

THE PROGRAMME
OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
AND UNICEF

2022-2026

CPD - A SUMMARY

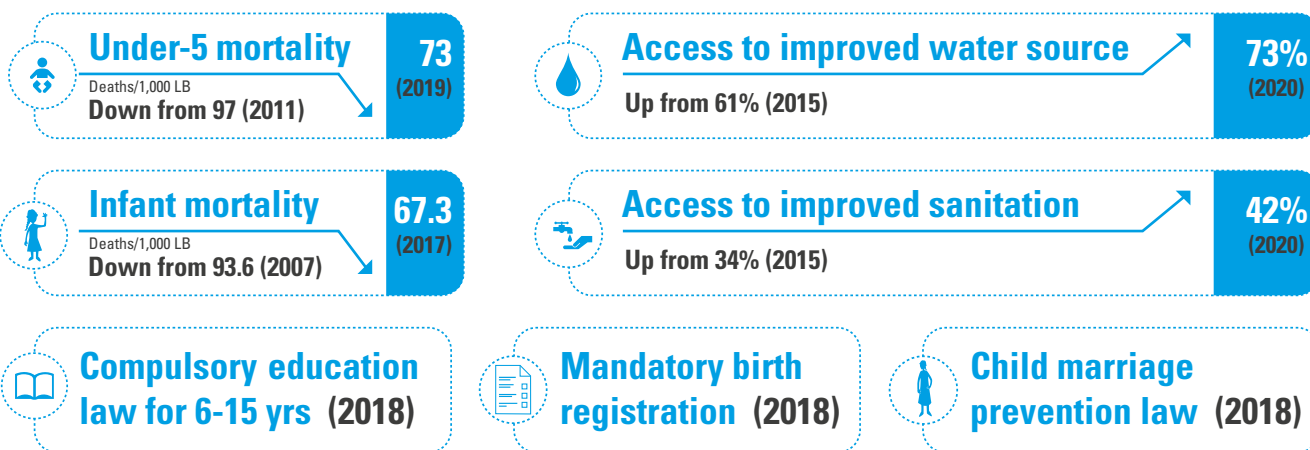
Fulfilling children's, adolescents' and women's rights to survive, thrive, develop to their full potential and live in a safer environment



UNICEF/Mozambique/2019/Figura

Progress Made

Over the last two decades, Mozambique has made steady progress toward reducing infant and under-five mortality, lowering HIV rates and improving access to clean water. Furthermore, the country's regulatory framework is strengthening coverage of child rights – with laws passed making birth registration mandatory, education compulsory and preventing child marriage. Nevertheless, progress falls short of national targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, with wide disparities among provinces.



Challenges

- Neonatal mortality and maternal mortality among highest in the world**
- 2nd highest new HIV infection rates among children**
- Stagnant and high rate of U5 Stunting and food insecurity**
- Almost 2.4 million primary school age children out of school**
- 5th highest child marriage rate in the world**

Mozambique still has an unfinished agenda for children. It has one of the highest neonatal and maternal mortality rates in the world; teenage pregnancy and early motherhood are prevalent;¹ and the country has the second highest rate of new HIV infections among children globally.² HIV prevalence is 15.4 per cent among women and 10.1 per cent among men.³

In 2018, 10.8 million Mozambicans suffered from severe or moderate chronic food insecurity and high levels of stunting among children under age five stands at 38 per cent. Furthermore, while the proportion of people with access to improved water sources increased from 61 per cent in 2015 to 73 per cent in 2020,⁴ coverage in urban areas is 5.5 times higher than in rural areas and 27 per cent of the population are still practicing open defecation.

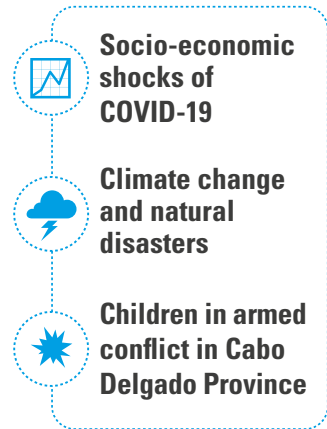
Negative social norms and gender inequality perpetuate violence that affects many children. Mozambique also has one of the highest child marriage rates globally⁵ and over 70 per cent of children and adolescents do not complete basic education.⁶

1 In 2018, 14 per cent of teenagers had their first pregnancy before the age of 15 and 57 per cent before the age of 18. Of all pregnancies, 11 per cent were adolescents, and 46 per cent of adolescent girls became pregnant.
 2 Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, HIV estimates 2020.
 3 Ministry of Health, NIS, ICF Macro Mozambique AIDS Indicator Survey 2015.
 4 World Health Organization/UNICEF, Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2000–2020: Five years into the SDGs, 2021.
 5 Violence against children and youth survey in Mozambique, 2019.
 6 The completion rate dropped from 51 per cent in 2008 to 37 per cent in 2015. Since then, the trend is upward but still below 2008 rates.

A Triple Crisis for Children

Today, Mozambique faces a triple crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and armed conflict in Cabo Delgado:

- While children were largely spared the direct mortality impacts of COVID-19, the indirect effects stemming from economic impacts, strained health systems and lockdown measures—including school closures—have taken a toll on children’s wellbeing and protection.
- Mozambique is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in Africa and experienced cyclones of unprecedented severity in 2019, affecting 2.5 million people.
- The armed conflict in Cabo Delgado has displaced over 700,000 people, half of them children; basic social services have been severely disrupted and strained; and there are reports of grave violations against children, including killings, abductions, recruitment and use of children by armed groups.



Programme Priorities and Partnerships

The Country Programme of Cooperation between the Government of Mozambique and UNICEF (CPD) for 2022-2026 aims to support Mozambique to accelerate efforts towards achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and meeting its commitment to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs). It derives from the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2022–2026 and aligns with the Government Five-Year Plan 2020–2024, the National Development Strategy 2015–2035 and relevant sector policies and programmes (see diagram).



In line with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, the Country Programme has a theory for change across five results areas:



1. Every child, including adolescents, survives and thrives

UNICEF will, on the one hand, work to strengthen health systems, especially at subnational level, to deliver quality evidence-based services that help children survive by prioritizing:

- Health system planning and delivery capacity and supply chains.
- Immunization and vitamin A services.
- Health systems capacity for maternal and neonatal childcare, nutrition and HIV/PMTCT (prevention of mother-to-child transmission) services.
- Management of severe acute malnutrition.
- Health and nutrition services in emergencies.

On the other hand, to help children thrive, interventions will prioritize stunting at all levels—leading to increased capacity of national and subnational government authorities to conduct planning, budgeting, coordination, financial tracking and advocacy across health, education, child protection and social policy sectors. More specifically, focus will be on:

- Capacity of institutions and stakeholders for multisectoral, evidence-based nutrition actions.
- Integration of key early childhood development actions into community and institutional platforms.
- Increased knowledge of children, including adolescents, women and communities on nutritious diets, WASH, early childcare and health-seeking behaviours.

This component will be led by the Ministry of Health and the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition.

2. Every child, including adolescents, learns and acquires skills for the future

UNICEF will support the implementation of the Education Strategic Plan and the Inclusive Education and Development of Children with Disabilities Strategy for 2020-2029 through a system-strengthening approach prioritizing:

- An enabling environment for learning.
- Access to early learning and alternative learning opportunities for adolescents.
- Quality of primary and pre-primary education.
- Education in emergencies.

The programme will develop and promote an equitable multisectoral early childhood education strategy, including at least one year of compulsory preschool and the expansion of accelerated school readiness. In addition, UNICEF will increase support to strengthening an equity focus in education by ensuring access to education for children with disabilities and girls as well as by finding alternative pathways to education for vulnerable adolescents. A strong focus will be put on improving the quality of primary education using innovations such as digital learning and other solutions to accelerate learning for children.

This component will be led by the Ministry of Education and Human Development.



UNICEF/Mozambique/2021/Daniel Timme



UNICEF/Mozambique/2021/Daniel Timme

3. Every child, including adolescents, is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices

UNICEF will support interventions ensuring girls, boys and adolescents in all situations are better protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices by prioritizing:

- An enabling environment for child protection including improved data, evidence, policies, and programmes as well as increased public financing for child protection.
- Child protection systems—including strengthened services, social workforce and child friendly justice for children and victims of violence, abuse and exploitation.
- Primary prevention of violence against children and gender-based violence (GBV) through increased knowledge, awareness, capacities and engagement with children, adolescents, families and communities.
- Prevention and response to child protection concerns in humanitarian settings including measures that form part of the children affected by armed conflict (CAAC) agenda.

This component will be led by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defence and other key actors.

4. Every child, including adolescents, has access to safe and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies

UNICEF will assist the Government to ensure children, adolescents and their families have access to safe and resilient WASH services, in line with the National Policy on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2019–2024. Key strategies will include the following:

- Enabling environment for WASH.
- Access to safe water services.
- Access to safe sanitation infrastructure and hygiene services.
- WASH services in schools and health facilities.
- WASH in emergencies.

The programme will contribute to the development of a water and sanitation law and support equity-based targeting and mobilization of resources through innovative and blended financing. The integration and expansion of gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive WASH in schools and healthcare facilities; promoting hygiene education and menstrual hygiene management; and strengthening health centres and school management systems will be core priorities. In addition, UNICEF will focus on strengthening community capacities for management of WASH services through water committees, small-scale private water operators, sanitation entrepreneurs and pump mechanics.

This component will be led by the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources.

5. Every child, including adolescents, has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty

UNICEF will strengthen social protection systems, with a focus on child-sensitive programming and shock responsiveness. The programme will prioritize the following:

- Inclusive and shock-responsive social protection systems.
- Equitable and efficient budget allocations and expenditures.
- Generation, analysis and use of data to inform policymaking.

The programme will strengthen social protection systems, with a focus on child sensitive programming, shock responsiveness, and consolidation and scale-up of the integrated child grant programme. It will also strengthen national and provincial assemblies' legislative and oversight functions and work with civil society, including private sector actors, to strengthen participation and accountability structures to promote budget transparency and monitor key child-related indicators. Data and evidence on child poverty and other priority areas to inform policymaking will be central to these efforts.

This component will be led by the Ministry of Economy and Finance in close collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, other ministries, the Parliament and the National Institute for Statistics.

Cross-cutting Programming and Flagships

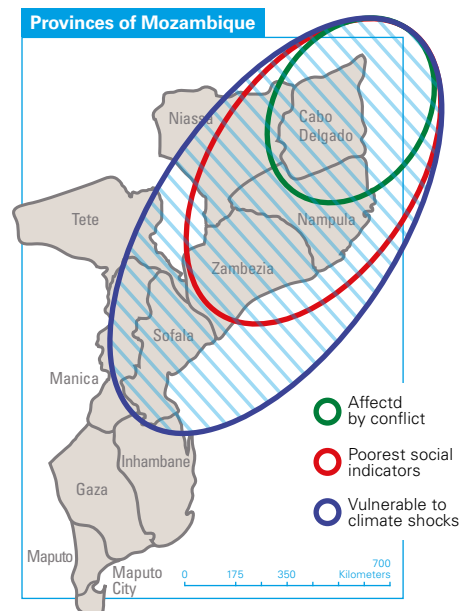
UNICEF will focus on systems strengthening to achieve equity in child outcomes, particularly by improving access and quality of service provision and by generating demand and building trust in services; enhancing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus; designing innovations and strategic partnerships, including with the private sector; and improving the efficiency of allocation and use of financial resources. Inclusion and gender equality are at the heart of the Country Programme, as is support for children from the most marginalized groups, including children living in extreme poverty, children with disabilities and children from displaced communities.

Intersectoral approaches will be spearheaded, especially in first- and second-decade programming. Interventions for early childhood development will focus on coordinated and multisectoral efforts to ensure safe, responsive and nurturing caregiving and an integrated package of interventions, using health, protection and early learning services. For adolescents support will emphasize access to and relevance of learning and adequate life skills; health and well-being of adolescent girls and boys, including mental health; demand for sexual and reproductive health and rights; gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response; and access to justice.

Geographic Focus

This Country Programme of Cooperation will concentrate its downstream interventions on the four provinces of Sofala, Zambezia, Nampula and Cabo Delgado to deepen integrated and triple nexus programming—humanitarian-development-peacebuilding. This prioritization is based on the recommendations of the evaluation of the previous five-year cycle 2017-2021, highlighting the need for greater programmatic and geographic prioritization and convergence to achieve results for children at scale.⁷

The rationale for this approach is based on several factors. First, the overall density of population and the size of the child population, with Zambezia and Nampula accounting for over 40 per cent of the child population (6.2 million). Second, child rights deprivations and social basic indicators were considered. The third criterion focuses on the high vulnerability to shocks such as conflict, natural disasters and disease outbreaks. The presence of UNICEF offices and UNICEF partners (CSOs) and the capacity to implement programmes were also important factors.



Partnerships for Children

The Country Programme of Cooperation emphasizes the importance of strategic and multi-stakeholder partnerships to support the Government in reaching the 2030 Agenda for children. UNICEF engages with and supports to the Government at the central, provincial, district and community levels and includes children, adolescents, local communities and leaders, CSOs, child rights networks and academia. Newer partners include business platforms, industries and private sector companies aiming to institutionalize business practices and regulations that protect child rights. UN collaboration and strategic partnerships with bilateral and multilateral partners through the Sector Working Groups and humanitarian clusters are integral to achieving results for children.

Budget

The CPD will be financed using US\$107,000 million in Regular Resources (RR), while the Country Office will need to mobilize US\$280,000 million in Other Resources (OR) for development programming. UNICEF Mozambique will also mobilize funding for emergency programming in line with the Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) and the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeals.

⁷ UNICEF will continue to provide assistance to children and people in need in humanitarian situations and to system strengthening at a national scale.



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for every child



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