marks the 20th year since the First World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children. Global programme efforts will continue with key partners in efforts to prevent sexual exploitation, improve data and evidence responses and addressing on-line protection concerns (#WeProtect). UNICEF will also be working closely with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children as a key mechanism for advocacy and resource mobilization to implement the technical programme package and bring evidence-based interventions to scale in order to advance progress towards SDG target 16.2 and other related targets.

UNICEF will complete an evidence-based review of strategies and interventions on armed violence prevention and reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen its programming in this sector and to link it more explicitly to issues of migration and violence against children more broadly.

To contribute to accelerating rates of reduction of child labour, in particular in high-burden countries, UNICEF will improve programme guidance on child labour for regional and country offices and documentation of good practices, with special attention to child labour in emergencies. In order to maximize impact, UNICEF will support international partnerships in support of SDG target 8.7, research partnerships such as UCW and other research partners, and contribute to further develop the normative framework to end child labour, including corporate social responsibility.

Programme area 4 – Justice for children: Strategically, work will continue with UN partners to mainstream justice for children efforts into wider rule of law reform programming, and continue to focus on developing relationships – at the country, regional and global level – with other UN actors whose work in the rule of law involves areas impacting children, in particular, UNODC and UNDP. This will include work with both UNODC and UNDP on completion of the Global Legal Aid Study and follow up activities that will be defined following the publication of the study, alongside on-going engagement with DPKO on the development of pre-deployment training materials on justice for children for UN Police. A key objective of UNICEF justice for children programming is the development of a results framework for justice for children programming, and this will be a priority for finalization in the first half of 2016. This work will help provide greater coherence to justice for children programming by UNICEF globally, as to date, country

offices focus on a variety of interventions across a range of areas. It may be beneficial for UNICEF to direct efforts to a limited number of interventions, particularly the promotion of diversion and alternatives, as there is a growing evidence base around these approaches.

Programme area 5 – Birth registration: UNICEF will continue to work for all children to be registered, with a focus on not only increasing coverage at scale in countries with low registration rates, but also work on initiatives to reach children who are still excluded from registration even in countries with high overall rates of registration, in order to ensure equity. UNICEF's strategy will continue to focus on the enabling environment, so that countries have the appropriate laws and legal frameworks to ensure birth registration for every child as part of a thriving CRVS system. This in turn will ensure that the CRVS system can generate the data and analysis required to improve services such as health and education for children and adults in every country, including encouraging interoperability of systems and ministries, such as the civil registry with health, to register every newborn child. There will be continued emphasis on information technology solutions (ICT) to increase the reach of registration services across a country; harnessing the opportunities of web-based solutions together with the accessibility of open source software. To increase the capacity of the registration system in order to make it more accessible to more people, action will focus on creating guidelines and training to increase the number of registrars and their representatives at local level (which can often include village elders and chiefs, and health workers).

This strategic approach will be enhanced by maintaining key relationships at global level and inter-regional level, such as with the World Bank, WHO, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNHCR and also academic institutions, to ensure policies, regional frameworks, global resolutions and commitments acknowledge the child rights perspective when aiming to achieve universal registration. UNICEF will continue to support the implementation of the BR4MNCH project involving Ethiopia, Mali, Senegal and South Sudan, in collaboration with health sector colleagues. UNICEF will also seek to create and maximise opportunities arising from GFF funds and initiatives and work closely with UNHCR on the campaign to end child statelessness. To strengthen the knowledge base, a handbook on birth registration and CRVS systems on the opportunities afforded by interoperability will be published alongside papers identifying how health systems and birth registration work together to register children and create data of mutual benefit.

Programme area 6 - Child protection and emergencies: In 2016, the child protection and emergencies programme will further strengthen linkages with development programming through systems

strengthening and preparedness measures, to deliver longer term, more sustainable results. It will include finalization of the Child Protection module of the Risk Informed Programming guidance that will help strengthen community resilience and inform prevention, mitigation, and preparedness, in particular in emergency-prone countries and contexts.

Global programme guidance will be enhanced in key priority areas, including through the finalization of the Paris Principles Field Handbook for child recruitment and release and reintegration, and the Inter-Agency Handbook for unaccompanied and separated children. A multi-country evaluation on UNICEF's GBV in Emergencies (GBViE) programming will be used to strengthen UNICEF's current and future GBViE programming that will contribute evidence- and practice-based learning. The operational guidance on community-based psychosocial support will be finalized, together with the inter-agency common monitoring and evaluation framework, establishing an evidence base and indicators to track results. Linkages between the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism and child protection and emergencies programme response will be strengthened, including in subregional and cross-border conflicts. The guidance note on UNICEF Roles and Responsibilities in the CAAC Agenda of the Security Council will be rolled out, together with continued support to country and regional offices for the implementation of the Children, Not Soldiers campaign.

Capacity building across the sector will be significantly enhanced through the launch of the new inter-agency Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Under the leadership of UNICEF child protection and emergencies. These interventions and the framework of results will be informed by the 2014 Child Protection and Emergencies Global Evaluation Management Response Plan, and systematically linked to the Strategic Plan results and the SDGs, and will align with UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.

Programme area 7 – Strengthening families and communities: Integrated efforts will continue, especially across the 17 countries of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme, interlinking actions in the services, social, legal and policy spheres to further accelerate the abandonment of FGM/C. Efforts will be made to further increase exposure among practicing communities to the fact that others like them either never practiced FGM/C or have collectively decided to abandon it. Experience demonstrates that this, together with the increased knowledge of the harmful consequences of the practice and that it is not required by religion, leads to the increase in population groups making collective decisions to end the practice. Efforts will also continue to strengthen the capacity of medical personnel to address the consequences of FGM/C and to end medicalization of the practice. This will build on the partnership with WHO on the development of guidelines for medical

personnel, which will be launched by WHO in 2016. Increased emphasis will also be placed on strengthening the capacity of local government, social service workforce and community committees, where they exist or are being established, to address FGM/C as part of the broader effort of protecting children from all forms of violence. In the legal sphere, there will be a further push in the five remaining countries that do not have sufficient legal instruments criminalizing the practice (Mali, Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen). In all five, the work will build on achievements to date that vary from situations where legislation exists but is deemed too weak (e.g., Mauritania), to where legislation exists in some states but not at national level (e.g., the Sudan), to where bills have been introduced in Parliament (e.g., Mali, Somalia and Yemen).

With the 2016 official launch of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, the primary focus of work will be on the promotion of costed action plans. As part of the ongoing commitment to reach girls at scale, UNICEF and partners will continue engaging sectors that have not traditionally addressed child marriage, such as education, health, social inclusion and nutrition. UNICEF will also strengthen its engagement with adolescent development, C4D and the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative. This work will include efforts to make service delivery points – schools, health facilities, community centres and so forth – adolescent friendly through the training and deployment of appropriate personnel, implementation guidelines and support to menstrual hygiene management in school. UNICEF and partners will work with National Statistical Offices to report against SDG target 5.3, while also strengthening the collection and use of routine administrative data (in particular through Education Management Information Systems and Health Management Information Systems) to track and monitor progress at country level. High-level advocacy will continue through the dissemination of the 2015 Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Know Violence in Childhood initiative has a specific pillar dedicated to supporting families to address violence and harmful practices, including gender-based violence, which will contribute to building a stronger evidence based approach to address violence against children and women. The Latin America and Caribbean region and East Asia and Pacific region will host regional workshops in 2016 to bring together the evidence and knowledge in the area of interventions that address violence across the life cycle. Parenting is also one of the seven key strategies being supported by the leading agencies at the global level via a common technical programme package to address VAC. This alignment will help to contribute to more robust and quantifiable results.

In terms of alternative care, focus will be placed on improving adherence to the Guidelines for

Alternative Care, developing a global tool to assess the implementation of the Guidelines (2016) and developing a free online course to strengthen capacity of child protection actors.

A focus for UNICEF Child Protection around migration will include the development of a programme and results framework. Although the Programme will be global in nature, it is envisaged that it will need to contain regional 'sub-strategies' in order to respond to the differing legal and political environments surrounding the governance of migration at regional and national levels. Within Europe, a key aim will be to strengthen the predictability, coherence and sustainability of services along the migration route across Europe. Building on the experience gained in the 'one UNICEF' approach pioneered in Germany and Slovenia, Child Protection will lead colleagues from UNICEF and National Committees to consolidate and fine-tune collaboration models with National Committees, scale up activities in Greece and Turkey, and scale up contingency planning for stranded people in case borders close, and look at countries at risk of being affected.

UNICEF will further strengthen its organizational position on issues, such as hotspots, returns and relocations, to inform programming and advocacy in a dynamic policy context. UNICEF will also work with partners such as UNHCR and UN Women on targeted advocacy to address the risk of statelessness associated with migration, and to elaborate on the linkages between strengthening birth registration and the prevention of statelessness for migrant and refugee populations.

Child Protection will contribute to the report of the Secretary-General on large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, designed to inform the Summit on the same issue being held in the General Assembly on September 19th 2016. Child Protection section will also contribute significantly to the development of a UNICEF report on the situation of children in migration, designed for release prior to the summit.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

UNICEF expresses its sincere appreciation to all resource partners who contributed to the work on child protection in 2015 through this thematic funding window. Thematic funding contributes towards UNICEF's provision of technical, operational and programming support to countries in all regions for upstream work that helps to deliver quality services for the protection of children. Thematic funding provides greater flexibility, longer-term planning and sustainability of programmes. It reflects the trust resource partners have in the capacity and ability of UNICEF to deliver quality support under all circumstances and contributed towards making possible the results described in this report. Special thanks go to the Governments of Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Netherlands for providing consistent and generous contributions for the protection of children. Acknowledgement is also noted of UNICEF's strong partnership with National Committees, in particular the generosity in 2015 of the National Committees of Ireland and the Republic of Korea.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CAAC	children and armed conflict	MPHSS	mental health and psychosocial support
C4D	communication for development	MRE	mine-risk education
CEE/CIS	Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States	MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
CFS	child-friendly spaces	NGO	non-governmental organization
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System	NHW	National Health Week
CPWG	Child Protection Working Group	OSRSG	Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General
CRVS	civil registry and vital statistics	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey	SRS	Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General
DPKO	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
EU	European Union	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
FGM/C	female genital mutilation/cutting	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
GBV(iE)	Gender-based Violence (in Emergencies)	UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
GFF	Global Financing Facility	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee	VAC	violence against children
ICT	information and communication technology	WHO	World Health Organization
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys		
MNCH	maternal and newborn child health		

ENDNOTES

1. United Nations Children's Fund, 'Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children', UNICEF, New York, 2014.
2. United Nations Children's Fund, 'A Profile of Child Marriage in Africa: A statistical brochure', 2015.
3. United Nations Children's Fund, 'Every Child's Birth Right: Inequities and trends in birth registration', UNICEF, New York, 2013.
4. United Nations Children's Fund, 'Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A global concern', 2015.
5. In addition to UNICEF, partners include ChildFund Alliance, PLAN International, Save the Children, SoS Children's Villages, and World Vision International.
6. University of Cambridge-World Health Organization, 'Global Strategies to Reduce Violence by 50% in 30 Years', 2015.
7. <www.unicef.org/media/media_86347.html>.
8. <www.internal-displacement.org/assets/publications/2015/20150713-global-estimates-2015-en.pdf>.
9. <http://data.unicef.org/corecode/uploads/document6/uploaded_pdfs/corecode/UNICEF-Child-Marriage-Brochure-High-Single_246.pdf>.
10. <www.knowviolenceinchildhood.org/index.html>.
11. United Nations Children's Fund, 'Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children', UNICEF, New York, 2014.
12. The following countries presented information on their programmes: Algeria, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Gulf Area Office, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Niger, Serbia and Yemen. The final report on Bullying in Schools will be presented to the General Assembly in 2016.
13. <http://srs.violenceagainstchildren.org/event/2015-07-06_1319>.
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15. UNICEF New York Child Protection Issue Brief, 2012.
16. <www.unicef.org/ceecis/Equitable_access_to_justice_for_children_in_Central_and_Eastern_Europe_and_Central_Asia_-_v2_1.pdf>.
17. United Nations Children's Fund, 'Every Child's Birth Right: Inequities and trends in birth registration', UNICEF, New York, 2013.
18. Evaluation of Child Friendly Spaces, An inter-agency series of impact evaluations in humanitarian emergencies, <www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/Evaluation%20of%20CFS_Final%20Research%20Report_0.pdf>.
19. Evaluation of UNICEF's Psychosocial Support Response for Syrian Children in Jordan, 2015, <www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_90168.html>
20. South Sudan Psychosocial Support Intervention Factsheet – November 2015.
21. <<http://learningforpeace.unicef.org/resources/growing-up-in-conflict-the-impact-on-childrens-mental-health-and-psychosocial-well-being/>>
22. Details can be found at the website <www.gbvguidelines.org>, which was developed at the launch of the GBV Guidelines. The 2015 Guidelines are also available in Arabic, French and Spanish.
23. Landmine Monitor 2015.
24. In several countries, UNICEF was the sole United Nations agency working on the ground in mine action, including in Chad, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Syrian Arab Republic. Because of its broad presence in most countries it also had access to certain areas that may not be accessible to other organizations (e.g., Lake Chad Basin Region).
25. An inter-agency Mine Action monitoring and evaluation mechanism – a system that emphasizes evidence-based policymaking and results-based management, reaching across all United Nations mine action delivery platforms. At the country level, key focal points comprise UNDP, UNICEF and United Nations Mine Action Service. Data collection is coordinated with resident agencies and the national authorities.
26. 'Counterfactual analysis' as defined by White, H. 'Impact Evaluation: The experience of the independent evaluation group of the World Bank, World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2006, p. 3.
27. Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon and Zimbabwe

28. Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan
29. Iraq, Yemen and Uganda.
30. Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Yemen
31. Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen, and Zambia.
32. Derived from International Organization for Migration, International Migration Law, Glossary on Migration, 2004, p. 34, <http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/IML_1_EN.pdf>.
33. Figures (where available) from Eurostat: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics#Asylum_applicants>.
34. United States Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement statistics at <www.ice.gov/news/releases/dhs-releases-end-fiscal-year-2015-statistics>.
35. World Bank's Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development is an inclusive and multidisciplinary initiative that aims to provide policymakers, researchers and stakeholders in the area of migration and development with a platform to generate and exchange knowledge.
36. The Global Migration Group is an inter-agency group bringing together heads of United Nations entities and other multilateral bodies working in migration, such as the International Organization for Migration and the World Bank.
37. <www.bettercarenetwork.org/library/principles-of-good-care-practices/gatekeeping/making-decisions-for-the-better-care-of-children-the-role-of-gatekeeping-in-strengthening-family>
38. <www.bettercarenetwork.org/search?searchphrase=country%20care%20profiles>.
39. Within UNICEF, a number of sectors work to support children with disabilities. Additional information and results can be found in UNICEF's 2015 Annual Results Report: Social Inclusion.

ANNEX 1

SELECTED DATA-DRIVEN PUBLICATIONS IN 2015

In 2015, a number of data-driven publications authored/co-authored and/or supported by UNICEF:

- Byrne, J., and H. Loening-Voysey, 'Parenting Programme Overview', *Research Summary*, 2015.
- Byrne, J., 'Children and the Digital Age: Evidence based policy making for provision of child rights on line', 2015.
- Byrne, J., 'Why we Need More Research on Children's Use of the Internet?', UNICEF Connect, 2015, <<https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/why-we-need-more-research-on-childrens-use-of-the-internet/>>.
- Byrne, J., and D. Rutstein, 'Supporting Families and Parents in a Rapidly-changing World', UNICEF Connect, 2015, <<https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/supporting-families-and-parents-in-a-rapidly-changing-world/>>.
- Daly, M., et al., 'Family and Parenting Support: Policies and provision in a global context', *Innocenti Insight*, <www.unicef-irc.org/publications/770>.
- Dunne, M. P., et al. 'Violence against Children in the Asia Pacific Region: The situation is becoming clearer', *Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health*, 2015, <<http://aph.sagepub.com/content/early/2015/08/20/1010539515602184.full>>.
- Fenn, N., et al., 'Child Marriage, Adolescent Pregnancy and Family Formation in West and Central Africa', 2015 (Note: Commissioned by UNICEF to ICRW).
- Inter-American Development Bank and United Nations Children's Fund, 'A Systematic Approach to the Application of ICT in Birth Registration', 2015.
- Legrand, Jean-Claude, 'Child Care System Reforms in Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia: Why we took the decision to focus on children below three years', *Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies*, 2015.
- Legrand, Jean-Claude, Deepa Grover, and Bettina Schwethelm, 'Institutionalization and the Early Childhood Years: Perspectives from Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States', in Marope, PTM and Kaga, Y., Eds, *Investing against Evidence: The Global State of Early Childhood Care and Education*, UNESCO.
- Livingstone, S., and J. Byrne, 'Challenges of Parental Responsibility in a Global Perspective – Digitally connected – Global perspectives on youth and digital media', *Berkman Center Research Publication* no. 2015-6, the Social Science Research Network Electronic Paper Collection, 2015.
- Livingstone, S, John Carr and J. Byrne, 'One in Three: Internet governance and children's rights', Global Commission for Internet Governance Paper Series, GCIG paper no. 22, CIGI and Chatham House, 2015, <www.cigionline.org/publications/one-three-internet-governance-and-childrens-rights>.
- Maternowska, M.C., and D. Fry, 'Understanding the Drivers of Violence: A step-by-step guide to conducting preliminary research around what drives violence', Innocenti Publication, Forthcoming <http://www.unicef-irc.org/>
- Menich, F., L. Cluver, and H. Loening-Voysey, 'Physical, Emotional and Sexual Adolescent Abuse Victimization in South Africa: Prevalence, incidence, perpetrators and locations', *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* (forthcoming).! to BULLET four to respect alphabetical order.
- Oganda Portela, M.J, and K. Pells, 'Corporal Punishment in Schools: Longitudinal evidence from Ethiopia, India, Peru and Viet Nam', Innocenti Discussion Paper DP-2015-02, Florence, Italy, 2015, <www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/CORPORAL%20PUNISHMENT%20IDP2finalrev.pdf>.
- Sumner, Steven A et al., 'Prevalence of Sexual Violence Against Children and Use of Social Services — Seven Countries, 2007–2013', *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 64, 2015, pp. 565–569.
- UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS, Children's Equitable Access to Justice, 2015.

ANNEX 2

Visualizing achievements

Each achievement is expressed as a percentage and visualized through colour coding:



Green

Indicator level

Achievement of the indicator is at or above 100% of the milestone

Outputs and outcome area level

Average achievement of indicators in the output or outcome area is at or above 100%



Amber

Indicator level

Achievement of the indicator is between 60% and 99% of the milestone

Outputs and outcome area level

Average achievement of indicators in the output or outcome area is between 60% and 99%



Red

Indicator level

Achievement of the indicator is less than 60% of the milestone

Outputs and outcome area level

Average achievement of indicators in the output or outcome area is less than 60%

Child Protection

Average achievement rate:

100% ●

Impact Indicator	Baseline*	2017 Target	2015 Update**
6a. Percentage of women 20-24 who were married or in a union by age 18	27% (2005-2012) for the world	24% for the world	26% (2005-2014) value for the world
6b. Percentage of children under five whose birth is registered	65% (2005-2012)	75%	72% (2005-2013)

Outcome Indicator	Baseline*	2017 Target	2015 Update**
P6.1 Countries with a 10% reduction in the proportion of girls aged 15-17 years who have ever experienced sexual violence (forced to have sexual intercourse or perform any other sexual act against one's will), in countries with a prevalence of at least 5%	Out of 24 countries with data and prevalence of >5%	2	Prevalence of at least 5%: 32 out of 44 UNICEF programme countries with data (2004-2014)
P6.2 Countries with a 10% reduction in the proportion of children aged 2-14 years (definition will change by 2017 to ages 1-14 years) who experience violent disciplinary practices by an adult member of the household	Out of 53 countries with data	5	Data not available
P6.3 Countries with a 20% reduction in the number of children in detention per 100,000 children	Out of 80 countries with data	15	Data not available
P6.4 Countries with a 10% or more reduction in the proportion of girls aged 0-14 years undergoing female genital mutilation/cutting	Out of 17 countries with UNICEF/UNFPA joint programme (2000-2012)	5	Data not available
P6.5 Countries with less than 10% of children aged 5-17 years involved in child labour	44 (2005-2014)	50	41 (2005-2014)
P6.6 Countries with a 10% reduction in the proportion of children in residential care (out of all children in both residential and foster care)	Out of 80 countries with data	15	-
P6.7 Countries with a 5% reduction in the proportion of women aged 20-24 years married by age 18 years, in countries with a prevalence of at least 25%	50 (2010-2012)	8	Prevalence of at least 25%: 42 out of 91 UNICEF programme countries with data (2010-2014)
P6.8 Parties to conflict listed in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict that enter into action plans to end grave violations against children	Governments: 75% Armed groups: 12.5%	State parties: 100% Non-State parties: 10%	State parties: 75% Non-State parties: 6%

*2013 unless otherwise indicated.

**or data from the most recent year available.

Output a

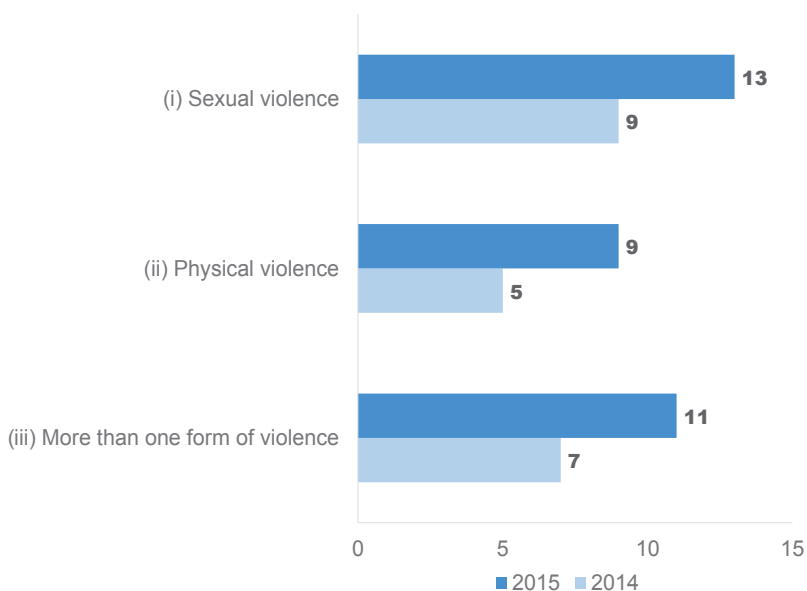
Enhanced support and increased capacity of children and families to protect themselves and to eliminate practices and behaviours harmful to children

Average output achievement
113% ●

P6.a.1

Countries in which UNICEF-supported programmes aimed at increasing children’s capacity to identify, prevent and/or report violence reach at least 75% of the target population at risk

2014 Baseline	(i) 9 (ii) 5 (iii) 7
2015 Result	(i) 13 (ii) 9 (iii) 11
2015 Milestone	(i) 10 (ii) 6 (iii) 8
2017 Target	(i) 12 (ii) 8 (iii) 10



Achievement (i) 130% ●

Achievement (ii) 150% ●

Achievement (iii) 138% ●

P6.a.2

Countries with 75% of targeted parents reached by programmes addressing child-rearing practices

2013 Baseline	2
2014 Result	3
2015 Result	4
2015 Milestone	12
2017 Target	30

Less than 75%

75% or more

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Albania | Mauritania | Botswana |
| Bangladesh | Mongolia | Mali |
| Belarus | Mozambique | Niger |
| Bulgaria | Myanmar | Republic of Moldova |
| Costa Rica | Paraguay | |
| Dominica | Romania | |
| El Salvador | Rwanda | |
| Eritrea | South Africa | |
| Ghana | Suriname | |
| Guyana | Swaziland | |
| Kazakhstan | Turkmenistan | |
| Liberia | | |

Achievement 33% ●

Output b

Increased national capacity to provide access to child protection systems that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect

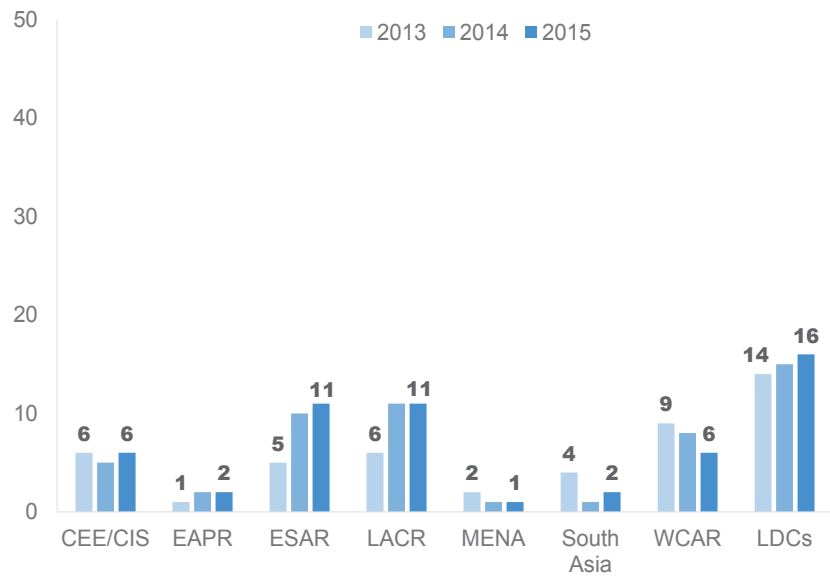
Average output achievement
106%

P6.b.1

Countries with functioning child protection systems offering preventive and response services

2013 Baseline	33
2014 Result	38
2015 Result	41
2015 Milestone	42
2017 Target	55

Achievement 98%

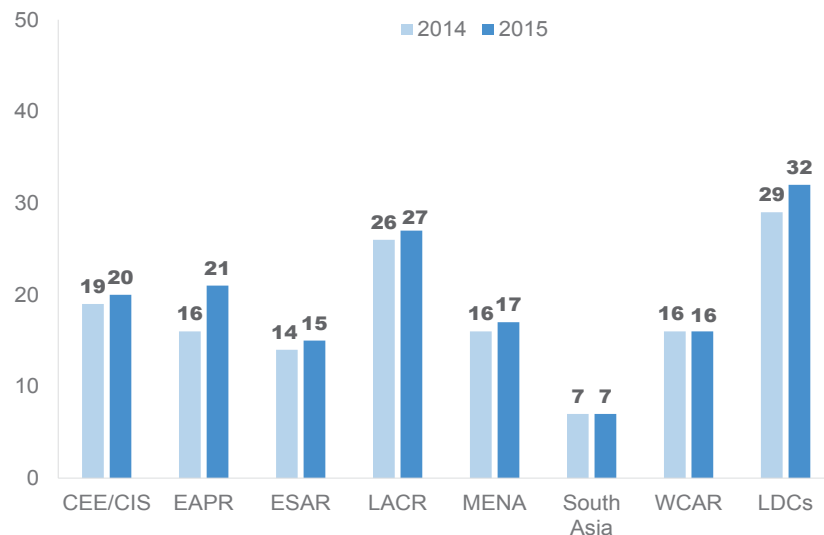


P6.b.2

Countries with availability of free and universal birth registration

2014 Baseline	114
2015 Result	123
2015 Milestone	121
2017 Target	135

Achievement 102%

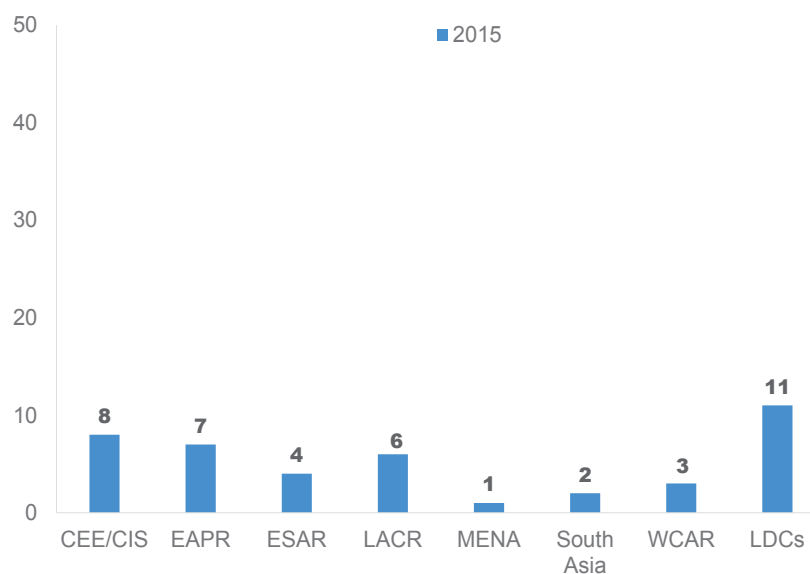


P6.b.3

Countries in which procedures and services for children in contact with the law are applied and delivered in line with international norms

2014 Baseline	26
2015 Result	31
2015 Milestone	34
2017 Target	50

Achievement 91% ●

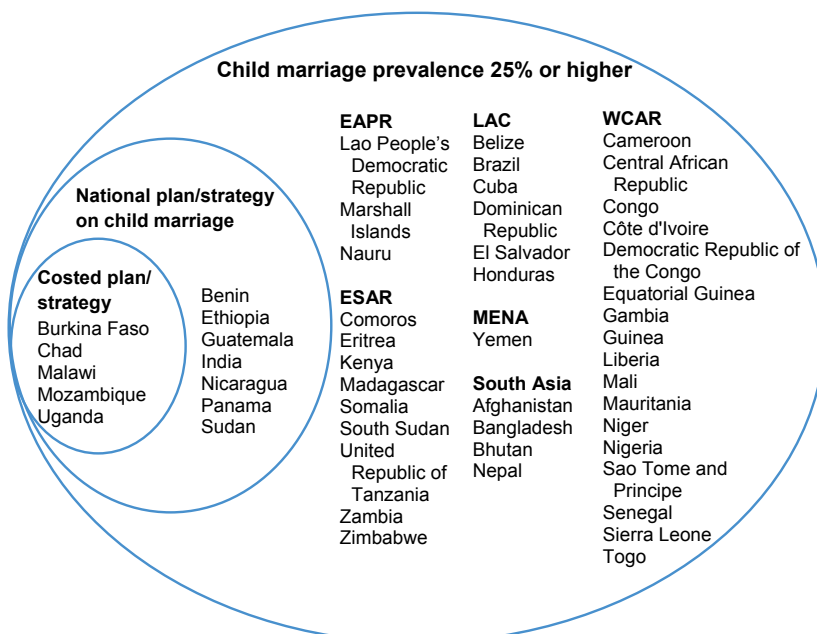


P6.b.4

Countries (of those in which child marriage prevalence is 25% or higher) with national strategies or plans on child marriage

2013 Baseline	1
2014 Result	2
2015 Result	5
2015 Milestone	4
2017 Target	12

Achievement 125% ●

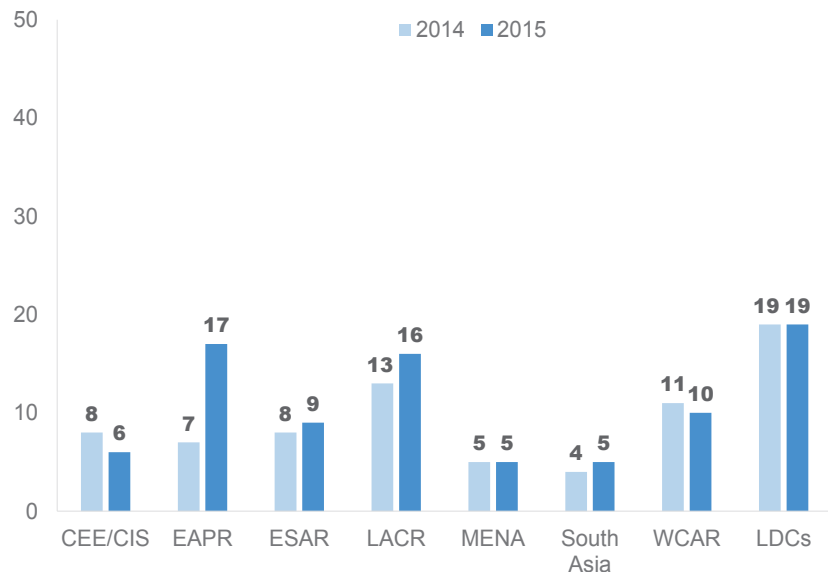


P6.b.5

Countries with comprehensive national approaches on early childhood development that include budgets and functioning coordination mechanisms

2014 Baseline	56
2015 Result	68
2015 Milestone	60
2017 Target	70

Achievement 113% ●



Output c

Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for the scaling-up of interventions that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect

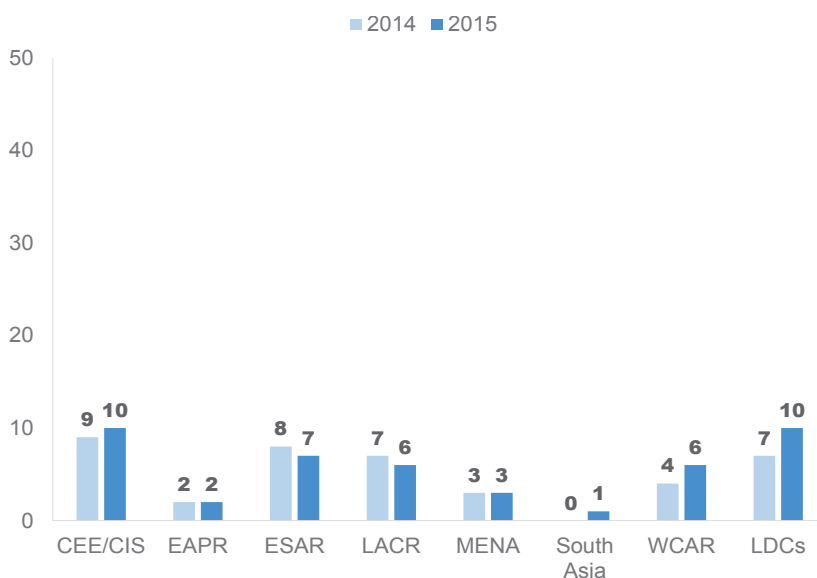
Average output achievement
99%

P6.c.1

Countries with legislation on child protection consistent with or better than international standards

2014 Baseline	33
2015 Result	35
2015 Milestone	37
2017 Target	50

Achievement **95%**

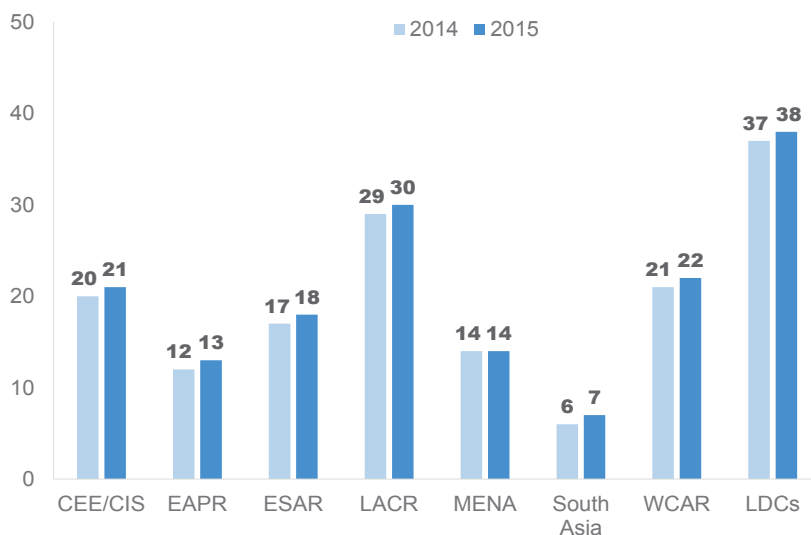


P6.c.2

Countries with legislation in place that recognizes children's right to be heard in civil and administrative proceedings that affect them (in line with article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child)

2014 Baseline	119
2015 Result	125
2015 Milestone	121
2017 Target	125

Achievement **103%**



Output d

Increased country capacity and delivery of services to ensure that children's right to protection from violence, abuse and exploitation is sustained and promoted in humanitarian situations

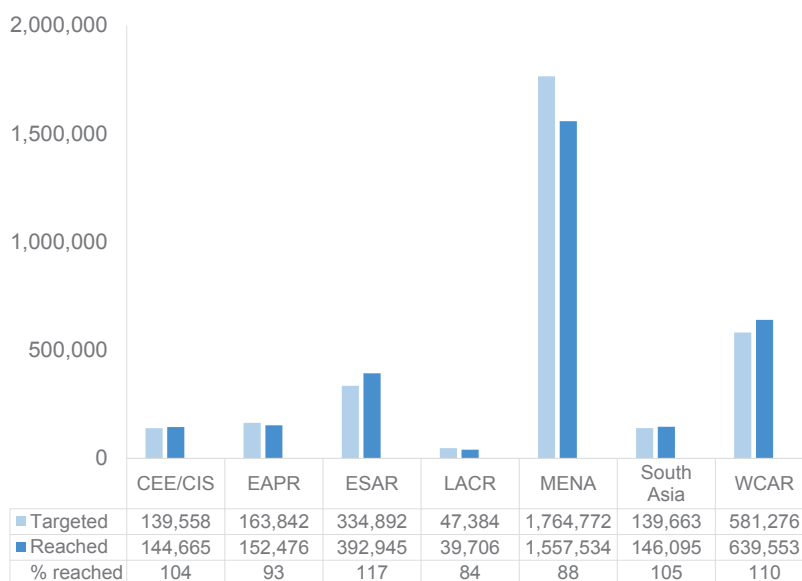
Average output achievement
86%

P6.d.1

UNICEF-targeted children in humanitarian situations benefitting from psychosocial support

2014 Baseline	81%
2015 Result	97%
2015 Milestone	100%
2017 Target	100%

Achievement 97%



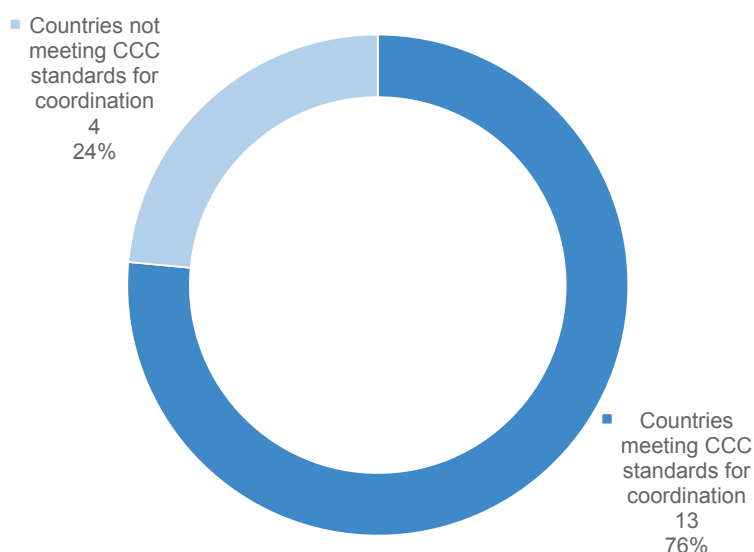
P6.d.2

Countries in humanitarian action in which the country subcluster coordination mechanism for (a) child protection and (b) gender-based violence meets CCC standards for coordination

2014 Baseline	(a) 74%	(b) 50%
2015 Result	(a) 76%	(b) -
2015 Milestone	(a) 100%	(b) 100%
2017 Target	(a) 100%	(b) 100%

Achievement 76%

Note: 2015 result for gender-based violence is not yet available.

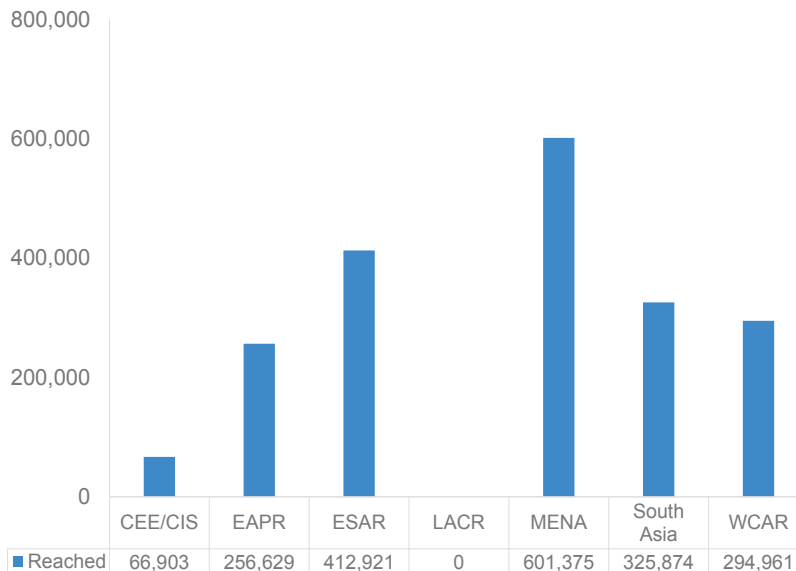


P6.d.3

UNICEF-targeted children and women in humanitarian situations who experience or are at risk of experiencing sexual violence and receive at least one kind of multisectoral support service (e.g., health, psychosocial (can include access to a dignity kit or safe space), livelihood/economic strengthening or justice service or activity)

2014 Baseline	79%
2015 Result	-%
2015 Milestone	100%
2017 Target	100%

Note: 2015 result in percentage is not available. To be reported in 2017.

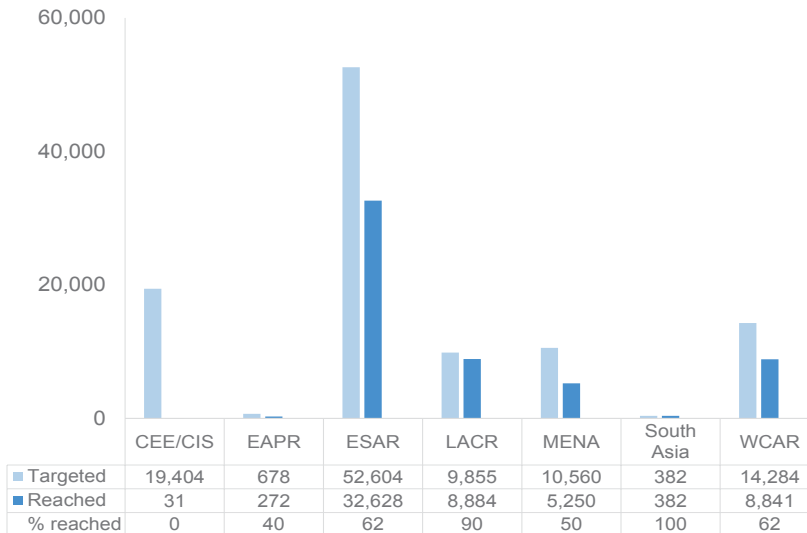


P6.d.4

UNICEF-targeted children in humanitarian situations who were registered as unaccompanied or separated and reunified with families or caregivers, or received appropriate alternative care services

2014 Baseline	53%
2015 Result	52%
2015 Milestone	60%
2017 Target	80%

Achievement 87% ●

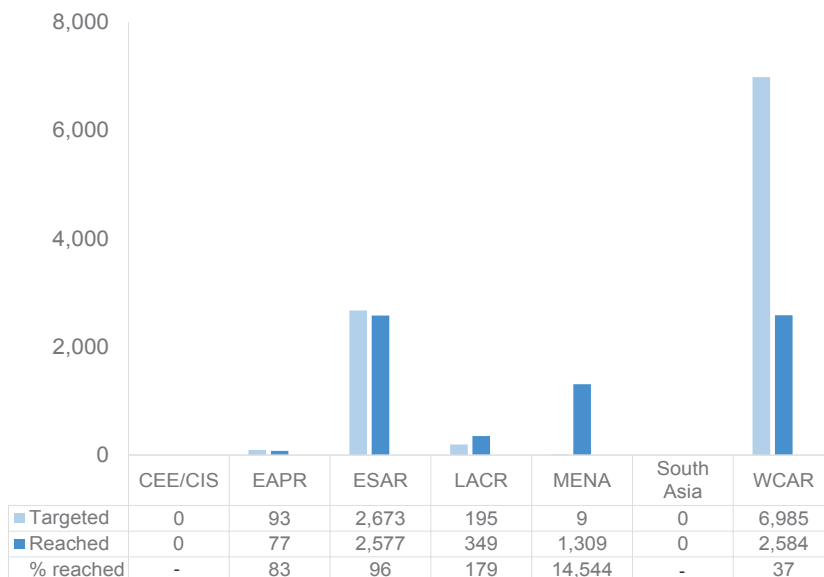


P6.d.5

UNICEF-targeted children released from armed forces and groups who were reintegrated

2014 Baseline	82%
2015 Result	69%
2015 Milestone	100%
2017 Target	100%

Achievement 69%

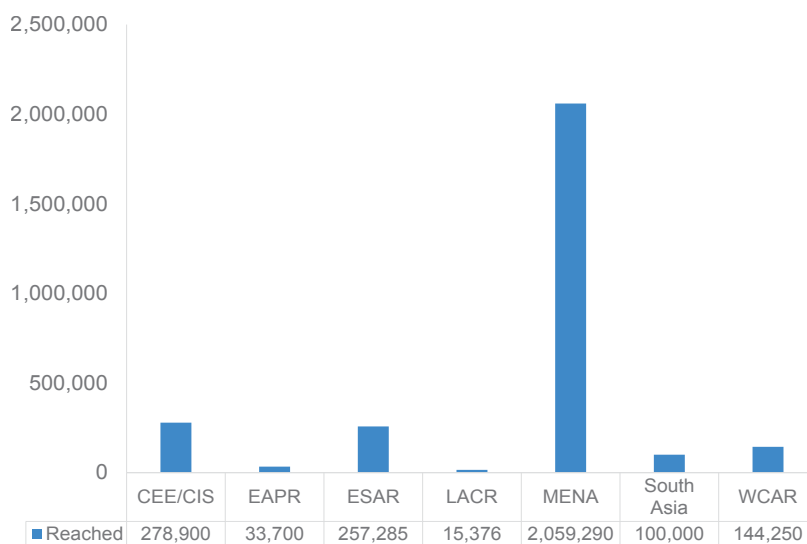


P6.d.6

UNICEF-targeted children who benefit from weapons-related risk education

2014 Baseline	-%
2015 Result	-%
2015 Milestone	100%
2017 Target	100%

Note: 2015 result in percentage is not available. To be reported in 2017.

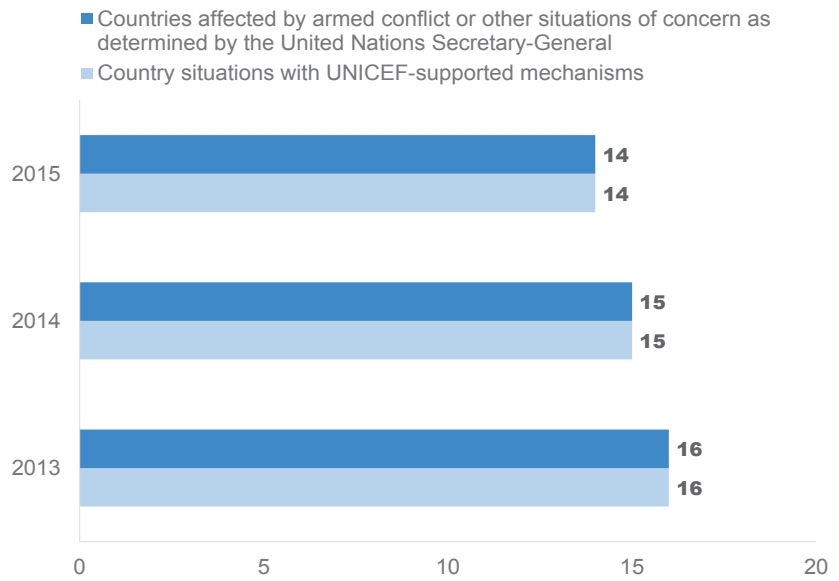


P6.d.7

Country situations with UNICEF-supported mechanisms to monitor and report on grave violations against children

2013 Baseline	100%
2014 Result	100%
2015 Result	100%
2015 Milestone	100%
2017 Target	100%

Achievement 100% ●



Output e

Increased capacity of Governments and communities to identify and respond to human-rights and gender-equality dimensions of child protection

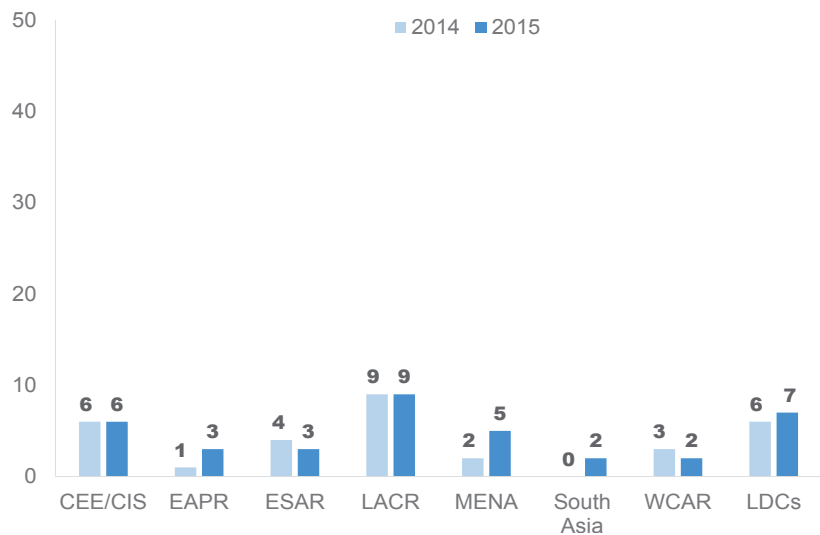
Average output achievement
93%

P6.e.1

Countries that collect and publish routine administrative data on violence, exploitation and abuse of children, including violent deaths and injuries

2014 Baseline	25
2015 Result	30
2015 Milestone	30
2017 Target	40

Achievement 100%

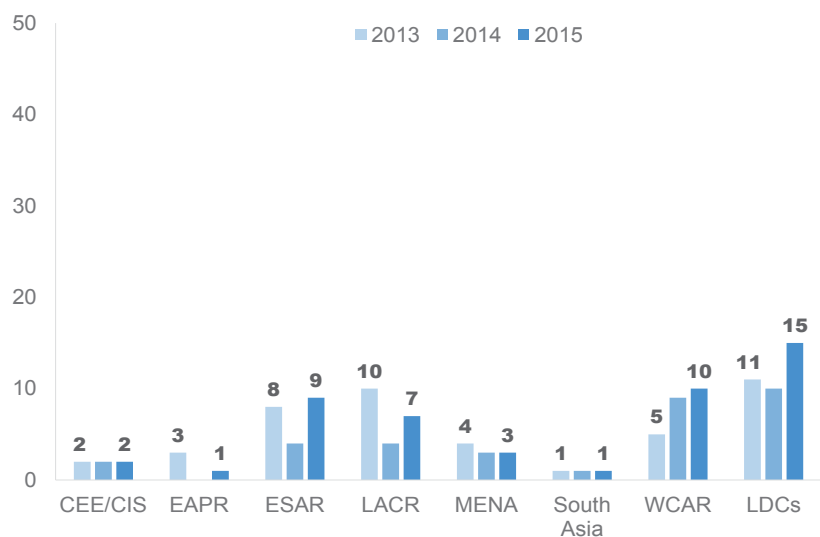


P6.e.2

Countries that have revised or improved child-protection policies on the basis of a gender review supported by UNICEF

2013 Baseline	33
2014 Result	23
2015 Result	33
2015 Milestone	38
2017 Target	70

Achievement 87%



Output f

Enhanced global and regional capacity to accelerate progress in child protection

Average output achievement

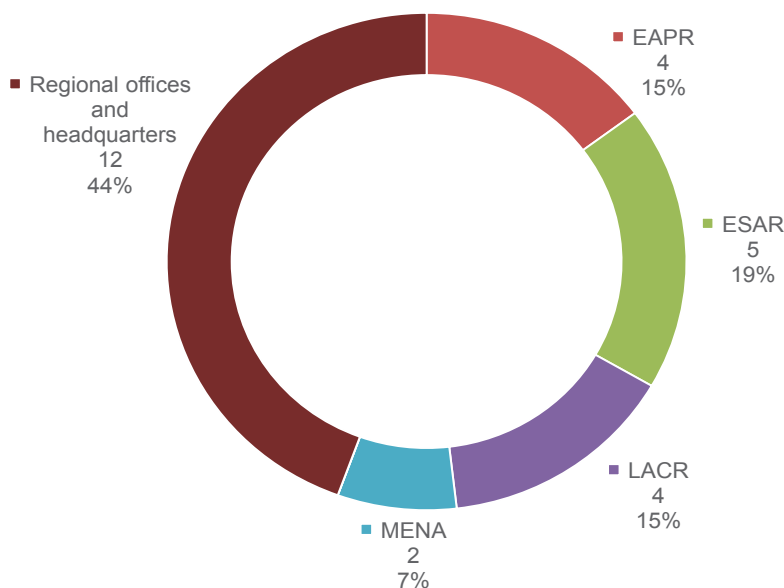
107% ●

P6.f.1

Peer-reviewed journal or research publications by UNICEF on child protection

2014 Baseline	49
2015 Result	27
2015 Milestone	53
2017 Target	60

Achievement 51% ●



P6.f.2

Key global and regional child-protection initiatives in which UNICEF is the co-chair or provides coordination support

2013 Baseline	15
2014 Result	36
2015 Result	49
2015 Milestone	30
2017 Target	20

Achievement 163% ●

Global initiatives

- Armed Violence Prevention Programme - together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- African Union Commission-United Nations partnership to protect children in armed conflict (a partnership that includes the African Union Commission Peace and Security Department, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and UNICEF)
- Better Care Network
- Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies
- 'Children, Not Soldiers' Campaign
- Child Protection Information Management System
- Child Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group
- Child Protection Working Group
- United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms
- Consultative Working Group on Monitoring and Evaluation for the UN Strategy on Mine Action
- Donors Working Group on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting



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