



GOAL AREA 3

Every child is protected
from violence and exploitation

Global Annual
Results Report 2018

unicef 
for every child

Cover: © UNICEF/UN0253257/Moreno Gonzalez
Aranza Benavente, 1, travels with her mother, Yenny Casadiego, from Cojedes, Venezuela, to Ibarra, Ecuador. Aranza received one of the 5,000 kits distributed as part of UNICEF's efforts to provide support to children and families impacted by the Venezuelan immigrant crisis.

Expression of thanks: © UNICEF/UN0185849/Tremeau
Odia, 17, has lived for the past four months at the Centre de Transitet d'Orientation, a UNICEF-supported reintegration centre for children associated with armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. "Here in the Centre, I like the advice I receive from the social workers," she said.

Page 2: © UNICEF/UN0216605/Sokol
Rohingya refugee children play at a UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Space in the Leda Makeshift Camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The Child Friendly Space, operated by UNICEF and partners, provides a safe environment and offers informal education, games and other psychosocial activities for refugee children.

Page 6: © UNICEF/UN0214713/Babajanyan
Nazerke, 5, poses for a portrait at a kindergarten in Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan. Her father was violent towards his wife and children. A nurse, a psychologist and a social worker trained by UNICEF have supported the family to end the cycle of violence and improve the family's well-being.

Page 12: © UNICEF/UN0276253/Boro
On the National Day of the Girl in West Bengal, India, more than 300,000 girls and women make a 348-kilometer human chain, part of a mass public awareness campaign to end child marriage.

Page 72: © UNICEF/UN0231622/Dejongh
Elrom, 2 months old, seems to be very happy with her birth registration, Accra, Ghana.



Expression of thanks

UNICEF expresses its deep appreciation to all resource partners who contribute to its work on child protection, enabling UNICEF to support countries in all regions to deliver strategic and direct child protection interventions to marginalized children, their families and communities. This includes, but is not limited to, the European Commission, the governments of Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and all National Committees for UNICEF, particularly the National Committees of Finland, Republic of Korea and Norway.

UNICEF would like to extend particular thanks to its partners who provided thematic funding for child protection, notably the governments of Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Spain and Sweden. Thematic funds are critical in allowing for greater flexibility, long-term planning, and innovative programming. Thematic contributions reflect the trust resource partners have in UNICEF and its capacity and ability to deliver quality support. These funds have contributed significantly to the results described in this report.

Seventy years after UNICEF was established, the organization's mission to promote the full attainment of the rights of all children is as urgent as ever.

The UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 is anchored in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and charts a course towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the realization of a future in which every child has a fair chance in life. It sets out measurable results for children, especially the most disadvantaged – including in humanitarian situations – and defines the change strategies and enablers that support their achievement.

Working together with governments, United Nations partners, the private sector, civil society and with the full participation of children, UNICEF remains steadfast in its commitment to realize the rights of all children, everywhere, and to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a world in which no child is left behind.

The following report summarizes how UNICEF and its partners contributed to Goal Area 3 in 2018 and reviews the impact of these accomplishments on children and the communities where they live. This is one of eight reports on the results of efforts during the past year, encompassing gender equality and humanitarian action, as well as each of the five Strategic Plan goal areas – 'Every child survives and thrives', 'Every child learns', 'Every child is protected from violence and exploitation', 'Every child lives in a safe and clean environment', and 'Every child has an equitable chance in life', and a short report on Communication for Development (C4D). It supplements the 2018 Executive Director Annual Report (EDAR), UNICEF's official accountability document for the past year.

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Executive Summary

Goal Area 3 of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, is the first articulation of the commitments UNICEF has made towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – notably SDGs 5, 8 and 16. The commitment of UNICEF Goal Area 3 to achieving equitable and improved prevention of and response to violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices is central to realizing the rights of every child, as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Goal Area 3 aims to ensure that every child is protected from violence and exploitation across development and

humanitarian contexts. Drawing on the theory of change, Goal Area 3 seeks to balance the need to respond to rights violations at scale, while strengthening systems and furthering social change to prevent their occurrence in the first place.

Recent data trends suggest significant scale-up of action is necessary as the pace of progress remains insufficient in many key areas to meet the Agenda’s goals and targets by 2030. Three in four children under the age of 5 experience violent discipline by their caregiver. In schools, one in

two children are subjected to peer-to-peer violence,¹ and corporal punishment has yet to be fully prohibited in schools in 68 countries across the world.² A UNICEF study in 30 countries found that only one out of three adolescent girls who experienced sexual violence sought help; only 1 per cent sought professional help.³ Children continue to be disproportionately affected by armed conflict. Around 30 million children have been displaced by conflict, increasing their risk of violence, abuse and exploitation – including being forced into child labour – and heightening their risk of being trafficked for sexual exploitation.⁴

UNICEF's close collaboration with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence) continues to galvanize the translation of political will at global, regional and country levels into concrete, coordinated national policy agendas to reduce violence against children (VAC). Together with End Violence, the Government of Sweden and other partners, UNICEF co-convened the Global Solutions Summit – the first-ever VAC-focused summit at ministerial level. UNICEF played a critical role preparing for the summit, facilitating the identification and sharing of good practices, and advocating for specific commitments to address violence. The resulting Stockholm Solutions Summit Proclamation renewed calls to place all children – especially those most vulnerable – at the centre of the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, with support from UNICEF and partners, eight governments confirmed their commitment to becoming Pathfinder countries as part of End Violence in 2018, increasing the global list of Pathfinder countries to 23 (from 14 in 2017). As chair of the End Violence Executive Board, the UNICEF Executive Director plays a critical role in championing the issues of VAC and advocating for global, regional and national commitments to end VAC.

Subsequently, there has been a scaling up of actions to shift norms and policies around violence of all forms in and around schools. This included the formation of the Safe to Learn initiative, calling on countries to end violence in every school by 2024 – an initiative conceived by members of End Violence: UNICEF; the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID); United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI). In response to this call, UNICEF has identified some 20 countries to provide direct support to implement and monitor actions to end violence in and around schools.

Overall, UNICEF supported 134 countries to strengthen prevention and response services for children affected by violence in 2018, with an increased number of countries reporting progress in integrating service delivery across sectors. This includes improved services for child survivors in the health sector (with at least 40 countries reporting demonstrable progress) and enhanced sectoral linkages between justice and social service actors to strengthen services for child survivors of violence in judicial and criminal proceedings (with at least 28 countries reporting tangible progress in this regard). Moreover, 68 countries report improved education sector responses to reduce violence in and around schools and ensure safe school

environments. For example, to strengthen equity, an important milestone in Mozambique saw the revocation of controversial legislation (Decree 39) which required pregnant girls to attend the night shift of schools: an option available in fewer than 5 per cent of schools. UNICEF-supported programmes contributed to over 2.3 million boys and girls who had experienced violence in 112 countries receiving health, social work, justice and law enforcement services (far exceeding expected performance). UNICEF-supported parenting programmes reached over 2 million mothers, fathers and caregivers in 75 countries (a more than two-fold increase over the nearly 800,000 reached in 2017).

As part of the drive to strengthen child protection systems, UNICEF continues to prioritize support to governments to strengthen their social service workforces. The number of countries engaged in scaling up related interventions increased from 114 (2017) to 132 (2018). Thirty-two countries report having well-developed quality assurance systems in place for social services. While this falls marginally short of the 2018 milestone (37 countries), through the launch of UNICEF's Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection (forthcoming 2019) and the organizational push to accelerate results on this work, UNICEF is still on track to meet the 2021 target of 65 countries.

To strengthen child protection-related data, particularly in the context of SDG target 16.2, UNICEF launched a new country consultation process with national authorities on selected child-related SDG indicators to identify data flows for global reporting of SDG indicators. An Inter-Agency Expert Group on Violence against Children (IAEG-VAC) was established to develop tools to produce internationally comparable data on SDG 16.2 indicators, to improve data coherence among United Nations Member States; and to develop an infrastructure for global monitoring of VAC programmes. Data availability, though improved, remains highly fragmented, with sporadic data collection efforts and underdeveloped national child protection data systems. UNICEF will continue to drive accelerated action to enhance national capacity.

As part of the strategic commitment to eliminate harmful practices, UNICEF co-leads two of the largest United Nations joint programmes with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): the UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): Accelerating Change (launched in 2008); and the UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (launched in 2016). In the context of child marriage, there is an increasing number of countries moving from developing national action plans (NAPs) towards developing costed implementation of those plans. This includes an additional seven countries reporting progress in 2018, bringing the total number of countries implementing a costed NAP or strategy to end child marriage to 15; double the 2018 milestone. UNICEF support to strengthening child marriage prevention and care interventions reached nearly 5 million adolescent girls

(aged 10-19) in 46 countries (including 12 countries of the Global Programme), a significant increase compared with the 2.1 million reached in 2017. Countries also continue to strengthen service delivery systems and preventive strategies for FGM, with close to 100,000 girls and women in 13 countries receiving prevention and protection services (100 per cent of the target). Moreover, with nearly 7 million people participating in UNICEF-supported education, communication and social mobilization platforms promoting the elimination of FGM, UNICEF and UNFPA are on track to reach the 2021 target of 7.8 million annually.

While the global burden for child marriage and FGM is on the decrease, sub-Saharan Africa presents a risk where rates of progress need to be scaled up dramatically to offset population growth. To address this, UNICEF partnered with UNFPA to support efforts both on and off the continent (including in 2018 through the Second African Girl Summit and International Conference on FGM, and during the Commission on the Status of Women, European Development Days and General Assembly Sessions). A joint statement by UNICEF, UNFPA and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Executive Directors was released to ensure that preventing and responding to harmful practices remains visible on the political agenda. Following these efforts, the governments of Belgium, Norway and the first private sector donor, Zonta International, joined the UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage.

To effectively achieve the SDG 16 target of providing access to justice for all, UNICEF must urgently enhance its collaboration with partners to scale up action. Though an additional six countries report specialized justice for children (J4C) systems in place, bringing the total to 24, this falls well below the 2018 milestone (117 countries). At this rate, UNICEF is off track for meeting its 2021 Strategic Plan target (147). In 2018, 24 per cent of the girls and boys in contact with the law benefited from improved access to justice services across 22 countries. This fell short of the milestone set for 2018 (35 per cent). Looking forward, UNICEF will prioritize actions to support the integration of J4C into child protection systems, particularly concerning child victims of violence and access to justice. It will also renew approaches to United Nations country teams' engagement on wider rule of law and security sector programming to mainstream J4C into system-wide rule of law assistance from the United Nations. The availability and accessing of reliable administrative data on the numbers of children coming into contact with the justice system remains a major bottleneck. To support data improvements, UNICEF initiated a study in 2018 on justice systems administrative data to identify bottlenecks and potential solutions/good practices. Moreover, UNICEF will use the momentum gained from the release of the *Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty* (2019) and the complementary *Report of the Independent Expert to the United Nations General Assembly* to continue to advocate with partners for improved data collection and analysis on children deprived of liberty, and on the J4C system overall.

Despite the absence of an alternative care-related target in the SDGs to protect children without parental care, UNICEF plays a critical role in driving the global care reform agenda and supporting national reforms. The 2009 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (2009 Guidelines) provide global standards to align national agendas so they better protect children without parental care and provide them with the best care options. UNICEF supported programmes in 106 countries that address institutionalization and promote alternative care, with many countries reporting varying but improving levels of progress. Progress is, at best, uneven within and across countries that were engaged in this area of work in 2018. A total of 27 countries reported to have in place comprehensive policies in line with the 2009 Guidelines. Though this shows steady progress from the 23 countries reporting in 2017, it is well below the 2018 milestone (78). Given the pace of progress, the Report and Resolution on the Rights of the Child in the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, focusing on the theme of children without parental care, will present an important platform to increase advocacy with Member States to accelerate action. UNICEF will facilitate a series of discussions with diverse actors in the care reform space to ensure that both the Report and the Resolution reflect realities on the ground and make relevant recommendations. UNICEF will also continue to provide strategic guidance and leadership to strengthen national efforts around prevention of family separation, deinstitutionalization and developing non-institutional care alternatives.

Accelerated action to build functional civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems is critical to meeting SDG 16.9 and ensuring all children have a legal identity by 2030. UNICEF supported 78 countries to improve universal birth registration services and to strengthen CRVS. UNICEF supported national civil registration authorities to register over 16 million births (in 50 countries) and issue birth certificates to over 13 million people (in 43 countries). Out of the countries that were engaged in improving universal birth registration services and to strengthen CRVS in 2018, the number of UNICEF-supported countries reporting free and universal birth registration remains low (17 countries); well below the 2018 milestone. UNICEF will continue to promote policy reforms for free and universal birth registration and further leverage partnerships with health and other social sectors as key strategies for reaching universal coverage and securing legal identity (birth certificates) for all children. To strengthen the coordination of a coherent and integrated United Nations response to, and programming on, the issue of legal identity, UNICEF will continue to co-chair the Legal Identity Expert Group (LIEG).

UNICEF Child Protection in Emergencies programming achieved major results for children, revealing strong country-level implementation, despite challenging operating environments and funding shortfalls in some contexts. More than 3.6 million children and adolescents in 59 countries accessed psychosocial support, including

through support extended to caregivers (83 per cent of the target population). More than 13,000 children associated with armed forces and groups that were released were reintegrated with families and/or received care and services, with UNICEF support (nearly 100 per cent of the target population). Mine risk education to reduce injuries from landmines and explosive remnants of war reached more than 3.7 million children in 18 countries (72 per cent of the target population). Yet challenges remain. Humanitarian access restrictions in the Syrian Arab Republic prevented UNICEF from reaching 1.2 million children with life-saving protection-related messages.

UNICEF played an active leadership role in the Call to Action on Protection against Gender-based Violence (GBV) in Emergencies, promoting the accountability of all humanitarian action to mitigate the risk of GBV in the design and delivery of assistance. Over 1.3 million women, girls and boys were provided with GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions (exceeding 100 per cent of the UNICEF target population). Robust results are due to adaptive programming in humanitarian settings, including increased engagement of first responders, innovating to extend reach, and leveraging partnerships to transform humanitarian action on a broad scale. For example, in the midst of the tenth Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF and its partners used an innovative model for integrating psychosocial support into all areas of the public health response, and provided almost 126,000 conflict-affected children and caregivers with support. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) received renewed attention and investment in 2018, and 16 countries significantly scaled up action. The organization played a leading role in galvanizing collective action for PSEA, joining efforts across the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the United Nations system, and charting the course for accelerating implementation in all countries with humanitarian response plans or refugee response plans. With the UNICEF Executive Director taking up the role of Inter-Agency Standing Committee Champion for PSEA and Sexual Harassment, 2019 should see a further acceleration of PSEA programmes, including on the priorities of safe and child-sensitive reporting, survivor support and accountability.

UNICEF reached nearly 1.7 million children on the move with protective services across 48 countries in 2018 (compared with 900,000 in 2017). This included scaled up action to broaden the protection safety net for children in

several regions, including the Horn of Africa, south-east and Central Asia, West Africa, the Middle East and North Africa. The adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018) and the Global Compact for Refugees (2018) was a historic moment for global migration governance, advancing international cooperation on refugee movements and renewing commitment to addressing the individual needs of migrant and refugee children and their families. Efforts by UNICEF have contributed to reiterate the 'best interests of the child' principle in global protection strategies for migrant and refugee children.

UNICEF also produced a number of critical global public goods in 2018, including: *An Everyday Lesson: #ENDviolence in schools*, *Child Marriage: Latest trends and future prospects*, and contributed to groundbreaking research on child association with armed groups through the 2018 United Nations University report, *Cradled by Conflict: Child involvement with armed groups in contemporary conflict*. In all, UNICEF, together with partners, produced 159 knowledge products globally spanning the spectrum of child protection issues.

In 2018, resource partners contributed US\$164 million 'other resources – regular' (ORR) for Goal Area 3, which was a 4 per cent decrease from the previous year. Goal Area 3 is facing critical funding gaps, with around US\$200 million for development programming and US\$348 million for humanitarian action. In 2018, Goal Area 3 expenses were US\$658.2 million, a slight drop of 5 per cent from 2017 levels (US\$689.6 million). Goal Area 3 expenses represent 12 per cent of total UNICEF expenditure for 2018 (US\$5,394.5 million). This expense ratio has been largely consistent since 2014.

For the new Strategic Plan, UNICEF set ambitious milestones for 2018 based on available trend data and on the assumption that it captured the 'state of the world'. To monitor performance, UNICEF also introduced more rigorous screening analysis to enable results reporting to focus on UNICEF attribution, assessing progress against a newly-introduced, distinct and demanding set of criteria not previously used in earlier annual reporting processes. As a consequence, a number of strategic indicators fell well short of the milestones set for 2018, namely in the areas of child labour, birth registration, alternative care and justice of children. UNICEF is currently conducting further analysis to understand the underlying drivers of this situation, so as to identify the measures needed to accelerate progress.



Strategic context

Even as the world gathers to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the fundamental rights of children to be protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices continue to be violated. With just 12 years left to the Agenda 2030 deadline, there is a need to inject a sense of urgency to increase action by countries, along with strengthening collaborative partnerships among governments and stakeholders at all levels. Only roughly one fifth of countries have sufficient

data to assess progress towards Goal Area 3 related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators (*see Box 1 Goal Area 3 related SDG indicators*), according to UNICEF analysis – pointing to the magnitude of the task ahead (*see ‘Strengthening data and evidence for child protection’*).⁵

Delivering on the promise to end child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) is fundamental not only to protecting children, but also to advancing gender equality (SDG 5.3). Recent UNICEF data⁶ reveal that global levels

of child marriage have declined over the past decades, with the proportion of young women who were married as children decreasing by 15 per cent. In South Asia, a girl's risk of marrying in childhood has declined by more than a third, from nearly 50 per cent a decade ago to 30 per cent today, largely driven by great strides in reducing the prevalence of child marriage in India. Nonetheless, South Asia remains home to the largest total number of child brides. Increasingly, however, the global burden of child marriage is shifting from South Asia to sub-Saharan Africa. Population growth threatens to result in an ever-higher number of child brides in sub-Saharan Africa during the coming years. Projections show that between now and 2030, some 150 million girls will marry before their 18th birthday. In order to meet the target of elimination by 2030, global progress would need to be 12 times faster than the rate observed over the past decade.

In the 30 countries with nationally representative FGM prevalence data, around one in three girls aged 15-19 today have undergone the practice versus one in two in the mid-1980s. Fast decline among girls aged 15-19 has occurred across countries with various levels of FGM prevalence, including in Burkina Faso, Egypt, Kenya, Liberia and Togo.

Despite these declines, two thirds of countries where FGM is most prevalent are ones in which demographic trends point to an estimated 68 million girls at risk of undergoing FGM by 2030.

Children continue to be disproportionately affected by armed conflict. There has been a nearly 300 per cent increase since 2010 of the number of cases of killing and maiming of children verified by the United Nations.⁷ Around 30 million children have been displaced by conflict, increasing their risk of being forced into labour – including into hazardous labour – and heightening their risk of being trafficked for sexual exploitation and other work.⁸ High levels of violence, conflict, insecurity, crime and exploitation have a profound impact on sustainable development. Millions of children around the globe continue to experience emotional, physical and sexual violence in homes, communities, schools, workplaces, detention centres, and institutions, and online. Despite an increase in data availability on all forms of violence against children (VAC) in recent years, including violent disciplinary practices, current projections suggest no country with trend data is on track to eliminate violent discipline by 2030 (SDG 16.2).⁹

BOX 1: Goal Area 3 related SDG indicators



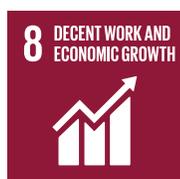
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by form of violence and by age group

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by age group and place of occurrence

5.3.1 Percentage of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

5.3.2 Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age group



Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.7.1 Percentage and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age group



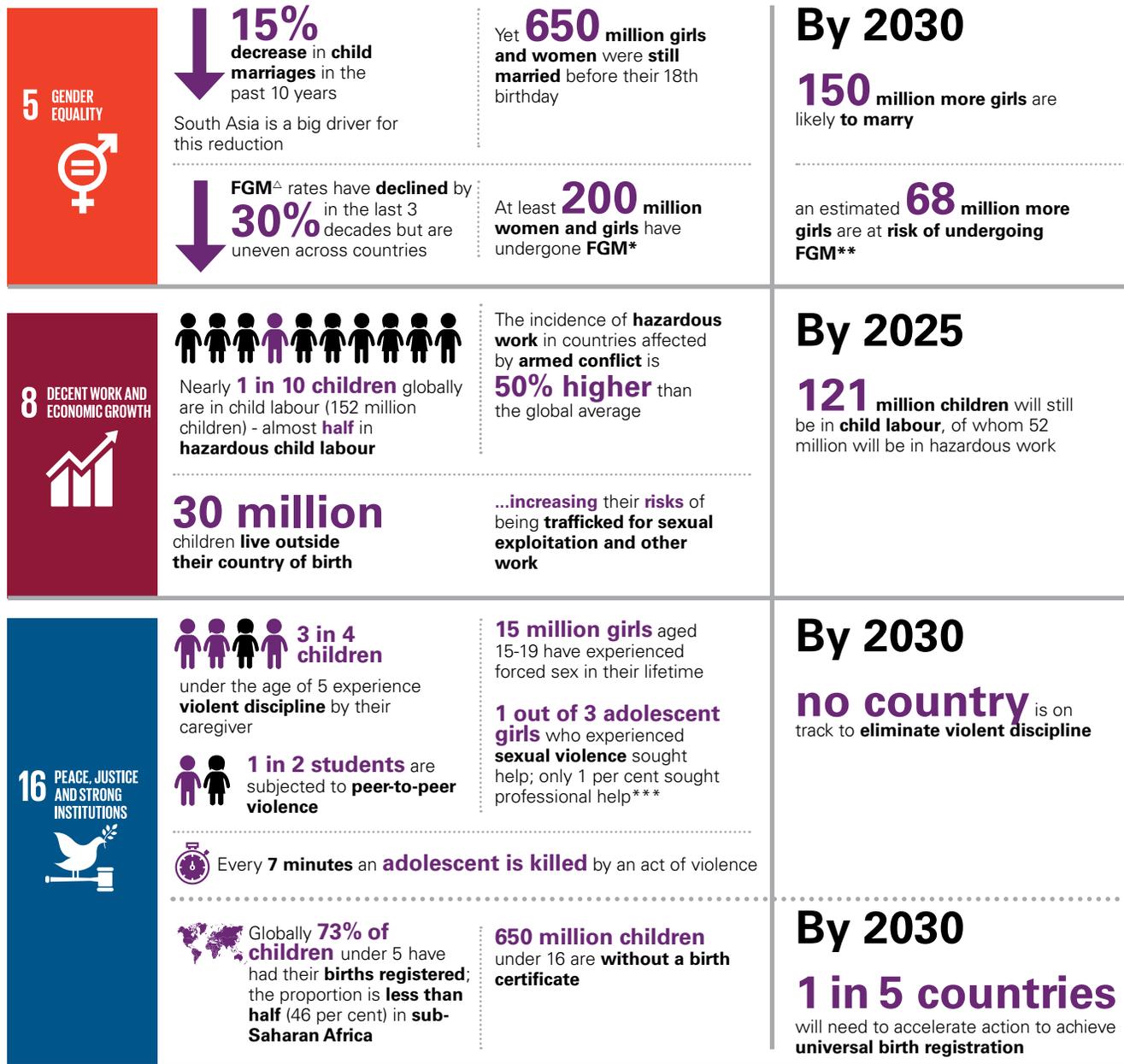
Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month

16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

FIGURE 1: Summary of Goal Area 3 data trends and tracking progress



Δ Female Genital Mutilation * based on latest available data from 30 countries ** based on demographic trends in two thirds of countries where FGM is most prevalent *** based on a UNICEF study in 30 countries

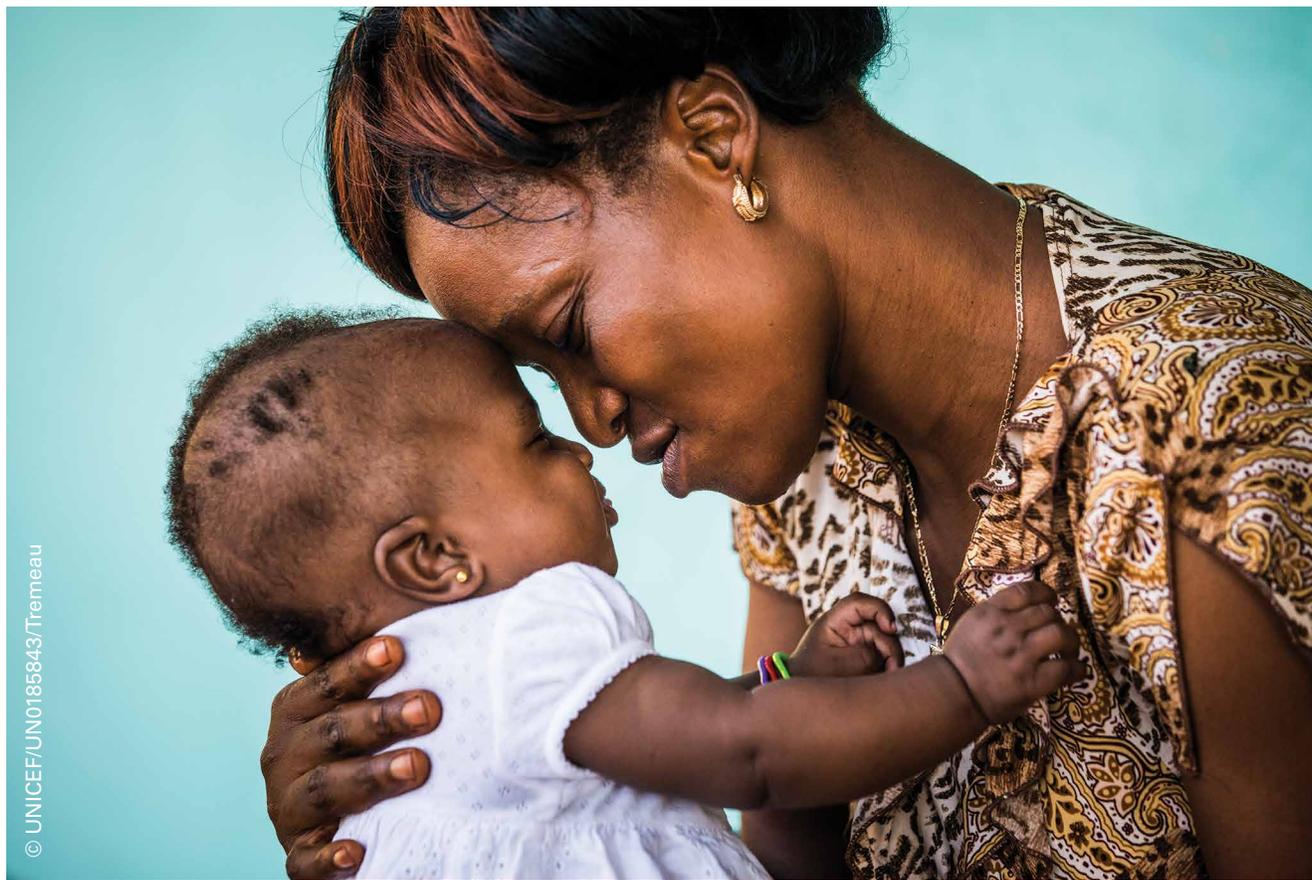
Source: International Labour Office, *Global Estimates of Child Labour: Results and Trends 2012-2016*, Geneva, ILO, 2017; United Nations Children's Fund, *Child Marriage: Latest trends and future prospects*, New York, UNICEF, July 2018; United Nations Children's Fund, 'UNICEF Data: Monitoring the situation of children and women', page on 'Female genital mutilation' (February 2018) <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation/>; United Nations Children's Fund, 'UNICEF Data: Monitoring the situation of children and women', page on 'Child migration' (December 2018) <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-migration-and-displacement/migration/>; United Nations Children's Fund, *A Familiar Face: Violence in the lives of children and adolescents*, UNICEF, New York, 2017; United Nations Children's Fund, *Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era*, UNICEF, New York, 2018; United Nations, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018*, New York, 2018.

Civil registration systems establish the legal recognition of an individual's existence, yet more than 100 countries lack fully functioning civil registration systems. Providing legal identity for all, including birth registration (SDG 16.9), is a fundamental human right, but also key to ensuring the fulfilment of other rights. Legal identity is catalytic for achieving at least 12 of the SDGs and supports the measurement of over 70 SDG indicators. Moreover, children living without parental care (e.g., those living in institutions, on the streets, or who are unaccompanied and/or separated) are not explicitly included in the SDGs, posing even greater risk of them being missed. Data availability continues to be an issue, with China, the world's most populous country, among those with no globally comparable birth registration data. Sub-Saharan Africa, the region with the lowest level of birth registration, has seen slowest progress overall. If current trends continue, the world will fall short of universal birth registration by 2030.¹⁰

Quality data are vital in making informed decisions and to ensure an accurate review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, yet many countries face various data-related challenges in reporting on the SDG Goal Area 3 targets.¹¹ In many countries, there are insufficient data collection efforts for some indicators, resulting in low population

coverage for global and regional estimates. Estimates suggest there are 650 million children living in countries where, without accelerated progress, at least two thirds of the SDGs are out of reach. Further, there are 520 million 'unaccounted' children – that is, children who live in countries that completely lack data on at least two thirds of child-related SDG indicators, or lack sufficient data to assess their progress. The impact of the lack of data on children can be avoided by establishing stronger shared norms on data concerning children, including common approaches to measuring emerging threats facing children, capturing missing child populations, and sharing data to enable vulnerable children to be more effectively identified, while protecting children's privacy.¹²

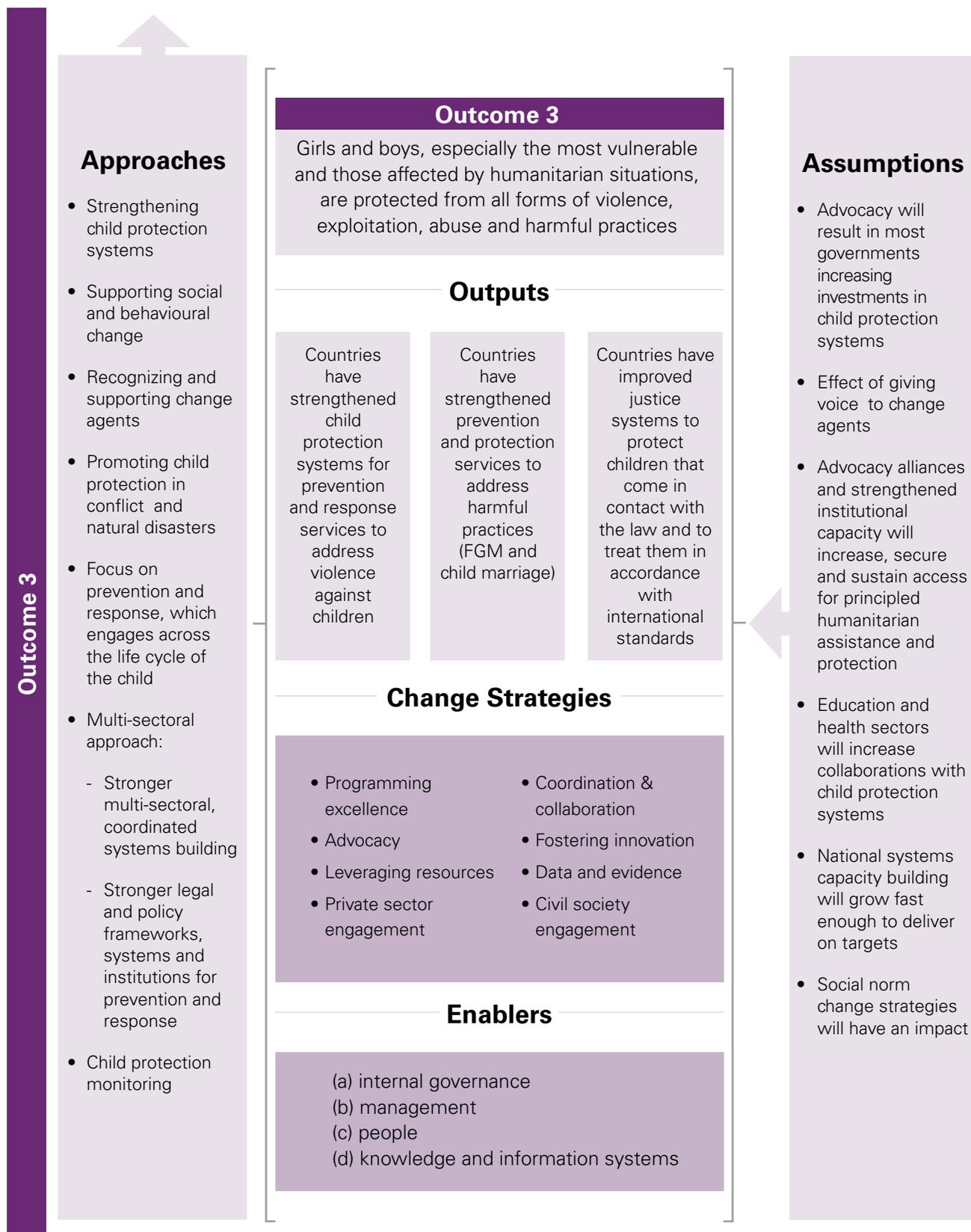
The ambitious child protection-related SDG targets and projected pace of action required for their attainment present a serious challenge for the sector and are compounded in recent years by signs emerging of a general rollback on human (and child) rights. These are illustrated, for example, by hard-line judicial approaches characterizing national policies and frameworks for dealing with youth violence ('mano dura' in Latin America), and consideration of, or actual lowering of, the minimal age of criminal responsibility (in Brazil and the Philippines).



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Angel Kabatsu is a nurse at the Centre de Transit et d'Orientation in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She holds Carine, who was adopted at birth. UNICEF provides support for the Centre, which helps reintegrate children associated with armed groups into society.

FIGURE 2: Goal Area 3 Theory of Change of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021



Moreover, as we move towards the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, parties to conflict are increasingly disregarding international humanitarian/human rights law, including at times directly targeting civilians (including children). The growing number of conflicts in middle-income countries has led to greater attacks on population centres, and large-scale, long-term conflicts are gradually eroding countries' social, economic and political systems and institutions – factors that are fuelling a mounting 'protection crisis'.

VAC and harmful practices place a long-term burden on health and social services, undermine investments by and development in other sectors, and constrain economic development. Conversely, investment in ending VAC and harmful practices can be an accelerator for development. A recent study shows that less than 0.6 per cent of total official development assistance spending (US\$174 billion) was allocated to ending VAC, translating to an average annual investment per child of less than US\$0.65.¹³ Building evidence for greater public investment in child protection is necessary to sustain systemic changes. UNICEF is supporting action to redouble national efforts to push for greater public investments.

In the face of these challenges, UNICEF is committed to increasing quality programming for at scale results for children. The UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, Goal Area 3 (*see Figure 2*) sets out the concrete results to achieve, together with partners, across all regions and in all contexts. It charts a course for the next four years towards the longer-term attainment of the 2030 SDGs – and the realization of a better world for every child.

The Goal Area 3 theory of change places systems-building across humanitarian and development contexts (including multisectoral capacity-building) as a key approach to achieving accelerated results to reduce VAC and harmful practices (SDGs 16, 8 and 5). A renewed strategic emphasis is on targeting social service workforce strengthening – a vital element for effective child protection systems. Moreover, on SDG 5 specifically, one of the core

change strategies applied by UNICEF across development and humanitarian contexts is the use of Communication for Development (C4D) platforms and tools to engage children, communities and decision-makers for positive social and behavioural change. UNICEF's commitment in addressing gender-based violence and child marriage across contexts is further emphasized in the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021.

A number of underlying assumptions predicate achievement of Goal Area 3 outcomes. Sustained government investment is a prerequisite for systemic change. Strengthening child protection systems across humanitarian and development contexts also requires enhancing coordination between sectors (social welfare, education, health and justice sectors) to make critical services available to prevent violence, abuse, exploitation and harmful practices, and support all child victims, alongside prioritization of building strong social service workforces to meet demand. The growing challenges to respond to the changing humanitarian operating context reinforce the supposition that strong alliances, strengthened institutional capacity and adaptive programme models are critical to improve humanitarian assistance and protection.

It is imperative that UNICEF and partners redouble their efforts to propel children's rights to the centre of global discourse. In 2019, we have tremendous opportunities to push the children's rights agenda, including the High-Level Political Forum reviewing in depth SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17 (July), the overall follow up and review of SDG progress at the SDG Summit (under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly) (September), as well as the Voluntary National Reviews being prepared by 47 countries (including 40 countries reporting for the first time) (data as of May 2019).

The results and lessons learned presented throughout this report demonstrate the ever more critical nature of the organization's mission for children across the globe.



Results by strategic output

The following section reports on annual progress against the first year of the strategic targets for each of the three Goal Area 3 output (results) areas: (1) strengthening child protection systems for prevention and response services to reduce violence against children (Output 3.1); (2) strengthening prevention and delivery of protection services to reduce harmful practices (child marriage and FGM) (Output 3.2); and (3) improving children's access to justice (Output 3.3). Humanitarian action is a cross-cutting and integrated component of Goal Area 3 results programming; for the purposes of this report, humanitarian

action results are provided in a consolidated section (*for an overall summary of all Goal Area 3 results see also Figure 3*).

Goal Area 3 theory of change provides a clear pathway to achievement of its strategic targets and is underpinned by eight 'change' strategies. As the first year of the Strategic Plan draws to a close, significant steps are already being taken around each strategy to identify and implement sustainable solutions and maintain momentum for change.

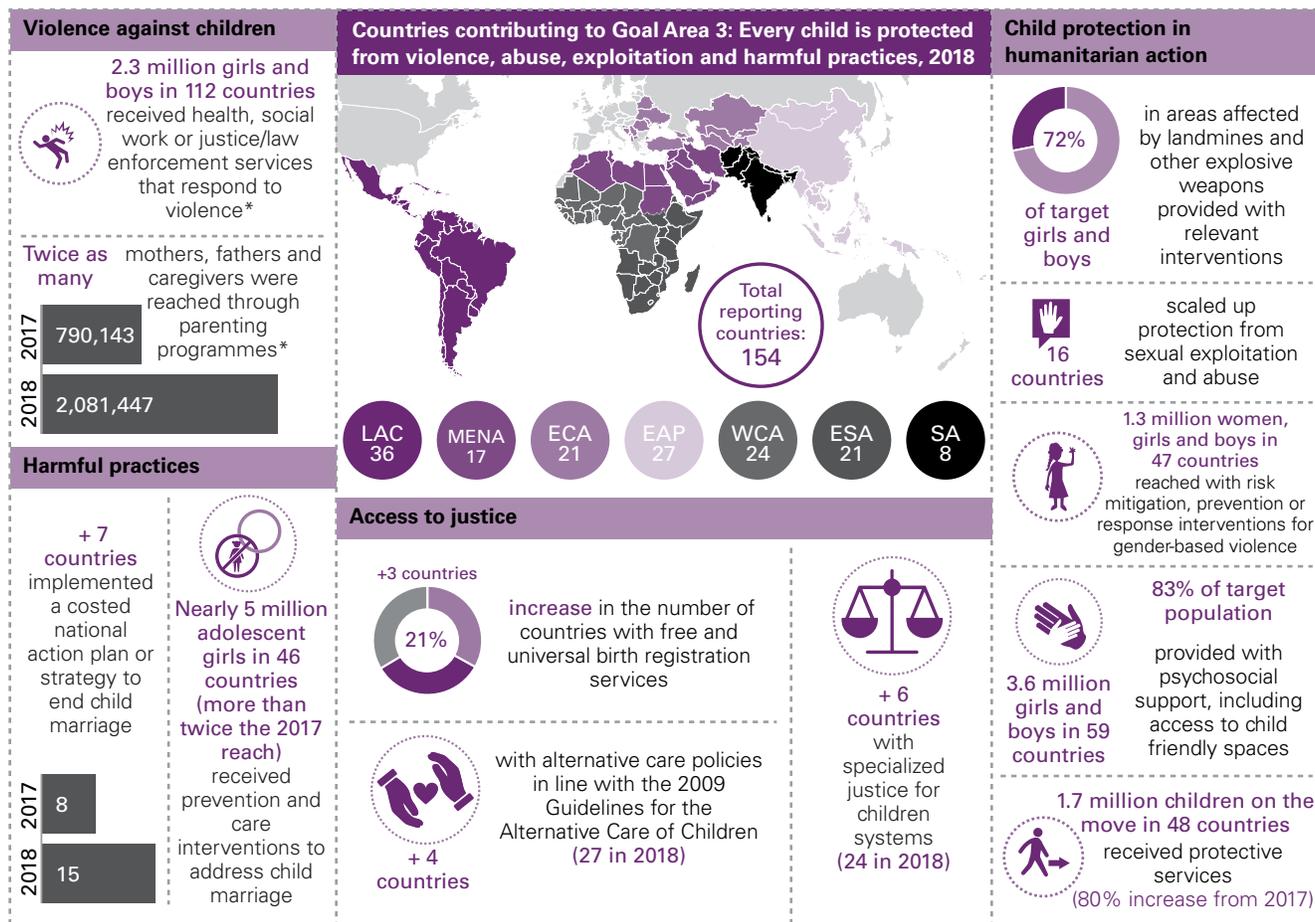
- **Programming excellence:** UNICEF is increasingly scaling up coordinated action around a number of critical issues to improve quality programming, notably protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA; including through the development of global UN protocols for referral and provision of services for sexual exploitation and abuse survivors); in gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE; including through the roll-out the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in all Humanitarian Action) and VAC (including through the roll-out of the INSPIRE indicators and results framework – the culmination of a two-year participatory process involving all 10 INSPIRE partner agencies and other experts).
- **Coordination and collaboration:** Sector-wide, UNICEF partners are increasingly coalescing around – and accelerating – a shared agenda to improve results for children. These partners include, among others, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence), Inter-Agency Expert Group on Violence Against Children (IAEG-VAC), United Nations Legal Identity Expert Group (LIEG), IASC and the Global Coalition for Reintegration (*see Annex 4 for list of UNICEF partners*). UNICEF is also a sector-wide champion of key issues, notably through the leadership of the UNICEF Executive Director to drive accelerated action in core areas such as GBViE, VAC and PSEA.
- **Advocacy:** UNICEF continues to produce results for children across the globe through successful advocacy campaigns, including on ending violence in schools, children on the move, and children under attack. For example, the September 2018 digital activation of the #ENDviolence in Schools campaign demonstrated the overwhelming proactivity by young people who wanted to be part of the solution. Some 24,000 young people representing 160 countries provided thoughtful recommendations. In December 2018, UNICEF brought more than 100 young people from around the world together to craft a Youth Manifesto for ending violence in schools drawing on their peers' input.
- **Fostering innovation:** UNICEF is applying various innovative solutions, with important examples in 2018 including a virtual safe spaces platform to improve adolescent girls' access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. This is alongside scaling up proven innovative technologies like Primero – an open source software platform that

helps social services, humanitarian and development workers manage protection-related data, with tools that facilitate case management, incident monitoring, and family tracing and reunification – which received the UNICEF Executive Director's inaugural 'Innovations for Scale' funding initiative in 2018.

- **Leveraging resources:** UNICEF continues to expand partnerships with governments and the private sector at global, regional and national levels, including increased investments by middle-income countries (e.g., China, Indonesia and South Africa), and across critical programme areas (e.g., scale-up of PSEA, programming on child marriage and ending violence in and around schools).
- **Data and evidence:** UNICEF has ramped up data collection efforts by developing universal indicators and measurement tools, is supporting national capacities to monitor SDG indicators, and is strengthening national data systems, including administrative data on VAC, birth registration, child marriage and, most recently, justice for children.
- **Private sector engagement:** UNICEF is increasing collaboration with the private sector to identify sustainable programming solutions, including, with Microsoft to develop artificial intelligence tools for detecting online grooming, with Facebook on social mobilization campaigns, with the travel and tourism industry to tackle trafficking and sexual exploitation; and with the business sector to prevent child labour in their supply chains.
- **Civil society engagement:** UNICEF engages across civil society to effect change – including collaboration with faith-based leaders and communities to tackle online child sexual exploitation, with fathers to strengthen parenting practices, with women's organizations to promote gender norms change, such as in the context of child marriage and FGM; and, increasingly, with adolescents and young people to realize their rights under Article 12 and empower them to have their voices heard and meaningfully participate in decisions that affect their lives.

A total of 154 UNICEF country offices globally implemented programmes to scale up action to achieve Goal Area 3 output targets for 2018. A total of 804 professional staff managed Goal Area 3 programming, a 2 per cent increase from 2017 levels. There has been no proportionate increase in the percentage of staff located at headquarters in 2018, with the level remaining consistent with the previous year (4 per cent).

FIGURE 3: Summary of Goal Area 3 strategic output results, 2018



*Outcome indicator in UNICEF Strategic Plan Goal Area 3

Notes: EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.

In 2018, Goal Area 3 expenses was US\$658.2 million, a slight drop of 5 per cent from 2017 levels (US\$689.6 million) (see Figure 4). Goal Area 3 represents 12 per cent of total expenditure across all goal areas for UNICEF in 2018 (US\$5,394.5 million). This expense ratio has been largely consistent since 2014. Ten countries accounted for 35.3 per cent of total expenditure for Goal Area 3 in 2018; these are (listed in order): Turkey, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, South Sudan, Iraq, Bangladesh, Somalia, Nigeria, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Programming to support improved prevention and response services for VAC (Output 3.1) accounted for the largest share at US\$528.7 million (80 per cent) of expenditure. Expenditure to accelerate the reduction of harmful practices (child marriage and FGM) (Output 3.2) accounted for US\$30.2 million (5 per cent). Expenditure to strengthen justice systems (Output 3.3) amounted to US\$99.3 million (representing 15 per cent of total spending). UNICEF support to strengthen birth registration/civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS)

systems represents the largest share of expenditure for Output 3.3 (27.5 per cent) (for further details see Annex 1).

The flexibility of thematic funding allows UNICEF to respond more effectively. It facilitates longer-term planning, sustainability and savings in transaction costs, leaving more resources for UNICEF programmes. In direct response to increasing requests from donors, UNICEF developed a robust set of equity-based criteria for allocating global thematic funds in 2018. The focus of the global thematic funding allocations continued to be in the area of strengthening the social service workforce that works towards preventing and responding to VAC (see Country highlights box). In 2018, US\$13.27 million in global thematic funding for Goal Area 3 was allocated. This included US\$9.65 million to 48 UNICEF country offices, US\$1.48 million to seven regional offices and US\$2.13 million to UNICEF headquarters, representing 73, 11 and 16 per cent of the total allocations for 2018, respectively (for further details see Annex 1).

Country highlights: The value of Goal Area 3 thematic investments, 2018

Senegal: To improve the decentralized alert system of identified child cases, a Rapid Protection System was established to link 735 trained community volunteers and basic social service providers. As a result, 9,015 children – including 2,760 victims of violence – were identified as being in need of care and protection (300 per cent increase from 2017); 93 per cent of child survivors were reached by social work, health and justice services.

Indonesia: The development of a vulnerability data system to support at-risk children identified more than 1.3 million children for prevention and support services. Further, around 2,000 vulnerable children (27 per cent girls) in the five pilot districts received services.

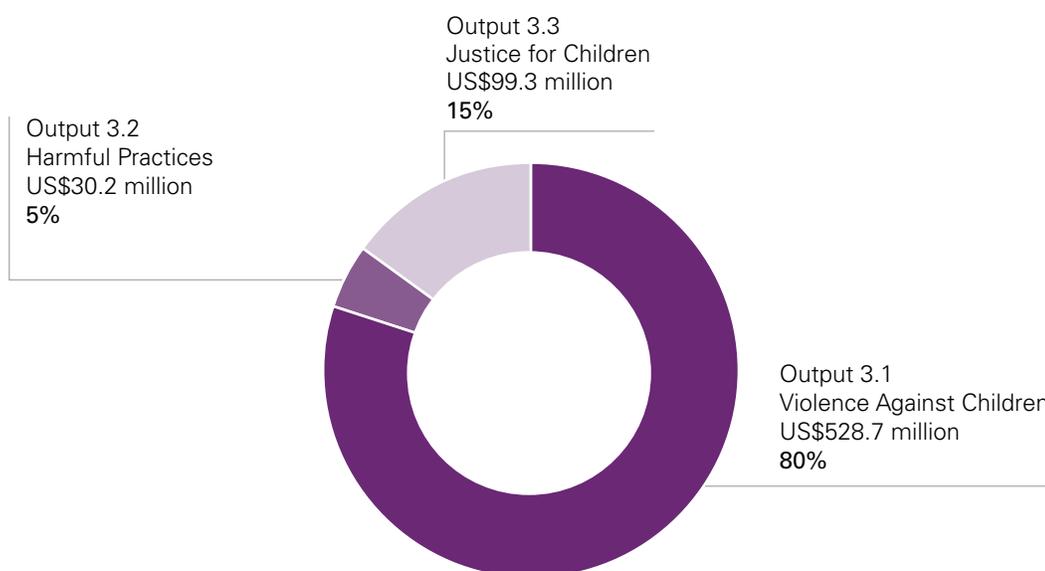
Uganda: Findings from a UNICEF-supported review of social service workforce strengthening, including through a National Stakeholder’s Symposium (September), supported the development of a national strategic plan and standardization of curricula involving 41 universities that offer social work degrees.

State of Palestine: A review of the social work curriculum at Bethlehem University and the Islamic University of Gaza supported the development of eight child protection modules and revision of six social work modules. Course feedback indicated that the strengthened curriculum is helping to equip social work students with enhanced knowledge – a positive step towards building a cadre of qualified social workers for the country.

Sri Lanka: Despite the availability of 14 bachelor’s and master’s degree programmes in social work and related disciplines in Sri Lanka, a 2018 UNICEF-commissioned study revealed that there is no national strategic vision to recruit, develop, train and deploy the social service workforce. UNICEF is supporting the government to build a Social Service Workforce Strategic Human Resources Development Programme.

Romania: UNICEF and the Government of Romania co-hosted a Regional Conference on Strengthening Social Work and Social Service Workforce, which led to the first regional Call to Action to scale up action to agree on a common set of definitions for the social service and allied workforce, alongside commitments to accelerate national action. Further, a regional (four country) social service workforce mapping was undertaken that is informing the government on how to define its strategy to professionalize and build the capacity of the workforce.

FIGURE 4: Goal Area 3 expenses by output area, 2018 (US\$ millions)



Strengthening data and evidence on child protection

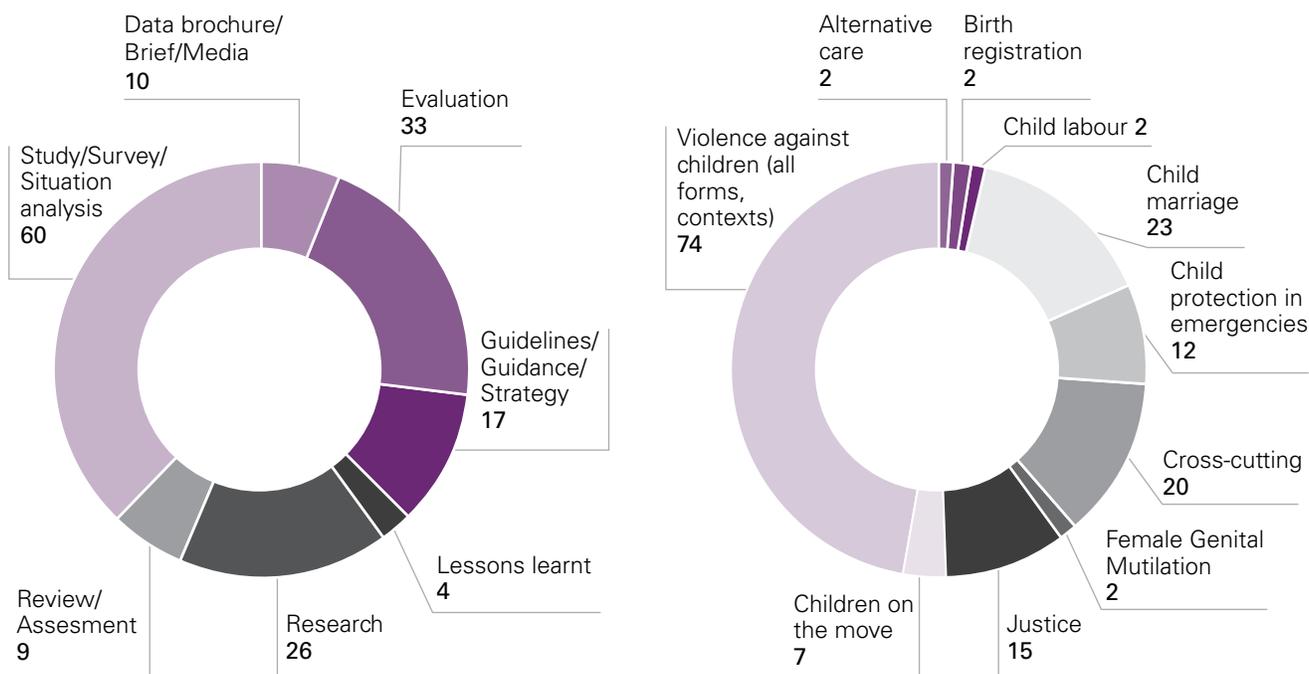
Strengthening data and evidence on child protection is critical to monitoring progress towards Goal Area 3 and SDGs 5, 8 and 16, and is equally important for improving the quality and delivery of child protection services. Data availability, though improved, remains highly fragmented, with sporadic data collection efforts and underdeveloped national child protection data systems. Many countries have no data at all, and among those that do, the quality and reliability are variable. The absence of international agreements on operational definitions and standard protocols for the collection of reliable and ethically sound data on child protection issues further complicates data collection and analysis.

With special responsibility for eight Goal Area 3-related SDG indicators, UNICEF hosted consultations with national authorities on selected SDG indicators to explore availability of national data flows for global reporting of SDG indicators. Discussions with national statistical offices and other agencies responsible for official statistics focused on the compilation of the indicators, data sources used,

and the application of internationally agreed definitions, classifications and methodologies.

In the context of monitoring SDG target 16.2, UNICEF is also instrumental in driving the process to strengthen and endorse data collection tools that can produce internationally comparable data, in particular by providing technical and/or financial assistance to countries implementing Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) or Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) (including in 2018 for example, in the eastern Caribbean states, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Zambia) or other national surveys covering child protection issues. Four Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) were completed in Lao People's Democratic Republic, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. Globally, 115 countries supported programmes to improve the availability and quality of VAC data – an increase of 8 per cent from 2017. UNICEF, together with partners produced 159 knowledge products (see Figure 5) across the spectrum of child protection issues (for further details see Annex 2).

FIGURE 5: Breakdown of knowledge products by type and thematic area, 2018



Highlights from the Office of Research – Innocenti, 2018

The UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti is playing an increasing role in convening partners, identifying evidence gaps, and developing guidance to strengthen the quality of evidence and ensure its subsequent translation into programme guidance.

Drivers of violence against children:¹⁴ Final research findings from a multi-country study (Ethiopia, Italy, Peru, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe) on the drivers of violence affecting children were released. Using a participatory process, the study helped uncover how structural factors interact and drive violence against children in their homes and communities. Related data animation to enhance a new conceptual understanding of violence reached an ever-growing audience with over 11,000 views across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and on YouTube with over 160,000 views.

Family and parenting support:¹⁵ In support of local efforts on violence prevention, UNICEF, the Department of Social Policy and Intervention Centre of the University of Oxford and South Africa programme partners incubated and tested a programme for parents/caregivers of adolescents over a period of four years in Eastern Cape province in South Africa, which has the highest percentage of assaults in the country. The studies increased the availability of evidence on the role of family policies and parenting programmes for children and adolescents, and on effective programmes operating in low-income settings, providing insight into implementation challenges for ensuring better scale-up.

Children and the digital age: Evidence on children's experiences online, including exposure to harm and exploitation, continued to grow last year in coordination with the Global Kids Online Secretariat. More than 15,000 children have been surveyed in 15 countries (outside Europe). Evidence from this work has also helped sharpen policy positions and perspectives on children in the digital age. Examples include developing digital skills and literacy programmes in Bulgaria in over 100 schools, influencing the update of the Communication Law in Argentina, and developing an online safety app for children in Montenegro.

Children in migration: rights, advocacy and resilience:¹⁶ Innocenti continued to focus on critical unanswered questions regarding 'children on the move' and their vulnerabilities to harm and abuse. Research strengthened UNICEF programming, policy and advocacy roles as envisaged in the UNICEF Agenda for Action for Children on the move and the Generation Unlimited initiatives. Data from 150 Gallup World Poll countries – a first-ever attempt to quantify the extent to which child-related concerns influence migration decisions – drew attention to the increasingly youthful demographic of migration and the particular vulnerabilities of children migrating.¹⁷ Assessment measures and tools for strengthening protective responses to children on the move were also developed, along with a wider analysis of the strengths and limitations of protection policies in Nordic countries in their response to migrant children.¹⁸

Additionally, an evidence gap map on Goal Area 3 was published, highlighting the areas where there is a need for greater investment in research on violence prevention and response.¹⁹

Administrative data are a critical information source complementing large-scale household, school-based and other surveys that measure prevalence, causes and consequences of VAC. However, there continues to be lack of investment to develop coherent national strategies for strengthening administrative data systems for child protection, which is a particularly challenging area given that it crosses multiple sectors. In response, UNICEF has conducted a review of administrative data on VAC (Indonesia, Jamaica, Morocco, Nigeria and Uganda) and of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) (the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Mali, Morocco and Zambia) as a first step towards scaling up efforts with partners to strengthen the availability and quality of administrative data. Further, a regional brochure on CRVS in South Asia was produced, together with eight country profiles. In addition, UNICEF has developed a diagnostic toolkit to assist countries in reviewing and assessing their current efforts and capacity to collect administrative data on VAC across sectors. A

review of administrative data sources on justice for children (including children's involvement in the justice system as offenders, victims and witnesses) is underway. Findings are expected to inform guidance and concrete strategies for UNICEF to engage with countries to identify data needs and build (or improve) their system.

The voluntary national review (VNR) process is critical in advocating for the inclusion of child protection indicators in national data collection and monitoring systems, and in the context of monitoring progress towards SDGs. In 2018, nearly 80 per cent of the countries that participated in the VNR reported on data or progress around child protection issues. Important gains include the development of a National Indicators Framework in Myanmar and, for the first time in Viet Nam, the development of a national sustainable development indicators list that contains 55 child-focused SDG indicators.

Despite much progress, as UNICEF moves into the second year of the Strategic Plan, many gaps in data (not least around the disaggregation of data) and evidence remain. Increased investment in data collection and analysis on all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices is necessary to improve the evidence base for informed policymaking, planning and programming, and in working

towards filling information gaps. Over the coming three years, over 70 MICS will be carried out, including new modules on crime and safety, which should increase the availability of data on child protection. In addition, several school-based surveys are planned over the next two years that will include VAC-related questions.

Strengthening information management systems (IMS) for child protection

The UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, brings with it a new emphasis on strengthening information management systems (IMS) for child protection. IMS are an integral element of protection programming, which connect monitoring of violations with service provision. These systems drive advocacy for protection and programme response and promote equity by ensuring that the most vulnerable children receive targeted services, do not ‘slip through the cracks’ and do not face revictimization. The establishment of integrated IMS based on international

standards is a key component in a successful programme and a means of monitoring quality and accountability.

A fully functional IMS supports the management of three types of data: case management, incident monitoring and programme monitoring, and is an integral component of strengthened child protection systems. Case management is critical for efficient and effective social services, supporting or guiding the delivery of specialized social service support to vulnerable children and families. Incident



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Social workers Kina Sidik and Chi Ramadhani help trace relatives and reunite children with their families in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. UNICEF has trained social workers, including Kina and Chi, on using Primero. In the six months following the September 2018 earthquake and tsunami disasters in Central Sulawesi, UNICEF helped to reunite children with their families.

monitoring refers to the ongoing collection of information indicating levels and patterns of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. In some cases, this will include the collection of information on specific incidents or violations. Programme monitoring refers to information that is collected, processed and analysed to illustrate an overall picture of the response/intervention.

Since 2015, UNICEF has significantly invested in strengthening digitalized IMS through the application of Primero – an innovative inter-agency initiative,²⁰ led by a board comprising UNICEF, International Rescue Committee, Terre des Hommes-Lausanne, Save the Children, and UNFPA. Primero offers easy-to-use *digital* solutions for case management, incident monitoring, and family tracing and reunification. As part of efforts to strengthen child data privacy and protection, UNICEF is also partnering with the GovLab on a public good initiative called Responsible Data for Children (RD4C) to develop a multisectoral initiative on data privacy.

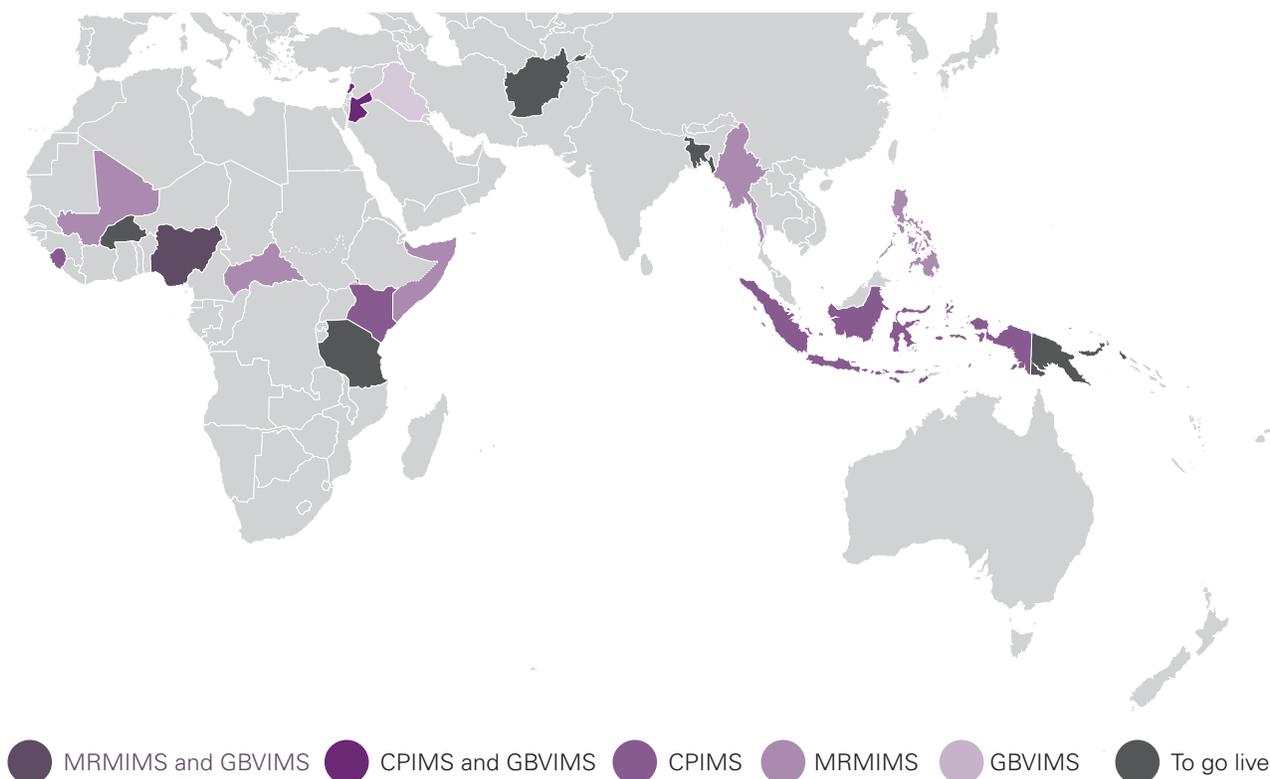
With Primero, UNICEF is filling a gap in the social services sector across development and humanitarian contexts. It facilitates the effective coordination of family tracing and reunification, referral to health services, and other

specialized support systems for protecting women and children. Primero also contributes to effective supervision, as it allows managers to monitor the work of the social workers (and other users), keeping track of key processes and ensuring quality of care and accountability to the vulnerable child. Since its launch, Primero has been used in complex emergencies such as the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone (managing 15,000 children’s cases) and the Syrian refugee response in Jordan (managing 10,000 children’s cases) (see Figure 6).

The Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+) module of Primero facilitates effective case management for individual vulnerable children and is designed to promote best practice and accountability, and to assist child protection programmes in delivering quality care in emergencies and development contexts. CPIMS+ is now live in Indonesia and Jordan (two instances in each country), Kenya (Kakuma), Lebanon and Sierra Leone, where it was deployed in the Ebola emergency and transitioned to become the national social welfare IMS. It is soon to go live in Bangladesh (Cox’s Bazar), Burkina Faso, Iraq, Papua New Guinea, Somalia (Somaliland) and the United Republic of Tanzania.

FIGURE 6: The reach of Primero, 2018

By 2018, there are 20 active instances of Primero implementation across 12 countries, supporting over 1,100 users from more than 80 organizations to manage data on 40,000 vulnerable children safely and confidentially



* Data as of March 28, 2019

Reliable data are crucial to informing the humanitarian response to gender-based violence (GBV). The GBV information management system (GBVIMS+) is currently active in four countries, including Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon (three instances) and Nigeria. A further module that supports incident tracking of grave violations of children's rights is the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Information Management System (MRMIMS+), currently active in the Central African Republic, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines and Somalia. UNICEF Child Protection and Primero stakeholders continue to develop tools to promote good practices and accountability, including the 2018 inter-agency GBV Case Management Guidelines and accompanying training materials.

Despite advancements in the scaling up of Primero since 2015, overall, the number of countries with functional data management systems remains low. In order to scale up action to achieve the strategic target of 44 countries

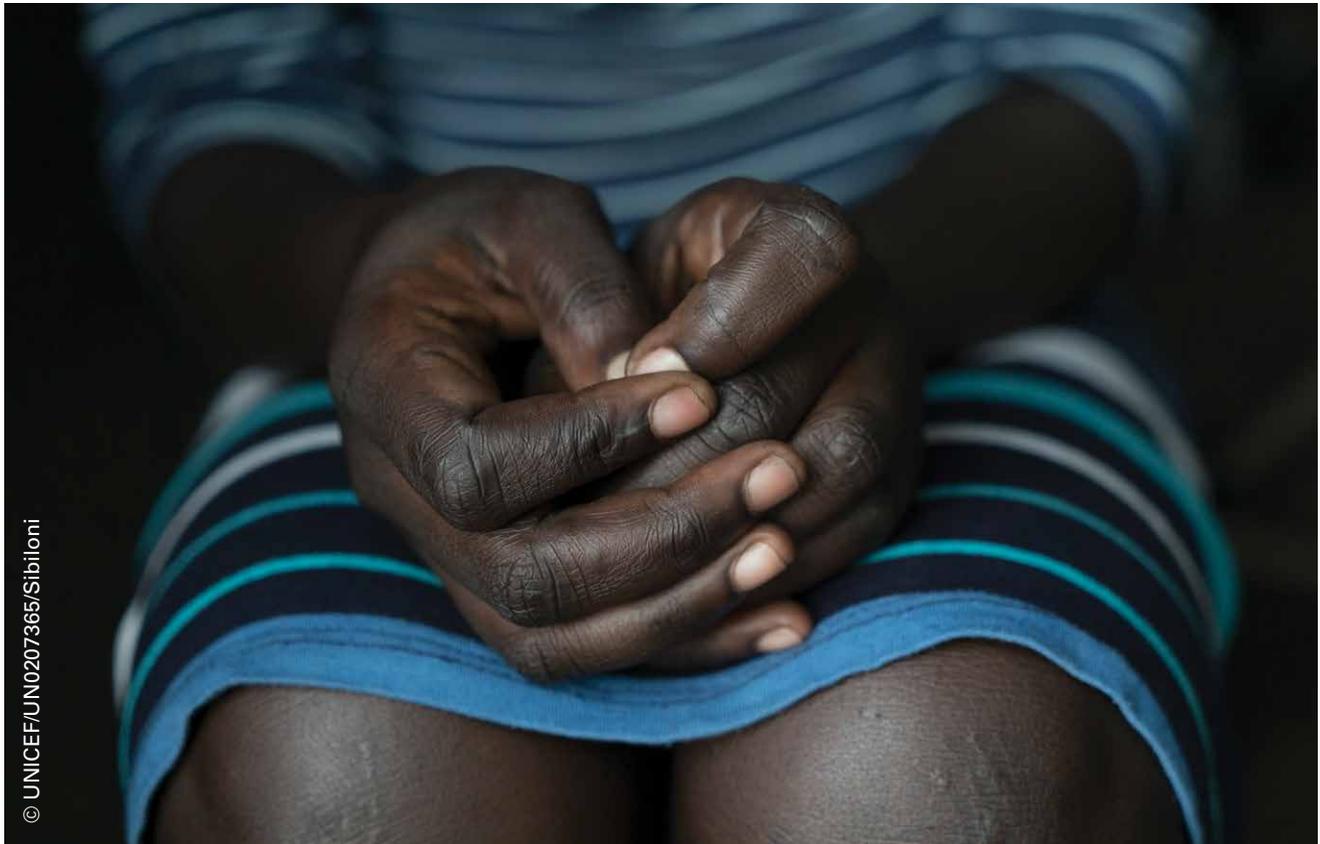
having strengthened interoperable national IMS by 2021, a shift in organizational thinking will be required. Digital systems can only facilitate business practices; they cannot deliver programming. To reap the benefits of digital systems and be truly data driven, wholesale investment and capacity development in child protection systems strengthening – including strengthening IMS – is required both within UNICEF and across the sector. This investment should include the development of open-data standards for social welfare that would allow different systems to be interoperable, and to ensure sustainability in line with evolving integrated services models. Capacity development involves strengthening knowledge management practices and tools, and embedding support staff in regional offices so that programme teams can implement digital systems effectively without creating dependencies on external vendors, and so that Primero can be scaled and supported efficiently.

2018 country highlights

Indonesia: The national Primero roll-out that was being piloted in five districts was rapidly introduced in response to the 2018 earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi. The online system was quickly adopted by more than 30 case workers for family tracing and reunification, helping to reunify more than 25 children. Plans are under way to scale up its use, making it available to an additional 300 case workers in 20 districts.

Jordan: The system has expanded from serving a small set of humanitarian locations to being available nationwide in 2018. The digital IMS for tracking family violence is now linking relevant service providers, significantly streamlining case management, sharing of information, monitoring and evaluation of responses in cases of violence.

Lebanon: Child protection information management system (CPIMS+)/Primero was rolled out as a national child protection case management system and is in use by 58 users managing over 300 cases. This has significantly strengthened the integrated services model of case management, enabling better inter-agency sharing of data to improve programming.



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Patience (name changed), 15, is a single mother of a 3-year-old daughter and a victim of sexual violence. She is a potential beneficiary of the David Beckham fund that aims to increase girls' attendance in secondary schools in Uganda.

Output 3.1: Strengthening child protection systems for prevention and response services to reduce violence against children

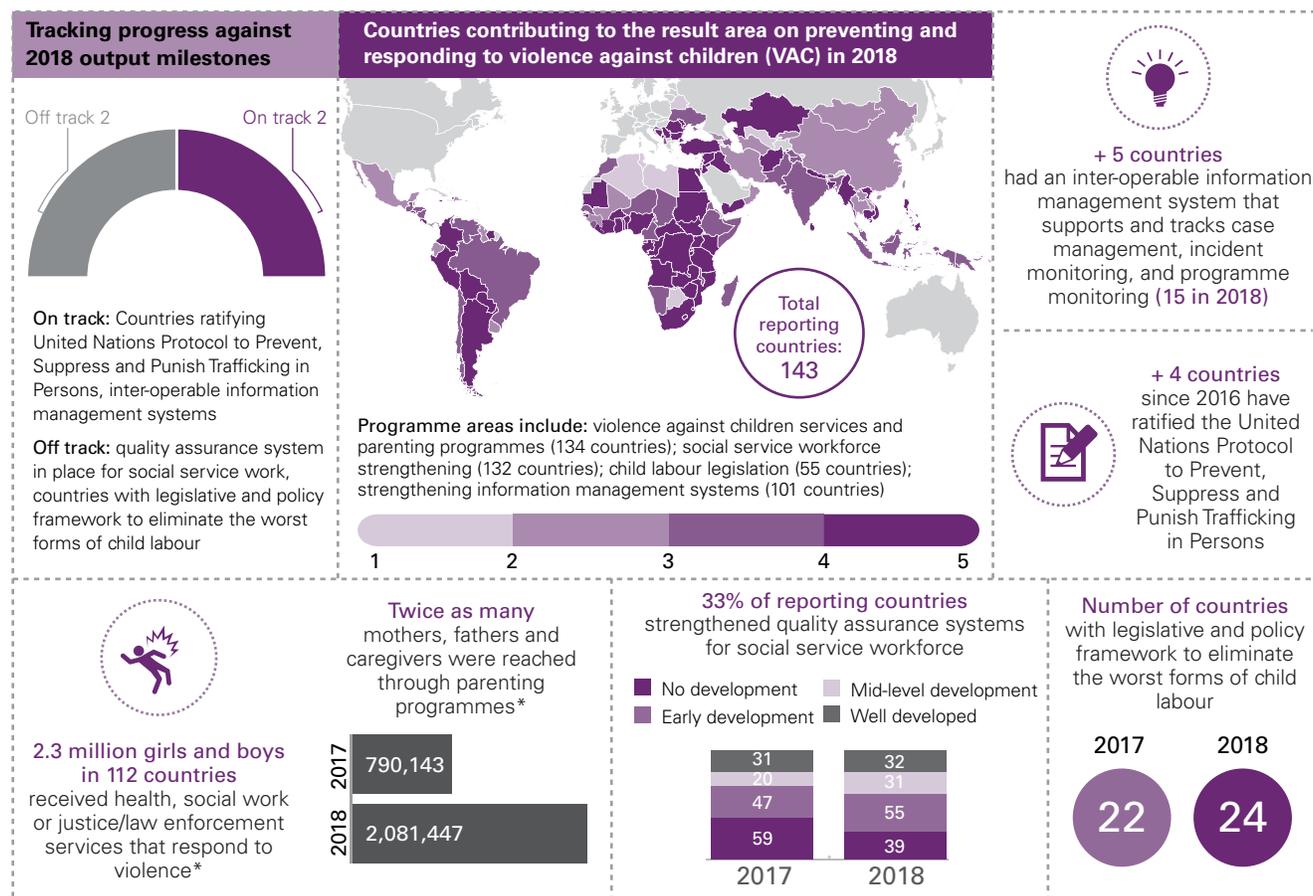
Accelerating national progress to reduce all forms of violence

In recognition of the pervasive nature and effects of violence against children (VAC), the global community has made a clear commitment to end all forms of VAC by 2030. In this first year of the 2018–2021 Strategic Plan, UNICEF has renewed and sharpened its approach to ending VAC across development and humanitarian contexts. UNICEF is a leading global agency on ending VAC and supporting the achievement of the SDGs, with the profile, reach, expertise and mandate to achieve impact at scale. UNICEF has also recognized that without tackling VAC, its achievement of other key development goals for children will be negatively impacted. Furthermore, there is a growing recognition

that effective prevention and response to VAC requires a multisectoral approach that extends beyond the child protection sector, and must involve the health, education, early childhood development, nutrition, social inclusion, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and HIV/AIDS sectors, as well as actors engaged in Communication for Development (C4D), gender, disabilities and adolescents.

In 2018, UNICEF supported 134 countries to prevent and respond to VAC (*see Figure 7 for a summary of results, 2018*). UNICEF leads in shaping the international VAC agenda and provides high-level technical assistance and financial support to national governments to accelerate action and expand programmes around several critical interconnected areas. Priority programme areas include the following:

FIGURE 7: Summary of results, 2018



*Outcome indicator in UNICEF Strategic Plan Goal Area 3

- Adopting a time-bound and costed national plan to end VAC which clearly defines national objectives, priorities, and responsibilities for implementation across relevant ministries and other government entities.
- Strengthening legislative and policy frameworks to fully prohibit all forms of violence – including physical, sexual and emotional violence – in all settings, including schools, the home and institutions.
- Ensuring public financial investment to prevent and respond to violence is sufficient to support national interventions to prevent and respond to violence across all sectors; and provide appropriate budget allocations for effective implementation of national plans to end VAC.
- Strengthening systems to prevent and respond to violence, including enhancing coordination between sectors (social welfare, education, health and justice sectors) to make critical services available to prevent and support all child victims of violence.
- Social mobilization, education programmes and communication campaigns, to challenge harmful behaviours and prevent violence.
- Supporting national efforts to collect and use disaggregated data for SDG indicators and track progress on SDG 16.2 (see 'Strengthening data and evidence for child protection').

This programming approach is anchored in the UNICEF Goal Area 3 theory of change for VAC, and further elaborated in the draft programme guidance for preventing and responding to VAC developed in 2018 (forthcoming 2019), aiming to facilitate and sharpen UNICEF country support to partners and accelerate action. The UNICEF programming approach (and guidelines) build on 'INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children' – a multisectoral programme package of evidence-based strategies for ending VAC. In 2018, UNICEF supported the development of the INSPIRE indicators and results framework – the culmination of a two-year participatory process involving all 10 INSPIRE partner agencies and other experts. INSPIRE fills a major gap in the availability of tools



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Children play in a Protection of Civilians camp in Malakal, South Sudan. UNICEF is working to provide care to vulnerable families affected by the crisis in the country.

to monitor interventions to prevent VAC and will support the identification of effective national approaches necessary to scale up to eliminate VAC by 2030 (SDG 16.2).

Adopting time-bound and costed national plans to end VAC

Working with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence) and other partners, UNICEF continues to galvanize political commitment into concrete, coordinated national policy agendas. With support from UNICEF, the governments of Armenia, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Mongolia, Peru, Romania and United Arab Emirates confirmed their commitment to becoming Pathfinder countries as part of End Violence, which, with the addition of Canada and Japan, increased the global list of Pathfinder countries to 23 (from 14 in 2017).²¹

Once Pathfinder status is confirmed, country governments are expected to (within an initial 18-month period) convene a multi-stakeholder group; collect, structure and analyse data on VAC; develop an evidence-based and costed 3- to 5-year national action plan (NAP) and strengthen children's participation. The 23 Pathfinder countries are currently at various stages of this process. In addition to

the 13 NAPs already in place, Armenia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Romania also launched NAPs in 2018. A further six are under development or planned for 2019 (Colombia, El Salvador, Georgia, Jamaica, Jordan and North Macedonia). Though Uganda does not have a stand-alone VAC NAP, a VAC action plan is incorporated in its National Multi-Sectoral Coordination Framework for Adolescent Girls and the Communications for Development Strategy, launched in 2018.

Strengthening legislative and policy frameworks to fully prohibit all forms of violence

UNICEF engages closely with executive branches and national assemblies to pursue legal reform to ensure that laws unequivocally prohibit all forms of VAC – including physical, sexual and emotional violence – in all settings, and ensure that a robust legal and policy framework and institutional capacity for implementing laws are in place. UNICEF actively supports countries to pass legislation and laws that ban the use of corporal punishment against children.

Result spotlight

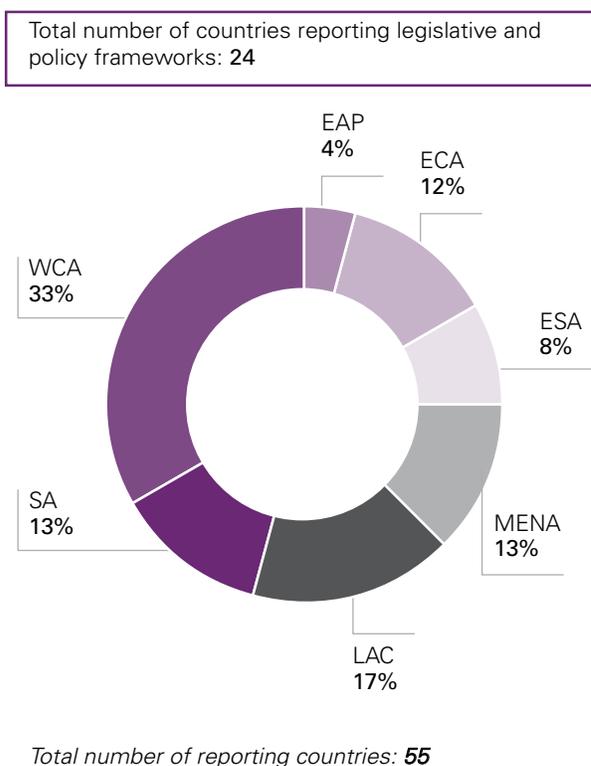
The new Act Relating to Children (2018) in Nepal, which prohibits corporal punishment of children in all settings, makes Nepal the first country in South Asia and the 54th country globally to achieve a complete ban on violent discipline. The law also promotes greater integration between sectors, specifying that service providers are mandated to report offences against children. The law prohibits those convicted of VAC and child sexual abuse from working with children in the future. This has created an important platform to integrate child protection issues within other sectors, especially education and health.

Other notable legal reforms were made in at least 16 countries and territories²² in 2018, including the passing of major legislation related to ending VAC. Through UNICEF-sustained advocacy, important gains were also achieved in developing and enforcing laws and policies to keep students safe in and around school, with notable progress in Chile, Egypt, Lithuania, and Namibia. In addition, countries such as Mozambique and Senegal moved forward with critical school-related legislation. For example, in Senegal, national standards and guidelines on the prevention and mitigation of and response to violence in schools were developed by the Ministry of Education, to address gender-based violence in particular and to mainstream gender in the education sector.

Albania, Croatia, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), Guinea-Bissau, the Philippines and Somalia reported strong advancements to strengthen the legal and policy environment particularly focused on sexual violence, while Albania, Azerbaijan and the Philippines focused more specifically on online exploitation and abuse. Importantly, Croatia ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ('Istanbul Convention') and committed US\$10.7 million annually in 2018–2019 for the implementation of the Convention. There is also steady progress towards national ratification of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The acceding of South Sudan to the Protocol brings the total number of ratifications to 176 countries.

The rate of progress in the number of countries reporting legislative and policy frameworks in place to eliminate child labour remains a challenge. UNICEF supported the development of legislative and policy frameworks to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in 55 countries in 2018, of which 24 reported comprehensive frameworks in place (from 22 in 2017), which is well below the 2018

FIGURE 8: Percentage of countries with a legislative and policy framework to eliminate child labour, by region, 2018



Notes: EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.

target (65) (see Figure 8). Low reporting is partly due to lack of national political commitment, weak systems, and lack of data to inform and guide legislative and policy development. Despite this discouraging pace, a number of countries report important progress – including Ghana, Nepal and the Plurinational State of Bolivia – in promoting policies and action plans to tackle child labour. For example, as part of its commitment to becoming an Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder country, Nepal endorsed a National Master Plan on Child Labour (2018–2028). Similarly, Ghana finalized its second National Plan of Action Against Worst Forms of Child Labour.

Ensuring public financial investment to prevent and respond to violence

For long-term sustainability, evidence must be built to support advocacy for increased (and multi-year) public expenditure allocations to expand programmes targeting

Leveraging collective action to end VAC

Over the last few years, UNICEF and its partners have catalysed an unprecedented global, regional and national movement to commit to ending violence, exploitation and abuse in all settings:

- With the UNICEF Executive Director as Chair of the Executive Board of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence), UNICEF is well positioned to galvanize the highest political commitment to end violence against children (VAC) and to translate this political will into concrete, time-bound, coordinated national policy agendas.
- Together with End Violence, the Government of Sweden and other partners, UNICEF co-convened the landmark Global Solutions Summit, the first-ever VAC-focused summit at ministerial level, which gathered youth advocates and high-level representatives from civil society, the private sector and 67 governments. It resulted in the Stockholm Summit Solutions Proclamation, which renewed calls for placing all children at the centre of the 2030 Agenda and for reviewing progress at the 2019 session of the High-Level Political Forum. UNICEF played a critical role within the partnership in preparing for the Summit, facilitating the sharing of good practices and advocating for specific commitments to address violence.
- The scaling up of actions to shift norms and policies around violence of all forms in and around schools was bolstered by the formation of the Safe to Learn initiative, whereby UNICEF, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), End Violence, United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) are calling on countries to end violence in schools by 2024.
- The WeProtect Global Alliance has gained the commitment of 85 governments, 20 industry representatives and 24 civil society and religious organizations to reduce online child sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).
- UNICEF is increasingly engaging with religious leaders as key influencers to tackle sexual exploitation of children online, including in 2018 as part of the Interfaith Alliance Forum Steering Committee. A Guide for Faith-Based Organizations to tackle online child sexual exploitation was shared at the Inter-Faith Dialogue in Abu Dhabi, attended by 450 global religious leaders, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and heads of industry, to develop solutions for protecting youth from SEA.
- Governments, civil society, United Nations system and private sector actors committed to specific measures to tackle SEA and sexual harassment at the Safeguarding Summit in October 2018.
- The International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism, hosted by the Government of Colombia, together with the Task Force on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism, UNICEF, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Travel & Tourism Council and ECPAT International (June 2018) brought together more than 400 participants, resulting in pledges by the sector to raise awareness about the sexual exploitation of children.
- To improve workplace policies and break supply chains to end child labour, UNICEF leveraged several key international events. These included the European Union (EU) parliamentary hearing on child labour in cocoa and the World Cocoa Conference, which triggered collective industry commitments, such as the inclusion of a children's rights stream of work in the International Cocoa Initiative Action Plan (2019–2020).

VAC. This is an emerging area of focus for UNICEF support.²³ At least 15 UNICEF country offices²⁴ engaged in advocacy to increase public expenditure to prevent and respond to VAC. Mongolia – a new Pathfinder country – allocated 8 billion MNT (US\$3.1 million) in the 2019 budget towards strengthening services to protect children from violence. In Nigeria, in follow-up to the launch of the Presidential Road Map to End Violence Against Children, the Ministry of Budget and National Budgeting developed

a comprehensive strategy to increase public expenditure on prevention and response to VAC. An assessment was carried out of current levels of public expenditure on related activities across the different sectors, which found that a small reprioritization of expenditure could significantly increase the resources available for child protection. The Ministry has now undertaken a costing exercise to inform 2019 and 2020 budget request submissions.



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Mahesh Sangambhai Parmar, 13, lives in his foster parents' house in Village Kodarvi Ranpur in the state of Gujarat, India.

Strengthening systems to prevent and respond to violence

Result spotlight

The number of girls and boys who have experienced violence reached by health, social work or justice/law enforcement services through UNICEF-supported programmes increased from 687,000 (2016) to 2,326,000 (2018). Significant gains are most notable in Mexico, Myanmar, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan and Ukraine.

Governments are applying different modalities to improve access and quality of integrated services, including strengthening case management and referral processes and the use of 'one-stop' centres. Important gains for 2018 include the work in Nigeria to harmonize case management practices across four local governments as part of a broader national VAC plan, resulting in case centralization of 11,801 child victims of violence (56 per cent girls). All victims received at least one child protection service, while 30 per cent accessed two or more. Important advances to strengthen the protection of children from SEA are noted, with at least 92 countries reporting service delivery improvements for child survivors. For example, in Zimbabwe, the ongoing strengthening of the national Victim Friendly System that coordinates child-friendly justice services in all 22 regional courts continues to yield results, with 1,500 child survivors of violence (97 per cent girls) benefiting from coordinated services, including court preparation and legal assistance in 2018.

Result spotlight

With the support of UNICEF, the child protection system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was strengthened in 2018 through multiple interventions to boost the service implementation and enforcement of the revised family code. Improved cooperation between formal service providers (social welfare, justice, education and health sectors) and community-based actors led to the identification and referral to basic protection services of 608,890 vulnerable children who were provided with medical consultations, psychosocial support, socioeconomic reintegration assistance and legal aid. Community-based services have been scaled up, reaching 63 per cent of the country's territories by end of 2018, and three new specialized Children's Courts to support child survivors of violence were established, bringing the total number of specialized courts in the country to 21, covering 13 out of the 26 provinces.

Recognizing the increasingly *online* dimension of SEA, UNICEF is supporting 22 WePROTECT Global Alliance partner countries to implement a model national response. The model national response is a strategic framework to support comprehensive responses to online child SEA. Notable headway includes progress in countries as diverse as Albania, the Dominican Republic and Jordan. In Albania, for example, a strengthened national helpline received calls from 38 online violence survivors over

an eight-month span in 2018, with 100 per cent of the cases receiving psychosocial counselling. In Jordan, victim-friendly interviewing procedures, including the use of closed-circuit television, were integrated into victim support systems, alongside an integrated health and social development services model adopted to ensure immediate, comprehensive service provision for the victims in one place at the same time.

Case Study 1: West and Central Africa: Strengthening social welfare workforce for VAC prevention and response

A strategic priority for UNICEF in West and Central Africa Region (WCAR) is to accelerate results for children who are victims of or at risk of violence, particularly through strengthening social welfare services – a vital element for effective child protection systems. Working closely with governments in 11 countries, significant support from UNICEF contributed to the following:

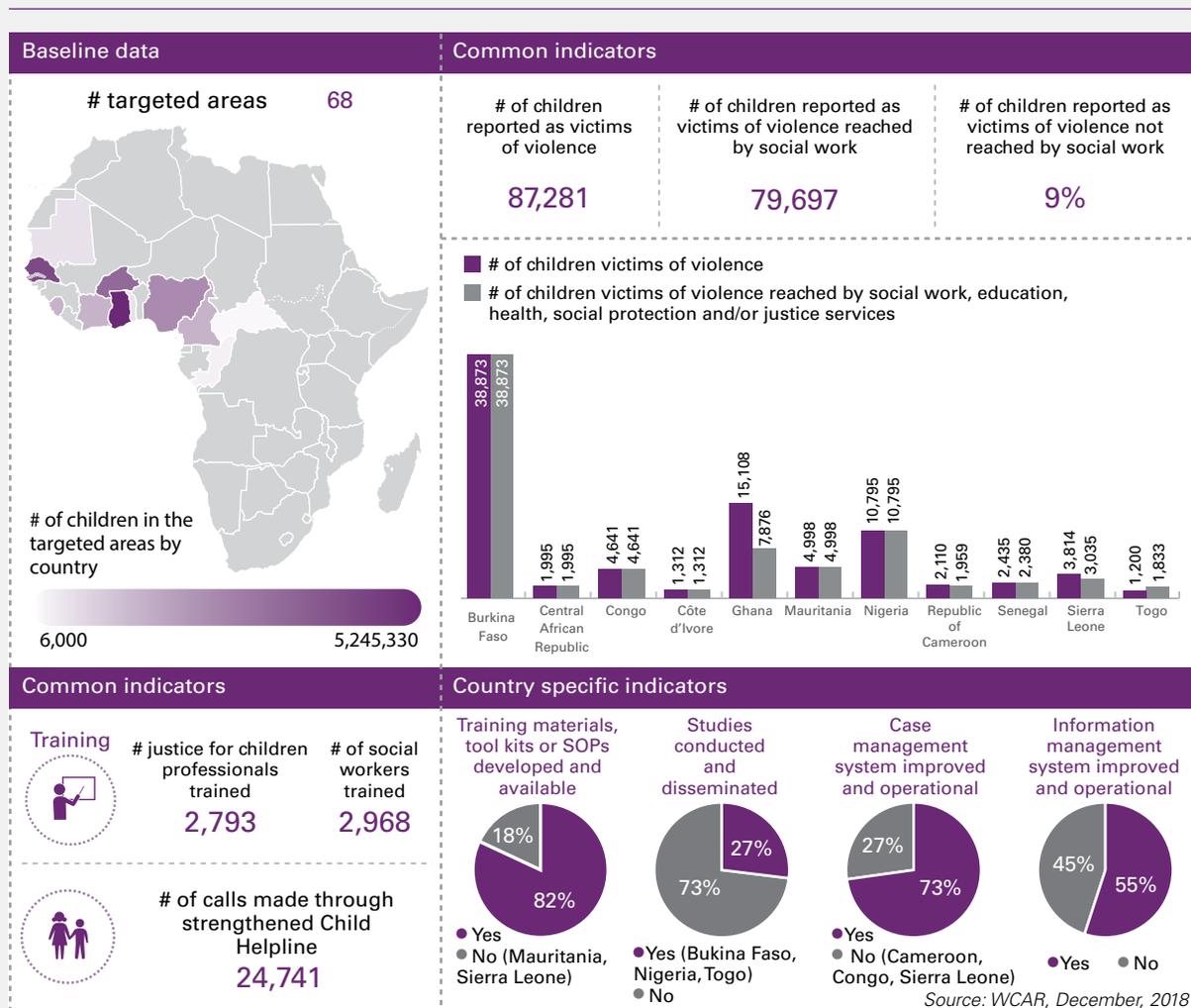
- Improved multisectoral collaboration among basic social service providers, including eight countries that have now established standardized and operationalized national case management systems.
- Strengthened information management systems for case management, which were rolled out and/or strengthened in seven countries.
- Training of around 3,000 social workers (public and non-public) on child-friendly service provision delivery and use of standardized case management tools, contributing to improved case detection: 90 per cent of identified children were reached by improved social welfare services.
- Training of around 2,800 justice professionals in specialized child-friendly justice services.
- Collective actions that contributed to almost 80,000 child victims of violence being reached with social (and related) services.

Country highlights: In view of improving access to quality social welfare services for children-at-risk or child victims, the processes for setting up or strengthening sustainable national case management and information management systems were initiated in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo and rolled out in Nigeria and Sierra Leone in 2018. The processes included standardization of case management forms in line with the six internationally recognized core steps, as follows: (1) Identification and registration; (2) Assessment of the child and/or family needs; (3) Development of individual case plan; (4) Direct support to the child and referral to other services; (5) Follow up and review of the case; and (6) Closing of the case. Standard Operating Procedures

Continued on page 28

were developed, involving stakeholders at national, sub-national and local levels and training of social workers undertaken, with a special focus on referral of cases to other services. In addition, in Ghana, standards on social work were incorporated into the national curriculum of the Institute of Local Governance Studies. Further, in Senegal, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education jointly developed National Guidelines for detection and management of cases of violence, abuse and exploitation. The implementation of the Guidelines has the potential to protect at least 3.2 million children and adolescents, representing 66 per cent of the total number of children aged 6-18 years.

FIGURE 9: West and Central Africa: Prevention and response to VAC summary of action, 2018



Increasingly, countries are noting progress in strengthening the role of health systems to prevent and respond to VAC and provide quality services for child survivors, with at least 40 countries across regions demonstrating integrated actions, including Kazakhstan, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Uruguay. In Uruguay a protocol was prepared for the identification of cases of sexual violence against children that is obligatory for use in all health facilities in the country. Moreover, at least 28 countries reported scaling up action to enhance programmes that explicitly link justice and social welfare actors and strengthen services for child victims of violence in judicial and criminal proceedings, as in the case of Jamaica, South Africa, Turkey and Zimbabwe. In Turkey, for example, over 1,000 justice professionals were trained to more effectively handle cases of child victims of violence and child-sensitive court proceedings (also see 'Output 3.3' for further results).

Similarly, as part of broader national progress towards strengthening national child protection systems, countries are increasingly reporting integrated action to reduce child labour. A key approach is to strengthen social protection mechanisms and the quality and capacity of the social service workforce in countries to ensure that vulnerable families receive access to the necessary support. In Uttar Pradesh in India, for example, the child labour cash transfer programme was revised, resulting in an increase in the budgetary allocation from US\$3.6 million to US\$4.3 million for 2018; and in Bangladesh, Child Welfare Boards were newly established in 26 districts and 52 *upazilas* (administrative regions), enabling the identification of an additional 1,291 at-risk children eligible for conditional cash transfer support under the Child Sensitive Social Protection Project.



Jose Angel Aguila Lizama (right), 14, sits at home with his mother, Lourdes Lizama, Puerto Cortes, Cortes, Honduras. Jose Angel has been the victim of bullying since his first years of school. UNICEF and partners are committed to ending violence in schools by 2024.

An Everyday Lesson #ENDviolence in Schools

The #ENDviolence against children campaign: ending violence in schools

“Education is the key to building peaceful societies, and yet, for millions of children around the world, school itself is not safe ... Every day, students face multiple dangers, including fighting, pressure to join gangs, bullying – both in person and online, violent discipline, sexual harassment and armed violence ... Violence is an unforgettable lesson that no child needs to learn.” – UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta H. Fore, 2018

Since July 2013, UNICEF has been engaged in the #ENDviolence against children campaign. By the end of 2017, with the involvement of over 70 country offices

and national committees, the campaign had resulted in more than 70 articles generated in the press; more than 40 UNICEF countries having adapted the campaign by localizing it, and more than 100 UNICEF offices and national committees having posted videos or multilingual content related to the #ENDviolence campaign on local channels. Within the campaign, key flagship publications on violence against children were launched providing the evidence and programmatic foundation for action. This includes *Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children*; *Ending Violence against Children: Six strategies for action*; and *A Familiar Face: Violence in the lives of children and adolescents*.

In the second half of 2018, the #ENDviolence campaign adopted a more targeted focus in support of SDGs 4 and 16 and UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 Goal Areas 2 and 3: ending violence in and around schools. The focus was inspired by a new partnership called Safe to Learn – comprising the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID); the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children; United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) – which endorsed an aspirational ambition to end school violence by 2024.

In support of the campaign, a global Call to Action has been developed calling on governments and ministries of education to: (1) implement policy and legislation; (2) strengthen prevention and response at the school level; (3) shift social norms and behaviour change; (4) invest resources effectively; and (5) generate and use evidence.

UNICEF released a new report in 2018 with updated data: *An Everyday Lesson: #ENDViolence in Schools* – earning significant coverage including over 140 top-tier media and 1,806 online media mentions in the first 48 hours.

The report findings found that globally, half of students aged 13-15 experience peer-to-peer violence in and around school, hindering their educational achievement and leaving a long-term impression on their futures.

In September 2018, more than 80 country offices, national committees and partners – including the Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children; United Nations Foundation; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts; and the World Council of Churches – participated in a global activity where UNICEF asked young people if they had ever been afraid of violence in and around their school. This poll received an unprecedented 1 million responses representing 160 countries, 69 per cent of which were 'yes'. The activity elicited more than 24,000 recommendations from young people about how to make schools safer. In December 2018, UNICEF, Global Citizen and Junior Chamber International convened more than 100 young people to draft a first-of-its-kind #ENDviolence Youth Manifesto based on this feedback. The Manifesto serves as a foundational document of the Safe to Learn partnership.

#ENDviolence Youth Manifesto

"We demand that our parents, guardians, schools as institutions, policymakers and communities recognize our essence of being, our equality, our right to dignity, our right to exist in harmony in environments that are free of violence in all its forms. We demand that where violence may exist it must be addressed with the required urgency, without placing the burden on the child."

"We demand the protection and prevention of all forms and levels of violence in schools, which should be governed by clear rules, regulations, and action plans to enable reform and recourse for a safe learning environment for all."

"We commit to breaking taboos and the victimization around reporting violence. We will seek out trusted authorities such as teachers, counsellors, community representatives and other students when we witness or learn of violence in and around school. We also commit to creating youth-led channels for reporting violence."

UNICEF continues to ensure that programmes addressing violence against children at country level are robust, evidence-based and can be brought to scale. This includes the identification of 20 priority countries to provide direct support to implement and monitor actions to end violence in and around schools. An additional five countries will receive further support to develop, implement and monitor the various interventions under the Safe to Learn Call to Action.

The Safe to Learn partnership was launched in January 2019 at the Education World Forum, where youth activists from South Africa and the United States of America presented the #ENDviolence Youth Manifesto and the Call to Action was endorsed by Georgia, Ghana, Mexico, Nepal, the Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Uganda.



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One of the more than 100 children who joined UNICEF, the Minister for Social Development and the National Council for Family Affairs in Amman, Jordan, to celebrate World Children's Day. At the event, it was announced that author Joud Mbaideen and singer Emanne Beasha would become UNICEF Jordan's first Champions for Children.

UNICEF, together with partners, also engaged across 68 countries to strengthen education sector responses to violence and ensure safe school environments. To establish improved reporting mechanisms in Eswatini (formally Swaziland), a first-time toll-free line for reporting violence in schools was introduced, registering 17 cases within the first two months of it going live. In the Niger, with UNICEF support, 2,200 school management committees were trained on reducing violence in and around schools, and on the importance of girls' education. In Egypt, a costed National VAC Action Plan is being developed and supplemented with sector action plans with relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Education, to tackle violence in schools. UNICEF is also supporting countries to address road safety prevention, particularly in the context of the journey to school. For instance, as a result of UNICEF advocacy in Mongolia involving unprecedented high public attention and extremely wide social mobilization initiatives, child-related road traffic injuries and deaths decreased by 20 per cent (for injuries) and by 41 per cent (for child deaths) over the period 2017–2018.

The Safe Schools Declaration is a non-binding compliance tool that has played a strong and important role for the protection of children in situations of armed conflict, in particular ensuring that school buildings are vacated by military forces and armed groups and returned to their original function. Since 2016, almost half of the world's nations (89 countries) have endorsed this declaration and are putting measures in place to effectively implement the commitments (data as of May 2019).

Social mobilization, education programmes and communication campaigns to challenge harmful behaviours and prevent violence

Result spotlight

As part of Safer Internet Day (February), the Facebook channel for UNICEF was the number one most influential author for the topics covered. Further, in a two-week span, UNICEF generated 18,042 mentions on social media related to Safer Internet Day (and the Violence Against Children Solutions Summit, which ran simultaneously), potentially reaching over 331 million and engaging over 291,750 users.

Communication for Development (C4D) strategies are increasingly being used to promote norms that better protect children from VAC, including the use of social

media, community radio and television, which serve as effective platforms for youth engagement. Important strides in VAC campaigns are particularly evident in Benin, Botswana, Brazil, El Salvador, the Gambia, Honduras, India, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea and Senegal. For example, the Caretas project in Brazil that aims to strengthen youth participation in conversations around violence created a digital robot on Facebook Messenger to enable users to 'talk' to a fictitious victim, Fabi Grossi. The platform went viral and by the end of 2018, almost 1 million adolescents and young people had joined the conversation.

In Nicaragua, a government-led campaign, 'Prevention of Sexual Abuse Starts at Home', reached almost 3 million people and was launched to coincide with the introduction of a comprehensive care model and improved package of services for victims of sexual abuse and pregnant adolescents. Important strides were reported in empowering children and young people's participation to challenge the culture of violence in and around schools, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Jordan, Madagascar, Panama and Uganda in 2018. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the extension of school clubs and listening spaces to 20 secondary schools led to school retention rates for girls rising from 83 per cent in 2016 to 90 per cent in 2018. The 'Nashatati' programme in Jordan enables students to participate in activities that foster tolerance, healthy living and personal development; it is now integrated in 100 state schools, benefiting 9,834 students (51 per cent female). Early feedback indicates that, as a result of their participation, 20 per cent of teachers and students have reported improved peer-to-peer relationships, increased tolerance, enhanced communication and problem-solving skills, and a greater sense of community. In Panama, UNICEF and partners capitalized on the premiere of the K-pop band BTS's Love Yourself movie 'Burn the Stage' to maximize the reach to young people of an anti-bullying campaign.

As part of its regional armed violence reduction and prevention programme, UNICEF continues to place a core emphasis on strengthening community-based prevention through participation, advocacy and school-based initiatives across nine high-prevalence countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Peace Management Initiative that promotes community dialogue to reach at-risk youth in Jamaica reached over 4,000 residents with related information materials; almost 1,000 conflicts were mediated; and 213 youths supported to disengage from (or prevent joining) gangs, with over half receiving remedial education and vocational training. In Mexico, a community space – 'la casa juvenil' – was set up in the central square and resulted in an increased presence and participation of young people and families congregating for traditional social activities.



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Mother Djénéba Diarra, her husband Mamadou Doumbia and their daughters (right) Sitan Doumbia, 5, and (left) Assitan Doumbia, 3 months, sit on a mat in Baraouéli village, Ségou Region, Mali. The Doumbia family understand the importance of play in helping their children develop, thanks to a UNICEF-supported awareness campaign by the local MamaYeelen, model mothers who are trained in early childhood development.

Strengthening parenting and caregiver support

A cornerstone of the current programming of UNICEF is strengthening efforts to work with parents and caregivers to reduce violence against children in the home. This multisectoral approach seeks to prevent violence and abuse by reducing the factors that make families vulnerable to violent behaviour, with a focus on strengthening parental and caregivers' child-rearing skills. UNICEF is increasingly engaging with governments and partners to implement evidence-based

Result spotlight

UNICEF reached a record high number of mothers, fathers and caregivers through UNICEF-supported parenting programmes, increasing from nearly 800,000 (2017) to just over 2,000,000 (2018). Expansion was most apparent in the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Yemen.

programmes at scale, working in at least 75 countries in 2018. Parenting programmes are featured as one of the seven strategies outlined in INSPIRE.²⁵

The scope for parenting programmes is expanding with the organization's growing attention to adolescent development. In the Europe and Central Asia Region, a UNICEF-sponsored study on parenting for adolescents in Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova and Romania is informing strategies to strengthen this element in national parenting programmes. In the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, regional guidance is available to improve interventions between programme areas; the Middle East and North Africa region is producing similar guidance.

UNICEF works to build public support and raise attention to promote positive parenting

Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Guardians of Happy Childhood campaign reached up to 500,000 citizens through online and traditional media, resulting in significant community engagement in finding alternative solutions to physical punishment of children through an open call for ideas on examples of positive parenting. A 2018 knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) study commissioned by UNICEF showed a 7 per cent increase in those who acknowledged beating, slapping, threatening and insulting children as violence against children compared to 2012.

Cuba: UNICEF led in advocating and providing technical assistance to carry out the first comprehensive KAP study on men's involvement in parenting and domestic care, generating unprecedented evidence on the issue.

Jordan: A social media campaign on positive parenting reached 1.2 million online users and was coupled with community-based events across four targeted cities, which reached over 40,000 families.

North Macedonia: The #ParentingIsAlsoLearned campaign reached over 1 million and engaged over 100,000 people on social media in just over one month. More than 2,000 people – families, professionals and academia – engaged in dialogue and interventions to promote positive approaches to parenting.

UNICEF works to strengthen positive parenting programmes and enhance the capacity of front-line workers across sectors

Honduras: As a result of the success of the 2017 'Parenting with Love' National Strategy implemented across 64 municipalities, the government extended the initiative to a further 67 municipalities in 2018, and established the Parenting with Love Department to ensure closer cross-sector coordination (particularly around social protection, children with disabilities and vulnerable groups).

Philippines: The Parenting for Lifelong Health programme ('Masayang Pamilya Para sa Batang Pilipino') resulted in a 49 per cent reduction in child maltreatment (physical and emotional abuse) among families who attended the programme. Given the success of this model, the Government of the Philippines is considering integrating the programme into the national social protection system.

North Macedonia: As part of a Learning Together programme, UNICEF developed and implemented a training module for nurses that included positive parenting techniques. In addition, 350 doctors were trained in early detection and intervention for children with disabilities (22 per cent of the total workforce).

UNICEF works to support the passage of legislation, policies and plans

Argentina: The Crianza Sin Violencia initiative to prevent maltreatment and gender-based violence through strengthening parental skills was institutionalized in three provinces, benefiting more than 5,000 parents and primary caregivers, thus improving conditions of care for more than 7,000 children.

Strengthening the social service workforce

The social service workforce plays a critical role in alleviating poverty, identifying and managing risks, and facilitating access to and delivery of social services to enhance child and family well-being. Social service workforce strengthening (SSWS) is a programme priority for UNICEF and is key to achieving both SDG targets and Goal Area 3 of the UNICEF Strategic Plan.

The increased investment in and programmatic prioritization of social service workforce strengthening has seen a jump in the number of countries reporting action and progress, rising from 114 in 2017 to 132 countries in 2018 (see Figure 7 for a summary of results, 2018).

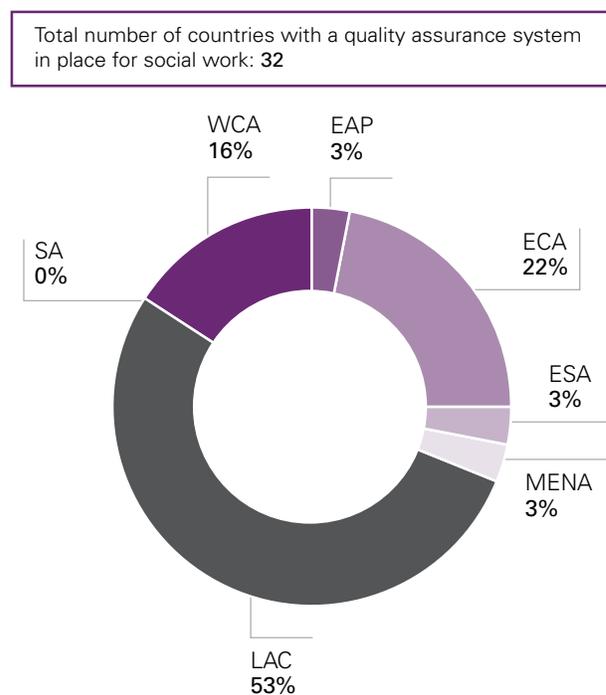
At least 51 countries reported progress on strengthening the normative framework for SSWS, and over 30 countries reported specific progress on strengthening supervision and support systems. Of the countries that supported social service workforce strengthening in 2018, an increased number of countries (32 – up from 31 in 2017 and 26 in 2016) reported having well-developed quality assurance systems in place for social services (see Figure 10). Though short of the 2018 milestone (37), this moderate increase does indicate steady progress is being made. In 2018, the majority of countries (86) reported that their quality assurance systems for SSWS are either still in early or mid-development stages – pointing to the need for continued UNICEF country support to sustain and make gains more widely across regions.

Assessing the current state of the social service workforce is a critical first step towards its strengthening. In 2018, the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia published *The State of the Social Service Workforce in South Asia*. Its findings are informing National Action Plans (NAPs) across the Region (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). Similar efforts on mapping and assessing the state of the social service workforce are underway in the Middle East and North Africa (8 countries), as well as in East Asia and the Pacific (16 countries), with expected completion in 2019.

Key steps in planning the workforce comprise setting out or strengthening the normative framework, including policy and legislation; defining the various roles and functions of the social service workforce; establishing regulatory frameworks; and developing costing and financing frameworks. The normative framework is often embedded within, or derived from, national child protection legislation. In 2018, some 51 countries reported that the normative framework for the social service workforce in their country had been finalized and was in use, whereas 54 countries reported that national-level normative frameworks were in various stages of drafting.

Important strides have been made in establishing high-level multisectoral national leadership to ensure that SSWS becomes a priority across sectors, particularly in Egypt,

FIGURE 10: Percentage of countries with a quality assurance social work system in place, by region, 2018



Total number of reporting countries: 132

Notes: EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.

Kazakhstan and Nigeria. For example, a review of the country's NAP on social work by its multisectoral steering committee led the Nigerian Government to develop a road map aimed at repositioning its national social welfare workforce strategy. Other countries are advancing on establishing licensing and accreditation systems, which are critical to ensuring that the recruitment of social service workers is based on a formally recognized system (see also Annex 3).

The development of a social service workforce greatly depends on the quality of education and training, which in turn depends on the quality of curricula and competency of educators and trainers. Important gains include: in the State of Palestine with revisions to university-level social work curriculum; in Sierra Leone, where the social work curriculum across all universities is under review; and in Somalia, which has rolled out a social work curriculum in six universities, with 500 students enrolled in courses in 2018–2019.

Similarly, developing tools and mechanisms for continuing education and training are equally important, especially for paraprofessional social workers, who are often first responders in identifying the most vulnerable children and referring cases to trained social workers. Advancements in Georgia are illustrative of the work being undertaken through the institutionalizing of child protection referral procedures and development of a child assessment referral instrument. More than 400 social agents and social workers were trained in the use of the referral instrument, enabling the assessment of almost 10,400 children; over half the cases were referred to social workers through child protection referral procedures.

Notable advancements to build the capacity of social service workers to strengthen case management include progress reported in Azerbaijan, Egypt, Lebanon, Maldives, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey. In Egypt, the number of cases being dealt with through the case management system increased from 9,725 in 2017 to 16,571 in 2018 as a result of accelerated capacity-building programmes and the expansion of the Child Protection Committees (CPCs). CPCs are now functional in 70 districts – up from 41 in 2017 – and comprising 20 per cent of the country. An improved Child Helpline also responded to over 300,000 phone calls in 2018, double the number of calls received in 2017.

Case Study 2: Bhutan: Professionalizing social work

Bhutan saw significant advancements in 2018 to strengthen the capacities of its social service workforce with the development of an accredited course in social work from the Royal University of Bhutan – the first-ever available in the country. In January 2019, 21 participants received a certificate on completion of the social work course in Samtse. The course was conducted in two parts and focused on students preparing practical projects to support social change within their work settings. One of the participants, a teacher in Drukjegang Central School, said that he was able to bring about change in his community through the practical skills he had learned: “Using the skills I learned, I was able to help a neglected child with a disability make friends, resulting in changing the perception of the community about children with disabilities.”

The sessions included building foundational knowledge, methods, communication and interpersonal skills, specialized disciplines, Communication for Development, social work and financial sustainability, project cycle management, and participatory planning and development. To date, more than 45 people have received certification. The course has laid the foundation for the development of a bachelor's degree in social work that will be available in July 2019.



Participants at the six-month certificate course in social work in Samtse, Bhutan.

Scaling up and innovating for sustainability

In China, support from UNICEF for the Barefoot Social Worker (BFSW) model continues to assist vulnerable children and their families in accessing child welfare services. BFSWs bridge the gap between children and their families, county civil affairs bureaus and the various agencies providing services to children, including through assisting with *hukou* (household) registration, access to social assistance such as *dibao* (cash transfer), medical and educational subsidies) and vocational training opportunities. The model has been scaled up in 750 villages with support from international/national organizations and informed a national roll-out of 'BFSW-like' child directors in over 500,000 villages and 30,000 townships. Child directors serve as the front line of the Chinese child welfare and protection service supervision system, and scale-up stands to benefit around 250 million children.



Zheng Rong, a Barefoot Social Worker in North China's Shanxi Province, visits Xiaoyu, 5. As part of a programme supported by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and UNICEF, a Barefoot Social Worker is a non-professional social worker selected by a community to provide child protection and welfare services.

Leveraging collective action

UNICEF, together with the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance (GSSWA) is developing Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection (forthcoming 2019) aimed at accelerating UNICEF and partner programming to better plan, develop and support social service workforce strengthening (SSWS) with national and regional partners. In addition, UNICEF and GSSWA, together with 31 organizations, signed on to the Call to Action: Strengthening the Social Service Workforce to Better Protect Children and Achieve the SDGs at the fifth Annual Global Social Service Workforce Symposium (May 2018). The Call aims to demonstrate the shared commitment to build a strong social service workforce that is best positioned to meet the needs of vulnerable children, youth, families and communities.

In Europe and Central Asia, UNICEF organized a regional conference on 'Strengthening the Social Work and Social Service Workforce in Europe and Central Asia: Investing in our Children's Future', which brought together 21 countries and led to a regional Call to Action and development of a regional monitoring framework for SSWS.

Establishing quality supervision systems for social service workers is important to ensure that services provided adhere to quality standards, with countries as diverse as Burundi, China and the Islamic Republic of Iran taking important steps. In Burundi, UNICEF supported strengthening the supervision of CPC members (who continue to be front-line responders in the protection of children) at provincial, commune and village levels. Government social workers conducted regular follow-up and training of over 17,000 CPC members. An additional 132 new CPCs were created in two provinces, bringing the total number created since 2010 to 2,500 in seven provinces.

Challenges

To meet SDG target 16.2 to end VAC by 2030, governments across the world must accelerate action and expand national VAC programmes. UNICEF has a key convening role to play in advocating with and supporting governments to step up national commitments and transform these into tangible and sustainable results. It is necessary to accelerate the pace of systems strengthening, particularly focusing on boosting the social service, education, health and justice sectors. To do so, increasing investments and advocacy with national governments is paramount. Sustaining advocacy with partners and supporting efforts to shift attitudes and norms towards all forms of violence is also essential, with greater attention needed on two key VAC targets of 16.2 – sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and corporal punishment. Despite increasing evidence of the important role parents can play in preventing violence and protecting their children from it, most parenting programmes have not been brought to scale and do not work across the life cycle.

While progress has been achieved to strengthen comparable data and evidence on VAC in recent years, many gaps remain. While tools such as the UNICEF VAC Programme Guidance (forthcoming 2019) and INSPIRE have been created to help guide planning and create common standards for programme implementation, similar investments are required for improved evaluation and monitoring mechanisms to track results and evaluate impact (*see also 'Strengthening data and evidence for child protection'*).

A majority of the work UNICEF does on SSWS continues to focus on capacity-development initiatives, including training of workers. While this is important, other aspects of the workforce – including planning and support to the workforce – continue to pose challenges. In several countries, strengthening the normative framework has also led to identification of specific functions that need to be performed by certain types of social service workers, as outlined in national legislation or regulations. At the same time, challenges remain in terms of developing licensing and accreditation systems for these workers, which is often due to the absence of a regulatory/licensing body for the social service sector as a whole. Another challenge is the lack of recognition and therefore lack of standardization of functions, training and certification systems for paraprofessionals and community-based workers, who play a vital role in child protection, especially in terms of promotive and preventive work at the community level. The forthcoming Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection will provide guidance on how to build a well-planned, trained and supported social service workforce that has the necessary tools and resources to provide promotive, preventive and response services to children and families.



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A young girl stands outside her traditional stone home in the village of Assamo in Djibouti. UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Family, has helped set up a Community Management Committee in the village. The Committee informs the community about child protection issues, including female genital mutilation. It also promotes income-generating activities, including the use of new information and communication technology.

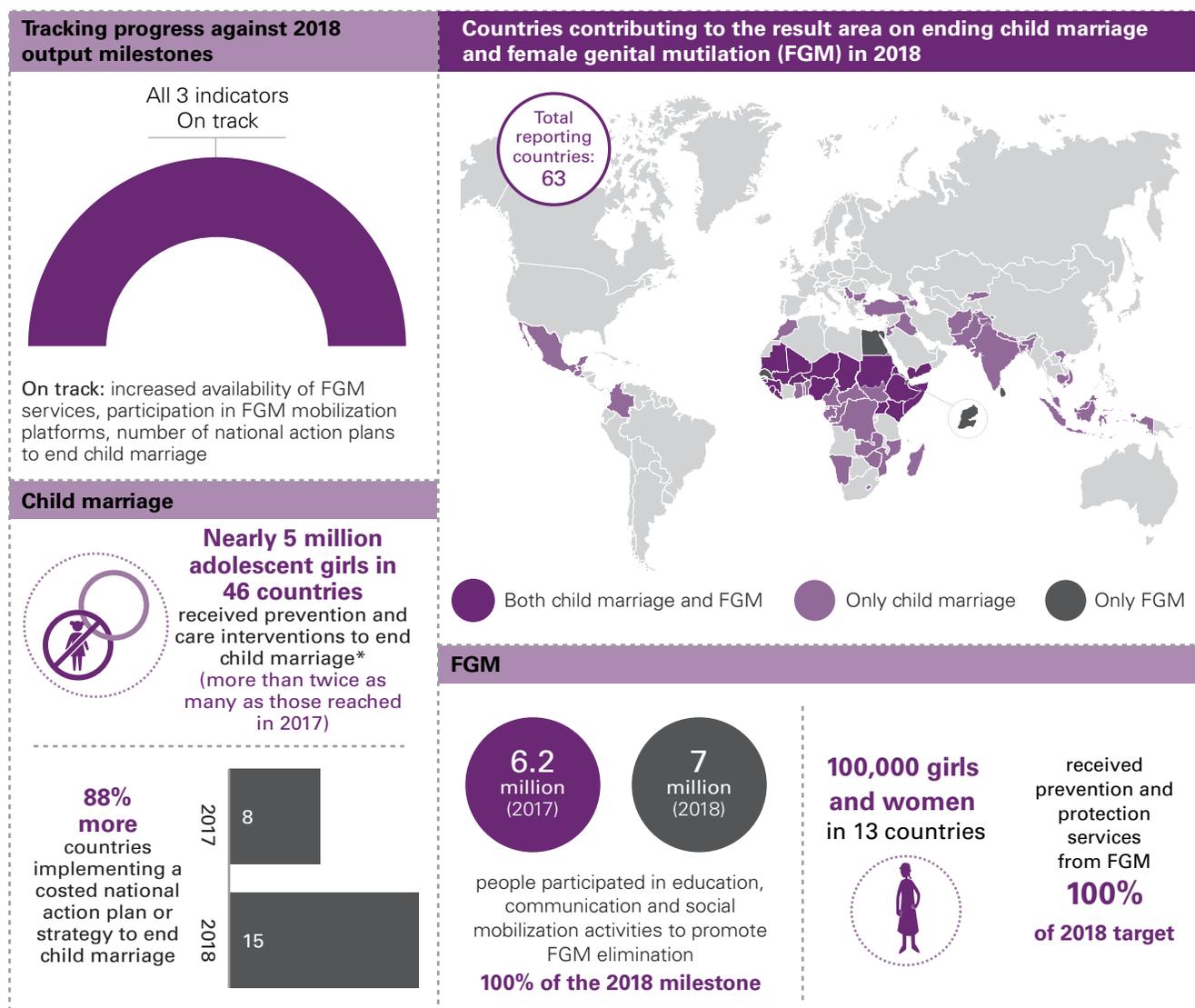
Output 3.2: Strengthening prevention and delivery of protection services to reduce harmful practices (child marriage and FGM)

The practice of child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) has continued to decline around the world, including in high-prevalence countries where UNICEF co-leads two of the largest United Nations joint programmes with UNFPA: the UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change (launched in 2008), and the UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to

Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (launched in 2016) (see Figure 11 for a summary of results, 2018).

Based on the latest child marriage data available from each country, one in five young women (aged 20-24) were married as children versus one in four, 10 years ago. Notable decline among young women aged 20-24 is

FIGURE 11: Summary of results, 2018



*Outcome indicator in UNICEF Strategic Plan Goal Area 3

documented in Ethiopia and India. In the 30 countries with nationally representative FGM prevalence data, around one in three girls aged 15-19 today have undergone the practice versus one in two in the mid-1980s. Fast decline among girls aged 15-19 has occurred across countries with various levels of FGM prevalence, including Burkina Faso, Egypt, Kenya, Liberia and Togo. Despite these declines, it is important to note that SDG 5.3 calls for *elimination* of these harmful practices. Thus, a substantial acceleration of progress will be needed to offset anticipated population increases in continents such as Africa and in order to eliminate these practices globally by 2030.

Leveraging collective action

While the global burdens for child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) are on the decrease, sub-Saharan Africa presents a risk where rates of progress need to be scaled up dramatically to offset population growth.

UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continue to play a convening role to maintain the momentum for global discourse and push the agenda forward, including through critical fora such as the Second African Girls Summit and International Conference on FGM, Commission on the Status of Women, European Development Days and United Nations General Assembly Sessions.

The high-level event at the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Canada and Zambia (September 2018), in partnership with UNICEF, UNFPA and United Nations Women, resulted in global and African leaders renewing their commitments and accelerating efforts to end child marriage by 2030.

UNICEF supported the African Union's international conference, Galvanizing Political Actions to Accelerate the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation held in Burkina Faso (October 2018), which led to the adoption of 'Ouagadougou's Call for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation in Africa and the World' and an action plan for the launch of the African Union Saleema Initiative on FGM.

An independent evaluation of Phase I (2016–2018) of the UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage in 2018 identified good practices and lessons learned, which is informing the direction of Phase II. Lessons learned from the external evaluation of Phase II (2014–2017) of the UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change informed the development of Phase III of the Joint Programme (launched in 2018).

Child marriage

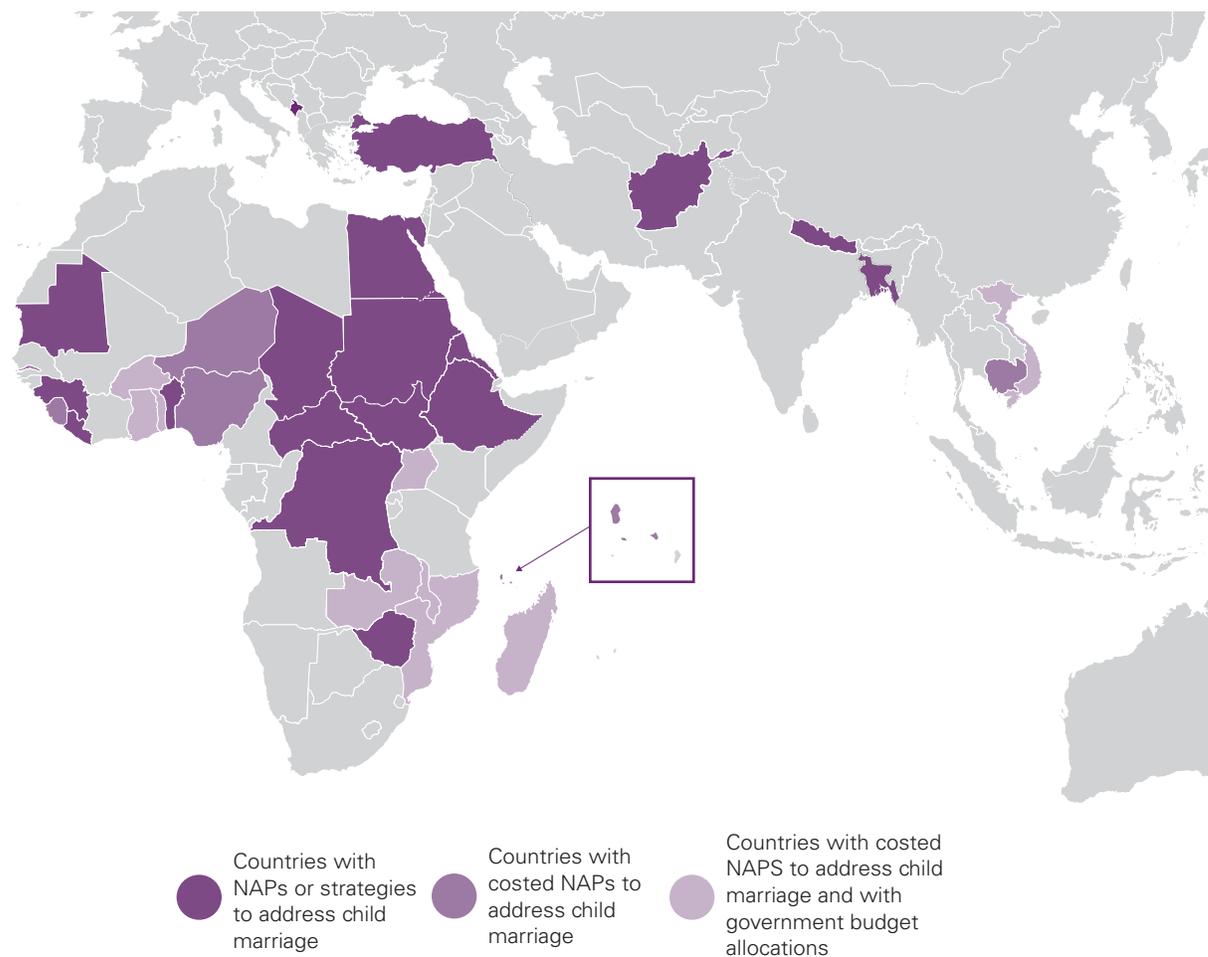
UNICEF continues to support programmes to end child marriage in 59 countries,²⁶ including 12²⁷ that are part of the UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. Working to translate national commitments into tangible action, UNICEF and partners focus on supporting governments to implement a number of proven interventions. UNICEF and partners play a critical convening role to support governments to shape national normative frameworks, including through developing national action plans (NAPs) and the leveraging of public (and other) resources; alongside empowering adolescent girls out of school and at risk of child marriage with targeted approaches of integrating life skills; supporting multisectoral coordination and stakeholder engagement to strengthen the accessibility, quality and responsiveness of services for adolescent girls; and supporting social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms.

Developing legislation and NAPs that protect and promote the rights of adolescent girls

Governments are increasingly improving the enabling legal and policy framework to end child marriage and to strengthen national accountability through the development of NAPs. This includes the establishment of mechanisms to coordinate multisectoral interventions on ending child marriage and harmonization of laws to align with international and regional human right standards, including the minimum age of marriage.

Since the inception of the Global Programme and launch of continental campaigns, there has been a notable shift from developing NAPs to *costing* NAPs and allocating budget to support their implementation. Among the 33 countries that have developed NAPs, 15 are costed and 10 (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Togo, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia) have allocated budgets to implement their NAPs (*see Figure 12*). Examples include the governments of Ethiopia and Ghana, which have increased their budget allocations and funding to 10 per cent and 3 per cent of the national budget allocations and funding to the lead ministry, respectively. Uganda and Zambia are now developing district action plans to end child marriage to support implementation of their NAPs. Advocacy efforts towards the development of NAPs to end child marriage have also led to developing multisectoral plans and coordination structures in a number of countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia. In Bangladesh, UNICEF advocacy efforts with partners resulted in the government passing the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2018, which was also bolstered by the launch of the costed NAP to end child marriage in the country.

FIGURE 12: Supporting national action plans to end child marriage, 2018



Note: India has 3 states with action plans, but no national action plan

Source: UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme data, December 2018

Integrating life skills and improving access to services for adolescent girls

Nearly 5 million adolescent girls received prevention and care interventions from UNICEF-supported programming on child marriage, including through life skills initiatives and links to health, education and social protection-related services targeting adolescent girls. This is a significant increase from the 2.1 million adolescent girls reached in 2017. Countries continue to use different entry points to reach the most at-risk girls, including the use of community mentors (Mozambique and the Niger), door-to-door recruitment (Nepal and Uganda), adolescent girls' clubs in schools (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, the Niger and Viet Nam) and referrals from protection and prevention service delivery points (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia,

Sierra Leone and Yemen). In Mozambique, for example, community mentoring and increased access to life skills programmes benefited 221,234 girls and enabled the reintegration of roughly 2,500 adolescent girls to school; in India, close to 2.3 million girls were reached through community mentorship in adolescent girls' clubs with life skills training. Bangladesh, Burkina Faso and Ghana also reported demonstrable progress to integrate adolescent girl-responsive interventions in education, health and child protection services. In Burkina Faso, UNICEF and partners strengthened the capacity of parliamentarians and staff from line ministries in gender-responsive budgeting. As a result, the 2018 budget circular recommended six pilot ministries begin implementing gender-responsive budgeting, and all other ministries to follow suit by 2021.

Scaling up and innovating for sustainability

In Uganda, UNICEF and implementing partners started piloting an innovative door-to-door approach to reach duty bearers, especially parents, and engage them in face-to-face dialogues on positive parenting. The pilot involved encouraging duty bearers to sign pledge cards as a commitment to not marry daughters under the age of 18 years and promote their enrolment in school. This initiative has seen a huge increase in the number of people reached – rising from 14,875 people at the start of the programme (2017) to 31,350 in three of the targeted districts (in 2018) – this has resulted in almost 23,500 households (equating to around 15,000 pledge cards) making commitments to end child marriage to date.

Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

Community engagement focuses on encouraging a wider participation of stakeholders to facilitate community dialogues and promote positive behaviours and norms. In South Asia, Bangladesh and Nepal have concentrated on working closely with boys and men as agents for gender equality. In West Africa, Burkina Faso, the Niger and other countries have focused on delivery of relevant messages to communities and families through capacity development and use of religious and traditional leaders as change agents. In Eastern Africa, countries such as Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia – in addition to the use of trained community facilitators – also engaged with political leaders such as parliamentarians to encourage dialogues with their constituents on issues of parenting, educating their children and child marriage.

Case Study 3: Mozambique: Scaling up action to end child marriage

Mozambique's child marriage and teen pregnancy rates are among the highest in the world. According to UNICEF data, around half of Mozambique's women – 48.2 per cent – marry before they turn 18. Of girls aged between 15 and 19, some 46.4 per cent are either pregnant or have already become mothers.

The UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage has been supporting Mozambique to engage and empower adolescent girls through interventions that undertake a gender-targeted approach focused on adolescent girls as right holders and agents of change. This includes building the capacity of mentors of safe spaces to act as a 'social vaccine' to help girls develop their self-respect and sense of empowerment.

In 2018, through the mentorship model, 900 adolescents and young people were trained as agents of change, 1,629 safe spaces were established and a girl-to-girl invitation system whereby girl users will be able to refer their friends via mobile phones was launched. Through support to these initiatives, UNICEF and UNFPA jointly reached 221,234 adolescent girls with life-skills education, up from 127,714 in the previous year.

A programming review in 2018 noted that in Mozambique the largest investment by the government, the United Nations and civil society to end child marriage has been focused on social mobilization and social norms transformation. This investment has resulted in programming gaps to strengthen the enabling environment, delivery of services and creation of economic empowerment opportunities. Building on the review findings, advocacy by UNFPA, UNICEF and other partners contributed to the government's passing in 2018 of a decree revoking a previous ruling that pregnant girls could only attend night school – a very limited option throughout the country. In addition, UNICEF supported the remodelling of the child helpline, including upgrading the information management system (IMS) system in line with international and regional parameters. In 2018, the child helpline received over 120,000 calls. Strengthened reporting and referral systems resulted in over 30,000 children subsequently receiving referral support. The short message service (SMS) BIZ/U-Report platform was also scaled up, with the establishment of a counselling hub in the city of Quelimane. By end 2018, an additional 93,000 adolescents and youth had subscribed to the counselling services and regularly used the SMS BIZ/U-report to access information on sexual and reproductive health, HIV and violence against children: 26 per cent of users also accessed associated health services.

In 2018, through the Global Programme, 1.7 million community members were engaged in dialogues focused on gender equality and transformation of social/gender norms, compared to close to 560,000 in 2017. In addition, 12.2 million were reached through media campaigns that include the use of radio and television and social media (though social media were not included in the estimated reach), compared to 4.2 million in 2017. The outcome of community dialogues and media campaigns was monitored through shifts in norms change and through the number of child marriages prevented, as well as community pledges and declarations made to end child marriage. In South Asia, a 2018 study in Afghanistan showed that attitudes on child marriage and education have changed significantly following widespread media campaigns. In West Africa, countries such as Burkina Faso and the Niger have made community declarations to ban child marriage (and other harmful practices) or committed to supporting the education of adolescent girls. In Eastern and Southern Africa, parents and families in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia have signed pledges committing to support the education of adolescent girls and banning child marriage.

Eliminating female genital mutilation

In 2018, UNICEF and partners supported 22 countries²⁸ to implement interventions aimed at eliminating FGM. This included supporting policies and legislation (and enforcement) to end FGM; empowering communities to shift social norms in support of the abandonment of FGM; ensuring access to prevention, protection and care services; and building an evidence base that informs FGM policies and practice.

Important achievements have been made across all countries in 2018. Through UNICEF-supported interventions with partners, over 1 million girls and women from 13 of these countries received prevention and protection services on FGM since 2016 (including 100,000 in 2018). Nearly 7 million people across 19 countries participated in education, communication discussions and social mobilization platforms promoting the elimination of FGM – an increase from 6.2 million in 2017. In 2018, UNICEF and UNFPA launched Phase III (2018–2021) of the Joint Programme across 16 countries in Africa that will focus on reversing FGM trends. This includes cross-border cutting, medicalization, and the practice going underground. It will also strengthen interventions aimed at transforming social norms in support of FGM abandonment, such as building girls' agency to uphold their rights, advancing gender equality by engaging men and boys, and creating opportunities for youth to champion the elimination of FGM.



Cheptegei Catherine, member of the Tumboboi Grandmothers Group in Karamoja, Uganda, during an awareness meeting on female genital mutilation attended by village residents including former cutters.

Developing national action plans and strengthening legal and policy frameworks

A strong political commitment to eliminating FGM must translate into financial, technical and advocacy support through NAPs and strategies to eliminate FGM (see Figure 13). In 2018, progress was reported across 14 countries. In Guinea, a revised Multisectoral National Strategic Plan on FGM (2019–2023) was finalized and its road map launched that places strengthened emphasis on collaboration between law enforcement and the justice system, and the participation of traditional communicators, community and religious leaders in preventing GBV, including FGM. Mainstreaming prevention of FGM in national strategies for reducing poverty, and in education, health, child protection and justice sectors, can play a critical role. Such strategies are increasingly being seen in country action, as in the case of Guinea-Bissau, where prevention of FGM is now better mainstreamed in social development policy documents, including the National Poverty Reduction Strategy. FGM is also one of the priorities of the country's new Child Protection Policy (2018–2030), which aligns with the newly finalized 2018–2022 FGM National Strategy and Plan of Action.

FIGURE 13: Strengthening national programmes to eliminate female genital mutilation (FGM), status summary, 2018

Legislation criminalizing FGM



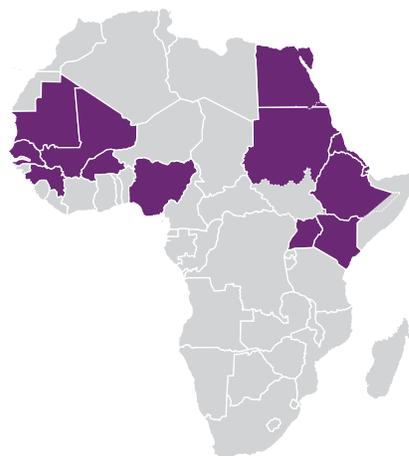
13 countries: Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda.

Multisectoral national coordination mechanisms led by the government



16 countries: Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda.

Government budget lines available for FGM



13 countries: Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Uganda.

As a result of intensive capacity-development initiatives, there have been more than 900 cases of legal enforcement in joint programming countries to date, including 160 cases in 2018

Strengthening enforcement

UNICEF works with governments, civil society and communities to support ways to improve community-level enforcement, including through ensuring that enactment of laws work side by side with community education, as in the case of Mauritania, where legal reforms – such as the General Code of Child Protection (2018) – were coupled with an increasing number of community dialogues to raise communities' knowledge of the issues. In all, around 5,195 community facilitators were trained within their communities, and targeted social awareness activities reached around 12,600 service providers in health posts, schools, youth centres, mosques and religious schools. To enhance the enforcement of legislation in Egypt, UNICEF mainstreamed FGM in law enforcement capacity-building programmes on GBV and justice for children programming. Around 360 prosecutors were trained under the GBV training programme, alongside training for 175 judges and 18 social workers on how to implement children's law, the criminalization of FGM, and how to more effectively deal with cases of FGM.

Empowering youth as change agents

Youth civic engagement interventions supported by UNICEF provide young people with opportunities to acquire new skills and to learn responsibility and accountability – all while contributing to the elimination of FGM in their communities and protecting future generations at risk. In the Sudan, youth forums were organized in more than five states (and attended by more than 1,000 young people), resulting in formal mechanisms being set up at the state level for youth to voice their issues and priorities on FGM and child marriage. In Senegal, 30 girls and boys from high-prevalence regions produced an advocacy report following youth training that outlines recommendations for the elimination of FGM. In the run-up to the 2019 presidential elections, young people plan to hold hearings for future presidential candidates to present the report and challenge candidates on the measures they envisage to end FGM. In Uganda, efforts continue to expand community dialogues, with at least 17 community platforms held in 2018, reaching between 1,641 young people (44 per cent female) in two targeted regions.

Transforming social norms to end FGM

In 2018, UNICEF worked in 16 joint programming countries²⁹ to support social norms change through interventions that target and empower communities to explore the benefits of FGM abandonment. In Nigeria, the campaign #Odimma Nwanyi bu Ka Chi Siri Ke (“wholeness of female is as created by God”) carried out educational and awareness activities with dozens of partners, including governmental bodies, civil society organizations, indigenous groups and school-based clubs, contributing to 550 communities publicly declaring commitment to abandonment. Through the #TouchePasAMaSoeur (“don’t touch my sister”) social marketing campaign in Senegal targeting youth, almost 109,000 young people accessed information and/or participated in interactive discussions through social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

UNICEF works with religious and community leaders to facilitate abandonment of FGM through dialogues to reach community consensus. In Djibouti, a partnership with the Ministry of Muslim Affairs, National Union of Djiboutian Women, 33 religious leaders and community management committees led to a total of 396 community dialogues being organized with almost 33,000 people (36 per cent women, 22 per cent girls and 14 per cent boys) participating. Men and boys are also being actively engaged in programming, including through a partnership with the Men Engage Alliance networks across 14 countries. In Nigeria, coalitions were developed with the Men Engage Alliance in 60 communities (out of 96) across five focus states. In Guinea-Bissau, support to men’s clubs across 40 communities led to around 12,000 people (including 5,000 women and 200 traditional and religious leaders) participating in education sessions and dialogues.

Case Study 4: The Sudan: Changing social norms

In the Sudan, female genital mutilation (FGM) is a highly accepted social practice with deep cultural roots. National FGM prevalence is 86.7 per cent (from Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey conducted in 2014), and in certain areas the practice is almost universal. To reduce these high prevalence rates, the Saleema Communication Initiative – a programme of the Sudanese Government – was launched in 2008, supported by UNICEF. It provides positive communication tools that support the protection of girls from FGM, particularly in the context of efforts to promote collective abandonment of the practice at the community level.

Saleema encourages a new way of thinking about FGM within the family and community. The communication strategy includes a multimedia campaign kit comprising a song, an animated television spot, a set of four linked radio spots, a set of four linked posters, and a comic book for young readers. Materials also include stickers, posters, Saleema-designed robes, shawls and head scarves intended for distribution at public declarations of abandonment by community groups and networks.



Participant wearing Saleema scarf in the context of Sudan Free female genital mutilation (FGM) Collaboration Workshop for Ending FGM, North Kordofan State, August 2018. Central to UNICEF’s approach to social norms change is community-based social marketing that uses different communication tools to influence behaviour change.

By the end of 2017, the Initiative had reached approximately 650,000 people in the country. In 2018, an evaluation of its impact was undertaken (covering the years 2014 to 2017). Key findings noted that the work contributed significantly to effecting positive changes in social norms as a result of communities being exposed to the Initiative’s communication materials, including strong vocal opposition to FGM overall. In particular, across the 18 implementation states there was an increase in people changing attitudes and practice towards FGM, reflected in statements such as an increased willingness to advise other members in the community to not practice cutting, willingness to bring a friend or family member to a future Saleema event, confidence that their families will abandon cutting, and a personal commitment to stop the practice. The evaluation also found that the more participants were exposed to Saleema materials and events, the greater the change in their perceptions.

Building on the success of Saleema in the Sudan, the African Union launched a continent-wide Saleema Initiative to Eliminate FGM social marketing campaign in October 2018.

Ensuring access to prevention, protection and care services

Access to comprehensive (and integrated) services (including in the health care, education, social protection and the legal sectors) is critical for ensuring girls and women at risk or affected by FGM receive the prevention, protection and care support they need. Notable headway was made in at least 13 countries in 2018.³⁰ In Kenya, almost 4,500 community members and FGM networks (46 per cent female) were trained on prevention of FGM medicalization³¹ and 30 health-care workers received related training. In 2018, around 5,030 girls accessed education, health and psychosocial support, and temporary safe shelter. In Burkina Faso, capacity-building was provided to more than 12,600 service providers in health posts, schools, youth centres, mosques and Islamic schools, and community-based interventions were scaled up, resulting in the identification and protection of 101,854 girls at risk or victims of FGM (53,678) and child marriage (48,176). Almost 70,000 adolescents (69 per cent girls) are also now acting as social change agents for their communities to support further abandonment of harmful practices.

An emerging issue gaining momentum is ending the medicalization of FGM. About one in five girls who have been subjected to FGM had the procedure performed by a trained medical professional. In some countries, this number is as high as three in four girls.³²

UNICEF specifically worked with Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria and the Sudan in 2018 to make headway on this issue. Important gains include in Nigeria where 13 medical professional associations signed a declaration stating that medicalization of FGM is unethical and committed to establishing surveillance systems to track health professionals who violate the declaration.

Introduction of cross-border collaboration

The last decade has seen a rise in cross-border FGM, often to countries with weaker FGM laws or that lack support services among border communities. In particular, UNICEF worked with governments in six countries in the East and West Africa regions where cross-border cutting is more prevalent, to support collaboration on policies and

legislation and the development of joint communication strategies that dissuade people from crossing. Kenya, for example, has four porous borders with Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. In West Africa, those who perform FGM travel from Burkina Faso to the Niger to circumcise nomad girls, while populations in northern Benin tend to cross the border to be circumcised in Burkina Faso. UNICEF supports ongoing interventions on addressing cross-border FGM issues, including (in 2018) capacity-building of 250 (190 male and 60 female) police and health workers and the roll-out of a comprehensive package of support that encompassed community dialogue, education and awareness-raising, community-led alternative rites of passage for girls, girls' and boys' mentorship programmes, and boys and men engagement and networks.

Challenges

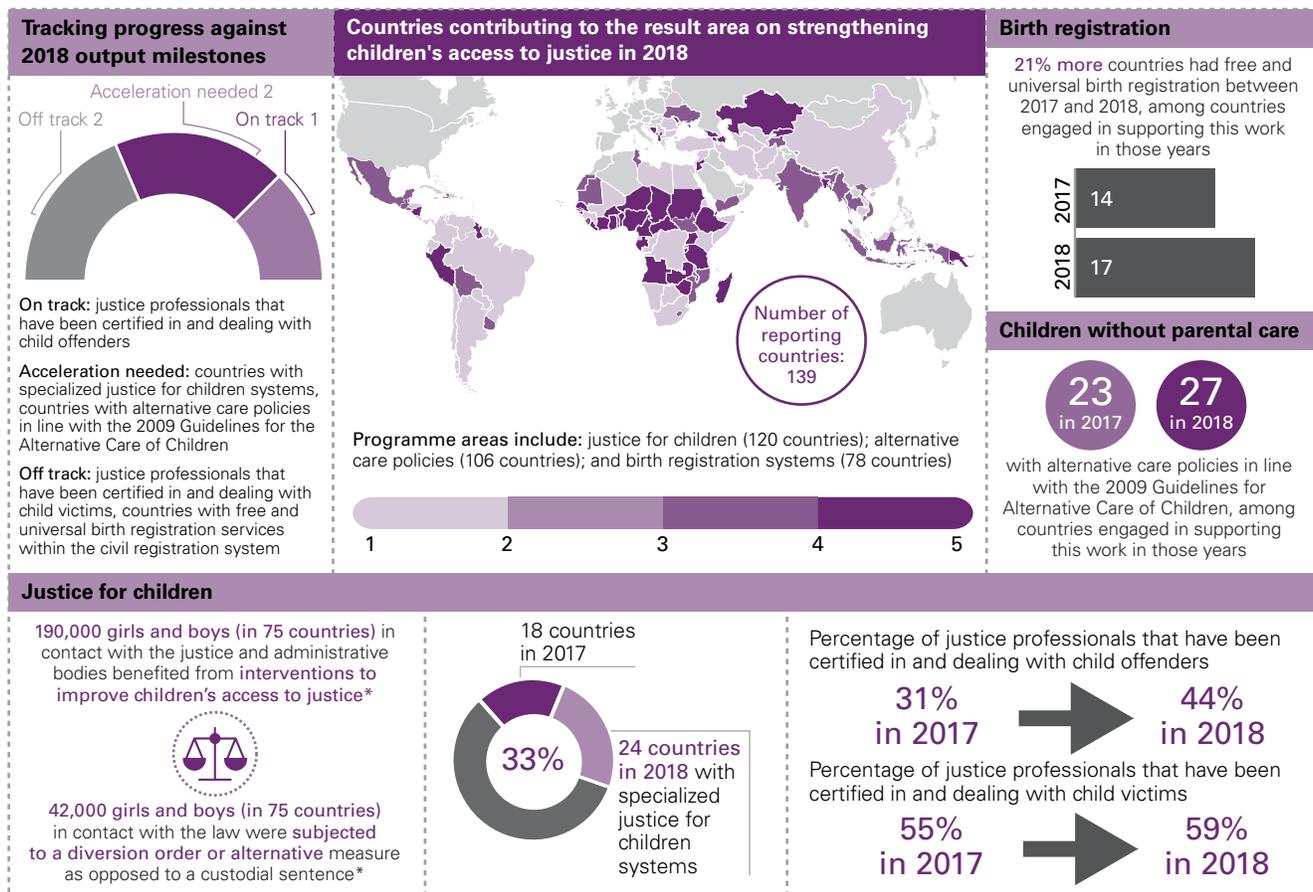
Despite progress in developing tools such as the UNICEF guidance on measuring social and behavioural drivers of child protection issues (focusing on FGM, child marriage and child discipline), key challenges remain in identifying standard and comparable measurements and indicators across country contexts, including for example in approaches towards girls empowerment which can vary across cultural contexts. UNICEF regional offices are coordinating efforts to develop standard tools of measurement that are specific to the regional context.

Insecurity in the Sahel region has hindered programming in most of the countries with the highest prevalence of child marriage and FGM (including Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and the Sudan) and is reversing previous gains in eliminating such harmful practices. Adolescent girls are being forced into marriage due to insecurity. UNICEF is working closely with local partners to provide support in strengthening their abilities to respond and prevent harmful practices in these affected areas.

Measuring changes in the prevalence rate has proven challenging as national-level surveys such as DHS and MICS tend to measure national and regional prevalence, whereas UNICEF work is often focused in smaller, targeted areas. UNICEF is collaborating with research institutions to improve methodologies for prevalence rate measurement.

Output 3.3: Improving children's access to justice

FIGURE 14: Summary of results, 2018



*Outcome indicator in UNICEF Strategic Plan Goal Area 3

Strengthening justice for children systems

UNICEF supports strengthening of national justice systems to ensure that all children coming into contact with the law as alleged offenders, victims, witnesses or as part of civil and administrative cases are better served and protected. This includes strengthening alternatives to detention for children convicted of crimes, and improving support for children victims and witnesses of crime; building capacity and enhancing programmes that explicitly link justice and social welfare actors and build a cadre of trained specialized professionals; and supporting the

reform of legal and administrative frameworks in both criminal and civil law systems. Justice for children (J4C) interventions are implicitly linked to strengthening actions that address violence against children or harmful practices, increasing access to social protection, and care reform to ensure children can be heard in administrative and legal proceedings affecting them.

In 2018, some 120 countries reported action to implement a range of interventions to improve the access of girls and boys who were in contact with justice and administrative bodies to specialized justice services (see Figure 14 for summary of results, 2018).

Of the 120 countries reporting in 2018, a number report – for the first time – that their child-friendly justice systems were fully compliant with all six elements that UNICEF defines as necessary for an effective and fully enforced child-friendly justice system. The six elements comprise: (1) the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the country is set above 12 years; (2) children have access to justice and legal aid – both by law and in practice; (3) the country provides child-friendly investigation, police and court procedures; (4) the country has specialized trained professionals, including for interviewing; (5) the country has a multidisciplinary approach; and (6) the country has special measures for child victims and witnesses of crime. This brings the total number of countries fulfilling the criteria to 24 in 2018. Although this is an increase from the 18 countries reporting in 2017, it remains well below the targeted 117 countries and reflects, in part, major sector-wide capacity constraints.

In 22 of those countries with available data for 2018, some 24 per cent of the boys and girls in contact with justice and administrative bodies benefited from interventions to improve children’s access to justice service in 2018 (against a 2021 target of reaching 48 per cent). Additionally, in 20

of the countries supported in 2018 (with available data), around 38 per cent of the children in contact with the law were subject to a diversion order or alternative measure as opposed to a custodial sentence in 2018 (see *Figure 15*). In part, these low reach rates reflect national capacity constraints and lack of investment in strengthening the J4C sector, as well as a lack of strategic integration of J4C into broader system-wide rule of law strategies.

Given the ongoing challenges, UNICEF will seek to increase governments’ commitment to and investment in systemic changes, including strengthening the integration of J4C into broader rule of law systems strengthening strategies. Encouragingly, however, a number of countries (11) reported for the first time in 2018 that their systems meet at least four of the elements, indicating progress is moving in the right direction. An increasing number of countries are also showing steady progress in integrating J4C and child protection systems, including building cooperation and referral systems for children who are victims of violence and abuse (see also *‘Output 3.1: Strengthening child protection systems for prevention and response services to reduce violence against children’*).

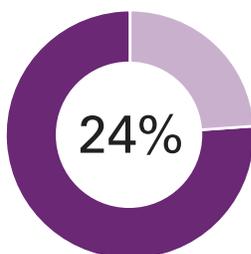


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Reza (name changed), 19, finishes some metal work in a workshop at the Malaysian Prison Department’s Henry Gurney School in Sabah. UNICEF provides support to the Government of Malaysia as it develops a more holistic approach to addressing matters relating to children in conflict with the law, including: diversion, restorative justice, and alternatives to custodial sentencing.

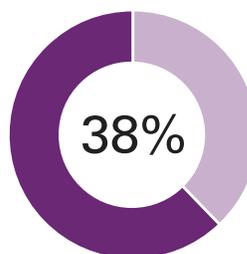
FIGURE 15: Progress on strengthening justice for children systems, 2018

Outcome Indicators



Percentage of girls and boys in contact with justice and administrative bodies who benefited from interventions to improve children's access to justice

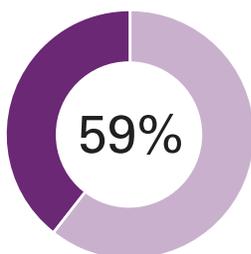
Reporting countries: 22
2021 target: 48%



Percentage of girls and boys in contact with justice and administrative bodies who are subject to a diversion order or alternative measure to a custodial sentence

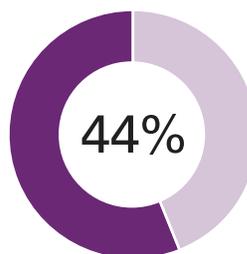
Reporting countries: 20
2021 target: New indicator / data collection underway

Output Indicators



Percentage of justice professionals certified in and dealing with child victims

2018 milestone: 62%
Reporting countries: 112



Percentage of justice professionals certified in and dealing with child offenders

2018 milestone: 54%
Reporting countries: 114

Alternatives to detention and diversion schemes for children in contact with the law

A number of countries are increasingly putting in place non-custodial response mechanisms, particularly diversion schemes for children in conflict with the law that offer authorities (such as police, judges, prosecutors) greater assurance of alternative ways to manage and supervise children in conflict with the law. This includes progress made in Barbados, Jamaica, Nepal and Viet Nam with all countries passing legislation to establish diversion procedures in 2018. Egypt and Yemen developed diversion schemes within the framework of existing legislation and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, accelerated programming to strengthen non-custodial mechanisms resulted in the use of diversion schemes increasing to 29 per cent from 13 per cent over the last year. Diversion programmes were also introduced in Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Uganda and Yemen in 2018. In Uganda, for example, the use of diversion was scaled up across the entire country, resulting in 75 per cent of all eligible children receiving diversion orders in the year.

Improving support for child survivors and witnesses of crime

UNICEF supported 28 countries in developing integrated responses to children who are survivors of violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices, and in at least 11 countries, a focus was placed on improving (or establishing) standard operating procedures and case management systems for survivor referral, with important progress reported in Maldives, the Republic of Moldova and South Africa. In the Republic of Moldova, there was an 11 per cent increase in the number of children receiving such support in 2018 compared to previous years.

Despite data challenges for the sector overall (*see also 'Challenges' below*), a number of countries demonstrated progress in developing better data collection and analysis systems, including Armenia, Jamaica, Mexico, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay. With UNICEF technical support in Mexico, disaggregated data on child victims of crime are now available nationally. In countries as diverse as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ghana, Honduras, Maldives and Morocco, UNICEF worked with governments to incorporate data on child survivors of violence and witnesses of crime into overall data collection and analysis of the situation of VAC.

Strengthening the capacity of justice systems to serve children

Scaling up and innovating for sustainability

Where resource constraints prevent the immediate establishment of specialized courts, countries can provide special services and protective measures for children within the existing court system. UNICEF support to the Judicial Service of Ghana resulted in a gender-based violence (GBV) court in Accra being converted to a specialized child-friendly GBV court. Actions included the refurbishment of the physical environment, a dedicated interview room, introduction of audiovisual equipment to facilitate remote testimonies and use of anatomically correct dolls. The modified court structure prevents child survivors of GBV from facing the alleged perpetrator. Operational since early 2018, the court has supported, on average, over 40 GBV child survivors every month. Based on this success, similar courts are being scaled up to an additional nine regions in Ghana.

Training and capacity-building for justice system actors and social workers/child protection actors – reflecting the organization's drive to support integrated J4C/child protection systems – were undertaken in at least 65 countries in 2018. In addition, UNICEF supports countries to move from in-service training to working with national professional bodies and training institutions to focus on sustainable capacity development. Although there are data challenges to determining the full scale of this work, of those countries reporting in 2018, 44 per cent of justice professionals were certified in dealing with child offenders, and 59 per cent had been certified in dealing with child victims. Of note is the progress reported in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru and Serbia. Countries are also improving the quality of their training modules and professional qualifications. In Croatia, related curricula were developed and are being rolled out to all 1,300 members of the judiciary and prosecution. In Ghana, all police that graduate from the national training centre will need to pass an examination on child-friendly policing; and in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a standardized module on child protection is being incorporated into the professional pre-qualification training of all law enforcement and judicial officials.

Strengthening legislative and policy frameworks

UNICEF supported over 40 countries to introduce or amend laws related to J4C. These laws covered a range of related areas. In Afghanistan, for example, specific legislation created the possibility for judges to apply alternative sanctions for children in conflict with the law. In many countries – such as Albania, Chad, Egypt, Morocco, Nepal, Thailand and Uzbekistan – UNICEF supported amendments to children's acts or criminal procedure codes to create additional protections and safeguards for children appearing as victims, witnesses or alleged perpetrators.

Result spotlight

Approximately 23 in every 100,000 Cambodian children are incarcerated. The number of children in Cambodia's prisons increased from 336 in 2014 to 1,535 in 2018, indicating that efforts are urgently needed so that children in conflict with the law are diverted away from the criminal justice system towards more child-friendly mechanisms such as diversion.

As part of national efforts to address these challenges, Cambodia adopted the Juvenile Justice Law in 2017, which was a significant milestone towards reforming the juvenile justice system. The law focuses on diversion as the proper response to alleged youth criminality rather than punishment – the current approach in the country. In follow-up, a Strategic and Operational Plan was launched in 2018 providing a road map to implement the law and build a modern juvenile justice system in accordance with international standards and practices. The Plan focuses on nine strategic programme areas: coordination, management and communication; education and training; social agents; diversion; reintegration; detention; crime prevention; operating system and policy framework; and monitoring and evaluation. UNICEF is supporting the Government of Cambodia to roll out the implementation of the Plan.

Challenges

Progress in establishing the use of diversion and alternatives must be balanced against an increased number of children entering the criminal justice system overall. This requires a focus on expanding other forms of alternative sanctions to prevent the use of custodial sentencing. Political pressure for ‘tougher on crime’ approaches to criminal justice can hinder progress, alongside an emerging growing trend of countries considering or implementing a lowering of the minimal age of criminal responsibility. Additionally, evolving areas such as national security-justice sector responses to children associated with extremist groups and increasing numbers of countries adopting criminal justice approaches to irregular migration, mean that UNICEF-supported interventions in justice systems need to remain flexible and adaptable.

Accessing reliable administrative data on the numbers of children coming into contact with the justice system remains a major challenge. Though some countries are beginning to make progress – such as Georgia, where UNICEF is supporting the building of a data collection system for children in criminal justice proceedings – further investment in this area is critical. To support improvements to data challenges, UNICEF initiated a study in 2018 on justice systems administrative data to identify bottlenecks and potential solutions/good practices. Moreover, the *United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty* (forthcoming 2019) will inform the sector on ways to strengthen and accelerate action.

Children without parental care

In line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 2009 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children³³ (2009 Guidelines) catalyse the protection and well-being of children who are deprived of parental care or who are at risk of being separated from their families. The 2009 Guidelines call for supporting and strengthening families to prevent unnecessary separation of children and identifying the most appropriate form of alternative care for children who need such care.

In 2018, UNICEF supported 106 countries to address institutionalization and promote alternative care, with many countries reporting varying but improving levels of progress. At least 12 countries reported moderate progress in advancing care reform, with most traction gained in strengthening alternative care options for children; for example, in Zambia the number of children in institutionalized care dropped by 19 per cent in 2018 compared to 2017.

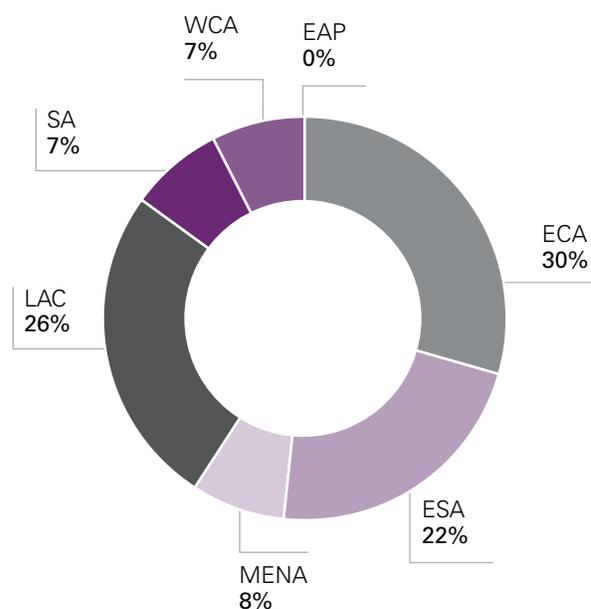
Overall, however, of the 106 countries reporting output data, only 27 reported having put in place comprehensive policies in line with the 2009 Guidelines (see Figure 14 for summary of results, 2018). Though this is an increase from

the 23 countries out of the 99 countries reporting such policies in place in 2017, it falls far below the 2018 milestone (78). Overall the region reporting the greatest number of countries with national policies in line with international standards is Europe and Central Asia, closely followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (see Figure 16).

UNICEF remains committed to accelerating support to increase the number of countries advancing their national care reform agendas. Given the lack of global progress, the Report and Resolution on the Rights of the Child in the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (2019), focusing on the theme of children without parental care, will present an important platform to advocate with Member States to increase action.

FIGURE 16: Percentage of countries with alternative care policies in line with the 2009 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, by region, 2018

Total number of countries with alternative care policies in line with the 2009 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children: 27



Total number of reporting countries: 106

Notes: EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.

Leveraging collective action

With no inclusion of an alternative care-related target in the SDGs, UNICEF serves a critical role in driving the global agenda. The Report and Resolution on the Rights of the Child in the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, focusing on the theme of children without parental care, in 2019 offers an important opportunity to elevate global action. In the build-up, UNICEF is facilitating a series of dialogues with a wide range of actors working in the care reform space to ensure that the Report and Resolution reflect the realities on the ground and make important recommendations for care reform.

In several regions and countries, children with disabilities are disproportionately represented in residential care. To stimulate global discourse and drive the policy agenda in this area, UNICEF produced a discussion paper on alternative care for children with disabilities that was shared with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the broader care reform and disability communities.

At the regional level, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office worked with the Bulgarian Government in their role as President of the European Council to convene a high-level forum in Brussels to underscore the importance of transitions from institutional to family and community-based care, as well as the role of the European Union (EU) in supporting countries to effect sustainable change. The EU subsequently made clear reference to this issue in its draft Multiannual Financial Framework (2021–2027). UNICEF continues to support countries to strengthen their legislative frameworks, alongside a range of measures aimed at supporting and keeping children in families, as well as their return to families from alternative care facilities such as residential care and family-based foster care.

Despite low reporting figures, some countries have advanced in developing standards for alternative care for children and incorporating them at the national level, including Afghanistan, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, the Republic of Moldova, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Ukraine.

In Iraq and Myanmar, foster care guidelines have been formally adopted, and in the case of Croatia, a new Foster Care Act providing grounds for specialized foster care for children with disabilities is now in effect. In Sri Lanka, a national policy on alternative care in line with international standards has been preliminarily approved, and a pilot initiative at the district level is under way to demonstrate

how the alternative care policy can be applied. In 2018, these initiatives helped reunify 230 children (48 per cent girls) from 54 children's care homes with their families, and an additional 177 children (60 per cent girls) were prevented from being separated.

The number of countries reporting availability of services to prevent unnecessary family separation has seen a moderate but steady increase, rising from 54 countries and territories in 2017 to 58 in 2018.³⁴ Notable improvements include in Haiti, where 839 vulnerable families whose children were at risk of separation received assistance through cash transfers, income-generating activities, parental education and psychosocial support. In North Macedonia, UNICEF supported reforms to strengthen the design and quality of the country's foster care system for children with disabilities, preventive measures for early intervention, family support, and legal aid and assistance to families. In Viet Nam, UNICEF provided support to improve national legislation and to demonstrate innovative alternative care services for children without parental care and children with disabilities.

Overall, at least 87 countries reported variable yet important progress to strengthen the range of alternative care options that are available and appropriate to meet the needs of the individual child. In Argentina, a new national law permits formal mentoring and economic support to more than 2,000 adolescents in transition from alternative care to independent adult life. In Rwanda, improved training to professionals responsible for the reintegration of children from institutional care into family-based care led to 107 children and young adults being placed into family-based care – a small yet critical step for the country. In the Sudan, a partnership with five government institutions and seven civil society organizations on a social change campaign to support alternative family care resulted in 408 abandoned children (99 per cent boys) moving to *kafala* care (Islamic adoption).

Thirty-nine countries report that a periodic review mechanism is now in place to ensure that the needs of children living in alternative care continue to be met, and that systems are in place to identify sustainable (and appropriate) solutions for children. In Albania, for instance, a measurable and costed NAP on deinstitutionalization was adopted, and individual development plans for each child in state institutional care are being developed.

Countries as diverse as Argentina, Bhutan, Georgia, India, Indonesia and Malawi are among the 46 countries and territories³⁵ that report having monitoring and inspection mechanisms in place for alternative care providers as part of efforts to strengthen the quality of care. Notable advancements include in India, where as a result of social audits of childcare institutions in the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, all districts are now developing indicators to monitor the quality and standards of care in child-care institutions. In Indonesia, the Ona case management tool has increased capacities in managing and monitoring casework systems within alternative care,

generating real-time data to support the identification of children living in unregistered facilities (and on the streets); in 2018, almost 50,000 unaccounted children living in 1,070 institutions were identified as a result.

Challenges

While the 2009 Guidelines provide global standards to align national alternative care agendas, progress in implementation is, at best, uneven within and across countries. A number of bottlenecks impede progress. These include the need to gather robust evidence (and monitor progress) to inform national strategies, as well as the need to strengthen the interoperability and information-sharing between social protection and child protection systems. Also critical is the ongoing need for increased national investments in strengthening a trained and qualified social service workforce with the relevant skills to support children without parental care, alongside increased investment in strengthening services. Although advances are being made, the pace of progress to improve accessible services to prevent unnecessary family separation – including increased alternative care options – remains slow.

This is also compounded by the fact that many countries still do not possess the necessary implementation mechanisms to review the ongoing need of alternative care for children.

Divergent views and interpretations of various international instruments and policy documents contribute to the challenges around prioritization of alternative care options for children without parental care; for example, concerns remain over the idea of small-group homes as an alternative to large-scale facilities. Regarding children with disabilities, lack of inclusive and accessible infrastructure and services, and programmes that support families, have led to little progress. As for alternatives to residential care, options such as foster care are being prioritized, but these efforts face enormous challenges. Divesting of resources from large-scale residential facilities to foster care continues to meet resistance at both political and administrative levels. The absence of evidence-based arguments to reprioritize investments in care programmes and practices further limits advocacy efforts. UNICEF is developing protocols to map and enumerate residential care facilities; once available, these protocols will help generate important evidence concerning the scale of residential care.

Case Study 5: Cambodia: Reducing the number of residential care institutions

Data on residential care institutions (RCIs) shows that both the number of institutions and number of children living in them (which increased between 2005 and 2015) have stabilized and begun decreasing. This was made possible through adoption of a holistic approach by the Government of Cambodia, in collaboration with UNICEF and Partnership Program for the Protection of Children (3PC). The programme aimed at addressing all components of the reintegration system, from the regulatory environment to tracing children reintegrated to family or community-based alternative care. This includes the establishment of a national framework for fostering and adoption, simplifying and strengthening inspection processes for residential facilities, strengthening case management processes and improving databases on alternative care.

Strong advocacy by UNICEF led to no new RCIs being approved by the government since the implementation of the Action Plan for Improving Child Care began in 2016. In 2018, 252 RCIs caring for 7,634 children were inspected using a more rigorous digital inspection system; results showed that all targets were met. There are now 35 per cent fewer RCIs operating and there has been a reduction of 54 per cent in the number of children in RCIs, compared to 2015 levels.

The inspection helped to quickly identify and take corrective measures. Further, a web-based tracking database on all children undergoing reintegration from RCIs was developed and is being used at subnational level. UNICEF provided technical and financial support to national and subnational authorities in five priority provinces to implement the Action Plan in coordination with 3PC and Family Care First (a non-governmental organization).

Birth registration and civil registration/vital statistics systems

Accelerated action to build functional civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems is critical to meeting SDG 16.9 and ensuring all children have a legal identity by 2030. UNICEF supports governments to close the birth registration and legal identity gap (throughout the life cycle) and increase the availability of data derived from civil registration systems.

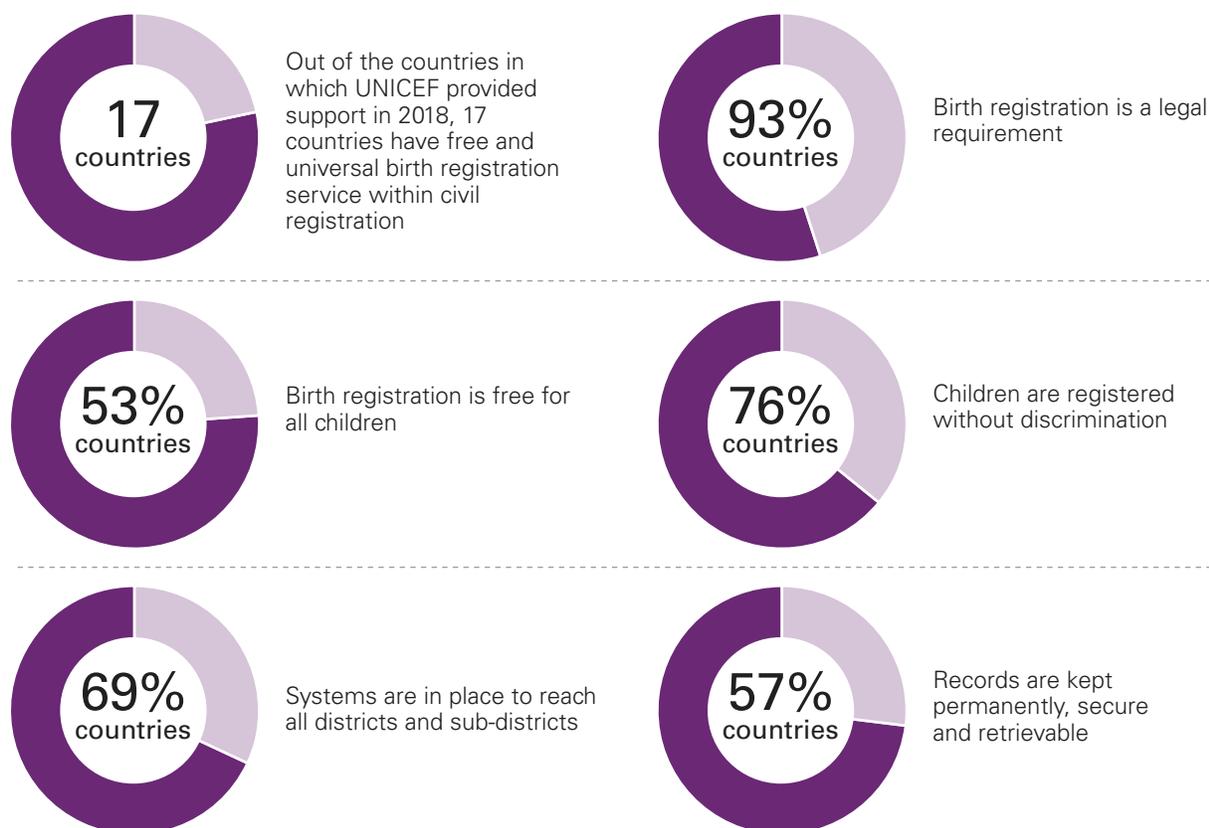
In 2018, UNICEF programming to improve universal birth registration and to strengthen CRVS systems took place in 78 countries. Countries focused primarily on accelerating and facilitating birth notification and registration through strengthening civil registration systems and data management systems, and building legislative and policy frameworks. To improve the reach of services, programming initiatives also include scaling up through technological innovation, interoperability and cross-sectoral linkages.

As a result of UNICEF support to national civil registration authorities, governments received notification of nearly 7 million births in 43 countries; over 16 million births were

registered in 49 countries; and over 13 million received birth certificates in 41 countries. UNICEF also provided legal identity documents³⁶ other than a birth certificate for 377,371 children across the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Peru, Gabon and Guinea.

In line with international standards that call for states to register all children immediately after birth, birth registration is a legal requirement in the majority of the countries (93 per cent) where UNICEF supported CRVS systems-strengthening in 2018. However, while countries should ensure equal and universal access to birth registration, costs are still being applied in around 47 per cent of the countries, and the non-existence of registration facilities at subnational level continues to be a major bottleneck for 31 per cent of the countries where UNICEF operates (see *Figure 17*). In several countries, including, but not limited to the Central African Republic, Mozambique, Pakistan, Uganda and Zambia, a huge gap remains between registration and certification, leaving millions of children without proof of legal identity, as well as hampering their access to basic services. UNICEF is focusing on addressing these bottlenecks by increasing the number of service points through strengthening cross-sectoral partnerships, use of innovation, decentralized services, and increasing community awareness.

FIGURE 17: Progress in strengthening birth registration and CRVS services, 2018



Total number of reporting countries: 74

Leveraging collective action to accelerate results

To ensure coordinated interventions at country level, an inter-agency expert group called the United Nations Legal Identity Expert Group (LIEG) was set up in 2018 by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. Co-chaired by UNICEF (together with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs), LIEG is designed to enable a coherent approach across the United Nations Development System on civil registration and legal identity, as well as with the World Bank Group.

At regional level, new partners were mobilized to the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Core Group of partners in Africa, led by the Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Commission and African Development Bank. Additional organizations were included to mobilize further technical and political support for strengthening CRVS systems in Africa (particularly francophone countries), including Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems.

Strengthening the reach of civil registration systems

A number of countries have shown demonstrable progress in strengthening the reach of civil registration systems, including Burkina Faso, Burundi, Indonesia and Zambia. In the Sahel region in Burkina Faso, a new service delivery model is now operational in 33 per cent of health care facilities, resulting in almost 28,500 children (64 per cent girls) receiving birth certificates. In Burundi, an additional 400,000 children received birth certificates as a result of a new policy waiving late registration fees. In Indonesia, birth registration coverage increased from 53 per cent (2014) to 70 per cent (2018) as a result of the introduction of village-level services. In Zambia, there was a 30 per cent increase in the number of registration desks available to register births owing to the installation of a further 202 new desks at community level in 2018.

Scaling up through innovation

Innovative solutions to increase the number of service points – such as use of technology, mobile services, and the extension of community service points – are also proving to be a major factor in decreasing the gap between numbers of registration and certification. Notable headway was made in Benin, Georgia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania (*see Figure 18*) and Yemen to scale up the use of technology in birth registration services. Examples include the scale-up of a pilot mobile birth registration system in Ghana that is now available across the country; and in Nicaragua, where mobile services were extended to 62 remote communities, enabling the registration of 12,351 children and adolescents, mainly from indigenous communities.

Scaling up and innovating for sustainability

Namibia has embarked on an ambitious plan to implement e-governance in all sectors, including for birth registration, by 2020. With UNICEF support, an e-birth notification system that links registration information to a National Population Registry System within 24 hours of any birth attended at the health facilities was established in 2017. Since that time the system has rapidly scaled up and is now implemented in 27 public health facilities and two private health facilities covering all 14 regions of Namibia. In recognition of these innovative advances, Namibia was awarded the Radiant Award for national electronic identity schemes in 2018, for which 17 countries in Asia, Africa, the Gulf and Europe had been nominated.

Interoperability and cross-sectoral linkages to improve results for children

UNICEF continues to advocate for linkages between civil (birth) registration and health systems and is currently supporting such actions in more than 30 countries. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, for example, Tigo (a nationwide telecommunications company), the Electoral High Tribunal and UNICEF worked to increase birth registration in hospitals and health centres, resulting in registration at birth increasing five-fold between 2015 and 2018. In Rwanda, efforts to enable automatic registration at birth in hospitals saw birth registration increase from 67 per cent in 2017 to over 80 per cent in 2018. In Kyrgyzstan, linking the national birth registration system with the national cash transfer system and Ministry of Education's student database is serving as an accelerator for improving the efficiency of registration services overall.

FIGURE 18: Innovative reforms of the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system in the United Republic of Tanzania

Tanzania, with the support of UNICEF developed a strategy to address the core issues of ‘distance’ and ‘cost’ through decentralization and a single-step process to a birth certificate (2010). Since the pilot in 2012, the system now covers 11 out of 26 regions in mainland Tanzania.

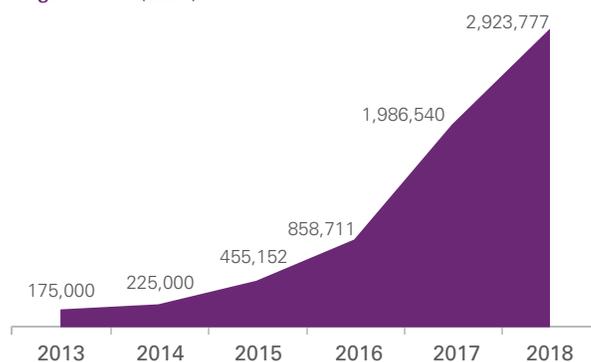
Scaling up:

- **Piloted in Temeke District** in Dar es Salaam in 2012
- **First launch** took place in Mbeya region in 2013
- **2018 coverage:** 11 regions; 73 district councils, 1518 wards, 2346 health facilities
- **Dodoma and Singida regions** to be covered in March 2019

Five pillars of the new system:

- **Decentralization**
- **Fee waiver**
- **‘One step, One visit’ Registration and Certification Process**
- **Innovation:**
 - Data capturing using mobile phones
 - A dashboard to depict the progress in real-time
 - An online data validation platform
- **Public-Private Partnership:** Government of the Republic of Tanzania, UNICEF, Government of Canada, and TIGO (private sector)

Under-5 children registered through Decentralised Birth Registration (DBR) initiative



Strengthening legislative and policy frameworks

Twelve countries report specific action in 2018 to strengthen legislative and policy frameworks to ensure free and universal birth registration for all. In Albania, for example, legislative changes now allow children previously without legal documentation to obtain identity documents. In Mali, the 2018–2022 National Strategy to modernize CRVS is now being rolled out; with an increased number of community health workers available to support notification and registration services. This has resulted in the number of notified births being registered in six targeted districts increasing to 87 per cent in 2018. Important gains in Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal and South Sudan were also made to develop action plans or road maps for civil registration system reform. The Government of Senegal, for example, integrated birth registration for the first time into its new National Priority Action Plan; and in Ethiopia, policies now allow for the registration of refugee children with only one parent present. This effort alone resulted in the registration of 4,558 refugee children across 32 refugee camps in 2018.

Challenges

While many countries are investing in creating cross-sectoral synergies (such as Angola, Nigeria and Pakistan), other countries – often those with high fragility and poor governance – are facing challenges in building standardized (and performing) routine systems. Budget cuts in some countries, such as Uganda, have affected the roll-out of a decentralized system. High numbers of migrants and refugees in other countries, such as the United Republic of Tanzania, impact the universal and non-discriminatory access to birth registration services. Further, in light of national security concerns, the focus on financial inclusion, as well as the urgent need for countries to close their identity gap, funding is increasingly going towards setting up robust identity systems and introduction of national adult population registers, often involving the issuance of various forms of national identity cards. Since not all these schemes are linked to core civil registration, they often result in fragmented systems, failure to achieve universal coverage, under-resourcing and inability to produce comprehensive vital statistics necessary to ensure that all children are accounted for. Reliable data systems are an important requisite for a functioning civil registration system so that data can be permanently stored, secure and retrievable.



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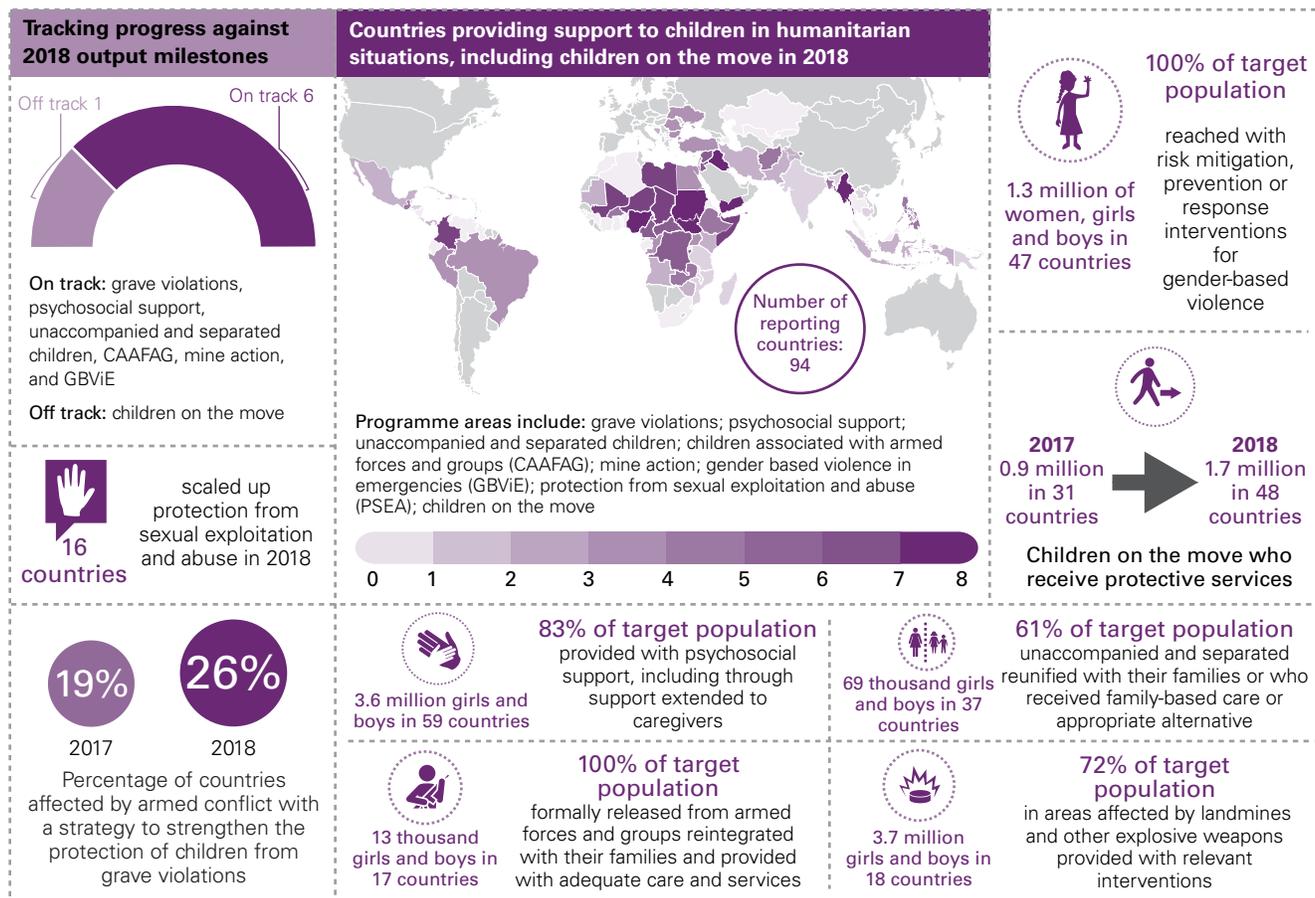
Ganiko, 12, and Jackson, 13, (names changed) stand during a ceremony to mark the release of children from armed groups in Yambio, South Sudan. Ganiko and Jackson were best friends when they were in the armed group. The ceremony was part of UNICEF efforts to release children from armed groups and provide support as they reintegrate into daily life.

Humanitarian action and child protection results

UNICEF is a global leader in child protection in emergencies, providing prevention, mitigation and response services to girls and boys at risk of and exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation in humanitarian situations, and galvanizing action across sectors to ensure every child is protected. In 2018, UNICEF provided protective services to millions of children affected by armed conflict and natural disasters in 68 humanitarian situations, including six major (Level 3) emergencies (in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) and 14 significant (Level 2) emergencies (in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Myanmar, the Niger, Somalia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela).

The child protection in emergencies (CPiE) programming of UNICEF achieved major results for children, revealing strong country-level implementation despite challenging operating environments and funding shortfalls in some contexts (see *Figure 19 for summary of results, 2018*). These services include providing psychosocial support to more than 3.6 million people, including through support extended to caregivers (reaching 83 per cent of the target population), reintegrating more than 13,000 children associated with and released from armed groups in 17 countries (reaching nearly 100 per cent of the target population), and reaching 1.3 million women, girls and boys affected or at risk of GBV (over 100 per cent of the target population). In addition, almost 1.7 million children on the move received protective services through UNICEF-supported programmes across 48 countries – almost

FIGURE 19: Summary of results, 2018



*Outcome indicator in UNICEF Strategic Plan Goal Area 3

double the numbers reached in 2017 but falling short of the 2018 milestone. UNICEF notes that there was a scaling up of action to broaden the protection safety net for children on the move in a number of key regions, including the Horn of Africa, south-east and Central Asia, West Africa, the Middle East and North Africa.

In the face of more complex and entrenched emergencies, insecure operational contexts and funding shortfalls, UNICEF is working to develop innovative solutions to reach the most vulnerable children in emergencies. This includes promoting more adaptive programme models: increasing engagement of first responders and communities, using technology to extend reach, developing multisectoral integrated responses, and leveraging partnerships to transform humanitarian action on a broad scale. The organization's child protection work in humanitarian settings contributes to building systems for longer-term development work, including strengthening social services, justice and rule of law.

At the global level, UNICEF is a leading advocate for children's rights in emergencies and provides critical leadership through sector coordination, advocacy and policy development. UNICEF leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR), which coordinates the sector and provided in-person and remote CPiE technical support to 38 countries in 2018. The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action produced critical technical guidance for practitioners in 2018, as well as effective advocacy targeting policymakers. UNICEF has invested US\$11 million of core resources to scale up mechanisms for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and is leading the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in developing collective action to combat PSEA. Together with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF also launched the Global Coalition for Reintegration, engaging Member States in providing sustained, quality funding to support critical protection work for children who have been recruited and used by parties to conflict.



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Laura, 6, gazes at a volunteer teacher in a Child Friendly Space (CFC) in the Ban Bok camp, Lao People's Democratic Republic. Floods in the southern part of the country destroyed Laura's home and her parents' livelihood. However, the CFC adds some fun, games and learning into her daily life.

2018 Country highlights

To integrate development approaches into UNICEF humanitarian responses for child protection, the child protection work of UNICEF aims to build sustainable prevention and response by strengthening existing systems and building the capacity of local and national actors.

Somalia: A significant policy shift in late 2018 followed an inter-ministerial workshop to develop a national strategy for the reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups, securing agreement to treat associated children as victims rather than as combatants. In partnership with the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, UNICEF supported five Somali universities to open departments of social service work, sustainably building national capacities to support children affected by armed conflict.

Syrian Arab Republic: UNICEF advocacy and technical support has led to mine/explosive remnants of war risk education being integrated into the national school curriculum, promoting sustainable prevention in a country that continues to be affected by contamination of explosive devices.

Lebanon: UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to integrate gender equality and GBV prevention into the national teacher training curriculum, and successfully trained 10,000 teachers to better support girls' safety and participation in school.

Monitoring grave violations

UNICEF contributes to global efforts to monitor and report grave violations of children's rights in armed conflict, working with other United Nations bodies and partners to document these incidents to mobilize greater support for affected children and communities, and hold parties to the conflict to account. In 2018, more than 13,000 grave violations were documented across 20 countries through the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting co-chaired by UNICEF (see Figure 20). By the end of the year, 14 out of 66 parties to conflict (21 per cent) listed in the Annex to the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict had signed an action plan to prevent and end grave violations against children. UNICEF also supported the drafting of five United Nations Secretary-General Reports on children and armed conflict (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Myanmar, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic).

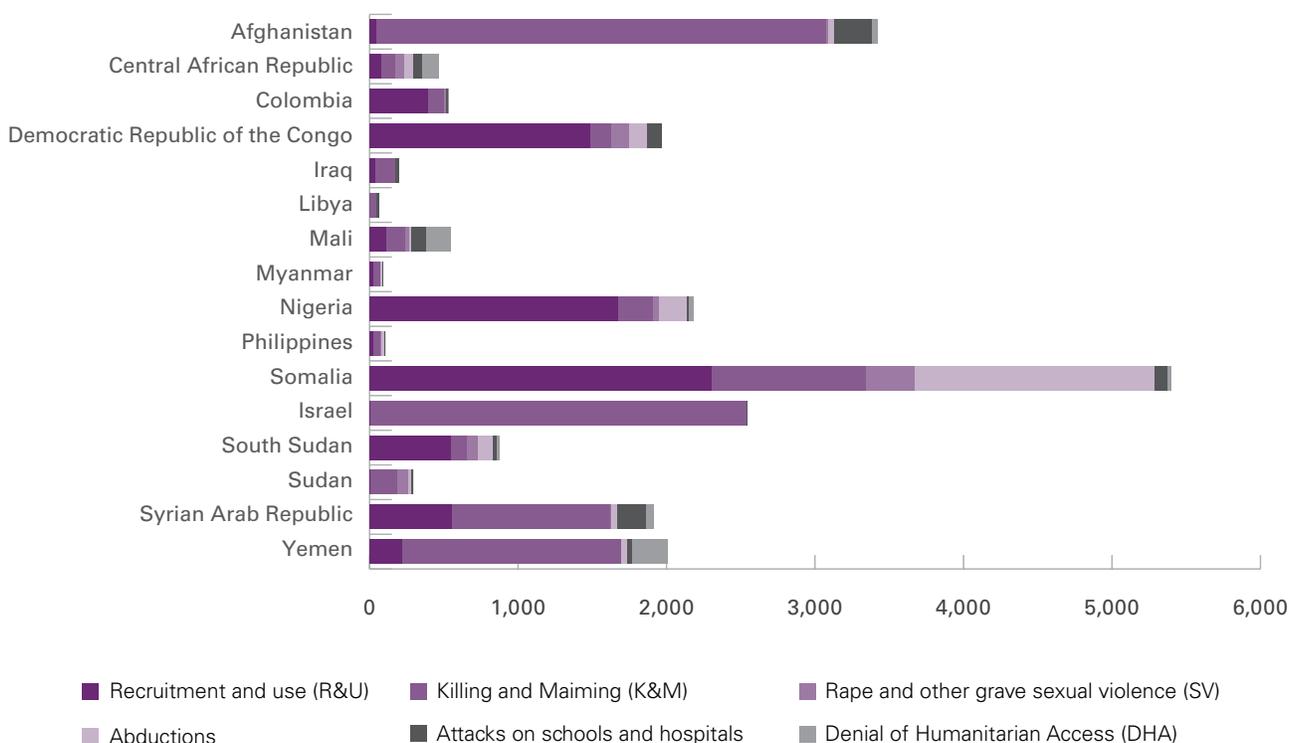
The most number of grave violations are reported in Somalia in 2018, with 4,798 verified incidents affecting 4,880 children. Grave violations increased by 23 per cent from 2017, demonstrating the continuing impact of violent conflict on children throughout the country. Child recruitment into armed groups remained a major concern with 1,811 cases reported. While the Government has taken important steps to end grave violations, Al-Shabaab has not signed an action plan to prevent and end violations and accounts for at least 75 per cent of grave violations

against children. In the Sudan, after years of UNICEF support to end the recruitment of children and strengthen the national child protection system, the Armed Forces of the Sudan completed their action plan and were delisted from the United Nations Secretary-General Report on Children and Armed Conflict. The lack of new cases of child recruitment, the release and reintegration of the remaining 43 children, and the significant investment in child protection system-building all demonstrate solid progress made by the Government of the Sudan.

In 2018, UNICEF secured permission from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to conduct an assessment inside juvenile rehabilitation centres hosting recruited children – a significant step forward in accessing these previously unreachable children. In Yemen, a road map was signed to implement the Action Plan on ending the recruitment and use of children in the Republic of Yemen Armed Forces and affiliated groups – a hopeful move in the face of the 530 cases of child recruitment verified in 2018. A total of 2,367 children experienced a range of grave violations as a result of the ongoing conflict, including high numbers of deaths and injuries mainly due to the use of land mines and other explosives in densely populated areas.

At the global level, UNICEF organized and co-hosted – along with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict – the first regional High-Level and Technical Consultations on Children and Armed Conflict, and worked with country

FIGURE 20: Trends of grave violations against children, 2018



teams from Israel, Lebanon, Libya, State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen to identify the key actions to halt grave violations against children.

Preventing recruitment and reintegrating children associated with armed forces and armed groups

By the end of 2018, 168 countries had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, and 108 countries had endorsed the Paris Principles. With UNICEF support, 13,643 children in 16 countries across five regions were released from armed forces and armed groups during 2018, and 13,516 received UNICEF-supported care and services, of whom 9,346 (68 per cent) were reintegrated with their families.

In Nigeria, UNICEF facilitated the release of 833 children associated with the Civilian Joint Task Force, a non-state armed group, and supported them with community-based reintegration services in addition to 837 other children who had been associated with parties to the conflict – predominantly children abducted by Boko Haram. In addition, in South Sudan, UNICEF adapted its assessment procedures for identifying girls associated with armed groups. As a result, 28 per cent of the children officially released last year were girls (265 of 955 total children released). These girls received specialized case management services to support their recovery and reintegration and to meet the needs of children born during their association with the armed groups.

To stimulate ongoing evidence gathering, UNICEF provided leadership, technical and financial support for the 2018 report published by United Nations University, *Cradled by Conflict: Child involvement with armed groups in contemporary conflict*, and its accompanying Technical Note. The research findings are now informing programmatic guidance to prevent the recruitment of children and support their sustainable exit from armed groups.

Unaccompanied and separated girls and boys

UNICEF strives to reunite separated children with their families as quickly as possible, while ensuring their care and protection, recognizing that the longer a separation lasts the more at risk children are to violence, abuse and exploitation. In 2018, UNICEF and its partners registered more than 113,000 unaccompanied and separated children in humanitarian situations in 43 countries across the world. More than 60 per cent of these children identified were either reunified with their families or provided with

alternative care services. UNICEF continues to accelerate efforts to prevent family separation in collaboration with communities, governments and partners, and to look for innovative solutions to improve family tracing and reunification services, including through the Primero/CPIMS+ tool (see also 'Strengthening information management systems (IMS) for child protection').

Result spotlight

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, persistent insecurity and conflict amongst multiple armed groups continues to cause family separation. In 2018, more than 6,000 unaccompanied and separated children received temporary care, protection and family tracing services from UNICEF and partners: 3,758 of these children (62 per cent) were successfully reunified with their families. The ongoing Ebola outbreak in Equateur, North Kivu and Ituri provinces has also resulted in the separation of families, including due to the deaths of many parents. UNICEF and partners have identified durable solutions for each of the 623 children who were orphaned and created a nursery to provide temporary care for children whose parents are receiving treatment.

In South Sudan, though a peace agreement was signed in September 2018, continued instability resulted in more than 2,000 children newly registered as separated or unaccompanied in the same year. National family tracing and reunification services, supported by UNICEF and partners, were able to reunify 1,112 children with their families. UNICEF is also working to prevent family separation by strengthening community-based child protection mechanisms. In north-east Nigeria, a conflict characterized by widespread displacement, violence and abductions reached its ninth year in a region with a long history of marginalization and under-development. Nearly 9,600 children were identified as separated or unaccompanied. While UNICEF and partners provided case management services and alternative care options to all, restricted humanitarian access in several communities limited family reunification; only 732 children were reunified with their caregivers. In Indonesia, where a 7.4 magnitude earthquake hit the region of Central Sulawesi and unleashed a tsunami in September 2018, hundreds of children were separated from their parents during the ensuing chaos. In the aftermath, UNICEF supported the Government of Indonesia to set up 12 posts to seek missing children and provided training to support the use of Primero to strengthen case management and the family tracing process. Twenty-eight children were successfully reunited with their families in the month following the tsunami, and all other separated and unaccompanied children are receiving case management support and alternative care services.

Mine action and explosive weapons

Globally, children account for 69 per cent of the civilian casualties from explosive remnants of war. The increased use of indiscriminate explosives, cluster munitions and improvised mines in densely populated areas has resulted in 2,452 children being killed or injured in 2018; the highest number of child casualties in more than 20 years.

To reduce injuries, maiming and death, UNICEF prioritizes weapons-related risk education, victim assistance, and advocacy for ratification and/or compliance with international humanitarian law. The UNICEF-led mine risk education (MRE) knowledge exchange platform, a dynamic online forum sharing good practices and technical guidance, continued to grow, with over 300 members from more than 60 countries. More than 3.7 million girls and boys in 18 countries were reached in 2018 with mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) risk education (72 per cent of the target population). This includes a focus on Iraq (600,884 children), the Syrian Arab Republic (1,168,000 children), Ukraine (613,431 children) and Yemen (1,145,851 children). Additionally, UNICEF supported 279 child victims of landmine and ERW incidents in 10 countries.

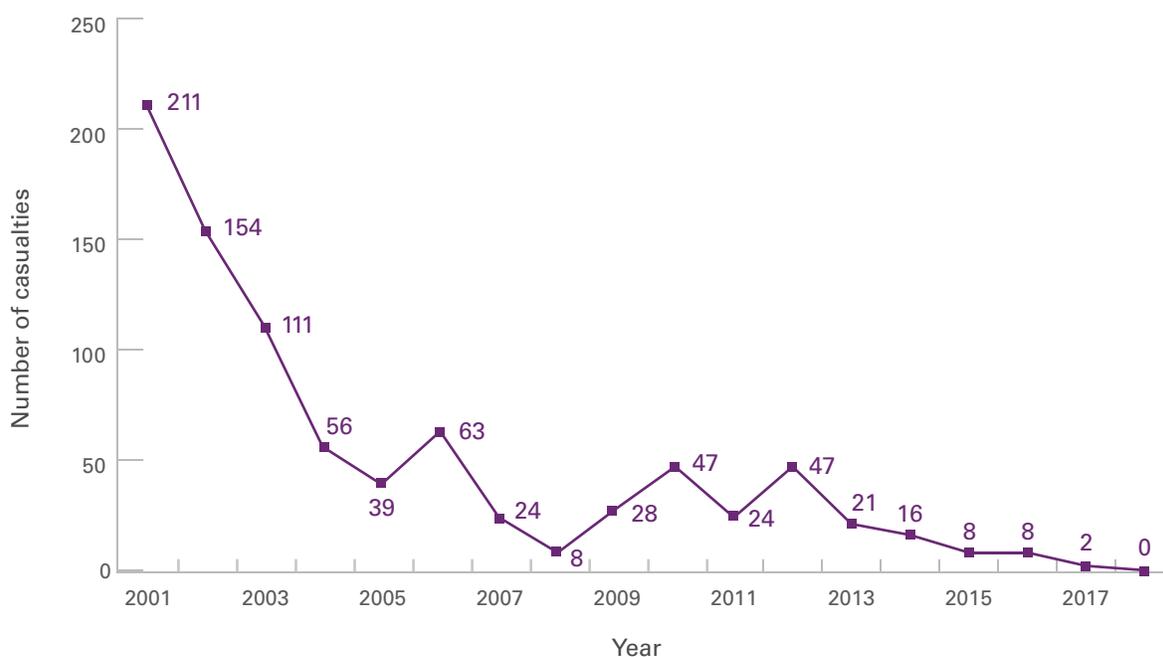
The decrease in the number of children reached by MRE in 2018 compared to 2017 is mainly due to operational and financial constraints. In the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine, restrictions in humanitarian access and underfunding of the child protection sector led to an estimated reduction in the number of children reached

with life-saving messages. To compensate, UNICEF adapted its approach to focus more on capacity-building of governments and communities to deliver MRE sustainably. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF trained more than 2,400 government civil servants to carry out MRE in areas where UNICEF and partners do not have access. In Ukraine, UNICEF began a train-the-trainers programme, empowering 418 children and adolescents with skills to deliver MRE in their own communities.

Globally, UNICEF continued to focus on building the capacity of service providers to mitigate the increasing risk of exposure for children and families, including through the training of a total of 10,368 professionals (teachers, child protection committees, religious leaders, and health and law enforcement staff) in 16 countries. In Colombia, UNICEF supported the government's Mine Action Directorate to improve the quality of MRE in 24 municipalities across five departments, strengthen the capacities of mayors' offices to manage the risk of unexploded ordnance in schools; and develop a system of accreditation for MRE training.

In Sri Lanka, a country still contaminated by mines, zero mine-related deaths or injuries were reported for the first time in more than 30 years (*see Figure 21*). This result has been achieved through the implementation of multifaceted prevention strategies over multiple years, supported by UNICEF and partners. These strategies include the roll-out of mine risk mapping and clearance of mines, MRE and advocacy efforts, and the establishment of community-based reporting mechanisms.

FIGURE 21: Key achievements in Sri Lanka Mine Action Programme: Mine/explosive remnants of war casualties 2001 to 2018



Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

With increasing numbers of children displaced and affected by protracted emergencies, UNICEF is shifting away from working primarily through child-friendly spaces to more holistic, community-led services, focusing on strengthening family and social supports and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) systems. In 2018, 13 countries (Bangladesh, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine and Yemen) implemented this approach based on new operational guidance. In addition, 22 countries in 2018 reported providing psychosocial support to children with disabilities; Syrian Arab Republic and countries hosting Syrian refugees feature most prominently in this area.

In eastern Ukraine, where one in four children need urgent MHPSS after exposure to more than three years of armed conflict, UNICEF and partners reached over 130,000 children and caregivers with these critical services. UNICEF strengthened a referral mechanism to ensure more children and families were able to access specialized support. In Jordan, 119,381 children were helped to cope with distress resulting from displacement and exposure to violence, including through an innovative music therapy programme in a refugee camp in Azraq that reached 998 children. In Lebanon, UNICEF provided direct support to 18,528 girls, boys and women through mobile and static safe spaces, while also investing in systems strengthening and programme integration to ensure the availability of long-term support. The development of a national curriculum for community-based MHPSS services, in particular, is an important step in standardizing the quality of care that children and families receive. In Nepal, following the earthquakes, the Department of Women and Children and UNICEF co-led an active psychosocial working group of 80 to 100 organizations providing early response activities. Within one year, more than 380,000 people had received MHPSS care and support.

Scaling up and innovating for sustainability

In the midst of the tenth Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF and its partners have provided 125,741 conflict-affected children and caregivers with MHPSS in 2018. Using an innovative model for integrating MHPSS into all areas of the public health response, UNICEF acted on lessons learned from previous Ebola outbreaks. Locally-led psychosocial commissions were set up in Mangina, Beni, Butembo, Tchomia and other Ebola-affected areas, staffed with non-specialist MHPSS workers from within the four communities. Capacity-building combined mental health and psychosocial considerations and activities to address needs and challenges both at the Ebola treatment centres and within the community. In total, 734 MHPSS workers were able to use existing social networks and in-depth understanding of cultural norms to reach children and families that might have otherwise been hesitant to seek assistance. Services provided included family tracing, temporary care and durable solutions for orphans and unaccompanied children, and daily individualized household visits to break stigma and identify psychosocial problems that may result following an Ebola case. This model aimed at reducing child and family distress and promoting healthy behaviours and recovery.



UNICEF/UN0229877/Natlain

Sylvie Waridi, a psychosocial worker, holds the hands of 8-year-old twin brothers, who were recently released from the Ebola Treatment Unit in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Sylvie is one of 150 psychosocial workers trained by UNICEF to support people affected by the Ebola virus.

Case Study 6: Somalia: Using safety audits to institutionalize GBV risk mitigation

For many Somali women and girls, the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) – including sexual violence, intimate partner violence and forced marriage – is a day-to-day reality. These risks are exacerbated by conflict and displacement conditions such as overcrowding, lack of access to safe water, latrine and bathing facilities, and shelters constructed of non-durable materials.

In response, UNICEF Somalia mobilized a multi-agency, multisector group of partners to develop a customized safety audit tool³⁷ for the Somalia context (2017), which was used to assess 47 locations in 2018.³⁸ Sector-specific improvements from the initial round of data collection to the second round included an increase in: the proportion of assessed sites with water points located inside the displacement site (53 per cent to 75 per cent); the proportion of assessed sites where shelters had secure doors/locks (from 21 per cent to 40 per cent); and the proportion of assessed sites with a protective physical structure (fencing) around the site (from 8 per cent to 21 per cent). The results had a much wider-reaching impact than originally anticipated, including directly informing the Humanitarian Country Team's Centrality of Protection Strategy and many clusters' humanitarian response plans for 2019. The value other sectors place on this work has been demonstrated by a doubling in the number of (non-GBV) sectors involved – from three in the first round of safety audits to six in the second round.

The safety audit initiative is being complemented by training on basic GBV concepts and risk mitigation for other sectors, based on a UNICEF-developed training package. This combination holds exciting promise for strengthening the way aid and services are delivered across the entire humanitarian response, particularly from the perspective of improving safety for women and girls.

Gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE)

In 2018, UNICEF reached over 1.3 million women, girls and boys with GBViE prevention, response and risk mitigation services, more than 100 per cent of the target population. UNICEF employs a three-pillar approach to GBViE programming – services for survivors, community-based prevention, and integration of GBV risk mitigation across other sectors' interventions. This approach spans a range of activities that include, but are not limited to: GBV case management, clinical health services, women and girls' friendly spaces, distribution of dignity kits, community safety planning, social and economic empowerment programming, and community-based interventions to address the harmful social norms that perpetuate GBV.

Community-based prevention is promoted through safe spaces for women and girls, which provide information on rights and peer support, and act as an entry-point for identifying survivors in need of specialized support. UNICEF reached thousands of women and girls through static and mobile spaces in 2018, adapting the approach to reach adolescent girls, women and girls with disabilities, and others facing barriers to accessing services. A joint intervention in the Syrian Arab Republic with other United Nations partners reached 96,377 women and girls through

safe spaces despite the challenging security context. A project is also under way in Bangladesh, Iraq and Lebanon to examine how virtual safe spaces – an online platform – can be used to facilitate adolescent girls' access to health information and services.

UNICEF continued to strengthen capacity, including government public health, public safety, education and disaster response systems, in GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response in 15 countries. In 2018, 1,439 multisectoral service providers were trained in Iraq, 797 in Nigeria, and 837 in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In Bangladesh, 4,885 community leaders in Rohingya refugee camps were reached through an awareness-raising programme to prevent GBV and early marriage, and to support girls' education.

However, in multiple contexts – such as in the Central African Republic, Lebanon and South Sudan – funding shortages and/or sudden decreases in funding resulted in gaps in GBViE programming. In order to maximize the effectiveness of limited resources, UNICEF has strengthened inter-agency, multisectoral partnerships and supported GBV risk mitigation across sectors, alongside integrated responses to support survivors. The organization continues to advocate for more sustainable funding to ensure critical GBV-specialized response services are available to women and girls.

Scaling up commitments on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse³⁹

During 2018, as more allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) were revealed, the United Nations and humanitarian partners stepped up their commitments to more ambitious reform within their respective agencies. In September 2018, UNICEF Executive Director Ms. Henrietta Fore, newly appointed Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Champion for Protection from SEA (PSEA) and Sexual Harassment, launched a survivor-centred agenda for PSEA to scale up PSEA in 16 countries where there is a humanitarian crisis. UNICEF developed a Results Framework to guide and track the investment of these catalytic funds in three priority areas: access to reporting channels, quality response services, and child-friendly investigations. In December 2018, UNICEF led the development of the IASC Proposal for Advancing PSEA at Country-Level – a plan to scale up PSEA through collective action and investment by IASC members.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)

In 2018, UNICEF commissioned an independent review of its work on PSEA to evaluate the effectiveness of its policies and systems. Key findings of the review include the need to establish a whole-of-organization approach, with sustainable resources to support implementation and greater coherence with the United Nations and IASC's efforts on PSEA; further strengthening of a rights-based approach to PSEA, including victim assistance; and enhanced community engagement. UNICEF fully endorsed the findings and recommendations of the review and is in the process of implementing the recommendations.

UNICEF has been instrumental in leveraging global and regional partnerships to develop a systematic approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) through capacity-building, improvements in reporting systems and strengthening assistance to victims. Working with the IASC, UNICEF developed and began implementing a global inter-agency plan to strengthen PSEA capacities. UNICEF intensified the collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on capacity-building and carried out three regional trainings in Eastern and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa on community-based complaints mechanisms. It supported the establishment and strengthening of these mechanisms in six countries to ensure that the affected populations have access to safe reporting mechanisms on SEA, and that referrals and responses are managed through an inter-agency process. UNICEF also developed and launched an internal PSEA SharePoint site to provide country teams with resources and tools to strengthen PSEA work.

In collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF developed a United Nations Protocol on SEA Allegations Involving Implementing Partners, which was endorsed by the United Nations High-Level Steering Group and shared with all United Nations agencies. UNICEF furthermore amended its standard Programme Cooperation Agreement for civil society partners and strengthened the capacity of implementing partners through training on child safeguarding and PSEA in six countries. In collaboration with the IASC Technical Working Group, it carried out a mapping of the structures and functions of PSEA coordination networks and implementation in 34 countries with humanitarian and refugee response plans. The findings will inform advocacy and resource mobilization globally, regionally, and in countries.

Significant progress was also made in rolling out the organization's internal SEA reporting system. In 2018, 23 country offices – compared to 3 in 2017 – rolled out the UNICEF Notification Alert office-wide and trained implementing partners on UNICEF reporting requirements and procedures. Fifteen country offices supported the development of PSEA Networks' SOPs for referral and provision of services for SEA survivors, rolling these out country-wide.

To address the challenge of under-reporting of allegations of SEA, in Indonesia, UNICEF established a community-based SEA reporting and complaint referral system on U-Report in Palu. U-Report is a safe online platform where the well-being of survivors, their confidentiality, transparency, accessibility, and the need for a survivor-centred response can be guaranteed, accompanied with a strong data protection system.

Providing effective sector leadership and coordination in emergencies

In 2018, the UNICEF-led Child Protection AoR provided field support to 38 countries through deployment of CPiE staff, remote support, and the launch of local help desks in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Recognizing that governments and local organizations are often the first responders when emergencies strike, and that they will remain active in the country in the long term, the Child Protection AoR worked with seven countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Uganda) to develop whole-of-government action plans to strengthen national systems to prevent and coordinate child protection responses in emergencies. The Child Protection AoR also worked with partners in the food security, health and education sectors to develop integrated analysis and improved action to address the root causes of issues like child labour; seven countries are now adopting this approach in their humanitarian needs assessment and response planning processes.

In addition to its own work on GBViE, UNICEF also played an active role in the Call to Action on Protection against Gender-based Violence in Emergencies, including as a member of the Steering Committee and co-coordinator of the Working Group. UNICEF also co-led the GBV AoR task force in developing the GBViE Minimum Standards and led the inter-agency roll-out of the IASC Guidelines on Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Action, which assist humanitarian actors and communities to coordinate essential actions for the prevention and mitigation of GBV across all sectors of humanitarian response.

Setting global standards

In 2018, UNICEF led work to develop standards and technical guidance in CPIE, MHPSS, GBViE and MRE. Along with Save the Children, UNICEF continued to co-lead the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, a global network of nearly 100 organizations aiming to strengthen quality, effective child protection interventions in humanitarian contexts. In 2018, the Alliance developed the second edition of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, including through participatory consultations held with more than 1,500 child protection practitioners in 82 countries. UNICEF finalized the GBV Operational Guide and the GBViE Programme Resource Pack. With the International Mine Action Standards Review Board, UNICEF supported the production of a Technical Note on Improvised Explosive Devices Risk Education. Along with IASC, UNICEF developed a toolkit on Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Humanitarian Settings: Three-tiered support for children and families. UNICEF also contributed to the development of IASC's MHPSS Considerations in Response to Ebola Crisis, ensuring that MHPSS remains central in the response to a public health crisis.

Children on the move

In 2018, UNICEF reached nearly 1.7 million children with protective services across 48 countries: almost double the children reached in 2017. The increased reach is in part as a result of the scaling up of action to broaden the protection safety net for children on the move in several regions, including the Horn of Africa, south-east and Central Asia, West Africa, the Middle East and North Africa.

The adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018) and the Global Compact for Refugees (2018) was a historic moment for global migration governance. These agreements advance international cooperation on refugee movements and renew commitment to both human rights and child-sensitive approaches to addressing the individual needs of migrant and refugee children and their families. UNICEF has continued to uphold the best interests of the child principle in protection strategies for migrant and refugee children.

UNICEF is part of the United Nations Network on Migration mandated to oversee system-wide support to Member States in implementing the objectives of the Global Compact on Migration. In addition, UNICEF, in coordination with IOM, co-chaired the Migration Action Group of the Alliance 8.7 and supported the development of a strategic framework and 2019 action plan. Within the framework of the Global Compact for Refugees, UNICEF is collaborating with UNHCR to support government efforts in countries like Angola, Kenya, Rwanda, Turkey and Uganda, in implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

UNICEF continues to promote an integrated child protection approach through its six-point Agenda for Action to protect all refugee and migrant children in affected countries across the world. Selected highlights include:



**PROTECT UPROOTED
CHILDREN FROM
EXPLOITATION AND
VIOLENCE**

Burundi: The number of people requiring humanitarian assistance fell overall in 2018; however, UNICEF and its partners continued delivering critical child protection services to 83,471 children (including 33,080 girls). Among them, 47,429 displaced and returnee Burundian children and refugee children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (including 18,067 girls) participated in activities and accessed services available in 20 child-friendly spaces. UNICEF Burundi continued to support preparedness for the sector to bridge the humanitarian-development divide.

Turkey: Together with the Directorate-General for Migration Management, UNICEF established five Child Friendly Spaces in removal centres, benefitting 3,000 refugee and migrant children.



END THE DETENTION OF REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN BY CREATING PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES

Egypt: UNICEF and partners advocated for the release and assistance of 357 detained children, including 157 unaccompanied and separated children in seven detention centres. The released children were assisted through individual case management processes including referral to appropriate services, distribution of non-food items and provision of psychosocial support. At the end of 2018, only 13 children remained in detention.

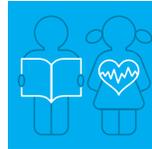
Thailand: Ongoing advocacy by UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM and non-governmental organizations led to the release of nearly 50 children held in immigration detention into the community, shelters with their mothers, or foster care. In addition, an inter-ministerial Memorandum of Understanding with SOPs on alternatives to immigration detention was developed with technical support from UNICEF.



KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER AND GIVE CHILDREN LEGAL STATUS

Afghanistan: 3,000 unaccompanied minors and returnee children forcibly returned from neighbouring countries, mostly Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, received reintegration assistance, including vocational, income-generating, cash transfer and educational services.

Ethiopia: UNICEF and UNHCR jointly advocated for the registration of refugees. As a result, the directive for registration of vital events was revised to facilitate registration even in circumstances where the child's father is absent. This follows the 2017 proclamation extending civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) services to refugee children and their families.



HELP UPROOTED CHILDREN TO STAY IN SCHOOL AND STAY HEALTHY

Lebanon: 666,491 refugee children aged 3 to 18 years were reached with education services, including 214,738 children who were enrolled in public schools and a further 46,239 children enrolled in accredited non-formal learning.

Libya: 82,612 children (over 50 per cent girls) benefited from the provision of essential teaching and learning materials; 19,305 children (49 per cent girls) benefited from non-formal education (remedial and catch-up classes), recreational activities and psychosocial support.



PRESS FOR ACTION ON THE CAUSES THAT UPROOT CHILDREN FROM THEIR HOMES

Turkey: A Conditional Cash Transfer for Education Programme was extended to refugees, reaching 15 provinces and 53,500 refugee children (49 per cent girls), including 4,853 refugee children (43 per cent girls) with medium or high protection risk who were referred to specialized services.



COMBAT XENOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION

Colombia: A series of UNICEF–UNHCR campaigns, 'Somos Panas' and 'SúperPanas', used popular memes, music and animation to promote tolerance, reaching 21 million people.

Panama: UNICEF-related programming reached 1,652 children from schools with the highest rates of migrant students in the country.

Case Study 7: Honduras: Response to the migrant caravan

A migrant caravan, starting on 13 October 2018 in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, moved across Honduras, Guatemala and into Mexico within two weeks, bringing an estimated 10,000 new migrants (including approximately 2,300 children). In response, UNICEF provided a package of integrated services to migrants along the route.

UNICEF trained 200 consular staff and 64 new child protection officers of the National Migration Institute, potentially reaching over 18,000 children mainly from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras on Mexican territory.

The presence of UNICEF at the southern border ensured the quality of special protection services for 1,065 migrant children through case management and safeguarding of the child's best interests; 7,730 children in nine shelters received psychosocial and related support. Multi-service safe spaces for reception were provided to 10,023 returnees in Honduras, including 1,734 children deported from the migrant caravan.

In addition to strengthened service delivery, tools were developed, including a guide for shelter staff on how to conduct age-, gender- and culturally sensitive activities; a guide on how to identify and refer cases of sexual abuse, violence, suicidal tendencies and addictions; a child-friendly calendar to help children understand the asylum-seeking procedure in Mexico; a guide to conduct first interviews for children without re-victimization; child-friendly migration route maps; a deck of cards with their rights and self-care tips; and a child-friendly travel book to keep track of their migration experience.



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Children from the caravan of migrants take a break in one of the UNICEF-supported child friendly spaces in Jesús Martínez 'Palillo' Stadium, a temporary shelter in Mexico City, Mexico.

Challenges

Over 28 million children living in conflict and disaster lack access to child protection services. In 2018, the complex and protracted nature of many emergencies, the changing humanitarian operating context, and funding gaps have all posed major challenges to efforts by UNICEF to ensure the care and protection of children affected by emergencies. With several crises entering their eighth, ninth or even tenth year, many children are growing up under harsh and unstable conditions, with potentially dire consequences for their long-term development. An unprecedented refugee and migration crisis has also necessitated reconsideration of how to work with populations on the move, as children travel across many nations with limited child protection cross-border support mechanisms or coordination of services.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian operating context is marked by increasing disregard for international humanitarian and human rights law by parties of conflict, denial of humanitarian access, and the use of explosives in densely populated urban areas. UNICEF and partners face increased difficulty in providing services and working with communities, especially as humanitarian actors are

increasingly targeted for attacks. Finally, the gap between humanitarian needs and funding resources continues to grow. Continued SEA highlights the need for improved reporting and response mechanisms that guarantee the rights and well-being of survivors.

UNICEF is working to meet these challenges by advocating for the rights of children in conflict and developing innovative strategies that bridge the humanitarian-development divide. In response to the refugee and migrant crisis, UNICEF is working with national governments and partners to provide protection services along children's routes and to strengthen national systems to support children on the move. The organization is working with governments and engaging with non-state actors to prevent and end VAC in armed conflict.

In addition, use of CPIMS+ for case management in emergencies has been slow to initiate when emergencies begin. UNICEF has been working with partners through inter-agency groups to standardize the tool for rapid deployment at the outset of an emergency. Internally, UNICEF will promote Primero as a single, standardized information management platform for all contexts.



High-level priorities, 2019

While much progress has been made, significant work remains to continue to scale up the quality and coverage of responses to achieve true impact and sustainability of results for children. The year 2019 is particularly important for children's issues and UNICEF advocacy efforts, given the prominence of violence against children (VAC) and gender-based violence (GBV) in the global political agenda. UNICEF will capitalize on several high-level events that offer a powerful opportunity to reinforce the children's rights agenda in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) era and to accelerate action. This includes, among others,

the High-Level Political Forum assessment of progress against SDGs, including SDG 16 (and notably, 16.2 on ending violence against children) (July); the overall follow up and review of SDG progress at the SDG summit (under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly) (September); celebrations of the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (November); and the Secretary-General's 2019 Rights of the Child Report and Resolution process (focusing on children without parental care).

Output 3.1: Strengthening child protection systems for prevention and response services to reduce violence against children

Building on progress to date, priorities for output 3.1 will include continued support to governments to elevate VAC on national political agendas and institutionalize multisectoral coordinated action, with associated budget allocations. This will include supporting legislative reform to ensure international conventions are embedded in domestic laws, including, for example, the comprehensive prohibition of all forms of VAC in all settings. In parallel, service delivery and referral systems will be strengthened, including across the health, education, social welfare and justice sectors; and C4D and other interventions will be mobilized to challenge the social acceptance of VAC and to strengthen protective and gender-equitable social norms. An evolving area of focus for UNICEF will be on strengthening public financing for child protection, notably through supporting national budget analysis and costing exercises, and making investment cases that link with national planning and budget cycles.

Moreover, UNICEF will provide strategic support to the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence) to mobilize and grow political commitments through country pathfinding, especially given the expected growth in the number of Pathfinder countries from 23 to at least 30 by the end of 2019. Countries that have prioritized efforts to combat VAC will be supported through knowledge exchange, the development of national multisectoral frameworks to end VAC, and capacity-building for implementation of INSPIRE strategies. UNICEF will prioritize the INSPIRE strategy relating to parent and caregiver support to effectively programme for a protective environment for children in the home. UNICEF will also roll out the programme guidance for preventing and responding to VAC, aiming to facilitate and sharpen UNICEF country support to partners and accelerate action.

In addition, UNICEF will prioritize accelerating efforts to prevent and respond to violence in schools, through the #EndViolence in Schools/Safe to Learn partnership. In 2019, this will include rolling out a global programmatic framework to guide interventions and results reporting; and mobilizing political support and building an alliance of education development partners, including directly engaging in at least 20 countries for comprehensive implementation of the Call to Action.

UNICEF will continue to work with the United Nations Statistical Commission to strengthen mechanisms to monitor progress. With UNICEF as Chair, IAEG-VAC will commence its work in 2019 to develop data collection tools that can produce internationally comparable data

on SDG 16.2 indicators, strengthen the availability and quality of administrative data on VAC, and enhance national/local capacity to collect, analyse and use data on VAC. Further, UNICEF is working with End Violence, the Office of the Special Representative on Violence against Children, Together for Girls, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners to establish a mechanism for knowledge sharing on VAC.

The country roll-out of the inter-agency INSPIRE framework with specific VAC-related indicators will provide opportunities for UNICEF to strengthen the data collection and data systems within countries, with SDG reporting in mind. The roll-out of UNICEF Guidelines on the Production of VAC Data will provide guidance to countries considering collecting data on VAC and outline the steps for designing, planning and implementing a data collection effort. The Strategic Guidance for Engagement on VAC Administrative Data and new survey modules will also contribute to addressing the lack of standard categorizations of the different forms of violence and internationally agreed methodologies for data collection. Further, to operationalize the global commitment to generating disaggregated data and to harmonize monitoring mechanisms, UNICEF will undertake several methodological activities to monitor SDGs 16, 8 and 5 in 2019.

Efforts to strengthen the social service workforce will remain a programme priority for UNICEF in 2019. UNICEF will widely disseminate the Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection (forthcoming 2019) and offer additional resources to support its implementation. This includes a toolkit to map the workforce, guidance on defining social service workers and their ratios per child population within the national context, and a guidance on developing training and capacity-development frameworks for workers. Additionally, a supplementary results framework will help countries measure progress made in strengthening the workforce. In addition to country-level programming efforts, UNICEF will actively support and contribute to global and regional advocacy efforts, including the sixth Annual Social Service Workforce Strengthening Symposium in Washington, D.C. Furthermore, UNICEF – together with the National Association of Child and Youth Care Workers and the International Child and Youth Care Network – will organize the Global Child and Youth Care Conference to be held in Durban in July 2019, bringing together over 1,500 participants.

Output 3.2: Strengthening prevention and delivery of protection services to reduce harmful practices (child marriage and FGM)

In 2019, UNICEF will prioritize, with partners, developing a second-generation (or Phase II) programme to accelerate action to end child marriage using the lessons learned from the first phase and the findings of the UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage Evaluability Assessment. A key emphasis will be on capitalizing on gains made and scaling up action. Programme focus will be placed on adopting a holistic gender transformative approach that seeks to redress gender inequalities and enable girls and boys to have equal opportunities and exercise their rights. In addition, strengthening the effectiveness of systems to provide multisectoral interventions to girls, boys and their families will be another focus. UNICEF and partners will accelerate action to support and facilitate government ownership of the child marriage agenda. This will include strengthening and intensifying its focus on multisectoral coordination, stakeholder engagement, systems strengthening, and national action planning to end child marriage.

Greater attention will be placed on the harmonization of national legal and policy frameworks in favour of adolescent girls, and gender equality for both Global Programme and non-Global Programme focus countries. UNICEF and partners will focus on supporting the implementation of NAPs to end child marriage at subnational levels and on holding governments accountable. To address data challenges, UNICEF will support the effective generation and/or management of administrative data and provide better monitoring and targeting around child marriage.

Priority will be placed on programme quality improvements – including a review and redesign of the global theory of change to allow a greater degree of country-specific contextualization – and developing guidance on planning and designing quality research to promote evidence-based policy and programming.

UNICEF and UNFPA developed a proposal in 2018 for the Spotlight Initiative in Africa, a partnership between the EU and the United Nations which seeks to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls worldwide by strengthening political support and introducing a regional accountability mechanism to enhance a multisectoral national response to address FGM. With the launch of the Spotlight Initiative in 2019, UNICEF and UNFPA will build partnerships and increase engagement between the African Union and regional-level women's right groups, autonomous social movements, and civil society and faith-based organizations, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple discriminations. Special focus is given to promoting more organized movements by young people as change agents. Through the African Union's nomination of Burkina Faso's President as a global champion to eliminate FGM, UNICEF will support the organization of a high-level event at the African Union Summit in 2019 to launch the African Union Campaign on the Elimination of FGM, to advance regional commitments across participating countries.

Output 3.3: Improving children's access to justice

UNICEF is working with partners to leverage the increased momentum around Goal 16 of the SDGs, with a particular focus on 16.3 (Promote the rule of law) at national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all. Using the High-Level Political Forum, and preparatory meetings in Europe and the United States of America as a starting point, UNICEF will join with fellow United Nations actors and civil society to mobilize donor commitments and Member State commitments to ensure access to justice for all, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, such as children and women. UNICEF will take a lead role in mobilizing greater political support and making

a case for increased investment, including through the use of inclusive and people-centred innovation and new technologies. To support this external advocacy and programming, an internal paper and theory of change on accelerating children's access to justice is to be finalized in 2019.

To enhance quality programming, UNICEF will prioritize actions to support the integration of justice for children (J4C) into child protection systems, particularly concerning child victims of violence and access to justice. It will also renew approaches to United Nations country teams'

engagement on wider rule of law and security sector programming to mainstream J4C into system-wide rule of law assistance from the United Nations. Given the ongoing challenges in the area of data, UNICEF will use momentum from the release of the *Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty* and the complementary *Report of the Independent Expert to the United Nations General Assembly* to continue to advocate with partners for improved data collection and analysis on children deprived of liberty, and on the J4C system overall.

The United Nations General Assembly 2019 Secretary-General's Report and Resolution on the Rights of the Child, focusing on the theme of children without parental care, will present an important platform to hasten action by Member States to advance national care reform agendas. In the build-up, UNICEF will facilitate a series of discussions with diverse actors in the care reform space to ensure that both the Report and Resolution reflect realities on the ground and make relevant recommendations. UNICEF will continue to provide strategic guidance and leadership to strengthen national efforts around prevention of family separation, deinstitutionalization, and developing non-institutional care alternatives. This will include: prioritizing prevention of unnecessary separation of children through effective family-strengthening measures; strengthening social service workforce for child protection to effectively implement national legislation and programmes across the continuum of care through quality case management and service provision; accelerating deinstitutionalization

efforts by developing models for costing of child protection services and advocating for reprioritization of investments in family support and child protection services; and supporting measurement of progress in care reform by enhancing national capacities to institutionalize monitoring systems, such as the tracking tool for alternative care developed by Better Care Network.

In the context of birth registration and CRVS systems strengthening, UNICEF will focus on leveraging strategic partnerships and continue its leading and convening role in its capacity as co-chair of LIEG. This will include developing instruments, policy and operational guidance, and supporting efforts at global, regional and country levels to strengthen the coordination of a coherent and integrated United Nations response to, and programming on, the issue of legal identity. UNICEF will set up and manage a Multi-Partner Trust Fund and a global technical support mechanism to guide United Nations country team-led implementation of the legal identity agenda. As Chair of the Global CRVS Group, UNICEF will continue to promote policy reforms for free and universal birth registration as critical investments of the government, further leveraging partnerships with health and other social sectors as accelerators for reaching universal coverage and securing legal identity (birth certificates) for all children. UNICEF will invest in better understanding of the implications of digital identity and biometrics for children.

Humanitarian action and child protection priorities

UNICEF will continue to provide support for Level 3 and Level 2 emergencies and other humanitarian situations, working closely across sectors and promoting linkages with development partners, in line with the forthcoming UNICEF Procedure on Linking Humanitarian and Development Programming. UNICEF will invest in technical skills, adapting advocacy efforts in the face of disregard for international humanitarian law, building effective partnerships with local organizations and first responders; and investing in knowledge generation and innovating service delivery models. Key strategies to maximize results include systems strengthening in emergency settings (including recurring natural disasters/climate change); expanding case management practice and tools (including in sudden-onset emergencies); promoting prevention, risk mitigation and response programming; and building operational capacity internally and externally, with particular attention to national actors.

At the normative level, UNICEF will revise the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs)

for child protection. UNICEF will continue to lead critical partnerships for the child protection sector, including with the Global Coalition for Reintegration, Paris Principles Steering Group, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Championship Strategy on PSEA and Sexual Harassment, the newly established Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group (co-chaired by UNICEF), UNU, the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies; and strategically engage with the private sector. UNICEF will sustain its role in the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, as co-lead of the Alliance on Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, and its role in Monitoring and Reporting on Grave Violations against Children in armed conflict.

The UNICEF Executive Director, as IASC Champion on PSEA and Sexual Harassment, will advance efforts to ensure that every country with a humanitarian response plan or refugee response plan has in place: (1) safe reporting channels; (2) appropriate response services for survivors of SEA; and (3) child-sensitive accountability

mechanisms, including investigating allegations of SEA. UNICEF is mobilizing internal resources and partners to accelerate country-level action to fill gaps in systems and services to deliver these priority outcomes.

To advance the GBViE agenda, UNICEF will continue to support the goals of the Call to Action. In addition, UNICEF will augment the increased articulation of GBV in all Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeals and expand the number of countries with GBV programming. UNICEF will also set the example of integrating GBV risk mitigation in all UNICEF-led clusters, informing the system-wide Humanitarian Needs Overview and Response Plans.

Following the 2018 expert meeting, 'Rebuilding Lives', UNICEF and partners will accelerate integrating MHPSS across programmes. UNICEF and WHO will develop Minimum Services Packages for Child Protection, Health and Education, equipping practitioners in challenging operating environments with tools to support the well-being of children and caregivers in complex humanitarian emergencies.

UNICEF will support the release and implementation of the 2019–2023 United Nations Mine Action Strategy, which will guide the work of 12 United Nations entities in the next five years. This new strategy marks a fundamental shift from an aspirational vision to a focused results and accountability framework.

The use of the Child Protection Information Management System for case management in emergencies has been slow to initiate when emergencies begin. UNICEF has been working with partners through inter-agency groups to standardize the tool for rapid deployment at the onset of an emergency. Internally, UNICEF will prioritize promoting Primero as a single, standardized information management platform to make it easier to generate and compare data across contexts, scale up training efforts on the database, and increase staff mobility.

Looking forward, UNICEF Goal Area 3 will continue to heighten programmatic attention across the child protection portfolio, including through capitalization of the 2019 high-level opportunities, to powerfully reinforce the children's rights agenda and accelerate action in the coming year. Financial resources are a critical challenge for the sector. Funding streams continue to be largely issue-specific and fragmented, constraining a more holistic approach to child protection. Sustained, multi-year financing remains a challenge and requires UNICEF to continue to diversify resource partnerships and broaden its investment base, as well as demonstrate its comparative advantage and 'value for money' in an ever-crowded child protection sector. UNICEF Goal Area 3 anticipates that the overall funding requirement for children in need of protection is double current expenditure amounts, with projected additional needs estimated to be US\$223 million for development programming, and nearly US\$385 million for humanitarian action (see Annex 1).



A social worker's shirt marks Women's day in Zinder region, Niger, 2018.

Abbreviations and acronyms

AoR	Area of Responsibility	LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
BFSW	barefoot social worker	LIEG	Legal Identity Expert Group
C4D	Communication for Development	MENA	Middle East and North Africa
CCCs	Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action	MHPSS	mental health and psychosocial support
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
CPC	Child Protection Committee	MRE	mine risk education
CPiE	child protection in emergencies	MRMIMS+	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism information management system
CPIMS+	child protection information management system	NAP	national action plan
CRVS	civil registration and vital statistics	NGO	non-governmental organization
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development	PSEA	protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey	RCI	residential care institution
EAP	East Asia and the Pacific	RD4C	Responsible Data for Children
ECA	Europe and Central Asia	SA	South Asia
End Violence	Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
ERW	explosive remnants of war	SEA	sexual exploitation and abuse
ESA	Eastern and Southern Africa	SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
EU	European Union	SOP	standard operating procedure
FGM	female genital mutilation	SSWS	social service workforce strengthening
GBV	gender-based violence	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
GBViE	gender-based violence in emergencies	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
GBVIMS+	gender-based violence information management system	UNGEI	United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
GSSWA	Global Social Service Workforce Alliance	UNHCR	(Office of the) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
HAC	Humanitarian Action for Children	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
HQ	headquarters	VAC	violence against children
IAEG-VAC	Inter-Agency Expert Group on Violence against Children	VACS	Violence Against Children Survey
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee	VfM	value for money
IMS	information management system	VNR	voluntary national review
IOM	International Organization for Migration	WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
J4C	justice for children	WCA	West and Central Africa
		WHO	World Health Organization

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21. Pathfinder countries commit to 3–5 years of accelerated action to achieve End Violence goals and adhere to the End Violence principles. This means that their actions will be: rights-focused, child-centred, universal, gender-sensitive, inclusive, transparent, evidence-based and results-focused.
22. Albania, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini (formally Swaziland), Gabon, Kosovo,* Malawi, Mauritania, Nepal, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo. [*All references to Kosovo in this publication should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).]
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25. INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children.
26. Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Montenegro, Republic of Mozambique, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
27. Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, the Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.
28. Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Uganda and Yemen.
29. Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda.

30. Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda.
31. Medicalization of FGM refers to situations in which FGM is practised by any category of health-care provider, whether in a public or a private clinic, at home or elsewhere. FGM can never be 'safe', and there is no medical justification for the practice. Even when the procedure is performed in a sterile environment by a health-care provider, there is risk of health consequences immediately and later in life.
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35. Argentina, Armenia, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, British Virgin Islands, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Kosovo, Malawi, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Serbia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
36. Legal identity documents are national identity cards issued by a legally recognized identification authority of the country that serve as proof of a person's legal identity.
37. Safety audits are a common methodology/monitoring tool used to assess potential GBV-related safety risks through observation and consultation with affected communities.
38. Following an initial assessment of 38 locations in 2017.
39. 'Scaled-up PSEA' refers to: (1) safe and accessible reporting; (2) survivor-centred assistance; (3) enhanced accountability, including investigations; and (4) strengthened PSEA Networks.
40. <open.unicef.org>.
41. In 2018, due to exceptional circumstances, the HQ allocation was increased by 6 per cent to meet unexpected financial obligations.

Annex 1: Financial report*

* All funding data as of 30 April 2019, pending audit and certification

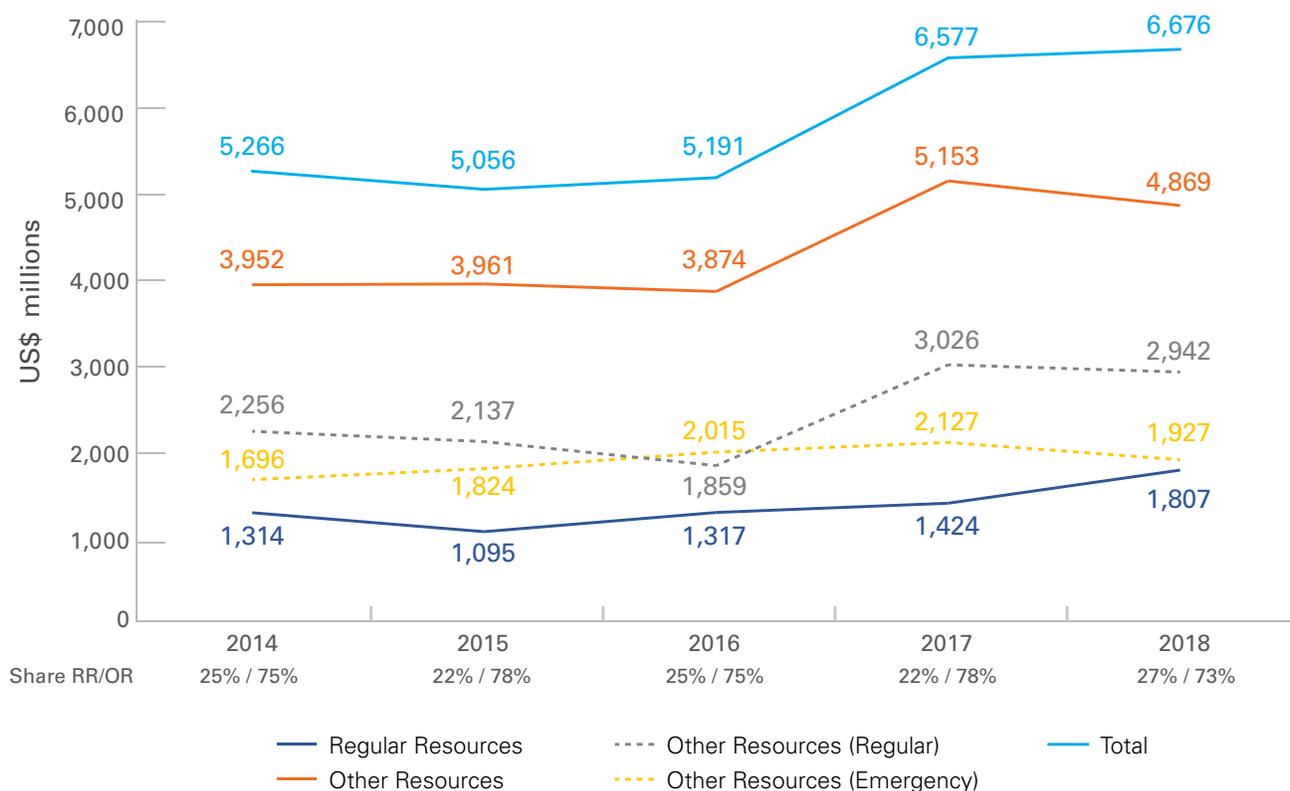
UNICEF revenue in 2018

In 2018, total revenue to UNICEF reached US\$6,676 million. This was an increase of 2 per cent compared to 2017, due to an increase in un-earmarked funds (regular resources). Regular resources revenue reached US\$1,807 million in 2018. It increased as a proportion of total revenue to UNICEF to 27 per cent, up from 22 per cent in 2017.

Earmarked funds to specific programmes (other resources) revenue decreased by 6 per cent, down from US\$5,153 million in 2017 to US\$4,869 million in 2018.

Henceforth, 'revenue' refers to the total amount committed in the year the agreement was signed plus any adjustments, while 'contributions' refers to disbursements received in a particular year, exclusive of adjustments.

FIGURE A1-1: Revenue by funding type 2014–2018†



† 2014-2016 revenue restated to reflect change in accounting policy for comparison with 2017–2018.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMINOLOGY

Regular resources (RR): Un-earmarked funds that are foundational to deliver results across the strategic plan.

Other resources (OR): Earmarked funds for programmes; supplementary to RR and made for a specific purpose, such as an emergency response or a specific programme in a country or region.

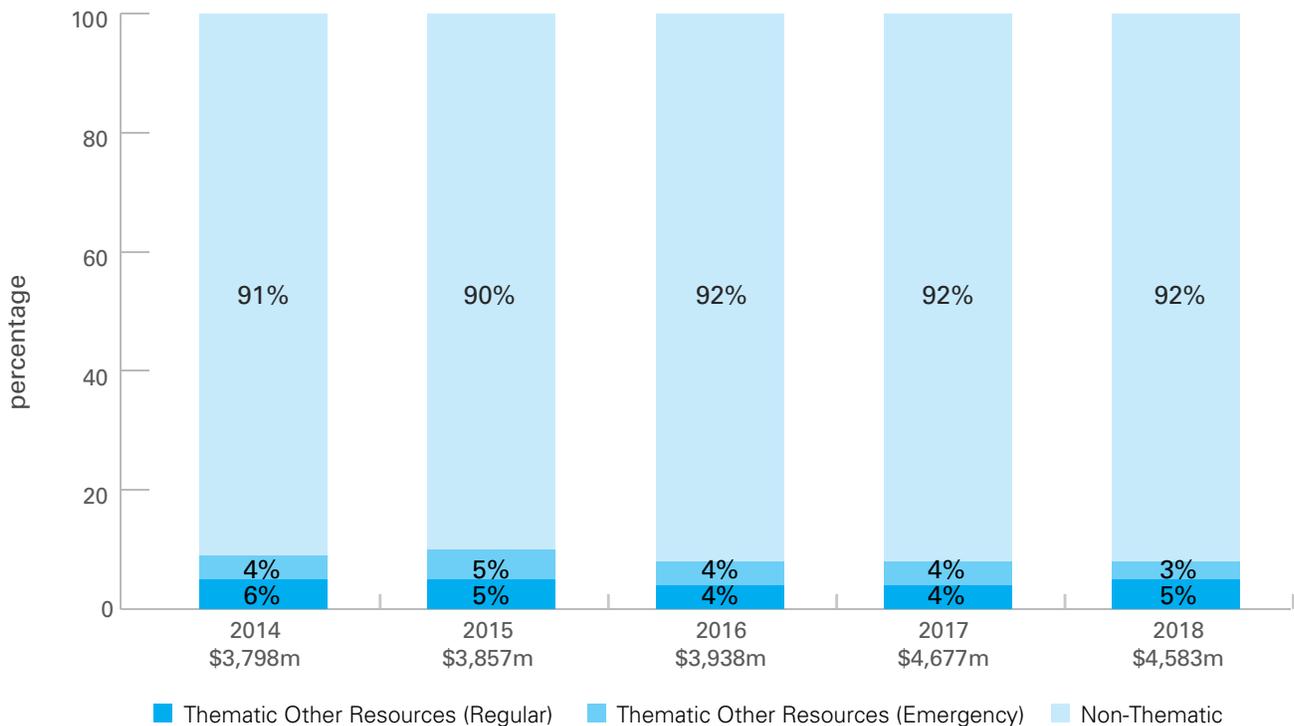
Other resources – regular (ORR): Funds for specific, non-emergency programme purposes and strategic priorities.

Other resources – emergency (ORE): Earmarked funds for specific humanitarian action and post-crisis recovery activities.

'Other resources' (OR) contributions decreased 2 per cent over the period 2017 to 2018, while contributions to the 10 thematic funding pools grew by 6 per cent, from US\$363 million to US\$386 million. Thematic funding has remained stable as 8 per cent of all OR. This is an underachievement compared with the indicator milestone set out in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 of thematic funding being 12 per cent of all OR in 2018. In alignment with the Funding Compact between governments and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, UNICEF's goal is to double thematic funding as a share of all OR to 15 per cent by 2021. To reach this goal, UNICEF encourages partners to channel more contributions through these softly earmarked funds.

To reach the results set out in the Strategic Plan, UNICEF has planned for a total of US\$20.3 billion in programme expenses. In 2018, total expenses for UNICEF programmes amounted to US\$5.4 billion, leaving an expense gap of US\$14.9 billion for the remainder of the Strategic Plan period (see Table A1-1).

FIGURE A1-2: Other resources contributions, 2014–2018: Share of thematic funding*



* 2014–2016 contributions restated to reflect change in accounting policy for comparison with 2017–2018.

TABLE A1-1: UNICEF planned resources and actual expenses for 2018-2021, US\$ millions (by Goal Area)

Goal Area	Planned resources 2018–2021			Actual Expenses 2018			Gap		
	Regular Resources	Other Resources	Total	Regular Resources	Other Resources	Total	Regular Resources	Other Resources	Total
Survive and Thrive	1,744.0	6,366.9	8,110.9	352.8	1,752.9	2,105.7	1,391.2	4,614.0	6,005.2
Learn	872.0	3,183.5	4,055.5	149.7	1,042.4	1,192.1	722.3	2,141.1	2,863.4
Protection from Violence and Exploitation	523.2	1,910.1	2,433.3	172.2	485.9	658.1	351.0	1,424.2	1,775.2
Safe and Clean Environment	845.8	3,088.0	3,933.8	171.4	840.1	1,011.5	674.4	2,247.9	2,922.3
Equitable Chance in Life	375.0	1,368.9	1,743.9	102.9	324.1	427.0	272.1	1,044.8	1,316.9
Totals	4,360.0	15,917.3	20,277.3	949.1	4,445.4	5,394.5	3,410.9	11,471.9	14,882.8

*Totals may not match sum due to rounding.

Goal Area 3 revenue in 2018

In 2018, partners contributed US\$164 million ‘other resources – regular’ (ORR) for child protection, which was a 4 per cent decrease from the previous year (see Figure A1-3). Government partners contributed the largest share – 59 per cent (see Figure A1-4). The top five resources partners to UNICEF child protection in 2018 were the European Commission and the governments of Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands (see Table A1-2). The largest contributions were received from the Government of Germany for building post-conflict resilience for children in Iraq, and from the European Commission Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis (Madad III) in Lebanon and for child protection programmes in Afghanistan and Iraq (see Table A1-3; and the body of the report for related results).

Thematic funding remains a critical source of revenue for UNICEF programme delivery. Through thematic funding contributions at the global, regional and/or country levels, partners support UNICEF to deliver results at the highest programme level in each of those contexts for the greatest impact. They act as ideal complements to RR, being allocated on a needs basis.

For partners, contributions to UNICEF’s 10 thematic funding pools result in greater alignment with the principles of good multilateral resource partnerships. Thematic contributions have the greatest potential for OR to produce high-level results directly aligned with the Strategic Plan, as endorsed

FIGURE A1-3: Goal Area 3 ‘other resources – regular’ contributions, 2014–2018

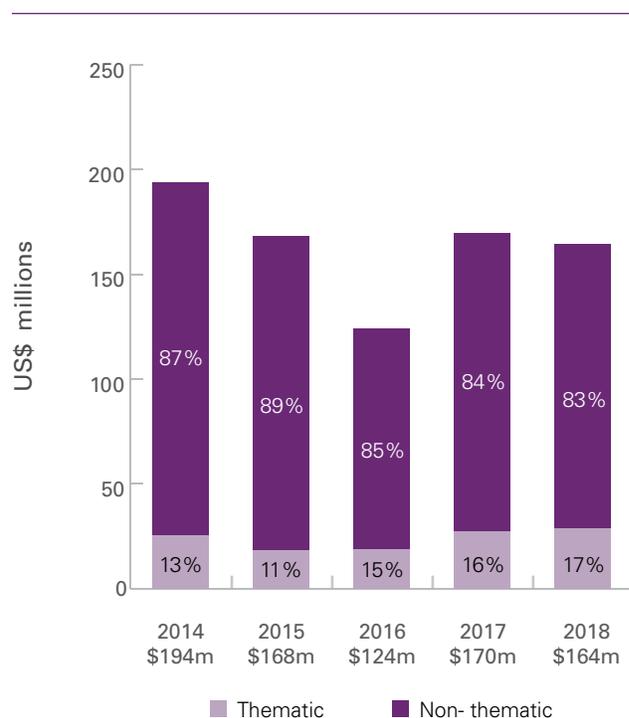
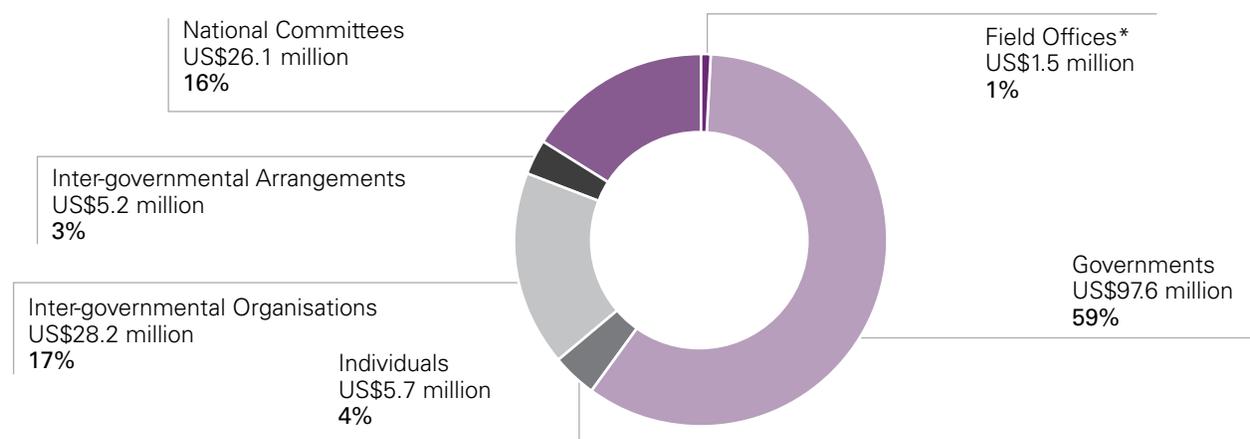


FIGURE A1-4: Goal Area 3 'other resources - regular' contributions, by type of donor, 2018 (US\$ millions)



*Private Sector Fundraising.

TABLE A1-2: Top 20 resource partners to Goal Area 3 by contributions, 2018

Rank	Resource partners	Total (US\$)
1	European Commission*	61,880,390
2	Germany*	38,361,922
3	Sweden	29,491,871
4	United Kingdom	27,135,650
5	Netherlands*	13,763,002
6	United States	12,773,044
7	Italy	8,261,186
8	End Violence Fund	5,651,051
9	Switzerland	5,083,513
10	Norway	4,327,597
11	Denmark	3,976,802
12	U.S. Fund for UNICEF	3,806,050
13	Swiss Committee for UNICEF	3,188,505
14	Spanish Committee for UNICEF	2,999,031
15	Japan	2,452,610
16	United Nations Development Programme	2,293,547
17	Australian Committee for UNICEF	2,032,954
18	Canada	2,021,182
19	German Committee for UNICEF	1,706,625
20	Danish Committee for UNICEF	1,666,089

*Includes cross-sectoral grants SC181122 (Education, Child Protection and WASH), SC180009, SC150774, SC180960, SC170529 (Education and Child Protection), SC180961 (Education, WASH, Health, Nutrition and Child Protection), and SC181105 (WASH and Child Protection)

TABLE A1-3: Top 20 contributions to Goal Area 3, 2018

Rank	Resource partners	Grant description	Total (US\$)
1	Germany	Building post-conflict resilience for children in Iraq*	17,064,846
2	European Commission	Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis (Madad III)*	13,651,877
3	European Commission	Child Protection, Afghanistan and Iran	10,480,100
4	United Kingdom	Child Protection Fund II for National Action Plan III, Zimbabwe	9,113,330
5	European Commission	Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis (Madad Fund)*	8,557,109
6	Germany	Integrated quality education and protection in East Sudan	8,532,423
7	United Kingdom	Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage	6,838,230
8	Netherlands	Kids in Need of Durable Solutions (KINDS) in Sudan*	6,759,403
9	Sweden	Child protection, global thematic funding	6,053,044
10	Germany	Protecting Rohingya refugee and host community children through access to education and skills, Bangladesh	5,688,282
11	Denmark	Thematic funding for child protection, Iraq and Lebanon	3,976,802
12	European Commission	Child Protection, Angola	3,731,242
13	European Commission	Migration Child Protection, East Asia and the Pacific and Europe and Central Asia	3,589,631
14	Netherlands	Children on the Move, Kenya*	3,549,806
15	Sweden	Building an Integrated Safety Net System for the Most Vulnerable Women and Children in Rural and Urban Ethiopia	3,529,671
16	Germany	Improving Education and Child protection Services for Migrant Children, Sudan*	3,496,504
17	Germany	Access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities as well as prevention of and response to gender based violence, South Sudan	3,412,969
18	United States	Household Economic Strengthening for Adolescent Girls and Young Women in DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe lives) districts, Zimbabwe	3,312,317
19	Sweden	Support to Strengthen Child and Social Protection Systems 2018-2020, Kenya	3,309,067
20	United Kingdom	Safety, Support and Solutions - Phase 2, West and Central Africa Regional Office	3,219,101

*Cross-sectoral grants SC181122 (Education, Child Protection and WASH), SC180009, SC150774, SC180960, SC170529 (Education and Child Protection), SC180961 (Education, WASH, Health, Nutrition, and Child Protection), and SC181105 (Child Protection and WASH)

by the UNICEF Executive Board, and support the aims of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. They yield a higher return on investment than more tightly earmarked contributions, as lower management and reporting costs result in a larger percentage of funds going towards programming. Renewal and allocation procedures are also simplified, and the administrative monitoring burden lessened for partners.

Overall contributions to the thematic funding pools increased from US\$363 million in 2017 to US\$386 million in 2018. The largest public sector contributors to the thematic funding pools in 2018 were Norway, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands, while the largest private sector contributions were facilitated by the German Committee

for UNICEF, the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. For more information on thematic funding and how it works, please visit: <www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/66662_66851.html>.

The flexibility of thematic funding allows UNICEF to respond more effectively. It facilitates longer-term planning, sustainability and savings in transaction costs, resulting in more resources for UNICEF programmes. Thematic funding contributions for child protection reached US\$28.7 million in 2018, a 6 per cent increase over the US\$27 million received in 2017. Of these contributions, 84 per cent came from government partners. Sweden was the largest thematic resources partner, providing 57 per cent of all thematic contributions received (see Table A1-4).

TABLE A1-4: Thematic contributions by resource partner to Goal Area 3, 2018

Resource partner type	Resource partner	Total (US\$)	Percentage of total
Governments 84.34%	Sweden	16,283,132	56.77%
	Denmark	3,976,802	13.87%
	Norway	2,554,605	8.91%
	Spain	796,360	2.78%
	Belgium	580,720	2.02%
National Committees 15.62%	Finnish Committee for UNICEF	1,385,093	4.83%
	Korean Committee for UNICEF	478,918	1.67%
	Norwegian Committee for UNICEF	452,422	1.58%
	Dutch Committee for UNICEF	372,696	1.30%
	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	356,597	1.24%
	German Committee for UNICEF	287,651	1.00%
	Belgian Committee for UNICEF	282,047	0.98%
	Swedish Committee for UNICEF	276,000	0.96%
	U.S. Fund for UNICEF	166,387	0.58%
	Czech Committee for UNICEF	158,976	0.55%
	Andorran Committee for UNICEF	142,207	0.50%
	Spanish Committee for UNICEF	62,646	0.22%
	Canadian UNICEF Committee	22,400	0.08%
	Danish Committee for UNICEF	17,438	0.06%
	Australian Committee for UNICEF	12,880	0.04%
French Committee for UNICEF	4,561	0.02%	
Country offices <0.1%	UNICEF Bangladesh	10,210	0.04%
Grand total		28,680,748	100.00%

**Due to rounding, the totals may differ slightly from the sum of the columns.*

Grant numbers are provided for IATI compliance: SC1899050036, SC1899050038, SC1899050029, SC1899050009, SC1899050012, SC1899050019, SC1899050021, SC1899050020, SC1899050022, SC1499060141, SC1899050014, SC1899050002, SC1899050003, SC1499060075, SC1499060076, SC1899050024, SC1899050015, SC1899050005, SC1899050004, SC1899050006, SC1899050025, SC1899050011, SC1899050007, SC1899050008, SC1499060094, SC1899050013, SC1899050017, SC1899050023, SC1899050028, SC1899050032, SC1899050039, SC1899050040, SC1899050034, SC1899050026, SC1899050031, SC1899050001, SC1899050033, SC1899050010, SC1899050016, SC1899050027, SC1899050030, SC1899050035, SC1899050018, SC1899050037.

UNICEF is seeking to broaden and diversify its funding base (including thematic contributions), and encourages all partners to give as flexibly as possible. The number of partners contributing thematic funding to child protection increased from 20 in 2017 to 22 in 2018; the Flanders International Cooperation Agency (Government of Belgium) became a thematic funding partner, providing country-level flexible funding to programmes in Malawi and Mozambique.

Sizeable thematic contributions were received from the Government of Denmark, for child protection activities in Iraq and Lebanon, while the Finnish Committee for UNICEF contributed country-specific funding for activities in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Viet Nam.

Partner Testimonial

Violence, exploitation and abuse of children affect the emotional, social, cognitive and physical development of children, thus violating children's fundamental human rights. Children living in conflict-affected areas and within fragile contexts are particularly vulnerable. Sweden's International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has as a main priority increased protection, promotion and fulfilment of Human Rights, including the Rights of the Child. As the UN organization with an operational mandate to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF is uniquely positioned to use the resources of Sweden in long-term human rights-based development cooperation and humanitarian action for children. Sida's strategic partnership with UNICEF under the thematic area of child protection strives to provide children with the right to live and develop in a world free from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practice. UNICEF's work within the area of child protection includes critical work on several sustainable development goal indicators as part of the framework of Agenda 2030.

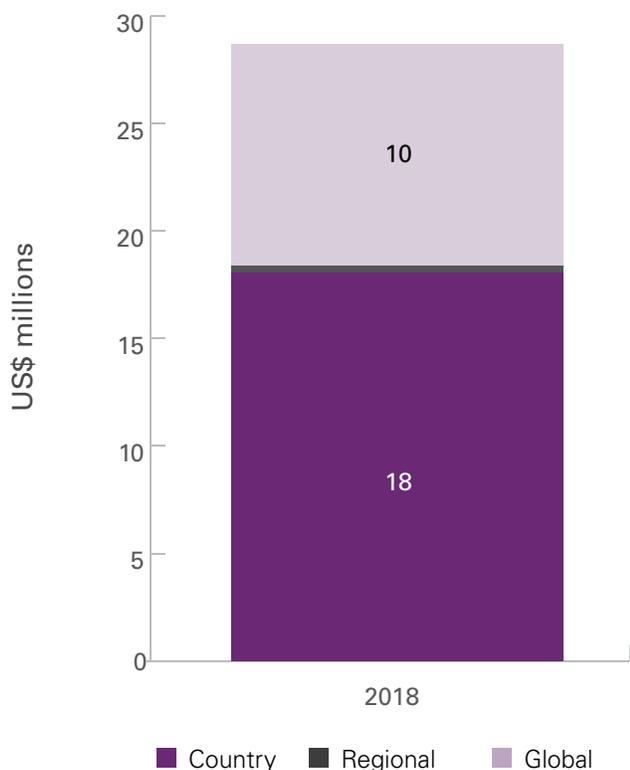
Sweden provides long-term global non-earmarked thematic funding to Goal Area 3 of UNICEF's Strategic Plan. This funding modality enhances effectiveness, promotes sustainability as well as innovation, facilitates better coordination and reduces transaction costs. Sida recognises that thematic funding is instrumental for UNICEF to strengthen the ability to deliver on long-term strategic activities, such as cooperation with duty-bearers to build sustainable national child protection systems and promote justice for children. Over the years, Sida's support to UNICEF has increasingly been channelled as thematic funding, reflecting Sida's confidence in UNICEF as an efficient and effective partner and strong advocate for the implementation of children's human rights.

– Carin Jämtin, Director General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Of all thematic child protection contributions that UNICEF received in 2018, some 36 per cent (US\$10.3 million) were global-level contributions (see Figure A1-5). Global thematic funds remain the most flexible source of funding to UNICEF after RR. The global level is the most valuable thematic funding level in which partners determine which UNICEF objectives they wish to support, and contribute to the most closely aligned thematic funding pool. This allows UNICEF the flexibility to allocate funds across regions

to individual country programmes according to priority needs. They facilitate programme implementation in a more strategic manner, and enable UNICEF to adjust and respond to emerging issues. They also give UNICEF the flexibility to allocate resources to areas of highest need, including critically underfunded country programme areas and humanitarian response activities.

FIGURE A1-5: Goal Area 3 thematic funding contributions at country, regional and global levels, 2018



The allocation and expenditure of all thematic funding contributions can be monitored on the UNICEF transparency portal.⁴⁰ The results achieved with the funds against Executive Board-approved targets and indicators at the country, regional and global levels are consolidated and reported across the suite of Annual Results Reports.

Specific reporting for country and regional thematic funding contributions is provided separately for partners giving at those levels.

A total of US\$13.27 million in global thematic child protection funding was allocated to 48 country offices, 7 regional offices and to UNICEF headquarters in 2018 (see Table A1-5). In direct response to increasing requests from donors, UNICEF child protection developed a robust set of equity-based criteria for allocating global thematic funds in 2018. The focus of the global thematic funding allocations continued to be in the area of strengthening the social service workforce that works towards preventing and responding to violence against children (for results utilizing global thematic funds see Results by output area in the body of the report).

Specific criteria and indicators are used for allocation, including: birth registration (percentage of children younger than 5 years who were registered); physical violence (percentage of girls and boys who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers); sexual violence (percentage of girls aged 15 to 17 years who have ever experienced sexual violence); rate of children in residential care per 100,000; population (thousands) under 18 years of age; and number of country offices covered by the region. These criteria are used to calculate the allocation for the regions for further disbursement to country offices (to be determined by the respective regional office) and the allocation for the regional offices. Allocations for New York headquarters are capped at 10 per cent.⁴¹

TABLE A1-5: Allotment of Goal Area 3 global thematic funding revenue to offices and programmes, 2018 (US\$)

Rank		Allotment	
Country offices		9,649,667	
Regional offices		1,491,564	
Headquarters		2,126,100	
Total		13,267,331	
Europe and Central Asia (ECA)		East Asia and Pacific (EAP)	
Belarus	100,000	Cambodia	200,000
Uzbekistan	150,000	Indonesia	300,000
Bulgaria	57,702	Mongolia	200,000
Kazakhstan	100,000	Papua New Guinea	330,307
Kosovo	60,000	Timor Leste	200,000
Tajikistan	150,000	EAP Regional Office	200,164
Ukraine	250,000	Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)	
Romania	110,000	Bolivia	209,088
Turkey	150,000	El Salvador	200,000
Kyrgyzstan	100,000	Guyana and Suriname	200,000
ECA Regional Office	203,821	Jamaica	200,000
West and Central Africa (WCA)		Haiti	200,000
Cabo Verde	100,000	Dominican Republic	200,000
Central African Republic	214,878	LAC Regional Office	234,723
Côte d'Ivoire	200,000	Middle East and North Africa (MENA)	
Gabon	200,000	State of Palestine	200,000
Gambia	200,000	Tunisia	300,000
Mauritania	200,000	Oman	200,000
Nigeria	200,000	Algeria	200,000
Sao Tome and Principe	100,000	Djibouti	300,000
Senegal	300,000	Egypt	247,840
WCA Regional Office	237,293	MENA Regional Office	200,829
Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA)		South Asia (SA)	
Angola	211,000	Afghanistan	250,000
Botswana	200,000	Bhutan	282,052
Kenya	210,748	Maldives	282,052
Madagascar	211,000	Nepal	250,000
Malawi	211,000	Sri Lanka	290,000
Namibia	211,000	SA Regional Office	204,880
Zimbabwe	211,000		
ESA Regional Office	209,854		

Transparency

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



Goal Area 3 expenses in 2018

Expenses versus expenditure

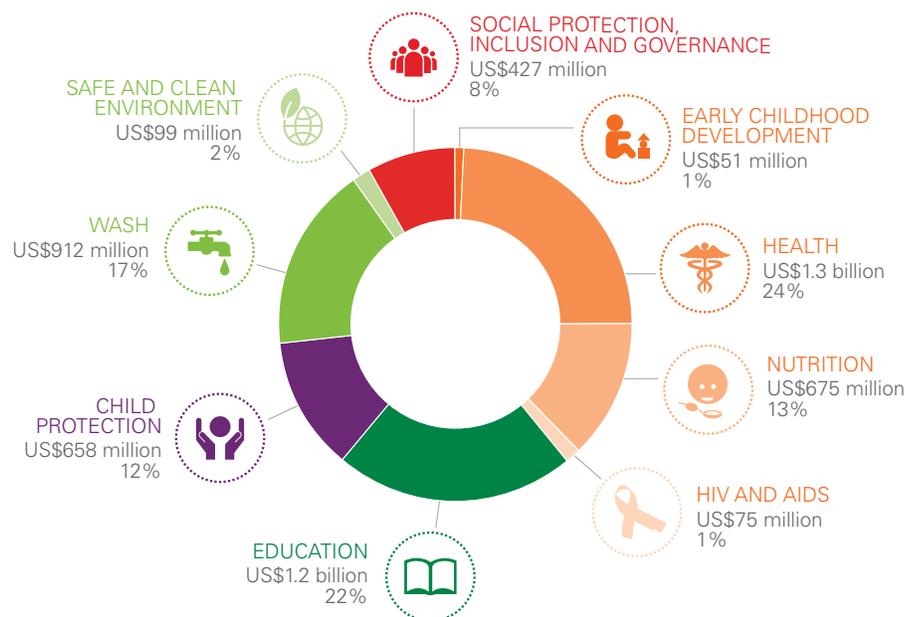
'Expenses' are recorded according to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and are accrual based. These are used for official financial reporting. 'Expenditures' are recorded on a modified cash basis. They are used for budget reporting since they are aligned with cash disbursements and goods receipts (the way budgets are consumed).

UNICEF spending for Goal Area 3 in 2018 was US\$658.2 million, 5 per cent lower than in 2017 (US\$689.6 million). The 2018 Goal Area 3 expenses amount represents 12 per cent of the organization's total programme expenses (see Figure A1-6). This expense ratio has been largely consistent since 2014.

Of the total expenditure, 35 per cent (US\$231 million) was other resources – emergency (ORE), 39 per cent (US\$255 million) other resources – regular (ORR) and 26 per cent (US\$172 million) regular resources (RR) funds (see Figure A1-7). While the proportion of spending for RR remains similar to 2017, there was a moderate increase in spending of ORR funds from 2017 (35 per cent) and a commensurate drop in ORE spending (39 per cent) in 2018.

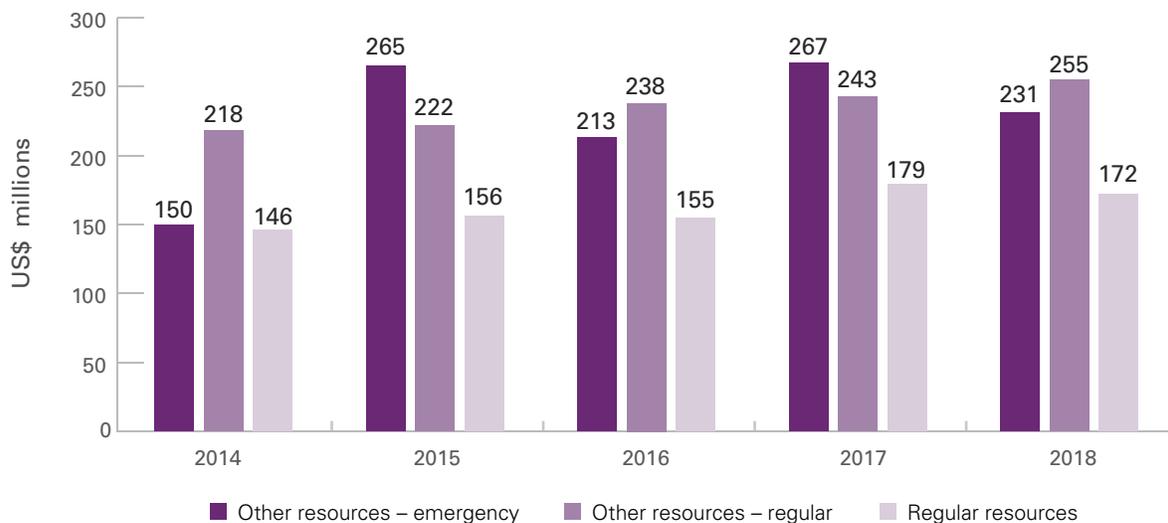
Note: Expenses are higher than the income received because expenses are comprised of total allotments from regular resources and other resource (including balances carried over from prior years) to the outcome areas, while income reflects only earmarked contributions from 2018 to the same.

FIGURE A1-6: Total expenses by strategic outcome area, 2018 (US\$)



*Due to rounding, the totals may differ slightly from the sum of the columns.

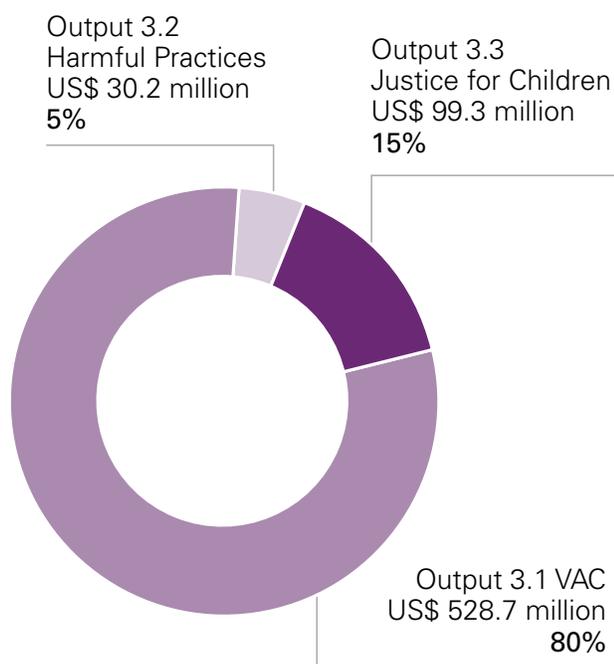
FIGURE A1-7: Expense trend for Goal Area 3 by year and fund type, 2014–2018 (US\$ millions)



Given the strategic prioritization to scale-up of programming to reduce violence in all its forms and across development and humanitarian contexts in the Strategic Plan, the majority of 2018 Goal Area 3 global expenses (80 per cent) were spent on Output Area 3.1: Strengthening prevention and response services for violence against children (VAC) (see Figure A1-8; and 'Output 3.1' and 'Humanitarian action and child protection results'). Within this spending category, the largest area of spending relates to supporting countries to strengthen services to prevent and respond to VAC

(US\$679 million, 13 per cent); provision of direct technical support and assistance to reduce VAC across development and humanitarian contexts (US\$62.2 million, 12 per cent); and focused support to strengthen national social service workforces (US\$55 million, 10 per cent). It should be noted that expenditures on emergency-related programming is mainly captured by Output 3.1, though due to the integrated and cross-cutting dimension to humanitarian programming, expenses are captured across spending categories.

FIGURE A1-8: Expense Goal Area 3, 2018 (US\$ millions)



A total of 15 per cent of total expenditure was used for Output 3.3: Improving children's access to justice, with the greatest area of investment in 2018 focused on strengthening birth registration and CRVS systems (US\$27.2 million, 27 per cent) (*for results see 'Output 3.3'*). A total of 5 per cent of total expenditure was used for Output 3.2: Strengthening prevention and delivery of protection services to reduce harmful practices (child marriage and FGM) (*for results see 'Output 3.2'*). Due to the cross-cutting nature of these programmes, related expenses for this results area are also captured in other goal areas such as gender and education.

Of the total expenditure for Output Area 3.1, some 40 per cent (US\$213.4 million) was ORE, 35 per cent (US\$186.9 million) ORR and 24 per cent (US\$128.3 million) RR funds.

Of the total expenditure for Output Area 3.2, some 58 per cent (US\$17.4 million) was ORR, 30 per cent (US\$8.9 million) RR and 13 per cent (US\$3.8 million) was ORE funds.

Of the total expenditure for Output Area 3.3, some 51 per cent (US\$50.4 million) was ORR, 35 per cent (US\$34.9 million) RR and 14 per cent (US\$13.8 million) ORE funds (*see Table A1-6*).

TABLE A1-6: Expense for Goal Area 3 by output area and fund type, 2018 (US\$)

Output area	Other resources – emergency	Other resources – regular	Regular resources	Grand total	Percentage (%)
Output 3.1 Prevention and response services for violence against children	213,446,580	186,951,624	128,321,344	528,719,548	80
Output 3.2 Harmful practices (female genital mutilation and child marriage)	3,800,171	17,408,356	8,955,016	30,163,542	5
Output 3.3 Access to justice	13,883,612	50,455,158	34,961,180	99,299,951	15
Total	231,130,363	254,815,138	172,237,541	658,183,041	100

*Due to rounding, the totals may differ slightly from the sum of the columns.

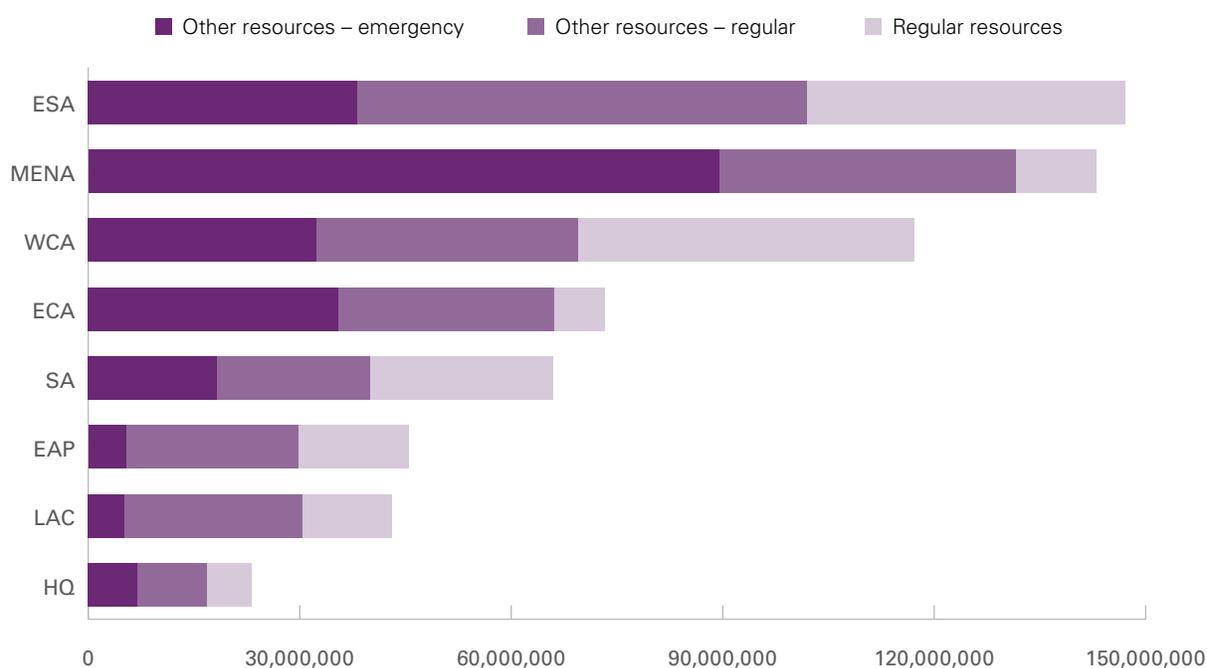
In 2018, the Eastern and Southern Africa region accounted for 22.3 per cent of the global Goal Area 3 expenses with South Sudan, Somalia and Zimbabwe (in order of expenditure) being the top three programme countries in the region. Next came the Middle East and North Africa region, with Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen reporting the greatest expenses in the region, with 21.7 per cent of total expenses, followed by the West and Central Africa region at 17.8 per cent with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and the Niger being the top three programme countries in that region.

Together, these three regions accounted for 62 per cent of the total expenses and 69 per cent of ORE expenses for Goal Area 3. Expenses at headquarters for global and regional initiatives, advocacy, monitoring and strategic support to regions and countries represented 4 per cent of total expenses for Goal Area 3 (see Figure A1-9).

Overall, 20 countries received 56 per cent of total Goal Area 3 spending for 2018 (US\$366.5 million) (see Table A1-7), of which Turkey, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon and South Sudan were the top four (in order by total programme expenses). In Turkey, which accounted for 5 per cent of total Goal Area 3 expenses, UNICEF continued to provide extensive support to implement a comprehensive humanitarian response for refugee children, while also working with the government to strengthen national child protection systems. A key area of focus in 2018 remains the long-standing collaborative plans to strengthen child care and justice for children systems, particularly ensuring they are accessible to all children living in Turkey, including refugee children.

Of the total expenditure for these 20 countries, 50 per cent (US\$181.6 million) was ORE, 31 per cent (US\$114.6 million) ORR and 19 per cent (US\$70.1 million) RR funds.

FIGURE A1-9: Expense for Goal Area 3 by fund type, and region, 2018 (US\$)



Notes: EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; HQ, headquarters; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.

TABLE A1-7: Expenses for Goal Area 3 by top 20 countries and fund type, 2018 (US\$)

Country/region/UNICEF division	Other resources – emergency	Other resources – regular	Regular resources	Total	Percentage (%)
Turkey	16,855,531	14,744,294	676,955	32,276,779	5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	11,119,634	5,183,193	10,647,960	26,950,787	4
Lebanon	12,086,119	13,032,775	1,798,992	26,917,886	4
South Sudan	19,372,876	5,220,510	1,868,764	26,462,150	4
Iraq	21,488,968	2,203,875	726,477	24,419,320	4
Bangladesh	11,797,763	2,416,927	5,654,743	19,869,433	3
Somalia	10,569,895	4,134,396	5,084,251	19,788,541	3
Nigeria	9,639,249	4,768,861	4,830,257	19,238,367	3
Yemen	14,758,812	2,634,792	1,754,150	19,147,755	3
Zimbabwe	229,966	15,883,306	1,194,256	17,307,528	3
ECARO, Switzerland	14,137,403	2,001,410	357,171	16,495,984	3
Jordan	13,355,224	1,685,500	776,605	15,817,329	2
Ethiopia	1,600,224	6,688,828	7,189,940	15,478,993	2
Afghanistan	4,809,073	2,129,350	7,260,757	14,199,180	2
Headquarters	3,173,695	8,196,769	2,711,793	14,082,257	2
India	16,225	6,418,865	7,400,251	13,835,341	2
Republic of Mozambique	219,361	7,508,983	4,462,081	12,190,426	2
Sudan	3,521,691	7,150,528	1,245,389	11,917,608	2
Syrian Arab Republic	10,054,766	44,424	356,237	10,455,426	2
Myanmar	2,818,957	2,621,826	4,167,444	9,608,227	1

**Due to rounding, the totals may differ slightly from the sum of the columns.*

Notes: ECARO, Europe and Central Asia Regional Office.

Thematic funds are also a critical component of the UNICEF programme portfolio. Thematic expenses accounted for 11 per cent of total Goal Area 3 expenses in 2018. Sixteen country offices in the Middle East and North Africa plus the regional office accounted for 24 per cent (US\$17.7 million) of total thematic expenses for the year, followed by 18 per cent (US\$13.5 million) attributed to 21 country offices Eastern and Southern Africa and the regional office. Overall, 119 country offices utilized child protection thematic funding, of which 10 (Bangladesh, Lebanon, Mali, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Zimbabwe) accounted for 37 per cent of total thematic spending for the year (US\$27.9 million). Bangladesh, Lebanon and Zimbabwe spent the largest

proportion of thematic funds in 2018, each at 5 per cent of total spending. All country offices allocated the majority of thematic funds to support programming interventions to respond to and prevent violence against children in development and humanitarian contexts.

In Europe and Central Asia, the majority of thematic expenses (70 per cent) comprised ORE funds, while in West and Central Africa, 69 per cent of expenses were largely drawn from ORR funds. UNICEF headquarters accounted for 8 per cent (US\$5.7 million) of the total thematic expenses for 2018, comprising 44 per cent ORE and 56 per cent ORR funds (*see Table A1-8*).

In 2018, 'transfers and grants to counterparts' accounted for 46 per cent (US\$304 million) of UNICEF child protection expenses followed by 'staff and other personnel costs' at 23 per cent (US\$152 million) and 'contractual services' at 9 per cent (US\$62 million). Travel expenses amounted to 3 per cent (US\$22 million) of the child protection expenses for 2018 (see Table A1-9).

UNICEF Goal Area 3 anticipates that the overall funding requirement to meet the protection needs of children is double current expenditure amounts, with projected additional needs estimated to be US\$223 million for development programming, and nearly US\$385 million for humanitarian action.

TABLE A1-8: Thematic expenses for Goal Area 3 by region and funding type, 2018 (US\$)

Region	Other resources – emergency	Other resources – regular	Total	Percentage (%)
EAP	2,154,799	3,342,426	5,497,225	7
ECA	6,843,055	2,886,617	9,729,672	13
ESA	5,541,481	8,014,265	13,555,746	18
HQ	2,500,633	3,213,344	5,713,977	8
LAC	3,514,830	2,613,495	6,128,325	8
MENA	10,556,031	7,200,518	17,756,550	24
SA	4,944,437	2,701,973	7,646,410	10
WCA	2,846,975	6,276,813	9,123,788	12
Grand total	38,902,241	36,249,453	75,151,694	100

**Due to rounding, the totals may differ slightly from the sum of the columns.*

Notes: EAP, East Asia and Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; HQ, headquarters; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.

TABLE A1-9: Expense for Goal Area 3 by Cost Category and fund type, 2018 (US\$)

Cost category	Other resources – emergency	Other resources – regular	Regular resources	Total	Percentage (%)
Transfers and grants to counterparts	126,645,686	122,929,787	54,880,174	304,455,646	46
Staff and other personnel costs	37,943,641	49,268,778	64,484,875	151,697,294	23
Contractual services	10,896,733	34,005,863	17,051,393	61,953,988	9
General operating + other direct costs	8,313,288	9,828,050	16,952,279	35,093,617	5
Incremental indirect cost	16,445,722	18,028,402		34,474,124	5
Supplies and commodities	20,106,965	7,954,651	5,741,395	33,803,011	5
Travel	5,063,403	7,665,865	9,264,599	21,993,867	3
Miscellaneous	5,629,602	4,964,068	2,893,742	13,487,412	2
Equipment, vehicles and furniture	85,323	169,675	969,084	1,224,082	0.2
Grand total	231,130,363	254,815,138	172,237,541	658,183,041	100

**Due to rounding, the totals may differ slightly from the sum of the columns.*

Annex 2: Highlights of UNICEF Goal Area 3 knowledge products, 2018

Global highlights:

Violence against children: The report, *An Everyday Lesson: #ENDviolence in schools*, consolidates internationally comparable data on children's experience of violence in schools, highlighting that violence is an everyday occurrence for many. This evidence was used to develop a Call to Action to end violence in schools that is being used to advance policy advocacy with ministries of education.

Humanitarian action: UNICEF contributed to groundbreaking research on child association with armed groups. Findings from the 2018 United Nations University report, *Cradled by Conflict: Child involvement with armed groups in contemporary conflict*, are informing programmatic guidance to prevent the recruitment and use of children by non-state armed groups, and to effectively disengage children from such groups.

Female genital mutilation (FGM): An external evaluation of Phase II (2014–2017) of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM was conducted, with initial results indicating 24,611,443 individuals in 8,963 communities had made public declarations of FGM abandonment, proving the Programme's contribution to accelerating the abandonment of FGM.

Child marriage: The publication *Child Marriage: Latest trends and future prospects* reports that 25 million child marriages have been prevented in the last decade due to accelerated progress, driven largely by significant reductions in South Asia. These findings provide a robust platform to inform global advocacy and increase public and political support to scale up action.

Disabilities: UNICEF released a discussion paper on *Children with Disabilities in Situations of Armed Conflict* that takes an in-depth look at the challenges these children face and how to address them, including how to make humanitarian assistance for children and adults with disabilities more inclusive.

Regional highlight – ECA: To support actors working on children's rights, in children's units and other independent specialized institutions working on children's rights, UNICEF finalized guidelines for child-friendly legal aid and a toolkit in partnership with the European Network of Ombudsman Offices. These guidelines are particularly important given the increasing number of children in the region in contact with legal systems, as victims and witnesses of violence, and in administrative and family law proceedings.

Regional highlight – WCA: A final evaluation of the Regional Project to Combat Gender Violence in Schools in Cameroon, Senegal and Togo notes that gender-based violence in schools is one of the primary factors contributing to school dropout. Of particular note were the achievements made in Togo to combat the issues through establishment of an inter-sectoral thematic group since 2014 and a harmonized teacher training module on violence in schools.

Regional highlight – MENA: A brief on *Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings: spotlight on the situation in the Arab states* summarizes the available evidence on child marriage in humanitarian settings in the region and is informing programming and advocacy.

Regional highlight – SA: A report on *State of the Social Service Workforce in South Asia* describes the social service workforce status in the eight countries of the region, providing baseline information with which to develop action plans and measure national progress.

Ukraine: The first nationwide rapid survey on domestic violence was conducted in 2018, with results used to reinforce the launch of a UNICEF co-sponsored 'Talk against violence' programme – a multimedia-based movement aimed at fostering dialogue on domestic violence, including violence against children and gender-based violence. More than 7.5 million people were reached through different media.

Jordan: Findings from an evaluation of the MaAn programme informed the development of a three-year strategic plan for the programme that addresses violence in schools. As a first step, the Ministry of Education is updating MaAn training materials to equip staff with the skills required to prevent and respond to violence in schools.

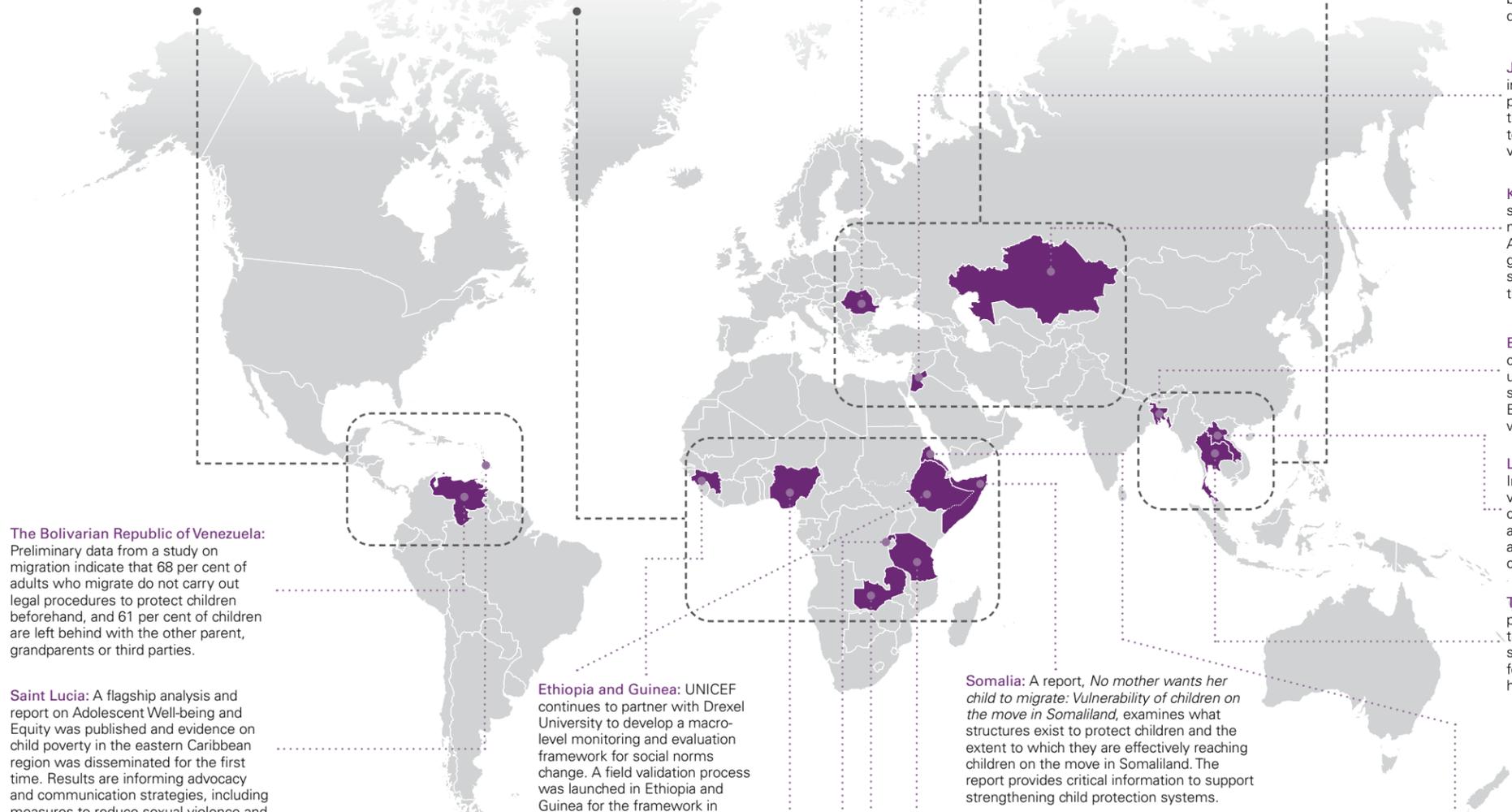
Kazakhstan: The National Statistics Committee examined child safety in 3,000 households, finding strong awareness of safety measures among parents, but less so on preventative measures. As a result, UNICEF and partners made recommendations to the government to strengthen coordination, increase awareness on safety measures, boost law enforcement measures and prioritize the safety of child-related products.

Bangladesh: Modules for real-time monitoring systems to track changes in norms of child marriage practice were strengthened using the national household survey on essential coverage of basic social services. A live online dashboard hosted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics supported the visualization of these data in a way that is easy to analyse and understand.

Lao People's Democratic Republic: Results of the 2018 Social Indicator Survey show a significant decrease in children experiencing violent physical punishment, decline in the proportion of adult caregivers who believe that physical punishment is needed to raise a child; and a drop in the percentage of women marrying before the age of 18. Sustained long-term community mobilization campaigns contributed to these positive reductions.

Thailand: Results of a survey on the knowledge, attitudes and practices of parents, adolescents and decision makers informed the development of social and behaviour change communication strategy and Communication for Development (C4D) activities for four priority issues (early child development, equity, adolescent health and violence against children).

Eritrea: Community mapping and data collection on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was completed in 58 villages in two zobas, assessing FGM practices and the readiness of communities to declare an end to it. The mapping report is forthcoming in early 2019.



The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: Preliminary data from a study on migration indicate that 68 per cent of adults who migrate do not carry out legal procedures to protect children beforehand, and 61 per cent of children are left behind with the other parent, grandparents or third parties.

Saint Lucia: A flagship analysis and report on Adolescent Well-being and Equity was published and evidence on child poverty in the eastern Caribbean region was disseminated for the first time. Results are informing advocacy and communication strategies, including measures to reduce sexual violence and abuse against girls and boys.

Nigeria: Nigeria has utilized different strategies, including RapidSMS to strengthen data collection on birth registration. A mapping of registrars and birth registration centres in all 774 local government areas; and development of a database/spreadsheet with details of 3,000 registrars in specific health centres is now available. Birth registration has almost tripled in the last six years.

Rwanda: A companion qualitative report on violence against children with disabilities (as part of the Violence Against Children Survey 2018) described high levels of discrimination against children with disabilities. The evidence contributed to the development of a strategic plan for the Integrated Child Rights Policy 2017–2022, the Disability Inclusion Policy, its implementation strategy, and Standards of Care for Children with Disabilities in institutions.

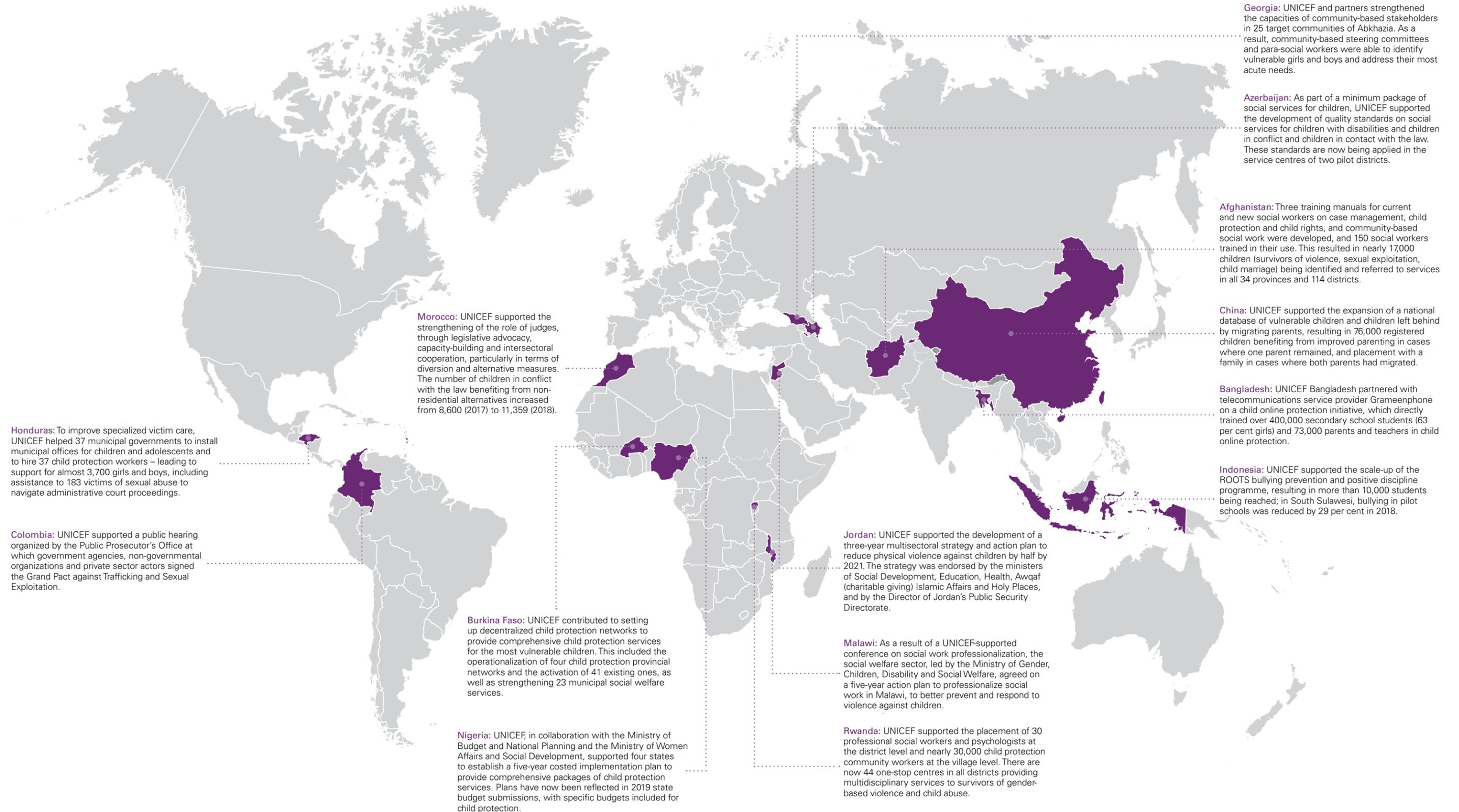
Ethiopia and Guinea: UNICEF continues to partner with Drexel University to develop a macro-level monitoring and evaluation framework for social norms change. A field validation process was launched in Ethiopia and Guinea for the framework in partnership with local research institutes, to be finalized in 2019.

Somalia: A report, *No mother wants her child to migrate: Vulnerability of children on the move in Somaliland*, examines what structures exist to protect children and the extent to which they are effectively reaching children on the move in Somaliland. The report provides critical information to support strengthening child protection systems.

United Republic of Tanzania: The first-ever comprehensive study on the tourism industry in Zanzibar and its implications and opportunities for children was released; identifying opportunities the tourism industry can adopt to improve the lives of children and their families. As a first follow-up step, UNICEF supported a revision of the Code of Conduct for tourists.

Zambia: Results of the 2018 Violence Against Children Study reported that one in three females and two in five males (18–24 years old) experience physical violence before age 18. These findings are informing national efforts to strengthen coordinated response strategies, programmes and policies by all stakeholders to address violence against children.

Annex 3: Strengthening child protection systems: Country highlights, 2018



Annex 4: List of partners, 2018

Academia¹

Columbia University

Drexel University

George Washington University

Harvard University

Johns Hopkins University

The Governance Lab (The GovLab)

University of Pennsylvania

Bilateral²

Australia

Belgium³

Canada

Denmark

Estonia

European Commission⁴

France

Germany

Ireland

Italy

Japan

Lithuania

Netherlands

Norway

Poland

Republic of Korea

Spain

Sweden⁵

Switzerland

United Kingdom⁶

United States of America⁷

Global

Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Centre of Excellence

Child Health Initiative

Child Helpline International

1. Academic institutions directly collaborating with UNICEF Child Protection Section at headquarters level in 2018.

2. Bilateral financial and operational partners at headquarters level in 2018.

3. Including through the Flanders International Cooperation Agency.

4. Including through the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

5. Including through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

6. Including through the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Department for International Development.

7. Including through the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration; the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance; the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; and the US departments of State and Labor.

Donors Working Group on Female Genital Mutilation

End Child Prostitution and Trafficking

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Global Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Group

Global Coalition to End Child Poverty

Global Financing Facility

Global Movement for Children

Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (End Violence)

Global Social Service Workforce Alliance

INSPIRE: seven strategies for ending violence against children⁸

Inter-Agency Group on Child Protection Information Management System

Inter-Agency Group for Unaccompanied and Separated Children

Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

International Campaign to Ban Landmines

International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children

Know Violence in Childhood

Men Engage Alliance

Paris Principles Steering Group

Partner Advisory Group for the UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage

Real-Time Accountability Partnership

Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat

Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

Steering Committee for the UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage

Steering Committee for the UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism

Together for Girls

United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

United Nations Road Collaboration

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees–UNICEF Coalition on Every Child’s Right to a Nationality

WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation Online

Faith based organizations⁹

Global Network of Religions

Religions for Peace

World Council of Churches

Non-governmental, regional and international organizations¹⁰

African Programme for the Acceleration of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

African Union

Better Care Network

Child Protection in Crisis Learning Group

FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society

Geneva Call

Girls Not Brides

International Committee for the Red Cross

International Rescue Committee

Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

Plan International

8. Partners include US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), UNICEF, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Together for Girls, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), USAID, the World Bank Group and World Health Organization.

9. Faith based organizations directly collaborating with UNICEF Child Protection Section at headquarters level in 2018.

10. Non-governmental organizations include those that have directly partnered with UNICEF Child Protection Section at Headquarters level in two or more countries and/or have given a financial contribution to UNICEF Child Protection Section, in 2018.

Regional Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Core Group

Save the Children

SOS Children's Villages International

Terre des Hommes

Women's Refugee Commission

World Vision

Zonta International

United Nations and multilateral agencies

International Labour Organization

International Organization for Migration

International Telegraph Union

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Organization for Islamic Cooperation

United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict

United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

United Nations Entity for the Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

United Nations Girls Education Initiative

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

United Nations Joint Programme

United Nations Legal Identity Expert Group

United Nations Office for Project Services

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime

United Nations Population Fund

United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

UN University

UN Women

World Bank Group

World Food Programme

World Health Organization

United Nations special representatives

Independent Expert leading UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty – Manfred Nowak

Special Coordinator on improving the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse – Jane Holl Lute

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Road Safety – Jean Todt

Special Rapporteur of the Secretary-General on the sale and sexual exploitation of Children – Maud de Boer-Buquicchio

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict – Virginia Gamba

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict – Pramila Patten

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children – Marta Santos Pais

Victims' Rights Advocate for the United Nations – Jane Connors

UNICEF National Committees

Andorran Committee for UNICEF

Australian Committee for UNICEF

Belgian Committee for UNICEF

Canadian UNICEF Committee

Czech Committee for UNICEF

Danish Committee for UNICEF

Dutch Committee for UNICEF

Finnish Committee for UNICEF

French Committee for UNICEF

German Committee for UNICEF

Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF

Japan Committee for UNICEF

Korean Committee for UNICEF

Luxembourg Committee for UNICEF

Norwegian Committee for UNICEF

Polish National Committee for UNICEF

Spanish Committee for UNICEF

Swedish Committee for UNICEF

Swiss Committee for UNICEF

Turkish National Committee for UNICEF

UNICEF UK

UNICEF USA



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