GOAL AREA 4
Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

Global Annual Results Report 2018
Rachel, 12, is a latrine inspector at the Marie Madeleine Primary School in the Kinshasa area of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her job is to report dirty latrines to the teachers for cleaning. Her school earned the title of Health School by ensuring that at least 80 per cent of the students had access to drinking water, used hygienic toilets and knew the principles of hand washing. UNICEF constructed a well, toilets and washbasins at the school.

Pinang Thi Thuy, 5, comes from a Raglai community in the Ninh Thuan province of Viet Nam. She enjoys the families’ safe water source.

UNICEF WASH officer Jean Marie Bofio shows children how to correctly wash their hands to prevent the spread of Ebola in the North Kivu area of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. "Children and women are among the first victims of the Ebola outbreak in the country. Water and sanitation are critical in this fight because hygiene is the best way to prevent the spread of this deadly disease," he said.

A young girl child collects water from a hand pump in a village in the South Kordofan province of the Sudan.

A girl child drinks safe water from a tap outside school in the village of Dafo in southern Djibouti. UNICEF provides support so her school has safe drinking water.

A boy from Tebinginako sitting on a mangrove in an area in Kiribati dramatically affected by climate change.

Israa, 13, who lives with her family in the State of Palestine, faces water shortages and difficulties paying for water tanking companies. "I have to walk miles every day to fill some plastic buckets with water from a public water filling point in our neighborhood," she said.
UNICEF programmes to help ensure that every child lives in a safe and secure environment are funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world, together with our partners in government, civil society and the private sector. This support enables UNICEF to deliver on our mandate to protect children’s rights, help meet their basic needs and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

UNICEF would like to express particular thanks to partners that provided thematic funding, which offers greater flexibility, enables UNICEF to continuously improve the quality of interventions, allows for longer-term planning and makes programmes more sustainable. It reflects the trust that resource partners have in our capacity and ability to deliver quality support under all circumstances, and has made possible the results described in this report.

The largest thematic funding partner for 2018 for Goal Area 4 was the Government of Sweden. Other thematic funding partners included the governments of Finland, Luxembourg and Norway, and UNICEF National Committees from France, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

UNICEF would also like to thank the governments of Germany, the Netherlands, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as the European Union, for their generous donations in 2018. We would also like to thank our foundation and private sector partners, including the LIXIL company, which is working with UNICEF in a new shared-value partnership on sanitation. See Annex 1 for additional information on funding partners for Goal Area 4.

Finally, UNICEF takes this opportunity to thank all our partners for their commitment and trust in us, and in our work for children around the world.
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 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 4 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.
## Contents

### Executive summary ................................... 2
- Water, sanitation and hygiene .................................................. 4
- Resilience and risk reduction, urban programming and environmental sustainability ........................................... 6

### Strategic context ........................................ 9
- Water, sanitation and hygiene .................................................. 10
- Disaster risk reduction, resilience strengthening and peacebuilding ................................................................. 12
- Urban programming and local governance .................................................. 13
- Climate, energy and the environment .................................................. 14

### Results: Water, sanitation and hygiene .......................... 15
- Safe water supply ................................................................. 15
- Sanitation and hygiene ........................................................... 28
- WASH in institutions ............................................................... 39
- Emergency WASH ................................................................. 45
- Enabling environment ............................................................ 51
- Cross-cutting areas ............................................................... 59
- Challenges: Water, sanitation and hygiene .................................................. 65

### Results: Disaster risk reduction, resilience strengthening and peacebuilding .......... 66
- Risk analysis and risk-informed programming .................................................. 67
- Linking humanitarian and development programming .................................................. 68
- Conflict prevention and peacebuilding .................................................. 69
- Capacity-building ................................................................. 71
- Evidence and guidance .......................................................... 72
- Partnerships ....................................................................... 73
- Challenges: Disaster risk reduction, resilience strengthening and peacebuilding .................................................. 73

### Results: Urban programming and local governance .............. 74
- Making local governance and decentralization work for children .................................................. 77
- Challenges: Urban programming and local governance .................................................. 80

### Results: Climate, energy and environment .......................... 81
- Youth empowerment and engagement on climate, energy and the environment .................................................. 82
- Climate resilience of services that children depend on .................................................. 84
- Evidence generation and influence of climate change strategies and plans .................................................. 85
- Reducing emissions and pollution .................................................. 86
- Challenges: Climate, energy and environment .................................................. 88

### High-level priorities to achieve the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 .......... 89

### Abbreviations and acronyms ........................................ 93

### Endnotes ................................................... 94

- Part I: Overall revenue and expenses for Goal Area 4 .................................................. 98
- Part II: WASH financial report .................................................. 104
- Part III: Safe and Clean Environment financial report .................................................. 115

### Annex 2: List of UNICEF WASH partners, 2018 .................. 121
Children need a safe and clean environment to survive, grow and thrive. This is a right as enshrined in article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and a key component of the new UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. The availability of safe and secure water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, and the quality of the physical environment in which children live, are important determinants of their health, learning, safety and ability to take advantage of opportunities to reach their full potential. But the environment is increasingly under threat from conflicts and other emergencies, rapid urbanization, air pollution and, especially, from the impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe storms, floods and droughts. A deteriorating environment also threatens the services on which children rely in the areas of WASH, health, nutrition, education and protection. Strengthening the capacity and resiliency of communities and government systems to maintain a safe and clean environment is critical to the delivery of outcomes across all goal areas of the Strategic Plan.
Goal Area 4 of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 articulates the organization’s commitments to environmental and resiliency components of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 5 on gender equality. The Gender Action Plan 2018–2021 also emphasizes the commitment of UNICEF to ensure gender-responsive WASH programming, including programming on menstrual health and hygiene for adolescent girls, in development and humanitarian contexts.

Under Goal Area 4, UNICEF works towards the achievement of a safe and clean environment through five output areas (see Figure 1).

**FIGURE 1: Schematic overview of Goal Area 4**
Recent reviews of the SDGs related to Goal Area 4 show that while good progress has been made since 2016, it has not been at the pace required to meet the goals, and that children and other vulnerable groups risk being left further behind. Hundreds of millions of children continue to lack safe water, sanitation and hand-washing facilities. Children in fragile and conflict-affected countries, and in urban slums, are increasingly afflicted by violence and disease. All over the world, children are feeling the effects of climate change on essential services, and on the environment in which they live.

In 2018, UNICEF spent just over US$1 billion on Goal Area 4 programming globally: US$912 million on WASH, and US$99 million on other Goal Area 4 output areas. Just under half (49 per cent) of this expenditure was for emergency programming. The main results achieved are described below.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene**

Under the Strategic Plan and the Strategy for WASH (2016–2030), UNICEF works with governments and partners to accelerate progress towards SDG 6’s ambitious targets of achieving universal access to safe and affordable drinking water (6.1) and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene (6.2) for all by 2030. UNICEF efforts focus on the strengthening of national sectoral systems to reach the poorest and most vulnerable populations, leaving no one behind.

Ending open defecation is imperative for a safe and clean environment for children. To contribute to this important result, UNICEF aims to ensure, through indirect and direct support over the four years of the Strategic Plan, that 250 million fewer people will practise open defecation. UNICEF is also assisting 60 million people to gain access to safe water and basic sanitation by 2021 through direct programmes of support for service delivery in countries. Progress on this outcome has been good in the first year of the Strategic Plan: UNICEF direct support helped a total of 18.6 million people gain access to safe drinking water (31 per cent of the four-year target), and 10.8 million to basic sanitation (18 per cent of the four-year target), Overall in 2018, UNICEF engaged in WASH programming in 105 countries in all seven UNICEF programming regions, including support for humanitarian responses in 72 countries.

To achieve water and sanitation outcomes, the Strategic Plan delineates a set of output targets in the areas of water supply sustainability and safety, open defecation reduction, hand-washing behaviour change, menstrual hygiene health, WASH in schools and health centres, and emergency WASH. Progress in these areas is summarized below and detailed throughout the report.

To achieve the Goal Area 4 safe water output (4.a), UNICEF uses a two-pronged approach: first, by helping people gain access to a safe, reliable and convenient water service with a focus on the most vulnerable children: those who live in underserved communities, those who live in water-scarce regions, and those who have had their water services disrupted due to humanitarian crises; and, at the same time, by strengthening national systems to provide water services that are safer, more reliable and closer to home.

UNICEF has begun to monitor additional sustainability-related indicators globally. One of these indicators measures the proportion of water systems constructed through the direct support of UNICEF that remain functional over a five-year period. A total of 36 country offices were able to report figures against this indicator, and in these countries an average of 87 per cent of the UNICEF-supported systems were functional. Working together with three of its major funding partners – the governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and Sida – UNICEF has made substantive progress on institutionalizing sustainability in its WASH programmes. Sustainability checks to verify the longevity of water systems and of community open defecation free (ODF) status are now used in 34 countries (2018 target: 18 countries). Water safety planning at community level is now implemented in 39 countries, just short of the 2018 target of 40 countries.

WASH outcomes set out in the Strategic Plan contribute to climate resilience goals, while meeting the immediate needs of children. In Jordan, for example, multi-criteria vulnerability assessments are used to plan joint UNICEF–government programmes for communities hosting Syrian refugees, while in Ethiopia and Madagascar satellite imagery and bore-hole logging telemetry are used to identify drilling sites and inform drought early warning systems. To contribute to the sanitation Goal Area 4 output (4.b), a Game Plan to End Open Defecation³ was launched in 2018 to guide the UNICEF contribution to the SDG goal of eliminating open defecation by prioritizing action in the 26 countries that have 90 per cent of the global open defecation burden and providing an action plan to coordinate and amplify country, regional and global efforts. To scale up sanitation efforts, UNICEF is providing in-country support to develop road maps to end open defecation at national and subnational levels (13 countries have now developed national road maps). UNICEF also engaged in strategic advocacy in 2018 at regional sanitation platforms in South Asia and Africa, at subregional meetings in Gabon and Kenya, and through South–South learning at the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in India in October, 2018.
Globally in 2018, UNICEF direct support helped 22,470 communities achieve ODF status, at a conversion (efficiency) rate of 73 per cent, exceeding the target of 70 per cent. Even greater gains were made through upstream support, such as in India, where more than 64 million people now live in ODF villages within districts where UNICEF supports policy development, capacity-building and monitoring. To support the drive for universal coverage at scale, UNICEF promotes area-wide approaches to achieve ODF districts or municipalities. Examples in 2018 include Afghanistan, where five districts were declared ODF; Kenya, with two new ODF counties; the Niger, where Bagaroua was declared the country’s first ever ODF municipality; and the Philippines, with four new ODF municipalities.

To help people move further up the sanitation service ladder as envisaged in SDG target 6.2, UNICEF is developing new approaches to build equitable and sustainable markets for sanitation products and services in programme countries. In 2018, UNICEF launched a Sanitation Market Shaping Strategy and finalized a shared-value partnership with the LIXIL company – a first mover within the private sector that is developing sanitation products targeted to markets in low- and middle-income countries. UNICEF can play a catalytic role in developing a robust private sector and local markets for sanitation if combined with actions to strengthen enabling environment systems, such as regulatory changes and new sanitation finance modalities.

WASH results contribute strongly towards gender equality. For the first time, both the UNICEF Strategic Plan and the Gender Action Plan include a targeted priority for adolescent girls on menstrual health and hygiene (MHH). UNICEF has steadily increased its engagement in MHH programming over the years, from 31 countries in 2014 to 71 countries in 2018. In 2018, UNICEF supported 17,949 schools (2018 target: 2,000) in 50 countries in gaining access to MHH services in development programmes, and provided 1.3 million girls and women with services and supplies in emergencies. Handwashing with soap is an essential hygiene practice systematically promoted in WASH programmes. A total of 71 countries are now implementing community-based hand-washing behaviour change programmes (2018 target: 70).
Important strides have been made in 2018 to firmly establish programming for WASH in institutions (schools and health-care facilities) as part of SDG 6, an additional component of Strategic Plan output 4.a. The United Nations Secretary-General’s Call for Action on WASH in health-care facilities energized stakeholders in 2018, and UNICEF provided direct support for improved WASH services in 3,355 health-care facilities, the highest number ever (target: 2,000). The release of the WHO–UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) baseline report for WASH in schools provided global coverage figures for the first time ever, showing that just 69 per cent of schools have access to basic water services, 66 per cent to basic sanitation, and 53 per cent to hygiene services. UNICEF also directly helped 7,710 schools gain access to gender-segregated sanitation facilities, though this falls below the target of 15,000, highlighting the need to accelerate programming in schools.

UNICEF has continued to support countries to strengthen WASH sector systems in alignment with the five enabling environment ‘building blocks’ defined by the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership for more effective development cooperation and results at scale: (1) policy and strategy; (2) institutional arrangements; (3) sector financing; (4) planning, monitoring and review; and (5) capacity development. At country level, UNICEF actively engages in sector coordination, holding sector leadership roles in 86 countries in 2018. New initiatives on innovative financing were launched in 2018 – including Ghana’s new community-level revolving fund scheme for basic sanitation – and cost-effectiveness was improved through value for money (VfM) initiatives in 11 countries. UNICEF expanded use of the WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool (WASH BAT) in 2018, with analyses conducted in 10 countries in 2018, and a total of 40 countries since 2013. The WASH BAT helps countries develop costed and prioritized sector plans to achieve national targets for the SDGs.

WASH continues to be a major pillar of UNICEF life-saving response in emergencies. In 2018, WASH humanitarian response programmes provided 43.6 million people with water services, 13 million people with sanitation services, and 4.4 million children with WASH services in schools and safe learning spaces. In each of these areas, planning targets were met or exceeded. In total, emergency WASH interventions were carried out in 66 countries across all UNICEF regions. The largest response was in Yemen, where over 5 million people were reached with life-saving water, sanitation and hygiene interventions with a total expenditure of US$114 million. UNICEF is the lead agency of the United Nations Inter-agency Standing Committee Global WASH Cluster and led cluster coordination in 19 countries in 2018. UNICEF and the Global WASH Cluster conducted two WASH humanitarian action reviews in 2018: one for the response to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh, and one for the response in South Sudan.

UNICEF launched its Water under Fire advocacy campaign on World Water Day (22 March 2019), highlighting the fact that three times more children under 15 die from WASH-related diseases than from direct violence in conflict situations. The campaign stresses the need to better protect children by ending attacks on WASH services, improving the quality and capacity of WASH responses and increasing linkages between emergency and development programming in protracted crises.

Resilience and risk reduction, urban programming and environmental sustainability

UNICEF works with governments and other partners to strengthen the resilience of communities to disasters, conflict, public health emergencies and the effects of climate change. This work focuses on the development of policies, strategies and innovative programmes to make the child’s environment safer and more secure in a changing world.

In 2018, a total of 47 countries reported having child-sensitive crisis risk management plans, exceeding the target of 40 countries. These plans respond to the needs of children and strengthen the integration of humanitarian and development programming by supporting more resilient systems to better prepare for, and respond to and recover from, shocks and stresses.

Progress was also made in institutionalizing risk-informed programming with the finalization and roll-out of UNICEF Guidance on Risk Informed Programming (GRIP), along with programme guidance on conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding. In Mali, Pakistan and Timor-Leste, GRIP was used to develop a risk assessment, followed by a process of validation and planning with national governmental and implementing partners. Countries are increasingly undertaking child-centred, multi-hazard risk analyses as stand-alone assessments, as part of general situation analyses, or linked to work on the UNICEF Emergency Preparedness Platform.

Through the Peacebuilding Fund, UNICEF has worked collectively with other United Nations agencies in 22 countries to engage in critical conflict prevention and peacebuilding work based on a common understanding...
Students at Mammatannana Primary School sit next to a tank supplied by UNICEF. UNICEF provides water, sanitation and hygiene programmes to schools around the world.

of conflict factors and dynamics. In Mali, UNICEF has worked with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to accelerate implementation of the national peace and reconciliation agreement by engaging 2,500 young people, 900 of them women.

Urban development programming focuses on the most vulnerable children, including the hundreds of millions living in urban slums. In 2018, UNICEF was directly engaged in urban programming in 72 countries, through activities spanning a wide range of interventions across all goal areas of the Strategic Plan; these include advocacy, data collection, service delivery, supply procurement, funding and a wide range of technical support. UNICEF launched two major knowledge products in 2018: a statistical analysis of child well-being indicators in developing countries, and a handbook on child-responsive urban planning.

The organization works to strengthen the availability of high-quality data on children and to encourage improved evidence-based planning in urban areas. In 2018, a total of 54 countries had data on intra-urban disparities, exceeding the Strategic Plan target of 28.

A total of 77 UNICEF country offices reported local governance and decentralization initiatives in 2018. Various programming approaches are used, including strengthening local evidence and data, enhancing local planning and budgeting processes, supporting participation and strengthening local service delivery arrangements. As a result, 32 countries reported that local governments in rural and urban areas have local development plans and budgets that are child-responsive, up from 19 countries in 2017. In one example, UNICEF support for child-led advocacy initiatives in Mongolia resulted in a 14 to 33 per cent increase in local government allocations to child-related programmes.

UNICEF’s work on issues related to climate change, energy and the environment matured in 2018, with activities in 51 countries. To sharpen and focus efforts on climate action, a global consultation identified priority interventions where UNICEF programming could be replicated and scaled to benefit children in the face of a changing climate and a degrading environment. One area of intervention is climate-resilient water and sanitation services, including the expanded use of solar pumping to increase the resilience
of water systems and the flood-proofing of sanitation systems. Another area is renewable energy and disaster risk reduction in health and education systems, such as in Eastern and Southern African and West and Central African countries, where UNICEF is helping to upgrade national vaccine cold chains with solar power to improve reliability and sustainability and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. A third area of intervention is air pollution monitoring and response programmes that reflect growing understanding of the particular vulnerabilities of children, whose bodies and minds are still developing.

A common thread in UNICEF work on climate and the environment is the engagement of children and young people, such as in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, where UNICEF convened more than 130 youth leaders to develop proposals and innovations for a sustainable and climate-resilient future; and in Mongolia, where UNICEF and partners support an initiative in which young people conduct air pollution monitoring and advocacy.

In the first year of the Strategic Plan period, UNICEF achieved or exceeded many of the annual targets in the five output areas. However, as detailed in this report, some milestones within the output areas have not been achieved, and UNICEF contributions towards achieving SDGs at scale have been limited by a range of factors, including the impacts of climate change, continuing large-scale conflicts and lack of funding. At the end of 2018, there is a resource gap of US$2.9 billion between actual and planned expenses against Goal Area 4 over the four-year period, and increased funding will be necessary to achieve Strategic Plan targets.

In the area of emergency needs there is also a significant gap: 60 per cent of the emergency appeals for the WASH sector went unfunded in 2018.8
Each year, Member States of the United Nations review the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF). In 2018, the overarching theme of the review was ‘transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies’, and the process included voluntary national reviews by 46 countries and in-depth reviews of six SDGs, including water and sanitation for all (SDG 6), sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7), and cities and human settlements (SDG 11). The review findings are relevant to all components of Goal Area 4 of the UNICEF Strategic Plan. They show that while progress has been made across some of the SDGs, it has not been at the pace required to meet the goals, and has been uneven across countries and regions, as described below. The review also noted the unprecedented challenge of climate change, and its disproportionate burden on the poorest and most vulnerable. Due to rapid urbanization, many cities and local authorities face challenges in providing basic services, especially among the 881 million people now living in urban slums. The review affirmed the critical importance of incorporating disaster risk reduction and prevention measures into development assistance programmes.
Water, sanitation and hygiene

Globally in 2015 (the latest available data), a total of 844 million people lacked even a basic drinking source, 2.3 billion did not have access to basic sanitation, and 892 million practised open defecation. However, the challenge is greater still, since the ambitious SDG targets for water and sanitation go well beyond basic coverage. The number of people who do not have access to drinking water that meets new SDG criteria – water that is free from contaminants, available when needed and located on household premises – is 2.1 billion. And the number of people without safely managed and unshared household facilities with safe excreta disposal is even higher, at 4.5 billion, or roughly two thirds of the world’s population.

The situation is even more acute for countries with fragile contexts and conflicts, where the number of people without basic services has actually increased since 2000: people living in fragile states are twice as likely as people in other countries to lack basic sanitation, and four times as likely to lack basic drinking water. As noted in the Water under Fire report, children under five years of age are, on average, 20 times more likely to die from diarrhoeal diseases associated with poor WASH than from violence in conflict.

The first ever baseline report for WASH in schools released by the WHO–UNICEF JMP shows that roughly one third of schools lack basic water supply and sanitation services, and only half have hand-washing facilities. Around 335 million girls went to primary and secondary schools without water and soap available for washing their hands or clothes when changing sanitary pads. Providing basic WASH services in schools is particularly important for improving adolescent girls’ health, welfare and educational outcomes. A similar report on WASH in health-care facilities, released in April 2019, shows that one quarter of health facilities lack a basic water supply, essential for clean and hygienic births of babies and infection prevention and control.

The Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation, produced by UN Water, was the reference document used by the HLPF for the review of SDG 6. It highlighted that, three years into the 2030 Agenda, “the world is not on track to achieve the global SDG 6 targets by 2030 at the current rate of progress.” It noted that billions of people continue to lack safe water, sanitation and hand-washing facilities; that water pollution is worsening; that WASH programmes lack funding; that governance structures are weak and fragmented; and that capacity is insufficient for the scale-up necessary to meet targets.

The JMP will release a new report on household water and sanitation coverage in June 2019, and it is expected that significant progress will have been made since the last year of available data (2015). In particular, there is hope that open defecation levels will have fallen due to significant progress in some large countries, notably India, the country with the highest burden by far. However, the new data set will not show that the world is now on track to meet the SDG 6 targets, for the very reasons identified in the SDG 6 synthesis report: the necessary funding, capacity enhancements, governance structures and other elements of the enabling environment for WASH that are prerequisites for accelerated action have not yet been put in place.

As a member of the United Nations Water Senior Programme Manager’s group, UNICEF played a key role in developing the synthesis report, including as co-drafter and through the JMP, which is the data source for the WASH targets of SDG 6. UNICEF also contributed a brief for HLPF members that stressed the negative impact of poor water, sanitation and hygiene services on children in particular, and how slow and uneven progress on WASH targets will also impede advances in other areas of the 2030 Agenda that most affect children, including nutrition, health and gender equality.
TABLE 1: Summary recommendations from the SDG synthesis report on Goal 6 and UNICEF programme response

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Summary recommendation</th>
<th>UNICEF programme response</th>
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<tr>
<td>Good water governance is essential</td>
<td>Water programming focuses on strengthening sectoral governance systems for improved accountability and sustainability (see the Safe water supply section).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inequalities must be eliminated</td>
<td>Strategic Plan outputs prioritize the previously unreached, and stress the need to reach vulnerable groups, including girls, women, and people with disabilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water and sanitation require a new financing paradigm</td>
<td>Country programmes support a range of innovative sectoral financing schemes (see the Enabling environment section).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity must be developed</td>
<td>UNICEF supports large-scale capacity-building initiatives within all major WASH programming components (see the Enabling environment section).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart technologies can improve management and service delivery</td>
<td>Smart water meters, remote sensing for drought preparedness and youth-designed hand-washing stations are examples of UNICEF-supported technology innovations in 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-stakeholder partnerships can unlock potential</td>
<td>UNICEF works collaboratively within a wide range of strategic partnerships, and in 2018 worked with over 1,400 partners in countries (see the Enabling environment section).</td>
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While the agenda for change outlined in these recommendations is challenging, progress is already being made in all these areas. As the United Nations agency with the largest presence at country level in the WASH sector, UNICEF is often in a position to provide critical support to governments to do even more.

UNICEF is stepping up efforts to strengthen the WASH sector enabling environment systems, so as to help countries accelerate progress to meet SDG 6 WASH targets. Examples of progress in 2018 include:

- The launch of new national road maps for the elimination of open defecation in four high-burden countries in Africa (Chad, Eritrea, Nigeria and the Sudan), prompted by the Game Plan to Eliminate Open Defecation
- Improvements in water governance through a focus on the institutionalization of sustainability indicators within national sectoral monitoring systems
- The development of comprehensive costed plans for action at national and subnational levels for the SDG 6 WASH targets in several countries
- The use of VfM analyses by UNICEF and government partners to improve the efficiency of programming, with examples from 2018 including lower-cost water services in refugee camps and host communities in Jordan, and a switch to lower-cost sanitation programming approaches in Zambia
- The introduction of innovative financing models to scale up programmes, such as Ghana’s new revolving fund for basic sanitation through the national banking sector
- The use of smart water metering technology in several countries to reduce water loss, and to promote fairer billing practices for customers.

Another facet of the ambitious SDG 6 targets is that, unlike under the Millennium Development Goal agenda, targets encompass not just WASH services for households but also services in schools and health-care facilities. In 2018, important new steps were made in assessing the scope of the challenge of WASH in institutions, and in mobilizing support in this area.

The new JMP baseline on WASH in schools in 2018 estimates that just two thirds of schools worldwide have basic water and sanitation services, and just over half have hygiene services. In many areas, this means that children who have at least basic water and sanitation at home do not have it in schools. This can have significant repercussions for children’s health, and their ability to learn. Similar estimates on the availability of WASH services in health-care facilities will be released in 2019. The agenda for WASH in health-care facilities was advanced with the Secretary-General’s March 2018 Call for Action on WASH in health-care facilities, during which he called on the United Nations system and partners to improve WASH services, help strengthen health systems and deliver on the promise of universal health care.

The UNICEF WASH Strategy 2016–2030 stresses that the priority for UNICEF is to first ensure basic WASH services to the most vulnerable children and their families, while also helping communities and households move up the sanitation and water service ladders to maximize health benefits. This is a significant challenge: in development contexts, it is difficult to reach previously unreached communities due to isolation, poverty and other factors. In emergency situations, it is even more difficult. And the number of children affected by conflict, protracted crises and disasters keeps rising. Emergencies not only affect people directly; they often reverse development gains made over many years. Meeting the SDG WASH targets means simultaneously working in development and
emergency contexts, and ensuring that development and humanitarian work are mutually reinforcing and strengthen the long-term resilience of communities. The focus of UNICEF work in this area is on fragile states, where people are twice as likely to lack basic sanitation, and four times as likely to lack basic drinking water, as people in other countries.8

Across the sector as a whole, significantly more funding is needed to make substantial progress on SDG 6: from donors, domestic sources and the private sector, and through new financing models. Most countries that have undertaken a sector financial needs assessment have insufficient funds to meet WASH targets even for basic WASH services, and estimates of global funding requirements for WASH far exceed available resources.9

Official development assistance (ODA) covers only a small proportion of WASH sector needs, but it is often critical, acting as a catalyst for other forms of funding; in some vulnerable countries, it is the most important consistent source of funds. While ODA for the sector as a whole has risen over the past decade, it is declining as a percentage of total ODA, and there are indications that absolute funding levels have fallen over the past two years.10 Funding for humanitarian WASH is also under pressure: 60 per cent of humanitarian appeals in the WASH sector went unfunded in 2018.11 This is also the case for the UNICEF WASH programme. The UNICEF WASH programme is also facing similar resource constraints: funds available for programme expenditure fell by 10 per cent, from US$1.02 billion in 2017 to US$912 million in 2018, the first such drop in seven years.

Disaster risk reduction, resilience strengthening and peacebuilding

Humanitarian crises are increasing in number and duration. In 2018, there were 281 climate-related and geophysical events recorded in the EM-DAT (International Disaster Database), with 10,733 deaths and more than 60 million people affected across the model. Indonesia recorded nearly half the total number of deaths from disasters in 2018, while India recorded nearly half the total number of individuals affected.12

Fragile and conflict-affected areas are also growing faster in terms of population and experiencing more rapid urbanization. For example, the ongoing conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Yemen are taking place mainly in urban environments. These trends highlight the need for closer linkages between humanitarian and development programming, and the need to adopt more sustainable humanitarian approaches in urban areas with a faster transfer of responsibility to urban authorities and systems. Children are particularly affected: some 40 per cent of the population living in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence are under 14 years old, compared with the global average of 25 per cent.

As a result, one in every four children in the world is living in a country affected by conflict or disaster, facing threats of violence, hunger and disease.

The peacebuilding agenda was advanced in 2018 through the Secretary-General’s Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, which recognizes the role of social service provision in addressing underlying grievances and root causes of conflict. UNICEF’s comparative advantage lies in ensuring equitable access to quality services, and programming focuses on strengthening both vertical social cohesion (relationships between citizens and the state) and horizontal social cohesion (relationships both between and within groups). Other important advances include the joint United Nations–World Bank flagship study, Pathways for Peace, which makes a business case for prevention, and the launch of the independent progress study on youth, peace and security, The Missing Peace. This study provides key recommendations for working with young people to foster peaceful and inclusive societies. UNICEF has successfully contributed to this work and supported the agendas from a children’s rights and young people’s empowerment perspective, while emphasizing the critical role of addressing socioeconomic exclusion to prevent conflict and build lasting peace.

UNICEF works with other United Nations agencies to help strengthen policies and programmes related to disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding, so that they respond to the needs of women and children. This work stresses the need for greater coherence and complementarity between humanitarian and development programming, by supporting systems to better prepare for, respond to and recover from shocks and stresses.
Urban programming and local governance

The 2016 New Urban Agenda reinforces the vision of sustainable cities for all, anchored by SDG 11, with a focus on children and youth. Achieving the goal of sustainable cities also means the successful implementation of the other SDGs that affect the lives of urban communities. The United Nations Convention on Climate Change, the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction all have a similar emphasis. These universal declarations influence UNICEF efforts in urban areas and present a unique opportunity to advance the agenda for children. This includes improved intra-urban data on children, universal access to basic services, a clean and safe environment, adequate and safe public spaces, and avenues for participation in governance.

UNICEF is working with partners to address the most urgent issues affecting children’s well-being, while striving to overcome several challenges in the urban sphere to meet the SDG targets that affect the lives of children by 2030, including: (1) the lack of quality disaggregated data on key urban issues; (2) limited government resources for programming for children in urban settings at scale; and (3) a global shortage of qualified urban planners and development and humanitarian professionals with the knowledge and expertise to design and implement urban programming with a focus on services to improve the lives of children.

Local governments, particularly in urban contexts, play a decisive role in children’s lives, from planning the physical environment to delivering key public services and reducing violence. It is therefore crucial to ensure that local plans and budgets reflect children’s needs and priorities. In this area, UNICEF supports local governments to generate local data and evidence on the situation of children as a prerequisite for evidence-based planning, establish
mechanisms for the systematic participation of adolescents and communities in local decision-making processes; develop plans and budgets that are effective, efficient and equitable; and coordinate and regulate local service delivery, including services delivered by the private sector, to ensure that local services are delivered equitably and in line with national standards. In support of this work at local level, UNICEF engages in national policy dialogue, including around decentralization reform, to ensure that local programming is institutionalized and sustained.

UNICEF work on local governance also takes place in development, fragile and humanitarian contexts. Even where UNICEF operates in emergency situations, strengthening the capacity of local actors may be an effective approach to addressing children’s needs. Improving local governance can be a crucial precursor to strengthening social cohesion in ways that support peacebuilding and future stability for children.

Climate, energy and the environment

This is the first global generation of children growing up in a world made more dangerous and uncertain as a result of a changing climate and a degrading environment. Children will bear the brunt of the consequences of climate change, and many already are, including the 160 million who live in high drought-severity zones and the 500 million — almost a quarter of the world’s child population — who live in extremely high flood occurrence zones. It is estimated that just under 90 per cent of climate-related health effects will be borne by children under five years of age, and that just over 90 per cent of the world’s children already breathe air with unsafe levels of pollution. Children are already severely impacted by climate-driven migration, as more extreme weather events increase the number of emergencies and humanitarian situations worldwide.

Actions taken in the next 12 years will determine whether children are spared the worst impacts of climate change. Models that limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels require drastic cuts in emissions before 2030, but if the temperature rises by between 1.5° and 2°C, the proportion of the population exposed to water stress increases by 50 per cent. Protecting children from water stress and other impacts will require renewed efforts to: (1) reduce pollution and emissions; (2) make children the focus of environmental policies and plans; (3) make the services on which children depend more resilient to climate change and environmental degradation; and (4) recognize children as agents of change. By working in these areas, UNICEF will contribute to SDG goal 13 on climate change and the target of integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

UNICEF seeks to maximize its contribution to each of these pillars, increasing the sustainability of its operations and programmes, integrating climate and environmental issues into its planning processes, amplifying the voices of children and young people in environmental issues, and supporting the effort to make the services on which children most depend more resilient to climate and environmental stress. In 2018, UNICEF held an internal global consultation to identify and prioritize the core interventions where it can leverage its comparative advantage and deliver programmes at scale.
## Results

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

### Safe water supply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Plan indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2018 milestone</th>
<th>2018 achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe water supply</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2. Number of additional people with access to a safe drinking water services through UNICEF-supported programmes</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>60 million cumulatively in 2018–2021</td>
<td>18,590,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.a.1. Number of countries implementing water-safety plans at the community level</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.a.2. Number of countries implementing independent sustainability checks with a clear feedback mechanism</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See text below for details on progress against these Strategic Plan indicators and other results for safe water supply.
Increasing access to water

A total of 18.6 million people were provided with access to safe basic water services in 2018 as a result of UNICEF direct support. This is a better than expected rate of progress against the Strategic Plan Outcome 4.2 target of 60 million people by 2021. These beneficiaries were reached through UNICEF development programmes and through humanitarian response programmes that provided water services designed to last for longer-term periods (see Figure 3). As detailed in the Emergency WASH section of this report, an additional 32 million people were provided with temporary services such as water trucking (see the Box below on UNICEF community WASH beneficiaries).

Substantial numbers of beneficiaries were reached in all regions, including through development programmes and through humanitarian responses that built and rehabilitated long-term water systems (see Figure 4).

Note: 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.
The highest number of beneficiaries from development programming in 2018 were in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan and Zimbabwe. In each of these countries support includes direct inputs for the construction and rehabilitation of water systems, along with substantial upstream support for developing the sector as a whole (see the Box ‘Support for water supply in Nigeria’).

### Support for water supply in Nigeria

In Nigeria, UNICEF directly supported the construction or rehabilitation of 4,113 water supply systems, which provided safe water to more than 1.7 million people in 2018. At the same time, a wide range of related support was provided, including:

- The development of new WASH policies and local government investment plans in three states
- The launch of a sectoral public investment tracking initiative in seven states, and a nationwide outcome mapping exercise that assessed access to WASH services
- The expansion of the real-time SMS-based tracking system, which provides live information on the functionality of water systems
- Water systems management and technical training for 11,527 community WASH committees, and support for the establishment of committee federations in 13 states
- Support to 5,914 communities across six regions, to develop and implement water safety plans and perform routine surveillance of water quality
- The provision of water to 1.2 million people affected by the humanitarian emergency in the north-east of the country.

UNICEF promotes and supports efforts to ensure that water services are accessible for people with disabilities, and that water programming contributes to broader goals on gender empowerment and the promotion of human rights (see the subsection ‘Cross-cutting areas’ for more information on this work).

### UNICEF Community WASH beneficiaries

For the new Strategic Plan, UNICEF has changed how it accounts for beneficiaries from drinking water, sanitation and school WASH programmes.

Incorporating new Sustainable Development Goal standards

UNICEF has adjusted reporting systems to align with SDG service ladders (see Figure 5) and the Strategic Plan targets. For water, country offices now report direct beneficiaries, as defined by the top two tiers of the SDG service ladder ('basic' and 'safely managed') and by the UNICEF 'basic-plus' category: a basic water service (an improved source within a 30-minute round trip from home) that is also safe from faecal and chemical contamination. For sanitation, reporting is on the top two tiers of the SDG service ladder ('basic' and 'safely managed'), as well as on people benefiting from open defecation elimination programmes. The data set is adjusted through a quality assurance process conducted at both regional and global levels. For the purposes of Strategic Plan monitoring, water beneficiaries are people using new or rehabilitated services that meet the basic-plus criteria, while sanitation beneficiaries are people using toilets that meet the basic category.
Accounting for emergency interventions

Emergency water and sanitation interventions have other standards, which can vary by country. In the case of water supply, UNICEF is now disaggregating beneficiaries between people who are being served by a temporary scheme (such as water trucking or water disinfection), and those who have received water through a long-term intervention (including some piped systems and borewells). People served by all these interventions are included in emergency beneficiary figures, but only people served by long-term systems are included for Strategic Plan reporting against the outcome (Indicator 4.2) of reaching 60 million people by 2021. People benefiting from emergency sanitation programming are included only as emergency beneficiaries.

Direct vs. indirect beneficiaries

Figures reported here refer only to beneficiaries who have benefited from UNICEF support for service delivery that directly results in an increase in the number of beneficiaries. People who gain access to water and sanitation services as a result of UNICEF upstream support for government partners (such as policy and strategy formulation, planning, and capacity-building and other enabling environment components) are considered indirect beneficiaries and are not included in the figures. While not formally counted, the number of these indirect beneficiaries is many times higher than that of direct beneficiaries. In India, for example, UNICEF upstream work with government partners in 192 districts resulted in an estimated 83.9 million new basic sanitation beneficiaries in 2018, a figure not included in direct beneficiary totals.

FIGURE 5: SDG service ladders for water and sanitation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURFACE LEVEL</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
<th>SURFACE LEVEL</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAFELY MANAGED</td>
<td>Drinking water from an improved water source that is located on premises, available when needed and free from faecal and priority chemical contamination</td>
<td>SAFELY MANAGED</td>
<td>Use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated offsite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASIC</td>
<td>Drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a round trip, including queuing</td>
<td>BASIC</td>
<td>Use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIMITED</td>
<td>Drinking water from an improved source for which collection time exceeds 30 minutes for a round trip, including queuing</td>
<td>LIMITED</td>
<td>Use of improved facilities shared between two or more households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIMPROVED</td>
<td>Drinking water from an unprotected dug well or unprotected spring</td>
<td>UNIMPROVED</td>
<td>Use of pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines or bucket latrines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SURFACE WATER</td>
<td>Drinking water directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation canal</td>
<td>OPEN DEFAECATION</td>
<td>Disposal of human faeces in fields, forests, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches or other open spaces, or with solid waste</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNICEF continued to encourage improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of water well-drilling practices in 2018. In 32 countries, support was provided to professionalize the national well-drilling industry based on the UNICEF 2016 guidance note, which outlines interventions in six distinct areas (institutional framework, groundwater information, capacity development, project design and implementation, awareness-raising, and investment). Examples of results from this support include the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee for drilling professionalization in Burkina Faso, improved drilling contract tendering processes in Madagascar, the digitization of drilling logs in Guinea-Bissau, and training initiatives in 19 countries.

Additionally, a new toolkit on the planning, contracting and management of water well-drilling programmes was finalized in 2018, to guide UNICEF staff involved in the supply of drilling equipment, as well as contracting consultancy services for bore-hole siting and supervision.

UNICEF continued to promote manual drilling technology as a highly cost-effective methodology that is especially appropriate in low-income countries and vulnerable communities, where mainstream mechanized drilling can be out of reach. A major step forward was taken in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the release of the country’s first manual drilling feasibility maps in 2018, at national and regional levels. The maps highlight the applicability of the methodology across large parts of the country, and are thus an important advocacy tool, in addition to being a technical resource for the manual drilling industry. Due to the limited hydrogeological data sets in the country, a novel approach was used to develop the maps. This involved the integration and quality assurance of disparate databases, supplemented by a process that incorporated field knowledge from local drillers and water supply technicians into the final database (see Figure 6).

FIGURE 6: Hydrogeological map for manual drilling, the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The involvement of young people released from armed groups in manual drilling activities continued in the Central African Republic through national non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. The approach provides critical support to highly vulnerable youth, while contributing to the overall programme. In 2018, two drilling associations formed by these trained young people were recognized by the national certification body.

UNICEF is also involved in more general groundwater monitoring initiatives, beyond mapping for manual drilling. In Ethiopia and Madagascar – two countries with poor drilling success rates due to water scarcity, hydrogeological complexity and a drilling sector with capacity constraints – UNICEF is using sophisticated techniques to improve success rates. These include satellite remote sensing of proxy indicators of groundwater availability, combined with more traditional technologies, including well logging, the mining of existing data sets, and hydrogeological field studies in high-potential sites. As a result of this work, drilling success rates in the target district in Ethiopia increased from 50 per cent to 92 per cent, and the approach is being expanded to other districts.

With water resources under threat in many regions, UNICEF is increasingly involved in initiatives such as drought early warning systems and water scarcity mapping (see the WASH and climate resilience section). UNICEF is also working with partners to develop alternative water sources and innovative extraction systems. One example is the use of sand dams, a relatively low-tech system for trapping and storing water from intermittently flowing rivers in arid regions, a technique supported by UNICEF in Chad and Madagascar in 2018. Another option is the managed aquifer recharge technique, which collects and treats rainwater and injects it underground for storage and future use. UNICEF has successfully piloted this technology for several years in Bangladesh, where it has now been included as a rural water supply option in the national SDG 6.1 action plan. Another cost-effective and climate-friendly technology, gravity-feed water systems, is supported by UNICEF in other countries, including Afghanistan, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste. In Madagascar, UNICEF is helping to increase the availability of sustainable water services through the promotion of the multiple-use water services (MUS) approach (see Case Study 1).

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**Case Study 1: Madagascar: Multiple uses of water**

The multiple-use water services (MUS) approach aims to meet both the domestic and productive needs of households, while conserving and making the most efficient use of water resources. It is a departure from typical water programmes that focus on providing water either for drinking, cooking and hygiene or for irrigation. The MUS approach recognizes that people in poorer communities, in particular, need reliable sources for all their water needs to lead healthy, productive lives.

Since 2016, UNICEF and partners have supported MUS initiatives in southern Madagascar, a region affected by increasing droughts due to climate change, and resulting chronic and acute malnutrition. The programme expands the use of existing sources of water – bore-holes with handpumps or solar pumping systems – for small-scale irrigation and livestock watering. The technology is simple: small elevated tanks for micro-irrigation systems, and concrete water troughs for livestock. Existing community water point committees are trained and supported in running new systems and managing the collection and use of fees. There is a major incentive to keep MUS functional (more so than single-use water systems), as livelihoods and food security depend on it. The programme operates on three basic principles: (a) the sustainability of groundwater resources needs to be ensured; (b) water services must be paid for; and (c) the quality of water for drinking purposes must be preserved.

This kind of initiative takes time to develop, involving alliances with government partners across sectors and ministries, and a commitment to the use of participatory approaches in community engagement. Early results have been encouraging. In several villages there are now micro-irrigation groups – comprising mainly women – that are harvesting three or four crops of vegetables a year, significantly increasing local incomes and food availability. The communities are also more resilient to climate change: UNICEF estimates that more than 28,000 people now live in climate-resilient communities through this and related initiatives in Madagascar. The key lesson from the experience is that in water-scarce environments, such as southern Madagascar, programmes must ensure that water supplies are used sustainably and that the benefits are equitable.
With financial support from the European Union (EU), and in partnership with the private sector, UNICEF completed the construction of a large desalination plant in Gaza, which serves 75,000 people and helps to address the severe and deteriorating water resource situation in the area. To compensate for erratic electricity supplies, the plant includes a solar panel field that provides partial plant operation during power cuts. In a partnership with the Massachusetts Institution of Technology, UNICEF is also piloting a smaller desalination unit. This uses an innovative technology that requires significantly less power to run than ordinary desalination units (see the WASH and climate resilience section for a discussion on UNICEF support for solar-powered pumping systems).

The global evaluation of UNICEF rural water supply programming covering 2006–2016 was completed in 2018. It found that UNICEF played a significant role in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal on drinking water and in improving the sector’s enabling environment at global and country levels, and that the organization’s work has influenced sector policies and plans at both levels. However, it also found that key gaps and challenges remain, notably in the areas of equity, sustainability and programming efficiency. UNICEF is in the process of making a range of programme design adjustments at global, regional and country levels – for example, in the area of sustainability monitoring (see following section) and in the development of a new set of guidance material on programming for equity in WASH (expected to be released in mid-2019). The evaluation findings are also being used as a key input to the development of a new UNICEF approach to water, which will guide the organization’s contribution to the Strategic Plan outcomes, and define organizational commitments to SDG targets (see the section on the WASH enabling environment below).

### Recommendations from the global evaluation of UNICEF rural water supply programming, covering 2006–2016

**Recommendations targeted to UNICEF headquarters:**

1. Develop global rural water supply programme guidance.
2. Define a financing strategy.
3. Establish global priorities, partnerships and incentives for policy advocacy, innovation and knowledge; these initiatives should focus on advancing equity, sustainability and scalable models for achieving universal access by 2030.
4. Improve programme planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems and processes for increased alignment with the SDG agenda.
5. Adapt human resources to the evolving programme needs.

**Recommendation targeted to regional offices, in support to headquarters and country offices:**

6. Support and complement headquarters-led initiatives and roll them out in priority countries.
7. Strengthen regional capacity to support and oversee the quality of country programmes and their alignment with global priorities.

**Recommendation targeted to country offices:**

8. Prioritize equity in rural water supply programming.
10. Provide an integrated intervention package to beneficiary communities whenever necessary.
Sustainability

UNICEF continued to build capacity for enhanced sustainability and sector governance in programme countries through its ongoing partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Water Governance Facility at the Stockholm International Water Institute. Results in 2018 included the development and launch of the new UNICEF sustainability framework,21 which will help guide advocacy and support for improved sustainability in programme countries. The framework is being disseminated and operationalized through a series of webinars, in-country support visits (including in Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia and Nigeria), and remote support through a help desk utility for direct technical assistance to country offices.

UNICEF and government partners assess the sustainability of water and sanitation systems through sustainability checks that use a range of criteria, covering both technical aspects (e.g., whether a handpump is functional or not) and managerial and social aspects (e.g., whether community water committees have women members or not). The sustainability check concept arose from the AcceleratingSanitation and Water Supply for All (ASWA) project and other UNICEF projects funded by the governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, with their strong focus on sustainability. Currently, some form of sustainability check is used in 34 countries. In 16 of the 34 countries, they are conducted either annually or biannually, or less frequently, such as in cases where they are components of programme evaluations. The checks are carried out by consulting firms, research institutions and other third-party bodies.

While useful for UNICEF project management, sustainability checks are most valuable when commissioned by government and conducted sector-wide. When carried out in Madagascar, for example, the sector-wide sustainability check (along with a WASH BAT analysis – see the section on the WASH enabling environment below) was a key driver for change within national programme strategies and operating protocols. In some countries, checks have been institutionalized into government systems, including through formal ‘sustainability compacts’ used in ASWA countries. In countries with sector-wide budget support programmes, including Burkina Faso and the United Republic of Tanzania, sustainability covers the entire sector as part of formal supervision protocols. In Ethiopia, UNICEF experience in sustainability checks is being used to develop a framework specifically designed for small town water services, while in Mozambique, 10 years of experience in sustainability checks are a key input for incorporating sustainability into the national monitoring system.

The results of the sustainability checks are used to make course corrections in UNICEF and national WASH programmes, formalized through government aide-memoires and UNICEF management response protocols. Recent examples of modifications to water supply programmes resulting from the sustainability checks include strengthening handpump maintenance and spare parts marketing systems (Guinea, Liberia), improving water safety management protocols (Ghana), strengthening the capacity of community water committees (the Central African Republic) and switching to more robust handpump components (Zambia). Sustainability checks also incorporate sanitation-related indicators, as described in the sanitation and hygiene section, below.

The promotion of new ways to meter and monitor water usage (and wastage), to improve the efficiency and sustainability of water systems and build fair tariff structures, continued in several countries in 2018. In Iraq, UNICEF piloted the use of smart water meters in the cities of Baghdad and Kirkuk for improved water loss monitoring and more accurate and fair billing of customers. In Jordan, a new mobile app was launched that enables the public to directly and immediately report incidences of water leakage and wastewater overflow country-wide, along with a new rapid-response maintenance system. In Myanmar, the rural community-based water metering initiative piloted by UNICEF has been further scaled up by government, now reaching 1,269 villages. The research initiative Tech Bets for an Urban World,22 commissioned jointly by UNICEF and private sector partners, shows that innovations in smart water metering technology, including systems that transparently monitor both the quantity and quality of drinking water, can improve access to safe and fairly priced water, while providing opportunities for investment in developing markets (urbantechbets.org).

UNICEF began to monitor additional sustainability-related indicators globally in 2018. One of these indicators measures the proportion of water systems constructed through the direct support of UNICEF that remain functional over a five-year period. A total of 36 country offices were able to report figures against this indicator, and in these countries an average of 87 per cent of the UNICEF-supported systems were functional. Country offices used a range of data sources for this figure, including sustainability checks and in some cases (including in Chad, Nigeria and Sierra Leone) new survey-based or real-time monitoring systems that were developed with UNICEF support. In other countries, less reliable institutional data or estimates were used, and in many countries no data are available at all. UNICEF will continue to encourage better data on water system functionality, and support the development and use of improved monitoring systems.

Water safety

Both the SDG 6 target of “universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all” and the UNICEF ‘basic-plus’ standard emphasize the imperative of ensuring water safety, due to its importance for public health. The latest available JMP data underline the need for action in this area: only 73 per cent of the global population has access to drinking water that is free from contamination.23 One component of water safety is ensuring that communities are ‘water safe’: that community water...
sources are not contaminated, that open defecation is not practised, and that households safely manage their drinking water.

To achieve this, UNICEF promotes and supports the ‘safe water community’ approach in programme countries. Safe water communities are those that have developed and implemented community-wide plans to reduce risks to water contamination, meeting four criteria:

- The community achieves and maintains open defecation free (ODF) status.
- All water catchment areas are protected from animal and human activities.
- All households are using a protected water source or practise household water treatment practices.
- All households are employing safe water handling and storage practices.

Another component of water safety is ensuring that water systems meet both quantity and quality benchmarks, and that system operators deliver contaminate-free water over the lifespan of the system. To achieve this, UNICEF works with community, publicly and privately managed system operators to develop and apply appropriate water quality risk management protocols in the day-to-day management of the system.

In 2018, UNICEF worked in 39 countries in support of water risk management programming, helping almost 8,000 communities to achieve water safe status, and almost 15,000 water systems to develop water safety plans (see Table 3).

In most of these countries, UNICEF is supporting water safety programming directly in communities, as well as building capacity for action at the national level. In Sierra Leone, for example, UNICEF is supporting the development of a national water safety plan covering mandatory sanitary inspection, water point disinfection, and fencing of water sources. At the same time, it is working at community level, including through support for an innovative digital water quality monitoring pilot that provides real-time data to facilitate rapid responses to improve water quality. Meanwhile in Ghana, where such a policy already exists, UNICEF is providing support for improved policy implementation to ensure better results on the ground. In Vanuatu, the concept is fully institutionalized within government systems, and completed community water safety plans are now a prerequisite for accessing a capital assistance fund.

Risk management approaches to water safety are also being applied in humanitarian programming, including in the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan, where UNICEF is applying water safe community concepts in tented refugee camps. UNICEF is developing a concept note on improving water quality assurance in emergencies as a first step to systematizing the approach within UNICEF and partners’ humanitarian response programmes.

In partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), three regional workshops on water safety were conducted in 2018: in Colombia for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, in Jordan for the Middle East and North Africa region, and in Rwanda for the Eastern and Southern Africa region, with participants from government agencies and their partners from a total of 29 countries. The workshops introduced the concepts and practical application of water safety risk management approaches, and helped participants develop concrete road maps to advance the water safety agenda in their national context.

UNICEF continued its partnership with Tufts University in the United States of America on field research on water safety issues, with two impact studies in 2018. One study assessed a UNICEF-assisted local government community water safety planning project ongoing since 2015 in northern Nigeria, and found that while the quality of drinking water was better in the project communities than in control communities, there are still significant challenges, especially in the area of household water handling and storage. The second study, in the south of the Syrian Arab Republic, found that the multi-barrier risk management approach for emergency water supply (including both through water trucking and piped systems), supported by UNICEF and other partners, has significantly improved the quality of water delivered to people.24

Originally published in 2008, the UNICEF arsenic primer, which provides programming guidance on mitigating the impact of arsenic-contaminated groundwater, has been a key resource for UNICEF and government staff and other practitioners.25 The primer was updated in 2018, based on a decade of experience, and also reflects the changes associated with the new SDG framework for water safety. UNICEF also released a companion policy brief on arsenic, which outlines key areas of support for government partners, with the goal of institutionalizing long-term and effective solutions across multiple sectors.26

### TABLE 3: Water quality risk management, 2018

| Countries implementing water quality risk management (water safety plans) at community level | 39 |
| Communities implementing water quality risk management (water safety plans) that have met national criteria for ‘safe water communities’ with direct support from UNICEF | 7,942 |
| Water services that have implemented water quality risk management (water safety plans) as part of programmes supported by UNICEF | 14,799 |
In Bangladesh, UNICEF continued to support innovative technologies and programming methodologies on the issue of water contamination, including through a new holistic community-wide approach to arsenic mitigation programming – modelled on the broader water safety approach – and the successful field-testing of a new filter to remove manganese from drinking water (manganese-contaminated water is linked to cognitive impairment of children). In other countries, UNICEF helped to strengthen government water quality testing capacity, and worked with partners to construct alternative water sources in arsenic-affected areas.

Guinea worm disease

Guinea worm is a neglected tropical parasitic disease that is transmitted through stagnant surface water. It is debilitating and painful, and prevents people from working, growing food, attending school and other activities for long periods of time. The disease is on the verge of being only the second one ever to be eradicated: the number of cases has dropped from 3.5 million in 21 countries in 1986 to just 28 cases in 3 countries in 2018. However, progress has been slow over the past few years, with the total number of cases hovering between 20 and 30. In 2018, progress was mixed; the number of human cases (cats, dogs and baboons are also carriers) fell from 15 to 0 in Ethiopia, and Mali reported zero human cases for the third consecutive year. But there was an increase in the number of cases in South Sudan, from 0 in 2017 to 10 in 2018, and a single case in Angola, a country where the disease was previously unknown.

UNICEF continues to be a member of the Guinea Worm Eradication Programme, and participates in coordination and consultation events. In affected countries, UNICEF and government partners lead efforts to construct new water supply systems in endemic areas, enabling people to abandon unsafe surface water sources. Most of these efforts are now confined to Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan, where work was intensified due to the resurgence in cases in 2018.

WASH and climate resilience

UNICEF engagement in WASH climate resilience programming is expanding rapidly – both by making existing programming more climate-sensitive (e.g., well drilling, groundwater monitoring) as well as by deploying new technologies and approaches to improve the renewability of water resources (e.g., aquifer recharge, sand dams) and promote green energy (e.g., solar).

UNICEF continued to work with the Global Water Partnership on capacity-building and coordination for WASH climate resilience through the joint WASH Strategic Framework for Climate Resilience, which consists of a set of learning modules, technical briefs and guidelines. The Framework was presented at the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia and other regional and global meetings and events. In 2018, the Framework was used for capacity-building, and as an input for policy development in several countries, including Eritrea, Fiji, the Niger, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

In Jordan, the framework was used to develop a vulnerability assessment approach for planning and resource prioritization within the UNICEF-supported WASH programme for refugees and residents in host communities. Vulnerability maps for water and sewerage, which are updated annually at national and subnational levels, incorporate a range of criteria covering levels of access to water and sanitation, water scarcity, climate change vulnerability, poverty and the size and composition of refugee populations. Interventions are designed based on these maps, which in 2018 included a new water supply pipeline for Khaled bin Al Waleed village serving more than 15,000 residents and refugees (including 8,671 children), and for the North Badia Hospital, which receives an average of 20,000 patients per year. In both cases, the installation of the water networks eliminated dependency on water trucking.
FIGURE 7: Water supply vulnerability in Jordan, 2018

Also in Jordan, the completion of water and wastewater systems in the Za’atari camp resulted in the reduction of a much larger water trucking operation there, with a commensurate decline in carbon emissions.

In Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and several other countries, UNICEF supports groundwater monitoring and mapping initiatives to improve bore-hole siting, and thus the efficiency of drilling programmes, as well as the assessment and prediction of falling levels due to droughts caused by climate change and other factors. In Madagascar, with support from the EU, UNICEF is developing a comprehensive groundwater early warning system for the south of the country, which is strongly impacted by droughts and chronic water shortages. The system combines three levels of monitoring: community-based monitoring of handpump functionality, manual monitoring of water levels in bore-holes by teams of technicians, and telemetric groundwater monitoring for high-risk water systems. The system was only partially in place by the end of 2018, but it is already influencing decision-making: a water system used for multiple purposes was shown to be in danger of going dry (and becoming too saline to provide drinking water), and a decision was made to reserve its exclusive use for the community, to ensure local water security.
UNICEF is scaling up the use of solar technology to both improve the sustainably of pump systems and reduce CO₂ emissions. Efforts are also underway to expand this work to multi-use systems (water for households, as well as for schools, clinics and livelihood uses). To support this expansion, a partnership agreement with Water Missions International was signed for the joint development of an online course and ‘Solar Toolkit’ materials for WASH staff on the siting, design, procurement and installation of solar systems, along with a help desk. The use of solar systems forms an integral part of the ongoing UNICEF accreditation submission to the Green Climate Fund for both mitigation and adaptation approaches.

Significant work is already ongoing. UNICEF was actively promoting and supporting the use of solar technology in more than 20 countries in 2018. In countries affected by drought and falling groundwater levels, solar pumping solutions are being used to tap water at greater depths, and contribute to systems’ greater sustainability and resilience to future groundwater fluctuations. In Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Malawi and Zimbabwe, new water systems are being constructed using solar pumping, while in Ethiopia, systems under rehabilitation are being converted from diesel power to solar pumping. In some countries, UNICEF is also installing multi-use systems in schools and health-care facilities, where the solar energy is used for pumping, as well as lighting and other uses such as charging mobile phones. One novel example of this is the solar component of the water desalination plant in Gaza, which is financed in part through a shared-use agreement with electricity companies. Meanwhile in Eritrea and India, UNICEF is building capacity for solar pump installation, operation and maintenance through support for training and guidance materials. Solar pumping is also facilitating the transition from water trucking to piped systems in Jordan and Lebanon, and in Yemen it is improving the sustainability of systems in an environment of increasing electricity shortages.

Case Study 2: Mauritania: Combining manual drilling and solar energy to ensure drought resilience

Providing safe and sustainable water services for people living in rural areas in Mauritania is a significant challenge. Currently, less than half the rural population has access to a basic water source, and women and children often walk several kilometres a day to fetch water. Water resources are limited, and under increasing stress from the impacts of climate change. People are also hard to reach in this area: most live in small, scattered communities, many of them located in remote, desert areas.

To reach these remote communities, UNICEF and the Government of Mauritania are combining manual drilling techniques with solar-powered water systems. Manual drilling uses locally manufactured equipment that is highly mobile and a quarter to a third of the cost of mechanized drilling. Solar pumping systems also offer significant cost savings over diesel pumps and are less prone to breakdowns. Combining these technologies makes it possible to provide a reliable but inexpensive water system close to households, while strengthening communities’ climate resilience. Between 2015 and 2018, UNICEF reached more than 25,000 people with these systems, and an additional 12,000 will be reached by the end of 2019.

One key lesson from the experience to date is that solar water systems managed by private sector operators under contract to government tend to be more effective than publicly managed systems. This is due in part to the contract provision that operators will not be paid if they fail to repair breakdowns within 72 hours. Another lesson is the need to adequately size the water systems for multiple water uses, including water for livestock and agriculture, as well as domestic needs.
Sanitation and hygiene

### TABLE 4: Sanitation and hygiene: Progress against Strategic Plan indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Plan indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2018 milestone</th>
<th>2018 achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4. Number of additional people with access to basic sanitation services through UNICEF-supported programmes</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>60 million cumulatively in 2018–2021</td>
<td>10,822,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b.2. Percentage of ODF communities compared to triggered communities</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b.3. Number of countries implementing community-based hand-washing behaviour change programmes on a national scale</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See text below for details on progress against these Strategic Plan indicators and other results for sanitation and hygiene.

### Elimination of open defecation

The UNICEF Game Plan to End Open Defecation, finalized in early 2018, focuses on 26 high-burden countries that either have more than 5 million people or more than 50 per cent of the population practising open defecation.

Accounting for over 90 per cent of the global open defecation burden (821 million people in 2015), progress in these countries is critical if the world is to effect the rapid acceleration in sanitation progress necessary to meet the SDG sanitation target of “adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and eliminating open defecation” by 2030. The Game Plan was developed to guide UNICEF’s contribution to the Strategic Plan outcomes, and define organizational commitments to the SDG open defecation target at global, regional and country level.

The Game Plan baseline survey completed in 2018 provides a wealth of new data that will help inform programming over the Strategic Plan period in the 26 countries. The baseline includes preliminary data on performance metrics, such as the number of communities certified ODF and the sustainability of ODF communities, as well as data on key process indicators, which are critical inputs for the design of UNICEF programming, support and advocacy efforts in the Game Plan countries. The survey assesses the status of the national and subnational enabling environment for the ending of open defecation through indicators in the areas of planning, budgeting, public reporting, equity, sustainability, scale, effectiveness, coordination and capacity. For example, the baseline shows that only half of the 26 countries have a national road map to end open defecation, and fewer still have costed plans and budgets for the operationalization of road maps (see Figure 8 for a selection of results from the baseline survey). These results underscore the need for greater efforts to build an enabling environment for the elimination of open defecation in the focus countries.
Although envisaged primarily as an internal guidance document, the Game Plan has also become a tool to encourage collaborative programming approaches among partners – including, for example, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank – and an advocacy fulcrum for the prioritization of resources for the elimination of open defecation at global as well as regional and national levels. To this end, the Game Plan was presented and discussed at global and regional sanitation forums in 2018, including Stockholm World Water Week and at World Toilet Day events. It was also central to UNICEF efforts to mobilize/encourage/support 20 high-burden countries to participate in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in India in October, most at ministerial level (see below).

The development and launch of national ODF road maps involve multiple stakeholders and senior decision makers. In the Sudan, the launch was attended by nine ministers and widely covered in the media, and 10 state-level road maps were simultaneously released. In Nigeria, the country with the second highest burden of open defecation in the world, the Government declared a WASH sector state of emergency in 2018, adding momentum to implementation of the road map developed in 2017. In Eritrea, the road map was launched at the country’s first ever national sanitation conference, with extensive participation from all key national stakeholders.

Other high-burden countries made progress in developing Game Plan building blocks with UNICEF support, including Ethiopia and Kenya, where micro-planning initiatives resulted in costed plans at district level; Indonesia, where costed provincial road maps were developed for 2019–2020; and India and Nepal, where UNICEF supported new efforts to monitor and strengthen capacity for the sustainability of ODF at district level.

Hosted by the Government of India, with support from UNICEF, the October 2018 Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention was a landmark event that showcased India’s progress in reducing open defecation. Participants included 55 ministers from 70 countries, along with representatives from key global stakeholders, including United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore. Country delegates signed the Delhi Declaration, recommitting to the eradication of open defecation and meeting the sanitation SDG 6 target. Other major sanitation events included the seventh South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN), held in Pakistan in 2018, and the African Sanitation Conference (AfricaSAN) Ngor Commitment subregional meetings jointly convened by the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) and UNICEF in Gabon for West and Central African and in Kenya for East Africa.
Significant progress was also made on the ground in 2018, in Game Plan and other countries. A total of 10.8 million people gained access to basic sanitation services through UNICEF direct support. The gains were made through the actions of individuals and communities collectively mobilizing and achieving their goals – with support from UNICEF and partners – through Community Approaches to Total Sanitation (CATS) programming (see the following section).

In most programme countries, limitations in monitoring systems mean that it is not yet possible to assess the number of new sanitation facilities that are accessible to people with disabilities. However, progress is being made in this area, and some countries are now able to provide information. For example, in 2018, 1,139 people with disabilities gained access to accessible sanitation facilities in Angola, 13,037 in Ethiopia, and 3,900 in Togo (see the WASH and disability section of this report for more information on work in this area).

Sub-Saharan African countries accounted for three quarters of direct beneficiaries in 2018, including more than 2 million people in Nigeria alone in 2018, and hundreds of thousands each in Burundi, Guinea, Madagascar, Malawi, Togo and other countries. Even more beneficiaries are reached through UNICEF indirect sectoral support to government partners. Such indirect support can be substantial, especially in South Asian countries, where UNICEF provides significant upstream assistance to large government-led open defecation elimination programmes (see Figure 9, and the Box ‘UNICEF community WASH beneficiaries’ in the Safe water supply section for details on how this is calculated).

Even more people (13 million) were provided with emergency sanitation services in 2018, as described in the Emergency WASH section of this report.

FIGURE 9: Basic sanitation beneficiaries through UNICEF direct support, by region, 2018

Note: EAP: East Asia and the Pacific; ECA: Europe and Central Asia; ESA: Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC: Latin America and Caribbean; MENA: Middle East and North Africa; SA: South Asia; WCA: West and Central Africa.
Community approaches to total sanitation

CATS is the main strategy for influencing behaviour change and moving from a social norm of open defecation to one of sustained toilet use. This approach empowers communities and individuals to eliminate open defecation entirely, and builds demand for household sanitation and hand-washing facilities.

In 2018, UNICEF directly supported 22,470 communities, with a total population of 11.8 million people, to achieve the goal of completely eliminating open defecation. These communities underwent a formal certification process and were recognized for achieving ODF status. The biggest gains have been made in countries with large populations covered under the Game Plan, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan, but there was significant progress across all UNICEF regions where open defecation is a problem (see Figure 10).

In addition to direct support for new sanitation facilities, UNICEF strengthens the enabling environment for sanitation in programme countries and engages with government partners in national sanitation campaigns. In India, for example, UNICEF provides a range of upstream support to government partners, including in the areas of policy and strategy development, capacity-building and monitoring. As a result, more than 64.5 million people are living in newly certified ODF villages in the 192 focus districts. UNICEF is also a partner in the India Swachh Bharat sanitation campaign, with contributions in the areas of policy development, content creation for behaviour change courses, data analysis, monitoring and evaluation.

**FIGURE 10: Number of communities certified as ODF through UNICEF direct support, 2018**

Note: EAP: East Asia and the Pacific; ECA: Europe and Central Asia; ESA: Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC: Latin America and Caribbean; MENA: Middle East and North Africa; SA: South Asia; WCA: West and Central Africa.
UNICEF also played a coordination role with development partners and fostered strategic partnerships with the private sector to support scale-up of the campaign.

Increasingly, national campaigns to eliminate open defecation are reaching beyond individual communities to declare entire districts, municipalities and even provinces or states ODF. Examples in 2018 include Afghanistan, where five districts were declared ODF; Kenya with two new ODF counties; the Niger, where Bagaroua was declared the country’s first ever ODF municipality; and the Philippines, with four new ODF municipalities. In India, the Swachh Bharat Mission declared 18 entire states ODF in 2018 – the result of an unprecedented acceleration of sanitation activities in recent years. As discussed below, in India and other countries the focus is moving towards mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of these results.

At the other end of the spectrum are modest but important gains in smaller countries. While UNICEF has an organizational focus on the 26 high-burden countries, support continues to be provided in others too, often in the context of multisectoral programmes of assistance targeting marginalized communities. In Guatemala, for example, UNICEF direct support for CATS programming has resulted in 130 communities attaining certified ODF status in a predominantly indigenous region with high malnutrition rates. Elsewhere, UNICEF is leveraging its organizational capacity and experience to effect change, even in countries where organizational resources for WASH are very limited, such as in Namibia, where UNICEF is leading a growing national effort to eliminate open defecation.

UNICEF has continued to lobby government partners to integrate CATS approaches into their national institutional and policy framework, and has supported them to do so. This is an intensive and multi-year effort. In Burkina Faso, for example, UNICEF takes an ‘institutional triggering’ approach in its ongoing advocacy with provincial government partners to adopt the CATS approach, using joint reviews of the impact review of UNICEF-supported pilot projects. In Angola and Lesotho, such efforts have been successful: CATS approaches have been incorporated into new national sanitation policies in both countries.

Improving the effectiveness of sanitation programming is another area of UNICEF influence and support. In 2018, in partnership with WaterAid and Plan International, the organization published harmonized technical guidance on rural sanitation programming, based on an extensive review of successful at-scale programmes. The guidance, which promotes context-sensitive and adaptive management
approaches, rather than a single solution to address the challenge of open defecation, represents a milestone in collaborative programming in the sector.

Despite such successes, and an acceleration in the number of communities being certified ODF, much more needs to be done to meet national and global goals. To achieve results at scale, it is important to improve the effectiveness of programmes, as well as to expand their scale. This is especially true in the resource-constrained environments that are the norm in most programme countries. UNICEF works to improve efficiencies by refining the pre-triggering, triggering and post-triggering processes, where community members are encouraged to take action themselves to eliminate open defecation. Quality assurance of these processes means that conversion rates (the number of communities that actually achieve certified ODF status after triggering) increase, and programme effectiveness improves. Through a range of activities, including capacity-building, strategy formulation and support for ODF monitoring and verification systems, UNICEF is helping to drive up conversion rates: in 2018 the global conversion rate of UNICEF-supported programmes was 73 per cent (2018 target: 70 per cent).

Sustainability

Even more important than CATS programming effectiveness is the sustainability of open defecation elimination programmes, especially as these accelerate and larger numbers of communities are certified ODF every year. The key to sustainability is post-ODF engagement with communities, a component that is increasingly built into national CATS programmes supported by UNICEF. Sustainability is also now an integral part of all UNICEF internal strategy and guidance material on sanitation, including the Game Plan itself, and of advocacy materials and joint publications, such as the new joint UNICEF–WaterAid–Plan International guidance on rural sanitation programming.32

A major step forward for sustainable ODF was made in India in 2018, where UNICEF was the technical lead in development of the draft national 10-year rural sanitation strategy that stresses sustaining the country’s significant ODF gains in recent years. UNICEF also contributed to the new ODF-Sustainability programme in India, which focuses on continuous behaviour change in communities, the management of solid and liquid wastes, and the maintenance of sanitation facilities. UNICEF and the World Bank have established a strategic partnership to undertake comprehensive capacity development for the roll-out of ODF-Sustainability interventions.

Increasing use of the sustainability check tool to assess WASH programme sustainability is having an impact on UNICEF programmes of support. Since the checks assess a range of the technical, managerial and social factors that influence sustainability, they are providing valuable inputs for improving the design and operation of UNICEF and government CATS programmes (see the Safe water supply section for a more complete discussion of the sustainability checks). Recent examples include:

- The Central African Republic, where a sustainability check led to a strengthening of efforts to build institutional capacities of CATS stakeholders
- Guinea, where the latest sustainability check documented a rise in the number of communities losing their ODF status, which led to a shift in focus to post-ODF engagement and the commissioning of a study to assess the issue in detail
- Pakistan, where programme designs were modified to increase follow-up behaviour change six months after ODF status is reached, and a secondary ODF certification process was introduced
- The Philippines, where a survey of CATS programming pointed to a need to reinforce post-ODF communication efforts and to address household financing issues.

Market-based sanitation

UNICEF efforts in developing and shaping sanitation markets are driven by the need to significantly accelerate progress to meet the Strategic Plan goal of helping 60 million people gain access to basic sanitation services by 2021, and the SDG target of adequate and equitable sanitation for all by 2030. Work in this area in 2018 included the launch of a sanitation market shaping strategy for UNICEF, the finalization of a major value-based collaborative initiative with a key private sector partner, a range of capacity-building initiatives and ongoing contributions to research in the area.

UNICEF is advancing on strategies and guides to strengthen programming in the area of market-based sanitation to support the expansion of high-quality programmes. As a first step, the organization published a sanitation market shaping strategy in 2018, focusing on sanitation markets in programme countries.33 Designed to stimulate demand for appropriate sanitation products and services, while encouraging existing and new suppliers to meet the demand with affordable and locally effective solutions, the strategy lays out a set of carefully targeted actions for in-depth market needs assessment and analysis. The strategy also demonstrates the need to work with ‘first movers’ to expand markets to deliver sanitation goods and services to more people, while fostering healthy markets in the long term. Additional guidance and tools for market-based sanitation are under development.

In line with the market shaping strategy, UNICEF carried out a sanitation market assessment of Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria, and hosted a consultation with sanitation industry stakeholders. The consultation brought together manufacturers, service providers, government officials,
financial institutions and development partners to discuss market perspectives and challenges, and identify strategic steps to strengthen local markets for products and services in the region.

Building on earlier collaborative work in the Eastern and Southern Africa region, in 2018 UNICEF signed a global shared-value partnership agreement with LIXIL, a large global sanitation and housing products company that markets a line of affordable toilet solutions for underserved markets in Africa and Asia – a ‘first mover’ in this space. The Make a Splash partnership builds on UNICEF and LIXIL’s respective strengths to deliver on a shared ambition to help 250 million people gain access to basic sanitation by 2021, through innovative market shaping approaches. The three-year partnership combines capacity-building for sanitation behaviour change and demand creation with improved access to low-cost sanitation products, and includes a commitment to support affordable financing for the purchase and installation of toilets.

The partnership will initially centre on three countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania), but will use lessons from the initiative to expand the approach into other countries and regions. Ultimately, UNICEF and LIXIL aim to demonstrate sustainable market-driven responses to sanitation targets, and the value of open markets for sanitation products that meet consumer needs and budgets.

The UNICEF collaboration with LIXIL is one of the organization’s first shared-value partnerships, so it will be used as a learning opportunity, not only in the area of sanitation, but for wider work on how UNICEF can partner and engage with the private sector to achieve the SDGs.

In programme countries, UNICEF continues to support entrepreneurs and small businesses providing sanitation services and products, including demand creation aggregation and brokering linkages among private suppliers. One such initiative is the ongoing large-scale SanMarkS project in Bangladesh, which is on track to exceed its target of reaching 28 million people by mid-2019. Similar programmes are continuing in other countries, including Cameroon, the Comoros, Solomon Islands and South Sudan. In all cases, UNICEF and its partners work to provide this training and support to groups that are underemployed or otherwise marginalized, including adolescents and women (see Case Study 3).

### Case Study 3: India: The rani mistris of Jharkhand

In the Indian state of Jharkhand, gender equity and social inclusion are at the core of the campaign to end open defecation, and a key strategy for overcoming local challenges. These are significant: Jharkhand is one of the poorest states in the country, with a history of low sanitation coverage and high incidences of diseases and malnutrition related to water and sanitation for health. Resources are limited, including the availability of skilled workers at district and community level. The lack of masons, in particular, was a key bottleneck for achieving the state’s goal of becoming open defecation free by 2019.

The state government, with the support of UNICEF and other partners, embarked on an initiative to address this through a programme to train 55,000 women as masons – or rani mistris – and to become sanitation champions in their communities. The very concept of women being successful in such a male-dominated profession was often the first and largest hurdle to overcome. But the doubters – from programme managers to the women’s husbands – came around, and many women went on to build hundreds of latrines for their neighbours and become leaders for the sanitation movement in their own and neighbouring communities. In some cases, the rani mistris have become the primary earners in their families and are expanding to other masonry work.

For more information, please see this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJxz2k65-AI
Evidence shows that market-based sanitation is more effective and equitable when combined with initiatives to provide appropriate financing solutions for poorer households, which are just beginning to move onto the sanitation ladder. In Ghana, a revolving finance fund was launched in 2018 to provide loans to households (see the section on sector financing below for more information), while in Nigeria, loans through 11 microfinance institutions led to the construction of 11,000 new toilets across six states.

It is clear that UNICEF – along with other sanitation stakeholders at global, regional and country level – must build capacity in the area of market-based sanitation if goals are to be met. In-house staff surveys on training needs, such as the comprehensive capacity-building survey conducted in 2017, and a 2018 survey focusing on urban sanitation programming, consistently indicate that developing skills in this area is a priority. Baseline data from the Game Plan underline this: market-based approaches are by far the least developed elements of programming in high-burden countries.

In response, UNICEF is developing a comprehensive set of guidelines for market-based sanitation, which will be rolled out in 2019. Market-based sanitation features in all new capacity-building materials, including, for example, in the harmonized technical guidance on rural sanitation developed jointly with WaterAid and Plan International.

Market-based approaches are also the focus of technical assistance within the organization, including through country visits and distance learning exercises.

Hygiene

SDG 6 states that by 2030, everybody should have access not only to water and sanitation, but also to hygiene services. The reference to hygiene in the global goal represents increasing recognition of the importance of hygiene, and its close links with sanitation. The JMP is now monitoring hygiene using the new SDG indicator for handwashing: the proportion of people who have hand-washing facilities with soap and water at home. There are not yet enough countries with adequate data to establish complete global or regional hygiene baselines, but the JMP 2017 progress report found that among the 70 countries with data, hand-washing levels can be quite low (notably in sub-Saharan African countries, where the average is just 15 per cent).
UNICEF promotes improved hand-washing practices in households and communities (discussed in this section of the report), and in schools and health-care facilities (discussed in the Institutional WASH section). The organization also promotes improved menstrual hygiene, as discussed in the following section. The promotion of and support for handwashing with soap is especially important in emergency situations, to avert cholera and other disease outbreaks. As discussed in the Emergency WASH section of this report, handwashing is a key component of UNICEF humanitarian WASH programmes of response.

Seventy-one countries are implementing government-led behaviour change hand-washing promotion programmes at community level, through techniques such as community meetings organized by local WASH committees, door-to-door visits and peer engagement initiatives. In many cases, the programmes are, or have been, supported by UNICEF. Some of these are stand-alone hand-washing promotion programmes, notably in cholera hot spots and in countries with past and present Ebola outbreaks. However, the most common form of community-based hand-washing promotion continues to be via CATS programmes, which stress handwashing with soap as well as the elimination of open defecation: in 2018, a total of 54 countries promoted handwashing through CATS.

Handwashing is also promoted through other channels, including health clinics and extension workers, the national nutrition programme and the education system, both as part of the national curriculum and through special initiatives such as daily group hand-washing sessions in schools. In most countries, multiple channels are used for maximum impact. In Nepal, youth-led social mobilization and communication interventions reached more than 10,000 people with hygiene promotion and cholera prevention messages across six municipalities of Kathmandu valley. To ensure relevant communication content, young people were engaged in developing 58 short comic book stories on hygiene, the environment, sanitation and safe water.

The mass media are also used to promote hand-washing behaviour change. In 2018, there was at least one national hand-washing media campaign in 73 countries, most commonly held on 15 October, Global Handwashing Day. In many of these countries, UNICEF contributes financial support and technical expertise to the media campaigns and related events, such as in Côte d’Ivoire, where a large door-to-door hygiene promotion campaign was part of a range of initiatives, and in Djibouti, where 4,000 students participated in events, including a nationwide texting operation. Globally, an estimated 570 million people were engaged on Global Handwashing Day through mass media and social media campaigns.

Major media campaigns are held once a year in most countries, but in 24 countries they are held more often, and in some countries hand-washing messaging is conducted throughout the year through regularly aired programmes. In Mozambique, for example, UNICEF supports the long-running entertainment-education radio drama series Ouro Negro, which includes hygiene promotion messages. The programme is broadcast through 41 radio stations in 22 local languages, reaching 2.5 million people, 32 per cent of whom are frequent listeners.

### TABLE 5: Hand-washing promotion channels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>No. of countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community-based promotion (stand-alone hand-washing promotion programmes or CATS programmes)</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through the national health, nutrition or education systems</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand-washing media campaigns, once a year only (usually on Global Handwashing Day)</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand-washing media campaigns, two or more times a year</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the South Asia region, UNICEF and BRAC launched the Regional WASH Innovation Challenge in 2018, to identify innovative solutions to promote handwashing with soap. Promoting gender equality across all programmes – with Menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) is a growing area of UNICEF work, and an important contribution to efforts to promote gender equality for girls, boys, women and men. In acknowledgement of the potential of this work, UNICEF produced its first comprehensive global guidance on minimum requirements for WASH in Schools address adolescent girls’ needs generally, and MHH specifically. Meanwhile, in India and Mali, UNICEF helped establish inter-ministerial coordination platforms and plans for improved programme delivery.

UNICEF has continued to support research on MHH to inform programme design and advocacy efforts within the context of individual countries. In 2018, research on MHH was carried out for the first time in Belize, where the study led to a series of recommendations on toilet designs, privacy considerations, access to menstrual pads and water availability, which were distributed to all the countries’ primary, secondary and vocational schools. In Guinea-Bissau, a UNICEF-supported qualitative study on menstrual hygiene found significant knowledge and practice gaps. The results are being used to design a pilot intervention in 30 schools for future scale-up.

A milestone was reached in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where UNICEF conducted the country’s largest study ever undertaken on MHH, reaching more than 6,000 stakeholders in urban, rural and emergency-affected areas. The results will be used to guide the operationalization and mainstreaming of cross-sectoral strategies, which will directly contribute to greater gender equality by ensuring adequate MHH for adolescent girls.

Incorporating MHH into education curricula and developing education materials is a core area of programmatic focus. In 2018, MHH components were included in the education curricula of Burkina Faso, Kenya, Madagascar and Uzbekistan, with support from UNICEF. In Afghanistan, a set of education and didactic materials – including a comic book for adolescent girls – was publicly launched on the second annual Girls’ Hygiene Day, with a planned initial roll-out to 17 of the country’s 34 provinces. The UNICEF-supported MHH comic book in Indonesia, which is widely used in public schools, was reviewed in 2018, with results showing improved knowledge among both girls and boys. The comic book was also successfully pre-tested for girls and boys in the context of Madrasah schools, where it will be launched in 2019. Meanwhile in Kyrgyzstan, special materials were developed and delivered in alternative formats for girls with disabilities.

Menstrual health and hygiene

Menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) is a growing area of UNICEF work, and an important contribution to efforts to promote gender equality for girls, boys, women and men. In acknowledgement of the potential of this work, MHH is one of the five focus areas of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan for 2018–2021 – the organizational road map for promoting gender equality across all programmes – with clear targets for UNICEF support to MHH in schools.

UNICEF support to MHH expanded again in 2018, with activities in 71 countries across all UNICEF regions. Support included the strengthening of enabling environments for MHH at national level, complemented by advocacy and direct support in schools and communities.

UNICEF produced its first comprehensive global guidance package on MHH in schools in 2018, developed through a collaborative effort between the WASH and Gender teams in UNICEF headquarters, in consultation with Education, Health, Adolescent Development, and Disability staff and external partners. The guidance includes a programming framework for MHH which has four pillars: (1) social support; (2) knowledge and skills; (3) facilities and services; and (4) materials. The package will be used by UNICEF in country offices that are working with partners to develop programmes related to MHH. Included in the package is a digital compendium of menstrual hygiene research, and interventions from UNICEF country offices.

Each of the winning teams received US$5,000, and support for developing and showcasing their ideas. The event was widely promoted in the region, with the participation of UNICEF goodwill ambassador cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, and more than 22 million people were reached through social media.

In recognition of the significant role played by mothers and other caregivers, the main objective of the challenge was to promote handwashing with soap by these figures. From more than 800 submissions, and a short list of 12 teams of young people from eight countries, a winning idea was chosen in each of three categories:

- A bangle with three colourful beads that reminds mothers and caregivers to wash their hands regularly, in the hand-washing behaviour change category
- A water bottle-based portable hand-washing station in the appropriate technology category
- A smart device to track and reward the practice of handwashing with soap among students in the monitoring category.

The Regional WASH Innovation Challenge in 2018, to identify innovative solutions to promote handwashing with soap. From more than 800 submissions, and a short list of 12 teams of young people from eight countries, a winning idea was chosen in each of three categories:

- A bangle with three colourful beads that reminds mothers and caregivers to wash their hands regularly, in the hand-washing behaviour change category
- A water bottle-based portable hand-washing station in the appropriate technology category
- A smart device to track and reward the practice of handwashing with soap among students in the monitoring category.

Each of the winning teams received US$5,000, and support for developing and showcasing their ideas. The event was widely promoted in the region, with the participation of UNICEF goodwill ambassador cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, and more than 22 million people were reached through social media.

Promoting and supporting the institutionalization of MHH into national policy frameworks has been at the centre of UNICEF efforts to help ensure that services are sustainable over the long term, and not dependent on UNICEF or any other external support agency. These efforts have yielded results: 22 countries had included MHH targets within their WASH in Schools strategies and plans in 2014, and by 2018 the number had risen to 51. In 90 per cent (46) of these countries, the new strategies and plans were developed with UNICEF support. Examples in 2018 include Chad and Timor-Leste, where new national WASH in Schools strategies incorporate specific actions for MHH programming; Malawi, where the new National Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy includes provisions for developing MHM guidelines in institutions; Fiji, where MHH has been incorporated into the Three Star Approach to WASH in Schools; and Myanmar, where new national guidelines on minimum requirements for WASH in Schools address adolescent girls’ needs generally, and MHH specifically. Meanwhile, in India and Mali, UNICEF helped establish inter-ministerial coordination platforms and plans for improved programme delivery.

UNICEF has continued to support research on MHH to inform programme design and advocacy efforts within the context of individual countries. In 2018, research on MHH was carried out for the first time in Belize, where the study led to a series of recommendations on toilet designs, privacy considerations, access to menstrual pads and water availability, which were distributed to all the countries’ primary, secondary and vocational schools. In Guinea-Bissau, a UNICEF-supported qualitative study on menstrual hygiene found significant knowledge and practice gaps. The results are being used to design a pilot intervention in 30 schools for future scale-up.

A milestone was reached in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where UNICEF conducted the country’s largest study ever undertaken on MHH, reaching more than 6,000 stakeholders in urban, rural and emergency-affected areas. The results will be used to guide the operationalization and mainstreaming of cross-sectoral strategies, which will directly contribute to greater gender equality by ensuring adequate MHH for adolescent girls.

Incorporating MHH into education curricula and developing education materials is a core area of programmatic focus. In 2018, MHH components were included in the education curricula of Burkina Faso, Kenya, Madagascar and Uzbekistan, with support from UNICEF. In Afghanistan, a set of education and didactic materials – including a comic book for adolescent girls – was publicly launched on the second annual Girls’ Hygiene Day, with a planned initial roll-out to 17 of the country’s 34 provinces. The UNICEF-supported MHH comic book in Indonesia, which is widely used in public schools, was reviewed in 2018, with results showing improved knowledge among both girls and boys. The comic book was also successfully pre-tested for girls and boys in the context of Madrasah schools, where it will be launched in 2019. Meanwhile in Kyrgyzstan, special materials were developed and delivered in alternative formats for girls with disabilities.

Menstrual health and hygiene

Menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) is a growing area of UNICEF work, and an important contribution to efforts to promote gender equality for girls, boys, women and men. In acknowledgement of the potential of this work, MHH is one of the five focus areas of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan for 2018–2021 – the organizational road map for promoting gender equality across all programmes – with clear targets for UNICEF support to MHH in schools. (see the WASH and gender section of this report for more information on the linkages between WASH and gender equality).

UNICEF support to MHH expanded again in 2018, with activities in 71 countries across all UNICEF regions. Support included the strengthening of enabling environments for MHH at national level, complemented by advocacy and direct support in schools and communities.

UNICEF produced its first comprehensive global guidance package on MHH in schools in 2018, developed through a collaborative effort between the WASH and Gender teams in UNICEF headquarters, in consultation with Education, Health, Adolescent Development, and Disability staff and external partners. The guidance includes a programming framework for MHH which has four pillars: (1) social support; (2) knowledge and skills; (3) facilities and services; and (4) materials. The package will be used by UNICEF in country offices that are working with partners to develop programmes related to MHH. Included in the package is a digital compendium of menstrual hygiene research, and interventions from UNICEF country offices.
UNICEF continued to provide direct support to schools in the area of MHM in both development and emergency settings. Through the development programme, a total of 17,949 schools in 50 countries gained access to MHM services in 2018. The largest programme was in India, where 7,465 schools across 14 UNICEF-supported states gained access to MHM through training, technical assistance with hardware, such as menstrual pad disposal equipment, and the distribution of supplies. In humanitarian response programmes, 1.3 million girls and women were provided with menstrual hygiene management services through UNICEF-supported programmes in 2018. These included a total of more than 600,000 girls and women in just three response programmes: the Syrian Arab Republic, northern Nigeria and in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh.

A significant part of UNICEF direct response in emergencies involves the procurement and delivery of large numbers of hygiene kits (see the Emergency WASH section), and related supplies and materials. In 2018, UNICEF finalized its first procurement guide for MHM supplies. Based on the organization’s significant experience and a comprehensive literature review, the guide is intended to ensure that the most appropriate supplies, equipment and material are procured from local and global markets.

In addition to organizing the direct procurement of menstrual materials, UNICEF country offices are increasingly engaged in shaping markets for menstrual materials, by reviewing supply chains, supporting governments to set standards, and backing local procurement. In Ethiopia, national standards for reusable and disposable menstrual pads were finalized, along with a supply chain review of the UNICEF MHM programme that resulted in the scale-up of UNICEF support for reusable menstrual pads.

Menstrual Hygiene Day continues to be a key tool for raising awareness among decision makers and the public on the importance of MHM for the health and education of girls, and for gender equality and the elimination of stigma.

With an estimated 170 million people reached through messaging, and 503 events and activities held in 71 countries, this was the most successful Menstrual Hygiene Day ever. UNICEF led national and subnational events in many countries, including Guinea-Bissau and Namibia, where the occasion was celebrated for the first time, and Malawi, where the day’s event culminated in the delivery of a petition to the national parliament on the importance of having MHM facilities in schools.

In many countries, information campaigns go well beyond one day, such as in India, where a range of communication initiatives such as radio broadcasts and the #LetsTalkAboutPeriods social media campaign are estimated to have reached 3.18 million people, including 1.58 million adolescent girls. UNICEF increasingly uses tech platforms to engage with young people on MHM, including in Kosovo, where menstrual hygiene messages were included in the Shnet app on sexual and reproductive health; the State of Palestine, where UNICEF worked with partners to develop an online game as a platform for message delivery; and the East Asia and the Pacific region, where the UNICEF regional office developed a period tracker and health information app. In Pakistan, UNICEF launched the No Chutti (Urdu for ‘no break’) campaign in 2018, engaging more than a million girls and boys in schools to help dispel myths around physical and dietary restrictions imposed on menstruating women by religion and culture.

To facilitate learning and knowledge sharing, UNICEF led the Seventh Annual Virtual Conference on MHM in WASH in Schools, which brought together around 1,300 people from more than 100 countries. The event featured work from UNICEF country offices, regional offices and partners, including USAID, WaterAid, Population Services International, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Emory University and Columbia University, these latter both in the United States of America.
WASH in institutions

### TABLE 6: WASH in institutions: Progress on Strategic Plan indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Plan indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2018 milestone</th>
<th>2018 achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH in institutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b.1. Number of institutions: (a) schools with separate sanitation facilities for girls and boys, through UNICEF-supported programmes</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>7,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b.1. Number of institutions: (b) schools with menstrual hygiene management services, through UNICEF-supported programmes</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>17,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b.1. Number of institutions: (c) health centres that have basic WASH facilities, through UNICEF-supported programmes</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>3,355</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See text below for details on progress against these Strategic Plan indicators and other results for WASH in institutions.

**WASH in schools**

The long-standing work undertaken by UNICEF on WASH in schools has a stronger institutional footing than ever before. The SDG 6 goal of universal access to water and sanitation means that all settings are included: households, schools, health facilities, workplaces and public spaces. In addition, water and sanitation services are included under education SDG target 4.a to “build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.”

The JMP launched the global baseline report for water, sanitation and hygiene in schools in 2018, which provides the first ever robust estimates of WASH coverage in schools worldwide. The baseline shows that 69 per cent of schools have access to basic water services, 66 per cent to basic sanitation, and 53 per cent to hygiene services. It also shows that coverage is higher in urban schools than in rural schools, and higher in secondary schools than in primary schools.

Although the baseline includes estimates for 152 countries, the availability and quality of data vary widely. There are still many countries for which there are no reliable data on the functionality of services, the availability of water and soap for handwashing or the use of single-sex toilets. The JMP has widely disseminated the recommended core questions for monitoring basic WASH services in schools, which, when incorporated into national monitoring systems and surveys, will improve the quality of the overall data set over the SDG period.

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Teacher Marie-Danielle Akpa discusses the use of sanitary pads and the importance of hygiene with Florence, a 13-year-old student in Essankro, Côte d’Ivoire.
In 2018, UNICEF was actively engaged in programming for WASH in schools in 88 countries, through development work across all regions. Additional countries received support in humanitarian emergencies. Through this programming, UNICEF aims to build an enabling environment for WASH in schools within national education systems, while continuing to provide direct support to thousands of schools through regular programming and in emergencies.

UNICEF direct support helped 8,178 schools gain access to basic water, sanitation or hygiene facilities in 2018, with a total student population of 2.4 million. Of these schools, 7,710 (94 per cent) had separate sanitation facilities for girls and boys, meaning that girls and boys’ toilets and washing facilities were physically separated from each other through distance, barriers or other means, as defined by country norms and standards. While not the only element of girl-friendly design, the physical separation of facilities can be crucial; adolescent girls, in particular, can have higher absenteeism rates when sanitation and washing facilities are not private (see Figure 12).

Note: Percentage figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding in this and some other graphs and tables in this report.
Outside emergency response programmes, UNICEF direct support in schools is usually part of a broader effort that also includes support for policy formulation, standards development, capacity-building, monitoring and other elements of an enabling environment for scaled up government programmes. The programme in India is a case in point: UNICEF provided direct support to 2,291 schools in 2018, but it also helped government partners reach a much larger number of schools (more than 46,000) through advocacy for funding and support for planning, capacity development, and supportive supervision and service delivery.

UNICEF provides direct support in schools as part of multisectoral initiatives to address inequalities in marginalized and vulnerable communities, through both development and humanitarian programming. In the Congo, for example, UNICEF support for WASH in schools is part of the national non-formal education initiative for indigenous and isolated communities, while in Yemen, UNICEF is rehabilitating school WASH facilities as an input to the large-scale emergency health and nutrition project. In many countries, direct support in schools is part of CATS campaigns, which target both households and institutions across communities.

UNICEF also provides direct support in schools to pilot new technologies and approaches (such as the Three Star Approach as discussed below). Often, such support is dual-purpose, such as in Colombia, where support to WASH in schools is part of a larger pilot targeting isolated communities, and in Rwanda, where UNICEF is providing direct support for the World Food Programme-supported Homegrown School Feeding Programme, which is also enabling the testing of a new group hand-washing facility model. In Ghana, UNICEF is testing lower-cost school toilet options as a strategy for facilitating the scale-up of WASH in schools nationwide, based on the premise that toilet designs, including gender- and disability-inclusive designs, do not need to be so expensive that they are out of reach of schools.

Through humanitarian response programmes, UNICEF provided 4.4 million children with access to appropriate male and female WASH facilities and hygiene education in schools, temporary learning spaces and other child-friendly spaces in 2018. This is the largest number ever recorded, a reflection both of the extraordinary number of children at risk and the growth of UNICEF programmes in this area. This response was provided in 50 countries, including large-scale and longer-term programmes in ongoing crisis settings in Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, as
well as in sudden-onset emergencies. Examples of these latter include Dominica, where WASH support was provided to hurricane-affected children in temporary learning spaces; Mexico, where earthquake-damaged school WASH facilities were rebuilt; and India, where WASH facilities and services were provided in response to flooding in Kerala.

Several countries launched new WASH in schools policy and strategy instruments with the help of UNICEF in 2018, including Chad, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. A new national costed strategy for WASH in schools was developed in Ghana, and elements from it were incorporated into the national Education Strategic Plan for 2018–2030, while in Afghanistan the comprehensive new school health policy includes WASH as one of six policy directions. In Ethiopia, the new gender-response WASH in schools strategy, action plan and implementation guidelines were released, along with a construction manual for WASH facilities in schools. In all cases, cross-sectoral advocacy and technical support from UNICEF contributed to the launch of these new policy instruments.

More countries are adopting the UNICEF Three Star Approach to WASH in schools, which encourages schools to take incremental steps to improve and maintain facilities and services, and ensure that all students wash their hands with soap every day. The approach is now in use in 41 countries, reaching an estimated 587,000 schools. The majority of these are in India, where they are registered under the national Clean School Awards Scheme, which was developed through UNICEF support. The scheme stresses daily group handwashing with soap before midday meals by all children, and incorporates other Three Star Approach components, all of which are routinely monitored in registered schools.

The Three Star Approach is demonstrating the potential to grow in other countries with large populations. In the Philippines, it was adopted by the Department of Education in 2017 and has now been rolled out to more than 30,000 schools, while in China, the approach, known as the Beautiful School model, is being replicated by government in 111 counties in one province. The Government of Bangladesh adopted the approach in 2018 as the WASH strategy for the country’s Fourth Primary Education Development Programme. It will be rolled out in 50 schools in 2019. In South Africa, where UNICEF expanded WASH in schools programming at the request of the President in 2018, US$13 million was raised through private donors in 2018, and a new pilot model for improved sanitation and hand-washing promotion for young learners was launched.

Studies show that girls with disabilities enrolled in school frequently drop out when they begin to menstruate, and gender and disability considerations often therefore go hand in hand in the design of school WASH facilities. Well-designed WASH facilities provide sufficient privacy for girls and women, while also affording access for people with disabilities. In Burundi, all new schools are equipped with gender-segregated latrines to reduce gender-based violence and facilitate menstrual hygiene management, as well as with access ramps and adapted toilets for girls and boys with disabilities (see the WASH and disability section of this report for more examples).

Research and reviews related to WASH in schools were conducted in several countries in 2018. National assessments of WASH facilities and services in schools were completed in Mozambique and Solomon Islands in 2018. The Solomon Islands assessment showed that only 34 per cent of the country’s schools have access to a basic water service, and just 22 per cent to a sanitation service. In other countries, subject-specific studies were conducted. Examples include Azerbaijan, where a curriculum review was conducted to help design a new teachers’ manual on hygiene education in schools; Cambodia, where baseline data were collected in four provinces to support implementation of the new WASH in schools minimum requirements; and Kenya, where a scoping model on management practices was carried out to help address the sustainability of school WASH facilities. UNICEF and the IRC resource centre developed and launched the WASH in Schools Index in 2018, a dynamic web-based database for WASH in schools practice and theory through which stakeholders share publications, tools and research findings. UNICEF also continued to support the WASH in Schools Partners Network, including by hosting a popular interactive yammer site, which now has over 500 participants.

**WASH in health-care facilities**

UNICEF was active in the area of WASH in health-care facilities even before the United Nations Secretary-General’s Call to Action in 2018 on World Water Day (22 March) refocused attention on the issue. Together with WHO and other partners, UNICEF developed a joint action plan including a global vision, targets for WASH services, metrics for measuring progress, and five key areas for action: leadership and governance; monitoring and accountability; technical support; civil society, community and workforce empowerment; and evidence generation). UNICEF and WHO also established a multi-disciplinary task team and advisory group for WASH services in health-care facilities with the aim of improving the quality of care for maternal and newborn health, enhancing infection prevention and control, and reducing antimicrobial resistance. These efforts were driven by the fact that the SDG target of universal access to WASH also includes health-care facilities, schools and other institutions.

It is clear that WASH services are inadequate in many health-care facilities in developing countries. A 2015 WHO–UNICEF status report using available data from 54 countries estimated that about one third of facilities had no water systems at all. New data emerging from countries paint a similar picture: a 2018 UNICEF-supported survey in Indonesia using new JMP core indicators (see below)
showed that one quarter of public health centres did not have access to a combination of basic water and sanitation, and more than two thirds lacked adequate hand-washing facilities with soap, with considerable inter-regional disparities. 48

The JMP published recommended core questions and indicators for monitoring WASH in health-care facilities in 2018. 49 These can be used in facility surveys and health management information systems to gather data on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services, as well as health-care waste management and environmental cleaning. Based on this work, the JMP will release the first ever baseline data set on WASH in health-care facilities in April 2019. This will facilitate global analysis of WASH in health-care facilities in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

To help guide its broadening work in this area, UNICEF is gathering data from country offices for the first time on the existence and components of national policy concerning WASH in health-care facilities. The 2018 data show that relatively few programme countries have a policy framework in place (see Table 7). Additionally, even when policy and strategy instruments exist, they need to be more comprehensive and/or updated, and WASH indicators in health management information systems are often insufficient and not reliably monitored.

UNICEF is working with government, WHO and other partners to build the policy framework for WASH in health-care facilities, including in Cambodia, where new national guidelines were launched in 2018 to complement the national health strategic plan. Draft national strategies were completed in 2018 in Bangladesh and Timor-Leste, and work is ongoing in other countries, including the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ghana, Lebanon and Nepal.

In China, the UNICEF-supported national survey of 3,628 health-care facilities in all 31 provinces included data on WASH services. The resulting findings informed development of the Standards on the Service Capacity of Primary Health Care Facilities, which incorporate WASH components, and the National Guidelines for WASH in Primary Health Care Facilities.

The WHO–UNICEF Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool, 50 first released in 2017, was translated into Arabic, French and Spanish and widely disseminated in 2018. This tool is designed for use by health-care facility managers and health-care staff. UNICEF supported the roll-out and implementation of the tool in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mali, Sierra Leone and other countries. In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNICEF supported a national consultation on WASH in health-care facilities, involving all key national stakeholders. UNICEF also developed a new online training course for practitioners on WASH in health-care facilities, in collaboration with Emory University.

### TABLE 7: Policy frameworks for WASH in health-care facilities, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Framework</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Countries with a policy for WASH in health-care facilities (stand-alone or as part of broader sector policy)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries with a national standard for WASH in health-care facilities</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries with a national strategy for implementing WASH in health-care facilities</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries where WASH indicators are integrated into the health management information system</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The extensive experience of UNICEF in WASH in schools is being applied in the emerging programming area of WASH in health-care facilities. In Fiji, where UNICEF advocacy, piloting and support have resulted in adoption of the Three Star Approach in schools nationally, a modified version of the approach is now being replicated for use in health-care facilities. In Mozambique, UNICEF is embarking on a comprehensive new WASH in health-care facilities programme that ranges from engagement on policy development to direct support in health-care facilities, based in part on WASH in schools programming models.

UNICEF continued to work directly in health-care facilities. In 2018, a total of 3,355 health-care facilities gained access to WASH services through UNICEF direct support, the highest number ever (see Figure 13). The vast majority of these facilities (3,107) are in the child and maternal health focus countries defined by WHO and UNICEF in the Every Newborn Action Plan.

In several countries in the West and Central Africa region, upgrading of WASH services was part of infection prevention and control initiatives. Its direct work in health-care facilities allows UNICEF to demonstrate best practices, including the use of toilet and washing facilities appropriate for people with disabilities.

FIGURE 13: Health-care facilities gaining access to WASH services through UNICEF direct support, 2014–2018
### Emergency WASH

**TABLE 8: Emergency WASH: Progress on Strategic Plan indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Plan indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2018 milestone</th>
<th>2018 achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency WASH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3. Percentage of UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations provided with a sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene (humanitarian)</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>104%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b.4. Percentage of UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations: (a) provided with access to appropriate sanitation in schools, temporary learning spaces and other child-friendly spaces (humanitarian)</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>116%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b.4. Percentage of UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations: (b) provided with menstrual hygiene management services in schools, temporary learning spaces and other child-friendly spaces (humanitarian)</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b.4. Percentage of UNICEF-targeted population in humanitarian situations: (c) provided with access to appropriate WASH facilities for male and female hygiene education in schools, temporary learning spaces and other child-friendly spaces (humanitarian)</td>
<td>58%*</td>
<td>63%*</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See text below for details on progress against these Strategic Plan indicators and other results for emergency WASH. *Note: Due to an error, the published Strategic Plan shows these two figures as 8% and 13%, respectively.

Millions of children and their families were affected by natural disasters, conflict and other emergencies in 2018 across all UNICEF regions. In most cases, WASH interventions are at the core of life-saving response programmes, and UNICEF is at the centre of this response. In 2018, UNICEF responded with WASH interventions in 66 countries, through an expenditure of US$458 million, just over half of total WASH expenditure. The scale of the response was even greater than in 2017, part of a trend of ever larger response programmes to meet growing needs in protracted crises and other emergencies. However, despite this growth, the needs of children and their families are far from being fully met: 60 per cent of emergency appeals for the WASH sector were unfunded in 2018.51

UNICEF developed a new emergency WASH advocacy campaign in 2018 to highlight the huge impact that conflicts have on children, and to advocate for new approaches to address this. The Water under Fire report, which was formally launched on World Water Day (22 March 2019), presents data showing that more children in conflict situations die from diseases linked to unsafe water and sanitation than from direct violence.52 The campaign is centred on a three-point change agenda: (1) stop attacks on water and sanitation infrastructure and personnel; (2) build a WASH sector that can consistently and predictably provide high-quality water and sanitation services in emergencies; and (3) link life-saving humanitarian responses to the development of sustainable water and sanitation systems for all.

**Humanitarian response**

In 2018, a total of 43.6 million people benefited from UNICEF emergency water supply interventions, and more than 13 million from support for sanitation services, while 4.4 million children were provided with water, sanitation or hygiene services in schools and safe learning spaces in countries in crisis.
There are two types of UNICEF water supply interventions in emergencies. The first consists of temporary interventions, such as water trucking and the distribution of treatment chemicals, often provided to people on the move and in camps. The second type results in more permanent water supply systems, including the construction of new water points and water systems, and the rehabilitation and repair of existing systems that are damaged or dysfunctional. In an effort to better understand the impact of humanitarian water programming, UNICEF has started to monitor these different types of interventions at global level. In 2018, some 73 per cent of beneficiaries (32 million) were served by short-term services, mainly due to the very large-scale efforts needed to keep existing water systems running in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen (see the Box ‘UNICEF community WASH beneficiaries’ in the Safe water supply section for additional information).

UNICEF also met its Strategic Plan objectives with respect to the delivery of services against targets, exceeding its 2018 milestones for the delivery of water supply, sanitation, WASH in schools and the provision of menstrual hygiene management services.

The organization continued to be the largest responder among members of the global WASH Cluster in 2018. UNICEF direct response accounted for 50 per cent of all water beneficiaries and 41 per cent of all sanitation beneficiaries.

As the number of countries experiencing protracted, recurrent large-scale crises grows, WASH response programmes have become larger and more complex. In countries in crisis, it is now common for UNICEF to deliver immediate life-saving interventions and longer-term institutional support at the same time, and on a large scale. In the Syrian Arab Republic, for example, UNICEF is trucking water and distributing emergency hygiene kits to groups of people in conflict zones, providing material and technical support to keep urban water systems running so that still vulnerable resettled populations have continuous services, while building the capacity of local institutions to ensure that the systems continue to be functional over the long term.
In Yemen the pattern is similar. UNICEF helps to meet the immediate needs of conflict- and cholera-affected populations through interventions such as emergency water trucking, the distribution of hygiene kits and the deployment of rapid-response teams to handle suspected cholera cases. At the same time, UNICEF provides extensive inputs to repair, operate and maintain existing water and sanitation systems, and improves reliability and sustainability.

In other countries with a large humanitarian response programme, UNICEF is already supporting a substantial WASH development programme, and has been doing so for years. Examples include Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where in 2018 UNICEF provided WASH humanitarian response in conflict-affected provinces, while at the same time managing one of the organization’s largest comprehensive WASH development programmes. UNICEF experience and presence in Bangladesh was also key for the large-scale WASH response to the Rohingya refugee crisis. In these and other countries, UNICEF is able to leverage its development programme to improve humanitarian response and support government partners to do the same.

The timely procurement and delivery of critical supply items in emergencies is an important part of response programming. The types of supplies needed vary widely from one emergency to another, ranging from drilling equipment and handpumps to plastic latrine slabs and soap. Some supplies are procured locally, whereas others are brought in. UNICEF hygiene kits are a key supply item. They contain standard items for short- or long-term use, including buckets, soap, menstrual pads, towels and other items. In 2018, UNICEF procured and distributed 3.7 million hygiene kits, the largest volume ever. Water purification tablets are also a critical supply item, distributed in most emergency situations to help prevent cholera and other diseases. In 2018, UNICEF distributed 1.2 billion standard water purification tablets and an additional 58 million chlorination/flocculation sachets, which are used for highly contaminated water sources.
Cholera response

It is estimated that more than 100,000 people die from cholera each year, and millions more are affected. Cholera is endemic in many developing countries, but it is especially deadly in communities already made vulnerable by humanitarian crises, limited access to WASH services, poor health systems and malnutrition. Like other diarrhoeal diseases, cholera also disproportionately affects children under five years of age. A total of 47 countries are affected by cholera, with several of these experiencing severe outbreaks in 2018, including Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Yemen continues to be the most severely affected country by far, with over 1.3 million suspected cases and more than 2,700 deaths recorded in 2017 and 2018.

UNICEF is a member of the Global Task Force for Cholera Control and chairs its WASH working group. Task force activities are centred around a global strategy – Ending Cholera: a road map to 2030 – which was launched in late 2017. The strategy aims to eliminate cholera in at least 20 countries, and to put into place robust national systems for preparedness and control in all affected countries. Good progress was made on this agenda in 2018, with 10 countries now taking active measures to develop cholera control plans in alignment with the road map and to adopt a framework for action in Africa.

A key component of the strategy is a focus on cholera ‘hot spots’, which are zones that are heavily affected by ongoing or seasonal outbreaks and play an important role in the spread of the disease to other parts of the country and internationally. Interrupting cholera transmission in these areas through WASH interventions and the use of oral cholera vaccines saves lives locally and limits the spread of the disease. In 2018, UNICEF and partners responded with WASH interventions in cholera hot spots in 24 countries, reaching 10.2 million people.

The largest UNICEF programme of cholera response was in Yemen. In 2018, a total of 5.4 million people benefited from UNICEF support for water supply interventions, and almost 900,000 through emergency latrine construction or rehabilitation. In addition, UNICEF reached more than 10 million people with hygiene promotion and cholera messages through the deployment of 750 rapid-response teams to 259 districts, and through an extensive network of volunteers conducting door-to-door hygiene promotion. UNICEF was the largest actor in this campaign, accounting for more than 70 per cent of water beneficiaries and 96 per cent of sanitation beneficiaries of the entire programme response by all cluster partners. This massive WASH programme of response, together with the first ever oral cholera vaccine campaign – which reached 731,000 people and enhanced institutional capacities – has helped achieve a significant reduction in the number of cholera cases and deaths.

Humanitarian WASH coordination and capacity-building

UNICEF continues to act as the lead agency for the United Nations Inter-agency Standing Committee Global WASH Cluster, which coordinates WASH humanitarian response, builds the capacity of humanitarian WASH institutions and practitioners, and advocates for increased funding and more effective response. In addition to acting as the lead agency, UNICEF supports the Global WASH Cluster through funding and staff positions for the cluster support team. Additionally, UNICEF leads or co-leads the WASH clusters in most countries where they are activated. In 2018, this role was formally assumed in 19 countries. Outside the cluster system, UNICEF often takes on a leadership role...
in the sector in both the development and humanitarian spheres (86 country offices reported a UNICEF leadership role in the sector in 2018).

In large-scale emergencies, UNICEF often leads multiple clusters, and in all cases it uses its cross-sectoral capacity to coordinate responses for children. In Iraq, for example, together with WHO and the WASH and Health clusters, UNICEF responded to the threat of cholera outbreaks with the development of preparedness and response plans and the institution of a national cholera task force. In South Sudan, the UNICEF-led WASH, Child Protection, Education and Nutrition clusters delivered a comprehensive package of support that reached over 5 million people in 2018.

The cluster approach has been in place since 2005, and it has been instrumental in improving the timeliness and quality of humanitarian response programmes, while also acting as a catalyst for improving response capacity among humanitarian stakeholders. There continues to be room for improvement, however, as detailed in the Global WASH Cluster’s review of its current strategic plan, which highlights key constraints, including the unpredictability of funding and continuing weak response capacity. The 2018 launch of the Donor Consultation Group for Humanitarian WASH, which includes key WASH sector donors, is a step forward in addressing these issues, as are recent innovations such as the growing use of cash transfer programmes and greater investments from multilateral development banks.

While support through the cluster system and from UNICEF and other support agencies is critical for effective humanitarian response, national government agencies are ultimately responsible for response coordination. In the 72 programme countries in which there was some kind of humanitarian WASH response in 2018, coordination was led by government in 56 (78 per cent) of them, not by external entities. Capacity-building efforts of government partners is therefore of key importance, and a growing area of UNICEF support. In many cases, this support is provided through day-to-day engagement in countries where UNICEF co-leads the WASH Cluster with government, and provides specialized technical assistance.

UNICEF also helps build the capacity of government partners (along with UNICEF staff and other partners) through formal training programmes. This includes support for the Global WASH Cluster training series, which is provided via the UNICEF Agora learning platform. The series now consists of seven courses, including a new one on using market-based approaches (including cash transfers) to achieve WASH outcomes. In 2018, UNICEF also delivered courses in specific subject areas to government partners in a number of countries, including one on post-disaster needs assessment and recovery in Cambodia, Fiji and Viet Nam.

UNICEF, the Global WASH Cluster and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed and launched a public health epidemiology training course for the WASH sector to help programme managers and practitioners understand and better monitor the progression of disease outbreaks, thereby improving the effectiveness of response. More than 70 participants from UNICEF, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and government bodies have participated in the three training sessions held to date. UNICEF also began developing a new set of guidance materials for Ebola, Zika and other vector-borne disease response programmes.

UNICEF WASH in Emergency course sessions were held in Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, the Netherlands and Thailand in 2018, benefiting 107 WASH practitioners: 75 from UNICEF, 11 from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and 21 from standby partners. With more than 900 participants since its launch in 2009, the course has become a capacity-building mainstay for the sector.

UNICEF continued the process of institutionalizing the United Nations Inter-agency Standing Committee Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action within country programmes, reaching 80 per cent of target countries to date (see the WASH and women section).

The Return on Investment Tool, launched in 2017, was rolled out widely in 2018. The tool assists UNICEF and government humanitarian staff in choosing the lowest-cost, most effective water supply options on a case-by-case basis, using capital and operational costs, life-cycle and carbon footprint criteria. In one example, a joint government–UNICEF humanitarian intervention in north-east Nigeria could use water trucking, water point rehabilitation or new construction to serve a large displaced population in host communities. The tool was used to design a blended response combining both rehabilitation and new water systems with solar pumping, which resulted in significant cost savings and a much reduced carbon footprint. Similar UNICEF-sponsored analyses resulted in the expanded use of alternatives to water trucking in Jordan and Lebanon (see WASH and climate resilience section).

UNICEF humanitarian WASH capacity was again strengthened through the standby partnership arrangement, in which pre-qualified professionals from partner agencies are deployed to work within UNICEF emergency response programmes and the WASH Cluster. A total of 41 standby professionals were deployed to 23 different countries in 2018: 14 through the rapid-response team mechanism for short periods (usually less than three months), and 27 for longer deployment periods, averaging six months. In most cases, the deployments are for general response management and coordination services, while other standby professionals work in more specialized areas, such as hydrogeology, faecal sludge management and information management.
UNICEF continued its efforts to strengthen the links between humanitarian and development programming in 2018. Examples include Jordan, where multivariate vulnerability analyses have been used to determine programming priorities (see the Safe water section); the Syrian Arab Republic, where six years of response experience in the area of urban WASH has led to a new programming model that stresses capacity-building of service providers (see Case Study 4); and Yemen, where there is a strong focus on strengthening the resilience of communities and the capacity of institutions to help ensure uninterrupted WASH services.

UNICEF and the Global WASH Cluster conducted two WASH humanitarian action reviews in 2018: one of the response to the Rohingya refugee crises in Bangladesh, and one for the response programme in South Sudan. The reviews detailed the positive impact of sectoral response in each case, such as the successful prevention of waterborne diseases in the very challenging environment of the Rohingya camps in the monsoon season, and the effective coordination of WASH and nutrition interventions in Protection of Civilian sites in South Sudan. The reviews also provide a rich set of lessons from each of these different types of humanitarian intervention, and these are now being incorporated into preparedness planning and training materials.

Case Study 4: Syria: Urban WASH in a protracted crisis

Prior to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2012, 95 per cent of people in Aleppo had access to reliable and safe municipal water and sanitation services. Now, about 65 per cent have some access to water services – but only irregularly – and the other 35 per cent rely on alternative, probably unsafe, sources. The sanitation treatment system, which was heavily damaged in the conflict, is largely inoperative, with raw sewage being discharged directly into the environment. While children are no longer dying directly from the conflict in Aleppo, the risk of cholera outbreaks and diarrhoeal disease remains high.

UNICEF has worked in the city since the start of the conflict, with programming that has evolved over several phases, from meeting critical needs through emergency water trucking and treatment to building resilience through the development of alternative water sources. Since 2017, UNICEF has concentrated on supporting network rehabilitation, with a focus on the most vulnerable neighbourhoods, and providing training and technical assistance to service providers. This is producing results: improved water services are reaching more parts of the city (ongoing funded projects will reach about 4 million people, including returning refugees), and the need for expensive water trucking has declined by 80 per cent. As part of this continuing effort, UNICEF is also working with partners to ensure water, sanitation, hand-washing and menstrual hygiene services in schools, and supporting a multifaceted hygiene promotion and education campaign. Finally, UNICEF is taking some steps to improve sanitation through targeted faecal sludge management activities.

The key lesson from Aleppo that is applicable in other urban emergencies is that after urgent needs are met at the start of the crisis, the most efficient, equitable and sustainable approach for bringing water services to children is by strengthening the capacity of urban water service providers through training and targeted technical assistance.

Much more remains to be done in Aleppo. UNICEF is advocating with current and potential donor partners on the need for continued funding for system reconstruction and capacity-building, and especially on the need to restore safe sanitation services.
## Enabling environment

UNICEF continued to strengthen national WASH sector systems in alignment with the five enabling environment ‘building blocks’ defined by the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership for more effective development cooperation and results at scale: (1) policy and strategy; (2) institutional arrangements; (3) sector financing; (4) planning, monitoring and review; and (5) capacity development.

In 2018, UNICEF provided technical support to national partners in each of these areas in programme countries in all regions. For example, as detailed below, UNICEF has led advocacy and technical support leading to major new legislation, policy and standards in several countries. Similarly, UNICEF supports countries to undertake analysis and remedial action on national sector monitoring systems. The nature of UNICEF support is also guided by the SWA’s ‘collaborative behaviours’ for all sector stakeholders, which stress support for enhanced government leadership of planning processes, the strengthening and use of country systems, and common information and accountability platforms.

The overall aim of the UNICEF approach is not to tackle issues on a one-by-one basis or in isolation, but rather to conduct comprehensive and participatory analysis and solution identification with governments and sector partners. For example, the WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool (WASH BAT), which is further described below, has been applied in over 40 countries so far to help governments take the lead in the sector diagnosis, planning and review cycle and facilitates partnership as the sector problems and solutions are jointly identified. Subsequently, in its country programmes, UNICEF strategically selects what types of support provide the greatest value-added, with an emphasis on interventions that progressively strengthen national systems as a whole to deliver sustainable WASH services at scale. Under the SWA Framework, UNICEF is critically examining its role in the sector and whether it practises the ‘collaborative behaviours’, to ensure programme support is strengthening governments and national sectoral systems.

After a development process including a wide-ranging consultation with staff and partners, UNICEF is set to launch a water game plan in mid-2019, which will provide guidance to country offices on programming to achieve SDG water targets. The game plan will focus on three priority areas:

- Universal access: Providing equitable access to a basic water facility for all
- Safe services: Ensuring the quality of water services
- Sustainable systems: Strengthening institutions to ensure reliable services for all.

Ensuring equal and fair access to water services is the overarching theme of the game plan, which draws on the findings of the rural water supply programme evaluation, and on ongoing work with partners to develop guidance on integrating equity into WASH programming.

There are also encouraging signs of a maturing policy framework on WASH in schools and health-care facilities in programme countries. As described in the section on WASH in institutions, more countries are incorporating key principles of WASH in schools into national policy frameworks, including standards on gender and inclusivity, and the importance of instilling good hand-washing behaviours in younger children at school. There is also an increase in the number of countries that are reforming health sector policy with respect to WASH, in part through ongoing WHO–UNICEF collaborative programming on the Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (see the WASH in health-care facilities section). These efforts will be given a major boost as activities and initiatives related to the United Nations Secretary-General’s Call for Action on WASH in health-care facilities ramp up in 2019.

UNICEF advocacy and support led to a range of new policy and strategy instruments on WASH in 2018, including in the countries shown in Table 9.

### Policy and institutional development

A highlight of 2018 was the finalization of the UNICEF Game Plan to End Open Defecation and its use to influence the sanitation policy framework in high-burden countries, notably through the launch of national road maps in Chad, Eritrea, Nigeria and the Sudan. In these and other countries, continuing work on road maps, costed plans and new financing arrangements for sanitation programming will help ensure that ending open defecation receives the deliberate and sustained attention required to meet national and global goals.
UNICEF works collaboratively within a wide range of strategic partnerships, in the knowledge that the SDG WASH targets and the Strategic Plan outcomes will only be achieved through the joint efforts of all stakeholders, from the largest donor agency to the smallest community-based organization. UNICEF uses its involvement in these partnerships to develop collaborative approaches, raise awareness on the importance of effective WASH policies and programmes, and encourage learning and sharing, including the work that UNICEF is doing to achieve results for children. Working with partners delivers results.

Examples from 2018 include:

- **UN-Water**: As a member of the UN-Water Senior Programme Manager’s group, UNICEF supported coordination of the United Nations system around WASH issues, and contributed to the United Nations speaking ‘with one voice’ through production of a synthesis report on SDG 6, issued to countries at the time of the High-level Political Forum review of Goal 6.

- **SWA**: As a partner of SWA and a member of both its Steering Committee and its High-level Political Dialogue working group, UNICEF helped to set SWAs strategic agenda, revise its governance and develop a mutual accountability mechanism. In late 2018, planning began for the April 2019 Sector Ministers’ Meeting, which UNICEF co-convenes. UNICEF has also committed significant time and expertise to transitioning the SWA Secretariat to a new hosting arrangement within UNICEF.

- **Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention**: UNICEF provided substantial support to the Government of India to hold this high-level meeting with participation from 70 countries (see more in the Sanitation and hygiene section). UNICEF also encouraged participation from the 26 high-burden open defecation countries, and 20 participated, most at ministerial level. Since the meeting, many countries have renewed their commitments to ending open defecation and improving sanitation at scale.

UNICEF continues to work within other key global and regional partnership frameworks, including:

- IASC WASH Cluster
- WHO–UNICEF JMP
- Rural Water Supply Network
- Global Task Force for Cholera Control
- Global Network on Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage
- WASH in Schools partnership network
- Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing with Soap
- WASH4Work Partnership
- Regional sanitation conference bodies (SACOSAN, AfricaSAN, LatinoSAN)

At country level, in addition to its primary partners in government, UNICEF works with a wide range of partners with many specific purposes, ranging from upstream work on policy reform with political decision makers to direct implementation with contractors and local organizations in communities. In 2018, country offices reported a total of more than 1,400 WASH programme partners – in addition to government partners – an average of 15 in each country. These include sister United Nations agencies, donors, international and national NGOs, academic institutions, civil society organizations and private companies. See Annex 2 for a list of these partners.
UNICEF's technical capacity and its long history of working with governments in many countries make it the natural choice to assume leadership roles in the sector. In 2018, eighty-six country offices reported that UNICEF had a leadership role in both development and humanitarian sectoral coordination mechanisms. In many of these countries, UNICEF also provides technical and managerial support for coordination mechanisms. In South Sudan, for example, UNICEF is the humanitarian WASH Cluster Lead Agency, chairs the WASH Humanitarian and Development (HumDev) Group for transitional programming and hosts the secretariat of the national WASH Donor Group. In many cases, UNICEF co-leads coordination and consultative platforms along with government partners, such as in Bangladesh, where it is co-lead of the Local Consultative Group with the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives at national level, and also cluster co-lead with the Department of Public Health Engineering at national and subnational levels.

The Accelerating Sanitation and Water for All in neglected off-track countries (ASWA II) programme came to an end in January 2019. Funded by the Government of the United Kingdom, the initiative was the largest UNICEF global multi-country programme and has had an impact beyond the physical outputs in the target countries. The initiative continues through the ASWA II programme, and through similar programmes funded by the Government of the Netherlands (see Case Study 5).
Case Study 5: Accelerating Sanitation and Water for All

The Accelerating Sanitation and Water for All (ASWA) programme was a partnership between the Government of the United Kingdom and UNICEF that helped 6 million people gain access to improved water, sanitation and hygiene services in nine countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nepal, the Niger, Pakistan, South Sudan and Yemen). ASWA started in July 2013 and was completed in January 2019.

The main ASWA output targets were achieved and exceeded, as follows:

- 7 million people are now living in open defecation free communities (exceeding the target by 17 per cent)
- 5.7 million people have gained access to basic sanitation facilities (exceeding the target by 147 per cent)
- 1.6 million people have gained access to improved water supplies (exceeding the target by 56 per cent).

In addition to these direct outputs, the ASWA programme also contributed to strengthening national WASH systems, in particular in the areas of sector assessment and planning, monitoring, programme management, and building national and local capacity in critical areas.

ASWA was also envisaged as a test bed for innovative approaches that could then be scaled up, not only within ASWA countries but also on a wider scale through the overall UNICEF programme. Examples include innovations in real-time monitoring, the institutionalization of the Three Star WASH in schools approach, and a greater focus on programming for climate resilience. The most important such area in terms of impact on the broader UNICEF programme is VfM. Based on the experiences of ASWA, VfM has become a core part of the UNICEF WASH programme: it is included in the global UNICEF WASH Strategy 2016–2030, has been incorporated into the core UNICEF programme results monitoring system and is increasingly being adopted in non-ASWA countries in UNICEF and government programming.

A new ASWA programme, ASWA II, was launched in 2017 in partnership with the Government of the United Kingdom; it is rooted in the vision of the original, but with programme design modifications based on the lessons learned from ASWA I. In addition, another multi-country ASWA initiative based partially on this model is being funded by the Government of the Netherlands. These mature, multi-country partnerships with donor partners are key mechanisms for UNICEF to meet its Strategic Plan targets and SDG commitments.

The global UNICEF WASH Strategy 2016–2030 stresses the importance of engaging private sector actors, beyond their traditional role of providing goods and services, to scale up WASH services to meet the SDG goals. In country programmes, UNICEF works with the private sector to help build local market capacity to meet the demand for affordable services, encourage innovative approaches and technologies, and leverage new financial resources for children.

A key regional-level partnership with the private sector is the new shared-value collaboration with LIXIL in Eastern Africa on innovative market shaping approaches, starting initially in three countries (see the Sanitation and hygiene section).

UNICEF continued to chair the WASH4WORK global partnership, which works to mobilize businesses to respond to WASH challenges in the workplace, in communities where workers live and across supply chains (wash4work.org). Progress in 2018 included developing the business case for the initiative, formulating standards, and conducting advocacy with both private and public sector stakeholders at major sectoral events. In Indonesia, UNICEF launched an assessment of companies operating in remote areas of the country, to evaluate their potential impact in delivering WASH services, increasing water availability and supporting climate resilience in the districts where they reside. The impacts of this assessment will result in models for engaging large corporations in climate change resilience in remote rural communities.

Sector financing

The UNICEF WASH Strategy 2016–2030 prioritizes the leveraging of sustainable financing for sector goals through support to new financing modalities, tapping into new sources of funding and improving the affordability of WASH interventions. In 2018, UNICEF made progress in all these areas.

UNICEF continued to sponsor research on government budgeting and expenditure in the WASH sector, part of the organization’s broader public financing for children (PF4C) initiative that promotes more equitable allocation of
resources for children and more effective budget execution.
In 2018, six domestic resource mobilization studies in
West and Central Africa were completed, providing a new
body of evidence on financing for SDG targets 6.1 and
6.2.\textsuperscript{16} Budget briefs and other advocacy tools developed
through such initiatives have contributed to results such as
improved budget transparency (in Angola, Mozambique,
Rwanda and other countries) and increased national
budgets for WASH, including significant new funding in
Cambodia, India and South Africa in 2018. Public financing
analyses in the sector are also highlighting ongoing problem
areas, notably the lack of efficiency in fund flows from
central government budgets to subnational implementation
bodies. An increase in the number of UNICEF WASH staff
trained in PF4C tools – staff from more than 40 countries
were trained in 2018 – is helping to drive progress in
this area.

UNICEF contributed to two important sectoral cost–benefit
analysis studies in the sector in 2018. A cholera investment
case study shows the significant savings of implementing
the multisectoral agenda in the Global Task Force on
Cholera Control road map for ending cholera by 2030.\textsuperscript{19}
An economic study of the impacts of the Swachh
Bharat sanitation campaign in India – the largest such
study ever conducted in the sector – showed that the
economic impact of toilets is four times the investment
and recurring costs.\textsuperscript{60}

Efforts to improve the affordability of WASH inputs
continued in 2018 with a range of initiatives in programme
countries. These include support for low-cost hand drilling
of wells (see the Safe water supply section) and the
promotion of lower-cost sanitation technologies, including
in Ghana, where UNICEF helped to develop a new
gender- and disability-friendly school toilet design that can
reduce the costs of rural toilets by more than 75 per cent.
At global level, UNICEF and WHO launched a process to
develop a new system to monitor and measure WASH
affordability through the JMP and the UN-Water Global
Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-water
(GLAAS) monitoring platforms, with the formation of a
technical advisory group, the dissemination of a concept
note and methodology guide, and the selection of case
study countries.

In the ASWA multi-country programme (see Case Study 5),
UNICEF and its government partners assess results in part
through the use of a formal VfM analysis, a standardized
process of collecting and analysing data on the costs and
results of a programme on the basis of a set of benchmark
indicators, to help assess whether or not programmes
are making the best use of available resources. Following
the success of this approach, it is now being expanded
to other non-ASWA countries. To facilitate this process, a
briefing note was developed, a new VfM methodology was
designed and piloted, and the approach was disseminated
through a variety of forums.

In 2018, VfM analyses were carried out in 11 countries,
most (9) of which are not covered by the ASWA multi-
country programme from which the technique originated.

VfM findings have influenced changes in the design of both
UNICEF and government programming strategies, and in
some cases they have had a measurable impact on costs,
including in Jordan and Yemen, where shifts away from
water trucking have led to significant savings. In Zimbabwe,
a VfM analysis showing that demand-led sanitation
approaches are up to seven times more cost-effective
than subsidy-driven approaches has prompted a change in
strategy in the national rural sanitation programme.

UNICEF also produced a synthesis of VfM analyses
conducted through ASWA I in four countries. The analysis
showed that ASWA reached high levels of effectiveness,
efficiency and cost-effectiveness, but that improvements
are necessary in the sustainability of results achieved to
maximize value for money in the longer term.

A UNICEF course on WASH innovative financing was
developed in 2018, based on pilot sessions in the West and
Central Africa and East Asia and the Pacific regions, and at
global level. The course, which will be rolled out in 2019,
fills a capacity-building gap for both staff and partners at
regional and country level. UNICEF continued to support
microfinancing solutions for sanitation in programme
countries in 2018, including in Nigeria, where a UNICEF-
supported microfinancing system has expanded to six
states, in the Philippines and in the Sudan.

UNICEF is supporting revolving fund initiatives to bring
WASH services within reach of households, including in
Mozambique, where a pilot small-town revolving fund
scheme that prorates water system connection fees over
several years has already helped more than 1,000 families
get household connections. In Ghana, the Basic Sanitation
Fund, a revolving finance scheme operated through rural
community banks, coordinated by the regulatory Apex bank
with seed funding from the Government of the Netherlands
and UNICEF, was launched in 2018. The fund offers loans
to households that have access to funds but which struggle to
save the capital investment required for a toilet, while also
providing loans to sanitation artisans and entrepreneurs.

Planning, monitoring and review

UNICEF supports the WASH sector planning process in
various ways at national level. In 2018, the focus of these
efforts was in two areas: developing road maps to end
open defecation and related planning instruments (see the
Sanitation and hygiene section), and support to the use of
the WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool (WASH BAT) by partners
in countries.

WASH BAT has become a core component of UNICEF
contributions to building the WASH enabling environment
at country level. The tool is used to facilitate in-country
participatory planning sessions, designed to help national
and subnational stakeholders identify bottlenecks to
progress and develop costed and prioritized sector plans
to achieve the SDG targets on WASH.\textsuperscript{61} UNICEF provides
continuous support to the process, including extensive
in-country support and the provision of facilitators and training programmes that reached participants from 37 countries in 2018. UNICEF also supports the WASH BAT website, which provides continuous support to countries, including guidelines, tutorial and help desk functions. In 2018, analyses using WASH BAT were carried out in 10 countries; since its inception in 2012, the tool has been used in more than 40 countries.

The WASH BAT reports have become a valuable resource for UNICEF support and advocacy efforts, and for government partners for planning and resource allocation processes. The results of the 2018 Eritrea WASH BAT report highlighted key weaknesses in the national enabling environment; in South Sudan, results were used to make extensive adjustments in the UNICEF programme of assistance; meanwhile, in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, results were used to help develop a new municipal plan for water and sanitation in the city of Montero. The Government of Bangladesh launched WASH BAT nationwide in a process that involved the training and participation of some 800 national and subnational WASH, education, health and nutrition professionals and policymakers. The WASH BAT exercise also considered urban WASH programming, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen faecal sludge and solid waste management practices in the growing urban slums (see more in the Urban WASH programming section).

The JMP launched the first global report on WASH in schools in 2018. The culmination of a three-year process, the report establishes national, regional and global baseline estimates on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services. It becomes the primary monitoring instrument for the WASH in schools components of SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 on universal access to WASH, and SDG target 4.a on inclusive and effective learning environments for all. The baseline uses a similar methodology to the JMP household water and sanitation estimates, which is a significant step up from previous estimates of global coverage of WASH in schools, which were based on much less robust data sources.

Another milestone in the area of WASH in institutions was the development and publication by JMP of the recommended questions and indicators for monitoring WASH in health-care facilities in 2018. These can be used in facility surveys and health management information systems to gather data on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services, as well as on health-care waste management and environmental cleaning.

Other JMP accomplishments in 2018 included the publication of its latest methodology update and contribution to (and co-authorship of) the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation (see the Strategic context section for details).
In 2018, UNICEF completed a global evaluation of rural water supply programming covering 2006–2016 and corresponding to the period of the previous UNICEF WASH Strategy 2006–2015 and the first year of the current strategy. This concentrates on water supply for drinking purposes in rural settings and small towns, with a particular focus on equity and sustainability (see the Safe water section for more information).

UNICEF also launched a review and synthesis of evaluations of its WASH response in emergencies covering 2010–2017, with the aim of filling a significant knowledge gap identified by the UNICEF Executive Board, and by sector stakeholders generally.

Other major WASH-specific evaluations are detailed in Table 10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Evaluation Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>Evaluation d’impact du programme EVA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Enhanced Sanitation Project Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Evaluation of the Level 3 Response to the Cholera Epidemic in Yemen: A crisis within a crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>End line Evaluation of GARIMA (MHM) Project in Uttar Pradesh (2013–2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Evaluation of the WASH in Schools Programme in Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>UNICEF Football for WASH Programme in Kenya: Implementation, outcomes and lessons learned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>Mid-term Evaluation of WASH DGIS Funded Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>Evaluation of the Community Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene Programme in 15 Districts of Malawi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>Evaluation projet Koubeni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Final Evaluation of the Project: Rehabilitation of two piped water systems in Mozambique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>Technical Review of Ceramic Water Filters among Surface Water Users in Rakhine State, Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>Impact Evaluation of WASH Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Joint Country-Led Evaluation of Clean Drinking Water Supply Programme of the P&amp;D Balochistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>Evaluation of UNICEF Viet Nam Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Programme 2012–2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>End of Programme Evaluation of the Zambia Sanitation and Hygiene Programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNICEF also continued to sponsor and contribute to a wide range of research projects covering every programming area across all countries. In 2018, UNICEF staff authored 40 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, as well as conference papers, book chapters and study reports (see Table 11 in the next section).

Capacity development and knowledge management

The UNICEF WASH Strategy 2016–2030 stresses the need for building capacity both within UNICEF and among partners, with a special focus on emerging areas such as climate resilience and urban programming. At country level, UNICEF routinely sponsors courses for programme partners, often several different courses a year in larger offices, and these cover a wide range of subject areas from hygiene promotion for community activists to remote sensing technologies for drought preparedness. Courses and related learning events are also sponsored by regional and global offices. Examples from 2018 include the following (see the respective sections for more information on each of these):

- The new Innovative WASH Financing course, held in three locations
- Ongoing training on the WASH enabling environment, through three regional workshops (East Asia and the Pacific, Middle East and North Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions) and one subregional workshop (Southern Africa)
- The Contracting for WASH Services training programme, conducted in the East and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa regions
- The Leaving No One Behind: Sustainable WASH services in rapidly changing contexts training workshop for UNICEF and government staff (conducted jointly with the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Singapore Water Academy)
- The ongoing WASH in Emergencies course (this year held in five locations with 107 participants)
- The ongoing Global WASH Cluster training series, including a new course on using market-based approaches and cash transfers
- A new public health epidemiology training course for the WASH sector (developed with the Centers for Disease Control).

The UNICEF monthly WASH bulletin has become an important communication tool for both staff and partners. It currently reaches 900 subscribers, an increase of more than 30 per cent from 2017. Online communities of practice on the Yammer platform continue to represent key consultation and learning tools for staff and provide a platform for day-to-day South–South knowledge exchange. In 2018, half of all UNICEF professional WASH staff members used the platforms. As UNICEF sets in place its new, comprehensive Enterprise content management system, the online SharePoint platform will increasingly be used for accessing knowledge products, training courses, enhanced peer review processes and continued publication of high-quality outputs. There is an ongoing regionalization of the global knowledge management strategy, and increased adoption by countries.

UNICEF also sponsors a range of in-person South–South learning opportunities. Examples in 2018 include Angola’s new Water Operators’ Partnership initiative to build capacity in water and sanitation systems, involving training and engagement from system managers and operators from Mozambique, the Netherlands and Portugal; ongoing cooperation among countries in the West and Central Africa region on manual drilling; and the Brazil–Ethiopia engagement on sewerage systems in towns.

UNICEF published 120 publications in 2018, the highest number ever (see Table 11), ranging from flagship publications on global themes such as the JMP’s baseline report on WASH in schools to a wide range of guidance material, technical notes and papers published in peer-reviewed journals, covering all subsectoral and cross-sectoral areas.

As shown in Table 11, UNICEF has started to monitor the number of journal articles and other publications by UNICEF staff that are authored by women. This is part of a broader effort to encourage more women staff members to publish on WASH-related subjects.

Advances were also made in efforts to improve the quality standards of WASH publications through enhanced review processes and the use of standardized publication templates, with 24 of the 40 WASH publications published in this way in 2018.
TABLE 11: UNICEF WASH flagship documents, academic publications, studies and evaluations published in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication type</th>
<th>Number published</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation reports</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>See Table 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey reports</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Core questions and indicators for monitoring WASH in Health-care Facilities in the Sustainable Development Goals, JMP, 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book chapters</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Four chapters written by UNICEF staff and one editor, in: Cumming, Oliver and Tom Slaymaker, eds. Equality in Water and Sanitation Services, Routledge, 2018.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cross-cutting areas

Under the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, results for children are achieved through interlinked programming across sectors, reflecting the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda. WASH results contribute to all the other Strategic Plan goal areas, notably in the areas of health, education and nutrition. At the same time, outputs from other sectoral areas contribute to WASH results, such as the increasing involvement of national health and education systems in promoting hygiene behaviour change.

Cross-cutting programming in the areas of WASH and health-care facilities, MHH and education are discussed in the body of this report, as is WASH humanitarian programming. WASH and climate change is discussed in detail in a subsection of the Water section of this report, above, as well as in the section on Climate, energy and the environment. Also see the subsections below for discussion on urban WASH programming, WASH and nutrition, WASH and human rights, WASH and disability, and WASH and gender.

Urban WASH

As poor urban populations grow, UNICEF is increasing its involvement in urban WASH programming to fulfil the organizational mandate of reaching the most vulnerable children, wherever they are. This includes the imperative of reaching the increasing number of children living in urban areas affected by emergencies, notably in the Middle East region. The UNICEF move into urban programming is also in conformance with the global WASH Strategy 2016–2030, which stresses the need to grow the organization’s work in this area, and the focus on urban programming in the Strategic Plan.

A new UNICEF urban WASH programming framework was drafted in 2018, through a consultative process involving UNICEF staff, donors and other partners. The framework provides strategic guidance on UNICEF engagement in urban WASH at global, regional and country office levels, and defines boundaries of what UNICEF is best placed to do based on its mandate, capacity and comparative
advantage. The framework focuses on work in three different urban contexts: slums of megacities, small towns, and urban areas in humanitarian and protracted crisis settings.

Baseline data collected in 2018 showed that just 26 programme countries have an urban WASH policy strategy in place, either as a stand-alone policy or as a component of broader sectoral policy frameworks. UNICEF is helping to address this by supporting government partners in developing national policies and strategies. In 2018, this included direct support to policy development in several countries, including Ghana, Pakistan, South Sudan and Solomon Islands, where an urban WASH baseline study was completed. Elsewhere – including in Indonesia, Madagascar and Rwanda – UNICEF is supporting the operationalization of new urban WASH policy instruments.

Although urban WASH is a newer area of focus than rural programming, UNICEF is becoming increasingly active in this area. In 2018, an estimated 12 per cent of the 7 million UNICEF safe water beneficiaries from development programming lived in cities and towns. For sanitation, the proportion was lower: 9 per cent of the 10.8 million basic sanitation beneficiaries from development programming were urban residents. These figures are only estimates, since in some countries it is hard to fully disaggregate results due to uncertainties in the classification of habitations as rural or urban, especially in peri-urban areas. In humanitarian response programmes, urban engagement is also growing, notably in the response programmes in the Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries.

UNICEF helped to build capacity for urban WASH programming in several countries in 2018. Examples include sponsorship of an urban WASH course at the national vocational training centre in Ethiopia, the development of an urban WASH training package for Eastern and Southern Africa countries, training on computer-aided town water system design in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, urban CATS training in Namibia and emergency urban WASH training in Indonesia. UNICEF also defined priorities for training its own staff based on the global WASH staff survey, which is being used to develop an urban WASH training programme in 2019.

Support to town water systems through Ethiopia’s OneWASH sector-wide programme continued in 2018, with the system for Wukro town in Tigray region completed, and seven others nearing completion. In each of the eight cities, a comprehensive WASH package is being delivered, including water, sanitation (solid waste and faecal sludge management), behaviour change communication and capacity-building. The UNICEF-sponsored South–South partnership between Brazil and Ethiopia led to the completion of a condominial sewage treatment facility, highlighting this cost-effective and participatory approach to urban sanitation design. In Mozambique, there was progress on the establishment of the US$100 million small-town water fund promoted by UNICEF with USAID and World Bank agreement to participate.

The largest urban WASH programmes continue to be in response to the protracted crises in the Middle East and North Africa region and elsewhere. Examples include Somalia, where four new EU-funded small-town water systems were completed in 2018; the Sudan, where UNICEF ran two large urban sanitation programmes in the Darfur region; and Yemen, where UNICEF ensured that water and sanitation systems in 15 cities continued to deliver services for more than 5 million people through the provision of equipment and supplies, maintenance and reconstruction. In the Syrian Arab Republic, where UNICEF has worked in cities since the start of the crisis in 2012, a new model for urban WASH programming is being developed (see Case Study 4 in the Emergency WASH section).

A key role for UNICEF in urban WASH is in the use of monitoring and information as a tool for advocacy for the prioritization of funding for poor urban populations, and for improving programming strategies and methodologies. In Liberia, for example, an analysis of the country’s new comprehensive database on water system functionality showed that the slums in Monrovia had the lowest levels of coverage in the country, while elsewhere in West and Central Africa the vulnerability of poor urban areas to cholera and other disease outbreaks was highlighted.

In Bangladesh, UNICEF has been supporting the provision of improved WASH services in low-income communities in Dhaka since the 1990s. Over the years, the approach has evolved from direct interventions in communities to the development programming model that supports the city’s water and sanitation utility and partner NGOs in the provision of safe and affordable water supply through legal water connections. Slum residents participating in the programme now pay about 35 per cent less per month than through previous illegal connections, for a much safer and more reliable service. The programme has since expanded with sanitation, hygiene promotion and solid waste disposal components.

UNICEF also plays a role in ensuring that access to water in cities and towns becomes more equitable. This is achieved primarily through improved policy and legislation, which promotes equal access to water supply systems while targeting unfair pricing practices by private water sellers that are common in cities in developing countries. The promotion of improved water metering technologies is one way in which UNICEF is contributing in this area, as described in the Safe water supply section.
WASH and nutrition

The evidence has been clear for some time that poor water and sanitation services and unsafe hygiene practices are among the most important causes of child undernutrition. And it is now becoming increasingly clear that WASH programmes are among the most impactful interventions to reduce such sickness and death. The causes of undernutrition are complex and multifactorial, and solutions must therefore include both nutrition-specific interventions such as food supplementation, as well as inputs from other sectors, including WASH.

The integration of these inputs is key; as a multisectoral agency, UNICEF is well placed to deliver them, and to promote and support government partners to do the same. UNICEF supports and advocates for integrated community-based packages of interventions in a number of countries that include WASH interventions, and in some cases – such as in Afghanistan and Angola – these have recently been significantly expanded through increased government commitment and new sources of financing (see the Goal Area 1 Annual Results Report for more information).

One point of convergence between WASH and nutrition programming is through CATS programming, in which messaging includes the promotion of nutrition-related behaviour change, as well as for sanitation and handwashing. In Kenya, a study of a pilot project using this approach showed modest but promising results. Householders in the pilot area demonstrated improvements in both knowledge and practices in three critical areas: handwashing at critical times, the proper disposal of child and animal faeces, and knowledge of when to start breastfeeding.

UNICEF also delivers integrated nutrition packages with WASH components in its own humanitarian response interventions, and, through its leadership role in WASH, Nutrition and Health clusters, it encourages and supports integrated interventions through partner programmes. It is increasingly common for acute malnutrition response programmes to include tailored WASH intervention packages as a core component. This usually includes the promotion of handwashing with soap but can also involve WASH infrastructure. In Chad, for example, UNICEF is constructing WASH facilities in health and nutrition centres and also implementing a community-based programme, where over 36,000 mother–child couples with severe acute malnutrition received hygiene kits, and nearly 200,000 participated in hygiene promotion.

The largest integrated WASH and nutrition response programme is in Yemen, where UNICEF and its cluster partners are delivering a multisectoral package of interventions in 165 districts selected using food security and malnutrition criteria. For WASH, this involved large-scale health facility-based interventions, including the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in health centres (with more than 1,000 such centres reached in 2018), the provision of hygiene kits and hygiene promotion to children, and caregivers visiting nutrition rehabilitation centres. These interventions were complemented by support in communities, including emergency assistance for the operation of water supply systems and water trucking, the repair and rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems, and education and supplies related to hygiene and household water treatment.

Integrated nutrition–WASH programming is also benefiting from increased coherence between humanitarian and development programmes. In South Sudan, for example, UNICEF has been building the capacity of WASH committees and handpump mechanics associations, not just in the area of water system operation and maintenance but also in hygiene promotion. This community-based pool of trained people has since played a vital role in the integrated response programme for the country’s acute child malnutrition emergency.

UNICEF is working to build even stronger links between its nutrition and WASH interventions for children by promoting and institutionalizing an approach that includes joint work at all stages of the programme cycle, including situational analysis, intervention design, and monitoring and assessment. This builds on experience in the field, as well as on the WASH and nutrition strategies previously developed in several UNICEF regions. One of the largest ongoing programmes is in the Sindh province of Pakistan, where an integrated WASH and nutrition campaign on exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding and handwashing with soap reached 11,450 pregnant and lactating women through participatory, gender-responsive approaches.

WASH and human rights

The key underlying principle of the UNICEF WASH Strategy 2016–2030 is that the human right to water and sanitation is at the core of the UNICEF mandate for children, and that ensuring equality of access to sufficient and safe WASH services in households, communities and institutions is the underlying principle of all WASH programmes. The WASH Strategy also emphasizes the need for UNICEF to encourage and support government duty-bearers and other stakeholders to prioritize the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children, wherever they are. This is in line with global sectoral policy, starting with Agenda 2030 and its focus on key rights, which for WASH include SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2, which stress universality and equality, and SDG target 1.4, which calls for equal access to basic services, in particular for poor and vulnerable people.
The SDG 6 targets make specific mention of the affordability of WASH services, since in a world where water resources are under threat, the costs of services are rising. This is especially the case in urban slums, where the cost of water to consumers can be far higher than in rural areas. Affordability is consequently a strong focus of UNICEF WASH programming, with activities ranging from support for low-cost drilling and smart metering technologies for fair tariffing (see the Safe water section) to support for innovative financing models to improve access to sanitation for poor households (see the Enabling environment section).

UNICEF also works to promote inclusive WASH services for girls and women across all programmes, and in particular in the areas of MHH and WASH in institutions. The promotion of inclusive WASH services for people with disabilities cuts across all sector activities (see the WASH and disability section).

Young people have always been a part of UNICEF WASH programmes. They are key allies in advocacy efforts to protect the water environment and reduce pollution (see Case Study 7 in the Results: Climate, energy and environment section). They are also partners in efforts to broaden access to affordable services, such as water supply through youth drilling associations in the Central African Republic (see the Safe water section) and sanitation though young women masons in South Asia (see Case Study 3 in the Sanitation and hygiene section).

WASH and disability

The evidence is clear that poor access to WASH for people with disabilities affects not only access to WASH services but also access to health care, education, work and other rights. However, exclusion from services is still very common, especially in poorer countries and communities, and especially among children with disabilities.

To help address this issue, UNICEF WASH and disability professionals launched a technical paper and advocacy note in 2018, showing that disability-accessible and -inclusive WASH is achievable at low cost by using universal design principals, community-driven change and existing expertise and methods. Based on evidence from 30 countries, and interviews with more than 80 WASH experts and actors – including people with disabilities through disabled persons’ organizations – the paper also illustrates how inclusive WASH has benefits that extend to all community members, beyond people with disabilities. The package was used in training and information sessions with UNICEF staff and partners, and also in engagement with partners and decision makers at global and regional WASH forums, including in a joint session with WaterAid, the World Bank and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency at World Water Week, the sector’s largest annual forum. UNICEF is applying the principles of this paper in its country programming and engagement with government and other partners in a variety of ways, from policy dialogue with national decision makers to building innovative disability-accessible toilets in communities, schools and health-care facilities in both development and humanitarian contexts.

Advocacy and support for including disability-inclusive WASH elements within national WASH policies, strategies and standards is a core activity, and integral to UNICEF equity goals. This is especially the case in the area of WASH in schools, where UNICEF is frequently involved in the formulation of national strategies and standards and is in a position to promote and support disability-accessible and -accessible facilities as standard design features, such as in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste in 2018, where newly launched WASH in schools strategies and standards incorporate disability-accessible WASH facilities. As UNICEF expands its work in the area of WASH in health-care facilities, it is beginning to have a similar influence, such as in Mozambique, where disability-accessible toilets and washing facilities are a component of ongoing work to develop new national standards.

UNICEF leads efforts to develop and field-test context-specific disability-inclusive designs to help government partners meet policies already in force. In Kenya and Lesotho, for example, UNICEF is working with ministries of education to develop disability- and child-friendly designs for toilets and washing facilities. In Ghana, UNICEF is focusing on the development and piloting of WASH facilities that are disability-accessible but also cost-effective in both schools and communities, as a strategy for ensuring that designs will be adopted and used at scale.

In humanitarian response programmes, UNICEF works within national and Sphere standards on inclusion in WASH in accordance with the 2017 Including Children with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action guidance package, which includes a volume on WASH. In Iraq, for example, inclusive and accessible WASH services for people with disabilities are part of all UNICEF interventions in camps, including accessible designs for toilets and showers, and the large-scale programme to rehabilitate WASH facilities in schools includes separate latrines for children with disabilities. In many cases, post-crisis reconstruction efforts such as these ‘build back better’, creating disability-inclusive and -accessible facilities where they did not exist before.

UNICEF continued to work on the testing and refinement of a disability-accessible humanitarian toilet product that will meet UNICEF Supply Division standards for usability, quality and value and can therefore be confidently deployed.
on a large scale to multiple countries in emergencies. A key design criterion for the new toilet design is that it ensures the dignity of users. Based on field trials in Angola, prototypes have been refined and larger-scale testing is under way, with the participation of two suppliers. Once complete, the new toilet will be the first dedicated accessible technology product for WASH to be developed for the supply catalogue.

Disability inclusion in emergencies goes beyond the design and construction of disability-friendly facilities. As part of its emergency preparedness and response programme in Indonesia, UNICEF is working in partnership with a national disabled persons’ organization to provide disability-friendly WASH services using universal design facilities. The initiative also includes awareness-raising and advocacy for disability inclusion among local stakeholders, and training for school principals, teachers and other front-line workers on the principles and practice of disability inclusion.

### WASH and gender

Women and girls shoulder a disproportionate burden for water management, and they are most affected by a lack of hygiene and sanitation, especially in humanitarian situations. UNICEF prioritizes gender-responsive approaches in WASH programmes, both to improve WASH outcomes and to contribute to the broader goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women. This work is part of the broader UNICEF programme to promote gender equality, as articulated in the Gender Action Plan 2018–2021. Activities include support for research on gender and WASH; advocacy and support for gender-positive policies, strategies and plans; and the encouragement of the meaningful participation of women in WASH management bodies and planning processes at all levels. UNICEF also works to ensure that WASH facilities and services in schools, health centres and communities are woman- and girl-friendly and facilitate MHH.

At global level, UNICEF works with partners to ensure that sector guidance and approaches are gender-responsive. In 2018, WaterAid, Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor and UNICEF launched Female-friendly Public and Community Toilets: A guide for planners and decision makers, which primarily targets local authorities in towns and cities who are in charge of public and community toilets. The guide explains why toilets must be female-friendly, before detailing the essential and desirable design components needed to make them so. It also suggests ways to increase gender sensitivity in town and city planning with regard to sanitation.

Examples of other gender-relevant guidance material developed in 2018 include the new UNICEF global guidance package on MHH in schools (see the Sanitation and hygiene section); the South Asia region’s Gender Toolkit for Integrating Gender into UNICEF Programmes (with a WASH component); and a Field Note in Bhutan that discusses challenges and solutions to delivering menstrual hygiene health for adolescent schoolgirls and nuns.

At country level, UNICEF supports sector gender assessments to identify opportunities for strengthening gender-responsive WASH services. In Solomon Islands, UNICEF carried out a gender assessment of the WASH sector in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and CARE International. The study was designed to help WASH actors better understand gender disparities related to WASH, and it has resulted in the identification of actions that government, UNICEF and NGOs can take to increase gender equality in WASH programming.

The need for private, appropriate, gender-segregated sanitation and washing facilities for girls in schools, and for women in health-care facilities and other institutions, has been recognized for some time in the sector. Policies and standards on WASH in institutions developed with the support of UNICEF usually take into account these and other gender-responsive design criteria, as do the majority of facilities constructed through the direct support of UNICEF. As an indicator for progress in this area, starting in 2018, UNICEF is monitoring the number and proportion of schools in which UNICEF support results in gender-segregated sanitation facilities. As discussed in the Sanitation and hygiene section, the results were positive: 94 per cent of supported schools had separate sanitation facilities for girls and boys.

UNICEF continued to be a leader in the area of MHH in 2018, with comprehensive programming support at global, regional and country level for knowledge creation, advocacy, policy development and direct support in schools and communities (see the WASH in institutions section).

UNICEF is leading the inter-agency roll-out of the IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, which were released in 2015. In WASH, the guidelines provide comprehensive advice across all stages of the humanitarian programming cycle, and include specific recommendations such as on the design and siting of gender-segregated sanitation and washing facilities, and requirements for the participation of women in planning, design and implementation. UNICEF is working to institutionalize the guidelines within all country programmes: to date, 66 of 82 applicable countries have achieved this. In 2018, gender-based violence specialists worked with WASH and Supply Division staff to update the content and accompanying guidance material of UNICEF hygiene and dignity kits, ensuring alignment with the guidelines’ recommendations.
Minimizing the risks of gender-based violence in emergency situations often boils down to practical actions at field level. In the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh, for example, UNICEF and WASH sector partners developed and used a set of latrine and bathing facility checklists to minimize safety risks and ensure that facilities could be used by girls and women. In Lebanon, 200 gender focal points were appointed in the Informal Settlements WASH Committees and expanded their roles to other health-related areas, such as nutrition surveillance, gender-based violence, disability and education.

UNICEF commitment to gender equality in WASH programmes includes supporting women’s active participation and leadership in community WASH committees. Such work not only contributes to efforts to empower women in their communities, it is also key to the operation and management of systems: women’s leadership on these committees can drive sustainability. However, this must go well beyond simple quota systems; the inclusion of women in committees does not automatically translate into improvements in gender equality or improved system management.

In its large-scale water supply rehabilitation programme in Zimbabwe, UNICEF not only ensures that women are in the majority on all water system management committees, it also makes deliberate efforts to engage local leadership to nominate women for key strategic positions with decision-making powers. In its engagement with communities, UNICEF also takes gender dynamics into account by ensuring that training programme and community consultation venues and timing are amenable to the full participation of women, including married women and those living with HIV/AIDS.

UNICEF also ensures that women are encouraged and supported to take on leading roles in community mobilization, hygiene promotion and sanitation campaigns. This helps ensure that women and girls are reached with messaging, and that their concerns and ideas can be transmitted to programme managers for action. In the Azraq refugee camp in Jordan, for example, the recruitment of volunteer refugee mothers as hygiene promoters has improved the reach and effectiveness of the programme, while in camps hosting Syrian refugees in Lebanon women WASH mobilizers have influenced the design of toilets to minimize the risk of gender-based violence, as illustrated in this video. In South Asian countries, UNICEF is helping women entrepreneurs in the area of sanitation (see Case Study 3).

UNICEF has been less successful in its efforts to achieve gender parity within its own WASH staff cadre. In 2018, only 25 per cent of UNICEF professional WASH staff members were women. This is far lower than in UNICEF generally – since the organization achieved staff gender parity in 2010 – and lower than in other WASH organizations. A survey of the proportion of women WASH staff in six international NGOs and United Nations agencies showed that all had higher proportions of women than UNICEF, with several achieving or approaching parity.

To help address gender inequality within the UNICEF WASH programme, the organization launched the Women in WASH initiative in 2018, with the goals of achieving gender parity among professional WASH staff and improving professional growth opportunities for women within UNICEF itself. The strategy involves understanding the underlying barriers faced by women, and examining what can be done to remove them, as opposed to simply setting quotas. To date, the following progress has been made:

- The completion of a situation analysis in UNICEF and the sector, based on nearly 100 interviews with current and former UNICEF staff and other key partners in the WASH sector, and an extensive desk review
- Ongoing strategy formulation and a plan of action, focusing on the areas of recruitment, retention, advancement and representation
- A new coaching programme that matches 27 mid-level women staff with senior women staff coaches
- A conference shadowing programme, in which three mid-level professional women participated in forums with senior staff at the two largest sectoral meetings (the Stockholm International Water Institute World Water Week and the UNC Water & Health Conference), to build their networks and gain skills in partnerships
- The publication of online stories representing women in UNICEF WASH.
Challenges: Water, sanitation and hygiene

The key challenges for meeting SDG WASH targets by 2030 are clear: billions of people still lack safe water, sanitation and handwashing facilities; WASH systems are increasingly stressed by the impacts of climate change; water pollution is worsening; governance structures are weak and fragmented; and programming capacity is insufficient for the scaling up necessary to meet targets. Underlying each of these challenges is the issue of funding: WASH programmes lack sufficient financial resources at all levels.

Within UNICEF, key challenges for delivering on Strategic Plan targets by 2021 include the need to further improve strategies in the emerging areas of urban WASH programming, WASH and climate adaptation, and engaging strategically with the private sector; the need to improve multi-sectoral responses in public health emergencies; improved monitoring systems to reflect systems-focused programming; and challenges related to human resources and financing within the organization.

Going into the second year of the Strategic Plan, UNICEF is addressing these challenges with a focus on the priority areas summarized below, and described in detail in the section on High-level priorities at the end of this report.

- Supporting the development of national road maps to eliminate open defecation while working to develop healthy markets for sanitation products and services
- Increasing access to drinking water supplies, with a focus on the unserved, while addressing climate resilience, water scarcity, and the safety of water resources and services
- Delivering quality humanitarian WASH responses and demonstrating leadership on the three main pillars of the Change Agenda of the Water under Fire report (stopping attacks on WASH infrastructure and personnel, improving the quality of responses, and linking humanitarian and development programming)
- Strengthening systems across the WASH enabling environment and contributing to new WASH sector financing modalities and innovative financing initiatives
- Developing a systematic approach to WASH capacity development to empower staff across the organization to deliver the UNICEF WASH strategy using state-of-the-art knowledge, approaches and tools
- Strengthening UNICEF monitoring and reporting systems, for reporting both direct and indirect results in areas such as systems strengthening, sustainability and VfM, and disaggregated data on disability and gender
- Launch of the global UNICEF WASH urban framework to guide WASH programming in urban contexts, including slums, small towns and humanitarian protracted-crisis responses.
In the SDGs, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, social protection and climate change adaptation are widely recognized as integral parts of social and economic development, and addressed across a range of goals and targets.

Through risk-informed programming, UNICEF and partners support countries to create policies and programmes that are responsive to the needs of children and strengthen the integration of humanitarian and development programming by supporting systems to better prepare for, and respond to and recover from, shocks and stresses.
One of the output statements under Goal Area 4 in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 considers the extent to which countries adopt policies, strategies and programmes that address risks related to disasters, conflict and public health emergencies. Specifically, the Strategic Plan looks at the number of countries with child-sensitive national or local risk management plans addressing risks related to disasters, climate change, conflict, public health emergencies or other crises. In 2018, a total of 47 countries reported having such plans in place. This is an increase from the 2016 baseline of 35 countries, and consistent with the continued focus and efforts in 2018 on supporting UNICEF country offices in risk-informed programming, including child-focused and multi-hazard risk analyses.

One of the change strategies in the Strategic Plan focuses on enhancing coherence and connectedness between at-scale capacity for humanitarian action and longer-term programming, including risk-informed programme design, preparedness, and support to common needs assessments and national and local first responders (humanitarian and development integration). Specifically, the plan looks at the percentage of country offices that meet organizational benchmarks on implementing risk-informed programming. In 2018, some 37 per cent of UNICEF country offices met these benchmarks, which is an increase from the 16 per cent baseline in 2016. To meet the benchmarks, a country office must have conducted an analysis of risks that includes a focus on children within the past three years at national or subnational level, and must have a country programme or annual workplan with specific objectives, strategies or activities that is informed by the child-sensitive risk analysis.

Additionally, as shown in Figure 16, most country offices report considering disaster risk in their national-level risk analysis, while risks related to climate, conflict and health are also examined, but to a lesser extent. At subnational level, the same risks are considered in the analysis, though fewer countries report this.

FIGURE 16: Risk assessment typologies in country offices, 2018
In 2018, across all regions, UNICEF country offices continued to focus on risk-informed programming. Countries are thus undertaking increasingly thorough child-centred, multi-hazard risk analyses, either as stand-alone assessments, as part of general situation analyses (e.g., Panama and the Syrian Arab Republic) or linked to the work on the UNICEF Emergency Preparedness Platform, as done in Costa Rica. Whereas most countries are focusing on national-level risk analysis, others have conducted subnational-level risk analysis to inform planning and programming (e.g., India, Myanmar and Uganda). The UNICEF Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming (GRIP) has proved a useful tool for analysis and programming at country level. It includes four core modules, in addition to seven sector-specific modules.

In some countries, risk-informed programming is being prioritized due to a change in country context – for example, in Libya, where the previous UNICEF strategy and its modest budget, characterized by limited upstream support and humanitarian action, were insufficient to respond to the new context and to provide the government with the requested support. More countries are aware of the benefits of employing a risk-informed programming lens when developing new Country Programme Documents (CPDs), as was the case in Rwanda, where the new CPD 2018–2023 is risk-informed in preparing for shocks such as environmental disaster or disease outbreak, and in answering the needs of current and possible refugees.

The need for and benefits of implementing risk-informed programming is increasingly being recognized. Thus, a recent emergency in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic created demand for risk-informed development planning and programming to build resilient communities and achieve sustainable development and growth. Similarly, in Tunisia, floods in 2018 and the effects of climate change, combined with increased natural hazards, have highlighted the need to conduct a systemic analysis of risks and their likely impact on children and their families. Likewise, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) and Honduras both recognize the need for risk-informed programming, given recurring climate-induced emergencies.

A new United Nations Joint Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina on disaster risk reduction (DRR), involving UNICEF, UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNFPA was finalized in 2018. The programme began implementation in February 2019 in 10 selected locations to improve DRR capacities at local level. Also, in Tajikistan, UNICEF supported the development of a national DRR strategy that has a strong focus on resilience and risk reduction, rather than disaster management alone.

In India, UNICEF provided technical support (risk assessment, workshops etc.) in the revision of state and district disaster management plans in 72 districts of Telangana and Chhattisgarh states. UNICEF also supported disaggregated risk data, including at municipal government level, in Honduras; investment in deep bore-holes to reduce drought risk in Afghanistan; and school preparedness and retrofitting in Bangladesh and Indonesia to reduce the impacts of future disaster impacts.

**Linking humanitarian and development programming**

Under the broader umbrella of linking humanitarian and development programming, many countries are adapting or redesigning their existing programmes, including in the country examples below.

Among the 1 million Syrian refugees hosted by Lebanon, more than half are of school-age (between 3 and 18 years of age) in need of basic services, including education. In response, the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education rolled out a comprehensive response plan that bridges emergency interventions with longer-term development perspectives. The Reaching All Children with Education (RACE II) five-year plan defines multiple programmes to improve vulnerable (Lebanese and refugee) children’s access to quality and inclusive formal and non-formal education. RACE II also draws on the opportunity of humanitarian funding to improve the quality and resilience of the overburdened public education system. As a key technical and operational actor of RACE II, UNICEF has worked with the education sector in designing and implementing key interventions. As a result of this strong partnership, the Ministry and UNICEF have successfully supported more than half a million children (200,000 Lebanese and 300,000 refugee children) to access formal and non-formal education opportunities.

In Ethiopia, analysis generated by several joint missions by United Nations agencies (including UNICEF), donors and the Government led to the development of the Humanitarian Disaster Resilience Plan (HDRP) 2018, the first of its kind. The HDRP was launched as a humanitarian appeal, but also included two pillars focusing on national system strengthening, and recovery and resilience-building interventions.

In eastern Ukraine, UNICEF continued to build the capacity of local authorities and civil society organizations to provide quality services aimed at strengthening resilience.
and developing social cohesion around children, further strengthening the linkages between humanitarian and development programming.

In Burkina Faso, under the United Nations Sustaining Peace initiative, UNICEF is working with government partners to advance the humanitarian–development linkages by fostering children’s rights and enhancing community resilience. Based on midterm review recommendations, UNICEF is also increasingly considering linking humanitarian and development programming in Afghanistan. One example of this approach is an increased focus on prevention, as well as treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition, thereby concentrating more on long-term solutions, reducing expenses related to treatment in the process.

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding

In countries where conflict, violence and major threats to social cohesion present risks to children, UNICEF continues to focus on child-centred peacebuilding programming. In 2018, forty-seven UNICEF country offices reported that their country programmes included explicit objectives to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, addressing violence, conflict and challenges to social cohesion. UNICEF programming approaches focused on reinforcing institutions and structures to equitably extend and expand social service delivery to all communities and individuals. It also sought to leverage service delivery to address the underlying structural causes in societies suffering from polarization, violence and tensions, often of a cyclical nature, and to build bridges within and between divided groups. Importantly, UNICEF peacebuilding programming has focused on supporting children and young people as key actors in preventing violence and building peace.

Across country programmes, UNICEF conflict prevention and peacebuilding-oriented programming has strengthened national peace capacities and addressed conflict on three intersecting levels of impact:

- Strengthening vertical social cohesion by enhancing or rebuilding state and society relations
- Strengthening horizontal social cohesion by building bridges within and among divided groups at community level, and between older and younger citizens
- Individual capacity contributions by helping individuals at all levels to anticipate, manage, mitigate, resolve and transform violent conflict, be resilient to its impact and engage in inclusive social change processes.

Through the Peacebuilding Fund, UNICEF has worked collectively with other United Nations agencies in 22 countries to engage in critical conflict prevention and peacebuilding work based on a common understanding of conflict factors and dynamics. Key areas are the strengthening of inclusive social services, adolescent and youth participation in peace and reconciliation processes, the peacebuilding potential of education, and support to children in armed conflict.

In Mali, UNICEF has worked with UNFPA and IOM to accelerate implementation of the national peace and reconciliation agreement by engaging 2,500 young people, 900 of them women, in the central part of the country, which is in urgent need of conflict prevention and conflict resolution. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF and partners have continued to expand the existing Dialogue for the Future to include other countries in the region. Initially launched in 2014 in partnership with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency, this programme established local dialogue platforms in 28 municipalities, while building the capacity of youth to lead and monitor them. As a result, young people have engaged in decision-making through national and regional dialogue platforms to take forward youth recommendations on policy change and reconciliation initiatives.

In Colombia, UNICEF supported implementation of the peace accords through support for demobilized children, as well as programmes for the prevention of new recruitments. Its role centred on providing support for institutions and communities in local processes that offer recognition and care for child victims of the armed conflict, promoting reconciliation, child protection and local peacebuilding. Some 4,200 girls, boys and adolescents participated in peacebuilding actions in 25 municipalities, building their capacity – and that of their families and communities – to lead 105 local reconciliation initiatives.
In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, based on the gendered Community Dynamics Analysis undertaken in 2017, 130 trained gender champions undertook community-based gender analysis and developed 27 action plans. In addition, 1,530 community leaders received training on identifying and addressing gender disparities. The approach led to the training of an additional 1,230 people in non-violent conflict transformation techniques in Ituri province, and the establishment of 123 peace committees. Seven of the 20 conflicts brought before the committees were resolved successfully, with the others still under mediation.

In Guinea-Bissau, as part of an innovative Peacebuilding Fund project, UNICEF is implementing a community engagement initiative with adolescents in rural areas as a response to youth exclusion and instability in two regions where literacy rates are low and inter-communal tensions exist over access to resources. Young people learn life skills, with a particular emphasis on peacebuilding competencies (with additional literacy components for those who need them) over a period of six months, and are then encouraged to engage in advocacy around children’s rights, monitoring the provision of basic services, or reflective sessions on service provision with authorities.

In 2018, UNICEF stepped up participation in the Youth, Peace and Security Coalition, taking forward the recommendations of the 2018 Missing Peace study and Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419 on increasing the role of youth in negotiating and implementing peace agreements. In line with the Strategic Plan, which identifies joint action to support peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts at country level, UNICEF has successfully partnered with UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women in implementing peacebuilding programming in 22 countries, with a focus on children in armed conflict, youth participation in peace processes, the potential of education in peacebuilding, and tackling exclusion.
In some contexts, community-level engagement initiatives have served as platforms for fostering vertical social cohesion. In Libya, young people participating in UNICEF initiatives played an important role in a campaign to promote vaccination by distributing flyers. In Guinea-Bissau, UNICEF is training adolescent television and radio reporters in conflict-sensitive reporting, which, among other topics, will cover the functioning of basic services. In Côte d’Ivoire, as part of a Peacebuilding Fund project, UNICEF trained 561 young people (aged 16–24) to act as community relays in promoting birth and identity registration (a precondition for accessing state services) in rural areas, where access to services has been a source of conflict. In Madagascar, where mistrust of the security sector has been a significant issue, young people participating in the UNICEF component of a Peacebuilding Fund project are planning a local event with their community on security issues.

**Capacity-building**

To meet the increasing demand for risk-informed programming, UNICEF is undertaking capacity-building initiatives, primarily targeting country offices.

Overall, 15 countries were supported with technical assistance for the roll-out of the UNICEF GRIP and UNICEF Programme Guidance on Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding. Mali, Pakistan and Timor-Leste used the guidance to develop a risk assessment followed by a workshop-based process of validation and planning with national government and implementing partners. Meanwhile, eight countries in Eastern and Southern Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean integrated risk-informed programming methodologies and approaches in the results-based management processes linked to the programme planning cycle (including development of CPDs).

While headquarters and regional offices provide support to country offices, such as through risk-informed programming workshops, UNICEF country offices are themselves building the capacity of in-country partners. Examples in 2018 include:

- **Mali**, where UNICEF and partners held a risk-informed programming workshop that identified opportunities to strengthen social cohesion and resilience, and to ensure coherence between development and humanitarian interventions
- **Nepal**, where the country office has worked on sensitizing and building the capacity of local government officials and elected bodies on risk-informed planning and budgeting in the context of DRR
- **Pakistan**, where risk-informed programming workshops mainstreamed risk reduction strategies into sectoral workplans, engaging both line ministries and provincial authorities
- **Turkmenistan**, where a child-risk-informed preparedness and response workshop was organized by the UNICEF regional office, targeting emergency authorities in Central Asia
- **Viet Nam**, where capacity-building included child-centred risk mapping and analysis training for national and regional disaster management staff in all provinces
Case Study 6: Viet Nam: Child-centred disaster risk reduction programming

In Viet Nam, UNICEF is supporting a multi-modal and multisectoral approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and peacebuilding. Globally, Viet Nam is the sixth most-affected country by climate change, manifesting increasingly intense and unpredictable weather events. Each year, the monsoon brings typhoons and flooding, causing fatalities and extensive damage to infrastructure, such as schools and health centres, and impacting the livelihoods of already disadvantaged communities. Access to food, water, education and health care is threatened, and the pressure on communities – resulting from loss of income and assets – increases children’s exposure to violence, exploitation and abuse.

Critical to any informed DRR programme is quality risk assessment and mapping. UNICEF has worked to build capacity in this area through a national training programme for 22 local officers with the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority, who will transfer their knowledge to other programme implementers in their respective regions. In Ninh Thuan province, 546 officials from line departments and the education sector have enhanced their skills with UNICEF-led training in public communication, risk-informed and child-focused planning, and disaster information management and monitoring. Additionally, to promote global horizontal sharing of best practices, UNICEF supported a DRR exchange visit to Japan for Vietnamese officials. A highlight was visiting a school-based safe community (Bokomi model), which Ninh Thuan province has committed to integrating into its own context in 2019.

In May 2018, for the first time, the National Day for Prevention and Control of Disasters was celebrated in all 14,695 primary schools across Viet Nam to raise awareness of natural disaster preparedness. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc took part in a UNICEF-targeted province, and the event was broadcast live on television and watched by millions of people. The success of these programmes has positioned Viet Nam as a reference model both regionally and globally, and line ministry support is expected to grow in 2019.

Evidence and guidance

GRIP supports an analysis of risk disaggregated by gender and age, which means programming is better able to tackle underlying gender issues, such as girls’ lack of access to education and information, which could increase their vulnerability to climate change and other shocks.

In addition to GRIP, the UNICEF Guidance for Conflict Analysis also helps identify the children and young people most at risk, including through spatial mapping. These are often those living on the margins, including in unplanned urban settlements, and in low-lying areas below the high-water line and on flood plains. In 2018, UNICEF supported two risk assessments and validation workshops in Karachi and Peshawar, Pakistan, where the use of spatial and qualitative analysis helped identify those people most at risk.

To strengthen the monitoring of change at impact and outcome level, in 2018 UNICEF and UN Women launched research on the gender and age impacts of disasters. This evidence will help make the case for investment in risk reduction measures, and will support advocacy efforts on the need for disaggregated damage and loss data, which remains a critical gap in most countries.
Partnerships

Partnership with the Children in a Changing Climate coalition has been instrumental in global and regional advocacy. In partnership with Save the Children, World Vision, ChildFund and Plan International, UNICEF carried out effective advocacy on disaster risk and climate change adaptation – for example, at the ministerial conferences on DRR held in Colombia (June 2018) and Mongolia (July 2018).

A partnership with Prudential Insurance (through the U.S. Fund for UNICEF) has helped support eight countries in risk-informed programming. Additionally, in late 2018, steps were taken to leverage this partnership, as well as that with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to scale up support to fragile and risk-prone contexts.

In partnership with the Swiss Development Cooperation, UNICEF has extended technical and policy support to regional and country offices on conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding, and jointly launched the UNICEF Programme Framework in Fragile Contexts in April 2018.

Challenges: Disaster risk reduction, resilience strengthening and peacebuilding

A key challenge for UNICEF programming in the area of disaster risk reduction, resilience strengthening and peacebuilding is the need to build capacity at country and regional office levels to conduct child-focused and multi-hazard risk analyses, including conflict analyses. Risk-informed programming is not yet sufficiently integrated into country office planning cycles, and conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding programming is not integrated in contexts where necessary. Renewed planning efforts are needed by senior management at all levels to review programming regularly to ensure conflict sensitivity at a minimum, and where possible development of sharper interventions that have both primary and secondary peacebuilding outcomes in relevant contexts. This will be critical across all entry points in the planning cycle.

To further build capacity at country and regional office levels to conduct child-focused and multi-hazard risk analyses, an online course is being developed on risk-informed programming. Training of trainers on risk-informed programming is also planned for 2019, including a focus on integration with country planning. Programming approaches will increasingly focus on reinforcing institutions and structures to equitably extend and expand social service delivery to all communities and individuals. Additional information on UNICEF plans in this area is detailed in the High-level priorities section at the end of this report.
In 2018, UNICEF work in urban development continued to advance, guided by its 2017 Strategic Note for children living in urban settings, which is closely aligned with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. The note outlines five key programme areas:

- Reducing equity gaps in cities through technical support and partnerships to extend quality social services to marginalized children living in urban settings, and protect all children from violence
- Promoting a safe and sustainable urban environment for children
- Adapting urban planning and budgeting for children living in urban settings, particularly the most disadvantaged
- Enhancing the voice and participation of poor children living in urban settings, and strengthening partnerships with urban communities and organizations
• Strengthening the evidence base on children in cities, in data, policy and research.

The guidance in the note is used to inform the preparation of CPDs, and workplans at all levels of the organization.

To further help lay the groundwork for the scale-up of urban programming for children, aimed at fostering equitable and sustainable development, UNICEF developed and launched two major knowledge products in 2018: a statistical analysis of child well-being indicators in developing countries, and a handbook on child-responsive programming for children in urban areas.

The statistical analysis examined the best available international data for 10 selected indicators from low- and middle-income countries in the areas of environmental health, health care and identity, education and knowledge, and survival and physical growth outcomes. The study report – Advantage or Paradox? The challenge for children and young people growing up urban – shows that not all children in cities benefit from the so-called ‘urban advantage’ – the idea that higher incomes, better infrastructure and proximity to services grant urban children advantages over rural children.\(^7\) In fact, the study shows that urban inequality and exclusion among children in cities can make many of the most disadvantaged children in urban areas worse off than children in rural areas. This ‘urban paradox’ is a key consideration for resource allocation and programme design for the well-being of all children in our increasingly urban world.

Shaping Urbanization for Children – A handbook on child-responsive urban planning calls on urban stakeholders to invest in child-responsive urban planning, recognizing that cities are not only drivers of prosperity, but also of inequity.\(^8\) Centred around 10 child-responsive urban planning principles, the handbook presents concepts, evidence, tools and promising practices to create thriving and equitable cities for children. This work targets local authorities, planners, infrastructure developers and the private sector, providing tools and encouragement to make children’s rights and needs a central tenet of their work. The handbook has been rolled out widely, together with a complementary package of training materials. Development of a training module, as well as a companion module on urban planning for practitioners, is ongoing.

UNICEF advocacy and technical support continues to contribute to improved budgeting, with the aim of allowing governments to find ways to finance their national plan, thus paving the way for improved targeting.

In 2018, UNICEF was engaged in urban programming in 72 countries across all regions (see Figure 17). In most of these countries, this was in the context of development programming, but in 23 countries, urban interventions were also a component of humanitarian response programmes. Examples of urban programming cover a wide range of interventions across all Strategic Plan goal areas; they include advocacy, data collection, service delivery, supply procurement, funding and a wide range of technical support. See other sections of this report and the other Strategic Plan Goal Area Annual Results Reports for details on the results of sectoral urban programming.

**FIGURE 17: UNICEF engagement in urban programming, number of countries by region, 2018**

Note: EAP: East Asia and the Pacific; ECA: Europe and Central Asia; ESA: Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC: Latin America and Caribbean; MENA: Middle East and North Africa; SA: South Asia; WCA: West and Central Africa.
In many programme countries, UNICEF works in the development and humanitarian spheres concurrently. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF supported the development of a new strategy for peri-urban programming, while also conducting a multisectoral response to Ebola outbreaks. In the Philippines, UNICEF piloted a new urban early childhood care and development initiative in four cities, while also directly contributing to typhoon response programmes in the areas of health, nutrition and WASH.

Evidence-based planning in urban areas

In line with the priorities in the 2017 strategic note to strengthen the availability of high-quality data on children and encourage improved evidence-based planning in urban areas, UNICEF monitors the current situation in programme countries. In the 157 countries and territories where UNICEF works, 54 have urban data that are further disaggregated, including on girls and boys in informal settings. The most common data disaggregation available is by income (in 30 countries), geographic location (45 countries) and gender (30 countries). Only 14 countries have disaggregated data that focus on informal settlements. In most cases the data come from Multi Indicator Cluster Survey or other UNICEF-supported surveys, but in others the source is administrative data.

Building capacity and programming for equity

In all its engagement, UNICEF works to strengthen capacity, analysing resource allocation to cities and within cities, and advocating for greater equity.

The organization has intensified its efforts on continued collaboration and the scale-up of urban programmes, specifically with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and global local government associations such as United Cities and Local Governments, Cities Alliance and Metropolis, to provide local and national governments with high-quality programme expertise to contribute to the realization of equitable results for children.

Interest in the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative is growing in developing countries, including the 14 countries from East Asia that participated in the Growing Up Urban meeting in Surabaya, Indonesia, in 2018. During the gathering, mayors and other officials from urban administrations discussed ways to prioritize action for all children, including young children and adolescents from disadvantaged backgrounds. In some countries, the initiative is already under way, notably in Belarus, where half the country’s population now live in certified child-friendly cities. In Bangladesh, Croatia, Islamic Republic of Iran and elsewhere, commitments have been made to adopt the approach locally.

In Turkey, UNICEF uses the Child Friendly Cities Initiative as a framework to further enhance the capacity of local administrations to promote policies in favour of the most vulnerable children and adolescents. In 2018, guidelines and training materials were developed and used in the areas of child participation, children’s rights programming, prevention of child marriage and child labour, child-focused strategy development and budgeting.

10 Child Rights and Urban Planning Principles

These 10 principles ensure that cities are child responsive, healthy, safe, green and prosperous:

1. **Investments** in urban spaces, systems and networks that offer safe and clean environments and allow sustainable behaviours.
2. **Housing and Land Tenure** so children can safely and securely live, sleep, play and learn.
3. **Public Amenities** for health, educational and social services that allow children to thrive and develop life skills.
4. **Public Spaces** where children feel safe and secure to meet and engage in outdoor activities.
5. **Transportation Systems** that ensure children’s independent mobility and equal access to all services and opportunities.
6. **Integrated Water and Sanitation Management Systems** so children have adequate and equitable access to safe and affordable water, sanitation and hygiene.
7. **Food Systems** with urban farms, markets and vendors, so children have access to healthy, affordable and sustainably produced food and nutrition.
8. **Waste Cycle Systems** that ensure sustainable resource management, so children can thrive in a safe and clean environment.
9. **Energy Networks** that give children clean and reliable access to power and to all basic urban services day and night.
10. **Data and ICT Networks** that ensure children’s digital connectivity to universally accessible, affordable, safe and reliable information and communication.
Making local governance and decentralization work for children

Local governments, particularly in urban contexts, play a decisive role in children's lives, from planning the physical environment to delivering key public services. It is therefore crucial to ensure that local plans and budgets reflect children's needs and priorities and are child-responsive.

In 2018, seventy-seven UNICEF country offices reported local governance initiatives. The organization most frequently engages in local governance in the Europe and Central Asia, East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions. This work focuses on: (1) strengthening local evidence and data; (2) enhancing local planning and budgeting processes; (3) supporting participation; and (4) strengthening local service delivery arrangements.

A total of 57 UNICEF country offices supported local development planning and budgeting processes in 2018, compared with 39 in 2017. Of these, 11 work exclusively in rural areas, 13 work only in urban areas, and 20 work in both. In 13 cases, rural/urban disaggregation is not available either due to a lack of urban/rural classification in the country, or because UNICEF does not track engagement as such.

As a result of UNICEF engagement around local development planning and budgeting processes, 409 local governments in 32 countries are reported to have local development plans that are child-responsive and are budgeted, compared with 19 countries in 2017. The combined total populations covered by the child-responsive local governments in these countries range from just over 10,000 to more than 10 million people (see Figure 18).

Local governments in these countries have reported using a variety of instruments to make the local development plans child-responsive, with community consultations and the generation of local data mentioned most frequently (see Figure 19).
In addition to the existence of child-responsive local development plans and budgets in 32 countries, UNICEF engagement in this area frequently had a multiplier effect. UNICEF country offices reported that their engagement in this area informed broader policy dialogue (26 countries), triggered policy change (22 countries), led to child-responsive local development practices being scaled up (14 countries), informed capacity-building of national and local government officials (11 countries) and/or made more resources available for the funding of local development plans (10 countries).

UNICEF Mongolia – Child-friendly local governance

Mongolia faces unique challenges related to its vast territory, low population density and extreme weather conditions. With the country’s decentralization policy at a very early stage of implementation, there are significant capacity and resource gaps at subnational level. The interaction of these factors poses unique challenges to establishing and maintaining structures for decentralized governance, and service delivery for children.

In support of child-responsive local governance, UNICEF Mongolia provides technical assistance to local governments in four geographic focus areas. In 2018, UNICEF Mongolia conducted a series of activities aimed at building local authorities’ capacity and knowledge on implementing child-friendly initiatives across the four focus areas. For example, UNICEF conducted a series of workshops, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, on child-friendly budgeting, child participation in local decision-making/budget planning, and monitoring and reporting.

As a result, children’s groups in all four geographic focus areas successfully advocated for the allocation of a portion of the Local Development Fund to be invested in child-related programmes, with a 14–33 per cent increase in Local Development Fund allocations to these programmes compared with the 2017 level. Furthermore, at national policy level, UNICEF Mongolia successfully advocated for the inclusion of a number of child-specific indicators in the annual performance contract of the governors of all 21 provinces and the nine districts of Ulaanbaatar. This came into force in 2018, and it is now also mandatory for all provincial governors to allocate at least 10 per cent of the Local Development Fund to children’s programmes.
Local data and evidence

It is impossible for local governments in rural and urban settings to be responsive to the unique needs of children, adolescents and their families without improved data and evidence. The focus of UNICEF support in this area encompasses the strengthening of routine local management information systems, including administrative and monitoring and evaluation tools, local situational analysis and needs assessments, and intergovernmental data systems.

In Indonesia, UNICEF continued to support efforts to improve local data systems related to issues concerning out-of-school children. At subnational level, this included the continued roll-out of a community-based development information system that supports evidence-based education planning for out-of-school children, which in 2018 facilitated more than 7,000 school enrolments of out-of-school children, including children with disabilities. UNICEF also equipped district and village stakeholders with knowledge and skills on how to reflect these data in evidence-based education planning for out-of-school children. Through UNICEF advocacy, the system was integrated into the Ministry of Villages regulation in 2018, to enable its wider and sustained use by village governments nationwide.

In Cuba, the Atlas of Childhood and Adolescence in Cuba was officially launched and widely disseminated to national and provincial authorities, with a view to using the data as a tool for decision-making. The Atlas presents evidence on the heterogeneity of the country’s 168 municipalities and has raised wide national interest. UNICEF also supported the development of a mobile application for the atlas, and a multimedia product containing disaggregated and geo-referenced children’s statistics is currently undergoing testing.

Local participation and accountability

Participation and accountability is a key building block for child-responsive local governance. While child and adolescent participation is a right in itself, it is also a means by which children, adolescents and communities can negotiate and advocate for the realization of their rights, by shaping local plans and budgets or providing direct feedback on service delivery.

In 2018, country offices frequently supported community participation, including child and/or adolescent engagement in key local governance processes, with a focus on inclusion of the most marginalized. In Tajikistan, for example, UNICEF training for adolescents in the area of peacebuilding helped them apply their skills in community development and social cohesion initiatives. A total of 6,217 adolescent boys and girls – 23 per cent of the youth population in target districts bordering Kyrgyzstan – participated in or led civic engagement activities within the consultative platforms established by the local government.

To support country offices in developing comprehensive participation and accountability mechanisms, UNICEF completed a global stock-taking exercise on its engagement on social accountability in 2018. The exercise found that UNICEF is becoming increasingly active in this area, and that initiatives show strong potential for achieving results for children, particularly at subnational level. UNICEF also developed and released the Guidance Note on Child Participation in Local Governance, complete with programming examples from countries.77

Local planning and budgeting

UNICEF work in this area focuses on three local governance mechanisms that shape the distribution of child-focused public expenditures between communities: local development plans, local budgets and local resource mobilization. These three mechanisms are key entry-points in addressing inequity in both access to and quality of social services. Local resource allocation also encompasses local revenue mobilization, including programming linked to fiscal transfers from the national to the local level. In 2018, local planning and budgeting was an important focus area for many UNICEF country offices, including the following:

In Cambodia, UNICEF facilitated stronger collaboration among central ministries responsible for planning and finance to provide harmonized guidance and support for provincial and local governments to formulate plans and budgets and implement social services. Specifically, this support included the facilitation of inter-ministerial communication and coordination, the development of an orientation document (menu of options) for social service projects, and ultimately workshops with provincial planning, finance and social sector departments to discuss and agree on proposed social service projects for inclusion in 2019 annual budgets. As a result, for the first time all seven target provinces proposed a significant number of social projects in their annual budgets.

In Somalia, UNICEF contributes to the United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery in the area of strengthening the service-delivery capacity of local government, clarifying service-delivery roles and responsibilities and ensuring the alignment of decentralization and sector policies and plans. In 2018, UNICEF facilitated a consultative process with district, regional and state authorities on strategies for sustaining district-led service delivery. As a result, in Somaliland, commitments were made by the Ministries of Education and Health to increase their contributions to decentralized service delivery by more than 400 per cent over the previous year.
Local service-delivery arrangements

This area focuses on strengthening local government to assess needs and advocate for the interests of the poorest and most vulnerable children. It includes improving coordination across local service-delivery actors, the piloting of ‘one-window’ services, and supporting the expansion of local services through, for example, partnerships between local government and private sector or civil society actors.

For example, in Ukraine, UNICEF supported the reform and expansion of the national Integrated Social Protection service through the combination of policy and legal assistance, capacity development, in-depth modelling and the leveraging of government and development resources. Special focus was placed on developing a contracting mechanism for service-providing civil society organizations, to expand and regulate a market of services for children and families. The new methodology has now been endorsed by government and will be expanded country-wide.

In Honduras, UNICEF and the government are focusing on developing local child protection systems, starting in 37 municipalities, by improving the coordination of state agencies and NGOs in the provision of protection services for child victims of violence, abuse or neglect. This has included setting up municipal offices for children and adolescents. UNICEF is working with the Government to define a first level of child protection services at the municipal level, currently not considered in the national normative framework, operationalized through the new municipal offices for children, and to design referral protocols and a common case-management system to improve the articulation of service provision for child protection. So far, this has improved the coordination of child protection services for some 12,044 children and adolescents.

Challenges: Urban programming and local governance

UNICEF confronts a range of challenges in its urban and local governance programmes of support to address the most urgent issues affecting children’s well-being. The most important of these challenges over the Strategic Plan period are (1) a lack of quality disaggregated data on key urban issues and on the issues that affect children; (2) limited resources for programming for children in urban settings at scale and within local government bodies; (3) a lack of programmes and resources that target children’s needs and priorities; and (4) a global shortage of qualified urban planners, and development and humanitarian professionals, with the knowledge and expertise to design and implement urban and local governance programming. An underlying challenge is the need for UNICEF and other stakeholders work in an integrated fashion across all sectors that impact the lives of children.

UNICEF will work with partners to support the development of child-sensitive policies, child-responsive urban planning and budgeting, children’s and youth participation in decision-making, and the improvement of local data to identify children’s needs. Over the Strategic Plan period, UNICEF will prioritise work in the following focus areas, which are described in more detail in the High-level priorities section at the end of this report:

- Strengthening management for urban programming and planning
- Developing new urban diagnostics tools for child-responsive programming
- Advocacy and partnerships
- Further strengthening the capacity of country offices on child-responsive local governance
- Engaging in, and further consolidating, strategic partnerships with key local governance partners
UNICEF advocates for child-inclusive programmes that foster climate resilience and low carbon development and, together with government, United Nations agencies and partners, provides support for implementation and scale-up. In 2018, a total of 28 country offices reported such targeted programmes, compared with just 14 countries in 2017.

Climate, energy and environment programmes include broad multisectoral joint United Nations initiatives, such as the Adaptation to Climate Change in sub-Saharan African Humanitarian Situations programme in the Sudan, and coordinated support for national programmes, such as the multi-agency support for Guyana’s Green State Development Strategy. Additionally, UNICEF is steadily increasing its focus on climate change and environment within its WASH, education, health, nutrition and child protection programmes. This process recognizes that UNICEF’s long-standing expertise and programmatic reach in these sectors provides the best platform from which to help communities, families and children cope with a changing climate and degrading environment. Climate and environment are featured prominently for the first time in a UNICEF Strategic Plan, and country offices have increased their programmatic engagement through myriad activities within four broad pillars, summarized below.
Youth empowerment and engagement on climate, energy and the environment

Young people and children are the ideal agents of change for action on climate and environment, because they are interested in and often knowledgeable on the issues. With adequate support, they can become passionate and effective advocates for action. Youth engagement in climate change is truly global: a recent UNICEF poll conducted among more than 5,000 children across over 60 countries found that 77 per cent considered climate change one of the most pressing issues facing young people today, while 98 per cent thought that governments needed to tackle this through urgent action.79

UNICEF supports the full and meaningful participation of children in discussions and decision-making on climate change and DRR through a range of climate and environmental education programmes, while encouraging the participation of children in formal and informal consultation mechanisms. These programmes stress the need to elevate the voices of the most vulnerable children in participatory processes, including adolescent girls, displaced and migrant children and those with disabilities.

In many countries, UNICEF works to update and redesign climate and environment-related education programmes to ensure that materials and methods are up to date, relevant and locally contextualized. In China, for example, a major revision of the life-skills education for in-school and out-of-school adolescents included the development of new modules on environmental protection and climate change, which were piloted in junior high and vocational schools in 28 counties across 13 provinces in 2018. The approach in Azerbaijan was to build teacher capacity to deliver a new extra-curricular module on climate and environmental challenges and solutions. After a successful pilot period, the programme will now be used regularly by all extra-curricular institutions in the country.

Elsewhere, UNICEF is supporting partners to integrate environmental education into school systems’ core curricula. Examples include Mexico, where – in partnership with the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change – UNICEF developed and piloted new teaching manuals on climate change with a children’s rights approach, designed to complement existing course material on science and technology, history, geography, civics and ethics. In Burkina Faso and Guinea-Bissau, ongoing UNICEF support to national curriculum reform processes includes the integration of climate change and other emerging themes into course material.

In Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF works with the Ministry of Education and the national Red Crescent Society on the comprehensive Strengthening Resilience for Climate Change Adaptation for Children partnership. Under the initiative, age-appropriate climate change adaptation, environment and energy materials have been integrated into the national curriculum at primary and secondary school levels in five core subject areas, and a new extra-curricular course, with country-wide testing of the material, is ongoing. In selected schools, the new curriculum material was closely linked to Go Green campaigns, where schoolchildren mobilized community engagement by organizing exhibitions, contests and competitions on climate change.

UNICEF encourages and supports the participation of young people in national development processes in many countries, and climate change is often a subject chosen by children themselves to highlight in these processes. In Fiji, for example, UNICEF is providing support for a new National Youth Policy that incorporates this concept, and in Tonga, UNICEF supported a National Youth Parliament session that discussed child-sensitive issues, including climate change. Other examples include Papua New Guinea, where 3,900 students are actively engaging in developing climate disaster response plans for their schools, and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, where UNICEF supported the Youth Summit on Water and Climate Change (see Case Study 7).
Case Study 7: The Plurinational State of Bolivia: Youth climate action

The First Youth Summit on Water and Climate Change, ‘Together with Mother Earth’, was jointly organized by the Bolivian Ministry of Environment and Water, the Plurinational Authority for Mother Earth and UNICEF Bolivia on 10 November 2018, to strengthen youth leadership in climate change adaptation and integrated water resources management.

In the declaration adopted by the summit that was later presented to the Bolivian official delegation to the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), the youth leaders stated that “we, the young men and women of Bolivia representing different platforms, youth networks, indigenous peoples and local communities … are concerned about the state of Mother Earth and our waters and … we are empowered to participate actively in policymaking spaces that lead to real actions in our communities, municipalities and our country to protect our Mother Earth. We are ready to express this commitment through our practices, actions, hopes and life goals, and we see ourselves as part of a global movement.”

The youth leaders demanded that national laws regulating access to and use of water resources be improved, with a focus on equity and protection of vulnerable populations. They also demanded to be given a seat at the table in political processes at all levels. Further, the importance was emphasized of having stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure proper implementation of current legislation related to environmental and climate change issues.

As a first step to convert these ideas and proposals into action, a National Youth Council, with representatives from all departments, was established to coordinate joint activities, and local road maps with targets and actions for 2019 and beyond were adopted. In January 2019, the Youth Council had a first constitutional meeting, where it defined its strategy and organization. It formed several strategic alliances, among others with the Youth Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice and with the Bolivian Environmental Journalist’s Association, with which the National Youth Council has presented a proposal to the country’s parliament to ban plastic bags. Once back in their cities, towns and communities, many of the local youth groups have already started speaking out on local news outlets, organizing litter clean-ups and negotiating with their mayors. With the aim set for a second summit, the youth leaders are focused on linking their local actions to regional and global climate change movements, by generating national proposals and initiatives.

UNICEF also promotes youth engagement on climate change and the environment at global and regional levels through a wide range of initiatives, both in specific sectors – such as the climate-themed media campaigns held on World Water Day – and on climate and the environment in general.

The Climate Comic Contest is a case in point. Co-produced by UNICEF and Comics Uniting Nations, and launched at COP23 in 2017, the contest attracted nearly 3,000 climate-saving superhero submissions from children and young people across 100 countries. The world voted on the top superhero, and the winner was young Sona Sridhar from Chennai, India. Sona worked with UNICEF and Comics Uniting Nations to produce her own comic book, featuring her winning superhero. The comic has been translated from English into French, Spanish and Hindi, and was run as a play adaptation by a New York City theatre company during Climate Week in September 2018.

The comic was formally launched at the UNICEF-sponsored Earth Day event Youth Power the Planet: an SDG Activate Talk to Celebrate Earth Day, at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. The occasion drew senior United Nations General Assembly members and other decision makers, as well as more than 400 youth participants. It also included a panel of young ‘climate heroes’, sharing their innovations to inspire leaders to include young people in efforts to combat climate change.
Climate resilience of services that children depend on

UNICEF works to improve the climate resilience of services for children across all programmes, including WASH, health, nutrition, education and child protection.

UNICEF WASH programmes are increasingly focused on strengthening the climate resilience of water and sanitation systems, helping to ensure functionality in the face of droughts and falling water tables, flooding and extreme weather events. This in turn helps to make communities more resilient: safe water and sanitation services remain available, livelihoods are protected, and children’s health and nutrition are safeguarded.

As detailed in the Safe water supply and WASH and climate resiliency sections of this report, UNICEF engagement ranges from direct support at community level (such as through rainwater aquifer recharge techniques) to work at national level with government partners on resilience-focused policy reform, WASH climate risk assessments, multi-criteria vulnerability mapping and capacity-building.

The introduction and adaption of technologies is part of this work, including the wider use of traditional technologies such as sand dams to collect and retain intermittent streams (e.g., in Chad), new technologies such as smart meters to reduce water wastage (e.g., in Jordan), and remote sensing for drought early warning systems (e.g., in Madagascar). Most widespread of all is solar technology; with programming across many countries, UNICEF is becoming a leader in this area, increasing the effective use of solar pumping systems to improve sustainability and resilience, while also reducing reliance on fossil fuel.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Government of Japan, is providing safe water to drought-affected southern Madagascar including the rehabilitation of pumping stations and the installation of solar panels.
The introduction of solar systems is also becoming increasingly common in other areas of UNICEF support. In Kenya, for example, UNICEF has promoted sustainable energy solutions for basic social service delivery across most programmes, including solar pumping in communities vulnerable to drought and floods, solar lighting for schools, solar vaccine refrigerators, and a pilot social protection cash transfer ‘plus’ initiative, providing off-grid energy solutions to improve learning and health outcomes for 1,500 children in two counties.

In Zimbabwe, UNICEF and the Government of Sweden have launched the Sustainable Energy for Health Facilities and Surrounding Communities pilot initiative. The cross-sectoral collaborative effort is supporting the mainstreaming of climate, environment and energy in UNICEF health programmes, while complementing and delivering on national targets for maternal and newborn health. The initiative will include new solar power installations in at least 50 health care facilities, and the development of a strong community-based operations and maintenance approach to ensure long-term sustainability. The benefits will include improved performance of health centres, higher quality of care, and sustained cold storage facilities for vaccines.

In many Eastern and Southern African and West and Central African countries, UNICEF supports efforts to upgrade national vaccine cold chains with solar power to improve reliability and sustainability and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. This support is often in partnership with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation and the World Bank; it includes technical assistance and the procurement and installation of solar refrigerators and related equipment. Solar power is also helping to extend existing networks, such as in Ethiopia, where 70 per cent of the 6,000 solar refrigerators procured by UNICEF in 2018 were installed in new sites to reach previously unreached children.

In several programme countries, UNICEF supports initiatives to improve the climate and disaster resilience of schools, introduce solar power for school lighting and water pumping and, in Burundi, to encourage climate-friendly construction techniques for new schools. Elsewhere, including in Honduras and Turkmenistan, UNICEF has supported the development and integration of climate change-related materials into national school curricula.

Evidence generation and influence of climate change strategies and plans

Sixteen countries now have child-sensitive national climate change adaptation/mitigation plans that were developed through UNICEF-supported programmes, exceeding the 2018 target of 10 countries. In all cases, these policy instruments recognize that children are at risk from the negative impacts of climate change and/or environmental degradation, and address their needs and rights. Zimbabwe’s new national climate change policy, which was developed with the technical and financial support of UNICEF, was launched by the President, complete with a child-friendly edition.

Elsewhere, UNICEF worked to mainstream issues related to climate change resilience and the environment into other national policy instruments. This is most common in the area of WASH, where ongoing UNICEF support for sector vulnerability mapping and policy development always includes climate resilience and environment components, and in the area of DRR, where an increasing number of countries have crisis risk management plans that incorporate issues of climate resilience (see the Risk Analysis and risk-informed programming section).

Structured Country Landscape Analysis for Children studies were conducted in Armenia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Guyana, Kazakhstan and North Macedonia, to improve understanding on the extent of the impact of environmental degradation and climate change on children. UNICEF country offices report that the process itself encourages dialogue with government and other partners on climate change issues. In Kazakhstan, it led to the establishment of a new partnership with the Ministry of Energy, which is responsible for climate-related SDG targets.

UNICEF sponsored a wide range of other studies on climate change, energy and environment themes in 2018. Examples include a study in Madagascar on the environmental impacts of the mining industry, an analysis of climate change impact on children in Guinea-Bissau, and the Generation El-Nino study in Ethiopia, which comprehensively assessed the long-term climate change impacts on children. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNICEF designed the National Research Strategy on Climate Change, Children and Indigenous Peoples, to provide new evidence to support integrated action for children.

In Jordan, UNICEF has supported the development of vulnerability maps for water and sewerage, which incorporate a range of criteria, including climate change vulnerability and water scarcity. Water scarcity is also a key
theme in climate change programming at regional level in the Middle East and North Africa, including in partnerships with the League of Arab States, regional United Nations agencies and the World Bank. In the East Asia and the Pacific region, UNICEF has launched country profiles on children’s health and the environment, and is working with key regional partners on air pollution and child health and other environmental and climate issues.

At the global level, UNICEF, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization, published The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World in 2018, which highlights climate variability as a key force behind the recent rise in food insecurity.

Reducing emissions and pollution

Greening UNICEF

Since launching its greening policy in 2015, UNICEF has expanded its efforts to promote environmental sustainability across all programmes and offices. This involves investing in sustainable energy and promoting resource-efficient facilities and operations, including better management of water, solid waste and paper. In 2018, UNICEF strengthened its monitoring system for this effort with the launch of the new Environmental Footprint and Accessibility Assessment Tool.

A key part of the greening approach is the use of solar power. UNICEF has almost doubled the number of offices using solar power, from 20 in 2016 to 39 in 2018. The Haiti country office, which converted to solar power in 2018, now covers 100 per cent of its electricity demand with renewable energy.

Cost savings of grid electricity between 2016 and 2018 due to the introduction of eco-efficiency measures amounted to more than US$600,000 across all UNICEF headquarters, regional, country and zonal offices. Over the same period, emissions from purchased electricity (grid electricity) and stationary combustion (generators) declined by more than 15 per cent.

In 2018, there were a total of 71 greening and eco-efficiency projects throughout UNICEF. Examples include:

- An energy-efficient lighting system (LED and sensors) in New York headquarters
- Solar power and LED lighting in the Sri Lanka country office
- An organization-wide plastic reduction campaign
- A geothermal cooling and heating system with a hybrid solar photovoltaic system in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea country office
- Efficient lighting (LED) and air conditioners in the Ghana office
- Solar air conditioners in the Comoros country office
- Solar power for the North Africa and Middle East regional office
- Energy-saving window film, LED lights and heating system optimization in the Kazakhstan office
- LED lights and efficient water coolers in the Islamic Republic of Iran office
- Sensor-operated water taps in the Sudan office.
Finally, UNICEF launched three new construction and renovation projects in 2018 to improve energy and water efficiency, including in the Bangladesh country office (new construction), the Thailand country office (renovation) and the East Asia and the Pacific regional office (renovation). In these and other environmental sustainability projects, accessibility criteria are factored into all designs and plans.

Reducing air pollution for improved child health and well-being

UNICEF is expanding its efforts to protect children from the effects of air pollution. Areas of action include strengthening health system responses to the impacts of air pollution, reducing air pollution exposure to children and pregnant women in child-centric locations, promoting air pollution reduction measures, building and strengthening partnerships for clean air and health and demonstrating the impact of air pollution on child and maternal health.

In 2018, nine countries were implementing programmes to reduce air pollution for improved child well-being with UNICEF support, which exceeds the milestone of five countries.

In Indonesia, UNICEF and the Ministry of National Development and Planning co-hosted a high-level advocacy symposium that brought together policymakers, researchers, civil society and other key stakeholders to identify and address the detrimental impact of air pollution on children’s health. The event culminated in a commitment by the national government to develop evidence-based policy recommendations for mitigating the health effects of air pollution, with a focus on clear measures to ensure...
the protection of a child’s right to health and well-being. This will include improving evidence on the specific causes of and contributors to air pollution in Indonesia, as well as working across a wide range of stakeholders to increase awareness.

In Mongolia, a partnership between UNICEF, the National Center for Public Health and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation included an evidence-based advocacy campaign focusing on the reduction of air pollution and exposure to pollution, and the need to strengthen health services. Some of the recommendations from the campaign have been taken up by government, such as taking action to improve indoor air quality in kindergartens. The three partners have committed to expanding the initiative, with a focus on protecting mothers and children from exposure to air pollution, strengthening the capacity of health workers to better manage air pollution-related diseases, and raising public awareness about the health consequences of air pollution.

The programme also featured the Air Pollution and Youth Digital Mappers partnership with the Scouts Association of Mongolia. Under this initiative, young people conducted air pollution monitoring in and around 20 schools in one of the districts of Ulaanbaatar most affected by air pollution, and used the process and results to raise public awareness.

Challenges: Climate, energy and environment

The overarching challenge in the area of climate, energy and environment is to rapidly secure the system-wide commitment and action required to help ensure that children avoid the worst impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, in terms of both reducing global emissions and making the services on which they depend resilient. Mirroring this broader global challenge, the challenge within UNICEF is to accelerate our progress towards making environmental sustainability (which includes climate action and disaster risk reduction) a core tenet of our operations, programming, operations and supply chain.

To meet these challenges, UNICEF has defined a set of high-level priority actions (see next section) within two broad areas of intervention:

- The implementation of a coordinated external advocacy and internal implementation strategy that focuses on reducing emissions and pollution, making children the focus of climate and environmental strategies, making the services on which children most depend climate- and disaster-resilient, and promoting children as environmental and climate agents of change
- Within programmes, the scaling up of a small set of focused interventions with associated evaluation exercises, including a coordinated arc of climate-resilient WASH services, sustainable energy and risk reduction in health centres and schools, an air pollution response rooted in the evidence of impacts on children’s health, and engagement of children and young people in environmental concerns.
UNICEF works towards achieving Outcome 4 of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, Sustained use of safe water and sanitation services, adoption of hygiene practices, resilient and strengthened systems for a clean and safe environment for girls and boys, particularly the most disadvantaged and those affected by humanitarian situations through programming support within five output areas. The priorities for 2019–2021 within each area are outlined below.

Outputs 1 and 2: Water, sanitation and hygiene
To meet the ambitious goal of delivering safe and equitable water and sanitation services under the Agenda 2030 principle of leaving no one behind, UNICEF will increase its support to governments to strengthen systems, and increase financing to deliver results at scale. Going into the second year of the Strategic Plan, UNICEF will focus on the following strategic priority areas:
• Build on the momentum of the Game Plan to End Open Defecation to support countries in developing road maps to achieve universal basic access to sanitation, while working to develop healthy markets for sanitation products and services, so as to improve quality and sustainability, ensuring a clean and safe environment.

• Continue to increase access to safe, sustainable drinking water supplies, while addressing climate resilience, water scarcity and the safety of water resources and services.

• Continue to deliver predictable and quality humanitarian WASH responses and demonstrate leadership on the three main pillars of the Change Agenda of the Water under Fire report, to stop attacks on water and sanitation infrastructure and personnel, improve the quality and capacity of responses and link life-saving humanitarian responses with sustainable WASH services for all.

• Deepen UNICEF work at the country level to strengthen systems across the enabling environment, drawing lessons from cumulative work on WASH BAT exercises; refine strategic areas of engagement on WASH financing, and ramp up support to countries that are engaging in innovative financing initiatives.

• Recognizing that meeting the SDGs will require new knowledge and skillsets at country level, develop a systematic approach to WASH capacity development to empower staff across the organization to deliver the UNICEF WASH strategy using state-of-the-art knowledge, approaches and tools. As a start, an eight-session course delivered through interactive webinars will provide a basic understanding of UNICEF WASH strategies and programming to new staff, and those who would like to update their knowledge.

• Continue to strengthen corporate monitoring and reporting systems, so as to be able to report both direct results, as well as results of systems strengthening, sustainability and VfM, and disaggregated data on disability and gender.

• Continue engagement within strategic partnerships to leverage resources from safe and sustainable WASH for all, including increased access to global funds (including the Green Climate Fund) and thematic funding arrangements with donor partners.

• Launch of the global WASH urban framework to provide entry-points for UNICEF WASH staff and country offices, so that they can undertake catalytic WASH programming in urban contexts, including slums, small towns and humanitarian protracted-crisis responses.

Detailed WASH actions for 2019–2021 include the following:

1. Safe water supply
   • Develop and launch the water game plan, provide focused support in priority countries and develop a position paper and strategy on improving equity in water programming.
   • Finalize and operationalize the toolkit on the UNICEF approach to water safety.
   • Conduct research and develop guidance material in the areas of water supply programming efficiency, regulation and tariffs.

2. Sanitation and hygiene
   • Support the elimination of open defecation, through technical assistance to off-track sanitation game plan countries.
   • Support sustainable sanitation, including through guidance on context-specific rural sanitation approaches and market-based sanitation.
   • Develop comprehensive training modules on MHH, and define a minimum package of support.

3. WASH in institutions
   • Implement the Secretary-General’s Call to Action on WASH in health-care facilities with WHO and other partners.
   • Develop a game plan for WASH in schools, and continue to support the roll-out of the Three Star Approach and similar models in countries.

4. Emergency WASH
   • Strengthen capacity for WASH preparedness: revision of the WASH in Emergencies training package, development of a Master’s degree course and roll-out of cholera prevention plans in four sub-Saharan African countries.
   • Promote the alignment of humanitarian and development programming through capacity-building and support to country offices.

5. WASH enabling environment
   • Roll out WASH BAT in additional countries (15 countries in 2019), and conduct an evaluation of the entire WASH BAT process.
   • Develop a UNICEF WASH strategic approach for private sector engagement, and support and draw lessons from the shared-value partnership relationship with LIXIL and Unilever.
   • Continue ongoing work on achieving WASH staff gender parity in UNICEF to strengthen organizational capacity and decision-making.
Output 3: Disaster risk reduction, resilience strengthening and peacebuilding

UNICEF will work to increase capacity for risk-informed programming at country and regional office level, linking humanitarian and development programming. The organization will work towards increasing the quality of humanitarian response and achieving sustainable results for children, with a focus on increasing capacity at country and regional levels for risk-informed approaches linking humanitarian and development programming. To this end, the following priority actions have been identified for 2019:

1. Risk-informed programming and preparedness planning
   - Provide support to priority country offices and new CPDs to conduct risk assessments and adjust programmes to mitigate risks and build resilience.
   - Invest in staff capacity at country, regional and headquarters levels for risk and conflict analysis; support the development of quality preparedness plans.

2. Building local capacity and strengthening or establishing systems
   - Support country offices to establish accountability mechanisms in new emergency programmes.
   - Agree on a comprehensive UNICEF approach to localization in development and in emergencies, and develop related guidance.

3. Leveraging leadership and coordination for inter-agency joint analysis and planning
   - Develop urban programme guidance material in the areas of child-responsive urban planning, to include public spaces for children and support the rollout of UN-Habitat’s guidance on safer cities for children
   - Include child-responsive urban planning in UN-Habitat’s publication Urban Planning for City Leaders

4. Leveraging partnerships to bring additional resources and capabilities
   - Intensify advocacy for innovative, predictable and flexible (multi-year) funding.
   - Use thematic funds to invest in resilience, risk reduction and preparedness.

5. Monitoring progress on linking humanitarian and development programmes and the impact on the quality of response
   - Undertake a quality review of major ongoing humanitarian responses.
   - Develop standard criteria for evaluations to assess the degree of linkages between humanitarian and development strategies.

Output 4: Urban programming and local governance

With a field presence in more than 150 countries and expertise across a range of sectors, UNICEF is well positioned to work with partners to support local governments in developing child-sensitive policies, child-responsive urban planning and budgeting, children’s and youth participation in decision-making, and the improvement of local data to identify children’s needs. UNICEF priorities for the 2019–2021 period include the following:

1. Strengthening management for urban programming and planning
   - Develop urban programme guidance material in the areas of child-responsive urban planning, to include public spaces for children and support the rollout of UN-Habitat’s guidance on safer cities for children
   - Include child-responsive urban planning in UN-Habitat’s publication Urban Planning for City Leaders

2. Developing new urban diagnostics tools for child-responsive programming
   - Develop a toolkit on urban situation analysis, urban data/diagnostics guidelines, and a section on assessing the child responsiveness of urban plans in the UN-Habitat Tool for Assessing Urban Planning Law Effectiveness and Impact.
   - Develop and promote child-focused indicators, including within the UN-Habitat Slum Assessment Tool and the Child Well-being Index (with UN-Habitat), to integrate into existing City Prosperity Index.

3. Advocacy and partnerships
   - Prepare sessions on child-responsive urban programmes at the World Urban Forum, Abu Dhabi (2020), and convene the Global Network of Partnerships for Children in Urban Areas.
4. Further strengthening the capacity of country offices on child-responsive local governance
   • Finalize the Local Governance Programme (2019) and technical guidance notes with a focus on child-responsive local planning and budgeting.
   • Provide technical support to country and regional offices to strengthen local governance and decentralization programming, including through global events, network meetings, courses and in-country support.
   • Engaging in, and further consolidating, strategic partnerships with key local governance partners.
   • Strengthen collaboration with the network for decentralization and local governance, the United Cities and Local Governments organization and UNDP, and explore new partnerships with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the EU and Platforma.

3. Global programme development
   • Sustainable energy and climate risk management in vulnerable education facilities and systems, and in maternal and child health-care systems.
   • Sustainable energy, climate risk management in vulnerable communities.
   • Air pollution and maternal and child health monitoring and response in high-risk urban and rural communities.
   • Engagement of children and young people in climate and environmental issues.

4. Tools for organizational strategic planning and monitoring
   • Integrate climate, environment and energy issues into country office planning tools.
   • Operationalize mechanisms to track climate/environment-related spending and impact.

5. Resourcing
   • Submit accreditation applications to the Green Climate Fund.
   • Establish a climate/environment thematic fund.

Output 5: Climate, energy and the environment
In 2019, UNICEF efforts will focus on the development of replicable interventions that can be delivered at scale. UNICEF will develop guidance material to enable country offices to adopt interventions, and will support the advancement of climate and environment enablers within the organization as a whole. To this end, ongoing efforts in 2019 are structured around the following broad pillars of work, reflecting the cross-divisional nature of the work:

1. Positioning and advocacy
   • Develop and communicate UNICEF policy, programme and advocacy positions on climate, energy and the environment, including during key climate and environment events.
   • Evaluate emerging environmental issues and relevance for UNICEF programming.

2. Coordination
   • Develop communities of practice across key issues (sustainable energy, air pollution, impact evaluation), and establish cross-divisional governance mechanisms.
## Abbreviations and acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASWA</td>
<td>Accelerating Sanitation and Water Supply for All</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATS</td>
<td>Community Approaches to Total Sanitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPD</td>
<td>Country Programme Document</td>
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<td>DRR</td>
<td>disaster risk reduction</td>
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<td>GRIP</td>
<td>Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming</td>
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<td>JMP</td>
<td>WHO–UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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<td>MHH</td>
<td>menstrual hygiene and health</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>non-governmental organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODF</td>
<td>open defecation free</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<td>SWA</td>
<td>Sanitation and Water for All</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>VfM</td>
<td>value for money</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
<td>water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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Endnotes

1. One billion is 1,000 million.

2. Data from the WHO–UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) on reduction in the number of people practising open defecation will be released later in 2019.


17. All beneficiary and related figures in this report are from the UNICEF Strategic Monitoring Questions (SMQs), a data set provided by UNICEF country offices, with quality assurance provided by regional and headquarters staff.


30. Game Plan countries: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, China, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Sudan, the Sudan, Togo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen.


32. Ibid.


41. See the UNICEF Annual Results Report 2017 – WASH for more information on the comic book.


43. All references to Kosovo in this report should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

44. The difference in these two figures is due mainly to UNICEF work in single-sex schools and, in some cases, to a lack of data on gender segregation in schools.

GOAL AREA 4 | Every child lives in a safe and clean environment


54. This figure includes only countries where hot spots have been mapped; in some countries, including Yemen, the process is ongoing and cannot be completed due to ongoing crises. This figure therefore does not include all beneficiaries reached through cholera programming.


78. The United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery (JPLG) is implemented by UNICEF, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).


81. Revenue for 2014–2016 has been restated to reflect a change in accounting policy for comparison with 2017–2018.

82. All funding data are as of 30 April 2018, pending audit and certification.

83. In the context of this financial report, the term ‘Safe and Clean Environment’ refers not to the overall Goal Area 4 but to the thematic pool established for non-WASH components of the Goal Area.
Annex 1: Financial report

This financial report details revenue and expenses for Goal Area 4 in 2018. It is presented in three parts:

- An overall summary report for Goal Area 4
- A report on WASH revenue and expenses
- A report on revenue and expenses for the DRR, urban and local governance and climate, energy and the environment output areas.

Part I: Overall revenue and expenses for Goal Area 4

Revenue for Goal Area 4 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’ refer to disbursements received in a particular year, exclusive of adjustments.

Regular resources: Un-earmarked funds that are foundational to deliver results across the Strategic Plan

Other resources: Earmarked funds for programmes; supplementary to Regular resources and made for a specific purpose, such as an emergency response or a specific programme in a country/region

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

Other resources – emergency: Earmarked funds for specific humanitarian action and post-crisis recovery activities
FIGURE A1: Revenue by funding type, 2014–2018 (US$ millions)

‘Other resources’ contributions decreased by 2 per cent over 2017, 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, at 8 per cent of all ‘other resources’. This is an underachievement compared to the 2018 indicator milestone of 12 per cent set out in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. In alignment with the Funding Compact between governments and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, UNICEF has a goal to double thematic funding as a share of all ‘other resources’, to 15 per cent by 2021. To reach this goal, UNICEF encourages partners to channel more contributions through these softly earmarked funds.
FIGURE A2: Other resources contributions 2014–2018: Share of thematic funding

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

For partners, contributions to the 10 UNICEF thematic funding pools gives greater alignment with the principles of good multilateral resource partnerships. Thematic contributions have the greatest potential of ‘other resources’ to produce high-level results directly aligned to the Strategic Plan, as endorsed by the UNICEF Executive Board, and they 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 lead to a larger percentage of funds going towards programming. They also simplify renewal and allocation procedures and reduce the administrative monitoring burden 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>.
FIGURE A3: Thematic contributions by thematic pool, 2018: US$386 million

Global thematic funds remain the most flexible source of funding to UNICEF after regular resources. The global level is the most valuable thematic funding level, since partners can 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. It facilitates programme implementation in a more strategic manner and enables the organization to adjust and respond to emerging issues. It also allows UNICEF the flexibility to allocate resources to areas with the greatest need, including critically underfunded country programme areas and humanitarian response activities.

The allocation and expenditure of all thematic funding contributions can be monitored on the UNICEF transparency portal (open.unicef.org), and the results achieved with the funds against targets and indicators approved by the Executive Board 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.
Transparency

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

The UNICEF transparency portal is an important tool for delivery of development and humanitarian results for children.

PARTNER TESTIMONIAL

“Without sanitation, we believe that societies cannot live sustainably. Through the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan, we have committed to helping 25 million people gain improved access to a toilet by 2020. Our partnership with UNICEF is central to achieving this and, to date, we have helped over 16 million people. We work with families, communities and schools to help them understand the importance of getting access to toilets, and keeping them clean and safe. This means that toilets are not just built, but continue to be used.”

- Charlie Beevor, Global Vice President - Home & Hygiene, Unilever and Chairman of Toilet Board Coalition
Expenses for Goal Area 4 in 2018

Note: Expenses are higher than the income received because expenses comprise total allotments from regular resources and other resources (including balances carried over from previous years), while income reflects only earmarked contributions from 2018 to each sector.

To reach the results set out in the Strategic Plan 2018-2021, 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.

Total expenses for Goal Area 4 in 2018 were US$1.01 billion. Additional details on expenses are provided in the detailed output area financial reports below.

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**TABLE A4: UNICEF Planned resources and actual expenses for 2018-2021, US$ millions (by Goal Area)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal Area</th>
<th>Planned resources 2018–2021</th>
<th>Actual Expenses 2018</th>
<th>Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular Resources</td>
<td>Other Resources</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survive and Thrive</td>
<td>1,744.0</td>
<td>6,366.9</td>
<td>8,110.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn</td>
<td>872.0</td>
<td>3,183.5</td>
<td>4,055.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection from Violence and Exploitation</td>
<td>523.2</td>
<td>1,910.1</td>
<td>2,433.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe and Clean Environment</td>
<td>845.8</td>
<td>3,088.0</td>
<td>3,933.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable Chance in Life</td>
<td>375.0</td>
<td>1,368.9</td>
<td>1,743.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>4,360.0</td>
<td>15,917.3</td>
<td>20,277.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Income for WASH in 2018

In 2018, partners contributed US$305 million in ‘other resources – regular’ for WASH, a 28 per cent increase over the previous year. Government partners contributed the largest share of ‘other resources – regular’ to WASH, 84 per cent. The top five resources partners to UNICEF WASH in 2018 were the governments of Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and the Netherlands, and the European Commission. The largest contributions were received from the Government of Sweden for the global thematic WASH pool, from the United Kingdom for Phase II WASH – Healthy Villages & Schools in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and from the Government of Germany for WASH and Education support to internally displaced children and families in Yemen (see the body of the report for details on all of these programmes).
FIGURE A6: Total WASH funds received by type of donor, 2018: US$305 million

- Governments: US$255,145,394 (84%)
- Inter-Governmental Organisations: US$22,184,411 (7%)
- Inter-Organisational Arrangements: US$2,689,596 (1%)
- National Committees: US$23,632,415 (8%)
- Field Offices: US$1,212,929 (<1%)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Resource partners</th>
<th>(US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Germany*</td>
<td>99,015,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>United Kingdom*</td>
<td>83,029,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>58,611,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Netherlands*</td>
<td>34,623,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>European Commission*</td>
<td>30,478,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>15,672,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>5,524,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>U.S. Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>4,239,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>4,028,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>3,831,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>3,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Japan Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>2,932,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>United Nations Joint Programme</td>
<td>2,413,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2,159,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Dutch Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>2,010,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>1,741,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Swiss Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>1,737,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1,689,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>French Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>1,534,037</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes cross-sectoral grants SC181122 (Education, Child Protection and WASH), SC181078, SC170594 (Education and WASH), SC180961 (Education, WASH, Health, Nutrition and Child Protection), SC180824 (Health, WASH, Nutrition and Education), SC181105 (WASH and Child Protection) and SC180225 (Health and WASH)
### TABLE A2: Top 20 contributions to WASH, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Resource partners</th>
<th>Grant description</th>
<th>US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>WASH, Global thematic funding</td>
<td>47,010,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Phase II WASH – Healthy Villages and Schools, Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>18,335,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>WASH and Education support to internally displaced children and families, Yemen*</td>
<td>18,202,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Accelerating Sanitation and Water for All towards MDG targets 2013–2017, WCAR</td>
<td>17,881,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Building post-conflict resilience for children in Iraq*</td>
<td>17,064,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Sanitation, Hygiene and Water in Nigeria (SHAWN Phase II)</td>
<td>16,152,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Supporting the Transformation of Rural WASH Service Delivery in Mozambique</td>
<td>12,972,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Accelerating Sanitation and Water Supply for All II (ASWA III)</td>
<td>10,471,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, Afghanistan</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Strengthening Sanitation and Water Systems in Yemen</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Expansion and Optimization of the water supply and sanitation services for refugees and host communities, Ethiopia</td>
<td>9,943,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Improved Water and Sanitation in rural areas, Zimbabwe</td>
<td>9,829,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Development of the Urban Water and Sanitation Subsector (Phase 2), South Sudan</td>
<td>9,557,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Durable WASH solutions to drought in Southern Ethiopia</td>
<td>9,101,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Improvement of WASH services to refugees from Democratic Republic of the Congo and host communities, Zambia</td>
<td>9,101,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Phase II WASH – Healthy Villages and Schools (continuing from Grant SC130678), Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>7,926,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>WASH, Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>7,544,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>ASWA II – Towards universal access to WASH</td>
<td>7,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>L’approche integree de l’éducation, eau, assainissement et hygiene, CAR*</td>
<td>6,825,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Kids in Need of Durable Solutions (KINDS) in Sudan*</td>
<td>6,759,403</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Cross-sectoral grants SC181087, SC181078 (WASH and Education), SC181122 (Education, Child Protection and WASH) and SC180961 (Education, WASH, Health, Nutrition and Child Protection)
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.

Thematic funding contributions for WASH reached US$65.5 million in 2018, a 99 per cent increase over the US$32.9 million received in 2017. Eighty-seven per cent came from government partners. Sweden was the largest thematic resources partner, providing 78 per cent of all thematic contributions received.

UNICEF is seeking to broaden and diversify its funding base (including thematic contributions), and encourages all partners to give as flexibly as possible. Regrettably, the number of partners contributing thematic funding to WASH decreased from 35 in 2017 to 29 in 2018.

Sizeable thematic contributions were received from the governments of Sweden and Norway for the global thematic WASH pool, while Finland contributed country-specific funding for WASH in Afghanistan, and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF contributed country-specific funding for activities in India.

### TABLE A3: Thematic contributions by resource partner to WASH, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Partner Type</th>
<th>Resource partners</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
<th>Percentage of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments 87.04%</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>51,273,797</td>
<td>78.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>3,831,907</td>
<td>5.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>1,194,743</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>733,025</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Committees 12.89%</td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>3,357,430</td>
<td>5.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>987,587</td>
<td>1.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swedish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>804,917</td>
<td>1.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>French Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>749,757</td>
<td>1.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>589,261</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belgian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>498,104</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>German Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>306,198</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norwegian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>292,128</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Italian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>174,376</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Australian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>167,924</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Ireland</td>
<td>163,454</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Austrian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>56,145</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Portuguese Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>51,058</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turkish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>51,026</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finnish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>48,571</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dutch Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>44,499</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>24,691</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Zealand Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>21,821</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swiss Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>19,807</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hellenic Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>15,166</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE A3: Thematic contributions by resource partner to WASH, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Partner Type</th>
<th>Resource partners</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
<th>Percentage of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Polish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>14,327</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>7,838</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Offices 0.06%</td>
<td>UNICEF United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>29,289</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF India</td>
<td>3,389</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Croatia</td>
<td>3,378</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td><strong>65,515,613</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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**PARTNER TESTIMONIAL**

Access to safe water and sanitation are fundamental for children’s survival and development, maternal health, and gender equality – and UNICEF is judged to be well placed for achieving progress in these areas. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has as a main priority an increased respect for human rights, including the rights of the child. As the United Nations organization with an operational mandate to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF is uniquely positioned to use the resources of Sweden not only in long-term development cooperation, but also for its engagement in humanitarian action for children. Sida’s strategic partnership with UNICEF under the thematic area of WASH is crucial to reaching global aims towards eradicating extreme poverty and sustainable development in line with the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as for reaching the objectives delineated in the Strategy for Sweden’s global development cooperation in sustainable social development 2018–2022.

Thematic funding enhances effectiveness as it enables UNICEF to reach the most excluded and most vulnerable children; it also strengthens UNICEF’s ability to support long-term strategic activities, and has the potential of playing an important role in accelerating efforts to achieve core activities and priority strategic result areas such as: WASH in Health Care Facilities; Scaling up Sanitation; Climate Resilient WASH Services, as well as work in Fragile and Conflict-affected areas.

Through its flexibility, thematic funding also promotes innovation, sustainability and better coordination, and reduces transaction costs. Sida appreciates that the thematic funding is instrumental in helping UNICEF to respond to critical needs in countries that can otherwise go unfunded; as well as to advance the agenda on gender, disability; ensuring that schools and health centers maintain sustainable WASH practices; ending open defecation, as well as on mitigating some of the negative global trends that impact children, including climate change, water stress, migration, urbanization and growing inequity. Support to menstrual hygiene management (MHM) for adolescent girls has become a key strategy for promoting equity in WASH, and furthering girls’ education and gender equality outcomes.

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 rights. The funds have also been catalytic in allowing UNICEF to increase their capacity to respond to humanitarian needs such as in Syria and elsewhere, responding to humanitarian situations when women and children are most vulnerable.

- Carin Jämtin, Director General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Eighty per cent of all thematic WASH contributions UNICEF received in 2018 were global-level contributions.

For WASH thematic funding, UNICEF uses the following criteria to allocate funds across the organization:

- As agreed with thematic partners, the allocation stresses country-level programming requirements, with a ratio of 78 per cent to country offices, 12 per cent to regional offices and 10 per cent to headquarters.
- A focus on delivering WASH Strategic Plan outputs, with a particular emphasis on sanitation and the elimination of open defecation, basic water supply for unserved communities, MHH, and improved WASH in schools and health-care facilities.
- Ensuring that underfunded countries are prioritized on the basis of need (countries with low WASH coverage levels and high child mortality rates) and capacity (the ability of UNICEF and partners to manage WASH programming).
- A clear potential for leveraging additional resources from other donor partners for priority programming within the region and/or country offices.

A total of US$64 million in global thematic WASH funding was allocated to 75 country offices in 2018 in all seven UNICEF regions, as presented in Table A4 and Figure A8 below. Note that this allocation of funds covers the entire 2018–2021 period.
### TABLE A4: Allotment of WASH global thematic funding revenue to offices and programmes, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Allocation level</th>
<th>Allocation (US$)</th>
<th>Total allocation (percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia and Pacific</td>
<td>Country programmes (11 countries)</td>
<td>8,984,843</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional office</td>
<td>2,400,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Region total</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,384,843</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>Country programmes (2 countries)</td>
<td>2,495,790</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional office</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Region total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,495,790</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
<td>Country programmes (12 countries)</td>
<td>8,485,685</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional office</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Region total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,485,685</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>Country programmes (19 countries)</td>
<td>4,991,579</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional office</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Region total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,991,579</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>Country programmes (8 countries)</td>
<td>7,487,369</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional office</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Region total</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,587,369</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>Country programmes (7 countries)</td>
<td>9,983,159</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional office</td>
<td>1,179,353</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Region total</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,162,512</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>Country programmes (16 countries)</td>
<td>7,487,368</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional office</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Region total</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,487,368</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters</td>
<td>Programme division</td>
<td>6,399,461</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td><strong>63,994,607</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expenses for WASH in 2018

Note: Expenses are higher than the income received because expenses comprise total allotments from regular resources and other resources (including balances carried over from previous years), while income reflects only earmarked contributions from 2018 to WASH.

In 2018, UNICEF expenses for WASH programming totalled US$912 million – 10 per cent lower than the US$1.02 billion in 2017 but the second-highest annual value UNICEF has spent on WASH programming. Just over half of the expenses (50.2 per cent) were used for emergency programming, which is a continuation of a four-year trend of greater spending on emergency programming than on development programming (see Figure A9). Most emergency WASH expenses (US$286 million – 62 per cent of all emergency expenses) were incurred in the Middle East and North Africa region in response to the continuing crises in Yemen and in the Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries.
The regional breakdown of development (non-emergency) programming shows that over half of expenses (61 per cent) were incurred in the two sub-Saharan African regions of West and Central Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa (see Figure A10). UNICEF has WASH programmes in most sub-Saharan African countries, but the greatest expenses are in the large, comprehensive programmes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. Development expenses in these six countries totalled US$158 million in 2018 – 57 per cent of the total for the two sub-Saharan African regions.

The top five total WASH expenses at country level in 2018 – taking into account combined emergency and development programming – were in Yemen, Jordan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and the Syrian Arab Republic. Outside the sub-Saharan African regions and the Middle East and North Africa region, the largest programmes by total expense were in Haiti in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, and in Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India in the South Asia region. The top 20 countries by expenses are shown in Figure A11.

Note: 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.
As discussed throughout this report, UNICEF works extensively with a wide range of partners at the global, regional and national levels, including government counterparts, sister United Nations agencies, NGOs, academic institutions and private sector companies. The largest partners in terms of transfers of UNICEF WASH resources are government counterparts, as reflected in Table A5, which shows the different categories of expenses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost category</th>
<th>Other resources – emergency</th>
<th>Other resources – regular</th>
<th>Regular resources</th>
<th>Grand total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contractual services</td>
<td>65,273,069</td>
<td>39,104,576</td>
<td>16,076,450</td>
<td>120,454,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment, vehicles and furniture</td>
<td>333,997</td>
<td>278,841</td>
<td>539,895</td>
<td>1,152,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General operating and other direct costs</td>
<td>28,254,920</td>
<td>7,285,514</td>
<td>11,570,129</td>
<td>47,110,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incremental indirect costs</td>
<td>32,548,632</td>
<td>20,377,445</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>52,926,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff and other personnel costs</td>
<td>45,173,961</td>
<td>42,069,703</td>
<td>37,925,441</td>
<td>125,169,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies and commodities</td>
<td>75,260,824</td>
<td>25,357,804</td>
<td>7,699,895</td>
<td>108,318,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers and grants to counterparts</td>
<td>199,373,916</td>
<td>171,570,288</td>
<td>50,002,318</td>
<td>420,946,522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>5,026,775</td>
<td>6,493,453</td>
<td>6,442,469</td>
<td>17,962,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7,176,456</td>
<td>7,659,891</td>
<td>3,320,139</td>
<td>18,156,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>458,422,550</td>
<td>320,197,515</td>
<td>133,576,736</td>
<td>912,196,804</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Income for Safe and Clean Environment in 2019

The Safe and Clean Environment thematic pool, established in 2018, received US$1.7 million in ‘other resources – regular’ from partners in 2018. The largest share (39 per cent) of ‘other resources – regular’ contributions to Safe and Clean Environment were received from inter-organizational arrangements. The top five resource partners to this sector in 2018 were the Government of Germany, the International Organization for Migration, UNDP’s Multi-Partner Trust Fund the Government of Sweden, and the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF. The largest contributions were received from the Government of Germany for contribution to longer-term coping with drought effects in Ethiopia, from the International Organization for Migration for natural disaster preparedness, response and recovery in Pakistan, and from UNDP for community resilience and recovery support in Pakistan (see the body of the report for details on all of these programmes).
FIGURE A13: Total Safe and Clean Environment funds received by type of donor, 2018: US$1.7 million

TABLE A6: Resource partners to Safe and Clean Environment by contributions, 2018 (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Resource partners</th>
<th>(US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Germany*</td>
<td>5,348,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration*</td>
<td>2,980,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>UNDP*</td>
<td>2,747,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>508,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>262,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dutch Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>73,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>U.S. Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>47,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>46,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Danish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>32,059</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes cross-sectoral resilience contributions (SC170533, SC150561, SC150673 and SC170746)
TABLE A7: Top 15 contributions to Safe and Clean Environment, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Resource partners</th>
<th>Grant description</th>
<th>US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Contribution to longer-term coping with drought effects, Ethiopia*</td>
<td>3,496,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
<td>Natural Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery, Pakistan*</td>
<td>2,980,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Community Resilience and Recovery Support to FATA, Pakistan*</td>
<td>2,090,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Resilience Programming for Children in Libya Phase IV*</td>
<td>1,851,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Les Jeunes Acteurs pour la Paix et la Reconciliation Nationale, Mali</td>
<td>657,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Safe and Clean Environment, Thematic Funding Support to Country Program, Sudan</td>
<td>397,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Safe and Clean Environment, Thematic Funding Support to Country Program, Bolivia</td>
<td>111,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>DDR and Climate Change Adaptation, El Salvador</td>
<td>87,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Change Adaptation Strengthening adolescent, Guatemala</td>
<td>87,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>DRR/Climate Change Adaption-Sustainable Education for DevT, Guyana</td>
<td>87,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>PNHV Evaluation, Palestine</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Dutch Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>Disaster risk reduction programmes, Nepal</td>
<td>73,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>U.S. Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>Safe and Clean Environment, Thematic Funding Support to Country Program, Viet Nam</td>
<td>47,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Strengthening Resilience for Climate Change Adaption for Children, Turkmenistan</td>
<td>46,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Danish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>Safe and Clean Environment, Thematic Funding Support to Country Program, Viet Nam</td>
<td>32,059</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Cross-sectoral resilience contributions (SC170533, SC150561, SC150673 and SC170746)

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 2018, the first year of the thematic pool's existence, thematic funding contributions for Safe and Clean Environment reached only US$661,747. Sweden was the largest thematic resource partner, providing 77 per cent of all thematic contributions received. Country-level thematic contributions were received from the Netherlands Committee for UNICEF in Nepal, and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and the Danish Committee for UNICEF in Viet Nam. UNICEF is seeking to broaden and diversify its funding base (including thematic contributions), and encourages all partners to give as flexibly as possible.
TABLE A8: Thematic contributions by resource partner to Safe and Clean Environment, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource partner type</th>
<th>Resource partners</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
<th>Percentage of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>508,981</td>
<td>76.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Committees</td>
<td>Netherlands Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>73,207</td>
<td>11.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>47,500</td>
<td>7.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>32,059</td>
<td>4.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td></td>
<td>661,747</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grant numbers are provided for IATI compliance: SC1899070001, SC1899070002, SC1899070003, SC1899070004, SC1899070005

None of the Safe and Clean Environment thematic contributions UNICEF received in 2018 were at the global level.

Expenses for Safe and Clean Environment in 2018

Note: Expenses are higher than the income received because expenses comprise total allotments from regular resources and other resources (including balances carried over from previous years), while income reflects only earmarked contributions from 2018 to Safe and Clean Environment.

A total of US$99.2 million in expenses was used for Safe and Clean Environment programming in 2019. Just over half of these expenses were for the results area of DRR, resilience strengthening and peacebuilding, with the remaining half for the results area of urban programming and local governance, and climate, energy and the environment (see Figure A15).

Expenses versus expenditure

‘Expenses’ are recorded according to IPSAS 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).

FIGURE A14: Expenses by result area, Safe and Clean Environment, 2018 (US$)

Expenses in the three results areas were realized in all UNICEF regions, with the largest expenses in the Eastern and Southern Africa region (see Figure A15).
The top 20 expenses at country, regional and headquarter office levels are presented in Figure A16. The largest country-level expense was in Ethiopia, followed by Bangladesh, Nigeria, the Sudan and India.
## TABLE A9. Expenses for Safe and Clean Environment by cost category and fund type, 2018 (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost category</th>
<th>Other resources – emergency</th>
<th>Other resources – regular</th>
<th>Regular resources</th>
<th>Grand total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contractual services</td>
<td>4,802,770</td>
<td>3,349,559</td>
<td>5,816,489</td>
<td>13,968,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment, vehicles and furniture</td>
<td>44,371</td>
<td>24,893</td>
<td>167,850</td>
<td>237,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General operating + other direct costs</td>
<td>1,864,812</td>
<td>1,156,963</td>
<td>3,071,354</td>
<td>6,093,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incremental indirect costs</td>
<td>3,052,992</td>
<td>1,538,194</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,591,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff and other personnel costs</td>
<td>7,776,172</td>
<td>8,829,190</td>
<td>16,703,178</td>
<td>33,308,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies and commodities</td>
<td>8,756,569</td>
<td>576,105</td>
<td>751,293</td>
<td>10,083,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers and grants to counterparts</td>
<td>9,585,898</td>
<td>4,043,334</td>
<td>8,012,797</td>
<td>21,642,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>3,779,932</td>
<td>1,331,609</td>
<td>2,802,254</td>
<td>7,913,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>641,303</td>
<td>299,991</td>
<td>461,771</td>
<td>1,403,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td><strong>40,304,819</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,149,836</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,786,985</strong></td>
<td><strong>99,241,640</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 2: List of UNICEF WASH partners, 2018

This list includes UNICEF WASH programme partners at the global, regional and national levels. For national-level partners the list only includes NGOs, academic institutes and other organizations active in two or more countries. The list of national level partners is sourced on data provided by country offices for WASH programming. It does not include government partners at national level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner (active in two or more countries in 2018)</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drexel University</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emory University</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins University</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford University</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufts University</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University at Buffalo</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Technology Sydney</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universities in Programme countries (various)</td>
<td>Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor Pooled Fund (mixed donors)</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner (active in two or more countries in 2018)</td>
<td>Category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Commission/ECHO</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPEC Fund</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation Fund</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States, USAID</td>
<td>Donor Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetsuko Kuroyanagi</td>
<td>Goodwill Ambassador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Development Bank</td>
<td>International Finance Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner (active in two or more countries in 2018)</td>
<td>Category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
<td>International Finance Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
<td>International Finance Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>International Finance Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Contre la Faim / Action Against Hunger</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ACTED)</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arche Nova</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bremen Overseas Research &amp; Development Association</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care International</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caritas</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Relief Services</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Fund International</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISP</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Relief Fund</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI)</td>
<td>NGO</td>
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