I. Background

Child Protection is the prevention of, and response to, exploitation, abuse, neglect, harmful practices and violence against children. It is embedded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)\(^\text{ii}\) – the most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history – and is the moral minimum for any society. Child Protection is universal: it is for all children everywhere, from low- to high-income countries, in all regions and settings. The consequences of inaction are catastrophic: profound, enduring and often deadly; with economic costs of violence against children estimated at $7 trillion per year\(^\text{iii}\). But this harm is not inevitable: progress can be made through political will for the fulfilment of children’s rights, societal change, and an emerging science of prevention and response strategies.

There have been significant positive changes in the field of Child Protection since the 2008 UNICEF Child Protection Strategy. Government- and community-led action have resulted in increases in birth registration and reductions in child labour, child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) over the last decade. Child Protection features prominently in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There are new partnerships (e.g. the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children), new standards (e.g. the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action) and new programmatic frameworks (e.g. INSPIRE).

Yet over 1 billion children experience violence every year, and children face significant new challenges over the next decade such as rapid digital acceleration, increasing urbanisation, climate change and protracted armed conflicts. The COVID-19 pandemic has further intensified risks for children and disrupted services to manage those risks.

UNICEF adopts a human rights-based approach to Child Protection\(^\text{iv}\). Our vision is to further the realisation of all children’s rights, including their rights to be protected from all forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation, and to access quality, effective and appropriate support, redress and remedy. We are guided by human rights principles, norms and standards including the CRC, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We support Child Protection systems by strengthening both the capacities of duty bearers, (primarily governments as well as civil society organisations, and other non-state actors), and of right holders including children themselves and their families and communities. Our focus is particularly on participation and inclusion, accountability and rule of law, equality and non-discrimination.

In humanitarian settings in particular, we are guided by UNICEF’s Core Commitments for Children, the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming\(^\text{v}\). In situations of armed conflict, UNICEF is specifically mandated by Security Council Resolution 1612.\(^\text{vi}\)
The purpose of this Strategy is to provide a clear vision and strategic framework for UNICEF’s work in Child Protection for the decade to 2030, while allowing flexibility to be led by country and regional context and local needs. The Strategy adopts three interlinking strategic objectives:

(i) to promote social and gender norms and behaviours that are supportive of a child’s right to protection from harm;
(ii) to support inclusive and effective child protection systems in preventing and responding to child protection violations at scale;
(iii) to effectively address child protection issues in humanitarian settings.

We will work to promote child protection as a right and to establish it as a basic service on a par with other basic services in support of children’s rights such as health, education, water and sanitation. To do so, we will support States’ capacities particularly on systems strengthening. We will partner with civil society organisations, academia and the private sector for innovative partnerships, and with other UN agencies within a ‘UN Development System’ operating framework. We will promote the voices of community members and capacities of local communities to prevent and respond to child rights violations as they specifically relate to protection issues, including collectively shifting harmful social and gender norms.

This Strategy will be characterised by two major strategic shifts: (i) scaling up evidence-based interventions for prevention, (ii) strengthening child protection systems for prevention and response.

II. Context

(i) Global context for children to 2030

The global population will grow from 7.7 billion in 2019 to around 8.5 billion in 2030. By the middle of the century, Africa will be home to 1 billion children, almost 40% of the global total. By 2030, urban areas will house 60% of people globally. Migration is increasing, with international migrants now comprising 3.5% of the global population, up from 2.8% in 2000 and global forced displacement doubling in the last decade, now comprising 1% of the world’s population.

At 2.9%, global economic growth is the lowest it has been since the 2008-09 global financial crisis. Economic recovery is threatened by rising geopolitical tensions and social unrest, worsening trade relations, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. There are 663 million children worldwide living in poverty, of whom 385 million are living in extreme poverty. 85% of the poorest children on the global Multidimensional Poverty Index live in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Two out of three children globally have no access to any form of child or family benefit, and coverage is lowest where child poverty is highest. The number of States graduating to middle income status is increasing, as is the proportion of the world’s child population in middle income countries. Middle income countries are home to 75 per cent of the world’s population and 62 per cent of the world’s poor.

420 million children – nearly one-fifth of children worldwide – live in conflict affected countries; a rise of nearly 30 million from 2016. Armed actors conduct deliberate campaigns of violence against children – including targeting schools and enslaving girls and boys – and against women. Children living in economic and physical insecurity are at risk of child trafficking, sexual violence and recruitment by armed forces and armed groups. At the end of 2018, nearly 31 million children have been forcibly displaced worldwide.

COVID 19 has exposed long-standing, deep-seated, systemic human rights and child rights violations. It will likely continue to exacerbate these pre-existing violations, as well as create new ones, especially...
for those who are already disadvantaged such as children from marginalized or minority groups, or children with disabilities. More than ever, fault lines have been exposed – between those who have access to health care, water, sanitation, nutrition, information, and economic and social protections and those who do not.

An estimated 258 million children are out of school and excluded from the protection and other related services offered within school environments. Over 90% of students worldwide were affected by school closures as a result of COVID-19. An estimated 284 million people are suffering from anxiety and 264 million from depression worldwide. Nearly 800,000 die from suicide each year. In low- and middle-income countries more than 75% of people receive no treatment for their mental disorder and there is particularly a lack of targeted, evidence-based programmes, workforce capacity and sustained funding for critical child and family Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS). Countries on average spend less than 1 per cent of their health budgets on mental health.

Climate change affects women and children disproportionately. It is in the areas most impacted by climate change that women play a central role: food security, agriculture, energy, livelihoods and health. Climate change will have severe consequences for child rights, through environmental degradation, poverty, stress on public services and compounding household vulnerabilities – in turn impacting child protection. The increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters due to climate change will exacerbate these impacts.

The world is witnessing worrying trends of political and social polarization, along with decreasing trust in traditional institutions such as government and the media. Many countries are experiencing contractions of democratic and civic space. Between 2006 and 2019, associational and organizational rights declined in 43 countries while only improving in 16. Protests around the world have exposed structural racism and discrimination, including in justice and law enforcement systems. This pressure is challenging governments and partners to re-think their approaches and to build on transformative actions that can catalyse wider justice reforms for children.

We are living through a 4th Industrial Revolution, with new threats to and opportunities for the realisation of children’s rights from emerging technologies such as biometrics, artificial intelligence (AI) and assisted reproductive technologies. Digital connectivity brings risks from surveillance, data misuse, misinformation, radicalisation and recruitment, grooming, online abuse and bullying – risks that the world is currently ill-equipped to manage. But equally, the digital world is an opportunity, with the potential for children and young people to connect, socialise, express themselves, become empowered and become agents of change. AI-enabled technologies have the potential to improve children’s access to services, such as to education through personalized curricula platforms, to health by faster diagnostics, and through more targeted allocation of social protection services for children. Social media and digital communication tools can open up opportunities for wide engagement with parents, care-givers and communities.

While the short-term implications of COVID-19 for child protection are increasingly known – increased violence; reduced services for prevention and response; major economic contractions and increased poverty – the medium-term implications are unclear. A recent review of evidence from previous pandemics and epidemics and their impact on child protection outcomes highlighted how disruptions to the care-giving environment, schooling, work, and services can send women and children into a spiral of harm and violence, with heightened risks of child marriage and child labour. Overall, it is clear that the Child Protection sector needs to be prepared for the next public health emergency even while dealing with the ramifications of this one.
(ii) Child Protection context for children

The child protection related SDGs, which are explicitly grounded in human rights, are mostly off-track, resulting in major child rights violations. For example:

➢ **SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** 1 in 3 adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 worldwide have been the victims of emotional, physical or sexual violence committed by their husbands or partners at some point in their lives and 15 million adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 have experienced forced sex (5.2); an estimated 650 million girls and women today were married before their 18th birthday (5.3); at least 200 million girls and women have been subjected to FGM (5.3);

➢ **SDG 8 (Child Labour):** 152 million children are in child labour globally, and almost 73 million children are performing hazardous work (8.7); in addition, many girls and boys are involved in work that is hidden, within the home and in family enterprises – these children are not systematically counted in available statistics;

➢ **SDG 16 (Violence against Children; Access to Justice; Legal Identity):** the United Nations verified over 25,000 grave violations against children affected by armed conflict in 2019, more than half committed by non-State actors, and a third by government and international forces (16.1); about half the world’s children below the age of 15 are subjected to physical discipline at home, and roughly 3 in 4 children between the ages of 2 and 4 years are exposed to psychological aggression and corporal punishment on a regular basis (16.2); in one-third of countries, at least 5 per cent of young women reported experiences of sexual violence during childhood (16.2); one in four children under age 5 (166 million), on average, are not registered in the world today and 237 million children under 5 do not have a birth certificate (16.9).

There has also been significant progress in some areas. There has been a rise in birth registration levels globally, with about 3 in 4 children under age 5 registered today, compared to 6 in 10 in 2000. In the 31 countries with available data, FGM has dropped by a quarter in the last 20 years. Child marriage has declined over the past decades; today, one in five young women were married in childhood, compared to one in four a decade ago. However, even in those areas where progress has been made, a rapid scale-up of evidence-based interventions will be required to prevent a reversal of gains and to meet the SDG targets by the end of the Strategy period. The world is not on track to achieve universal birth registration by 2030. Unless progress is accelerated, the total number of unregistered children in sub-Saharan Africa will continue to increase and will exceed 100 million by 2030.
Without further acceleration, over 120 million girls are likely to marry by 2030. Even in countries in which FGM has become less common, progress would need to be at least 10 times faster to eliminate FGM by 2030. There are additionally areas where we are not even able to measure progress because data, including disaggregated data, are lacking, such as in the justice and care sectors.

Figure 2. Progress and Projections on Child Marriage

Figure 3. Progress and Projections on Female Genital Mutilation

The data is clear. Linear progress is not enough to secure the rights of children and to achieve the SDGs. In addressing these challenges, this Strategy will be characterised by two major strategic shifts: (i) scaling up evidence-based interventions for prevention, (ii) strengthening child protection systems for prevention and response.
UNICEF and Child Protection to date

The CRC provides the basis for UNICEF’s work in child protection, together with CEDAW and the CRPD. UNICEF’s human rights-based approach means that UNICEF’s programming is systematically guided by human rights standards and principles and the four guiding principles of the CRC: the best interests of the child; non-discrimination; respect of the views of the child; rights to life, survival and development. Specifically, UNICEF’s human rights-based approach encompasses the analysis of child rights violations, identifies the roles and capacities of duty bearers and rights holders, and aims, while building their respective capacities to fulfil their human rights obligations and claim their rights, to redress discriminatory practices. Discriminatory practises include, but not limited to, those based on: gender (including children who identify themselves as non-binary); marginalised groups (e.g. migrant children); ethnic, or minority groups; and children living with disabilities. UNICEF’s Child Protection programming principles remain our commitment to the best interests of the child, neutrality and impartiality, as well as to doing no harm, being non-discriminatory, and leaving no one behind.

UNICEF prioritizes strengthening social and behavioural change programmes and measurement, including gender transformation and norms change. In this context, UNICEF recognizes and supports participation of change agents, including through programmes that promote gender equality, non-discrimination and inclusion (including of LGBTQI+ populations), child and adolescent empowerment, as well as community engagement strategies at scale. Increasingly, UNICEF is also learning the importance of addressing the intergenerational cycle of violence. Gender equality, women’s empowerment and protection have a strong influence on children’s protection, with strongly evidenced links for example between intimate partner violence and violence against children.

Guided by the 2008 Child Protection Strategy, there has been a clear shift to systems strengthening, including a clearer focus on strengthening the social service workforce in recent years. UNICEF works across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. Strengthening child protection systems across humanitarian and development contexts also requires enhancing coordination and collaboration between sectors (particularly Social Welfare, Justice, Education, Health and Social Protection) to strengthen legal and policy frameworks and make quality services available for prevention and response.

UNICEF embraces the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is fully committed to UN development system (UNDS) reform. Notably, UNICEF co-leads two of the largest joint programmes with UNFPA on ending child marriage and eliminating FGM. UNICEF also works with 14 UN agencies on legal identity, with ILO on child labour, with WHO, UNHCR and IOM on Mental Health, Psychosocial Wellbeing & Development, Children on the Move and Violence Against Children, amongst others. In humanitarian situations, UNICEF works with OCHA, UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO and UNMAS to lead the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) and contributes to the GBV AoR, Mine Action AoR and MHPSS Reference Group. UNICEF is also actively engaging with the UN human rights mechanisms (Treaty bodies including the CRC Committee, the Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review) to support translating legal instruments into the realisation of children’s rights on the ground. Within and beyond the UN, UNICEF works through a range of additional partnerships with State and non-State actors.

UNICEF fosters innovation and upholds coherent and centrally supported information management systems in line with data protection and privacy rights and principles to support case management, including through the inter-agency tool, Primero. UNICEF uses rights and results-based management to strengthen planning and monitoring and to boost transparency and accountability for results. UNICEF has invested significantly in strengthening both performance and situation monitoring across the Child Protection sector in recent years.
UNICEF has made significant contributions to global progress on child protection. In 2019 alone, UNICEF and partners: responded to 281 humanitarian situations in 96 countries, including supporting 3.3 million women, girls and boys with gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response services; reached 2.7 million girls and boys who had experienced violence with health, social work and justice services; and supported 5.7 million girls with prevention and care interventions related to child marriage.

As much as COVID-19 set back progress for children’s rights, it also provided opportunities for Child Protection. UNICEF advocated for social workforce members to be recognised as ‘essential workers’. There were also opportunities: to leverage digital technology to reach parents on caregiving and MHPSS messages; to facilitate children linking up with justice social workers; to expand coaching and supervision; to add a tier of teleservices with the potential to expand service provision post-COVID-19; to engage communities in new ways; and to ensure safety in online learning following unprecedented school closures. It also underscored the importance of the costing, affordability and financing agenda, particularly in the context on shrinking fiscal space and major economic contractions.

Child protection annual expenditure has remained just below 13% of UNICEF’s total expenditure for the last 6 years (2014-2019), reaching US $708 million in 2019. The largest increases in expenditure have been: (i) thematically, to emergencies, violence against children and systems strengthening; and (ii) geographically, to the MENA region. As of end 2019, UNICEF had 871 full-time staff working in the area of Child Protection – UNICEF’s largest single workforce and the largest cadre of child protection specialists in any international agency. This figure as a share of UNICEF staff has remained constant at 18-19% of specialist staff.

(iv) UNICEF and Child Protection – looking forward

The process of Strategy development has been led by a team comprising UNICEF Headquarters staff and Regional Child Protection Advisers, supported by an Internal Reference Group comprising UNICEF staff from different offices and functions. It has been informed by three core inputs: (i) a Survey on UNICEF’s Child Protection work, completed by over 400 participants, (ii) a series of Background Papers, including reviews of research and evaluations, and (iii) extensive internal and external Consultations. Key findings from the Survey and broader consultations include the following (see Annex 1 for more detail):

- UNICEF’s work is particularly critical in the areas of institutional strengthening of national child protection systems and in-service delivery in fragile and low capacity contexts;
- UNICEF works best with country programme governments, national civil society organisations, and other UN Agencies; but less well with private sector companies;
- There is support for UNICEF to adopt a ‘public health approach’ to child protection programming, i.e.: (i) population-based, (ii) evidence-based, (iii) prevention first;
- Young people tell us they want a positive narrative focused on participation and empowerment;
- There is strong support for UNICEF to do more on child online protection (67%), children on the move (64%) and ending detention of children (60%);
- 91% of respondents agreed that while UNICEF is an established global leader in Child Protection, only 24% felt that UNICEF had enough staff to execute its work.
III. Strategic Framework

UNICEF Child Protection Strategic Framework

![Figure 4. UNICEF Child Protection Strategic Framework](image)

IV. Vision and Goals

The vision of the UNICEF Child Protection Strategy is a world where all children are free from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices. It is a vision centred in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and allied to the concept of human security. This vision can be divided into two connected domains, guiding our operational response: (i) all children grow in a protective environment (prevention), and (ii) children experiencing violations receive services to prevent recurrence and ensure care, support and justice (response). The first domain seeks to ensure there is a protective environment in place to prevent the rights of children to protection being violated and ensure their well-being and development; the second to ensure that should that happen, that the obligation to ensure there is a systematic and comprehensive response to their situation is met.

The goals of the Strategy are primarily taken from the Sustainable Development Goals – indicating alignment to those global goals to which partner governments and others are signatories, supplemented by one in an area not represented in the SDGs itself. The table below shows the correspondence between the SDGs for child protection and the relevant Articles of the CRC.

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**A world where all children are free from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect & harmful practices**  
*Guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child*

| 1. All children grow in a protective environment  
**Prevention** | 2. Children experiencing violations receive services to prevent recurrence and ensure care, support and justice  
**Response** |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SDG 3.4 Promote mental health and well-being</td>
<td>SDG 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls</td>
<td>SDG 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation</td>
<td>SDG 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG 5.7 End child labour, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers</td>
<td>Preventing family-child separation, ending institutionalisation of children and strengthening family-based alternative care</td>
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**1. To promote social and gender norms & behaviours that are supportive of a child’s right to protection from harm**  
(with particular emphasis on adolescent empowerment, child participation and community engagement)

**2. To support inclusive and effective Child Protection Systems in preventing and responding to child protection violations at scale**  
(with particular emphasis on case management and the social service workforce)

**3. To effectively address child protection issues in Humanitarian Settings**  
(and across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus)

**Thematic Priorities**

- Legal Identity
- Access to Justice
- Prevention of Family Separation
- Harmful Practices
- Mental Health and Psycho-Social Well-Being
- Violence Against Children
- GBV in emergencies
- Grave violations in armed conflict

**Programming Approaches**

- **Strengthen data and research generation and use**
- **Advocate for national legislation, policies, budgets & accountability**
- **Build capacity for child protection service delivery across sectors**
- **Develop partnerships for coordinated global and national action**
Table 1. SDGs for Child Protection and the relevant Articles of the CRC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</th>
<th>CRC Articles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>SDG 3.4 linked with CRC art. 6, art. 24.1, art. 24.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG 8.7 End child labour, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers</td>
<td>SDG 8.7 linked with CRC art. 1, art. 19, art.32, art.24, art.35, art.36, art.37(a), art.38.2, art. 38.3, art. 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children</td>
<td>SDG 16.2 linked with CRC art.1, art. 6, art. 19, art.21, art.32, art.34, art.35, art.36, art.37(a), 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</td>
<td>SDG 16.3 linked with CRC art 37, art.38.1, art.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration</td>
<td>SDG 16.9 linked with CRC art. 7, art. 8</td>
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</table>

Prevent and respond to family-child separation, end institutionalisation of children and strengthen family-based alternative care

V. Conceptual Framework and Objectives

The Conceptual Framework describes five concentric layers nested within each other, denoting that none of these layers exists in isolation – they are all inter-related. These layers correspond broadly to the Objectives of the Strategy. At the heart are children, support by parents, caregivers and households, which in turn form part of broader communities and societies. The next layer influencing
child protection outcomes is **child protection systems**. These layers are in turn situated within the broader **macro national and trans-national context** (political, economic, security).

The Strategy adopts three inter-linked **Objectives**, derived from the Conceptual Framework:

1. **SOCIAL AND GENDER NORMS**: to promote social and gender norms and behaviours that are supportive of a child’s right to protection from harm;

2. **CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS**: to support inclusive and effective child protection systems in preventing and responding to child protection violations at scale;

3. **HUMANITARIAN**: to effectively address child protection issues in humanitarian settings.

1. **SOCIAL AND GENDER NORMS: to promote social and gender norms and behaviours that are supportive of a child’s right to protection from harm**

In line with the Conceptual Framework for Child Protection (see above), UNICEF will adopt a range of strategies for changing **social and gender norms** for child protection, across all country contexts. This includes humanitarian settings where UNICEF will advocate with parties to conflict to uphold the norms and standards that protect children (including international humanitarian law, refugee law and human rights law) which are increasingly under attack. UNICEF will work with **children, adolescents and youth**, with **parents, caregivers and households**, and more broadly with **communities and societies** at large. Our work on social and gender norms will cut across all areas of the Child Protection Strategy, including for example shifting prevalent social norms and beliefs on child justice at country and global levels.

**CHILDREN**: strengthen the resources, resilience and voice of children and adolescents. UNICEF will:

- support life skills programs that integrate attention to human rights, gender norms, healthy relationships and violence, and provide positive alternatives to children;
- support school-based violence prevention programs (e.g. ‘Safe to Learn’);
- adopt ‘Communications for Development’ (C4D) strategies to raise awareness, change norms;
- strengthen girl and boy and adolescent participation, voice and empowerment, and engagement with young people’s organizations and networks as well as organisations of persons with disabilities.

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**Child Protection and Adolescents**

1.2 billion adolescents represent a powerful resource for social change. UNICEF works to promote adolescent participation and civic engagement both as a goal in its own right – as a principle of human rights-based programming enshrined in the CRC – and also as a means to achieve sector-specific results. Evaluations have shown that more can be done to integrate child and adolescent participation into UNICEF’s work on child protection. Positive outcomes of adolescent participation include:

- adolescents influence individual care, protection and justice decisions;
- increased self-confidence, personal development and skills to protect themselves and their peers;
- increased collective power and social status to assert and defend their rights;
- increased protection from abuse and exploitation (e.g. reduced corporal punishment, early marriage and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, bullying);
- decreased discrimination and increased gender equality;
- more relevant services and policies (care, protection, justice);
- improved social networks and improved recovery and reintegration of survivors of violence.

UNICEF will promote the engagement of adolescents in child protection through:

- increasing adolescents’ access to information on child protection issues;
- supporting platforms and youth organizations that amplify young voices, build skills and agency;
- influencing policies that affect the right of adolescents to have their voice heard on matters that affect their protection in society, including service provision and the judiciary system;
- strengthening UNICEF internal processes for engaging with adolescents and young people.
UNICEF’s work on strengthening adolescent participation in child protection will be guided by ‘Guidelines on Adolescent Participation and Civic Engagement’ and ‘Interagency Guidelines on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises’.

PARENTS, CAREGIVERS and HOUSEHOLDS: support positive and protective parenting and caregiving. UNICEF will:
- promote and support inclusive positive parenting support services for mothers, fathers and other caregivers— as part of a broader approach to nurturing care—reinforced by C4D strategies and paying particular attention to age groupings;
- support inclusive and accessible social care and support services (e.g. home visits), particularly for vulnerable families;
- support cash transfer and other social protection programs; especially those that address or evaluate the impact on girls’ and women’s empowerment and safe transitions to adulthood for girls and boys.

COMMUNITIES and SOCIETIES: change harmful social and gender norms and strengthen community participation. UNICEF will:
- support C4D strategies to change harmful social norms around gender, violence, discrimination and care;
- engage with communities and community-based organizations to prevent and respond to violence and all forms of discrimination, including on the basis of gender and against those who identify as non-binary.

In working with partners to address harmful social and gender norms, UNICEF will seek to scale up evidence-based programs to national scale. We will particularly focus on: (i) parenting programs, (ii) school-based programs, and (iii) community-based interventions.

2. CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS: to support inclusive and effective child protection systems in preventing and responding to child protection violations at scale

A 2018 UNICEF evaluation examined UNICEF’s support to child protection system strengthening (CPSS) between 2012 and 2018. The evaluation recommended that UNICEF clarify its approach to CPSS and ensure that the approach is reflected in organisational plans. For the period to 2030, we will focus on seven elements of CPSS: (i) legal, regulatory and policy, (ii) governance, (iii) services, (iv) standards and oversight, (v) resources, (vi) participation, (vii) data. We will promote system strengthening in humanitarian responses and in development contexts, seeking to support systems that are resilient and can adapt to changing contexts. We will seek to support systems that are inclusive of migrant and refugee children, as well as children with disabilities. A 2014 evidence review highlighted that children with disabilities have been shown to be at greater risk of victimization than those without.

(i) Legal, regulatory and policy: a robust legal and regulatory framework, as well as specific policies related to national child protection systems strengthening. UNICEF will:
- advocate for and support child protection systems mapping and assessments;
- advocate for and support the development of child protection policy and legislation;
- support the development of comprehensive CPSS strategies;
- advocate for increased investments in child protection systems.

(ii) Governance: effective governance structures, including coordination across government departments, between levels of government, and between formal and informal actors. UNICEF will:
- support the establishment of national and sub-national coordination structures/mechanisms;
• strengthen horizontal and vertical coordination at national and sub-national levels.

(iii) Services: a continuum of services (spanning prevention and response). UNICEF will:
• support the modelling, testing, and expansion of child protection services;
• support the development and roll-out of case management and referral systems;
• support a continuum of services across Social Welfare, Justice, Health and Education.

(iv) Standards and oversight: minimum standards and oversight (supervision and accountability mechanisms). UNICEF will:
• support the development and implementation of standards and oversight mechanisms;
• support the implementation of independent oversight mechanisms.

(v) Resources: human, financial and infrastructure resources. UNICEF will:
• support comprehensive workforce strengthening initiatives, including the development of social work curricula and provision of training for child protection service providers and staff;
• support the monitoring of child protection budgets and development of budget briefs;
• support the costing and financing of child protection services.

Plan the Social Service Workforce
• enact policy and legislation for social service work
• define types, functions, ratios of social service workers
• undertake costing and financing for social service work
• establish regulatory framework for education, accreditation, licensing
• set human resource policies, practice and standards

Develop the Social Service Workforce
• establish multisector collaboration for education and training
• align education and training to national priorities and standards
• integrate fieldwork and indigenous knowledge in education and training
• offer ongoing and continuing opportunities for training and professional development

Support the Social Service Workforce
• improve recruitment and retention of workers
• support social service work associations and councils
• invest in quality supervision of social service workers
• promote career development and progression
• invest in promoting the image of social service workers

Figure 6. Framework for strengthening the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection

(vi) Participation: child and family participation and community engagement. UNICEF will:
• support and promote community engagement fora/platforms, including the integration of community engagement within child protection systems;
• support and promote platforms for children’s and adolescents’ empowerment;
• advocate for and support the establishment of complaints mechanisms for children.

(vii) Data: data collection and monitoring systems. UNICEF will:
• support the integration of administrative data as part of broader national statistical systems;
• support research on factors that affect child protection (prevention and response);
• promote and support the inclusion of child protection survey modules and questionnaires in ongoing data collection plans and mechanisms;
• support strengthened data governance (coordination, oversight and secure management);
• support capacity building of all stakeholders on data collection, management and use.

UNICEF identifies Child Protection systems as being aligned primarily with Social Welfare and Justice sectors, and their corresponding line Ministries, institutions and functions (e.g. social work, law
education). It is critical however to recognise the inter-relatedness and inter-dependency of child rights, and to establish a continuum of services across the many sectors that contribute to Child Protection programming and outcomes, particularly **Education, Health, Social Protection** and **WASH**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>HEALTH</th>
<th>SOCIAL PROTECTION</th>
<th>WASH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education systems and institutions provide greater access to safe, inclusive, gender-equitable quality education, life skills and livelihood programmes that prevent and are responsive to all forms of violence against girls, boys and adolescents, as well as harmful practices; also a core identification and referral pillar.</td>
<td>Health systems and institutions have strengthened violence-related public health research, prevention and case detection, as well as care and support for girls, boys and adolescents who experience violations, mental health services, and timely / accurate birth registration.</td>
<td>Social Protection systems and institutions ensure effective and child-sensitive, gender-responsive and inclusive social protection coverage for all children, including the poorest and most vulnerable, as well as support to CP and SP systems to ensure a continuum of protective and responsive child protection services.</td>
<td>WASH systems and institutions address child protection issues, including: gender-based violence in emergencies; climate change and water scarcity; menstrual hygiene management.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. Contribution of other sectors to Child Protection programming and outcomes**

One area where Child Protection systems need to work particularly closely with other sectors is in the area of Child Labour. This is because the social service workforce will need to identify vulnerable children and refer them and their families as appropriate to social protection measures, where they exist, while also working with them to re-enrol them in school. This is also an area where private sector partnerships are particularly important. Collaboration with the labour sector is equally critical as it is often labour inspectors who identify children in the workforce and need to make appropriate referrals.

**Innovation and the Use of Technology in Child Protection**

The Child Protection sector has not historically been at the forefront of technology-based innovation. This is changing; and indeed UNICEF will seek to leverage technology and accelerate these changes through the course of the Strategy period. Recent examples of technology-based innovations in Child Protection include:

- GeoPoll is a mobile-based platform that can administer remote, mobile-based surveys all over the world; using SMS and voice calls to target specific populations, it is being used to conduct surveys to gather insights into communities’ knowledge, perceptions, beliefs, expectations and behaviours around harmful practices;
- since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of a variety of digital platforms has facilitated rapid delivery of positive parenting resources to more than 80 million families in virtually every country on the world, to reduce harsh parenting practices, strengthen parent-child communication, and improve parental self-efficacy;
- the Justice sector is increasingly seeing the use of virtual or mobile courts, online training of justice professionals and online delivery of post-release support and supervision services.

UNICEF will work with Governments, the private sector and other partners to pilot, evaluate and scale innovative approaches and service delivery platforms for Child Protection.
3. HUMANITARIAN: to effectively address child protection issues in Humanitarian settings

**Humanitarian action** for UNICEF encompasses interventions aimed at saving lives, alleviating suffering, maintaining human dignity and protecting rights of affected populations, wherever there are humanitarian needs, regardless of the kind of crisis (sudden-onset or protracted emergencies, natural disasters, public health emergencies, complex emergencies, international or internal armed conflicts, etc.), irrespective of the Gross National Income level of a country (low, middle or high), or legal status of the affected populations. Humanitarian action also encompasses interventions addressing underlying risks and causes of vulnerability to disasters, fragility and conflict, such as system strengthening and resilience-building, which contribute to reducing humanitarian needs, risks and vulnerabilities of affected populations.

UNICEF works directly, and in support of **governments** and **civil society**, to provide protection to millions of children, caregivers, and women affected by armed conflict, natural disasters, forced displacement, socio-political crises and infectious disease outbreaks. Globally, UNICEF plays a critical role in protection issues related to the conduct of hostilities and international human rights and humanitarian law; in particular through advocacy with parties to conflict. Acknowledging that complex humanitarian emergencies are evolving, including outside of international and internal armed conflict, UNICEF will lead the coordination of child protection in all emergency settings to mobilize and deliver a comprehensive response that prioritizes community-led action.

In **humanitarian** settings, UNICEF operates on the basis of a distinct **UN mandate** and in accordance with UNICEF’s **Core Commitments for Children** (see below), which provide the strategic framework and corresponding commitments for UNICEF’s work in humanitarian situations. UNICEF’s work in humanitarian situations is guided by International Human Rights law and, in situations of armed conflict, also by International Humanitarian Law. UNICEF is the cluster lead agency for Child Protection in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee system, with concomitant accountabilities, and will deploy this capacity to support government and other frontline responders in all emergencies (whether or not the cluster system is activated).

In working with government and civil society partners and in close collaboration with UN political and peace missions, UNICEF puts children’s and women’s rights and wellbeing at the centre of its efforts. This responsibility extends to effectively delivering on UNICEF’s and the UN’s pledge to link humanitarian, development and peace programming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action - Child Protection ‘Strategic Result’:</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children and adolescents are protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1: Leadership and coordination</strong></td>
<td>Effective leadership and coordination are established and functional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2: Strengthening child protection systems</strong></td>
<td>Child protection systems are functional and strengthened to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3: Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)</strong></td>
<td>MHPSS needs of children, adolescents, and caregivers are identified and addressed through coordinated multisectoral and community based MHPSS services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4: Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)</strong></td>
<td>Separation of children from families is prevented and responded to, and family-based care is promoted in the child’s best interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5: Monitoring and reporting on grave violations</strong></td>
<td>In situations of armed conflict, grave violations against children and other serious rights violations and protection concerns are documented, analysed and reported, and inform programmatic response and advocacy interventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6: Children associated with armed forces and groups and</strong></td>
<td>Child recruitment and use by armed actors, as well as illegal and arbitrary detention and criminal processing of conflict-affected children, are prevented and addressed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNICEF Child Protection Strategy (2021-2030)  Consultation Draft

detention of children in the context of armed conflict

7: Mine action and weapons
   The use of landmines and other indiscriminate or illicit weapons by State and non-state actors is prevented and their impact addressed

8: Gender-based Violence
   Survivors of GBV and their children can access timely, quality, multisectoral response services and GBV is prevented

9: Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
   Children and affected populations are protected from SEA by humanitarian workers

10: Community engagement for behaviour and social change
   At-risk and affected populations have timely access to culturally appropriate, gender- and age-sensitive information and interventions, to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices

Table 3. UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action - Child Protection ‘Strategic Result’

The phrase ‘humanitarian – development – peace nexus’ (HDPN) reflects the fact that operating contexts rarely conform to one typology, and that it can be counter-productive to assign distinct operational approaches to different contexts. It further recognizes that humanitarian and development programming should be designed and implemented to ‘do no harm,’ prevent conflict, and build resilience; humanitarian programming should contribute to system strengthening and development programming should contribute to preparedness and social cohesion. Child protection programming in humanitarian settings has a particularly important role to play in engaging communities, governments and parties to conflict to protect child rights and women’s rights.

The CCCs, revised in 2020, reflect HDPN as well as the objectives of supporting positive and effective systems (CCC 2 and throughout) and promoting social and gender norms that are supportive of child protection (CCC 10 and throughout). They embrace prevention as well as response as a strategic shift and reflect the changing dynamics of humanitarian settings, e.g. addressing detention and criminal processing of conflict-affected children.
VI. Thematic Priorities

Focussing on the three Objectives of the Strategy, UNICEF will deliver on a number of thematic priorities derived from the CRC and from UNICEF’s mandates in humanitarian and conflict situations. These are briefly described below.

LEGAL IDENTITY: In line with Articles 7 and 8 of the CRC, children have a right to be registered at birth and have a legal identity (SDG 16.9). They also have a right to preserve their identity, including name, nationality and family relations. UNICEF supports governments to achieve universal birth registration, close the legal identity gap and increase the availability of data derived from civil registration systems; including for stateless, migrant and refugee children. Key strategies include: linking civil registration to other systems, including identity, health, social protection and education, as entry-points for identifying and registering children; reviewing laws and policies to provide for free and universal birth registration and to eliminate gender discrimination in nationality and civil registration laws to avoid the risk of statelessness, preserve family unity and guarantee access to social services; engaging with Governments and industry players to increase investments in safe and innovative technology to facilitate birth registration and obtain timely, accurate and permanent records; and engaging communities to demand registration for every child. UNICEF will also continue to work with UNHCR and others to demand that every child has a nationality and end childhood statelessnessxxxix. At the global level, UNICEF leads, together with UNDESA and UNDP, the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda which promotes a unified United Nations position to legal identity and a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity managementxl.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Access to justice is a fundamental right (e.g. CRC Articles 37 and 40), is essential to the protection of all other human rights under the CRC and other human rights treaties, and is critical to achieving the SDGs, particularly Goal 16. UNICEF will support, across all types of legal systems (civil, common, customary, religious and mixed), children’s access to justice by: strengthening the capacity of justice systems to serve children, including access to judicial, non-judicial and quasi-judicial mechanisms (e.g. children’s courts, national human rights institutions, traditional/customary courts), free legal aid and child-friendly, accessible and gender responsive services for every girl and boy in contact with the justice system; supporting restorative justice approaches including the scaling up alternatives to detention and diversion schemes, and integration of mental health and psychosocial support in juvenile justice systems; improving support for child survivors and witnesses of crime; strengthening legislative and policy frameworks; and supporting the legal empowerment of children and adolescentsxli in contact with justice and welfare systems. UNICEF will support stronger collaboration between the Justice and Social Welfare systems for the prevention, mitigation and response to child protection-related risks, i.e. a national child protection system, across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. UNICEF will also increasingly support public finance for children in the justice sector with special focus on children’s diversion and alternatives to detention, and the provision of free legal aid.

Child Protection and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

UNICEF recognizes the important role that AI-enabled systems can play to protect children from harm and exploitation, including to help identify abducted children and to detect child sexual abuse material. Through the Policy Guidance on AI for Children,xlii UNICEF advocates for such utilization of AI technologies to safeguard children. However, associated risks need to be acknowledged and addressed. For example, AI systems require vast amounts of data, including personal and identifiable data of children and their parents or caregivers, which, if accessed by predators or authoritarian regimes, can endanger children. It is critical that when utilizing AI systems for the protection of children, the data of children is ensured the highest protection given its value and unique vulnerability. UNICEF supports this through its Responsible Data for Children and Good Governance of Children’s Data initiatives. xliii Further, the developers of AI policies and systems must adopt a privacy-by-design approach and consider the protection of children’s data and privacy at both an individual
and group level. This may require balancing seemingly opposing approaches: for example, end-to-end encryption offers the highest level of protection for data, however it also stymies AI-enabled technologies that detect child abuse content. UNICEF urges that workable solutions are found to best balance the protection, privacy and freedoms of children and their data, and will continue to support these efforts through child rights and digital expertise.

PREVENTION OF FAMILY SEPARATION: In keeping with articles 20 and 21 of the CRC, UNICEF works with national partners to drive forward their national care reform agenda to prevent the separation of children from families, reunify children with their families when it is in their best interests to do so, reduce the number of children living in institutions through de-institutionalisation programmes, and promote family-based alternative care options in the community. UNICEF also works with children traveling alone and separated children, and children in street situations.

Children on the Move
Children on the Move include migrant, refugee, asylum seeking, internally displaced, trafficked and smuggled children, whether they are travelling alone or accompanied by their caregivers. Children on the Move (CoTM) are particularly vulnerable and face heightened protection risks, especially in transit or destination countries where they may be denied entry at borders, subjected to immigration detention, denied the right to seek asylum and excluded from access to essential services. Within the child protection systems approach UNICEF has prioritized the planning, development and support of the social service workforce to prevent and respond to exploitation and abuse of all children at the national level including children on the move. This includes gate-keeping, awareness raising, strengthening national case management frameworks and referral mechanisms, and facilitating and developing reception, appropriate care arrangements, access to justice, child friendly asylum procedures, birth registration, health, mental health and psychosocial support, education, and social protection with the aim of advancing durable solutions.

The focus on strengthening national child protection systems promotes a continuity of care for children throughout their migration journey including in the country of origin, transit and destination, prompting a key focus on cross border child protection and collaboration. At the core of all child protection interventions is the best interests of the child complimented by advocacy and programming to end child immigration detention, promote effective non-custodial alternatives for children deprived of their liberty, provide appropriate care for migrant children and families, address xenophobia and discrimination, prevent and respond to exploitation and abuse, address migration drivers and keep families together. While a large population of stateless children and families are in-situ, UNICEF recognizes the important link between the prevention of childhood statelessness, forced displacement, the right to a nationality and for a child to be registered at birth. UNICEF works in close partnership with UNHCR and IOM and as a member of the UN Network on Migration to support Governments in implementing the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

The development of assisted reproductive technology (ART) has led to more and more children born through surrogacy. In the absence of national frameworks, providing safeguards for domestic and international surrogacy arrangement (ISA) in compliance with human rights, children born through such arrangements, especially commercial arrangements, are vulnerable to breaches of their rights including the right to an identity (name, nationality, family relations and access to origins), best interests, and access to health. Children born from these arrangements also face discrimination due to the circumstances surrounding their birth and a greater risk of sale and exploitation. To this end, UNICEF supports the development of International Principles for the Protection of the Rights of Children in the context of Surrogacy.

HARMFUL PRACTICES: Child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) constitute human rights violations, threatening the lives and futures of girls and women. These practices are rooted in gender inequality and power imbalances between men and women – and they sustain themselves by limiting opportunities for girls and women to realize their rights and full potential in terms of health,
education, income, equality and a life free from violence. These practices are exacerbated in humanitarian settings due to several factors, including sexual and gender-based violence, insecurity, gender inequality, breakdown of law and state authority or social support networks, lack of essential services and need for protection. Globally, there has been a marked decline in the prevalence of child marriage. However, in order to meet the target of elimination by 2030, global progress would need to be seventeen times faster than the rate observed over the past decade for child marriage and ten times faster for FGM.

Progress is possible – even in high prevalence countries – when the right mix of holistic, rights-based strategies are in place. Based on over a decade of experience and learning from the largest global programmes – the UNFPA/UNICEF Joint Programme on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change; and the UNFPA/UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage – we will focus on: enhancing governments’ capacity for legal and policy responses to end child, early and forced marriage; supporting adolescent girls’ empowerment; promoting girls’ equal rights to education, and alternative opportunities; supporting multisectoral coordination and stakeholder engagement to strengthen the accessibility and quality of gender-responsive information services to adolescent girls including sexual and reproductive health; supporting social and behaviour change communication to influence social and gender norms; and providing global leadership to advocate for action. Strategies to end FGM will include: developing and implementing policies and legislation that end FGM; transforming discriminatory social and gender norms that sustain harmful practices; supporting girls’ empowerment; ensuring access to education, child protection services including gender-responsive information on sexual reproductive health services; promoting gender-responsive parenting, and bridging the humanitarian and development divide. UNICEF will continue to work closely with UNFPA and other sister UN agencies in support of governments and civil society partners, including women’s groups, child rights groups and youth-led groups in this area.

### Child Protection and Climate, Energy, Environment

Climate change undermines the rights of children, and magnifies structural and systemic vulnerabilities of women and children, particularly the extreme poor. Climate change is exacerbating child protection risks through resource scarcity, food insecurity, violence, conflict, natural disasters, increased poverty and insecure environments. UNICEF’s work on climate change adopts four approaches, listed here with examples of how they can be structured to contribute to child protection outcomes:

1. **making children the centre of climate change strategies and response plans**: UNICEF worked with a law firm to conduct an analysis of the national legal frameworks of five countries in the East Asia and Pacific region for their responsiveness to children’s rights to a safe, clean and healthy environment;
2. **recognizing children as agents of change**: UNICEF worked with YOUNGO, a global coalition of governments and other partners, to launch an Intergovernmental Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, reflecting climate priorities identified by children and youth throughout the world;
3. **protecting children from the impacts of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation**: UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office is working with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to research child waste pickers in the region, linked to climate change, environmental management and child labour;
4. **reducing emissions and pollution**: In Kenya, UNICEF provided sustainable off-grid energy solutions – combined with a pilot social protection cash transfer scheme – to improve education, health and child protection outcomes.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL WELLBEING

UNICEF’s mandate promotes mental health throughout the life cycle, recognizing and analysing rights violations, risks, gaps, capacities and opportunities for child, adolescent, parent/caregiver, and community participation. UNICEF leadership in Child Protection, Health, Education, Early Childhood Development, and Nutrition programming supported by Gender, Adolescent, Disability, and Human Rights cross-cutting priorities enable a strategic shift to promote mental health and psychosocial wellbeing at a scale that is
commensurate with the universal demand. All children have the right to protection and care that is necessary for their well-being. MHPSS is a priority response in humanitarian settings, where child protection programmes are focused on investing in quality of holistic, community-based approaches, and included in support for children affected by armed conflict, separated from families, and survivors of gender-based violence. Going forward, we will further invest in integrating MHPSS in child protection programming and policy engagement in development settings, including systems strengthening, justice, Violence against Children and parenting, and Children on the Move. Our MHPSS work uses evidence-based interventions aligned with international standards, and we contribute to building evidence and developing standards, such as Minimum Services Package for MHPSS in Child Protection. An acceleration initiative is advancing the breadth and depth of MHPSS programmes, currently in over 100 countries, as well as leadership in evidence and learning.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: All children have a right to protection from violence, understood as comprising “…all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse” (Art 19, CRC). These child protection violations are experienced differently by girls and boys. Their risk profile evolves as children move through the different stages and settings of childhood and adolescence. With the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, the global community has set a target to eradicate all forms of violence against children by 2030. It is estimated that one billion children endure violence every year. When unaddressed, the experience of violence in childhood can lead to negative outcomes at an individual level and in aggregate, undermine progress across a range of SDGs. Accordingly, UNICEF works with the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, SRSG VAC, WHO and other partners to:

- Catalyse national action and the implementation of comprehensive national agendas to end violence against children. In support of commitments made to the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, there will be a focus on supporting multi-stakeholder action in Pathfinder countries.
• Strengthen legal and policy frameworks prevent, prohibit and respond to all forms of violence against children.
• Strengthen multisectoral action to end violence against children. In addition to work with traditional counterparts in social welfare and justice sectors, UNICEF will ensure that in all countries health and education sectors implement commitments as part of the national child protection system and in view of the primary preventative role they can play. It will also strengthen coordination with sectors that address gender-based violence.
• Increase the reach of programmes and services that have proven effective in reducing violence against children. Informed by the INSPIRE seven strategies, there will be a specific focus on areas of UNICEF comparative advantage: (i) parenting and caregiver support, (ii) response and support services, and (iii) safe school environments.

There will be a focus on child protection in a digital environment as a unique setting where violence against children occurs (see text box). These efforts will be underpinned by a social and behavioral change strategy that challenges the social acceptance of violence against children and promotes positive gender norms.

Child Online Protection
Child protection violations are pervasive in the digital environment. To address risks and harms linked to children’s use and offenders misuse of digital technologies, UNICEF will work with industry, governments, parents and other caregivers and educators, children and young people towards four main outcomes: (i) digital technologies are not misused to facilitate sexual exploitation and abuse of children, (ii) children use digital technologies free from bullying and harassment, (iii) children are protected from inappropriate collection and processing of their data, (iv) children are protected from harmful digital marketing practices.

UNICEF recognizes that children are best protected through strong national child protection systems that integrate both the online and offline dimensions of these harms; and that children’s right to protection needs to be balanced against children’s other rights in a digital environment, such as privacy, participation, freedom of expression and access to information.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN EMERGENCIES (GBViE): UNICEF is at the forefront of the movement to end all forms of GBV. Risk mitigation, prevention of and response to various forms of Gender-based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) are recognized as lifesaving measures and an essential component of UNICEF’s humanitarian action. In 2019, in Oslo, UNICEF made five institutional commitments to address GBV:
• in collaboration with partners, extend the interagency GBV Accountability Framework so that UN Country Teams in humanitarian and development settings are responsible for mitigating the risk of gender-based violence;
• intentionally invest in women’s civil society groups who are frontline responders in addressing GBV, and strengthen our own internal systems for tracking the support provided to local women-led groups;
• make GBV visible in all of UNICEF’s Humanitarian Appeals for Children (HAC);
• make GBV visible in UNICEF-led clusters’ Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs);
• develop innovative solutions to address priority gaps in the field of gender-based violence, such as adolescent girls’ access to services.

UNICEF’s work on GBViE – outlined in its Operational Guide and Resource Pack – will focus on three components: (i) comprehensive quality and age-appropriate services for survivors, including information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, (ii) mitigating the risks of GBV across humanitarian sectors, and (iii) addressing underlying conditions and drivers of GBV.
**Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)** is a corporate priority for UNICEF. Sexual exploitation and abuse of vulnerable children and adults by individuals with power is a universal problem. Children and women are disproportionately at risk of sexual abuse and exploitation in humanitarian settings, where they are dependent on assistance and protection. While recognising this is an organisational responsibility at all levels, Child Protection provides several critical contributions to this agenda: (i) scaling up safe and accessible channels for reporting sexual exploitation and abuse, (ii) survivor-centred assistance, based on our GBV and CP programming, and (iii) strengthened accountability for child survivors, including related to child-sensitive investigations. Our CP programming work is guided by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s priority outcomes; the UN Protocol on Assistance to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, which outlines the core principles, standards, roles and responsibilities of UN system entities and their partners to refer and assist victims of SEA; and the Core Commitments for Children, which reflect UNICEF’s programmatic priorities as core to humanitarian response. Making safe access to reporting, response services, and legal recourse universal in countries where UNICEF operates is our agenda for the next decade, and our contribution to affecting the needed culture change to end sexual exploitation and abuse by our own personnel and our partners.

![Child Protection and gender-based violence](image)

*Child Protection and gender-based violence*

Violence against women and girls is both a manifestation of gender inequality and a mechanism by which unequal gender power differences are reinforced. In this vein, the landmark 2006 UN Study on Violence against Children recommended that States should promote and protect the human rights of women and girls and address all forms of gender discrimination as part of a comprehensive violence-prevention strategy. UNICEF has extensive programme guidance for certain forms of violence and harmful practices, including gender-based violence in emergencies, school-related gender-based violence, online violence, child marriage and FGM. Nonetheless, gaps remain. Going forward, UNICEF will integrate a **gender-transformative approach to preventing and responding to violence against children and adolescents**, meaning one that addresses the causes of gender-based inequalities and works to transform harmful gender roles, norms and power imbalances. UNICEF will focus particularly on two areas where there are currently gaps in UNICEF guidance: (i) intersections between intimate partner violence (IPV) against women, violent discipline of children and other components of children’s wellbeing, and (ii) violence against adolescents, particularly intimate partner violence and sexual violence by any perpetrator. We will adopt an intersectoral approach, with UNICEF child protection specialists collaborating with colleagues working on gender-based violence, education, adolescence, social protection, communication for development (C4D), health and other sectors.

**GRAVE VIOLATIONS IN ARMED CONFLICT**: UNICEF will work with UN partners to monitor and report on grave violations of children’s rights in situations of armed conflict: killing and maiming of children; recruitment and use of children by armed forces or armed groups; attacks on schools or hospitals; rape or other sexual violence against children; abduction of children; denial of humanitarian access to children. As a co-Chair of the Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMRs), UNICEF will advocate for adoption and implementation of concrete measures to prevent grave violations and protect children from the impact of armed conflicts. UNICEF will also pursue work on **unexploded ordinances and explosive weapons**. Children represent more than half the civilian casualties of landmines and explosive remnants of war. UNICEF will prioritize risk education, emphasize child-focused victim assistance, promote universal acceptance of the Mine Ban Treaty and advocate against the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. UNICEF will work jointly with governments and others to **prevent the recruitment of children by armed forces and groups and aid their release, repatriation (where relevant) and reintegration** including child victims of armed groups designated as terrorist organizations. In addition, recognizing their resilience and opportunity to contribute to peace and social cohesion as peacebuilders and agents of changes. This will include working with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict within the framework UN Security Council Resolutions on Children and Armed Conflict, and the Secretary-
General’s prevention agenda work in this area will be guided by Child Protection Minimum Standard 11 on Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups and child justice frameworks.

**Child Protection in High Income Countries**

Informed by UNICEF’s global strategy of engagement in high income contexts, UNICEF child protection programming will focus on two pillars: (i) advocacy programming, primarily through supporting public dialogue on child protection issues, promotion of national collective action and legislative reform, and monitoring the realization of children’s protection rights, and (ii) technical assistance programming, primarily through policy advice, promotion of programme innovation and exchange of good practice. Governments will also be encouraged to demonstrate child protection leadership on the global stage. While high income countries tend to have strong emergency response capacities, UNICEF has a key role to play in providing technical support and promoting global child protection standards in humanitarian situations.
VII. Programming Approaches

(i) Strengthen data and research generation and use

Our vision for the Strategy period to 2030 is that partner governments and the international community are equipped with the data and the evidence to address Child Protection adequately. The data and evidence landscape for Child Protection is improving but at too slow a pace. We will prioritise data and evidence generation and utilisation over the Strategy period; particularly in those areas where evidence is insufficient to guide policy and programming choices. In 2019, UNICEF supported 125 countries to improve the availability and quality of data on violence against children.

There is a strong need for Child Protection Information Management Systems to support Child Protection actors in both humanitarian and development contexts, to manage protection-related data for case management, incident monitoring and programming monitoring. We will work with government and other partners to support the scale up of ‘Primero’ – an inter-agency digital public good used for case management and incident monitoring for the child protection and gender-based violence sectors. Primero modules will be mainstreamed and centrally supported in an effort to bring programme efficiencies and coherent data standards to the sector. Efforts to develop advanced analytics for prevention, including predictive models and quality of care metrics, will be prioritized. Primero will be aligned with Responsible Data for Children, an initiative that supports the operationalization of rights-based data practices in the field. As of April 2020, there are currently 33 active installations (‘instances’) of Primero implemented in 26 countries, managing around 100,000 cases of vulnerable children safely and confidentially. A dramatic scale up, targeting more than 100 installations by 2025, will be made possible by investments aimed at making Primero a software as a service.

(ii) Advocate for national legislation, policies, budgets, and accountability

We will work with partners to undertake evidence-based advocacy; including policy dialogue with partner governments on laws, policies, budgets, implementation mechanisms and accountability for child protection outcomes, as well as global / trans-national advocacy. In advocating for budgets, we will apply UNICEF’s ‘Public Financing for Children’ approach (see textbox below). We will work with non-governmental partners to advocate both for government reforms and for social and behavioural change. We will also work at the regional and global levels to strengthen political and institutional leadership and support for child protection. In humanitarian contexts, we will particularly support Accountability to Affected Populations.

(iii) Build capacity for child protection service delivery across sectors

We will work with governments and with non-governmental partners to build capacity for child protection service delivery, particularly in Social Welfare and Justice sectors but also in sectors such as Education and Health. We will also support capacity building in non-governmental organizations to make it easier for them to advocate and work in partnership with the government. This includes working with governments to enhance their capacity to protect children and provide quality services, and to ensure that children’s rights are fully respected and protected.

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**Public Financing for Children (P4FC) within Child Protection**

PF4C analyses are essential to building the economic case for system strengthening and service delivery scale-up, and they are crucial to advocating for the budgets required to get these initiatives implemented. To support the uptake of PF4C, UNICEF has strengthened the capacity of Social Policy units, introduced internal staff training on PF4C and put in place a global long-term agreement to facilitate easier contracting with PFM experts. Going forward, UNICEF will prioritise PF4C in child protection systems strengthening, focussing on five core actions: (i) making the economic case for child protection to increase its budget priority, (ii) assisting with building national child protection systems and the scaling-up of services, (iii) supporting sub-national authorities responsible for child protection, (iv) improving the efficiency of child protection services, and (v) enabling the tracking of child protection budgets and expenditures.
as Health, Education, Social Protection and WASH. UNICEF’s support to building service delivery capacity will include establishing protocols, training staff, piloting and evaluating innovations in service delivery, and implementation at scale.

(iv) Develop partnerships for coordinated global and national action

Nothing UNICEF does is executed in isolation. UNICEF works closely with a range of partners including: UN agencies within a ‘UN Development System’ operating framework, partner governments, civil society organisations, bilateral partners, multilateral partners and global funds and partnerships, academia, the private sector, philanthropic foundations and the media. 84% of respondents to the Strategy Survey agreed that UNICEF works optimally with country programme governments; 74% with national civil society organisations; and 64% with other UN Agencies. Only 32% agreed that we work optimally with private sector companies. Internally, the Child Protection Section (country and global staff) will increase our collaboration with colleagues working on Disability and on Social Policy – consistent with the findings of the Survey – and also with Education and Health colleagues.

Over the Strategy period, we will work to identify ways in which the comparative advantage of private sector could be brought to bear on achieving better protection outcomes for children. The private sector is a key stakeholder in child protection (i.e. some business assets and practices are directly correlated with child protection issues, while others are core to accelerate and scale up solutions). UNICEF will work strategically with business (e.g. through partnerships or other forms of collaboration) but also on business (e.g. strengthening policy frameworks on corporate standards, or advocating for alignment of business practices with existing ones).

UNICEF’s Child Protection programmes in their breadth benefit from close collaboration with a number of UN agencies, including, but not limited to, the ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, IOM, UN Women and WHO, as well as the Special Rapporteurs on issues related to Child Protection. UNICEF also works closely with global platforms including but not limited to the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the Better Care Network, the Nurturing Care Framework, the WeProtect Alliance, the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action – based on comparative advantages and respective mandates, and with regional and sub-regional bodies such as the African Union (AU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
VIII. Core Inputs

Implementation of the Strategy will be driven by country and regional contexts, with programming choices and partnerships determined by local needs and strategies. The Strategy will be supported by three core inputs: (i) financial resources, (ii) human resources, (iii) performance and impact monitoring.

(i) Financial Resources

Child protection annual expenditure has remained just below 13% of UNICEF’s total expenditure for the last 6 years (2014-2019), reaching US $708 million in 2019. The largest increases in expenditure have been to: emergencies; violence against children; systems strengthening; and the MENA region. The MENA region accounts for almost one quarter of Child Protection expenditure for the period 2014-2019, while Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 42% (see below). Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon and Iraq were the top four in order of child protection programme expenses in 2019.

To implement the Strategy, we will seek increases in both regular and thematic resources. We will seek longer-term and more unrestricted funding, including funding that we can deploy for child protection system strengthening rather than narrow thematic priorities. There has been a 129% increase in spending on systems related expenditure from 2014-2019.

(ii) Human Resources

As of end 2019, UNICEF had 871 full-time staff working in the area of Child Protection – UNICEF’s largest single workforce and the largest cadre of child protection specialists in any international agency – though the share of UNICEF staff has remained constant at 18-19% of specialist staff. Child Protection staff work in tandem with other specialist staff to deliver child protection outcomes: both ‘cross-cutting’ staff (e.g. Social Policy, Communications for Development) and staff working on ancillary sectors such as Education and Health. Only 24% of respondents to the Survey conducted for this Strategy agreed that UNICEF has enough staff to execute successfully its work in Child Protection, reflecting the human resource intensive nature of child protection work. In the survey, only 49% agreed that UNICEF has the appropriate skill sets to execute successfully its work, emphasizing the need to identify resources for staff development and training as well as to sharpen recruitment processes and profiles in order to attract and retain appropriately qualified and experienced professionals. A 2019/20 review of our human resources for Child Protection is currently underway. We will implement a UNICEF Child Protection Human Resources Strategy accordingly that recognises the need to work differently in this changing environment.

(iii) Performance and Impact Monitoring

UNICEF has invested heavily in performance and impact monitoring for child protection in recent years. Annual performance monitoring is conducted through Strategic Monitoring Questions (SMQs), tracking UNICEF inputs, outputs and outcomes. Performance monitoring through SMQs will be supplemented by annual results reports on child protection, internal audits, evaluations and reviews (see Annex 2 for what we have learnt from recent Evaluations of UNICEF’s work in Child Protection). Monitoring and progress reporting of this Strategy will be done primarily through: (i) performance monitoring of Child Protection priorities and commitments in UNICEF four-year Strategic Plans covering the Strategy period to 2030, and (ii) SDG tracking at the Goal level of the Strategy.
IX. Risks and Risk Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Mitigation measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pandemics including COVID-19 erode human rights and child rights gains, exacerbate vulnerabilities, restrict access to services, increase poverty, reduce fiscal space</td>
<td>• Work with partner governments and the international community to support pandemic preparedness, fast and flexible response strategies based on international human rights standards and principles, and adequate budget allocations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National governments give insufficient priority to Child Protection, resulting in weak leadership, insufficient resources and lack of accountability for outcomes</td>
<td>• Build and support public understanding and create popular pressure for change • Advocate to governments and other decisions-makers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online risks to child protection increase faster than regulatory and other mechanisms to address them</td>
<td>• Increase work with national and global bodies to provide effective regulation, education and other mitigating measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate coordination between partners undermines alignment to government priorities and program effectiveness</td>
<td>• Communicate clearly inter-agency mandates and leadership • Commit adequate resource to partnership working • Seek more opportunities for joint programming, including through UNDS reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF fails to secure financial resources for Child Protection at an adequate level and of the optimum type (long-term; unrestricted)</td>
<td>• Advocate for more and better financing for Child Protection at country, regional and global levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF staff lack the right skills and capabilities</td>
<td>• Execute CP HR Strategy, including new investments in skills development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A growing narrative against human and child rights, together with misinformation, undermines the priority given to child rights violations</td>
<td>• Increase public understanding of human and child rights, including through formal education • Support advocacy towards duty bearers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children or communities face collateral harm by our people or partners or work</td>
<td>• UNICEF systems will be engineered to minimize the threat of collateral harm to children, and sexual exploitation and abuse, arising from UNICEF people, partners and work, in accordance with best safeguarding international standards and practices.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Risks and Risk Mitigation Measures

A focus on Safeguarding: The actions of UNICEF and its partners carry risks of unintended consequences to children and communities we serve, including possible risks to their safety. Threats to safety from UNICEF’s people, partners and work, including child maltreatment and abuse, sexual exploitation and abuse, and other safety risks, can compromise child and human rights, our strategic goals, and our organizational effectiveness. In the context of Child Protection work, we will: assess risks; establish or apply protocols and standards to mitigate risks; prevent harms through vetting, training and managing personnel and partners; promote methods for detection and reporting of concerns; respond appropriately to incidents to reduce harms (and provide institutional knowledge about referral pathways organization-wide); and monitor, evaluate and learn from our safeguarding work.
ANNEX 1. UNICEF Child Protection Strategy Survey Findings: summary of approach and key findings

UNICEF hosted an online Survey between February 6th and March 2nd 2020 to inform the development of the Strategy. There was a total of 404 participants – 303 internal and 101 external – with a good balance across the seven UNICEF regions. Key findings were as follows:

**Programmatic Priorities**

- There was strong commitment to realising the rights of children, with particular support for CRC articles emphasising protection from violence, child labour, drug abuse and exploitation.
- There was strong commitment to achieving the SDG targets, with 74% of respondents asking UNICEF to do more on SDG 16.2 (ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking, violence against and torture of children) and 73% on SDG 5.2 (elimination of violence against women and girls).
- There was strong support for UNICEF to do more on child online protection (67%), children on the move (64%) and ending detention of children (60%), with less support for surrogacy (24%).
- The top emerging issues in the Child Protection landscape were identified as conflict and humanitarian crises (22%), climate change (21%) and digitization / connectivity (17%).
- There was consensus that UNICEF’s involvement is particularly critical in the areas of institutional strengthening of national child protection systems in fragile, low and medium capacity contexts, and in service delivery in emergency, fragile and low capacity contexts.

**UNICEF performance**

- 91% agreed that UNICEF is one of the established global leaders in Child Protection.
- Most Internal and external respondents agreed that UNICEF is best in class in institutional strengthening of national child protection systems, policy engagement and influencing through partnerships and advocacy; but least in fostering, piloting and evaluating innovations and in social / behavioural change communication and community engagement.
- With respect to Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 69% felt there was effective leadership and coordination; less than 50% felt there was an adequate response in: mental health and psycho-social support; child recruitment and use by armed actors; gender-based violence, landmines and other indiscriminate or illicit weapons; behaviour and social change interventions.
- With respect to inter-sectoral working, internal respondents recommend more engagement with Children with Disabilities (78%) and with Social Policy (73%).
- 55% of respondents agreed to the statement that all genders and/or people with different capacities are included in UNICEF Child Protection Programming.
- 47% of respondents agreed that UNICEF Child Protection Programmes encourage meaningful engagement and participation of adolescents and young people.
- 90% agreed that UNICEF is valued as an important partner in Child Protection programming.
- 84% agreed that UNICEF works optimally with country programme governments (87% internally; 72% externally); 74% with national civil society organisations (79% internally; 63% externally); 64% with other UN Agencies (66% internally; 59% externally); 32% with private sector companies (34% internally; 37% externally).
- 24% agreed that UNICEF has enough staff to execute successfully its work in Child Protection.
- 49% agreed that UNICEF has the appropriate skill sets to execute successfully its work.
- 18% agreed that UNICEF resources are allocated efficiently across countries for Child Protection.
- 41% agreed that UNICEF’s peers are changing more and improving faster than UNICEF.
- 47% agreed that UNICEF needs to fundamentally change the way it operates.
ANNEX 2. What have we learnt from recent Evaluations of UNICEF’s work in Child Protection?

Alignment and Conceptual Clarity
- The child protection (CP) programmes covered in the evaluative exercises were found to be well aligned with UNICEF’s mandate and global priorities. However, conceptual clarity around the programme areas assessed was a concern throughout, and theories of change (ToC) setting out the programme-impact pathway were limited or absent resulting in a lack of shared understanding of key concepts by staff and stakeholders.

Programme Performance
- Effectiveness of UNICEF CP programmes, where evaluated, appears to vary strongly by programme context and type of intervention. Overall, however, the contributions of UNICEF and partners rarely add up to functioning service-delivery systems.

Sustainability of Results
- UNICEF and national governments face challenges in bringing national child protection policies and programmes to scale and ensuring national coverage.

Reaching the Most Vulnerable
- With regard to equity and gender, many programme documents demonstrate adequate strategic intent. In practice, however, it is less clear that UNICEF is actually able to deliver on its ambitions to reach the most vulnerable in its CP programmes. Gender analysis of population-level data, needs assessments and impact measurement are scarce. Overall, evidence suggests that children and adolescents with disabilities continue to be a largely overlooked population. UNICEF also lacks evidence related to children on the move.

Joint Programming
- The ‘Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage’ (GPECM) and the ‘Joint Programme on the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change’ (FGM) Joint Programmes were supportive of CP frameworks, targets and accountability mechanisms. However, they operated largely outside the child protection systems-strengthening approach and discourse, or in parallel to it. Overall, evidence suggests that joint programmes bringing together the complementary mandates and expertise of UNFPA and UNICEF made critical contributions to the agendas to end child marriage and abandon FGM. However, there are opportunities to increase synergies and improve coordination between UNFPA and UNICEF at country level.

Monitoring and Learning
- Since 2018, UNICEF CP has invested heavily in improving its monitoring and reporting frameworks. The early results of these initiatives were noted in various evaluative exercises. The Child Protection System Strengthening (CPSS) and GPECM evaluations signalled persistent weaknesses regarding the use and dissemination of data/information. Limitations in the monitoring capacity of CP staff and implementing partners (IPs) at country level were also noted. However, mobile applications for field monitoring and child protection information management systems are providing new and cost-effective opportunities for data collection on field-level results.

Resourcing and Capacity
- Challenges around funding are mainly linked to the difficulty in building resource partnerships, including government-led coalitions at the national level, and in securing lengthier funding cycles from donors. Regarding staff capacity, UNICEF field-based personnel would benefit from additional technical support to operationalize the systems-strengthening approach as the skillset needed goes beyond what is typically found in child protection staff. The leadership and guidance from regional offices (ROs) was found to be mostly effective.
ENDNOTES [to be updated and standardised]

1 Refer to the CRC Committee’s Reporting Guidelines for States Parties which define clusters of rights as set by the Committee. The clusters that relate specifically to child protection are: Violence against children (arts. 19, 24, para. 3, 28, para. 2, 34, 37 (a) and 39); Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9–11, 18, paras. 1 and 2, 20, 21, 25 and 27, para. 4; ) and Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37 (b)–(d), and 38–40).

2 It is also clearly addressed in the Optional Protocols to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.


4 Add CRC, IHL, International Human Rights law, and Refugee law in a footnote


11 https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2019/

12 IMF World Economic Outlook (Oct 2019), IMF World Economic Outlook Update (Jan 2020). The slowdown has been even more pronounced across emerging market and developing economies, including Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and Russia,

13 Ibid

14 https://www.unicef.org/social-policy/child-poverty


16 Stop the War on Children Report, Save the Children 2019

17 Ibid.


19 UNESCO.

https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PiIS0140-6736(18)32279-7/fulltext

20 https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/suicide

21 https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-disorders#:%3A:text=In%20low%2D%20and%2D%20middle%2Dincome,no%20%20treatment%20for%20their%20disorder.&text=A%20further%20compounding%20problem%20is,those%20who%20do%20receive%20treatment

22 Quick facts: How climate change affects people living in poverty, Mercy Corps, 15 November 2019

23 Freedom in The World, 2019

24 [Ref: Innocenti pandemic review]

25 Bakrania et al (2020)

26 The human rights principles include: universality and inalienability, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights, equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability and the rule of law.

27 There are other SDGs which UNICEF’s work on child protection contributes to, such as Target 3.4 on mental health and well-being.

28 In December 2019, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), for the first time, unanimously adopted a Resolution on the Rights of the Child dedicated to the issue of children without parental care.

29 [ref. ENGAGED and HEARD Guidelines on Adolescent Participation and Civic Engagement]

30 [ref. Nurturing Care Framework and Caring for Caregiver approach]

31 https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_103557.html
Source: [...] 


Source: [...] The number of countries supported in scaling up social service scaling workforce interventions increased from 114 in 2017 to 137 in 2019.

[Ref: ODI paper]

Ref. Coalition on Every Child’s Right to a Nationality which UNICEF co-leads with UNHCR.

Ref. ECOSOC resolution: Introduction of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda: a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management

See, for example, 2018 CRC Day of General Discussion on children as human rights defenders

Transformative Action to Accelerate Results for Children in Street Situations in the Decade of Action [2020–2030]


Ref. Global Programme Framework on Children on the Move

Marcus et al. 2020 What works to protect children on the move? Rapid Evidence Assessment (ODI prepared for UNICEF, IOM, ILO and UNHCR)

The 2019 COE report Anonymous donation of sperm and oocytes: balancing the rights of parents, donors and children estimates approximately 8 million children have been born to date through this procedure.

See Annual report to Human rights Council and General Assembly, 21 January 2020, A/HRC/43/40 92020 Annual report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material.

Ref Community-based MHPPS Op Guide

Forthcoming MSP for CP, Education, and Health in collaboration with WHO and UNHCR.

A/61/299


[Ref: relevant PF4C guidance docs]
