

UNICEF's 2025 Core Resources Report

EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

When recent floods struck Maputo, Gaza and Sofala provinces, flexible funding meant UNICEF had already prepositioned learning supplies and could deploy staff and coordination immediately - sustaining learning continuity for over 20,000 flood-affected children without waiting for a dedicated emergency grant.

CLOSING THE EVIDENCE GAP IN NUTRITION

National nutrition surveys have long covered only children under five and women of reproductive age. Between 2022 and 2024, Core Resources let UNICEF finance the first large-scale assessment of nutrition among school-age children and adolescents (5–19 years), carried out with the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and now shaping policy for a long-overlooked group. A further study with the Ministry of Health (MISAU) examined how well acute-malnutrition treatment services were reaching children, translating directly into district-level plans to remove barriers to care. Both show how flexible funding fills evidence gaps that earmarked budgets do not cover — strengthening national systems across a child's life.

LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO CHILD MALNUTRITION

In Mozambique, nearly 86 per cent of children aged 6–23 months do not receive a minimum acceptable diet. Using Core Resources, UNICEF made a catalytic contribution of US\$150,000 to a local enterprise, GreenLight Africa, to develop and test complementary foods from locally sourced fish, eggs, legumes, fruits, vegetables and staples in Zambézia's Derre and Maganja da Costa districts. This kind of flexible funding is rarely possible under earmarked budgets, yet it can draw in producers, women and youth entrepreneurs, and further support as the approach proves itself. The solutions are expected to reach community level by the end of 2026.

PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

After the October 2024 elections, unrest exposed children to injury, tear gas, detention and family separation. Because Core Resources were not tied to a narrow activity or location, UNICEF mobilized before other funding arrived — building a national case-tracking database, deploying trained human rights defenders, and creating referral pathways to protection, justice, health and psychosocial services. With around US\$275,000, UNICEF and partners documented more than 150 cases of children affected by violence and supported the release and follow-up of dozens of children deprived of liberty. Flexible funding also reaches children invisible to formal systems: with US\$60,000 (April 2025–May 2026), UNICEF piloted a community-based model for children in street situations in Maputo and Pemba, engaging around 300 children directly and supporting a National Action Plan with and for Children in Street Situations — drawing in a further US\$25,000 to build scalable solutions for the children furthest behind.



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WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

As the WASH sector's responder of last resort, UNICEF relies on Core Resources to act fast and without geographic restriction across overlapping crises — floods, conflict-related displacement and near-annual cholera outbreaks. This support reached at least 150,000 people, including 78,000 children, across ten provinces with hygiene kits, water treatment and safe water services. Core Resources also fund durable solutions: in Quelimane's Incidua neighbourhood, roughly US\$116,000 helped the water utility FIPAG drill a borehole and supply materials for a 1.4 km pipeline that will give around 7,500 people sustainable safe water. A further US\$67,500 developed a revolving-fund model to expand household water connections in small towns — turning one-off response into lasting access.



PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE

In Nampula, when donor funding for child-marriage prevention fell short, UNICEF drew on Core Resources to keep proven community interventions running without interruption - sustaining the Football for Equality programme and community dialogues that are shifting the gender norms that drive child marriage, and keeping more girls in school and on a safer path.



LIFESAVING CARE FOR NEWBORNS

Core Resources have strengthened lifesaving care for Mozambique's smallest patients — newborns. At Maputo Central Hospital, US\$200,000 restored the country's most complex neonatal unit, which admits close to 4,000 babies a year, after two fires caused by electrical overload. In Nampula, a further US\$200,000 (split evenly between rehabilitation and equipment) supported a unit caring for an average of 4,000 admitted babies each year. And in Muxungue, US\$50,000 created a neonatal unit where none had existed — the equipment provided through separate earmarked grants, showing how flexible and earmarked funding work hand in hand. That unit now admits almost 50 babies a month, babies who previously faced a six-hour ambulance referral to Beira, when fuel was available, or went without adequate care.