In 2018, Goal Area 3 expenses were US$658.2 million, a slight drop of 5 per cent from 2017 levels (US$689.6 million). Goal Area 3 expenses represent 12 per cent of total UNICEF expenditure for 2018 (US$5,384.5 million). This expense ratio has been largely consistent since 2014.

Ten countries accounted for 36 per cent of total expenditure for Goal Area 3 in 2018; these are (listed in order): Turkey, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, South Sudan, Iraq, Bangladesh, Somalia, Nigeria, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Programming to support improved prevention and response services for violence against children (Output 3.1) accounted for the largest share at US$528.7 million (80 per cent of the total expenditure). Expenditure to accelerate the reduction of harmful practices (child marriage and FGM) (Output 3.2) accounted for US$30.2 million (5 per cent). Expenditure to strengthen justice systems (Output 3.3) amounted to US$99.3 million (representing 15 per cent of total spending). It should be noted that expenditures on emergency-related programming is mainly captured by Output 3.1.

In 2018, partners contributed US$164 million ‘other resources – regular’ (ORR) for Goal Area 3, which was a 4 per cent decrease from the previous year. UNICEF is seeking to broaden and diversify its funding base (including thematic contributions), and encourages all partners to give as flexibly as possible. The number of partners contributing thematic funding to child protection increased from 20 in 2017 to 22 in 2018. In 2018, US$13.27 million in global thematic funding for Goal Area 3 was allocated. This included US$6.95 million to 48 UNICEF country offices, US$1.49 million to seven regional offices and US$2.13 million to UNICEF headquarters, representing 73, 11 and 16 per cent of the total allocations for 2018, respectively.

UNICEF Goal Area 3 anticipates that overall funding requirements are double current expenditure amounts, with projected additional requirements estimated to be US$223 million for development programming, and around US$385 million for humanitarian action.

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

UNICEF expresses its deep appreciation to all resource partners who contribute to its work on child protection, enabling UNICEF to support countries in all regions to deliver strategic and direct child protection interventions to marginalized children, their families and communities. UNICEF would also like to extend particular thanks to its partners who provided thematic funding, notably the governments of Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Spain and Sweden and all National Committees for UNICEF, particularly the National Committee of Finland, Republic of Korea and Norway. Thematic gifts are critical in allowing for greater flexibility, long-term planning, and innovative programming. Thematic contributions reflect the trust resource partners have in UNICEF and its capacity and ability to deliver quality support; these funds have contributed significantly to the results achieved in 2018.

Even as the world gathers to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the fundamental rights of children to be protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices continue to be violated.

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

Goal Area 3 aims to ensure that every child is protected from violence and exploitation across development and humanitarian contexts. With just 12 years left to the Agenda 2030 deadline, there is a need to inject a sense of urgency to increase action by countries, along with strengthening collaborative partnerships among governments and stakeholders at all levels.

**DATA TRENDS AND TRACKING PROGRESS: AGENDA 2030**

15% decrease in child marriages (past 10 years)
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) rates decreased by 30%
(last 3 decades)

650 million girls and women were still married before their 18th birthday
At least 200 million women and girls have undergone FGM

Nearly 1 in 10 children in child labour - almost 50% in hazardous child labour

3 in 4 children under 5 experience violent discipline by their caregiver
1 in 3 students experienced bullying

Only 1 in 3 adolescent girls who experienced sexual violence seek help
650 million children have no birth certificate

No country is on track to eliminate violent discipline
1 in 5 countries will need to accelerate action to achieve universal birth registration
Goal Area 3 of UNICEF’s Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 seeks to ensure that girls and boys, especially the most vulnerable and those affected by humanitarian situations, are protected from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practice by:

- preventing and responding to violence against children;
- accelerating the reduction of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage;
- improving children’s access to justice.

Countries have strengthened child protection systems for prevention and response services to address violence against children.

- Violence (in all its forms and across contexts)
- Grave violations against girls and boys in armed conflict
- Gender-based violence in emergencies
- Children on the move
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Countries have improved systems to protect children that come in contact with the law and to treat them in accordance with international standards.

- Access to justice
- Birth registration
- Alternative care

Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

**SNAPSHOT OF UNICEF GLOBAL PROGRAMMING RESULTS, 2018**

**GOAL AREA 3 STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW AND 2019 PRIORITIES**