

Update on the context and situation of children

The year 2019 marked the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Over the past 30 years, Tanzania has achieved near universal immunization coverage and the number of children who die before their fifth birthday has declined by almost 70 per cent. [ii] The proportion of chronically malnourished children reduced from 50 per cent in 1991 to 32 per cent in 2018. [iii] The primary school enrolment rate has almost doubled since 1990 [iiii] and the number of children with a birth certificate has rapidly increased in the past seven years. Four additional regions operationalized their decentralized birth registration system in 2019, bringing the total to 15 out of 26 regions. With 1.2 million additional children in 2019, nearly 4 million children under five now have a birth certificate. [iv]

However, new data released in 2019 point to significant remaining deprivations for children in Tanzania. According to the Household Budget Survey, released in July 2019, Tanzania is not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target on poverty. The findings show that the poverty rate decreased from 28.2 per cent in 2012 to 26.4 per cent in 2018. However, with a growing population, this implied an increase of 1 million people living below the poverty line. [v] Child poverty stands at 30.1 per cent according to the same survey. [vi]

Demographic analysis reveals that Tanzania needs to continue investment in social services to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend. Tanzania is among 10 countries globally that are a priority for reduction of the world's newborn deaths and the proportion of children who die in their first month of life has increased by 15 percentage points since 1990. [vii] The number of people living with HIV has increased to 1.6 million and every day 65 young people are infected with the virus. [viii] In 2019, one in three children under the age of five were stunted and rates reached close to 50 per cent in disadvantaged regions. [ix]

Tanzania is urbanising rapidly. In 2019, findings from UNICEF research pointed to the so-called urban disadvantage. For example, neonatal mortality rates in Tanzania are higher in urban than in rural areas. The prevalence of child marriage remains high – almost one in three girls aged 20-24 were married or in union before the age of 18.[x] In 2019, an opportunity to comprehensively address child marriage emerged as Tanzania's Court of Appeal upheld a High Court ruling that asked the Government to amend the Law of Marriage Act to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years.

The Government continued to prioritize investments in infrastructure (especially railways and hydropower), including through the national budget. Relative budget shares for education and health continued a downward trend. While tax collection has significantly improved over the past years, the difficulty of meeting ambitious tax revenue targets presents a challenge for budget credibility and puts pressure on the budget deficit and debt levels. The economy continued to grow but the pace of growth is subject to varying projections.

Dialogue between the Government and development partners continued on issues such as girls' education, statistics regulations, respect for minorities, new regulations on the operation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and space for media.

Though there has not been any confirmed case of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Tanzania, the risk of EVD spread from the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued in 2019. UNICEF and partners supported government-led EVD preparedness activities focusing on risk communication and community engagement, as well as case management.

The most recent cholera cases in Tanzania were reported in July, bringing the total number in 2019 to 421, including seven fatalities. UNICEF continues to support the Government in the areas of communication and essential supplies. In Zanzibar, UNICEF supported the development and presidential launch of a Comprehensive Cholera Elimination Plan, linking humanitarian and development initiatives.

The situation of refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains a concern. The number of refugees reduced from 330,775 in 2018 to 278,275 by the end of 2019 as a result of voluntary repatriations, which resumed in 2019. Chronic underfunding has led to significant gaps in the provision of humanitarian assistance. In the three refugee camps in Kigoma Region, UNICEF continued to focus on the protection of children, including registration of more than 3,000 unregistered refugee children, provision of school supplies, treatment of malnutrition, water and sanitation services, and psychosocial support.

[i] United Nations Children's Fund, Levels and trends in child mortality report 2019, Estimates developed by the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, UN-DESA Population Division), 2019.

[ii] Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (Tanzania Mainland), Ministry of Health



(Zanzibar), Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre, National Bureau of Statistics, Office of the Chief Government Statistician (Zanzibar) and UNICEF, *Tanzania National Nutrition Survey 2018*, 2019.

[iii] President's Office of the Regional Administration and Local Government, Basic Education Statistics Tanzania, 2018.

[iv] Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency, A brief note on the computation of the birth certification rate for under-five children in mainland Tanzania, 2019, accessed at:

http://www.rita.go.tz/files/news/Birth%20Certification%20Rate-Notes FINAL%20VESION 1.pdf

[v] National Bureau of Statistics, The 2017-18 Household Budget Survey: Key Indicators Report, 2019.

[vi] Ministry of Finance and Planning, The Economic Survey 2018, 2019.

[vii] United Nations Children's Fund, Levels and trends in child mortality report 2019, Estimates developed by the UN Interagency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, UN-DESA Population Division), 2019.

[viii] UNAIDS, HIV Estimates, 2019.

[ix] Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (Tanzania Mainland), Ministry of Health (Zanzibar), Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre, National Bureau of Statistics, Office of the Chief Government Statistician (Zanzibar) and UNICEF, *Tanzania National Nutrition Survey 2018*, 2019.

[x] Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (Tanzania Mainland), Ministry of Health (Zanzibar), National Bureau of Statistics, Office of the Chief Government Statistician and ICF, *Tanzania 2015/2016 Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey: Key Findings*, 2016.

Major contributions and drivers of results

In 2019, UNICEF Tanzania continued to work with partners to improve the lives of children using three key strategies to address the needs of the most vulnerable children: (a) data and evidence generation with a focus on the decentralized level; (b) strengthening service delivery to ensure availability of essential child-friendly services; and (c) increasing the demand for services amongst different stakeholders. These were implemented through a variety of different partnerships, innovative approaches and the increased participation of young people as advocates for their own lives.

Every child survives and thrives

UNICEF in collaboration with other partners continued to support the generation and use of critical evidence on survival, health, HIV and nutrition of mothers, newborns, children and adolescents. The mid-term reviews of the Fourth Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) and the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP) were conducted, identifying enablers and bottlenecks to advance health and nutrition agendas. Additionally, UNICEF supported a Newborn Health Situation Analysis that highlighted the stagnated progress in newborn survival, largely attributable to poor quality of care in the 48 hours around birth. A cross-sectional study on adolescents living with HIV informed advocacy efforts that contributed to parliamentary approval of the amendment of the HIV Act, allowing HIV testing without parental consent for adolescents, paving the way for easier access for adolescents to HIV testing.

Equity focused evidence-based planning and budgeting was supported through ensuring inclusion of bottleneck analyses and the 'Reaching Every Child' approach into revised planning guidelines for councils and health facilities. Districts were supported to implement these guidelines in their planning processes with the aim to improve coverage and equity of reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health, nutrition and HIV interventions. For the first time, the Government contributed to over 50 per cent of the costs for evidence-based planning and budgeting sessions on nutrition in all 184 districts.

UNICEF and partners influenced major policy shifts aimed at addressing the severe human resources shortages in the health sector. Through facilitating a four-ministry high-level advocacy meeting highlighting the human resource gaps and potential solutions. Along with partners UNICEF influenced the Ministry of Health, Development, Gender, Elderly and Children to prioritise human resources for health alongside infrastructure development needs. In a context where the majority of newborn and maternal deaths are attributable to poor quality of care, this emphasis on human resources will be instrumental to enable increased availability of appropriately skilled staff who can save lives.



UNICEF supported the development and roll out of a comprehensive model to prevent maternal and perinatal deaths through a systems-strengthening approach involving upgrading of health facilities' infrastructure and WASH, institutionalization of quality improvement teams, implementation of Maternal and Perinatal Death Reviews and capacity building of health workers. In Zanzibar, UNICEF supported capacity building and quality improvement, attributing to an observed decline in early neonatal mortality (from 107 deaths in April to June 2018 to 59 deaths between September and November 2019).

During the nationwide immunization campaign in October 2019, more than 8.6 million children under five were vaccinated with Measles-Rubella vaccines and 4.4 million children aged 18 to 42 months were vaccinated with injectable polio vaccine (bOPV). UNICEF, together with partners, provided substantial technical and logistical support to the Government to realize the results achieved during the campaign, including hands-on assessment and supervision before, during and after the campaign.

In close collaboration between the Government, UNICEF, Global Fund, UNAIDS and the United States Government, HIV prevention interventions for young people were scaled up from 22 councils in 2018 to 43 councils in 2019, representing 44 per cent of the 97 identified higher HIV prevalence councils. The quality of HIV treatment services was supported in nine of the higher HIV prevalence councils (nine per cent) in Tanzania Mainland and in all 11 councils of Zanzibar, contributing to a national increase in antiretroviral treatment coverage for children from 58 to 65 per cent in 2019. UNICEF, together with Clinton Health Access Initiative, supported the roll out of Early Infant Diagnosis Point of Care testing technologies in 27 strategic health facilities across the country with a national scale-up plan to be reviewed in early 2020.

The coverage of pregnant women and caregivers using infant and young child feeding nutrition services increased from 60 per cent in 2018 to 72 per cent in 2019, reaching a total of 438,000 individuals in UNICEF priority regions and in Zanzibar. UNICEF, in collaboration with the Government, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), IrishAid, Canada, Netherlands, Norway and NGOs, contributed significantly to this increase and also to the increased availability of iron folic acid supplies and trained health service providers in UNICEF-supported regions, reflected in the national increase in the percentage of pregnant women consuming any iron folic acid from 45 per cent in 2018 to 50 per cent in 2019.

Community engagement around key nutrition issues was significantly strengthened in UNICEF-supported regions in 2019 through: i) signing of the Nutrition Compact between District Commissioners and Village Executive Officers in 30 per cent of villages to commit to nutrition results; ii) implementation of six-monthly integrated village health and nutrition days in 10 per cent of villages (5 per cent of villages fully funded with domestic funds); and iii) and increase in male caregivers participating in infant and young child feeding services from 10 per cent in 2018 to 15 per cent in 2019.

Every child learns

In 2019, UNICEF and other development partners, including DFID, USAID and the World Bank, supported the Tanzania Institute of Education to develop the National School-Based Continuous Professional Development (SB-CPD) Framework. Approved in 2019, the SB-CPD framework harmonizes in-service teacher training across the country and will help to improve the quality of teacher training and ensure universal standards that impact learning outcomes for students across the country. Since its implementation all 6,186 pre-primary teachers and 179,341 primary teachers (51 per cent female) have benefited from these improvements. The SB-CPD framework is available in all 16,149 primary schools, covering all pre-primary, Standard 1 and 2 teachers (out of which 63 per cent are female). Through support from UNICEF to the Government's Agency for Development of Educational Management, the capacity of all 4,283 government personnel was strengthened in support of the SB-CPD rollout. As a result, Standards 1 and 2 classrooms in 1,583 of 2,067 (76 per cent) of targeted schools demonstrated improved teaching and learning environments for children. Additionally, through innovative approaches in communities without a primary school, satellite classrooms are used to engage early learners. Overall, with UNICEF financial and technical support, 2,899 teachers (1,830 male/1,069 female; 128 per cent above a targeted 2,250 teachers) in UNICEF-supported regions built their capacities and transformed their classrooms into stimulating learning environments benefiting 235,165 children (117,571 boys and 117,594 girls).

In Zanzibar, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to Zanzibar to develop and approve the In-Service Teacher Training Strategy, which guides improvement in quality of teaching and learning. As a result, all 62 Standard 1 classes have been transformed into conducive learning environments, directly benefiting over 7,000 children.

UNICEF supported the government, both in Mainland and Zanzibar, to improve implementation of the Education Sector Development Plan by using evidence to inform plans. All key government planning officials in the Ministry of Education gained knowledge on the Bottleneck Analysis Approach to use evidence in planning systematically. The training resulted in the successful Global Partnership for Education application that received a US\$112 million grant for Mainland and Zanzibar as well as successful planning for Mid-Term Expenditure Financing (MTEF) at local levels. Furthermore, UNICEF supported



the finalization of the Teacher Absenteeism Study for Mainland and Zanzibar highlighting policy recommendations to improve teaching conditions in schools. UNICEF plans to conduct a further assessment to better understand the needs of teachers and challenges in recruiting and deploying teachers across the country. UNICEF will advocate and encourage the Government to prioritize equity-based teacher development to address the needs of regions with high teacher-student ratios.

Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

In 2019, more than 1.1 million children under five were registered and issued with a birth certificate, exceeding the target of 700,000. UNICEF, with support from Global Affairs Canada and mobile phone provider TIGO, continued to support the Government to expand the Simplified Birth Registration System to four additional regions (Dodoma, Singida, Morogoro and Pwani), bringing the total number of regions covered to 15 (out of 26). This increased the number of children under five benefitting from the new system to more than 4 million and raised the overall birth certification rate in Tanzania Mainland from 12.7 per cent in 2012 to 49.2 per cent in 2019. Building on the success achieved and with continued financial support from Global Affairs Canada, UNICEF will continue to support the Government over the next three years to implement an improved, more gender and equity-focused version of the system to the remaining 11 regions of Mainland Tanzania.

UNICEF supported the implementation of the Communication and Outreach Strategy of the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children through the development of regional communication plans for Kigoma and Mbeya regions. The communication strategy aims to address norms and values that condone and perpetuate violence and negative gender stereotyping to prevent violence from happening in the first place. The regional communication plans were developed with involvement of key stakeholders, including Community Development Officers, Social Welfare Officers, NGOs and faith-based organizations, and intend to coordinate all activities to influence behaviour change and perspectives on violence at the regional level. Lessons learned have been documented to inform roll out of the strategy in other regions.

To build the capacity of mothers, fathers and caregivers to use a non-violent approach to child discipline, UNICEF continued to support Community Development Officers to implement the Parenting Education Programme, a national initiative designed to reduce violence against children and enhance the protective environment for children. The programme reached 134 of 185 Local Government Authorities in 17 regions, with 15 Local Government Authorities supported by UNICEF. In 2019, UNICEF established an additional 613 parenting groups, reaching 9,358 parents and caregivers (a cumulative 2,186 parenting groups and 39,281 parents and caregivers). In Zanzibar, UNICEF supported 33 District Social Welfare and Women and Children Officers in all 11 districts to reach 26,225 caregivers in 181 communities with messages on prevention and reporting of violence against women and children.

With the Judiciary's designation of 106 new Juvenile Courts in February 2019, Tanzania Mainland now has 236 Juvenile Courts, with 650 personnel trained on the Juvenile Court Rules by the Institute of Judicial Administration with UNICEF support. Tanzania mainland now has three district level Community Rehabilitation Programmes operating independent of UNICEF financial support with six more districts under development.

Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

With support from UNICEF and partners, the national report on WASH in schools conducted in 2018 by the National Bureau of Statistics was completed in 2019, providing comprehensive estimates of WASH coverage in schools and a full SDG school-WASH baseline for Tanzania. The report revealed poor coverage of WASH services: Only 18 per cent of schools had access to basic hygiene services, 30 per cent to basic sanitation, and 55 per cent to basic drinking water services. The ? ndings also revealed disparities between rural and urban schools, primary and secondary schools, government and non-government schools, and among regions. This new data provides the Government with an accurate baseline to effectively prioritize and improve planning and delivery of school WASH services in Tanzania. The findings pave the way for development of a national costed plan and investment case for school WASH, which is a prerequisite for advocacy with government partners for increased funding for school WASH.

In the effort to eliminate open defecation, 31,321 households (10 per cent) in Mbeya, Iringa, and Njombe regions and 67,091 households (20.1 per cent) in Zanzibar were sensitized to adopt toilet use through Community-Led Total Sanitation programmes. This resulted in 136 villages with 63,548 households in Mainland Tanzania and 69 villages with 39,271 people in Zanzibar achieving self-reported Open Defecation Free status. Furthermore, 20 villages (9,065 households with 38,204 people) in Mainland were certified Open Defecation Free by the Government in 2019. This was an important milestone as UNICEF supported the piloting of a model to accelerate certification of the backlog of self-verified villages.

In schools, 31,561 children (16,273 girls and 15,288 boys) benefited from the construction of school WASH facilities in 39 schools (5.4 per cent) in Mbeya, Iringa and Njombe regions. Each school was provided with safe water, hand washing stations and improved separated toilet blocks for boys and girls. Each toilet block has a dedicated toilet for children with disabilities and toilet blocks for girls have a special room equipped with supplies and appropriate facilities to facilitate



menstrual hygiene.

Every child has an equitable chance in life

Throughout 2019, UNICEF continued to diversify its support to improve public finance for children, including advocacy, budget analysis and capacity development. For example, key findings of social sector budget briefs were presented to 90 (out of 393) Members of Parliament in Mainland and 30 (out of 82) Members of Parliament in Zanzibar. This triggered discussions and raised awareness among Parliamentarians about critical budgeting challenges that affect children and the importance of enhancing social sector budget allocations and spending considering demographic trends. Key changes linked to recommendations in the budget briefs in Zanzibar included ring-fencing of essential medicines.

With technical support from UNICEF, progress was made on the institutionalization of child poverty measures in the national statistics system. The 2017/2018 Tanzania Household Budget Survey published for the first time official monetary child poverty rates disaggregated by region, sex and other background characteristics. The increased availability of data on children and technical support from UNICEF enabled the better inclusion of children's issues in Tanzania's 2019 Voluntary National Review report on progress with the SDGs as well as in the Sixth State Party Report on the Implementation of the UNCRC.

UNICEF continued to support several initiatives that aim to strengthen local governance for children. This included the support to government for the development of a National Decentralisation Policy, which will be submitted to Cabinet for approval in early 2020. Measures announced in the new policy can significantly improve the enabling environment for decentralized child-focused planning and budgeting. In 2019, UNICEF strengthened its partnership with two main learning institutions to strengthen their curricula in the field of child-focused planning and budgeting. In Zanzibar, this initiative led to capacity building of local government authorities and subsequent development of strategic plans in all 11 districts of the island.

Despite delays in the approval of the National Social Protection Policy, the Social Protection Department reactivated plans for developing a long-term financing strategy and a social protection coordination and monitoring and evaluation framework. UNICEF will support this through a financial contribution that the United Nations in Tanzania obtained from the SDG Joint Fund facility, and which focuses on strengthening the country's social protection system.

During the same period, funding shortages for Tanzania Social Action Fund presented a challenge. Beneficiaries of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) programme were only paid one out of six instalments due, with a partial payment being prepared at the time of reporting. New development partner funding was made available in September and preparations are underway to resume regular cash payments. The UNICEF-supported PSSN Stawisha Maisha infant and young children feeding practice sessions, which provide nutrition information and exchange for PSSN beneficiaries (mostly mothers and caregivers), ended in March 2019 and an end-line survey plus implementation review was conducted in August. The findings indicated required changes in the design and implementation process and UNICEF will support Tanzania Social Action Fund to develop a roll-out plan on this basis.

In Zanzibar, UNICEF supported the deployment of technical experts from SOCIEUX (a European Union-supported technical assistance facility for social protection) to finalize the new Management Information System for the Zanzibar Universal Pension Scheme, which is now fully operational.

Cross-cutting results: Early Childhood Development (ECD)

UNICEF continued the scale-up of intersectoral, evidence-based ECD programmes such as the large-scale Stunting Reduction Program implemented in Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe & Songwe (MINS) and Zanzibar, through which community-based ECD related services were provided to pregnant women and caregivers by trained Community Health Care Workers (CHWs) using the revised integrated ECD behavior change communication materials.

As a result, almost 300,000 parents/caregivers of young children received Care for Child Development (CCD) counselling services from trained CHWs and started practicing early stimulation and responsive care behaviors. This work contributes to the National Agenda for Responsible Parenting and Family Care, which was launched by the Government in both Zanzibar and Mainland in 2019, with support from partners and UNICEF. Under the three pillars of Care, Protect and Communicate, parents and caregivers were targeted with various key ECD messages through the use of multi-media communication materials and parenting handbooks.

Management results

In 2019, the Tanzania Country Office accelerated and deepened work on a number of initiatives to enhance the workforce experience and improve the overall organizational culture. Key efforts focused on ways to enhance respectful, meaningful



and efficient communication (e.g. by creating and maintaining a culture of appreciation and by issuing simple and clear internal communication guidelines) and initiatives focusing on the empowerment, growth and development of staff. More staff took advantage of organizational policies of flexible work arrangements allowing them to effectively improve the lives of the most vulnerable children and simultaneously improve their work-life balance. Staff benefited from stretch assignments and learning opportunities, allowing them to grow and better fulfil their roles in the office.

UNICEF Tanzania installed LED and motion sensors in the building and held different sessions to raise awareness on environmental and greening issues among staff. With a financial contribution from the greening fund, solar power was installed towards the end of 2019, which will allow the office to run on 100 per cent renewable solar power once the installation is finalised.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Investing in the capacities of young people as advocates for change is a powerful strategy to accelerate results for children.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the UNCRC, UNICEF brought together young people's engagement platforms throughout the country using formal and informal partnerships. Over 34,000 young people and children were involved in consultations to discuss their perception of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and develop a Children and Young People's Agenda for the Tanzania they want for children, with clear recommendations for children themselves and other stakeholders. More than five million children were sensitized on their rights as part of this process.

The children discussed their recommendations and views in six different consultations with groups of UNICEFs key partners and influencers, including editors, business leaders, faith leaders, online influencers, parliamentarians and donors. Each of these resulted in a declaration of commitment by the influencers to support the realization of the Children and Young People's Agenda. The process culminated in a high-profile event with Government and other stakeholders where young people presented the Children and Young People's Agenda and discussed the way forward. Led by former President H. E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, all stakeholders pledged to support the agenda.

This approach has helped to make young people the motor of their own advocacy efforts (using Kiswahili as the main advocacy language), by identifying bottlenecks, highlighting positive examples of change led by young people and identifying solutions they can take forward themselves. The process revealed a potential to further scale up this approach by supporting children and young people with the right knowledge, skills and platforms that will help them to advocate for their own rights. In the long term, this approach might also be able to support positive change and influence social norms and perceptions related to children and adolescents.

Capacities for strengthened accountability for and learning from public policy implementation were enhanced.

With support from UNICEF, the Tanzania Evaluation Association (TanEA) successfully collaborated with the Parliament of Tanzania and the President Office's to deliberate on the development of a national evaluation policy, paving the way for a more sustainable means of building national evaluation capacity in Tanzania as well as for strengthened accountability for and learning from public policy implementation.

The governance arrangements of the Tanzania Country Office for managing evaluations were further strengthened to ensure a credible, transparent, impartial and quality evaluation process is in place, in accordance with the 2018 UNICEF Evaluation Policy and United Nations Evaluation Group norms and standards.

Scale up of innovative approaches to prevent school drop-out and to build skills and competencies of vulnerable adolescents who are out of school.

Following the adoption of the National Inclusive Education Strategy in 2018, UNICEF supported the formulation of a skills development curriculum targeting out-of-school adolescents. In addition, a national Integrated Programme on Out-of-School Adolescents (IPOSA), launched in 2019 by the Minister of the President's Office of the Regional Administration and Local Government, provides literacy, vocational, entrepreneurship and life skills to out-of-school adolescents. In 2019, almost 10,000 out-of-school adolescents (more than half of them girls) aged 14 to 19 years in eight regions were enrolled in the IPOSA programme, significantly increasing the number of children accessing skills development and exceeding the enrolment target of 5,000. As a way forward, the IPOSA programme was expanded from four regions (Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe and Songwe) to Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Kigoma and Tabora regions.

In addition, UNICEF supported the Government to use innovative approaches and technology to enable the scale up of IPOSA and other similar programmes across all regions in Tanzania and to prevent adolescents from dropping out of



secondary school in the first place. Building on progress made in 2018 with the launch of the Generation Unlimited youth challenge, 27 young people received seed funding to implement solutions which address challenges in secondary education, with five of the ideas tested in eight schools benefiting 1,150 students. Working with young innovators in secondary schools presented several challenges, including alignment with school calendars, parental permission and weak structures for administering seed funding to groups of young people. Progressively, a pool of competent partners has been identified who can support future Generation Unlimited youth challenges. Building on this, UNICEF will continue to engage more partners, including from the private sector, to further enable the scale up of ideas to reach more children in and out of schools.

In order to meet the urgent need for expanded education, training and employment opportunities for children and young people (both in and out of school) UNICEF identified and brought together 11 young innovators with creative solutions to enhance classroom learning and to cater for the needs of out of school children across the country. Some of these creative solutions include using artificial intelligence to provide science and mathematics solutions to students, a social venture providing a mobile library with books to remote schools and a volunteer platform for university students and graduates to tutor primary and secondary students. The group of young innovators prioritised content development, teacher training and impact research to build evidence for scaling and to enhance the coordination between the Government, private sector and the donor community. UNICEF will continue to strengthen the partnership with this group of young innovators to inform the design of sustainable and scalable solutions to improve learning outcomes for all children and to further enhance the curriculum with entrepreneurship, self-confidence and problem-solving skills.

Acronyms

EVD Ebola Virus Disease

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

NGO Non-governmental organization

PSSN Productive Social Safety Net

SB-CPD School-Based Continuous Professional Development

SDG Sustainable Development Goal

UNCRC United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

WASH Water, sanitation and hygiene